



Ardchoille

Newsletter of the American Clan Gregor Society



Volume XVIII, Issue III

Winter 2012



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

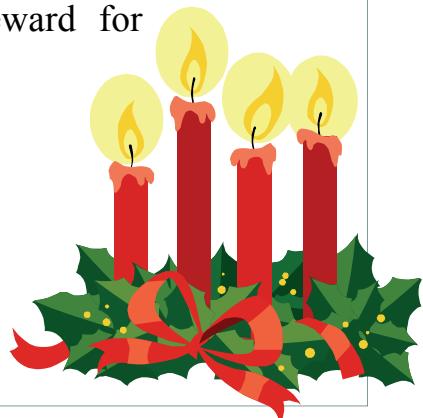


Fiona and I had a wonderful time at Stone Mountain catching up with old friends from the past in the USA. It was a truly magnificent event and we enjoyed ourselves hugely.

This message comes with all good wishes for the Christmas festive season and New Year. It is a time when families come together. However our thoughts are always with those for whom this is not possible because of military service or bereavement or some other event.



I hope 2013 is successful and full of reward for everyone in 2013.





From The Desk Of The Chieftain

(Submitted by Lois Ann Garlitz)



As promised by the Long Range Planning Committee in the last Ardchoille, change is happening all around us. Just ask the several members who have agreed to become part of this coming year's Council and contribute to the good of our society. Members in new positions include Randolph W. Walker as Ranking Deputy Chieftain, Jane Montmeny as Scribe, Keith D. Gregg as Historian, John King Bellassai as Librarian, Juliette Engle as Yearbook Editor, and Dodd Greer as Chaplain. Your new Trustee is James E. Woolley, Jr. Three new At Large Council members are James B. MacGregor, Peter K. Gregg, and Stuart W. McGregor. There will be an official Bylaws Review Committee with Jane Montmeny as chairman, to take a look and see that the Bylaws and Policies and Procedures (some as yet unwritten) actually agree with each other. In fact, that is one of my goals for the society this year. Renewed activity and excitement is all around us and I look forward to working with them all. Due to circumstances beyond my control, I find myself not only as your new Chieftain – I was expecting that position – but also as the "Acting Registrar" for the next year or until a new willing candidate can be found.

A word to those who have been serving our society well, and have decided for various reasons to let someone else take a turn; we are grateful for your dedication. And to those who have stayed for at least one more year, you are awesome and much appreciated. Ron McGregor has served this society for a number of years and I have appreciated greatly his mentoring. The position I am quite excited about is that of Webmaster, accepted by Richard Walker, who has already found our society a new domain name which will be easier to remember, and moved our website host out of Panama to the United States. He is busy reconstructing our site, giving it a fresh look, and moving content from the old site, which has been thoughtfully and carefully nurtured over the years by Jim MacGregor. The new address will be www.acgsus.org. Rick expects that to be completed by Christmas.

We have been mindful of the devastation of the MegaStorm Sandy and the following week's storms which pounded the East Coast and a number of our members. If you have not already done so, acting in generosity toward those in need this holiday season would be a wonderful gift to bestow. This season is the time of year when many of us turn our hearts to our families and close friends also.

Best wishes for a happy and meaningful holiday season.

Lois Ann Garlitz





The GPR Research Project

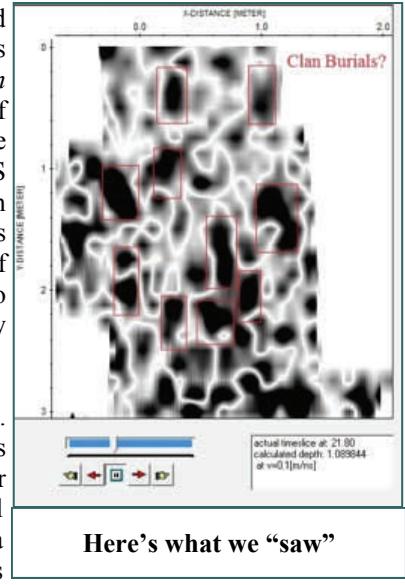
(Submitted by Keith Mac Gregor)



