



# Ardchoille

Newsletter of the American Clan Gregor Society



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<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)

MacGregors from around the world gathered together at Stirling University in Scotland July 10-21, 2014. Representatives from different geographic areas gave brief reports to the Clan Gregor Society Council at their AGM. They were from South Africa, the Philippines, Canada, France, Germany, United States, England, Jamaica, Australia, New Zealand, and Scotland. Attendees had learned of the event through their memberships in Clan Gregor Society Scotland, CGS Chapters outside of Scotland, American Clan Gregor Society, the internet, plus friends and family.



Most of us stayed in student housing on the university campus, while others with cars had chosen to stay in local B&B's. Every morning we were up early to walk along a peaceful woodland path to a student cafeteria half a mile away, where a fine Scottish breakfast awaited us. Packed lunches arrived shortly before we climbed on our four designated buses and off we went for the day.



Our organizers, the hard-working Council members of CGS, took us every day to locations where MacGregors had lived, explaining our history there as we traveled along. Tours took us to the Wallace Monument, Stirling Castle, Fortingall where the world's oldest yew tree can be seen, Falkland Palace which Rob Roy visited once, a day in Edinburgh where some took a side trip to Rosslyn Chapel, to Aberdeen and St. Andrews with a view of the golf course, and the new hi-tech visitors center at Bannockburn which is celebrating its 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that battle. Robert the Bruce and his Scottish soldiers sent the English army of Edward II packing back south which led to Scotland's independence. Many charming villages were passed through as we continued to some of the above mentioned locations. Our bus drivers were amazing as they negotiated those often narrow Scottish back roads, occasionally slowing to a creeping speed as they passed farm and other larger vehicles going in the opposite direction.



To quote my friend Carolyn MacGregor Esposito from the Philippines - "At Stirling Castle, we were pleasantly surprised with a professionally done open-air re-enactment of the events and circumstances that led to the proscription of the MacGregors. The three witches were reminiscent of the same characters in the opening scene of Macbeth. In the early 1600s no one was allowed to carry the name 'Macgregor' under the



(Continued on page 2)



## From the Desk Con't...



penalty of death.”

Sir Malcolm and Lady MacGregor welcomed us at a “meet and greet” event the first evening we arrived, on July 10, as well as joining us at the fabulous formal banquet in Crieff, in a huge room decorated reminiscent of a MacGregor senior prom, with sparkly tiny white lights against a black background and tables inviting us with lit candelabras, crystal and china, plus an elegant meal. Our special guests at the banquet were Carole and James McGregor, parents of Ewan and Colin McGregor (yes – that Ewan), whose home is in Crieff.



While our breakfasts were cafeteria style and lunches (a big variety of tasty sandwiches, cake, a drink and fruit) were in a sack to carry with us on the coaches, evening meals were often sumptuous.

Peter Lawrie, our fabulously knowledgeable historian, has shared his tour notes at this web address...

[http://www.clangregor.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/CGS\\_Gathering\\_2014\\_tour-notes\\_by-Peter-Lawrie.pdf](http://www.clangregor.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/CGS_Gathering_2014_tour-notes_by-Peter-Lawrie.pdf)

If you happen to be on Facebook and not already “liked” this site, go to <https://www.facebook.com/ClanGregorSociety?ref=hl> for recent postings about the International Gathering, just over.



## Professor A.A. McGregor (Submitted by Stuart W. McGregor)



Professor Albert Alexander (A.A.) McGregor, Lawrence County, Alabama, 1835-1907

Albert Alexander (A.A.) McGregor was born to William McGregor, a native of North Carolina and son of a Scottish immigrant, and Elizabeth Carpenter McGregor, a native of Tennessee and daughter of William Carpenter, a veteran of the War of 1812.

