

# Bringarach

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



## SAMHAIN 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



# SAMHAIN



**Samhain** marks one of the two great doorways of the Celtic year, for the Celts divided the year into two seasons: the light and the dark, at Beltane on May 1st and Samhain on November 1st. Some believe that Samhain was the more important festival, marking the beginning of a whole new cycle, just as the Celtic day began at night. For it was understood that in dark silence comes whisperings of new beginnings, the stirring of the seed below the ground. Whereas Beltane welcomes in the summer with joyous celebrations at dawn, the most magically potent time of this festival is November Eve, the night of October 31st, known today of course, as Halloween.

**Samhain** (Scots Gaelic: *Samhuinn*) literally means “summer’s end.” In Scotland and Ireland, Halloween is known as *Oíche Shamhna*, while in Wales it is *Nos Calan Gaeaf*, the eve of the winter’s calend, or first. With the rise of Christianity, Samhain was changed to *Hallowmas*, or *All Saints’ Day*, to commemorate the souls of the blessed dead who had been canonized that year, so the night before became popularly known as Halloween, *All Hallows Eve*, or *Hollantide*. November 2nd became *All Souls Day*, when prayers were to be offered to the souls of all who the departed and those who were waiting in Purgatory for entry into Heaven. Throughout the centuries, pagan and Christian beliefs intertwine in a gallimaufry of celebrations from Oct 31st through November 5th, all of which appear both to challenge the ascendancy of the dark and to revel in its mystery.

For information about being published in the Clan Gregor Newsletter contact:  
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Editor  
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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.



# CLAN GREGOR WESTERN USA

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

A Chapter of the  
Clan Gregor Society  
of Scotland

Membership Director  
849 River Road  
Modesto, CA 95351

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 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 Griograch" 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. M', Mc and Mac are considered interchangeable.

## From the Desk of the Chapter President:



Dear Brothers and Sisters of Clan Gregor,  
Hopefully you are all enjoying the change of season. While driving to and from breakfast with my older children today, I was taking particular note of, and enjoying the fine display of autumn colours of the trees in my area, the Sierra foothills east of Sacramento. When I wrote the President's message for the previous issue, my two youngest daughters were visiting with me for the first half of the school summer vacation, and I reported that I was "out of the Games loop". They unfortunately have long since returned to Texas, (about the third week of July), so I was able to attend a number of Games since then. The first was the Monterey Games on August 6th & 7th; not very large, but in a very nice venue in a park with lots of green grass and large shade trees. Although we did not have the official Clan tent there, there were quite a few of us Gregors in attendance, and also quite a few Gregor's dogs, under cover of their own tents! We had a very enjoyable day at this event, with very pleasant mild temperatures to go with the scenery. This was the last California Games that Carolynn and Bob Stoops attended before moving to Oregon, and the main reason we attended. They were charming hosts as always, both at the Games on the Saturday, and in escorting us around the sights, (and eating establishments) of the area on Sunday. We miss them, but are still in frequent correspondence with them in their new home.

Speaking of them, they are intending to journey down from Oregon for the upcoming annual VOLCANO CHRISTMAS WALK on Saturday the 10th December, as are Linda and John, and I encourage all of you who can to join with us for this Scottish event, and hopefully dinner together afterwards. A great opportunity for us Clan members to reunite before the rush of the Christmas season really sets in.

Following the Monterey Games were of course the Pleasanton Games on Labor Weekend, with a large attendance by Clan Members over the two days, including Mary Tyler all the way from Southern California, and Joe Foss who normally lives in Panama. The weather this year was very pleasantly not-as-hot as it has frequently been in the past, and we felt that the whole event was a lot less stressful than usual, partly due to the weather, and possibly because there was no AGM included on this occasion (it was scheduled for later, at the Seaside Games in Ventura). Chris and Jeff did a great job of putting-up and taking-down the tent, assisted by many others, who also helped staff it. It was a great get-together of kith and kin, and we had a very enjoyable weekend. Jeff won the kilted running-race.