23-27 July 2012

This past July, Richard McGregor and Keith MacGregor led a team of specialists in carrying out extensive archaeological surveys at two significant MacGregor sites located in Dalmally glen, Argyllshire. Several years ago we had realized these sites merited a special, “down to earth” kind of attention. Armed with ground-penetrating radar (GPR) and magnetic gradiometers, satellite positioning units and metal detectors, we first focused on the entranceway to Dalmally church , using the *in situ* descriptions in the Book of the Dean of Lismore to try and locate the burial places of our first Chiefs. Next we moved on to the field at Stronmilchan (1/2 mi. west of the church), which you may recognize as the traditional home of these MacGregor chiefs. GPS satellite coordinates had to be “gridded” first so that things like alignment of the church foundation and three large grids covering the field could be submitted to Scotland’s national grid for use by the government, Historic Scotland, and future generations of researchers. Personally. we felt that these inquiries would make important contributions to the history and heritage of Clan Gregor. And more compelling as far as we knew, nobody had ever done this before!

The Scottish Reformation actually had a major impact on our monuments in the church. Eastern high altars (pre-Reformation) were moved to the west end in most cases. Burials on the altar and within the church, including our raised coffins, were forbidden –a major reason for our stones being tossed outside and our graves desecrated. The actual medieval altars, viewed as heretical, were sometimes buried in order to “bury the past”. Without a trace still visible, our task was to prove, as much as possible, the burials of our chiefs recorded by James MacGregor, Dean of Lismore at 500 years ago.



Timeslice-Entrance to church (area under tower). North is to the right. The front door (East) is at the bottom. The white area on right is under the stairs (inaccessible). Depth setting for this slide is 1.08 meters.



The large number of anomalies (potential grave cuts, outlined in red), in the area of high altar, align in an east-west direction. Many lie in the locations described by the Dean, who notes 12 burials. There are also two large objects (2 m. or more) in the center of the floor. Any guesses ?

Moving on to Stronmilchan, we had records from 1554 describing a “mud and wattle fortalice” with a ”drawbridge and moat”. There were a number of areas of interest – partial foundations, unnatural mounds, etc. But to be certain, we made 128 passes over the entire field with gradiometers, moving 1 meter at a time, and ran crosscut scans with the GPR unit. Tradition has it that Black Duncan Campbell hauled away every stone from a castle in the glen because he couldn’t stand the association with the MacGregors –

but it sure wasn’t this one! We began hitting stones everywhere, and it was apparent there were walls and buildings here that had been toppled or simply let fall. We are still waiting for more data, but here is a partial overlay of the field and our digital findings.

The nearly complete square inside the grid could well be a watchtower or it might be the chief’s home. There is evidence of many other structures, suggesting a medieval compound, sorry, settlement, in this grid alone. A mill was found in the trees on the right. Even better, the trench that had “silted in” turned out to be over 2 meters deep (the moat?)



Obviously, the investigation is far from over at Stronmilchan, or at Dalmally church. Our first search yielded as many questions as it did answers. There is much history still to extract, records to be found,

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ACGS 2012 Gathering

(Submitted by Audrey R. Gregg)

The 103rd Gathering of the American Clan Gregor Society took place from October 11-13, 2012 in Tampa, Florida. The host hotel was the Hilton Tampa Westshore, beautifully appointed and convenient to historic and tourist sites, restaurants, and shopping. Chieftain Maj. Ronald A. McGregor welcomed the members of the Clan from far and wide. Our local hosts for the Gathering were Ian and Alma Grieg, whose efforts were mightily appreciated by all who attended. The "family" theme could be seen throughout the events: the members of our clan and the generations of owners of the restaurant and cigar factory.

