

# Ardchoille

Newsletter of the American Clan Gregor Society



Volume XV, Issue I March 2009



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

2009 has got off to an exhilarating start. As part of the homecoming programme, I was photographed by two photographers no less, as part of a project encompassing scots of today. The resultant exhibition was launched at the Scottish parliament with a speech by the presiding minister Mr. Alex Fergusson. We all had to give a rendition of our favourite piece of Robert Burns poetry as the exhibition was connected with the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. I chose his verse 'the Highland welcome' which I thought befitting for the year of homecoming. The photograph can be seen on the website of the two photographers Ross Gillespie and Tricia Malley at <a href="https://www.broaddaylightltd.co.uk">www.broaddaylightltd.co.uk</a> and click on the portfolio 'as others see us'.

The next event was a Burns supper hosted by the First Minister, Mr. Alex Salmond to which all the sitters of the photographic exhibition were invited. It was a marvelous evening in Alloway, Burns' birthplace and it was an honour to be invited as the MacGregor representative. The only other chief present was Lord Sempill. A lovely malt whisky was produced by famous grouse – it was 37 years old, the same age as Robert Burns when he died. Although Burns probably did not care much for highland chiefs, I think he would have been quite tickled by my presence given the history of clan Gregor.

I have been reflecting on the fact that these events and what will take place in Scotland this year coincides with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of American Clan Gregor. I doubt very much that my grandfather, Dr Magruder and the founders of the society could have foreseen the success of the society and where we are today. They probably thought a cosy dinner once a year would be just the ticket. But when I look back over the years at all that has been achieved, not just by officers of the society, but also by those who demonstrate their Macgregor kinship at highland games in the states and in organizing trips to Scotland before the age of the internet, the society and its rationale has gone way beyond what they thought it would be. In America the society is the vanguard of who we are as a clan and of our history. The clan system has evolved into one of active societies manned by people who have a pride and confidence in who they are and where they hail from. The clan system is alive and well.

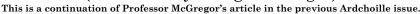
Another clan that is of interest to me at the moment is the Macleans as I am writing and photographing a book about the islands of Mull, Iona and Staffa. All of them iconic in their own way. The Macleans in 1911 had no home base in Mull as they had lost their lands to the Campbells – a familiar tale. But the then chief, Sir Fitzroy Maclean managed to buy back Duart castle, a ruined shell, the ancient chiefly home in that year. He was 76 years old and had taken part in the charge of the light brigade in the Crimean war of 1854. But what really struck me was the photographs of the first ever Maclean gathering at Duart in 1912. People came from America and Australia, before the days of air travel, to celebrate this remarkable event orchestrated by an old and distinguished soldier. Extraordinarily Sir Fitzroy lived until he was 100 years old and the castle was refurbished and is occupied today by the present chief. A wonderful story that could only happen in the highlands – but it is interesting to note that the date of this event was three years after the founding of the American Society.

In the same spirit as the Macleans, all those years ago, I not only look forward to seeing as many MacGregors as possible in Scotland this year – the year of homecoming, but also look forward to joining you all in Charlottesville for the  $100^{th}$  anniversary of American clan Gregor.



## **Looking At MacGregor DNA**

(Submitted by George McGregor)





It's important to understand how Highland Society worked. I explained this in the first ever report on DNA testing but it will bear repeating here:

"Early clansmen might well be related by blood, but they might also be related through community - that is by living together and adopting the surname of the principal leader of the community. Those not related by blood are often referred to as 'part-takers'. When such people moved away from the community, or, over a period of several generations, the name would become fixed as a surname. We see this process happening everywhere when surnames appear - John the son of the cooper becomes John Cooper, James of Glasgow becomes James Glasgow. So, sharing a name does not usually mean sharing a RECENT ancestor.

What has been surprising with our MacGregor tests is that the same process is seen in our clan. As I said earlier it had always been assumed that because the clan was so persecuted only 'true' MacGregors would bear the name. Peter Lawrie's (Vice Chairman of the Clan Gregor Society) recent work has demonstrated just how many of the bloodline MacGregors were in fact killed during the troubles which came upon the clan in the 17th century. Nevertheless, it is clear from the DNA that Clan Gregor does indeed have its origin in one individual but also that it contains 'part-takers' sharing a common 'Celtic', probably Dalriadic culture, AS WELL AS 'part-takers' whose paternal ancestry is Icelandic or Viking but whose ancestors over 400 years became entwined with the MacGregors. We should not be surprised to learn of the Scandinavian/Danish/Norwegian connection since the Viking raiders were well timities along the West execut of Scandinavian/Danish/Norwegian connection since the Viking raiders were well

known for their activities along the West coast of Scotland".

In short as a male, your male ancestor may well have been a MacGregor but you do not now bear that name. People with names like Drummond, McNab, Pressly, Bain, Stirling and Campbell are turning out to be MacGregors, and this is because their ancestors never took the old name back after proscription.

However some people will have ancestors who only lived beside the MacGregors, took on the surname (as part-takers) but who were genetically not from the main line. In fact there are some MacGregors whose genetic ancestors were Vikings. This can come as a bit of a shock until the novelty of being a Viking dawns on the person!

Most of Britain, before the Vikings, was made up of people who belonged to the main group of settlers who came to Britain after the Ice Age and who therefore all belonged to the distinct group of genetically-related individuals having a similar DNA signature, technically classified as R1b. All these people have a single common ancestor but he lived many thousands of years ago, before the Ice Age. As we come nearer the present people continue to have common ancestors, but as the population expanded so the number of common ancestors increased. Basically, the more similar your DNA is to another person the more recently it was that you shared a common ancestor.

What we have found is summarized in the DNA update of January 2007 on the Clan Gregor website and this is that:

- 1. The MacGregors have predominantly one ancestor (the eponymous Gregor) but that there is also a small Irish group unrelated but which does include Grierson and Grier, who, it is believed originate in the Irish kingly line of Niall of the 9 Hostages.
- 2. The aliases of Bain and Stirling were indeed MacGregor originally in certain families, and that the names have persisted to this day instead of MacGregor. Also at least one Campbell family is MacGregor, one Pressly, and one McNab.
- 3. Some of the aliases such as Grierson, Gregor, and Grier, have arisen, independently from MacGregor and in many cases the connection with the clan is by association not by blood.
- 4. There are a number of MacGregors/McGregors whose ancestors adopted the name, through, no doubt having lived in the proximity to blood-related kin. However, some of these may be the result of non paternity events which have had the effect of changing the DNA profile (e.g. illegitimacy)
- 5. There is a deeper common ancestral connection which cannot really yet be satisfactorily explained this group includes Magruder, Grieg, some Stirlings, some Gregorys, and possibly some MeGehees. The connection here seems to be pre surname adoption but to lie within the period of the 'Dark Ages' during which clan affiliations were developing.

(Continued on page 4)



# **Hotel Reservations for the Centennial Gathering**

### **American Clan Gregor Society**



## September 30-October 4, 2009

Doubletree Hotel Charlottesville • 990 Hilton Heights Road • Charlottesville, VA, 22901 Reservation: Toll-Free 1-800-494-9467 • Fax 434-978-7735

Room Rates: \$119.00 per room, per night and subject to 10% tax. Cut-off date: September 10, 2009. Reservations requested AFTER the cut-off date may or may not be available at this rate, based upon availability. Check-in time is after 3 p.m.; check-out is prior to 12.00 noon. All reservations must be guaranteed by a credit card or advance deposit. Cancellations must be received 72 hours prior to the arrival date to avoid a cancellation fee equal to one night's room and tax. All no shows will be billed for the first night's room and tax. \*Room types are based upon availability and can be requested however cannot be guaranteed until check-in.

It is recommended that you register early as this Gathering has received much attention and rooms are <u>already</u> filling fast!

# YOU <u>MUST</u> MENTION <u>AMERICAN CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY</u> WHEN MAKING YOUR RESERVATION.

