



Ardchoille

Newsletter of the American Clan Gregor Society



Volume XVI, Issue III

Winter 2010



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Newsletter Editor

Carol Spitznagle

6470 Harding Street

Hollywood, FL 33024

E-Mail: carolspitz@aol.com

Layout & Graphic Design

Lori Connery

4610 Russell Ave. N.

Minneapolis, MN 55412

E-Mail: Clan-Gregor-

mn@comcast.net

For more Clan information
please visit our website at:

<http://american-clan-gregor-society.us/>

The views and opinions
expressed in any of the articles
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necessarily the views or opinions
of the ACGS.

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

Norman Maclean – a great teacher

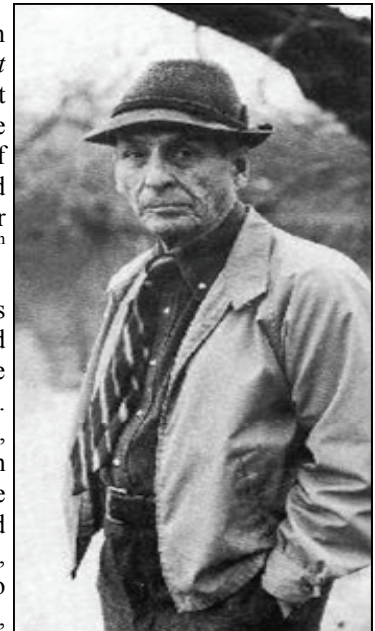
I have just been rereading one of the most intense books in the history of American Literature – *A river runs through it* by Norman Maclean. Whilst this book is somewhat melancholic, the language is wonderful as it describes the American west that is long gone. But it is Maclean himself that should be of interest to Scots and Americans and indeed anyone interested in literature generally. For Norman Maclean must be one of the masters of 20th century tragedy.

His life was extraordinary. Largely taught to write by his father, a Presbyterian minister who hailed from the island of Mull, young Norman was a logger and worked in the United States Forest Service (USFS) from the age of 15. He was involved in his first serious fire, called a blow up, aged 19. He then went east; graduated from Dartmouth College and latterly became professor of English at the University of Chicago. His expertise was Shakespeare and the English romantic poets; Wordsworth, Keats, Shelley, Browning. Quite a journey from Mull to Montana, to Dartmouth and ultimately to England's romantic poets, with some logging, firefighting and fishing along the way. A more eclectic mix is hard to imagine. But it is a classic American story – he was a great outdoorsman of many parts.

His book *a River runs through it*, is a haunting and tragic story mainly about his brother Paul. Paul was wondrous artist when casting a line with a four and half ounce fishing rod. But fatally flawed, as is the case with many brilliant people. And his short life was indeed tragic. Whether this is a Scottish trait I don't know, but the history of many a talented Scotsman has been tragic. Mary Queen of Scots, perhaps even Alastair MacGregor of Glenstrae. Some of this may have rubbed off on Norman Maclean. It amused me in the book that a certain Jim McGregor who owned part of the Elkhorn river on which the brothers liked to fish had to be 'softened up' with whiskey and brown trout, so that they could get on the best pools. Strangely the McGregor ranch lay on the route into Mann Gulch, the scene of another American tragedy, which Norman Maclean was to write about.

Maclean did a phenomenal amount of research into the Mann Gulch blow up of 5th August 1949, in which 13 forest rangers lost their lives. It was Maclean who brought to America the world of the 'smokejumper'. Their hopeless mission, in which they had to contend with 200ft flames, was recorded in Maclean's last book '*Young men and Fire*'. Again tragedy is at the core of the book with young men being caught up in an inferno of terrifying proportions. The ages of the fifteen smokejumpers who parachuted into hell on that hot august day ran from 17-23,

(Continued on page 2)



Norman Mclean



Across The Pond Cont...



(Continued from page 1)

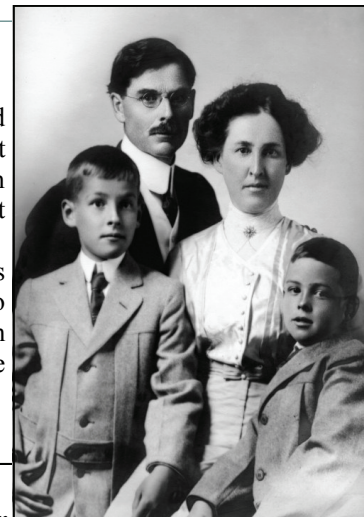
Maclean informs us. And if it cannot get more tragic than that, one of the jumpers, David Navon, had parachuted into Bastogne as a lieutenant with the 101st Airborne on D Day, fought through the war, and was dead within an hour of entering the gates of hell that was Mann Gulch. Maclean's research into all these characters must have been painful, and having fought fires himself must have felt some of the suffering those brave men went through.

Norman Maclean is a fascinating writer of many parts and brilliant with language. In his teachings he encouraged economy with words. He lived up to his mantra as his novellas are no more than 100 pages or so. In another of his novellas, he coined the term 'the big sky' with reverence for the great landscape of Montana. This is the only state in America whose license plate is taken from a novel.

Quite an epitaph for the son of a Presbyterian minister from the island of Mull.



*Rev. John Norman Maclean
and Clara (Davidson) Maclean
with their sons Norman (left)
and Paul, about 1911.*



From The Desk Of The Chieftain

(Submitted by Major Ronald McGregor)



Friends, So far we have had a very interesting beginning of the new year, but due to the weather not necessarily pleasant. Here in Colorado we have been hit with one snow storm after another and to show her cruelty Mother Nature seems to choose the weekends to dump on us. Of course the northeast and mid-atlantic states have been hit equally as hard with snow and even beautiful Florida has suffered with much rain and low temperatures. But be of good cheer as spring is right around the corner.

I would like to remind our members to attend as many of the highland games as you can to support the efforts of our various State Deputy Chieftains. By now all of you should be aware that Sir Malcolm will be attending the Greenville, S.C. games in May and Clan Gregor will be the Honored Clan. These games are taking on a special significance as it will be a tribute to the armed forces. There will be a jet fly-over during the opening ceremonies, static displays of military equipment and vehicles, Medal of Honor recipients will be in attendance as well as high ranking military guests and a couple of members of Congress (possibly Sen McCain and Sen Webb). The list goes on and on, but for us of Clan Gregor, we have an excellent opportunity to show our pride in our Chief and our own military service.

Sir Malcolm is expected to be wearing his 'day wear' kilt along with his military service medals and as the honored guest will be taking the salute during the opening ceremonies. I plan to wear my service shirt with my kilt. On my service shirt I will wear my ribbons or medals and badges and will render a salute to Sir Malcolm as we pass in review. I encourage all of our veterans that will be attending to wear their military ribbons or medals as well and join me in the salute to our Chief. Lets make it a memorable event for our Chief and our clan. In addition, I am asking all of our veterans - whether you plan to attend these games or not - to provide me with a resume of you military service. If you plan to attend these games I will forward a copy of your resume to Sir Malcolm for his information.

Don't forget that this year's Gathering will be in Detroit so make your reservations early. As a reminder, this will be a very important Gathering in that the AGM will vote on some major changes to our by-laws, namely females can become Chieftains and a new category of membership.

Until we next meet, stay warm, stay proud and stay "MacGregor Despite Them"

Ron McGregor,
FCGS
Chieftain





Virginia Quilt Museum

(Submitted by Lois Ann Garlitz)



Letters to Jennie

By Jacquelynn Leggett

The Virginia Quilt Museum in Harrisonburg, Virginia is opening an exhibit entitled *Letters to Jennie* in late February 2011, with the grand opening on May 14, 2011. The exhibit coincides with the sesquicentennial of the Civil War and explores the lives of Virginia Magruder (daughter of James Magruder and Louisa Watson) and her husband Edward Tiffin Harrison Warren, a lawyer from Harrisonburg, Virginia, during the war years.

Jennie's story is gleaned from war time letters sent to her by her husband and her brothers – Edward Jones Magruder, James Watson Magruder, John Hillery Magruder, George Shelton Magruder, and David Watson Magruder. From the letters we gain insight into the pivotal role of southern women in supporting the war effort. They provided clothing and provisions for their men; nursed the wounded and dying, often in their own homes; engaged in fundraising and political outreach; and acted as the chief communicator among family members and friends through correspondence. Through Jennie's Civil War experiences, we can extrapolate what a woman's life was like in other towns and cities in the South, lives forever altered by the consequences of the Civil War. The exhibit invites us to enter Jennie's world and to consider, perhaps, our own response to such a crisis.

Excerpts from the family letters, historical photographs and documents, and Civil War-era artifacts, including an authentic mourning veil, illustrate the compelling story of Jennie Magruder Warren. Additionally, the Civil War gallery showcases quilts dating from that time period.

In addition to the exhibit, visitors can explore the home where Jennie once lived, and also enjoy the permanent quilt collection, together with special quilt exhibits that occur throughout the year. For more information on the Virginia Quilt Museum, our collection, and our new *Letters to Jennie* exhibit, please visit our web page www.vaquiltmuseum.org or contact our director, Judith Shuey, at director@vaquiltmuseum.org. For specific information on the *Letters to Jennie* exhibit, please contact the exhibit curator, Jacquelynn Leggett at pemerritt@verizon.net. The board of directors sincerely hopes that the American Clan Gregor Society members will visit the museum in the near future.

