



Ardchoille

Newsletter of the
American Clan Gregor Society



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Spring 2010



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*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

It was a great start to 2010 as Fiona and I headed to the Central Florida Highland Games near Orlando in January. It made a good break from the very cold weather that we have been having in Scotland. The games were excellent with a good turn out of MacGregors, amongst whom were the chieftain, assistant chieftain, past chieftain and editor of this newsletter. Thanks are due to the Ellingtons for organising such a splendid and welcoming tent and for looking after us so well. It was also fun to meet new members the Manuelians and Chuck McGrew, one of the principal organisers of the event. It never ceases to amaze me how many games take place in America. This was one of 26 in the state of Florida alone.

One of the aspects I like about highland Games in the US is that you meet such a cross section of people and discuss many things. One such person was telling me how China would take over the world and America had better watch out. That old canard again. China has serious infrastructure and social problems and very little entrepreneurial spirit and inventiveness, apart from gunpowder. This was exemplified recently by the launch of Apple's iPad, a new and revolutionary computer. Yet again it is an American company in the forefront of the spirit of inventiveness – though I have no doubt the Chinese will be more than capable of copying the iPad. Eight out of the top ten internet companies are American. Though the internet was invented by an English genius called Tim Berners-Lee. Therein lies another story – that of language. A far greater competitor for the west and America is India. They have the entrepreneurial drive with a billion people speaking English. Whatever one's views of the British Empire, India has taken advantage of the British legacy – much of it Scottish incidentally. So much so that the mighty Singh family or should I say clan, recently registered their own tartan. Now that is forward thinking.

The latest bit of forward thinking in this country concerns our armed forces. It would appear that because we can no longer afford to do very much that we should partner up with another country with similar defence needs. The suggested country is France. Yes, you read that right – France. It would be an extraordinary turn of events. La vieille alliance becomes la nouvelle alliance – how dramatic. Perhaps the Garde Eccossais could be reformed. It would be a fine sight to see kilted soldiers on guard at the Elysee Palace. Certainly the food would be good not to mention the wine. Whilst the French culinary achievements are legendary, their fighting record is not quite in the same league. They have not won a battle of their own accord since Napoleon's victory at Marengo in 1809. The French Brigade hit the beaches of Normandy in 1944 about a month after everyone else. No matter, it was great to have them on board to help liberate their own country. In order to help with that illusion they were fast tracked to Paris in time for the victory parade leading the allies down the Champs Elysee. In the First Gulf War the French arrived about a week before the liberation of Kuwait – and then were miffed when they were given the job of flank protection. But that's what happens with just in time soldiering.

Certainly they managed to pull one over the Royal Navy at the 200th anniversary of Trafalgar in 2005. The Royal Navy was incapable of providing a capital ship for the great event. Not so the

(Continued on page 2)



Across The Pond Cont...



(Continued from page 1)

French; they sent the Charles de Gaulle – their finest - an aircraft carrier which dwarfed all the Royal Navy ships. How ironic. So the French have style, panache and great food. But as the Jacobites discovered when it came to it – they did not deliver. However, the Foreign Legion is a different matter. They saved downtown Sarajevo in 1990 from complete lawlessness and did a fantastic job protecting the Muslims from the Serbs. But as the name implies they are not all from France.

A far better idea would be for Britain's military to integrate with the US. In the last twenty years there has been more cooperation between the two Armed Forces than ever before. Crucially we speak the same language and whilst our equipment is questionable there is one thing the US wants from us – our soldiers. The top brass love them. President Sarkozy has defiantly said that not one more French soldier will go to Afghanistan. In April this year 1000 Scottish soldiers will go there. 2 Regiments of Infantry (The Scots Guards and Kings Own Scottish Borderers) Scottish gunners and engineers.

Whilst servicemen and women from all nationalities are important, the coming months will be particularly poignant for Scots wherever they may be. Perhaps over the summer we can raise a glass of claret or Californian pinot noir or even a dram to alliances old and new and the safety of our troops, not forgetting that last Frenchman into Kabul.



Message From Our Chieftain

(Submitted by Ron McGregor)



A number of us had the pleasure of attending the Central Florida Highland Games near Orlando the middle of January. As the honored guests, Sir Malcolm and Lady MacGregor proved again to be the very warm and gracious couple we know them to be. And again, as at the Stone Mountain games in '08, we had representatives of other clans drop by to congratulate us for having them represent our clan. Our local hosts, the Robert Ellington (SCD for north Florida) family and the Charles McGrew (ACGS member and Vice President of the Games committee) family worked very hard to make the Clan Gregor participation in this games so successful. I would also like to note the attendance and support of the following ACGS members: Ian and Alma Grieg, John and Ena McGregor, Peter Gregg, Scott MacGregor, Thad Osbourne, Dodd Greer, Fred Magruder, Ron and Alice Shankland, Carol Spitznagle, and Rebecca and Peter Manuelian. If I have forgotten anyone, I humbly apologize.

Rounding out the Clan Gregor attendees were Rob MacGregor, the author of several Indiana Jones novels, and his wife Trish, T.J., a well known author in her own right. This was their first exposure to the ACGS and Clan Gregor. I think they were adequately impressed and are looking forward to future opportunities to meet with us as we are with them.

Immediately following these games, most of us had the opportunity to enjoy our annual celebration of the birth of Robert Burns. Burns Night is not only the most celebrated Scottish event around the world but it portends the fast approaching season of the highland games around our great country. I highly encourage your attendance and support of the Scottish games whenever and wherever you have the opportunity. These games give us the the best venue to not only share our pride in our Scottish heritage in general but to introduce descendents of Clan Gregor to our own unique and very special heritage.

By now you should have received the letter from Scott MacGregor, our Assistant Chieftain, announcing this year's Annual Gathering. Note the dates and plan to be there. I am sure that it will be yet another outstanding event, particularly with its proximity to Washington, D.C., our ACGS Pipes and Drums, and our General Marshall Magruder Memorial Library in Baltimore.

As a final note, I ask each of you to join me in remembering our young men and women who are serving in our country's armed forces in our thoughts and prayers.

Slainte, RonMcGregor, FCGS



A Day In Parliament

(Submitted by Scott MacGregor)



One of my most memorable days while attending the Homecoming Gathering in Edinburgh was on Friday, 24 July 2009 when I spent the day with fellow representatives from our clan and those from over a hundred other clans who were in attendance for the Clan Convention in the New Scottish Parliament building. Thanks to the efforts by Sir Malcolm our contingent of representatives reflected not only our clan in Scotland but also representatives from both Clan Gregor societies in the United States.

The convention was an all day meeting which took place in the debating chamber of the parliament building and was overseen by the Parliament's Presiding Officer, Alex Fergusson MSP. We MacGregors found ourselves seated directly on the chamber floor itself. During the morning session several speakers enlightened everyone on Scotland's history, heraldry, Scot's abroad, etc.. The afternoon session had everyone divided into eight different working groups, followed by a question and answer period in the chamber. The purpose of the convention was multi-faceted with emphasis on "how to get our young people more involved", "what role does the Clan Chiefs play in today's society", "getting more people to visit Scotland", etc.

The afternoon workgroups found us MacGregors divided up among five different groups with me being involved with one concerned with getting our young people involved. This group was chaired by Donald MacLaren of MacLaren, Chief of Clan MacLaren whose clan lands include the area surround Balquhiddie Kirk, the burial place of our own Rob Roy MacGregor.

From this workgroup several good ideas were presented to include: Providing age oriented areas at events like grouping people together by generation. People are more open to engage in things with others who are into the same things and speak the same language.

Create "Grandparent Kits". Boxes of items with our Clan or general Scottish interest. They could contain things like: children's books, puzzles, tartan, etc. that would give the grandchildren exposure to their heritage. The kits could be loaned out to grandparents who would be visiting their grandchildren, providing them with activities to do that emphasis their Scottish heritage.

Encourage the teaching of our Clan and Scottish heritage in grade schools. This was a very strong point. It was noted that in America we teach more of this then is taught in Scotland. Another aspect is to become involved with your local Scottish society in support of their efforts to bring a little bit of our Scottish culture to school children.

A youth exchange of a month or two between two branches of the clan in different countries. One year an individual, usually a young adult, goes to the other country. The next year an individual from that country comes back to the original country. So the expenses for each branch are spread out over two years. The participants live with society members in the hosting country.

It's hard to keep young adults involved with our societies, clan, and Scottish culture as they are extremely busy with many other aspects in life. They're extremely busy with college, starting a career, a family, and have limited financial assets. The real thing is for the older generation to plant the seeds of interest in their heritage and what is available out there. Once the young people's life slow down a bit they'll remember those things about their heritage and will once again want to become involved and will seek out the societies. With young children of their own they will want to share their family's lineage with the next generation.

