

THE ARDCHOILLE

March 2025

NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY

www.acgsus.org



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEFTAIN



We have made it to the dead of winter and I hope this newsletter finds all our members doing well. We've started a new year with Hogmanay celebrations, Burns Night celebrations, and in our southern areas making final preparations for this year's Highland Games. Before we know it, we'll be celebrating Tartan Day. I'd love to read of your experiences in future editions of this newsletter.

Finishing touches are now being made to our annual yearbook, which will be going to the printer in the near future. This is a good time for you to check and validate your mailing address in the society database (ACGSUS.org). Only you can access your record. A family member or friend cannot make any necessary changes for you. Please do not

remove any aspect of your mailing address or your email address, as it means we cannot deliver your yearbook or newsletters. There are checkbox options to hide this information if you do not want it seen by others. If you are unable to access our society database then please send an email with your changes to our Membership Database Manager, Jason Corder, at jcorder@iwintl.org.

Last year we had roughly two dozen yearbooks returned. Each of these returns cost the society in unnecessary expenses to re-ship them, let alone the time and energy needed to locate our missing members. Several were due to missing information. Of those yearbooks returned a quarter of the members could not be found. Did these members just move or did something happen to them. We hate losing any member so please stay in touch and help us out.

January is now behind us and I've already heard of one marriage and one birth which I hope the proud parents of both are reporting this exciting news to our Historian, Elizabeth Magruder Joiner, at historian@acgsus.org. Should you have similar exciting news we'd love to hear from you. I look forward to this year's Historian report being filled with such good news. We also do want to hear and recognize any members who have passed. We are a genealogical based society, where you had to provide your lineage to join, these events are key milestones in our lives that should be shared and recorded for future generations.

On a lighter note I look forward to trying the Sticky Toffee recipe included in this newsletter. It sounds delicious and I definitely have a strong sweet tooth.

To all our members who have submitted articles for our newsletters I want to extend a very appreciative Thank-You. Your input makes each edition an informative read. Please keep your input coming. We are a society of many, all with unique experiences and stories to share. Take a moment out of your busy schedule to reminisce on these times.

Slàinte Mhath,
Scott F. MacGregor
Chieftain, American Clan Gregor Society

BURNS NICHT AT THE MASONES

Submitted by Marsha Hauschild Masone

Robert Burns Nicht celebrates the birthday, life and legacy of Robert Burns, Scotland's National Poet. Burns was born in Alloway, Ayrshire, Scotland, on January 25, 1759, and died July 21, 1796. He wrote many poems and songs in the Scots dialect, the common language of the Lowlands and Scottish Borders, as well as in English.

There are many Scottish societies in the United States that celebrate Burn's birthday with the traditional presentation of the Haggis and the reading of the "Address to a Haggis." In my area, Virginia, there are pipers present and Scottish dancers who entertain the participants.

In my family we celebrate Burns' birthday on the Sunday closest to it in a low key. When we sit down at the dinner table (usually 10 of us), there are poems by Robert Burns at each place setting for those old enough to read. The selections are usually appropriate to the diner, such as "My Luve is Like a Red, Red Rose" said by one of the husbands, or "The Highland Laddie" for a woman or teen granddaughter. For the daughter who loves scary movies, there is a stanza or two from "Tam O' Shanter," "Afton Water" for the nature lover or person who loves to sing, "Scots Wha Hae" for the military cadet or proud Scot, and of course "Scotch Drink" for the Scotch Whiskey aficionado. I want the children and grandchildren to know about their Scottish ancestry and to recognize who Robert Burns is.

That said, we don't serve haggis or have pipers or dancers at our dinner. We do play a Corries or Alex Beaton CD. The napkins have the Selkirk Grace printed on one side and a Scottish Toast on the other. We say the Selkirk Grace and then dinner is served.

Sometimes we have salmon as the main course, but other times it is roasted lamb or beef steak. The main vegetable is usually Clapshot (neeps & tatties) or Rumbledethump (potatoes, cabbage, fried onions and chives). Often we have peas or broccoli as well. Dessert is Edinburgh Fog (the favorite), or sometimes Cranachan, both served with Scottish shortbread cookies. The Scotch Whiskey lovers partake of a dram or two.

We conclude with a circle of crossed arms and sing and sway to "Auld Lang Syne."

Between our annual Burns Nicht celebration, talking about the trips some of us have made to Scotland, photo albums and coffee table books, encouraging them to attend the Scottish games in the state and to participate this year in the Scottish Christmas Walk in Alexandria, Virginia, I hope to keep them all interested in their very special heritage.



