



# Ardchoille

Newsletter of the American Clan Gregor Society



Volume XIX, Issue I

Spring 2013



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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.

## Long Road to the Coat of Arms! (Submitted by Ron McGregor)



In 1936, the Council of the ACGS sought to establish a coat-of-arms for our society. At the Gathering that year, a committee was established to look into the subject. A progress status of the effort was reported at the Gatherings of 1937 and 1938. There was then a lengthy lull during the war years until the Gathering of 1946 when the coat-of-arms of the Chief was approved for the society's use although this was never registered.

In 2005, Howard Grossnickle asked for a copy of the "official" logo of the society whereupon he discovered that there was not a standard and registered version but instead 4 unofficial versions in use. After that, members of the ACGS decided to investigate the possibility of creating an official and recognized version. The full story of the pursuit of the new coat-of-arms will be detailed in the next newsletter. The road to the new coat-of-arms which was approved by Council on May 30, 2012 and introduced to the society at the Gathering in Tampa has been lengthy. The full achievement is shown here and can only be used for official correspondence with the membership pin

available for use by individual members.

The symbolism included in the new design includes a sailing ship flying the Scottish flag leaving the land of our forefathers for new countries around the world but still carrying the coat of arms of our Chief on the sail. The chain around the throat of the lion indicates that we still have links to our old country, our clan in Scotland, and our Chief.



## New Lapel Pin! (Submitted by Lois Ann Garlitz)

How to order a new ACGS lapel pin. This is included in the new member's packet, but older members may wish to also order one of the new design:  
Send \$10 check made out to ACGS to  
Lois Ann Garlitz  
238 West 1220 North  
American Fork, UT 84003  
My name and address:  
My membership # ---  
Thanks for your support!



## From The Desk Of The Chieftain

(Submitted by Lois Ann Garlitz)

Florida gets a head start on the rest of the country by their sponsorship of MacGregor tents at Scottish festivals and highland games in their state. The rest of us are already anticipating getting our tartan on and joining in similar activities in our local areas. State Deputies are looking forward to having you come by and enjoy some clanship and camaraderie. It is much appreciated when you stay at the clan tent for a while and help greet visitors and answer questions about MacGregor heritage.

Your Bylaws Review Committee has begun their work to fine-tune our Bylaws and Policy & Procedures (several drafts of P&P are now in place which were not yet written at the last Gathering) to actually agree with each other. As part of their work to restructure (if it needs to be done) the guidelines for various monetary funds, the Blunt Scholarships are not being awarded this year. (deadline for applicants was 1 April). Members of the committee are Jane Montmeny, chair, Henry Stone, Diana Browne, Bruce Whyte, Sandy MacGregor, and Randy Walker.

For those of you with plans to head to Scotland in 2014 for the International MacGregor Gathering organized by Clan Gregor Society, you are probably already aware that the first deposits are due the end of May 2013 to assure your housing reservations. There is more information on the [www.clangregor.com](http://www.clangregor.com) website, as well as our own [www.acgsus.org](http://www.acgsus.org)

And by-the-way, visit our new site and take a peek. Let me know how we can improve; leave a comment. Other photo albums are being planned, maybe you have one to suggest?

In the meantime, Scott and his Gathering Committee are hard at work planning another outstanding Gathering this fall in Richmond, Virginia, just another great opportunity to get together with your MacGregor friends this year. See you there...



## Long Range Planning Committee

(Submitted by Lois Ann Garlitz)

There are two think tanks at work this year to benefit your society. One is the Bylaws Review Committee and the other is the Long Range Planning Committee. A brief report was given during the Council and General meetings in Tampa by John Bellasai as chairman of the LRP committee, consisting of Sandy MacGregor, Scott MacGregor, Keith MacGregor, Juliette Engle, Lois Ann Garlitz, Jim MacGregor, and Diana Browne.



John outlined at least ten topics which are under discussion: 1. Membership – how to retain, we are not getting any younger, how to recruit/train/encourage a younger generation 2. Organizational Structure 3. Communication strategies 4. Records 5. Publications 6. Gatherings 7. Budgetary Issues 8. Scholarships 9. Mailings 10. History and Heritage. And there may be other challenges we should consider.