The Doubletree Hotel is honored to have you as their guest during your stay in Charlottesville. In order to guarantee your reservation you should: (1) Make your reservation prior to September 10, 2009; (2) Call and make your reservation using a credit card.

There is a free shuttle between the Charlottesville (CHO) airport and the hotel. Larger airports nearby are Richmond (RIC) and Dulles (IAD), both are approximately an hour's drive away. Richmond to the east and Dulles to the north. For these airports you'll have to rent a car to get to Charlottesville.



A Report from Aiden Faust, Project Archivist—General Marshall Magruder Memorial Library

As the American Clan Gregor Society (ACGS) project archivist, it is my job to enable the records to "speak for themselves" by providing structure and context to the collection. I began the project, in July 2008, by researching the history and organization of the Society. Using the annual ACGS Yearbooks, I compiled a detailed chronology on the development of the Society's library and archives. Piecing together this history gave me a good sense of where the collection had come from and how it changed over time. Next, I carefully examined everything in the archives, looking for pre-existing patterns of organization. This is what archivists call original order. This order is important because it provides information about how documents were created and used by the Society. As an archivist, I have been trained to identify, describe, and maintain the relationships between the records, their creators, and the context of their creation whenever possible.

To make the records more accessible to researchers, it is also my responsibility to clarify, strengthen, or add structure to the organization of the collection. The process of creating an organizational arrangement involved careful planning and discussions with Steve Grier, ACGS Librarian, and Tom Hollowak, Associate Director of Special Collections at the University of Baltimore. With a plan in place, I began the process of physically arranging the records. The collection is roughly divided into two categories: organizational papers and genealogical research. Records that document the workings of the Society are organized by administrative function in chronological order. This allows researchers to see how the Society changes over time and how one event lead to the



# **Correction**

(Submitted by Scott MacGregor)



Correction

It was wonderful to learn that the letter accompanying the annual dues and pledge notices mailed out in early January was read by our membership. I just wish that it was under better circumstances. While much effort is always put into ensuring that what is communicated is as accurate as possible, but mistakes sometimes do creep in.

Many of you may not have noticed the error, but I was informed of my mistake from several descendants of one of our society's founders, Dr. Jesse Ewell, who was inadvertently referred to as "Mister" in the dues/pledges letter. For this unfortunate mistake I extend my sincere apology to the extend family of Dr. Ewell. There was no intent to slight Dr. Ewell or his many contributions towards organizing our wonderful society. Seeing that our society is in its 100<sup>th</sup> year of existence is an excellent statement of the early efforts of Dr. Ewell and Dr. Magruder.

I hope the main intent of the letter was not lost due to this mistake. That is to encourage everyone to join in this year's centennial celebration of our society's founding in 1909. It shall be a splendid event with several honored guests from Scotland, special guests from the states, hopefully all of our living past chieftains, numerous descendants of Dr. Ewell and Dr. Magruder, along with many of our members and their extended families.

The letter was also intended to encourage our members to continue their wonderful philanthropy with contributes to either the Dalmally and/or the Library Archivist project. Even in these difficult economic times I'm optimistic that you'll continue dig deep to provide what assistance you can to these worthy causes. It is hoped that enough funds for the Dalmally project can be raised this year to meet the Scotland Lottery matching fund requirements and enable us to present Sir Malcolm with a substantial check at our centennial

Gathering. Sincerely,

Scott MacGregor, Assistant Chieftain



## Looking At MacGregor DNA Cont.

(Submitted by George McGregor)



(Continued from page 2)

As more people join the project we are able to say with greater confidence who is related to who, and we are beginning to be able to identify family groupings which have more ancient origins. We believe that we know the Glengyle DNA signature and this would be proved once and for all if we could find a male MacGregor descendant of Rob Roy with documented confirmed genealogy to undertake the test. Likewise we think we might have the DNA signature for the Brackley MacGregors from whom descends our current Chief. The Roro MacGregor line is less certain but should become clearer in time.

Just to repeat something stated earlier. There is a separate McGregor line which has its origins in Ireland and at the moment this is the line which includes Griersons and those Griers who do not have Viking ancestry (though there may well be others of these names related to the Scottish MacGregor line who have not yet tested). There are also separate much smaller MacGregor lines apparently connected with Perth or nearby: these families were probably originally called just Gregor (as in 'watcher' or sometimes 'shepherd'), acquiring the 'Mac' as late as the early 1800s. There is another such group associated with Rosshire and north into Caithness/Sutherland, and possibly also south into Invernesshire. The more results we have the more precise our geographical locations will become if participants will remember to submit their genealogies to the project administrator so that different genealogies can be compared and origins inferred from them.

The DNA story is an adventure - this is science in the making and it is rare for ordinary folk like us to be able to be involved at such an early stage in the development of the science. Everyone can take part in some way or another. All the newest results can be found at:

http://www.familytreedna.com/public/MacGregor/

with interpretations over several years - it's best to read in order from the beginning - at: <a href="http://www.clangregor.org/macgregor/dna.html#Updated%20Charts%20-%204/2003">http://www.clangregor.org/macgregor/dna.html#Updated%20Charts%20-%204/2003</a>

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



# 100<sup>th</sup> ACGS Gathering



(Submitted by Scott MacGregor)

#### 100<sup>th</sup> ACGS Gathering in Charlottesville

Everyone's been anxiously waiting for the announcement of our centennial Gathering date. The date has finally been secured and our festivities will occur from Wednesday, 30 September to Sunday, 04 October at the DoubleTree hotel in Charlottesville, Virginia. Reservations can be made by calling the hotel's toll-free number at 1-800-494-9467 and mentioning "American Clan Gregor Society". Our group rate is \$119 a night. Hotel parking and the Charlottesville airport shuttle are free.

In reflection of the significance of this centennial Gathering the festivities have been expanded by a day. Festivities will begin with a Welcoming Reception on Wednesday evening followed by a full day of activities on Thursday.

The committee is hard at work in determining the different venues for possible tour visits on Thursday and Friday. The state of Virginia is known as the "Mother of Presidents" and Charlottesville is surrounded by the homes of three past presidents Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James Monroe. So how about a stop or two at their homes? While we're at it, how about stopping for lunch at a period 18<sup>th</sup> century tavern?

You don't want to miss this opportunity to mingle with our wonderfully gracious Chief, Sir Malcolm and his lovely wife, Lady MacGregor. In addition several other honored guests from Scotland will hopefully be joining us for the festivities.

Other initiatives being organized by the committee will require some voluntary assistance. The first is to pair up members with our honored guests. It's envisioned that our volunteers will spend a day with an honored guest providing insight about the day's events and possibly joining them for the different meals. It's hoped that enough volunteers will step up so no one is left unaccompanied. What an opportunity this is to establish a new friendship and share cultural differences between the people of two countries.

The second is for some of our members living in the Charlottesville, Washington D.C., and Baltimore areas to open their homes to our honored guests a few days before and/or after the Gathering allowing our guests the opportunity to take in the sights of our capital and the ACGS library.

We would like to have a good showing of all our living past chieftains present at this memorable centennial Gathering. In order for this to happen it will take some assistance from both family and friends to help them with travel and general getting around throughout the weekend. Just think how wonderful it would be to not only have all our past chieftains together again but also their extended families.

While organizing the different venues is well underway; prices are far from being determined. The committee is striving to keep the event cost under \$150 per person for all activities on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

If you'd like to volunteer or have any questions about the Gathering please contact Scott MacGregor, Assistant Chieftain, by phone at 757-705-3289 or e-Mail at mcgregr@verizon.net.



# The Florida Shags



(Submitted by Randy Zimmerman)

Our clan's very good friend, John McGregor, is not only a McGregor, but he's also a shag. A what? It sounds disturbing.

But it isn't. John is the founding father of the Scottish Heritage and Genealogy Society, or Shag for short. Some ten years ago, John initiated the society almost without the benefit of having any members; there were but five Shag souls meting in the local library. Now there are well over a hundred.

