

**Yearbook
Of the
American Clan Gregor Society**



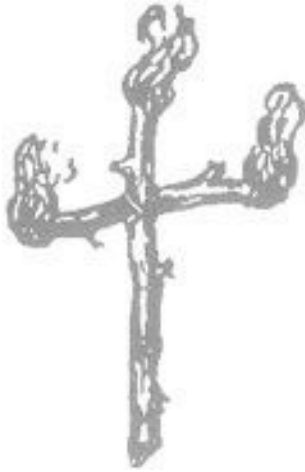
Volume CVIII

Published 2024

**Gathering of 2023
Zoom Meeting**

2024 YEARBOOK
of the
**American Clan Gregor Society,
Inc.**

Containing the Proceedings of the
2023 Annual Gathering Virtual Meeting,
Zoom Format



**AMERICAN CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY
INCORPORATED**

Washington, D.C.

SOCIETY OFFICES

American Clan Gregor Society, Inc.

4189 Ashbourne Court NE, Roswell, GA, 30075

<http://www.acgsus.org>



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Country road in the Scottish Highlands

FORMER CHIEFTAINS

Edward May Magruder, MD	1909-1925	(Deceased)
Caleb Clarke Magruder, MA, LLD.....	1925-1927	(Deceased)
James Mitchell Magruder, DD.....	1927-1930	(Deceased)
Egbert Watson Magruder, PhD	1930-1933	(Deceased)
Herbert Thomas Magruder.....	1933-1936	(Deceased)
William Marion Magruder	1936-1941	(Deceased)
Frank Cecil Magruder	1941-1947	(Deceased)
Douglas Neil Magruder	1947-1950	(Deceased)
Commodore John Holmes Magruder .	1950-1952	(Deceased)
Brig. General Marshall Magruder	1952-1956	(Deceased)
Daniel Randall Magruder, DD.....	1956-1958	(Deceased)
Roger Gregory Magruder, MD	1958-1962	(Deceased)
John Kennedy Magruder	1962-1965	(Deceased)
Wm. B. Hamilton Magruder.....	1965-1966	(Deceased)
Thomas Garland Magruder, Jr	1966-1967	(Deceased)
John Murdoch MacGregor	1967-1970	(Deceased)
R. James Macgregor.....	1970-1972	(Deceased)
Frank R. McGregor.....	1972-1975	(Deceased)
William E. McGregor	1975-1976, 1979-1981	(Deceased)
Archibald McGregor	1976-1979	(Deceased)
Burns Magruder, Jr	1979-1984	(Deceased)
Russell C. McGregor, PhD	1984-1987	(Deceased)
Abbey Wailes Magruder, Jr	1987-1990	(Deceased)
George F. McGregor	1990-1993	(Deceased)
Capt. Paul C. Gregg	1993-1996	(Deceased)
Malcolm G. MacGregor	1996-2000	(Deceased)
Jeffrey R. McGregor.....	2000-2003	Delray Beach, FL
Robert F. MacGregor, Jr	2003-2006	Virginia Beach, VA
Thaddeus G. Osborne	2006-2009	Knoxville, TN
Ronald A. McGregor	2009-2012	Aurora, CO
Lois Ann Garlitz	2012-2017	Cokeville, WY
Randolph W. Walker	2017-2019	San Antonio, TX
Peter K. Gregg.....	2019-2022	Dover, DE



Loch Voil near Balquidder

COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY

Major Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor, Bt. Hereditary Chief, Patron
Boreland House, Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire, DG11 2LN, Scotland

Mr. Scott F. MacGregorChieftain
440 Willoughby Bay, Norfolk, VA 23503-1243
757-705-3289, mcgr3gr@gmail.com

Dr. Bruce M. Whyte Ranking Deputy Chieftain
4189 Ashbourne Crt NE, Roswell, GA, 30075-1981:
404-402-8037(C), bmwhyte47@gmail.com

Ms. Michelle MercierAssistant Chieftain
608 Elephant Road, Perkasio, PA, 18944-4105:
267-210-0727, michelle.mercier5@gmail.com

Ms. D. Jane Montmeny Scribe
2084 Swanson Ln, Billings, MT, 59102-7549
801-205-9283(C), jane6165@msn.com

Mr. Mark K. McGregorTreasurer
245 W Marquita #104, San Clemente CA 92672-5151
714-394-1274, mark.k.mcgregor@gmail.com

Ms. Jeanne Lehr.....Registrar
11 Ballas Court, St. Louis, MO 63131
314-432-2842, jeannelehracs@gmail.com

Ms. Diana G. BrowneChancellor
203 E. 72nd Street, #9A, New York, NY 10021
212-446-4969, diana.browne@kirkland.com

Mr. Peter K. Gregg Immediate Past Chieftain
15 Coverly Ct., Dover, DE 19904-1977
302-735-8904(L), ardchoille.pg@gmail.com

MEMBERS AT LARGE (voting)

Charles Clary, 2024
Aliana Shepard, 2025
Stuart J. MacGregor, 2026

TRUSTEES

Jack Simon, Chair 2024
Steven Argyle 2025
Francis Mercier 2026
Mark K. McGregor, Treasurer (ex-officio, non-voting)

APPOINTED POSITIONS

2023 – 2024

Assistant Chieftain	Michelle Mercier
New Council Member at Large	Aliana Shepard
Chaplain.....	Thaddeus G. Osborne
Newsletter Editor	Jacqueline Johnson
Yearbook Editor	Scott F. MacGregor
Librarian	Charles Grierson
Historian	Elizabeth M. Joiner
Membership Database Manager	Jason Corder
Webmaster	Rick Walker
Piper, Band Pipe Major.....	Matt Kuldell

COMMITTEES

2023 – 2024

Nominating Committee for 2024

Peter K. Gregg, Chair
Jeanne Peter Lehr
Darcie Schauf

Financial Review Committee

Paul Owens Collinson, Chair
Henry “Sandy” Harris

Scholarship Committee

Peter K. Gregg, Chair
Mary Byrd Pettenati
Kathy Whyte

Genealogy Committee

Lois Ann Garlitz, Chair
Jeanne P. Lehr (*ex-officio*)

Recognition Committee

Scott F. MacGregor, Chair
Stuart W. McGregor

Gathering Site Selection Committee

Ian Greig, Chair
Leighton P. Stradley, III
Stuart J. MacGregor

Heraldry Committee

John King Bellassai, Chair
Charles S. Grierson
Dr. Bruce MacGregor Whyte
Lois Ann Garlitz

IT Committee

Rick Walker (*Admin*)
Aliana Shepard (*Admin*)
Mary Byrd Pettenati
Lois Ann Garlitz (*Admin*)
Peter K. Gregg (*Admin*)

Merchandise Sales

Peter K. Gregg

AREA DEPUTY CHIEFTAINS

AL	Jean Simon.....	alabama@acgsus.org
NM/AZ	Mark A. Beach	newmexico_arizona@acgsus.org
CA S	Richard Adams	californias@acgsus.org
CO	William “Bill” Black	colorado@acgsus.org
DE/NJ/PA E	Peter K. Gregg	delaware@acgsus.org
DC/VA	Leighton P. Stradley	dcadc@acgsus.org
FL N	Eleanor & Paul Hazucha	elefla45@gmail.com
GA/FL N, GFM, NC	Dr. Bruce M. Whyte.....	georgia@acgsus.org
KY/IL/IN	Janice K. Britt	kentucky@acgsus.org
MD/PA W	Charles S. Grierson.....	maryland@acgsus.org
MO E	Jeanne Peter Lehr	missourieast@acgsus.org
MO W	Lawrence Greer	missouriwest@acgsus.org
MT/OR	Vida Anderson	montana@acgsus.org
NC	Mary Byrd Pettenati.....	northcarolina@acgsus.org
SC	Tom & Kathy Watkins	south_carolina@acgsus.org
TN E	Rev. Thad G. Osborne.....	tennessee_east@acgsus.org
TN W	Andrew Ward.....	tennessee_west@acgsus.org
TX S	Charles Clary	texass@acgsus.org
UT	Lois Ann Garlitz.....	utah@acgsus.org

Those state abbreviations with a single letter following reflects whether the area covered is North, South, East, or West.



Stirling Castle (l-r) Royal Palace, Great Hall, Great Kitchens

MINUTES OF THE ACGS COUNCIL MEETING

American Clan Gregor Society, Inc.
114th Annual Gathering – Virtual, Zoom Format
Submitted by D. Jane Montmeny, Scribe
September 15, 2023

Call to order was done by Scott MacGregor, Chieftain, at 12:02 EDT, September 15, 2023 in zoom format. Those in attendance were reminded to silence their cell phones. The Scribe did roll call of Council members and confirmed a quorum of eight, quorum of six is required. There were also eight guests in attendance in the zoom meeting. Excused Council members were Mark K. McGregor, Stacey Hodges, Charles Grierson, Elizabeth Magruder Joiner, Mary Byrd Pettanati, and John Bellassai.

Opening remarks given by Scott MacGregor, Chieftain, welcomed us to the council meeting and Gathering. Even though it has been a struggling year, the Society seems to be doing well in that members have stepped up to contribute in needed positions. Scott looks forward to the next year and working well together. Scott read remarks from Sir Malcolm MacGregor, Society Chief in Scotland. He was unable to join us this year because of a busy schedule at this time involved with the Scots Guard and a WWII Special Operations Unit. Sir Malcolm sends greetings from Scotland and wishes us well and success with our council meeting and the AGM tomorrow. Because of the death of Donald MacLaren of MacLaren, Sir Malcolm has assumed the role of Convenor of the Council of Scottish Chiefs, a role which he held previously. There was an address confusion in sending him a copy of the latest ACGS Yearbook, but that has been corrected and the Yearbook is on its way.

The reports from the following Council members had previously been distributed and were now presented in the meeting: Ranking Deputy Chieftain, Scribe, Registrar, Treasurer, Assistant Chieftain, Chaplain, Yearbook Editor, Librarian, Historian, Webmaster, and Trustees. Jane Montmeny presented reports for those who were not in attendance. (These reports are found elsewhere in the yearbook).

Invocation was given by Thad Osborne, Chaplain (delayed because of technical issue).

The Trustee report was presented by Jack Simon, chair of the Trustees. There was discussion re: recommendation to change Trustee rotation to four years vs. the current three years. The issue is in regards to complexity of financial and investment funds and availability of Trustee candidates. There is a need to work out the details; issue was tabled until 2024.

Reports from the standing committees had previously been distributed and were reviewed: Scholarship Committee, Heraldry Committee, Recognition Committee, Genealogy Committee, IT Committee, Financial Review Committee plus their recommendations, Merchandise Manager and Gathering Site Selection Committee. (These reports are found elsewhere in the yearbook).

Discussion pertaining to these reports:

In regards to scholarships and increasing costs of college, options were whether to increase the amount of each award vs. decreasing the number of awards. This has

been discussed by Trustees; their focus is on available funds and it would be difficult to triage applicants to determine who would receive awards. No change was recommended.

IT Committee: Social media platforms were discussed. There are two FaceBook pages, ACGS and CGS. Each one has unique administrators who check validity of information posted. Yet to be determined how best to report on the social media aspects along with the webmaster under the IT Committee.

Merchandise Manager: It was reported that the cost for shirts and mugs will be increasing based on overall cost plus the cost of mailing.

Nominating Committee: Peter Gregg read committee report with the slate of officers for 2024; the recommendations were approved. Rick Walker will be sending out the electronic ballot.

Scott MacGregor announced the Chieftain appointments for 2024 which were considered and approved.

Changes to Policy and Procedures: Those with no recommended changes this year are Area Deputy Chieftain, Chaplain, Historian, Librarian and Piper. During the zoom interim council meeting, August 16th, changes were reviewed and approved for the Registrar, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, Yearbook Editor and Assistant Chieftain. A clarification in the Trustee P&P was that the checks for scholarship will be mailed to the home address of the student and made out to the institution designated in the scholarship application.

For the Good of the Order:

A Membership Years Recognition Pin/Ribbon was presented by Peter Gregg. The original idea was from Randy Walker at 2022 Gathering. Purpose of the recognition pin/ribbon is to make money for the Society. Member would purchase the pin (about \$15), Society would furnish the device signifying each 5 years of membership. Peter showed a military style medal with dark red ribbon. He is still researching vendors who could make the additional devices. A message was sent of the medal/ribbon, response was positive to continue with the project. The use of Amazon Smiles was discussed last year but the program was cancelled by Amazon in February 2023.

As there was no further business, Scott MacGregor adjourned the meeting at 2:18pm.



A picturesque Scottish Loch

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (Annual Gathering)

American Clan Gregor Society, Inc.
114th Annual Gathering – Virtual, Zoom Format
Submitted by D. Jane Montmeny, Scribe
September 16, 2023

The 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the American Clan Gregor Society was called to order September 16, 2023, by Scott MacGregor, Chieftain at 12:01pm. Preceding the meeting, members had been favored by music by Charlie Zahm from his album “I Hae Seen the Hielands” and “Among the Heather.” The AGM was held in a virtual Zoom format. A quorum was established at 35 devices logged on, with more than one member involved at each. It was reported that 77 votes had been recorded for the slate of officers.

The following invocation was given by Thad Osborne, Chaplain, who explained that the prayer had been written for Clan Gregor in Scotland by Reverend James Benson, former minister at Balquhiddy Church, and is used each year in their memorial service: Let us pray, Lord God, we give you thanks for Your hand that has guided Clan Gregor throughout the ages, in times of peace and in times of adversity, nurturing within us qualities of courage, loyalty and open-handed generosity. In humility and repentance, we plead for forgiveness for the sins of the past which we confess before You. We gather in this place, united in our heritage and committed to walk together in Your ways. Grant us we pray, strength and courage to uphold the honor of Clan Gregor in the days to come. Bless us each one and keep us, we pray, close and faithful You, loyal to our Chief and loving to one another. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, Lord and Chief of all. Amen.

Flowers of the Forest: a slide presentation prepared by Bruce Whyte with names honoring those members and key individuals who passed away since we last gathered. The following was read by Thad Osborne, Chaplain:

We give thanks for the marriage of Jeremy MacGregor Whyte of Atlanta, Georgia, and Whitney Rhine of Dalton, Georgia, on October 5, 2022, which took place in Canberra, Australia. Jeremy is the son of Bruce MacGregor Whyte, he the brother of Timothy Bruce Whyte who died June 22, 2000. Jeremy is uncle to Blaise Kingsley Whyte, (#2028, Jr). Let us pray: Almighty God, creator of mankind, who only art the wellspring of life, bestow upon these, Thy servants, if it be Thy will, the gift and heritage of children. And grant that they may see Thy children brought up in faith and fear to the honor and glory of Thy name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

We also note with sorrow, these deaths of members and friends of members:

Rita M. Jeric of Pigeon, MI, (#798 LM), 1942-2021, who passed away on March 25, 2021

John Francis Gregg of Dover, DE, (#2852) 1954-2023, passed away on February 20, 2023

Mary Tierney Stradley of Fairfax VA, (#3011ALM), 1954-2023, passed away February 6, 2023

Teresa Grigg of Shelby, NC, close friend of ACGS, passed away August 28, 2021, wife of Daniel Grigg, both longtime visitors to Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.

Barbara Gay McGregor of Billings MT, passed away March 11, 2023, wife of Douglas McGregor who participated in the McGregor DNA project, relative of Lois Ann Garlitz and Jane Montmeny

Michael Reuben Bosch, Napa CA, no date of death available.

Thad Osborne, Chaplain, offered the following: Let us pray, Almighty God, with whom live the spirits who depart hence in the Lord and with whom the souls of the faithful, after they have been delivered from the burden of the flesh, are enjoying felicity. We give Thee hearty thanks for the good examples of all those Thy servants who have finished their course in faith do now rest from their labors, and we beseech Thee with all those who are departed in the true faith of Thy holy name, may have our perfect consummation and bliss both in body and soul in Thy eternal everlasting glory, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

There followed a You Tube rendition of Flowers of the Forest by Pipe Major Matthew Kuldell on the bagpipes.

Opening remarks were made by Scott MacGregor, Chieftain: I want to welcome everybody here to our 114th annual Gathering, this year virtually by zoom. It is good to see so many of you here and I want to say thanks to everybody who got out and voted in the last 24 hours. It is very good! It is not my Society, it is not the Council's Society, it is our membership Society. So we all need to participate as much as we can. And in that aspect, we need to help out the new Newsletter Editor by sending in articles. The Yearbook Editor the same way. We also need to make sure we have the most current information in our connections for us to get out the publications. We had ten email addresses that failed for the voting; we had only one that we knew and were able to correct. We also had a number of Yearbooks that came back; that costs us extra postage when we have to re-ship them out. It is everybody's responsibility to go out to the website (acgsus.org) and update your membership information to make sure it is correct. I appreciate all of you and everything you do. Thank you!

Scott read remarks from Sir Malcolm MacGregor, hereditary Chief of Clan Gregor in Scotland. He was unable to join us this year because of a busy schedule at this time heavily involved with the Scots Guard. They have a Gathering going for about two weeks including next weekend. Today he is in Dumfriesshire doing an event with the Norwegian Ambassador in connections with a WWII Special Operations Unit. Sir Malcolm sends greetings from Scotland and wishes us well and success with our council meeting 15 September and the AGM 16 September. Also because of the death of Donald MacLaren of MacLaren, Sir Malcolm has assumed the role of

Convenor of the Council of Scottish Chiefs, a role he held previously and did an excellent job.