For instance, let's look at just one topic – Gatherings...why do you keep coming back? Why do you stay away? Are your friends here and you like to hang out? Do you love long meetings that try to solve problems for a whole year in two days? Do you expect the costs involved to fit your budget? Do you expect the destination to be in the same general area each year? Do you love the travel to new places? Legally we need an annual meeting, but according to DC law which we operate under, it no longer needs to be a physical meeting – it could be Skype, some kind of new technology like streaming video, etc. Maybe you'd like regional Gatherings? To a degree, Scottish festivals in your area might serve the "social needs" purpose? What do other clans do that works for them?

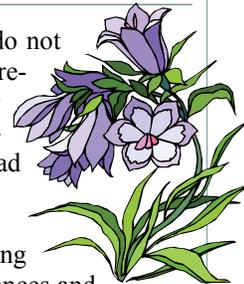
The environment in lineage-based/ heritage preservation societies such as ours has changed since the last time a long range plan was detailed twenty years ago. What worked before and what did not work may be a lot different today. A committee has no lock on good ideas. Feedback from members is crucial to the committee's conclusions to be stated in a final report. You may give feedback by email, by phone, by snail mail, or in person to any or all of the members of the committee, or even to one of the blogs or contact links on our new website. Keeping connected is vital to the health and growth of your society.



# The Proper Way To Wear A Sash\*

(by Sir Malcolm MacGregor)

The jurisdiction of heraldry amongst the clans is the core business for Lord Lyon and his office. However I do not believe that heraldry extends to the wearing of tartan sashes by ladies. Sashes are of a tartan design and are therefore highly symbolic, but ultimately they are purely decorative whether worn by the Queen or anyone else. They have no heraldic resonance at all. Therefore for that reason I do not believe they should come under the jurisdiction of the Lyon Court. Their descriptions of whether a sash should be worn on the left or right shoulder could lead to confusion.



In my view the sash should be worn on the left shoulder by everyone. There is no historical precedence for it being worn on the right shoulder as far as MacGregors are concerned. Tartan sashes are normally worn for Scottish dances and balls, which means that the right arm needs to be free for turning partners. Wearing the sash on the left shoulder makes sense, as in principle the right arm is used most of the time, but not exclusively.

There is no need to distinguish between a chief's wife and any other lady when it comes to wearing a sash. Whilst I cannot speak for specific clans, there is no history of such distinction in most clans. At a dance it would look distinctly odd if the chief's wife was the only person wearing the sash on the left shoulder. We all know what she looks like and so there is no need to ID her through the wearing of a sash.

For men, the tradition is to wear the tartan plaid on the left shoulder, irrespective of whether the man is a chief or not. There were good historical reasons for that-mainly because the sword was used in the right arm and the writing of letters and dispatches meant the right hand had to be free from encumbrance.

It is rare to see a man wearing a plaid at a dance nowadays. But it would look rather odd for his wife to be wearing a sash from the right shoulder whilst he wore a plaid on his left. Much smarter if they are both on the same shoulder. All the old paintings and drawings show men and women generally wearing either a sash or plaid on the left shoulder and I think MacGregors should do the same.

Having said that, there may be good practical and possibly historical reasons for wearing a sash on the right shoulder, which may be particular to the wearer. That is fine. Indeed there are paintings of ladies wearing the sash on the right shoulder. But to suggest that the wearing of a sash should be done according to rank or whether someone has married in or out of the clan is questionable, and I can see no historical basis for it. We have enough complications with highland dress as it is, so I believe we can have one instance where it is simple-all sashes on the left shoulder no matter who you are.

\*Reprinted from Clan Gregor Society website.



## How to Tie a Sash

1. Fold the entire sash in half.
2. Take the top of the folded end, fold it back 6 inches. Fasten a rubber band to the middle of the new fold. This will make the sash look like a bow with a long tail.
3. Fluff the fold until your bow looks like a rosette.
4. Use small pins to fasten the rosette's half circles together.
5. Pin a brooch into the middle of the rosette so that it hides the rubber band.
6. Pin the rosette to the shoulder of your dress with one tail down the back and one down the front of your torso. If desired the 2 ends can be joined together at your waist.