Shag recently celebrated Rabbie Burns Night (his 250<sup>th</sup> birthday) at the Halifax Yacht Club in Daytona Beach Florida. John, as you might expect, addressed the Haggis in front of some 170 Scotsmen and women. His and Ena's grandchildren danced the highland steps. The Yacht club was packed. Mr. McGregor tells us that his first Burns birthday celebration had but forty participants. Now, the affair has become so popular that there's a waiting list to get in!



John, please add my name to the list. Do you need a piper? Despite them, I am, your editor



# Message From Our Chieftain



(Submitted by Thad Osborne)

With the Stone Mountain Games and our Chattanooga Gathering in the not-very-distant past, it is difficult to believe that, across the U.S.A., games and festivals are starting back up. I am personally driving down to the Northeast Florida Scottish Highland Games this week-end to help Robert Ellington and his diligent assistants with their ACGS tent. Although talk of the national economy is overwhelmingly negative, the good news is that fuel prices are down from last year.

Please consider hosting or assisting at an American Clan Gregor Society presence in your area, as volunteers are always welcomed.

On our web site and elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find confirmation of our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gathering dates of 30 September-4 October in Charlottesville, Virginia. There will be some special distinguished guests, including our Chief, Sir Malcolm, as well a special programming, so we have added a day to this once-in-a-lifetime centennial gathering. We have a room block at the DoubleTree Hotel for the American Clan Gregor Society, but those rooms are expected to fill rapidly. To avoid disappointment, I urge you to make your reservations now, even if there is a possibility that you may have to cancel later.

With this gathering, I shall be passing the Chieftain's medallion to another. I hope that you will continue to spread the word about our Society and the great times we share. Your efforts and presence in your respective states are growing our numbers and ensuring our continuity for years to come.

Yours aye, Thad Osborne





# News From Your Registrar



(Submitted By Lois Ann Garlitz)

<u>Changes</u> – By now, you may be aware that our website has changed from <u>www.acgs.thecapitolscot.com</u> to <u>http://american-clangregor-society.us/</u> and the email to reach the Registrar is now <u>clangregorsociety@earthlink.net</u> And wouldn't you know it, Qwest changed their minds about changing my area code – it will remain 801. Would you take a minute and note those changes in your latest membership directory, esp. SDC's as you meet new people at the various games who want to join? I am listed in three places in the directory.

The MacGregor DNA surname project – There is a new annual report available to read at a link on <a href="www.clangregor.org">www.clangregor.org</a>. Professor Richard McGregor, administrator of the project, has changed the format to a blog which can be read at <a href="http://themacgregordnaproject.blogspot.com/">http://themacgregordnaproject.blogspot.com/</a> and also contains the reports from previous years. This format is east to follow and contains some very useful and printable illustrations. There continue to be excellent tutorials at our testing company's website <a href="http://www.familytreedna.com">www.familytreedna.com</a>.

If you are a participant in the DNA project and would like to send me a copy of your results to put into your membership file folder, I would be pleased to do that for you. There is no requirement to do so, of course. Also, members of the project who have not yet submitted genealogies or who need to update their genealogies should contact Professor McGregor at <a href="richardmcgregorl@yahoo.co.uk">richardmcgregorl@yahoo.co.uk</a>. Your information will be quite useful to him to begin to link families together. After all, our project exists to answer the questions: who are the MacGregors and where do they come from? If you have been thinking about participating, the project can always use more members and their data. You should consider at least the 37 marker test, with 67 marker test now available. There is special pricing for surname project participants, so be sure to ask for it. The planning committee for our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary Gathering this year anticipates that Professor McGregor will be one of our guests.



# **Flowers of The Forest**



#### **Paul Gregg**

Our Society was saddened to learn in January of the death of former chieftain, Paul Gregg. Paul was born in New York City in 1925. He was a graduate of Union College, and, subsequently, of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine where he received an MD, MPH, and a specialty I aerospace medicine.

Paul served his country in the U.S. Navy regular and reserves for thirty-seven years. In addition to serving as a naval doctor, he was the Commanding Officer for four Navy hospitals; he was the Occupational Health physician at Naval Air Station Pensacola for five years, and he was a member of a medical survey team for the Correctional Medical Authority of Florida.

Captain Gregg was our chieftain from 1993 to 1996. Paul was a loyal and motivating spirit for his clan. He never failed to have a smile and a kind word for his fellow clansmen and women.

Paul is survived by his wife, Mildred, of Pensacola, Florida and numerous relatives including eighteen grandchildren. Paul will be sorely missed by all who knew him.



#### **Dovle Long**

Doyle Byron Long, husband of Carolyne McGregor-Long, our SDC for California, suffered two cerebral hemorrhages in 2007. His health deteriorated in October 2008. He spent weeks in the Fresno Veterans Administration Hospital. His devoted wife and Clan Gregor friends visited him often, hoping for his recovery. He remained there until he lost his courageous battle on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> of December, 2008.

> He was born 25th July 1930, in Ft. Cobb, Okla. and moved to central California with his family in the 1930's. He retired from the Carpenters' Union after 30 years, during which time he worked on many major commercial projects in Southern Calif. Doyle served in the US Army 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne 345 Regiment in Korea 1948-1951 and received World War II Occupation Accommodation, 2 Bronze Medals.

Over the years, Doyle also served on many boards and organizations including Alta Vista School Board of Trustees, Porterville, Missionary Baptist Church Deacon, Pixley Lions Club, Pixley Town Council, Tipton-Pixley Cemetery Board, Tulare County Sheriff's VIP Unit. He leaves a legacy rich with friends and family who remember him for being a man of endless talents, sincere generosity, hard work, and who was always there when needed, especially for Clan Gregor.

Doyle was ever present at Clan Gregor events, meetings, dinners, gatherings in Scotland, and Highland Games with his wife, Carolyne McGregor-Long, who has been a long time officer with the Clan Gregor Society, Western USA Chapter, and an active member of ACGS, of which she is State Deputy Chieftain for Calif. He was a true friend to countless Gregors. He will be deeply missed by Clan Gregor friends and his family.



# What's Cooking, MacGregors?



#### **SHEPHERD'S PIE**

1 - 1 1/2 lb. ground lamb or beef 1 medium yellow onion, sliced thinly 1 - 1 1/2 c. mashed potatoes 1/2 c. diced cooked carrots

1 c. brown stock or prepared onion gravy) 2 tbs. melted butter

salt and pepper to taste

- 1. Brown onions thoroughly in large skillet or stock pot.
- 2. Add ground lamb or beef, cook until browned, stirring frequently.

- 3. Add stock or gravy, make fairly moist to allow absorption when baking.
- 4. Season to taste.
- 5. Layer carrots and meat, in bottom of deep, 5-quart (5 litre) casserole dish, spread with mashed potatoes.
- 6. Drizzle melted butter on top, and crisscross with a fork.
- 7. Bake in preheated 350°F (180°C) oven.
- 8. Serve after 40 45 minutes or when potatoes form browned, crispy crust.

Serves 2 - 4.



#### ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Morfolk, VA 23503-1243 440 Willoughdy Bay THE AMERICAN CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY NEWSLETTER OF ARDCHOILLE?





# Library Archivist Project...Cont. (Submitted by Steven C. Grier, Librarian)



(Continued from page 3)

next. The genealogical notes and papers, on the other hand, are organized by surname or subject. This arrangement allows researchers doing family history to approach the collection with specific names and dates in mind.

Digital work is another component of the project. Revising the online finding aid (available at: http://archives.ubalt.edu/acgs/info.htm) is an on-going process that reflects how far the project has progressed. The introduction provides descriptive information about ACGS and its archives, while the "table of contents" links users to the organization of the collection. This guide is the primary tool that provides intellectual access to the records. It also offers the opportunity to make digitized content available to researchers. Scanned documents can be linked to the online finding aid, allowing users to download images of records from the archives to their computers. Although the majority of the ACGS collection has not yet been scanned, a few examples of material currently available in digital format include: Annual Gathering programs (1909-1951), images of the veterans' war banners, and recent editions of the society's newsletter.