During an unexpected brief break, thanks to a fire alarm, I found myself having a one on one discussion with the Chief of Clan MacLaren concerning the recently published article about having Rob Roy grave dug up and removed from the Balquhiddie Kirk yard. In actuality he would not be against a DNA test being done to prove whether Rob Roy is truly buried at Balquhiddie. The animosity expressed by clan MacLaren towards clan Gregor is a bit understandable as a week later our own clan Gregor bus captain noted during our trip to Balquhiddie that in 1558 members of clan Gregor killed eighteen families of clan MacLaren in the glen, then moved into their homes. The incident was investigated in 1604 and clan Gregor was cleared of any wrong-doing against clan MacLaren.



Clan Gregor Contingent (L – R): Prof. Richard McGregor, CGS Chairman; Keith MacGregor, CGS US Representative, Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor Bart.; Alpin MacGregor, CGS President; Scott MacGregor, ACGS Representative.

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Honored Clan!

(Submitted by Robert Ellington)



The end of Christmas and Hogmany season gives way to highland games season. This year Florida's premier games, Central Florida Highland Games, featured Clan Gregor as its honored clan and Sir Malcolm and Lady MacGregor as its honored guests. As the SCD of North Florida, it was my honor to pick them up at the Orlando airport and take them to the Altamonte Hilton Hotel.

Friday morning, my wife, Ernestine, and I took them on a tour of the games venue at Central Winds Park in Winter Springs followed by a stroll along the shores of Lake Jessup. The local wildlife -water birds, raptors, and several alligators (including an eight footer) -put in appearances along the way. In the afternoon, our daughter, Kathryn, and Lady MacGregor decided to have lunch at one of the great Park Avenue restaurants and traveled there in Kate's old red pickup truck. Kate was a little reticent about driving such an important guest around in the faithful old red but was soon put at ease by Lady MacGregor who seemed to view it as a bit of adventure. Sir Malcolm was off with Ernestine and me to pick up Ron McGregor and along the way we grabbed hamburgers and fries and ate them in the "Rolling Saturn Outlook Cafe".

First on the agenda Friday night was the Whiskey Tasting party . A good time was had by all and too large a time was had by a few. Next came the reception where we were wine and dined with, among other selections, haggis. The chef-de-haggis was a master and the neaps and tatties were deliciously creamy. After dinner came awards, speeches, and recognitions. The highlight of the evening was Sir Malcolm's address wherein he praised the American people for their hospitality and generosity when disasters such as the Haitian earthquake happen. He also challenged the many different clan representatives to look to Scotland's future with the same fervor that we give our colorful past. He spoke to the many benefits in being part of the United Kingdom while preserving our unique culture and heritage within the Union as well as on the world stage. He ended the speech with an anecdote about his father, Sir Gregor, that set the tables "at a roar" to borrow from that other Bard from the British Isles.



2010 Central Florida Highland Games

The next day the games commenced. The Clan Gregor tent was the focal point of the winding pathway through the clan tent area and was a hive of activity. With good friends and visitors abounding, the Grigorach, young and old, laughed, told stories, reminisced, and remembered those who came before us yet still shine in our collective memory. At high noon we assembled behind the City of Thorold Pipe Band, resplendent in their ancient MacGregor kilts, to lead the parade of tartans. We passed in review, saluted Sir Malcolm and retired to the tent for pictures and lunch. Our past Chieftain, Thad Osbourne, was feted for his outstanding devotion and leadership of ACGS and was presented with a certificate and gifts. The rest of the day was filled with music from many talented traditional and new wave Celtic bands, piping, drumming, dancing and, of course, the splendid Highland athletic contests.

The next day commenced with the Kirkin' of the Tartan followed by the finals of the many competitions. Again the MacGregor tent was abuzz with ACGS members and many who were interested in joining. After the noon parade we dined on Molly's potato-leek soup, Scottish smoked salmon sandwiches, and Jill's fantastic lemon curd bars as well as a splash or two of good Highland malt. The City of Thorold band serenaded us while we ate and afterward the Quaich was brought out, filled, and passed around. All enjoyed a taste in honor of clanship and goodwill. As the sun began to fade and the wind turned north-west-weather-front wild, the games came to an end. Sir Malcolm and Lady MacGregor expressed their appreciation for honors bestowed upon our Clan and the games organizers thanked them for being gracious and personable guests.

I would like to thank all of you who helped in so many different ways to make this event a memorable occasion with special thanks to Sir Malcolm, Lady Fiona, Ron McGregor, and others for making my grandchildren, Ian and Evelyn, feel the importance of family and clan. The success of this event would not have possible without your help and guidance.

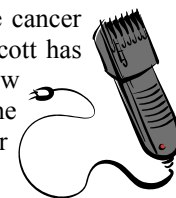


St. Baldrick's!

(Submitted by Scott MacGregor)



Once again Scott has partaken to have his head shaved in support of the St. Baldrick's fundraiser for juvenile cancer research. The event took place on Saturday, 13 March at the Waterside Marketplace in Norfolk, Virginia. Scott has done this for the past three years in honor of Jose Andrés Hernandez, a young man who wanted to know everything there was about Scotland, her people, and cultures. Unfortunately, this year's event will be a sad one as José lost his fourth battle with cancer this past September at the young age of 14 after a courageous five year battle.



By the event date Scott has raised \$1,300 of the \$1,500 goal set for this year. It's not too late to show your support; donations can be made after the event date through the St. Baldrick's website at <http://www.stbaldricks.org/participants/mypage/participantid/364717>. All donations big and small are welcome and greatly appreciated.



Lady MacGregor — Renaissance Woman

(Submitted by Carol Spitznagle)



Many of you know that Lady MacGregor was born Fiona Armstrong in the Borders of Scotland. You may also know that she is a writer who contributes to the Scottish Banner and has worked as a television newsreader. This only touches the surface, however, of her many talents and accomplishments.

She studied at Perth's Academy of Radio and, after a short stint in this media, worked for BBC news in Manchester. She next worked for Borders Television and in March, 1987, became a reporter/ newscaster on News at Ten for ITN. During this time she accompanied the Prince and Princess of Wales on their state visit to Nigeria and was the first reporter on the scene of the Lockerbie bombing. She has travelled around the world covering such topics as the plight of AIDS orphans in Uganda, the landmine problem in Cambodia, and the humanitarian role of Scotland's Mercy Ship in Benin.

While working on these stories and others, it was necessary for her to travel frequently from the Borders to London and she found it necessary to develop speedy, high-quality dishes which required little shopping and cooking time. She subsequently wrote "The Commuter's Cookbook" (1995) which contains 130 of these tasty, quick recipes. I'm sure the cooks who submitted shortbread samples for her to try at the Central Florida Games did not realize the expertise of the judge.

Another love is fishing and she has been involved with the program, "Fiona on Fishing", for ITV as well as written 2 books and numerous articles about this sport. In fact, she was in Alaska in pursuit of salmon when she met Sir Malcolm. She is also interested in Scottish clan history and has made more than 20 films about Scottish families. She has also served as the Chairman of Clan Armstrong.



Lady MacGregor at the Central Florida Games judging the shortbread contest.

Most recently, she has been invited to return to the BBC as one of their newsreaders and began as their anchor on the morning show on February 16th. This new assignment will again require her to commute to London. Those of you who have had the good fortune to meet Lady MacGregor in Scotland or at events in America know that she is charming and gracious. We of Clan Gregor are lucky to have such an interesting and accomplished woman to be the wife of our Chief.





A Day In Parliament Cont...

(Submitted by Scott MacGregor)



(Continued from page 3)

It was wonderful to hear from the Chief of Clan MacLaren, the recognition that our clan Gregor which just a couple hundred years ago was on the brink of annihilation and struggling for survival as a clan; to today where our clan is one of the most recognized and a flourishing clan. This was evident in the size of our parliament contingent, the strong number of clan members in attendance at the Homecoming Gathering Games and Parade up the Royal Mile in Edinburgh.

We are a very fortunate Clan in that even while we were persecuted for nearly one hundred seventy years, we still held strongly to our clan ties and when the proscription was lifted many MacGregors reclaimed their name. Other MacGregors kept their new names while still supporting the clan's efforts. Today a lot of our clan's strength can be attributed to both clan societies: American Clan Gregor Society and the Clan Gregor Society, and especially to our chief Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor, Bart. who works endlessly to lead our clan forward. Sir Malcolm is a fine example of the new generation of clan chiefs who makes himself available to his clan members, keeps a good line of communications, travels around the globe attending numerous Scottish events, and supports both societies just to name a few items.

Following our Centennial Gathering in Charlottesville, Virginia a committee member expressed the following which exemplifies our Chief and our clan:

"I thought Sir Malcolm and his Lady did a caring and intelligent representation, as leaders of the Clan. His speech was informative and thoughtful. Hooray for us MacGregor.

I sometimes wonder about our validity as a Clan anymore, but now I know. We are strong. We are colorful. And we can unite!"

If you hadn't picked up from this article my day in parliament was very thought provoking on many topics concerning our Clan and Scotland. I could go on but it would never match experiencing events like this first hand. Should you ever have an opportunity to see Sir Malcolm in person or to attend one of the International Clan Gregor Gatherings in Scotland I'd recommend that you not miss either.