You can read more about the Frescati Magruder Boys on page 32 of the 1912 yearbook, by going online to <http://archives.ubalt.edu/acgs/pdf/1912Yearbook.pdf>. Frescati was the name of their home in Orange County, Virginia, which is now a private residence.



Celebrating Robert Burns!

(Submitted by Randy Walker)



The Scottish Society of San Antonio Celebrates the 252d Anniversary Of the Birth of Robert Burns



(L to R) Dr. Tom McNish (our Clan surgeon), Yona McNish, Teresa Walker, Randy Walker

The event was held this year at the Parr Officers' Club on Randolph Air Force Base. Randolph Air Force Base has been an active base since June 20, 1930. The base is named for Captain William Millican Randolph of Austin, Texas. Today the base is the home of the 12th Flying Training Wing, the 502d Air Base Wing, the Air Force Personnel Center, the Air Force Recruiting Service, the Air Force Manpower Agency and the Air Force Office of Special Investigations Field Office Region 4.

The event this year was well attended with over 200 people participating. Entertainment included performances by the San Antonio Black Bexar Pipe Band, the San Antonio Pipes & Drums, the SSSA Highland Dancers and the Irishfree Irish Dancers.

The guest of honor this year was Mr. Darren G. Burgess, Second Secretary of Scottish Affairs, Scottish Affairs Office, The British Embassy in Washington, DC. Mr. Burgess spent the day visiting The Alamo learning about the contributions of the Scottish Americans who died fighting for Texas liberty. Dr. Robert Hillcoat, a native of Scotland gave a most interesting presentation on the life and times of Robert Burns.

There were sixteen Scottish Clan Societies represented at this annual event. The master of ceremonies recognized the American Clan Gregor Society representative and Mr. Steven Hypes, representing Clan Gregor Scotland in his opening remarks.

A special group of guests were also present. These were veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars who are recovering from their injuries at the Brooke Army Medical Center. It was a pleasure to meet these true heroes and to watch them enjoy the dinner and entertainment.



“Why Dues?”

(Submitted by Bruce Whyte)



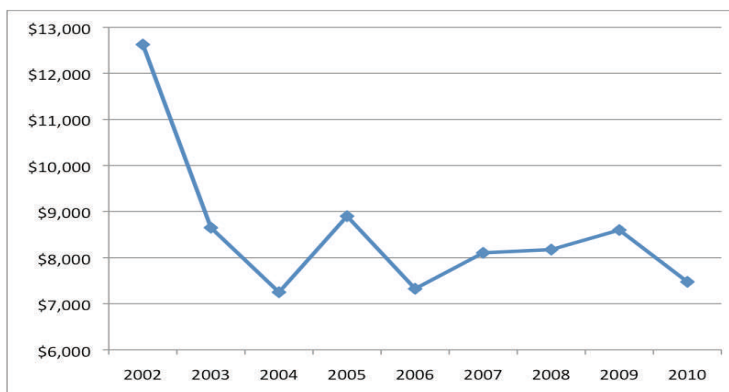
Members' dues help us pay for a lot of functions including:

- The newsletter each quarter;
- The annual yearbook;
- The tri-fold brochure which is printed on an as need basis;
- Advertising in several periodicals;
- All those administrative activities that an organization must pay for such as postage for dues, the dues letters themselves and registration for ACGS;
- Rental on mini storage for books, periodicals and documents;
- Reparation of annual tax returns for both entities within the Clan, those being General activities (routine business expenses) and Charitable and Educational activities (scholarships, donations to restoration projects);
- Partial reimbursement to State Deputy Chieftains for their activities in trying to promote ACGS and enroll new members, help educate the general community about Scottish clans and in particular the Gregor Clan; and
- Assist if needed in the Gathering costs.

In 2010 the amount collected in dues alone was about average for each of the preceding 7 years, but it is showing a slow but steady decline as seen in the chart.

You will have noticed in your dues notices that some of you may have the section for the "last year paid" saying you last paid 4 years or 1 year previously. There are some who allegedly have not paid for 4-5 years. Under our Bylaws, if a member has not paid for two years they are considered to be "delinquent" or non-active. We also have in our Bylaws that we can only collect for two years maximum to render you active again, even if you are 4 years delinquent. There are not many in this grouping but considering the state of dues collections, it would be beneficial for ACGS to catch up all.

As a note, any changes that any of you have made when sending back dues (spelling of name, address, phone, email address) have been recorded by the Treasurer and forwarded to the Assistant Chieftain, Scott Macgregor. Those changes may not be seen until the end of the year as the originals have already been stored for this year.



I hope that all have enjoyed this brief explanation of our finances and that everyone is looking forward to more, such as our Scholarships, in my reports in the upcoming news letters.



Don't Miss Out!

(Submitted by Carol Spitznagle)



Be sure to attend the Greenville Games on May 27-28, 2011. It should be a lovely time to be in South Carolina and the organizers have a lot of fun and exciting things planned to see and do. The festivities kick off with a parade down Main Street with floats, bands and marching units at 6 pm followed by a reception back at the host hotel. Ron has already told you about the special salute to the military on this Memorial Day weekend including a jet fly-over during the opening ceremonies and special guests from both this country as well as from Scotland. Sir Malcolm will be attending as MacGregor is the honored clan.

I was especially impressed by all the activities planned for the children including a writing contest as well as an American Idol competition in addition to their usually games and athletics. If you're interested in coming, the website address to access all the information about events is www.greenvillegames.org. The host hotel is the Hilton Greenville and the special rate is \$89.00 per night. To get reservations call 1-800-HILTONS and ask for the Greater Greenville Scottish Games and Highland Festival rate.

See you there !



The Next Gathering!

(Submitted by Scott MacGregor)



Are you ready for a wonderful weekend mingling among fellow members of Clan Gregor and exploring a region of the country where other MacGregors have passed generations before? Before you know it our Gathering weekend, October 6 to 9, 2011, will be upon us.

You should act now to ensure your passport will be current at the time of our Gathering. Remember it takes several months to obtain a passport. The process can be handled quicker but it will cost you.

Did you know our host hotel the Renaissance Center Marriott is such a large complex that they even offer daily guided tours of the facility? So if you find yourself with a little down time take a tour without even leaving the hotel. Of if you'd rather get outside for a bit of a stroll, there's the lovely Detroit RiverWalk that stretches three and a half miles along the river passing right by the hotel. The General Motors corporate headquarters is located within the complex so there is plenty of security around.

You'll have plenty of choices for restaurants within the hotel complex; you could dine in a different restaurant each day. But if you would like to venture out, there are numerous other restaurants within blocks that are easily accessible from the hotel via the Detroit People Mover. For more insight about what places of interest surround the hotel visit their website at <http://www.thepeoplemover.com>.

The Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport is a fair drive from our Gathering hotel. There is no free shuttle service offered between the airport and hotel. Here are a couple of websites <http://www.metroairport.com/transportation/> and <http://www.guide2detroit.com/services/groundtransport.shtml>, to assist with what options are available.

To try and assist our members with this expense we'd like to coordinate our members arriving in groups so they can split a taxi. This will take knowing when you and others plan to travel before airline tickets are purchased. This way your arrival and departure can be planned for a similar time, that way you can share the expense of a taxi. To date a couple of members plan to arrive on Wednesday and Thursday. Let Scott MacGregor at mcgregor@verizon.net or Kathy Stone at hastone@kwcom.net know your plans and we'll work with you towards organizing your arrival and departure times with others.

While the Gathering committee has selected several venues that can handle the size of our group, and will be appreciated by most, there are many additional attractions nearby. You can extend your stay in Detroit and explore places like the wonderful museums and art galleries at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor just 30 minutes west, the Art Institute of Detroit, the Detroit Historical Museum, the main Detroit Public Library, and the world famous Detroit Zoo, or the Cranbrook Art & Science Museums about 30 minutes north. If you are interested in visiting any of these venues before or after the Gathering contact Kathy Stone of the Gathering committee at hastone@kwcom.net for assistance in organizing your visit.

Further information and Gathering event prices will be forthcoming in the Spring Gathering letter to be mailed in late June.

For the latest information about the Gathering and making your guest room reservation is available on the society website at <http://american-clan-gregor-society.us/acgs4.html>. Don't hesitate to make your hotel reservation now.

The following information is reprinted here should you have missed it previously.

Be sure to take advantage of an exceptional weekend filled with enough optional activities to delight any member. Your local Gathering Committee will keep you as busy as you want to be with numerous fully escorted tours and events in the afternoons and evenings. How often during our annual Gatherings do you have the opportunity to visit multiple sites in two countries while learning about some local Clan Gregor history? Or have the chance to travel back in time while marveling at the many innovations of yesteryear?

Arrive early and join fellow members on Thursday for a day long excursion to Dearborn to visit a number of wonderful attractions. You can choose to take in the Henry Ford Museum, the Greenfield Village, the Ford Rouge Assembly Plant Tour, the Imax Theatre, or any combination that your interests and time will allow. You'll be surprised at the quality and quantity of Americana preserved here. For a quick peek at this amazing attraction, one of our nation's great museums, be sure to visit their website at <http://www.thehenryford.org/>. Did you know Gordon MacGregor was the first General Manager of Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited when the company started in 1904?