BOOK REVIEW

Submitted by Randy Walker

There are any number of excellent books that classify as historical fiction written by native Scottish writers. An excellent read is *The Highland Witch* by Susan Fletcher.

As everyone knows the Glencoe Massacre of 1692 was a major historical event because the soldiers who perpetrated the killings did so against their hosts the MacDonalds. In killing the MacDonald Clan, the English soldiers broke the contract of Scottish hospitality.

In Ms. Fletcher's book a woman named Corrag is accused of witchcraft, as well as participating in the massacre, and awaits her death. When Charles Leslie comes to question her about the events, they both discover more than they expected. This one is a very good read.

It is available on Amazon in three different formats—Kindle, Audible, and paperback. If you enjoy good historical fiction, give this one a try.



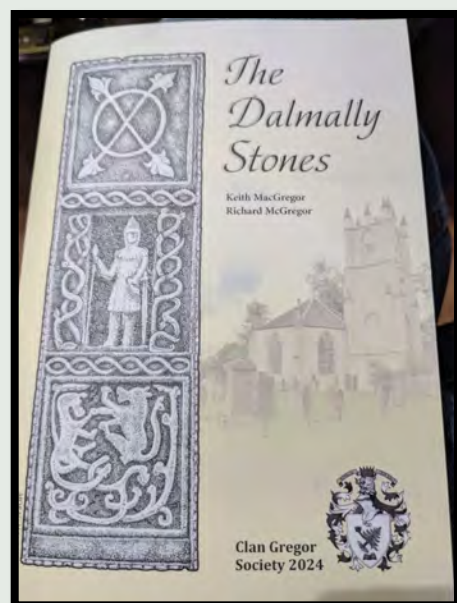
BOOKS FOR PURCHASE

Our Chieftain, Scott F. Macgregor has four extra copies of a small book about the Dalmally Stones Project. He is offering these to anyone who might be interested in having one for \$10.00/book.

If you would like to purchase one of the books, send a message to Scott at chieftain@acgsus.org and make arrangements to provide a check made payable to Scott F. MacGregor in the amount of \$10.00.

You may remember that we published a couple of articles about the Dalmally Stones in the September 2024 issue of the Ardchoille newsletter.

The seven Dalmally Stones once covered the graves of our early Clan Gregor chiefs who were buried there between 1390 and 1528. The stones had been in the kirkyard for hundreds of years and were being damaged by weather and lawnmowers. These stones have now been rescued and have been permanently placed in the Glen Orchy Kirk in Dalmally where we all can visit and view these amazing antiquities.



DID YE KEN?

Submitted by Randy Walker

There are 128 different whisky distilleries in Scotland and Scotch Whisky accounts for over 20% of the United Kingdom's food and drinks export market. Slainte!



SCOTTISH GAMES

Submitted by Stacey Hodges, Asst. Editor

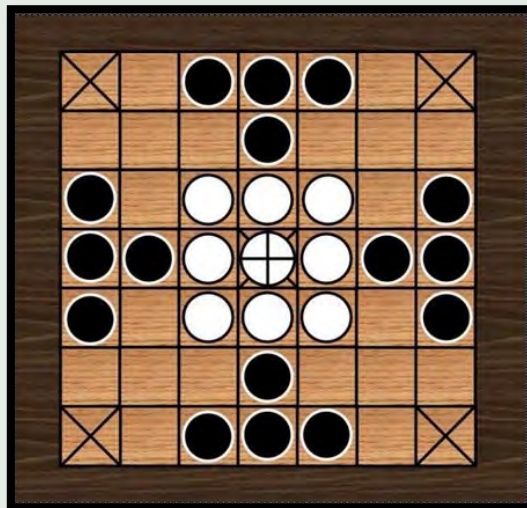
Ard Ri “HIGH KING” (hnefatafl—viking chess)

There are limited references to this Scottish game, however, it has roots in the Norse game Hnefatafl. There is a question as to it being modern versus medieval. However, there are some places it is still played (in tafl variants).

This is a board game featuring 25 pieces: 16 attackers against 8 defenders of one king. As the board is small (7x7), there is not much room to navigate the board. The goal is to get the King to escape, but where? Apparently, it is when the King reaches the edge, which isn't far on a 7X7 board.

