



# Ardchoille

Newsletter of the American Clan Gregor Society



Volume XIX, Issue II

Summer 2013



## Inside this issue:

Literary Hour New Lapel Pins	2
Housekeeping Clan Member Awarded	3
Grandfather Mountain Games	4
New Webmaster 2013 Gathering Info	5
Scottish Water Hydro Scheme	6
Crossing Over GFM Games Con't	7
Word Search	8

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For more Clan information  
please visit our website at:  
<http://www.acgsus.org/>



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 Lois Ann Garlitz)

As you read in the Spring 2012 issue of this newsletter, Sir Malcolm's continuing duties as the Convener of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs precludes his being able to greet us personally for this edition.

MacGregors are fortunate indeed to have an active hereditary Chief in Sir Malcolm MacGregor. That expectation was reinforced to me this past week while John Bellassai and I attended the second Clan Caucus organized by the Council of Scottish Clans and Associations (COSCA), just prior to Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. The purpose of this day long caucus was to bring Scottish American clan, family, and organizational leaders together to discuss and plan actions to work together toward enriching a global Scottish Diaspora as we move into the future and assure that we grow and thrive. Much discussion revolved around what is happening in Scotland in 2014 for the celebration of the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle at Bannockburn.

Special guests at the Caucus were Sir Malcolm as the Convener of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, Lord Jamie Sempill, organizer and coordinator of the 2009 International Clan Gathering; Rt. Hon. Henry McLeish, former First Minister of Scotland with a great interest in strengthening the Scottish Diaspora world-wide; and Dr. Bruce Durie, genealogist, writer, broadcaster, *Shenachie* to the Chief of Durie, as well as chair of the Ancestral Tourism Steering Group for Scotland.

Some of my notes from the various presenters and from the floor discussion included these remarks... There is a psyche, a clan spirit, which connects us to our homeland. Scots themselves do not see it so much, as they live there. Much has changed in Scotland in the last 300 years politically and otherwise. Highland games are the critical life-blood of clans; that is where our heritage is kept alive. Games are the recruiting sergeants. Online is the way many of us communicate today, a web page is a most helpful asset for any group, especially when new content is added/updated on a regular basis. Clans tend to be self-sufficient but there are others with Scottish heritage who seek leadership. COSCA serves to bring Scottish heritage groups together where there are clans without Chiefs, persons without a specific clan but identify with a district in Scotland or other area in the world with Scottish culture/heritage. There are similar groups in Canada and Australia.

From Sir Malcolm - What do Scots expect of out of clan groups today? Scotland has no culture for big regional gatherings of clans. Scottish gatherings tended to be for bigger events, such as the military ones at Glenfinnan, and Bannockburn. In 1822, there was a great highland revival, facilitated by Sir Walter Scott in which the MacGregors guarded the Honors of Scotland as the clans marched up the Royal Mile in Edinburgh. Queen Victoria, with her love of the highlands, was quite instrumental in a resurgence of Scottish awareness of their culture.

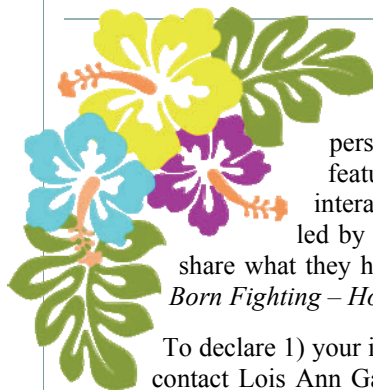
The Clan Caucus event was recorded and is expected to be available on their website [www.cosca.net](http://www.cosca.net). I am looking forward to seeing many of you in Richmond in October. Our Bylaws Review Committee has been quite busy and is proposing some thoughtful and significant changes to our Bylaws to facilitate how we do business in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Members are encouraged to come give feedback and participate in these landmark changes to move us forward as an organization.





## A Literary Hour

(Submitted by Lois Ann Garlitz)



A Literary Hour during the Gathering. There has been some interest shown in having an activity for other members at our Gathering during Friday morning when the Council meets between 8:30 and 10:30. The tour buses are usually ready to board by 11 AM, which has left the morning free for persons not on Council. This is a survey to discover the depth of interest in offering a book club type hour featuring a book or two off this list. This would not be a book review kind of presentation, but rather an interactive discussion about the characters, the locality, the plot, and/or the theory presented in the book, led by a moderator or two. It is expected that participants have already read the book and are prepared to share what they have learned and enjoyed about the book. Three which I suggest are *Rob Roy, His Life and Times*; *Born Fighting – How the Scots-Irish Shaped America*, or *The Scots – a Genetic Journey*.