During the last two months of 2008, several shipments of additional records arrived in the archives. Integrating these new materials into the collection tested the flexibility and utility of its organizational structure. So far, the results have been very positive; I am happy to report that the collection is becoming more complete and balanced as more records arrive. Of the twelve series in the collection, nine have been processed so far. In my first six months on the project, I have been careful to document the actions I've taken to arrange and describe the Records of the American Clan Gregor Society. I believe archivists have an obligation to make our work as transparent, extensible, and reversible as possible. It is my hope that the ACGS collection continues to reflect the growth and evolution of the society for many years to come.

Both Tom Hollowak and I look forward to meeting ACGS members and friends at the 100th Anniversary Gathering. At the Gathering, we will be offering a presentation on the library and archives as well as be available to answer your questions.



# Ardchoille

Newsletter of the American Clan Gregor Society



August 2009

#### Volume XV, Issue II

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

The heat and the volume is being turned up now that the gathering in Edinburgh is fast approaching. At least 8000 people are coming for the full two days from all over the world. Macgregors are coming from 10 different countries. About 120 clans and families will be represented which is of course is tremendous. However, I fear that many of the 'names' that are represented claim they are clans when they are not. Rather than giving a definition of the word clan and its meaning perhaps a better way is to look at a particular example of the sort thing that is going on. Take the so called Clan MacAlpine. There is in America a clan Macalpine society claiming to be a clan when it is nothing of the sort. Indeed its own website says that it has no officially approved badge, has never had a chief (apart from claiming King Kenneth MacAlpin who was king long before clans became established social and fighting units), and there are no records of any activities. Further deductions from the website can rapidly be made such as - the clan macalpine never formed a fighting unit and, there were never any clan lands or artifacts. Consequently there is no clan history. Various other empty claims are made on the website such as 'the history of the clan Macalpine is shrouded in Scotland's past... And will never be clear'. It certainly is shrouded will never be clear because there is no history.

A much better and more accurate website is that produced by Dodd Greer, FSA Scot - www.siol-alpin.com which tells the well known story that Clan Alpin was an amalgamation of a number of clans including Grants, MacGregors, MacAulays, Macfies, Macnabs and Mackinnons. The key difference is that these clans have a recorded history, clan chiefs and operated as social units. It would also make sense to deduce that Macalpine would be a name taken during proscriptions. A similar example is that of Clan Chattan - perhaps a more recognizable and active grouping of clans from the north of Scotland. Clan Chattan is a working coalition of well known clans (Macphersons, Mackintoshes, Farquharsons, MacBains etc) whose current chief is the Mackintosh. If anyone should be chief of clan Macalpine it should probably be me - though I must state that I am not actively on the hunt for further cheifships!

Macalpines should really join us or one of the other clans that formed part of Siol Alpin. As they have formed their own society they should really call themselves a family as they are not a clan in their own right and never should be. Like the myriad of tartans spawned over the years the Gathering in Edinburgh has spawned a myriad of so called clans. Many of them should simply be called families. It may well be indicative of how successful the word clan is as a 'brand' as it gives this sense of belonging and community which many people yearn for. There is a sense of uniqueness and strong human values associated with the word "clan'. In many ways these good old fashioned values are what clan societies have exemplified over the years and is the root of their success.



# Gathering 2009 in Scotland

(Submitted by Scott MacGregor)



The Homecoming festivities held in Edinburgh, Scotland in late July were most enjoyable and a huge success. The parade up the royal mile saw Clan Gregor being one of the larger units with members stretching six across and fourteen rows deep. And that wasn't all of us!

The Clan Gregor Society's International Gathering in Stirling the week after continued the course of bringing us MacGregors together for kinship, exploration of our early clan lands, and a bit of colorful history surrounding Clan Gregor.

MacGregors originated from South Africa, New Zealand, Philippines, United States of America, Canada, England, and Scotland to name a few.



Be sure to stop by at the ACGS Centennial Gathering to see a slide show of many more pictures of Scotland taken by our members. Beside the many Clan Gregor sites visited, our photographers also visited the Jedburgh Abbey, Melrose Abbey, Dunnottar Castle, the Isle of Skye, among others.



## **Correction**

(Submitted by Scott MacGregor)





Subject: Muriel King's email address; 2008 Yearbook

The correct email address is <u>m.gk@verizon.net</u> NOT <u>m.dk@verizon.net</u> as entered on page 12 of the Yearbook. It is correct on the web site.



It is with great pleasure to announce that our Chieftain has appointed Carolynn Black-Stoops of Bend, Oregon as our State Deputy Chieftain for the states of Oregon and Washington. Carolynn and her husband Robert have been very active in the Celtic events along the west coast for several years. They are members of both the ACGS and the CGS having attended our Gatherings and well as those in Scotland. They are well known by members of both societies and will be tremendous asset to our Society.

Please join me in welcoming Carolynn as our newest SDC. Carolynn's contact information is:

Carolynn Black-Stoops 61269 Day Spring Drive Bend, Oregon 97702-2972

Phone: 541-330-2385

Email: DeschutesDiva@aoi com

Slainte,

Ron McGregor Ranking Deputy Chieftain



# Message From Our Chieftain (Submitted by Thad Osborne)



By the time you read this, I hope you will have made your plans to attend our once-in-a-lifetime centenary celebration and Gathering in Charlottesville. The plans for this event are so great that an extra day has been added so that we might spend more time together.

It is less than one month until our centennial anniversary Gathering in Charlottesville. I am also reminded that I have only a short time left as your Chieftain. While many of you will be at the Gathering, and that is altogether appropriate to what is, for most of us, a once-in-a-lifetime event, I would like to take this opportunity, for those who will be present and those who cannot, to express my appreciation for all who have helped and supported me during my tenure: You may have hosted a tent at one of the many Scottish games or festivals; you may have counseled me when I needed someone off whom to "bounce" an idea; you may have sponsored or recruited a new member, growing our Society; you may have helped me at an event; or contributed to one or more of our charities.

As we enter our second century with a new Chieftain, I ask that you give him the same support as you have given me during the last three years. We have a great story to tell, and a great Society to which to belong, and all MacGregors in North America should be part of it.

I am pleased to report that Peter Gregg of Delaware has agreed to become our new merchandise manager. As I assist him in the tradition, I want to thank our membership for their past support and purchases of ACGS gift items. You can expect some new items soon.

Unfortunately, we have had difficulty obtaining one of our very popular items, the film, "MacGregors-Children of the Mist." As you remember this film was sold in both DVD and VMS formats at our Gatherings and various games. Three orders of the film have sold completely out. Unfortunately, the producer, Scotfilms, appears to have gone out of business, and it will not be possible to obtain more.

"I look forward to seeing all of you at the Gathering, and in my new, "unofficial" capacity, at many gatherings to come."

Yours aye,

Thad Osborne



#### **Kids Corner!**

(Submitted by George McGregor)



Robert V. Greer of Bridgeport, WV, son of Robert Greer, [No 2380] and grandson of WV SDC, Mike Greer [No. 1933], attended the North American Academy of Piping and Drumming in Valle Crucis, NC for a week prior to the opening of the Grandfather Mountain Games. The student pipers performed as a massed band at the Opening Ceremony of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.



Pictured on the left is Clan Chieftain Thad Osbourne, on the right is Robert V. Greer

Robert was honored to meet and visit with Clan Chieftain Thad Osbourne.

Robert has been a piping student of Ann Watson, Bridgeport, WV for four years. Last year he was invited and joined the Pipes and Drums of St. Andrew in Parkersburg, WV. He will be a sophomore at Notre Dame High School in Clarksburg, WV, where he is an honor student and a member of the soccer, baseball and swimming teams as well as the high school band. Robert is an altar server at St. James Church where he is active in the youth group and youth choir.





A picture of member David King's son representing the Clan Gregor in the youth Highland Wrestling, winning his first match at the Grandfather Mountain Games!



