

CANADIAN MACGREGOR
NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

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A newsletter
by, for and
about Canadian
Gregors,
their heritage
and their
kin.

Maple Leaf MacGregors

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1

APRIL, 2014

Greetings from the Chair

Welcome Clansmen to another New Year. Perhaps we were all hoping that 2014 would be known as a year of saner decisions, wiser use of resources and greater love, mercy and forbearance for all humanity. The Olympics gave us some hope, but after hearing the news from the Ukraine one would wonder. Our world could sure use a healthy dose of what my MacGregor Granny used to call “higher order thinking” in the management of its daily affairs. I for one can’t believe we’re already into another New Year. Life sure does go by fast these days. This past year I enjoyed reading about the development of Canada through the histories of the North West Company and Hudson Bay Company and their expansion of the fur trade. Largely dominated by the likes of David Thompson, Alexander Mackenzie, Simon McGillivray and legions of other Highland Scots (including many MacGregors), the challenges of isolation, privations and communication seem so distant when juxtaposed against the immediacy of modern life and technology. It’s simply impossible to fathom what it was like for our forefathers to send a letter from the frontier to loved ones across the ocean that, by the time it was carried east by canoe, carried by ship, delivered, read, responded to and returned by the same conveyances, took over two years to reach its destination! I can’t help but wonder if striking a better balance between the pace of life and technology isn’t a challenge worth considering in this new year. With that said, I am pleased to report that things are going very well. We continue to attract new members and raise the Clan banner wherever a good opportunity presents itself. This past year I spent some time digging into noteworthy Canadian MacGregors, their lives and contributions. For example, take one John Macgregor. Consistently, the canoe, the beaver and the maple leaf rank as Canada’s most enduring icons.

Continued on pg 2

Greetings Continued

*In 1866 John
MacGregor
published a book
on canoeing.*

Did you know that the canoe, long considered to be the unique and quintessential Canadian symbol, exploded its worldwide popularity in 1866 after John Macgregor published a book on canoeing famous waterways in a canoe he named "The Rob Roy?" Often referred to as the father of modern canoeing, his book became an overnight best seller in England, United States and Canada and popularized recreational canoeing as we know it today. Some of these and other MacGregors will be featured in future issues. As we enter 2014, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for being a member of the Clan Gregor Society. Thank yourself for your interest in understanding our past and facing our future. By supporting our efforts you pass along a pathway to Gregor descendants yet unknown and unborn; you pass a pathway and heritage that can help them understand where they came from and what they are made of genetically. With this in mind, I remind you that unless you have signed up for multiple years, annual membership renewals are now due. Please send along your cheque for \$37.00 to: CGSCC, PO Box 232, Dorset, ON POA 1E0. Renewals are on the honour system and so this volunteer chairman will greatly appreciate it if you send these through in a timely fashion, thereby relieving him of the unsavory job of chasing down stragglers. This is especially important as I save the Clan money by bundling all subscriptions together in a batch transfer to Scotland in British Pounds to cut down on currency exchange rates. At the end of the day, we are only as good as the people who join and participate. In closing, I would like to say thanks to our Councillors Annie Stadden and Judy Heynsbrok for their guidance and efforts on behalf of the Canadian Chapter. And special thanks to Andrew Wilhelm-Boyles for serving a stint as our first Editor, and to Pamela Stadden for taking up the Editor's job with this new edition. On a personal note, I am very excited that we have some Chapter members representing Canada at the Gathering in Sterling this summer. We hope to share this experience with you in the next issue.

Yours, aye,

Wayne MacGregor Parker

Celtic Life International Interview

EXCERPTS FROM AN INTERVIEW FOR THE JAN.2014 ISSUE

Editor's Note: Celtic Life International www.celticlifecom.com is a unique Canadian magazine published in Halifax for Celts of all stripes. It is an interesting, well written publication and we do not hesitate to recommend a subscription to our members. Clan Gregor is the featured clan in the current issue. You can go to <http://www.celticlifintl.com/jan2014> and read the full article on Page 89. Immediately following is the clan listing and contact information that we recently purchased.

Response from Wayne MacGregor Parker, Chairman Clan Gregor Society Canada Chapter

How long have you been involved in the Clan and in what capacity?