Our Memorial Service on Friday will be held in the Mariners Church, the same church as noted in singer Gordon Lightfoot's song "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald". We will then head east to tour and dine at the Alger Mansion (now the Grosse Pointe War Memorial) followed by a guided tour of the Edsel Ford Mansion, grounds, and visitors center. Our wreath will be laid at the grave of Tracy W. McGregor, a philanthropist from the Detroit area, who established the McGregor fund in 1925 to help others less fortunate than himself. There's an interesting connection here with our Gathering in Charlottesville in 2009 as Mr. McGregor donated his large book collection to the University of Virginia.

You'll need your passport on Saturday as we'll be heading over to Canada for the afternoon to have lunch, honor an early MacGregor of Canada, and enjoy our pipe band along the Detroit River. Your passport is required for the border crossing, so if you do not have it you will not be able to board the bus. We don't want to leave anyone behind.



The Coming Season

(Submitted by Howard Grossnickle)



To all members of ACGS in the coming Gaming season, and our valiant SDCs that go to great extent and personal expense to put on the ACGS/CGS presentations at their tent. They do this in the highest tradition of hospitality of Highlanders, Clan Gregor, and that of their own line of descent from one of the greatest races of Highlanders. Our Chief could not be prouder of what you are doing, and he will be in attendance as Honored Guest and Chief of the Games for the Greenville Scottish Games this 27th and 28th of May in Greenville South Carolina. I encourage one and all to attend these games as Clan Gregor will be the Honored Clan, and our CGS and ACGS presenters need your support at all of our Games. We especially need you to give some support to our SDCs in setting up and assistance at the tents where you can. I especially would like to hear of a volunteer for our tent in Arizona, as Don Lynd is preparing for his Doctoral Dissertation, and he could use a good person to take charge of his tent while he prepares for this momentous point in his long life of some 77 years.

Sliante mhath,
Howard R. MacGregor Grossnickle
RDC for ACGS



ACGS Comes To Vermont

(Submitted by Randy and Marilyn Zimmerman)



The weather was picture perfect on August 28th for the 38th annual Quechee Highland Festival in Quechee, Vermont. The fair weather also greeted Clan Gregor, perhaps the first time that the ACGS invaded this small and friendly Scottish event. The several hundred people that visited our tent were most pleased to see our presence, except for a couple of McDonalds.

While Marilyn served our visitors glasses of scotch, I piped a number of tunes wearing nothing but ghillie brogues and a MacGregor tartan thong. Just kidding; it was actually lemonade, since alcohol was not permitted. We responded to countless questions regarding genealogy and Clan Gregor, making up answers as we went along. Folks were, of course, interested in Rob Roy. I enhanced my popularity by telling people that my bagpipes were handed down to me from Rob himself and that Rob last played them when he was inducted into the Scottish Curling Hall of Fame. People were not generally aware of this.

Seriously, after serving as the SDC in Florida for a couple of years, it was a pleasure to be hosting an ACGS tent again. The Quechee Festival, sponsored by the St. Andrews Society of Vermont, is lively and full of fun. Marilyn and I had a great time and enjoyed our very many discussions with our visitors. We are already looking forward to next year!

"See how much fun you can have hosting or helping at a Scottish Event?!"

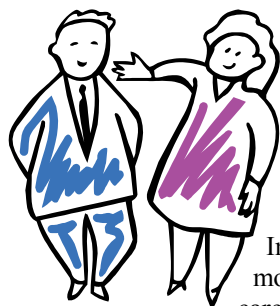


Randy and Marilyn Zimmerman



Introducing Bruce Whyte

(Submitted by Carol Spitznagle)



Bruce was elected as Treasurer of the American Clan Gregor Society at its Annual Gathering in Annapolis in September 2010. He has been a Clan member since 2000. He is originally an Australian family physician who moved into medical epidemiology working with not only the Australian Federal Government Health Department but also the US Department of Health and Human Services at their facility CDC in Atlanta. That time was spent designing, implementing and analyzing data on the extent of presentations of HIV disease.

In 1994 he was appointed as the CEO of a Federally Qualified Health Center in the north Georgia mountains, an organization that provided basic health care to those who could not usually afford such care. During that time, he was not only the CEO but also the CFO, responsible for the financial health of the organization. During his tenure, he took the Grant received from an initial \$184,000 annually to \$1,200,000 annually by reducing costs, expanding services and ensuring reimbursements from health insurance companies.

Since that time he has been a consultant for these same types of centers, for the federal DHHS for grant applications, for review of the application of federal funds and as a grant writer for a number of non-profit organizations. Despite the fact that he is a physician, he is experienced in financial systems and the management of budgets and grants.

From now forwards, all membership renewals and requests for reimbursements should be directed to Bruce at the following contacts:

bmwhyte@bellsouth.net

404-402-3357 (cell)

770-998-0889 (fax)

4189 Ashbourne Crt NE, Roswell, GA, 30075-1981

WELCOME



Registrar News

(Submitted by Lois Ann Garlitz)

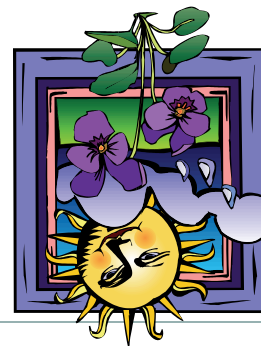


Processing and indexing our membership file folders was completed in early December 2010. Processing included removing any paper clips and staples, moving all documents from their old file folder to a new acid-free one; orienting all documents the same direction to be "camera-ready" for digitizing when funds become available, and then folders into acid-free document cases, like you would find at our collection in the Langsdale Library in Baltimore. All are arranged alphabetically. An index was built using Excel with 20 categories, reflecting the name each member was known as when they joined, as well as other identifying data. Ladies who married later are also indexed with their married name. Not all of the processing and indexing was straight forward: a bit more research was sometimes necessary to identify which other ACGS members they may have been related to, etc. At the current time, this index is for the Registrar's use only, thereby maintaining the confidentiality of current members.

Remember that you as members who might have done additional research on your pedigree can send me addenda documents and sources to add to your membership file folders. If you have more than twelve pages, please call me first.

I would like to extend thanks again to Thomas Hollowak and his staff at the University of Maryland's Langsdale Library's Special collections (including our Marshal Magruder Library) for scanning and putting our yearbooks on line. Having all the yearbooks on line is such a big asset; I am always recommending them to people who are looking for more information. <http://archives.ubalt.edu/acgs/acgviii.htm>





ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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



Clan Gathering Word Find



G P C L A N G B A N N E R S R S E G O R
M A A Q V C N F N X M P B P Y E X C W I
J A T R A J I F G P Y T W G B M Q W I T
N V C H A O Q W P Y S P Y A Q A G N Z M
I E X G E D G U G W O T N A I G G A Q C
S S R A R R E R R O T D L J O Y O T I Z
I X B D F E I G M R S T N I C V R T O S
W O G A L O G N N N F N P U K A L G F S
G S R N G I Z O G A A E E R P E B N L G
N G Z Z V P H W R L D T P Z C H K R V O
I B N I T Z I C M C S R O D N E V M D D
C R B I Y L V P Q K V W M J R G R Y W P
N I U P T X H Y E L R I X M D K N J M E
A T P E K S B O R S T S Z Q G E V S N E
D S Z F G F O P I N V Q R C J P I P L H
K J T R T L J H Q Y C D H A W N Z L S S
G N I L L E T Y R O T S L M G O T N A X
I G V Z B N O B B A Z G D I Z X N M N I
C O I A B A F A J C D X N X G R R W X H
L A N O I T A C U D E G N I D R A E H I

BAGPIPES
BANDS
BANNERS
CELTIC
CHILDREN
CLAN ROW
DANCING
EDUCATIONAL
GATHERING
HEARDING
HEAVY GAMES
HOSTING
KILTS
MACGREGOR
PARADE
SHEEPDOGS
SINGING
STORY TELLING
TENT
VENDORS

Find all the words to reveal the Secret Word with the left over letters!

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Volume XVII, Issue II

Summer 2011



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Newsletter Editor

Carol Spitznagle
6470 Harding Street
Hollywood, FL 33024
E-Mail: carolspitz@aol.com

Layout & Graphic Design

Lori Connery
4610 Russell Ave. N.
Minneapolis, MN 55412
E-Mail: Clan-Gregor-
mn@comcast.net

**For more Clan information
please visit our website at:**

<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

Greenville Scottish Games, South Carolina, 28 May 2011

Highland or Scottish Games are prolific in the United States, but Greenville was somewhat different from most this year in that it coincided with Memorial Day weekend. This put a different emphasis on events as, in addition to numerous American veterans, there were also eight soldiers from the Royal Highland Fusiliers present who had recently returned from active service in Afghanistan. Scottish and US Forces work more closely on the battlefield than ever before. I have seen it with the Scots Guards in Helmand, last year.

The Games were organized as a joint tribute to US Forces and soldiers from Scotland serving in Britain's Armed Forces. Present among the dignitaries was Mr. John Baker, recipient of the Medal of Honor for his part in an extraordinary action in Vietnam in 1966. It was a privilege to meet him. The joint tribute was a generous accolade to our servicemen and women. But then Americans are the most generous people in the world.



