



Ardchoille

Newsletter of the
American Clan Gregor Society



Volume XLIII, Issue I

April 2008



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<http://acgs.thecapitalscot.com/>

The views and opinions
expressed in any of the articles
within this publication are not
necessarily the views or opinions
of the ACGS.

Message from Our Chieftain

"As we welcome spring weather, it is time for Scottish events and Highland Games to begin in earnest throughout the country. Already several games have taken place in Florida, where your Society is represented by several capable people. If you enjoy the American Clan Gregor Society and the friendships you have made, these are our best opportunity to tell others and recruit them for membership. If you need to know about events in your area, please contact me or Ron McGregor and a list for your state or region can be sent to you.



"We are planning a great gathering this year in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

You will be receiving complete hotel and event information at a later date, but I urge you to reserve 23-25 October in your personal plans. Chattanooga is the hub of a tri-state area that is rich in scenic beauty, history, and commerce. A cruise on the Tennessee River at the height of fall color season will be especially memorable.

"Finally, I wish to thank each and every one who has thus far responded to the special appeal for the Marshall Magruder Library.

With your help, this good resource will be made great."

Yours aye, Thad Osborne

Look who's shaving his head! Scott F. MacGregor

Greetings fellow Clansmen and Lassies! It would seem that Scott MacGregor has really stepped up to the plate or should we say the razor to raise some money for a great cause. Please read on to find out the who, what, where, when and why of this incredible story!

Hello Friends,

*This year I will be a shavee in support of St. Baldrick's efforts to raise money for children's cancer research. My involvement stems from the courage demonstrated by a local young gentleman, **José Andres Hernandez**, who several years ago was adopted by my local Scottish community and named our "Nessie Ambassador" for his love of and interest in Scotland, Scottish culture, and, especially, the Loch Ness Monster. Making him extra special is that José is actually of Mexican descent with no known Scottish family connection. At the time, he was 10 years old and battling cancer for the first time; since then, he's been in a second battle, and he is currently bravely battling it for the third time. My prayers and support go out to José and his family.*

Please help me meet and exceed my modest goal of raising \$500 towards providing funding for

(Continued on page 6)





2009 in Scotland



A celebration of the contribution made by the clans to the culture and history of Scotland.

The latest news about the gathering is listed here. However please understand that things are constantly changing (or being rumored to change) and news is announced as it is decided and not on any schedule.

The Passports that are the ticket into the March along the Royal Mile, the Clan Pageant at the castle, and the Highland

games! Pre-booking forms for these are to be on the [Gathering 2009 website](#) starting February 26, 2008. Actual sale will be in late March and this will be through the website also.

The March Arrangements are being made, not yet finalized, to allow the elderly and the infirm to enter the march up near the top of the Royal Mile so they will be able to participate but not have to walk the entire distance from Holyrood.

If you are interested in attending you are advised to carefully read the website of the Clan Gregor Society (Scotland) at clangregor@sol.co.uk, as they are offering some very attractive accommodation deals. Far more economical than are available in the open market.

You are advised to contact them without delay if you would like to use their accommodation services.

If you wish to have a better type of accommodation then you are advised to contact Cashel Travel who have a range of prices. They can also guarantee a Passport for you with the accommodation booking. Cashel can be reached through the Gathering website or better <http://www.casheltravel.com> or phone Katie Evans at (011) 44 845 119 6220.

You may also contact the US member of the CGS council, Keith MacGregor at 212-556-8108, kmac1@optonline.net. He can give you the information about what the CGS is doing and also about their AGM and tours which will be in Stirling immediately following the Gathering in Edinburgh.

The proposed Cruise ship travel/hotel (QE2) is still under discussion but no final decisions announced. The Gathering officials are also trying to make some arrangements with various airlines. More news to be announced in due course.

The Gathering is now asking for Bagpipe Bands and also individual pipers who would like to participate in the Games and in the March to contact them. If you know of a band or a piper who would be interested please advise them to check the Gathering website.

The CGS website also lists some other games that are on during that summer and you might want to see if you are staying in Scotland for an extended holiday.

Don't forget the Famous Edinburgh tattoo will be on starting August 7, 2009.

Sincerely, Ian Greig



Seeking Family Information

(Submitted by Lois Ann Garlitz)



Searching for any info. regarding the birthplace and family of John H. McGregor, b. Scotland about 1779, possibly d. 13 OCT 1842 in Davenport, Iowa, m. Elizabeth b. NC or SC. Educator, principal, and school superintendent. First settled in Orange Co., NC. Later moved to Green River, KY; Clinton Co., Ohio (1820's); Davenport, Scott Co., Iowa (abt. 1838) Two sons, both lawyers, born in Orange Co, NC: Alexander Wolcott McGregor (b. 1805-8, d. 24 JUN 1857 Davenport, Ill., m. Sarah Ann) and John Hamilton McGregor (b. 30 AUG 1814, d. 5 JAN 1856 in Pontiac, Ill., m. Mary Jane Buxton). Three daughters born Ohio, Helen McGregor (m. Mr. Rankin of Ohio), Rhoda Ann McGregor (b. 1823, d. 6 JAN 1892, m. Charles Wesley Reynolds), and Elizabeth P. McGregor b. abt. 1824, d. abt. 1876 Randolph Co., Mo., m. William T. Young of Missouri)

Contact: Trina Mize, mizeclan@sbcglobal.net.



Library Archivist Project

(Submitted by Steven C. Grier, Librarian)

\$25,000

\$20,000

\$15,000

\$10,000

\$5,000

\$15,400

Through the generous contributions of you, our members, we are well on our way to meeting the goal of raising \$25,000 towards funding the professional archivist position. To date our treasurer has received over \$15,000 in contributions from you.

The objective of this archivist position is to preserve our collection and to improve the accessibility of our collection by members, prospective members, and the general public interested in the history of the American Clan Gregor Society and MacGregor in general.

Your continued assistance is essential for us to complete the final leg in this campaign in raising the last \$10,000 needed. Our initial deadline was moved back slightly to provide more time for your responses. With our goal in sight the University of Baltimore will be starting the hiring process soon. The projected starting date for this work to begin is 01 July 2008.

To help with this endeavor, make your tax-deductible checks payable to our **ACGS Charity & Education** fund and sent it to our Treasurer, Mr. Howard R. Grossnickle at 245 Alpine Meadow Cir., Oregon, WI 53575-3929. Every donation counts!

Should you desire additional information on this project please don't hesitate to contact our Librarian, Mr. Steven C. Grier, at SCG40@aol.com or by phone at (610) 444-0315.



Sale of ACGS Yearbooks!

(Submitted by Steven Grier)

ACGS Yearbooks (1909 to present, inventory permitting) are now for sale. The cost of a Yearbook is \$13.50. This price includes the shipping and handling fees. Please note there will be no purchase discounts--\$13.50 is the unit cost for each Yearbook. If you have any questions or would like to purchase a Yearbook (s), please contact Steven Grier, ACGS Librarian. Email: SCG40@AOL.COM or 610-444-0315.



Please!

(Submitted by Lillian Macgruder)



Our Historian, Lillian Magruder, asks that our membership please advise her of any births, deaths, marriages, and other notable events that have occurred. Reports can be e-mailed to Lillian at gannimac@bellsouth.net, mailed to 704 Versailles Drive, Ridgeland, MS 39157, or faxed to 601-605-6562. Thanks!



Upcoming Events!

(Submitted By Scott MacGregor)



Commemorative Booklet

Don't hesitate in submitting your articles reflecting on the society's first 100 years to be published in the commemorative booklet being compiled for our 100th Anniversary Commemorative Booklet. Send your items to Mr. Jake MacGregor at 2396 S. King St., Denver, CO 80219 or e-mail at macgregorroy@comcast.net. Submittal deadline in November 1st, 2008.