I have been active in the Clan Gregor Society for over 21 years. I first joined the Great Lakes Chapter based in Ohio, where I served in a number of capacities including Chapter Chairman for seven years. In 2003 I returned to my home in Ontario Canada. I currently have the honor of serving as elected Chairman of the newly formed Clan Gregor Society of Scotland - Canada Chapter.

*MacGregors
despite them!*

What inspired you to get involved, and stay involved?

My love of history and a strong desire to learn as much as I could about the truth of the tragic yet romantic past of Clan Gregor brought me to the Clan Gregor Society. Unfortunately, a lot of bad history has been promulgated as fact and the story of the Clan has been misunderstood and misinterpreted as a result. I was seeking a better understanding and I wanted to find my own roots and place in the story of MacGregor. In the Society in Scotland I found both. From the outset, I was thrilled by the focus on properly understanding our history and heritage. I was given a list of 10 books every Gregor should read. At the same time I was advised to not take everything I read (in any given account) as the whole story, that it was best to explore topics from many points of view because in doing so a clearer and more rounded picture would emerge. This made sense and an amazing journey of discovery and purpose was launched.

Since that time the Society has been a leader in actively using DNA to probe and test historical connections or confirm Gregor origins. Researching, finding and documenting important structures on our traditional clan lands continues. Important research papers and meaningful clan related information is routinely shared amongst membership. We have a wonderful newsletter that is robust with stories of interest to Gregors worldwide. Gatherings are held from time to time to bring us together.

Celtic Life Continued

Here at last is a Society on the move. I appreciate the fact that we are much more than a Scottish social club.

What is the Clan's origins and history?

This is a big story. Too big for this interview so I'm going to focus on Gregors in Canada. One of the driving forces behind formation of a Canadian Chapter was to bring forward the contributions, past and present, of Gregors in their new country. This includes our current young people and their involvement in the modern world.

Canada has a higher percentage of people of direct Scottish decent than any other nation. In Great Scots! How the Scots Invented Canada, author Matthew Shaw offers that Canada is Scotland's answer to British rule as it provided an outlet for the ambition and ingenuity of Scottish immigrants, and in the process, the Scots built a great nation. True, Scottish explorers, traders and pioneers were the vanguard of entrepreneurs opening up this vast rugged land, but as the forward to Shaw's book notes, "...it was in politics, and in particular the act of Confederation that the Scottish genius shone the brightest. Indeed, Canada's existence as an independent state in North America, a nation apart from the American super power, is a balancing act that owes much to a Scottish sense of the possible, the Scottish style of management and their own long history of living in the lee of a great power."*

The same can be said of Clan Gregor. A little research reveals that Gregors have carried this same spirit forward in the development of Canada. Here are just a few bearing the surname of MacGregor. No doubt there are many more:

- John McGregor, one of the first permanent residents in Canada when the *Hector* landed in Nova Scotia
- James MacGregor, first Gaelic speaking Protestant minister in Nova Scotia
- Barry MacGregor, actor and director of the Shaw and Stratford Festivals
- Bruce MacGregor, Hockey player and Edmonton Oiler's Assistant Manager for four Stanley Cups
- Gordon MacGregor, Builder of the Ford Motor Co. of Canada
- James D. McGregor, pioneer in development of agriculture and stock breeding
- James G. MacGregor, historian and popular author of the history of western Canada
- James K McGregor doctor and founder of the McGregor Clinic

Celtic Life Int. Interview cont.

- John MacGregor - Canada's most distinguished soldier in WW I, awarded the Victoria Cross
- Roy MacGregor - Columnist and popular author of over 30 best-selling books
- Lillian MacGregor- Daughter of a chief, mentor to First Nations women, lifelong Victorian Order of Nurses, Olympic torch bearer, recipient of the Order of Canada and personal guest of Queen Elizabeth II for service to Canada.

Without question, many unsung MacGregors figured prominently in Canadian history and we need to understand and honour their achievements both modest and bold. It is for this reason that we have formed a Canadian Chapter.

The Honourable Duff Robin P.C., C.C., O.M., L.L.*

How has it evolved over the years?