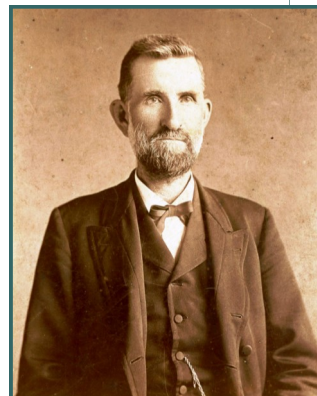
William McGregor moved from Wake County, North Carolina to the vicinity of Town Creek, in the Tennessee River Valley in Lawrence County, Alabama, in 1825, where he operated a working farm, and where A.A. was born on March 1, 1835. A.A. was reared in a farming family but was also given a literary education in the local public school. He proved a fine student and, in 1849, entered LaGrange College in nearby Franklin (later Colbert) County. LaGrange College, named for the home of the distinguished Frenchman and friend of America, the Marquis de Lafayette, and located on an outlier of the Cumberland Plateau rising some 400 feet over the Tennessee Valley about four miles south of Leighton, was the first state chartered institution of higher learning in Alabama when the Tennessee and Mississippi conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church opened its doors in 1830. It drew its administrative staff and faculty from numerous respected colleges and universities, such as Randolph-Macon College, the University of Virginia, and Yale University. Its graduates included two governors of Alabama and a U.S. Senator, as well as a cadre of successful businessmen, educators, jurists, physicians, writers, etc.

A.A. graduated with distinction in 1854 and in 1854-55 taught at the school in Town Creek where he received his basic education. In 1855 he was appointed Professor of Mathematics at LaGrange College. A steadily declining financial state affected the college following the Panic of 1837, and the original LaGrange College closed its doors in 1855 and subsequently

moved to nearby Florence, Alabama, reopening as Florence Wesleyan College, which evolved into the University of North Alabama. An attempt to continue a literary college at LaGrange failed in 1857 and it reopened in 1858 as LaGrange College and Military Academy, and in 1860 became known as LaGrange Military Academy. A.A. McGregor remained in his position as Professor of Mathematics through the various iterations of the school until March 1862, when school was suspended due to the outbreak of the Civil War and the approach of Union forces. It was burned along with many homes and businesses on the mountain and in the nearby valley by the 7th Kansas Cavalry on April 28, 1863.

In October 1862 Professor McGregor enlisted in the Confederate Army and served with distinction throughout the war. His initial assignment was as a Private under the command of Captain (later Brigadier General) Phillip D. Roddy. He later joined Colonel Jeff Forest's regiment, under the direct command of Captain W.R. Julian of nearby Tusculumbia, Alabama. Under Julian's command he was appointed and commissioned as Captain and Assistant Regimental Quartermaster, likely due to the advantage of his education, on June 1, 1863. Forest was subsequently killed in

Okolona, Mississippi, and the troops from Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee under his command were reassigned. Captain McGregor returned to General Roddy's command, in William A. Johnson's Brigade, Phillip D. Roddy's Division, Forrest's 4<sup>th</sup> Alabama Cavalry, which, along with other companies, became the 11<sup>th</sup> Alabama Cavalry, or Burwell's Regiment, on January 27, 1865. Captain McGregor served as Quartermaster of this regiment until the end of the war. While A.A. survived the war unscathed, one brother was killed and another wounded at the bloody Battle of Franklin, near Nashville, Tennessee.







## Professor Con't...



When the war ended in 1865 Captain McGregor returned to farming at his home near Town Creek. He continued farming until 1870, when his reputation as an educator and desire to enlighten compelled him to move to LaGrange and open a private school. He operated that school until the fall of 1875, when he assumed leadership of the Male Academy in Tuscumbia. However, his health was failing and after one year, and under the advice of his physician, he left that position and returned to Town Creek to continue farming and recuperate.

He subsequently returned to good health and taught again for some months at Town Creek before being elected President of the Male and Female College in Hartselle, near Decatur, Morgan County, Alabama. He remained in that position from February 1885 until June 1888, when, upon the recommendation of his friend Professor John C. Stephenson, he accepted the position of Superintendent of the Waco, Texas, Public Schools. He held that position for one year before returning to Town Creek. In the fall of 1889 he took charge of the school at Town Creek, where he taught until the fall of 1894, when he moved to the Leighton Male and Female Academy and taught for three months, ending his long and illustrious teaching career there. In addition to the rigors of his farming, teaching, and military life, Professor McGregor married twice and raised a houseful of successful children. On December 23, 1858 he married Celia King, eldest child of Robert King, a wealthy planter from Leighton, and his wife Margaret. The careers of their children, grandchildren, and their respective spouses included lawyers, doctors, and educators. One son, Edward, their youngest, was lost at the age of 14. Celia died in 1900 and, on February 13, 1902, A.A. married Harriet C. 'Happy' Cooper, youngest daughter of the distinguished lawyer L.B. Cooper, of Tuscumbia. After his death on March 11, 1907, Professor McGregor was laid to rest in King Cemetery on King Bridge Road near Leighton, alongside his first wife.

