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2024 YEARBOOK

of the

American Clan Gregor Society, Inc.

Containing the Proceedings of the 2024 Annual Gathering in Charlottesville, Virginia



AMERICAN CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY INCORPORATED

Washington, D.C.

SOCIETY OFFICES

American Clan Gregor Society, Inc.

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Council Members

(I-r) Mark K. McGregor, Thaddeus G. Osborne, Peter K. Gregg, Diana Browne, Scott F. MacGregor, Jane Montmeny, Aliana Shepard, Michelle Mercier, Bruce M. Whyte

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		
Roger Gregory Magruder, MD		
John Kennedy Magruder		
Wm. B. Hamilton Magruder		•
Thomas Garland Magruder, Jr		
John Murdoch MacGregor		
R. James Macgregor		
Frank R. McGregor		
William E. McGregor		
Archibald McGregor		•
Burns Magruder, Jr		
Russell C. McGregor, PhD		
Abbey Wailes Magruder, Jr		
George F. McGregor		
Capt. Paul C. Gregg		
Malcolm G. MacGregor		
Jeffrey R. McGregor		
Robert F. MacGregor, Jr		
Thaddeus G. Osborne		· ·
Ronald A. McGregor		•
Lois Ann Garlitz		
Randolph W. Walker		
Peter K. Gregg	2019-2022	Dover, DE

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Aliana Shepard, 2025
Stuart J. MacGregor, 2026
Jordan Palmer, 2027
Jordan Familer, 2027
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Steven Argyle, Chair2025
Francis Mercier2026
Thomas P. Watkins
Mark K. McGregor, Treasurer (ex-officio, non-voting)
wark k. wich egor, measurer (ex-officio, non-voting)

APPOINTED POSITIONS 2023 – 2024

Assistant Chieftain	Michelle Mercier
Member at Large	Jordan Palmer
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 2024 – 2025

Nominating Committee for 2025

Peter K. Gregg, Chair Jeanne Peter Lehr Darcie Schauf

Scholarship Committee

Peter K. Gregg, Chair Mary Byrd Pettenati Kathy Whyte

Recognition Committee

Scott F. MacGregor, Chair Stuart W. McGregor

Heraldry Committee

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

Merchandise Sales

Peter K. Gregg

Financial Review Committee

Paul Owens Collinson, Chair Henry "Sandy" Harris

Genealogy Committee

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

Gathering Site Selection Committee

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

IT Committee

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

^{*} unfortunately Lois Ann had to step down due to medical issues.

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TX S	. Charles Clary texass@acgsus.org
UT	Lois Ann Garlitzutah@acgsus.org

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



MINUTES OF THE ACGS COUNCIL MEETING

American Clan Gregor Society, Inc.

115th Annual Gathering – Charlottesville, Virginia
Submitted by D. Jane Montmeny, Scribe
September 20, 2024

Call to order was done by Scott MacGregor, Chieftain, at 8:50 EDT, September 21, 2024. Those in attendance were reminded to silence their cell phones. The Scribe called the roll of Council members confirming a quorum of eight present. In order to do business a quorum of six was required. There were also six guests in attendance.

Invocation was given by Thad Osborne, Chaplain.

Scott commented that our Chief, Sir Malcolm MacGregor of McGregor was unable to attend because he was on lona working on a project. However, he shared these remarks:

Greetings members of the American Clan Gregor Society. Over the past year the Clan Gregor spirit has been strong. From the long-awaited conclusion of our conservation project to preserve the Dalmally Stones to clan members coming from around the world to assemble in Scotland. The stones having considerable significance to our early Clan Gregor chiefs are now beautifully displayed within the Glenorchy Kirk. It took the continuous leadership of a few dedicated individuals and the many donations from our clan members worldwide. It was good to see so many MacGregors in Scotland this summer in celebration of the 200 years since the inception of the society in Scotland. Even seeing a number of ACGS member in attendance. In addition, just over 200 years ago King George IV visited Edinburgh where Clan Gregor in full tartan dress escorted the Honours of Scotland up the Royal Mile to Edinburgh Castle. Your Gathering there in Charlottesville is another fine example of our members of Clan Gregor coming together and keeping our heritage and spirit alive and well. May you all have a wonderfully great time together sharing in the bonds of the society and Clan Gregor.

Sincerely,
Sir Malcolm

Scott MacGregor, Chieftain, shared his thoughts on the past year of his time in office.

The reports from the following Council members had previously been distributed and were now presented in the meeting: Ranking Deputy Chieftain, Scribe, Registrar, Treasurer, and Assistant Chieftain. Bruce Whyte moved and Peter Gregg seconded a motion that the reports be approved.

These reports had also been previously distributed and were presented in the meeting: Chaplain, Yearbook Editor, Newsletter Editor, Librarian, Historian, Webmaster, and Membership Database Manager and Trustees. Peter Gregg moved and Aliana Shepard seconded a motion that the reports be approved.

Reports from the standing committees had previously been distributed and were reviewed: Scholarship Committee, Heraldry Committee, Genealogy Committee,

Recognition Committee, IT Committee, Financial Review Committee plus their recommendations, Merchandise Manager and Site Selection Committee. Mark K. McGregor moved and Bruce Whyte seconded a motion to approve the reports.

Discussion pertaining to these reports:

- Tom Watkins reported that when they had a clan tent at the Central Carolina Highland games and the proceeds benefited Central Carolina Homes, a child care school. After discussion, he was able to arrange the renovation of their games field and was asked to suggest a name of the field. It is now known as the Gregor Field.
- Peter Gregg shared that the organizer of the Fair Hill Games graciously paid for his hotel room during the games.
- The Yearbook Editor requested that pictures be taken during the gathering and sent to him for inclusion in the yearbook.
- A request was made for articles to be included in newsletter. It is not costeffective to send print copies to those who do not have email addresses. Ian
 Greig says Florida law allows print copies for those over 60 years old. Scott will
 be sending letter stating options for receiving the newsletter.
- When accessing clan member names on the ACGS website, names can be sorted by state or by city.
- When scholarship award winner names are announced, can it be noted if they are associated with ACGS or have Scottish lineage.
- Chancellor Diana Browne queried if the individual scholarship amount can be increased, either by expanding the dollar amount or limiting the number awarded. The dollar amount is always based on and limited to the income from the annual investment account. Suggestion to the Scholarship committee to look at qualifications (GPA), 1st time applicant, and repeat applicant.
- John Bellassai, Heraldry Committee chair, announced that the Lord Lyon will be in the US next summer/fall and it might be possible to schedule our 2025 Gathering at the same time so he could be part of our meeting. His schedule will be known by the end of 2024.
- Aliana Shepard, IT Committee member, will add summary about the two Facebook pages and Instagram page to the committee report.
- Recommendation #7 from the Financial Review committee re: ACGS purchases.
 Peter clarified that as Merchandise Manager, clan merchandise is produced and purchased from Delaware Correctional Industries (DCI). Their requirement is that only Delaware residents can purchase from DCI. As such, Peter pays DCI with a personal check for clan merchandise and is then reimbursed by ACGS.

Election of officers: Peter Gregg read the report from the Nominating Committee with the slate of officers for 2024/25; the slate was approved and will appear on the electronic ballot tomorrow.

Scott read the list of chieftain appointments for 2024/25.

Jane read the proposed changes to the Bylaws. Peter moved and Bruce seconded a motion to approve, motion carried. The changes will appear on the electronic ballot tomorrow.

Changes to Policy and Procedures:

- There were no further changes to the Trustees or Treasurer P&P.
- Gathering Site Selection Committee: an in-person Gatherings must be held when there will be installation of a new Chieftain which may alter the rotation of in-person and zoom meetings.
- The Membership Database P&P was accepted as base level and will be reviewed again in 2025.
- Peter moved and Aliana seconded a motion to approve; motion carried.

For the Good of the Order:

• Peter introduced the possibility of clan challenge coins as found in the Sons of the American Revolution magazine. A coin would be given to each ADC to be given to a supporter who goes above and beyond at the time they help with their games. When one is awarded, the ADC must submit a write-up for the newsletter and only then can another challenge coin be given to the ADC. Mark moved that 50 colored coins be printed to go to ADC's and officers and 50 plain coins be printed to be sold with clan merchandise. Diana seconded the motion; motion carried.

As there was no further business, Scott adjourned the meeting at 11:39am.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (Annual Gathering)

American Clan Gregor Society, Inc. 115th Annual Gathering – Charlottesville, Virginia Submitted by D. Jane Montmeny, Scribe September 21, 2024

The 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the American Clan Gregor Society was called to order September 21, 2024 by Scott McGregor, Chieftain at 10:05am. Scott stated that our membership database has been updated and there are now 500 members of record rather than the 330 previously noted. The quorum for voting therefore will be 52. The total participating will be established based on the number of members who have submitted an electronic ballot plus those voting in person at the meeting.

The following invocation was given by Thad Osborne, Chaplain: "I would like to begin with the McGregor prayer as rendered by the minister at Balquhidder Church many years ago before a gathering of McGregors: 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 openhanded generosity. In humility and repentance, we plead for forgiveness for the sins of

the past which we confess before Thee. We gather here in Charlottesville, united in our heritage and committed to walk together in Thy ways. Grant us we pray, strength and courage to uphold the honor of our Clan 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 over all. Amen."

Thad Osborne called forward the ladies who would help with the Flowers of the Forest presentation. He continued: "Brothers and sisters, as part of every Gathering of our American Clan Gregor Society, we pause to remember those who have gone on before us. We pray that they are together at that Gathering that has no end. Some of those whom we now remember by name have left us since our last Gathering. The departure of others, while happening less recently, being only this year reported to our Society. I would echo the plea of our Registrar and Chieftain to inform your Society promptly of these life transitions. Our Christian Bible has more to say about how we are to live in this life than about how we are to honor the dead or even think about them. It prescribes no specific rituals or ceremonies for or about them. These details have been left for each culture to develop and work out. We McGregors have our own way which we are going to perform today. I found two quotations about death from scripture with somewhat different messages. In the same book from the Old Testament which we call Ecclesiastes. This is one of the wisdom books like Proverbs and the song of Psalms. I am going to share these two verses with you today, you can decide which one you like. Ecclesiastes, chapter 9, verse 5, For the living know that they shall die, but the dead know not anything, neither have they anymore a reward, for the memory of them is forgotten." Not a terribly encouraging quotation. I move back to the third Chapter of Ecclesiastes, the fourth verse, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven, a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to pluck up that which is planted, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to break down and a time to build up, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance." Wouldn't you rather be laughing and dancing? I believe I will pick that one. Normally when I am defending a part of scripture to my own parish as the poet Milton might say, "justifying the ways of God to man." Today I am going to take issue with the writer of Ecclesiastes, their memory is not forgotten here. Each one of the names we will hear read today belong to a member of our McGregor family, who toiled lived and loved during his or her earthly sojourn. Each is part of the 115-year history of our Society, as well as a longer history of our family across the sea. Here in the birthplace of our American Clan Gregor Society, we are marking the occasion with weeping, laughing, mourning and dancing. The way in which we traditionally honor our departed is thus. Before you is a memorial wreath. It is in the form of a circle, symbolizing the unbroken bond between those of our number who have gone before and ourselves still carrying on here. I'm going to ask these two wonderful members, Lois Ann and Kathy, to place a flower on the wreath as each name is read. Please feel free to photograph these proceedings.

We will begin: Reuban Michael Bosch, departed 2021; Dana L. (Hap) Green, died 2018; Emma Virginia Horsman Grier, died 2017; Daniel Bruce Hughes, died 2022; Shirley Marie Jones, died 2022; Beverly Bissett Kauffman, died 2017; Jane Laverty Love, died 2021; South Trimble Lynn, Sr., died 2022; A. Bruce MacGregor, died 2020;

Derry David Magee, died 2015; Eugene Webb McGehee, died 2014; Duncan B. McGregor, died 2020; Major Ronald A. McGregor, died 2023; Thomas Mitchell McNish, died 2024; Colonel Robert Barnard Murdock, died 2024; William Ray Pressnell, died 2017; Julia Marguerite Little Shewman, died 2014; Dana Lorenzo Skinner, died 2021; Ann McGregor Stadden, died 2019; Brian Bertram Tormey, died 2023; Jennifer Ellen Tormey, died 2022; Judith Eleanor Tormey, died 2022; Miriam E. Trojahn, died 2024; Landrum Sylvanias Tucker, died 2013; Joseph Edward White, died 2022.

"Let us pray, Almighty God, we remember this day before thee, these thy faithful servants, and we pray thee, that having opened unto them the gates of larger life, thou will receive them more and more into thy joyful service, that they may win with thee and thy servants everywhere the eternal victory, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen." At the end of the presentation, Pipe Major Matthew Kuldell played "Flowers of the Forest," a traditional Scottish lament performed on memorial occasions. "Now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost be with us all evermore. Amen."

Scott made opening comments thanking everyone for coming who make up the meeting and the Society. It is not just a select few of us, it is all of us who keep everything going. We appreciate all that you do. The following are remarks from Sir Malcolm MacGregor, Society Chief in Scotland: "Greetings members of the American Clan Gregor Society. Over the past year the Clan Gregor spirit has been strong. From the long-awaited conclusion of our conservation project to preserve the Dalmally Stones to clan members coming from around the world to assemble in Scotland. The stones having considerable significance to our early Clan Gregor chiefs are now beautifully displayed within the Glenorchy Kirk. It took the continuous leadership of a few dedicated individuals and the many donations from our clan members worldwide. It was good to see so many MacGregors in Scotland this summer in celebration of the 200 years since the inception of the society in Scotland. Even seeing a number of ACGS member in attendance. In addition, just over 200 years ago King George IV visited Edinburgh where Clan Gregor in full tartan dress escorted the Honours of Scotland up the Royal Mile to Edinburgh Castle. The Gathering here in Charlottesville is another fine example of our members of Clan Gregor coming together and keeping our heritage and spirit alive and well. May you all have a wonderfully great time together sharing in the bonds of the society and Clan Gregor. Sincerely, Sir Malcolm"

A question was asked to explain the significance of the Pensel which was on display beside the podium. Scott explained that it was gifted to us by Sir Malcolm in recognition of being his representative of Clan Gregor of Scotland. It was granted through the Lord Lyon to be a representative of Sir Malcolm in the states to the American Clan Gregor Society. In his absence, it is on display where we are the honored Clan at a game and also at our Gatherings. If Sir Malcolm were in attendance, the Pensel would not be displayed because his personal flags and banners would be on display. There are only two Gregor Pensels worldwide, one here in the United States and one in Australia.

Bruce Whyte explained his report as the Ranking Deputy Chieftain (RDC) and the role of the Area Deputy Chieftains (ADC) as being the front line of the Society at games and other Clan activities in greeting members, enrolling new members and enjoying friendship with other clan members. He recognized the ADC's in attendance by having them stand. Jane Montmeny gave the report as the Scribe including minutes from the Council meeting on the previous day. Mark K. McGregor provided the report as Treasurer; this being his first full year in that position. He anticipates that the Gathering this year will be a positive financial event. Lois Ann Garlitz read the Registrar report since Jeanne Lehr was unable to attend and she explained the different levels of membership. Two new members in attendance this year were recognized. In answer to a question, Scott explained the differences between the Clan Gregor Society in Scotland and the American Clan Gregor Society and the dues for each Society. Francis Mercier, Trustee, provided the report from that group and read the names of scholarship recipients for 2024. Jack Simon will be stepping down this year after have served two non-consecutive terms as Trustee and his contributions to the strong financial status of the Society were noted. The Historian, Elizabeth Magruder Joiner, was unable to attend but her submitted report was summarized by Scott. The marriage of Thad Osborne and his new wife was celebrated. Scott, as chair of the Recognition Committee, reported that there was no formal recognition certificates submitted this year, but he commented on the excellent job that the member volunteers do in supporting the Society. He did recognize Mark K. McGregor as the new Treasurer in the way he quickly assumed responsibility. He also recognized Michelle Mercier in the second year as Assistant Chieftain in organizing the 2023 zoom Gathering and the in-person 2024 Gathering. Jacqueline Johnson was also recognized for the excellent Newsletters that have been sent out to the members. Michelle Mercier provided report as the Assistant Chieftain including those who assisted with the Gathering. She requested that anyone who has not received the annual Yearbook to please make sure your current address is on the Society website or contact one of the officers for assistance. She reminded the upcoming activities yet this afternoon and the banquet coming this evening. Ian Greig reported as chair of the Site Selection Committee and the process of the site selection, looking where the bulk of the members reside and members who would be willing to assist with the planning. Ian Greig also clarified differences between CGS Scotland and ACGS. Several generations back, Scots in the US wanted to join CGS but ran into two problems. First point - they were unable to be representatives because there was a bylaw that the majority of members of all committee must be named McGregor and the majority who wanted to join were Magruders. Second point – at that time in CGS they did not recognize female members and you could not join if you were tracing your ancestry through a female. When they petitioned the Chief, he said to start your own society and he appointed our leader as a Chieftain, not a President, who was his personal representative. So ACGS is an independent group blessed by the Chief and you can join both societies.

The Original Gregg, an Exposé by Ian Greig

Ian Greig presentation on The Original Gregg. Our proud motto is "Royal is My Race" would indicate that we are descended with royal blood. We are McGregor, son of

Gregor. Who was Gregor and where did he get his royal blood? The ACGS web page says origins of the clan is associated with Alpin, but there is little evidence to support this tradition. It is possible that Gregor may have been Gregoir son of Dongall who was allegedly co-ruler of Alpin. Most modern historians agree the first Chief of Clan Gregor was Gregor of the Golden Bridles and his son was Ian Camm One Eye (that is from the internet.) Some men admit that Clan Gregor is the purest branch of ancient realm of Scotland now in existence, truest dependents of the stock of the country, unmixed with the blood of immigrants, either their own or any other race.

When Ian Greig asked what is the truth, he found contrasting answers.