The games had a wonderful atmosphere and reminded me of the nature of clan ship and how the modern day clan system has evolved over the centuries. Many people had travelled great distances from as far afield as Colorado and Chicago and had braved the tornadoes of the mid west to get there. The Earl of Caithness, chief of the Sinclairs, and Romilly Squire of Rubislaw from Scotland were also present. Flags flew from many clan tents including St. Andrews Societies and the Scottish Society of Armigers.



Americans have a deep affection for all things Scottish and indeed British, and want to be part of our heritage. They are not bothered by the fact that we are unable to do things on the same scale. What they want is a 'clan' or family kinship with Scotland. Their individual family histories are crucial to understanding who they are and where they come from. Many I met, could in some way trace their families not just back to Scotland but to the village from which their ancestors came. Maps of Scotland were a feature of the clan tents showing clan territories. Pins identified towns, villages, glens or castles. People showed me family trees and genealogical charts, and old black and white photographs of ancestors from a bygone era. Looking at those pictures spoke of a resilience and determination which the word 'clan' stands for. It reminded me of the highlanders at Culloden in 1746, who before battle was joined, recited the names of their ancestors to give them strength in the face of the onslaught that was to be unleashed.

The bond with Scotland whether from America or anywhere else is unique in this world. It is difficult to quantify but is to do with family, heritage, history and tradition. In a word it is 'clanship'. It is reflected in the endless emails, Skype calls, web logs, face book posts and so on that goes on around the world. Communications and 21st century technology has carried the clan system with it.

The word 'clan' is a strong brand to use marketing terminology. Its outward artifacts such as badges, tartan and heraldry are symbols of strength and unity of purpose, all of which were on display at Greenville. We are lucky in Scotland to have such loyal friends who follow our fortunes and delight in our shared heritage and history.

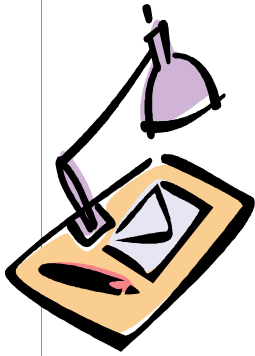
From The Desk Of The Chieftain

(Submitted by Major Ronald McGregor)

Greetings!

The year is over half over and we only have a couple of months to get ready for this year's Gathering in Detroit.

Bylaws:



A lot of ACGS business needs to be accomplished at the Gathering, particularly at the AGM. The Bylaws and two amendments that were passed by the Council at last year's Gathering needs to be approved at the AGM. This requires those bylaws and amendments passed by the Council last year must be made available to the General Membership at least thirty days prior to the upcoming Gathering for their review and approval at the AGM. To cut down on the cost of printing and postage, it was decided to post the new version of the Bylaws on our web page. This should be posted NLT August 31st, if not sooner. If you plan to attend the Gathering, please print out your copy of the Bylaws and bring it with you. Likewise a copy of the ACGS Coat of Arms should be posted at the same time. If possible, I would like to have a similar vote by the AGM for the approval of the CofA. Please take the time to review these two very important postings on our web page.



Greenville Games:



A number of our society members attended the Greenville, SC games in May where we were the Honored Clan and Sir Malcolm was the Honored Guest. See the articles elsewhere in this newsletter for the details of these games. It seems as if every year we have the opportunity to announce another achievement of our Chief and in this regard, this year is no different. While at the Greenville games an unrelated announcement was made that now can be shared with our entire membership. At the Clan Reception on Friday evening, Sir Malcolm Ian Sinclair, The Right Honorable, The Earl of Caithness announced that in July of this year Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor, BT will replace him in becoming the



new Convenor of The Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs. This very important posting is a tremendous honor for our Chief and one that is obviously well deserved. It will entail a great many more official duties affecting all of the Scottish clans and the attendance at many official functions. But these additional duties will come at a small cost to our own Clan Gregor. Ever since Sir Malcolm became our Chief in 2003, he has made a point of being very accessible to his clansmen and women around the world. I have it on good authority that he has done this to a far greater extent than most other highland chiefs which is no surprise to the ACGS. But with his new duties being very time consuming means that we, his clans people, out of courtesy and consideration should limit our personal contacts with him to some extent. If you have questions that pertain our Clan or Society, please forward them to our Assistant Chieftain or myself. If we can't answer your questions, we can usually forward them to other knowledgeable individuals without imposing on our Chief any more than necessary. The ACGS will be sending a congratulatory message to Sir Malcolm.

"WELL DONE CHIEF - YOUR PEOPLE ARE PROUD OF YOU!"



102nd Gathering

(Submitted by Kathy Stone)



Where can you look south on Canada, take a \$.50 elevated monorail ride through a major city, enjoy cocktails on the 72nd floor of the tallest hotel in the Western Hemisphere, walk in the Wright Brothers' Bicycle Shop and Thomas Edison's Menlo Park laboratory, watch a new Ford F-150 roll off a working assembly line, ride in an authentic Model T automobile, visit a foreign country, and walk along a river that carries more commercial tonnage each year than the Panama and Suez canals combined all in one day? You can do all of this and more at the 102nd Gathering of the American Clan Gregor Society in Detroit/Windsor. This metropolitan area is home to over 5 million people and Motown knows how to throw a party! You are most cordially invited to join us October 5th through October 9th and meet our many Canadian clansmen who will add to the celebration. (Since this is the weekend Canadians celebrate their Thanksgiving, a traditional turkey dinner has been added as one of your several banquet entree selections!)

You will enjoy your stay at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center, with breathtaking views of the Detroit River, Lake St. Clair, and the skylines of Detroit and Windsor. Despite the fact that it has 1,298 guest rooms, the hotel's circular shape puts every room close to your elevator and the lobby. You will stay in the heart of the Ren Cen, a complex that contains 28 restaurants, 70 shops, five banks, a spa, fitness center, and every personal service you could ever want. The four surrounding and attached office towers are the world headquarters of the General Motors Corporation. You will enjoy world class security and outstanding amenities. Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate your Scottish heritage in this remarkable location.

At the end of June you will receive your Registration Form to select those tours and activities that interest you and fit into your personal schedule. This year your Local Host Committee has made every effort to provide you with variety and flexibility in your choices. In addition to the afternoon tours on Friday (to the Grosse Pointes) and Saturday (to Windsor) we have added tours on Thursday (to Dearborn's Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village) and Sunday afternoon (to the Detroit Institute of Arts and the Detroit Historical Museum). On Wednesday night, Michigan's State Deputy Chief-tain has invited you to a cocktail party on the 72nd floor of your hotel. Thursday night, if you wish, you may join us on a tour of old Detroit and dinner at an authentic Greek restaurant. If you prefer, your local Host Committee "Red Hat MacGregor Volunteers" (who will be with you every step of the way) will arrange for your transportation and dinner/visit to any of scores of locations in our area. We have planned a few surprises along the way. The Friday night Ceilidh should be great fun this year as the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society will join us, an audience sing-a-long is planned and even our own MacGregor Choir (yes, you heard that right) will perform. Our band concert will be in Windsor, so be sure to bring your passports. This is one year that you should not miss. We can't wait to see you in Detroit.



Register!

(Submitted by Carol Spitznagle)



Reservations

Don't forget to make your reservations for Detroit before September 14th to get the discount rate. The hotel is the Marriott and the phone numbers are (313) 568- 8000 or toll-free (800) 266- 9432. Be sure to mention "American Clan Gregor Society" to get the special rate of \$114.00 plus tax per night. Hotel parking is \$8.00 per day.

Also be sure to bring your passport. See you there !





USO Tour

(Submitted by Dave King)



Hey All,

Well, a USO tour made a stop at our little FOB today. A couple of teammates and I arrived early to get good seats. Boy did we. I was close enough to hold the singer's hand while they sang. A couple of female country singers came out. A female comedian too. As well as a couple Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders. I also got to meet the Sergeant Major of the Army, SMA Preston. The MC for the program was Model/Actress Leeann Tweeden. She hosts the NBC show Poker After Dark. And she's also a regular Fox News contributor on the Sean Hannity Show. I actually scored a couple of cigars that Sean Hannity himself sent along with Ms Tweeden. Saving those for when I get home. The best part was getting to meet one of my favorite country music singers. Keni Thomas was here. My favorite one of his songs is called "Not Me". Listen to it when you get the chance. If you don't know Keni, he sang in the movie Sweet Home Alabama, and was in the Mel Gibson movie We Were Soldiers. But how I know him best was for his interview on the History Channel. You see, Keni is the former SGT Keni Thomas 3rd Bn 75th Ranger Regiment. In 1993 SGT Thomas' unit known as Task Force Ranger, fought the Battle of Mogadishu which most people know as Blackhawk Down. SGT Thomas and his platoon were sent to the site of the first Blackhawk to be shot down in that battle. His unit was subsequently pinned down and had to fight it out all night long defending the crash site. When the relief column of armored vehicles came to get them the next morning, they found there wasn't enough room for all of them to ride. SGT Thomas and a handful of other men had to run over a mile through enemy territory, gunnin' and runnin' the whole way to get back. This became known as the Mogadishu Mile. It was an honor to meet such an American Hero. He's the real deal.