Professor McGregor was also a popular lecturer, and in retirement was a featured speaker at the Lawrence County Teachers Institute and Florence Wesleyan College. He is also credited with writing a short history of his beloved Alma Mater, titled "The History of LaGrange College and Military Academy."

My McGregor family apparently shares numerous similarities with that of Professor McGregor's, but there are no known connections between the two families. My ancestor, also named William McGregor (a.k.a. 'Old Scotch Preacher' McGregor) is believed to be a native of Perth, Scotland, who emigrated to the U.S. about 1773 and moved around North Carolina, serving in various meeting houses. Several of his sons, including my great-great-great-great grandfather, Ezekial, moved to Warren County, Tennessee, about 1805 and settled on McGregor Creek in McGregor Bend of the Collins River. Ezekial's son Wylie owned land in Warren County in 1845 but was in Limestone County, Alabama, in 1860, where his son Mac Bruce McGregor was born the following year. Mac Bruce moved to the Wolf Springs community in Lawrence County, about 10 miles south of Town Creek, where my grandfather, Lawrence W. "Walt" McGregor, was born in 1888, and my father, L.W. "Skeets" McGregor, was born in 1928. While my family, like Professor McGregor's, were farmers, my family never owned land and were sharecroppers. After four years in the U.S. Army my father attended Florence State Teachers College (later the University of North Alabama) on the G.I. Bill and worked for the Tennessee Valley Authority and the Morton Thiokol Corporation, and now resides in Florence, Alabama. My thanks go to Scott McGregor, of California, a descendent of A.A. McGregor, and to Leighton resident Bill King, of Celia King's family, for providing copies of documents and the photographs from which I drew information for this article. Information about LaGrange College is from the book "Beginnings of the University of North Alabama: the Story of Florence Wesleyan University", by William Lindsey McDonald.



## ACGS Merchandise!

(Submitted by Peter Gregg)



### Merchandise at the St. Louis Gathering

Once again, Peter Gregg, our Merchandise Chairman will be bringing a variety of MacGregor items to the Gathering in St. Louis, including the popular dark green polo shirts he was selling last year in Richmond. If you have a specific item in mind, please contact Peter at [ArdChoille1@aol.com](mailto:ArdChoille1@aol.com)

The collecting of items for a silent auction has begun. If you have items to donate, please ship them directly to Jeanne Lehr, our Registrar who is the local Gathering Chairman. Jeanne has asked that you ship your items to her address: 11 Ballas Court, St. Louis, MO 63131-3038.

She has also asked that items be shipped to arrive between 17-31 October if you could. Would you send her a copy of your shipping document (email a scanned copy is fine), which should tell her when the item was shipped and by which carrier; also include tracking numbers to assure their safe arrival. Her email is [jeannelehr@reagan.com](mailto:jeannelehr@reagan.com)





## Your Society Needs You!

(Submitted by Randy Walker, SDC)



### Urgent Need For State Deputy Chieftains

The State Deputy Chieftains continue to serve the American Clan Gregor Society in a manner that is above and beyond the call of duty. They represent the ACGS and Clan Gregor in an outstanding fashion. Some twenty-five percent of new members are the result of the efforts of State Deputy Chieftains talking with visitors at the ACGS Clan Tent during Highland Game events or other Scottish Heritage celebrations.