The following complete reports are available elsewhere in the Yearbook

Jane Montmeny presented the Scribe report including minutes from the Council meeting on the previous day. Bruce Whyte provided the annual report of the Treasurer including details of changes to that position. Jeanne Lehr presented the Registrar report. Jack Simon presented the Report of the Trustees including names and schools of scholarship awardees. The Historian report was given by Elizabeth Magruder Joiner and Scott MacGregor read the Certificates of Appreciation presented to Mary Byrd Pettenati and Dr. Bruce MacGregor Whyte. Michelle Mercier provided report as the Assistant Chieftain and Ian Greig followed with report from the Site Selection Committee.

While there was a brief intermission in the zoom meeting, there was an attempt to play some Scottish music. Upon return we were favored with an interview by Randy Walker and Bruce Whyte of our longest serving member of ACGS, Major General Warren Alexander Edward Magruder. He is 95 years old, joined ACGS in 1946 even before he joined the army.

Scott MacGregor read the list of appointments of officers, officials, and committee chairs for 2024.

For the Good of the Order:

- The dates of the 2024 Gathering will be announced as soon as possible,
- Links to the interview will be provided on the website
- Justin Tripp provided some family news
- Scott requested that any information/pictures to be included in the Yearbook be sent to him by the end of 2023.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20pm.



GlenGyle House, birthplace of Rob Roy MacGregor at the head waters of Loch Katrine

COUNCIL REPORTS

CHIEFTAIN

Submitted by Scott F. MacGregor, Chieftain

Hello everyone, it is hard to believe that another society fiscal year has come to an end. It was wonderful in September to be able to meet in-person again with the Gathering in Raleigh, North Carolina. Boy I didn't know how much I missed my many friends in the society. It was great seeing everyone again. There is nothing like an in-person Gathering. I look forward to seeing everyone again next time.

The year started immediately with Hurricane Ian striking a path across Florida. Myself along with several past Chieftains reached out to our members along the path to ensure everyone fared well and if not to possibly provide some assistance. Unfortunately in the spring our new Treasurer stepped down. Thankfully Dr. Bruce M. Whyte stepped up to keep things going, getting the books in order, and bringing a new Treasurer up to speed. While at this he was also working to bring on a new Membership Database Manager.

I will be appointing a new Newsletter Editor and assistant, Ms Jacque Johnson and Ms Stacey Hodges. They are already hard at work aiming to release a holiday issue. A society newsletter is only as good as the content provided by the society members. Please help them out by providing short articles of interest, recipes with a Scottish flare, etc. to share with our members.

Once again this year our ADCs have continued to do a great job representing our society at numerous Games throughout the country. They keep our history alive and share it with all who are interested. We could use many more members like them.

Finally a society is only as strong as its membership. We are a strong society that has endured over a hundred years and surviving major devastating worldwide events. It is through members like you that keep our society strong. Please consider volunteering your support and expertise.

RANKING DEPUTY CHIEFTAIN

Submitted by Dr. Bruce MacGregor Whyte, Ranking Deputy Chieftain

OH BOY! Watta Year! We have had resignations of the treasurer (yes, again) and multiple ADCs. We have retained a replacement accounting firm and submitted our tax returns for 2022. We have created a new position and the administrative support for that position. So tasks specifically related to the RDC were limited and pushed into second place in order to cover these other duties.

At the Gathering of 2022, Cindy Brammer was nominated and elected to become the new treasurer. She resigned in March 2023. Hence, the Council held an ad hoc meeting to re-appoint Bruce Whyte to the position of interim treasurer until the Gathering of 2023. There was really no choice for the Council or me as no one else knew our financial system.

At the same time, we sought a new accounting firm to assist with our basic financial needs and prepare and file our tax returns for 2022. The Moore CPA Firm, Marietta, GA, were confirmed as our new CPA firm (our tax returns were filed on time with the IRS).

Other resignations were:

- Keren Wade, ADC, Missouri East. Jeanne Lehr, Missouri West, is taking over until a replacement can be found;
- Cindy Brammer, ADC, Central Florida, ADC, Northern Florida. The ADC Georgia shall cover those positions for the immediate future.

In addition to fulfilling the role of treasurer, I had also been maintaining the membership database. It was decided to remove this component and create a stand-alone position of Membership Database Manager. This is an appointed position and the incumbent is not a member of Council. Jason Corder who lives in the Washington D.C. area, has been appointed to that position. We are currently finalizing the job description along with policies and procedures for that position.

As a result, I have not been as active an RDC as I had hoped. Nor that y'all would expect. I have worked closely with the new ADCs in North and South Carolina (Mary Byrd and Dustin Pettenatti from Raleigh, N.C. and Tom and Kathy Watkins from Bellhaven, N.C. who have just moved to Greenville N.C.). These four have shared staffing of Games in North and South Carolina and done a wonderful job.

As ADC for Georgia I attended the Blairsville Highland Games in June, 2023. It seemed that population had been waiting for the Games to return after Covid as they came out in huge numbers. We were lightly staffed and overwhelmed with visitors as usual.

ASSISTANT CHIEFTAIN

Submitted by Michelle Mercier, Assistant Chieftain

This year we put out 2 yearbooks for 2021 and 2022.

All have been mailed out to members of the society as well as the University of Baltimore Library.

Some have been returned to sender as a mailing address is not correct. If you have not received one, please update your contact info including your mailing address online.

2023 Virtual Gathering

Assisting with the agenda to ensure we have an interesting and fun virtual gathering.

Posting teasers on Facebook to gain attendance for the virtual gathering.

Assisting with the Council Meetings leading up to the gathering.

2024 In Person Gathering

With the assistance of the site selection committee, we researched the chosen city.

Requested proposals from hotels that fit our needs.

With the assistance of local members, toured hotels virtually and in person to ensure they are a good fit for our needs as well as add fun new events during the weekend.

Negotiated rates and terms for proposals and contracts.

Hopefully choose a hotel and execute contract prior to 2023 Virtual Gathering.

SCRIBE

Submitted by Jane Montmeny, Scribe

1. The minutes from the 2022 ACGS Gathering in Raleigh, North Carolina, were posted on the ACGS Society website.
2. There were three interim zoom Council meetings during this year as follows:

A. March 11, 2023:

Attendees, Officers:

Scott F. MacGregor, Chieftain
Bruce M. Whyte, Ranking Deputy Chieftain
Peter Gregg, Immediate Past Chieftain
Jeanne Lehr, Registrar
Diana Browne, Chancellor
Jack Simon, Chairman, Board of Trustees
Michelle Mercier, Assistant Chieftain
Lois Ann Garlitz, Past Chieftain

ACGS Chieftain, Scott F. MacGregor, opened the interim meeting on Saturday March 11, 2023 at 10:10am, per zoom conference.

Scott opened the meeting by explaining that Cindy Brammer had submitted her resignation from the position of Treasurer on March 3, 2023, to be effective immediately, and he had accepted her resignation. The goal of this meeting was to review the current status of the Society finances and to fill the position of treasurer or possibly hire a bookkeeper. Bruce led the discussion by explaining the following actions that had led up to the current issues:

1. Cindy was able to do the basic entries and payments but not the actual accounting.
2. A business account had been opened at the Truist Bank but the account was such that they refused to accept a check from ACGS.
3. An account was set up using personal funds but the Tichy Fund could not be separated from the General Checking account.
4. Finances for the Operating Account up to end of February was \$19,300. About \$1500 of that was the Tichy Fund.
5. There had been nothing done with the C&E accounts. There was about \$8400 in the 501C3 fund and earned dividends from last year and some in the Magruder Library Fund. Funds need to be available for 2023 Scholarships now.
6. Tax returns for the Operating Fund and the C&E account are due now.
7. The funds in the Merrill Lynch investment are \$778,893.

8. Payments to the ACGS credit card are way behind; about \$14,000 that includes the cost of the Gathering. The hotel was paid by credit card.
9. There are some invoices that have been lost/misplaced.
10. It took several weeks of legalities to transition from Bruce to Cindy and may take a similar time to transition to a new person, or to Bruce as an interim.

The following discussions took place:

1. Bruce had contacted four CPA firms and had a response from one which sounded positive and professional.
2. Bruce, as past Treasurer, would most likely be able to step into the position. He outlined three major issues:
 - a. Accounting software Quick Books(QB) desktop had been used and then changed to Quick Books on-line, which became a disaster. Cindy had most recently used QB desktop; Bruce has a Mac and not sure how compatible that will be. He is checking out Zoho software which is a QB look-alike.
 - b. Accounts payable – credit card payments are behind.
 - c. Need to re-notify vendors to remove Cindy's name and replace her with an interim Treasurer.
3. Jack added that he, as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, is able to have Merrill Lynch take Cindy's name off and put Bruce's name on the investment accounts. The cash available from the Merrill Lynch investment dividends today is \$38,412; that amount is available for scholarships this year; applications have already been received.

In summary: there is cash, there are invoice's that need to be paid, they can be covered by appropriate movement of funds.

Finding a new Treasurer:

1. Several members who were prospective treasurers have been asked but were not interested.
2. Jeanne asked if there is a way to simplify or streamline the process? Because of the C3 and C4 it would be hard, there would be a need to communicate between the two.
3. Scott has seen other societies have one person who handles the income/deposits and the treasurer pays invoices and writes the checks. Would that process reduce the load to any one person?
4. In talking to a CPA firm, Bruce requested help with bookkeeping, paying the taxes and all other duties. The cost to ACGS still needs to be determined.
5. Peter stated that he has two checks that were written for sold merchandise; when should he submit them? Follow-up on a similar check led to the discovery of the finance issues.
6. Seeing that Bruce, as the recent past Treasurer and has interacted with Cindy, he has been appointed as Interim Treasurer until a permanent Treasurer can be found.

Summary of process to move forward:

1. Bruce will try to straighten out the payments and funds.
2. Scott will write a letter, Bruce will review it, and it will be sent to the general membership seeking interest in filling the position.
3. After reviewing the Bylaws, when there is a vacancy in an elected position, the Chieftain can appoint a temporary person to the position with approval by Council in a meeting where there is a quorum. A future Council meeting needs to be scheduled.
4. Yearbook: need to update addresses of those whose last year's volume was returned; Michelle and Jeanne will work together on the project. Lois Ann is finishing the indexing, then Scott can merge the index in the volume, Michelle will have the addresses. Don't send to printer until funds are determined.
5. Gathering 2023 dates to be determined but probably in 3rd or 4th weekend of September.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10am.

B. March 23, 2023

Attendees:

Scott F. MacGregor, Chieftain
Bruce M. Whyte, Ranking Deputy Chieftain
Jane Montmeny, Scribe
Jeanne Lehr, Registrar
Diana Browne, Chancellor
Peter Gregg, Immediate Past Chieftain
Aliana Shepard, Member-at-Large
Michelle Mercier, Assistant Chieftain

Excused:

Paul Gregg, Member-at-Large
Charles Clary, Member-at-Large

Scott opened the meeting by stating the reasons for the meeting are to approve the appointment of an acting Treasurer and to determine dates for the 2023 Gathering.

1. Bruce Whyte was appointed to be the acting Treasurer until a permanent officer can be found. He will have authority to carry out all duties of the treasurer, including signing checks and contracts on behalf of ACGS. The vote was six in favor, one abstention; approved.
2. A list of possible dates (September-November) had been distributed for consideration. After discussion it was decided that the 2023 ACGS Gathering will be held on September 15 & 16 by zoom meetings.

Bruce provided an update on the status of the treasurer functions:

1. Bruce has had discussions with Sarah Moore, CPA, who works with QuickBooks and is a trainer for the product. She offered a 20% discount in the discussion. No definite decision was made at this time.

2. Bruce had a response from eight members expressing interest in the treasurer position and that has been narrowed down to two members. Bruce and Scott will conduct interviews with each of them.
3. The final QuickBooks report for 2022 still needs to be determined and Bruce is working on that.

Scott updated that the final changes of the 2022 Yearbook have been done. The final list of accurate addresses needs to be completed. Alaina will send out a Facebook posting asking members to be sure their contact information is correct on the ACGS website.

It was suggested that the six members who initially expressed interest in the treasurer position be kept in mind for possible other positions. It was also recommended that a similar approach of sending out a mass email be used for the still vacant webmaster position.

In regard to planning for the upcoming Gathering, Jane mentioned the Policies and Procedures (P&P) that will be up for routine review, see list below. Also, the P&P for a new position, Membership Database Manager, needs to be developed and Jane will create a draft for Bruce to complete. Because this will be a new position, there will need to be an addition to the Bylaws to be voted on in the Annual General Meeting.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:36am.

C. August 16, 2023

Attendees, Officers:

Scott F. MacGregor, Chieftain
 Bruce Whyte, Ranking Deputy Chieftain
 Bruce M. Whyte, Treasurer
 Jane Montmeny, Scribe
 Jeanne Lehr, Registrar
 Diana Browne, Chancellor
 Paul Gregg, Member-at-Large
 Michelle Mercier, Assistant Chieftain

Officers excused:

Aliana Shepard, Member-at-Large
 Charles Clary, Member-at-Large

ACGS Chieftain, Scott F. MacGregor, opened the interim council meeting on Wednesday August 16, 2023 at 5:06pm MDT, per zoom meeting. Jane Montmeny, Scribe, completed roll call and determined that seven voting council members were on the call; a quorum of six is required.

1. Scott stated the main agenda for the meeting is to consider the recommended changes to the Policies and Procedures (P&P's) that are up for review this year. Copies of the P&Ps with changes had previously been distributed to the council members.
2. The following P&P's have no recommended changes for 2023: Area Deputy Chieftain, Chaplain, Historian, Librarian, and Piper.

3. The following P&P's have recommended changes for 2023:
 - a. Registrar: After discussion, proposed changes were approved.
 - b. Assistant Chieftain: After discussion, it was decided to place this P&P on hold until the P&P for the Membership Database Manager is created so duties can be coordinated.
 - c. Newsletter Editor: After discussion, proposed changes were approved.
 - d. Webmaster: After discussion, proposed changes were approved.
 - e. Yearbook Editor: After discussion, proposed changes were approved.
 - f. Trustees: After discussion, proposed changes were approved.
4. A proposal to lengthen the Trustee term to four years was put forth for two reasons,
 - a. Difficulty getting qualified volunteers for the Trustee position
 - b. Gain knowledge and experience to oversee a complex \$800,000 portfolio

Upon discussion it was stated that there is a volunteer to be appointed for this coming year plus another prospective volunteer for the following year. It was mentioned that the four-year term would throw off the election of a Trustee every year; further discussion is required.
5. During discussion it was noted that there were also suggested changes to the Bylaws. However, because the specified timelines for changes to the Bylaws were not met this year, the Scribe will track those changes to be submitted for approval in 2024.
6. During discussions, it was decided that in all documents the words "should" and "will" be changed to "shall," based on Robert's Rules of Order. Also, in P&Ps where it states a person is leaving a position, it should state the succeeding office by title or the Chieftain as receiving all records, documents and other items. The Scribe will make the changes in all appropriate documents.
7. Discussion on outstanding positions:
 - a. Webmaster: position still needs to be filled. Rick Walker shall assist with the Gathering as needed.
 - b. Nomination of a new Treasurer will come from the Nomination Committee. Membership Database Manager and Newsletter Editor shall be appointed upon approval by Council at the annual zoom meeting September 15th. They shall be invited to attend the zoom meeting.
 - c. Bruce stated that a new CPA firm has been selected and shall be submitted for approval at the zoom meeting. They may also be acting as bookkeeper which shall simplify the responsibilities of the Treasurer.
8. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:48pm MDT.

TREASURER

Submitted by Bruce MacGregor Whyte, Treasurer

Well, this last year can only be described as, well, Amazing. Crazy. No walk in the park. Fortunately, the fiscal aspects have been largely corrected and we can move forward with confidence that the numbers presented here will be accurate. This report breaks up the various components of the treasurer's position and the fiscal activity.

Personnel

Our treasurer, Cindy Brammer, who was elected as Treasurer at the Gathering of 2022, resigned in March. The Council appointed Bruce Whyte to be interim treasurer and a search was started to find a replacement. Unlike the previous 2-3 years, we had a wealth of volunteers with fiscal and bookkeeping experience offering to take over that role. The decision was difficult, but Mark McGregor (San Clemente, CA) was selected as "Acting Treasurer". His appointment will need to be ratified by the full membership. In the meantime, since we had commenced training Cindy, she had some of our business going to her directly or sent from me. Hence, some mail passed in transit and some missed the recipient. This resulted, in particular, with some members being asked to pay their overdue dues when they had been paid and vendors not being paid on time. So for all those people, I am deeply sorry, we did not have our procedures working properly.

Thanks are due to all those who offered to help in any capacity. It was truly heartening to have so much support from the Society. We did not waste the opportunity to see if any of the others who applied for the treasurer role were suitable for other positions. One person, Jason Corder, is taking on the new position of Membership Database Manager.

The change in the treasurer required changing all contacts, bank accounts, debit cards and credit cards, and determining who should have access to what and then establish credentials for those accessing those accounts. This has been a tiresome exercise considering it is only about 15 months since we did this last.

Contracted CPA

While the position of treasurer was being resolved, we had commenced a search for a replacement Certified Public Accountant (CPA). We sought interest from 4 different firms. Several were available but the Chieftain and I agreed on Sara Moore of The Moore CPA Firm in Marietta, GA. She was selected based on her wide experience with non-profit organizations, governmental accounting, academic roles and her willingness to help us move forward at a reduced rate. She started in April, not realizing just how much needed to be done to tidy up the finances. Since then, she has straightened out our financial records and filed our tax returns on time.

