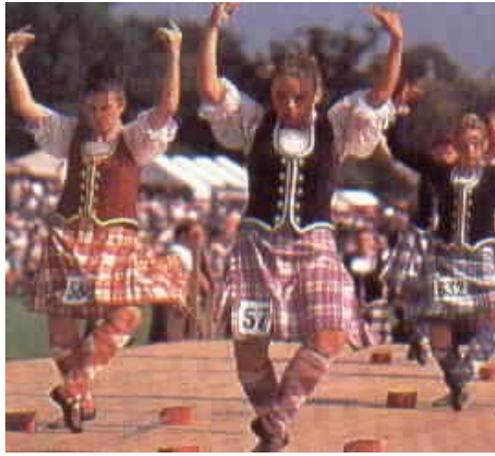


# Bringarach

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



## IMBOLC 2005



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!

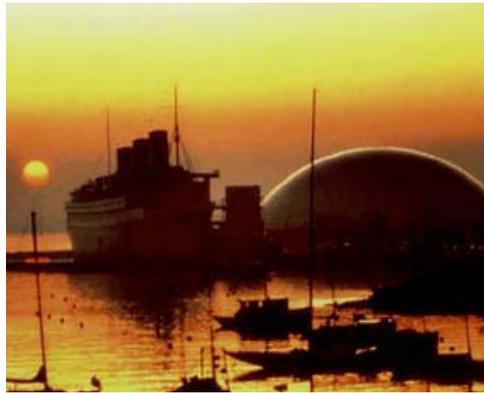
Thank you,

Carl Basile

Editor, Griogarach Newsletter



# IMBOLC



***Imbolc, also known as Candlemas and Groundhog's Day, occurs at the beginning of February. It marks the middle of Winter and holds the promise of Spring. The Goddess manifests as the Maiden and Brigid. The Groundhog is a manifestation of the God. Colors are White, and sometimes Red. It is a festival of spiritual purification and dedication.***

***Brigid is the Celtic Goddess of inspiration, healing, and smithcraft. She is one of the best examples of the survival of a Pagan Goddess into Christian times. She was canonized as St. Brigit by the Roman Catholic Church and various stories are given of Her origins and Her life. She was a Druid's daughter, described in the Carmina Gadelica as the "daughter of Dugall the brown." She is reported to have predicted the coming of Christianity and to have been baptized by St. Patrick. Popular folk tales describe Her as the midwife to the Virgin Mary, and She is thus always called upon by women in labor. The Christian St. Brigit was a nun, and later an Abbess, who founded an Abbey at Kildare in Ireland. She was said to have had the power to appoint the bishops of Her area, an unlikely role for an Abbess, made stranger by Her unusual requirement that these bishops also be practicing goldsmiths.***

***If Candlemas day be fair and bright,  
Winter will have another flight.  
If Candlemas day be shower and rain,  
Winter is gone and will not come again.***

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.

<b>List A: Accepted MacGregor Names and Septs</b>						
	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	
<b>List B: Aliases where documentary evidence shows a MacGregor connection</b>						
	Bain	Bower(s)	Dochart	Lakie	More	White
	Black	Callum	Dunn	Leckie	Roy	Whyte
	Beachley	Coleman	Landless	Lockie	Skinner	Willox
	Bowie	Comrie				
<b>List C: Aliases with little documentary evidence but a tradition of MacGregor connection</b>						
	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		
<b>List D: Other family names that are known to have been used as MacGregor aliases</b>						
	Balfour	Erskine	Johnson	MacEwan	MacNicol	Robertson
	Euchanan	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 or 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.



A Chapter of the  
Clan Gregor Society  
of Scotland

# CLAN GREGOR

## Western USA

Membership Director  
5003 Ocean View Blvd.  
La Canada, CA 91011-1239

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I qualify in accordance with Rule --- as explained below, and wish to apply for:

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

PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION.