Lost Members

(Submitted By Scott MacGregor)



Upon sending out a recent e-mail notice to our members alerting them to an upcoming activity it was learned that the e-mail address we have for following members is no longer valid. Please help us keep these members informed by providing us with they're correct e-mail address. Send any changes to Scott MacGregor at mcgregor@verizon.net.

Brandt G. Jones
Bettina Curtis
Betty Avis
Barbara Walters Hodges
Richard Randolph Walker
Greg Charles Brinton
Susan Pelham
Kathryn Lynn Mcgregor
Justin M. Miller, Jr.
Donald E. Grier
Richard L. Magruder, Jr.
David Thomas Killam, II
Bernice Rogers

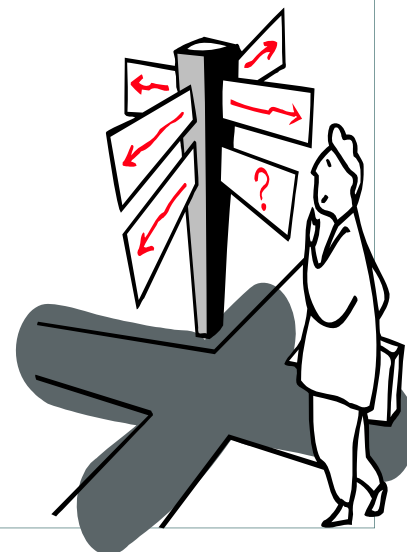
Friendsville, TN
Gaithersburg, MD
Hollandale, MS
Maple Grove, MN
San Diego, CA
Baker City, OR
New Market, TN
British Columbia, CA
Pensacola, FL
Forrest Hill, MD
Augusta, GA
Midland, TX
Cleveland, GA

b2jones@adelphia.net
bjcurtis7@comcast.net
bettyAvis@suddenlink.net
blw8830@yahoo.com
walker.family1@mac.com
there@eoni.com
pelhamdesigns@volfan.net
kmcgre@shaw.ca
harbourview@webtv.net
elizabethgri@aol.com
rmagruder@comcast.com
dkillam@express56.com
leafview@alltel.net

We're also looking for the USPS mailing address of the following members:

James Anthony Condit, Jr.
Geoffrey M. Lewie
David J. McGregor Johnson

Austin, TX
Tallahassee, FL
Bowie, MD





2010 Annual Gathering

(Submitted by Scott MacGregor)



Everyone's been patiently waiting for this announcement of this year's Gathering dates and location. Your patience was much appreciated. Here they are; Drum Roll....

American Clan Gregor Society — September 16-19, 2010

Doubletree Hotel Annapolis • 210 Holiday Court • Annapolis, MD, 21401

Reservation: Toll-Free 1-800-266-7631 • Direct 410-224-3150 • Fax 410-571-1123

The Doubletree Hotel is honored to have you as their guest during your stay in Annapolis. In order to guarantee your reservation you should: (1) Make your reservation prior to **August 17, 2010**; (2) Call and make your reservation using a credit card. **YOU MUST MENTION AMERICAN CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY WHEN MAKING YOUR RESERVATION.**

Room Rates: \$105.00 per room, per night and subject to 10% tax. Cut-off date: August 17, 2010. Reservations requested AFTER the cut-off date may or may not be available at this rate, based upon availability. Check-in time is after 4 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.

Festivities will start with a Chieftain's Welcoming Reception on Thursday evening.

The Baltimore-Washington International (BWI) airport is approximately 17 miles from the hotel.

We'll see you in Annapolis, in the fall, along the shores of the Chesapeake Bay and the home of the U.S. Naval Academy.



Rob & Trish MacGregor

(Submitted by Carol Spitznagle)



ACGS was delighted to welcome Rob MacGregor and his wife, Trish, to the Central Florida Games. Both are well-known authors and each has received the Edgar Allen Poe Award in the past. Rob has written 17 novels, including 6 featuring the adventurous professor, Indiana Jones. He has also written 10 non-fiction works covering such diverse subjects as dream interpretation, divination and astrology, the sixth sense, and yoga (some co-authored with his wife).

Rob originally planned to study archeology at the University of Minnesota but switched to Journalism. When not working, he explores archeological sites in Mexico, Central and South America, Europe, and North Africa.

Trish MacGregor (TJ) has written 28 novels including a series featuring Quin St. James and Mike McCleary and the Tango Key series, and 15 non-fiction books. Her most recent novels, Kill Time (2007) and Running Time (2008) involve time travel. Rob and Trish' newest collaboration, The Seven Secrets of Synchronicity, will be published in August, 2010.

Could there possibly be another collaboration in the future with Indiana Jones meeting Rob Roy for adventures in the Highlands?



L to R: Trish MacGregor, Rob MacGregor,
Sir Malcolm, Lady MacGregor
Knelling: Ron McGregor





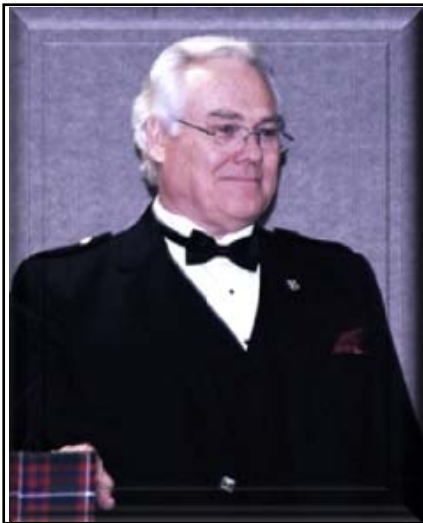
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*“ARDCHOILLE”
NEWSLETTER OF
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SCOTT MACGREGOR
440 Willoughby Bay
Norfolk, VA 23503-1243*



New State Deputy Chieftain!

(Submitted By Howard Grossnickle)



Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to introduce you to, Dodd Greer, from the great State of Utah. Many of you may know Dodd or maybe you might remember him from the Haggis presentation at the Gathering in Salt Lake City a few years back. I have also attached his Scottish based bio for those that may not have had the pleasure of meeting him.

Our Chieftain, Ron McGregor has accepted Dodd Greer's nomination for the position of SDC, and now it is my great pleasure as the RDC to invite all of you in welcoming him as our newest State Deputy Chieftain for the Great State of Utah. Dodd, as with all SDCs, will represent Clan Gregor and the American Clan Gregor Society, Inc. in all things Scottish or in the stated objects of interest to the Society as the appointed representative of the Chieftain of the American Clan Gregor Society, Inc. in accordance with all provisions of the By-Laws of the Society.

Please feel free in welcoming him aboard,

265 West 1650 South - Payson, Utah 84651 (801) 400-1277 Dodd@Q.com

Howard R. Grossnickle
RDC ACGS



Ardchoille

Newsletter of the
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of the ACGS.

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

High Flight

Approximately 70 years ago Winston Churchill informed the House of Commons that the battle for France was over and the battle of Britain was about to begin. He then went on to exhort the British people for the fight of their lives. They certainly rose to the occasion, but so did many others; Australians, Canadians, New Zealanders, Rhodesians, South Africans and many more from all over the Empire. What perhaps is not realised is the number of Americans who answered Churchill's call to arms against Nazi Germany.

Many Americans broke the law and crossed into Canada to enlist with the Royal Canadian Air Force. MacGregors like people like that. One such person was John Gillespie Magee, whose mother was English and his father was Scots-Irish. With a name like Magee one might go one step further and suggest he was a MacGregor. Perhaps someone with a better knowledge of genealogy than me could determine whether this is the case.

Magee qualified to fly the spitfire and served with 412 Squadron RCAF based in Lincolnshire, England, attaining the rank of Pilot Officer. In addition to air combat, in the Battle of Britain, Magee was also a test pilot and took the Spitfire to an unbelievable height for its day - 30,000 feet. Tragically he was killed in a mid air collision in 1941 aged 19.

Among his personal effects was one of the most moving poems ever written, entitled *High Flight*, which may be familiar to some readers.

*Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds, — and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of — wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air. . . .
Up, up the long, delirious burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, or ever eagle flew —
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.*

(Continued on page 2)



Across The Pond Cont...



(Continued from page 1)

John Magee's parents were living in Washington DC at the time and an acquaintance of theirs was the Librarian of Congress. This poem was included in an exhibition of poems called 'Faith and Freedom' in February 1942. President Reagan invoked the spirit of the poem in connection with the Challenger disaster in 1986. The original still resides in the manuscript Division of the Congressional Library. Whether Magee was of the stock of Clan Gregor or not, he certainly knew how to fly and write poetry. He is buried in Scopwick, Lincolnshire and if you should be driving near those quiet country lanes I would urge a visit to the churchyard, where rests a true and valiant American of Scottish descent.