Financial Reporting

ACGS General Accounts Through December 31, 2022	
ASSETS	\$ (rounded)
Bank/Credit Card	
Truist bank checking	16,432
Truist bank saving	100
Stripe	794
Total Bank/Card	17,225
Other Assets	
Due from C&E	80,000
Total Assets	97,225
Liabilities	
Payable	50
Credit card charges	103
Due to C&E	0.03
Total Liabilities	153
Equity	
Retained earnings	87,738
Net revenue	9,335
Total Equity	97,073
Total Liabilities/Equity	97,225

The actual financial reporting is now more reliable. Data and reports included here are for the period ending on December 31, 2022.

General accounts

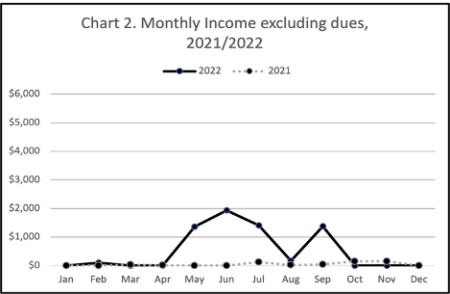
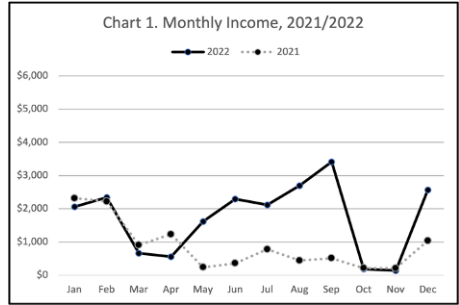
The General Accounts include the general operating account (checking account) and the Tichy Memorial Fund (Tichy). The latter is used for supporting the band and other components of a Gathering as may be needed.

FY	Assets	Liability/Equity
FY21	\$92,242	\$92,242
FY22	\$97,225	\$97,225
6/30/23*	\$87,744	\$87,744

Total assets in the General accounts through the end of December 2022 were \$97,225, not greatly out of line with the previous year (\$92,242). These assets included a bequest of \$80,000 in 2017. When we received the bequest, we could

not obtain clear advice from the CPA firm at the time as to what we should do with it. It was agreed that until that decision was made, the entire amount should be invested and earn at least some monies. On maturation, the corpus plus any accrued interest would be transferred to the C&E account. That is what happened, but somewhere in that coding it was misplaced and then journaled back resulting in the appearance of multiple entries. The CPA is currently correcting this coding. The bequest is included within the C&E investments but will continue to appear during 2023.

The increased income in the general account is that of the Gathering in 2022 (Chart 1) compared to the same time of year in 2021. Income for the period May through July in 2022 was \$4,105 compared to \$0 in 2021, coinciding with the Gathering also (Chart 2).



Expenditures in 2022 were \$9,487 which was 70% lower than in 2021 (Chart 3). This was totally accounted for by the cost of year books. There were two print runs to catch the year books up with their respective years, \$5,501 in September 2021 and \$5,556 in December 2021.

Fees paid to Stripe amounted to \$444 during 2022, an increase of 51% from the \$220 in 2022.

Charity and Education (C&E) accounts

ACGS C&E Accounts Through December 31, 2022	
Assets	\$ (rounded)
Bank/Credit Card	
Truist bank checking	8,916.82
Truist bank saving	200.00
Total Bank/Card	9,116.82
Other Assets	
	815,245.33
Total Assets	824,362.15
Liabilities	
Payable	67.00
Credit card charges	67.00
Due to General/Whyte	82,050.00
Total Liabilities	82,184.00
Equity	
Retained earnings	823,494.25
Net revenue	-81,316.10
Total Equity	742,178.15
Total Liabilities/Equity	824,362.15

The C&E accounts include the C&E Checking account and the Marshall Magruder Library Fund. The savings account was closed in 2021 due to inactivity and the balance moved to the C&E Checking account. The assets and liability and Equity are presented in the same format as the general accounts for comparison.

FY	Assets	Liability/Equity
FY21	\$813,094	\$813,094
FY22	\$824,362	\$824,362
6/30/23*	\$792,360	\$792,360

Other Assets are the invested funds from which annual scholarship awards are made. As in the general account, the major discrepancy is the bequest from Richard Ewell in the amount of \$80,000 in 2017 (see explanation under General Accounts).

There were multiple donations made by ACGS members in the last year:

- To the general fund:
 - received \$1,000
 - wine at the Gathering \$250
 - the Library \$150
- To the C&E fund
 - Scholarship Fund \$650
 - the Library Fund \$150
 - C&E Fund \$526
 - three members donated their registration costs (\$495) despite being unable to attend

The investment funds fluctuate with the market, as do the earnings. We use these funds to award scholarships to students. In 2022 we earned \$27,191, an increase of \$1,574 (6%) over the previous year. This was sufficient to make awards totaling \$30,000 to 20 recipients

Conclusion

Currently ACGS is financially stable, although not in a strong position. Our income relies heavily on dues with no outside body(ies) contributing.

Two years of data shows distinct trends in income depending on the time of year and whether a face-to-face Gathering has been held. Income increases in years in which a Gathering is held and declines when the Gathering is a virtual one.

REGISTRAR

Submitted by Jeanne Peter Lehr, Registrar

This report is a listing of new members or other changes in membership status between the AGM held in Raleigh, NC from September 22 to 24, 2022 and the Gathering held electronically on September 16, 2023. If you should notice a discrepancy, please notify the Registrar.

Readers are reminded that the genealogies presented here are as they were submitted by the member. Any inquiries should be sent to the member.

Here are the numbers at a glance for the year September 24, 2022 to September 16, 2023:

Corrections from previous years = 0

New members (lineal, associate) = 23

New provisional members = 0

Members advancing from provisional to lineal = 0

Juniors advancing to lineal membership = 1

New Junior members = 1

NEW MEMBERS – includes Lineal and Associate Members

#3378 McGregor, Mark Kent, California. He is the spouse of Lisa Lynn Goodman and the son of Kent Day McGregor and Marian Seegmiller; he the son of Claude Eldon McGregor and Athens Avon Day; he the son of Joseph Franklin McGregor and Lena Isabella Durham; William Campbell McGregor and Sarah Fish; Alexander McGregor and Elizabeth Campbell; he the son of Daniel McGregor and Helen Campbell.

#3379 Lewis, John, North Carolina. . He is the son of James E. Lewis Jr. and Olga M. Sas; he the son of James E. Lewis Sr. and Minnie M. Meeks; she the daughter of Joseph H. Meeks and Annie C. Howell; she the daughter of Zephaniah Howell and Sarah Thomas; she the daughter of Abel Thomas Jr. and Addie Hazlett; he the son of Arthur A. Thomas Sr. and Elcy Windham; he the son of David Thomas and Hannah Scriven; she the daughter of Isaac Scriven and Patience Pike; she the daughter of Samuel Pike Jr. and Sarah Overman; he the son of Samuel Pike Sr. and Jean McGregory; she the daughter of Colonel Padruig McGregory and Margaret Toshack.

#3380A Watkins, Mary, North Carolina. She is the spouse of Thomas P. Watkins
ACGS #3326

#3381 Osborn, Jacob Nicholas, Utah. He is the son of Peter Gregory Osborn (ACGS #3098) and Jessica Renae Murray; he the son of William Gregory Osborn and Candace Williams; he the son of Ralph Anderson Osborn and Jean Gregory; she the daughter of William Garrison Gregory and Ann Esell Ziph; he the son of Charles Hickman Gregory and Lucy Lovella Hill; he the son of James Allen Gregory and Amanda White; he the son of Peter Gregory.

#3382 Stettler, Muriel Lynette, California. She is the spouse of John Otto Earl Stettler and the daughter of Roy Elmer Brown and Elsie May Callahan; she the daughter of Louie C. Callahan and Charlotte Loretta De Wolf; she the daughter of Fred De Wolf and Emeretta Eleson De Wolf; she the daughter of Daniel Faye elision and Charlotte McGregor; she the daughter of Peter McGregor and Elizabeth

#3383 Kraczek, Kristin Marie Cole, Florida. She is the spouse of Robert S. Kraczek and the daughter of Gary D. Cole and Nancy Clarke Anderson; she the daughter of Cecil Clarke Anderson and Mary Elizabeth MacGregor; she the daughter of John Roy MacGregor and Ellen Annie Weaver; he the son of Donald (Daniel) McGregor and Grace McEachran; he the son of Archibald Peter MacGregor and Ann (Nancy) McLean; he the son of Peter McGregor and Mary McArthur; he the son of Duncan McGrigor McGregor and Christian McKeacherny (McKiechair).

#3384 Sales, Alan Dean, Oklahoma. He is the spouse of Frances Ann Hogue and the son of Orvel Leo Sales and Rena Pearl White; she the daughter of Louis DeCab White and Mary Etta Phillips; he the son of Elijah Wiley White and Mary Elizabeth Fuller; he the son of James Jones White, Sr. and Citha Letha Slouch; he the son of James Dennis White and Elizabeth Driscoll; he the son of John W. White and Keziah Helvey; he the son of Moses (Old Moses) White and Eleanor Lawson; he the son of Adam Hugh White and Isabella Eleanor Cochran.

#3385 Cropp, Barbara Della Celles, Florida. She is the spouse of Charles Clark Cropp, Sr. and the daughter of George Leopold Celles, Jr. and Helen Frankie McGehee; she the daughter of John Madison McGehee and Della Mary Byrd; he the son of Erasmus Russell McGehee and Elizabeth Matilda Wroten; he the son of James Madison McGehee and Rebecca Ann Jones; he the son of James McGehee and Zilphia Downs; he the son of Samuel McGehee Sr. and Olivia Muse.

#3386 McGehee, Mark, Connecticut. He is the spouse of Sabrina and the son of Leigh Owen McGehee and Elizabeth Anne Keith; he the son of Francis Nye McGehee and Ruth Alsbaugh; he the son of William Harper Owen McGehee and Helen Ann Nye; he the son of Jacob Owen McGehee and Annie Rebecca Duncanson; he the son of John McGehee and Judith Ann Shepherd; he the son of Jacob McGehee and Anne Weaver; he the son of Jacob MackGehee and Eleanor DeJarnette; he the son of Thomas MackGehee (aka James MacGregor) and Ann Baytop; he the son of Patrick MacGregor and Marion MacDonald.

#3387 Brunswick, Stephen Michael Knott, Arkansas. He is the spouse of Anna Agnieszka Butryn and the son of Stephen Michael Knott d'Guelph Brunswick and Louise Theresa Schlosser; he the son of George Brunswick Knott and Sally Frondorf; he the son of George William Knott and Vera Tinnie McNeil-McGregor Brunswick; he the son of Charles Frank Brunswick and Tinnie Mae McNeil(-McGregor); she the

daughter of Richard McGregor-McNeil and Alice Lawrence; he the son of John McNeill and Charlotte McGregor (had refused to write McNeil on 2 out of 4 government documents); he the son of Alexander McGregor, he the son f Daniel McGregor; he the son of George McGregor; he the son of Robert McGregor

#3388A McGregor, Lisa Lynn, California. She is the spouse of Mark Kent McGregor ACGS #3378.

#3389 Pitts, Patricia, California. She is the spouse of Forrest Pitts and the daughter of Charles Glen Johnson and Lea Jeanne Biedebach; he the son of Aaron Cleveland Johnson; he the son of Obedire Johnson and Nancy Ann Tidwell; she the daughter of Aaron Anderson Tidwell and Mary Jane McConnell; she the daughter of James McConnell and Frances Elizabeth Grier; she the daughter of William Greer and Rebecca Ammons; he the son of Thomas Greer, Jr.; he the son of Thomas Greer.

#3390 McGregor, Michael N., Arizona. He is the spouse of Annette Anderson and the son of Milton McGregor and Nancy Higgins; he the son of Gordon McGregor and Helen Reynolds; he the son of Robert McGregor and Jenet Begbie; he the son of Hugh McGregor and Mary Anderson; he the son of Hugh McGregor and Mary McKay; he the son of Angus McGregor and Christina.

#3391 Trainor, Katherine Kennedy, Texas. She is the spouse of Paul Trainer and the daughter of John Patrick Kennedy and Nancy Roberts Sheriff; she the daughter of Leroy Waters Sheriff and Hope Ruth Hebertain; he the son of Leroy Phillips Sheriff and Jessie Roberta Soper; he the son of D. T. Sheriff and Matilda Magruder; she the daughter of Fielder Magruder and Matilda Margaret Snowden; he the son of Jeffrey Magruder and Susannah Bowie; he the son of Nathan Magruder and Rebecca Beall; he the son of John Magruder and Susanna Smith; he the son of Samuel Magruder and Sarah Beall.

#3392 Daniels, Tara Gragg, North Carolina. She is the spouse of Bobby E Daniels, III and the daughter of Donald Edward Gragg and Naomi Gay Clark; he the son of Russell Theodore Gragg and Margaret Emma Rosalie Crisp; he the son of Theodore Roosevelt Gragg and Indiana Isabelle Gragg; he the son of Newton Madison Gragg and Mary Jane Crump; he the son of James Madison Gragg and Nancy Caroline Gragg; he the son of David Obediah Gragg and Elizabeth "Eliza" Webb; he the son of William O Gragg Jr and Mary Elizabeth Pullman; he the son of William Obediah Gragg Sr and Elizabeth Martin; he the son of John Henry Gregg of Brandywine and Elizabeth Cooke; he the son of John William Gregg and Mary Grace James; he the son of John Henry MacGregor and Ann Palmer; he the son of John James MacGregor and Jean Campbell; he the son of Malcolm MacCoulcheir MacGregor and Lady Isabel Aonghas Cameron; he the son of Gregor MacCoulcheir MacGregor and Amelia Coireachan; he the son of Dougal Culture McGregor and Coireachan Stewart; he the son of Ian Dubh MacGregor and Dervogill MacClachlan; he the son of James Ian "Cam" MacGregor and Margaret Clarke; he the son of Gregor "of the Golden Bridles" MacGregor; he the son of Donnchadh Duncan "Beg" MacGregor; he the son of Malcolm Cam MacGregor and Mary McAlpine of Finnick; he the son of Lord Gregor MacGregor and Lady Marion de Lennox; he the son of William MacGregor and Margaret de Lindsay.

#3393 Johnson, Jacqueline Jeanne Brooks, Utah. She is the spouse of Kipp W. Johnson and the daughter of Earl Ross Brooks and Jeanne Evangeline Holcomb; she the daughter of Floyd Richard Holcomb and Jane Edith Parmentier; he the son of William M. Holcomb and Flora Alice Chamberlain; she the daughter of William G. Chamberlain and Rebecca Baker; she the daughter of John Cornelius Baker and Lydia Arnett; she the daughter of William Rice Arnett and Mary Ann McGehee; he the son of James Andrew Arnett and Susannah McGehee; she the daughter of Samuel McGehee and Elizabeth Elliot; he the son of Thomas McGehee and Anne Bastrop.

#3394 Palmer, Jordan Nicole, Missouri. She is the spouse of Gavin McGrath and the daughter of David Alan Palmer and Dana Kaye Howard; he the son of Robert Edward Palmer and Sharon Sue Gustafson; he the son of Lloyd Earnest Palmer and Helen Baggs; she the daughter of John Calhoun Baggs and Eva E. McGregor; she the daughter of Alexander Washington McGregor and Indiana Johnson; he the son of Elijah A. McGreogr and Sarah Blackburn; he the son of Alexander B. McGregor and Ruth Adams.

#3395 Gregory, John Robert, South Carolina. He is the spouse of Lori Comshaw and the son of William Lyle Gregory and Pearl Lee Hollis; he the son of Willis Cromwell Gregory and Elsie Quinton; he the son of William M. Gregory and Emma Miller; he the son of Willis Gregory, Jr and Susan Minnie Cook; he the son of Willis Gregory and Martha Twitty; he the son of John Gregory and Mary Ann Gilbert.

#3396A McGrath, Gavin, Missouri. He is the spouse of Jordan Nicole Palmer ACGS #3394.

#3397 Gregg, Brian Thomas, New York. He is the spouse of Cynthia Lynn Ray and the son of William Joseph Gregg, Sr. and Elisabeth Marie Elena Gagliardi; he the son of Daniel James Gregg, Sr. and Anna May O'Keefe; he the son of Daniel Gregg and Mary Connor Force; he the son of David Gregg and Sophia Hunt; he the son of Samuel Gilmore Gregg and Maria Norton; he the son of David Gregg and Rachel Wilson; he the son of Captain David Gregg and Ann Clyde; he the son of David Gregg and Mary Nevias; he the son of John Gregg and Rachel; he the son of David Gregg.

#3398 Frost, April LeeAnn, Tennessee. She is the spouse of Les Garland and the daughter of Earl Monroe Darnell and Jacqueline Maria Peters; she the daughter of Allen Corbet Peters and Thelma Ann Ratliff; he the son of Bascom Sleep Peters and Macie Mae Taylor; he the son of Robert Lincoln Peters and Sarah Adaline Rosenbaum; he the son of George Peters and Elizabeth Pierson; he the son of Henry Peters Sr. and Mary Polly Waite; he the son of Jakobus Peters and Anna Maria Dalke.

#3399 Iniguez, Ann Barbour, Virginia. She is the daughter of Roger Lee Barbour and Elizabeth Malcolm Hutter Blankenship; she the daughter of Malcolm Hutter and Leola Harris Carter; he the son of Christian Sixtus Hutter and Ernestine Booker; he the son of Edward Sixtus Hutter and Emily Williams Cobbs; she the daughter of William Cabel Cobbs and Marian Stanard Scott; she the daughter of Samuel Beverly Scott and Ann MacGregor Roy; she the daughter of John Beverly Roy and Anne Waller; he the son of Thomas Roy and Judith Beverley; he the son of John Guy Roy and Dorothy Buckner; he the son of John Richard Roy and Agnes MacGregor.

