



THE ARDCHOILLE

December 2025

NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEFTAIN



The cool crisp days of autumn are upon us as we move into the holiday season. It is always great meeting our members, both young and old. One of our youngest, Mary “Mac”, at just nine months old stole everyone’s heart at the Crystal Coast Highland Games in mid-October. It was also great to see yet another multi-generational application come across my desk. I love seeing our heritage being shared with the next generation. Hopefully, they will grow into future leaders and volunteers for our society.

We had a wonderful Council meeting in early October with a good number of attendees present. This year the online voting was opened several days earlier to provide more opportunity for members to vote. Roughly thirty percent of our members voted. Participation is everything. The more members who participate in these crucial activities the stronger our society will be. Our next Gathering, in the fall of 2026, is planned to be an in-person Gathering. The exact dates and location are still being determined. As part of this Gathering, we will be inaugurating our next Chieftain. It is not too early to start planning to attend. I look forward to us being able to interact and share some time together.

I hope you had the opportunity to read our last newsletter. It was packed full of great stories of travels in Scotland and local happenings. I was left wanting more and cannot wait for the next issue. All of the articles were provided by you, our members. You really came through. Please keep up the great work.

We are working on an option for members to choose whether they want to receive the annual yearbook as normal, printed and mailed, or as a PDF similar to how our newsletters are delivered. The printed version will be in printed in black and white, while the PDF version would be in color. The reasoning behind this is two-fold in that it will save the society money through reduced printing and mailing costs along with making available a more vibrant yearbook with all the images in color.

Finally, with the new year rapidly approaching please do not forget to renew your membership. Dues notices will be coming out in late December. You can pay your dues through our website’s member section <https://acgsus.org/memberdashboard/manage-account/>. If your status is unfortunately inactive or you want to pay for another member, please contact our Treasurer directly at treasurer@acgsus.org.

In closing, may you all have a most wonderful holiday season with your family and friends. Enjoying everything that makes your Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s holidays extra special.

Nollaig Chridheil agus Bliadhna Mhath Ùr

(Merry Christmas and Happy New Year)

Slàinte Mhath,

Scott F. MacGregor

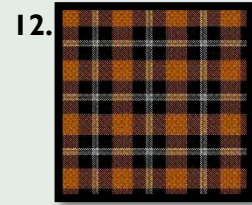
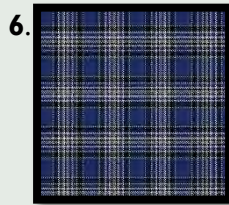
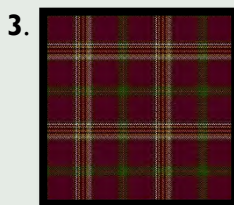
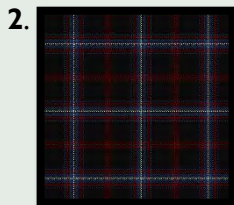
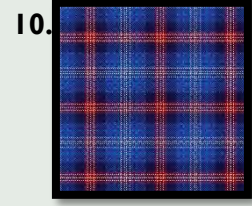
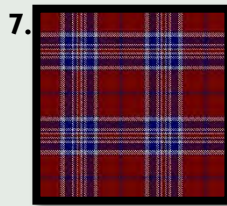
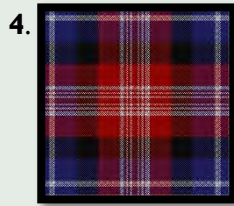
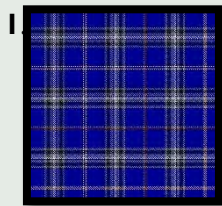
Chieftain, American Clan Gregor Society

MORE ABOUT TARTANS

Submitted by Stacey Hodges

While the United States of America doesn't have an official tartan, several states (39) have tartans as official U.S. state symbol, but not all are registered tartans. [List of U.S. state tartans - Wikipedia](#). I am from Missouri, and we have a fine tartan called the "Show Me Tartan". Here is an interactive map of the state tartans. [Curious and Unusual Tartans | United States Tartans](#). Official Registry - [The Scottish Register of Tartans](#)