The new Canada Chapter was formed and recognized by our Chief, Sir Malcolm and Council as a Chapter of the Clan Gregor Society in September 2012. This was built around a nucleus of Society members present in Canada. There has been an independent Canadian Clan Gregor organization in Canada since the early 1980's. This group has done a wonderful job of keeping the flame of MacGregor alive and we look forward to building on this strong foundation. While effective as an organization, it was never established as a chapter of the larger worldwide Clan Gregor Society formed in 1822 and under the leadership and direction of the Chief and Council in Scotland. Under the umbrella of the Society, Canadian Gregors can now participate more fully in bringing the history, heritage and expanded resources of the Society to life as part of this larger community. We are exploring the benefits of merging the two organizations and are committed to working out the practical details subject to each respective organization's needs and by-laws. Several Canadian Gregor Society members have already joined the Chapter and more are anticipated in the near future.

How many members are actively involved?

We currently have 30 members on the active list and another 44 or more in consideration.

Where are Clan members from and how do they find you?

Our members are from across Canada. We have active memberships in 7 Provinces and two expatriates living in the USA. The Society is most interested in working within the Canadian Scottish community to strengthen ties and help coordinate efforts to keep our connections with Scotland alive and meaningful for the future. The Chapter focus is to bring to light and emphasize the many significant contributions of Canadian MacGregors, while sharing and disseminating information about the history and heritage of the Clan, events and related things of interest to engage Gregors here in Canada. Our Newsletter, The Maple Leaf MacGregor is published bi-annually in the late winter and fall.

Celtic Life Interview Cont.

Inquiries should be directed to:
The Clan Gregor Society Canada Chapter
PO Box 232,
Dorset ON, POA 1E0
macgregor@telizon.ca

What kinds of Clan-related events do members participate in?

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Organizations all over the world struggle to keep members and relevance in modern society, especially with young people. We are committed to working hard to further these important objectives through education, participation in Highland Games, and building social and organizational contacts and connections. To further these aims, the Canada Chapter is a member of CASSOC, the Canadian Association of Scottish Clans, We enjoy and look forward to building effective relationships with our sister organization, American Clan Gregor Society, as well as COSCA and SAHCA in the US and Australia as a part of this effort.

Our Chief, Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor, is the current Convener of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs and is working to build partnerships all over the world to strengthen common ties within Scotland and its diaspora.

What does the Clan have planned for the rest of 2013 and in the years to come?

Here in Canada, as we are in the fledgling stage we are selectively participating in several of the premier Highland games. In the future, we hope to expand this with regional representation and increased membership participation. We will have a strong presence this summer at the Glengarry Highland Games in Maxville, the home of the North American Pipe Band championships and the last stop before the World's in Edinburgh. The other venue will be the Fergus Games, also one of the largest in the country and the site of our annual general meeting. There will be other venues yet to be determined.

Celtic Life Int. Interview cont.

Canada will be well represented at the 2014 worldwide Gathering of MacGregors in Stirling in July as part of the 750th anniversary celebrations of the battle of Bannockburn.

In the Clan Gregor Society it's more than just wearing the kilt or sporting some MacGregor tartan. We believe in and count upon strong participation. Our clan and name have survived for ages against all odds as a result of tenacity and personal internal strength. "MacGregor despite them!" is much more than a motto: it is a birthright.

Membership has its privileges, not the least of which is doing one's part in keeping the flame of Gregor alive and moving forward.

Wayne MacGregor Parker

*From Celtic
Life Magazine*



The Proscription

“The name of Mcgregoure suld be altoledgedder abolished and that the hail (whole) persounes of that clan shall renounce their name and tak thame sum uther name and that They nor nane of their posteritie suld call thame selffis Gregor or Mcgregoure thairefter under payne of deade.”

**By Order of King James VI and his
Privy Council, 3 April 1603**

And so began an extended period of time when we Gregors almost became extinct. The fifteenth and sixteenth centuries were a time of turmoil and lawlessness. The Kings were weak, and there were six that left children as heirs, so that the noble and other powerful people did more or less what they wished with little fear of consequences. It was this time that saw the Gregors lose their lands to the up and coming Campbells. We were reduced to being broken men, the name given to clansmen whose chief had no land.

During the time of Glen Fruin, to curry favor we acted as strongmen for the Campbell Earl of Argyle. He had some scores to settle with the Colquhouns so we fought them in the first and minor battle of Glen Fruin in 1602. We defeated them but they obtained “Letters of Fire and Sword” from the Privy Council and made plans to march on the Gregors for retribution.