- Kenneth McAlpin is our legendary ancestor back in the Roman time of history. The people who lived in northern Britain, now known as Scotland, were the Picts who did not record history in writing, they believed it should be transmitted orally. However, they did make monuments, over 50 are still in existence in Scotland. They are in a "language" of symbols that we do not know and they do not tell anything about the people.
- While this was going on, the ancestors of the Scots were immigrating from Ireland into western Scotland and they founded a kingdom called Dalriada. History supposedly says that King Malcolm McAlpin became king of Dalriada and married the heir princess of the Picts becoming the first king of Scotland which happened somewhere in the 800's. The conversion of Scots and Picts to Christianity resulted in the building of abbeys who had monks who were trained in Latin and who recorded history of the people.
- Later came the Age of Anarchy, sometimes translated as the Dark Ages. During
 the Norse invasion of both coasts of Scotland and especially the north, they
 destroyed everything they could find in searching for gold and things of great
 value because the Scots chiefs and elders had donated to the abbeys. The
 Norse pillaged the abbeys, killed the monks and caused tremendous
 destruction. All of the abbeys were burned including the great sacred abbey in
 lona including every document they could find.
- Next was the Black Death or Great Plague which killed about 50% of the people living anywhere in the British Isles. When things were recovering, a certain Norman Englishman called Edward the First, "Hammer of the Scots" invaded Scotland. At this time Kenneth McAlpin was on the throne and all reliable records of his successors perished. There are some documents called Chronicles which were written about 300 years after and under comparison are not reliable, containing every myth and legend they could find. So, no true record came beyond McAlpin.
- Later the Scots in the west showed allegiance to the church in Rome; the Picts had founded their own version of Christianity, the Celtic Church. The two churches did not agree and did not recognize each other's orders. In about 844 there was an eclipse of the sun; the inhabitants thought the end of the world was coming. After 350 to 400 years, the Dark Ages came to an end and the Vikings ceased to come and those who were there mingled with the population and records started to be kept again. The Stone which was the throne of the kings of Scotland, of Dalriada, and was believed to be a sacred stone.

- Another way of tracing our royal line, is to go back through the line of Chiefs. The present Chief claims to be the 24th Chief of Clan Gregor, going back to Gregor of the Golden Bridles to about the 1500's which leaves a gap of about 700 years since McAlpin died. In the 1800's, the Chief of Clan Gregor decided someone should write the history of the Clan, eventually it was Amelia Georgiana Murray MacGregor who wrote "History of the Clan Gregor" in 1898, which became the bible of Scottish Clan Gregor history. She writes "It may be frankly confessed that even when the most prominent historical characters are involved, in considerable uncertainty it must be impossible to trace the lineage of the Clan. Through the 10th, 11th, 12th centuries, no documentary evidence can be introduced to prove descendants from a source so remote." Many other books have been written which frequently contain many of the mythology and legends of the Clan.
- In 2018 a young man named Martin wrote a PHD and decided to stick to facts, however it was never published. Our own Peter Lawrie, a great historian, reviewed many of what has been written and commented that most of the history that is written of Clan Gregor is absolute nonsense; the total uncorroborated and unhistoric nonsense continues.
- In summary, Mr. Ian Grieg concluded that Kenneth McAlpin, King of Scots and Picts is clearly a myth. Based on his extensive research, it looks that there is no clear evidence that we have descended from Royalty. However, our Clan Gregor tradition continues and we proudly display our Motto "Royal is Our Race."

Scott McGregor moved to the election portion of the meeting. Jane Montmeny, scribe, asked those in the room who were voting in person and had not voted electronically to stand (12). Jane read the slate of officers for the Board for 2024-2025; a voice vote to approved was noted. There was a voice vote to approve the changes to the Bylaws and also the election of Thomas Watkins as a Trustee. There were 56 electronic votes, for a total of 68 votes. A quorum of 52 was required which made the election results official.

Scott read the list of Chieftain appointees, the complete list of which will appear elsewhere in the Yearbook.

For the Good of the Order:

- Peter Gregg mentioned briefly the challenge coins proposal that had been presented in the Council meeting the previous day. Also, the merchandise room would be open for a few more minutes if anyone wants to bid on any of the auction items or purchase any items.
- We will be meeting in the lobby of the hotel about 2:30 for the pipe band and drum concert to walk to the park.
- Scott thanked everyone for their participation in the meeting and as volunteers for "our Society."
- Luncheon will be at 12 noon, then Scott will be doing a slide presentation on the Dalmally Stones including background of the project and the current status of the preservation of the stones. ACGS donated a significant amount to their fund.
- The ADC meeting followed this meeting.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:39 pm.

MINUTES OF THE AREA DEPUTY CHIEFTAINS MEETING

American Clan Gregor Society, Inc. 115th Annual Gathering – Charlottesville, Virginia Submitted by D. Jane Montmeny, Scribe September 21, 2024

Attendees:

Chair, Bruce M. Whyte, Ranking Deputy Chieftain, ADC Georgia/Florida North, GFM D. Jane Montmeny, Scribe
Peter K. Gregg, ADC Delaware, New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania
Mary Bird Pettenati, ADC North Carolina
Leighton Stradley, ADC Virginia and DC
Lois Ann Garlitz, ADC Utah
Kathy and Tom Watkins, ADC South Carolina
Thad Osborne, ADC Tennessee

The meeting was called to order by Bruce M. Whyte, Ranking Deputy Chieftain at 11:45 am on September 21, 2024. Bruce addressed the questions of what do ADC's do, what do they need, how do we see ourselves working together, what should things look like, what should we standardize, how much support should we get from the Society, and asked those in attendance to think about those things. The following were items of discussion:

- Bruce distributed swatches of clan tartans to those who needed them for clan tent displays.
- Bruce uses plastic bags with clan name on them to make packages for handouts
 to give at the games to those who are really interested. Some have magnets
 included. It was suggested to have self-inking stamps for the youth passports
 and possibly stickers. Should there be a PDF document of standardized clan
 information so everyone could print handouts for their bags as they need them?
- It was suggested to make a standardized business card but individualize them with the ADC information. It costs about \$30/100 cards. Who should bear the cost of these items?
- In the past the money from sales of clan merchandise at the games went into the C&E fund, so was not available to the ADC's. A few years ago, the council voted for the money from sales to go back to the general fund; now it is available to replenish supply for the merchandise and for the ADC expenses. The auctions at the Gathering goes into the general fund for expenses at the Gathering and also for ADC's. Bruce will act as quartermaster as a central ordering point when an ADC needs supplies. The new challenge coins will be made without color and can be sold as merchandise with the plan that that revenue will be for the ADC's.
- Tom Watkins and Peter Gregg will work out a way for the ADCs to manage merchandise and payment to Peter and email the instructions.
- There was discussion about the amount reimbursed to each ADC for registration to participate in games, but no definite decision was made regarding a certain

total budget amount to be shared. The bylaws currently state that the reimbursement will be \$150 for each game, however some of the registration fees are much more.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20pm by Bruce Whyte.



WESS Schauf, Bob Cohen, Matt Kuldell

Our own WESS Schauf joined our pipers Matt Kuldell and Bob Cohen to lead a contingent of Clan Gregor members up Main Street to the UVA Rotunda Park for the Saturday afternoon pipe band concert accompanied by members from the local Albemarle Pipes and Drums. WESS is a budding piper with his grade 4 pipe band. He is currently taking a sabbatical to attend college to continue his education. He and his band performed in Glasgow, Scotland this past August at the Worlds Pipes and Drums competition. Hopefully we will hear more from him at future Gatherings.



Members visiting Monticello, home of President Thomas Jefferson Susan Gregg, Judy Latimer, Janet DiBiasio, Dorothy Jensen

COUNCIL REPORTS

CHIEFTAIN

Submitted by Scott F. MacGregor, Chieftain

Greetings, I am delighted that since our last Gathering our society has found several wonderful members who have volunteered to serve in much needed positions. Each of them are excelling in their positions towards keeping our society moving forward and members informed. They all share good communications skills is a vital importance for a volunteer organization in getting stuff done in a timely fashion. Much appreciation goes out to each of them for all the hard work they are doing.

This summer marked the completion of the long running Dalmally Stones project overseen by our sister society in Scotland to preserve some rare carved gravestones in Scotland with a strong connection to early Clan Gregor chiefs from the 14th to 16th centuries. Our society through its Antiquities project helped raise much needed funds in support of these efforts. The stones are now on permanent display within the sanctuary of the Glenorchy Kirk. It took nearly three decades to accomplish this, but now they can be enjoyed by our kinfolks for centuries to come. It could not be achieved without the many donations from Clan Gregor members around the world and the dedicated leadership of a few key members of the Clan Gregor Society in Scotland.

We once again will enjoy another marvelous in-person Gathering of society members in Charlottesville, Virginia. It is wonderful seeing how many members have heeded the call of the fiery cross to Gather in kinship. It will be great having in attendance several multi-generation families, two young men who have graduated from junior to lineal membership, and members coming from all across the United States, even as far away as the west coast. I find it fantastic to see our heritage being shared with family members and the younger generations. There is nothing better than to come together and getting to know one another personally. Our Gatherings provide a great opportunity to strengthen the bonds in our shared heritage as descendant of Clan Gregor.

Over the summer several of our members have ventured over to Scotland and they have some intriguing stories to tell. Even better they took lots of pictures and will be sharing them on screen during the Gathering. Many of the pictures with direct connection to Clan Gregor, others of some beautiful places around Scotland. They will tug at you heart to visit Scotland to see them for yourself.

Our Assistant Chieftain has done an exceptional job with organizing this year's Gathering and keeping it within budget — a very difficult objective. The society likes to move these Gatherings round the country and while cost is a major fact the biggest obstacle is finding a local member who is willing to take on much of the local leg work. Are you up to the challenge? Does your area have an airport serviced by several carriers? How about quality hotels and attractions? If so, our Site Selection Committee would love to hear from you. Where shall we meet next?

Here's something to think about, while we put a lot of emphasis and expense into obtaining new members, I don't think we do nearly as much on retaining existing

members. We need to work harder on keeping our members and encourage them to become more involved. Sharing our heritage with the next generation or two. It is good to see that we now have on Council several younger members who are already contributing a number of good ideas.

On a sad note, our much beloved past Chieftain, Ron McGregor, passed away at the end of last year. He was full of Clan Gregor knowledge and could really spin a good story. In recent years his presence has been missed at our many functions. I extend my condolences to his family.

RANKING DEPUTY CHIEFTAIN

Submitted by Dr. Bruce MacGregor Whyte, Ranking Deputy Chieftain

I see my role as the Ranking Deputy Chieftain (RDC) as that of a mentor and resource for a family known as Area Deputy Chieftains or ADCs. I try to assist all ADCs in terms of materials needed, training as appropriate, recruitment of new ADCs, filling in geographical gaps in the direct coverage by ADCs and generally trying to ride herd over the mob. I guess that sounded like my grass roots upbringing!! So, in this report I would like to focus on the ADCs, looking at just what slices of the country they deal with, at least some of the costs to those ADCs in carrying out their missions, and the resources available to them to help them.

1. Our Area Deputy Chieftains

Area Deputy Chieftains are not just members of the American Clan Gregor Society. They are our eyes, our ears, and first point of contact for most visitors seeking to learn more about their own family, but also about Scottish history and the incredible place their ancestors had in our development of us. When they tramp out at some crazy hour, usually around dawn in the morning, go to the field and finish setting up their tents and displays, hoping it had not rained, or that there was a heavy dew, because their handouts were now soggy, unreadable and sometimes totally worthless. They present to the public a welcome smile when all they wanted was an additional 2 hours in bed. At the end of a usually hot and humid, sticky and generally uncomfortable day, they then pack everything up and drag off to their accommodations. If they were lucky there may have been a short but violent thunderstorm to finish off the day. They are paid less than the minimum wage, receive no monetary tips, and complain not about long work hours. If they are lucky, they have another day of the same.

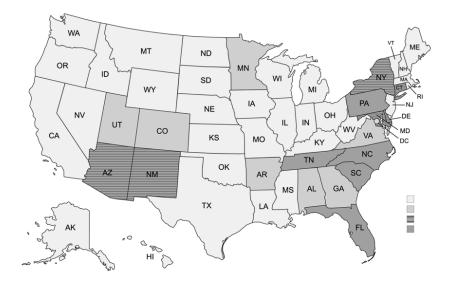
1.1 Who are our ADCs

Before going into the regular business of ADCs, let's look at a primer on who exactly are our ADCs and what does it mean when we state they are the ADC for what ever state. (See the color coded map on the next page).

An ADC is a member of ACGS in good standing, recommended to the Chieftain by the RDC, as one who shows knowledge of the Scottish way of life, knows at least some facts about Clan Gregor (not necessarily an expert) and has the time and wherewithal to manage it. Most ADCs have a single State as their responsibility (principal State), others have multiple States. On the map of the US in the attachment following:

- Light grey states are those with no ADC, either because that position was filled, but is now vacant, or there never was an ADC for that State
 - o There are 197 ACGS members in these states
- Medium grey states means one ADC covers each of those states
 - There are 160 ACGS members in these states
- Dark grey hatched states are those that share a single ADC (New Mexico, Arizona and New York and Connecticut)
 - There are 38 ACGS members in those states
- Dark grey states are covered by multiple ADCs
 - There are 144 ACGS members in these states.

Our family of ADCs has undergone some personnel changes over the last 12 months. We have had new members take on the role of ADC, some have had their geographic regions changed, and, of course, some have finally (their word, not mine) retired to do whatever they said they would do in retirement.



1.2 ADDITIONS TO THE ADCS

The following are three new ADCs as appointed by our Chieftain, Scott Macgregor during the year:

- Danie Griffin-Turner, ADC for Florida North. [For our purposes, Florida is divided into three regions, North (includes the, Jacksonville, Tallahassee and the Panhandle areas), Florida Mid (between the named Tallahassee region down to the Orlando area) and Florida South (the remaining area south of Orlando)]. Danie works in the health care industry at the major hospital system in Tallahassee, Florida. Her coverage area for ACGS is Jacksonville (Green Springs Scottish Festival), Tallahassee (Tally Scottish Games) and the Panama City Beach Festival. And she is younger than the rest of us!
- <u>Lee Justo</u>, ADC for New York. Lee provided this brief on himself: My mother's family, to whom I was very close, was from Northern Ireland and Scotland. My

father's family was from Portugal. My father was truly a great man. It was my grandfather's mother, who was a Gregg. I have always loved Scotland and Scottish culture. My grandfather was a career National Guard officer, and he used to take me with him when he marched in parades. There were always bagpipes close by. They lived in a very Scottish neighborhood in Yonkers. My grandmother was from County Down in Northern Ireland. Her mother was a Gibson of the Buchanan clan and always had a wee bit of an accent. I miss them all greatly, and these festivals give me a chance to remember, honor, and celebrate them and the great heritage they passed on.

Lee Justo: "I will be marching in the Tartan Day Parade in Manhattan with the Knights of St Andrew this year. I would love to be marching with the American Clan Gregor Society next year. I will be wearing my kilt in MacGregor Modern for the parade celebrating the heritage."

We may need to talk seriously with this man: he is an importer and distributor of wines!

- <u>Stuart McGregor</u>, ADC Alabama to replace Jean Simon. Stuart retired at the start of 2024 after working for the Geological Survey of Alabama, Tuscaloosa for over 30 years.
- <u>Jordan Palmer</u>, replacing Keren Coleman. This appointment is to be confirmed at the Gathering

Welcome Danie, Lee, Stuart, and Jordan Thank you for donating your time

Several of our existing ADCs have for various reasons, had their geographic area of responsibility reduced. Those states in the mid-West and West have been covered by ADCs who have had little, if anything, to do for/with those states. They are for the most part sparsely populated with few of our family living there. So, for example Lori Connery, was the ADC for six (6) states, her principal or home state being Minnesota. The others were North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Iowa. We need not place her in a position where she would have to decline an event purely due to an extended trip to a state with minimal, if any, Gregors.

Rather, we need to establish an ADC type position that is solely responsible for responding to any requests from those states that will not have their own ADC. To that end it would make sense to send any and all calls to those states to an account we have already established. Just email info@acgsus.org and those requests come through to the RDC.

1.3 LOSS OF ADCs

Several of our recent ADCs have had, for health, logistic or family reasons, to leave their posts. We understand since to fully carry out your role as an ADC takes a lot of

commitment in time, dollars and loss of family time. We acknowledge those retiring ADCs here by name.

Jean Simons, Alabama, replaced by Stuart W. McGregor
Tom Skinner, Texas N, not replaced
Keren Coleman, Missouri W, Jeanne Lehr acting
Vida Anderson, Montana, not replaced
Bob Young, Louisiana and Mississippi, not replaced
Michael McGregor, South Carolina, replaced by the Watkins and Pettenati families

Thank you

Jean, Tom, Keren, Vida and Bob for your commitment to the American Clan Gregor Society over the many years you have all been ADCs

The status of our ADCs in the western US is different from that on the eastern coast. We have had two ADCs covering California, Adrienne Tomkins for northern CA and Richard Adams for southern CA. They spend their time visiting some of the Games but the Clan Gregor Society claims "ownership" of all Games on the west coast. So, we are taking a back seat. We have our two in place there if anyone needs them. They are being added to our roster of ADCs, see Attachment 1.

1.4 CHANGES OF ADC ASSIGNMENTS

Several ADCs have had their States of responsibility changed, mostly because some states are not really within their geographic region. For example, Lori Connery, ADC for Minnesota is also listed as ADC North Dakota, ADC South Dakota, ADC Wisconsin, ADC Iowa, and ADC Michigan. If any of those states had Gregors who wanted to catch up with other Gregors in her region, there is no way she could plan a visit to games in Michigan, followed by one in Minnesota, then maybe South Dakota ADC's region.

So, we have now dropped those states that are not a part of her principal coverage of Minnesota. So, for the foreseeable future, anyone requesting information about those states no longer represented by our ADCs will need to contact the nearest geographical state to the ADC or email us at info@acgsus.org. Mail from that address is forwarded to the RDC.

If there is any member out there in those states not directly covered by our ADCs (yellow on the map) and who wish to join us in identifying and recruiting more Gregors to the family, please let us know by contacting us at info@acgsus.org.

1.5 COST OF BEING AN ADC

I do not like raising the issue of being an ADC and what it costs them. Most members of our Society do not ask and are not told how much an ADC spends just doing the

basics of their position. So the data on the monetary cost may surprise you. The majority of ADCs do not claim any reimbursement for Games attended.

In a totally non-scientific study of some of the costs from six ADCs, the average cost of attending a Games as the convenor and representing ACGS is near \$1,000, per one day event. That is further described in this report. One large Games costs the ADC around \$800 for registration and another \$500 for lodging. Of course, food and drinks are also needed and probably some form of vehicle to drag all their stuff to the site. So total cost is somewhere north of \$2,000, approximately.

1.6 CHANGES IN SCHEDULING BY THE ORGANIZERS OF GAMES

Organizers of Games around the country have noticed the increase in visitors attending their Games. They are actively trying to determine how they can increase the duration of their Games from one to two days. One is trying to increase to four days from one single day. That is all well and good, but it will put enormous additional pressure on the ADC responsible for those States. I am the ADC for the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in North Carolina. It lasts four days and all of us are totally exhausted at the finish. We would need even more ADCs to cover extended Games, and/or start to develop a roster of volunteers for each of the longer games, working towards a single day for each, if that is possible.

At the same time, we need to load into the ACGS calendar, all the Highland and Celtic Games, and then determine which of our ADCs are involved in which event. It seems the ADCs are uncomfortable adding events to the calendar, so this would eliminate that burden.