To declare 1) your interest in such an activity, 2) specify a book preference, and/or 3) volunteer to be a moderator, please contact Lois Ann Garlitz by email ([loisann@burgoyne.com](mailto:loisann@burgoyne.com)) by NLT 10 September to assure we have a meeting room reserved for such a group. If you are a Council member, now you will have a topic to chat about with the other family members or friends who have come to the Gathering. "

### Summer Reading List for MacGregors

There are plenty of books to read about MacGregors, as well as a multitude of web sites to expand your knowledge about our heritage. Here are a few books including some about Scotland in general, in no particular order, whose titles keep popping up again and again, on ACGS clan tents at the games. Most of these are available from Amazon, Barnes and Noble, your local book seller or library.

W.H. Murray, *Rob Roy, His Life and Times*

Forbes MacGregor, *Clan Gregor* – available at CGS and Amazon

Alistair Moffat and James F. Wilson, *The Scots – a Genetic Journey*. About DNA and its story in Scotland over time

Nigel Trantor, *The Story of Scotland, The MacGregor Trilogy*, plus about 80 other historical novels about Scotland. Nigel's mother was a MacGregor.

Arthur Herman, *How the Scots Invented the Modern World*.

James Webb, *Born Fighting – How the Scots-Irish Shaped America*. Jim's 5<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather was a Lackey, a MacGregor sept.

There is also a YouTube video narrated by James Webb. [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fr9Ju\\_NSqT0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fr9Ju_NSqT0)

Amelia Georgiana Murray MacGregor, *History of the Clan Gregor*

Mary McGrigor, *Rob Roy's Country*, with photography by Malcolm MacGregor

Malcolm MacGregor, *The Outer Hebrides; Mull, Iona, and Staffa*

Ronald Williams, *Sons of the Wolf, Campbells and MacGregors and the Cleansing of the Inland Glens*.



## 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!





## Housekeeping

(by Lois Ann Garlitz)



### **Report from Long Range Planning Committee**

This committee has met twice in person and identified ten areas for more detailed study: 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; there may be other challenges we should consider.

We have interviewed sister clans at Stone Mountain games and at the Celtic festival in Albuquerque, New Mexico, plus expect to interview more. Don't be surprised if you get an email or phone call or hear the subject broached during the Gathering. This is your society and feedback from members is invaluable, expected, and critical to move us forward.

We expect to have one more face-to-face meeting and submit a report by the end of this year.

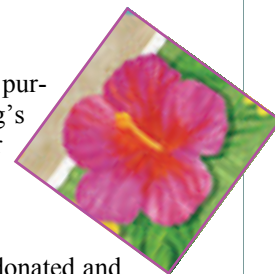
John King Bellasai and Lois Ann Garlitz, Co-chairpersons.

### **About those T-Shirts...**

Are you and/or grandkids growing out of or wearing out their green Clan Gregor T-Shirts? Wish you had purchased one of those warm and toasty Sweat shirts? Come to Richmond Gathering and shop at Peter Gregg's merchandise display where bargain prices can be expected. The plan is to sell our current supply; however Peter expects to bring some "sample" golf shirts to sell also. Be prepared to express your preference for a new design.

### **Silent auction to benefit the Operating Budget**

Scottish attire items - two MacGregor kilts, plus a Prince Charlie jacket, and a ladies long skirt - have been donated and will be the main attractions at a Silent Auction during the Gathering. Attendees are encouraged to bring other interesting items add to this money – raising activity.



## ACGS Clan Member Awarded!

(Submitted by Bruce Whyte)



In 2013, one of our Gregor Clan members was awarded the University of Washington Alumni Humanitarian Award. Juliette M. Engel, is a 1974 medical graduate of the University of Washington. She specialized in radiology and worked in private practice for 14 years in Bellevue, Washington. She was also Assistant Professor and Director of Ultrasound at the University of Washington. She founded the MiraMed Institute in 1992 for the purpose of improving health care and human rights for women and infants in the former USSR: "Healing the suffering of the world's children will heal the pain of our world" as quoted by the Founder of MiraMed, Juliette M. Engel, MD.

MiraMed is one of a very small number of international human rights organizations in Russia which focuses on the welfare of the 800,000 children living in Russian institutions and the prevention of human trafficking. To combat this crime, Juliette, along with a group of Russian women leaders, co-founded the Angel Coalition, which has grown to comprise 100 organizations. Together, these groups work cooperatively with governments and law enforcement in the prevention of human trafficking and the rescue, repatriation and rehabilitation of trafficking victims. Since its founding, the Angel Coalition has assisted 15,000 victims of human trafficking.