We learned of the Colquhoun plans. Our chief was the young Alasdair MacGregor, known as the Arrow of Glenlyon. It was his brother, Iain, who planned the ambush in a narrow portion of the Glen Fruin. The battle was a lopsided victory for the Gregors, with only Iain and one other Gregor killed while the Colquhouns lost hundreds.

Proscription cont.

This was just before King James VI left for England to take up the English throne, Queen Elizabeth having named him as her heir. A parade of widowed Colquhoun women waved “bluidy sarks” (bloody shirts) in front of the windows of the royal palace demanding justice. King James, well known for his loathing of blood, is supposed to have fallen to the floor in a faint.

When the Colquhouns appealed to the Privy Council, the Council (which included the Campbell Earl of Argyle who was hungry for ways to wrest traditional Gregor lands and influence from MacGregor) readily issued the terrible Proscription quoted above. Soon after, a puppet trial condemned Alasdair and a number of other prominent Gregors to the gallows. They were hung publicly at the Mercat Cross in Edinburgh. And so it became punishable by death to use the name MacGregor, a sentence that, apart from a few brief periods, would not be repealed until 1774.

In a very real sense, it is remarkable that we are even here today. Celebrate the tenacity and fortitude of your ancestors, for they survived and even prospered in spite of overwhelming odds and circumstances.



New Chapter banner modeled by Vina MacQueen Parker at the Fergus Highland Games.

The Life and Times of Captain John McGregor

Captain John McGregor was born about 1759 in the Argyleshire region of Scotland. His rank of Captain in the Canadian Militia was achieved in the Spring of 1814. He must have received decent schooling as his hand is fluent and his signature has a flourish.

The American Revolution breaks out and he and his father sign up with the 42nd Royal Highland Regiment (The Black Watch) and were on the ships landing on Staten Island New York in July of 1776. They fight in many battles in the New York area and his father "John Sr." dies in New Jersey in the winter of 1777. To quote John "My father was killed in his Magistracy's service and I fought on". The war comes to an end with the regiment sailing from Long Island on Oct 22, 1783 – the summary of the regiment for over seven years of war was 74 dead and 247 wounded.

In August of 1789 the 42nd Regiment splits into two groups – those going back to Scotland and those staying in Canada. Two years previous, in June 1787, Captain John received a grant of land consisting of 138 acres on the Nashwaak River in the parish of Saint Mary's in the county of York, New Brunswick. Around 1790 (age 31) he is married to Mary McMillian (age about 16) and they begin a family in New Brunswick. By the time they leave for Ontario in 1806 they have 8 children. The only baptism records surviving are Elizabeth born June 14, 1795 in New Brunswick and Margaret born August 10, 1806 and baptized on Nov, 20, 1806 in the St Andrews Church Williamsburg Ontario.

He and Mary set up residence in the township of Walsingham near Lake Erie in the county of Norwalk, Ontario, and likely are working at or near the Water Mill. They apply for land and receive a 200 acre grant -- lot # 20 in the 5th Concession of Walsingham Twp. This lot was heavily forested and not accessible by water so they never moved to this land.

Around 1809, Captain John meets Merchant John McGregor (living across the river from Detroit USA in the town of Sandwich Ontario) and he makes a deal to move to a 200 acre property owned by Merchant John located on the Thames River in Dover Township, Kent County. This property was next to Dolsen's landing and across the river from a water mill also owned by Merchant John.

In June 1812, "The Second American War" begins. (in all his written correspondence this is what Captain John called the war.) At this point, John and Mary have 10 children with the oldest being James age 21. John and son James join the Kent Riflemen militia and go to the Detroit River where General Isaac

John McGregor cont.

John is able to escape capture at Moraviantown because the militia was located with the Indian forces on the right flank. He now is fighting underground with a troop of men he commands called the Loyal Kent Volunteers. He is at the battle at McCrae's house and leads his men in raids across the St Clair River into the Michigan territory.

In March 1814, along with the British regulars, he leads his Kent's at the Battle of Longwoods Road where he is wounded in the left arm. The arm is amputated several days later. Shortly afterwards, he receives his rank of Captain. In late 1814 the war winds down and the Loyal Kent Volunteers are disbanded in March of 1815.

