



# Ardchoille

Newsletter of the American Clan Gregor Society



Volume XX, Issue I

Spring 2014



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## Newsletter Editor

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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 Across The Pond (Submitted by Sir Malcolm MacGregor)

Dear members of ACGS,  
The below survey about the future of any ICG (International Clan Gathering) in Scotland is on the link below. I had some input it. Overall it has been well constructed by COSCA. (Council of Scottish Clans and Associations, of which ACGS is a member.)



The aim of the survey is to understand better what the feeling is about the future of any ICG; also, when and where. The more people who complete the survey - the better.  
I must stress that there is no plan to hold an ICG in Scotland in the future at the moment. But if there is demand for such an event then work might begin, but probably not before 2015.

With best wishes,  
Malcolm

Press release...

Greetings. A gathering is a cultural event for the Scottish community. It facilitates the celebration of the Scottish culture, intermingling of clans and families, and a medium for historic and cultural education. The Council of Scottish Clans and Associations (COSCA) together with its global affiliates and associates are conducting a fact-finding exercise to discover the interest in a future gathering of the international Scottish community to be held in Scotland. This survey is an information gathering document only and does not constitute a formal plan at the present time. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/COSCA-ICG>

Thank you in advance for your time and thoughts. If you have questions or comments outside of the survey please send via email to [ICG@COSCA.net](mailto:ICG@COSCA.net). #ICG





## From The Desk Of The Chieftain

(Submitted by Lois Ann Garlitz)



This Spring issue of the Ardchoille will be the last printed copy mailed to the doorstep of active members. Unless a member notifies Keith Gregg, Assistant Chieftain, to continue a printed, mailed copy, the default is to read it on our website [www.acgsus.org](http://www.acgsus.org), under the tab "About Us". Those persons with an interest can print out their own copy, saving an expense to our Operating Fund which might be used for another service we provide. The Opt-in/ Opt-Out form can be found in the back of the newsletter. Please send your preference to our business manager, Assistant Chieftain Keith Gregg, 12578 Rasbeck Road, Wolcott, NY 14590-9749. [greggclan@hotmail.com](mailto:greggclan@hotmail.com). Yearbooks will continue to be printed and mailed to active members.

Higher education scholarships will be available this spring, but through the Trustees' Charity and Education funds; not Blunt scholarships, until Bylaws get sorted out at the next Gathering. James Woolley is chairman of the Trustees this year.

Best wishes for your summer



## A bit of Prose/Poetry

(Submitted by Ron Shankland)



We come from a long way down the trail. The McGregors go back many moons.  
We are lucky to have the strength of the Clan McGregors and fit into life's globe.  
Other Clans have gone by the wayside and do not live to see themselves in the mirror.  
Now the common trait is the Y chromosome of the male line. The female can borrow a sample from an immediate male cousin. This leads back many generations to give a picture of one's family tree.  
A second trait that belongs to both sexes is the need for food to live.  
We all have to take care of bodies and nourish them well which the McGregors have down.  
Royal is my race and the McGregors will live forever, despite them who have wished to do away with them.  
Venison is meat that the McGregors have sought. My Dad had this trait gluttoned to his mind.  
The love was present from the McGregors fore fathers.

I have written a poem about my Dad that illustrates the above feelings.



### An Old Deer Slayer: Possession of a McGregor Hunting Trait by R.L. Shankland.

**Harold O. Shankland comes from the Robert Shankland of the Michigan Family Tree.**

**He had persistence from his Scottish McGregor Traits.**

**He was one of seven children and being the youngest one.**

**He had an only son by the name of Ronald Lee Shankland, member of the American Clan Gregor Society.**

**Sports were kind to Harold with Football and Golf of his liking.**

**He kicked a football into the silo of the family barn and played at Ann Arbor HS and Ferris Institute University.**

**He enjoyed golf in his retirement years and once had a hole in one.**

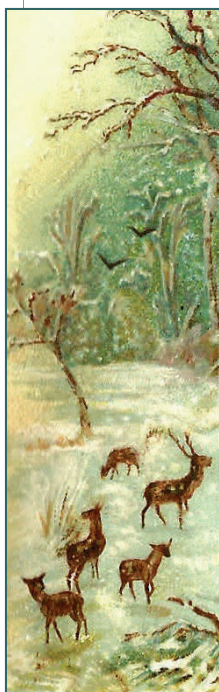
**He graduated with a BS degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Michigan.**