GUESS THE TARTAN

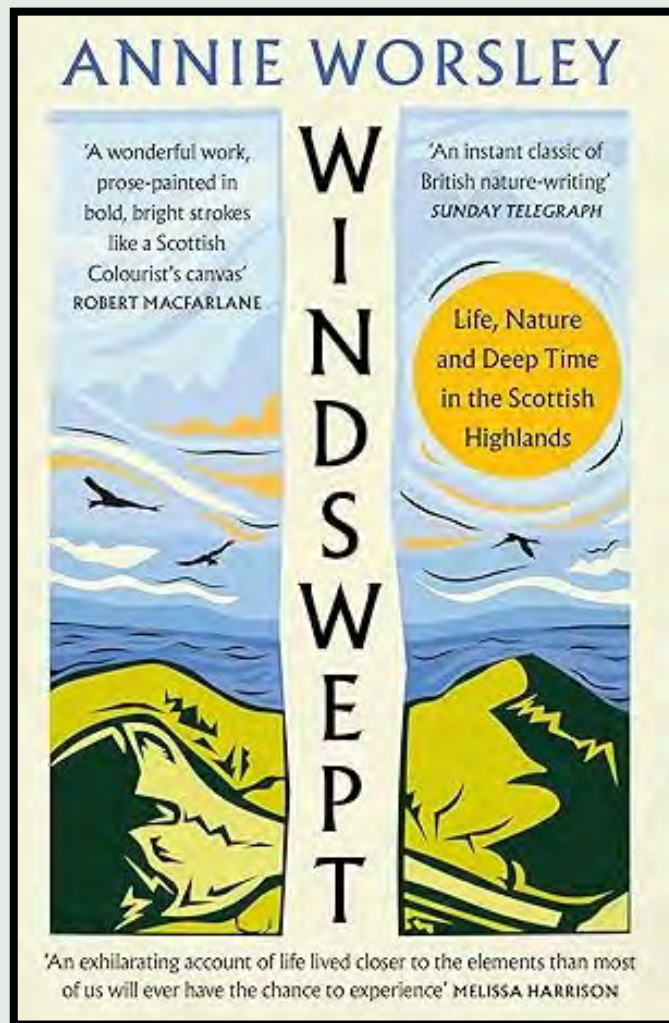


Find the answers on page 21.

BOOK REVIEW

Submitted by Randy Walker

I recently became aware of a Scottish writer by the name of Annie Worsley. She is a writer, crofter and professor who lives in the Highlands of Scotland. She moved there with her husband over ten years ago. Together they manage their croft for traditional hay and wildlife conservation. She has a blog where she regularly blogs about nature and crofting. Her first nature non-fiction book, *Windswept* was published in 2023. The official title of the book is *Windswept: Life, Nature and Deep Time in the Scottish Highlands*. This is an interesting book that describes life on a Scottish Highland croft. Especially interesting is her description of their adaptation to this wild, windswept landscape. Speaking only for myself I am not sure I could make the adjustment. Perhaps if I were younger ... Oh well! It is available on Amazon.



Available on Amazon for \$17.09

DID YE KEN?

Submitted by Randy Walker

Did you know that 432 people own half of the land in Scotland? However, outdoor access laws allow privately owned land to be freely walked on and used as long as you leave no trace behind.

This is known as Scotland's "right to roam" law, which provides everyone the freedom to responsibly access and use most land and water for recreational activities like walking, cycling, and wild camping. This right was established by the 2003 Land Reform (Scotland) Act.

Activities included in the Right to Roam:

- Access: You can walk, hike, ski, bike, or ride a horse on most countryside land, including fields and forests.
- Water: You can canoe, boat, and swim in most lochs, rivers, and along the coast.
- Camping: You can wild camp as long as you are a reasonable distance from homes and avoid cultivated fields.
- Other Activities: The Right to Roam includes activities like picnicking, rock climbing, and other educational and commercial uses.

Activities not included in the Right to Roam:

- Motorized vehicles: You must have landowner permission to drive motorized vehicles on their land.
- Farming: You may not cross through crops in the fields.
- Private areas: Private gardens, yards, or land immediately around houses is not included in the Right to Roam.
- Hunting and fishing: Permission is required to hunt or fish on property.
- Sensitive areas: You should avoid sensitive areas like airfields, school playgrounds, and military bases.

Key responsibilities:

- Leave no trace: clean up after yourself and don't cause any damage.
- Respect privacy: Don't disturb people and maintain a reasonable distance from homes.
- Safety: You are responsible for your own safety.



Additional content provided by Jacque Johnson

EULOGY FOR JESSE EWELL V

Submitted by Richard Ewell.

This is the eulogy my father, Nathaniel McGregor Ewell, Jr, M.D., as scribed by my mother, Mildred Carrington Hart Ewell, gave at the 100th anniversary of the birth of Jesse Ewell V, at the Ruckersville Baptist Church. The church had a fire, and the demise of the plaque is unknown.—Richard Ewell

Mr. Chieftain, Fellow Clansmen and Guests:

As I stand before you today, I am filled with both pride and humility when I realize that it was my grandfather, Dr. Jesse Ewell, who was the initiator of the founding of this society – The American Clan Gregor Society; and who also was one of the organizers and the first clerk of this church – the Ruckersville Baptist Church. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Dr. Ewell, and the Clan has been most gracious in presenting this plaque in his memory.

I never knew my grandfather, as he died the year before I was born, but I have always had a great respect for him, and for what I know he was and what he represented. To me, he has been somewhat of a guiding light, and our family is proud of our forefather, just as Dr. Ewell was proud of his forefathers; and I am sure everyone here is proud of their forefathers. As Dr. E. M. Magruder said in his address to the Clan gathering in 1916, “he who neglects the memory of his forefathers is apt to be careless of his own reputation and will likely be the victim of mercenary narrowness and an ambition purely selfish and personal.”

Jesse Ewell V was born at Edge Hill in Prince William County, Virginia, on July 30, 1853. He was the son of John Smith Magruder Ewell and Helen Woods McGregor, thereby as you see, being of Scottish descent on both sides of the family.

When Jesse was an infant, his mother died and he went to live with his grandparents, Dr. Jesse Ewell IV and Ellen MacGregor Ewell. His father remarried, but young Jesse had become very attached to his grandparents and continued to live with them. His early life was one usual for a child of that era – waited on, loved by the servants, and with ample time for reading and listening to stories of the past as told by his grandparents. It was here that he heard and read much about his Scottish background. I will not include any genealogical data now but will have some to be included in the Yearbook.