Captain John and Mary have three more children (13 in total) with the 11th child being named Isaac Brock McGregor. For his military service he receives 200 acres of land as an officer and 50 acres of land for each child – 850 acres in total. I always say he got 200 acres and Mary got 650 acres for having 13 children. This large block of fertile land was located on the Sydenham River in what today is the South half of Wallaceburg Ontario. Most of the children settled on the Wallaceburg land-grant with ten of them marrying and raising their own families.

Captain John and Mary both died in 1823 while still living on the Thames River in Dover Twp. Captain John had a will that was probated but their burial location is unknown.

Written by Chapter Member Tom Kerr a g-g-g- grandson of Captain John – my mother was Alma McGregor -- email sandtkerr@rogers.com



MacGregor

"Royal is my name"

Gregor Reading List

A MacGregor's Reading List

Thanks to Annie McGregor Stadden and Keith MacGregor for these suggestions:

TIER 1 (provides a working knowledge of the clan's history)

Book of the Dean of Lismore by James MacGregor

History of Clan Gregor Vols. 1 & 2 by Amelia MacGregor

Rob Roy MacGregor by W.H. Murray

Sons of the Wolf by Ronald Williams

Bardachd Albannach by William J. Watson

Campbell Letters 1559 to 1583 edited by JEA Dawson - Can be purchased from
Clan Gregor

Black Book of Taymouth - Campbell records

Breadalbane Papers Campbell records (available through NAS)

In Famed Breadalbane by William A. Gilles

Lairds of Glen Lyon by Duncan Campbell

History of Clan Gregor by W.R. Kermack

Historical Memoirs of the Gregors by Donald Gregory

Arrow of Glen Lyon by A.W. Ramsay

Highland Constable by Hamilton Howlett

Occasional Papers On Gregor topics available from the Clan Gregor Society Secretary

Records of the Family of Gregory Reprinted by the Clan Gregor Society

*Remember the
men and
women from
who we
descend.*

TIER 2 –historical & historic fiction

Rob Roy by Sir Walter Scott

The Lyon in the North by John Preble

Sir Gregor MacGregor by David Sinclair

The Braes of Balquhidder by Elizabeth Beauchamp

Deeside Tales by Rev. John Grant Michie

Rob Roy Country by Mary McGregor with photos by Chief Malcolm MacGregor

Rob Roy by Donald McFarlan

The McGregor Trilogy by Nigel Tranter

Gregor Willox the Warlock by Dr. Richard McGregor

Deeside Lines by David R. Ross

Movies/Television

The Highland Clans – Part 1 (You Tube)

Rob Roy – Richard Todd (Disney 1957)

Rob Roy – Liam Nilson (1995)

The True Story of Rob Roy (History's Mysteries on History Channel 2001 or You Tube)

Rob Roy – Highland Warrior! (Discovery Channel or You Tube)

Rob Roy-The True Story –(PegEntLtd 1996 or You Tube)

Scotland – Rob Roy MacGregor's Grave – TPMVideo Productions or You Tube)

Braveheart – Mel Gibson

Article Ideas:

Contact Wayne

**Examples—Family Stories,
McGregor recipes, McGregor
clippings, pictures, genealogy,
facts, books, etc.**

Your Canadian Chapter is now a member of CASSOC - Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada. We belong to this important organization as it represents a consolidation of interests, resources and information for all things Scottish in Canada. Please visit www.cassoc.ca to learn more. The following link was just posted giving notice of an upcoming event in the Toronto area to celebrate the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn. <http://www.standrews-society.ca/event/battle-of-bannockburn-event-scotland-then-and-now/>



Reminder

Membership renewals for 2014 are now due! Please send your \$37.00 cheque to CGSCC, PO Box 232, Dorset, ON P0A 1E0. Your Chairman will greatly appreciate not having to chase you down!

Email: macgregor@telizon.ca

For information on McGregor family trees or lines, contact Annie McGregor Stadden: annandjims@bell.net

Important dates to remember on the MacGregor Calendar –

August 9th, 2014 – Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Canadian Chapter Annual General Meeting at the Fergus Highland Games in Fergus, Ontario.

Looking for Highland Games in your area?

There are a great number of Highland Games all over Canada every summer. To get the latest dates and information go to this address on the web:

http://web.ripnet.com/~nimmos/highland_games.html#Ontario and drop down to Canadian Bagpipe

Links – Highland Games and Festivals in Canada for a comprehensive listing. Please let Wayne know if you are interested in manning a Gregor tent at a Highland Games in your area.