

Bringarach

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



SAMHAIN 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



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:

Carl Basile

Editor

cbasile@socal.rr.com

**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 |
| | 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 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 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 Gregor Cousins,

I hope you are all enjoying the Samhain colors as I am.

In my last message I reported the sad news that Doyle Long had a brain hemorrhage that caused a stroke, but had no more details at that stage. He was transported to a clinic in Santa Barbara for initial diagnosis and treatment; after he returned from there to a care home in Visalia, Patricia and I were able to drive south to visit him. We met Carolyne there late on the Saturday morning, and visited for a while with Doyle, who was reasonably cheerful and alert, and was still that way when we visited again in the afternoon. That evening, the three of us went back to their place in Pixley, and spent an enjoyable evening reminiscing with Carolyne, and then stayed the night there. Late next morning we went back to Visalia to see Doyle, only to find that he had had another stroke sometime between when we left the previous day, and 7.00am that morning, which no-one had reported. When we brought this to the attention of the supervisor, he very hastily got his act together, and had the paramedics there very promptly. They checked him out, and transported him to a hospital in Visalia. We spent several hours there while they checked him further, then Patricia and I had to drive back home.

Unfortunately, over the next few days, the doctor at the hospital was not very helpful, or encouraging. Then after the few days, the hospital wanted to discharge him, as the Medicare had run out. Fortunately, at this stage, we were able to get in touch with our Clan Members Jerry White and Todd Raines, and get some info on getting Doyle into the Veterans Hospital in Fresno; they came and got him very promptly, and gave him much better care than he had got to date, including over the next few weeks sending Doyle to the Bay area for more specialized testing and diagnosis. He was returned to the Veterans Hospital in Fresno, and is currently in the Geriatric Unit. Carolyne is presently fighting to get him back on rehab, which they discontinued. Ed, Candy, and Chris Sykes, with Patricia and myself, were able to visit him there in conjunction with the Fresno Games. We had a very pleasant prolonged visit with Carolyne and Doyle, and were able to take him outside, (into a garden area), for the first time since his initial stroke.

Once again, he was quite cheerful, following along with our conversations, laughing, and generally enjoying the visit. Unfortunately, his communication is very limited, and very frustrating to him. Carolyne, logically, is the one who understands him the most. Don and Kimi Motter have also been able to visit him. Unfortunately, Carolyne is "running herself ragged" trying to keep up with taking care of Doyle, and visiting him almost every day, along with trying to handle the normal household affairs they both used to do. They had planned to fix up their large house they had lived in for years. As you can imagine, any visits anyone could arrange to see her, and/or Doyle would be much appreciated, and she could use all the love, sympathy, consolation, encouragement, cards, letters, and prayers we can send.

As I reported in my last message, our next Games was going to be those in Pleasanton, and the weather was back to it's usual overheat. (It was very pleasantly 10 – 15 degrees cooler than usual last

year). Patricia and I got there Friday afternoon, only to find that our tent co-ordinator was already a victim of the excess temperatures; he was suffering from dehydration, and had to be ministered to by a Campbell before we got there! We had a pretty good attendance of Clan Members there on the Saturday, although Patricia had a case of heat stroke in the late afternoon. There were less Members there Sunday, but lots of visitors and Clan relatives, over both days. Joy Shropshire was again competing in the Highland Dancing, and we were able to watch and support her as she was awarded another "Best Overall" in her (beginner) class, and her promotion to "Novice" for her next event.

Said next event was the Fresno Games on the 15th September, at Roeding Park right in Fresno itself; a change from the venue of previous years out in the country next to the river. It was actually a very good site, with lots of trees for shade for Clan tents, vendors, and events, and everything was fairly compactly arranged, and very convenient. Our Clan tent was right next to the Highland Dancing stage, and we had a great view for all of Joy's events, and she again took "Best Overall" in her new "Novice" class. This was her last event of the year for this proud Gregor Family. Congratulations to Joy, and them for supporting her.

Patricia and I were next able to represent the Clan at the Grass valley Celtic Games on September 29th. This event actually started on Friday, and was severely rained upon Friday night; when we got there late Saturday morning, people had clothes, bedding, etc hanging out to dry in the campground, and many of the vendors had wet wares, clothes, and other equipment, with several tents collapsing. Fortunately, the Saturday and Sunday had beautiful sunny warm weather to dry things out. Our Sierra tent co-ordinator, John Pechin had his usually well-presented Gregor tent, and we had an enjoyable reunion with him, along with enjoying the food, vendors, food, fellowship, food, and music and entertainment well into the night. Unfortunately, due to an over-abundance of activities, we had to forego the Loch Lomond Games the first weekend in October, and the Ventura Games the second weekend of October. Our Vice President Todd Raines conducted our AGM at the latter, and as only one northern Member could make it, it was decided to hold the AGM in Fresno again next year, that being the most central event for everyone. Mark it on your calendars now!