A similar story is that of my kinsman Flight Lieutenant Ernest Pendleton Magruder who was the son of my great aunt Maryel MacGregor. Maryel, or aunt May as she was affectionately known, married Dr Ernest Pendleton Magruder in 1912, whose brother Caleb Clark Magruder was the second chieftain of the society. Once married they lived in the Washington DC area and were both prominent members of ACGS – aunt May being historian of the society. Indeed Dr Magruder or Uncle Pen as he was known in my family, was descended directly from Alexander the immigrant. He died in Belgrade of typhus fever in 1915 in the service of the American Red Cross. Whilst tragic enough, his son's death was totally devastating for his mother.

Pen Junior, like John Magee was a pilot in the RAF and being half American could have left Scotland quietly for the States in 1940. But he joined the RAF, because Americans like their British counterparts stand and fight. He completed his training on spitfires and was assigned to 229 Squadron RAF based in the Mediterranean. By the summer of 1942 the battle of Malta was raging and was symbolic of the resistance to the Axis Powers of Germany and Italy. The island was devastated by relentless bombing day and night. 229 Squadron fought against the odds against the Luftwaffe and the Italian air force and were called the saviours of Malta. The Squadron's other nickname was 'The Maltese Falcons' which struck a chord, as Ian MacGregor of Glenstrae 6th chief, was known as 'the white toothed falcon' of the three glens; Glenstrae, Glen Orchy and Glen Lochy.

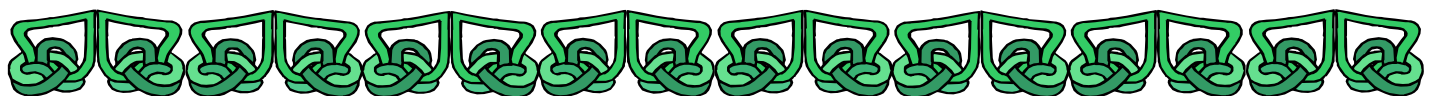
Pen was shot down and killed on 28th August 1942 over the Mediterranean sea. His body was never recovered, but his name is commemorated in Malta on the Commonwealth Air Forces Memorial. In Magee's magical words he too *slipped the surly bonds of earth, reached out and touched the face of God*. It is a strange thing but very occasionally one can hear the noise of an aircraft, similar to the deep throated whir of a spitfire high in the sky over the house in Dumfriesshire, and on looking skywards can see nothing but a moving black dot against a deep blue sky. It is a phenomenon often reported in England on clear days, for the summer of 1940 was one of the best on record with clear skies daily. For those who are aware of the poem, such a sighting invokes the words of *High Flight*.



These two pilots did not receive decorations or recognition but were part of that vast army of people who did their duty without fanfare or attraction, sometimes called the Greatest Generation – and with good reason. It is societies like ACGS with our records and interest in family history that can keep their memories alive and appreciate their sacrifice.

To that end I would like to thank Lois Ann Garlitz, ACGS Registrar for much of the information acquired in this article, particularly about the Magruder.

Sir Malcolm



A Word From Our Chieftain

(Submitted by Major Ronald McGregor)

In March I received an email from our SDC for Southern Texas, Randy Walker, announcing an upcoming event at the Alamo. The Scottish government was sending a senior member of Parliament accompanied by their representative for North America, Robin Naysmith, to San Antonio to present a memorial made of Scottish granite and inscribed with a brass plaque to honor the four native born Scots and other men of Scottish heritage who gave their all for Texas liberty. One of the four was, of course, John McGregor, Sergeant of Artillery and the lone bagpiper at that famous battle. The "senior member" turned out to be Jim Mather, Minister of Trade and Tourism. The event was hosted by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT) that oversees the preservation and activities of the Alamo.

Randy invited me to attend as the representative of the ACGS. I also received an email from Sir Malcolm asking me to attend the function to represent him as he would be in the middle east at that time. He also requested a MacGregor presentation at the ceremony and sent a letter of greetings to the DRT. In addition, he asked Keith MacGregor, the US Overseas Representative of the Clan Gregor Society to attend.



The event was held on April 8th and I caught the first flight that day from Denver to San Antonio. The flight required a stop in Dallas to off-load and pick up additional passengers. Both legs of the flight were completely filled. At Dallas the individuals on either side of me departed and were replaced. Shortly after taking off, I opened my portfolio to go over some of my notes. The gentleman sitting to my right noticed the "American Clan Gregor Society" letterhead and some handwritten notes of the people I could expect to see. He leaned over to apologize if I thought him rude for interrupting me, but asked if I was associated with the ACGS. When I introduced myself he pointed to a name on the paper and said, "That's me". He was pointing to Robin Naysmith. We both remarked about the strange coincidence and said he guessed that I was the person referred to in his notes for the ceremony. When I queried him, he said that he was notified that when he finished with his presentation that he was to introduce the representative of Clan Gregor who would also be making a presentation. Whoops!

Randy met me at the airport and took me to his and Teresa's home for me to change into my kilt. Then we drove to meet Keith at his hotel with just enough time to walk over to the Alamo. There we teamed up with Steve Hypse and his wife, of the CGS, who were also decked out in MacGregor tartans. Randy and Teresa, the Hyses, Keith and I were all looking sharp in our garb and noticed by many.

Following the speeches, the dignitaries were escorted into the chapel for the placing of the plaque and photos. The rest of us remained outside without any understanding of what, if anything, was planned. After a few minutes, I excused myself from our small group and said I was going to peek in the door to see what was going on if I could get past the four uniformed Texas rangers guarding the closed double doors. Surprisingly, as I approached the doors as if I were expected, the guards opened the door for me. At that same moment a young lady who is the Senior Events Planner for the Scottish government was coming out of the door and seeing me said, "There you are. They are waiting for you." I asked her that whoever "they" are, could the other MacGregors be included. She said, "by all means, bring in the other MacGregors". I got Randy's attention across the crowd and motioned for them to come in. Once inside, she escorted Keith, Randy and me past a small crowd lined up to meet Mr. Mather and Mr. Naysmith.

Following a photo shoot she asked if I knew the way to the hotel reception? I told her I did not know that I was on the invitation list. She said that I was and I asked about the other MacGregors, to which she replied "yes, bring them". So the six of us went to the reception. A really nice buffet was available but after only getting a bite or two, Keith told me that I was needed to read Sir Malcolm's letter of greeting to the DRT. It all turned out super and our small group made a very favorable impression with Mr. Mather and Mr. Naysmith. Privately we were able to express to them our keen appreciation for the efforts of Sir Malcolm and Lady MacGregor on the behalf of our clan at activities both here in the US and in Scotland. Both gentlemen expressed a sense of surprise as to how strong Scottish clan activities were here in America. Mr. Naysmith accepted an offer by Keith to buy him a drink the next time he traveled to New York. Keith was able to stay overnight and reconnect with the DRT ladies for a follow-on meeting at the Alamo and establish sharing of other MacGregor connections with the heroes of Texas. Likewise, I was requested to provide the DRT with some specifics of the history of our clan that they felt helped explain the source of strength of character of those Scots in general that died there, but specifically of John McGregor.

After meeting a number of us ACGS'ers in Scotland in 2000, 2003, 2009, attending our Centennial Gathering in Charlottesville, and teaming up with us at the Alamo, Keith finally broke down and decided he had to become one of us. A couple of weeks ago I had the pleasure of approving his membership application. Welcome aboard, Keith.

A final note. Across the nation we are well into the Scottish festival season. Don't pass up the opportunity to attend the fun-filled events and support our heritage. And if Clan Gregor is represented there, please accept their offer to march onto the field with them in the Parade of Clans. You don't have to be wearing the tartan to show your support. Hope to see you all at Annapolis in September.

With warmest regards,
Major Ronald McGregor, FCGS
Chieftain



MacGregor's at the Alamo!

(Submitted by Randy Walker)



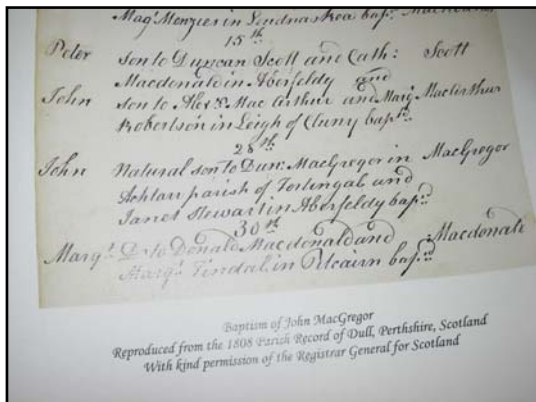
More than 200 people gathered at the Alamo on April 8, 2010 to witness representatives of the Scottish Government present, and dedicate, a memorial stone to remember the four native Scots who died at the Alamo, and the many other men of Scottish heritage who also gave their all on March 6, 1836.

Jim Mather, Scotland's Minister of Enterprise, Energy and Tourism, along with Robin Naysmith, the Scottish Ambassador to North America, as well as other State and local dignitaries, made the presentation in front of the Alamo on a beautiful spring day, with the skirl of the pipes and kilt wearing men in abundance. Among the speakers was the president of The Scottish Society of San Antonio, Ellis Buchanan, whose great-great uncle died at the Alamo, along with the other brave men of Scottish heritage on that fateful day in 1836.