Throughout the weekend, the weather was brilliantly sunny and showed only a bit of Florida's famous humidity. Tampa is the 55th largest city in the United States and has a unique blend of history and heritage. Visiting Clansmen and Clans women were able to visit museums, markets, sports meccas, and malls under picturesque skies with warm breezes. On Friday, October 12th, the schedule included the memorial service, luncheon, and tour.

The memorial service was held at the Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church, at which time members who passed in the past year were honored with flowers placed on a wreath. The church is the location for the annual Kirkin' O' the Tartan by the St. Andrews Society of Tampa Bay and in keeping with their tradition, the Lord's Prayer was read in Gaelic. After the service, the tour bus passed magnificent mansions from many architectural styles, taking a route that paralleled the scenic ten-foot wide River walk along glistening Hillsborough Bay.

Next, the group proceeded to the Tampa City Park on Bayshore Boulevard to place the wreath on the granite monument "In honor of the Scottish Settlers of Tampa Bay". At its base the monolith features a rock from the Scottish land upon which William Wallace's yew tree grows from which tree Wallace fashioned his bows. Ian and Alma Grieg brought this yew tree stone back from Scotland. Siobhan Harley, Special Assistant to the Mayor of Tampa, read Mayor Bob Buckhorn's proclamation designating October 13th as Clan Gregor Day in Tampa.



The luncheon took place at the Columbia Restaurant in Ybor City, a short bus ride away. In the late 1800's, it was the site of a corner cafe frequented by local cigar workers. Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders also dined there. Touted as the "Gem of Spanish Restaurants", the site has been serving Cuban specialties since 1905. It has been a family-owned business for over 100 years. It has the distinction of being the oldest restaurant in Florida and purports to be the largest Spanish restaurant in the world, encompassing a city block. However it is unlikely that the skirl of the pipes has ever been heard here before.

Following the fine luncheon with Spanish specialties, our tour group traveled to the J.C. Newman Cigar Company. It is the oldest family-owned maker of cigars in America, operated by the fourth generation of Newman's. This 117-year old company is the only survivor of the nearly 150 cigar-producers that once were scattered throughout Tampa, once known as "Cigar City". Recently, events were held in this building during the Republican Convention. Our group was hosted by brothers, Eric and Bobby Newman, descendants of Julius C. Newman who apprenticed in 1890 to learn how to make cigars, and subsequently founded the business in 1895. The group watched as the workers operated the 60-year old machines, feeding through the flavored tobacco blend, ironing the outer wrapping, and forming and bundling the cigars. The Newman's are active in charitable ventures in the Tampa area as well as Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic where they partner with the Fuentes family. Their cigars are sold in 80 countries. It was an interesting and informative visit for all who are interested in history, cigar-smoker or not.



The Friday night Ceilidh featured the "Celtic Bards". This multi-talented and multi-instrumented trio used music and storytelling to entertain during their most enjoyable program. The purity of their voices and the diversity of their instrumentation made for a lovely evening. Our Clan bagpipers regaled the group with rousing and much-appreciated tunes, and the dancers nimbly performed time-honored steps. The MC was Michael Norton who looked and sounded like Robert Burns.

The General Meeting of the American Clan Gregor Society was held the next morning, Saturday, October 13th. The meeting began with a prayer by Gathering Chaplain, Dodd Greer, with gratitude for our family of cousins and with the hope that there would be continued working together as a great people. New members of Council

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MacGregor Weddings!

(Submitted by Carol Spitznagle)



Hailey MacGregor, daughter of John and LouAnn MacGregor of Boulder, Colorado, married Jon Monserud in a lovely outdoor ceremony on July 28th, 2012. Jon's brother, Nils, was the Best Man while Hailey's sister-in-law, Jennifer Joy, was the Matron of Honor. Hailey's brother, Ian, was a Groomsman.

