



# Ardchoille

Newsletter of the American Clan Gregor Society



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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.*

## From The Desk Of The Chieftain (Submitted by Major Ronald McGregor)

Friends,

It is with regret that this issue of Ard Choille is not led-off with a letter from Sir Malcolm. With his new and singularly demanding position as the Convenor of the Standing Council of Highland Chiefs, he was unable to submit his usual greetings to the ACGS. However he and Lady MacGregor plan to be at the Stone Mountain Games in October and, if their schedules permit, join us in Tampa for our annual Gathering.

Here is our first issue of "Ardchoille" for the new year and we are already well into the highland games season. Our State Deputy Chieftains have already hosted successful games in Florida. There will be many more games across the country and our State Deputies will be real busy organizing and hosting ACGS tents. I urge you to attend these games in your area, and if you are traveling try to visit games during your travels. The sponsors of the games would appreciate your attendance and our State Deputies would be particularly grateful to have you visit our clan tents. See if there is any way that you might assist at the tent.

Robert Ellington, SDC for Northern Florida, and his family hosted the Clan Gregor tent for the Central Florida Highland Games held in January at Winter Springs. They were assisted by ACGS members John & Ena McGregor, and Scott MacGregor. Of special note the City of Thorold, Canada that proudly wears the MacGregor tartans visited our tent to pay their respects. In February, Robert and his family hosted the Clan tent at the Northern Florida Highland Games at Green Cove Springs. They were assisted by Thad Osborne. Great locations and great games.

John Bellasai, Chairman of our 'Long Range Planning Committee' convened their first meeting the second weekend of February in Annapolis. They are to be commended for their willingness to travel, in some cases great distances, and devote their personal time to support our Society. Look for more information in this newsletter.

Amongst all of the activities our members have already been involved in this year, there are still many more scheduled and/or in the planning stages. One of the most important projects is the Stronmilchan project in Scotland this coming July. This could be one of the most historically important projects ever endeavored by our Clan. See Keith MacGregor's remarks later in this newsletter.

I would like to call your attention to this year's Stone Mountain Highland Games outside of Atlanta. Sir Malcolm and Lady MacGregor will be attending in his capacity as the Convenor of the Standing Council of Highland Chiefs. Though Sir Malcolm will not be the Chief of the games, which honor goes to his close friend Sir Malcolm Sinclair, 20<sup>th</sup> Earl of Caithness, we would like to honor our Chief by having as many of our clansmen and ladies as possible to attend and show our support to him. These games are scheduled October 19-21, the weekend following our Gathering.

*(Continued on page 4)*



## From The Desk Of The RDC

(Submitted by Lois Ann Garlitz)



### From the RDC...

Have a blast going to Scottish festivals and highland games? Missing the sounds of bagpipes in your ears – and your heart? Part of the solution is to contact your local society representative and volunteer some time at the MacGregor clan tent in your area.

[http://american-clan-gregor-society.us/acgs\\_deputies.html](http://american-clan-gregor-society.us/acgs_deputies.html)

Being a volunteer there allows you to park your cooler and a chair while you meet and greet folks who wonder if they are clan members and want to know more about our clan. Are we a fun group? Do we know who we are? Were highlanders really that wild? Memorize at least one MacGregor story and tell it over and over. Next year memorize another one or two... Being a volunteer also has the advantage where you can trade-off with the other volunteers and slip away to see the dancers, the athletes, the vendors, and the pipers – but you can probably hear them from anywhere on the field.

Can't get to the next big ACGS Gathering? Why not plan a pot-luck for lunch at the tent and have local clan members meet and greet time? Don't forget to show your MacGregor pride by marching in the clan parade and carrying or wearing your tartan. Why do we go to the Scottish festivals and not the Chinese ones? Because we know our family history! See you at the games...



### From the Registrar...

Looking for helpers! The Registrar would love to have some help answering genealogical queries - most that I receive are about specific ancestors. Would you remind me of your immigrant ancestor and would you be willing to answer questions about him/her? I am even thinking we need a genealogy committee who works together to fill in the blanks about our society's ancestors.