Dr. Ewell was 8 years old when the war between the states commenced, and in later years he told his children many tales of the happenings around his home during that time. He lived at times in the lines of both armies as they moved back and forth and he vividly remembered seeing both his father and grandfather being captured and carried off as prisoners. His home was searched on numerous occasions because wounded soldiers were sometimes taken there, and at one time his cousin, General Richard Stoddert Ewell, having been severely wounded at the Battle of Bull Run was brought to his home for care and recuperation. He remembered hearing cannonading at the Battle of Manassas, saw skirmishes between small units about his home, and carried water to confederate soldiers when camped nearby. He told his children that as a youth riding horseback along the Carolina Road at dusk, he would often see ghosts in the distance. These ghosts were usually Federal soldiers who had been buried nearby having been killed during skirmishes between Colonel John S. Mosby and the Federals.

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Following the war, Dr. Ewell attended several private schools in the neighborhood and, when he was about 18 years old, he began reading medicine under his grandfather, Dr. Jessee Ewell IV. Money was scarce in the postwar period but fortunately his cousin, General R. S. Ewell had left a legacy to Jesse's grandmother which was to be Jesse's at her death. His grandmother released this legacy in order to permit Jesse to attend college, and he studied medicine at Washington College in Baltimore where in 1875 he graduated as a Doctor of Medicine.

He practiced medicine for several years at Aldie, Virginia with his grandfather. Then in 1882, he moved to Ruckersville, Virginia to start out on his own. The following year he married Mary Jane Ish of Loudon County, Virginia and to them nine children were born. Three children died in infancy, one drowned as a youth, and the remaining five live in this area today. They are Mrs. Waller M. Hundley, Jesse Ewell VI, Nathaniel McGregor Ewell, Mrs. Allen L. Hord, and Mrs. John W. Hamilton.

When Jesse and his wife set up housekeeping in Greene County. They wanted to be two of the county people – to do whatever came to hand and to participate in community affairs. Dr. Ewell devoted much time to community work. He served for many years as Chairman of the County Red Cross and Chairman of the County Health Board. He was active in securing the first county Welfare Nurse and the first Home Demonstration Agent, feeling that both of these offices would be of great aid to the community. He also served on the local Draft Board during World War I and at one time was the Postmaster for the community.

Dr. Ewell was a most successful practitioner, devoting many long hours to his work, but not neglecting to keep abreast of medical advances. He was truly a family physician, administering medicine, and in addition, often serving as family counselor and administering good, sound advice on other problems presented. He was well known in this section of the State as being most successful with the treatment of Pneumonia and Typhoid Fever and at times was sent for from the surrounding counties of Orange, Madison and Albermarle to treat such cases. He wrote several original articles on these subjects, among them, "The Use of Plaster in Pneumonia". He kept up with the latest medical views and trends by attending refresher courses and participating in Medical Societies, and he was a charter member of the North Eastern Virginia Medical Societies. He was also a charter member of the North Eastern Virginia Medical Society, President of the Piedmont Medical Society (1906-07), as well as a member of the Medical Society of Virginia, and the American Medical Association.

Dr. Ewell's wife, "Mollie" as she was affectionately known, was his helpmate in every sense of the word. So far as possible, she took over the care of the home and children, but she was never too tired or too busy to help with the sick patients in the office or to welcome his friends, even though they were many and of all walks of life. The motto of their home was, "Entertain Strangers Lest You Entertain Angels Unaware".

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They were both lovers of mankind and both had a very generous and kindly feeling towards the impoverished, and the colored race. There were many patients who, not being able to pay, were charged nothing, and others were charged only token fees. As far as the colored race, Dr. Ewell once said in a speech, "It should not be forgotten by the white man of the South that in that fearful period of 1861-1865, the white man went to the Army and left the colored man to take care of the loved ones at home. While this was often behind the northern lines, in no case was the trust betrayed and no colored man laid his hands on a white woman or child except to protect them. Monument building in the South should not stop until one is erected to commemorate this fact."

Although Dr. Ewell was a man of science, he did not neglect his religion, and religion was an important part of his life. The church records do not say when he was baptized, but the records do show that he and his wife were received into the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in April 1892. In the village of Ruckersville there was a church building where Sunday school and prayer meetings were conducted, but there was no organized church. In December 1892, Dr. Ewell with several other prominent citizens met and organized the Ruckersville Baptist Church. Dr. Ewell was elected the church's first clerk and served in that capacity for 26 years. In 1907, the Baptists began to construct their first church building and Dr. Ewell was an ardent supporter of that project which was completed in 1910.

It was in this neighborhood of Greene County that Dr. Ewell first conceived the idea of an American gathering of the descendants of Clan Gregor. From early childhood, Dr. Ewell had continued his interest in his Scotch ancestry and in history. He read much about the clan, their characteristics, and their trials and tribulations. He enjoyed reading especially Sir Walter Scott's works, "Rob Roy" and "The Lady of the Lake", and he could quote many long passages from the latter. He had great admiration for Scott whom he said was the patron saint of the Clan Gregor. He said, "Sir Walter Scott is not only a historian, but to a certain extent our creator, cut out what we have learned from his writing of our own people, and we would be truly in the dark."

Steeped with this background in history, he rode through this surrounding countryside – from here all through these foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains – and having much time to meditate, dream, and think of the yesteryear, it is probably that occasionally he would imagine himself in the past in similar landscape in Scotland. At any rate, it was here that he conceived the idea of a gathering of all the peoples of descent of Clan Gregor.