Defenders are to yell “raichi” when the King has an one open route and “tuichu” if the King has two routes. The photo is how Ard Ri is set up. You can watch this video of how to play:

<https://youtu.be/zmt-JwsWhZM?feature=shared>



THE OLDEST SURVIVING CHURCHYARD IN SCOTLAND

Submitted by Jane Montmeny*

As I stepped out and thanked my Uber driver, I looked around the streets of Govan in hope of finding the familiar outline of the Old Govan Parish Church. I had visited there every time I came to Scotland, usually with my sister, Lois Ann, to visit the cemetery area where we have McGregor ancestors. I had to walk down the block a bit to find the entrance to the aisle that led to the main churchyard. I was looking forward to seeing my ancestor's headstone again, hoping it had not suffered further wear from the weather and worrying that I might not still be able to read the inscription of the dates and names of those who were buried there.

"Archeological excavations of the Old Govan Parish churchyard in the 1990's revealed Christian burials dating back over 1500 years, making it the oldest surviving churchyard in Scotland. The distinctive teardrop-shaped outline of the churchyard also provides an important clue to its ancient origins. The modern wall follows the line of a deep ditch and high bank that once formed the boundary of the churchyard; this ditch dates back to at least 800 AD. Many early medieval churchyards in Scotland had circular or oval boundaries like this, but few have survived in urban areas. There have been at least six churches on this site over the past 1500 years, the current building erected in 1888." (From the posters leading up to the churchyard) The church at the present time no longer holds scheduled church services, but rather hosts special celebrations and is open in afternoons as a museum for the noted sculptured stones and the "hogback" burial monuments.

The Old Govan Parish church was perhaps a natural choice as the spiritual center for the political landscape in that area around 900 AD. Govan commanded a central position within the regional area and would have been a particularly suitable place of popular assembly. Doomsday Hill was very close and Partick Estate was directly north across the Clyde River. We must realize that the River Clyde at that time was a narrow slowly moving stream, nothing like the wider and deeper channel we know today, and Glasgow had yet to develop into a city of any importance.

The Old Govan Parish Church is dedicated to St. Constantine which should reveal something of Govan's origins although there are some doubts as to the identity of the saint. Traditionally he has been identified with the 6th century saint-king known from southwestern Britain. This is supported by an inscription on the plinth made to support the sarcophagus in the church which is covered with interlace decoration and a scene of a mounted warrior hunting, combining the ideas of military prowess and Christian quest for salvation. There are also sculptured stones from the early Middle Ages that have been preserved within the church. The group of the early historic sculptures known from Govan once consisted of 46 pieces all of which had been found in the churchyard. Unfortunately, sixteen stones have been "lost" and are presumed still buried somewhere in the churchyard. Four of the sculptured stones come from upright crosses, only one of which is complete. All of the remaining stones were burial stones of some type and 27 are on display in the church today. All of the monuments are thought to date from between 900 and 1100 AD. There are also five so-called "hogbacks", massive sandstone blocks with rounded backs carved to represent a house or church which may be significant from the Norse presence in this area of Scotland. The sculpture from the so-called "Govan School" does reveal secular political influences as evidence of a cemetery patronized by the kings of Strathclyde Britons. You may remember that the carved gravestones from the church at Dalmally were from the "Loch Awe" school of carving.

(Continued)

The rapid decline of Govan began in the early 12th century when the British kingdom of Strathclyde was annexed by the Scots and a new diocese was established at Glasgow, apparently snubbing Govan. However, by the 18th century the River Clyde was massively transformed in response to Glasgow's commercial expansion more like we see today. There were three main fords across the river by ferry between Govan and Glasgow. This became important to my family ancestors who lived in the Kelvinaugh area of Glasgow and attended church in Govan.

My ancestors who are buried in the Old Govan Parish churchyard are John McGregor and his wife Ann Lang (both born 1766) plus two of their sons who died at a young age. John's father, also John McGregor, died when his son was only 10 years old. Nevertheless, John McGregor, a printer of Eastwood Parish and Ann Lang of Cardross Parish gave their names for proclamation (to be married) on 28 May 1792. Her father James Lang, a workman was from Pollokshaws, southwest of Glasgow and across the Clyde, a city and area known for weavers. Kelvinaugh where my 4th great Grandfather John lived eventually became a residential



and industrial area of Glasgow. Early industries here included a cotton mill and the Kelvinaugh shipyard. We know that John had a cotton mill and that it was a successful business as described in documents located in the Mitchell Library in Glasgow. He and Ann had fifteen children, 10 boys and 5 girls. Two of the boys died young and are buried with them in the Old Govan Parish church as noted on the large upright gravestone. One of their sons, Alexander is my 3rd great grandfather who was born in 1805 and married Rebecca Brown in June 1832. In 1842 they relocated their family of five boys and one girl to Ontario, Canada; one of the boys, James Duncan, died soon after in 1843. They raised additional



children in Ontario, two boys and three girls. Our 3rd great grandfather we have nicknamed "Alexander Diary" because he wrote daily diaries from 1860 to 1867 while living near London, Ontario. He usually started each day with a comment on the weather and what he and "Mama" were doing that day. The personal records are a wonderful glimpse into the times of their life and family interactions.