## Stirling 2014

(Submitted by Carol Spitznagle)



The Scottish highlands are calling us back again for another week of history, fun, and encounters with fellow Gregors from all over the world. The Second Gathering has been announced and plans are shaping up for the summer of 2014 to celebrate the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn.

The proposed schedule includes:

**10th July-** Assemble in Stirling

**11th July to 13th July-** Attend "Clans 2014" events which will include a Clans Village, a cavalcade procession from the Village to Stirling Castle, entertainment on the esplanade, and a program of musical and other cultural events

**14th July to 20th July-** Attend Clan Gregor Gathering events- further details to be announced later

**21st July-** Dispersal after breakfast with long-lasting memories.

132 beds have been reserved in 22 chalets on the campus of the University of Stirling and requests for accommodation are being taken by Frank Wherrett ([frank.wherrett1@talktalk.net](mailto:frank.wherrett1@talktalk.net)).



MacGregors are expected from USA, Canada, South Africa, Germany, France, and all over the UK. If you were in Scotland in 2009 for the first Gathering, you will remember how much fun it was to meet and share time and experiences with all these people.

In addition to the Gathering activities, Scotland is also hosting the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in July/August and the Ryder Cup in Gleneagles in September. For more information you can go to <http://www.stirling2014.co.uk/>. See you there!





## Sarasota Highland Games

(Submitted by Carol Spitznagle)



The Sarasota Games were a great success, especially for ACGS! Not only did we have a young clan member, Maria Wirries, chosen to sing the National Anthem, but we were prominently mentioned in the local newspaper, the Sarasota Herald Tribune! The reporter mentioned that the city was settled by Scots and that many showed up to celebrate their heritage. Among other remarks, the article told readers "For Clan Gregor's Carol Spitznagle the day was all about history. Hers is one of the oldest Highland clans and it has had a troubled history. "Our name was outlawed for over 150 years- you couldn't be married, buried, or baptized as a MacGregor", she said. "Gravestones belonging to MacGregor chiefs found in the cemetery of Dalmally Church date back to the 1300's and it is believed they may have been chiseled by Knights Templar. Officially the clan name wasn't reinstated until 1774. We are flourishing now and we try to share that with people". As always Ron Shankland assisted with the MacGregor tent and shared chores and dispensing of information. As mentioned before by both Ron McGregor and Lois Ann Garlitz, it is great to man a tent and share our history and traditions with visitors. A beautiful day, the sound of the pipes, and the sight of competitions make for a wonderful experience.



Carol Spitznagle and Ron Shankland



## Scot's In Texas!

(Submitted by Randolph W. Walker)



Texans of Scottish heritage began their celebration of everything Scottish with the Annual Burns Night Supper in February at several locations around the State.

At the end of March, Tartan Day will be kicked off with a celebration to honor the men who fell at the Alamo who were of Scottish descent. Then a series of Highland Games will be held around the State. In April it will be San Antonio, TX, in May highland games will be held in Arlington, TX and finally in November the games in Salado, TX.

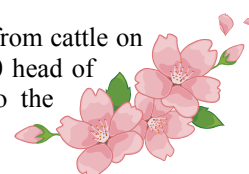
How much impact did Americans of Scottish heritage make on the Great State of Texas? There are 254 counties in Texas and of these 113 bear names of Scottish origin such as Armstrong, Calhoun, Cameron, Gregg, King, McCulloch, and Walker. There is even a town named McGregor.

The first Scot to come to Texas was William Dunbar a wealthy planter who was asked by President Jefferson in 1805 to explore the borders of the Red River. His reports of studies of animal and plant life, Indian sign language and fossils helped to whet U.S. interest in the area.

James Grant, Arthur Goodwall Wavell and John Cameron were early colonizers. McLennan County is named for Neil McLennan who first surveyed the territory in 1839 and became its first settler.