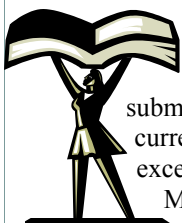


Pictured with Dave; Leeann Tweeden (upper right), Keni Thomas (left) and SGT Preston (right)



This and That!

(Submitted by Scott MacGregor)



Searching for a Yearbook Editor

We are looking for a member who has a good understanding of laying out a document creating a PDF file for submittal to the printer. This entails merging text files with pictures and creating a table of contents and index. While the current development is in Word, any other word processor or layout publishing software can be used. This is an excellent volunteer position for a person looking for experience and service to the ACGS. Please contact Scott MacGregor at mcgregor@verizon.net if you are able to help.

ACGS Membership Directory

The ACGS Directory will be updated in late 2011 or early 2012. We would like to include name, mailing address, telephone number, e-mail address, and occupation. Please send any changes to mcgregor@verizon.net.





Scholarships and Programs!

(Submitted by Bruce Whyte)



Donations, Scholarships and Projects

It seems that every other day someone is asking us for a donation for whatever cause. The Society is no different. Each year when the due notices are sent out, a donation option is provided also. Since we all pay dues, why should we also donate? Enough already, right?

Donations go to a number of different causes: scholarships, preservation of Gregor antiquities and library functions. Funding of these activities are from several source listed below and have shown a marked decline over the last several years (please refer to the graph below).

Scholarships

The Harry and Edith Blunt Scholarship Fund, established in 1988 is the only scholarship fund that uses the monies donated by members and some from our investments. These are awarded based on applications received and reviewed by the Scholarship Committee. It is available to members or children of current members. The highest priority is freshmen followed by others who have not received a scholarship previously. The number of scholarships depends on the money in that account, there being 9 in 2011!

The ACGS Scholarship in Memory of John Kennedy Magruder

Awarded yearly by the University of Virginia to one nursing student. Currently there is one recipient.

The Edward May Magruder Medical Scholarships

Awarded annually by the University of Virginia to students at the Medical School of that University. These are awarded in accordance with the University's need based policies, but ACGS members or others with lineage to Gregor are given preference. In 2010 there were 10 awarded!

The ACGS Scholarship in Memory of Marion Virginia Magruder

Awarded annually for tuition at Randolph College. Priority goes to a Gregor, followed by other Scots.



Poster board developed by Abbey Joiner and used for her scholarship application.

Other Society Funded Programs

The Marshall Magruder Library Fund is used for purchasing books and publications pertinent to the Society and its members. Money from this Fund has been used to support archiving of Society papers

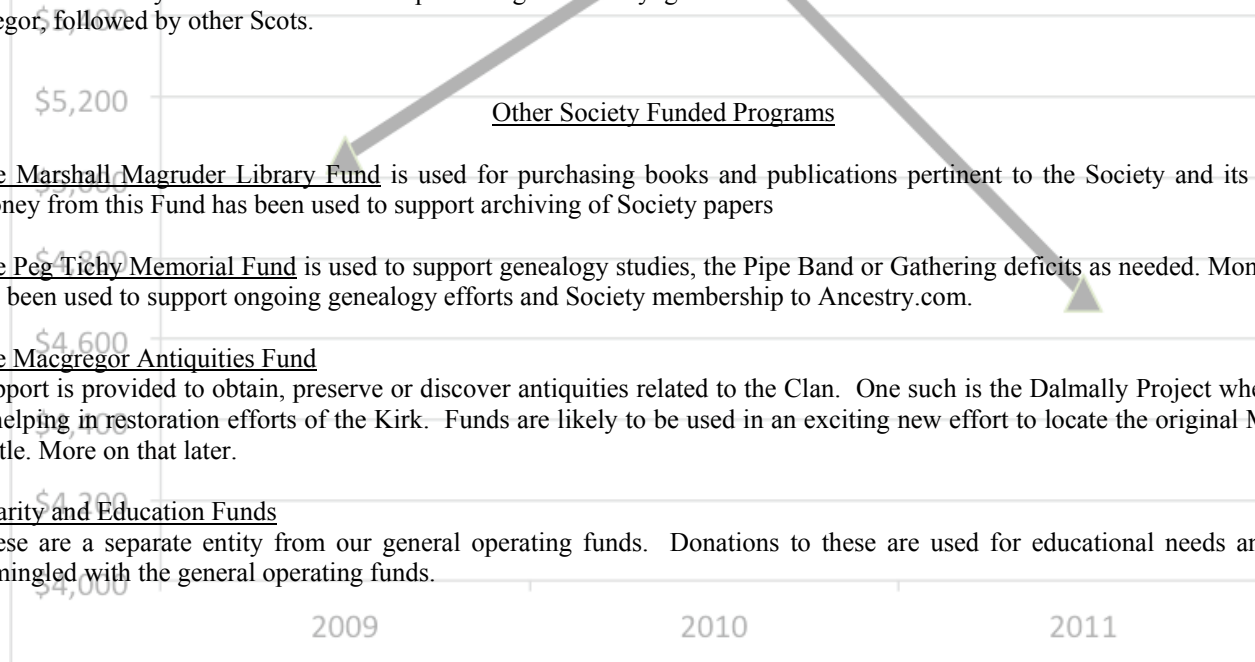
The Peg Tichy Memorial Fund is used to support genealogy studies, the Pipe Band or Gathering deficits as needed. Money to date has been used to support ongoing genealogy efforts and Society membership to Ancestry.com.

The Macgregor Antiquities Fund

Support is provided to obtain, preserve or discover antiquities related to the Clan. One such is the Dalmally Project where ACGS is helping in restoration efforts of the Kirk. Funds are likely to be used in an exciting new effort to locate the original Macgregor castle. More on that later.

Charity and Education Funds

These are a separate entity from our general operating funds. Donations to these are used for educational needs and are not comingled with the general operating funds.





The Coming Season

(Submitted by Howard Grossnickle)



The Highland Games have become a symbol of Scottish heritage but the origins of the events are not clear. Some say they began in Ireland in 2000 BC and crossed into Scotland with 4th and 5th century migrations. Many believe they began when King Malcolm III organized a foot race up a hill in Braemar during the 11th century to find the fastest runners who he could make his royal messengers.

Clans staged "wappinschaws" which were events to test strength, stamina, accuracy and agility in warriors. In 1574, there was a record of "tossing of ye barr" or caber tossing. There were also "tainchels" or "great hunts" where several clans would combine together for a great feast and celebration with competitions of running, jumping, wrestling, and stone putting. There would be piping and dancing as well.

After the defeat at Culloden in 1746, the Act of Proscription banned the bagpipes, Highland dress, clan gatherings, and carrying of arms under penalty of death. This brought an end to a good part of Highland culture and the Clan system. In the late 18th century, Proscription was repealed and Highland Societies formed to revive the Highland traditions. In 1781, a society Gathering was held in Falkirk. Its success led to the Highland Games as we know them today. By the 1820's, games were held throughout Scotland.

In 1822, King George IV visited Scotland which gave a boost to the revival efforts. The Lonach Highland & Friendly Society which was founded in 1823 created a gathering to preserve highland dress and Gaelic tongue. In the 1840's, Braemar organized Games as a fund raising effort. When Queen Victoria and Prince Albert made Balmoral Castle their retreat, they began to patronize the games.

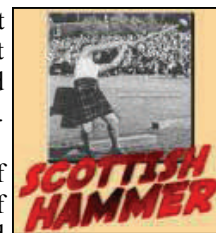
The Queen's first attendance was in 1848 and in 1849 they were moved to the castle grounds. Her interest helped to popularize the Braemar Games which has become one of the largest and most prestigious. The first Games in the United States were organized in 1836 by the Highland Society of New York. The first Games in Canada took place in Antigonish, NS in 1863.



Modern Highland Games keep many of the same events. The Heavy Events often consist of the Caber Toss, Stone Put, Hammer Throw, Weight Throw, Weight over the Bar, and Sheaf Toss. Piping and Drumming competitions and Highland Dancing have become crowd favourites although they were previously just forms of entertainment at the games. Some games also have

mock battles, dog exhibitions, and other forms of Celtic art.

Today, on top of the games in Scotland, there are more than 200 annual games and gatherings across the US, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.



Marshall Magruder Library

(Submitted by Steve Grier)



A significant amount of archive material stored in the General Marshall Magruder Library at the University of Baltimore needs processing and preservation. This means a qualified archivist will need to be hired in the near future. Although this will not be as big as the previous project, funds will need to be raised. Fundraising for the Library is a continuous and necessary process. Thus, I hope you will can continue to make donations to the



General Marshall Magruder Library Fund as well as support the raffles and auctions held at the Gatherings. Speaking of auctions, the Estate of Abbey W. Magruder, Jr., a Former ACGS Chieftain, has generously and graciously donated an **original** set of the two volume *History of The Clan Gregor* by Amelia MacGregor. This is a truly rare chance for you to own an important piece of Clan Gregor history. I will be offering the set through a silent auction at this year's Gathering in Detroit. There will be a reserve price since the set is quite valuable. Please show your support by placing a bid in this extraordinary opportunity. If you have any questions or would like to make a donation to the fund please contact me: scg40@aol.com Thanks so much for all of your support!