Chattanooga Gathering

The local Gathering committee is hard at work pulling together everything for yet another wonderful Gathering this fall. It was recently learned that Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor has accepted the invitation to be the honored guest at the Stone Mountain Highland Games over the weekend of 17-19 October 2008. If you're able, we encourage you to attend the Games and show your support of our hereditary Chief Sir Malcolm and our magnificent Clan. Following the Games plans are in the works to have Sir Malcolm grace our society with his presence at our Gathering in Chattanooga the following weekend. We also encourage you to attend the Gathering in support of the Sir Malcolm and the society.

More particulars on the Gathering will be forthcoming in the Spring letter that will be mailed to our members during the first part of May. We look forward to your participation at both the Games and Gathering come this October.

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100th Anniversary Gathering

(Submitted by Scott MacGregor)



The local Gathering committee recently came together to start planning for the 100th Anniversary Gathering in Charlottesville, Virginia, in the fall of 2009. Since this will be a major event for the Society, we would like to make it commemorative and special for our Gathering participants. With this in mind, the committee is weighing several different ideas, and would really appreciate hearing your input on them. Please respond to Scott MacGregor at mcregr@verizon.net with your feedback, or any additional ideas you might have.

Here are some things we are considering:

Expand the Gathering weekend from the regular 3 days to 4 days (Wednesday through Saturday) to allow for additional tours and time with fellow clansmen and honored guests. Would you be interested in having an additional day?

Hold a Kirkin of the Tartan on Sunday morning after the Gathering. This would be addition to the Memorial Service that is held as part of the tour. Would this be of interest to you?

Have a commemorative pewter plate or small, inscribed quaich. Would you like to purchase either, or to have one given as part of the program? Would you prefer a plate or a quaich?

Have special commemorative t-shirts available to purchase. Would you be interested in purchasing one (or several)?

All responses received will be provided to the committee for evaluation to help with planning for this special event. Thank you for your assistance with this endeavor.

You never want to miss an ACGS Gathering, but this will be THE ONE for the next hundred years. We look forward to seeing you in Charlottesville in 2009.





Proofreaders Needed

(Submitted by Scott MacGregor)



The society is currently undertaking an in-house project to scan our nearly one hundred years of society yearbooks using OCR software and then converting them into a final PDF format that is searchable. This will allow the society yearbook collection to be searched for genealogical purposes and made available for sale on either CD or DVD media.

To achieve the final objective we are in need of assistance from several members who can spare a few hour a week and have a computer with MS Word, along with e-mail access. The yearbooks are scanned in sections of roughly twenty pages which then require proofing and editing to ensure that the text read reflects the original. Those volunteers doing the proofreading will receive via e-mail a file containing graphic images of the pages and an MS Word document of these same pages. The original document will not be distributed.

If you're willing to volunteer and assist with this endeavor please drop Scott MacGregor an e-mail at mcgregor@verizon.net and let him know. This volunteer based project is projected to take a couple of years to complete. The more volunteers the better.



News from the General Marshall Magruder Library

(Submitted by Steven C. Grier)



In March of 2007, Sandy MacGregor and Scott MacGregor assisted me in moving the Society's yearbook collection from a storage unit in Virginia to one closer to my home in Pennsylvania. In the course of our packing up the yearbooks, we stumbled upon a carton which contained four banners. None of us had an immediate explanation for the purpose of these banners. Upon closer inspection, we noticed the banners had stars on them. I said to Sandy and Scott that something about these banners was familiar. Later in the week, I remembered something while studying the contents of the Society's archives at the University of Baltimore's Langsdale Library. On a subsequent trip to the library, I retrieved the files which I thought addressed this mystery. Sure enough, Society members had recorded their efforts to create banners to honor and remember Society members and family having served in World War I, World War II, Korean War and Viet Nam War.

From my brief research, it is evident Society members believed it quite important to recognize those that have served our country in times of war. It is hard to tell from the archives when the banners were last displayed. Realizing this recognition has been an integral part of previous Annual Gatherings, and in an effort to make the Society's rich archives more accessible, I am planning a display of these banners at our Centennial Gathering in 2009. I will also bring some of the interesting historical documents surrounding the banners.



To acquaint everyone with the banners, I have included a photo of each. Note on each banner there are gold star (s) and blue star (s). The gold star (s) represent the number of person (s) having died in service, and the blue star (s) represent the number of person (s) having served. The banner with two gold stars and fifty blue stars honors those having served in World War I; the banner with the numbers 13 and 493 honors those having served in World War II; the banner with the numbers 1 and 27, with a tartan ribbon border, honors those having served in the Korean War; and, the banner with 1 gold star and 27 blue stars, with the red

top and bottom border, honors those having served in the Viet Nam War.

In the next several issues, I will discuss some of the many gems in our archives. I hope this stirs your interest not only in your genealogy but also in the history of the Society.

Steven C. Grier, Librarian





Lost Souls

(Submitted by Scott MacGregor)



Contact Information Needs Updating

The following e-mail addresses bounced recently when society information was sent out concerning the 2009 Gathering in Stirling. If you're one of the members listed below please drop me an e-mail at mgregor@verizon.net to provide your current e-mail address. Should you know how to reach any of these individuals please catch up with them and let them know that I'd really appreciate hearing from them.

Member

J. Bruce MacGregor
 Anthony L. Walker
 William Mitchener Bailly
 David F. McGregor
 George F. McGregor
 Timothy E. Massey
 Karen Elizabeth Jones
 William B. Ward

e-Mail Address

mgregor@verizon.net
woofync223@yahoo.com
wbaily@greenepa.net
joyfield@bellsouth.net
gmcgregor@cvtechcis.net
horses319@adelphia.net
kjones@se.rr.com
ward10snet@earthlink.net



Please help me keep our contact information current so that we are able to better contact everyone when the need arises.

Sincerely, Scott MacGregor

Con't...Look who's shaving his head!

(Submitted by Scott MacGregor)

the research into finding a cure for children's cancer. Your contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

You can contribute toward my goal in one of three ways:

- *By donating online at*
http://www.stbaldricks.org/participants/shavee_info.html?ParticipantKey=2008-36216
(This is my shavee page).
- *By calling toll free at 888-899-BALD (2253).*
- *By printing out and returning the attached donation form.*

To learn more about our local event that's happening on 15 March 2008 at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel, please visit the event website at

http://www.stbaldricks.org/events/event_info.html?EventKey=2008-6.

Here is Scott's letter he sent after he received his new look!

Hello My Friends,

Well yesterday, 15 March 2008 was the BIG day for the St. Baldrick's fundraiser for children's cancer in Norfolk Virginia. This is a national event that happens at cities throughout the United States during the year. You may have seen this event on the news last night and in today's newspapers. Thanks to your generous support I raised over \$1,000 to have my head shaved and even auctioned off the mustache on the spot for an additional \$55 for this worthy cause. Below are a before and after picture of myself for your enjoyment.

It's never too late to donate, if you missed doing it before hand, you can still contribute by visiting my shavee web page at donating online at

http://www.stbaldricks.org/participants/shavee_info.html?ParticipantKey=2008-36216
and making a contribution.

Again THANKS for all your support. Scott



The hair is gone and they're collecting towards removing the mustache too. It went for \$55 on the spot.



So much for the mustache. Oh well, it'll grow back.

The finished product, the new me. Lighter and cooler.



“Scot of the Year” Award!

(Submitted by Scott MacGregor)



It was a cold blustery evening in mid-January 2008 when the local Scottish community came together in Virginia Beach, Virginia to recognize Robert Burns at the annual Burns Night Supper hosted by the St. Andrew's Society of Tidewater.