## MacGregor's Restaurant!

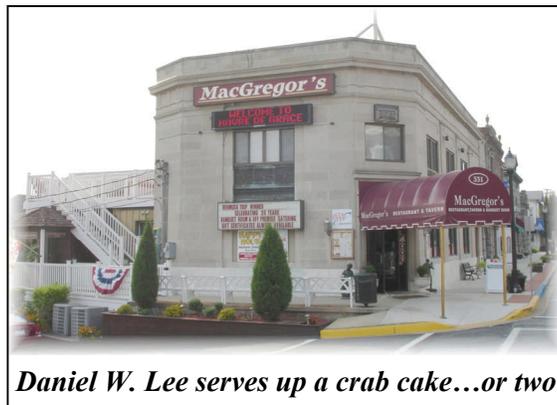
(Submitted by Juliette M. Engel, MD)



### “For the Best Crab Cakes in Maryland!”

Since moving to Maryland from Moscow Russia a short time ago, my Northern Virginia friends had been promising to take me to the “best seafood restaurant” on the Maryland shore. True to their words, we made the picturesque drive on a lovely, warm fall day and found ourselves in Havre de Grace, Maryland. No one would tell me the name of the eating establishment where they promised me that we would be dining on the “best crab cakes in Maryland” – a claim which I understand to be quite a boast for this state. Imagine my surprise when we parked in front of MacGregor's Restaurant, a prominent landmark in a small town which has probably changed little in the past century.

The harbor of Havre de Grace, which means “Safe Haven” in French, was discovered by Captain John Smith in 1608 where he happened upon the Susquehannock (Iroquois) Indians who were living there. He described them as “a most noble and Heroic nation – large & warlike and for the most part seven feet tall.” In 1789, Havre de Grace was very nearly named the Capital of the United States but lost by one vote to Washington DC. Since then, the town became known for its grain mills, duck hunting and horse racing.



*Daniel W. Lee serves up a crab cake...or two*

Once inside MacGregor's, we were seated on a wide veranda overlooking the Susquehanna River and the headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay. After a relaxing glass of wine, we were indeed served the most delicious crab cakes that I have ever eaten. The cream of crab soup was also a standout. Of course, I had to take a tour of the restaurant where I found the MacGregor tartan proudly displayed in the lounge and discovered that the owner, Daniel W. Lee is a member of the ACGS (#2584), as was his father and grandfather before him.

Since my visit to Havre de Grace last September, I have been elected ACGS Yearbook Editor. One of my first actions in that capacity was to read old yearbooks. What I found most fascinating in the official record of MacGregors in America were the stories of MacGregor families and how they positively (and negatively) impacted their communities wherever they settled and farmed or started businesses. MacGregor's Restaurant is an example of a proud tribute to our clan name and heritage in Maryland. According to Jim Carroll, Dan's cousin, their MacGregor ancestor, George Smith Grier, arrived in Delaware from Kirkcudbright Scotland during the 1840s with his ship captain half-brother, James Grier. Both half-brothers proceeded to have very large families, George Smith Grier with seventeen children. George became a self-taught inventor, engineer and entrepreneur inventing the fruit dehydrator and patenting the Grier Cable Railway System. He died in 1907 by which time his seven sons had purchased the LD Caulk Co. and built the world's largest manufacturer of dental supplies.

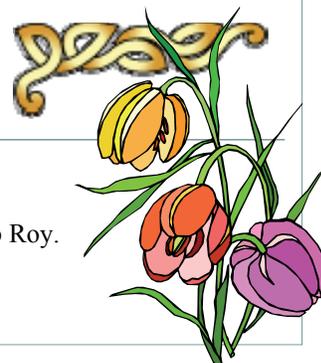
In 1987, a restaurant called “The Bank Restaurant” which was built over the foundation of an old mill and later a bank was purchased by Daniel W. Lee and given the name MacGregor because of their family's MacGregor lineage. Since then, it has been a stalwart landmark and dining destination for discerning patrons from far and near.