It so happened that one of his colleagues of Charlottesville, Virginia, our first Chieftain – Dr. Edward May Magruder, was called on several occasions as a surgical consultant. In riding horseback slowly over the roads, they had time to discuss their families and common descent. Dr. Ewell told of his dream of an American gathering of the MacGregor descendants. And so it was in June 1909, a meeting was held in the home of Dr. Magruder, the American Clan Gregor Society was born.

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Present at that meeting were Dr. Ewell and his eldest daughter Mary Ish (Mrs. Waller Hundley), Dr. Magruder and his brothers, Horatio Erskine and Franklin. At that meeting, Dr. Magruder was made chairman because of his surname and Dr. Ewell was made scribe. The instructions of that group were to issue an invitation to “all in America who have MacGregor blood in their veins,” to join the group.

Since then, the germ that was planted in Dr. Ewell as a boy, became dormant as a seed as he grew up, began to germinate and swell in Ruckersville, Virginia, put forth its first leaf in Charlottesville, Virginia, and has grown into a healthy tree in Washington.

Dr. Ewell resigned as scribe in 1918 because of failing health. He also had to curtail his other activity but was active as a physician until two days before his death. On May 31, 1921, he passed into that great beyond and on June 1st was buried on the hill beside his four children ‘neath the shade of the wild cherry tree.

After the death of his wife, who was buried in the newly located Ruckersville cemetery, he was moved to a spot by her side as were their children. This he would have liked as he is among the people he loved. It is a fitting tribute that the people he loved honor him with this gathering today.



FOOTSTEPS THROUGH HISTORY

PART II

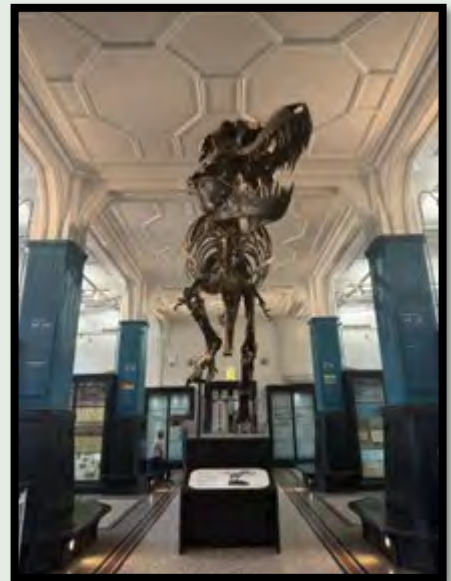
Submitted by Richard Walker

Manchester, England

We are joined by Jen’s oldest daughter, McKenna, in Manchester, England, which has a rich and layered history that stretches back to Roman times. The city began as a Roman fort called Mamucium, which was established around AD 79 near the confluence of the rivers Medlock and Irwell. Over centuries, it evolved from a modest medieval settlement into a thriving market by the 13th century. Its name, derived from Latin and Brittonic roots, hints at its ancient origins – possibly referencing a “breast-shaped hill” or a local river goddess. During the Middle Ages, Manchester remained relatively small, but it gained significance through its wool and leather industries, and by the 18th century, it was poised for transformation.

That transformation came with the Industrial Revolution, when Manchester became a global symbol of industrial might. Fueled by innovations in textile manufacturing, the city expanded rapidly in the 19th century, earning the name “Cottonopolis.” It was home to one of the world’s first passenger railway stations and played a pivotal role in political and economic reform, championing free trade and labor rights. Though the mid-20th century brought industrial decline, Manchester reinvented itself through cultural investment, education, and technology. Today, landmarks like Castlefield and the Museum of Science & Industry preserve their industrial legacy, while the city thrives as a vibrant hub of creativity and innovation.

Manchester Museum, located on Oxford Road, is a vibrant cultural institution that showcases over 4.5 million objects across a stunning array of galleries. Visitors can explore the Fossils and Dinosaurs Gallery, where Stan the T. Rex and April the Tenontosaurus reign; delve into ancient civilizations in the Egypt and Sudan Gallery; and discover biodiversity in the Living Worlds and Nature’s Library. The South Asia Gallery, created in partnership with the British Museum, celebrates the South Asian diaspora, while the Lee Kai Hung Chinese Culture Gallery offers insights into Manchester’s ties with China. Other highlights include the Vivarium, home to live amphibians and reptiles, and the Belonging Gallery, which explores identity through art and storytelling. With free entry and a mission to build understanding between cultures, Manchester Museum is a treasure trove of history, science, and imagination.



Departing Manchester Piccadilly station, the train begins its northward journey through England’s rolling countryside, passing clusters of red brick towns, wide green pastures, and sheep-speckled hills. The rhythm of steel against track hums steadily as the train slices through Lancashire and heads into the Lake District, where the landscape swells with dramatic fells and shimmering lakes. As you cross into

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remnants of Britain's railway heyday in the 19th century. The air seems to grow cooler, the skies broader, and there's a gradual shift in dialect as you edge closer to Scotland.

Crossing the border into the Scottish Borders evokes a sense of quiet reverence. This region, steeped in legend and turbulent history, was once the frontline between Scotland and England. The train meanders through moorland and forests, past ruins of abbeys like Melrose and Dryburgh, where monks once tended illuminated manuscripts. Once disused, the Borders Railway, which reopened in 2015, restored a vital link to Edinburgh, breathing life into communities and allowing passengers to witness this rugged terrain with the comfort of modern rail travel.



Through windows streaked with mist, one catches glimpses of the River Tweed winding its way beneath misty hills where Border Reivers once rode.