In addition to becoming a bride this summer, Hailey graduated in May with a Doctorate in Pharmacy from Colorado University. Her new husband is completing his doctorate in Chemical Engineering, also at CU. He attends there on a grant and has recently been published in a well-known trade magazine.



Ian Mac Gregor interrupted his education to pursue a career as an award winning pro-bicyclist both in the USA as well as Europe but is now completing a Bachelors degree in Mechanical Engineering from Colorado School of Mines. He is also a part owner of Skratch Labs which produces a nutritious sports drink.



Congratulations to the whole MacGregor family.

Kelsey Crane married Jake DeKlerk in a lovely ceremony at the temple in Salt Lake City on August 18, 2012. After the wedding was over, a Scottish honor guard accompanied them to their horse-drawn buggy with the strains of a piper in the air.



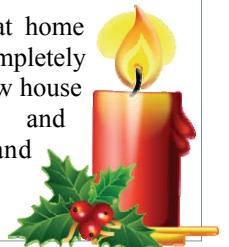
Kelsey and Jake began dating after Kelsey's junior year at West Jordan High School where she was Drill Team President. Jake was an award winning star there also, playing both basketball and pitching for the baseball team.

Kelsey began dancing at the age of 5 and is a 4 time champion in Scottish Highland dancing. You may remember her dancing for us when the Gathering was held in Salt Lake City. She also has her British dance certification and has helped teach at Heather Glen Dancers which is run by her teacher, Heather Donehoo from Falkirk, Scotland.



Kelsey obtained a Bachelor of Science degree from Utah State University and works as manager of the financial department at Steven's Heneger College. Jake completed a 2-year LDS mission in the Washington, DC area and is now finishing his college education as a full-time student while working at Office Furniture Brokers.

Kelsey and Jake are also talented at home renovation and bought and completely refinished the whole inside of their new house including adding new cabinets and countertops in the kitchen and bathrooms.





Continued~

The GPR Research Project



(Continued from page 3)

even the rich process of getting to know these ancestors from their monuments and what they built. And of course, there should be more "digs" ahead! My special thanks goes out to everyone who did the heavy lifting, got wet, muddy, and enjoyed every minute of it. All inquiries, etc. should be sent to me at kmac1@optonline.net. And it's a good thing somebody took a picture to prove it too!

Field Survey Team (L – R): Olly O'Grady, Ishbel McGregor, Gavin MacGregor, Richard McGregor, Keith MacGregor, Janet Buchanan, Lois Ann Garlitz
 At the Church: Monika & Jurgen MacGregor, Angelika Winter, Hendrik Kappler
 (Not pictured: Morag Malcolm, Charlotte Langoz)
 (Visitors): Guy McGregor, Odile Grenet, Catherine McGregor



Thank you, Keith MacGregor



Continued~ ACGS 2012 Gathering



(Continued from page 4)



were elected and Certificates of Appreciation presented to James B. MacGregor, retiring webmaster, Steven C. Grier, retiring librarian, and to Thad Osbourne, John Bellassai, Ian Grieg, and Howard Grossnickle for their efforts on our new Coat of Arms.

At 1 pm there was an Antiquities/ Projects Meeting led by Keith MacGregor. (More information in the newsletter).

At 3 pm, the ACGS Pipe Band and dancers performed at a park near the hotel. In their march to the park, they were accompanied by ebullient kilted Gregors. Music and applause filled the warm afternoon air.

The Annual Banquet was held at the Hilton Airport Westshore Salon ABC at 7:30 pm following the Daniel Randell Magruder Reception. On the dais were: Chieftain Ron McGregor, John C. and Ena McGregor, Jane Montmeny, Tampa St. Andrew's Society President Hunter J. Brownlee and wife, Sarah, Ranking Deputy Chieftain Lois Garlitz and H. Ron Grubbs. Ian Grieg deftly intoned the much-beloved Address to a Haggis, accompanied by appropriate pomp, circumstance, and dignity. After the meal, the Pipe Band and dancers performed brilliantly. They dedicated moving renditions of "Amazing Grace" and "When the Saints Go Marching In" to the memory of Greg O'Brien, long-time Pipe Major, who passed away during this past year. A singer from the "Celtic Bards" performed at no cost, since the Bards so enjoyed our group at the Ceilidh.