2. Resource and Operating Guides for ADCs

Nine years ago, then Ranking Deputy Chieftain (RDC) Randy Walker edited and distributed the "ACGS Resource Guide for New Area Deputy Chieftains". It laid out a comprehensive range of topics that were designed to assist new ADCs perform their duties while manning an ACGS tent or similar. This Guide has not been upgraded since that time, but the current RDC is close to completing a fully revised version. This Guide will be completed before the end of 2024.

ASSISTANT CHIEFTAIN

Submitted by Michelle Mercier, Assistant Chieftian

This year we put out the yearbook for 2024

- I made sure 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.
- Any returned to sender yearbooks will be brought to the ACGS Gathering

Annual ACGS Gathering

- I am working fast and furious to make this a great Gathering.
- I contracted with the Graduate Hotel in Charlottesville VA.

- I partnered with the Convention and Visitors Bureau in Charlottesville to learn more about the city and what our guests can do during free periods during the Gathering. They will also provide free welcome bags for our members
- Scott and I traveled to Charlottesville to tour the property and the city in hopes to best market and plan the event.
- I have been tracking registrations and hotels to ensure there is plenty of availability for those who wish to attend and to ensure that we are meeting our financial obligations with the contract and relaying the info to Scott and Mark
- I have been marketing the Gathering on Facebook and ACGS Newsletters to make sure that all members are aware and know how great the event will be
- I have been communicating with members to make sure all questions have been answered in regard to the gathering

Council Meetings

• I helped to schedule the Council Meetings via Zoom.

Inventory

 This year I generated an inventory for items used during the gathering that are owned by the society and where they are stored, as well as items members have historically loaned/donated items for the event.

SCRIBE

Submitted by Jane Montmeny, Scribe

- 1. The minutes from the 2023 ACGS Zoom Gathering, were posted on the ACGS Society website.
- 2. During Council meeting 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 shall state the succeeding office by title or the Chieftain as receiving all records, documents and other items. The Scribe is making the changes in all appropriate documents.
- 3. There was one interim zoom Council meetings during this year as follows:

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

American Clan Gregor Society Interim Meeting- Zoom August 6, 2024

Attendees, Officers:

Scott McGregor, Chieftain
Bruce M. Whyte, Ranking Deputy Chieftain
Jane Montmeny, Scribe
Mark K. McGregor, Treasurer
Diana Browne, Chancellor
Peter Gregg, Immediate Past Chieftain
Michelle Mercier, Assistant Chieftain
Stuart J. MacGregor, Member-at-Large

Aliana Shepard, Member-at-Large Ian Greig, Chair Gathering Site Selection Committee

Officers excused:

Jeanne Lehr, Registrar Jason Corder, Membership Database Manager Charles Clary, Member-at-Large

ACGS Chieftain, Scott McGregor, opened the interim council meeting on Tuesday August 6, 2024 at 5:03pm MDT, per Zoom meeting. Jane Montmeny, Scribe, completed roll call and determined that nine voting council members were on the call; a quorum of six is required.

- 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 2024: Gathering Committee, Heraldry Committee, Financial Review Committee, Information Technology Committee, Merchandise Manager, Genealogy Committee.
- 3. The following P&P's have recommended changes for 2024:
 - a. Registrar: After discussion, Peter moved and Bruce seconded, motion carried to approve the proposed changes.
 - b. Assistant Chieftain: After discussion, Peter moved and Mark seconded a motion to approve the changes as submitted.
 - c. Treasurer: After discussion, there will be one change to the Bylaws that will be added to the draft document for the AGM. Jane moved and Peter seconded, motion carried to approve the proposed changes as submitted.
 - d. Trustees: After discussion Peter moved and Scott seconded a motion to approve the proposed changes, particularly to have consistency with Treasurer P&P. The question of numbers of Trustees on the Board will be on the agenda in September.
 - e. Membership Database Manager (MDM): This P&P was newly drafted for the new position. One section from the Registrar P&P will be added to the P&P for the MDM. It will be forwarded to Rick Walker, Webmaster, for input; tabled until Gathering Council meeting in September.
 - f. Nominating Committee: Peter moved and Jane seconded a motion to approve changes as submitted; motion carried.
 - g. Recognition Committee: Peter moved and Aliana seconded a motion to approve changes as submitted; motion carried.
 - h. Scholarship Committee: After discussion to ensure consistency with the Treasurer P&P, Peter moved and Aliana seconded a motion to approve the changes; motion carried.
 - i. Gathering Site Selection Committee: Ian had submitted his comments:
 - 1) Now that we have alternating zoom and in-person Gatherings, the Committee needs to look for only 1 or 2 possible future sites for the Assistant Chieftain to consider based on ACGS population at the time.

- 2) Further considerations are hotels, airports and local members who can assist
- 3) This will be re-visited in September re: a change to the Committee P&P
- j. Michelle will review the Gathering Planner document after the Gathering in September; the document is referenced in her Assistant Chieftain P&P. Michelle will have had experience with both in-person and zoom Gatherings.
- 4. Discussion on Gathering 2024 Charlottesville VA
 - a. Meeting program is being developed
 - b. Friday September 20: Council meeting, Saturday September 21: AGM
 - c. Jane will prepare the Bylaws with all suggested changes to be posted on the website and distributed in an email to all members via Ballot Buddy. We have 335 members so need quorum of 31 votes, combined total inperson plus electronic. Ballot will open after Council meeting adjourns and closes before AGM starts. Members will be reminded that if they vote electronically, they can't also vote in person.
- 5. Annual reports will be due to Scribe by Monday September 9th. Scott will send out an announcement
- 6. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:04pm MDT.

TREASURER

Submitted by Mark K. McGregor, Treasurer

At the virtual gathering in September 2023, my appointment as Treasurer was ratified by the membership. The balance of 2023 was spent learning the online version of QuickBooks, Stripe and MembershipWorks to relieve Bruce Whyte of his interim Treasurer appointment. With the help of Bruce, we moved ACGS General and C&E checking from Truist Bank to Bank of America. This was a strategic move to have all ACGS financial accounts with Bank of America and its subsidiary Merrill Lynch. The consolidation allows ACGS to leverage the C&E Investment account to have account and wire transfer fees waived on both Bank of America checking accounts.

In May 2023 Sara Moore of The Moore CPA Firm in Marietta, GA was selected to prepare tax returns, reconcile the ACGS books and assisted with ACGS bookkeeping. May 2024, I terminated the \$280 monthly bookkeeping agreement but plan to retain The Moore CPA Firm for annual tax return preparation.

Monthly repetitive expenses were reviewed, and some eliminated. Current Monthly and Annual expenses will continue to be monitored and reviewed.

General	Monthly	Annual	
Membership Works	\$ 95	\$ 1,140	
Intuit (QuickBooks)	99	1,188	
Kennett Mini Storage	82	986	
Zoom	66	792	
The Scottish Banner	_	75	

Scotland Magazine Mallory Agency-D&O Ins	-	294 967
Total General Annual Expense		\$ 5,442
C&E Annual Moore CPA-Tax (est.) Graphic Publishing Yearbook (est.)		\$ 800 2,600
Total C&E Annual Expense		\$ 3,400

In the ACGS General accounts there was a (\$91,604) decline in Assets from 2022 to 2023. This was due to a bequest of \$80,000 in 2017 that was deposited in the ACGS General Account then transferred to the C&E Investment account. The \$80,000 was carried in the books as Receivable in the General Account and a Liability in the C&E Accounts. It was determined that the bequest was solely for C&E and the General Receivable and C&E Liability were reversed. In addition, there were \$14,626 in unrecorded 2022 Visa charges that were discovered during account reconciliations.

C&E investment funds are actively managed by Merrill Lynch and ACGS Trustees. Merrill Lynch's recommendation was to continue the paring of equity gains and convert to fixed elements while rates are attractive. This shift was to safeguard the gains made in equities, diversify equities with a high concentration with the focus of safeguarding the investment assets of ACGS for future scholarships. We use these funds to award scholarships to students. In 2023 we earned \$29,366, an increase of \$2,175 (8%) over the previous year. This was sufficient to make awards totaling \$30,000 to 20 recipients

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 electronically on September 16, 2023 and the Gathering held in Charlottesville, VA from September 20 to 22, 2024. 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 16, 2023 to September 20, 2024:

Corrections from previous years = 0
New members (lineal, associate) = 22
New provisional members = 0
Members advancing from provisional to lineal = 0
Juniors advancing to lineal membership = 2
New Junior members = 1

NEW MEMBERS – includes Lineal and Associate Members

#3402 Glasgow, Robert Arthur IV, Virginia. He is the spouse of Abby Ann Powell and the son of Robert Arthur Glasgow III and Mary Louise Carr; he the son of Robert Arthur Glasgow Jr and Iona Lemon (Audrey) Roberts; he the son of Robert Arthur Glasgow and Iva Zadelle "Mama" McAdam; she the daughter of John S. McAdam and Susan Dunlap; he the son of George McAdam and Eliza McCammon; he the son of George McAdam and Mary Morrison.

#3403 Reed, Jonathan Bradbury, North Carolina. He is the spouse of Christine Louise Ruiz and the son of Hubert Vance Reed II and Karen Ann Sellers (nee: Price); he the son of Hubert Vance Reed and Mary Evelyn Robinson; he the son of Vance Montgomery Reed and Ruth Imogene Magruder; she the daughter of Arthur Mucaster Magruder (ACGS #451) and Katherine M. (Kate) Rose; he the son of Dr Julian Magruder and Margaret Ann Johnson, he the son of Zadok Magruder and Rachel Cooke; he the son of Zadok Magruder Jr. and Martha Wilson; he the son of Col Zadok Magruder and Rachel Pottinger; he the son of John Magruder and Susanna Smith; he the son of Samuel Magruder and Sarah Beall; he the son of Alexander Magruder and Elizabeth Howard; he the son of Alexander Magruder and Susannah Busey; he the son of Alexander Magruder and 1st) Margaret Braithwaite, 2nd) Sarah Hawkins, 3rd) Elizabeth Hawkins.

#3404 Littlefield, Susan Stacy, Missouri. She is the daughter of Arthur Stanley Littlefield Jr and Kathryn Joyce Gregory; she the daughter of George Russell Gregory and Mary A. "Dolly" Keenoy; he the son of Paul Jones Gregory and Mary Ann Barnes; he the son of James Harrison Gregory and Mary Ann Scholl; he the son of John Gregory and Adda Elizabeth Fuqua; he the son of Thomas Gregory and Molly Lancaster; he the son of William Gregory and Martha Morris.

#3405 Gowin, Landon Anthony, Virginia. He is the son of Mark Alan Gowin and Amy Elliott; she the daughter of Millard Greg Elliott (ACGS #2655) and Lynn Andrews; he the son of John Frank Elliott, III and Mary Gregg; she the daughter of Otis Tiffany Gregg and Juliette B, Kirker; he the son of William Cephas Gregg and Mary Ann Damarin; he the son of Cephas Gregg and Mary Newton; he the son of Cephas Gregg and Susannah Clymer; he the son of John Gregg and Orpah Stubbs; he the son of Samuel Gregg and Ann Robertson; he the son of John Gregg and Elizabeth Cook; he the son of William Gregg.

#3406 Slater, William Alden, Connecticut. He is the son of Andrew David Slater and Elizabeth Wynn McDaniel; she the daughter of James Raymond McDaniel and Elizabeth Randolph Johnson; she the daughter of William Waller Johnson and Elizabeth Page Sebrell; she the daughter of William Joseph Sebrell and Nannie Prince; he the son of William Nicholas Sebrell and Elizabeth Randolph Pretlow; he the son of William Jones Sebrell and Mary (Griffith) Bell Butts; she the daughter of Peter Butts and Elizabeth Griffith, he the son of Capt. Thomas Butts and Mary Edwards, he the son of Peter Butts and Elizabeth Clements; he the son of Thomas Butts and Catherine McGehee; she the daughter of William Mackgahye (McGehee) and Mary; he the son of William Mackgahye.

#3407 Smith, Gregory Michael, Colorado. He is the spouse of Gretchen Smith and the son of Michael Shively and Donna Bigham Smith Shively Stokes; she the daughter of Jack Bigham and Iolani A Vannier; he the son of Clyde Hall Bigham and Eula Morie Baugh; she the daughter of William Lee Baugh and Willie Lee Stacy; he the son of Loving Harvey Baugh and Tennessee Nancy Blackburn; she the daughter of Moses Bufford Coattis Blackburn and Elizabeth Gray; he the son of William J. Blackburn and Anna Amy Sample; she the daughter of Moses Sample and Ruth Wood; he the son of Samuel Semple Sr. and Hannah Ann Scott; he the son of John Snavely William Semple and Esther Margaret Garrison; he the son of James Douglas Semple (Semphill) and Isabel Elizabeth King; she the daughter of James King Jr. and Anna S. Beverage; he the son of James King and Agnes Akie Whitehill.

#3408 McGregor, Robb Eldon, California. He is the brother of Mark Kent McGregor ACGS #3378 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; he the son of William Campbell McGregor and Sarah Fish; he the son of Alexander McGregor and Elizabeth Campbell; he the son of Daniel McGregor and Helen Campbell.

#3409 Loos, Megan Woods, Florida. She is the spouse of Joshua C. Loos and the daughter of James C. Woods Jr. and Chantell M. Hertzog; he the son of James C. Woods Sr. and Jessica Diane Christian (aka Patricia Ann Johnson); he the son of Fulton E. Woods and Alma Louise Andrews; she the daughter of James Harrison Andrews and Elizabeth (Lizzie) Cowart; she the daughter of Henry Harrison Cowart and Mary Ann Thrift; she the daughter of (unknown Flanagan?) and Penelope (Penny) Thrift; she the daughter of Robert T. Thrift (Flanagan - name changed) and Rachel Magruder; she the daughter of James Magruder and Mary Rosie; he the son of Ninian Magruder and Elizabeth Brewer; he the son of Samuel Magruder and Sarah Beall.

#3410 Womack-Adams, Gregory Scott, North Carolina. He is the spouse of Kelly Womack-Adams and the son of Scott M. Adams (ACGS #3324) and Holly (Lee) Cobb McKim; he the son of Edward Guy Adams and Mary Kathryn McGregor; she the daughter of Andrew Curtis McGregor and Nellie Lucretia Ridgeway; he the son of Tomas Gideon McGregor and Felissa Jane Barton; he the son of Andrew McGregor and Margaret Ann Hood; he the son of Archibald McGregor and Janet Marshall; he the son of John (Jain) McGregor and May.

#3411 Greer, Shawn Paul, Virginia. He is the spouse of Jennifer Hogan and the son of Paul Greer and Norma Jean Stanley; he the son of Wayne Edgar Greer and Wretha Clyde Lovelace; he the son of John Luther Greer and Bannie Barbara Blevins; he the son of Edith E. Greer; she the daughter of William Andrew (Andy) Greer and Susannah Dunn; he the son of Alexander Greer and Lydia Curd; he the son of James Greer and Mary Molly Hampton; he the son of Benjamin Greer and Nancy Sarah Wilcoxson; he the son of John Greer and Sarah Ann Elliot; he the son of John Greer and Sarah Day; he the son of John James Greer and Ann Taylor.

#3412 Gregory, Royce Alan, Maine. He is the spouse of Catherine Marie Driscoll and the son of Henry Davis Gregory Sr. and Alma Rebecca Steadham; he the son of Franklin Edward Gregory and Muriel Goodale Davis; he the son of William Franklin Gregory and Martha Jane Bent; he the son of Franklin Edward Gregory and Sarah

Frances Bird; he the son of Isaac Gregory and Eunice Whitcomb; he the son of Isaac Gregory Jr. and Mary/March Lawrence.

#3413 Grover, Logan Alexander, Virginia. He is the son of Donald Christopher Grover and Jamie Sue MacGregor ACGS #2758LM; she the daughter of Scott Fredric MacGregor ACGS #2450LM and Randa-Lynn Harland; he the son of Burton Fredric MacGregor and Miriam Elizabeth Dowling; he the son of Walter William MacGregor and Margareta Jennie Greening; he the son of William Aaron McGregor and Mildred Roe; he the son of John Samuel MacGregor and Anna Elizabeth Mosley; he the son of John McGregor and Jane Taylor; he the son of Thomas McGregor and Mary Ann Jessup.

#3414. Crow-Moore, Lora, Indiana. She is the spouse of David Moore and the daughter of Gary Crow and Lois Schwer; she the daughter of Frank Schwer and Mildred Reed; she the daughter of Elmer Reed and Mary Shanklin; she the daughter of Glenn Dale Shanklin and Minerva Bethena Wickersham; he the son of William Vawter Shanklin and Sarah Julia Henry; he the son of Andrew J. Shanklin and Jane Vawter; he the son of William Shanklin and Rachel Shirkey; he the son of Richard Shankland and Agnes Davidson; he the son of John Shankland; he the son of Gilbert MacGregor Shankland.

#3415 Groves, Brandon Jeffery, Arizona. He is the son of Jeffery Coy Groves and Brenda Hargett; he the son of Harold McCoy Groves and Iva Lee Davis; he the son of John Ernest Groves and Kathleen Selma McGregor; she the daughter of Charles Franklin McGregor and Annie Lynch; he the son of Alexander McGregor and Sarah Ward; he the son of Alex McGregor Sr.

#3416 Lane, Rachael Marie, Wyoming. She is the spouse of David Alexander Lane and the daughter of Robert Dennis Wolf ACGS #3360 and Christine Marie Pyle; he the son of Robert David Wolf and Eleanor Rose Brown; he the son of Robert S. Wolf and Dorothy Mae Trout; she the daughter of Issac Trout and Rachel L. Roberts; she the daughter of David Roberts and Mary E. Hickman; she the daughter of Alpheus Allison Perry Hickman and Francis B. Allison; he the son of Joshua Hickman and Elizabeth Perry; she the daughter of Erasmus Perry and Elizabeth Harding; he the son of Benjamin Perry and Elizabeth Magruder; she the daughter of Ninian Beall Magruder and Elizabeth Brewer; he the son of Samuel Magruder and Sarah Beall; he the son of Alexander Magruder; he the son of John Macgregor; he the son of James Macgregor; he the son of William macgregor; he the son of William Macgregor.

#3417 Reed, Andrew Paul, Georgia. He is the spouse of Courtney Allyson Steen and the son of Randy Paul Reed and Annie Purvis; she the daughter of Ray Purvis and Dorothelen Garner; he the son of Joseph Allen Purvis and Virginia F. Leggette; she the daughter of William T. Leggette and Ellar E. Caston; she the daughter of Joseph B. Caston and Amaranth McGehee; she the daughter of David J. McGehee and Mariah Dawns; he the son of Lt. Samuel V. McGehee Sr and Olivia A. Muse; he the son of Edward T. MackGehee and Katrenia E. de Jarnette; he the son of Thomas James MackGehee (James MacGregor) and Anne Bastrop (Baytop); he the son of William Patrick MacGregor and Lady Marion MacDonald.