As the train glides into Edinburgh Waverly station, nestled between the medieval Old Town and the elegant Georgian New Town, you feel the pulse of history converge with the energy of a modern capital. You arrive beneath the shadow of the iconic Edinburgh Castle, perched high on its volcanic rock, and disembark into cobbled streets alive with bagpipes, literary whispers, and the promise of adventure. From

Manchester's industrial roots to Edinburgh's cultural heights, the journey by train offers more than transit's a passage through stories, landscapes, and time itself.

Edinburgh, Scotland

A hidden gem in Edinburgh: Nestled in the heart of Edinburgh, Scotland, the residence at 11/1 Johnston Terrace offers a charming blend of historic character and modern comfort. While not as widely publicized as some of the city's grander addresses, this property sits in a neighborhood that reflects the soul of Edinburgh – quiet, residential, a rich local flavor.

The building at 11/1 Johnston Terrace in Edinburgh is part of a historic 19th century tenement and shop terrace designed by architects Smith and Hardy (1862) and George Roberts (1866). Originally, the first few bays, including the area around 11/1 – were constructed as a warehouse for Archibald Little, a merchant before being integrated into a larger residential and commercial block. The structure curves elegantly along Johnston Terrace and Victoria Terrace, forming a prominent townscape feature that leads toward the Lawnmarket and Edinburgh Castle.



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Over time, the ground floors of these buildings evolved into shops, while the upper levels became flats, reflecting the Victorian-era trend of mixed-use urban architecture. The terrace's rear elevation, sweeping above Victoria Street and the Grassmarket adds to its architectural significance. Johnston Terrace itself was part of Thomas Hamilton's grand plan for the Western Approach to the city, a civic improvement project from the early 19th century that reshaped Edinburgh's urban layout.



Archaeological studies beneath Johnston Terrace have revealed layers of anthropogenic deposits, suggesting extensive landscaping during its construction. Some findings even hint at mid-18th century rubble and clay dumps, possibly sealing older medieval features. While no specific medieval use is confirmed for 11/1 Johnston Terrace, the area's proximity to Edinburgh Castle and its strategic location suggest it may have once been part of defensive works or informal settlement zones before the Victorian transformation.

Is 11/1 Johnston Terrace in Edinburgh haunted? Nothing is documented that I have found, but here is the spooky context...Edinburgh is famously one of the most haunted cities in the world, so even if your address isn't on the ghost tour map, it's surrounded by centuries of eerie tales. Within walking distance, you'll find:

- Mary King's Close – Haunted by plague victims and a ghostly child named Annie
- Greyfriars Kirkyard – Home to the Mackenzie Poltergeist, with over 500 reported incidents
- Edinburgh Vaults – Underground chambers filled with ghostly figures like "The Watcher" and "The Cobbler"
- West Bow House – Former home of Major Thomas Weir, a confessed occultist whose ghost is said to roam the area.

So, while 11/1 Johnston Avenue may not have its own ghost story (yet), it's nestled in a city where the supernatural is never far away.



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McKenna found this very cool pop-up bar in the weeks prior to our departure. It was a Jurassic Park themed pop-up hidden beneath Edinburgh's historic arches; The Cocktail Geeks bar transforms into a pre-historic playground with its Jurassic Pop-Up theme. Step inside and you're greeted by a lush, dino-inspired atmosphere – think jungle vines, amber lighting, and cocktail menus that roar with creativity. Guests have been



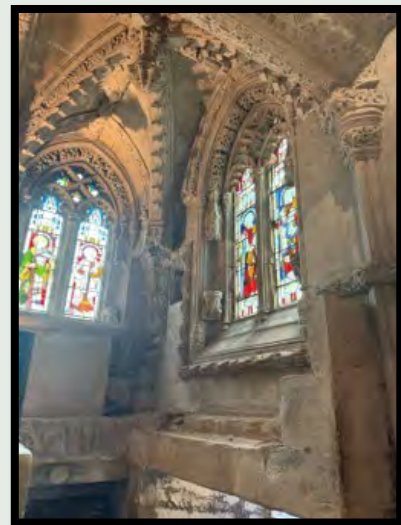
known to dress as characters from Jurassic Park, sipping concoctions named after iconic scents and creatures from the franchise. It's not just a bar – it's an immersive experience where geek culture meets mixology, and every drink feels like a discovery from a lost world.

Rosslyn Chapel

Nestled in the village of Roslin just south of Edinburgh, Rosslyn Chapel is a captivating 15th century masterpiece renowned for its intricate stone carvings and air of mystery. Founded in 1446 by William Sinclair, 1st Earl of Caithness, the chapel was originally intended to be a grand cross-shaped church but remained incomplete after Sinclair's death in 1484. Despite its modest size, the chapel's interior bursts with elaborate carvings – ranging from biblical scenes to enigmatic symbols that have fueled centuries of speculation, including theories linking it to Knights Templar and the Holy Grail. Over the years, Rosslyn



Chapel endured periods of neglect, especially after the Scottish Reformation, and was even used as a stable by Cromwell's troops in 1650. It was rededicated in 1862 following Queen Victoria's visit, and today, thanks to extensive conservation efforts, it stands as one of Scotland's most iconic and mysterious architectural treasures.



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Glasgow, Scotland

Glasgow, the largest city in Scotland and the third most populous in the United Kingdom, is a dynamic blend of rich history, cultural depth, and modern innovation.