MacGregor was the name on the lips of most who attended this event. Not only was Clan Gregor well represented, it was obvious to all that John MacGregor, piper and Sergeant of Artillery, was the best known Scot who died there, and if one used their imagination just a little, they could hear John playing Scotland The Brave, as Santa Anna and his thousands marched on the old Spanish Mission.



**Robin Naysmith,
Ron MacGregor and
Randy Walker**



**The record of baptism of
John MacGregor**

After the public event in front of the Alamo, the Scottish Government hosted a reception at the historic Menger Hotel next to the Alamo. As part of the ceremonial events associated with this part of a very special day, Ron McGregor, Chieftain of the American Clan Gregor Society, representing Sir Malcolm MacGregor, presented remarks on his behalf as well as MacGregor's around the world.

The big surprise of the day was a presentation of a reproduction of the baptism of John MacGregor, reproduced from the 1808 parish records of Dull, Perthshire, Scotland.

The plaque attached to the block of Scottish granite that will be displayed under the flag of Scotland inside the Alamo reads as follows: "From the people of Scotland, in memory of the four native Scots, and the many other defenders of Scots ancestry, who gave their lives at the Alamo on March 6, 1836."



Ah, the Power of the Pipes!

(Submitted By Richard M. Greer, PhD)



As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a grave side service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Kentucky back-country.

As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost; and being a typical man I didn't stop for directions. I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late. I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play. The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this homeless man. And as I played 'Amazing Grace,' the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together.

When I finished I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head hung low, my heart was full. As I was opening the door to my car, I heard one of the worker say, "Sweet Jesus, I never seen nothing like that before and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."



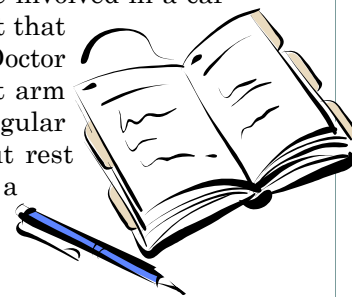


2010 Yearbook Update!

(Submitted by Lori Connery)



As life would have it again this year has certainly been quite the challenge for us at the Connery household. I just wanted to take a moment of your time to update you on why the Yearbook will be late this year. (Again!) It would seem that as I sit down each year to begin work on the Yearbook something happens. Something that causes a delay in my abilities to get this project done. I teased Scott that if something "bad" happened this year I was going to resign. Now please understand, I am not whining but simply want to paint you a picture so you have a clear understanding of why this will be late again this year. Well, unfortunately something did happen and for some reason things seem to continue to happen. My brother passed away in April shortly after construction on the Yearbook began. Of course at that point the Yearbook was the furthest thing from my mind. Once I began to find a different kind of "normal" for my life, my mother and son were involved in a car wreck. Thank goodness they are okay. No major injuries but it rocks one's world to get that kind of call. And of course I was promoted to the new chauffeur for the numerous Doctor appointments that ensued. As the dust settles I begin to experience pain in my right arm and shoulder/neck area. After several attempts at the chiropractor I turn to my regular doctor. I am now waiting for the results from the MRI to see what the issue is. But rest assured the yearbook will be done. Even if it kills me! I jest of course! I hope to do a super job since this one is about the Centennial Gathering. Thank you for your patience and understanding,
Lori Connery



From Our RDC & Treasurer

(Submitted by Howard Grossnickle)



From the RDC: The game season is well upon us and many of you are renewing old friendships and making new ones, but a few of us have experienced the extremes of weather that would discourage most but the very faithful MacGregors from manning their tent in these conditions. I invite you to brave the economy and the weather to support the games in your area and help our SDC's put on the best presentation possible for the rest of the games season. To that end I would like to appeal to our members to loan items that may help in dressing our tents for a better display to present Clan Gregor and the ACGS to visitors. If you do not have items to loan, please consider helping out at the tent and participating in some of the Clan related events of the day. Randy Zimmerman is going to be the SCD for Vermont and New Hampshire and Dr. Bruce MacGregor Whyte is the new the SDC for Georgia. I am sure that all of

our SDC's, both old and new, could use some help with their tent and their presentation. If you have an interest in helping please contact your SDC directly or contact me at hgrossnickle@charter.net. Our tents are the gathering spots that represent true Highland Hospitality and kinship along with the Clanship of the Society. I would also encourage our membership to help in our recruiting efforts.

From the Treasurer: I need to remind many of you to return your dues for 2010. We only have had a 50% response rate to this year's dues notice as of the 15th of May. I know that the economy has hit many of us in a hard way but we do need the funds for the annual operating expenses of the Society. They also help us to present our efforts within the greater Scottish community and the Griogaraich in the history of North America. Please check to see if you might have overlooked sending in this year's payment. On a more pleasant note, I am happy to say the Grant of Arms is moving along and we should have a black on white line drawing of the Arms around the time you are reading this. We will make it part of our ads as soon as we can get the Council approval and we may have it in use by the Gathering.

Slainte mhath,

Howard R. MacGregor Grossnickle
RDC & Treasurer ACGS



Moving Forward

(Submitted by Lois Ann Garlitz)



The ACGS Membership Records Move into the Digital Age in 2010!

Now that we as a Society are moving ahead into the 2nd hundred years, it is time for our membership records to move forward also. For a couple of years now, your Council has discussed digitizing our nearly 3,000 membership records for the Registrar's usage; that is digitizing them and then at some point sending the originals to our Society's Marshall Magruder Library collection at the University of Baltimore for safe keeping. Before this digitizing process can begin, there is an index being built as an Excel file to facilitate locating the scanned documents on the CD (or whatever storage device is chosen) to assist the Registrar in his/her work.



Some of you have continued your family history research after having submitted your application to ACGS. The Registrar would be more than willing to add copies of those additional documents, sources, etc. to your file folder to provide you with an off-site storage place for your MacGregor heritage information. There is a lot to be said for off-site storage of such records- just ask the folks who survived Katrina, but much of their possessions did not. If you have more than a dozen pages though, would you contact me first? loisann@burgoyne.com

Lois Ann Garlitz

Another great idea from Lois Ann is to begin an occasional column about sharing genealogical information amongst the members of the ACGS. If you are missing a link or just want to know more about your past or present relatives, submit a short query and an address for an answer. If others are interested in the same information, they can contact the submitter to see if they have received any responses.

Ancestor Quest!

Seeking descendents in ACGS of Caleb Clark Magruder III (1870-1946), second chieftain of ACGS. Do you have photographs of him and his siblings? Contact Lois Ann Garlitz, ACGS Registrar, loisann@burgoyne.com.

Seeking information about the family of Henderson Magruder who died about 1822 in/near Bowie, Maryland. Contact Lois Ann Garlitz, ACGS Registrar, loisann@burgoyne.com.



“Crossing Over”

(Submitted by Scott MacGregor)



On Friday, April 2, 2010 Carrington Waddell Ewell, proud member (#2292) of the American Clan Gregor Society, passed away peacefully in Lynchburg, Virginia after suffering a bad fall. With Carrington's love for his MacGregor heritage, along with literature, music, and the performing arts; memorial donation can be made to the society's C&E, library or Peg Tichy funds. Donations can be made out to the American Clan Gregor Society with the intent noted in the memo line and sent to the ACGS, c/o Howard Grossnickle, 245 Alpine Meadows Circle, Oregon, WI 53575-3929.



Future Gatherings

(Submitted by Scott MacGregor)



Future Gathering Location Prospects

Numerous people stepped forward following our centennial Gathering to offer assistance with hosting a future Gathering in their state. As everyone now knows the 2010 Gathering site will be Annapolis, Maryland, which is in close proximity of Washington, D.C. This is due to the current downturn of the economic and its impact on our investments. You ask why Washington, D.C., the primary reason is to save the society money on the transportation costs of having our band accompany us, plus while our membership continues to grow across the country, the bulk of our membership still resides in the greater Washington, D.C. area. We will be heading west again in the very near future.

Initial planning for a Gathering starts three, four, even five years in advance. Some of the key items that are taken into consideration when selecting a Gathering site include: how many active participants do we have in the area; the number of prospective local guests joining us, the hotels, airport convenience, etc. In addition, we try to move the Gathering around the country with Gatherings in the south and west every few years.

Since the centennial Gathering several areas have been proposed as future Gathering sites. These include: Charlotte, NC; St. Louis, MO; Wilmington, DE; Tarrytown, NY; Mystic, CT; Detroit, MI/Windsor, Canada; Niagara Falls, Canada; Fort Lauderdale, FL (*followed by a Caribbean cruise*); Northern California/Oregon/Washington area.

To make any of these places work it takes at least one dedicated local volunteer, preferably several, who can identify potential host hotels, churches, tour venues, etc. These tasks should not scare you from volunteering as they are not that difficult or time consuming. At present several of the locations mentioned above have members doing an excellent job collecting this preliminary information.