#3400 Orchard, Nathan Gregg, Idaho. He is the spouse of Marit Elizabeth Clark and the son of Fred Gregg Orchard and Karla Sue Erickson; he the son of George Harrison Orchard and Carolyn Gregg; she the daughter of Henry Claude Gregg and Anna Marie Kendrick; he the son of John Henry Gregg and Martha Carolynn Quillian; he the son of Maston Simus Gregg and Cynthia Ann Lloyd; he the son of Henry C. Gregg and Mary Polly Murrell; he the grandson of Robert S Gregg Sr (immigrant to America) and Lydia Alice Harrison; he the great-great grandson of John Henry Gregg (nee: MacGregor) and Ann Palmer; he the son of John James (Black John) MacGregor and Jean Campbell.

#3401 Justo, Lionel (Lee) Alfred, New York. He is the son of Lionel Justo and Jean McGuigan; she the daughter of John Gregg McGuigan and Florence Skillen; he the son of Edward McGuigan and Jane Stevenson Gregg; the daughter of John Gregg and Mary Cross; he the son of William Gregg and Jane Stevenson.

PROVISIONAL MEMBERS

There have been no Provisional memberships granted this year.

ADVANCE FROM PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP TO LINEAL MEMBER

There have been no advancements from current Provisional memberships to Lineal memberships.

JUNIORS ADVANCING TO LINEAL MEMBERSHIP

Osborn, Jacob Nicholas #2022J to #3381

NEW JUNIOR MEMBERS (their # indicates the year they turn 18 years of age)

#2029J Denton, Sofia Grace Johnson, Alabama. Sponsor is her father Joseph Paul Denton ACGS #3041

LIBRARIAN

Submitted by Charles S. Grierson

I have confirmed with the University of Baltimore staff that we are current with the obligations of our contract for this year. With the assistance of Peter Gregg, the library has been brought up to date with hardcopies of the yearbook. One request for a yearbook hardcopy was handled and there are no monetary transactions to report.

Two digital books were entered into the Digital Library section "*Willis Gregory Family History 1785 to 1968*" (non-public due to current personal details) and "*Highlandism: Its value to Scotland and how a queen and two aristocratic women promoted the phenomenon in the Victorian age*" by Lady MacGregor.

These two books along with many other interesting items can be found in the ACGS Archives at the University of Baltimore. To locate it, go to the ACGS webpage <https://acgsus.org/memberdashboard/digital-archives/> then follow the link to the University of Baltimore.

MERCHANDISE MANAGER

Submitted by Peter Gregg, Merchandise Manager

On-hand inventory:	Value (cost) of Inventory
T-shirts Old, Forrest Green – 11 each (sale price \$5.00 each)	Unknown
Sweat shirts Old, Forrest Green – 39 each (sale price \$15.00 each)	Unknown
T-shirts, Cardinal Red – 34 each (sale price \$20.00 each)	\$16.55 each = \$562.70
Sweat shirts Cardinal Red – 23 each (sale price \$30.00 each)	\$21.25 each = \$488.75
Golf/Polo Shirts – 26 each (sale price \$25.00 each)	\$22.10 each = \$574.60
Coffee Mug – 12 each (sale price \$15.00 each, \$35.00 for 4 each)	\$5.00 each = \$60.00
Pillow, 12 x 12" – 2 each (sale price \$70.00 each)	\$50.00 each = \$100.00
ACGS Flags – 11 each (sale price \$50.00 each)	\$38.00 each = \$418.00
ACGS Old Lapel Pin – 8 each (sale price \$10.00 each)	Unknown
ACGS New Lapel Pin – 47 each (sale price \$10.00 each)	\$5.09 each = \$239.23
MacGregor's Second Gathering Cookbook – 46 each (\$10.00 each)	Unknown
ACGS Tote Bag – 10 each (sale price \$35.00 Each)	\$18.25 each = \$182.52
Chieftain Medallions – 23 each (not for sale)	\$43.42 each = <u>\$998.66</u>
Total Inventory Value	<u>\$3624.46</u>

Since last year's gathering the following items were sold:

- Sweat Shirts Green – 1 each
- Sweat Shirts Red – 4 each
- T-shirts Red – 4 each
- Golf/Polo Shirts – 5 each
- Coffee Mug – 6 each
- Name Badge – 7 each
- Lapel Pin – 9 each (1 each old, 8 each new)
- ACGS Flag – 2 each (1 each provided to Tom and Kathy Watkins at the Gathering, no charge)
- ACGS Tote Bag – 1 each
- MacGregor's Cookbook – 2 each
- ACGS Pillow – 1 each (Provided to Charles Clary for presentation to athlete at highland games, no charge)

Purchases this year.

- Gildan 18000 Crewneck Sweatshirts, S-XL– 12 each – Delaware Correctional Industries - \$21.25 each
- Hanes 5180 Beefy-T, S-XL – 8 each - Delaware Correctional Industries - \$16.55 each
- Hanes 5180 Beefy-T, 2XL – 3 each - Delaware Correctional Industries - \$18.35 each
- Gildan 8800 Dryden S/S Polo S-XL – 8 each - Delaware Correctional Industries - \$21.20 each
- Gildan 8800 Dryden S/S Polo 2XL – 2 each - Delaware Correctional Industries - \$23.00 each
- Gildan 8800 Dryden S/S Polo 3XL – 2 each - Delaware Correctional Industries - \$24.80 each (Special Order)
- 11 OZ Ceramic Coffee Mug – 12 each - \$5.00 each
- Total purchase \$786.00

The cost of the merchandise has risen due to transportation costs and the inflation that we are all coping with. There is also an anticipated increase in postage forecasted for this year, I suggest the following price increases.

T-Shirts - \$30.00

Sweat Shirts - \$35.00

Polo Shirts - \$35.00

The Coffee Mugs do not need a price increase at this time. The sale price of \$15.00 will cover the mug and shipping.

This report contains the information as of December 2022 so that it encompasses a complete calendar year as requested by the Financial Review Committee.

YEARBOOK EDITOR

Submitted by Scott F. MacGregor

By now everyone should have received the two society yearbooks published this year. The one in early Spring covered the 2021 year and the one in late July covered last year, 2022, with highlights of our Gathering in Raleigh, North Carolina. The first in-person Gathering since the COVID pandemic struck in early 2020. It was good to have so many good pictures submitted covering our Gathering experience. General articles of Clan Gregor, Scottish subjects, and especially those of genealogical significance highlighting our ancestors continue to be fewer than desired. We need your help in preserving the memory of our ancestors for future generation.

You can visit our online collection of yearbooks covering the past one hundred plus years maintained at the University of Baltimore. They can be found here: <https://ubalt.libguides.com/acgs>. Since this year's Gathering being remote, handled via Zoom, we will not have as extensive input covering the Gathering. Just the opportune time for more articles of general interest. While visiting our online collection explore the many other archive documents available as they reveal some very interesting facts on our shared past.

Please reach out to the Yearbook Editor, Scott F. MacGregor, at mcgr3gr@gmail.com for further information on article generation and submittal.

CHAPLAIN

Submitted by Rev. Paul L. Gregg

This Chaplain's Report covers the activities incurred at 113th Annual Gathering of the American Clan Gregor Society at the Sheraton Raleigh Hotel in Raleigh, North Carolina between September 23rd and September 25th, 2022.

Rev. Paul Gregg substituted for Chaplain Thad Osborne at the 113th Gathering as Thad had to cancel his attendance due to an emergency in his home parish in Tennessee. Thad sent his thanks to me for stepping up on such short notice.

Prayer of Invocation for the Council Meeting was delivered on September 23rd by Rev. Paul Gregg, Acting Chaplain for Rev. Thaddeus G. Osborne.

Prayer of Invocation for the Annual General Meeting was delivered on September 24th by Rev. Paul Gregg.

The ACGS Memorial Service “Flowers of the Forest” was officiated by Rev. Paul Gregg which included specific recognition of the passing of our Scottish Queen HRH Queen Elizabeth II as well as the honoring of William “Bill” Garrett, Russell Anson Grier, Donald Neil McGregor, Alan James Shotwell, Thomas Arthur Peter, and Louis Lydecker Gregg with White Carnations. HRH Queen Elizabeth II was honored with a special Red Carnation. Assisting with the Memorial Service was Aliana Shepard, Susan Gregg, and Valerie Gregg Newell Wilkerson.

The Gathering Banquet Prayer was given by Rev. Paul Gregg prior to the feast.

A closing Prayer of Benediction was given at the end of the ACGS Gathering by Rev. Paul Gregg.

Rev. Thaddeus Osborne has informed me that there were no Cards of Condolence or Notes sent out during the past year.

Individual prayer requests and requests for specific information on Christian Biblical Faith was given throughout the period of the Gathering to any who asked for it by Rev. Paul Gregg.

HISTORIAN

Submitted by Elizabeth Magruder Joiner

Since the Gathering of the Society in Raleigh, NC in 2022 until the Virtual AGM in 2023 there have been no births reported, one marriage, three deaths of members, and two deaths of friends of members of ACGS.



MARRIAGES

Jeremy MacGregor Whyte (ACGS#3004) of Atlanta, GA married Whitney Rhine of Dalton, GA on October 5, 2022. Marriage was held in Canberra, ACT, Australia. Jeremy is the son of Bruce MacGregor Whyte (ACGS#2783LM). He was the brother of Timothy Bruce Whyte, who died June 22, 2000. Jeremy is uncle to Blaise Kingsley Whyte (ACGS#2028J).

DEATHS OF MEMBERS

Rita M. Jeric (ACGS#1798LM) died March 25, 2021.

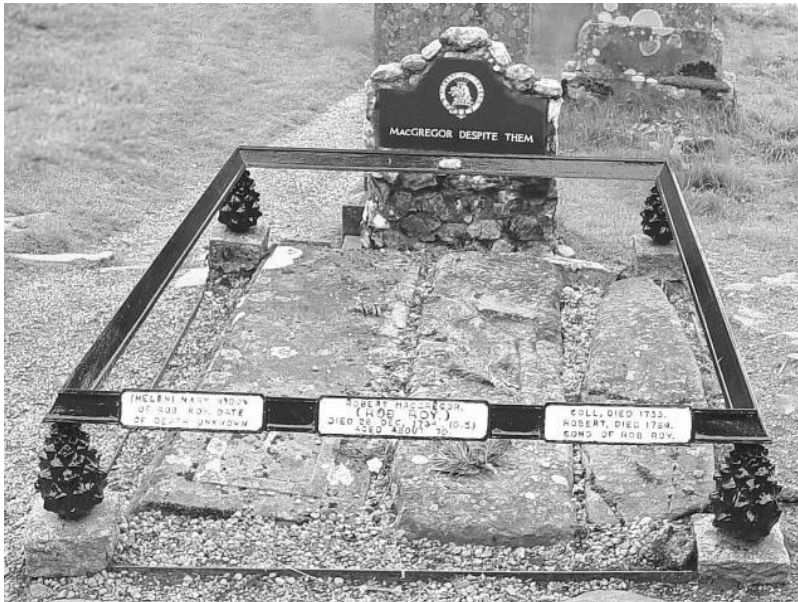
Mary Stradley (ACGS#3011ALM) died February 10, 2023.

John Francis Gregg (ACGS#2852) died February 20, 2023.

DEATHS OF FRIENDS OF ACGS

Teresa Grigg, wife of Daniel Grigg, both longtime attendees of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, died August 28, 2021.

Barbara Gay McGregor, wife of Douglas McGregor who was a relative to Lois Ann Garlitz and Jane Montmeny, and participated in the McGregor DNA project, died March 11, 2023.



Rob Roy's grave at Balquhidder Kirk



MEMORIALS

John Francis Gregg



John F. Gregg passed on to be with the Lord on February 20, 2023. He was and is my brother.

He always had a smile and a kind word for everyone, a trait he carried with him for 70 years. He was friends with everyone, and everyone was friends with him.

He loved attending all the Highland Games. His first games were in Greenville, South Carolina. We went together. He loved it so much that he kept wanting to go to every game we could. He was a longtime member of our society and attended many Gatherings. He loved meeting with Sir Malcolm and Lady MacGregor and considered them his friends. He accompanied me to all the games I attended as the Area

Deputy Chieftain. These were in Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania. He loved listening to the bagpipes as well as the other entertainment.

He always attended our Gatherings no matter where they were held. He was very thrilled when he purchased his first kilt. He considered himself a Gregg first and a MacGregor second. He was very proud of his heritage and always wanted to visit Scotland. Unfortunately, he never got the chance.

While at one of the Highland Games, he met and became friends with Charlie Zahm, a gifted performer. When Charlie found out that John was on home hospice, he dedicated a song to him during an online concert. John watched the whole concert with a smile as big as the sun.

He is now with our ancestors, drinking whisky, eating haggis and fighting the good fight with the Children of the Mist.

He is missed by all and I thank the many MacGregors who sent him their good wishes and prayers.

Remembering Two MacGregors We Lost Way Too Early

by Scott F. MacGregor

My MacGregor line is a slim tree of few branches since my immigrant ancestor settled in the United States in the early 1850s. On two of these branches a pair of first cousins were casualties of World War II. On both branches they were the only sons in the family. For one he was the last of his branch of the family. Both gave their lives at a young age so that we might enjoy this society among our many freedoms today.

We never want any of our valiant members of Clan Gregor to ever be forgotten.

I never had the opportunity to meet either of these cousins or their parents as I was born years after their passing. I did get to know Raymond's younger sister, Edwina,

who was very informative about the family when I was just starting my journey of discovery into my family tree.

Raymond John MacGregor was born on Tuesday, 9 October 1917 in Port Jervis, New York to the proud parents John Samuel MacGregor and Theodora Adolphine Pieper. His paternal grandparents are John Samuel MacGregor and Anna Elizabeth Mosely. His great grandfather John McGregor emigrated from Scotland in the early 1850s and married Jane Taylor from Ireland in Manhattan, New York in 1853. Raymond is survived by his younger sister, Edwina Marie MacGregor and an older half-sister Rositta Matilda Carling.

Raymond's early years growing up were spent in the Port Jervis area and later Dingmans Township in the Pocono Mountains of northeast Pennsylvania. He graduated from Milford High School in 1934 and later attended college at Temple University's School of Commerce in Philadelphia where he graduated in 1939 with a Bachelor of Science degree in commerce. He was one of the eight most outstanding students of his class.



Raymond and Edwina

At some point Raymond joined the U.S. Naval Reserves and was an Ensign at the time of his death. He received a diploma for mass formation from the Squantum Naval School in Massachusetts. He further earned another diploma for Chemical Warfare from the Edgewood Arsenal at Baltimore, Maryland.

Raymond was an authorized passenger on a routine operational training flight out of Naval Air Station Squantum in Quincy, Massachusetts. The flight took off at 2:00PM and was last heard from at 3:41PM on June 15, 1943. What exactly happened to the flight is unknown. The Navy searched both land and sea for over a month before his body was found by the dragger Mayflower near Gloucester, Massachusetts early in the week of August 15, 1943.

Raymond was buried with full military honors in the family plot in Milford Cemetery.

In 1940 Raymond's parents and sister move to Baltimore, Maryland where John went to work in the airplane industry. The family remained in Baltimore following the war where Edwina married and raised a family. Today there are still descendants residing in the area.

Stanley Bruce Exar was born on 11 September 1923 in Wilmington, Delaware to the proud parents Steven Stanley Exar and Edith Maude MacGregor. His maternal grandparents are John Samuel MacGregor and Anna Elizabeth Mosely. His great grandfather John McGregor emigrated from Scotland in the early 1850s and married Jane Taylor from Ireland in Manhattan, New York in 1853. Stanley was an only child.

Stanley's father emigrated from Greece in 1911 and his surname was shortened from its original Greek spelling.

Stanley's early years were spent around the Talleyville, Delaware area. He graduated from the Pierre S. DuPont High School and studied Civil Engineering at the University of Delaware where he was a member of the R.O.T.C. and swimming team. He worked for the DuPont Company at their Experimental Station. He was active with the Boy Scouts and the Talleyville Fire Company.

Stanley was called up to active duty and was an aviation machinist mate third class petty officer in the U.S. Navy. He attended basic training in Jacksonville, Florida. Later he served in the Pacific war theatre reporting for duty in the Hawaiian Islands in the spring of 1945 following a furlough to visit his parents. Stanley was not in Hawaii long before shipping out into the battle zone. He served with the 7th Bomber Squadron assigned to the U.S.S. Currituck, a seaplane tender. His last letter home was dated 26 June 1945 in which Stanley spoke of being in the Philippines.



Steven and Stanley

Stanley was only 21 when he died on July 1, 1945, from injuries received in a plane crash while in the Pacific battle area. At the time of his death Stanley was the flight engineer on a large Navy patrol bomber (seaplane). He was awarded the Purple Heart. Stanley is buried with his parents in the Grace Episcopal Church Cemetery in Brandywine Hundred (Wilmington), New Castle, Delaware.

Following Stanley's death his mother for many years was an officer in the local chapter of the Gold Star Mothers. This line of our MacGregors ended with the death of Stanley's mother Edith on 15 August 1973.



Kelpies near Falkirk

TRUSTEES

THE CHARITY AND EDUCATION (C&E) FUND

Submitted by Jack Simon, Chair

The Trustees met multiple times during the year using Zoom and Email form of communications. Discussion and action as follow:

Financial Advisor Relationship Negotiations were held with Merrill Lynch (ML) to form a new relationship. Formerly, ML acted as a transaction agent rather than a fiduciary representative. ML earned fees based on actual portfolio trades. Now they earn fees on portfolio performance. As a result, the advisor role has become more active and aligned with the Society's goals.