Nestled along the River Clyde in west-central Scotland, it has evolved from a medieval religious settlement into a global hub for arts, education, and commerce.

- Founded in the 6th century by Saint Mungo, Glasgow began as a religious center around the Molendinar Burn, where the iconic Glasgow Cathedral now stands.
- It became a royal burgh in 1450 and flourished during the Scottish Enlightenment, later emerging as a key player in the Industrial Revolution through shipbuilding, textiles, and trade.
- The city's motto, "Let Glasgow Flourish," reflects its enduring spirit and resilience.



McKenna and I met up with a friend of mine Marty, for eats and drinks. Jen didn't join us as she was feeling under the weather.

Glen Fruin: A Highland Glen Steeped in Clan MacGregor History

Nestled in the rugged beauty of Dunbartonshire, Scotland, Glen Fruin is more than just a scenic valley – it's the site of one of the most consequential clan battles in Scottish history. On February 7, 1603, this tranquil glen became the stage for the Battle of Glen Fruin, a violent clash between Clan MacGregor and Clan Colquhoun that would shape the fate of the MacGregors for generations.

The Battle of Glen Fruin:

- Combatants: Clan MacGregor, led by Allaster MacGregor of Glenstrae, and Clan Colquhoun, under Sir Alexander Colquhoun of Luss.
- Forces: MacGregors fielded around 300-400 men; Colquhouns had up to 800, including calvary.
- Outcome: Despite being outnumbered the MacGregors won decisively. Estimates suggest 140-200 Colquhoun men were killed, with MacGregor losses were minimal.



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The battle was sparked by escalating tensions over land and cattle raids. A particularly brutal incident – where two young MacGregors were executed for sheltering in Colquhoun territory - fueled the fire. The MacGregors retaliated with raids, culminating in the full-scale battle at Glen Fruin.

Aftermath and Royal Retribution:

The victory at Glen Fruin came at a steep cost. King James VI viewed the MacGregor's actions as barbaric and issued a royal warrant declaring them and “unhappy and detestable race” to be “exterminated and ruttit out.”

- Proscription: The name MacGregor was outlawed. Clan members were forced to adopt aliases like Grant, Stewart, or, in my case, Walker.
- Executions: In 1604, Allaster MacGregor and 11 of his chieftains were executed in Edinburgh.
- Legacy of Persecution: The ban on the MacGregor name lasted until 1661, was reinstated in 1693 and finally lifted in 1784, restoring the clan's rights and identity.

Impact on Highland Clans and Society:

- Clan Solidarity and Division: Some clans, like the Lamonts and Chattan, offered refuge to fleeing MacGregors. Others, like the Campbells, exploited the situation to seize MacGregor lands and enforce dominance.
- Fear and Distrust: The Crown's use of “fire and sword” commissions created a climate of fear. Highlanders were wary of associating with MacGregors, lest they be punished, too.
- Cultural Identity Crisis: The forced renaming fractured clan identity. Yet, paradoxically, it also strengthened MacGregor pride and resilience. Their motto – “Royal is my race,” became a quiet act of defiance.

Glen Fruin isn't just a place – it's a chapter in the story of a clan that refused to be erased. The MacGregors may have been outlawed, but their legacy endures in the very soil of the glen they once defended. Their outlaw status didn't just affect them – it reshaped the very fabric of Highland society.

Clan MacGregor's history is steeped in conflict, resilience, and defiance. Beyond the infamous Battle of Glen Fruin, they were involved in several other notable clashes that shaped their legacy. Here are a few episodes:



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Feuds with Clan Campbell:

- Background: The Campbells were granted MacGregor lands by Robert the Bruce, sparking centuries of hostility.
- Gregor Roy's Rebellion (late 1500s): After the Campbells refused to recognize Gregor Roy MacGregor's claim to Glenstrae, he led a guerrilla campaign of cattle raids and skirmishes. He was eventually captured and executed in 1570.
- Children of the Mist: The term arose during this period, as MacGregors were driven into hiding in the Highland glens, living as outlaws.

The Killing of John Drummond (1590):

- Incident: John Drummond, the king's forester, hanged several MacGregors for poaching.
- Retaliation: The clan killed Drummond in revenge, which further escalated tensions with the crown.

Glencairn's Rising (1653-1654):

- Context: A Royalist uprising against Cromwell's Commonwealth.
- MacGregor Role: Around 200 MacGregor warriors joined the Earl of Glencairn's forces, fighting for the Stuart monarchy. Their loyalty earned them temporary reprieve from persecution.

Jacobite Risings:

- 1715 Uprising: Rob Roy MacGregor supported the Jacobite cause, engaging in raids and skirmishes after the Battle of Sheriff Muir.
- Battle of Glen Shiel (1719): Rob Roy led MacGregor forces in this clash against government troops. Though the Jacobites lost, Rob Roy's guerrilla tactics became legendary.
- 1745 Uprising: Some MacGregors fought at the Battle of Prestonpans and were present at the Battle of Littleferry, missing Culloden by a day.

This article will be continued in the next issue of the newsletter.

ON A MISSION TO SCOTLAND PART II

Submitted by Chase Lackey

On the road to Fife! I load up the car and set off! Dawning my kilt of course and making the hour and a half drive up the A92 to A915, admiring the beautiful countryside along the way. Admittedly the only thing I knew about Fife was St. Andrews Golf Course, “The Home of Golf”. Now, for those that don’t know me very well, I am a huge golf fan. I grew up playing with my family and friends and have finely honed my skills to be a 13+ handicap! Haha. Since my arrival in Fife would be timed perfectly with lunch, I decided to make my way to the clubhouse for much needed sustenance.

