

Griogarach

Newsletter of the Clan Gregor Society - Western U. S. A. Chapter



BELTANE 2007



Welcome to the Clan Gregor newsletter. Inside you'll find information, pictures, and anecdotes, detailing the recent happenings in the Clan Gregor. We certainly hope you enjoy what you see. More so, we hope you will wander through and visit the pages following this one that list the septs and aliases recognized by the Clan Gregor. If you find your family name among these, joining the Gregor clan may be a move you wish to consider.

The newsletter contained here is only part of the entire publication, released especially for preview purposes. The entire newsletter is just one of the benefits of becoming a Gregor Clan member, the others being fun, fun, and fun!

A membership form follows the septs and aliases page.

Again, we certainly hope you do enjoy your visit and most definitely hope you will join the Gregor clan!

Thank you,

Carl Basile

Editor, Griogarach Newsletter



BELTANE



Also known as May Eve, May Day, and Walpurgis Night, happens at the beginning of May. It celebrates the height of Spring and the flowering of life. The Goddess manifests as the May Queen and Flora. The God emerges as the May King and Jack in the Green. The danced Maypole represents Their unity, with the pole itself being the God and the ribbons that encompass it, the Goddess. Colors are the Rainbow spectrum. Beltane is a festival of flowers, fertility, sensuality, and delight.

Prepare a May basket by filling it with flowers and goodwill and then give it to someone in need of healing and caring, such as a shut-in or elderly friend. Form a wreath of freshly picked flowers, wear it in your hair, and feel yourself radiating joy and beauty. Dress in bright colors. Dance the Maypole and feel yourself balancing the Divine Female and Male within. On May Eve, bless your garden in the old way by making love with your lover in it. Make a wish as you jump a bonfire or candle flame for good luck. Welcome in the May at dawn with singing and dancing.

For information about being published in the Clan Gregor Newsletter contact:
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**NAMES, SEPTS AND ALIASES OF CLAN GREGOR
AS RECOGNIZED BY THE CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY**

With a few exceptions, spelling variants are omitted but are accepted. M', Mc and Mac are considered interchangeable. Many names were adopted as a result of proscription and some families retained the new names when the proscription was lifted in 1774, while many others re-adopted their rightful name of MacGregor.

List A: Accepted MacGregor Names and Septs					
Alpin	Greig	MacAdam	MacEan	MacLiver	Malloch
Fletcher	Grewer	MacAlpin	MacEwin	MacNee	Neish
Greer	Grier	Macara	MacGregor	MacNie	Patullo
Gregg	Grierson	Macaree	MacGrigor	MacNeice	Peter(s)
Gregor	Grigg	Macaldowie	MacGrowther	MacNeish	Petrie
Gregory	Grigor	MacChoiter	MacGruder	MacPeter(s)	
Gregorson	Gruer	MacConachie	Macilduy	MacPetrie	
Gregson	King	MacCrowther	MacLeister	Magruder	
List B: Aliases where documentary evidence shows a MacGregor connection					
Bain	Bower(s)	Dochart	Lakie	More	White
Black	Callum	Dunn	Leckie	Roy	Whyte
Beachley	Coleman	Landless	Lockie	Skinner	Willox
Bowie	Comrie				
List C: Aliases with little documentary evidence but a tradition of MacGregor connection					
Argyl	Crerar	Grayson	MacCanish	Nelson	Stalker
Arrowsmith	Crowther	Grieve	MacGeach	Neilson	Stringer
Begland	Denison	Gudger	Macgehee	Nucator	Tainsh
Bowmaker	Docherty	Guiness	Macghee	Orr	Telfer
Brewer	Dorward	Gun	MacGill	Paterson	Telford
Caird	Dowie	Kirkwood	MacGrew	Peat	Tossach
Callander	Fisher	Leishman	Macinstalker	Peterson	Walker
Clark	Gair	MacAndrew	Macnocaird	Shankland	Weliver
Craigdallie	Goodsir	MacAngus	Macnucator		
List D: Other family names that are known to have been used as MacGregor aliases					
Balfour	Erskine	Johnson	MacEwan	MacNicol	Robertson
Buchanan	Ferguson	Johnston	MacFarlane	MacPherson	Sinclair
Campbell	Gordon	Livingston	Maclan	MacWilliam	Stewart
Cunningham	Graham	MacAlastair	MacInnes	Menzies	Stirling
Douglas	Grant	MacDonald	MacNeil	Murray	Wilson
Drummond	Hay	MacDougal	MacLaren	Ramsay	