#3418 Parris, Jana Lynn Watson, Alabama. She is the spouse of Lee Herring and the daughter of Robert Wayne Watson and Anita Frances Algee; she the daughter of Lucian Robert Algee and Martha Frances McGehee; she the daughter of Harvey McLain McGehee and Mabel Catherine Cooper; he the son of Alexander Crawford McGehee and Sarah Theresa Tucker; he the son of Sarah Derina Mary McGehee; she the daughter of Martin William McGehee and Sarah Tennison; he the son of John McGehee; he the son of William McGehee and Derina Shelton.

#3419 Markham, Sharon Denise Bumpass, Texas. She is the spouse of Kevin Markham and the daughter of Talmadge Harris Bumpass Jr. and Donna Lou Girard-McFall; he the son of Talmadge Harris Bumpass Sr. and Mona Verlee Fitzsimmons; she the daughter of Elmer A. Fitzsimmons and Cecil Merle Downs; he the son of John Andrew Fitzsimmons and Martha Louise Allen; he the son of Robert Fitzsimmons and Malvina McGregor Clark; she the daughter of Donald Mac/McGregor and Mary Bennet.

#3420 Hardesty, Nancy Katherine Menees, California. She is the spouse of John Wayne Parker and the daughter of Charles Burnley Menees and Mary Katherine Hardesty; she the daughter of Tully Overall Hardesty and Julia Katherine Killam; she the daughter of Daniel Thomas Killam and Julia Catherine Magruder; she the daughter of Lloyd Belt Magruder and Nancy Ann Overall; he the son of Joseph Magruder and Mary (Molly) Belt; he the son of Joseph Magruder and Catherine Fleming; he the son of Samuel Burton Magruder and Margaret Beal Jackson.

#3421 Shoemaker, Debbie Margaret Knauer, South Carolina. She is the spouse of William Knauer and the daughter of Roy Beaufort Shoemaker and Margaret Celeste Karriker; he the son of Roy Oren Shoemaker and Emma Lou Reavis; she the daughter of James A. Reavis and Minnie J. Wilkinson; she the daughter of Robert L. Wilkinson and Jerusha Kimbrel; he the son of William Wilkinson and Drucilla Hampton; she the daughter of Andrew Hampton and Sarah Minor; he the son of Ezekiel A. Hampton and Sarah Jane Griggs; she the daughter of Mingus Griggs and Jane Broderbund.

#3422 Meek, John Nicholas, North Carolina. He is the spouse of Jordyn Taylor Kirkland and the son of William Gary Meek and Deborah Orr; she the daughter of William Kenneth Orr and Peggy Ann Beachum; he the son of Earl Money Orr and Minnie (Mary) Bell Pressley; he the son of William F. Orr and Sarah Ann Robertson; he the son of David Kerr Orr and Martha E. Sinclair; he the son of James Thomas Jefferson Orr and Amelia Sophia Alexander.

#3423 Lane, Lauren Elizabeth Dowd, Colorado. She is the daughter of Thomas Michael Dowd and Leland Anderson Lewis; she the daughter of Robert Magruder Lewis , Jr. and Laura Eugenia Anderson; he the son of Robert Magruder Lewis and Georgia lasbel McKee; he the son of James Angovine Lewis and Robena Hicks Bass; she the daughter of John Kicks Bass and Frances Emma Magruder; she the daughter of Archibald Magruder and Edinburgh "Edna" Cleghorn; he the son of George Magruder and Susannah Williams; he the son of Ninean Offutt Magruder; he the son of John Magruder and Jane Offutt; he the son of Ninean Magruder and Elizabeth Brewer; he the son of Samuel Magruder and Sarah Beall; he the son of Alexander Magruder II and Margaret Braithwaite; he the son of Alexander Magruder and Lady

Margaret Campbell; he the son of John Marauder II and Mary Drummond; he the son of John McGruder; he the son of James McGruder; he the son of William McGruder.

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

Gowin, Landon Anthony #2023J to #3405 Grover, Logan Alexander #2024J to #3413

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

#2035J Williams, McKenna Kristine, Oregon. Sponsor is her mother Jamie Kristine Williams ACGS #3358

LIBRARIAN

Submitted by Charles S. Grierson

We have confirmed with the University of Baltimore staff that our contract is in good standing. There was no yearbook copy requests and no monetary transactions for the year. Nothing further to report.

MEMBERSHIP DATABASE MANAGER

Submitted by Jason Corder

As the new Membership Database Manager, I have received initial training but have much more to learn. I began with minimal training and subsequently had the opportunity to work closely with Bruce Whyte through Zoom meetings. Additionally, I traveled to Bruce Whyte's home for further hands-on training, which was highly beneficial. To build on this foundation, I am planning to attend additional training sessions at the 2024 Gathering in Charlottesville, VA. This upcoming training will help me enhance my skills and better manage the membership database. I am committed to applying what I've learned so far and look forward to gaining more expertise to improve my performance in this role.

MERCHANDISE MANAGER

Submitted by Peter Gregg, Merchandise Manager

On hand inventory:	Value (cost) of Inventory
T-shirts Old, Forrest Green – 12 each (sale price \$5.00 eac	h) Unknown
Sweat shirts Old, Forrest Green – 44 each (sale price \$15.0	00 each) Unknown
T-shirts, Cardinal Red – 23 each (sale price \$30.00 each)	\$16.55 each = \$380.65
Sweat shirts Cardinal Red – 23 each (sale price \$35.00 eac	h) \$21.25 each = \$488.75
Golf/Polo Shirts – 23 each (sale price \$35.00 each)	\$22.10 each = \$508.30
Coffee Mug – 10 each (sale price \$15.00 each)	\$5.00 each = \$50.00
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 – 44 each (sale price \$10.00 each)	\$5.09 each = \$223.96
MacGregor's Second Gathering Cookbook – 45 each (\$10.	00 each) Unknown
ACGS Tote Bag – 9 each (sale price \$35.00 Each)	\$18.25 each = \$642.25
Chieftain Medallions – 23 each (not for sale)	\$43.42 each = <u>\$998.66</u>
Total Inventory Value	\$3810.57

The following items were sold in 2023:

Sweatshirts Green – 2 each
Golf/Polo Shirts – 3 each
Coffee Mug – 2 each
Name Badge – 4 each
Lapel Pin - 3 each new
ACGS Tote Bag – 1 each
MacGregor's Cookbook – 1 each

There were no purchases this year.

Correction to last year's report. The quantity of Cardinal Red T-shirts was a typo. The quantity was 23.

This report contains the information as of December 2023 so that it encompasses a complete calendar year as requested by the Financial Review Committee.

YEARBOOK EDITOR

Submitted by Scott F. MacGregor

I am happy to report that the yearbook was mailed out to our members in early June. This timely delivery was only accomplished by the prompt submittal of all the reports. A yearbook would not be complete without the splendid articles submitted by our members. A special thanks goes out to John Bellassai for obtaining the articles by the Lord Lyon. All are greatly appreciated.

What better way to share and preserve your Clan Gregor connection then to provide an article for the yearbook. What did your immigrant ancestor do when they arrived in the United States? Did your ancestor adventure west, was an inventor, was into

politics, or any other areas of distinction? We'd love to hear about them. Please reach out to our Yearbook Editor, Scott F. MacGregor, at mcgr3gr@gmail.com to submit an article or pictures for an upcoming yearbook.

Our collection of yearbooks covering the past one hundred plus years can be found online at https://ubalt.libguides.com/acgs. These along with our archive of books are maintained by the University of Baltimore in Baltimore, Maryland. While our books cannot be checked out, you are warmly welcome to visit the library and peruse our collection.

With the 2024 Gathering being an in-person event there should be plenty of pictures and an excellent article or two for our next yearbook. Hopefully you were able to attend and had a wonderful experience. Please share your Gathering interactions here with everyone so others might enjoy a similar experience at a future Gathering.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Submitted by Jacque Johnson

Newsletter

- I was confirmed as the new newsletter editor at the 2023 Gathering.
- Since that time, we have published four issues of the newsletter with the first going out in December 2023. The other three have been published quarterly in March, June, and September of 2024.
- The next issue of the newsletter will be published on or about December 1st.
- The deadline for submitting articles for the December issue will be October 31st.
- Please send your submissions to me directly at my personal email address <u>nixie272@gmail.com</u> or to the society's email address for the newsletter – <u>newsletter@acgsus.org</u> – both come directly to me.
- I look forward to hearing from you.

Annual ACGS Gathering

- I am honored to be able to attend this incredible event and have the opportunity to meet many members in person.
- I have volunteered to help the Assistant Chieftain in putting together the gift bags to be handed out to members who attend the Gathering.
- I am also partnering with Mary Byrd to put together a short presentation on whisky to share with members at the Gathering.

CHAPLAIN

Submitted by Thaddeus G. Osborne

As you may remember, I was unable to attend the Gathering, for health reasons. I am happy to be returning in 2024 with my new lady, Nancy.

Not much activity this year except praying with and counseling another member about personal medical issues. I am available to all ACGS members for this purpose.

Unless otherwise informed, I'll be prepared to render invocations, officiate the memorial service, and respond as called on at the Charlottesville Gathering.





Since the virtual Gathering of the Society via Zoom in 2023 until the Gathering in Charlottesville, VA in 2024 there have been no births reported, one marriage, six deaths of members, and no deaths of friends of members of ACGS.

MARRIAGES

Thaddeus Grier Osborne II, (ACGS#2733), wed Lauren Michelle Johnson in Virginia Beach, VA on September 9, 2023. Thaddeus is the nephew of former Chieftain Thad Osborne (ACGS#1929LM), and the son of Robert S. Osborne (ACGS#2733LM).

Thad Osborne, past ACGS Chieftain, (ACGS#1929LM) and Nancy White were married

March 3, 2024, in a private ceremony. Later, the couple were honored with a reception at Holy Cross Anglican Church in Farragut, TN where Mr Osborne serves as Deacon.

DEATHS OF MEMBERS

Jane Laverty Love (ACGS#2285) died January 19, 2012.

Landrum Sylvanius Tucker (ACGS#2727) died April 8, 2013.

Eugene Webb McGehee (ACGS#2460) died April 11, 2014.

Julia Marguerite Little Shewman (ACGS#1768) died July 11, 2014.

Derry David Magee, DVM (ACGS#3006) died June 3, 2015.

Beverly Bissett Kauffman (ACGS#2287) died February 28, 2017.

William Ray Pressnell (ACGS#2888) died May 4, 2017.

Emma Virginia Horsman Grier (ACGS#2738A) died January 14, 2017.

Dana L. (Hap) Green (ACGS#2140) died February 23, 2018.

Ann McGregor Stadden (ACGS#2826), died September 22, 2019.

Duncan B. McGregor (ACGS#2007) died April 16, 2020.

A. Bruce MacGregor (ACGS#2365) died August 11, 2020.

Dana Lorenzo Skinner (ACGS#3332) died August 10, 2021.

Reuben Michael Bosch (ACGS#2980LM) died 2021.

South Trimble Lynn, Sr (ACGS#1883) died January 8, 2022.

Daniel Bruce Hughes (ACGS#2950) died August 29, 2022.

Shirley Marie Jones (ACGS#2424A) died August 29, 2022.

Joseph Edward White (ACGS#1999LM) died November 8, 2022.

Dr. Jennifer Ellen Tormey (ACGS#3124) died December 12, 2022.

Dr. Brian Bertram Tormey (ACGS#3123LM) died August 16, 2023. Ronald A. McGregor (ACGS#2142LM), Past Chieftain ACGS, died December 24, 2023. Robert Barnard Murdock (ACGS#1408LM), died February 8, 2024. Thomas Mitchell McNish, MD (ACGS#1764LM), died July 19, 2024.

DEATHS OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF ACGS

Judith Eleanor Tormey, wife of Brian Bertram Tormey (ACGS#3123LM), mother of Blair Tormey (ACGS#3104) and Jennifer Ellen Torrey (ACGS#3124) died August 6, 2022.

Miriam E. Trojahn, mother of Scott F. MacGregor (ACGS#2450LM) and Tobey A. MacGregor (ACGS#2823LM), grandmother of Stuart J. MacGregor (ACGS#2750LM), Jamie S. MacGregor Grover (ACGS#2758LM), and Darcie R. MacGregor Schauf (ACGS#2757LM), and great grandmother of William "WESS" Schauf (ACGS#3371), Emerald A. Schauf (ACGS#2027J), Logan A. Grover (ACGS#3413), and Brennen C. Grover (ACGS#2027J) died August 22, 2024.





Logan Grover, WESS Schauf

First cousins Logan Grover and WESS Schauf with all that hair. Besides loving to grow their hair long, there is also a good purpose behind it. Early on in their lives they started accompanying their grandfather to an annual event, St. Baldrick's, where one shaves their head to raise funds for childhood cancer research and to show solidarity with those less fortunate. Logan asked what they did with all the hair. He was informed that most of the hair is trashed because

it is not long enough to donate for wigs. With that it started the two of them on a mission to not only raise funds but to also provide hair for wigs. So far, they've donated three times in their young lives. Their hair is getting long enough for them to do it yet again. This event has become a family affair with their younger siblings and even their mothers participating in raising funds and donated hair.





Past Chieftain MAJ Ronald A. McGregor, USAF Ret. 1939-2024

It was a sad day earlier this year when we learned of the passing of our past society Chieftain, Ronald A. McGregor of Colorado. He was an enthusiastically active member of the society for many years holding numerous positions over the years. Culminating in his serving as Chieftain between the years of 2009 and 2012. While holding the Ranking Deputy Chieftain Ron pushed to streamline the requirements towards making changes to the society's By-Laws and advocated for a change that would allow any female members of the society the opportunity to become Chieftain. Later, as Chieftain he selected Lois Ann Garlitz to follow him as the Ranking Deputy Chieftain and Chieftain.

In his youth, when he was 14, a grade school project was assigned to produce his family tree which led to a lifelong passion for genealogy. He even got his three sisters involved. While stationed in Texas in the 70s Ron along with his son Scott attended a few Highland Games. He later hosted his first Clan tent in Golden, Colorado in 1983. As the State Deputy Chieftain for Colorado, Ron hosted the Clan tent at the Estes Park Highland Games for many years. Where on several occasions his Clan tent was recognized as the best. This being no small feat as the same Clan tent could not win in consecutive years. Annually,



Ron would award one of his State Deputy with a ceremonial sword. He even presenting the preceding Chieftain, Thaddeus G. Osborne with a sword that Thad still proudly displays to this day.

Ron was a wonderfully convincing storyteller. For a number of years, he served as the society's Newsletter Editor where he did an exceptional job at conveying not only society news but enlightened members on various aspects of Clan Gregor history. He would often be seen at the annual society Gatherings with his young grandson, Jonathan. Sharing his Clan Gregor and Scottish heritage with the next generation.

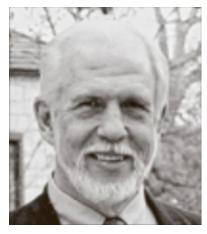
In October 2001 Ron hosted the annual society Gathering in Denver, Colorado with an excursion up to the MacGregor Ranch in Estes Park. This was incredible achievement considering it was only one month after the 9/11 attack on the twin towers in New York City. In 2003, Ron was one of the early DNA testers in the MacGregor DNA Project managed by the Clan Gregor Society of Scotland.

Ron started life as the son of Alvie "Speck" and Margaret McGregor on June 1, 1939, in Blytheville, Arkansas where he was raised with his three sisters. Upon graduating high school Ron joined the Air Force and rose to the rank of Major before retiring. He married his high school sweetheart, Elizabeth Ann Blackwell on Christmas day in 1959. Together they have two children: Peggy and Scott.

Ron has been sadly missed at the many American Clan Gregor Society events in recent years. Here's wishing him a well-earned rest in his new journey where he can enjoy his time meeting, greeting, and exchanging stories with all those ancestors he's been researching for a lifetime.

COL Thomas Mitchell McNish M.D, USAF Ret.

1942 - 2024



In July we lost our last serving society surgeon, Dr. Thomas McNish of San Antonio, Texas. He was born in Madison, Tennessee to proud parents Edgar and Mary McNish. He spent his childhood growing up in North Carolina where at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games he was competing in the caber toss while wearing a kilt of Clan Gregor tartan. He joined the society in 1975 and was a life member.

He graduated from the USAF Academy in 1964 and served in the Vietnam War where he flew 45 combat missions before being shot down in 1966. He was captured and spent 2,373 days as a POW, before being released in 1973. After

coming home, he was found not fit to continue as a fighter pilot. He defied all odds and eventually got back on flight status. He truly was a hero. It was during this time that he decided to study medicine, earning his degree in1978 from Emory University School of Medicine. Residencies in both family practice and aerospace medicine followed. After a long and distinguished military career, stretching 30 years, he retired with the rank of Colonel.

In his private career that followed he worked on many high-profile accidents to include the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster, the 9/11 crash of Flight 93, and the Daytona 500 crash in which Dale Earnhardt was killed.

At one point one of his daughters competed in Highland dance in the San Antonio area. He would participate in the annual local Burn's Nicht celebration.

He is survived by his wife, Yona, their children Lori, Amy, and Tommy, and extended family.

Miriam Elizabeth (Dowling) MacGregor Trojahn 1939-2024

Born of Irish and English descent in the late nineteen thirties in central New Jersey. Growing up she enjoyed spending time in the Pocono Mountains of eastern Pennsylvania where she met her first husband, Burton MacGregor, while still in high school. He joined the Navy and upon their marriage she moved to coastal Virginia in the early sixties. She was never big on history and Burton's family did not partake in anything Clan Gregor or even of Scottish nature. Her love of the mountains stayed with her, as she escaped to the Blue Ridge mountains of Virginia every chance possible. So much so that she has instilled a love of them in her four great-grandchildren.



Things didn't work out between the two of them and they went their separate ways. Thankfully she was a strong, independent woman who worked hard as a single mother. Raising her three boys from this marriage and a fourth son from her second marriage meant that she had to work a lot. While she was trained and certified as a



Three generations of Miriam's descendants, all society members

Histologist, the jobs were not always available. During these off years, she worked as a store clerk, a bartender, and even as a welder at a local shipyard where she worked on assembling an aircraft carrier.

During these years her eldest son caught the genealogy bug and while uncovering his family lineage discovered the fascinating colorful history of his MacGregor surname. Nearing retirement Miriam started to accompany him to the local highland games which led to attending the annual ACGS Gatherings around the United States. She even made a couple of trips to Scotland for the International Gatherings hosted by

the Clan Gregor Society of Scotland. She loved meeting and interacting with the many members she met along the way.

Her first Gathering was Williamsburg, Virginia in 1999 where she met Sir Gregor MacGregor and her last was Atlanta, Georgia in 2018 where her dementia started to show its ugly face.

Thanks, mom, for all the fond memories of our many road trips to and from the many society Gatherings over the past twenty plus years.