# Grant Of Arms Update

(Submitted by Howard Grossnickle)



Sir Malcolm, Thad Osbome, Council and Membership of ACGS,

In a phone call to The Chairman of The Heraldry Society of Scotland, Romilly Squire on July 16th, 2009; I learned that our petition for a grant of Arms for the Society is now in the hands of the Lord Lyon King of Arms David H. Seller, and that we could expect a letter from him on the verbal descriptors of the Grant of Arms expected around the time of the Gathering. If it comes in time for the gathering we will have a presentation of the reading of the Grant of Arms, but I do need to caution that it may not be final by the time of the Gathering.

The arms that the Lord Lyon's Court are in the process of issuing are to be derived from Sir Malcolm's personal Arms, but might look similar to those that are held by the Clan Gregor Society, of which we will have a copy for your viewing at the Gathering.

Should we receive the Grant of Arms, we will then engage a Heraldic Artist to prepare a painting of the Arms on Velum from which we will be able to derive the new Chieftain's medallion, lapel pins, letter heads and membership documents, flag/banner or other items deemed as appropriate use of the Arms by the Council. If you have any questions regarding this, please speak with myself or Ian Greig at the Gathering or you may contact me by phone or e-mail between now and the Gathering.

Howard R. Grossnickle Treasurer ACGS





After years of planning and months of hard work by the committee this year's Centennial Gathering is nearly upon us. What a place to descend upon for our event filled weekend celebrating the society's 100<sup>th</sup> year in existence. Just think our founding fathers, Dr. Edward May Magruder and Dr. Jesse Ewell travelled over this same countryside one hundred years ago going about their daily business and organizing our most worthy society. A little over one hundred years prior to them this area was home to several of our young country's early presidents.

Having just returned from two weeks abroad in Scotland, it's easy to see why our ancestors settled in the shadow of the Allegany Mountains, those luscious green rolling mountains.

Sir Malcolm and Lady MacGregor will be joining us for this centennial celebration of our society. Other honored guests include Professor Richard McGregor administrator of the Clan Gregor DNA Study, Mr. Keith MacGregor head of the Dalmally Stones Project, Mr. Tom Hollowak and Mr. Aiden Faust University of Baltimore archivist for the society's Marshall Magruder Library collection. These guests will each be giving a presentation on their subject matter, so come ready with your questions.

The local tours on Thursday and Friday will carry us to the presidential homes of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, the third and fourth Presidents of the United States. We'll be laying memorial wreaths at both the grave of Dr. Edward May Magruder and Dr. Jessie Ewell. Those members who have passed since we last met in Chattanooga will be recognized during our memorial service at Christ Church on Friday. The church will also host a Kirkin' O' the Tartan on Sunday morning. This is the same church the society attended 25 years ago for the 75th Anniversary Gathering.

Who knew we had such musical and dancing talent within our membership. We will be showcasing this talent during the Friday evening Ceilidh. You won't want to miss our own MacGregor Idol event. Of course both Ceilidhs will feature our magnificent MacGregor pipe band.

Our elaborate banquet on Saturday evening is expected to be attended by three hundred and fifty MacGregors and friends. What a change from just a few hundred years ago when the name MacGregor was nearly abolished and we couldn't even gather in groups of more than four individuals without the possible penalty of death. This has a lot to say about the spirit and clanship of the MacGregors.

Don't miss this once in a life-time experience to celebrate our society's past one hundred years while kicking off the next hundred years. I look forward to sharing this experience with you in person.

Let's meet in Charlottesville in October for a wonderful experience.



# **News From Your Registrar**

(Submitted By Lois Ann Garlitz)



News from the Registrar Sept 2009

This will be a grand year to be a member of the American Clan Gregor Society. The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary planning committee has many exciting activities for us. If you are aware of members of your family and/or friends who have been meaning to join, this would be a chance to get their names and pedigrees printed in the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year book, which will come out next spring/summer. I just need to hear from them ASAP, to have time to process their application before the Gathering.

Two of our guest speakers will be Dr. Richard McGregor, administrator of the MacGregor DNA Project and Keith MacGregor, overseas representative to the Clan Gregor Society in Scotland. I encourage you to bring your questions about DNA, but anticipate that the discussion will be above the beginner level, so feel free to bone up a bit by reading the tutorials as <a href="www.familytreedna.com">www.familytreedna.com</a> website or check out a book from your local library to understand the basic concepts. Keith will bring us the latest news about the Dalmally Project, an antiquities preservation work in progress.

See you in Charlottesville!



A Report from Aiden Faust, Project Archivist—General Marshall Magruder Memorial Library

As the American Clan Gregor Society (ACGS) project archivist, it is my job to enable the records to "speak for themselves" by providing structure and context to the collection. I began the project, in July 2008, by researching the history and organization of the Society. Using the annual ACGS Yearbooks, I compiled a detailed chronology on the development of the Society's library and archives. Piecing together this history gave me a good sense of where the collection had come from and how it changed over time. Next, I carefully examined everything in the archives, looking for pre-existing patterns of organization. This is what archivists call original order. This order is important because it provides information about how documents were created and used by the Society. As an archivist, I have been trained to identify, describe, and maintain the relationships between the records, their creators, and the context of their creation whenever possible.

To make the records more accessible to researchers, it is also my responsibility to clarify, strengthen, or add structure to the organization of the collection. The process of creating an organizational arrangement involved careful planning and discussions with Steve Grier, ACGS Librarian, and Tom Hollowak, Associate Director of Special Collections at the University of Baltimore. With a plan in place, I began the process of physically arranging the records. The collection is roughly divided into two categories: organizational papers and genealogical research. Records that document the workings of the Society are organized by administrative function in chronological order. This allows researchers to see how the Society changes over time and how one event lead to the next. The genealogical notes and papers, on the other hand, are organized by surname or subject. This arrangement allows researchers doing family history to approach the collection with specific names and dates in mind.

Digital work is another component of the project. Revising the online finding aid (available at: http://archives.ubalt.edu/acgs/info.htm) is an on-going process that reflects how far the project has progressed. The introduction provides descriptive information about ACGS and its archives, while the "table of contents" links users to the organization of the collection. This guide is the primary tool that provides intellectual access to the records. It also offers the opportunity to make digitized content available to researchers. Scanned documents can be linked to the online finding aid, allowing users to download images of records from the archives to their computers. Although the majority of the ACGS collection has not yet been scanned, a few examples of material currently available in digital format include: Annual Gathering programs (1909-1951), images of the veterans' war banners, and recent editions of the society's newsletter.

During the last two months of 2008, several shipments of additional records arrived in the archives. Integrating these new materials into the collection tested the flexibility and utility of its organizational structure. So far, the results have been very positive; I am happy to report that the collection is becoming more complete and balanced as more records arrive. Of the twelve series in the collection, nine have been processed so far. In my first six months on the project, I have been careful to document the actions I've taken to arrange and describe the Records of the American Clan Gregor Society. I believe archivists have an obligation to make our work as transparent, extensible, and reversible as possible. It is my hope that the ACGS collection continues to reflect the growth and evolution of the society for many years to come.

Both Tom Hollowak and I look forward to meeting ACGS members and friends at the 100th Anniversary Gathering. At the Gathering, we will be offering a presentation on the library and archives as well as be available to answer your questions.



# Catching Up!

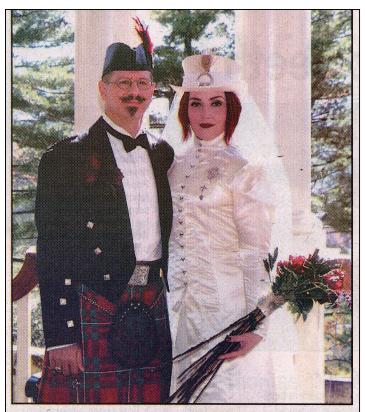


# Lave



Emma Kay Gregg; Born June 28, 2005. The daughter of Ross T. Gregg, III and Carol Gregg and granddaughter of Ross T. Gregg, Jr. (Clan 2090) and Virginia K. Gregg (Clan 2091-A).