She is persona non grata in Russia now as a result of her success in raising world conscience about the trade in children, such that the local security organizations, including police and secret service, cannot guarantee her safety if she returns and have advised she does not return if she values her life. She has now written several books of her experiences in this arena, which are not to be read by the faint hearted. They are frightening in their reality, in the sheer brutality of life in those regions and in the sheer greed of those undertaking these trades.



Juliette now lives in Washington, DC, a far cry from her alma mater of Washington State. She is currently one of your Council members and the current Yearbook Editor for ACGS, producing her first Yearbook in 2013.







## Grandfather Mountain Highland Games

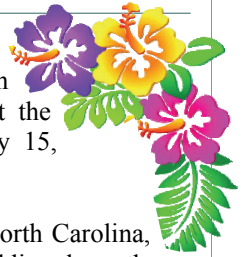
(Submitted by Randy Walker—RDC)



**Holding our framed Coat of Arms  
Lois Ann Garlitz and John Bellassai.**

Lois Ann Garlitz, John Bellassai, Bruce Whyte and his wife Kathy, and my wife Teresa and I enjoyed the wonderful Southern hospitality of our resident Southern gentleman, Thad Osborn at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games July 11, 2013 thru July 15, 2013.

There were others in attendance as well. Ron Grubbs, SDC for North Carolina, came to the games to assist Thad and did double and triple duty holding down the Clan Tent while the rest of us were off getting the Grandfather Mountain experience first hand. Elizabeth Magruder Joiner and her mother Lillian Magruder were assisting as well, by feeding one and all at the "food tent." This was appreciated by all of us who were there. Thank you so much. For those of you who may be unaware, Lillian's husband, Abbey W. Magruder, Jr., now deceased, was Chieftain of ACGS from 1987 to 1990, and was a past president of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in the 1970's.



How do you describe Grandfather Mountain? Well, there are several words that come to mind: beautiful, majestic, inspiring, or one could just say..."WOW!" In fact that entire area of North Carolina and Tennessee will fit into "WOW" as well. If you have never had the opportunity to visit this area I would encourage you to do so.

As many of you know Thad Osborne has been the Society representative in one capacity or another for many, many years and he knows everyone involved and they know him. The Society can be very proud of the way Thad and many others over the years have presented the American Clan Gregor Society to the thousands of people who have visited the games at Grandfather Mountain.

The highlight event Thursday evening was the Torchlight Ceremony where our Chief, Sir Malcolm MacGregor carried the Clan torch and planted it to announce to one and all that Clan Gregor was present and accounted for.



**L to R: Members; Randy and Teresa Walker,  
Lois Ann Garlitz, Thad Osborne,  
and Beth Wassell.**

The various game events continued throughout the day on Friday. Sir Malcolm MacGregor, Distinguished Guest, who was representing the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs as well as Clan Gregor along with Sir Malcolm Colquhoun of Luss, Honored Guest, opened the games.

On Friday evening several of the MacGregor contingent were honored to participate in the Patron's and Sponsor's Reception and Gala at Camp Yonahook. This is a beautiful venue for an event such as this and it was a wonderful experience for all of those who were in attendance. Sir Malcolm MacGregor and Sir Malcolm Colquhoun of Luss were both honored by the organizers of the Games at this event. The food and drink were award winning as was the entertainment for the evening. We were delighted to listen to the music of the Blue Ridge Brass and Montreat Scottish Pipes and Drums with a performance of contemporary music and traditional Celtic tunes. This is an award-winning group having performed at various venues in the United States and Scotland. The second performing group was the Chelsea House Orchestra, a group of young men and women, who play fiddle and drums to produce some of the most happy Celtic music ever. Once again that word "WOW" comes to mind.



*(Continued on page 7)*



## Meet Your New Webmaster!

(Submitted by Randy Walker)



Richard Walker (Member #2869) was born in Virginia and grew up in Texas. Richard served in the United States Navy as a Hospital Corpsman assigned to Bush Naval Hospital, Twenty-Nine Palms, California.

He is a graduate of Grossmont College with a degree in Network Administration-Small Computers & Web Development. While at Grossmont College he was Student Body President and Student Trustee on the Governing Board.

Richard is employed by the U.S. Geological Survey as an Information Systems Specialist. He is the Senior Climate Change Cluster Administrator – NASA/USGS Climate Change Program.



## 2013 Gathering Reminders!

(Submitted by Scott MacGregor)



There are only a few guest rooms remaining in our block so everyone should act quickly to secure their place for the Gathering. The committee continues to work hard at pulling everything together from the opening reception on Thursday, to a memorable adventure of Friday, to the gala banquet on Saturday evening.