All mothers leave a lasting impression on their children. My mother definitely did so not only with me but with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Did you know that within the University of Virginia Library there is a designated McGregor room established to honor Tracy W. McGregor of Detroit, Michigan by housing his vast collection of books on American History.

Here is a link should you'd like to read more about the creation of this room https://small.library.virginia.edu/collections/featured/the-tracy-w-mcgregor-library-of-american-history/.

As part of the 2011 Gathering in Detroit we visited the gravesite of Tracy W. McGregor (1869-1934). Prior to our visit his gravesite had become very overgrown due to neglect. The groundskeepers did an excellent job making his gravesite very respectable.



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 communication.

Financial Advisor Relationship

Merrill Lynch (ML) continues in their fiduciary role and actively participates in all the investment decisions reached by the Trustees. ML support and advice has been vital in realizing the successful growth realized for the portfolio.

Portfolio Performance

The Trustees agreed to continue to rebalance the equity portion (common stock) in favor of fixed assets consisting of long term bonds and preferred stocks. The balance is currently 65% equities and 35% cash and fixed instruments. This trend was started two (2) years ago to take advantage of higher interest (5 to 7%) available in the marketplace. The growth in stock appreciation and increased dividends and interest is reflected in the record portfolio balance of \$928,528 as of 31 July 2024. Additionally, the growth allowed the Trustees to vote a record \$32,000 for scholarship distribution in May of this year.

Scholarship Grants

There were 20 scholarship grants approved and a total of \$32,000 disbursed to successful applicants. Each recipient received a check for \$1600. This was the largest individual award on record. The range of institutions were diverse throughout the country.

Scholarship Awardees

Level 1 (Students applying for assistance for the 1st time from ACGS)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Institution</u>
Hope Brewster	Penn State
Fiona Welsford	University of Georgia
Landon Gowin	James Madison University
Jacob Baltzegar	Georgia Military College
Maci Wheeler	Central Michigan University
Landon Potter	Virginia Commonwealth University
Anna Faith Garlitz	Brigham Young University
Hannah Suehle	University of Noth Carolina (Charlotte)

Level 2 Previously received a grant and still enrolled in a Bachelor Program

<u>Name</u>	<u>Institution</u>
William Slater	Wake Forrest University
Seth Gregg	University of Tennessee
Lauren Major	Clemson University
Landon Gregory	Citadel Military College
Kylie Street	Coastal Carolina University
Hayley Hoppock	University of Illinois
Kayla Collins	Utah State University

Parker Rhodes Logan Carroll Allison Bostelman Alexandra Simon Lily Richardson University of St Andrews Abilene Christian University University of Georgia Athens State University College of Eastern Idaho

Charity

There were no charity requests made to ACGS in the reporting year.

General Comments

I am stepping down from this role after six years (2 three year terms non-consecutive) and from being Chair for three (3) of those years.

The financial condition has never been stronger and I leave with good conscience that the remaining Trustees and my replacement will continue to benefit ACGS in the future with sound decision making.





Can't get enough of the Haggis (I-r) Greg Womack-Adams, Dustin Pettenati, Aliana Shepard

Did you know that Haggis is Scotland's National Dish. Haggis which is often accompanied by Neeps and Tatties, but what are they. Well, Neeps are mashed swede or turnip and Tatties are mashed potatoes.

Originally haggis was a poor man's dish made from the animal innards that did not readily sell and quickly spoiled. It was mixed with a significant amount of oatmeal.

The poet Robert Burns wrote the poem "Address to a Haggis" which is often recited at Scottish celebrations like our in-person Gatherings of the American Clan Gregor Society. Oh, by the way Robert Burns is Scotland's National Bard.

Do you know what the Scottish National Animal is? The unicorn, of course. Not surprising in a land which also has the Loch Ness Monster and Kelpies.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Submitted by Peter K. Gregg, Chair

In December 2023, I accessed the Scholarship Committee email account and Google drive and began to set up all applications and documents in individual folders on the google drive.

All applications and their supporting documentation were reviewed, logged onto an excel spreadsheet. The spreadsheet and our recommendation were 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.

We received ten new applications and 13 repeat applications for a total of 23. All applicants were contacted and notified of their receipt. The applicants were also informed of the completeness of their submission. All applications were received on or before the required due date of April 1st this year.

There were four applications that brought up some questions.

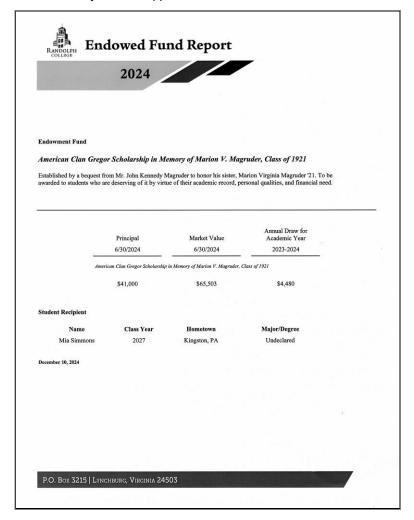
The first two were new applications that were submitted by Luke Garlitz and Anna Faith Garlitz. They are brother and sister. The application form states that only one grant per family per annum will be funded. Research showed that this requirement is not outlined in the ACGS by-laws, the scholarship committee P&P, or the trustees P&P. The only reference that I could find (besides the application form) was in the scholarship committee annual report for the 2021 gathering. The report states that the trustees changed the requirement last year (2020). There was no reference to that change in the trustees' report for 2020 or 2021. Was this a one-time change or a permanent change. If a one-time change, I should remove it from the application form. If a permanent change, I recommend that we incorporate it into our respective P&P's. This requirement was added to the Scholarship Committee P&P during the interim Council meeting on August 6, 2024.

The third was a repeat application submitted by Bailey Beakes. Bailey's GPA dropped below our required GPA of 2.5 to 2.16. His cover letter explained that he suffers from depression and anxiety which was exacerbated by the Lewiston Maine mass shooting in October 2023. Lewiston is close to his home and he has many friends there. He expects to bring his GPA back up next semester. He was informed that his GPA was below our minimum. He appreciates our willingness to review his application.

The fourth was a new application submitted by Austin King. Austin has already received a Master of Science in Business Analytics and is now enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics (Honors concentration) with a goal of attaining his PhD in Mathematics. We decided to consider his application as it is in a new discipline, and it is his first application for an ACGS scholarship.

Chieftain's note:

We have three scholarships that are managed by two institutions of higher learning. Two at the University of Virginia, School of Nursing in Charlottesville, Virginia and the third at Randolph College in Lynchburg, Virginia. Each year Randolph College provides us with an annual report that shows the current value of the scholarship and the student that received financial support.



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, 2023 – December 31, 2023

The Financial Review Committee, composed of Paul O. Collinson (solo) has completed the review of financial transactions and found that the records to fairly reflect the interests of the American Clan Gregor Society and to be free and clear of substantial financial mismanagement.

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 01/01/2023 through 12/31/2023.

The transaction review included a sampling backup information to support checks and credit card transactions. Fewer checks were written and fewer checks were deposited in comparison to prior years. This trend reflects the movement to online and credit card transactions. New for 2023 was the introduction of Zelle and debit card transactions. Zelle transactions are anticipated to be rare and debit card transactions are anticipated to be related to recurring purchases such as software subscriptions.

Software subscriptions continue to be the dominant purchase type transaction aside from Gathering related transactions. The recommendation is to continue to review which software subscriptions are warranted.

Credit card interest was charged each month during 2023. Notably, the monthly interest amount trended sharply downward as the year progressed. 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.

A recommendation is that provisions for the use of Zelle and the debit card be added to the Treasurer Policy and Procedures.

- 4. Policy and Procedures Statements the Financial Review Committee continues to recommend that all Policy and Procedure statements 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 the 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/debit 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.
- 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 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 Financial Review Committee makes a standing request to receive a copy of the tax returns as they become available each year.
- 10. Concentrated Positions The investment portfolio of the Society contains concentrated positions.

Two of the stocks held represent 15% and 19% of the stock portion of the portfolio, together these two stocks represent nearly 35% of the stock portion of the portfolio. Four other stocks each make up 7% of the stock portion of the portfolio, together these four stocks make up over 28% of the stock portion of the portfolio. In summary, six stocks constitute more than 60% of the stock portion 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 Scott F. MacGregor, Chair

There were no submittals received this year to recognize any of our society members. While all our volunteers do a most excellent job every year supporting the society, I'd like to call out three individuals who have excelled.

The first is Mark K. McGregor of California our new Treasurer who volunteered and jumped right in quickly picking things up and promptly responding to all inquiries from other Council members. He quickly relieved our interim Treasurer Dr Bruce M. Whyte so he can concentrate more on his other duties.

The second is Michelle Mercier of Pennsylvania who is in her second year as our Assistant Chieftain. She did an excellent job last year with organizing our 2023 Gathering Zoom meeting and this year, 2024, coordinating only our second in-person Gathering since COVID. She is not shy about reaching out to others to determine the best road forward. She brings a lot of young energy and ideas to the position and activities.

The third is Jacque Johnson of Utah who in her first year as the Newsletter Editor has resurrected our society newsletter by publishing four article packed issues via email since our last Gathering. She is doing a wonderful job. However. it takes a lot of support from you, our membership, in providing her with the many articles needed.

These are only three of our many talented volunteers who work diligently throughout the year to keep our society moving smoothly through its second hundred years. On behalf of all our society members I want to take this opportunity to THANK each and every one of our hard-working volunteers.

To keep an organization like ours going strongly it takes the talents and experiences of many volunteers. Your society can always use more volunteers. Please consider volunteering and sharing your talents. To volunteer just contact any of the officers, committee members, or Area Deputy Chieftains listed within this yearbook.

HERALDRY COMMITTEE

Submitted by John King Bellassai, JD, Chair

Invitation to the Lord Lyon to attend the ACGS Gathering in 2025. With the approval of the Chieftain and the Council, the Chairman of the Heraldry Committee has invited the Lord Lyon to come over from Scotland to attend our 2025 Gathering, in person. (As many know, the current Lord Lyon has MacGregor antecedents.) In response, the Lord Lyon expressed an interest but noted he may having a scheduling conflict with another foreign trip to which he previously committed (to Hong Kong), though the dates for that other trip have not yet been firmed up. It was agreed we would discuss the matter further once his Hong Kong travel plans have been firmed up.

On another matter: The Act of 1672 gives the Lord Lyon King of Arms the authority to grant arms to any "virtuous and well-deserving" person coming under his jurisdiction. Traditionally this power was interpreted to be limited to persons living in Scotland, and thus under the personal jurisdiction of the Lord Lyon. That said, the

current Lord Lyon, the Rev. Dr Joseph Morrow, has interpreted his authority much more broadly--to extend to granting arms to non-British citizens of Scottish descent living abroad, under certain circumstances.

The rules and regulations set out on Lyon Court's Website describe the process whereby (a) a grant of Scottish arms may be awarded posthumously to one Scottish ancestor and how these may then descend to you--provided you descend in the direct male line and bear his surname; or (b) Scottish arms can be granted to a living relative of yours who is currently resident in Scotland and you can then apply for a variation of those arms (cadet arms) based on the family connection between the two of youbut again, this requires a mutual direct descent in the male line and both you and your living relative in Scotland bearing the same surname.

Though it is not well described in the rules and regulations for petitioning a grant of arms, Lyon Morrow in many public speeches for the past 10 years has described a third way for Diaspora Scots to petition for and receive a grant of Scottish Arms. He has set up a process whereby persons of Scottish descent, *not* living in Scotland and *not necessarily* bearing a Scottish surname, but who have distinguished themselves in some way having to do with advancing Scottish heritage and culture, may apply and be granted arms in their own name, *regardless of the surname they bear*. However, because these arms may not descend to one's children, they are described as "life arms", i.e. only permitted to be displayed during one's own lifetime and non-transferable at death.

Some ACGS members, most notably Past Chieftain Lois Ann Garlitz, have in recent years successfully petitioned Lyon Morrow for such a grant of "life arms", in her own name, based on long service and achievements within the ACGS. Others in our Society can follow her lead and likewise apply to Lyon for "life arms."

That said, it is not clear that this practice of granting life arms to Diaspora Scots, which was a major innovation, will be continued by future Lords Lyon. And Lyon Morrow has hinted that he may retire soon--though no date has been announced. So if interested, ACGS members who have in their view had distinguished service on behalf of their Scottish heritage should act quickly to take advantage of this process.

GENEALOGY COMMITTEE

Submitted by Lois Ann Garlitz, Chair

I received one request this year to track family history data for someone who had requested to become an ACGS member. In using various web sites, I was unable to verify information for the Registrar to complete a membership application.

GATHERING SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE

Submitted by Ian Greig, Chair

Discussion at the zoom Council meeting on August 6, 2024, concerned this statement from the P&P for the Committee: "Research locations for possible future Gatherings and keep a pool/ list of 5 or so possible cities where a Gathering might be scheduled."

Because of the recent rotation of in-person and zoom annual meetings, looking ahead to plan five locations no longer seems to apply and there needs to be a change to the P&P. I have asked that this be an agenda item for the Council meeting on September 20, 2024.

Chieftain's note: Would you like to see a future in-person Gathering held in your area? If so, please reach out to lan, the committee chair, to discuss further.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Submitted by Peter K. Gregg, Chair

In accordance with the Nominating Committee Policy & Procedure, I contacted the Assistant Chieftain by email on July 24th to verify the officers up for re-election. Michelle contacted Scott. Scott then contacted all officers and appointees to verify that they would continue to serve in their current positions. All officers replied that they would

The members of the nominating committee were contacted by email on August 22nd to report that Scott verified all officers were willing to remain in their current positions for another term.

The position of Treasurer is in the middle of his initial two-year term and is willing continue.

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

Chieftain: Scott MacGregor Ranking Deputy Chieftain: Bruce Whyte

Scribe: Donna Jane Montmeny

Treasurer: Mark McGregor
Registrar: Jeanne Lehr
Chancellor: Diana G. Browne

I was informed by Scott that this year's nominee for Trustee, a three-year term, is Thomas Watkins.

IT COMMITTEE

Submitted by Rick Walker, Webmaster

The IT Committee meet on two times this past year. In attendance was Scott MacGregor, Rick Walker, Aliana Shepard and Mary Byrd Pettanati.

Discussions topics:

- Social Media Instagram and Facebook
- Website Members Area (redo)
- Membership Works
- Database Cleanup

We had an issue that arose where the images weren't showing up, this resulted in a major website clean-up, getting rid of dead links over four days.

Membership works clean-up is ongoing, specifically related to updating member records who have been deceased.

WEBMASTER

Submitted by Rick Walker, Webmaster

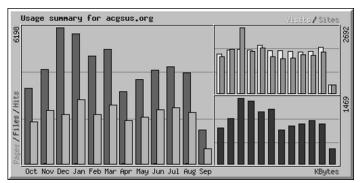
The website (acgsus.org) statistics remain consistent year over year. As do our global audience as we get visits from the United Kingdom, Australia, Germany in addition to our US visitors.

2024 saw some site clean-up, and updating numerous flow issues with our membership applications, we also worked on some Membership database issues and organization issues within the Database.

Work was done, on stale links, and working out some page load errors.

We did have an issue this year, that required rebuilding the website some scratch this was due to a server migration by our host that corrupted something, I was able to rebuild the content from backups over a weekend early on in January of 2024. During this process, we cleaned up many links, and content that had been scrapped from earlier pages. These were updated with new links and navigation was updated to the new pages.

We additionally worked on flow issues with the application process.



Summary by Month										
Month	Daily Avg				Monthly Totals					
Month	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	KBytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
Sep-24	256	0	116	55	354	341	332	700	0	1536
Aug-24	133	0	75	60	1691	895	1875	2348	13	4137
Jul-24	142	0	82	55	1548	960	1707	2563	0	4406
Jun-24	141	0	81	56	1590	890	1683	2456	24	4250
May-24	123	0	68	55	1449	852	1726	2115	0	3820
Apr-24	109	0	65	57	1402	750	1731	1957	24	3280
Mar-24	167	0	86	56	1505	1215	1748	2669	0	5200
Feb-24	169	0	77	67	1857	1161	1962	2258	0	4903

Totals						11741	19703	26579	109	51343
Oct-23	110	0	62	51	1500	803	1599	1922	0	3438
Nov-23	142	0	81	59	1806	1007	1772	2442	24	4281
Dec-23	199	0	72	57	2692	1469	1787	2232	0	6198
Jan-24	190	0	94	57	1710	1398	1781	2917	24	5894

Monthly Statistics for September 20)24	
Total Hits		1536
Total Files		0
Total Pages		700
Total Visits		332
Total KBytes		341
Total Unique Sites		354
Total Unique URLs		0
Total Unique Referrers		11
Total Unique User Agents		181
	Avg	Max
Hits per Hour	Avg 10	Max 763
Hits per Hour Hits per Day	-	
	10	763
Hits per Day	10 256	763 895
Hits per Day Files per Day	10 256 0	763 895 0
Hits per Day Files per Day Pages per Day	10 256 0 116	763 895 0 251
Hits per Day Files per Day Pages per Day Sites per Day	10 256 0 116 59	763 895 0 251 92
Hits per Day Files per Day Pages per Day Sites per Day Visits per Day	10 256 0 116 59	763 895 0 251 92 70
Hits per Day Files per Day Pages per Day Sites per Day Visits per Day KBytes per Day	10 256 0 116 59	763 895 0 251 92 70

SOCIAL MEDIA

Submitted by Aliana Shepard, Administrator

Our social media presence continues to grow on both Facebook and Instagram. Our Facebook group currently has around 1,400 members with 489 active members engaging in the group. This group sees member posts asking questions about ancestry, sharing information about highland games and Scottish events, and folks showing off their MacGregor pride through our beautiful tartan and clan crest. Our Instagram page currently has 224 followers and highlights member events, clan history, and society updates.

ANTIQUITIES – DALMALLY STONES

Scott F. MacGregor



Stones in their new permanent home inside the Kirk sanctuary

Members of both the Clan Gregor societies have spent nearly three decades working to save some ancient carved gravestones with a Clan Gregor connection. The stones are now finally preserved and on display within the Glenorchy Kirk sanctuary in Dalmally, Scotland. Their connection is to several early Clan Gregor Chiefs from centuries ago, which can be found in the *Book of the Dean of Lismore* written in Latin about 500 years ago by a learned man, James MacGregor. Those individuals of higher rank or importance, like the chiefs, were buried near the pre-Reformation altar, near the eastern end of the church. Following the Reformation, the Kirk was renovated with the alter was relocated. Many of the bones found underneath were collected up and deposited in an unmarked grave in the Kirk yard. These stones were then repurposed on other graves within the Kirk yard.