**His life time work was electrical power substation design at Consumers Power Company.**

**No computers were used in work; only the slide rule was the choice.**

**His other passion was deer hunting every season of every year thru his life time.**

**The Shankland Legend of being from the McGregor Clan came to fruition during his lifetime.**





## MACGREGOR THE MUSICAL

(Submitted by Howard R. Grossnickle)

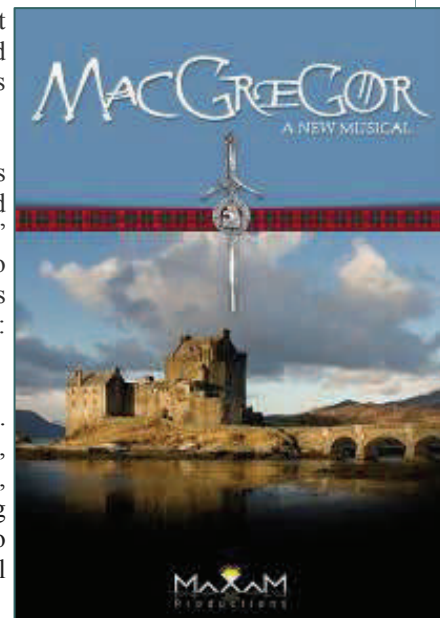


"MacGregor" is a musical set in seventeenth century Scotland set to open at the Music Box in Minneapolis in Spring 2015. "MacGregor" is the story of a proud and historic people caught in the throes of political change. The musical follows the clan's fight for justice and ultimately survival and its leader Alaisdair MacGregor's quest to preserve and re-define his and their identity.

"It was enacted that no man, under pain of death, might call himself MacGregor, nor his children and his children's children unborn. If he did so use that name he could be killed like a beast at the wayside, with all his lands and possessions forfeit to his killer." This page of Scottish history reminds us of the story of all peoples of every nation who have suffered persecution and social injustice, who have asserted the right to say: "This is who I am and this is where I belong." It is an ancient story with a strikingly modern theme: "Identity".

In 1992, Max Bartoli and Gianluca Cucchiara decided to write and produce "MacGregor". Today, 22 years, 2 readings, 2 showcases, 2 workshops and 4 concept-albums later, through the unstinting efforts and combined dedication of so many artists, musicians, directors and producers Nancy Bracken Garson, Peter A. Teale, and Paul Savident along with Emanuele Friello (Co-Composer), Andrew Whelan (Book & Lyrics), Dori Salerno & Nanci Hunter (Original Book) and director Thomas deMallet Burgess with special thanks to Dennis Babcock, the show will open in 2015.

<https://www.facebook.com/macgregoranewmusical>



## Burns Supper

(Submitted by Jean (MacGregor) Simon)



In Huntsville AL we celebrated our annual Burns Night Supper on Saturday, Jan 25, 2014 at Elks Lodge #1648, 725 Franklin St., Huntsville, from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. It was really quite a successful Scottish gathering, in part because we, of the Tennessee Valley Scottish Society (TVSS), hired two bands for this very occasion, to increase our attendance. We listened joyfully to the Maple Hill band which included eight members of its band, and later in the evening, the smaller Sullivans band, one of whose members played several

instruments, including the gorgeous and upscale harp! Every family or individual attending contributed at least one dish for our dinner; We also had an auction of Scottish goods donated for this fund raiser. The goods included a great deal of Scotch whiskey, generously donated by a fellow member of our TVSS Board. He purchased this whiskey during his latest trip to Scotland, which made the bottles all the more desirable. Our large crowd was enhanced by several groups, our hosts the Elks, also a local Masonic Lodge, TVSS members and friends, and those there just to hear the bands.

Another segment of our entertainment for the evening was the very talented, military active duty Canadian Army piper, stationed here in Huntsville AL at our American Redstone Army base. His piping is always first rate, both in his selection of material and in his excellent skill. He plays very difficult selections and at great speed at great length, when called for. Originally from Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Canada, his name is Major Allan J. MacKenzie,

"Bagpiper for Any Occasion, Celebrations, Ceremonies, Ceilidhs, Lessons for Youth and Adult" per his business card. He may be reached at [mackenzieaj1@gmail.com](mailto:mackenzieaj1@gmail.com) If preferred, please contact me for his telephone numbers listed on his business card.