The next event I attended was the afore-mentioned Seaside Highland Games at Ventura on the 8th and 9th of October, which also included our Annual General Meeting, and a brief Council Meeting. Patricia and I made a four-day weekend of it as it was a considerable distance, as the southern cousins know from attending the Pleasanton Games! It was most enjoyable meeting

some of our southern members for the first time, and reuniting with those we knew already. The venue was also most delightful, being in a park right next to the beach, and when one was not behind the buildings, the breeze brought the wonderful smell of the ocean! Although not a very large Games, there was a lot of enthusiasm from the clans participating. Our Annual General meeting took place at our Southern Tent, shortly after 3.00pm on the Saturday afternoon, with lots of our members in attendance. Amongst other business, both Don Motter and Carolynne McGregor-Long were re-appointed to council, and it was decided to hold next year's AGM in conjunction with the Fresno Games. We had time for only a very short Council Meeting following the AGM, and the only business completed at that was to re-appoint all the current officers viz; Jerry White as Treasurer, Todd Raines as Vice-President, and myself as President, with the expectation that another separate Council Meeting would be held during the first quarter of 2006, at the enjoyable and successful Pismo Beach location again. We are still short a Secretary, following the move out-of-state and resignation of our former esteemed Secretary, Carolynn Black-Stoops. Any volunteers? Following the Council Meeting on the Saturday afternoon, many of us assembled at the Hungry Hunter restaurant for dinner together. I felt that the whole weekend was very successful, thanks in large part to Todd's planning and arranging, and the uniting of many northern and southern cousins made for a very amiable and enjoyable occasion, and strengthened the ties between us.

Although the advent of autumn indicates a slowing-down of the Scottish events calendar, particularly the Games, we have an annual Tartan ball coming up next Saturday, the 19th of November, held in Sacramento, followed by the afore-mentioned Volcano Christmas Walk scheduled for Saturday 10th December. We have reservations for up to 20 for dinner at 7.30pm at a restaurant in nearby Pine Grove following the Christmas Walk, and at this stage know of only about 12 - 14 of our members who have indicated they expect to be there for the weekend, so if any of you who don't usually, or haven't before attended this event, please feel welcome to do so, and notify me if you wish to be included for dinner. The "Christmas Walk" activity, which starts earlier in the day, includes assembling, and fraternising, and eating, and drinking, and socialising, sometimes listening to Scottish music, viewing historic displays & re-enactments, patronising the occasional vendor, etc. The actual "Walk" starts just after dark, when the hundred or two folks present light up candles and walk in procession through the streets of this quaint historic gold-mining-era town, hopefully led by a piper, (not always; but this year we are supposed to be fortunate to have one), ending up at the local Catholic Church, where the assembled multitude is blessed by the Priest. After which, the crowd slowly disperses to go to various eating and drinking establishments to celebrate the season, or things Scottish, or old friendships, or....anything and everything that serves as an excuse for a party!

My best wishes to you all for the upcoming festive season, starting with the very appropriate Thanksgiving celebration, and continuing through Christmas, Hogmanay, First Footing, etc.

May all of us Gregors continue to flourish.....forever.

Regards to you all,

Glynn Clark, President,

Western USA Chapter of Clan Gregor.

**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: January 10, 2006**

### **Newsletter On-Line**

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





# GÆLIC JOURNEY

Halò, is Mise Cynthia:

The sound is always longer if there's an accent on a vowel and remember C is always a hard K sound.

Dialogue: Seo mo caraid...

Màiri:  
(Mar-i)

Halò Coinneach! Feasgar Math.  
(Hal-o Konyuch! Fehs-ghar Mah.)

Coinneach:

Feasgar Math!  
(Fehs-ghar Mah!)

Màiri:

A Coinneach. Seo mo caraid, Mòrag, à Amaireaga.  
(A Kon-yuch. Show mo car-ahge, Mor-ag a A-mer-rig-a)

Coinneach:

Fàilte a Mòrag!  
(fal-geer a Mor-ag!)

Mòrag:

Halò, Tha mi Toilichte ur Coinneachadh.  
(Hal-o ha mi Tol-ige-er ur Ken-ur-hech)

Coinneach:

Mo Creach, Tha Gàidhlig Agad!  
(Mo Crehch, ha Gah-lic Aked!)

Mòrag:

Tha Gàidhlig Agus Buerla agam.  
(ha Gah-lic Ah-gus Be-ur-la Akam)

Mary:

Hello Kenneth! Good afternoon.

Kenneth:

Good Afternoon!

Mary:

Kenneth, this is my friend Morag from America.

Kenneth:

Welcome Morag!

Morag:

Hello. I'm pleased to meet you.

Kenneth:

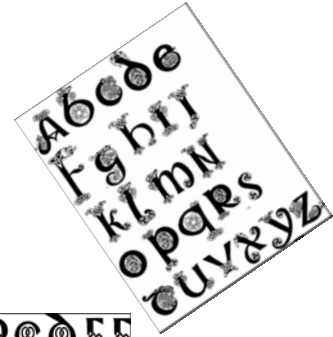
My goodness! You speak Gaelic!

Morag:

I speak (have) Gaelic and English.