MR. AND MRS. PETER MANUELIAN bride is the former Rebecca Gregg

# Manuelian - Gregg

Rebecca Kay Gregg and Peter John Manuelian were married on Oct. 31 at Graceland Inn on the campus of Davis & Elkins College with Judge John Henning officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Ross and Virginia Gregg of Jacksonville, Fla. She is employed as a branch manager for Wachovia Bank in Jacksonville. Fla.

The bride was escorted by her father and given in marriage by her parents. She wore a custom-made replica of a 1870 Victorian riding jacket with matching hat made by designer Kambriel.

The bridegroom is the son of Armen and Marie Manuel of Islip Terrace, N.Y. He received his Bachelor of Arts in psychology from Davis & Elkins College in 1980 and his Master of Education degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1995. He is currently employed as a workforce services representative for WorkSource, a regional workforce board in Jacksonville, Fla..

Following the wedding, the couple honeymooned for nine days in Edinburgh, Scotland.



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Morfolk, VA 23503-1243
440 Willoughdy Bay
THE AMERICAN CLAN GREGOR
NEWSLETTER OF
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"ARDCHOILLE"





#### **Ayrshire Meat Roll**

This popular dish (made from bacon scraps) was traditionally boiled in a cloth, the advantage of this method being that it does not dry out. At the same time, some of the flavour seeps into the water, so use foil or grease-proof paper within a cloth. Alternatively the roll can be put in a greased earthenware dish, covered tightly, set in a few inches of water and baked in the oven (350°F / 180°C for 1 hour).

- 1 lb (500g) Ayrshire bacon, minced 1 lb (500g) stewing steak, minced 6 oz (150g) white breadcrumbs 1/4 tsp nutmeg, grated 2 eggs
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped salt and freshly ground black pepper

- Mix all the ingredients together thoroughly and then roll into a sausage-shape on a floured board.
- Wrap up in foil or greaseproof paper.
- Put on a large pan of boiling water and immerse a large piece of cotton or linen cloth in it. Remove from the pan, lay it out on a table and wrap up the meat roll, tying it at the ends.
- Put a plate in the base of the pan and lower in the meat roll.
- Have the water almost covering it and boil for 2 hours.
- When cooked, roll in browned crumbs and serve hot or cold.



# Ardchoille

Newsletter of the American Clan Gregor Society 100th Gathering Commemorative Edition



November 2009

#### Volume XV, Issue III



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Highlights	

# ACGS Centennial Gathering Highlights...

## Farewell and Best Wishes New RDC!

#### Blunt Scholarships! New Newsletter Editor! A Word From Our New Chieftain!

## Upcoming Events Items for Sale!

Library Project Update!

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For more Clan information please visit our website at: http://american-clangregor-society.us/

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

2009 has been a great year for MacGregors all over the world.

An excellent gathering was put together by the Clan Gregor Society in Scotland to mark the Gathering 2009 in Edinburgh. MacGregors from all over the world came to that event, many of them coming from the USA, some from the ACGS. It was also marvelous to see so many at our home at Bannatyne in Newtyle. It is unusual to have two major events in one year but that is what happened because the 100th anniversary of ACGS also fell this year as well. The planning for the latter event, I know, has been going on for some years but I think the committee under Scott MacGregor did a fantastic job in getting everything together for such a memorable occasion in Charlottesville. It was truly magnificent- Fiona and I were not just impressed with the arrangements but the whole ambience and family feel to the gathering of the children of the mist. The mist was in evidence on the Friday-so, well done, Scott and the committee for organizing that as well.

I must also thank the committee for presenting me with the stunning crystal lion on its wonderful plinth. It sits in our drawing room at Bannatyne which is an extremely well lit room. Consequently the light reflecting off the lion is rather striking as there are vignettes of light dotted across the walls at various times of day (when the sun is shining). It will always remind me of the 100th in Charlottesville. Secondly. I would like to thank the society for their very generous donation of \$7,000 to the Dalmally Project fund. This is a tremendous gift and reflects the point in my speech about Americans being the most generous on earth.

Fiona and I were really looked after well on our American trip. Leighton and Mary Stradley transported us from Washington via the Skyline Parkway to Charlottesville. A wonderful drive through the woods and mountains of the Shenandoah National Park. After the gathering we spent a couple of days on the Chester River, which flows into the Chesapeake Bay, with John and Lillian Grier. Here we had wonderful views across the river from their house and excellent samplings of the various types of crab and seafood to be found there. This trip was combined with a visit to the Langsdale Library in Baltimore with Steven to see the Marshall Magruder Library which was a revelation. A collection of MacGregor memorabilia and artifacts detailing MacGregor activities in the USA since about 1660. The story of MacGregors and the various septs and family names is very much the story of the clan system in America, as it is in Australia, New Zealand, and Africa. No one can fail to be interested in this aspect of our clan history- the story of emigration and what happened in those years. The 100th gathering of the society in Charlottesville is the embodiment of that story. Symbolically, the grandchildren of the founders, Dr. Magruder and Dr. Ewell, and my grandfather were present there, and indeed some of their great-grandchildren! A tribute to their vision and sense of clanship.

Finally, I witnessed for the first time the handover of chieftains. Many thanks to Thad Osbourne for all his help over the last three years and for keeping in touch about various developments. I would like to add how much I am looking forward to working with Ron McGregor in the coming years, where the challenges will continue.



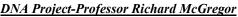


# ACGS Centennial Gathering (Submitted by Carol MacGregor Spitznagle)

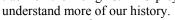
#### The Dalmally Project-Keith MacGregor

Keith MacGregor, Overseas Representative and Member of Council for Clan Gregor, has been interested for a very long time in preserving the Dalmally Stones as well as other MacGregor antiquities. At one of our afternoon sessions at the Gathering, he told us that these stones were used as grave covers over the coffins of our 13th and 14th Chiefs and were very possibly carved by Knights Templars who fled France for Scotland and founded the Loch Awe School of Carving in the area where our early ancestors lived. Instead of the valuable stones being preserved inside Dalmally Church they are in the churchyard subject to theft, and destruction from acid rain as well as knicks and cuts from lawnmowers. There is a tradition that 12 stones exist but only 7 have been identified so far. Keith stressed that every effort should be taken to find and preserve all historical treasures of Clan Gregor.





Professor Richard McGregor, Chairman of Clan Gregor, gave a fascinating account of the DNA Project when he attended the Gathering. As of September, 2009, there were 414 people participating in this study, the 11th largest group in the world and the 3rd largest Scottish clan group. He told us that there are three predominant groups in our family makeup- one originating in the Caucuses which probably entered Scotland with the Vikings or Anglo-Saxons, one originating in the Balkans which then went west to Scandinavia and Denmark then into Ireland and Scotland, and the largest group which originated in western Europe and came into England and then Scotland. As the name MacGregor was proscribed from 1603 to 1775, many people assumed aliases and subsequently lost track of their origins. This project hopes to reunite the MacGregor clan and help all of us





Aidan Faust and Tom Hollowak brought artifacts and documents from the General Marshall Magruder Library at the University of Baltimore to show the attendees some of the materials available for Clan Gregor to use and borrow. Steven Grier, our librarian, also brought old yearbooks and clan histories to offer for sale to raise money to buy more books and items for our use. They also gave a lecture on Saturday afternoon about the library and its holdings and services.



#### Ron McGregor and Sisters

Ron McGregor's big sisters, Betty Avis, Pat Skelton, and JoAnn Pippin, wanted to be on hand to watch their little brother being invested as the new chieftain of the American Clan Gregor Society and to make sure he stayed out of trouble during the proceedings. Luckily, the ceremony went without a hitch. After the investiture, Pat announced that she and her sisters were making a generous donation to the Dalmally Project in their brother's honor and in recognition of his love for Scotland and Clan Gregor.