My husband, Jack Simon, and I represented our beloved MacGregor clan at this function, as well as by two dear friends who attended our American Clan Gregor Society gathering in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where that gathering was held just a few years ago.





## Loch Katrine Update!

(Submitted by Keith MacGregor)



GOOD NEWS from Loch Katrine, Perthshire!

The following communication has been issued by Scottish Water indicating their decision to WITHDRAW from the proposed hydro-electric project at Portnellan. Special thanks go out to Jan & Gordon Young and our friends in the glen, allied groups around Loch Katrine, and MacGregors worldwide who responded to the call to action. For a number of years we have stood against the various enterprising schemes that threaten Rob Roy's birthplace, our monuments and the natural beauty of this place, and we will continue to stand firm - despite them! Here's the statement:

"Hydro Scheme - Loch Katrine

I would like to update the Community Council regarding the hydro schemes at Loch Katrine.

Scottish Water had planned to lodge further planning documents with the National Park Planning office in the New Year. We have also had on-going discussions with SSE regarding possible issues with the schemes. I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the latest information regarding this.

SSE have been unable to confirm that the schemes would be able to generate by the dates previously indicated. It would appear there are constraints which are unable to be overcome within a reasonable period. Unfortunately, in view of this, Scottish Water has had, for the foreseeable future, to withdraw plans to construct the two Loch Katrine schemes, namely the Allt a Choin and Arklet Transfer projects.

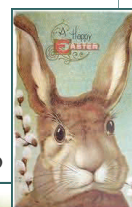
The fact that this decision has had to be taken at this stage is very disappointing for Scottish Water as the projects were to contribute to our renewable programme. If the connection issues could be resolved then Scottish Water would consider taking forward proposals. All avenues to progress these projects were discussed with SSE but it would appear that, despite planning for new local infrastructure, the schemes would not be able to generate upon completion.

Scottish Water would like to thank the community for their interest and patience when considering the projects and for the time given to us at your Community Council meetings.

Kind Regards,  
Jane McKenzie  
Regional Communities Team Manager  
Corporate Communications

Our first article on this story was in the Summer 2013 Ardchoille:  
"Clan Gregor responds to Scottish Water hydroscheme impacting Loch Katrine"

To enjoy the beautiful scenery here in MacGregor lands, enjoy this Youtube video...  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DdIcoh4C2Sk> Children of the Mist...Loch Katrine...Scotland



## Electronic Newsletters!

(Submitted by Lois Ann Garllitz)



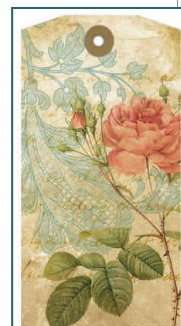
### Electronic newsletters are coming!

In an effort to streamline our communication to members, and be thrifty with our General Fund, an eArdchoille is coming to the inbox of your email provider and/or our website soon. This Winter/December 2013 issue of our newsletter is planned to be the final issue which will be mailed to all our active members.

Here is how this will occur. As soon as you read this news, members with email addresses should consult the June 2013 Membership directory to assure we have your correct email address – and take a look at your phone number too while you are at it. If a correction needs to be made, contact the new Assistant Chieftain, Keith D. Gregg. You will have another opportunity to alert us about an address correction when the dues notices come out in January. At that time you will be asked if you choose to opt-out of e-newsletters because you either do not have an email address or access to the internet (perhaps when a grandchild visits or at your local library). A reminder will be found in the Spring 2014 newsletter.

You may also clip or copy this section on page 7 and mail it to:

Keith D. Gregg, Assistant Chieftain  
12578 Rasbeck Road, Wolcott, NY 14590-9749  
[greggclan@hotmail.com](mailto:greggclan@hotmail.com)





## DNA Project Update!

(Submitted by Richard McGregor)



DNA news from Richard McGregor, administrator of our MacGregor DNA Project...