The Scottish story in Texas is a story of individuals, like folk figures Ewen Cameron, hero of the "black bean" affair in Mexico, and Jesse Chisholm, the half-Scot, half-Cherokee trailblazer.

In the late 1870's and 1880's many wealthy Scottish investors became interested in the profits to be made from cattle on the open range in West Texas. The Matador Cattle Company, with 300,000 acres of land and over 60,000 head of cattle, was one result. Murdo McKenzie, its manager was appointed by President Teddy Roosevelt to the Commission for Conservation of Natural Resources.



(Continued on page 6)





# Clan Gregor In Tampa!

(Submitted by Ian & Alma Greig)



This coming October the ACGS will hold its annual gathering in Tampa, Florida. As the chairman of your committee I would like to take this opportunity to send you a warm welcome and give you an idea of what you can expect here.

The first non-native people to visit Tampa Bay were the Spanish. However they just passed through on their way looking for the city of gold, El Dorado. Among the first Europeans to actually reside here was a seafaring Scot, Captain James Mackay. He built a home and a wharf and proceeded to set up a business exporting cattle to Cuba. As the town developed Mackay became the mayor and served several terms to be followed by his son and grandson. Other Scots followed including the MacFarlanes who set up a bank and then financed the cigar manufacturing business that became Tampa's mainstay for many years. This required labor and large numbers of Cubans, Italians and Austrians from Spain settled here. They soon became the prominent group and gave Tampa its Latino flavor that it carries to this day. The Scots are now a small minority but with a thriving St. Andrews Society we keep our traditions and culture alive. It is hoped that during your visit we will be able to expose you to both the Scottish and Latino heritages of our city. Your host hotel will be the Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore. They will provide us with excellent service. This includes free transportation to and from the hotel and the airport. The hotel is situated at one end of "Restaurant Row" where some of the finest restaurants in Tampa are located including two in the Brazilian style. The hotel will provide free transportation to and from any of these dining establishments. The hotel is located about five minutes from the most upscale mall in the entire area, (Macy's, Saks, Neiman Marcus, etc). In addition, the mall contains another group of 16 fine restaurants, (Cheesecake Factory, Brio Grille, etc). The hotel will also provide free transportation to and from the mall. Our Friday tour will take us to the Palma Cia Presbyterian Church which is the home of the Tampa "Kirkin". From there we will drive along the Bayshore to the Tampa Bay Scottish memorial where we will lay the wreath. From there we will proceed through downtown so you can see the "city by the Bay". We will go on to Ybor City. This is not an independent city but is the center of Latin culture and was the home of the great cigar industry in times past. We will have a Latin style lunch here in the famous Colombia Restaurant, now well over 100 years old and said to be the largest Spanish restaurant in the world. After lunch we will visit a cigar manufacturer and see cigars rolled before returning to the hotel. Our Cielidh will be something different for you all. It will be held in the style of a gathering held in the highlands generations ago with some great artists that you are sure to enjoy. The Pipe band concert is planned to be held on a grassy area within walking distance of the hotel. All too soon it will be time for the great final banquet and the journey home. Being Scots don't forget the free ride to the airport. Make your hotel reservations now, the Gathering registration information will be coming in mid-Summer.

Ian & Alma Greig.



Continued~

## From The Desk Of The Chieftain



(Continued from page 1)

Over more than a hundred years we have been fortunate to have many very dedicated members of our Society without which the ACGS would not exist. Our Society has a remarkable history and like a great Scottish castle, it relies on its tenants to continue to strengthen the structure built by their predecessors. You can be an important part of our continued growth and strength. We are in need of volunteers to 'step up' to assume the positions of several of our retiring officers. See further information in this issue for additional details of the positions available.