Portfolio Performance: the Trustees took action in Jan/Feb time frame to diversify the portfolio and invest into fixed income (preferred stock and bonds) paying 5 to 6% dividends. The rebalancing of the portfolio into fixed income changed the composition into 70% equities and 30% cash and fixed income. The net effect of this action resulted in improved cash flow and enhanced dividend returns for the C&E accounts.

Scholarship Grants There were 20 scholarship applications approved for grants and a total of \$30,000 awarded. This was the largest average individual award on record. The range of institutions were diverse throughout the country. Rather than mailing checks directly to the institutions, we mailed to the students with the check payee to the institution. We felt this would assist the student to avoid mishandling at the institution level.

Scholarship Awardees

Level 1 (students applying for assistance for the first time from ACGS).

<u>NAME</u>	<u>INSTITUTION</u>
Clare Buchanan	University of Mississippi
Lynza Korschegarow	Kansas State University
Ruthie Magruder	University of Georgia
Macey McGregor	University of Mississippi
Samuel Miller	Texas A&M University
William Slater	Wake Forest University
Colton Sorat	Georgia Gwinett College

Of the Level 1 recipients: 4 had connection to ACGS, 2 had Scottish lineage, and 1 was general. Each recipient received \$1,500.00.

Level 2 (undergraduates beyond the freshman year who have previously received an ACGS scholarship and who wish to receive funds for an additional year)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>INSTITUTION</u>
Bailey Beakes	Rochester Institute of Technology
Alison Bostelman	University of Georgia
Logan Carroll	Abilene Christian Univ
Sophia Comrie	Rhodes College

Seth Gregg
Hayley Hoppock
Lauren Major
Greyson Miller
Parker Rhodes
Lily Richardson
Alexandra Simon
Kylie Street
Saydie Walker

University of Tennessee
University of Illinois
Clemson University
University of Oklahoma
University of St. Andrews
Utah State University
Calhoun Community College
Coastal Carolina University
Texas A&M University

Of the Level 2 recipients: 6 had connection to ACGS, 0 had Scottish lineage, and 7 were general. Each recipient received \$1,500.00

Charity The Trustees reached out to assist those members who suffered damage because of hurricane IAN. All Florida members were polled and one member identified who suffered loss. A grant of aid was approved for this member.

General Comments I want to thank Randy Walker for his participation and counsel during this past year. Randy is stepping down as trustee because of term limits. A proposal to lengthen the Trustee term to 4 years was put forth for two reasons: a) difficulty getting qualified volunteers for the trustee position b) gain the knowledge and experience to oversee a complex \$800,000 portfolio.



Glenorchy Kirk where the Dalmally Stones now reside within

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Submitted by Peter K. Gregg, Chair

In December 2022, I received access to Scholarship Committee email account and Google drive and began to set up all applications and documents in individual folders on the google drive.

We received 7 applications from new applicants and 14 applications from repeat applicants.

On February 20th, I had to step away from the Scholarship process due to a death in the family. Mary Byrd Pettenati agreed to step in as interim Chair.

All applications and their supporting documentation were reviewed, logged onto an excel spreadsheet and forwarded to the Trustees for their review and award. Please see the Trustees report for the names of the awardees and the amounts of the awards.

I want to give a special thanks to Mary Byrd Pettenati and Kathy Whyte for ensuring that the process continued in a smooth and timely manner in my absence.

FINANCIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Submitted by Paul O. Collinson, Chair

The Financial Review Committee, for the American Clan Gregor Society, has reviewed the financial transactions of the Society for the period:

January 1, 2022 – September 30, 2022

Transactions, general ledger reports, and bank account statements for the period October 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 were not made available to the Financial Review Committee.

As a result, the Financial Review Committee, composed of Paul O. Collinson, completed the review of financial transactions spanning the first nine months of 2022 only.

Items of concern which remain unresolved include:

The \$240 check payable to Peter Hua/Chelsea Publications (#1453) was cashed against the General account at BofA on 06/14/2022. Then in July a check for \$240 payable to Chelsea Publications (#1455) was cashed on 07/18/2022. The memo line on check #1455 reads: 'Replacement for previously sent check made out to incorrect recipient'. The Financial Review Committee did not see evidence that the \$240 from check #1453 was refunded to the Society.

The 2022 tax return for the Charity and Education Fund lists \$77,757 as 'prior year adjustments' on IRS Form 990, Part 1X, Line 24(d). Given that this is a substantial sum, the recommendation is that a clear explanation be sought by the Officers and the Trustees of the Society.

During October 2022, an informal loan was made by the Treasurer to the Society in order to expedite the opening of checking accounts with Truist. Informal loans are a highly unusual practice, particularly so when the loan involves personal funds of the Treasurer. Full repayment of the loan was reported to the Financial Review Committee.

COMMENTS, RECOMMENDATIONS, and REQUESTS

The Financial Review Committee respectively submits the following comments, recommendations, and requests for consideration:

1. Investment Policy Statement – the Financial Review Committee makes a standing request to receive a copy of the approved Investment Policy Statement upon each update or revision. Investment Policy Statements govern the holdings and transactions within the investment accounts and state the Goals and Objectives, Risk Tolerance, and Risk Assessment.
2. Transaction Sampling – the transaction review spanning 01/01/2022 through 09/30/2022. Transactions, general ledger reports, and bank account statements for the period October 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 were not made available to the Financial Review Committee.

The transaction review included a sampling of backup information to support transactions related to purchases, reimbursements, shipping, and to Gatherings/Games. An unresolved transaction is the \$240 check payable to Peter Hua/Chelsea Publications (#1453) which was cashed against the General account at BofA on 06/14/2022. Then in July a check for \$240 payable to Chelsea Publications (#1455) was cashed on 07/18/2022. The memo line on check #1455 reads: 'Replacement for previously sent check made out to incorrect recipient'. The Financial Review Committee did not see evidence that the \$240 from check #1453 was refunded to the Society.

An increase in the number of software subscriptions which include Adobe, Zoom, and Survey Monkey was observed. The recommendation is to consider whether or not these subscriptions are warranted.

The payment of over \$700 of interest and over \$70 of fees was paid to the Society's credit card in 2022. The recommendation is that procedures and safeguards be put in place to limit the occurrence of unpaid balances and late payment fees.

3. Treasurer Policy and Procedures – the Financial Review Committee makes a standing request to receive a copy of the approved Treasurer P&P upon each update or revision. The Financial Review Committee further makes a standing request to receive a copy of the working draft of the Treasurer P&P at the start of each review period.
4. Revision of all Policy and Procedures – the Financial Review Committee continues to recommend that all Policy and Procedure statements be revised to include parameters to govern spending discretion and the approval of expenses.
5. Professional Review/Agreed Upon Procedures– the Financial Review Committee

is resolute that it is in the best interest of all concerned that a professional review/agreed upon procedures be commissioned. Benefits are numerous and include:

- protection of Society Officers and Society Assets
- identification of process improvements
- identification of best business practices
- identification of material weaknesses
- ease of transfer in regards to future succession planning

6. Monthly Account Statements – the Financial Review Committee recommends that electronic copies of the Bank of America bank accounts, Merrill Lynch investment account, and ACGS credit card account be delivered directly by the sending institution to the Chieftain via the chieftain@acgsus.org or as forwarded emails from the Treasurer or Trustees. This is a common practice and well worth any nominal fee that might be charged by a financial institution.
7. ACGS Purchases – the Financial Review Committee recommends that all purchases of goods, services, and software be purchased in the name of the Society through effective use of the checking account and the credit card. Doing so effectively ensures that the Society is the owner of said assets and in full control of their use and disposition. This change would also end any need for Officers and Members to seek reimbursement for the purchase of such assets, services, and software.

***The Financial Review Committee** continues to note that each STRIPE transaction enters the BofA checking account with a notation that includes 'Richard Walker', the Financial Review Committee makes the recommendation that effort be made to change that notation to 'American Clan Gregor Society, Inc' and to ensure that the Society owns the STRIPE account (that a member does not own the STRIPE account).*

New medallions were purchased in 2022 for \$1,150 using personal funds of a member which was then reimbursed by check by the Society. The recommendation is that goods be purchased in the name of the Society through effective use of the Society's credit card and/or checking account.

8. Cash Receipts – In regards to the cash sale of merchandise or other cash receipts paid to the Society. The Financial Review Committee recommends that cash receipts/reimbursements continue to be converted to Stripe transactions or to paper checks. There is a nominal fee upon conversion to Stripe and a potential inconvenience/delay in regards to paper checks but these are minor in respect to the importance of creating a document trail and maintaining records of transactions. The further objective is to eliminate any instance of cash deposits or cash withdrawals.
9. Tax Returns — The 2022 tax return for the Charity and Education Fund lists \$77,757 as 'prior year adjustments' on IRS Form 990, Part 1X, Line 24(d). Given that this is a substantial sum, the recommendation is that a clear explanation be sought by the Officers and the Trustees of the Society.

10. During October 2022, an informal loan was made by the Treasurer to the Society in order to expedite the opening of checking accounts with Truist. Informal loans are a highly unusual practice, particularly so when the loan involves personal funds of the Treasurer. Full repayment of the loan was reported to the Financial Review Committee.
11. Concentrated Positions — The investment portfolio of the Society contains concentrated positions.

Two of the twelve stocks held each represent 30% of the portfolio, together these two stocks represent over 60% of the portfolio. Four of the other stocks held each make up over 5% of the portfolio, together these four stocks make up over 20% of the portfolio. The recommendation is that the Trustees amend the Investment Policy Statement to address the holding of concentrated positions and the commensurate risk. If the decision is to reduce the concentration of positions then the recommendation is to engage with and work closely with qualified professionals such as a CPA and/or a tax professional.



RECOGNITION COMMITTEE

Submitted by Randy Walker, Chair

The Society Chieftain made two recommendations for a Certificate of Appreciation to be presented during the 114th Annual Gathering in September 2023. The awards were approved by the Chieftain as written and produced by Alpha Graphics in San Antonio, Texas.

The names of those receiving an award will be disclosed by the Society Chieftain during the AGM.



American Clan Gregor Society

Incorporated
SIR MALCOLM MacGREGOR of MacGREGOR, BARONET
Hereditary Chief
Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire, Scotland

American Clan Gregor Society Proudly extends this Certificate of Appreciation To

Mr. Bruce MacGregor Whyte

The Officers and Members of the American Clan Gregor Society
present on this date the Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Bruce MacGregor Whyte
for his superior service and commitment to the Society.

When the new treasurer abruptly resigned in March 2023 Mr. Whyte came forward,
"stepped into the storm" and took on the task of getting the society's books in order, all of the
bills paid, finding a new CEO to get an extension filed for the tax return, making forward
promptly to cut the checks for the 2023 scholarship awards, leading the way to find a new well
qualified Treasurer and bringing him up to speed.

Mr. Whyte accomplished all of this while continuing to perform his duties as
Ranking Deputy Chairman and 37th Membership Database Chair. His inclusion creating the
initial policies and procedures for this position, along with a document that provides insight
on using the application to meet the society's future needs.

Once again... as they say... "MacGregors Deserve Clen"

Scott J. MacGregor
Chairman



American Clan Gregor Society

Incorporated
SIR MALCOLM MacGREGOR of MacGREGOR, BARONET
Hereditary Chief
Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire, Scotland

American Clan Gregor Society Proudly extends this Certificate of Appreciation To

Mrs. Mary Mary Bennett

The Officers and Members of the American Clan Gregor Society
present on this date the Certificate of Appreciation to Mrs. Mary Mary Bennett
for her superior service and commitment to the Society.

When it was necessary for the Chair of The Scholarship Committee to step down due to
the serious health condition of his brother Mrs. Bennett assumed the duties and
responsibilities of the Chair and was able to present the Committee's scholarship
recommendations to the Chair of The Trustees in a timely manner.

Mary Mary performed her duties and responsibilities in the highest traditions of
Clan Gregor and The American Clan Gregor Society.

Scott J. MacGregor
Chairman



HERALDRY COMMITTEE

Submitted by John King Bellasai, JD, Chair

No Committee meetings this year.

Only activity to report is securing Lord Lyon Morrow to write a piece for our yearbook, and for posting in our website, about Lyon's very prominent role in (1) the Scotland portion of the late Queen Elizabeth's funeral; (2) the coronation of King Charles in London; and (3) the later presentation to King Charles of the "Honours of Scotland" (Scottish crown, Septet, sword of state), once back in Edinburgh. (This was the equivalent of a second coronation.) These were all great state ceremonials with a lot of heraldic content, etc. He will also provide us with photos to post.

You will each recall that Lyon addressed our AGM back in 2021--that time speaking about the work of Lyon Court generally, and about the basics of Scots heraldry. His remarks back then were very well received. And our membership was delighted to learn at that time of Lyon Morrow's own MacGregor connections (on his mother's side).

GENEALOGY COMMITTEE

Submitted by Lois Ann Garlitz, Chair

Requests for assistance to the Genealogy Committee have been sparse this year. Two requests from the Registrar, queries from our Facebook groups, and one request from an officer of the society.

Subjects of the queries were: how to find lineage of an adoptive parent, how useful is it to research any DNA evidence, and how to join ACGS if my ancestors are in one of your old yearbooks?

GATHERING SITE COMMITTEE

Submitted by Ian Greig, Chair

The Committee met several times via electronic means during the year.

After discussion and consultations, the committee selected Charlottesville VA to be the site for the 2024 Annual Gathering.

Prior to making a final decision for Charlottesville the committee took an extra step this year of surveying Society members resident in that city to check if there would be local support for the Assistant Chieftain with hosting the event.

As a result of that survey four members offered their services to help. These contacts have been forwarded to the Assistant Chieftain.

The Chairman of the Committee expects to be present at the Council and full Board meetings for 2023 and will be available to answer any questions from members.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Submitted by Peter K. Gregg, Chair

The members of the nominating committee were contacted by email on August 23, 2023. After discussion, Jeanne reminded us that all current officers had been contacted by our Chieftain, Scott MacGregor, on May 28, 2023 to document their willingness to continue in their current positions. They all responded in the affirmative. This made our job very easy.

The positions of Chieftain and Ranking Deputy Chieftain are in the middle of their initial two-year term. They are willing to remain and continue their respective terms.

The following persons have agreed to serve in these positions for another one-year term if they are elected:

Scribe: Donna Jane Montmeny
Registrar: Jeanne Lehr
Chancellor: Diana G. Browne

Nominated for an initial term of two years:

Treasurer: Mark McGregor

I was informed by the Chair of the Trustees that the nominee as the new trustee for a three-year term is Francis R. Mercier.

IT COMMITTEE WEBMASTER

Submitted by Rick Walker, Webmaster

2023 has been a busy year, I relocated after buying a new house had a ton of work related projects that took me away from being able to do many of the web master duties. But one project was started and greatly improved the flow for.

- Application form layout project.

This project had some significant changes to the format of our online membership applications, which addressed some format issues, and flow issues. As with many web projects, these things are typically rolling projects and improvements.

Our website remains to receive our typical traffic flow month over month, although this year the month of August to September saw a decrease from levels 2022 and 2021 that I am attributing to folks taking summer vacations post Covid-19 Pandemic.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Submitted by Lois Ann Garlitz, Administrator

The American Clan Gregor Society has two groups on Facebook: "The Clan Gregor" and "American Clan Gregor Society, Inc." Past Chieftain Randy Walker created "American Clan Gregor Society" when he was Chieftain, and I had inherited "The Clan MacGregor" several years ago by agreeing to accept the position of Administrator

when a lady with a new baby offered me that opportunity. Our current webmaster Richard Walker is also an administrator for both groups. Rick's computer and social media skills are essential to their success.

American Clan Gregor Society, Inc. Facebook group has 1.3K members. Administrators are Richard Walker, Lois Ann Garlitz, and Aliana Shepard.

The Clan Gregor Facebook group has 2.K members from around the world. Administrators are Richard Walker, Lois Ann Garlitz, and Frank MacGregor (from Australia) There are several members in this group from Australia and New Zealand.

These are both private groups which means: only members can see who's in the group and what they post.

These sites can be used as forums for Area Deputy Chieftains and other members of that Facebook group to inform the public of local event in their area, ask for assistance with family history research, etc. in addition to using our Society's home page <http://www.acgsus.org>. There are several questions an applicant must answer before they are accepted to the Facebook group. Commercial advertisements are prohibited and will cause that member to be deleted from the group and blocked from any further admission to the group. If any member notices an inappropriate posting, there is a way to notify the Administrators to get it deleted.



Rob Roy statue in Stirling



A RIGHT ROYAL YEAR

Dr. Joseph J. Morrow CVO, CBE, KC, FRSE

The relationship between the Lord Lyon and the Monarchy in Scotland emerged from the mists of history of the Celtic kings. The forerunner of the Lord Lyon was known as the “High Sennachie” or the Royal Poet. The principal duty of the High Sennachie was to recite the genealogy of any new Monarch to prove that he was the rightful king and the rightful heir to the throne. Another role was to preside over the Inauguration of the Scottish Monarchs.

Through the course of the Middle Ages, there emerged what we now know as the Lord Lyon, King of Arms whose responsibilities included all State Ceremonial in Scotland.

I was sworn in as Lord Lyon on 14 February 2014 before the Lord President of the Court of Session. In quick succession, people kept reminding me that I was responsible for what was then known as the “Unicorn Plan” in Scotland. While that statement made little impact on me at the time, it became clear to me several years into my post that the responsibility for the arrangement of events after the death of Our Late Queen rested on my shoulders, particularly if her death should occur in Scotland. The realisation of the size and scope of the job initially caused me some panic, noting that the eyes of the whole world would be focused on our country should The Queen die in Scotland – which turned out to be the case.