The Clan Gregor Society instituted in 1822 is one of the oldest clan societies. Today the Society is a growing organization with membership throughout the world. Its most active objectives are to extend the links of kinship and friendship between MacGregors wherever they may be and to provide a focal point for all members of the Clan and, indeed, any interested visitors who wish to learn more of our past. The Society promotes and encourages research into Clan Gregor and the publication or information pertaining to its history, tradition, and genealogy. The Society extends a warm welcome to persons bearing names included in list A and to those with maternal descent from an eligible person. Persons bearing names or descent from names in Lists B and C who can show evidence of descent or a family tradition of MacGregor connection are also eligible for membership. Names in list D are properly the domain of other Clan and Family societies, however we would welcome enquiries from persons bearing these names who can show their descent from a MacGregor who adopted the name as an alias.



CLAN GREGOR WESTERN USA

A Chapter of the
Clan Gregor Society
of Scotland

Membership Director
649 River Road
Modesto, CA 95351

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I qualify in accordance with Rule _____ as explained on the reverse of this form and wish to apply for:

- Full Membership @ \$33.00 per year.
 Associate Membership @ \$33.00 per year. (Available only to those applying under Rule B.)

PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION.

After admission as a member, I agree to pay my annual membership dues no later than January 1st of each year in order to maintain ACTIVE status in Clan Gregor Western USA. If I become more than 90 days in arrears in payment of my annual dues, I understand my status will be changed to INACTIVE and I will cease receiving "The Griogearach" Newsletter and all Clan communications. I am aware that a portion of my annual dues is remitted to the parent Society in Scotland. I am also aware that only active Full Membership status is eligible to cast one vote at the Annual General Meeting.

PLEASE PRINT:

NAME: _____
SPOUSE: _____ CHILDREN: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____
HOME PHONE: _____ FAX: _____ E-MAIL: _____

DO YOU CONSENT TO INCLUDING THE ABOVE INFORMATION IN THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY?
 YES NO

CLAN CONNECTION: _____
BIRTH DATE: _____ BIRTH PLACE: _____
SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____
NAME OF MEMBER TAKING APPLICATION: _____

Please do not write below this line
Check Number: _____ Check Amount: _____ Date Received: _____
Date to Treasurer: _____ Date Entered Membership Database: _____

NAMES AND SEPTS OF CLAN GREGOR

As recognized by the Clan Gregor Society, August 1999

Many variant spellings exist and are recognized. Mc, Mc and Mac are considered interchangeable.

From the Desk of the Chapter President:

Dear Griogarach,

As you may have noticed, or not noticed as the case may be, there was no newsletter towards the end of last year, due to the “crash” of our Membership Director’s computer, which amongst other things, normally produced all the mailing labels for said newsletter. It was only comparatively recently that this situation was rectified, and our Membership Director has labored long and hard to retrieve the lost data, and catch up on the long overdue business. (More about that in this issue.) Consequently, my President’s message, with report and update on events for that time was not printed. Therefore, in the hopes of reviving the Scottish Spirit, which seems to wane a little during the winter months when we have no activities, and to encourage others to attend this year the events we enjoyed last year, I intend to lead off here with a modified version of the 2006 end-of-year message, and progress on to events attended and upcoming for this year.



In 2006 I managed to get to more Scottish Games and Gatherings than ever before, and certainly enjoyed fraternizing with Gregor cousins, visitors, and new members. I last reported on attending the Duns-muir Games in Oakland with my two youngest daughters; the next ones we went to were the ones at Pleasanton over Labor Weekend. We got good attendance from Clan members over the two days, although we missed Joe Foss and the Stoop's, amongst others, but as well as the Games themselves, enjoyed a dinner and a breakfast with fellow Gregors. I personally spent a lot more time at the tent than I had before, as I was already pretty familiar with all the vendors and their wares, having been going there for a number of years, and got great enjoyment out of greeting and meeting a lot of visitors and signing up new members. Also, the temperatures were noticeably lower than they usually are, which made things more comfortable, and not so tiring. A most enjoyable and successful event I felt.