The last event that I know of for the year is the Christmas Walk the first weekend in December. For many years this was held in Volcano, but the town seems to have lost interest, so the Mother Lode Scots are organizing this in Plymouth, Northern California, and the town is reported to be welcoming us. The Gregors and Buchanans have elected to support this, with dinner together afterwards, breakfast together next morning, followed by shopping in nearby Gold Rush towns as in days gone by. There have been many years of fond memories of these activities when the event was held in Volcano. Hopefully, with enough support, this alternative venue can produce the same.

Well, it seems that the year is almost over; it sure seemed to fly by. As there won't be another newsletter before then, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and/or a happy holiday season, and I look forward to seeing many of you at the Scottish events in the New Year.

Regards, Glynn.





The 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

Submission deadline for next issue: January 10, 2008

Newsletter On-Line

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



Following in the Inventors' Footsteps

CLAIRE SMITH

SIR Alexander Fleming, the man who harnessed the power of penicillin, has been voted Scotland's greatest inventor after a poll in *The Scotsman*. Fleming won by a clear margin from James Clerk Maxwell, the eminent physicist, with telecoms pioneer Alexander Graham Bell in third place.

Mike Gilson, editor of *The Scotsman*, says: "We are delighted that so many readers took the time to take part in the poll - as well as those we originally listed, another 15 different suggestions were made, which reinforces the incredible wealth of inventiveness that Scotland has given to the world."

National Museums of Scotland director Dr Gordon Rintoul was delighted when the inventors' poll was launched - and today, in conjunction with the national museums, we offer a readers' guide to seeing some key artefacts linked with our greatest inventors.

"I think this was a terrific series and very much needed," says Dr Rintoul. "I don't think in Scotland we have really made enough of the incredible number of inventions and innovations made by Scots. I think people from across Scotland don't realise what we have here. The national museums have one of the best science and technology collections in Europe and a lot of that stems from our great tradition of inventors and innovators."

Sir Alexander Fleming presented the museum with his Nobel medal and the museum recently acquired an original sample of penicillin mould, signed on the back by the man who became one of the first science superstars. Dr Rintoul says: "I think it is amazing that something like that sample still exists. But if I have to have a favourite object I would say it is the Fleming medal, because penicillin and antibiotics have had such a huge impact on the health and wellbeing of so many."

The Nobel medal is not on display at the moment, but will form part of a new exhibition called the Discoveries Gallery, which is part of the £46 million Royal Museum project. Dr Rintoul hopes the new exhibition will encourage pride in Scotland's history of innovation and inspire a whole new generation of young scientists. "People may have heard of James Watt but may not know of James Goodfellow, who invented the automated cash machine, or Sir James Black, who invented beta blockers. You can read about these things in books or see things on television but seeing the real physical item brings things home in a much more meaningful fashion.

"That is what we are aiming to do with the Discoveries Gallery. If you can see Bell's telephone or Fleming's Nobel medal, it will have more impact. We need to move away from the idea of Scotland being known for tartan and whisky and acknowledge the impact Scots have had on the world."

Dr Rintoul says one of the public's favourite items on show at the museums is Dolly the Sheep. The first mammal cloned from an adult cell was acquired in 2003 and can now be seen in a rotating glass case alongside a working model of James Watt's original steam engine. As a discovery that changed the course of science Dolly was already world-famous, but even museum staff were slightly surprised by how many visitors began appearing at the information desk and asking: "Where's Dolly?"

"I suppose it is rather funny how a sheep can become a star," says Dr Rintoul. "But the buzz across the world when Dolly came into our care was amazing. We had Japanese tourists photographing each other in front of the case."

Source: <http://news.scotsman.com>

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:

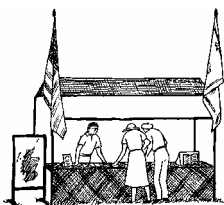
[News](#) | [About Us](#) | [MacGregor Movie](#) | [Recipes](#) | [Calendar](#) | [Photos](#) | [Membership Form](#) | [Shop](#)

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



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

*Visit our website today at
www.clangregorwest.com*



Calendar Of Scottish Events



Important note: At press time, the ASGF site is apparently the only one with at least a partial listing of games for 2008. These are included herein for reference purposes.

Always check and confirm the event prior to making travel arrangements etc. For updated information, go to : <http://www.saaa-net.org/>, <http://www.unitedscottishsociety.com/games.htm>, or <http://www.asgf.org/4.html>



February, 2008 Games

| | |
|-------|--|
| 16-17 | Queen Mary Scottish Festival Long Beach, CA |
| TBA | Celtic Concert Novato, CA |
| 23-24 | Arizona Highland Games Scottsdale, AZ |

March, 2008 Games

| | |
|------|-------------------------------------|
| 8-10 | Scottish/Irish Faire Midland, TX |
|------|-------------------------------------|

April, 2008 Games

| | |
|-----|---|
| 5-6 | San Antonio Highland Games San Antonio, TX |
| TBA | Tartan Day 2008 c/o East Bay Scottish Association Newark, CA |

May, 2008 Games

| | |
|-------|---|
| 9-11 | Houston Scottish Highland Games and Celtic Festival Bellaire, TX |
| 24-25 | USS Highland Games Costa Mesa, CA |