Throughout the weekend enjoy a little taste of southern foods and hospitality.

The Gathering letter will be arriving in everyone's mailbox in August. Do not hesitate in getting your registration in.

### 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/travel/ricmw?groupCode=acgacga&app=resvlink&fromDate=10/3/13&toDate=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.

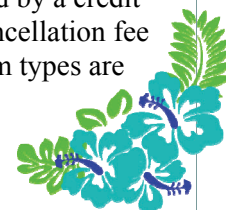
Room Rates: \$99.00 per room, per night and subject to 13% tax.

Cut-off date: September 12, 2013.

Reservations requested AFTER the cut-off date may or may not be available at this rate, based upon availability.

Check-in time is after 3:00 p.m.; check-out is prior to 12:00 noon. All reservations must be guaranteed by a credit card or advance deposit. Cancellations must be received 72 hours prior to the arrival date to avoid a cancellation fee equal to one night's room and tax. All no shows will be billed for the first night's room and tax. \*Room types are based upon availability and can be requested however cannot be guaranteed until check-in.

**See you there!**





## Clan Gregor responds to Scottish Water hydro scheme impacting Loch Katrine

(Submitted by Lois Ann Garlitz)



It was recently brought to our attention by Jan Young, Trossachs Community Councillor, that Scottish Water (who own the loch and the water in it that provides Glasgow with its water supply) intend to use one of the streams (Allt a' Choin) near the historic Clan Gregor cemetery at Portnellan on Loch Katrine to build a hydro-power plant to make electricity.

Jan reports that the construction works will severely spoil this historic and ecologically sensitive area including both noise and intrusion of large lorries and construction workers vans/cars on the single track road during the early mornings and evenings. This will severely impact the area as the road is used widely by cyclists and walkers at all hours of the day.

They have involved their local Minister of Scottish Parliament, who did not know of Scottish Water's intention to build this hydro scheme. The residents are worried that this is the 'thin end of the wedge' and if they get away with this (which has to be THE most sensitive area of the loch with the graveyard being a listed monument), then they will get away with other schemes. The local community are against the site and location of this scheme beside the burial ground.

Any input you wish to make to the planning department of the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park would be more than appreciated.

Please send your complaints and comments to the following email address **as soon as possible**.

• **Catherine Stewart:** (Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park Planning Dept.) [planning@lochlomond-trossachs.org](mailto:planning@lochlomond-trossachs.org)

**The Clan Gregor Society Council (with approval from our Chief, Sir Malcolm) sent in the following letter...**

10 May, 2013

Ms Catherine Stewart  
PLANNING SUPPORT TEAM  
Trossachs Community Council  
c/o Letter House  
Callander,  
Stirlingshire  
FK17 8JA

**Left:** Historic MacGregor Cemetery at Portnellan  
**Right:** The MacGregor graveyard as seen from the borehole site turbine.



Dear Catherine,

After reviewing the applications and the environmental study submitted to the Loch Lomond-Trossachs planning board by Scottish Water on 25 March 2013, we would like to offer the following comments:

In regard to the key landscaping difficulties of placing the Turbine House near Loch Katrine, we found the assurances on location and noise rather optimistic and possibly not realistic. The building, which is not of inconsiderable size, will also involve a raft of related construction including a network of crosspipes which will all need careful landscaping. Indeed the proposed Turbine House must be made more aesthetically appropriate to the area. More could be done to the internal construction of the building in relation to soundproofing using sound absorbing materials.

On 24 April, the question was raised at the only community meeting we are aware of, which was held during working hours, as to why the building could not be placed above the road, e.g. moved further back and away from the water.

The attached picture of the standpipe (proposed site for the turbine) demonstrates just how close the structure would be to the loch itself and to the historically important MacGregor graveyard. The question remains, why this site?

Having enjoyed visits to Loch Katrine on several occasions, we feel this issue raises serious questions concerning:

1. the significant impact on tourism, notably to Glengyle House and Steadings (which are listed buildings) and to Loch Katrine itself
2. the impact of heavy vehicles (HGV's) on the road itself, including questions about noise decibels generated both by the vehicles and the plant itself
3. the impact on aesthetics in this pristine area of Scotland with regard to the nearby MacGregor graveyard (also listed) and the scenery of the north shore.
4. the issue of weight limits on bridges and the possible negative interactions on the road between HGV's and coaches especially during the construction phase

Some key decisions have certainly not been made with full regard to the above.

Further key environmental constraints arise under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, which prohibits interference with nest building by indigenous wildlife during construction. Otters in the burn would surely be affected by blasting activity and construction.