Any of the Gatherings sites noted that have the potential for traveling outside of the United States (*Canada, Caribbean*) will require our members to obtain and bring with them their valid passport. Considering how many months it normally takes to obtain a passport or at least the new Passport Card (*only valid for entry from Canada, Mexico, Caribbean, and Bermuda*), please do not hesitate to get or renew yours. To wait until the time of the Gathering announcement will be a mistake. For further information about obtaining a passport you can visit the U.S. State Department website at http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html.

Where ever the locations of our future Gatherings are held they are sure to be a delight and wonderful experience. We hope you'll take every opportunity to join and participate in the society's annual Gathering.

Remember to make your reservations for the 2010 Gathering.

If you haven't done so yet- here are the details!

American Clan Gregor Society Gathering- September 16-19, 2010

Doubletree Hotel - 210 Holiday Court, Annapolis, Md, 21401

Reservation: Toll-Free 1-800-266-7631

Direct: 410-224-3150 Fax: 410-571-1123



Marshall Magruder Library

(Submitted by Steve Grier)



News from the General Marshall Magruder Library (MML)

The staff in Special Collections at the University of Baltimore, Langsdale Library recently completed the scanning of all published ACGS Yearbooks. This was done at no expense to ACGS. This scanning of the Yearbooks was part of student work project. ACGS owes a great debt of thanks to Tom Hollowak, Head of Special Collections and his staff for taking on this large project. The Yearbooks can be accessed, on-line, by going to the MML via the ACGS web site. It should be pointed out in some years the Yearbook was not published. For instance, Yearbooks were not published during World War II.

Now that the MML is fully functional, Tom Hollowak has requested ACGS members having questions or interest in conducting research at the MML speak with me first. I will walk members through the process for securing the information sought. Please also note Tom's staff cannot do research for members, but certainly will help in any other way.

If you have questions about the MML, please feel free to contact me: scg40@aol.com

Steve Grier

ACGS Librarian





ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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



Clan Gregor/ The MacGregors!

(Submitted By Howard Grossnickle)

Clann Ghriogair/ Na Griogaraich
Clan Gregor/ The MacGregors

Sliochd nan righrean duthchasach
Bha thuineadh an Dun Staibhnis
Aig an robh crun na h-Alb' o thus
S aig a' bheil duthchas fathast ris

Descendants of the Hereditary Kings
Who dwelt I Dunstaffnage
Who possessed the Crown of Scotland originally
'And who still have hereditary claim – Traditional

MacGregor of keen spears, a mighty captain over every land...
White-toothed hawk of the three glens, by whom is laid the wager of deed;
hand most warlike in battles of knights, a prince the justest of the royal race...
MacGregor of steadfast household, no wonder de we deem it that poets are in his court.

Addressed to Eion mac Phadraig mhic Mhaoil Choluim, 6th Chief of Clan Gregor,
who died in 1519 –The Book of the Dean of Lismore

With this as our history I would like to remind all that your participation throughout the year in your local Scottish based events and Games help with the presentation of the objects of Clan Gregor and the American Clan Gregor Society. In this effort, your dues helps the Society in presenting our efforts within the greater Scottish community, and the Griogaraich in the history of North America.



Newsletter of the American Clan Gregor Society

Volume XVI, Issue III

Winter 2010



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<http://american-clan-gregor-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

MacGregors in Afghanistan

Earlier this week there was a radio programme on BBC radio 4 about a certain Major General Sir Charles Metcalfe MacGregor KCB CSI CIE, to give his full title and accreditations. The programme itself was about the General's publication of a book in 1884 called the 'Defence of India.' At the time it was regarded as a rather scandalous publication. This was because it was published as a way of getting the British liberal government to wake up and smell the camp coffee in respect of the Russian threat to British India – the jewel in the crown of the British



Sir Charles MacGregor

Empire. Sir Charles' publication rocked the military high command and the colonial bureaucrats not so much for its criticism of the government's 'head in the sand' attitude towards Russia, but because it was so well informed. Sir Charles was chief of Intelligence in India and he had a network of contacts and informers ranging from the Caucasus to the Bay of Bengal.

The radio programme whilst interesting was somewhat disingenuous as it sought to compare Sir Charles' actions with those of the recent wikileaks scandal concerning the US Army in Iraq. This was pushing things a bit to say the least. The wikileaks operation has been carried with the sole aim of denigrating the US and her allies and someone somewhere has passed on confidential information to the wikileaks website. Sir Charles' *Defense of India* publication was not underhand in any way and sought to alert the authorities to the threat they preferred to ignore. The only criticism that can be levelled at Sir Charles, is that he went public with his concerns and wrote a book. Many an army officer has done that and gotten into trouble. Sir Charles was hauled before various committees and asked to explain himself and was censured. His strong views did not prevent his subsequent promotion and awards. I also feel that there was something peculiarly 'Macgregor' about Sir Charles' actions which people other than Macgregors would not quite understand.

It was difficult for the establishment to meet out a proper punishment as Sir Charles was a brave army officer having fought with Lord Roberts in the second and third Afghan Wars and commanded a brigade at the Battle of Kandahar. He had fought in China, Bhutan and Abyssinia – a more exotic collection of campaigns would be hard to imagine. He was no mince and I guess he knew that his background gave him authority.

What was not mentioned in the radio programme was that he was the founder of the United Service Institution of India for the "furtherance of interest and knowledge in the art, science and literature of the Defence Services." The Institution awards the MacGregor Medal, founded in

(Continued on page 2)



Across The Pond Cont...



(Continued from page 1)

his memory, in recognition of valuable contributions to military intelligence that are of defensive importance to India. That medal is still awarded today in the Indian Army. Funny to think that there are Indian Army Service personnel going about their duties with a MacGregor medal pinned to their chests. What they will not know is that Sir Charles was a direct descendant of Rob Roy through his eldest son Coll. He was also President of the Clan Gregor Society, and I have a photograph of him, with his wife, in full highland attire. Although he was not Macgregor of Glengyle he would have had a good claim to it when the title became dormant.

As readers will know, I had the privilege of going to Afghanistan earlier this year to photograph soldiers of the Scots Guards on active duty. The country seems to attract MacGregors for within the battalion were two other MacGregors which made me very proud. Though it is also worth noting that in the Scots Guards Battalion were personnel from the US Marines based in Okinawa, Australians, Fijians, New Zealanders and many Afghans. The Marines could not understand anything that the Scots said on the radio, which caused much mirth – I was able to help out there! Whilst today's situation is quite different to that of Sir Charles MacGregor's day, I cannot help feeling that the nature of the Afghan and their turbulent, violent lives is unchanged. Having suffered the Russian occupation (Sir Charles proven correct) the country was plunged into 20 years of civil war. Sir Charles' prediction that civil unrest would be used to further Russian aims also proved correct.

I have reflected on the Scottish presence in Afghanistan and is a good example of history repeating itself. It is argued, with good reason, that as this is Britain's fourth engagement in Afghanistan, from an Afghan point of view it looks like the invader is back. Moderate Afghans are justified in feeling 'here we go again' as they have long memories and are up on their history as much as we are. It is an extraordinary world in which we live, whereby the US Marines from Okinawa can receive a combat posting to Afghanistan and serve in the Scots Guards Battle Group, which in turn is under the command of the US Marine 3rd Expeditionary Unit in Helmand.

The Scots Guards have now returned to UK. A considerable number of soldiers were wounded including two triple amputees. Three were killed. Certainly our thoughts will be with them and members of armed forces from US, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and others who put their lives on the line for their country this Christmas time.

Afghanistan notwithstanding, 2010 has been a great year for us as MacGregors with the Central Florida Games which Fiona and I had the privilege to attend. Additionally much short notice work was done in connection with the Alamo commemorations in Texas with a great MacGregor turnout. Annapolis was a success with 175 people attending – an excellent turnout given that 2009 was the 100th anniversary. Given hectic lives and a world economic downturn, I am constantly amazed by the passion and sense of belonging that MacGregors feel. The extra mile always seems to be achieved. The 'can do' attitude in the spirit of those who have gone before us is alive and well. In some ways it is even greater.

On that note I wish you all a great Christmas and New Year and all good fortune for 2011.



Sir Malcolm MacGregor and
Guardsman William MacGregor in
Helmand Province



NEWS FLASH! (Submitted by Scott MacGregor)



Sir Malcolm has accepted an invitation to be [honorary] chieftain at Greenville Games, South Carolina on 27-28 May 2011! All members are encouraged to attend. More information to follow.