Along the road to the clubhouse, I passed a remarkable ruin that I knew I would have to come back to check out. Hint, it was St. Andrews Cathedral! So, I arrive at The Golf Course and am in awe that this is where golf was invented! Gazing at the narrow fairways, bordered with thick fescue, pot-bunkers peppering each hole, and the undulating microscopic greens, suddenly I am glad I didn’t have my clubs and balls with me! Mind you, this was what I could see from the ground prior to entering the clubhouse. I could do better.

After my delicious meal, a few pints and some wonderful conversation with the wait staff, I was determined to locate a better vantage to see more of this magnificent course. So, I started to wander around, first looking through the gift shop, where I had to purchase a golf ball/ball marker/divot fixer set; then I came to a door marked, “Employees Only” ... I had to see what lay behind this door. Stairs. Stairs could be a good thing, so I ascend and find another proclamation, “Roof Access” Bingo! I bust through the door and find myself smack dab on the roof of this historic clubhouse! Having an architectural background, I first admire the stunning architectural elements and then I’m mindful to be safe to not fall off the edge. Plants! They have rooftop plants which I’ve always thought was so cool.



(Continued)

Now I have a beautifully unobstructed panoramic view of this spectacular course. I snap a few pics, take one last look and make my way back to the “commoner” area before I get caught. What a rush! I recall I want to make my way back to the ruins I saw



earlier. So, I drive the car back a piece and locate some on street parking next to a quaint little pub and grab another pint for my walk to the ruins. Reminder, I am wearing my kilt! As I stroll down this random main street in St. Andrews with my road-beer, I keep getting looks, compliments and not full-



on whistles, but shouts of approval! Love it! I finally make it to these breathtaking ruins and start to understand the historical significance of this place.

Not only is it a Cathedral in ruin, but it's also a cool cemetery overflowing with intricately carved headstones. I love perusing and studying them as I fancy myself to be a craftsman and understand the hard work, dedication and

talent it takes to build something by hand. During my time amongst the dead, I am surprised by a couple on their wedding day coming to take photos. So, naturally they ask to take a picture with me, Chase from Tallahassee; love it!

Now that the sun is starting to set on another amazing day in Scotland, I am reminded of my mission. So, I meander back to the car and load up to head up to Perth for the night. Tomorrow, Methven!

This article will be continued in the next issue of the newsletter.

WILD SWIMMING IN SCOTLAND

Submitted by Scott Adams

North Carolina, where I live, is a sweet spot for open water swimming. Go north and the water starts getting cold. Go south and gators become an issue I'd rather not think about. The lakes here are wonderful and the Outer Banks provide endless opportunities for swims parallel to the beach. But the thoughts of swimming in Scotland made me shudder. That's cold water! How cold you ask? The best you could hope for even at the height of summer is about 55 degrees. That's cold!

I'd be wearing a wetsuit of course. But still, I needed to find out what cold water was going to do to my 61-year-old body. So I began immersion training in baths of cold water, gradually reducing the temperature to the mid-fifties. If that sounds appalling, it was. I don't like getting into cold water any better than the next guy. But I eventually began to understand its effects. It's painful at first. You get used to it after 5 or 10 minutes and then it's really not that bad. It's important not to warm up too fast after you get out. Drink hot liquids and wrap up in a blanket. You'll be fine.

After some online searching, I was fortunate to find a local swimming guide, Rebecca, in the Oban area. She arranged a series of swims for us to do and provided the transportation. The fresh water of Loch Nell was our first stop. The weather that day was nothing short of sunny and glorious. We swam out over a "fish cairn", which was a man-made formation of underwater rocks designed to lure fish into a circular pool where they could be caught in nets.

Next we headed to Loch Etive, which is a saltwater loch. It's good practice to swim freshwater first and then move to salt. This avoids the possibility of transferring invasive species into the lochs. A seal took notice of our arrival in the water and followed us with curiosity as we swam out and across in a triangular pattern until we arrived back at the starting point.



From there we drove north a bit to Tralee Beach and swam in Ardmucknish Bay. This was the coldest water we encountered at 54 F. It took a while for

me to tolerate the cold water on my face, which is the only place that wasn't covered. To gain speed I donned fins for this swim and was able to go a full mile along the beach. I noticed Rebecca headed for the beach and got out a little before I did—perhaps I was wearing her out. Lol!

Saving the best for last, we proceeded further north and entered Glen Coe. I really wasn't sure what to expect on a swimming trip to a glacier carved volcanic valley, arguably the most beautiful place in all of Scotland. We hiked part way up the side of a mountain near a place called the Meeting of the Three Waters. The water had cut a channel about 6-feet wide and chest deep into the rock

(Continued)

We got in and began moving upstream. We found one pool that was 15 feet deep and took turns diving to the bottom and posing for pictures. The water was as pure and clear as crystal. Rebecca had a GoPro camera that worked seamlessly above and below the water. Further upstream we came to a pool below a waterfall. I was able to swim underneath it and allow the falling water to crash over me. Wow! I took a breath and was able to dive under and below the falls, flipping over on my back and blowing bubbles back up at the water coming down above me. It was the most incredible swimming experience I've ever had! I just couldn't believe that such a beautiful, natural, and untouched place still existed on planet Earth. It restored my faith and filled me with childlike wonder. I'll never forget it!