While the evening's main focus was on Robbie, one of the evening's highlights was when Stacy Apelt president of St. Andrew's presented Scott MacGregor, a member of the Scottish Society of Tidewater; the American Clan Gregor Society; and the Clan Gregor Society of Scotland, the “Scot of the Year” award for his many years of continuing support and promotion of his Scottish heritage and that of the local Scottish community.

This recognition was unbeknownst by Scott who was caught off guard when the announcement was made. Scott is a familiar face at many of the events in the tidewater area and throughout the state of Virginia. He's a behind the scenes worker whose efforts can be seen in the www.tidewaterscots.org website that he maintains.



Burns Night In Houston

(Submitted by Randy Walker)



Two hundred and ninety-six Scottish Americans along with forty active duty military personnel of Scottish decent gathered for the Burns' Night Dinner and Dance in Houston, Texas on January 26th. There were 26 clans represented as well as the Scottish-American Military Society, of which I belong.

In addition to honoring and celebrating Robert Burns' 149th birthday, the event honored Scottish-American military personnel who served or who are currently serving their country. The ceremony included a special presentation of flags which was piped in by the Black Bexar Pipe Band. All in all, it was a beautiful and moving experience.



Teresa Walker



Honoring Scottish American men and women who have served in the military.



“ARDCHOILLE”
NEWSLETTER OF
THE AMERICAN CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY
SCOTT MACGREGOR
440 Willoughby Bay
Norfolk, VA 23503-1243
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Links, Information & Recipes!



Cock-a-Leekie Soup

from Carolynn Black-Stoops - Serves 4-6

A fine and traditional Scots first course. Add chicken meat, vegetables, and barley to make this a heart-warming meal on a chilly Spring day.

6 leeks
1 teaspoon salt
5 cups strong chicken stock
3 Tblsp butter (even better with chicken fat)
1/2 cup whipping cream
salt and pepper to taste
optional:
1/2 cup chopped prunes

- Cut off the roots and dark green parts of the leeks. Slice in half lengthwise. Rinse well in cold water to remove all the sand and slice into half moon shapes.
- Bring the stock to a boil, add leeks, then reduce heat and simmer for about 5 minutes.
- Whisk in butter (or chicken fat) and season.
- Stir in the cream (and prunes) at the end.
- Ladle into bowls, and serve immediately.

Last issues puzzle answer!

Who was the most famous Gregor and who wrote the poem The Red Rose?
Rob Roy MacGregor and Robert Burns



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American Clan Gregor Society



Volume XIII, Issue 11

August 2008



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Across The Pond...a word from our Chief, Sir Malcolm MacGregor

"The Young MacGregor"

This is a charming letter from John MacGregor Murray to my father a schoolboy at Eton College, aged 13 at the time, just prior to WW II. It confirms the origins of the pipe tune 'The Young MacGregor'. It also reveals much of the nature of clanship which I am glad to say has not really changed over the years. I think that the gathering John Murray referred to would have been the last for six years or so as war was imminent. Many MacGregors would not have made it or would have been recovering from fighting their way across Europe. All rather moving stuff.

429 Great Western Road
Kelvinbridge
Glasgow

March 4th 1938

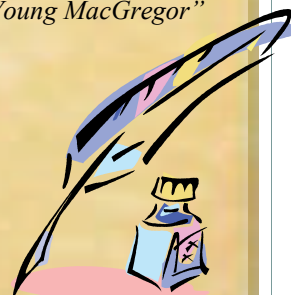
Dear Master Gregor,

I must thank you for your kind letter, received recently. I'm so glad you liked your Pipe March, "The Young MacGregor", as I must say I derived great pleasure in composing it and playing it in your honour. The Clan Gregor gathering was a great success, in fact I think it was one of the happiest, and brightest held for many years. We have the Chief and Lady MacGregor to thank for that, as when they are present with us, we all feel just like a "big happy family" and everyone (clansfolk and friends alike) thoroughly enjoy themselves, as the true clan spirit is very much in evidence. Our only regret was your unavoidable absence. We all would love to have had you with us. What a singing cheer was given when we were informed later, that the Young Chief and Miss Anna Gylla MacGregor were to meet the clansfolk along with Sir Malcolm and Lady MacGregor at the next meeting in August which will be held in the empire exhibition. I can assure you that function is largely looked forward to by us all, and that a real highland welcome awaits you. I shall be very proud again to play your own march that evening, and the clan will show the world how proud they are of the grand old name.

I am enclosing a few flashshot snaps taken on the 25th, which I think will interest you and your friends at school. I shall notify Lady MacGregor later, when "the Young MacGregor" march will be broadcast so that you can "listen in".

With all good wishes,
Your loyal clansman,

John MacGregor Murray,
Honorary Piper,
"Clan Gregor"





Message from Our Chieftain

(Submitted by Thad Osborne)



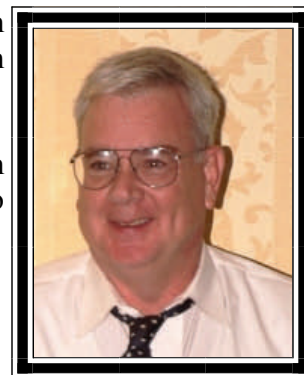
"This summer day, I have been enjoying the cool (81) temperature and the view of the mountains from my home. The news of higher energy, food, and travel cost is the prevalent topic on radio, in newspapers, and on the street. From a trip to the supermarket to a summer vacation, families are having to make hard decisions about where they go and what they do. Leisure travel, to my area and to those areas nearby, has declined.

One choice I hope you will make is to attend your Clan Gregor gathering in Chattanooga, Tennessee, in October. We shall have our hereditary chief, Sir Malcolm, and his lady, Fiona, with us, as well as our superb band from Washington, D.C. Our tour will be a boat cruise down the Tennessee River at the height of fall color season. Our hotel is the most ample and modern convention hotel in the city. Best of all, it will be a chance to renew friendship with our fellow clansmen from all over North America.

Please make your plans now to join us by calling the Marriott Hotel-Convention Centre in Chattanooga and take advantage of our special room rate. If you need to travel by air, it would be good idea to make those arrangements now, as well.

I look forward to seeing you all.

Yours aye,
Thad Osborne"



The American Clan Gregor Society is to be the honored clan at the Charleston Scottish Games and Gathering on 20 September 2008. I have already corresponded with Mr. James Nettles about this, and Mrs. Maureen McDaniel, president of these games, confirmed this to me this week-end past at the Savannah Scottish Games. This is rather short notice for those of us who have already planned our 2008 games participation, but I hope some of our members from the Southeast can come and help me make a good showing. The Games are providing us with tent space and other courtesies. They are a one-day event, and I believe we MacGregors can stand the South Carolina heat for that long.

The games are at Boone Hall Plantation. Please visit the web site, <http://charlestonscots.org>, for more details.

Yours aye,
Thad Osborne



Finding Our Past

(Submitted by Randy Zimmerman)

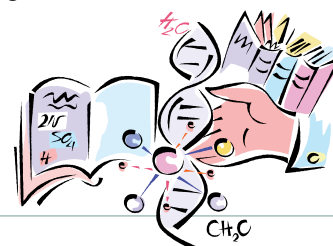


Ron Shankland, Deputy State Chieftain in Michigan, has organized a great way to help people find their Scottish and Gregor roots. With Ron's assistance, a small group of interested folks discusses the research and construction of family trees, Scottish ancestry, the use of DNA to verify lineage, Scottish customs, and other related topics.

Ron and his friends have met at the local Jackson, Michigan District Library.

Isn't this the sort of activity we should find more often?