At the same time advancing age and various illnesses have taken a toll on our State Deputy Chieftains. At the present time we have a need for State Deputies in the following areas:

- |                                  |                  |                       |
|----------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Arizona                       | 6. Maryland      | 11. Oregon            |
| 2. Northern California           | 7. Mississippi   | 12. Western Tennessee |
| 3. Northern and Southern Florida | 8. Montana       | 13. Northern Texas    |
| 4. Illinois                      | 9. New Hampshire | 14. Washington        |
| 5. Iowa                          | 10. New Jersey   | 15. Wisconsin         |

The State Deputies are expected to represent the ACGS during at least one Highland Game held in their area of responsibility. They are also asked to notify the web master of the various events they will be participating in at least ten days prior to the event so he can post that information on the ACGS Website, and to provide a short report to the Ranking Deputy Chieftain after the event has been completed. Prior to the Annual Gathering of the ACGS, the State Deputies are asked to provide a Years End Report that can be published in the Year Book of the Society. This Year End Report goes to the Ranking Deputy Chieftain for review, who will then forward the report to the Year Book Editor.



There is reimbursement from the Society for the fees charged by the various Highland Game Organizations in order to set up a clan tent and participate.

At our annual gathering this year in St. Louis you will see a SDC Recruiting Station that will be staffed by men and women who are currently serving as State Deputy Chieftains. They will be prepared to answer any questions you may have about what a State Deputy Chieftain does and how they do it.

On behalf of the Society I am encouraging everyone who attends the Annual Gathering to stop by the "Recruiting Station" and at least ask some questions and to please consider stepping forward to fill a SDC vacancy. If you are unable to attend the Gathering and would be interested in exploring service to the Society as a State Deputy Chieftain let our Chieftain know that you might be available. The ACGS really does Need You. "MacGregor, despite them, shall flourish forever"



## ACGS Bylaws

(Submitted by Jane Montmeny, ACGS Scribe)



### 2014 Proposed changes to the ACGS 2011 Bylaws

Just a bit of background: At the ACGS Annual Gathering in 2012 in Tampa FL, a Bylaws Committee was created by the Council to review the 2011 ACGS Bylaws and changes that had been suggested. The Committee put work into their task and brought a partial update to the annual Council meeting in 2013 in Richmond, VA. Since then, the Committee completed their review and submitted their proposed document to the Council in early July and Council has made recommendations that now are to be considered by ACGS membership.

The task for the members: It is your responsibility to review and become acquainted with the proposed document from the Bylaws Committee and the recommendations from Council. Those who can attend the ACGS annual Gathering in St. Louis November 6-8<sup>th</sup> will participate in voting on the proposed document and recommendations.

Location of the document and recommendations: Please log onto the ACGS web site at <http://www.acgsus.org/> and click on the link titled "Council". You will find "2014 Proposal from ACGS Bylaws Committee" plus "2014 Council Bylaws Recommendations." The document from the Committee is a spreadsheet that compares the 2011 Bylaws with the 2014 proposed Bylaws; the Council recommendations are a word document. You may read them from there and print your own copies, if you wish. If you do not have access to a computer, you may request a hard copy by contacting the Scribe, Jane Montmeny at [jane6165@msn.com](mailto:jane6165@msn.com) or by calling 720-870-2468.





## 2014 Grandfather Mountain Highland Games (Submitted by Elizabeth Magruder Joiner)



Ian Dalton,  
2nd place-Jr. Caber Toss,  
3rd place-Highland Wrestling  
Mason Dalton,  
3rd place-Jr. Caber Toss

The 2013 Grandfather Mountain Highland Games were wet, wet, wet. The four-day event was reduced to about two, with the final day shutting down about six hours early due to the monsoon battering the mountain and everything on it. With a strong contingent of Gregors from across the country, as well as our own Sir Malcolm in attendance, those of us who take such pride in these games were sorely disappointed in Mother Nature for the timing of her outburst.

Fast forward one year...the 2014 Grandfather Mountain Highland Games were a glorious event! Those of you who made your one and only trek to the high country of North Carolina in 2013 will have to take our word for it that the weather for these games was all we could have hoped for! Cool enough for a sweater for most of the days and each night, a tad bit of evening rain to drop the temperature a little more...it was a typical beautiful summer weekend on the mountain.