Back for a moment to my time in the Old Govan Parish churchyard last summer. As I feared the engravings on the headstone are slowly becoming hard to read, but it is still such a connection to the past lives of my ancestors. I

love the bright red doors of the church house and have a feeling of joy to see that the headstone is still standing upright after all these years. I took a small ribbon of McGregor tartan and pinned it to the moss on the headstone hoping that it would stand as a recognition of honor to their past and show hope for the future of their many descendants.

THE SEARCH FOR DONALD MCGREGOR (1764-1848)

Submitted by Sharon Markham

I don't know what it is about my McGregor roots that drew me in. Maybe it was the sense of family I got from the idea of clanship or maybe it has something to do with my DNA. (I got all the Scottish DNA from both parents totaling 50%! Okay, maybe that's not exactly scientific but I'm running with it!) Regardless, I've relentlessly pursued this side of my family to the exclusion of all others and have come up with some amazing things:

- How Donald McGregor was baptized in Killin, Scotland;
- How he had a brother named Duncan and apparently a sister named Catharine.

Beyond that, well, I'm not sure. But let me go back to where it all started.

I grew up hearing stories about Malvina McGregor, my 3rd great-grandmother. I knew she came from Beaver County, Pennsylvania. I even have a beautiful shell wreath she made that was passed down to me by my grandmother.

I was intrigued by her since I was young and as I grew older, I began to question more about that side of my family; and so, the search began.

I soon found my 4th great-grandfather, Donald McGregor, in Beaver County via tax records, census records, etc. Like many other

Scots arriving in the USA, his name was probably changed to the simpler version by him or even the immigration people on arrival in the USA (interestingly, it was MacGregor when he arrived but was soon shortened to McGregor.) I really wanted to find his resting place, but with all the internet has to offer I just couldn't definitively pin it down.



Shell wreath made by Malvina McGregor

(Continued)

There was rumor about a McGregor cemetery where his farm once existed, but I found nothing about it online. So began my collaboration with a gentleman representing the historical society covering the area, now referred to as Ellwood City. Between the two of us, we discovered not only where the burial ground was but also who was buried there. Donald's wife, Mary, was buried there along with some of their children. I knew then I needed to travel to Pennsylvania. I wanted to see the burial site, take pictures, etc.



McGregor burial ground in Pennsylvania

Do I regret going to Pennsylvania?

No. I found naturalization records, not to mention finding my 3rd great granduncle, Robert Gregor McGregor, buried in Pittsburgh. It also started a new dream: that one day the “Old McGregor burial ground” will no longer be forgotten.

My husband and I traveled there in July of 2023. It was rather anticlimactic, however, once we saw it. There are no headstones and no markings of a cemetery even being there. The only reason we knew it was there was because the location corresponded with old newspaper records and the deed of the fellow who owned the house there includes wording of a cemetery being there. It's long been in disrepair, based on an article found from 1902.

Here is an excerpt from that 1902 newspaper article:

“Between Crescent and Park Avenues and Eighth and Ninth streets is a small enclosure, overgrown with bushes, and in a general state of dilapidation, unnoticed by those who pass, and forgotten by those who once knew it as the location of the McGregor burying ground, yet such it is. Here lies the remains of sturdy old Donald McGregor, father of the subject of this sketch. He was a staunch Presbyterian, and for many years an elder in the Slipperyrock Church. Here also lies his wife, Mary, and their children, Janet, and Duncan, Jr., as well as Mary Matheney, sister-in-law of E. G. Matheney, of this city.”

STICKY TOFFEE PUDDING: A DESSERT WORTHY OF CLAN GREGOR BRAGGING RIGHTS

Submitted by Danie Griffin-Turner, ADC for Northern Florida

Greetings to my fellow MacGregors!

If there's one thing we Scots are known for—aside from our fierce loyalty and love of all things tartan—it's our sweet tooth. And nothing satisfies that craving quite like a proper *Sticky Toffee Pudding*. This rich, gooey dessert has been my go-to recipe for years, and let me tell you, it has the power to bring even the fiercest competitors to their knees (or at least back to the dessert table for seconds).