Good going, Ron!



Library Archivist Project

(Submitted by Steven C. Grier, Librarian)

You've done it !!!

The University of Baltimore Foundation was presented in March with the \$25,000 needed to fund the one year part-time archivist position aimed at preserving and improving the accessibility of our non-book collection by our members, prospective members, and the general public interested in the history of the American Clan Gregor Society and MacGregor in general.

Our society Librarian, Mr. Steven C. Grier, continues to work with our collections archivist, Mr. Tom Hollowak, to hire an individual who meets the requirements of both the university and our society. Interviews were conducted in early June and Mr. Aiden Faust was selected. It's anticipated that he will start his position in early July. This position will run from July 2008 to June 2009.

Mr. Faust is finalizing his Master of Library Science with a concentration in Archives. His experience includes working as a Digital Library Technician with the National Park Service working on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, Mr. Faust has held in various positions while working on other archival projects.

In future issues of this newsletter Steven will be providing more specifics on what Mr. Faust is accomplishing with our non-book collection. I'm definitely looking forward to learning what undiscovered gems lay buried within our collection at the library.

Your continued support, through your contributions even during the troubling times of renewing our 501c3 status, was greatly appreciated and shows the spirit of MacGregors. Not only has this Library Archivist project come to fruition but we are once again in good standing with the IRS towards our non-profit status.

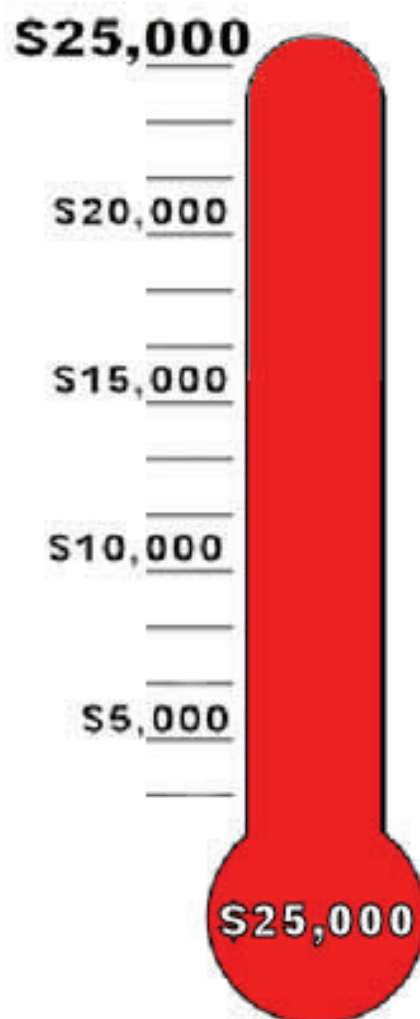
The society wishes to extend a special thanks to the following members who graciously contributed to this project

Ms. Elizabeth M. Cosgrove, Mr. Fred A. Magruder, Mr. Paul L. Magruder, Mr. & Mrs. David T. Killam, Mr. Donald L. McGregor, Mr. & Mrs. Louis D. Meghee, Mr. Richard T. Gregg, Ms. Darcie R. Schauf, Mr. John A. Grier, Ms. Louise E. Pugh, Mr. Stewart W. McGregor, Ms. Lillian Magruder, Mr. Larry MacGregor, Mr. Ed (Mac) Passano, Mr. Robert W. Gregory, Mr. & Mrs. Donald A. Gregg, MAJ Ronald A. McGregor, Mr. Scott S. McGregor, Mr. & Mrs. Francis D. Shoemaker, Mr. & Mrs. Michael D. Greer, Ms. Muriel G. Hightower, Mr. & Mrs. Dana L. Green, Mr. & Mrs. Alvin E. Gantt, Mr. Thaddeus G. Osborne, Rev. & Mrs. W. Ramsey Richardson, Mr. & Mrs. W. Burke Belknap, Mr. Dennis M. Orr, Mrs. Francis L. Lloyd, Mrs. Phyllis Lynn Hodum, Sr., Mr. David H. Taylor, Mr. Nolan S. Sanders, Dr. & Mrs. Tom McNish, Mr. & Mrs. George F. McGregor, Dr. George Brock Magruder, Sr., Mrs. Randolph W. Walker, Mr. J. Bruce MacGregor, Dr. John Edwin Scarff, Jr., Ms. Diane Treadway, Ms. Bettina Curtis, Dr. William E. Pollard, Mr. & Mrs. Edward K. Gregor, Jr., Mr. Peter K. Gregg, Mr. Allen P. Magruder, Mrs. John H. Terry, Mr. John R. MacGregor, Mr. Mark R. Mayne, Ms. Jeanette M. Albertson, Miss Diana G. Browne, Ms. Isabel Carr, Ms. Elizabeth Magruder Sonnenberg, Mr. Ronald Lee Walker, Mr. Paul Ernest Dobkins, Mr. Michael Patillo, Jr., Mr. Marshall V. Grier, Mr. John F. Ewell, Mr. Philip B. Magruder, Jr., Ms. Julia Gregory Holden-Ryan, Mr. H. Ron Grubbs, Dr. C. Herbert Magruder, Mr. Victor S. Gregg, Mr. Charles M. Black, Mr. Robert F. MacGregor, Jr.

To keep the project on schedule the society contributed roughly \$8,000 of the required amount. It is desired if possible that this money be returned to the society coffers in the form of continued member donations, so as to have it available for future unexpected endeavors.

Donations to this endeavor are still being accepted. To make your tax-deductible checks payable to our **ACGS Charity & Education** fund and sent it to our Treasurer, Mr. Howard R. Grossnickle at 245 Alpine Meadow Cir., Oregon, WI 53575-3929. Every donation counts!

Should you desire additional information on this project please don't hesitate to contact our Librarian, Mr. Steven C. Grier, at SCG40@aol.com or by phone at (610) 444-0315.





Chattanooga Gathering

(Submitted By Scott MacGregor)



It's hard to believe that October is almost upon us with its cooler weather, beautiful colors in the leaves of the trees, and of course all us MacGregors coming together for yet another magnificent Gathering. This year's host city is Chattanooga, Tennessee, nestled in the southeast corner of the state along the beautiful Tennessee River and in the shadows of the Great Smokey Mountains.

Our tour on Friday will take us on a river cruise along the Tennessee River where we'll enjoy the seasonal colors along the banks of the river while enjoying a fabulous buffet lunch. The committee is still hard at work with the church towards hosting our Memorial Service.

On Friday evening our Ceilidh will feature the wonderful sounds of Olta, a local Celtic band. Our splendid bagpipe band will once again give us a rousing performance to cap off our Ceilidh.

If you're a Civil War history buff there is plenty to be found around the area, including the Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park where our own Lieutenant-General James Longstreet and his troops participated in the battles.

Within view of our host hotel is Lookout Mountain, just a very short drive away, is the home of the attractions Rock City and Ruby Falls. Both are lovely attractions worth taking time out of your busy schedule to visit.

With the ever increasing cost of gasoline and the availability of airline flights here are a couple of things to consider during your preparations. Besides flying into the Chattanooga, Tennessee airport, you can also fly into Atlanta, Georgia or Nashville, Tennessee and take the ground shuttle to Chattanooga. The shuttle is provided by Groome Transportation, runs every thirty minutes, at a cost of sixty-five dollars for the roundtrip. This is a savings compared to the airline cost for the short hopper flight from either airport. For additional information visit their webpage at <http://www.groometransportation.com/chattanooga.htm> or (800) 896-9928. For those driving into the Gathering there is a ten dollar per night charge for the hotel parking garage.