Finally, the archaeology report appears to be simply a field walkover study and desk based assessment. As researchers who have assisted with archaeological investigations in Scotland, we believe there will likely be archaeological evidence in the ground at this key point in the Loch Katrine area.

We hope the team will grant adequate time to come to a fully-informed decision and thank you for considering the request to move the deadline for response back to 14 May so that other interested parties from our constituency can respond.

We have attached a copy of this letter in .pdf so that it may be distributed as you see fit. A photo is also attached.

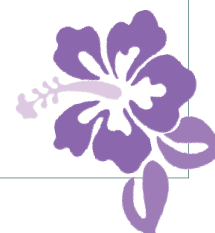
Yours truly,

Mr. Keith MacGregor

United States Representative to the Clan Gregor Society of Scotland

Prof. Richard McGregor

Chairman of the Clan Gregor Society of Scotland







# “Crossing Over”



Carol Lee Spitznagle, age 67, died on Monday May 27, 2013

Born July 4, 1945 in Detroit, Michigan, to Robert and Jean MacGregor, she attended University of Alabama's Nursing School where she met and married Fred Spitznagle on August 29, 1966. They later had two children, Chris and Erica.

Carol and Fred moved to South Florida and Carol finished her nursing degree at Boward Community College in 1967. She then began working part-time at Boward General Hospital on the Labor and Delivery floor until she moved to a full time position in Pediatrics. Carol was an Assistant Nurse Manager for over twenty years. In 1990, Carol began working for Boward Community College as a Clinical Instructor. Carol retired in 2007 and immediately began working part-time in the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Department.

Carol was a member of the American Clan Gregor Society and a leader in south Florida. Carol's greatest passions were education and travel. Carol continued her education and received her Master's Degree in Nursing and a Master's Degree in



Anthropology from Florida Atlantic University. Carol has traveled to over 20 different countries and

was always ready to plan her next trip with family or friends. Carol was an amazing Mother, Grandmother, Nurse, Instructor and friend. She was loved by all who met her and touched so many people throughout her life.

Memories from Don and Audrey Gregg, ACGS members, written May 31, 2013 “Quite simply, Carol Lee MacGregor Spitznagle was a wonderful person, the kind that the world would be paradise if there were more, the kind of person who asked little and gave much, a person you would want in your immediate family and after whom you would name your children, someone who would engender love and pride in the hearts of her clanswomen and clansmen. Carol exhibited courage that was inspirational, and reminded us of our proud heritage “MacGregor, despite them”.



## Grandfather Games Con't...



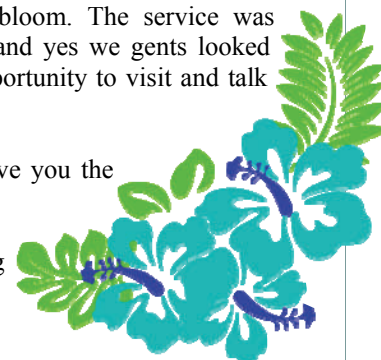
*(Continued from page 4)*

The Games continued on Saturday with a very large crowd in attendance and many, many visitors to the ACGS Clan Tent. I had the opportunity to walk the entire games area and take in all of the 100 plus Clan Society and Scottish Organizations who were there, nibble a bit at one of the many food vendors and do some shopping among the many, many, vendors who were selling their wares.

Saturday evening Thad provided a real treat to several of us with a wonderful dinner at a beautiful old Southern Lodge. It was like stepping back in time. Southern hospitality was in full bloom. The service was outstanding, the menu extensive, with a fine wine list, the ladies were beautiful and yes we gents looked pretty good ourselves. I think I am safe in saying that the highlight of the evening was an opportunity to visit and talk with Sir Malcolm over coffee, desert, and a few drinks after the meal.

Teresa and I had to head back to Texas early Sunday morning so someone else will have to give you the report for that day.

In closing...Thad...thank you so much for providing a wonderful experience for those of us making our first visit to Grandfather Mountain. It will remain in our “fond memory bank” forever.





ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

440 Willoughby Bay  
Norfolk, VA 23503-1243

THE AMERICAN CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER OF  
"ARDCHOILLE"  
SCOTT MACGREGOR



## Scotland Towns Word Search



Q J T Q B E N E H B W P Q I C N L A O S  
O B M A P A F P C I I G N I L R I T S K  
F M P O I R L O H L N V R K B F D V G W  
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ABERDEEN  
BALQUHIDDER  
DUMFRIES  
DUNDEE  
EDINBURGH  
ERSKINE  
FIFE  
FLAKIRK  
GLASGOW  
GLENGLYLE  
HAMILTON  
INVERNESS  
PAISLEY  
PERTH  
STIRLING