At the Saint Andrew Society of Tallahassee's annual Burns Nicht Supper, we host a wildly entertaining dessert contest as part of our fundraising activities. The rules are simple: participants whip up their favorite Scottish dessert and present it anonymously, each assigned a number. A collection jar sits beside each dessert, and voting is done in true Scottish fashion—by dropping cash or checks into the jar of your favorite sweet treat. The top three desserts with the most "votes" are announced at the end of the evening, and trust me, the competition is as fierce as a Highland charge!

Of course, we all do it for the *fun* of raising funds (and a wee bit of bragging rights). But make no mistake, when someone's *Tipsy Laird* trifle starts raking in more donations than someone else's *Shortbread Petticoat Tails*, you'll see the friendly banter turn into a battle of wits worthy of a Robert Burns poem!

Now, let's talk about my secret weapon—Sticky Toffee Pudding. It's a dessert that requires a wee bit of patience but pays off in spades. Made with soft, sweet dates, smothered in a buttery toffee sauce, and often served with cream, it's the kind of dessert that'll have your kilt spinning. And here's the best part: it's so rich, your rivals won't have room to taste-test the other entries!

The Burns Nicht dessert contest is a cherished tradition that combines our love for Scottish culture, good food, and even better company. And while the cash-filled jars are counted with the precision of a Highland sword dance, the real winners are the charities and programs we support. It is a night filled with laughter, whisky, and sweet memories (quite literally).

If you are ever at a loss for what dessert to make, give Sticky Toffee Pudding a try. But fair warning—it may cause a bit of a stir among your guests. After all, the MacGregor motto may be 'S *Rioghal Mo Dhream* (Royal is My Race), but when it comes to dessert competitions, *Sticky Toffee Pudding* reigns supreme in my kitchen!

See my recipe on the next two pages.



STICKY TOFFEE PUDDING RECIPE

Submitted by Danie Griffin-Turner, ADC Northern Florida

INGREDIENTS:

- 8 ounces dates, finely chopped (about 1 & 1/4 cups packed)
- 1 cup (8 ounces) boiling water
- 1/2 cup (4 ounces) unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1 cup packed (6 ounces) golden brown sugar
- 4 large eggs
- 1 & 3/4 cups (8 ounces) AP flour
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 2 tablespoons instant coffee granules
- 1 teaspoon baking soda

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350° F (175 ° C)
2. Butter 8-inch square pan (preferably not dark).
3. Mix flour and baking powder and set aside.
4. Place chopped dates in small bowl, then pour 1 cup of boiling water over the dates and let it cool, about 1 hour.
5. Using electric mixer, beat butter and sugar in large bowl to blend. Scrape sides of bowl often.
6. Add 2 eggs, 1 at a time, beating well after each addition. And scraping down the bowl.
7. Add half of the flour and baking POWDER and beat to blend.
8. Next, add the remaining 2 eggs, one at a time, beating to blend after each addition. Continue scraping down sides of bowl, often.
9. Now add the remaining flour and beat until blended.
10. Combine instant coffee and baking soda in small bowl. Pour into date mixture, stirring to dissolve coffee granules. It will froth slightly.
11. Add the date mixture to batter and mix well until evenly combined. Pour the batter into prepared pan. (I bake in individual tins for single servings at events.)

BAKE THE CAKE:

Place on rimmed baking sheet and bake until tester inserted into the center comes out clean, about 50 minutes to 1 hour. (Cooking times will vary based on pan sizes.)

Let the cake cool in the pan. After it has cooled, you can level off the top of the cake if necessary. Carefully remove the cake from the dish, then level and remove the top. Place the cake back into the pan. Poke holes all over the cake with a skewer or toothpick.

(Continued on next page)

STICKY TOFFEE SAUCE RECIPE

(Continued from previous page)

STICKY TOFFEE SAUCE:

2 cups (16 ounces) whipping cream

1 cup, packed (6 ounces) dark brown sugar

¼ cup (2 ounces) unsalted butter

1 TBSP Drambuie liqueur

Bring cream, brown sugar, and butter to boil in heavy medium saucepan over medium-high heat, stirring frequently.

Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer sauce until reduced to 1 & ¾ cups (12 ounces), stirring occasionally, about 15 minutes. If adding the Drambuie, add it after taking the sauce off the heat.

When cake is cool and caramel sauce is still warm, but not too hot, pour about half of the sauce over the cake.

Let cool to room temperature, then refrigerate, without covering. After an hour or so, when the sauce has become firm, cover the dessert with cling film (once cool the plastic won't stick to it).

When serving, cut a piece and heat in the microwave until the caramel melts; the dessert should be hot and steaming.