Lillian Magruder and daughter,  
Elizabeth Magruder Joiner

Weddings and illness keeping a number of members away, the small, but enthusiastic core group welcomed visitors and prospective members to our tents where society and clan information were shared alongside refreshments and lively conversation. We had about 80 people sign in, with a number expressing sincere interest in not only joining the society, but helping at the tent in the future...music to our ears! We had two young MacGregors, Ian and Mason Dalton, win medals in Jr. Caber Toss and Highland Wrestling while wearing their kilts. Hearing their names called, along with "American Clan Gregor Society" as they stood on the podium was a fantastic experience! In addition, Corey Magruder placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Amateur Grade IV-March and the Grade IV Piobaireachd (17 and under, piping), making for a good day for MacGregors in competition.

A number of us have already arranged our accommodations for the 2015 Games and hope that some of you will join us...July 9-12, with the bulk of the events taking place on Saturday and Sunday!



Tom Magruder and niece,  
Corey Magruder.  
Corey placed 3rd in the  
Amateur Grade IV-March  
(17 and under, piping)



Lillian Magruder, John Bellasai, Thad Osborne, Shirley  
Greaser



Bruce Whyte, John Gudger, Rob Gudger, a lively  
MacGregor lady,  
Buster and Janet Magruder

Cathy Whyte



## Nominate Today! (Submitted by Maggie Sanderfield)



"Calling all members - now is your chance to nominate a fellow ACGS member for their outstanding work they have done for the Society. Many times we have members that do a lot of work behind the scenes that do not get recognized. Now is the chance to nominate that person so they can be recognized at this year's annual Gathering.

Give the person's name and a brief description of why that person should be recognized by explaining what they have done for ACGS. Be sure to mail your nomination to: Maggie Sanderfield, P.O. Box 262, Athens, IL 62613 by SEPT. 20, 2014."





## Ancestor Honored!

(Submitted by Rick Holms)



**Re: The founder of Derry, Londonderry and Windham, N.H. to be honored in Northern Ireland with a Blue Plaque!**

**Submitted by/Contact info:**

Rick Holmes, Town Historian, Derry N.H.; (603) 434-6042; [rholmes33@comcast.net](mailto:rholmes33@comcast.net)

**Blue Plaque Presentation, 2014**

On July 28, 2014 the Rev. James McGregor (1677-1729) of Derry, NH, ancestor of past ACGS Chieftain Malcolm G. MacGregor, was honored with a "Blue Plaque" memorial in Aghadowey, Northern Ireland. Rev. McGregor was the leader of the pioneers that in 1719 settled the Nutfield grant in Southern New Hampshire -- now the towns of Derry, Londonderry, Windham as well as portions of Manchester, Hudson, Salem, and Pelham. The *Encyclopedia of Irish History in America* has called McGregor "the Moses of the Scotch Irish in America." The plaque will be put up by the Ulster History Circle, with funding from the Ulster-Scots Agency.

The exact particulars of the ceremony held on July 28th were still being developed at the time we first received this press release. Derry's Town Historian Rick Holmes had been invited to take part in the unveiling of the plaque. It was hoped that others from the area could join him at this unique honor being offered to the founder of Derry, Londonderry and Windham by the people of Northern Ireland. This is possibly the only town in America to have its founder so officially honored "across the pond."

**History of the Blue Plaque Scheme**

The original "Blue Plaque" scheme was started in London in 1867 with the goal of installing permanent signs in public places 'to commemorate a link between that location and a famous person or event.' Examples of such commemorated sites include the homes of such luminaries as Charles Dickens, Napoleon III, Sigmund Freud, Benjamin Franklin and Lord Byron and even several buildings associated with the Beatles. The popularity of these plaques in London led to similar programs being run across the United Kingdom and now even in Paris, Rome, Oslo and Dublin.

Since 1983 the Blue Plaque program in Northern Ireland has been under the administration of the Ulster History Circle. The circle is a wholly voluntary organization that relies on local councils, businesses, individuals, and organizations to fund the plaques. To this date they have erected over 170 plaques throughout the 5345 square miles of Northern Ireland. The Ulster History Circle has also recently installed one plaque in County Donegal in the Republic of Ireland.