Honored Clan

(Submitted by Juliette M. Engel, MD)



As thunderstorms rattled windows and brought tree branches crashing to the ground, the “Children of the Mist” answered the call of their Clan Gregor chieftain and gathered in the lush, South Carolina township of Greenville for the Scottish Games of 2011. For the MacGregors, this was a special gathering presided over by their hereditary chief, Sir Malcolm MacGregor who faced difficult travel conditions himself with airline cancellations caused by an Icelandic volcano. Still, Sir Malcolm managed safe travel from Scotland to join his loyal clansmen for two days of camaraderie, fellowship and, of course, the traditional Scottish games. The hardships faced by the travelers made the gathering all the more meaningful -- reminiscent of the days when the fiery cross would pass through the highlands and MacGregors would lay aside their axes and ploughs to answer the call of the chief. In ancient times, the summons to gather usually meant that the clan was going into battle. In Greenville, the only battles would be played out on the fields of Furman University as the traditional sports of Highland competition were enjoyed by participants and viewers.

On Thursday night, those who had made it to the Greenville Hilton, were subjected to wind, rain and hail as they were transported to Portofino's Restaurant for an excellent Italian style dinner (no haggis yet) while waiting for the clan who were still en route. Sir Malcolm presided along with ACGS Chieftain, Ron MacGregor, and the dinner provided an opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet new friends. The fellowship continued on in the hotel bar in the traditional MacGregor way into the wee hours of Friday morning as stragglers continued to arrive from around the country to join their clan in a well deserved whisky or “fine beare”.

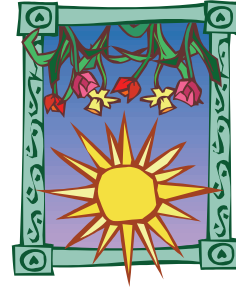
The continued heavy rain and threat of serious thunder and lightning storms caused the organizing committee of the games to cancel the Greenville Clan Parade on the following day so everyone was kilted up and full of restless energy by the time that Sir Malcolm made the presentation of the society's new Corporate Grant of Arms to Ron MacGregor on behalf of the ACGS. Then the smart looking group assembled to pose for historic photos. A bit later, all of the clans assembled for the Clan Dinner where haggis was piped and served and Robert Burns was read in Gaelic; then translated into English. Following dinner, those of us with a hankering to dance were off to the Great Scot! Celidh with music by top-tier Celtic bands for a street party that “Braveheart would have loved.” After another gathering in the hotel bar, everyone slept soundly in anticipation of the Scottish Games that were yet to come.



On Saturday morning, the bleary-eyed MacGregors gathered for breakfast and enough coffee to fill Loch Tay before kilting up in their best kit to lead the parade as the honored clan of the games. At the head of the parade, Sir Malcolm wore his three eagle feathers and our clansmen marched behind him with dignity and pride. As honored clan, the Clan Gregor/ACGS tent was one of the larger ones and provided a shady venue from which to watch the games. There an elegant buffet of every Southern delicacy from fried chicken to cupcakes was laid on groaning boards for clan and visitors to share. From the cool shade, we watched the traditional highland competitions of caber toss, stone put and weight throws for men and women. There were dozens of vendor tents selling a range of Scottish traditional wares from sporrans to broadswords and food sellers with traditional treats such as the bridie and funnel cakes. Meanwhile, a Celtic Music Jam kept seats filled in the large tent. A short walk away, Border Collie trials and an antique car exhibition provided additional entertainment.

By the time of the closing ceremonies, participants were hot, tired, well fed and ready for yet another feast either at the Clan Gregor barbecue hosted by Bill and Martie Lancaster or another superb restaurant, Augusta Grill, for dinner hosted by Fred and Lillian Magruder. Back at the hotel, there was barely time to share photographs of the weekend before the irresistible call of the pillow and sleepy Scots went off to bed.

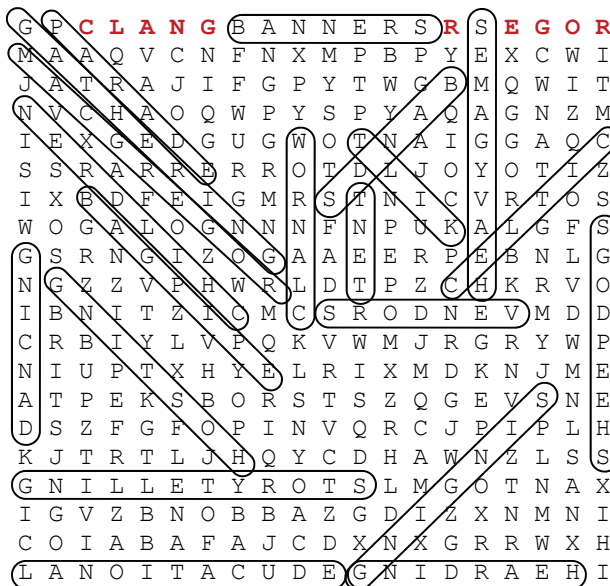
As always, it seemed that the gathering was over much too quickly -- but the memories of the coming together of my clan will always be with me. Thank you for the opportunity to share my reminiscence of this wonderful event and I hope to see you all in Detroit in October.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
 440 Willoughby Bay
 Norfolk, VA 23503-1243
 SCOTT MACGREGOR
 THE AMERICAN CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY
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CLAN GREGOR



Newsletter of the American Clan Gregor Society

Volume XVII, Issue III

Winter 2011



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Newsletter Editor

Carol Spitznagle
6470 Harding Street
Hollywood, FL 33024
E-Mail: carolspitz@aol.com

Layout & Graphic Design

Lori Connery
4610 Russell Ave. N.
Minneapolis, MN 55412
E-Mail: Clan-Gregor-
mn@comcast.net

***For more Clan information
please visit our website at:***

***[http://american-clan-
gregor-society.us/](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

Ardchoille Dec 2011

I am conscious that this month is the 70th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Empire of Japan, which brought the United States into WW2, thus saving the world from tyranny and oppression – at great cost. President Roosevelt noted 7th December 1941, as ‘a date that will live in infamy’. The day on which the Imperial Japanese Navy launched its dawn attack, sinking 12 ships, before any declaration of war, has indeed lived on in infamy. Despite that some 2400 American lives were lost, and the USS Arizona and Missouri remain as memorials to those gallant men.



When congratulated by his ADC on such a masterful attack Admiral Yamamoto is alleged to have said “All we have done is awaken a sleeping giant”. He might well have said this, as he was educated at Harvard and had been the Japanese naval attaché in Washington DC. Emperor Hirohito had spent part of his youth in America. Both of them would have known what America was capable of.

The ‘sleeping giant’ swung into action in ways that seem incomprehensible today. The US Army stood at about 200,000 in 1941. By the end of 1943 it was 7 million strong, a phenomenal logistic and administrative achievement, mainly due to the remarkable General George C. Marshall. The Willow Run Ford Factory in Detroit turned its attention from manufacturing cars to B-24 bombers at the rate of one every 75 minutes, which is phenomenal. Even today people underestimate America and her capabilities, particularly amongst the so called ‘intelligentsia’ and commentators in Europe.



Although the Japanese were ultimately defeated, they have become allies and were skillfully kept in the western camp after WW2. They certainly rose up again to be a strong economic island power but without the military capability. The terrible tsunami that they suffered this year was borne with considerable stoicism and lack of hysteria. As there was enough warning, cameras were in place to record this terrifying event. The Japanese have had a bad year, and whilst there is very little clan connection with that country it would be magnanimous to remember their plight, as one would the victims of hurricanes and tornadoes that struck America in 2011. Indeed I believe that the first offers of help to the Japanese came from America, (as was the case after the 2004 tsunami which hit Indonesia).

Christmas is a great time for all of us, but we do think of those separated from their families or bereaved in anyway. That is the nature of clanship and in particular MacGregors.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and best wishes for 2012 which I hope will be a better year than 2011.





From The Desk Of The Chieftain

(Submitted by Major Ronald McGregor)



My how time flies, even more so when we are kept busy, and from where I sit, there is no doubt that our Society has certainly been busy this year. Far more so than any other year that I can remember. This is particularly true for the members of our Council. They have responded to every request in a positive and cooperative manner culminating in a very enjoyable and productive annual Gathering in Detroit. (See the Gathering report elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Along the way we managed to accomplish some significant 'Firsts' for our Society. The 'first' time we held a meeting of the Council via teleconference. We conducted our 'first' Gathering along our northern border [literally yards away] with Canadian clansmen and ladies attending. The 'first' time the ACGS traveled to Canada as part of our Gathering events. But the single most important 'first' only came about by a change to our Bylaws. This 'first' was our electing the 'first' lady as our Ranking Deputy Chieftain. Lois Ann Garlitz brings with her an impressive list of accomplishments which includes:

Serving as SDC for Utah, 1997 – 2009 where she hosted a number of Clan Gregor tents.

Assisted other SDCs in manning Clan Gregor tents in Colorado, Wyoming, Georgia and South Carolina.

Serving as Registrar, 2006 – Present

Processed over 200 Lineal members since taking office.

Established the Provisional membership category.

Made about a hundred contacts per year of potential members.

Attended a number of ACGS Gatherings starting with the San Antonio of 1997 and hosted the Salt Lake City Gathering, 2005.

Served on the Utah Scottish Association as Secretary, Membership

Chairman, and six years as their Clan Relations Chairman.