Serve with the reserved, warm sticky toffee sauce. Additionally, this can be topped with freshly whipped cream which could be referred to as "gilding the lily"! (I always make extra sauce and keep it warm in a thermal pitcher at Scottish events.)

NOTE: You can freeze individual pieces of Sticky Toffee Pudding. Best when reheated in the microwave.

As they say in Scotland: "Ye cannae whack it!" Translation: "You can't beat it!"

Recipe By Christina's Cucina - Adapted from a recipe on Epicurious



THE SIGNPOST

Submitted by Scott Adams

I passed along a signpost
That pointed to my past.
It's been so many years now
Since I had crossed it last.

It could be a painful detour.
I wondered, should I go?
And confront again the truth about
What happened long ago.

Or would it soothe my journey
To turn down that narrow road,
And relive the fading memories.
Would it lighten up my load?

The signpost stood and beckoned.
"Come here" it seemed to say.
Once more walk through my doorway,
Once more I'll have my way.

But times have changed. A wiser me
Says, "Sins stay in the past."
I've learned to say "Forgive me, Lord"
And leave them at the cross.

Come, Christ. Come now with me.
Let us not go down that road,
And leave that faded signpost
To walk the streets of gold.

AMERICA



Josiah Gregg
1806-1850

Josiah was an adventurer from the start, and who knew his frail health would lead him on the path of the Santa Fe Trail. He later became a trader to travel Missouri to Santa Fe and back again for over nine years. On his fourth trip in the spring of 1839, Josiah blazed a new trail from Van Buren, Arkansas, to reach Santa Fe ahead of rivals. In 1844 he published a book of his travel journal, providing great detail along the Santa Fe: *Commerce of the Prairies*



You can read more about Josiah and his unfortunate death
missourencyclopedia.org/people/gregg-josiah

www.america250.org

A SHORT HISTORY OF SCOTTISH KNIVES

Submitted by Stacey Hodges, Asst. Editor

I first must thank Keith MacGregor of the Clan Gregor Society for the recommendation of *Sons of the Wolf* by Ronald Williams. What a great and easy read on a portion of Gregor history. Every bit of it was intriguing and had me hungry for more information. Which leads me to this article about the sgian achles.

The armpit knife (mattucashlass/sgian achlais) is allegedly the predecessor to the modern sgian dubh (black knife) that is worn in kilt hose. This knife is especially significant because many of our ancestors would not have worn kilt hose, and would have needed a more secret place to carry their weapon for several centuries. Including the women. Variations on the knife are featured in the books by James Forman (listed below). From the Scottish dirk, to the sgian dubh, to a gralloch knife, it is the sgian achles that is larger in size (like the dagger) with a slight curve, serrated (although replicas do not have this), etched/notched near the hilt on one side, and concealed under one's loose-fitting shirt.

Edward Burt's *Letters from a Gentleman in the North of Scotland* (published in 1754) speaks of the Highlanders and this knife; "Some of them carry a sort of knife which they call a *skeen-ochles*, from its being concealed in the sleeve near the armpit."

http://myarmoury.com/feature_spot_dirks.html

The Scottish Dirk and The Evolution of the Sgian Dubh by James D. Forman

<https://archive.org/details/lettersfromgentl02burt/page/118/mode/2up?q=ochles>

<https://gaelicthemes.com/the-history-of-sgian-dubh/#:~:text=There%20is%20also%20a%20theory,jacket%2C%20under%20the%20left%20arm.>

(See the next page for examples of the Sgian Dubh)

First Appearance of the Sgian Dubh



34. A purely practical hunting (gralloch) knife with 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch blade and horn hilt. A utilitarian relative of a dirk, it clearly has no decorative pretensions.



35. A companion to the left gralloch knife is this small tool with 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ inch blade suitable for skinning and the more delicate tasks of butchery. What would seem to be the utilitarian ancestor of the less functional but more decorative sgian dubh.



36. Very early sgian dubh or gralloch knife with substantial 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch horn hilt and clipped 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ inch blade. The scabbard is tooled in the manner popular around 1800 with dots, concentric circles and sunbursts. It shows no attachment for hanging, suggesting it was worn in the stocking top, as is the fully developed sgian dubh.



37. A Scottish knife neither dirk nor sgian dubh; possibly a sgian-achlais or amput dagger of the mid-18th century. *Royal Museum of Scotland*

MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL (DUES)

You are a valued member of our American Clan Gregor Society. Please renew today to stay up-to-date on what is happening within our Society.