The death of a Monarch starts a whole series of ceremonial activities which culminate in the Coronation in Westminster Abbey and, in Scotland, in the presentation of the Royal Honours of Scotland to the new Monarch.

Clearly, my first duty was to create a team of people who would share the responsibility with me to make things happen and deliver the Plan in such a way as was essential to honour the Queen and for the reputation of all concerned and of our country as a whole. For several years prior to the death of The Queen, I have been working with a range of public sector partners – from Scottish Government, Police Scotland, local authorities including Edinburgh District Council and, of course, the Royal Household – in preparation for the delivery of the Scottish Plan.

As the date and place of the death of The Late Queen was of course not yet known, it was necessary to adopt a mentality of readiness for the implementation of the Plan, which included the formation of a Team Scotland to deliver the Plan. I was surrounded by supportive and talented people from throughout the public sector in Scotland, and to this day I am extremely thankful for their commitment and their expertise.

On 8 September 2022, I was called out from a lunch before the Grand Committee and the Grand Lodge of Scotland to attend at St Andrew’s House what was known as the Gold Group in relation to Operation Unicorn. As I became aware that we would soon be moving into the implementation of the Unicorn Plan, my steely focus was on the need to ensure that the Plan was put into operation in such a way that was effective and followed the wishes of Her Late Majesty. We now know that Her Majesty died just after 3pm, and preparations commenced to bring her coffin from her beloved Balmoral Castle to the Palace of Holyroodhouse. It was moving to see the respects paid to the coffin along its journey from Balmoral to Edinburgh, with thousands of people lining the route who had a genuine affection for The Queen and who wished to give her a real Scottish farewell.

All of this was being managed and organised in the background and, once the Unicorn Plan had officially been put into action, it was my duty to attend the Accession Council (*see right*) in St James’s Palace, London, on 10 September 2022 and witness the proceedings of the council.



The first act of the new King Charles III was to subscribe to the Oath relating to the security of the Church of Scotland as required by the Article 25 of the Act of Union 1707. After this act and the new King’s first Proclamation was carried out at St James’s Palace, I returned to make the traditional Proclamations in Scotland at the Mercat Cross and at Edinburgh Castle. I was accompanied to the Mercat Cross by my Officers of Arms, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh and the State Trumpeters. The new King was duly proclaimed and was given “Three Cheers”.



Proclamation at Mercat Cross



Proclamation at Edinburgh Castle

Following the second Proclamation that took place in Edinburgh Castle, there were many other proclamations throughout Scotland.

The coffin of Our Late Queen was brought to the Palace of Holyroodhouse, and from there to St Giles' Cathedral for a lying at rest, during which members of the public were able to file past and pay their respects. Many from Scotland availed themselves of this opportunity. As part of the overall country's grief and respect to The Late Queen, they were joined by The King and members of the Royal Family who attended the overnight vigil.

On 12 September 2022, The King and members of the Royal family attended a Service of Thanksgiving for The Late Queen in St Giles' Cathedral, which was conducted by the Dean of the Chapel Royal in Scotland, the Very Reverend Professor David Fergusson. The Service was attended by people from all aspects of Scottish life, and in particular from organisations of which The Queen was Patron or with which she had been associated.



On 13 September, the coffin was carried out from St Giles' Cathedral and accompanied by the Princess Royal and the Dean of the Chapel Royal, was taken to Edinburgh Airport to travel in an RAF C17 aircraft to London. After the coffin left Scottish airspace, Scottish Officers of Arms and I boarded a bus for London to take part in the processions in relation to the State Funeral in London and the services and ceremonials marking the event.

On 14 September, the Scottish Officers of Arms had the honour of preceding Her Late Majesty's coffin into Westminster Hall, and on 19 September we took part in the procession of the coffin from the



Palace of Westminster to Westminster Abbey to attend the State Funeral. Later, we all processed from the Abbey to Wellington Arch as part of the long procession in honour of The Late Queen.

As Lord Lyon, I was privileged to take part in the long walk at Windsor to St George's Chapel (see right).



The Committal Service within St George's Chapel (see below) was, for me, the most moving part of the whole ceremony, bringing the event to a conclusion and saying our farewells to Her Late Majesty.



We were no sooner back in Scotland and trying to resume our daily lives, when the issue of the Coronation became prominent in our minds, even if the announced Coronation date of 6 May 2023 still seemed a long way off.

The planning for the Coronation, known as "Operation Golden Orb", was now being increasingly talked about and prominent in our Scottish ceremonial life. I was aware that, in addition, we needed to create a further detailed plan for the Presentation of the Royal Honours of Scotland to The King in Scotland, known as "Operation Sceptre", which would take place after the Coronation.

The Court of the Lord Lyon was represented at the Coronation by myself and the Officers of Arms and by representatives of many aspects of Scottish life in Scotland. It was a magnificent occasion of celebration.

The Coronation itself was obviously the most significant event, when King Charles and Queen Camilla were officially crowned. Wide coverage was made of this and the splendid ceremonial was watched and enjoyed by millions across the world.



The King and The Queen arrive for their Coronation

Prior to the Coronation, I was also heavily involved in preparing for the transport of the highly symbolic Stone of Destiny (Scone) to Westminster Abbey for its role in the Coronation, and in ensuring its subsequent safe return to Edinburgh Castle. The Stone of Destiny left Edinburgh Castle with a highly specialised team and was safely delivered to Westminster Abbey on 29 April 2023. Many were involved in this operation, and it was a privilege for me as a Scot to deliver an address at the arrival and welcoming service of the Stone of Destiny into the Abbey.

I witnessed the Stone of Destiny being placed under the throne in readiness for the Coronation in ceremonial celebration of what it means to have a constitutional Monarch.



On 6 May, 2,200 people from 203 countries attended in Westminster Abbey, and The King was greeted by many state leaders as he entered the Abbey. The music for the ceremonial had been selected by The King himself.

The ceremony comprised several stages:

Stage 1: The King was presented to the people.

Stage 2: The Coronation Oath was administered to The King by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Stage 3: For the Anointing, The King removed his ceremonial robe and sat on the Coronation Chair. This part of the ceremony was to emphasise the spiritual status of the Sovereign, who is Supreme Governor of the Church of England.

Stage 4: The Investiture of The King – this is the only time when The King wears the St Edward's Crown.

Stage 5: For the enthronement, The King was placed on his Throne above the Stone of Destiny, establishing and affirming the tradition of the Scottish connection.

In a further stage of the ceremony, Her Majesty Queen Camilla was crowned and enthroned.

As Officers of Arms of the Court of the Lord Lyon, we were honoured to witness this ceremonial and to take part in the processions out of Westminster Abbey.

Shortly before 2.30pm, the new Monarch and the Royal Family greeted the crowds in the Mall from the balcony of Buckingham Palace. This was a traditional gesture and formed part of the celebration by the whole country of the events that had taken place.

Importantly for Scotland and for myself, the final piece of this “right Royal year” was the delivery of the National Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication for Their Majesties The King and The Queen on the occasion of the Presentation of the Royal Honours of Scotland, which took place on 5 July 2023 within St Giles' Cathedral.

As part of my strong involvement and input in this Service, I was very keen to ensure that the principles which underpinned it were those that underpinned the values of Scotland. Again, this was achieved through a team of excellent, talented people who came together, many of whom had also taken part in Operation Unicorn. In my view the ceremony was not just focused on the Monarch, but also on the people of Scotland.

This same ceremony had been carried out for The Late Queen when she had visited Scotland in June 1953. In 1953, however, Scotland was a very different place from today, as there have been significant developments and changes since then which have moulded the values which underpin our modern society. One significant difference is that we now have a Scottish Parliament.

The Royal Honours of Scotland consist of a Crown (one of the oldest in Europe), a Sceptre and a Sword. The original sword was given by Pope Julius and over the years had become so fragile that it could not be used for the Ceremony. Upon the death of Queen Elizabeth, a new sword for Scotland was therefore commissioned in 2022 – the “Elizabeth Sword”, which was used in the Royal Honours Ceremony. It was presented

to The King in the Palace of Holyroodhouse in advance of the service by myself together with the designer and the craftsmen and women who made the sword.



The Service and the Presentation were finalised and delivered on 5 July 2023 by representatives of Scottish life from all over the nation. The privilege and honour of leading this ceremonial and the surrounding events will remain with me for the rest of my life.

Whilst it has been an honour and privilege to be involved in the events of entire year, for my part it was the Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication and the Presentation of the Royal Honours of Scotland which will remain the highlight and the focus of my time as Lord Lyon.

The Royal Honours ceremonial was designed to focus on both our Monarch and on the people of Scotland, and on our diversity and our values. It was important for me that this be manifest in the presentation of the Crown, Sceptre and Elizabeth Sword to King Charles III.



Presentation of the Crown to The King



The Sceptre



The Sword

This event showed the pride of Scotland at its best and presented to The King the dynamic nature of Scottish society. There were representatives from all part of Scottish life – from the Head Boy of a Scottish school to the Lord Justice Clerk, the second highest Judge in Scotland. One highlight was the People’s Procession, in which over 100 persons marched from Edinburgh Castle to St Giles’ Cathedral, carefully chosen to represent the many aspects of Scottish life, our Scottish values and what it means to be a Scot.

The music before the start of the Service of Thanksgiving and Presentation, much of which was chosen and encouraged by His Majesty, demonstrated a sense of excellence and reflected the talents of Scottish society. I was honoured to take part in all the processional activity, and in particular to present the Royal Honours to The King.

At the conclusion of which I was privileged to present the Stone of Destiny:

“The presence of the Stone of Destiny or Scone in the High Kirk of Edinburgh on this occasion is a historic moment in the life of Scotland. Carved from the earth, this is a simple piece of stone. Yet, in its simplicity, it has precious and significant symbolism for the people of this land. The Stone of Destiny – *An Lia Fáil* – is an ancient symbol of Scottish sovereignty.”

The past year or so has been a “right Royal year”, and Team Scotland has been seen at its best, working together and reflecting not only our ancient traditions but also the modern life of the people of Scotland.



“GOD SAVE THE KING”

LORD LYON RECONGIZED

Investiture on the 8th November in the Throne Room of Buckingham Palace the Lord Lyon, Dr Joseph John Morrow, RECEIVED A Commander of the Royal Victorian Order from King Charles the Third.



This article from the Lord Lyon was obtained for us by our own John King Bellasai, Chair of our Heraldry Committee. Here are a few parting words from John.

The Lord Lyon is wearing his MacGregor tartan for his audience with the King. Especially noteworthy.

I remember Fiona, Lady MacGregor, saying that when she was invested as Lord Lieutenant of Dumfries by the late Queen that she wore an outfit of MacGregor tartan to the ceremony. And that the Queen commented to her that she was delighted to see it, noting that nobody else getting appointments that day was wearing tartan, which was a shame.

The Royal Family have always been proud of their Scottishness and love to wear the tartan to show it. I remember King Charles visiting the Scottish Parliament shortly after becoming king. He was wearing the kilt into the chamber when he gave his speech--a gesture that was very well received by all the SNPs.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 114TH ANNUAL GATHERING OF THE AMERICAN CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY

Submitted by: Scott F. MacGregor

This year's Gathering was held via Zoom with the Council meeting occurring on Friday, 15 September and the General meeting happening on Saturday, 16 September. Attendance was good for both meetings but could have been better. However, we met the required quorum needed.

It is always GREAT when we come together whether at our different local Highland Games, our in-person Gatherings, or even a virtual Gathering over Zoom. Just to be able to see and hear everyone is wonderful.

These days just about everyone can do a Zoom meeting. At a minimum, access can be acquired via a smart phone and an app. You can participate even if you don't have a camera or microphone. If you are like me, it might take a little technical assistance, easily provided by the younger generation. With only minimal hardware requirements I would hope to see more of us participating in these Zoom Gatherings in the future. After all, the society encompasses all of us, not just that of a few.

As can be expected of a business meeting, the Council meeting on Friday did not disappoint. It was good to hear the society is doing well despite the unfortunate turmoil with our treasurer position. The minutes and all reports can be found within this yearbook.

With Saturday came the much-anticipated Annual General Meeting of the society. As soon as I entered the meeting, I was greeted with Scottish tunes sung by none other than Charlie Zahm. It was wonderful seeing so many lovely faces from all across the country, from the East coast to the West coast and all the way down in south Texas. Unfortunately, Sir Malcolm was unable to attend due to a prior engagement. He did send a warm welcome and best wishes to all our society members. Upon completion of the presentation of very enlightening reports, an attempt was made to play several videos of our Pipe Major playing a few Clan Gregor tunes. Due to a technical glitch, we were able to see him but unable to hear the tunes he was playing. The problem was later resolved, but not in time for the meeting. This was followed by an interesting interview video of one of our longest members, Major General Warren Magruder. Those who exited early missed a good interview. Once again, gremlins crept in causing the video to randomly repeat portions. The video was added to the society's website for all to view. We need to create more videos of this nature showcasing our members. Similar, it would be wonderful to include such interviews in our annual yearbooks. The meeting concluded with the election of new officers and the appointment of committees and other positions. It was good to hear all positions are filled, especially the Treasurer and Newsletter Editor. By the time this yearbook is received we'll hopefully have received an issue or two of the newsletter.

It was good to hear that the Gathering in 2024 will be in-person in Charlottesville, Virginia. It will be great to be in the physical presence of my fellow members. With COVID now behind us, I do hope to mingle and get to know more of you. Don't hesitate, register today.

To put on a Gathering over Zoom is not an easy task, it still takes plenty of work behind the scenes, of which several members put in considerable effort to organize and implement these meetings. In recognition our webmaster, Rick Walker, who had to step down last year due to work commitments, stepped up to handle the election ballots and setting up the meetings along with sending out the meeting invite emails. Our Assistant Chieftain, Michelle Mercier, who handles the technical issues during the meetings and kept things moving along. With the help of her uncle, Peter Gregg, she obtained permission from musician Charlie Zahm to open our general meeting. Our Pipe Major was kind enough to create several short videos of him piping our clan's music. Bruce Whyte and Randy Walker put together a short video where they interviewed one of our longest members, retired Major General Warren Magruder. The article that follows stems from this interview. Our society has many more distinguished members in which the yearbook would love to receive similar articles.

In conclusion, a society is not a society without the involvement of its members. It's not the number of members the society has but how involved those members are. If you are not currently involved, please strongly consider getting involved going forward and making OUR society even better. Just reach out to an officer or other position representative listed in the front of this yearbook and express your interest in lending a hand.

MAJOR GENERAL WARREN A. E. MAGRUDER

ACGS Member number 872



Major General Magruder has been a member of the Society since 1946, but no-one knew him. At the Gathering in 2023, he was interviewed by Randy Walker and Bruce Whyte. This is a highly summarized report of that interview. Check out his membership number!!

Born in 1928 in Baltimore, MD, of working parents. He received his BSc from the University of Pennsylvania followed by MEd from the Western Maryland College. He was drafted into the army in 1950 at Camp Gordon, Georgia and served in the military police. Originally activated to go to Korea, their battalion instead made a training film on riot control.

In 1952 he participated in the early atomic tests at Camp Desert Rock, Yucca Flats in Nevada where they monitored the effects of radiation after an atomic bomb explosion. This involved sitting in trenches behind a bunker with their backs to the explosion, wearing protective glasses and radiation measuring badges at varying distances from ground zero. This was the first and only time that troops were used in such a manner.

He had multiple positions in the years that followed: direct promotion to captain of an MP command, then Provost Marshall before joining a transportation company where he was Commander of a transportation Service Company. He had active duty as Chief of Operations and Training at the Office Chief of Army Reserve in the Pentagon. He had several more appointments at the Pentagon. In 1987 he retired as Major General Warren A. E. Magruder, Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Mobilization and Training.

He had several major interests outside the Forces, American Indian beaded dress and fishing. He started fishing at age 8 in the surf at Ocean Beach and at age moved to fish the Chesapeake Bay. This led to deep sea fishing up and down the eastern US coast and the Caribbean, picking up trophies at many tournaments.

His grandfather was a doctor in Nebraska and had treated many American Indians and been paid in-kind with items of native clothing. Warren collected some of these. He was a long-time member of the Atlantic Indian Trap Shooting Association which is where he became familiar with making beaded clothing.

At the time it was legal to get golden eagle feathers from Pawnee Bill's Indian Trading Post or collect them from several sheep ranchers who could legally kill these birds. Warren used these feathers in bonnets and also took up making beaded leggings (for the technical readers, he used a squaw's lazy stitch) that required up to 20,000 beads each.

He was also inducted into the Hunkpapa Sioux tribe by none other than Frank White Buffalo Man, grandson of Chief Sitting Bull. Warren was given the Hunkpapa name of *Latanka White Buffalo*.

