

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

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Maple Leaf MacGregors

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY, 2019

Greetings from the Chair

Wayne MacGregor Parker, Chapter Chairman



Greetings Gregors and welcome to the New Year!

This past summer Gregors from all over the world converged on Loch Awe at the head of the three glens traditionally occupied by our Clan for centuries. Here we, the diasporas of our beleaguered ancestors, gathered to experience firsthand the land, the history, the people and the stories of MacGregor.

Six months out it still raises the hair on the back of my neck to think that I stood on the very same ground, felt the same breezes, climbed some of the same steps and experienced for myself the stark beauty, tragedy and majesty of the Highlands as did my forebears centuries before.

This connection is visceral and powerful. Seeking for it is what initiates questions about who we are and where we come from. This search is what first brings us to the Clan Gregor Society for answers. For those fortunate enough to attend the Gatherings, these connections become real, very real as an increasing understanding of our history and heritage grows and close

connections with distant relatives are formed through both common backgrounds and shared experiences during our week together.

Forging and cementing these ties are what we, the Society, do best! And so my fervent wish for all members is that you, too, experience the magic of a Clan Gregor Gathering.

Mark your calendars for 2022 when we next gather as Gregorach in Scotland!

As you read though this issue of the Maple Leaf MacGregor there are a few things I would like to draw your attention to. Most notably, it is with a great deal of pleasure that I introduce our new Editors William Petrie and his wife Sylvie. Bill has been a member for several years and we finally met at the Lochearnhead Games this past summer in Scotland!

Bill and Sylvie later joined me at the Fergus Games back in Ontario and have since agreed to head up our periodic Newsletter. Please join me in welcoming them as our editorial team. Many thanks to both for

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(Continued from page 1)

sharing their time and talents with us.

There are other changes to your Chapter Council. One of our founding members and our first Councillor, Annie McGregor Stadden is stepping down after 7 years on Council. Annie, a staunch Gregor through and through is a real treasure and an active and solid supporter, attending Games and meetings in addition to providing genealogical assistance to members of the Society. She has also been instrumental in bringing many new members to the Chapter. I have appreciated her counsel and while she will be missed on Council, she will no doubt remain active and passionate about her interests in Clan Gregor. Thank you Annie!

In the last issue we announced that June MacGregor Jain was joining Council to fill

the vacancy left by the passing of Judy Hoensbroek.

In his capacity as Editor, as provided in our by-laws, Bill will also be joining Council. With Bill rounding out our Council of three, I thought it would be appropriate to have June, Bill and Sylvie introduce themselves in this issue. A big Thank you friends for your contribution to the Canadian Chapter!

Lastly, if you have not already done so, please send along your membership renewal (for those due this year). Your prompt attention to this will be much appreciated.

I leave you to enjoy this fresh new Maple Leaf MacGregor. As you do, be proud to be a part of the many Gregors worldwide that are engaged in a growing interest in our proud history and heritage. These are visceral, even palpable connections and you have joined the conversation!

Wayne

From the Editors

When Wayne graciously asked us to help with the newsletter, Sylvie and I were delighted, enthused and a wee bit worried at the same time. While we've authored countless pages of course material, reports, white papers and proposals, it's always been about business. Not something that's for our acquaintances, friends, family or you, our greater clan.

Receiving the Maple Leaf MacGregor newsletter has always been a treat for us so here we are, paying heed to the old proverb "If ye like the nut, crack it" and putting in the work to bring the newsletter to others. And it's been joyous work since many an eve we've found ourselves up late totally immersed in Clan research.

So please enjoy the newsletter and note that you've be receiving a 'sized for email' version but please check out the higher quality edition to be found on our new web site "<https://www.mapleleafmacgregor.ca>". There be more to come about this.

Lang may yer lum reek!

William and Sylvie

About William and Sylvie

William Petrie As a late boomer I only had a few hints in my youth about my paternal heritage. I did know however that there's a MacGregor past I'd need to learn more about someday.

It wasn't until I came back to the GTA after a few decades in Quebec that I began digging into both sides of my parentage. With the help of others in genealogical research I now can trace my paternal lineage back to Petries in 18th century Edinburgh and found living 'fourth cousins' in Scotland.

I've spent most of my career life in information systems as everything from a programmer to VP but I'm now taking it more easy managing Knowledge Architecture and Business Analysis for Canada's leading source of media measure and meaning.

As a contrast to this techie background, I've also had music and theatre as a hobby since my youth. I've performed in plays, musicals, a number of years at Second City in Toronto, fronted various bands as keyboardist, guitarist and lead singer. I definitely didn't inherit a shyness gene from any side! I'm still singing with church and local choirs.

I'm enjoying the wonderful warmth and welcome from Clan Gregor and I'm eagerly looking forward, with the great help of my wife Sylvie, sharing our MacGregor heritage, news and stories.



Sylvie Thériault I was born in Montreal but lived all over eastern parts of Canada, including Nova Scotia. As my dad was a heavy machinery mechanic, we moved 7 times to cities near his work sites. It all ended when we kids became teenagers and my mom got tired of packing and unpacking.

I come from a long line of Thériaults; the first one immigrating to Port-Royal (now Digby N.S.) in 1637. All the Thériaults in North America are descendants of this Jehan Terriot. Prior to 1755, the Thériaults remained in Nova Scotia, however, deportation scattered us to nearby areas of the colonies. My great-grand-father Joseph resettled in the Gaspé Peninsula in early 1900.

I've a college degree in computer science; however, after graduating I ended up registering in the Math Computer Science program at McGill University. There I joined and made lifelong friendships in the Gamma Phi Beta sorority. Through Facebook, we keep in touch and manage to see each other quite frequently.