Seven of the original ten stones have been rescued and preserved. One small stone is known to have been lifted from the side of the Kirk where it was leaning against the wall. The search is still on-going to find the two missing stones. Many of the stones within the Kirk yard are covered with moss and grass, a layer of protection from the elements. It is highly frowned upon to remove this layer making it difficult to see the stones beneath. These stones with a Clan Gregor connection are believed to have been carved by students from the Loch Awe School of Stone Carving. Further examples of their work are on display in nearby Kilmartin. Within the Duke of Argyll's archives at Inveraray Castle resides a large book that contains full size rubbings of the ten carved stones at Glenorchy Kirk. These were undertaken by Lord Archibald Campbell between the years 1892-1911.

The preservation efforts started in 1996 when key members of the Clan Gregor Society in Scotland realized the impact of losing such historical significance. The American Clan Gregor Society became involved around 2003 with the raising of funds from members through the Antiquities fund. In 2012 an effort was undertaken to use Ground Penetrating Radar to try and determine what might lie under both the Kirk sanctuary and yard. It is believed portions of the early church walls are visible along with the area of the alter.

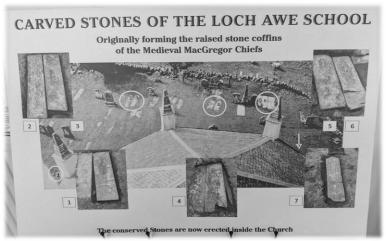
Over the years many different proposals were made on where to place the stones once preserved. These included in the Kirk sanctuary, the Kirk tower, a small freestanding building across the street. For different reasons these choices were unapproved. It was good to hear this year that the Kirk elders had reconsidered their decision and have allowed the stones within the Kirk sanctuary. Before the stones

could be placed in their new home structural engineers were consulted to ensure the walls and floor could handle the weight of the stones. Both were reinforced to meet the need to safely display the stones. Having seen the stones in-person this summer in their new location I can say they are a perfect fit within a lovely Kirk.

The stones were lifted, and preservation started in 2022. While Mother Nature and the lawnmowers over the years have done significant damage to the stones, they could not just be removed from the ground as they would deteriorate even more. The conservators took great care to remove coverage of surface dirt and organic growth which had become engrained in the stones. The various cracks and breaks were addressed. To comply with the Historic Environment Scotland, a government agency, a marker had to be placed in the kirk yard at the location where each of the stones were lifted. The stones were placed on public display in the sanctuary of the Glenorchy Kirk during the Spring 2024.

The efforts to complete this project cost over £80,000 with £30,000 coming from various grants and £50,000 from members of the Clan Gregor Societies. Of this amount raised by members about £10,000 (\$13,418) came from ACGS members.

Recognition must be given to Keith MacGregor and Richard McGregor, members of Clan Gregor Society in Scotland, who spearheaded the efforts. The Kirk Session of Glenorchy and Innishael linked with Strathfillan Church who gave permission to proceed with the project. The Dalmally Historical Association who gave support and encouragement over the years. Further the professional bodies who contributed: Graciella Ainsworth Stone Conservators, Eden Heritage, The Landscaping Centre Oban, Cowal Design structural engineers, Graeme McKechnie, Morag Malcolm, Victoria Clements of Historic Environment of Scotland, Judith Roebuck of CARTA at the Church of Scotland, and especially the Clan Gregor Society SCIO.



The stones and where they originally resided in the Kirk yard

Pictures courtesy of Clan Grgeor Society of Scotland

HIGHLIGHTS OF 115TH ANNUAL GATHERING OF THE AMERICAN CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY

Submitted by: Didi Mercier

The 2024 Gathering of the MacGregors was truly a fantastic weekend! From start to finish, it was filled with warmth, camaraderie, and plenty of Scottish tradition. The **Graduate Hotel** in beautiful Charlottesville, Virginia, provided the perfect backdrop for our events, with plenty of space for all the activities that made this gathering so memorable. A big thank you to **Scott and Michelle** for their exceptional planning and organization—they really made this gathering one to remember.

Thursday: Chieftain's Welcome Reception & Scotch Tasting

The weekend kicked off with the **Chieftain's Welcome Reception** on Thursday evening. The atmosphere was inviting, and it was wonderful to see so many familiar faces, as well as some new ones. As part of the reception, we were participated in a **scotch tasting**, where we sampled five different scotches. It was amazing how distinct each one was, and it sparked some great conversations about whisky preferences and Scottish distilleries.

The scotch tasting was a highlight at every event throughout the weekend. Meanwhile, a **photo slideshow** showcasing recent trips to Scotland played in the background, giving us a glimpse of our members' adventures and reminding us of the beauty and history of our ancestral homeland.

Close by, our past chieftain, **Peter Gregg**, had set up a room filled with MacGregorthemed items for sale, as well as a **silent auction** of donated goods. All proceeds went to benefit the American Clan Gregor Society—what a great way to support our mission while picking up some unique treasures!

Later in the evening, we made our way up to the **rooftop pub** for dinner, where we were treated to stunning views of the full moon and a perfect evening to enjoy the company of fellow Clan members.

Friday: Scottish Trivia & Ceilidh

Friday afternoon brought some fun competition with a lively **Scottish trivia** game. Four tables of eager participants tested their knowledge of Scottish history, culture, and, of course, MacGregor lore. It was a fun, lighthearted way to learn more about our heritage and share a few laughs along the way.

That evening, we gathered for the **Ceilidh** (pronounced "kay-lee"), a traditional Scottish social gathering featuring music and dance. We enjoyed music from a talented **bluegrass band**, whose energetic tunes kept us on our feet and in great spirits. The Ceilidh was the perfect opportunity to relax, make new friends, and celebrate our Scottish roots.

Saturday: General Meeting, Brunch, and Pipe Parade

Saturday morning started with the **General Meeting**, where we heard important updates from the society. We paid our respects to some of our beloved members

who have passed, and we also learned about the fascinating history behind the phrase "Royal is my race." Additionally, we received an update on the Scholarship Fund, which continues to support Clan members pursuing their education. It was a reminder of the great diversity within our Clan, with members of all ages coming together to learn, share, and grow.

After the meeting, a small group of us took a leisurely stroll to brunch, complete with **Bloody Marys** to start the day off right! It was a relaxing way to continue our conversations and enjoy some downtime before the afternoon events.

Later that afternoon, we gathered for a delightful **Deli Luncheon** before heading out to witness the **Parade of Pipers** to the grounds of the **University of Virginia**. Just a short walk from the hotel, we were treated to the beautiful sounds of bagpipes from the **Albemarle Pipe and Drums Band**. The procession was the perfect combination of tradition, music, and a beautiful, sunny day.

Saturday Night: The Banquet & Toast to the Haggis

The weekend's events culminated with the **banquet** on Saturday night, a celebration of food, friendship, and tradition. Everyone looked their best, dressed to the nines for the occasion. The food was delicious, and the company even better.

The highlight of the evening was the **Toast to the Haggis**. For those who were nervous about the haggis, fear not—it wasn't nearly as intimidating as expected! I did my duty, tasted a small portion, and found it to be quite enjoyable. The traditional toast and celebration added a touch of humor and warmth to an already wonderful evening.

Looking Ahead: See You at the Next Gathering!

As we wrapped up the 2024 Gathering, I couldn't help but reflect on the incredible weekend we had. The new friendships formed, the laughter shared, and the memories made will surely last until our next gathering. A big thank you once again to **Scott and Michelle** for their hard work in making this event such a success. I can't wait to do it all again next year!

Until next time, MacGregors—Slainte Mhath!

Chieftain's notes: On Friday morning the Council met to conduct the official annual business of the society. There were enough Council members present to meet the needed quorum. Details of the meeting can be read in the Scribe's minutes.

Special thanks goes out to all who donated items to the silent auction. These include, but not limited to, Rev. Dr. Dallam Ferneyhough, Dr. Bruce & Kathy Whyte. Also to Peter Gregg who stayed busy overseeing the daily activities of the auction. In total the silent auction raised, \$485, help support the society's activities. A few items did not sell and will be retained for the next time we gather in-person.

GATHERING PICTURES

Charlottesville, Virginia



Marsha Masone, Leighton Stradley

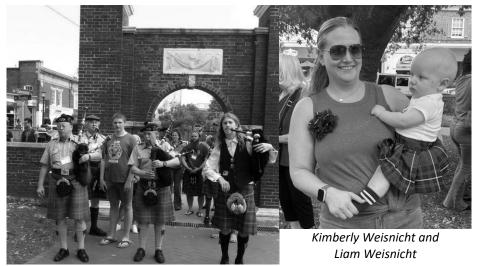
Amy Nease, Don Donnelly



The Tara Mills Bluesgrass Band from Charlottesville, Virginia

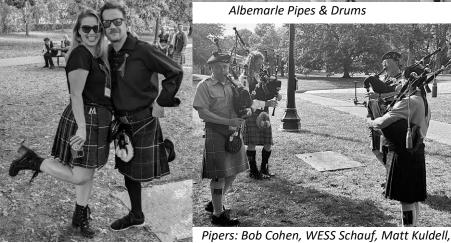


Sandy & Gregg Elliott with grandson Landon Gowin



March up Main Street to park at UVA Rotunda





Michelle Mercier, Joshua Rivedal

Pipers: Bob Cohen, WESS Schauf, Matt Kuldell, guest



Amy Nease, Sally Smith, Don Donnelly



Aliana Shepard, Scott Shepard



Peter Gregg and M. Gregg Elloitt



Mark & Lisa McGregor



Greg & Kelly Womack-Adams



A pair of Scotts Scott Shepard, Scott F. MacGregor



Dustin & Mary Byrd Pettenati and Tom & Kathy Watkins



Jane Montmeny, Lois Ann Garlitz, Jacque Johnson



Claude, Didi, and Michelle Mercier



Judy Latimer, Marina Wang, Paul L. Gregg





Diana Browne, Marsha Masone



Kathy & Bruce Whyte



Claire Crain

Patricia Weisnicht, Austin Doyle



Standing tall and looking good Dustin Pettenati, Landon Gowin



Bob Cohen



Phil & Nancy Darrow



Joshua Rivedal, Michelle Mercier



Darcie MacGregor Schauf, WESS Schauf, Jamie MacGregor Grover, Logan Grover



Richard Ewell, Mary Byrd (Ewell) Pettenati



Leighton Stradley, Scott F. MacGregor



Members visiting Michie's Tavern for lunch on Friday (I-r) Thad Osborne, Nancy White, Scott F. MacGregor, Tom Watkins, Dustin Pettenati, Mary Byrd Pettenati, Aliana Shepard, Scott Shepard, Kathy Watkins, Lisa McGregor, Mark McGregor, Alma Greig, Ian Greig (not shown) Lois Ann Gartliz, Jane Montmeny

Our photographers deserve a special thank-you for the great pictures taken and the willingness to share them for all of us to enjoy. Thanks go out to Judy Latimer, Michelle Mercier, Aliana Shepard, Marsha Masone, Thad Osborne, and Scott F. MacGregor.



Prize Winners

(I-r) Richard Ewell (Whiskey), Didi Mercier (backpack), M. Gregg Elliott (backpack), Sandy Elliott (puzzle), Landon Gowin (plate), Marsha Masone (plate), Jacque Johnson (plate), Marina Wong (plate),

Dustin Pettenati (plate), Joshua Rivedal (puzzle)



Society March up Main Street



(I-r)(4th row - back) JB Gregg, WESS Schauf, Logan Grover, Brenny Grover, Gregg Weisnicht, Emmie Schauf, Peter K. Gregg, Francis Mercier, Dorothy Jensen

Watkins, Kelly Womack-Adams, Greg Womack-Adams, Jamie MacGregor Grover, Josh Rivedal, Marsha Masone, Sally Smith, Amy Nease, Marina Wang, Kerry Boyles, Ian Greig, Don Donnelly, Alma Greig, Mark K. McGregor, Jane Montmeny, Tom Watkins, Catherine Weisnicht, Matt Kuldell, (3rd row - Standing) Diana Browne, Aliana Shepard, Landon Gowin, Richard Ewell, Sandy Elliott, M. Gregg Elliott, Leighton Stradley, Kathy

(2nd row - Seated) Dustin Pettenati, Kathy Whyte, Mary Byrd Pettenati, Claire Crain, Phil Darrow, Nancy Darrow, Thaddeus G. Osborne, Nancy White, Paul L. Gregg, David Weisnicht, Lisa McGregor, Claude Mercier Michelle Mercier, Bob Cohen, Susan Gregg, Bruce M. Whyte

(1st row – on floor) Scott Shepard, Judy Latimer, Didi Mercier, Patricia Weisnicht (holding Charlie Weisnicht), Darcie MacGregor Schauf, Scott F. MacGreaor, Kimberly Weisnicht (holdina Liam Weisnicht), Jacaue Johnson, Austin Doyle

GATHERING TRIVIA

By Scott F. MacGregor

One new event our Assistant Chieftain brought to this year's Gathering was the Clan Gregor and Scotland Trivia event on Friday afternoon. She found a couple of young ladies, relatives of society members, with plenty of experience with trivia games to host the event. All participants congregated into only four teams but what competition they all provided. Two teams, ArdChoille and Tree Pigs remained tied in first throughout each round of competition until the very last round in which they

both got the answer wrong and fell to the bottom still tied. With that came a sudden death show down between a representative from each team. They waved on several questions before team ArdChoille correctly guess the name of the mountain range where the "Three Sisters" (peaks) reside.

A good time was had by all who were there and everyone left with a better understanding of Clan Gregor and Scotland in general. The event was talked about throughout the rest of the weekend. Hopefully we will see many more events like this at future society Gatherings.



Hosts

Kerry Boyles, Patricia Weisnicht, and Michelle Mercier

Participants

Team **Coo** (1st place - one night hotel stay)

Members: Matt Kudell, Bob Cohen, Bruce Whyte, and Thad & Nancy Osborne

Team An Arm & A Gregg (2nd place - \$20 Gift Certificate to Poindexter Cafe)

Members: Josh Rivedal, Peter Gregg, JB Gregg, Catherine & David Weisnicht, and Austin Doyle

Team **ArdChoille** (3rd place - Centennial Gathering medallion)

Members: Mark & Lisa McGregor, Marsha Masone, Scott F. MacGregor, Paul Gregg, Francis Mercier, and Richard Ewell

Team **Tree Pigs** (4th place)

Members: Aliana Shepard, Tom & Kathy Watkins, Mary Byrd & Dustin Pettenati, Ian & Alma Greig, and Kathy Whyte



Members of team Tree Pigs in foreground with team ArdCoille in background

EXPLORING THE WATER OF LIFE

By Scott F. MacGregor

Our Gathering organizer and Assistant Chieftain, Michelle Mercier, had an idea for this year's Gathering to bring a little enlightenment to each event where we had an open bar. She worked with the hotel event manager to offer a variation of a Scotch tasting. Offering flights of Single Malt Scotch from three different regions and a subregion of Scotland. There are five official regions in Scotland: Lowland, Highland, Islay, Campbelltown, and Speyside. The Highland region is often sub-divided with on of the sub-regions being the Islands.

Of these regions our flights consisted of:

- The Glenlivet 12 Year from the Speyside region. This region straddles the
 - River Spey in an area east of the city of Inverness. The barrels used for aging provides much of the flavoring, which can be rich and fruity.
- Glenmorangie Lasanta Scotch from the Highland region. This region is the largest and often divided into smaller sub-regions. It is a good place to start for newcomers to Scotch. The flavors range from lighter and fruitier in the south, to full-bodied and rich in the east, and along the Hebridean Coast even smoky.
- Highland Park 12 Year Viking Honour from the Islands sub-region. This subregion covers the many islands that



surround Scotland. Highland Park is distilled in Kirkland on the Orkney Island. The Scotch gives a light hint of smoke with fruity flavors.

• Laphroaig Single Malt from the Islay region. This region is the single island of Islay on the western coast of Scotland. These Scotches are often heavily smoked with some flavorings from the ocean.

It was not a normal structured Scotch tasting where you have a presenter and try each one in a particular order. Rather we found ourselves gathering in small groups and discussing what we liked and disliked with each Scotch. The Laphroaig with it strong peaty flavor was the most debated, either you like it, or you didn't. A few members remarked that it tasted like they were drinking the campfire.

Two of our members, Mary Byrd Pettenati and Jacque Johnson, on Saturday afternoon gave a very knowledgeable presentation covering all aspects in the production of Scotch. This included information on the ingredients used, the malting and distilling processes, the types of casks used to add additional tasting notes, and the aging process.



(I-r) Michelle Mercier, Josh Rivedal, Scott F. MacGregor, Francis Mercier, Austin Doyle

The flights of Scotch were sampled by many and talked about throughout the weekend. All our members enjoyed their flights in a responsible manner.

This writer is partial to the peaty Laphroaig with it's smoky favor, with the Highland Park being a close runner up. I am always hesitant to try Islay region Scotches due to an early tasting where the Scotch tasted had a strong flavor of iodine. I was not a fan.

Did you know in Scotland the letter "e" is not included in the spelling of the word "Whisky" as it is in America.

Did you know Scotch whisky can only be made in Scotland, much like Champagne in France. It can only use cereal, yeast, and water with no added flavoring, and it must mature in oak barrels for a minimum of three years.