I have invited Dan, Jim and members of the Grier family to contribute more about their history for the next issue of the ACGS Yearbook. In fact, I would like to encourage all ACGS members to take the time to write their family stories so that they can be recorded in our yearbook as part of history, and our messages of hope to generations that follow us.



## Peter Lawrie to talk's about Rob Roy

(Submitted by Richard McGregor)



Hello everyone,

We have just had a Council meeting and I took the opportunity of getting Peter Lawrie to talk about Rob Roy. The result, in two parts, can be seen at the usual URL: [www.youtube.com/user/clangregorsociety](http://www.youtube.com/user/clangregorsociety)  
Best wishes, Richard



## Dancers Win Big!

(Submitted by Howard Grossnickle)



Kyra and Caleb MacGregor, children of Jake and Jenna MacGregor and grandchildren of Howard Grossnickle, competed in the Rocky Mountain Indoor Competition.

Caleb started off with a rough day but in the End he scored a 1st place in the Sword. This is Caleb's first time to medal at a competition as a beginner! By the way, the Sword is the hardest dance to get a first place in, because if you touch the sword your are disqualified. Caleb did amazing!

Kyra competed as a Novice Dancer. She did well too. She got a 1st place in the Flora Dance, a 2nd place in the Sword (she also did not touch the sword) and she got a 3rd place in the Fling. She was disqualified in the Seantrubis due to a shoe that came untied and she did not bow at the beginning- (a big oops)!

Excitingly at the end of the competition one dancer is awarded with the most promise! And yes! Kyra won this award! The judge told Kyra that she wishes she could pack Kyra up and take her back to Canada with her because she has great talent! So Kyra won a very prestigious award today even though she did not win her division. She scored very big today! The award that she won was her own Scottish sword. This sword is beautiful and very shiny.



Kyra with her new sword



## Meet Your New Yearbook Editor!

(Submitted by Dr. Juliette M. Engel)



I would like to introduce myself as the new ACGS Yearbook Editor and to invite all members to participate in the preparation of the 2013 Yearbook.

Please have your contributions ready by the time of our next ACGS Gathering in Richmond, Virginia. You can email me your submissions including photographs at the email listed below – or you can hand me hardcopies at the Gathering. Please be part of our next edition, by contributing: Photographs of people, places and events; for publication, they should be about 1 MB in size or larger. Family Histories; travel stories related to the MacGregor clan and our history; meetings with MacGregors in other countries or accounts of local events where MacGregors have been participants. Other articles and visual illustrations that you believe should be part of our historic record for future generations to see.

If you have any questions about what to contribute or how to get it to me please email me at: [yearbook-editor@acgsus.org](mailto:yearbook-editor@acgsus.org)

I look forward to hearing from you and to making the 2013 Yearbook of our society the best possible of who we are and what we are doing to contribute to our community and our proud Scottish – American society. God Bless America!

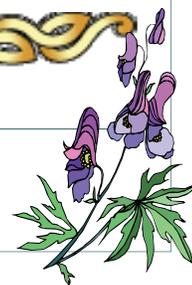
Dr. Juliette M. Engel, Yearbook Editor



## ~Correction~



In the last edition of Ard Choille, Ian and Alma Greig's last name was incorrectly spelled. Sincere apologies for the mistake.





## ACGS 2013 Gathering

(Submitted by Carol Spitznagle)



**American Clan Gregor Society-October 03-06, 2013**  
 Richmond Marriott West, 4240 Dominion Blvd, Glen Allen, Va. 23060  
 Reservation: Toll-Free 1-888-839-0610. Direct 804-965-9500. Fax 804-968-7134



<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/ricmw?groupCode=acgacga&app=resvlink&from Date=10/3/13&to Date=10/6/13>

The Marriott is honored to have you as their guest during your stay in the Richmond area. In order to guarantee your reservation you should (1) Make your reservation prior to September 12, 2013; (2) Call and make your reservation using a credit card. **YOU MUST MENTION THE AMERICAN CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY or ACGACGA WHEN MAKING YOUR RESERVATION.**

Room rates: \$99.00 per room, per night and subject to 13% tax. Cut off date: September 12, 2013. Reservations requested AFTER the cut-off date may not be available at this rate, based upon availability. Check-in time is after 3p.m; check-out is prior to 11.00 am. All reservations must be guaranteed by a credit card or advance deposit. Cancellations must be received 72 hours prior to the arrival date to avoid a cancellation fee equal to one night's room and tax. All no shows will be billed for the first night's room and tax. \*Room types are based upon availability and can be requested however cannot be guaranteed until check-in.