Society Membership is renewed each year in January (except Life or Honorary Members). Renewal notifications are automatically sent in December to all active members, via email. If you have not received your notice, there may be a few reasons:

- Your email address has changed from what is on record—use the member portal to update your address.
- The email is possibly in your SPAM folder—please check your SPAM folder.
- Membership status is inactive due to your annual dues not being paid in several years. Notices are not sent to inactive members.

Annual dues for Lineal, Associate, and Provisional members are \$40. Should your membership status become inactive, you have the opportunity to re-activate. You will need to cover the previous year and current year's dues (for a total of \$80).

HOW TO PAY:

MAIL:

First the old-fashioned way of mailing a check made out to "**ACGS**", please contact our Treasurer, Mark McGregor, at Treasurer@acgsus.org for the mailing address

ONLINE:

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 first sign-in, and here's how:

On the menu bar hover over the "**Home**" option and click on the

"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. (Unless you have changed your email address, use the one you used when you first signed in or became a member.) If you need a password, then select the option **"Request Password"** and follow the instructions.

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.

Click the **"Renew, Upgrade or Update Billing"** button to open the section for inputting your credit card information.

Once everything is done, click the **"Save & Continue"** button.

Welcome New Members

Chase Matthew Lackey

Florida

Ronald Marshall Gibson

North Carolina

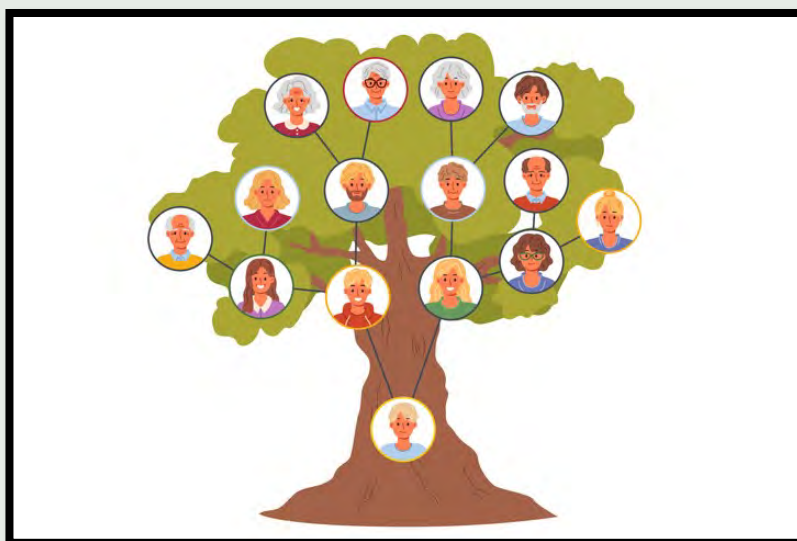
David Alan Palmer

Oklahoma

GENEALOGY ASSISTANCE NEEDED

Do you enjoy doing genealogy research and helping others? Our society is in need of a few members to join the Genealogy Committee. The primary responsibility of the Genealogy Committee is to assist prospective members in tracking their lineage.

We currently have one young person who has inquired about assistance with his Greer/Grier research, primarily in Scotland and the name change. Might you be interested and able to provide this individual with some assistance? If so, please let the Chieftain know at chieftain@acgsus.org and he will put the two of you in touch.



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NOTE: Please submit articles or ideas for articles that you would like to see included in the newsletter to newsletter@acgsus.org. **Submission deadline for the June issue is April 30th.**

UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS

Submitted by Jacque Johnson, Newsletter Editor

We are quickly approaching the time of year when the ACGS Yearbook will be mailed to all of our members. This is the perfect time to ensure that your mailing address is accurate and complete.

To do this;

- Log in to the society website—acgsus.org
- Select Manage Member Account which is listed under Home on the menu bar
- Log in using your email address and password.
- Ensure that your mailing address is accurate and complete; if not, make the necessary corrections

NOTE: Please make sure that you don't delete any part of your mailing address or email address. In other words as stated above—ensure that both your mailing address and email address are accurate and complete. If your mailing address is incomplete it will seriously limit the ability of the USPS to deliver the yearbook to you. When this occurs, the yearbooks are returned to the society and must be remailed, which ends up costing both money for postage and time to reach out to individuals and try to get the accurate and complete mailing address.

If you prefer that other members don't see your mailing address and/or phone number, you can click on "Do not show street address in profile" and/or "Do not show phone number". This will ensure that your information remains private from other members.



SCHOLARSHIPS



GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP

Educational assistance is available each year in the form of scholarships for descendants of MacGregors as well as others who have a Scottish or Scots-Irish heritage. These scholarships are also available to ACGS members, and widows/widowers of members. One does not have to be a member of ACGS to apply. The scholarships are funded by investment income from the Charity and Education Fund. The amount of each scholarship is determined by the Board of Trustees and may vary from year to year.