Remember:

Feasgar Mah = Good Afternoon or Good Evening



*Clan Gregor Society Western USA Chapter*



**We have a Website where you can find:**

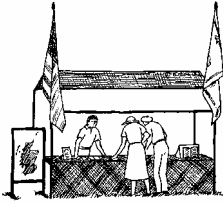
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**Visit Our Shop for Your Clan  
Gregor Merchandise!**



**=== 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/> or <http://www.unitedscottishsociety.com/>



Date	Location	Event / Name	Sponsor / Host
Feb. 18-19	Long Beach, CA	Queen Mary Scottish Festival and Games	The RMS Queen Mary Queen Mary Entry Form
Feb. 25 - 26	Mesa, AZ	Arizona Highland Games	Caledonian Society of Arizona
Mar. 11 - 12	Angels Camp, CA	Calaveras Celtic Festival	Calaveras Celtic Festival
Mar. 11 - 12	Pomona, CA	L.A. County Irish Fair & Music Festival	Friends of the Irish
Apr. 1-2	Waikiki, HI	Hawaiian Scottish Festival - On the beach at Waikiki	Hawaiian Scottish Assoc.
Apr. 2	Bakersfield, CA	Bakersfield Scottish Highland Gathering and Games	Kern County Scottish Society
Apr. 8-9	Las Vegas, NV	Las Vegas Celtic Gathering and Highland Games	Las Vegas Celtic Society
Apr. 29 - 30	Camarillo, CA	Black Sheep Spring Open @ Camarillo Celtic Fair	
May 27-28	Pomona, CA	Pomona Highland Games	United Scottish Society
June 3	Ferndale, WA	Bellingham Highland Games	
June 4	Modesto, CA	Modesto Highland Games	Modesto Highland Games
June 10	Utah	Utah Scottish Festival & Highland Games	
June 17	Prosser, WA	Prosser Scottish Festival	
June 18	Campbell, CA	Campbell Highland Games	Campbell Highland Games
June 18	Aurora, OR	Oregon Weigh for Distance Championship	Oregon Highland Games
June 23 - 24	Graham, WA	Tacoma Highland Games	
June 24 - 25	Vista, CA	Scottish Highland Games of San Diego	SD Scottish Highland Games
July 8-9	Mt. Vernon, WA	Skagit Valley Highland Games	
July 9 - 10	Oakland, CA	Dunsmuir Highland Games	Dunsmuir House and Gardens
July 16	Flagstaff, AZ	Arizona Highland Celtic Festival	No. AZ Celtic Heritage Soc.
July 16	Portland, OR	Portland Highland Games (American Championships)	Portland Highland Games Assoc.
July 22 - 23	Reno, NV	Reno Celtic Celebration - Heavy Athletic Games	Reno Celtic Celebration
July 29 - 30	Enumclaw, WA	Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games	Seattle Scottish H.G.A.
Aug. 5	Spokane, WA	Spokane Highland Games	Spokane Games
Aug. 6	Aurora, OR	WEST COAST HEAVY EVENTS	Oregon Highland Games
Aug. 6 - 7	Monterey, CA	Monterey Highland Games	S.S.M.P.
Aug. 12	San Diego, CA	Black Sheep Summer Open	San Diego Black Sheep
Aug. 12	Greenbank, WA	Whidbey Island Highland Games	<a href="http://wihg.org">http://wihg.org</a>
Aug. 12	Bend, OR	High Desert Celtic Festival and Scottish Highland Games	<a href="http://www.hdcs.net">http://www.hdcs.net</a>
Aug. 19 - 20	Winston, OR	Douglas County Highland Games	Douglas County Scottish Soc.
Aug. 26 - 27	Sweet Home, OR	Celtic Festival and Highland Games	
Sept. 3 - 4	Pleasanton, CA	C.C.S.F.'s 138th Annual Scottish Gathering and Games	C.C.S.F.
Sept. 9 - 10	Kelso, WA	Kelso Highlander Festival	
Sept. 16	Fresno, CA	Fresno Highland Games	Scottish Soc. of Central Cal.
Sept. 16	San Francisco, CA	Black Sheep Fall Open	Monterey Black Sheep
Sept. 16	John Day, OR	Eastern Oregon Highland Games	
Sept. 24	Dixon, CA	Dixon Scottish Games	Dixon Scottish Games
Oct. 1	Ben Lomond, CA	Loch Lomond Highland Games	Loch Lomond Celtic Society
Oct. 7 -8	Ventura, CA	Seaside Highland Games	Seaside Highland Games
Dec. 2	San Diego, CA	Black Sheep Winter Open	San Diego Black Sheep

The Northern and Sierra Nevada schedule was compiled by:  
Candace Sykes: Northern Tent  
John Pechin: Sierra Nevada Tent.

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

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)