The next Games I attended were on September 16th, at Fresno, a site I had not been to before, and we also held our Annual General Meeting there, followed by a short Council Meeting. I was quite impressed with the venue; out in the country park, alongside a river, and under huge trees, which certainly helped to shelter from the direct heat of the sun. This was not a very large Game, and not very well attended by Gregors considering the holding of the AGM; we were really scraping to get a quorum. However, the meetings were conducted, some reports given, business transacted, and several Council members due to rotate off at the end of 2006 were re-instated, they being myself, Todd Raines, and Carl Basile, all back in our current positions of President, Vice President, and Newspaper Editor respectively. Apparently no-one else wanted these jobs! The Sykes family had shopped around and got a good deal on a new trailer to house and transport the northern tent equipment, and kindly agreed to finance that to the Clan with half being paid at the meeting, and the balance next year. With Chris in his first full year as official Northern Tent coordinator, he and his family members have put in a wonderful effort in providing the tent on behalf of the Clan at more Games than in the past, and done a great job of representing us, and they certainly deserve our thanks. Ed Sykes has taken up shinty, and we were able to see him play or demonstrate his equipment at several events this year.

The next Games for us were in Dixon on September 24th. These appeared to have been declining

over the last couple of years, and we originally weren't going to go to them as we had lots of other activities coming up over the following weekends. However, we decided to go and support the Sykes family who were faithfully taking the tent, and we stayed longer, had a much more enjoyable time than originally anticipated, despite the number of vendors being seriously reduced. However, they did have the usual bawdy and hilarious "Bonny Knees Contest" for guys in kilts, and your old President came in second! (The guy that came in first was of similar age, much to the chagrin of the "young studs" who fancied themselves a shoe-in to win!) Unfortunately there are no trophies or prize money for scoring in this contest; only "bragging rights!" Unexpectedly, a couple of vendor friends were there, not with their own booth as usual but helping out someone else, so we got to spend some time with them also, and ended up having dinner together.

The following weekend the Grass Valley Celtic Faire was scheduled, only 45 minutes or so away from my home. We had not been to this before, as we had always heard it was fairly expensive, but after I had contacted our "North Eastern" Tent coordinator John Pechin during the previous week, to make sure he was going to represent the Clan, we decided to go for a few hours to support him. Well, it certainly was expensive; way more than any other Games, so that influenced us to stay all day to get our money's worth! (It's that Scottish thing!) And we did, and once again enjoyed them way more than we had expected to.

October 7th, brought the Ben Lomond Games. Once again we had tossed up whether to go or not, as it was a quite some distance away, and we'd been away from home four of the last five weekends, with more to come, but our friends Carolynn and Bob Stoops were coming down from Oregon for the event, and we wanted to take the (rare) opportunity to see them. Patricia and I took the Friday afternoon off work, leaving around lunchtime to drive down to Santa Cruz, where we had reserved a reasonably-priced, older, but very clean motel a block away from the boardwalk. We met Bob and Carolynn, and also Clan members Jay and Dale Whyte for dinner, and had a great get-together. After we got back to our motel I went for a stroll out to the end of the Santa Cruz pier, and although there were very few stores open, there were lots of sea lions, and a full moon shining across the ocean onto the boardwalk; a most enjoyable conclusion to the day.

I have certainly enjoyed my attending and supporting an increased number of Scottish & Celtic events this year, and especially the increased fraternization with my fellow Gregors, (and potential new Gregors). Hopefully many of you were also able to enjoy a lot of these events and the opportunity to support our Clan associations and traditions.