And while on the subject of the future, there is much need for "immediate planning" if you would like to attend the 'really huge' events that will be taking place in Scotland in 2014. Clan Gregor is planning on supporting activities July 10 – 21 of that year and even now a lot of the accommodations have been pre-booked and the availability is becoming scarce. Our hats are off to our clansmen and ladies here in the US and in Scotland that offer so much of their time in planning and orchestrating such events for all of us.

Yours in clanship, Ron McGregor, Chieftain





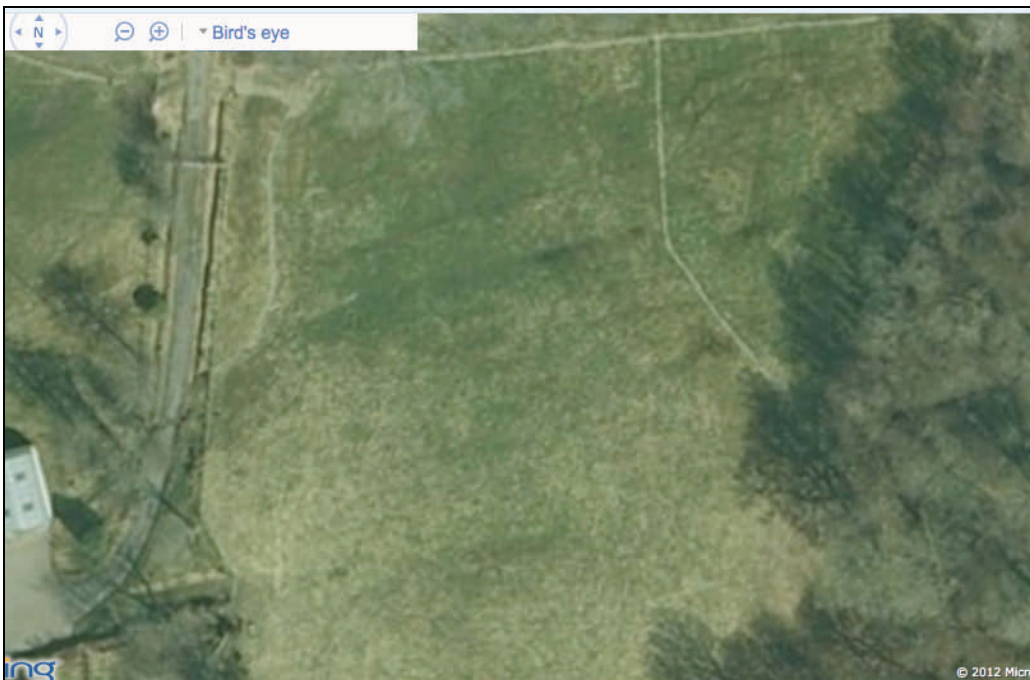
## Dalmally Project, Part 2

(Submitted by Keith MacGregor)



*Axial gradiometer:* A device consisting of two magnetometers placed in series (i.e. one above the other). The result coming from the device is the difference in magnetic flux at that point in space.—Wikipedia

The above words were music to my ears as I reviewed the details for the next summer's project with the archaeologists this week. Just in time too, as I had been given the news that using GPR (ground penetrating radar) unit would not be practical for a field this large. If we wanted to cover the 2 acres shown above in any reasonable amount of time, we needed something more portable: flux gradiometers!



Take a close look at the photo, courtesy of Bing. Stare at it for a moment and tell me if you begin to see shapes materializing in various areas? I learned from studying photos of medieval churchyards in Scotland that during summer droughts, slab stones and other foundations sometimes become more visible from the air. Another triumph for modern technology, unless of course we're all just seeing things!

Apart from the raised mound between the parallel lines (moat?) running left to right (upper center), there seem to be interesting features' at the lower left and lower right, near the river. These were not apparent when I walked the field last summer. And that I think is cause for some excitement. It's not every day you get to find your own castle—well, "fortalice" anyway... More reports will follow as things progress and thank you for your interest and support!