Further details about the different events will be coming out in the Gathering letter planned to be mailed out in late August. It is requested that you get your event registration in promptly as Scott will be leaving early on Friday, 17 October to attend the Stone Mountain Highland Games and then our Gathering the following weekend. He will not be returning home in between the events. It's always questionable how much one can access to the Internet and e-mail when on the road traveling.



Nominations for Council

(Submitted by Scott MacGregor)



We're rapidly approaching this year's Gathering when members of the Council will be elected to office. If you're interested and willing to serve your society we'd like to hear from you. These are all volunteer positions. Since we only meet once a year it is highly desired that you be able to attend the Council meeting which is held on Friday morning of the Gathering.

The positions up for election are: Scribe, Treasurer, Registrar, Historian, Chaplain, Chancellor, Librarian, Yearbook Editor, Surgeon, Piper, and Trustee.

These positions, except for the Trustee position, are all for a one-year term. The Trustee position is for a three-year term and rotates with the other two Trustees positions.

The Member-At-Large and Assistant Chieftain positions are appointed by the Chieftain.

Should you be interested or know of someone interested in volunteering to serve in a position on the Council please inform Scott MacGregor at mcgregor@verizon.net or 757-705-3289.

Remember our society is what we make of it and what we put into it. **Volunteer today !!!**





Proofreaders Needed

(Submitted by Scott MacGregor)



In the last newsletter issue a calling went out for volunteers to provide assistance with proofreading of the society yearbooks which are being scanned into digital format. The following members answered this calling, volunteering a bit of their time to assist with this endeavor.

Linda Corey-Woodward, Dave Gilbert, David Killam, Allen Magruder, Jim Magruder, Ron McGregor, Stuart McGregor, and Priestley Toulmin

The society wishes to extend a special thanks to these individuals, who have together proofed the first two yearbooks.

With nearly one hundred years worth of yearbooks this is quite an undertaking. At twenty books a year it's expected to take five years to complete with each book taking two to three weeks. The individual sections being proofed consist of between sixteen to twenty pages.

While this work can be a bit of tedious, several of our volunteer proofers have noted how intriguing and interesting it's been reviewing these pages.

To avoid these volunteers from becoming overwhelmed it is desired that this pool of volunteers be increased. All that is required is that you have a computer with e-mail capability, MS Word 2003, and Adobe Acrobat to read PDF file (standard on most computers).

If you're willing to volunteer and assist with this endeavor please drop Scott MacGregor an e-mail at mcgregr@verizon.net and let him know. The more volunteers the better.



Be Glad O'Your Plaid!

(Submitted by Randy Zimmerman)



Scottish Americans rejoice! On April 4 of this year, President Bush signed a document establishing April 6 as National Tartan Day. Many years in the making, the bill was actively promoted by numerous Scottish organizations, groups, and individuals. The efforts have paid off.

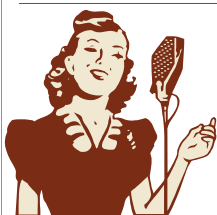
So now it's official. The proclamation makes National Tartan Day a national holiday and will henceforward place the observance on every April 6 and on the United States Calendar.

Great news! And do I get the day off?



Singer Wanted

(Submitted By Scott MacGregor)



If you've ever attended one of our magnificent Gatherings during the last twenty plus years you've heard our own John Masterson leading our clan in singing "Auld Lang Syne" and the "MacGregor Gathering" at the conclusion of the Gathering banquet. Unfortunately, time marches forward and John is now going into semi-retirement. He will be unable to make all of our future Gatherings.

We are now looking to our membership for those special individuals who like to sing and could lead our members in song. You don't have to be a professional. We are all family. It would be nice to have several volunteers from which we could rotate among the Gatherings.

Should you be interested, please don't hesitate to contact our Assistant Chieftain, Scott MacGregor at mcgregr@verizon.net to volunteer.





Scotland's Noble Hound

(Submitted by Marilyn Zimmerman)



The Scottish Deerhound is a gentle giant in the Greyhound family. It has a long narrow head, pointed muzzle and small button ears that lay flat on the head. It weighs anywhere from 75 lbs to 110lbs or more when full grown. Its silky mustache and beard give it a regal appearance. In fact it was bred in the Middle Ages by Scottish Chieftains to be used as a deer hunter. It was at one time the **Royal Dog of Scotland** and no one ranking below Earl was permitted to own one!



Your newsletter editor with Fergus (left) and MacGregor (right), and proud parents Doug and Telia Stuart.

Our friends, Telia and Doug Stuart of Chittenden, Vermont are the proud parents of two of these elegant creatures, Fergus and MacGregor. Both Telia and Doug have Scottish ancestry. In fact, Doug's great-great grandfather, Alexander Stuart, was a piper for Queen Victoria at Balmoral. Queen Victoria herself was a Deerhound fancier and Sir Walter Scott also owned one. In Scott's words the Deerhound is "the most perfect creature of the Heaven."



MacGregor sports the family tartan.

The legendary staghound of Scottish romances remains today a loyal and even-tempered family dog, as well as a hunter, sighter, tracker, racer and beloved show dog in the family of Hounds.



Clan Gregor Honored Clan!

(Submitted by Scott MacGregor)



I'm pretty sure by now everyone is aware that the honored Clan at the Stone Mountain Highland Games over the weekend of 17-19 October will be Clan Gregor and that Sir Malcolm and Lady Fiona will be in attendance as the Honored Guests of the Games. I hope if you live anywhere in the southeast that you are making plans to attend these Games to show your support of Sir Malcolm and the mighty MacGregor spirit.

The Games host hotel is the Hilton Atlanta Northeast Hotel. A very favorable rate for our guests was negotiated. To receive this special rate, please contact the hotel directly at (770) 447-4747. Mention the Stone Mountain Games when you call. For more information on the Games or to purchase tickets please visit their website at <http://smhg.org/>.

These Games occur the weekend prior to our annual Gathering in Chattanooga, Tennessee, which is roughly one hundred miles north of Atlanta.

If you're looking to see if a MacGregor tent will be hosted at a local Scottish Games near you be sure to check the society website at <http://www.thecapitalscot.com/acgs/acgs4.html> where our webmaster has listed those Games that our State Deputies have noted they'll be in attendance at.

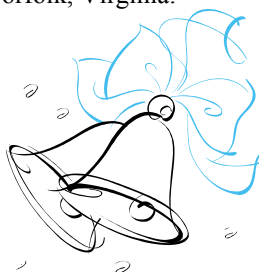


Wedding Vows Renewal

(Submitted by Scott MacGregor)



On Saturday, 03 May fellow ACGS members renewed their wedding vows in celebration of their five years of marriage. This was a double wedding vow ceremony held at Calvin Presbyterian Church in Norfolk, Virginia.



(L to R) Linda Kaplan (Stuart's fiancée); Jamie (MacGregor) Grover, ACGS #2758LM; Logan Grover, ACGS Junior Member; Donald Grover; Rev. Richard Grice, D. Min., Pastor; Aaron Schauf; "WESS" Schauf, ACGS Junior Member; Darcie (MacGregor) Schauf, ACGS #2757LM; Stuart J. MacGregor, ACGS #2759LM.

The grooms, Donny and Aaron, proudly wore their military uniforms. Donny is in the Army, serving out of Ft. Riley, Kansas and Aaron is serving in the Navy out of Norfolk, VA. Donny spent fifteen months serving in Iraq and Aaron had a six month cruise in the Persian Gulf.

The brides, Jamie and Darcie, being proud of their MacGregor ancestry integrated the tartan into the ceremony. They intertwined their tartan sashes into the back of their dresses and the male family members wore their kilts.

Wess and Logan served as ring bearers and were wonderful throughout the ceremony. Stuart, the bride's older brother and his fiancée Linda served as attendants to the brides and grooms.