Most of the plaques in Northern Ireland honor individuals who, while having distinguished careers, are likely unknown to most Americans. There are however a number which have established world-wide fame. Among these are:

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1899) writer of the hymn *All Things Bright and Beautiful*  
 Samuel Beckett (1906-1999) playwright and Nobel Laureate  
 John Dunlop (1840-1921) inventor of the pneumatic tire  
 C.S. Lewis (1898-1963) author of the Narnia stories  
 Guglielmo Marconi (1874-1937) inventor of wireless communication  
 Robert the Bruce (1274-1329) King of Scots  
 Lord Kelvin (1824-1907) scientist  
 Jonathan Swift (1667-1745) author of *Gulliver's Travels*  
 Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) author and wit

Only 2 other Blue Plaques from the History Circle recognize Ulster-born individuals who are chiefly associated with America; one is for the Rev. Francis Makemie (1657-1708,) the "father of Presbyterianism" in America. His plaque is near his birthplace in Ramelton, County Donegal in the Republic of Ireland. The other is at the town of Strabane, NI in honor of Ezekiel J. Donnell (1822-1896,) an "industrialist, polemicist and philanthropist" of New York City.

**Background on Rev. James McGregor:**

James McGregor was likely born in Northern Ireland (Ulster,) circa 1677 of Scottish ancestry; some believe he was the cousin of the famous Rob Roy McGregor. As a 12 year old boy he was trapped in the city of Londonderry during the 105 day long siege of the city by the forces of King James II in 1689. It is said that McGregor was standing on the tower of the city's cathedral and was the first to signal the starving people of the city that a rescue boat had broke through the Jacobite blockade. In 1701 he became the pastor of a small Presbyterian church in Aghadowey and

(Continued on page 7)







## Ancestor Con't...



soon became known as the village's peacemaker. In 1710 the synod gave him the privilege to preach in the Gaelic language.

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> decade of the 18th century times began to grow tough for the Scots in Ireland. The British government issued a number of edicts favoring the Anglican Church which was the established (official) church. No longer were Presbyterians allowed to hold office, teach or to conduct most civil ceremonies such as marriages and funerals. Economic laws hurt the Ulster Scots in making a living by selling linen, their chief source of income. Rents on English owned lands were also on the rise. Soon there was a fever for emigration throughout Ulster. While for decades Presbyterian Scots and Ulster Scots had been immigrating to the British colonies in America, the first to do in a big way was Rev. McGregor

In 1718 Rev. James McGregor and the major part of his congregation set sail for America on the brigantine Robert. This group consisted of perhaps 200 souls, representing 3 or 4 generations of Ulster's history. They were primarily from 16 families and ranged in age from babes-in-arms to an elderly couple nearly ninety years old. A few were landed local gentry but most were poor tenants of crown land. All were willing to follow the charismatic McGregor 3000 miles west to start a new Ulster in America. All shared the faith that their God and their pastor would lead them safely across 3000 miles of open ocean, despite the dangers of fierce storms and cut-throat pirates. Setting out, they truly believed with the Apostle Paul, "If God is for us who can be against us?"



Each adult was aware that in the New World there was the possibility of Indian attacks, starvation, and disease. They were to become "strangers in a strange land." Each knew that for the first time in their life, they would be without any kith or kin to give them comfort. They also knew that they would likely never see their Ulster friends again or walk the familiar green hills of the Bann Valley. They were giving up everything they had known to start a new life in the American wilderness. Despite these dangers the 16 families were united in their willingness to follow McGregor to America.

Arriving in New England they found they were unwelcomed by the Puritans of Boston. Despite this hostility the 16 families stayed united behind pastor McGregor. They had come too far to turn back. Soon they were diverted to Maine where they suffered through a long, cold winter. Returning south in the spring they heard about an unoccupied piece of land in the province of New Hampshire that had been previously named Nutfield. In 1719 McGregor persuaded the Royal Governor to give the Ulster pioneers the 144 square mile wilderness grant. This thickly forested land was many miles from any other community.... or even from roads. Here in Nutfield they could establish their village on a hill; their new Ulster would be where they could be culturally Scots, raise their families, weave linen and worship in their own kirk. Beside their faith and culture, the Nutfield Pioneers also brought potatoes to North America. In the common field in 1719 they planted what is commonly recognized as the first crop of pradies in North America.

By the end of the first year the Nutfield colony was judged a success. Under McGregor the community soon built a meeting house, church and a school. Nearly every house was soon spinning and weaving linen that quickly became known as the best in America. In 1722 Nutfield was incorporated as a town and took as it's the official name: Londonderry.