(Continued from page 2)

#### **Honoring Eileen Pruett**

Eileen Pruett was honored for her many years of loyalty and service to the American Clan Gregor Society. It was noted in her commendation that this was her 25th attendance at a Gathering with her first being in Natchez, MS. in 1984. She also has assisted at clan tents in the central Illinois area where she has shared stories about her travels in Ireland and Scotland with the visitors there. Mention was made of her degree in Journalism from the University of Illinois and career in publishing which helped make her storytelling more enjoyable for everyone.















Pictured: (L to R): Maggie Sanderfield, Lady MacGregor, Eileen Pruett, Sir Malcolm

This year's gathering was even better than any of us could have anticipated. From September 30th to October 4th, 2009, over 300 MacGregors, Magruders, Ewells, Greers, Greggs, and various and sundry other Clan Gregor connections attended meetings and classes, viewed historical homes, visited, ate, and partied.

On Wednesday night, a small reception was held for early arrivals and old and new friends greeted each other over a glass of wine and piece of cheese. The next morning we headed out for our first day of activities and laid a wreath on the grave of one of the founders of our society and our first scribe, Dr. Jesse Ewell. After this tribute, we proceeded to Montpelier to visit the home of James and Dolly Madison. On the way back, we drove through the beautiful campus of the University of Virginia. When we arrived back at the hotel, Professor Richard McGregor educated us about DNA and our clan's participation in this project. That night we had our first ceilidh and were entertained by our own balladeer, Carl Peterson.

Early the next day, we headed out again- this time to Christ Episcopal Church- where we had a memorial service for those members lost in the past year. That wreath was taken to Maplewood Cemetery where it was placed at the grave of our other co-founder and first chieftain, Dr. Edward May Magruder. We then went to Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson, where we had lunch in a lovely wooded picnic area before seeing a short film and touring the house and grounds of our third President. In the later afternoon, Keith MacGregor talked to us about the Dalmally Stones and preservation of these and other MacGregor antiquities. His lecture and slides really drove home the need to protect our heritage for our future generations. That evening, our second ceilidh featured a real treat. Vida Burtis, the daughter of Randy Walker, SDC for South Texas, thrilled us with her beautiful soprano voice. Her concert was made even more memorable by a montage of scenes from Scotland and America.

Saturday morning was work time and many members attended the general council meeting where Ron McGregor was elected as the new chieftain. At 1pm, Steven Grier, our librarian, and our archivists, Aidan Faust and Tom Hollowak, told us about our holdings at the Marshall Magruder Library at the University of Baltimore. At 3pm, we marshaled behind Sir Malcolm and Lady MacGregor and marched down the mall to the delight of Charlottesville residents. When we arrived at the band shell, we were entertained by our pipe band and dancers. Our 100th anniversary banquet began at 7:30pm and after a delicious meal featuring the requisite haggis, we had speeches by Sir Malcolm and Thad Osbourne and the installation of Ron as chieftain. The pipe band played several MacGregor tunes and the evening was capped off by the stirring rendition of MacGregor's Gathering by John Masterson.

Some clan members had to leave early the next morning for home but many others attended the Kirkin' of the Tartan at Christ Church. While we took home our commemorative medallions and pewter plates, the best memories of the gathering will

(Continued on page 6)



# Farewell and Best Wishes



(Submitted by Thad Osbourne)

Our once-in-a-lifetime centenary Gathering is now history and so is my tenure as your Chieftain. Although I consider it a special personal honor to have served you, most of the credit should go to the outstanding team of officers and councilors with whom I served. These ladies and gentlemen have given generously of their time and talent to prepare the American Clan Gregor Society for its next century. In the future, you may be asked to serve the Society in one of these roles, and I hope that you will consider stepping up to carry on the great tradition of the MacGregors.

Your new chieftain, Ron McGregor, brings a wealth of skill and a love of MacGregor heritage to our highest office. During the three years past, I have had the opportunity to observe and work with Ron in his role as Ranking Deputy Chieftain. Ron is especially conscious of the critical role of the state deputies in perpetuating and growing our Society. I know you join me in

Don't forget the next American visit of our Chief, Sir Malcolm, and Lady MacGregor to the Central Florida Scottish Highland Games on 16-17 January, 2010 at Winter Springs, Florida.

Yours Aye, Thad Osbourne



wishing Ron well and hope you will assist him when asked.



















## New Ranking Deputy Chieftain!

(Submitted by Various Members)



Friends,

If you haven't learned already, the new Ranking Deputy Chieftain is a long term member of the ACGS and family friend Howard R. Grossnickle. He has organized and manned many Clan Gregor tents at Highland Games and attended the International Clan Gregor Gathering in Scotland in 2000. As our Treasurer he was able to set aside funds to purchase the SDCs the burgundy table covers and is working diligently to provide additional support to our SDC. As an above-and-beyond effort he has spent almost four years in the effort to get the ACGS it's own set of "arms". The Lord Lyon of Scotland approved his petition a couple of months ago and Howard has arranged for the final step - that of having a heraldic artist to paint the final offering prior to presenting it to the Lord Lyon for his final approval.

Howard will serve you well as your point of contact with the Council of the ACGS. I look forward to working with Howard for his next three years as the RDC and I expect each of you will be happy with his efforts on your behalf. I enjoyed working with you as the RDC and will continue to expect great things of our SDCs.

With warmest regards,

Ron McGregor

#### Howard:

I would like to extend warm Holiday greetings to one and all after having experienced the Clanship of our  $100^{th}$  Gathering in Charlottesville. Those of you who attended the Gathering know that I have the great honor to serve all of you as the new Ranking Deputy Chieftain, as well as the Treasurer in the coming year. This might be the first time some of you are now reading of this, and I hope that I have your best wishes at heart as we help Ron McGregor lead our Society into the next 100 years.

I was most impressed with Randolph Walkers presentation at the Celeidh and his daughter Vida Ann's beautiful voice graced not only the Celeidh, but our Banquet the next evening. This was my best experience at a Gathering yet, and I can only hope that we have many more such Gatherings like this.

I would also like to make note of a YouTube link to a Scottish musical group called The Corries, so please try the link on your computer as it is all about the Battle of Glen Fruin; titled 'The Bloody Sarks" (shirts).

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UhGBZdjxe2I

Slainte mhath, Howard R. Grossnickle RDC & Treasurer











# **Blunt Scholarships!**

(Submitted by Richard M. Greer, PhD.)



CALLING ALL BLUNT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Have you ever wondered where the many Blunt scholarship recipients are and what their accomplishments have been? Well, so have we. Richard M. Greer has taken on the project of trying to locate as many as possible and then have them tell their stories. This is a personal interest project and should both be enjoyable and make us as the American Clan Gregor Society proud. While this information is available at several locations, we still need your help. If you know of any of the recipients would you get name, home address and email address to Richard at Richard M. Greer, 615 Tulip Drive, Bowling Green, KY 42104 or Richard.m.greer@insightbb.com Many thanks in advance.



## **New Newsletter Editor**

(Submitted by Carol MacGregor Spitznagle)

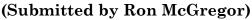


Hi- I'm Carol MacGregor Spitznagle and I'm the new editor of the newsletter. I would like to send out each edition packed with exciting and interesting articles about the events and milestones of the American Clan Gregor Society. To achieve that, I need to have news of events happening in your area and any other items that concern the Clan and would be of interest to readers. Hope to hear from you!\*

\*Please send submissions to: Carol's address and email are located on the front page of this newsletter.



# Message From Our New Chieftain





This has been a remarkable year indeed for our clan. In July, the very special "Homecoming Scotland" event was held in Edinburgh. Our Chief was one of the many highland clan chiefs that sponsored a tent on the grounds of Holyrood Palace for a 'meet and greet' with our clans men and women from ten countries. He also led the formation of those MacGregors in the "Parade of Clans" along the 'Royal Mile'. That weekend was arguably the largest 'peaceful' highland clan event in the history of Scotland. A number of our ACGS members participated in this event as well as the International Gathering of Clan Gregor held in Stirling. For those ACGS members that had

attended previous Clan Gregor gatherings in Scotland, all appear to agree this trip may very well be the single most memorable of their life - past and future. I guess it could not get much better than that.