So far this year we have attended a Robbie Burns dinner in Sacramento in January, and no doubt other of you attended similar gatherings in different parts of the country. Next we attended the Celtic Faire at Angels Camp on Saturday March 10th, with the intention of opening and closing it! I think it was supposed to go from 10:00am till 10:00pm; we made it there shortly after opening, but after a long enjoyable day, eventually decided to call it quits around 8:00pm. We did see our Membership Director, Ed Moore there, with his lovely wife, Raiyn, and also a number of the well-known and enjoyable Celtic performers. The weather was kinder this year; it wasn't snowing as it was the year before!

We did not make it to the games at the Queen Mary in Southern California; if I remember correctly it clashed with racing again. One of these years we intend to make it there.

Our next event is the Woodland Games on April 28th and 29th, where we are also holding our required bi-annual Council Meeting, and getting together for dinner on Saturday evening at a local barbecue restaurant. So far we have a good response from Clan Members intending to attend on this weekend.

Hopefully the woes and consequences of computer "crashes" are behind us, and we can move ahead in a positive manner for the future. The Woodland Games, for us here in Northern California, are the start of the busy games season for the rest of the year. I encourage you all to attend as many of the events as you can; to rekindle the Scottish Spirit, and fraternize and reunite with your own Clan Brothers and Sisters.

"MacGregors shall flourish forever"
Regards, Glynn Clark,
President, Clan Gregor, Western USA Chapter



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he Editor welcomes and encourages items for publication to the Griogach. All items should be in keeping with the objectives of Clan Gregor Western USA and the Clan Gregor Society of Scotland. Clan Gregor Western USA hereby assumes absolutely no responsibility for any action taken by any person based on information in this publication. There has been no intention whatsoever to defame anyone living or dead. The Editor will consider all submitted items for publication but assumes no responsibility, nor certifies accuracy of any published item. The Editor reserves the right to edit all materials accepted for publication.

Address for contributions:

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Submission deadline for next issue: July 10, 2007

Newsletter On-Line

<http://www.electricscotland.com/familytree/newsletters/gregor/>



The Clan Gregor DNA Project

by Kelly McPeters

As some of you know, I've participated in the Clan Gregor DNA Project along more than 100 other members of Clan Gregor. Recently, I also joined the McPheeters/McPeters FamilyTreeDNA Project as well (all that means is Richard McGregor shared my DNA data file with the McPheeters/McPeters project administrator, no new testing required). Some results from both projects have helped my bride, Robin McPeters, make breakthroughs in her efforts to gather genealogy data for my side of the family.

Then something really surprising happened. I got an e-mail from a lady in California (I'm still on active duty at Bolling AFB in D.C.; Bob McGregor - as in Airman Robert **B.** McGregor - didn't destroy all of it when he was in the Air Force) telling me her brother "Bob **D.** McGregor" is a match with my DNA. To my surprise and delight, the lady in California is Carolyne McGregor Long, our Western USA Clan Gregor Chairman Emeritus.

It's a very satisfying feeling to have so many aspects of my life turn out to be intertwined. About 14 years ago in Nashville, Tennessee I met a girl wearing a MacGregor Tartan skirt. She introduced me to the Clan Gregor Society, both Western USA & Great Lakes chapters, and somewhere along the way agreed to marry me.

At the Clan Gregor tent I've made many good friends, discovered common values and traits while meeting up with Todd Raines and crew at the Southern Tent. The clan Gregor DNA project referred me to the DNA project following my father's family name. And they've shown me the DNA trail from my father's birthplace in Northern Alabama, through Tennessee (remember the girl in the tartan skirt) to North Carolina and ultimately to the British Isles. Stumbling around the Carolinas it came to light a McPeters ancestor served in the same Civil War regiment as one of Todd Raines' ancestors. I get an e-mail telling me I'm genetically related to our Chairman Emeritus' family. Currently, military service allows me to tread the same Air Base where our friend Bob (Robert **B.**) McGregor served his country.

As another of the tent regulars, Richard McAdams, described it: "It's your DNA calling you home."

So here's my pitch, please give serious consideration to participating in the Clan Gregor Family DNA project (<http://www.clangregor.org/macgregor/dna.html>) The cost is relatively small, and the potential benefits are many. You can help Clan Gregor pursue its historical and cultural mission. You may create a breakthrough in your own genealogy efforts. You may get to tell your own cool story of family, friends, genetics and tartan skirts.