After admission as a member, I agree to pay my annual membership dues no later than January 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Griogarach" 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: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTES / COMMENTS:

## From the Desk of the Chapter President:



Dear Brothers and Sisters of Clan Gregor,

Greetings, and welcome to a New Year. Hopefully you were all able to celebrate the occasion in an appropriate fashion, and, even more, were in good health the next day! I did hear of a number of people who did not manage to stay awake to see the New Year in; I only just managed it myself! I know this couldn't possibly be an indication of getting old, because I have decided not to participate in that! Did anyone celebrate in the traditional Scottish manner of "first footing"? Well, the New Year can bring new things, and this one has brought you a new President. (And you thought that lump of coal in your stocking was the bad news for the season!) Not only that, but we have a new Vice President, Todd Raines, who currently serves the Clan as tent co-ordinator in the south. And, speaking of which, we also have need of a new northern tent convener; after a great many years of faithful service, Don Motter has decided to retire from this position, and let someone else contribute to the Clan in this capacity. Any volunteers? Thankfully, Don is not depriving us of his company, his talents, his knowledge, and experience; he is only giving up the northern tent convener position. He intends to continue on council and as a loyal contributing member of the Clan.

Our first Council meeting of the year is scheduled for February 5th in Pismo Beach, being a reasonably central location considering the domiciles of the Council members concerned.

By way of interest, as of this time, our Western Chapter consists of 109 members, distributed approximately as follows:- 43% live in Northern California, 34% live in Southern California (the greater LA to San Diego area), 5% live in Central California, 2% live on the mid-California coast, 9% live in Arizona, with 1% each in Utah, Colorado, New Jersey, Nevada, Idaho, Mexico.

I was amazed when I officially joined Clan Gregor several years ago, to find in the statistics in the winter 2001 Clan Gregor Society Newsletter (our parent), that 70% of the (then) 1022 Clan Gregor members world-wide live in the USA and Canada, while only 13% live in Scotland, 10% in England, and much smaller percentages in various other parts of the world. (My own home country of New Zealand had 12 members; a whopping 1%!). So, brothers and sisters, this means that we here in this great country certainly are the major contributing force in ensuring that Clan Gregor "flourishes forever", and each of you can play a part in that. Clan Gregor needs each one of us; any, or all of your contributions to YOUR FAMILY can help. Feel welcome to volunteer your services, ideas, items of interest and other contributions to our newsletter, or to your organization, to help it function and provide successful and enjoyable Family associations for us all. I was reminded, when I was being "encouraged" to run for President, that "new blood", on an ongoing basis, is what keeps an organization "flourishing".

Although by most accounts the infamous "Clearances" were a far from happy situation, as the

old saying goes, "absence makes the heart grow fonder", and from what I've read in prose, poem, and song, this is certainly the case with ex-patriot and descendant Scots' feelings for their homeland. I know a number of you have had the privilege of visiting Scotland, some of you a number of times, for various significant events; I am envious of you, and have hopes & dreams of visiting there myself in the not-too-distant future. I am descended from Rob Roy; he was my sixth great-grandfather, and I have a great desire to explore the Trossachs and all areas associated with himself and the Clan, and to discover and peruse all sites, relics, artifacts, and history of the Clan I can find.

I have known of my MacGregor ancestry since I was a small child, and, thanks mostly to my mother and her parents, who are the MacGregor side of the family, have been collecting MacGregor family memorabilia since then. And, since I became an official member of the Clan, one of my greatest delights at the Games & Gatherings is to peruse the vendors and displays and search out anything I can find relating to our Family! However, in order to have the appropriate energy to accomplish this diligently, I am also "forced" to indulge frequently in the various offerings of sustenance and refreshment available at these events, such as I have fond memories of growing up with in my (British Commonwealth) home country! But, try as I might to consume enough of this fare, so far I haven't been able to summon up quite enough energy to participate in the "games" portion of the gatherings, comprising such events as "hurling the haggis", "tossing the telephone pole", etc! (Of course this still has nothing to do with getting old, because I'm not!)

I am most excited at the increased opportunity I now have to try and help our MacGregor Family Chapter to grow and flourish. Once again, I encourage each of us to participate in all the events that we can, to put forth our efforts to their successful functioning, and to submit news, articles of interest, ideas, suggestions, details of family accomplishments or successes, to your newsletter, or a member of Council as appropriate. This is OUR family organization. Help our family to grow; invite an inactive or non-member to an event.