Should these young folks look familiar to you that's because they've attended most of the annual Gatherings since they were teenagers. We wish them all a lifetime of continued happiness together.



ROB ROY TUGS ON BRAVEHEART: ALL SEVEN OF HIM

(Submitted by Richard M. Greer, PhD)



Each year at the Glasgow, Kentucky, Highland Games, there is a clan tug of war. This tug of war has been won every year by Clan Wallace. As a result of this annual success, they have become known as the "pullers of the rope." Unfortunately, there have not usually been enough MacGregors to field a "tug team." However, this year with the encouragement of our Deputy Chieftain, Nolan Sanders, clansman Richard Greer decided to take on the champions all by himself and to make proud the MacGregor tartan.

Guess what? -- It was a draw!

Remember "MacGregor despite them. . ."



THE AMERICAN CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY
 "ARDCHOILLE"
 NEWSLETTER OF
 SCOTT MACGREGOR
 440 Willoughby Bay
 Norfolk, VA 23503-1243
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Scottish Games!



ARDCHOILLE	BAGPIPES
BURNS	CHIEFTAIN
CLAN	CLAYMORE
DIRK	GENEALOGY
GLENFRUIN	HAGGIS
HIGHLANDS	HISTORY
KILT	MACGREGOR
ROB ROY	SCOTLAND
SCOTTISH	SOCIETY
TARTAN	THISTLE

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Ardchoille

Newsletter of the
American Clan Gregor Society



Volume XIII, Issue I II

December 2008



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<http://acgs.thecapitalscot.com/>

The views and opinions expressed in any of the articles within this publication are not necessarily the views or opinions of the ACGS.

Across The Pond...a word from our Chief, Sir Malcolm MacGregor

Having just returned from the USA, my mind is fresh with the marvelous gathering of MacGregors at Stone Mountain Highland Games. I had the honour of being the chieftain of the games, the first time that a MacGregor chief has performed this role. The Games themselves was a magnificent event, I have not seen so many pipe bands in a long time and the most eye catching was the Royal Canadian Mounted Police pipe band who entertained the crowds with their musical display and colorful uniforms. The whole event had great impact on those who had not witnessed such a diverse array of pipe bands, competitors and spectators. I was one of them. There was hardly a clan that was not recognized and there was hardly a Scottish institution that was not present except perhaps visit Scotland. Extraordinarily the games were part sponsored by the Irish Tourist Board of all things!

Everything kicked off with speeches and a display by the massed bands.

Once that had happened, Fiona and I were taken on a tour of the clan tents by Bob Terpening, President of the South East Chapter of CGS. In fact we had to do two tours as there were so many tents to visit.

Campbells, Grants, Frasers, Eliotts, Sinclairs and Maclarens to name but a few. The MacGregor tent was right on the Games Field and there must have been at least 70 of us there - an impressive sight. That evening Mrs. Inez Boothe generously hosted a buffet dinner at her house for all MacGregors and Armstrongs. That was great fun and it was marvelous to present the fist of the fellowship badges to members of the society. The chapter also presented Fiona and I with a beautiful glass sculpture of dogwood, the state flower of Georgia.

The following day was back to the Games, beginning with a church service and a guided tour of those tents we had not visited on Saturday. There was then a great group photograph taken by Richard Walker made in panoramic style and I am pleased to say that the MacGregor discipline held whilst Richard maneuvered his camera for the various shots. There then followed a march of the clans onto the main games field led by the 70 MacGregors with my arms at the front and the society banners of CGS and ACGS. Somehow, about 1000 people with bands were crammed onto the games field. After a few announcements it was time for prize giving and I gave out numerous prizes for athletics, piping, and dancing. Everything was so well organized with an army of volunteers to make sure things ran smoothly. It was an unforgettable event and well worth visiting in the future. Fiona and I were well looked after by the SE Chapter in magnificent southern style.

From Stone Mountain we went up to the mountains of North Carolina to take in the colors of the fall - a remarkable spectacle. Leaves of many colors and hues. We also visited the Scottish tartans museum in Franklin hosted by Matthew Newsome, sporting his MacGregor kilt, purchased on eBay! The museum established by Matthew is very well done; being well lit, with some of the oldest tartans that one can find. If readers are ever in Franklin they should give the museum a visit. From there we went to Chattanooga for the ACGS Gathering, to which about 100 members came.



(Continued on page 4)



Message From Our Chieftain

(Submitted by Thad Osborne)



In September, it was your Chieftain's pleasure to visit the Charleston, South Carolina, Scottish Games as guest of honour and "stand-in" for our Chief. They are the second-oldest Games in the South and are worth a visit. Fred Magruder is our new deputy for South Carolina, and hosted our tent. Scott and Tobye McGregor and Sandy MacGregor came down from Virginia.

Our Scottish-Irish Festival in Dandridge, Tennessee, was the Saturday after Charleston.

There are no competitions but plenty of good food and music in this, the second-oldest town in the state.

The Stone Mountain Highland Games are the largest, if not the oldest, in this part of the world. They take place in a four-thousand acre state park, and although they draw close to fifty thousand persons, they do not feel crowded, leaving plenty of room and time for inter-clan visiting. We were fortunate this year to have our Chief, Sir Malcolm MacGregor, and Lady MacGregor, as honoured guests. Many of you joined us at Stone Mountain and helped at the tent.

Our 99th annual Gathering was held in Chattanooga, Tennessee the following week-end. Sir Malcolm and Lady MacGregor kindly extended their stay in the "colonies" to join us to celebrate our history and remind us of our ties to the MacGregors in Scotland. Our tour consisted of a boat cruise on the Tennessee River, with autumn colors at their best.

On the week-end of 1 November, your Chieftain concluded his event schedule with the Foothills Highland Games in Hendersonville, North Carolina. Paul Gregg, deputy for North Carolina, hosted the tent. This is a much smaller event than Stone Mountain (one day only), and a great time to visit and enjoy the fall air in Western North Carolina.

We all know that travel costs are very high now, but I commend to you all these Highland Games and Festivals which are produced with a lot of hard work by volunteers. Not only can they all use your patronage, but most could use your help. Better still, contact your state deputy and ask to help staff a tent for the American Clan Gregor Society.

With all good wishes for the new year, I am, despite them,

Thad Osborne
Chieftain



News From Your Registrar

(Submitted By Lois Ann Garlitz)



Plans to digitize our membership records are progressing nicely and we are almost at the point where we will need funds to finance the project (approx \$6500). I have located a company with much experience within 20 miles of my home who can do the work of capturing the images and saving them as PDF files, then recording them to DVD's.

The Council has yet to decide about distribution of such DVD's, which may be limited to the officers at first. Privacy issues remain a concern of the Council, and using this company will allow the digitized records to remain the sole property of our society. Only the names of actual members will be searchable; indexing the genealogies will be a project for a later date, should we decide to do that. Once the digitizing and a companion Excel file projects are completed, the Registrar may be able to do genealogical "look-ups", maybe for a fee to replenish the ACGS funds. Would you let me know your thoughts about this?

In the meantime, the Dalmally Project and the Marshall Magruder Library Fund are still welcoming donations, which can be sent to the Treasurer, Howard Grossnickle, 245 Alpine Meadow Circle, Oregon, WI 53575. For your contribution to be tax-deductible your contribution must be designated to the ACGS C&E (Charity and Education) Fund, earmarked with your choice of exactly how you want the money to be used. Check with our treasurer, Howard, for more information about your tax deductible donation

We continue to wait patiently for our petition to the Lord Lyon for a Corporate Grant of Arms to be completed. When that happens, there will be a change to our lapel pins, chieftain medals, etc., and on all our stationary. I may be re-issuing membership cards and membership certificates to active members. In the meantime I re-ordered an hundred membership lapel pins of our long time design, including 20 of the safety pin design instead of the clutch back. If you wish to trade your clutch back for the safety pin design, let me know.