A Word From Our Chieftain

(Submitted by Major Ronald McGregor)



FROM THE DESK OF THE CHIEFTAIN: Friends, we are nearing that magical time of year when we are all exposed to colder weather and for many of us heavy snowfalls, and yet most of us will enjoy a special warmth in our hearts. We will look back on special events of this past year and share fond memories with our loved ones. Hopefully, we will also look forward to the coming year with great anticipation. But as we daily move through this season with ever increasing special meaning let us not fail to remember those that are not so blessed. Remember those men and women serving in harm's way with our military services. Remember their families that are coping with a void in their lives and praying that their loved one will be safely returned to them. Remember those families, including some of our own society members, that suffered the loss of a loved one and will be facing their first Christmas season without them. Let us also remember our fellow clans' men and women that suffered illnesses that kept them sharing our activities this past year.

We of the ACGS have had a remarkable year. In **January** Clan Gregor was named the "Honored Clan" at the Central Florida Highland Games at Orlando, Florida where Sir Malcolm and Lady MacGregor very favorably impressed the thousands of attendees. In **April**, the 'Daughters of the Revolution of Texas' hosted a special event sponsored by the government of Scotland. They wanted to offer a special recognition to those heroes of Scottish birth that died at the battle of the Alamo including our own John MacGregor, Artillery Sergeant and Piper. The details of both of the above events were reported in previous issues of the Ard Choille. We enjoyed hosting Clan Gregor tents across the nation - from Florida in the southeast, to Washington in the northwest; from California in the southwest to several in the northeast.

We had a very successful Gathering this year with one very major piece of business being accomplished. The Council approved our proposed new set of Bylaws, which will be presented to next year's AGM for final approval. A lot of work went into the preparation of these Bylaws - literally over several years. There are many changes from the old Bylaws but two very significant changes. One is the opening the position of Chieftain to lineal female members. The second is the establishment of a new category of member - a Provisional member. This is defined as: "Any person who wishes to join the Society as a lineal member but has had difficulty in tracing his or her ancestry to Scotland or the Americas prior to 1850 may join as a provisional member for up to five (5) consecutive years while researching the documentation to support eligibility as a lineal member." The proposed Bylaws will be made available to all voting members of the society early next year for your review and will be voted on at the AGM.

In the weeks leading up to the Gathering we were informed of two very important events regarding our Hereditary Chief, Sir Malcolm. First: Due to the success of last year's Scottish Homecoming, the Scottish Parliament wanted to establish a closer connection with the Scottish clans and asked that one individual be the point-of-contact between the clans and Parliament. They informed the five member Executive Committee of the Standing Council of Highland Chiefs, of which Sir Malcolm is a member, of the proposal. The other four members chose Sir Malcolm to be the single Highland Chief to fill that position. That was quite an honor to be bestowed upon him. Second: In July, Sir Malcolm was requested by the office of the Defense Minister to accept a possibly dangerous mission to Afghanistan. The purpose was for him to be imbedded with the Scots Guards in their war effort. Sir Malcolm had served with the Scots Guards for seventeen years. There is a book planned to be released next year regarding the Scots Guards that will be a fund raiser to aid those wounded members of that unit. They chose Sir Malcolm to take the photos for the book. He was given a thorough briefing and issued uniforms and protective vest, helmet and goggles. But one briefing in particular got his attention, the possibility of being captured by the al-Qaeda. The al-Qaeda chooses to behead high profile captives. Sir Malcolm sent a confidential email to three of his clansmen explaining his pending mission and the blackout on his communications to the outside world. He also pointed out that should the extreme fate mentioned above befall him, he would be the first Chief of Clan Gregor to be beheaded in around four hundred years. We announced the above events to our members at the Gathering and were happy to also announce that he had returned to Scotland safe and sound.

On behalf of the members of Council, we wish you all *"Nollaig Chridheil"* and *"A sona an ath-bliadhna"*.
(Merry Christmas and Happy New Year)
Ron McGregor





TFH KEY ACTIVITY 2-8 Aug 10 CF LKG (1 SG) (Submitted by Major Ronald McGregor)



Having taken up photography on leaving the Army in 1997 Sir Malcolm has travelled around the world capturing some of the world's most inhospitable places on film. Sir Malcolm last served with the 1 SG as a company commander in 1994 in Northern Ireland and when he heard that they were deploying to Afghanistan this year he immediately asked to go as their War Artist. His aim is to capture some of the success that the **Scots** Guardsmen, their Afghan partners and the local Afghan's have enjoyed in the Lashkar Gah area in his photographs. After a Battalion briefing, Sir Malcolm commented, "It is striking just how much the Battalion's focus is on the people, rather than the insurgents. It is not what I expected at all."



Sir Malcolm's photos will be collated in a book that will be sold in aid of the **Scots Guards** Colonel's Fund early next year. Also, as the **chief** of **Clan** Gregor worldwide, Sir Malcolm (pictured centre) looks forward to talking about his visit and photographs with his fellow clansmen at the next **Clan** Gregor gathering in the USA. Sir Malcolm's wife, Fiona Armstrong who is one of *BBC News 24*'s presenters, said: *"Our boys are really battling out there. I'm very proud that my husband can capture some of the effort they're making in trying to keep the country stable."*



ACGS Scholarships! (Submitted by Carol Spitznagle via Susan Tichy)



At the last Gathering, Susan Tichy announced that 10 Harry and Edith Blunt scholarships had been awarded. \$1200 each was given to first-time applicants: Randolph Darrow of Poland, NY, Rebekah Leigh Johnson of Buda TX, and new MBA student Don Simon of Atlanta, GA. Awards of \$1000 each were given to Kelsey Crane of West Jordan, UT, Brett and Josh Darrow of Poland, NY, Austin Killam of Midland TX, Michelle McGregor of Ormand Beach, FL and Zachary and Casey Wach of Las Vegas, NV. More information about these recipients will be given in the 2010 yearbook.



The Harry and Edith Blunt Scholarships may be used at any institution of higher learning. Current guidelines retain a preference for Freshman applicants, but make scholarships available to adult members, as well as their children, at any level of higher education. In addition to the Blunt scholarships other monies are available from the ACGS including awards for nursing and medicine at the University of Virginia and a scholarship for use at Randolph College. Information about all of these can be obtained by visiting the ACGS website at www.american-clan-gregor-society.us where you can find contact data and conditions for application.

Where, though, are some of our scholarship recipients now? Ian MacGregor, son of John and Luanne MacGregor of Boulder, CO, is completing a degree in Mechanical Engineering at the Colorado College of Mines. He was an award recipient in 2002 but interrupted his education to compete (very successfully) on the international Professional Cycling circuit. His sister, Hailey, received her scholarship in 2004 and is completing her PhD in Pharmacy.

Arielle Bosch, daughter of Dr. Milton and Elizabeth Bosch of Napa CA, is in her senior year at Berkeley and plans to become a Montessori teacher after graduation as well as continue her education. She has maintained straight A's and was inducted recently into an honor society.

Eliza Sonnenberg, daughter of Martin James and Elizabeth Magruder Sonnenberg of Falls Church, VA, received several Blunt scholarships' and has now entered medical school at the University of Pennsylvania.

Remember that applications must be received by April 1st so read the guidelines and get some financial help for college.



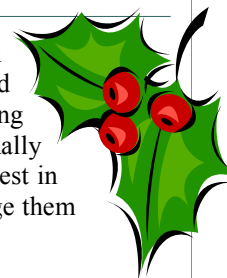


The Next Gathering!

(Submitted by Scott MacGregor)



To rehash what was announced by Ron at the Gathering in Annapolis, the 2011 Gathering of the American Clan Gregor Society will be held at the Detroit Renaissance Center Marriott hotel overlooking the Detroit river and Windsor, Canada over the dates of 6-9 October 2011. There is a very strong possibility that we will be venturing over to Windsor for some of our events so everyone needs to have their passports current. Remember it normally takes several months to process a passport. Our Gatherings are always open friends and guest who have an interest in Clan Gregor. Share the date, location, and information when it becomes available with your friends and encourage them to join us for what is bound to be an exceptional Gathering.



I'd also like to extend a warm holiday greeting to all my extended kinfolk in the American Clan Gregor Society, the Clan Gregor Society, and my many MacGregor friends who hopefully one day will become members of one or both societies. While we as a society lost some wonderful members over the past year we need to keep in mind and our prayers their families during this season of cheer and joy.

Scott

American Clan Gregor Society — October 05-09, 2011

Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center • 400 Renaissance Drive • Detroit, MI, 48243

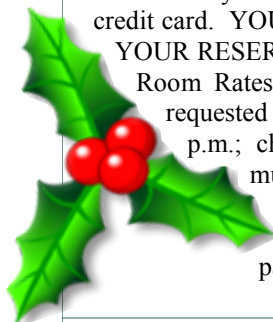
Reservation: Toll-Free 1-800-266-9432 • Direct 313-568-8000 • Fax 313-568-8146

Website: https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=3094956

The Renaissance Center Marriott is honored to have you as their guest during your stay in Detroit. In order to guarantee your reservation you should: (1) Make your reservation prior to **September 14, 2011**; (2) Call and make your reservation using a credit card. **YOU MUST MENTION AMERICAN CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY OR OUR CODE "ACG" WHEN MAKING YOUR RESERVATION.**

Room Rates: \$114.00 per room, per night and subject to 15% tax. Cut-off date: September 14, 2011. Reservations requested AFTER the cut-off date may or may not be available at this rate, based upon availability. Check-in time is 3 p.m.; check-out is 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. There is an additional \$8 reduced daily rate for parking (garage).