PIPING SCHOLARSHIP

In 2018, the Trustees offered a new scholarship, one that encourages Piping and hopefully a long term commitment to a MacGregor Piper. This scholarship will provide funds for a full week of tuition, board and meals at the North American Academy of Piping and Dancing, based in Valle Crucis, NC. This is next door to the site of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games and is held around the Games. To apply, go to the Piping Scholarship application.

OTHER SCHOLARSHIP

<https://scottishheritageusa.org/grants-scholarships/>

more information at <https://acgsus.org/resources/>

<https://acgsus.org/resources/>

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Volunteer Needed

CALIFORNIA (South)

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CONNECTICUT

Volunteer Needed

DELAWARE

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IOWA

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KENTUCKY

Ms. Janice Kay Britt
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LOUISIANA

Volunteer Needed

MARYLAND

Volunteer Needed

MASSACHUSETTS

Volunteer Needed

MICHIGAN

Volunteer Needed

MINNESOTA

Volunteer Needed

MISSISSIPPI

Volunteer Needed

(Continued)

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Vacant

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NORTH DAKOTA

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OHIO

Volunteer Needed

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PENNSYLVANIA (Eastern)

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PENNSYLVANIA (Western)

Volunteer Needed

RHODE ISLAND

Volunteer Needed

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SOUTH DAKOTA

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TEXAS (North)

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UTAH

Lois Ann Garlitz
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VERMONT

Volunteer Needed

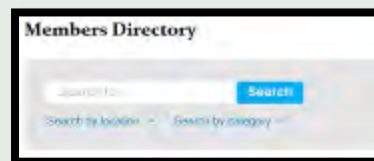
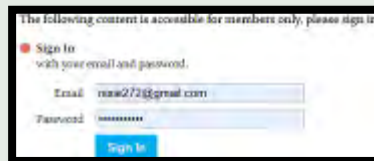
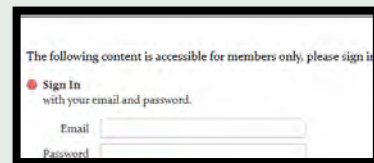
VIRGINIA

Mr. Leighton P. Stradley
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ACCESSING THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY ON THE ACGS WEBSITE

Submitted by Jacque Johnson, Newsletter Editor

- | Step | Action |
|------|---|
| 1. | Access the ACGS website by entering acgsus.org in your browser and press [ENTER] . The home page will display. |
| 2. | Hover over Home on the navigation bar and select Manage Member Account from the drop down menu. The Sign In screen will display. |
| 3. | Enter your Email and Password. Then click on [Sign In] .
NOTE: You must use the email address that you used for your membership. If your email has changed, contact the webmaster. |
| 4. | Hover over Home on the navigation bar and select Members Directory . The Members Directory search screen will display. |
| 5. | Enter the name you wish to view and click on [Search] . The member name will display in a box. |
| 6. | Click on the name in the box. The member information will display. |





Indicates a MacGregor tent will be present.

Northern Nevada Celtic Ceilidh

May 17

<https://irishnevada.org/events-2/event/northern-nevada-celtic-ceilidh/>

Alma Highland Festival & Games

May 23-25

<http://www.almahighlandfestival.com/>

Ouachita Highland Games

May 26

[Ouachita Highland Games | The Renlist](#)

Scottish Fest—Costa Mesa, CA

May 24-25

<https://www.scottishfest.com/>

Garrett County Celtic Festival

June 7

[Garrett County Celtic Festival \(gccelticfestival.com\)](#)

Milwaukee Highland Games

June 7

<https://milwaukeehighlandgames.org/>

Port City Highland Games

May 31

[Highland Games | Port City Highland Games | Wilmington](#)

Georgia Mountain Scottish Festival

June 7-8

<https://gamtnscottishfestival.org>



Cheyenne Celtic Festival

June 7-8

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

Carroll County Celtic Festival

June 14-15

[Home - Carroll County Celtic Festival](#)

Utah Highland Games

June 13-15

[Utah Scottish | Utah Scottish Association \(utahscots.org\)](#)

Pike's Peak Celtic Fest

June 13-15

<https://pikespeakcelticfestival.com/>

Chicago Fest

June 13-14

<https://chicagoscots.org/festival/>

Cortez Celtic Fair

June 28

<https://highlandgamesandfestivals.com/event/cortez-celtic-fair/>



NOTE: Please watch for more event dates to be posted in future issues.