2024 GATHERING ATTENDEES

Charlottesville, Virginia

Member	City/State	Number
Diana G. Browne	New York, New York	1737LM
Claire Sessford-Kurz Crain	Scottsville, Virginia	1781LM
	Raeford, NC	
Phil Darrow	Raeford, NC	Guest
Janet Gregg DeBiasio	St. Petersburg, Florida	2816
-	Rapidan, Virginia	
Amy Nease	Rapidan, Virginia	Guest
	Chesapeake, Virginia	
	Chesapeake, Virginia	
	Harrisburg, Virginia	
	Winston-Salem, North Carolina	
	Raleigh, North Carolina	
	Raleigh, North Carolina	
Lois Ann Garlitz	Cokeville, Wyoming	2561LM
James "JB" Gregg	Richmond, Virginia	2962
==	Morrisville, North Carolina	
Marina Wang	Morrisville, North Carolina	Guest
Peter K. Gregg	Dover, Delaware	2686LM
Susan Gregg	Pinellas Park, Florida	2840LM
lan Greig	Tampa, Florida	2535
Alma Greig	Tampa, Florida	Guest
Dorothy Gregg Jensen	Alameda, California	2902
Jacqueline Johnson	Herriman, Utah	3393
Juliette Gregg Latimer	Charlotte, Vermont	2846
Scott F. MacGregor	Norfolk, Virginia	2450LM
=	Norfolk, Virginia	
=	Norfolk, Virginia	
	Norfolk, Virginia	
	Norfolk, Virginia Norfolk, Virginia	
	Norfolk, Virginia Norfolk, Virginia	
	Clifton, Virginia	
	San Clemente, California	
LISA IVICGregor	San Clemente, California	3388A

Member	City/State	Number		
	. Perkasie, Pennsylvania			
DiDi Mercier	. Perkasie, Pennsylvania	2958		
Michelle Mercier	. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	2959		
Joshua Rivedal	. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Guest		
Francis Mercier	. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	2957		
Kerry Boyles	. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Guest		
Jane Montmeny	. Billings, Montana	2808LM		
Thaddeus Osborne	. Knoxville, Tennessee	1929LM		
Nancy White Osborne	. Knoxville, Tennessee	3426A		
Scott Shenard	. Washington D.C	3377		
	. Alexandria, Virginia			
•	-			
	. Richmond, Virginia			
Leighton Stradley	. Fairfax, Virginia	1938LM		
Thomas Watkins	Belhaven, North Carolina	3326		
Kathy Watkins	. Belhaven, North Carolina	3380A		
Catherine Weisnicht	. Blackstone, Virginia	2927		
	. Blackstone, Virginia			
	Elkridge, Maryland			
	Elkridge, Maryland			
	. Blackstone, Virginia			
	. Blackstone, Virginia			
	. Blackstone, Virginia			
	. Blackstone, Virginia			
	. Raleigh, North Carolina			
_	. Raleigh, North Carolina			
·	_			
	. Roswell, Georgia			
Katny whyte	. Roswell, Georgia	3169A		
Absent Attendees				
	City/State			
	. Herriman, Utah			
	. Cleveland, Ohio			
James Weisnicht	. Blackstone, Virginia	2012J		
	Performers			
Member	City/State	Number		
Pipers	- II al . I . II			
	. Falls Church, Virginia	Honorary		
Robert Cohen	. Charlottesville, Virginia			
Ceilidh Band				
Tara Mills	. Charlottesville, Virginia			

AREA DEPUTY CHIEFTAIN (ADC) REPORTS

ALABAMA

Stuart W. McGregor

On May 7th of this year, I reached out to the long-time Area Deputy Chieftain for Alabama, Jean MacGregor Simon, and

her husband, Jack, to remind them of the upcoming third annual Belle Mont Mansion Celtic Festival in Tuscumbia, and generally to catch up a bit. Jean responded that she has been ill off and on over the past few years and felt it was time for her to relinquish her position as ADC and asked if I would assume the task. I agreed and reached out to Bruce to get the ball rolling, and with Scott's cooperation the deed was done in short order. Bruce and I have communicated off and on since and I am learning the procedures and tasks.

January 2024

On January 1st I retired from the Geological Survey of Alabama after 35 years and 7 months' service and since that time seem to serve the American Health Care industry daily, tending to numerous personal and family issues, but hope that I soon will have more time to tend to the myriad projects and commitments that have piled up for many years, including service to the ACGS. In other words, please be patient as I learn the ropes! Bruce has provided a wonderful guiding hand.

I have had a few opportunities to meet and mingle among fellow Celtophiles and have a short list of those events and occasions to offer up.

My sister Kelly Ford and I along with our cousin Doris McGregor Cofield and a few other friends attended a St. Patrick's Day concert at the Ritz Theatre in Sheffield, with songs and tunes of Ireland and Scotland provided by Chambless and Muse, old friends from Tuscaloosa and Tuscumbia, respectively.

May 2024: Belle Mont Mansion Celtic Festival, Tuscumbia (1 day)
ACGS rep: Stuart W. McGregor



Belle Monte Mansion, Tuscumbia, Alabama

Kelly and I, along with other friends, attended the Third Annual Belle Mont Mansion Celtic Festival in Tuscumbia held on May 10-11. I support the festival financially and am recognized by name (*McGregor, despite them!*) in their brochure and on the website, in

advertising, and from the stage. On Friday there were demonstrations, presentations, and workshops including:

- Traditional Farming Around Scotland's Loch Tay by Dr. George Makowski of the University of North Alabama and the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area,
- Celtic and African American Influences on Appalachian Music by Joyce and Jim Cauthen, noted old-time musicians, Contra dancers, storytellers, writers, and historians from Birmingham
- The Bagpipe by E.J. Jones
- the epic tale The Hills of Home by local representative Ernie Yarbrough
- a Celtic Sing Along and Vocal Workshop' by Jil Chambless
- Demonstration of the Gordon Setters by Jean Webb
- Parlor Performance of the Hammered Dulcimer by Bev Cheney and Jimi Johnson
- kids activities, Highland Coos and the Shoals Weavers and Spinners Guild.
- The Steel City Rovers from Ontario and Nova Scotia headlined the musical portion of the festival on Saturday, along with
 - the Piper Jones Band from Texas and Tennessee, Chambless and Muse.
 - o and Alabama Pipes and Drums from Birmingham.

While there I met a woman with McGregor ties (nee Black) and shared information about the ACGS with her. I received a message from a prospective new member from Huntsville and we agreed to set up a time to talk, but life threw a monkey wrench into the plan, and we have not yet been able to speak at length. I will keep trying!

I recently took my 11-year-old great niece to visit Helen Keller's home, Ivy Green, in Tuscumbia, and saw a monument of stones given in her honor by the people of Scotland on the grounds. It needs a bit of tidying up and I will speak to the curators about possibly having a clean-up day or providing funds for such on behalf of the ACGS, and will report back if and when that occurs.

We plan to attend the Rocket City Scottish Festival in New Market, Alabama, a charming small town near the Tennessee state line near Huntsville, on October 5th. This will be our first visit to those games, and we hope to make some connections! While there I hope to get a chance to visit with Jean and Jack Simon, who live in Huntsville.

I am connected to Celtic music sessions in Birmingham and Huntsville and will spread the word of ACGS when possible.



DELAWARE, NEW JERSEY & PENNSYLVANIA EAST

Peter K. Gregg

May 2024: Fair Hill Scottish Games

ACGS reps: Peter Gregg, Michelle Mercier, Francis Mercier, Jamie Grover,

Darcie Schauf, Scott F. MacGregor

The Scottish Games Association of Delaware hosted the 62nd Fair Hill Scottish Games on May 18th at the Fair Hill Fairgrounds in Elkton Maryland. The festivities began the evening before with the Fair Hill Scottish Game Nite in Elkton. We met at the Elkton VFW for the march down to the Elk River Brewing Company for the blessing of the beer performed once again by Fr. Ed Ogden from St. Margret of Scotland. I then adjourned to the back yard where a stage had been set up. The entertainment was wonderful with Charlie Zahm singing and Jemma Briggs playing the pipes. I was introduced to the Mayor of Elkton, Mr. Robert Alt, who welcomed me to Elkton.





(I-r) Jamie MacGregor Grover, Brenny Grover, Emmie Schauf, Scott F. MacGregor. Michelle Mercier, Darcie MacGregor Schauf, Peter Gregg, Tish Weisnicht, Francis Mercier

After a good nights sleep, I headed to the Fairgrounds to set up for the day. Because of the forcast of rain, we were moved to a grassy area to keep the mud off of us. I managed to get the tent and flags up brfore the first of the rain began. I was soon joined by our Chieftain and his family who drove up from Virginia to compete in the band competition. It was great having them there. I was soon joined by my neice

Michelle (our Assistant Chieftain), neice Tish, and my nephew Francis. It was a great day in spite of the rain, which came and went throughout the day. I put the sides up on the tent to help keep us dry.



NORTH FLORIDA

Danie Griffin-Turner

February 2024: Tallahassee Scottish Celtic Festival (2 days) ACGS reps: Danie & Tim Turner Bruce & Kathy Whyte, Barry & Kim Kelley

This was the second year for the Tallahassee Scottish Celtic Festival. And just to live up to its sodden history, rain again played a major role. The festival had heavy storms with torrential rain in 2023. Tents were uprooted and last seen bouncing across the paddocks or they were torn to pieces. What a way to celebrate your first festival. Fortunately, they came back for 2024, only to be washed out again on the second day. But day 1 really was a dinkum great day.

If it bothered the organizers and volunteers, you would never have guessed. We had arrived in the middle of a huge celebration where everyone enjoyed themselves and joined in making it a successful, albeit abbreviated, festival. There were several different components of this Festival including:

- Clans were invited to tell their story. We were given 15 minutes and one of the 3 stages to tell those present who we are. Despite much heart ache about what to say, the audience was limited but thankful;
- A beard contest was held. Categories to come. But Barry Kelley, brother-inlaw of Danie won first place in the 6" beard or less contest
- We had a superb face painter who painted gazillions of faces using the ACGS tent as her base.

In summary, good facilities, great setting, and plenty of very helpful volunteers.

It was after these Games that Danie offered to help at the Games in northern Florida and subsequently was appointed by Chieftain Scott McGregor as ADC Florida North. The Whytes drove down to help at their first Games and start mentoring the Turners.



GEORGIA

Bruce M. Whyte

May 2024: The Savannah Scottish Games and Celtic Festival (1 day)

ACGS reps: Bruce & Kathy Whyte, Danie & Tim Turner

ACGS had not been represented at the Games in Savannah for several years, so this year we revisited them. Held in a peaceful rural setting on the edge of the marsh lands, it was well attended. We had plenty of volunteers helping us, some were even of Scottish heritage, others Cajun. In particular were the Turners who drove from

Tallahassee that morning to join us and help out, before driving home again later after we broke down the displays.

These Games are well attended with visitors coming from the west coast of Florida and as far north as Charleston, south from Miami and east from Tybee Island. Kathy and I were busy all day and joined by several Gregors.



June 2024: Blairsville Highland Games and Celtic Festival (2 days) ACGS Reps: Bruce & Kathy Whyte, Thad Osborne & Nancy White

Blairsville was, quite to pattern, busy, busy, busy. Each year the number of people coming out of the hollers, ravines, valleys and off the mountains continues to surprise even us. This county is becoming a bed room community to Atlanta and home to huge numbers of vacation rental homes. So it should be no surprise there are the numbers attending, in excess of 15,000 each year.

Clan Gunn



Once again, Blairsville was crowded with clans men and women and the curious. If you have missed previous reports, this is the description of the location of the event:

"held on the banks of a branch of the Notelly River which bubbles and gurgles through small rapids along a twisted

pathway of towering deciduous trees, rustic soft trails, and all the time exuding a softness to the air and ground".

In 2022 we were the Honored Clan at the Blairsville Games, but we were not aware until this year that there was an engraved entry onto the ceremonial Sword. So these pictures are to complete that process.



MISSOURI (EAST)

Jeanne Peter Lehr

May 2024: St. Louis Scottish Games & Cultural Festival

ACGS rep: Jeanne Lehr

ACGS was represented at one Scottish event and is registered to attend a second Scottish event (which has not yet been held as of the writing of this report) during 2024.

The first event was the St. Louis Scottish Games & Cultural Festival held in suburban St. Louis County, Missouri on Saturday, May 11th. Missouri East ADC Jeanne Lehr set up and manned the ACGS tent with the assistance of ACGS members Jordan Palmer



and her husband Gavin McGrath. The ACGS tent was one of 26 clan tents on Clan Row. The event seemed to be well attended. A number of people visited the tent during the weekend and 9 Clan Gregor related families signed the guest book. Applications for lineal membership were given to 3 of the people who signed the guest book. Ten ounce bottles of water and small chocolate sandwich cookies were offered to Clan Gregor related individuals and children who politely requested a Clan Gregor stamp for their "Clan Passports". ADC Lehr also found tiny (about 3/4" wide and high) Highland Cows on

Amazon to use as give aways. They were a big hit with people, generating a lot of fun and conversation, drawing people to the clan tent. About a dozen of them were "rehomed" and maybe one or two were "lifted". ADC Lehr found them for sale on Amazon

The second event will be the VFW Celtic Festival to be held on Saturday, September 14, 2024 on the grounds of VFW Post #2661 in Washington, Missouri. ADC Lehr was invited by Kara Whittaker, Clan Colquhoun International Society and member of the management team for the Festival, to bring the ACGS clan tent to the 2024 VFW Celtic Festival. Ms Whittaker has offered assistance for set up and tear down of the ACGS clan tent. Ms Palmer and Mr McGrath will not be able to assist for the event due to previously scheduled travel plans.

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

Ms Palmer and Mr McGrath have agreed to become the ADC for Missouri - East beginning after the ACGS Annual Meeting. ADC Lehr will turn over: the tent; all tables, books and other materials that are not part of Ms Lehr's personal collection,

and will fully train and assist the new ADCs in the coming year. Ms Lehr will be available to and will fully support the new ADC for as long as they desire her assistance.

It has been an honor to serve ACGS once again in the position of ADC for Missouri - East during the past two years.



NEW YORK



Lee Justo

May 2024: Central New York Scottish Games & Celtic Festival

ACGS rep: Lee Justo

I have been to these Games several times as an attendee with my family. At both of these games, I was fortunate enough to know the Deputy Clan Chieftain from the Fraser Clan and he has been very helpful in giving me tips.

It is an absolute joy to hear all the family stories people stop and tell you about their history. One person discovered their Clan Gregor Ancestry purely through their DNA on Ancestry. He even went so far to include McGregor in his name. How wonderful it is to celebrate our Scottish heritage and it is so much fun to meet so many people with some common ancestry.

Mrs. MacGregor's Attic had a booth at the Central New York Scottish Games and in

speaking to her, she was very happy to see our clan represented there. It was also nice for me, as we had multiple members of the clan represented at the gathering of the clan all shouting "royal is my race!".



Mrs MacGregor's attic



Lee Justo wearing modern Red & Green tartan kilt

August 2024: Finger Lakes Celtic Games and Festival ACGS rep: Lee Justo

Well it has been an exciting first year as a representative of our Clan Gregor Society. I attended both the Finger Lakes Celtic Games & Festival and the Central New York Scottish Games & Celtic Festival. I was able to meet multiple members of our society at our tent and will hopefully be able to recruit more lineal members



after having conversations with our relatives. The Finger Lakes Games are relatively new and not quite as well attended as the Central New York Scottish Games.



NEW MEXICO & ARIZONA

Mark Beach

June 2024: Celtic Gathering and Games

ACGS rep: Mark Beach

Greetings from New Mexico.

In June the Macgregor's attended the Celtic gathering and games in Cortez Colorado. We have been fortunate to have been at the first gathering there and every one since. We broke the attendance record again this year!! It gets larger and better every year! On the first weekend of October we will be at the Aztec Highland Games and Celtic gathering in Aztec, New Mexico. We have been in attendance every year since its inception as well! Everyone loves the Macgregor's and we are always non stop busy all day long. It has been and continues to be, a great pleasure to represent the ACGS at the games.







MINNESOTA

Lori Connery

July 2024: The Minnesota Scottish Fair and Highland Games

ACGS rep: Lori Connery

We're back!

On July 13th we joined other clans and set up at the Minnesota Scottish Fair and Highland Games to greet and meet fellow Scotsmen and Scotswomen, but Mother Nature had other plans. We had multiple rounds of thunderstorms with hail and high

winds! We were called off the field two or three times to go inside for shelter due to lightening and torrential rains. And then, we would need to pull everything in the tent to the center of the tent area and drop our tent down to avoid blowing away! Thankfully the weights worked! We were wet but safe!

This year was especially exciting because we were back at Macalester College for our fair and games as part of the college's 150th anniversary celebration! Such a lovely area! And we had a great turnout for people coming in and through. It has been a while since I have been able to host a tent at the Minnesota Scottish Fair and Highland Games and what a crazy and lovely day it was! It was an honor to march in the Clan Parade with all my clan members!

Despite the weather we persisted! Seeing old friends and making new ones! Because of course! We are MacGregor Despite them! Many expressed an interest in putting together some dinners/get togethers! Looking forward getting to know my new friends and to next year's event!



RDC Comment:

Lori was involved in a car wreck in 2022 which resulted in serious injuries. She has nearly completed rehabilitation and is ready for some Scottish action again. For those of you who have not met or worked with Lori, not only have you missed out on a treat, but you have not understood her coverage area for the ADC in that region. She is actually the ADC for: Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Iowa (see to right). Lori should be happy to cover such a large swath of this country and also thankful there is not much happening in the Scottish/ACGS world in those states or she would be stretched way too thin. If there is any member out there that would consider taking over some of her states, let us know.



NORTH & SOUTH CAROLINA

Tom & Kathy Watkins and Dustin & Mary Byrd Pettenati

October 2023: Scotland County Highland Games
ACGS reps: Tom & Kathy Watkins, Mary Byrd & Dustin
Pettenati

2023 would be the first time that Clan Gregor has participated in these games. 2022 was to be our first time but a hurricane dashed those hopes. But 2023 would be the year legends would be born.

As you arrived at the field you actually passed thru a living museum of farm life in Scotland County from late 17 00s to late 1800s. As you make your way back you can see the field surrounded by trees and a railroad track. Sadly, the railroad would not be operating but everything else was a go. I will say

that the one thing that you will have to do without is a cell phone. We could not get a good signal anywhere on the field and I am still trying to decide if that is a good thing or bad.

There was a small sprinkle first thing in the morning but that gave way to a beautiful day with sun a plenty and temps about 70 degrees. Mary Byrd and her husband Dustin, our ADCs for NC, were there to help as was our daughter Hillary her son Grey and husband Clifton. In no time we had the tent set up and ready but I was not sure it would pass my wife Kathy's inspection. She would not be arriving until about 9pm so for the next few hours I was in a state ofoh God what do I do if it's not right.....there were plenty of swords around and I could throw myself on one if it was too bad. Fortunately with just a few changes and a Valium pill the games commenced.

Lots of folks came to our tent for information as we seemed to have lots of info that others did not. We had lots of books on Scottish names, clans and tartans.

And that's when the legend was born. It started small.....just an entry into the games.....but as the day progressed Dustin Pettenati who most know as the quiet unassuming husband of Mary Byrd Pettenati.....he would become know as theDestroyer of Cabers. It is a hard thing to do.....pick up an 80 to 100 pound 14 foot long Caber and toss it end over end and land at a perfect 12 o'clock position.

Even harder is the ability to pick one up and break it, the Caber. The entire field went silent. Had a Caber really just been broken. Could the Games proceed? How would the games proceed? Well, there were two more Cabers so all was good. Dustin picked up another Caber and let it fly and as we all sat there watching this Caber, it also broke! How could this beJustin had just done what had never been done and broken what had never been broken. There was just one Caber left......if he broke this one the games would be over. Dustin knowing that all eyes were on him, stepped up, got into his stance and tossed this Caber like a pro. He finished the games coming in 5th out of 12 but cemented his legacy by becoming The Destroyer of the Caber. You know us MacGregors.....we have interesting ways of making a name for ourselves.

After the games concluded and the pipes and drums were put away and history had been made, we of course went to dinner and that was a great way to finish the day. While at the restaurant I had a talk with our waiter and a little while later he came up to Justin and asked him if he would like a paper plate since had a habit of breaking



things he shouldn't. The table was in complete belly laughs and we finished a great meal and talked about the next year.

I hope we will have even more MacGregors show up next year. It is a great day trip and if you want to spend the night there are several hotels about 2 miles from the grounds.