The news of the success of Londonderry soon spread back to Ulster and thousands were inspired to follow McGregor across the Atlantic to the New World. Many Ulster Scots during the 1720's came initially to "Londonderry in New England" before settling in other places which still had cheap land. There are dozens of towns in Canada and America which were founded by ex pats from McGregor's town; some even named their new towns "Londonderry" after the town in New Hampshire. Rev. James McGregor died in 1729; he was only 52 years old. He is buried underneath an impressive red sandstone grave stone in the Forest Hill Cemetery in East Derry, directly behind the site of the church he founded in 1719. One additional matter of interest is that genealogical research has proven that the Rev. James McGregor is the great, great, great, great, great, great grandfather of Secretary of State John Kerry.

### Notes:

- Each year the Ulster History Circle receives many nominations for Blue Plaques. The basic criterion for approving the selection is that individuals to be honored must:
  - Be dead for 20 years or, if less, have passed the centenary of their birth;
  - Be associated with the province of Ulster through birth, education, work or vocation;
  - Have made a significant contribution to the development or delivery of education, industry, commerce, science, arts and literature, politics, international affairs or other calling anywhere in the world.
- The term "scheme" is Brit-speak for "plan" or "proposal."
- The American term "Scotch Irish" is never used in the UK. The preferred phrase is "Ulster Scots."
- During the 18<sup>th</sup> century the proper name McGregor was spelled in several different ways such as "MacGregor", "Macgregor", "McGregor" McGregor and "M'Gregor" as well as having those 5 variant spellings having an "e" as the last letter. IE "McGregore."





THE AMERICAN CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY  
 "ARDCHOILLE"  
 NEWSLETTER OF  
 KEITH D. GREGG  
 12578 RASBECK ROAD  
 WOLCOTT, NY 14590-9749  
 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



## 2014 St. Louis Reminder

(Submitted by Keith Gregg, Assist Chieftain)



The dates and location of the ACGS 2014 Gathering are set and will be 6-8 November in St. Louis Mo!

The Gathering events will be held at the Hilton St. Louis Frontenac ([www.stlouisfrontenachilton.com](http://www.stlouisfrontenachilton.com)) hotel. For individual reservation, call 1-314-993-1100 or 1-800-325-7800 and guest must reference AMERICAN CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY to receive the group rate of \$102.00 or \$117.00, plus tax. Reservation hours are Monday-Friday 8:00AM – 6:00PM and Saturday 9:00AM – 1:00PM. All reservations should be received by the hotel no later than Thursday October 16, 2014. You may also make reservations via the website. This hotel offers an airport shuttle free of charge, plus free parking. Their shuttles can also conduct you to local shops and restaurants free of charge within a 5 mile radius of the hotel. During off shuttle hours, if you arrive after 9PM and before 6AM, there is Chesterfield Taxi and Luxury Car Service. Contact them at 314-738-0100. Their service is less expensive than a regular taxi which is approximately \$22.00 one way.

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 during the Gathering. The Meet and Greet Chieftain's Reception will follow early Thursday evening. 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 these appetizers are St. Louis originals. They are in celebration of the area's history and the 1904 World's fair.

Friday morning will be the main Council meeting, followed by the bus tour for all attendees. Under consideration are a tour of the 1904 World's Fair grounds and remaining attractions. The traditional stop at a church remembers ACGS members who have passed away recently, with wreath services at the Burns statue, and accompanied by our piper. There is a possible tour of the Cathedral Basilica with its stunning mosaics, plus a VIP tour of the Budweiser factory.

Friday evening is the ceilidh featuring a local band, which is the traditional one we have come to enjoy with music and dance on the dance floor. A cash bar will be available for refreshments.

Saturday morning the Annual General Membership meeting will be held, with all members expected to attend to learn of yearly reports, make changes to our Bylaws, and hold elections. A luncheon will follow in the hotel. After lunch, there is a Genealogy/Antiquities report, then a much looked forward to pipe band concert. The evening banquet will be preceded by a reception, when we traditionally mingle in our best highland formal attire with our friends and family, with many snapshots being taken and lasting memories being made. Haggis, here we come!