Keith MacGregor  
kmac1@optonline.net



## Call For Volunteers!

(Submitted by Scott MacGregor)



We are searching for people who want a more active role in the ACGS. At present we have opportunities for members to become the new Webmaster, Scribe, Yearbook editor, Registrar, and Assistant Chieftain. Do you have abilities to take minutes, monitor and add to a web site, put a fascinating yearbook together electronically, organize and plan events for your Clan, or register and coordinate new members? We could use your expertise! If you are interested in any of these positions please contact Ron McGregor or Scott MacGregor.



# Recruiting The Young

(Submitted by Bruce M. Whyte, MD)



How Do We Involve The Younger Scottish Americans?

How do we encourage our younger MacGregors to develop an interest in their Clan? This is not a unique problem as it is being faced by all Clans. Two Clans have been running a pilot program nationally for over a year now, Clans Keith and Gunn.

This pilot, which they have shared with us, includes the following adapted to the MacGregors:

- ◆ Set up a youth group, suggestion: Children of the Mist;
- ◆ to be eligible, a member must be aged less than 18
- ◆ they must be a junior member of ACGS/CGS
- ◆ members of Children of the Mist elect a National Junior Chieftain and let them establish whatever positions they wish
- ◆ The Children of the Mist will have one dedicated page of the Ard Choille that contains information for which they are responsible
- ◆ Children of the Mist decide what they want to see; Currently in each Keith/Gunn newsletter 2 families of Keith/Gunn talk about some aspect of their community as it relates to Scottish culture, producing brief articles on those topics
- ◆ The Children of the Mist will create their own homework group: In the pilot by Clan Keith, this means that when a Clan Keith Junior member has an assignment about Georgia for example, they send an internal email to other Keith Juniors in Georgia and ask for information. This component has been tested and found to be useful and worthwhile.

Obviously some encouraging, responsible adult Clan supervision would be required, a number of who have already expressed interest in this proposal.

This is the first part of one approach. What do you think MacGregors, should we attempt this?

Bruce Macgregor Whyte  
Howard MacGregor Grossnickle



## Continued~ Scot's In Texas!



*(Continued from page 3)*

One of the great cattle and lumber barons of Texas before the turn of the century was William Cameron whose activities in Denton, Dallas and Waco centered around more than sixty lumber yards. The Cameron Lumber Company is still one of the biggest in Texas.

Sixty-five Scots who were considered to be the world's finest stonecutters were brought from Aberdeen Scotland in 1882 to help cut pink granite from the Marble Falls area for the present State Capitol. They received wages of \$4.00 a day.



The legacy of Scottish Texans is extensive. The majority of the men who died at the Alamo were of Scottish heritage and of course we are aware of the Alamo Piper, John McGregor.

Scottish Texans were first organized in 1890, when the Universal Order of Scottish clans established several lodges in Texas.

As Victorian historian John Anthony Froude once said..."No people so few in number have scored so deep a mark in the world's history as the Scots have done." That certainly can be said for Texans of Scottish heritage.

Randolph W. Walker SDC – Southern Texas





# Involving!

(Submitted by Bruce M. Whyte, MD)



## A' ruigsinn air na h-Ameireaganaich Albannach nas òige (Reaching out to The Younger Scottish Americans)

It seemed to be a simple question: Why do Scots not gather together as other culture based immigrants have done? One of the authors was at a party with several Scottish guests, who either live here or visit often, and were speculating about why Scots in America, and other countries, didn't form communities as the Irish, Italians, Chinese, and everyone else have done. Scottish Americans are made up of citizens of the United States whose ancestry originated in Scotland, or partially so. Some 35-40 million Americans claim Scottish or a Scots-Irish heritage. The Scots did not form into communities like the Irish, Italians, Chinese, and Germans, which may be one of the difficulties.



Even with the existence of certain cultural events like Highland Dances, Pipe Bands, and the cultural gatherings of the Scottish-Irish Highland Games, the lack of community that comes from neighborhoods highlights the vacuum somewhat unique of our culture. With each passing generation the distance from the thoughts, histories, and traditions of the home country blurs with the blended cultures within which we are dispersed.