Maj. Ron McGregor, outgoing Chieftain, summarized his work experience: in the military, while at Rand/Martin Marietta, and his years with the ACGS, his "third career". He expressed his pride and gratitude to those who served and contributed to world history. Ron then passed the gavel to the thirtieth Chieftain of the American Clan Gregor Society, Lois Ann Garlitz, the first woman to serve in this capacity. Lois Ann spoke of continuing the camaraderie of cousins and friends at ACGS, and said she looks forward to the coming years.

Following the Gathering, many out-of-towners extended their opportunity to be with "family" by exploring area attractions, such as Disney World and the Florida Keys.





Kids Craft Corner!

(Submitted by Carol Spitznagle)

Materials Needed

2 golf balls
strong glue
film canister (or something similar)
ribbon
paint (black and orange)
sticky tack



Instructions:

Glue the golf balls together.
Glue on the canister so it makes a hat.
When the glue is dry, paint eyes, mouth, buttons, and a carrot nose on to your snowman.
Tie a piece of ribbon (plaid if he's Scottish) around the snowman's neck for a scarf.
Use a bit of sticky tack on the bottom to help your snowman stand up.
This makes a great paper weight for a Christmas gift.

Did you know? Golf originated from a game played on the coast of Scotland during the 15th century. Golfers would hit a pebble instead of a ball around the sand dunes using a stick or club. After 1750, golf evolved into the sport as we recognize it today.



Materials Needed

Candy Cane
Chenille Stem
Wiggle Eyes
Craft Glue
Pom-pom
Scissors

Instructions:

Take a chenille stem and cut in half.
Twist the chenille stem around the top of the hook of the candy cane. Form chenille stem to look like antlers.
Glue a small pom-pom onto the end of candy cane hook. Pom-pom will form the nose of the reindeer.
Glue the wiggle eyes just above pom-pom.
Reginald suggests giving a candy cane reindeer as a gift or create several candy canes and hang from a tree.



From Your Editor's



Once again Lori and I would like to send holiday greetings to all fellow clansmen. We hope you had an enjoyable St. Andrew's Day, are anticipating a joyous Christmas, and planning for a healthy and happy New Year. We truly loved seeing so many of you at the Gathering in Tampa and look forward to many more meetings in the coming months.

Lori Connery and Carol Spitznagle



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SCOTT MCGREGOR

THE AMERICAN CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER OF

"ARBCHOLLIE"



Holiday Baking with the Kids!

Traditional Scottish Recipes: - Drop Scones/Scotch Pancakes

*There are many traditional Scottish recipes which are well worth trying out.
Here is one which even children can make!*

Ingredients:

8 oz plain flour, salt, level teaspoon of cream of tartar, level teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda, 5 teaspoons of *caster sugar, standard egg and a quarter pint of milk.

Method:

Heat a girdle or heavy based frying pan and lightly grease. Sift flour, salt, cream of tartar and bicarbonate of soda together and mix in the caster sugar. Create a well in the centre and add the egg and some of the milk. Slowly mix the flour into the egg and milk, adding more milk as you go, until you have a mixture which has the consistency of thick batter.

Drop a small amount of batter onto the greased girdle or pan - bubbles should rise to the top in a few seconds, if it is the right temperature. Drop in enough mixture to make individual small scones. When the underside is brown (and bubbles are bursting on the top) turn over and cook the other side. You may need to re-grease the pan after each batch.

Serve warm with butter and honey or jam/jelly. Or try buttering them and sprinkling with light brown sugar!

*Caster sugar is superfine sugar, not powdered. C&H makes a Baker's Sugar which works well. Domino make a superfine sugar also that is said to work.