I have enjoyed meeting and associating with many of you so far; I would like to meet and get to know as many more of you as possible. Let's all contribute whatever we can to make this a successful and enjoyable year for our MacGregor Family.

Beannachd leibh.

Glynn Clark.

**T**he Editor welcomes and encourages items for publication to the Griogarach. 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: Carl Basile, Editor – e-mail: [cbasile@socal.rr.com](mailto:cbasile@socal.rr.com)  
**Submission deadline for next issue: April 10, 2005**

## **THE CANDELIGHT CHRISTMAS WALK**

by Linda Corey

Folks gathered from near and far at Volcano, California, located in the Sierra Foothills east of Sacramento, on December 10, 2004 for the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Candlelight Christmas Walk. This much-loved event is not a Highland Games or Celtic Faire. It is simply a pilgrimage to Jackson and Volcano to meet old friends and make new ones, to socialize and relax, and to Walk and sign carols just after dark in the wee village of Volcano. Volcano is a tiny town at about 2000 feet elevation, perched on the side of a mountain that looked to the gold-miners like a Volcano, but it never was one. We carry on a tradition begun by the Mother Lode Scots and Jock MacLeod Thebalt (age 91), which at one time attracted thousands of attendees. Today, the Mother Lode Scots no longer host the event, but it happens anyway, as if by magic. Actually, it is many die-hard Candlelight Walkers who show up every year, the second Saturday of December in Volcano. Hot mulled cider, scones and brownies are served by Jock and others. Clan Society members, including Clan Gregor, meet and exchange news, hugs, small gifts and enjoy the warm camaraderie.

This past December 10, many Gregors traveled to Jackson and Volcano to enjoy sunny, dry weather and met at the old Union Inn for hot drinks and fellowship in the afternoon. At about 5:15 p.m., the procession formed in front of the Inn and headed off through the streets of Volcano, singing Christmas carols and carrying glowing candles. Around 100 or so people participated. The houses were all lit with holiday decorations and the residents listened with pleasure to the singing and laughter of the Candlelight Walkers. The event brings as much pleasure to the locals as it does to the visitors. The Walk ends at the tiny Catholic Church, where greetings and a blessing are given to the crowd by the priest and the stalwart Jock Thebalt. Everyone sings "Amazing Grace" was the last of the candlelight glimmers in the darkness. It is a beautiful and magical experience.

Following the Walk, people break up into groups and head off to banquets and gala Scottish dinners in Volcano and Jackson. This year, Clan Gregor members gathered at the Union Inn for a wonderful feast that included Haggis (once again provided by Jock), prime rib, lamb stew, and roasted turkey legs. We enjoyed beverages from the bar including a wide selection of imported Scottish ales and California wines. Throughout the evening, everyone at the Union Inn was joyously entertained by a group of Celtic musicians who performed traditional and lively Scottish tunes for our pleasure. The setting was cozy, warm, and jolly, and, as always, was the perfect start for the holiday season.

Members of Clan Gregor Society who attended included Don and Kim Motter, Bob andCarolynn Stoops, Glynn Clark, Patricia Baldwin, Jay and Dale Whyte, Jerry and Alice White, Linda Corey, Helen Gibbs, and Ed and Raiyn Moore. Friends in Clans Buchanan, MacDonald, McLeod, and the St. Andrews Society were also present.

With the weather so sunny and pleasant on that weekend, many in our group enjoyed shopping and touring the quaint towns of Sutter Creek, Plymouth, Jackson, Somerset, and various parts of Amador County. We discovered a Bed & Breakfast Inn at Somerset called MacGregor House, which is 3 stories and can accommodate a small group or two couples. It is set in horse country and includes stables for your horses or you can arrange for a trail ride through the owner. There is a large deck for outdoor dinners and parties.