For most young people, individual courses or clubs would seem to be the best way to begin, and these would have to be searched out in each community. In NY for example, the Caledonian club teaches Gaelic, as well as piping and dancing. Mostly, it seems you have to have some talent for music or dance in-order-to make these connections.

We try to preserve what there is of our culture through Clan Societies. But we could assist our youth to develop an interest in their heritage. We could assist them to seek out school clubs and courses that teach Scots Gaelic, or the history of the Scots where possible. Those with some talent for the music or dance of the Scots may try to maintain their involvement as they continue their college education, but many are at a loss to make the necessary connections.

We invite you to help in developing contact information regarding any Scottish-Celtic college level program in your respective communities. The concept is to then have the authors make connections, not only through ourselves, but possibly between the various academic groups, utilizing such technology as iTunesU. We are exploring the use of technology to create a locus where we can help our Scottish American youth form a culturally centered virtual community to develop and maintain their Scottish cultural heritage in North America.

We see two components which are not mutually exclusive to try to encourage youth to become more interested and involved:  
Expand on the social connectivity through clubs and other organizations as detailed above;  
Assist the development of Scottish/Irish/Celtic college courses that earn credits towards their various degrees.

The first option has been considered by all the Clansmen we talk to, be they MacGregor or not. All are dealing with the same issue of youth interest or lack thereof. See the previous article about one proposal.

The second option may sound daunting, but the preliminaries are already in place in some colleges.

For example; The University of South Carolina is offering a Scottish Literature degree commencing in 2012;

George Mason University offers courses in Folklore (our member Susan Tichy is a part of that faculty). GMU Folklore Roundtable hosted a Love Stories event on Monday, February 13th!

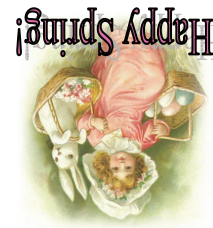
St Xavier University in Nova Scotia offers a full 4 year degree in Scottish Gaelic and a Masters program in Celtic Studies.

These are but a few of the courses available in North America. There is a far more complete listing available to anyone who wishes to see it.

This is the second part of one approach in "recruiting" our youth. We need help!  
Please contact Howard or Bruce via email.

Bruce Macgregor Whyte  
Howard MacGregor Grossnickle  
Susan Tichy





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440 Willoughby Bay  
SCOTT MACGREGOR  
THE AMERICAN CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER OF  
"ARDCHOILLE"



## Scottish Rumbledethumps! Just in time for spring!



England has Bubble and Squeak, Ireland Colcannon and in Scotland the delicious fry-up of vegetables is called Rumbledethumps. This Rumbledethumps Recipe is based on a classic recipe from Sue Lawrence one of Scotland's most famous cooks!

**Prep Time:** 30 minutes **Cook Time:** 45 minutes **Total Time:** 1 hour, 15 minutes

### Ingredients:

- 1lb 5oz/600g potatoes, peeled, boiled and mashed
- 14 oz/400g swede or turnip, peeled, boiled and mashed
- 3 oz/75g unsalted butter
- 9oz/250g savoy cabbage or Kale, finely sliced
- Salt and Pepper
- 1 oz /25g cheddar cheese, grated

### Preparation: Serves 6

- Preheat the oven to 350F/180C/Gas 4
- Place the mashed potato and swede into a large saucepan.
- In a small frying pan melt 2 oz/ 50g of the butter, add the finely sliced cabbage or kale and cook gently for minutes until softened but not brown.
- Add the cabbage to the pan of potato and swede, add the remaining butter and mash together. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
- Place the mashed vegetables in an ovenproof baking dish, sprinkle the cheese on top, cover with a lid and bake in the oven for 30 - 45 mins until heated right through. Remove the lid and cook for a further 5 mins or until golden brown on the top.
- Serve piping hot as a side dish with a casserole, pie or any hearty foods!