Hello everyone - we are getting first results from BritainsDNA SNP testing and it's looking promising. If you are a male MacGregor or a female related to a male MacGregor who could do the test on your behalf - especially if you are already in the FTDNA project you might like to consider doing BritainsDNA Chromo2 YDNA test. You can get Raw Scores only or add an interpretation for a few more dollars. If you do get this test can you please copy the Raw Scores to me on my personal email (richardmcgregor1ATyahoo.co.uk - substitute @ for AT) as the company don't have a group administrator function. I will put them together. I suggest that anyone in the Ian Cam group might be interested in this now, others once we can build up a bigger database, but I will let you know when.

At the moment we are working with Ian Cam group of people called MacGregor or who have an alias proved by previous DNA testing to be in that group. We currently don't have enough data to work with other clan names from other groups but if you are interested in having it done don't let that stop you as it will all feed in eventually. There aren't any clan discounts.

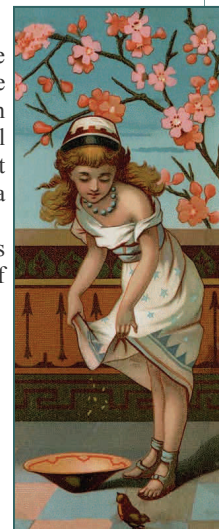
A book to read more about DNA was listed among the "Summer Reading List" in last summer's Ardchoille...

**The Scots - A Genetic Journey** by Alistair Moffat and James F. Wilson. MacGregor's are mentioned on page 193.

Richard McGregor on the radio...

Hi everyone, I was interviewed by Radio New Zealand on the Scottish Independence debate:

[http://podcast.radionz.co.nz/sun/sun-20140209-1010-richard\\_mcgregor-048.mp3](http://podcast.radionz.co.nz/sun/sun-20140209-1010-richard_mcgregor-048.mp3)



## The ACGS 2014 Gathering!

(Submitted by Keith Gregg)



MacGregors Gather in St. Louis for AGM in Nov 2014

The dates and location of the ACGS Gathering are set. The gathering will be from the 6th to 8th of November 2014 in St. Louis, MO. The 2014 Gathering Committee consists of Jeanne Lehr and Maggie Sanderfield. More help is always appreciated if you feel inclined to pitch in. They are finalizing the hotel arrangements and activities. Once they are final our gathering notice will go out.

There will be a new agenda item to this year's gathering. An additional Council meeting will be conducted from 2PM through 5PM on Thursday. This is to allow more free time for Council members to socialize with friends and family. An added bonus should be members will not be so rushed to attend the bus tour Friday.

The Meet and Greet Chieftain's Reception will follow. We will be serving St. Louis heavy appetizers (Local Fare) to include several unique items such as gooey butter cakes, fried ravioli and mini hot dogs. All of these appetizers are St. Louis originals. They are in celebration of the area's history and the 1904 World's Fair.

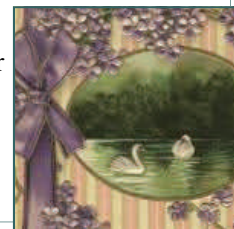
Friday will start with the ACGS Council meeting to finish the society's business. Following will be the bus tour. Under consideration are a tour of the 1904 World's Fair grounds and remaining attractions. The traditional stop at the church is to remember ACGS members who have passed away recently and wreath service at the Burns statue, including the pipes. Also, there is a possible tour of the Cathedral Basilica with its stunning mosaics and potentially a VIP tour of the Budweiser factory. Friday evening will be the ceilidh. Several local performers and bands are being contacted for our musical entertainment. The ceilidh will be the traditional one we have all come to enjoy with music and dancing on the dance floor. A cash bar service will be available for refreshments.

Saturday will be the Business Meeting followed by lunch at the hotel and pipe band concert. The banquet is in the evening. A cash bar service will be available for refreshments before and during the latter part of the banquet.

The hotels under consideration have airport shuttles that are free of charge, approximately 20 minutes of driving. Additionally they will conduct you to local shops and restaurants free of charge within a 5 mile radius of the hotel if they are available.

During off shuttle hours, if you arrive after 9PM and before 6AM, there is Chesterfield Taxi and Luxury Car Service. The phone number is [314-738-0100](tel:314-738-0100) and their service is less expensive than a regular Taxi for airport trips, approximately \$22.00 one way.