(Continued on page 3)

Library Archivist Project

(Submitted by Steven C. Grier, Librarian)



Our archivist, Aiden Faust, has been doing a great job these last few months processing and storing the ACGS archives. I am now planning the final stages of his work schedule. His contract with us expires at the end June 2009. Therefore, now is the time to submit any records, documents, correspondence, scrapbooks, Gathering programs, genealogical records, or any item which you feel has significance. Please, before you submit anything, please call or email me so we can discuss. You will find my contact information at the end of the article. Also feel free to contact me with any questions about the archives.

Aiden has uploaded portions of the new ACGS archives content page on the University of Baltimore, Langsdale Library website. You can reach the website by going to the ACGS website and clicking on the General Marshall Magruder Library (MML) link or go to it directly -- <http://archives.ubalt.edu/acgs/info.htm> Aiden has scanned several interesting documents for viewing on the website.

Library Books

As many of you know, when the MML book collection was placed at the University of Baltimore, Langsdale Library, the books were not specifically cataloged as being a part of the MML. Thus, searching for a book in our collection or being able to peruse its contents proved difficult. Recently, Thomas Hollowak, Head of Special Collections at the Langsdale Library was able to get approval to fix the catalog entries for the MML. In simple terms, you will be able to search for books in just the MML as well as get print out of the entire MML collection! Many thanks to Mr. Hollowak for his hard work in getting this problem resolved. I will keep you informed as to when this corrective action will be completed.

Book donations to the MML are always welcome and greatly appreciated. Please contact me if you have a book(s) which is germane to the collection.

Yearbooks for Sale

Don't forget yearbooks are now for sale. The cost of a yearbook, which includes all packaging and mailing costs is \$13.50. Many years are still available.

Raffle and Book Sale

The raffle and book sale at this year's Gathering in Chattanooga raised \$598! Thanks to all of the participants. The money will be used to support the MML.

A Word of Thanks

I, again, wish to sincerely thank all the contributors to the archivist project. A small organization such as ours desires a "big pat on the back" for quickly raising a significant sum of money to preserve our history and heritage.

Contact Info: Steve Grier, 155 Forest Drive, Kennett Square, PA 19348; 610-444-0315; Email: scg40@aol.com



Registrar...Con't

(Submitted By Lois Ann Garlitz)



(Continued from page 2)

New Members!

Since last Decembers issue of the newsletter, our clan has added 43 new members! We heartily welcome them all. Due to space limitations, we can not , regretfully, publish their names here. But new members will certainly be recognized in the upcoming Year Book's.

Lost Juniors:

Payne, Valerie Ann, last known address was in Miami, FL. Sponsor unknown

MacGregor, Michael E., last known address was in Coram, NY. Sponsor unknown

Temporary email address for the Registrar

If you are having trouble getting a response from the Registrar using the links on our website at <http://acgs.thecapitalscot.com/>, you are welcome to use or refer people to my personal email – loisann@burgoyne.com. Also Qwest is creating a new area code in my neighborhood and my new AC should change from 801-763-0663 in March 2009 to 385-763-0663 (as listed in the new membership directory).

Lois Ann Garlitz



Looking At MacGregor DNA

(Submitted by George McGregor)

With the increasing use of DNA in solving crimes and in identifying the ancestors of historical individuals such as Thomas Jefferson or Genghis Khan, it might be assumed that DNA has the capability to solve all the problems associated with ancestry, and particularly those difficult cases where the paper trail runs out and there seems to be no way forward. There are exciting things that can be discovered but DNA cannot provide all the answers. It's important to understand this at the outset.

There are testing programs available really for two main strands of DNA. The Y chromosome is one - and this is carried exclusively by the male. Any female interested in her maiden name surname has to do the test by proxy, through a brother, father, uncle or some more distant male relative still bearing the surname. The second DNA test available is mitochondrial or mtDNA for short. All humans carry mtDNA but only women can pass it on. (This is the opposite for the Y chromosome which is only carried by men and passed on to men only). This DNA is less publicized because generally people do not know their maternal lineage back very far (that is mother's mothers mother and so on).

The Y chromosome test works by testing points on the chromosome and as a result of the scientific process a participant ends up with a series of numbers, sometimes referred to as markers, which indicate how many alleles (roughly repetitions) there are at each place in the chromosome which is tested. It follows that the more places that are tested the easier it is to make comparisons between individuals. Thus there is the 12 marker test - clearly not many markers - and this is used to identify the major group to which a person belongs. In simple terms it is possible to identify, for example, what would be an indigenous British DNA signature from what would be a Viking DNA signature using 12 markers but, in general terms this is about all. The greater the number of markers tested (25, 37 or even 67) the greater the chances of beginning to identify family groups. In some cases like the Orrs it has shown that all but one have a common origin - as I understand it this would be in Ireland (for that family group). This means that they were all descended from one individual. Whether that individual was the original emigrant to the States or whether or just from the same family group, is more difficult to say for certain.

By Professor Richard McGregor, Chairman, Clan Gregor Society of Scotland

(This article will be continued in the next issue and will address Highland Society and MacGregor History as it relates to the clans DNA.)

Across The Pond...Con't

(Submitted by Sir Malcolm MacGregor)



(Continued from page 1)

We much enjoyed the trip on the Tennessee River in the good ship Southern Belle and enjoyed the Dixieland music mixed with piping by Matthew Kuldell. The following day was a good march through the town followed by an excellent banquet with piping by the MacGregor St. Andrews Society band from Washington and dancers in MacGregor tartan. The society was also most generous in presenting me with a cheque for £2500 towards the Dalmally project which will help in securing the initial war chest needed to show that we are serious about this project. The society presented Fiona and I with a lovely silver tray to commemorate our visit to Chattanooga and a bird table which has just arrived at our house.

The whole trip was tremendous and the various events were extremely well organized. The spirit of the clan and its sense of camaraderie and purpose could be felt continuously, both at Stone Mountain and in Chattanooga. Certainly the ACGS 100th year has got off to a good start. We are lucky to have something that is unique and to have the people in our society who put the hours in to make events like these fun and enduring. It was also marvelous to have fellow Macgregor travelers from CGS Scotland to the States in the shape of Ishbel and Margaret MacGregor and Guy and Catherine MacGregor, who I think, like me were stunned at the sheer numbers and arrangements at Stone Mountain.

In this our 100th year, may I take the opportunity to wish all members and their families the very best for Christmas and the New Year. We have much to look forward to!





Stone Mountain Highland Games In Pictures



Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor
and Lady MacGregor
recognizing the other Clans
Picture by Scott F. MacGregor



Sir Malcolm presenting the ACGS
sponsored trophy to the male and female
Kilted Mile race winners.
Picture by Scott F. MacGregor.



Where's MacGregor? There are just too many MacGregors to identify individually.
Enjoy finding your friends who were present at the
Stone Mountain Highland Games on Sunday, 19 October 2008
Picture by Richard Walker



The flag brigade
Picture by Scott F. MacGregor



Clan Gregor taking the field
70 plus members strong!
Picture by Scott F. MacGregor



100th ACGS Gathering

(Submitted by Scott MacGregor)



The local committee will be getting together again to further work on the planning for this spectacular milestone of our society. The actual dates for the weekend will not be known until late January or early February once the University of Virginia's football schedule is known.