Further information will be coming about excursions and activities. Remember to reserve early as Gatherings in Maryland or Virginia are well attended and always lots of fun.



## Clan Gregor Gathering 2014

(Submitted by Frank J Wherrett)



As we have reached that point in time when the Clan Gregor Society is required to make a deposit on our 2014 accommodation at Stirling University and other facilities, this letter is about your commitment to 2014.

As your representatives, CGS Council would like to be very clear about what our 2014 Gathering will and will not include. Firstly, we will be sticking with the original dates of 11-21 July, 2014. In the Chairman's previous announcement which appeared both in Newsletter 75 and on the [www.ClanGregor.org](http://www.ClanGregor.org) website, we have let you know that the Scottish government and the National Trust have opted to go with a re-enactment (300 actors) of the battle of Bannockburn on 28-30 June, 2014 and NOT during our Gathering. At this time, there are no plans for a government-sponsored march to the castle or a clan village with tents, as was previously heralded. In other words, the 2014 event will not be a repeat of the 2009 Homecoming in Edinburgh, of which many of you will have fond memories. While it

remains to be seen exactly WHAT the government will end up doing, Clan Gregor has made the decision to organize our own events and simply 'do it ourselves', as we have often done at past Gatherings.

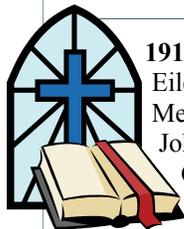
Events like a visit to Stirling Castle and a visit to the Bannockburn battlefield and Visitor Centre will be organized by us. None of the fun and camaraderie of meeting your kin from all over the world will be lost, we have scheduled events and tours for virtually every day you are here (at your option of course). Visits to Dalmally, Rob Roy's grave, Stronmilchan, Kilmartin, Dunadd and more, are planned as well as one free day (which could be spent in Edinburgh). There will also be a high tea sponsored by Sir Malcolm and Lady MacGregor at their home, a sail on Loch Lomond, and a grand soiree with dinner and dancing at the Crieff Hydro hotel. Short of the NTS re-enactment, you will not miss out on any of the significant locations in Stirling. However, while some clans have plans similar to ours, there will NOT be the huge crowds we saw at Edinburgh in 2009, this is to be considered a Gathering put together solely by Clan Gregor. Of course, if the events outlined are not to your liking, or if you had hoped to be attending a larger, "International" event like 2009, we would certainly understand.

Although we are holding your contact information, anyone may cancel their booking by simply notifying us and NOT sending the required deposit, which will be non-refundable (we have to pay the other vendors and institutions). Perhaps in a few years, a government-backed international event may become a reality, but for now please consider that a 2009-style, central event will not be happening in 2014. On the other hand, if you've decided you're coming to Scotland to meet your Chief and fellow clansmen, we promise to offer you a memorable, and fun, eleven days in July, 2014. To do that, we need to collect your 25% down-payment/deposit per person on or before May 31st [please note later date. which will act as a confirmation for your party's attendees. Please send deposits to the Secretary at 2 Braehead, Alloa, Clackmannanshire, Scotland FK10 2EW or check if the PayPal facility is available. A further reminder will be sent before the closing date. Please note that payment of final balances are required no later than six weeks before the Gathering.