Hold the dates, 6 to 8 November 2014. We hope to see you there.







## Calling All Scholars!

(Submitted by Maggie Sanderfield)



### Now is the time to get your application in for a scholarship.

Educational assistance is available in 2014 for lineal descendants of MacGregors (including adopted descendants) and their widows and widowers. Membership in the ACGS is not required. Educational assistance is awarded from the income of the Charity and Education Fund as determined by the Board of Trustees.

Educational assistance is available for undergraduate or graduate, college or university studies, as well as recognized trade/professional schools.

Recipients are required to furnish the Trustees evidence of registration, attendance and a satisfactory level of achievement at the school designated on the application at the conclusion of each term.



Application Due Date:

**Postmarked by June 1, 2014**

(Applications post marked later than the due date will not be considered.)

Applications on line at:

<http://www.acgsus.org/scholarship-application/>

Mail completed application & attachments to:

**Henry A. Stone, Trustee,**

**P.O. Box 323, Harrisville, Michigan 48740**



For questions please contact : [jwool34933@att.net](mailto:jwool34933@att.net) or Jim Woolley  
3617 Mallard Cove Court, Charlotte, NC 28269, phone: 704-599-9881



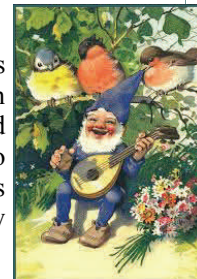
## Scots/Irish Heritage Month

(Submitted by Peter Gregg)



Last quarter we were informed about National Tartan Day, April 6<sup>th</sup> each year, and how it became officially recognized by Presidential Proclamation. This article is about National Scots/Scots-Irish Heritage Month (April) in the United States and why this is important to all of Scots Irish descent.

My family line has been living in the United States since 1682 when William Gregg, a Quaker, moved with his family from County Antrim in Ireland. Many believed this to be a part of Scotland because it was a Scottish settlement. Depending on the book used for research, County Antrim is mentioned as being both in Scotland and Ireland, but it is on the island known as Eire. Around 1618, John (or James) MacGregor relocated with his family to Ireland and changed their name to Gregg. This is assumed to be a result of the proscription imposed by King James VI in 1603. After living in Ireland for about 64 years, my Gregg ancestors left County Antrim and sailed to the new world.



William Gregg, my 8<sup>th</sup> Great Grandfather, was given a 500 acre land grant by William Penn in the Brandywine Hundred, a part of what is now New Castle County, Delaware. This land is a part of the historic DuPont Estate and is the home the Hagley Museum.

The Scots – Scots/Irish presence helped to shape this country of ours. In Delaware alone, our first Governor, John McKinly was known to be an Ulster Scott. He was elected as the President of Delaware by the Delaware General Assembly. He was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. He was a President of the United States under the Articles of Confederation. After being arrested by the British during the revolution, he was replaced as Governor by another Scots/Irishman, Thomas McKean, who served until his appointment as the Chief Justice of Pennsylvania.

Other Scots/Irish account for many historical moments in our history. Their accomplishments are inferred by the mention of their names alone. Included are 14 Presidents and 17 Governors. Also included are Neil Armstrong, Kit Carson, Bill Gates, James Stewart, John Wayne and Jonathan Winters.

Accomplishments of some descendants of William Gregg include Josiah Gregg – Merchant, explorer and naturalist, was a member of the cross country expedition which fixed the location of Humbolt Bay in California, and my own Great Grandfather, William Cephas Gregg who is credited by the National Parks Service with the idea to name Skyline Drive in Virginia. He also explored Yellowstone Park where there is an area known as Gregg Fork.



AS you can see, we of Scots-Scots/Irish descent have much to be proud of. This is why I request a proclamation from my Governor each year urging all residents of the First State to celebrate the accomplishments of the Scots-Irish and I urge you all to do the same.

If you want more information on this important observance, I refer you to <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/articles/nscotsmonth.htm>

Member name \_\_\_\_\_ ACGS# \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Do not have access to email . Please continue to snail mail my newsletter to this address

☐ Remarks \_\_\_\_\_





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## Holiday Greetings