What does Warren recommend for longevity:

1 cigar a day

2 ozs Jack Daniel a day

2023 GATHERING ATTENDEES

Virtual, Zoom Format

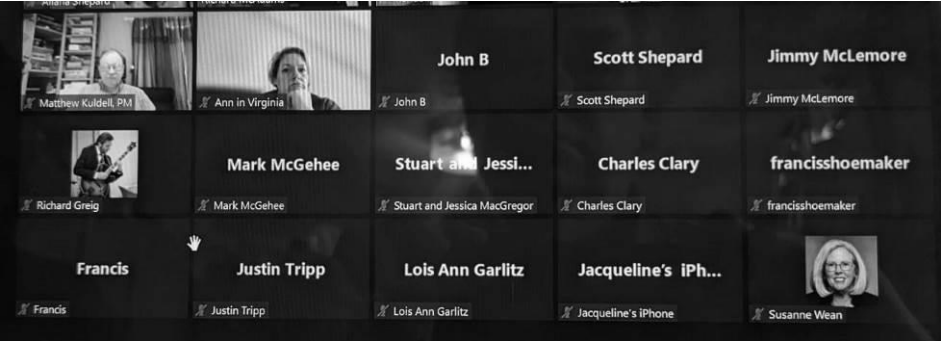
Member	City/State	Number
Scott F. MacGregor	Norfolk, Virginia	2450LM
Jamie MacGregor Grover	Norfolk, Virginia	2758LM
Darcie MacGregor Schauf	Norfolk, Virginia	2757LM
Stuart J. MacGregor	Summerville, South Carolina	2759LM
Jess MacGregor	Summerville, South Carolina	Guest
Peter K. Gregg	Dover, Delaware	2686
Michelle Mercier	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	2959
Francis Mercier	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	2957
Thad Osborne	Knoxville, Tennessee	1929LM
Jane Montmeny	Billings, Montana	2808LM
Lois Ann Garlitz	Cokeville, Wyoming	2561LM
Ann Iniguez	Richmond, Virginia	3399
Lionel "Lee" Justo	Alfred, New York	3401
Mary Byrd Pettenati	Raleigh, North Carolina	2998LM
Jack Simon	Huntsville, Alabama	3184A
R. Jean Simon	Huntsville, Alabama	1526
Dr. Bruce M. Whyte	Roswell, Georgia	2783LM
Kathy Whyte	Roswell, Georgia	3169A
Steven Argyle	Stansbury Park, UT	3005
Jeanne Peter Lehr	St Louis, Missouri	3038LM
Leighton Stradley	Fairfax, Virginia	1938LM
Marsha Masone	Clifton, Virginia	2976
James McLemore	Montgomery, AL	3291
Randy Walker	San Antonio, Texas	2587LM
Teresa Walker	San Antonio, Texas	3044ALM
Rick Walker	Overland Park, Kansas	2869
Elizabeth M. Joiner	Biltmore Lake, North Carolina	2172LM
Aliana Shepard	Alexandria, Virginia	3251
C. Scott Shepard	Washington D.C.	3377
Richard McAdams	<i>not available</i>	<i>n/a</i>
Kendall MacGregor	Roseville, California	3279
Diana G. Browne	New York, New York	1737LM
Scott McGregor	San Juan Capistrano, California	3091LM
Beth Wassell	Johns Creek Georgia	2182
John Wassell	Johns Creek, Georgia	Guest
Charles Clary	San Marcos, Texas	3276
Francis Shoemaker	Burke, Virginia	1687LM
Justin Tripp	Cheyenne, Wyoming	3351
Jacqueline Johnson	Herriman, Utah	3393
Richard Greig	Antioch, California	3341
Ian Greig	Tampa, Florida	2535
John K. Bellassai	Washington D.C.	2321
Mark McGehee	Wilton, Connecticut	3386

Member	City/State	Number
Susanne Wean	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	1695LM
Kari Laverty	Albuquerque, New Mexico	3271

	Performers	
Member	City/State	Number

Pipers
 Matt Kuldell Falls Church, VA..... Honorary

IMAGES OF GENERAL MEETING PARTICIPANTS



AREA DEPUTY CHIEFTAIN (ADC) REPORTS

ALABAMA

Jean MacGregor Simon

There was little activity in the area this year with only a start up event in the early Fall. Not having any tents, tables, or chairs available to rent we were unable to participate. Hopefully next year brings more events in which we might attend.

Fellow society member, Stuart McGregor, provided the following report on his support and attendance at the Second Annual Belle Mont Mansion Celtic Festival this past spring, May 12-13, in Tuscumbia, which is located in north Alabama just south of Muscle Shoals and the Tennessee River. Unfortunately, rain moved the activities into the auditorium of nearby Northwest/Shoals Community College, but everything turned out very well! While the event has not grown to the level where there are clan tents, etc., I do support the festival financially so the McGregor name is included in newsletters, on their website and Facebook pages, and on banners and other advertising for the event, as well as from the stage off and on during performances.

The Steel City Rovers, one of my newest favorite Celtic bands, hailing from Hamilton, Ontario, headlined and I'm happy to report have already signed on to appear NEXT YEAR! The Piper Jones Band, headed up by E. J. Jones, who organizes the music for the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, also performed, as did Ed Miller, who, you may remember, regaled the ACGS in San Antonio a few years ago (and his lovely bride is descended from Professor A. A. McGregor, a native of North Carolina who settled near Belle Mont Mansion in the 1820s, and married well), with Jil Chambless of Tuscaloosa and Scooter Muse of Florence, who are also members of Henri's Notions, a VERY popular Celtic band from Alabama.



Last year the festival was focused almost entirely on music and vendors, but this year Irish Step Dancers from Chattanooga also performed, and there were food vendors, demonstrations (Gordon Setters, Highland coos, hammered dulcimers, weaving, etc.), as well as kids' activities. A fun time all in all!

COLORADO

Sarah Merr on behalf of Bill Black

The Longs Peak Scottish Irish Highland Festival has recently celebrated its 46th year in historic Estes Park, Colorado. Since 1977, they have brought the unabashed bravado of Celtic culture and dance to a beloved and idyllic mountain town, fit for the grandeur of bagpipes and enthusiasm of families looking for kinsfolk.

This year felt like the final crack in the rigidity of ceremonies frosted over from the pandemic, as people arrived in swarms of kilts, raided the food trucks to ruin, and drank as much dram as they could afford. The clan tents were bustling with faces new and old, all welcomed with mirth and merry stories.



Clan Gregor in Parade Lineup

My family has been attending the Scottish festival as proud MacGregors for over 20 years since I was but a wee lass. It has served us as an amazing touchstone of history and tradition through three generations and has acted as a brilliant staple for us to connect to our loved ones and our heritage. There, we always find that our family is much bigger than we thought--connecting with familiar MacGregors from near and far, and still meeting new ones every year. For a clan that suffered a few centuries of exile from the crown, that was hunted and betrayed by their own countrymen, and survived through layers of surnames and hiding in the dense wilderness of the moors, it is beyond heartening to see our tartan come out of the woodwork year after year.



Tent visitors

It wasn't until recent years that I truly started engaging with our history and heritage, and understanding how powerful carrying our name through the streets of Estes Park really is.

I have participated in the Saturday morning parade since I was just old enough to hold a blade (then it was just a dagger), always loving the enthusiasm and performance of every group walking—the bands, the bagpipes, the horses, vintage cars, military academies, and what felt like endless clans and colors of tartans. Back then, it was



Decked out in tartan

impossible to keep track of all the aunts, uncles, cousins, distant cousins, that were there in formal dress and color, all there to be there, together.

We were privileged to be led by an incredibly impassioned leader, Ron MacGregor, who would tell stories of our rugged ancestors and battles won against great odds, always reminding us that we are honored descendants of rich, ancient resilience. I still remember the story of Glen Fruin and the secret histories of Drambuie to this day, because of him. Echoes of other MacGregors follow his voice, too. My grandfather, Robert Black, and his hearty baritone resonates within all of us when we remember when he was

able to walk with us, too. The direct family that we have said goodbye to all too soon, are all there with us again.

When I walk in the parade now, I feel ghosts of the past walking with me, blessing our steps back in time and watching us march into the future. It is such an honor to carry our family name, to wear and live our history with pride, and to share it with people willing to listen.

To me, the pomp and circumstance of this festival has never diminished, it is still a wonderful occasion every year. The music is like no other, the dance is full of heart, and the people are always full of spirit. In no other place can we all collectively revive traditions of the past and hear family stories of quite the same tune. As always, looking forward to next year.

DELAWARE, NEW JERSEY & PENNSYLVANIA EAST

Peter K. Gregg

I am finally back in Highland Games mode this year. I contacted the Fair Hill Games and set up my spot in the Clachan, Village of the Clans. I also contacted John Dixon who is one of the event organizers. John arranged a hotel room for me as they were going to have a Fete on the Friday night before the start of the games. It was a fun event. It started with a short parade of Clans from the Elkton VFW to the Elk River Brewing Tap Room. There they had the Galic blessing of the beer ceremony by Fr. Ed Ogden from St. Margret of Scotland. This was followed by a concert by Charlie Zahm and Ally the Piper. Lastly there was a performance of Celtic magic by Daniel Greenwolf.



Peter Gregg and Johathan Welch



*Charlie Zahm performing
in the beer garden.*

Fair Hill was once again a fun-filled day. The setup for the clans went smoothly and the weather cooperated. The location was different than in previous years, a little off the beaten path, so the number of visitors was small. Still, I recommend these game as they are the Official games of Delaware, even though they are located in Maryland.



Parade of Clans - Front, Darcie Schauf, Rear (l-r), Peter Gregg, Scott MacGregor, Clan Participant, Francis Mercier and Jamie Grover

The City of Norfolk Pipes and Drums is a grade 5 band hailing from Norfolk Virginia. The band was established in the spring of 2022. It's primarily focus is to teach young people how to play the bagpipes and drums. While a number of the participants have taken band in school, not many had any experience with the bagpipes. With three members being from Clan Gregor they decided to go with the Red and Green (Modern) tartan for their kilts. The 2023 Fair Hill Games was their debut competition performance. They will compete again in early November at the Richmond Highland

Games in Richmond Virginia minus two of their players who have already graduated to the parent Siren City Pipes & Drums.



City of Norfolk youth band, grade 5, sporting Clan Gregor Red and Green (Modern) kilts WESS Schauf, far left, (ACGS #3371 on pipes leading the band), Emmie Schauf, center, (ACGS #2027J on pipes), Brenny Grover, hidden in back (ACGS #2027J on tenor drum)



The Gaelic Blessing of the Beer by Fr. Ed Ogden

In September I attended the Covenanter Highland Games in Quarryville, Pennsylvania. It was supposed to rain all day but not a drop fell from the sky. The clans were set up with the field of play in front of us. We got to see all the action while we greeted our visitors. I had a lot of help this day. My two sisters, my brother-in-law, my niece, and Jonathan Welch with his mother were with me the whole day. John Dixon was next door, and he brought a supply of Haggis which he shared with many. Charlie Zahm stopped by to say hello during a break in his performance. Many attendees came by. I handed out a lot of pamphlets and told stories of our clan.



Parade of the Clans with Peter Gregg carrying the flag accompanied by Jonathan Welch.

I had a great time representing our Clan and am looking forward to doing it again next year.

GEORGIA

Bruce M. Whyte

The only Games attended in my role as ADC was the Blairsville Highland Games in June 2023. This normally busy two-day Games was exceptionally busy this year. Not sure why, but as happened in Grandfather Mountain several weeks later, we suspected people were ready to be normal again and leave their COVID protective environments.

I never cease to be surprised at how many Gregors must climb out their hibernation spas and turn up at these Games, having never been before. All the usual family names of Walker, Gregg, White, Greer variants, etc. We were short staffed this year and it was left up to Kathy and myself. But fortunately, Kathy is tough and dealt with everyone with a soft touch!

KENTUCKY & WEST TENNESSEE

Kay Britt

On September 9th & 10th I joined Andrew Ward the ADC of Middle/West Tennessee. Their festival was held in the Sander Ferry Park in Hendersonville north of Nashville, Tennessee. This was the first time I've attended the festival in this area and was very impressed. The park is surrounded by the beautiful Cumberland River and in the long run the very best place to hold a Scottish festival. In the pass when the Middle Tennessee festivals were held, I stood in for Andrew as he was the president of their games. This year he took on the Clan Gregor duties. I was asked by Andrew again If I could bring my McGregor material and help.

The festival this year had a grand turn-out of participants believed to be the best by far. There were 30-40 clan tents. Bob Valentine was the EC and a large mixture of pipe bands from the surrounding area to entertain the crowd. One of the bands I'm most proud of was from my home state of Kentucky marching with the Nashville Pipe

band. They also had the 17th Lancers, City of Memphis Pipe band, The US Border Patrol, Atlanta Pipe Band, Knoxville Pipe & Drum to name a few.



Guest, Kay Britt, Mike Britt, Andrew Ward

This year they did something different that I thought was very impressive. When giving out the kids passports they were told to collect Clan stamps. This gave the kids incentives needed to participate and that was for every passport they filled with Clan stamps they were given a stuffed lambs.

We had many visitors to ask for info on how to do their family tree so they might join our society. On closing we send our prayers out to our next-door Clan member of Clan Wallace Tim Young hoping he gets well so he can continue to join us next year. We first met Tim at the Glasgow Highland Games many years ago and became good friends.

MARYLAND & WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Charles Grierson

I injured my back early in the year and have been unable to perform in my role as an ADC for Maryland and Pennsylvania West. Since the future status of my injury is unknown at this stage, I am formally stepping down as ADC.

MISSOURI (EAST)

Jeanne Peter Lehr

ADC Jeanne Lehr attended two Scottish events during 2023.

The first event was the St. Louis Scottish Games & Cultural Festival held in suburban St. Louis County, Missouri on Saturday, May 6th. After a 4 year hiatus this Festival was held on the grounds of Schroeder Park, 359 Old Meramec Station Road, Manchester, MO 63021. This was the first time this location has been used for this festival and is a somewhat smaller space than has been used before. The ACGS tent was one of 26



tents on clan row. Quite a few people visited the tent with 9 Clan Gregor related families signing the guest book and 4 applications for membership being given out to those interested in ACGS membership. The next day one application for lineal membership was submitted on-line via the ACGS website and was approved. Much interest was shown in the Clan Gregor tartan flags and various books which were on

display. Ten-ounce bottles of water and oatmeal cookies were offered to Clan Gregor related individuals and children who politely requested a Clan Gregor stamp for their "Clan Passports".

The second event was the VFW Celtic Festival was held on Saturday, September 9, 2023 on the grounds of VFW Post #2661 in Washington, Missouri. ADC Jeanne Lehr set up with assistance from the VFW festival management team and manned the American Clan Gregor Society tent by herself during this festival. The tent was fully set up early Saturday morning before the festival opened. The weather was beautiful - high about 78 degrees, partly cloudy and a little breezy! Only one sidewall was used for this event - on the back to keep the sun off in the morning and then moved to the side and little way around the front corner in the mid-afternoon. The front table was also angled into the tent to stay in the shade. Attendance at the festival was fairly light but steady. The ACGS tent was one of 5 set up at the end of a very long Vendors Row. The other clans represented were: Buchanan, Colquhoun, MacAulay, and MacFarlane. The MacAulay representative came over to thank the MacGregors for helping protect them from the Campbells. A number of people visited the tent during the day and 3 people signed the guest book. An application for lineal membership was given to 1 person who signed the guest book. Much interest was shown in the large framed map of Historic Scotland and in



my collection of Scottish cookbooks. Approx. 8 people asked about family names which I looked up in *The Surnames of Scotland*; none were MacGregor related. Ten-ounce bottles of water and small lemon sandwich cookies were offered. Also offered to select adults were homemade Whisky Ball cookies. Many people helped ADC Lehr tear down the tent and pack the car. All assistance over the course of the day was gratefully appreciated and acknowledged, sometimes with Whisky Balls if they didn't run off again too fast...

Full reports were submitted to RDC Bruce MacGregor Whyte shortly after the completion of each event.

MISSOURI (WEST)

Lawrence (Larry) Greer

We started out this year supporting the Southwest Missouri Celtic Festival by participating in the planning and organization of the festival for 2023. I worked with the Buffalo Chamber of Commerce and supporting city leaders to have a successful event this year. I built a Celtic nations flag stand and entryway to clan row to add to the event this year.

The Southwest Missouri Celtic Heritage festival and Highland games was held on September 8th through 9th. Sponsored by the Buffalo Missouri Chamber of Commerce. We had 18 Clans represented at the festival. I handed out 18 trifold brochures for American clan Gregor to interested family members. I received no monies or payments.

The Arkansas Scottish festival in Batesville Arkansas was held October 13th through the 15th. I was scheduled to have a representative tent for ACGS at this event. My mother suffered a stroke 2 days prior to this event forcing me to cancel my appearance.



NEW MEXICO & ARIZONA

Mark Beach

This year we were in Cortez Colorado in June for their annual Scottish highland fair. I was once again blessed to have Lois Ann Garlitz helping me in our tent. The attendance was amazing and I'm sure we broke last year's record. It is always a pleasure being there.

We were at our home games in Aztec New Mexico in October. This is always my favorite, and my family gets to participate as well, the grandkids love it! The venue can't be beat with all the large old trees and the river that runs through it. It is one of the most popular events here in NM and is always very well attended.

As always, the Clan MacGregor tent was one of the crowd favorites. Everyone loves the MacGregors!!! It is truly an honor to represent the ACGS at these events and in everyday life as well.

NORTH & SOUTH CAROLINA

Tom & Kathy Watkins and Dustin & Mary Byrd Pettenati

One year ago, for the purpose of providing coverage of the many games and each other when needed the ADCs for both North and South Carolina decided to combine their efforts. The ADCs are Tom & Kathy Watkins, and Mary Byrd & Dustin Pettenatti. So, their report to the Gathering is a single report covering several games.

Gallabae (Greenville) Highland Games, May, 2023

The story is not too long but filled with danger and woes.

The car was loaded with everything we could possibly put in it, with the exception of one little thing that would come to haunt us for 3 days. The drive started at 6:30 am, Friday May 26th. It started out to be a very nice day partly sunny, light traffic and both Kathy and myself were excited because this was to be our first Games with us being the new Area Deputy Chieftains for South Carolina. Five hours after starting we hit a traffic jam that would have made Washington, D.C proud. So, after dealing with traffic that made us 1.5 hrs late we arrived at our hotel which was perfect. However that little item that I mentioned earlier picked this very time to rear its ugly head. As we are loading our cart to go to the room and change so we can meet Michael MacGregor, Kathy tells me that the only other thing we need is my suitcase. It's at that moment that I know exactly where it is, at the front door at the bottom of the stairs 6.5 hrs back in NC. And I am sure it was probably still laughing. I really hate that suitcase. However, my kilt was with me.