A quick side note.....no Campbell's showed up.....the new Legend was just too much for them

Tom and Kathy Watkins

February 2024: Asheville Celtic Fest ACGS reps: Tom and Kathy Watkins

Well as much fun as this festival was it is sadly no more. The powers that be in Asheville NC have decided that 2024 would be the last year. I am not sure why because it was a nice venue



and it was inside which having it in Asheville in February is a good thing. There were lots a great vendors and some super musicians and lots of folks really wanting to get into the Celtic mood. There were athletics outside so being the age I am I only ventured outside once or twice. There were Highland Cows and sheepworking dogs and plenty of Ice Cream in February......but is there a bad time to have ice cream.....NoThere isn't just in case you were struggling with an answer.

This was the first time ACGS had participated in this event and we are sad we won't be able to participate in 2025. But we put our best foot forward and we will keep our fingers crossed that the powers that be change their minds.

April 2024: Loch Norman Highland Games ACGS rep: Bruce & Whyte, Tom Watkins, Mike McGregor

It is many years since the American Clan Gregor Society (ACGS) has had a presence at the Loch Norman Highland Games (LNHG). It, together with the Stone Mountain Games, have long been considered "off limits" to ACGS by the Clan Gregor Society, SE Chapter (SE Chapter) who claim exclusivity for Clan Gregor at these games.

Since we do not have an Area Deputy Chieftain (ADC) for these games, we decided it was time to revisit them. Bruce Whyte (RDC and ADC Georgia), Kathy Whyte, and Tom Watkins (ADC North and South Carolina) attended and sponsored a Gregor tent. Mike McGregor was advised he did not need to attend the one day he was coming to help

Due to an unpleasant episode with Clan Gregor SE Chapter, we were moved to the farthest point in the arena away from the others. This probably reduced foot traffic some, but that was good thing. We were quite busy enough.

Despite that, we were surprised at the enthusiasm and number of people who were interested in their heritage and wanted to learn more. Sixteen visitors took packets and details on how to join via the website.

May 2024: Gallabrae Highland Games, Greenville

ACGS reps: Mary Byrd (ADC) & Dustin Pettenatti, Tom (ADC) & Kathy Watkins, Michael McGregor

For those of you that have not attended these games I would highly recommend that you do so. This field is beautiful and is located on the Campus of Furman University. It isn't the largest but it is one of the prettiest fields we travel to.



Michael Macgregor was there with us and having him with us allows Kathy and myself to really soak up more knowledge about Clan Gregor and more about the history of Gallabrae. There were a few things that really set the mood for these games. First you have the Parade in downtown Greenville. I spoke a bit about this last year and yes, the hill is still there and yes, you have to still walk up it not down. But the people are so great and the sidewalks are packed.

There were skydivers that carried flags that hung from their legs both the Saint Andrew s Cross and the American Flag.....and I don't think you can't be proud of our country when you watch that. There was also a Missing Man formation flown by the Confederate Airforce and when they flew over the field I got a lump

in my throat just thinking about all of the men and women that served and gave everything they had.

The Tartan Parade was great and this year there were no more spaces for more Clans. So many participated ...more than in the past years.

It's a long drive and this year I didn't forget my suit case. But such a beautiful place and such great people. If you want to enjoy a one day event in South Carolina....this is the one.

June 2024: Port City Highland Games

ACGS reps: Tom & Kathy Watkins, Dustin & Mary Byrd Pettenatti

The Port City Highland Games in Wilmington NC are turning out to be a big hit for coastal NC and it is getting bigger every year. First thing is the dreaded vines were gone from the field and we saw no evidence that anyone was dragged down by them this year. Last year you could almost hear them say.....Hey watch this....then someone would trip and fall.

We had the company of Mary Byrd and Dustin Pettenati and Peter Hofnagle. Dustin and Peter competed in the Games while Mary Byrd helped us at the tent and ran back and forth rooting for Dustin and Peter. By days end she was worn out and was looking for a place to sit down and relax. It was a beautiful day and there were lots of folks wanting information on Clan Gregor and others and as always we enjoyed helping them in their search and just chatting and having a good time.

The games is working hard on bettering the tents as right now you pay for a 10x10 spot but get a 9x9 tent and that makes it challenging to set up when you prepare for a 10 foot spot. But the games went off without a hitch and there wasn't a cloud in the sky.

If you find yourself in Wilmington NC or are close by please come by the first weekend in June.....we love having lots of MacGregors on the field during the Parade of Tartans.

GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN HIGHLAND GAMES (North Carolina)

Dr. Bruce M. Whyte

The Oldest The Largest Simply The Best



Just some of the words used to describe these Games. Held in Linville, 20 miles from Boone, NC and under the towering Grandfather Mountain in a natural amphitheater of rock.

This event has grown enormously over the last 68 years. In 1956 there were 3 clan tents, compared to 160 clan tents in 2024 and 16 society, family or other organizational tents, for a total of 176 tents in 2024. There is now a waiting list for clans, associations, and others to reserve tent space.

To say we were busy is like describing a cat in a room full of rocking chairs. No time to catch your breath, have a nibble or snack or

a drink. Yes, we say the same thing every year and every year, visitors become friends, who bring their friends, etc.

This year we had an number of distinguished visitors to our tents. First was Hannah

Suehle, one of our 2024 scholarship recipients. She, and her mother, spent the better part of half a day enjoying the comings and goings and generally absorbing the atmosphere in and around our tents.

The Horner family attended as they usually do. This time some of the family actually had some thing else to do that weekend so it was the diehard Horners who came, camped and generally made themselves useful. We have come to expect their services but I guess we should not, rather be thrilled and grateful that they continue to be there for us.

Ray Azbell and family are regular attendees. This time we had three generations, Ray (and his wife Anne), daughter Alison and grand daughter Alison. Ray (and Michael McGregor, prior ADC for South Carolina) stood in as a locum tenens for Thad Osborne at the Smoky Mountain Games in Eastern



Hannah Suehle



Horners: Gareth, Valeri, Mason, Jade with Thad & Nancy

Tennessee when Thad was under the medical weather so to speak.

Then on a totally different note. The Chieftain of the 2024 Grandfather Mountain Highland Games was John MacLeod, 18th Chief of the Macleods of Raasay. Clan MacLeod has three branches, each with its own Chief. It turned out that John MacLeod and Bruce MacGregor Whyte are closer than anyone suspected or knew.

Bruce worked at the Royal Hobart Hospital, Hobart, the capitol city in the tiny state of Tasmania in the mid-1970's and then in private practice, 20 miles north of Hobart. It



The Azbell family, Alison, Alison, Ray, Anne

was tiny town of perhaps 60-70 people, depending on how many clients were at the local pub at any one time. The pub was on the low hill above the river and was the major highway between Hobart in the south and Launceston in the north.

About one quarter of a mile north of town, looking out over the river flats were two buildings and behind them was a go cart track, yes, really. This is the outback on the tiny island of Tasmania. One building, of pale brick single story, was built for the County Clerk. The other building was a staging inn, built in 1828 of solid sandstone. It

was a three story, old, sandstone building complete with a tap room (above ground cellar), bar, bakery, courtyard at the rear, landscaped stone pool (not for swimming) and most surprisingly of all, a second floor ballroom complete with 20 foot ceilings, a serving room so the food stayed warm, and dumb waiters for food and wine. Much of the building had collapsed but the core structure was solid. I knew the locals, most of whom had become patients. But I never met the owner of the large



property encompassing those river flats. Not just on one side of the road, but both sides.

I knew before attending these Games that the Chief of the Games was one John

MacLeod from Tasmania. Most people I spoke to did not know him but had heard his name. So, I made a point of meeting him. It was not that easy, as many others found. Those staffing the MacLeod tent advised me that he may have time at the end of the day but be prepared to wait, they would come and get me when he was free. I did wait, but in his tent. When we finally met, I properly asked him where he was from which led to the following discussion (JM John Macleod, and BMW Bruce MacGregor Whyte):

BMW: Where do you come from?

JM: Tasmania

BMW: No, that is not your accent, more like

Hobart.

About now his attention shifted and was focused on me and he asked me where I lived.



Bruce MacGregor Whyte with Chief John Macleod of Raasay

JM: Oh, and where do you live?
BMW: Atlanta (which was true at that time)
JM: I live about 20 miles out of Hobart in a small town.

I was having fun at this stage and took a punt.

BMW: That sounds like you may live near Brighton, correct? No, he responded, but how do you know Brighton?

I then proceeded to tell him my story and life in a town called Pontville, 2 miles north of Brighton. Well, you could have knocked him over with a feather, which would have left him with only two! He did indeed also live in Pontville, just north of the pub and over the hill. He was born and bred a Taswegian. He had by now forgotten his other guests and we had a wonderful time reminiscing. He was a child when I was the local GP in that area so we never met. Now we are firm friends.



Madam Pauline Hunter of Hunterston with Bruce MacGregor Whyte

Another Chief came visiting, Madam Pauline Hunter (of Hunterston). Their clan name, Hunter, like many others came from their occupation as hunters, particularly to the Royal families. In fact, Madam Pauline is only the 5th female Hunter Clan Chief which is a message to all of us that she just maybe a terrific shot.

It is not just that there are a lot of people (which some regard as the measure of the success or not), nor is it the monies taken in (also viewed as a success measurement) which is turned around and used to put on this fantastic show. Subsequent to the Games, the entire area around Grandfather was devastated by the super storm Helene and the lesser but no less damaging storm Milton causing unprecedented damage.



(I-r) Bruce & Kathy Whyte, Nancy White, Thad Osborne, Kathy & Tom Watkins



TENNESSEE (EAST)

Thad G. Osborne

May 2024: Smoky Mountains Scottish Festival and Games

ACGS reps: Thad Osborne, Nancy White, Ray Azbell, Michael McGregor

As many members of not just Clan Gregor, but numerous and many other Clans and associations, know Thad has had a rough time with the big C-cancer. Just prior to the Smoky Mountains Games he required emergency admission to hospital as a result of reactions to the new meds and where he coded several times. But since that time, he has progressed ever upwards and is now healthier than he has been for years. He has booked accommodation for Grandfather 2025, Blairsville 2025 (he has helped the

ADC for GA for 10 years), and the Annual Gathering in Charlottesville, VA in September 2024.

Because of his current and potential health issues, we were able to cobble together Scottish locum tenens to cover the Smoky Mountains Games. Ray Azbell from Chattanooga and Michael McGregor from Greenville were able to spend one day each with Thad helping set up and dissemble the displays and assist with all other activities a convener completes.

RDC comments: Thad has reported on his ACGS activities and at the same time not highlighted the one word in his report that we are excited about, "wife". Yes, Thad has married his long time friend, Nancy White. She has been his friend, companion, supporter, driver, psychologist, case manager, health care co-ordinator, chief bottle washer, chef and what ever else he has needed.



UTAH

Lois Ann Garlitz

July 2024: Payson Scottish Festival ACGS reps: Stephen Argyle, Adam Argyle, Lois Ann Garlitz, Gordon Orr

The 40th Annual Payson Scottish Festival was held in Payson Utah on July 12-13. The MacGregors were present for the festivities held in the sweltering, 104-degree heat. Crowds were large, as always at this festival, in spite of the heat. The small (but rapidly growing) town of Payson was settled by Scottish immigrants in the 1850s. I still see more gingerheaded people here than anywhere I've ever been.



(I-r) Jakob Tice, Adam Argyle, Steven Argyle, Joseph Whiting (Jakob is the only MacNaughton we know of in Utah. Historically close neighbors, we let him hang with us.)



(I-r) Adam Argyle, Lois Ann Garlitz, Steven Argyle, and Gordon Orr (seated)





Leighton P. Stradley

August 2024: Virginia Scottish Games and Festival ACGS reps: Leighton Stradley, Aliana Shepard, Jason Corder, Shawn Greer, Scott F. MacGregor

The Virginia Scottish Games and Festival celebrated its 50th anniversary this year of staging its Scottish games and festival. These games were originally held at Episcopal High School in Alexandria; now celebrated in the Virginia horse country in The Plains, Virginia. ACGS hosted a tent at the site, along with 51 other clans also hosting tents.

ACGS and Clan Anderson hosted with their tents side by side with free movement between the two clans' tents. Shawn Greer set the ACGS banner right. ACGS' Aliana Shepard and Elizabeth Anderson took care of entertainment at the tent, and supplying plenty of food and drink. With the two of them, we were well situated.



The ADC had plenty of support in raising the tent and prepping it to receive many guests. Thirty guests visiting the ACGS tent signed the guest register over the two days the weekend prior to Labor Day. ACGS Chieftain, Scott MacGregor attended both days. He helped with the tent and interacted with many guests, both MacGregor and others in attendance. Also attending on Saturday, was Jason Corder, ACGS Membership and Database Manager.

My sister and brother-in-law attended both days. My sister represented MacGregor at the Sunday service held by Reverend Erwin, where the tartans were blessed.



(l-r) Leighton Stradley, Jason Corder, Scott F. MacGregor, Shawn Greer, Aliana Shepard

October 2024: Radford Highlander Festival ACGS reps: Leighton Stradley

As ADC, Virginia and District of Columbia, on behalf of Clan Gregor, I participated in the 29th annual Radford Highlander Festival. Radford is located in the SW of Virginia. I originally planned to merely observe and not participate in the festival. Earlier, via Safari, I scanned Scottish games taking place in Virginia and discovered this festival I

knew nothing about. I called the festival contact and found I could participate representing Clan Gregor with a space and tent. The festival recognizes clan names, not clan societies such as ACGS.

Pricing was good. Tent lots were free and measured 15x15 feet square per space. Due to short notice, I managed the tent but needed help setting it up. Fifteen interested parties stopped by the tent. I figure about 8,000 guests were in attendance. I passed out ACGS brochures and discussed Clan Gregor to guests who stopped by our tent. There was no admission fee to attend the festival.



There seems to be a similar amount of interest

in Clan MacGregor in SW Virginia equal to that amount of interest in Clan MacGregor in central and northern Virginia. The Radford area, close to both West Virginia and Kentucky, is a picturesque area nestled in the Appalachian Mountains, and was worth the visit.

Aprit 2024: Tartan Day Kirkin

ACGS reps: Leighton Stradley, Shawn Greer

We attended the Kirkin' of the Tartans at the Washington National Cathedral in Washington D.C. as part of the local Tartan Day celebration. The two of us were part of the procession to march in. A presentation was given on the event's history over the past 80 plus years and the St. Andrews Society involvement.

December 2023: Scottish Hogmanay Walk

ACGS reps: Scott F. MacGregor, Darcie MacGregor Schauf, Jamie MacGregor Grover, Andy Greig, Sandy Harris, WESS Schauf, Brenny Grover

Once again we found ourselves gathering and marching in the annual Scottish Hogmanay Walk on the early evening of New Year's Eve in Portsmouth, Virginia. The day was sunny but chilly with a bit of a cutting breeze. The Clan Gregor tartan was one of the most prominent tartans to be seen. It was everywhere. We adults marched as a group while our younger members, WESS and Brenny, performed with the pipeband who led the walk.



(I-r) Andy Greig, Sandy Harris, Scott F. MacGregor, Darcie MacGregor Schauf, Jamie MacGregor Grover

December 2023: Alexandria Christmas Walk 2023 Report

ACGS reps: Scott F. MacGregor, Darcie MacGregor Schauf, WESS Schauf, Emmie Schauf, Jamie MacGregor Grover, Logan Grover, Brenny Grover, Bruce & Kathy Whyte, Gavin MacGregor-Skinner, Aliana Shepard, Scott Shepard

With the first Saturday in December upon us, we find ourselves in the middle of Olde Towne Alexandria, Virginia for the annual Scottish Christmas Walk with many kindred spirits. It was a good day for a stroll through the neighborhood with family and friends. We had an excellent turnout of participants that included Bruce and Kathy Whyte visiting from Roswell, Georgia. It was great having Gavin and Elizabeth MacGregor-Skinner of Washington DC join us again after about a fifteen-year absence. The spectators were out in force too, with barely an open spot along the whole route.

We were the only clan to have a gingerbread girl, Emmie Schauf, on roller skates carrying our "Virginia Is For CLAN GREGOR Lovers" banner. She was loved by the many spectators. Another member shown a lot of love with shoutouts was Aliana Shepard, one of our walk organizers, as she is a local schoolteacher. Many of her loving students must have been among the crowds. Unfortunately, our Area Deputy Chieftain (ADC) for Virginia, Leighton Stradley was



unable to join us due to prior commitments. He ensured we were registered for the walk.

Santa was even spotted among the spectators proudly wearing his Red and Black (Rob Roy) tartan. Darcie trying to get on his good side with a big hug.

Won't you make the walk all the more enjoyable and join us next year on the first Saturday in December for yet another memorable walk and time together.



Marchers consisting of many society members and a few friends

November 2023: Richmond Highland Games

ACGS reps: Scott F. MacGregor, Tobey MacGregor, Leighton Stradley, Andy

Greig, Darcie MacGregor Schauf, Jamie MacGregor Grover

The Richmond Highland Games, formerly the Central Virginia Highland Games and Celtic Festival, returned over the weekend of 4-5 November 2023 at a new venue Dorey Park & Recreation Center. This was the first of these games since 2019 thanks to COVID and new restrictions imposed by the previous venue. The grounds were great and we couldn't ask for any better weather.

Everyone was excited for them to be back and it showed on Saturday with an overflowing number of visitors. I'm thankful that I had a lot



of assistance with answering everyone's questions. A big shout has to be given to Tobey MacGregor who not only hauled all the tent gear to the Games and then back home. He further provided a lot of assistance in the tent. Both Leighton Stradley who ventured down from northern Virginia and Andy Greig who came up from Chesapeake, Virginia, were tremendous in helping with all our guests. On Saturday we had 27 clans folk sign our guest book and on Sunday 17 clans folk signed. This

reflects just a small percentage of those who visited. Working in the Clan Gregor tent is enlightening not only to those who visit but also us manning the tent.

A highlight on Saturday was to see a couple of ACGS Junior members, Emmie Schauf and Brenny Grover, compete as part of the grade 5 (youth) City of Norfolk pipe band. While the band did not place, they showed why they showed why everyone loves them. Not only are they an all-inclusive band of young pipers and drummers; this competition they even had one young piper, Tate, who is legally blind. As part of the competition the band must march in playing and to see a prior fellow youth piper, Thaddeus, aiding him was better than any placing the band might have achieve. GREAT job band! On top of that they were decked out in our Clan Gregor Red and Green tartan.



It was great to again see long time member and Games participant, Sally Smith, along with her nephew Patrick and his fiancée, fellow society member Claire Crain and new members like Robert Glasgow and Ann Iniguez. Plus, the many enthusiastic prospective future members and visitors. Everyone very proudly showing their Clan Gregor tartan.

Such a great time was had that we are already looking forward to participating again next time. How do we make it even better? By having you join us. We'd love to see and chat with you.



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.
- 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 2025

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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