Selected to be the Honorary Chieftain of the 2011 Cache Valley Games.

Being the ACGS Point-of-Contact with Professor Richard McGregor for the Clan Gregor DNA project.

Having visited Scotland three times and during the 2009 Homecoming participated in the search for Stronmilchan, the ancestral seat of our clan chiefs.

Having been strongly supportive of the Dalmally project.

For these and other reasons, Lois Ann has earned the respect of our Society members, members of the Clan Gregor Society (Scotland) and Sir Malcolm himself. Well done and congratulations Lois Ann.

As this is our last newsletter for the year and we are only weeks away from the Christmas and New Year holiday, on behalf of our Council, I would like to extend to all of our members our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Joyful New Year. I would also extend the same to our members of the Armed Forces and their families.

May God bless us all,
Ron McGregor



Auld Lang Syne...

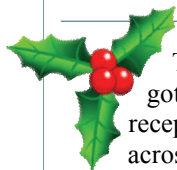


The Hogmanay custom of singing "Auld Lang Syne" has become common in many countries. "Auld Lang Syne" is a traditional poem reinterpreted by Robert Burns, which was later set to music. It is now common for this to be sung in a circle of linked arms that are crossed over one another as the clock strikes midnight for New Year's Day, although it is only intended that participants link arms at the beginning of the final verse, coordinating with the lines of the song which contain the lyrics to do so. Typically it is only in Scotland this practice is carried out correctly.



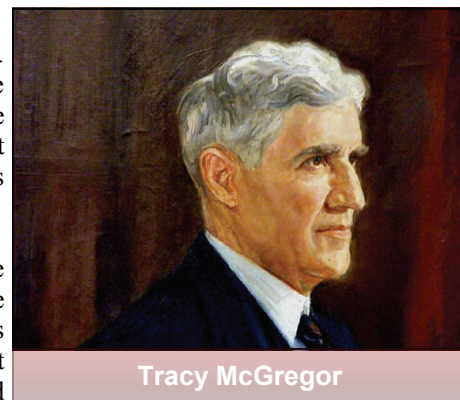
2011 Gathering

(Submitted by Carol Spitznagle)



The clan began to gather on Wednesday, October 5th, to begin five days of fun, history, and camaraderie. The festivities got underway that night when Ron Shankland, the Michigan Deputy Chieftain, and his committee hosted a cocktail reception on the 72nd floor of our host hotel where the windows gave us magnificent views of Detroit and Windsor, just across the river.

We had to go to bed early as the first of the tour buses left at 9am the next morning. Choices of excursions included trips to the Henry Ford Museum, Greenfield Village, the Ford Rouge factory, and the Automotive Hall of Fame. Cool, breezy weather and blue skies made all the choices tempting and enjoyable. Another reception started at 5pm that night and was followed by a trip to Greek Town with a tour of the area and a delicious meal (Oopah!).



Tracy McGregor

After the Council meeting on Friday morning, our yearly service was held at the



Sheriff McGregor and wife!

Mariner's Church followed by a luncheon at the Grosse Point War Memorial and then a tour of Edsel Ford's mansion. We then honored Tracy McGregor, a Detroit philanthropist, by laying a wreath on his grave and visiting a conference center at Wayne State University named in his honor and built by the McGregor Fund, his charitable group. That night we sang, danced, and told jokes at the Ceilidh where entertainment was provided by the Kreeellers, a great Celtic group, and the Royal Scottish Country Dancing Society. These society members not only performed but taught the clan members to do some of the dances.

Following the General Meeting on Saturday morning, we headed south (?) to Canada, passports in hand. We remembered Sheriff Gregor McGregor by laying a plaque at St. John's Cemetery and having a short service of Thanksgiving in the church with lunch across the road at St. John's Hall. Our own pipers, drummers, and dancers entertained that afternoon at MacKenzie Hall. Miraculously, Sheriff McGregor and his wife were also present with us. After we safely cleared customs on our way back into the US, we prepared for our annual banquet.

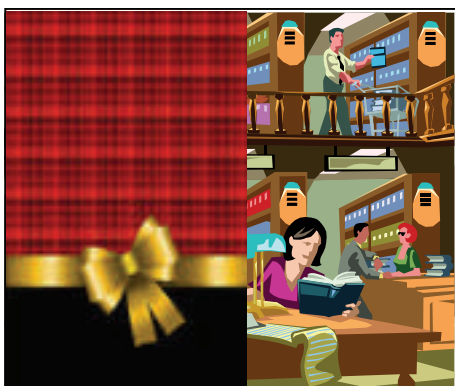
While some people had to head home on Sunday, others stayed for an extra day to visit the Detroit Institute of Art or the Detroit Historical Museum. Once again we had a wonderful gathering full of fun and good company. The Michigan hosts worked very hard to ensure that there was something to interest every guest. Thanks again to all of them.

See you next year in Tampa!



Marshall Magruder Library

(Submitted by Steve Grier)



This year's Library raffle and silent auction at the Detroit Annual Gathering was a great success. The raffle raised \$555. The silent auction for the two volume set *History of The Clan Gregor* was won by Michael A. McGregor with a winning bid of \$1000! Many thanks to all the folks donating prizes for the raffle, and a very special thanks to the Estate of Abbey W. Magruder, Jr. for the generous donation of the *History of The Clan Gregor*.

If at the Detroit Gathering you did have the opportunity to view the beautifully framed Grant of Arms issued by the Lord Lyon Court to ACGS, please know it has been placed in the General Marshall Magruder located at the University Baltimore's Langsdale Library. You are welcome to visit the Library to see it as well as many of the other great items located there.

Ardchoille! To the High Wood!

(Submitted by Juliette M. Engel, MD)



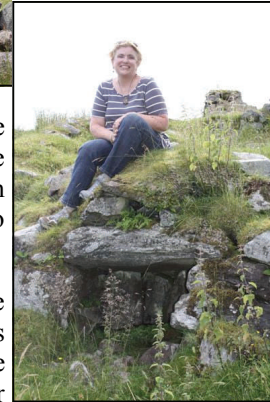
All MacGregors know that when the war cry “Ard Choille!” – echoed through the Highlands, able-bodied Gregorach men and their allies set out at once for the high woods, to gather on a broad plateau above Glen Dochart a few miles from Loch Tay in preparation for raids and spulzie. Established in the 1500’s by the MacGregor Brackley line, it became the home of hereditary chieftain Duncan Ladasach after he left Glen Strae to lead a life of banditry against their neighboring clans and poaching deer on the lands of the king. The settlement of Ardchoille was at an elevation which afforded strategic views of glens, lochs and roads. The tartan-clad MacGregors were notorious for appearing and disappearing through Highland mists, spiriting away cattle and earning themselves the legendary title of “Children of the Mist.”

Over time - through battles, wars, proscriptions and clearances – Ardchoille faded in importance, although members of the Ladasach line lived on there for some generations some becoming a legend in the annals of MacGregor history – and, of course, it’s hereditary wacry! A place of mists and mystery, it was forgotten by all, except those of us who are the descendants of Duncan Ladasach and his Ilk. For us, the stories of Ardchoille were told and retold through the generations beside family hearths at bedtime. Tales of MacGregor bravery and perseverance were passed down until they become more like fairy tales than history.

It wasn’t until my first journey to Scotland last summer with the clan that I discovered Ardchoille had been located and I was able to realize a life-long dream to go there. Through his historical research, Clan Gregor Chairman, Dr. Richard McGregor, had determined the geographic location of the long-abandoned village site in the high hills above the A-85 between Killin and Dalmally. So it came about that at the end of an action-filled session of touring and camaraderie at the annual gathering of Clan Gregor Scotland, a small group of American, Scottish and French MacGregors set out to the high wood to see if any identifiable remains of the home of Duncan Ladasach could be found.

Without a trail and no written record of the village, we spoke to local residents along the A-85 who spoke enthusiastically of archeological ruins in the high hills at a site which they knew as Ardikle. Giving us such directions as “up through the woods to the abandoned railroad tracks and then on to a sheep pasture and over an electrified fence,” we set off to find Ardchoille. After a considerable climb and to our considerable delight, we found the extensive remains of a stone village which Richard identified as being 18th century which in turn surrounded, mounds comprised of remnants of a much older settlement. It could only be Ardchoille! Excitement was high as we climbed over ancient walls and explored among the ruined stone walls of what may have once been MacGregor houses. Burnt stones identified fireplaces; crumbled archways indicated more significant structures such as burial sites or communal kitchens. This untouched archeological find may contain a wealth of historical data on the Ladasach branch MacGregors of five centuries ago.

As I sat quietly amongst the stones of an ancient fireplace, I could almost hear their voices on the wind. I could feel the movement of McGregor ghosts all around me as I called out to my long-dead ancestors, “Hey folks! I’m home!”



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.

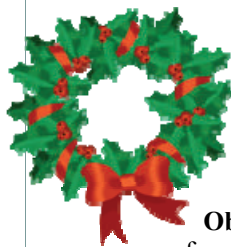


Carol Spitznagle, Editor and Lori Connery, Graphic Designer



Antiquities....

(Submitted by Keith MacGregor, Clan Gregor International)



Proposal for indentifying the MacGregor Chief's fortified hose and burial stones at Dalmally, Scotland.

An Antiquities Project of the American Clan Gregor Society...