We got to our room, made a very quick change and headed out the door to do more battle with the traffic in a town I had never been to. Turns out we found our way to the field pretty easily and found Michael MacGregor so we were able to chat and discuss how he had set up in the past and how we might incorporate what we wanted to do into that. Once we had that complete, Michael let us know that the parade started at 6:00 pm and we needed to be there by 5:30pm.....in a town with lots of traffic that we had never been to.

Nailed it.....we found the beginning of the parade and got in line where we were supposed to be.....I kept looking at this nice little hill that seemed to have a lot of restaurants and stores on it.....yep.....the Parade was on that hill for about 75 blocks (really only 6) but they were all up hill.

But what a turn out....sidewalks packed, people waving.....kids having a blast and everyone excited by the bands, kilts and all the Scottish Clans. Even when we finished we were greeted with a smile or a "*You guys look great*". But I get way ahead of myself. We were joined by Beth and John Wassell members from Georgia and they were ready to assault the hill with us. At 6pm the Pipes and drums started and we knew the assault of Main Street Hill had begun. We started off real good, all 4 of us not letting this hill beat us waving with smiles on our faces proud to be there for Clan Gregor. Sadly Kathy, my wife was the first first to go down, the hill just too much with all the wind the Coat of Arms flag had to be passed to John. Kathy fought on but you could tell the wind and the hill took its toll. John took the flag with his teeth clenched and a smile and we proceeded to climb. Beth stuck with us smiling as she walked, waving to everyone and watching John for any signs of exhaustion. When we got to the top we wanted to scream "MacGregors Despite It", but laying on the ground like we were afraid we wouldn't be heard.

I recommend to anyone that hasn't participated in the Scottish Parade come to Greenville Next year and join us.....everyone was so nice and the people really do support the Parade and the Games.

Saturday morning at 6:30 and we were at the games. The wind must have heard our complaints the night before because it was really blowing that morning. We got everything set up and got the tent looking great and ready for the games to begin. John and Beth Wassell were there helping all the kids with their passport stamps and Michael MacGregor was helping everyone that wanted information on their name and how to join Clan Gregor if they could meet the criteria to become members. It is always a pleasure to listen to members like Michael MacGregor, Bruce Whyte, Randy Walker and Thad Osborne when you are wanting to learn, so much knowledge can be picked up just sitting back and listening to them help people on their quest. I have learned so much from these men in the last 2 years but when I hear them, I realize how much more I need to focus on.

But back to the games. Even though the wind was terrible it was packed.....The rain held off and the Tartan Parade went really well. I still get a huge lump in my throat when I can represent the Clan Gregor and I try to with the utmost respect and honor. It is not a big field but it is a beautiful field and they do an excellent job of layout and vendors. This would turn out to be the coldest game anyone remembers, 54 degrees and it did start raining at 5 so the closing ceremony was cancelled. But I look forward to going back next year and using what I have learned this year and will tell you now, that Greenville, S.C. is a beautiful place even if.....there is lots of traffic and a town I had never been to.

Port City Highland Games in Wilmington, N.C. June 2023

This was the first time that Clan Gregor had attended these games so Kathy and I wanted to make sure that we really went above and beyond with both tents we

opted for. We were able to get help from Mary Byrd and her husband Dustin to help with set up and running the tent and break down.

We arrived at 7am and started setting up and because of Kathy's planning and my big guns and Mary Byrd and Dustin, we were able to have everything done by 8:15am. Both tents looked great and with everyone in a kilt or a Rob Roy Dress (Mary Byrd and Kathy looked awesome) were ready to help as many people as we could. Things were supposed to open at 10am but I think the opening was pushed to 9am as people started filling the field.

The field however decided that it didn't want a lot of people walking around so all of a sudden these long 4 foot roots started appearing everywhere reaching out trying to drag small children and the elderly to who knows where. It was like a booby trap every 10 to 15 feet. Every time someone would walk by I kept hearing *Frazier goes down*. But by some miracle no one found the ground.

Kathy was very proud of her hospitality tent as lots of people stopped by for coffee or water and shortbread. There may have been doughnuts but evidence was never found.



Kathy & Tom Watkins, Dustin & Mary Byrd Pettenati

We were disappointed that there would not be a Tartan Parade and that was one of the things we let them know about pretty quickly. We felt like it is a big deal for those that go to these games see their Clan marching or joining in themselves. It is a huge morale booster for the athletes too. We all take pride in our Clan and I want to see that Tartan and Clan Banner held high and people clapping for them.

There was an issue with the tents as they weren't too sturdy and a good wind would have done away with most of the Clans. I would be willing to pay more for good tents. But these will most likely be worked on next year. There was some real competition at the athletics field this year and it is always exciting to see a possible world record. I am still working on how to get more athletic reports in this because like I said I know the athletes take lots of pride when their Clan mentions them. Give me time folks.....I promise you I will get it in here. We did get some news from the staff putting on the games. Next year this may be a 2 or 3 day event. . . .The Masters are coming.

Thank you Mary Byrd and Dustin . . . your knowledge and enthusiasm was greatly appreciated.

GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN HIGHLAND GAMES

(North Carolina)

Dr. Bruce M. Whyte

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games (GMHG) is possibly the most iconic Scottish/Celtic Games in the country. Many of our members have visited and participated in these Games. But, many more have never been able to visit. So, this report also includes a brief history of GMHG.

Up until to the nineteenth century, North Carolina was the most prominent area of settlement for Highland Scots. Numerous Scottish immigrants moved and settled the North Carolina colony and due to the large influx of this cultural group many traditions remain there today. One such tradition is that of the Highland Games. The tradition of highland games across North Carolina is owed to the fact that the Tar Heel State had the largest settlement of Highland Scots outside of Scotland until well into 1800s.

According to historian William S. Powell, today's Highland Games and cultural events "are the offshoot of ancient Celtic tests of strength and fitness, as well as competitive activities that later took place at cattle fairs, or "trysts," in Scotland". Some of the games include tossing large objects such as poles, hammers, and wheels as well as dancing, bagpipe playing, and other events. The Highland Games focus on clan gathering where those of a certain Scottish lineage reunite to compete against different families and clans.

Some of the first Highland Games emerged in the Cape Fear areas of Ellerbe and Laurel Hill in the sixteenth century. Known as "Scotch Fairs," these events were outlawed by the North Carolina General Assembly in the 1870s because of concerns over the gambling and drunken festivities that often occurred at the fairs. Yet, in the middle of the twentieth century, the Highland Games emerged once again in the North Carolina mountains.

Agnes Morton, a Linville native, and Donald F. MacDonald, a decent of the Cape Fear Highland Scots, were responsible for creating the Grandfather Highland Mountain Games in 1956. Several years earlier, MacDonald had visited Scotland in 1954. He was greatly impressed by the Braemar Highland Gathering. MacDonald wished to recreate the same festival he had witnessed in Scotland so he aligned with Agnes Morton, who had also become acquainted with the Connecticut Highland Games, and they started the first Highland Games at Grandfather Mountain on August 15, 1956. The pair chose the August 1956 date to commemorate the anniversary of an important event in the 1745 Jacobite Rebellion in Scotland, though the event was moved to the second weekend in July two years later.

William Powell claims that the present Grandfather Mountain Highland Games has grown into "the largest "clan gathering" in the world, with well over 100 clans represented each year". The games have become a four-day event held at MacRae Meadows at Grandfather Mountain. The festival opens with a torch lighting event with games, concerts, and dancing events occurring throughout the second full weekend of July. According to the mission of the Grandfather

Mountain Highland Games Inc., one of the most important aspects of the event is “to foster and restore interest in traditional dancing, piping, drumming, athletic achievement, music and Gaelic culture”.

Reference: “Highland Games.” William S. Powell, ed. *Encyclopedia of North Carolina* (University of North Carolina Press: Chapel Hill, NC 2006).

But, back to the present and the Games. **AND YES, THIS IS A FOUR DAY EVENT!!**

This year we had no rain, a first for many, many years. So, weather did not play any role at all.

The first day consists of children’s wrestling, much entertainment, sheep dog exhibitions, clan tent setups and most importantly, Calling of the Clans that evening (we were represented by Ian Dalton). It appeared that even the heavens were welcoming the Games when the saltire was spread across the skies.



The second and third days are the busiest. They are, feeling like 18-hour days, wearing but exciting. It never ceases to surprise all of us when someone comes in and in a very meek and quiet voice states they have some documentation, but they are not sure what it means. Only to find they have brought something like a full documented tree of their family back to 800 or so. Are we MacGregors? Really? **WOW, WOW, WOW, REALLY** is the usual response

The last day starts with Kirkin’ of the Tartan worship service and runs through until 5:00 pm. At that time there is an explosive “*rush to wait*”. Visitors spend up to 3 hours waiting for bus shuttles to take them off the mountain to the parking fields below.

When we attend any Games, we prepare packets of all our handouts in advance for those visitors we feel are truly serious about finding out more about Gregor and seem likely to proceed with membership. For GMHG we usually prepare about 25-30 packets. This year we had prepared 42 but ran out of packets before lunch on Saturday. We prepared another 21 packets, using the last of our handouts, but exhausted those before lunch Sunday. Just think if only 10% followed through! We would love to see 20% (6 – 12). The most common names of visitors attending our tent were Walker (8), Gregg/Gregory (7), Greer (4), and Gregor (4).



Kathy Watkins, Kathy Whyte, guest, Beverly Orr, Tom Watkins, Grey Maddox, Hillary Maddox, Dr. Bruce M. Whyte

Wait . . . there was more. Two spectacular incidents this year.

The Bear: Just to add to the excitement, and considering the Games were being held in the Appalachian Mountains, black bears are known to visit the games site. This year we had a 300-400 lb adult bear “work” the parking lot on the first day. Not sure how successful he was, but he certainly caused a stir. It was around these parts that one man jumped into his car to drive home, looked over to the passenger seat to see a black bear sitting there. Who got out of there the fastest?



The Hand Fasting Ceremony: On Saturday a Gregor visited us in the tent and wanted to know if we could help him in a hand fasting ceremony with his girlfriend. She desperately wanted to be a member of Clan Gregor. And we guessed he was equally keen to keep her! Of course, we said yes before asking what it meant for us! In the next 24 hours, a celebrant was found, the bride’s dress was bought, the groom chewed on his nerves and bought a kilt and a lone piper was found still languishing in the field. We used our hospitality tent (clans at GMHG usually have two tents, one for business and the other for hospitality), covered it in Gregor tartan and cleared out everything else.



Then we had the *hand fasting* ceremony. This ceremony goes back to 7,000BC and consists of a symbolic unity ritual in which a couple stand

face to face as their hands are tied together – tying the knot - and recite words that express their commitment to one another. It also signifies to others that they are “promised” to each other and to stand clear and not make any advances!! There is one caveat: a hand fasting is only good for a year and a day. If you want to continue the relationship, you need to do another before the first one runs out.

We were more than ably assisted in the tents by Tom and Kathy Watkins, their daughter Hillary (Maddox), son-in-law Clifton (actively representing the Scottish American Military Society) and son Grey, Elizabeth Joiner, and Dustin and Mary Byrd Pettenatti. As a bonus, young Grey entered the wrestling for the first time and won two rounds, then proceeded to win the children’s 2-5 year olds 60 yard dash receiving a gold medal.

TENNESSEE (EAST)

Thad G. Osborne

This is the first time I have had to submit a report with no activity. During 2023, I had health problems which prevented me from participating in any activity on behalf of

ACGS. Particularly those in my area, the Smoky Mountain Scottish Festival in May and the Dandridge Scots-Irish Festival in September. I was hospitalized from June until October, concluding with Covid isolation for ten days. The other two, outside my area in which I usually try to assist, The Blairsville Scottish Festival and the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, were in good and capable hands.

I look forward to resuming my activity in 2024. Eventually I'll need to be replaced, so it is not too soon to consider that.

TEXAS (SOUTH)

Charles Clary

I hosted a clan tent at various highland games across southern Texas over this past season. Due to recent unfortunate family events I have not been able to assemble a proper ADC report. Hopefully the family will be good again in the coming year and I'll be able to once again host the clan tent at the area games.

UTAH

Lois Ann Garlitz

Greetings from the intermountain west and the state of Utah.

When Steven Argyle decided to resign from his appointment to be the ADC for Utah, in conjunction with his retirement from his day job, I accepted the opportunity to once again serve the American Clan Gregor Society as the Area Deputy Chieftain for Utah, even though I had moved to southwest Wyoming to be near my grandchildren.

The Scots on the Rocks, Moab Celtic Festival was held in the town of Moab, Utah at the Center Street Ballpark area, October 14-16, 2022.

Thankfully, the Eurmax Canopy 10'x10' tent the Argyll's had passed along to me, fit easily into the back of my Subaru along with all the other items which were used as décor for the ACGS tent. Hosts for the festival Dan and Marta Lamont had arranged to have some volunteers to assist any of the clans who needed some help with set up and take down at the festival. As the only MacGregor hosting our tent, I was grateful to the Lamonts.

Moving on to 2023, the Utah Scottish Association's Festival and Highland Games were held again at the Utah State Fair Park in Salt Lake City on June 16-18. Steven and Adam Argyle assisted at the MacGregor tent. Being held at the State Fair Park, near to TRAX, there were lots of visitors all day long, including a goodly number of long-time friends from past festivals.

Utah MacGregors favorite location for a festival is in Payson, Utah at their city park, shaded by numerous tall ancient trees. Many thanks again to the Randal Nish family for providing the 10' x 20' tent to give us plenty of room to display various books, handouts, etc. to tell the MacGregor story. Also useful for extra space for chairs for visitors to come in out of the heat and chat a bit.

ACGS will have a tent at the Moab Celtic Festival again, this year October 20-22. MacGregors will be there.

VIRGINIA

Leighton P. Stradley

The 49th annual Virginia Scottish Games (VSG) took place at Great Meadows, Virginia during Labor Day weekend, Saturday and Sunday, September 2 and 3, 2023. Leighton set up the ACGS tent the day before. At the tent, we had 28 guests on Saturday and 12 guests on Sunday. Leighton Stradley and Aliana Shepard manned the tent during the weekend, assisted by guests.



C. Scott Shepard, Aliana Shepard, Leighton Stradley, Eirinn Corder, Thorsteinn Corder, Jason Corder

One thing different about the setup this year: ACGS joined forces with Clan Anderson, each clan with its own tent. The Clan Anderson tent was managed by Aliana's friend, Elizabeth Anderson, along with her dad, David Anderson. Both tents had a beehive of activity during the Games. Aliana and Elizabeth both provided plenty of snacks and spirits at the tents. Leighton and Elizabeth went with the idea of not having a separation wall but have open space between the tents. Both the MacGregor and Anderson contingents supported each other's tent activities during the games, as well.

As was the case last year, there were plenty of refreshments, dry and wet, for guests



and members to enjoy while watching the games from behind the two tents. On Sunday, I attended the Blessing of the Tartans service. It is a relief knowing God has blessed the tartans of those in attendance at the service. Once again, our Matt Kudell played *Flowers of the Forest*. This year it was deemed too hot to do the parade of clans on Sunday. The parade was only done Saturday. However, Matt and the MacGregor Band did perform in front of the ACGS tent as in previous years.

Also, this year, VSG hosted a falcon club. The falcon club brought to VSG a number of falcons and other fowl, including those not native to the area. Other fowl exhibited

were owls, hawks and a Siberian eagle. Included in the pictures is a close up of a female Siberian eagle. A male Siberian eagle has been spotted in Maine in recent years.



Ruins of Kilchurn Castle that sit at the head of Loch Awe. A Campbell castle built on the ancient lands of Clan Gregor.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL (DUES)

Unless you are a life or honorary member you must renew your society membership each year in January. Renewal notices automatically go out via email in December to all active members. There are several reasons why you might not be receiving the notice.

1. Has your email address changed from what we have on record?
2. The email is possibly in your SPAM folder, please check your SPAM folder.
3. Membership status is inactive due to your annual dues not being paid in several years. Currently notices are not sent out to inactive members.

Annual dues for Lineal, Associate, and Provisional members is \$40. Should your membership status be inactive then you must pay one year back dues plus the current year's dues for a total of \$80. There are a couple of ways to pay the dues you owed.

First the old-fashion way of mailing a check made out to "ACGS" to the society Treasurer at:

Mark K. McGregor
Treasurer, American Clan Gregor Society
245 W Marquita #104
San Clemente CA 92672-5151

The second new-fangled way is to do it online. This can be done from the Members section of the society website <https://ACGSUS.org>. To access the members section you must sign-in first. With the website open do the following.

**Note this area is under review and subject to future changes
so things may be slightly different.**

1. On the menu bar hover over the "Home" option and click on "Manage Account" option.
2. It will ask you for your email address and password. Email address being the one the society has on file for you. If you need a password then select the option to "Request Password" and follow the instructions.
3. Once signed-in you'll be on the "Manage Account" page. Ensure the information we have for you is accurate, changing anything that is incorrect.
4. Click the "Renew, Upgrade or Update Billing" button to open the section for inputting your credit card information.
5. Once everything is done, click the "Save & Continue" button.

You are a valued member of our society. Please renew today to stay in the know of what's happening in our society.

INDEX OF PROPER NAMES OF GENEALOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

ACGS YEARBOOK, PUBLISHED 2024

Readers of this index are reminded that the genealogies presented here are as they were submitted by the member. Any inquiries should be sent to the member. When a wife's maiden name is not known, she is listed with her husband's surname.

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