May you be guarded and protected.



The Northern and Sierra Nevada schedule was compiled by:

Candace Sykes: Northern Tent
candysykes@comcast.net

John Pechin: Sierra Nevada Tent
john.pechin@grassvalleygroup.com

Contact: Clan Gregor Society
P.O. Box 1423
Stockton CA 95201



For additional games information try: www.maclachlans.org if you know of a Scottish event, let us know so we can post it to the calendar.

For more information on the Southern Tent activities contact Todd Raines at:
(949) 215-7796 - or lido3890@aol.com

For more information on the Arizona Tent activities contact
Karen Mauch: mauchk@yahoo.com



Clan Gregor Society Western USA Chapter



We have a Website where you can find:

[News](#) | [About Us](#) | [MacGregor Movie](#) | [Recipes](#) | [Calendar](#) | [Photos](#) | [Membership Form](#) | [Shop](#)

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Gregor Merchandise!**



Hooded Sweater



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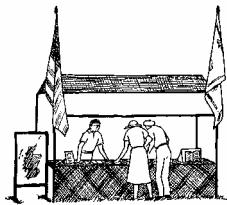
Mug



Mousepad

== All This and Much More! ==

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www.clangregorwest.com



Calendar Of Scottish Events



Important note: Always check and confirm the event prior to making travel arrangements etc. This is the most up to date information available at press time.

For updated information, go to : <http://www.saaa-net.org/> or <http://www.unitedscottishsociety.com/>



Date	Location	Event / Name	Sponsor / Host
May 26-27	Pomona, CA	75th annual USS Highland Games & National Championships	United Scottish Society
June 2-3	Ferndale, WA	Bellingham Highland Games	
TBA	Modesto, CA	Modesto Highland Games	Modesto Highland Games
June 8-9	Lehi, Utah	Utah Scottish Festival & Highland Games.	Utah Scottish Association
16-Jun	Prosser, WA	Prosser Scottish Festival	
TBA	Aurora, OR	Oregon Weights for Distance Championship	Oregon Highland Games
16-Jun	Campbell, CA	Campbell Highland Games	Campbell Highland Games
23-Jun	Graham, WA	Tacoma Highland Games	
June 23-24	Vista, CA	Scottish Highland Games of San Diego	SD Scottish Highland Games
July 14-15	Mt. Vernon, WA	Skagit Valley Highland Games	
July 9-10	Oakland, CA	Dunsmuir Highland Games	Dunsmuir House and Gardens
21-Jul	Portland, OR	Portland Highland Games (American Championships)	Portland Highland Games Assoc.
July 20-21	Flagstaff, AZ	Arizona Highland Celtic Festival	No. AZ Celtic Heritage Soc.
July 28-29	Enumclaw, WA	Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games	Seattle Scottish H.G.A.
Aug. 5	Spokane, WA	Spokane Highland Games	Spokane Games
Aug. 6-7	Monterey, CA	Monterey Highland Games	S.S.M.P.
Aug. 12	Greenbank, WA	Whidbey Island Highland Games	http://wihg.org .
Aug. 11	Redmond, OR	High Desert Celtic Festival and Scottish Highland Games	http://www.hdc.net
Aug. 19-20	Winston, OR	Douglas County Highland Games	Douglas County Scottish Soc.
TBA	Pleasanton, CA	C.C.S.F.'s 138th Annual Scottish Gathering and Games	C.C.S.F.
Sept. 8-9	Kelso, WA	Kelso Highlander Festival	
TBA	TBA	Black Sheep Fall Open and SAAA Judges Certification	Monterey Black Sheep
TBA	Fresno, CA	Fresno Highland Games	Scottish Soc. of Central Cal.
Sept. 22	Dixon, CA	Dixon Scottish Games	Dixon Scottish Games
TBA	Ben Lomond, CA	Loch Lomond Highland Games	Loch Lomond Celtic Society
Oct. 6-7	Reno, NV	Reno Celtic Celebration - Heavy Athletic Games	Reno Celtic Celebration
TBA	Ventura, CA	Seaside Highland Games	Seaside Highland Games