Mission: To further identify the site of Stronmilchan, documented home of the MacGregor Chiefs as well as expand the existing antiquities project in Dalmally through the use of improved technological advances.

Object 1: In July 2012 we propose to engage the services of Gavin MacGregor, PhD. Archaeology and his team from Glasgow in the non-invasive study of two sites in Dalmally glen. The project would entail the use of Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR), gradiometer and, if feasible, light as "made of wattles with a surrounding moat and drawbridge" near the River Orchy, about one-half mile west of the church.

The Stronmilchan site is a rough mound located in a field, spanning about 25x70 meters and is referred to in a 1975 RCAHMS study as Bothan na Dige—"the House of the Moat". Our purpose is to identify a substantial stone foundation, and markings of a moat or drawbridge, and any artifacts that may remain beneath the soil. Our research indicates that it was this site which was home to the MacGregor Chiefs for centuries, possibly as late as the 17th century.

The results would be prepared for public publication in both academic and archaeological papers, and would point the way to petitioning Historic Scotland to have the site declared a historic monument. If we are successful with the LiDAR imaging, it may further be possible to re-create various images of the fortifications through the centuries, such as are seen on the History Channel and National Geographic.

Object 2: Moving on to Dalmally church, we propose to attempt to "red" the undersides of a number of slab stones in the yard which lie near suspected MacGregor family burials. Gradiometer and/or GPR results may indicate whether these are carvings on the stones and also how deep in the soil unseen stones may be. As we proceed with the next steps in the Dalmally stones project, this information will be critical in petitioning Historic Scotland and the Church of Scotland to allow us to raise these stones in the hope of discovering more of our monuments. To date, only seven stones have been identified which correspond with the Brydall report of 1898, in which Robert Brydall describes twelve carved stones as well as foliated side-slabs for the raised coffins. If conditions permit, it may also be possible to use the LiDAR technology to help re-create images of the stones as they looked when they were first carved. These pictures may in turn be used to enhance the presentation of the stones when the project is completed.

Keith MacGregor can be contacted at kmac1@optonline.net



Stronmilchan Site



Dalmally Church Summer 2011

(Editorial note: the proposed cost is \$5700 and people wishing to contribute could send a donation with dues and document that they want it applied to preservation of MacGregor antiquities.)





The Coming Season

(Submitted by Lois Ann Garlitz)



News from the Registrar:

The number of persons who have ever been members of the American Clan Gregor Society since 1909 has now passed the 3,000 mark. Many thanks to those of you who have encouraged your family members to become more involved in society activities. We also appreciate the efforts of state deputy chieftains who are our front line of welcome to the public at Scottish festivals and highland games.

By the time you read this newsletter, the digitization of the first 100 years of our membership records will have been completed. All those 3,000 file folders are now in library-grade document cases and have an index. What this means is that we now have digital backups in more than one place for all those precious family histories of our members. What the future opportunities might be for those histories is a topic for future discussion. If you have some suggestions, share those ideas with me or someone on the Council.

The coming holiday season is a time honored opportunity for families, as well as neighbors and friends, to celebrate together. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As our Chieftain has said, may God bless us one and all.

Lois Ann Garlitz

"My and line phone is changing to my cell phone 801-367-9255"

Registrar and Ranking Deputy Chieftain



MacGregor News!

(Submitted by Milton K.D. Bosch)



1) Joanna MacGregor, an internationally recognized classical and jazz pianist, is the cover story of International Piano magazine's Sept/Oct 2011 issue. In September she became head of keyboard of London's Royal Academy, and is just another fine example of the MacGregor spirit of innovation, hard work, excellence, great talent and international prominence.



will be

2) My daughter Arielle Bosch (#2811) was recruited by Tesla Motors of Palo Alto, a leading electric vehicle manufacturer and began work in September, 2011. After six weeks of employment, she has already distinguished herself by being chosen for a managerial position, and overseeing the opening of one of three new outlets in North America.

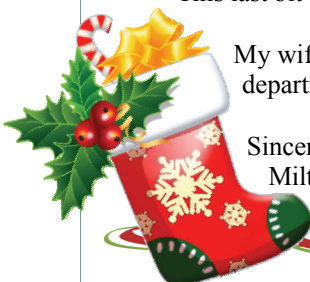


3) My son Reuben (#2980) is currently a junior in computer science at UC Santa Cruz. He was recently solicited by Google in Mountain View, CA to accept a paid summer internship with them, which was based on a recommendation by one of his professors. He looks forward to this wonderful opportunity and the possibilities it may bring.

This last bit of news may or may not be relevant for publication in Ardchoille, so I leave that to the discretion of the editor.

My wife Elizabeth's (#2850A) uncle, Jonathan Tubb, was appointed keeper of The British Museum's Middle East department in September. His immediate boss is Neil MacGregor, director of the British Museum.

Sincerely,
Milton K.D. Bosch





Hogmany

(Submitted by Carol Spitznagle)



Hogmany is the Scots word for the last day of the year and, while beginning on December 31st, it extends until the morning of January 1st or sometimes even until January 2nd (a Scottish Bank Holiday). This gives the canny Scots an extra day to recover from the past week of merry-making and celebrating. The origins of the name are still debated but a few are that it comes from the Gaelic "oge maidne" which means "new morning", from the Flemish, "hoog min dag" meaning "great love day", or possibly from the French "Homme est ne" or "Man is born". Other suggestions are Anglo-Saxon and Scandinavian.

All these possible origins of the word signify a new beginning or a fresh start and that basically is what Hogmany is all about. Before the celebrating begins, the house is thoroughly cleaned, including removing all the old ashes from the fireplace, and all bills are paid. This allows people to clear up any old business remaining from the old year and welcome in the New Year on a fresh, happy note.

Local Customs:

There is also a tradition of flame and fire (bon-fires or fireworks) associated with the holiday. This signifies the bringing of the light of knowledge from one year to the next and putting behind the dark past to carry forward a sacred flame of hope and enlightenment into the future . A newer meaning is a burning away of the old to make space for the new.



Hogmany-fireworks over Edinburgh on Hogmany



Stonehaven Fireballs Ceremony

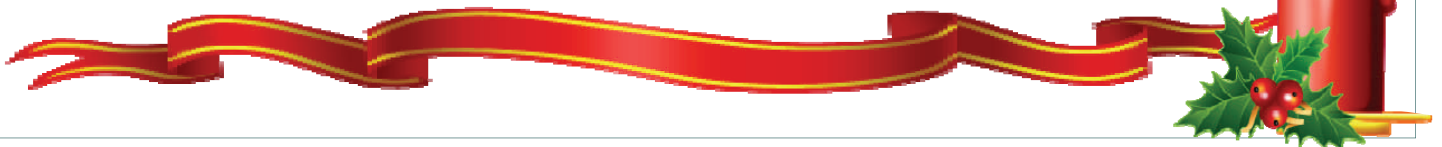
An example of a local Hogmanay custom is the fireball swinging that takes place in [Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire](#) in north-east Scotland. This involves local people making up 'balls' of chicken wire filled with old newspaper, sticks, rags, and other dry flammable material up to a diameter of 60 cm, each attached to about 1 m of wire, chain or nonflammable rope. As the Old Town House bell sounds to mark the new year, the balls are set alight and the swingers set off up the High Street from the Mercat Cross to the Cannon and back, swinging the burning balls around their heads as they go. At the end of the ceremony, any fireballs that are still burning are cast into the harbour. Many people enjoy this display, and large crowds flock to see it with 12,000 attending the 2007/2008 event. In recent years, additional attractions have been added to entertain the crowds as they wait for midnight, such as fire poi, a pipe band, street drumming and a firework display after the last fireball is cast into the sea. The festivities are now streamed live over the

Internet.

In the Highlands, occasionally there is a "saining" (blessing) of the family and livestock. Early on New Year's morning, householders drink and then sprinkle "magic water" from "a dead and a living ford" around the house. After the sprinkling of the water in every room, the house is sealed up tight and juniper branches set on fire and carried through every room and the byre, After this, the windows are opened and the fresh air allowed to enter. A restorative drink of whiskey is then offered.

See page 4 for the Scottish custom of "First Footing".

However you choose to celebrate, we wish you "A guid New Year to ane an' a' and mony may you see".





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



Howtowdie (Scottish Roast Chicken)



3 lb whole broiler chicken
 6 medium onions cut in half
 1/4 cup margarine or butter, melted

Stuffing:

1 large onion chopped finely
 1/4 cup margarine
 1 cup regular rolled oats
 1 tablespoon Salt
 1/2 teaspoon ground coriander
 1/2 teaspoon Pepper
 1/8 teaspoon grated Nutmeg



Stuffing: Sauté onion in margarine in a large skillet using medium heat, stir until browned. Add remaining stuffing ingredients, cook while stirring until oats are golden brown and crispy, few a few minutes.

Chicken: Fill the neck cavity with stuffing. Skewer the neck skin to the back. Fold the wings across the back with the tips touching. Fill the body caving with stuffing, do not pack as the stuffing will expand while cooking. Place chicken, breast side up, in a shallow roasting pan and arrange cut onions around the bird. Baste the chicken and onions with the melted margarine and roast uncovered in 375 degree oven. Baste during the baking with the remaining margarine often until done--about 1 1/2 hours.