On our second day of swimming we departed from Little Ganavan beach and swam out to Maiden Island. The water was full of harmless jellyfish but we were watchful there wasn't a stinging Lions Mane among them. We climbed out onto the island and hiked the short way up to the grassy summit, about 100 foot elevation. The view of Dunollie Castle on the opposite shore and the boat traffic in Oban bay was amazing. We later got back in the water and circumnavigated the 7-acre island, looking for places we imagined the ancients would have hid their gold and booty

for us to discover. It was fun!

As a McGregor, there is still one more swim I want to do. Up north of Inverness is a coastal estuary named Loch Fleet. This is where the last of the McGregor fighting men were defeated at the Battle of Littleferry in 1746. Only days before the Battle of Culloden, the ambushing British forces drove them out onto the beach, where some attempted escape by swimming the Loch. None of them made it. Perhaps someday I'll be the first.



PHOTO CAPTION CONTEST

Submitted by Scott Adams

We're looking for a fun and creative caption for this photo. We will share the captions in the next issue of the newsletter.

So, let's go Highlanders, get our thought showers going.

You can submit your ideas to newsletter@acgsus.org.



GUESS THE TARTAN ANSWER KEY

1. Daughter of the American Revolution
2. New York Jets
3. United States Air Force Academy
4. American Heritage
5. American Highland Cattle Association
6. American St. Andrews Societies
7. Colonial Marine (Aliens)
8. Detroit Lions
9. American 1976
10. Kansas State University
11. Starfleet (Star Trek)
12. Oklahoma State University

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.



William James Jensen

California

Nicholas Barnes Smith

Massachusetts

FUTURE PROSPECTIVE GATHERING

Submitted by Scott F. MacGregor, Chieftain

Would you like to host our biennial society in-person Gathering in your area of the United States please consider submitting a request. There are several things to consider and include in the request. First there must be a key volunteer willing to do a bit of organizing legwork; preferably with several assistants. Followed by the recommendation of several quality hotels that have tall ceilings and good dining facilities. Another major aspect is having a good airport in the vicinity. These are the major issues. Also what area attractions are there? Do they have a Clan Gregor connection? How about Celtic or regional bands in the area? Is there a local pipe band? This sounds like a lot but it's not as bad as it seems. It is very rewarding to host a Gathering. Our members enjoy visiting the many different fascinating areas around our country while reuniting with our clans folk.

If you are up to the challenge please drop an email to our chieftain, chieftain@acgsus.org, outlining what your area has to offer. All responses will be evaluated and placed in a pool for future selection.

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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 next issue is January 31, 2026.**

AMERICA



John Paul Jones

(July 6, 1747 – July 18, 1792) was regarded as one of the greatest naval commanders in military history, and is known as the "Father of the American Navy"



click the picture for more information about Scots in the American Revolution

Born as John Paul in Arbigland, Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland, he added "Jones" to evade local authorities. He was arrested in the death of a sailor over a failed mutiny. While on bail, he was encouraged to change his name and flee. He gained fame for his daring raids and bold declaration, "I have not yet begun to fight!"

He was living in France when he died and the whereabouts of his grave were lost, until 1905. Jones's body was brought to the United States aboard the USS Brooklyn, escorted by three other cruisers. His sarcophagus was installed at the US Naval Academy.

www.america250.org



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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NOTE: Our society is always in need of volunteers to represent the society at Scottish events in all areas across the country. If you don't see your area listed, you have a little extra time available, and you love sharing your knowledge of Clan Gregor history with others, we'd love your support in getting the word out about our society. Please reach out to our Ranking Deputy Chieftain, Bruce MacGregor Whyte at RDC@usacgs.org.

JIM MALCOLM PERFORMANCE

Submitted by Scott Adams

On October 23, 2025, I had the pleasure of attending a whisky tasting and performance of songs and puppetry at Trinity Episcopal Church in Florence, Alabama. Edinburgh native, celebrated singer, and multi-instrumentalist, Jim Malcolm hosted the tasting and provided supremely pleasant songs, stories, puppetry, and discussions of the selected whiskies on offer. Here are a couple of photos of Jim performing.

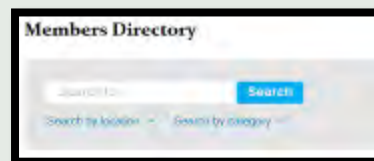
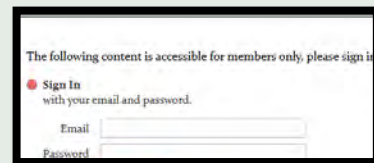
Jim and his wife, Susie, perform together and lead two folk music tours of Scotland each year. Their performances for 2026 are already sold out, however, if you're interested in seeing them in Scotland in 2027, you can find information on their website—www.jimmalcolm.com.



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.

Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk

December 6 11:00 am—1:00 pm EST

<https://visitalexandria.com/holidays/scottish-walk/>



Olde Towne Scottish Walk

December 31 4:00 pm—6:00 pm

<https://www.virginia.org/event/portsmouth%E2%80%99s-olde-towne-scottish-walk/3902/>



Burns Night Dinner

January 25

Various Locations

Tallahassee Highland Games

February 7 & 8

<https://tallyhighlandgames.com/>



Suncoast Scots Highland Games

January 31

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



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