In case there are unforeseen circumstances which affect your ability to travel to Scotland at the last minute we recommend you take out trip insurance as well. Thanks for your support! ...*"MacGregor Despite Them!"*



# “Crossing Over”



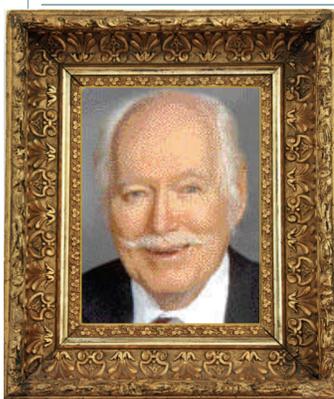
**1915-2013**

Eileen M. Pruett, 97, of Mason City passed away at 4:57 am on Saturday, January 12, 2013 at Memorial Medical Center. She was born on November 7, 1915 in Mason City the daughter of John A. and Winnie M. Petrie Peters. She married Vernon B. Pruett on November 17, 1945 in Chicago, IL. He preceded her in death.

Surviving are three children; Jane (Larry) Parr of Mason City, Bud (Jane) Pruett of Springfield, IL and Margaret Sanderfield of Athens, IL. Also surviving are five grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Eileen was a member of the Mason City United Methodist Church. She was involved in many community activities. She was a 1938 graduate of U of I.

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 am on Wednesday, January 16, 2013 at the Mason City United Methodist Church. Visitation will be on Tuesday, January 15, 2013 from 5 to 7 at Hurley Funeral Home in Mason City. Burial will be at Mason City Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Mason City Area Nursing Home or to the Mason City United Methodist Church Bell Choir.



Richard Thornton Gregg of Mahweh, N.J. passed away peacefully on Monday, January 21, 2013 at the age of 89 years. He was born in New York City to Otis Tiffany Gregg and his wife, Juliette (nee Kirken) on October 7, 1923. He grew up in Hackensack, attending local schools before transferring to Mount Hermon School in Massachusetts, graduating with the class of 1941. He then attended MIT before enlisting in the Army and serving in the 771 Ordnance Company. His unit had the distinction of going the furthest into Germany. Known for his humor, while in the service he invented soldier "J. Cheever Loophole" whose only issued uniform was one helmet liner and 600 shoelaces. On return from the war, he graduated from MIT and became active in the manufacture and sale of railway wagons throughout the world with the Gregg Company, Ltd., residing both in Belgium and the United States. He was involved in many organizations including the American Clan Gregor Society and the Clan Gregor Society, Western USA Chapter. He traveled extensively and particularly loved vacation trips to Fiji, New Guinea, and Mongolia. Beloved brother of the late Mary (Frath) H. Elliott and her husband, J. Frank III and William Gregg. Beloved brother-in-law of Louise L. Gregg of Keene Valley, N.Y. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews, and other relatives.



Elliott and her husband, J. Frank III and William Gregg. Beloved brother-in-law of Louise L. Gregg of Keene Valley, N.Y. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews, and other relatives.



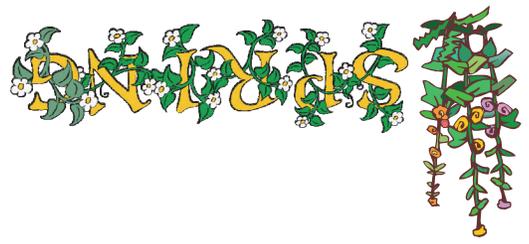
## *New Beginnings!*



Erik Steffen, son of Lynn F. Steffen of Great Lakes, Illinois, and Abby Walton of Kansas City, Missouri, married at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Kansas City, Missouri, on December 15, 2012. A reception followed in the Sawyer Room.

Erik is an honors graduate of DePaul University in Chicago, and Abby is a graduate of the University of Missouri. They met at work, CDW, in Chicago and will reside in Kansas City, Missouri.





ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*THE AMERICAN CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER OF  
"ARDCHOLLE"  
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Norfolk, VA 23503-1243*



## Scotland Boggler Puzzle



How many words of 3 letters or more can you find using the in the grid? Words are formed from adjoining letters. Letters must join in the proper sequence to spell a word and may join horizontally, vertically, or diagonally, to the left, right or up-and-down. No letter square, however, may be used more than once within a single word. You may use plurals if available. Score 1 point for each 3 letter word, 2 points for 4 letter words, 3 points for 5 letter words and so on. Score an extra 2 points for every word associated with Scotland that you discover!

H	B	A	I
A	G	K	L
G	I	P	T
S	E	P	O

My Points \_\_\_\_\_