At the same time we of the ACGS were preparing for another remarkable event on this side of the pond ... our CENTENNIAL GATHERING. On June 10th, one hundred years ago in Charlottesville an organizational meeting was held that was to become the Society to which we proudly belong today. The first Gathering was held four months later at the National Hotel in Washington D.C. Take a moment to think about it - two men - resolute descendants of the MacGregors of old - gave birth to an idea that became the American Clan Gregor Society.

A few weeks ago two hundred ninety-four of our clansmen and friends assembled in Charlottesville to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the founding of our society. A hundred years can be considered to be a remarkable span of time considering our own Scottish leaders spent more than a hundred years attempting to destroy any vestige of our race. And, I find a certain comfort in remembering that many large corporations, huge armies, immense family fortunes, and several modern governments were born and disappeared in those same one hundred years. Yes, this was but yet another remarkable event in the history of our very remarkable clan and our Society. I am confident that our clan and our society shall continue to .."flourish forever".

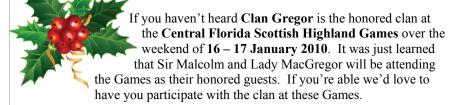
With the coming holiday season I wish each of you and your loved ones an enjoyable Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and ask each of you to join me in praying for the men and women serving in our Armed Forces. Slainte.



# Clan Gregor; Honored In Florida In 2010! ACGS Centennial Items for Sale!

(Submitted by Scott MacGregor)







The Games website is <a href="http://www.flascot.com/">http://www.flascot.com/</a>.

The host hotel, the Altamonte Springs Hilton is already booked! The Ramada Inn on Douglas Avenue still has a few rooms at \$53.00 per night. The hotel phone number is 407-862-8200 and website http://www.ramada.com/Ramada/control/Booking/property info?propertyId=27953&cid=carat\_search-Ramada.

Let us show everyone that we're **MacGregors**, **Despite Them!!!** We hope to see you at the Games.

We're sorry if you were unable able to join your fellow American Clan Gregor Society members in celebrating the society's Centennial Gathering in Charlottesville, Virginia over the first weekend in October. For this celebration recognizing such a milestone achievement of our society, several lovely commemorative items were commissioned and distributed.

Following the Gathering we have a small number of these commemorative items still in stock and for sale. The remaining commemorative items and their prices are as follows:

- Walker Cookies in a commemorative MacGregor carton at \$7.50
- 2. Centennial Gathering pewter plates at \$25
- 3. Centennial Gathering medallions at \$10
- 4. Centennial Gathering lapel pins at \$5

Don't wait until it's too late, get your items today!

Please e-mail your orders to me at <a href="mailto:mcgregr@verizon.net">mcgregr@verizon.net</a>. Make your check payable to ACGS and mail it directly to our treasurer, Howard Grossnickle, at 245 Alpine Meadows Cir., Oregon, WI 53575-3929.



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!!



## **ACGS Centennial Gathering Cont.**

(Submitted by Carol MacGregor Spitznagle)

(Continued from page 3)

be the joy of seeing our friends and celebrating our heritage.

Some of the comments received after the gathering reflect the feelings of many of us who attended; "I sometimes wonder about our validity as a Clan anymore, but now I know. We are strong, we are colorful, and we can unite. "---" It really was a super Gathering. Everything seemed to run smoothly. Many, many thanks for making it such a memorable occasion for everyone."---"My personal thanks to you, Scott, for all that you did. And please give my thanks and appreciation to Sir Malcolm and Lady MacGregor for maintaining leadership over such a strong-willed and fractious clan."



#### News from the Library—Submitted by Steven Grier, Librarian

The 100<sup>th</sup> Gathering was a great showcase for the General Marshall Magruder Memorial Library (MML). Tom Hollowak and Aiden Faust, from the University of Baltimore, Langsdale Library, Special Collections, gave an excellent presentation on how to access the books and archives contained in the MML. The presentation was the culmination of a year long project funded by your donations and the ACGS to bring the MML up to standard. Tom and Aiden also brought books and archival material to Gathering for folks to view. Thanks to Tom and Aiden for all of their hard work.

As a result of requests received at the Gathering, printable versions of the MML book collection list as well as <u>MacGregor Bicentennial Pilgrimage to Scotland, October 4-18, 1975</u> are now available in the MML section of the Langsdale Library website. You can link directly to the Langsdale Library from the ACGS website.

#### 100th Gathering Raffle and Walkers Shortbread Sale

The MML raffle and Walkers Shortbread sell netted \$1085—a new record! Thanks to all for purchasing raffle tickets and Walkers Shortbread. Special thanks to those contributing the fantastic raffle prizes. I would like to thank Walkers Shortbread for contributing the two gift baskets for the raffle and for the shortbread packets placed on Banquet tables. It is also important to thank the excellent work done by the raffle ticket/shortbread sales staff—especially, my uncle, Donald Grier originator of the "Scottish Deal."

#### Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor and Lady MacGregor visit the MML

On the Monday after the 100<sup>th</sup> Gathering, Sir Malcolm and Lady MacGregor took a tour of the MML. Sir Malcolm and Lady MacGregor had the opportunity to meet with Tom Hollowak, Aiden Faust and Langsdale Library Director, Lucy Holman. The staff explained their efforts to make the MML readily accessible and usable to ACGS members and the general public.

#### Yearbooks

Quite often I receive offers for donations of ACGS Yearbooks. I greatly appreciate these offers, but in most cases

Sir Malcolm and Lady MacGregor's visit to the Library. The folks in the picture, left to right: Tom Hollowak, Lady MacGregor, Sir Malcolm, Lucy Holman, Steven Grier, Aiden Faust.

the Yearbooks which are offered are in great supply at the storage unit. Thus, please do not send Yearbooks without first checking with me.

#### Last Two Items!

If you are unsure how to access the MML on the internet, please do not hesitate to contact me. I would be glad to help you. If you would like contribute monetarily to the MML (maintaining the MML is a never ending project) or have books/archive material which you think would be a good addition, please contact me.

Thanks,

Steve Grier ACGS Librarian





#### ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Morfolk, VA 23503-1243 440 Willoughdy Bay THE AMERICAN CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY NEWSLETTER OF ARDCHOILLE? "ARDCHOILLE"





# What's Cooking, MacGregors?





#### DUNDEE CAKE

Dundee Cake is used at Christmas time and can be made ahead of time and kept in an air-tight tin.

Grease and line an 8" cake tin. Prepare fruit and chop peel. Sieve the flour and salt. Cream butter and sugar and beat in one egg at a time. Mix in the flour, fruit, peel, lemon juice and 1 oz. of chopped, blanched almonds. Put mixture into cake tin. Arrange remaining almonds on top and bake in a moderate oven for 2 hours or until firm to the touch.

A small amount of Brandy or Whisky can be added to the cake after it is baked by using a tooth pick on the bottom of the cake and drizzling the liquid over it. This can be repeated every two to three days.

1 1/2 lbs. mixed fruit (currants, sultanas and raisins)

6 oz. mixed peel\*

8 oz. self-raising flour

8 oz. butter.

8 oz. sugar

4 eggs

1 1/2 tsp. lemon juice. pinch of salt.

3 oz. blanched almonds.



\*Mixed peel is candied lemon and lime peel.....

if you can't find candied peel at the store and want to make your own, here's what you do:

Peel two grapefruits or three oranges, citrons, or lemons. Scrape the bitter white pith from the peels and discard. Cut the peel into narrow strips and simmer the strips in boiling water until they're tender, then drain off the water from the saucepan. In a separate saucepan, prepare a sugar syrup by combining one cup each of granulated sugar and water, and simmering until the sugar is dissolved. Add enough syrup to the peels so that they are completely covered, and then simmer the mixture until the peels are translucent. Drain, cool, and store in the refrigerator.