Once the dates are known for the society's centennial Gathering, this information will be sent out promptly via e-mail to everyone who has provided their e-mail address. The hotel reservation information will also be sent out at this time rather than waiting for the Spring letter in May. If you want to stay informed please ensure that our Assistant Chieftain, Scott MacGregor, at mgregor@verizon.net, has your correct e-mail address.

Hotel reservations should be made promptly once the dates are announced as the society currently has 125 rooms blocked for Friday and Saturday nights. The hotel has 230 total rooms. With all the buzz surrounding this Gathering the rooms will be going fast.

Of all the members present at the general meeting during the Gathering in Chattanooga an overwhelming majority would like to see our centennial Gathering be extended to four days of events. A question still exists as to whether to add the additional day at the beginning, Wednesday, or the end, Sunday. What is your feeling about the day? Exactly what will occur for this fourth day is still to be determined and your suggestions are welcome.

One thought is to have our Clan Bard, Paraig McNeil, over from Scotland to entertain everyone with stories of our clan's history. If you attended the 2003 International Clan Gregor Gathering you were fortunate to hear him on several occasions. Paraig is very entertaining and Sir Malcolm even recommends him as a good addition to the Gathering. Another is to have Professor Richard McGregor, head of the Clan Gregor DNA project, over from Scotland to give an in-depth presentation on the many findings that have surfaced from this project. Professor McGregor teaches at a university, which due to his schedule may limit ability to attend our Gathering.

A suggestion was also made that the committee contact the President of the United States towards recognition of this society milestone. This is already being followed up on with letters not only to the President, but also the Queen, Governor of Virginia, and selected Congressmen and Senators having known MacGregor connections. Please send your suggestions to our Assistant Chieftain, Scott MacGregor, at mgregor@verizon.net.



The MacGregor Buttons

(Submitted by Howard Grossnickle)



In 1822, King George of England visited Edinburgh, Scotland. During this visit, Clan Gregor served as one of the King's bodyguards and acted as escort to the "Honor of Scotland". The Clan was lead by Sir Evan MacGregor of MacGregor who at the time wore a coat adorned with Caringorm style buttons. The buttons, now privately owned, may be available for purchase by the MacGregors.

As you know, the ACGS is soon to celebrate its 100th Anniversary and Clan Gregor Society founded by Sir Evan will have their 200th anniversary in 2022. It would be especially significant if the MacGregor Societies could work together to recover these treasured pieces of MacGregor history.

The buttons are contained in an original box having a maroon velvet liner and a thin, textured covering possibly of snake skin. There are forty buttons in all, 29 large and 11 small. They are plain silver with ten scallops holding in the foiled glass inserts. Each button has a loose silver link for attaching to clothing.

The history of the buttons is limited but not entirely obscure. They were first revealed about five years ago when the renown Piper John D. Burgess (1934-2005) sold them before his death. Burgess acquired the buttons from Pipe Major Willie Ross (1879-1965).

The current owners of the buttons have placed a value of £3,750.0 and are willing to work with the MacGregors for the purchase.

More will be said about this in the future. In the meantime, isn't it exciting to know that such relics exist and may possibly be reunited with the MacGregors?





Bits and Pieces

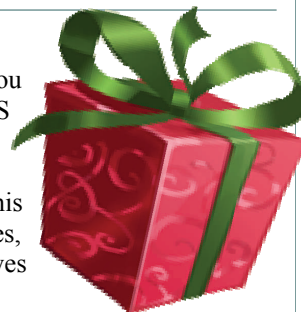
(Submitted by Scott MacGregor)



Treasurer Needed

Your Society needs you! Do you have a keen understanding of accounting and taxes? Can you handle receiving and disbursing of funds, maintenance of books, and are you knowledgeable about IRS rules for a non-profit society? If so, your Society has a need for you as a volunteer for the vital position of Treasurer.

Our current Treasurer, Mr. Howard Grossnickle, will be stepping down in 2009 at the end of his term. Howard has served admirably over the past six years as Treasurer, handling day to day activities, fund raising projects, and efforts to have our Society's 501c3 status reinstated... Our organization owes Howard our gratitude for a job well done; Thanks, Howard.



Trustee Needed

The search is on for a new trustee who has a keen understanding of the stock market and evaluating company portfolios. This position works closely with the society's professional broker who manages our investments.

This is a highly important position to the society as the dividends from these investments are what provide funding for the society's scholarships, and miscellaneous operating expenses.

If you think you have the experience to qualify for this position; your society would love to hear from you.

Please don't hesitate to contact our Assistant Chieftain, Scott MacGregor at mcgregr@verizon.net to volunteer for either of these positions.

2009 Edinburgh Gathering

During his visit to this year's society Gathering in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Sir Malcolm took the opportunity on Saturday afternoon to address various concerns surrounding the 2009 Gathering of Clans being hosted in Edinburgh, Scotland in late July. Present at the ACGS Gathering in Chattanooga were about ten members who are planning to visit Scotland and attend the festivities.

Sir Malcolm re-emphasized that the only person to book rooms in Edinburgh with is Mrs. Katie Evens at Cashel Travel of Edinburgh at katie@casheltravel.com or phone +44 (0) 131 514 4107; none of the other travel agencies listed on the Homecoming Scotland web site should be used for MacGregor reservations.

The airlines are filling fast with nothing currently available from the east coast of the United States directly into Scotland for this time period. Sir Malcolm suggests booking a direct flight into Manchester, England from Atlanta, Georgia and then taking the train up to Glasgow or Edinburgh. The train station is located right in the airport; how convenient.

For those who would like to stay for the Edinburgh Tattoo it has been pushed back a week starting on 07 August 2009. The Clan Gregor Society's Gathering will be taking place in the Stirling area during the week following the festivities in Edinburgh. While a detailed agenda and reservation information will not be out until late November 2008, there are plans for several bus tours and maybe even a hiking excursion up one of Scotland's Munros that's closely associated with the MacGregors. A munro is Scotland's reference to a mountain whose peak exceeds 3000 feet.

When the information for the Clan Gregor Society's Gathering is made available it will be sent out promptly via e-mail to everyone who have provided their e-mail address. If you want to stay informed of the latest information when it becomes available be sure that our Assistant Chieftain, Scott MacGregor, at mcgregr@verizon.net, has your correct e-mail address.



*Your Graphic Design Artist and your Editor wish one
and all a very safe and joyous Holiday and a very
Happy and prosperous New Year!!*

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SCOTT MACGREGOR
THE AMERICAN CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER OF
"ARDCHOILLE"



What's Cooking, MacGregors?

In the effort to preserve and document our history, it has come to our attention that our library is missing a copy of "MacGregor's First Gathering" cookbook. Do any of our members possess such a cookbook? If so, are they willing to donate it to the ACGS library? Or, if reluctant to part with it, would you be willing to donate it temporarily so that it may be documented and photographed? Any information relative to the cookbook will be much appreciated. Please notify Steve Grier, our librarian, at scg40@aol.com

For the Holiday's! Edinburgh Gingerbread

8 oz Plain flour	1 ts Bicarbonate of soda
2 ts Ground ginger	1 ts Cinnamon
pin Salt	6 oz Butter
6 oz Treacle	4 oz Brown sugar
6 tb Milk	2 Eggs
2 oz Sultanas	2 oz Almonds; flaked



Sift the flour, spices, salt and soda; and then stir in the fruit and nuts. Melt the butter with the treacle and sugar on a low heat. The mixture should remain coolish but the sugar dissolved. Add the milk and stir in the eggs. Pour the warm mixture into a well in the centre of the dry ingredients and mix thoroughly to form a batter. Pour into a greased and lined 2 lb loaf tin. Bake at 325°F / 160°C / gas mark 3 for 1 1/4 hours. This is a fairly heavy recipe and may sink on cooling.