"US World Championship"

(Submitted by Lillian Magruder)



Congratulations to one of our members Charlie Magruder, who won the 11 year old division US Kids Las Vegas Tour Championship at Silverstone Golf Club with a score of 70. He got to that score with 14 pars, 3 birdies and 1 bogie.

He also won the US Kids Las Vegas Summer Tour Player of the Year in his age division and will head to Pinehurst, North Carolina, for the US Kids World Championship in August.

Charlie is the grandson of Past Chieftain Abbey Magruder and his wife Lillian, our Historian.





Retirement Announcement

(Submitted by Howard Grossnickle)



I would like to take the opportunity to announce my retirement as Treasurer.

To all MacGregors, and especially those of ACGS, I would like to express my greatest wishes for a very happy Holiday season for one and all.

I also need to inform those that were not at the Gathering, and may not know that I am no longer the Treasurer as Bruce Macgregor Whyte was elected to the office of Treasurer. It has been a pleasure to serve you these past six years, and I enjoyed many of the notes you sent in along with your dues. I only wish I could have met each and every one of you in person, but we still have many years yet to celebrate together. We have grown together with a healthy increase in our Societies net worth over these past 6 years despite some unfortunate National and World economic crises, due to your continued contributions, the cost savings of the Council and the excellent investments of the Trustees, and especially Joe Tichy.

Joe Tichy was very instrumental to the financial success of the Society, and John C. McGregor as well as Scott F. MacGregor working tirelessly to bring you the most memorable and well run gatherings I have been able to attend. Please think of all of our Council members and appointees as you go about your day, as they give much effort and many hours to make this all work for you and what the Kinship and Clanship means most of all to the MacGregors we have yet to meet.

May god bless you and yours,

Howard R. MacGregor Grossnickle

RDC ACGS



MacGregors in the Military

(Submitted by Carol MacGregor Spitznagle)



We recently observed Veterans Day where we honored those members of the Armed Services who gave of themselves to protect our rights and liberty and to ensure that we could enjoy the life we have today. Shortly before that many of us visited The US Naval Academy at Annapolis as part of the Gathering activities. With those two events fresh in my mind, I began to think of the people who comprise our Society and the service they have given throughout the years.

The tradition begins at the top with Sir Malcolm who served as a Major in the Scots Guard and as noted in another article in the newsletter recently returned to his unit for a special project. His father, Brigadier-General Sir Gregor, was also a career officer in the British Army who had tours in Borneo and Malaysia and who was the Defense and Military Attaché to Greece from 1975 to 1978. His duties also brought him to the United States where he and his family began to know something of American life.

Ron McGregor, our Chieftain, was a major in the US Air Force and his grandson, Jonathan is currently in the Navy. Our Assistant Chieftain, Scott MacGregor, has two sons-in-law both serving, Sgt. Donald C. Grover (husband of Jamie) in the Army and ET2 Aaron T. Schauf (husband of Darcie) in the Navy). Howard Grossnickle, our Ranking Deputy Chieftain, was a Chief Warrant Officer in the Navy. Our surgeon, Dr. Thomas McNish USAF, was a combat pilot who was shot down over Viet Nam in 1966 and served almost 7 years as a prisoner of war. He went to medical school after his release and now is a Command Surgeon for the Air Force Reserve.

The depth of military service was really brought home to me at Annapolis. While there we were divided into smaller groups of 25 per guide and at one point the question was asked, "Was anyone here a Marine"? Fred Magruder raised his hand. I spoke with him shortly after and he told me his two brothers were also ex-military, Herbert serving in the Army in Korea, and Abbey, our past Chieftain, in the Air Force. Another comment reached my ears when Bob Magruder mentioned that his brother Marshall had been a graduate of the class of '64 and had served 20 years in the Navy. Bob himself was a graduate of West Point (class of '64) and had spent 29 years in the Army. Their brother, Douglas, was in the Army and was killed in Viet Nam. All three men are the grandsons of General Marshall Magruder. All of this service and commitment to country in my small group.

At the banquet on Saturday night, I saw many men proudly wearing medals on their evening garb.
Truly Clan Gregor has given much to their country and to the world.





Gathering in Annapolis

(Submitted by Carol Spitznagle)



The start of the second century of the American Clan Gregor Society was celebrated at our Gathering in Annapolis, Md. from September 16th to the 19th with 175 people in attendance. After meetings on Friday morning, we travelled to Kent Island for a delicious seafood lunch at a restaurant overlooking Chesapeake Bay. When we were replete with good food and beautiful scenery, we proceeded to Christ Church in nearby Stevensville for our memorial service. We then hurried to the U.S. Naval Academy to meet our guides for a fascinating tour of this facility where we learned a great deal of history and saw some wonderful young people. Next we went to a very small family cemetery where we placed a wreath on the grave of Dr. Ernest Pendleton Magruder who died during the First World War while working for the American Red Cross in Serbia. After experiencing a harrowing bus trip back to the hotel (an occurrence which is quickly becoming a MacGregor tradition) we were able to attend the Ceilidh and dance and listen to the music of Maggie Sansone.

Saturday began with the General Meeting in the morning followed by breakout sessions in the afternoon discussing genealogy, DNA, and MacGregor antiquities. Later the band entertained our group, as well as other guests of the hotel, with a concert of great Scottish music. That night we ended the festivities with our annual banquet. Gifts were given by the Magruder family as well as Keith MacGregor, representing the CGS in Scotland, to our library. Then the big announcement- next year in Detroit. See you then !



Drumming up new members for the band!



Marshall Magruder Library

(Submitted by Steve Grier)



I would like to thank everyone participating and contributing to this year's Gathering raffle. As many of you know, the raffle and sale of surplus items in storage is used to make improvements to the MML and fund the Archivist Project. This year's raffle and sale raised \$1511—another new record! I would also like to sincerely thank everyone who made a direct donation to this effort. The great news is we have now paid back the money extended from the ACGS General Fund for the Archivist Project. In short, we raised over \$26,000 for this very worthwhile project. Work goes on at the MML, and we must continue to raise funds.

At this moment, several boxes of material are waiting to be processed. Accordingly, we will need to hire a qualified archivist in the near future. So please continue to support the MML through your generous donations and support of the raffle.

Special thanks go out to all the folks who contributed books and archive material to the MML this year. Feel free to contact me if there is something you believe would be of interest to the library.

I will conclude by saying many thanks to our raffle salesman, my uncle, Donald Grier, originator of the "Scottish Deal," for his great work this year.

Steve Grier, ACGS Librarian

First Footing

A holiday tradition in Scotland involves a tall, dark-haired man being the first person to cross your doorstep on New Year's Day with gifts of a coin, bread, salt, coal, and a drink (usually whiskey). He is called a First Footer and these gifts are meant to represent financial security, food, flavor, warmth, and good cheer for you and your family for the coming year. Lori and I hope that you are truly blessed with all these things. "A Blythe Yule an a Guid Hogmany" to you all.



Carol Spitznagle, Editor and Lori Connery, Graphic Designer



“ARDCHOILLE”
 NEWSLETTER OF
 THE AMERICAN CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY
 SCOTT MACGREGOR
 440 Willoughby Bay
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Mrs. Black's Plum Pudding

(From the book Good Fare Christmas)



Mrs. Black was a well known cookery teacher in late Victorian times. This is a simple but excellent recipe that will appeal to those who do not care for a very rich pudding.

1/4 LB. Bread	1/2 LB. Currents	1 Saltspoon Salt	1/2 Teaspoon Baking Powder
Crumbs	1/2 Valencia Raisins	1 Apple or Carrot	2 Eggs
1/2 LB. Flour	1/4 LB. Orange Peel	1 Teaspoons Mixed Spice	1/2 Pint Milk
1/2 LB. Sugar	1 Lemon	1/2 Teaspoon Nutmeg	

Pudding: Wash and dry currants, stone the raisins, chop the orange peel; grate the lemon ring and squeeze out the juice. If an apple is used, it must be peeled and chopped finely, and , if a carrot, the red part is grated. Put into a basin all the dry ingredients, including the apple, the lemon rind and juice, and mix all together. Beat the eggs well, add to them the milk, and pour among the ingredients in the basin, mixing thoroughly. Butter a pudding basin or mould and pour the pudding in; cover with a piece of buttered paper and steam for four hours.

An extra egg with proportionality less milk may be used.

Brandy Butter (For Plum Pudding): BEAT to a cream equal parts of butter and caster sugar and add brandy to taste (about a dessertspoonful to 4 oz of butter). Beat well and leave in a cool place to firm. Decorate, if desired, with a glacé cherry and a little angelica. (Brandy is said to be a better digestive than rum for the somewhat cloying materials of which a plum pudding is made.)