We plan to do the Candlelight Christmas Walk again next December and will try to arrange for a private

dinner for 22 people at the Union Inn. The Union Inn is also a Bed & Breakfast with 4 guest rooms. I hope to see many of you at Volcano in December!



Jay and Carolynn



Jerry and Alice



Don and Linda



Jock Thebalt



Alice, Linda, Jerry and Carolynn



Patricia and Glynn



Ed and Rhylin

Photos: Linda Cory

*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](#)

**Visit Our Shop for Your Clan  
Gregor Merchandise!**



**Hooded Sweater**

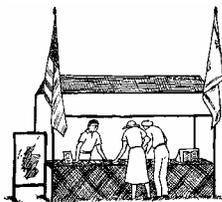
**Tee Shirt**

**Mug**

**Mousepad**

**=== All This and Much More! ===**

*Visit our website today at  
[www.clangregorwest.com](http://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/calendar.html>



Date	Location	Event Name	Sponsor / Host
Feb. 19-20	Long Beach, CA	Queen Mary Scottish Festival and Games	The RMS Queen Mary
Feb. 26-27	Mesa, AZ	Arizona Highland Games	Caledonian Society of Arizona
Mar. 12-13	Pomona, CA	L.A. County Irish Fair & Music Festival	Friends of the Irish
Apr. 2	Bakersfield, CA	Bakersfield Scottish Highland Gathering and Games	Kern County Scottish Society
Apr. 2-3	Waikiki, HI	Hawaiian Scottish Festival - On the beach at Waikiki	Hawaiian Scottish Assoc.
Apr. 16-17	Las Vegas, NV	Las Vegas Celtic Gathering and Highland	Games Las Vegas Celtic Society
Apr. 22-24	Woodland, CA	Sacramento Valley Scottish Games	Caledonian Club of Sacramento
May-05	Prescott, AZ	Prescott Whisky Games	Clan MacNab
May 28-29	Costa Mesa, CA	Costa Mesa Highland Games	United Scottish Society
June-05	Modesto, CA	Modesto Highland Games	Modesto Highland Games
June-05	Campbell, CA	Campbell Highland Games	Campbell Highland Games
June 25-26	Vista, CA	Scottish Highland Games of San Diego	SD Scottish Highland Games
July 9-10	Oakland, CA	Dunsmuir Highland Games	Dunsmuir House and Gardens
July-05	Portland, OR	Portland Highland Games (American Championships)	Portland Highland Games Assoc.
July-05	Flagstaff, AZ	Arizona Highland Celtic Festival	No. AZ Celtic Heritage Soc.
July 23-24	Reno, NV	Reno Celtic Celebration - Heavy Athletic Games	Reno Celtic Celebration
July 30-31	Enumclaw, WA	Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games	Seattle Scottish H.G.A.
Aug. 6-7	Monterey, CA	Monterey Highland Games	S.S.M.P.
Aug. 19-21	Winston, OR	Douglas County Highland Games	Douglas County Scottish Soc.
Sept. 3-4	Pleasanton, CA	C. C. S.F.'s 138th Annual Scottish Gathering and Games	C. C. S.F.
Sept. 17	Fresno, CA	Fresno Highland Games	Scottish Soc. of Central Cal.
Sept. 24	Dixon, CA	Dixon Scottish Games	Dixon Scottish Games
Oct. 1	Ben Lomond, CA	Loch Lomond Highland Games	Loch Lomond Celtic Society
Oct. 8-9	Ventura, CA	Seaside Highland Games	Seaside Highland Games

The Northern and Sierra Nevada schedule was compiled by:  
Don Motter, Northern Tent  
John Pechin, Sierra Nevada Tent.

Contact Don Motter at: [Mcgregortuleburg@aol.com](mailto:Mcgregortuleburg@aol.com), or  
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Contact John Pechin at: [john.pechin@grassvalleygroup.com](mailto:john.pechin@grassvalleygroup.com).



For additional games information try: [www.maclachlans.org](http://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](mailto:lido3890@aol.com)

For more information on the Arizona Tent activities contact  
Karen Mauch at [mauchk@yahoo.com](mailto:mauchk@yahoo.com)