First starting as a programmer, I worked in various IT jobs until now I own a training company teaching software development and business skills. In my spare time, I like to read, travel, and sing in a choir.

I look forward to meeting you at the different events and hope you enjoy the newsletter.

About June MacGregor Jain

June MacGregor Jain was born north of London, Ontario into a family proud of their Scottish heritage. She began teaching at the age of nineteen in a one room country school with thirty-four students and eight grades.

She was transferred to a three room school, teaching grades six, seven and eight because there were discipline problems there. Then the city of London hired her to pilot a streamed program. She holds a London Teacher's College Certificate, a BA and a Masters of Education Degree.

Moving to the Annapolis Valley in 1970 she began teaching at the original Kings County Academy in Kentville, remaining there for thirty-four years. Her class trips became famous, especially the one to St. Pierre and Miquelon, off the Newfoundland coast. Pea soup fog set in and their three day trip became a five day adventure!

Two of several awards are very special to June: the Nova Scotia Cultural Life Award in Education in 1992 and in 2000 the Halifax Progress Club presented her with the Women of Excellence Award. She received both the Queen's Coronation Medal Award and the Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Although retired she still teaches as a volunteer at the Somerset School and she also volunteers at the Valley Regional Hospital in Kentville, Nova Scotia.

She is a member of the Globus Journeys Club, the Monarchist league of Canada,

the Valley Scottish Country Dancers Society, and the Clan MacGregor Society of Canada and co-chairs the Grow With Art Program.

June has worked tirelessly with the committee for the local Robert Burns Supper for thirty-five years. The recipe for 'haggis' for two hundred guests is no longer daunting!

Loving all things Scottish, she has recently accepted to fill a vacancy on the Canadian Chapter Council of the clan MacGregor-an entirely new endeavor!

Traveling and reading extensively with husband, Dr. N.K. Jain and enjoying the company of their two children, a son, an emergency physician and a daughter, a high school teacher plus three grandchildren means there isn't really much spare time.



**June MacGregor Jain, Canada Chapter Council
at the Gathering**

Rob Roy

Sir Walter Scott – Wordsworth Classics

Sir Walter was not the first to publish a book about our famous clansman. That honour belongs to Daniel Defoe who released *Highland Rogue* in 1723. One of Scott's most widely celebrated novels, *Rob Roy* was published in 1817 and was reported to have been largely based on assorted interviews and anecdotes surrounding the life and times of Robert Roy MacGregor.

The story takes place in the north of England and Scotland in the years before, during and after the first Jacobite Rising of 1715. Rob is portrayed as a swashbuckling chieftain of the Clan who gets embroiled in a scheme of protecting the movement of large amounts of money for the purpose of supporting the Rising.

The story, wildly imaginative in its speculation, includes a wealthy family in Northumberland, merchants in London and Glasgow, a heroine and a villain. Rob takes them all on, although the reader is fully a third of the way into the story before we meet him.

In the end we are left with a sense that this man, while actively working against the moneyed political powers of the day, was operating from a strong sense of fairness, care for the disadvantaged and a desire to level the

field for the average man and woman of Scotland.

Scott's writing style, while wordy (keep your dictionary handy) is bold and his descriptions of scenes and actions taking place are colourful and engaging. In publishing this work Sir Walter is widely credited for the creation of the historic novel.

It is, however, a novel so do not expect historic accuracy. He names Mary, Rob's plucky wife, Helen and portrays her as a warlike amazon staunchly holding off the Redcoats in Rob's absence, to name but one inaccuracy. Still, I picked this out to read as it's a classic and another perspective on a complex man of legend.

Sir Walter and Clan Gregor enjoyed a symbiotic relationship. Scott became a very wealthy man as *Rob Roy* became the most wildly popular novel of the day and remained so for years afterward. Due to this interest and popularity, Clan Gregor began to emerge in earnest from some of the stigmas of Proscription and destitution. As a result we gained stature and respect in the eyes of the public.

This book deserves a proper place in a well-rounded Gregor's library.

W M Parker

Rob Roy MacGregor

ROB ROY MacGREGOR

This March 8th marks the 348th anniversary of the baptism of our famous clansman Rob Roy. We don't know his actual birthday but do have records of his christening. It is widely acknowledged that Highland customs of the times held that babies be baptized as close to the time of birth as practicable. So we assume that Rob was born 348 years ago.

Much has been written about Rob Roy ranging from the fantastic to the dark and everything in between. Hollywood took a crack at the legend in the feature movie in 1995 that, while romantic, wandered far and wide from the actual events of his life.

In acknowledgment of the significant body of writings and records about Rob, the Society has recommended that the book, Rob Roy MacGregor – His Life and Times, by WH Murray is a fair rendering of the story of this man's life and the events that shaped his destiny.

Members of the Clan are encouraged to read this book to better understand why this man has generated so much attention for the past 348 years.

As we set aside time in March to consider Rob Roy and his impact on our heritage as Gregors, consider this summary in the final paragraph of Murray's book.

"Whatever his flaws and faults, they were dismissed. He had personified for them all a man stripped to nakedness defeating an immensely



Rob Roy MacGregor (W.H Worthington (Public domain) via Wikimedia Commons)

superior power and privilege by strength of will and force of character.

While no one could covet the life he had lived, some could long for its immediacy and awareness. He had not lived it passively, as he might if he had taken sober counsel, but fought to keep its flame alight.

People remembering how he stood his ground, felt in his stand an elevation of their own spirits. As he was valiant, they honored him, and Roman Catholic or not, buried him where he belonged, in the graveyard of the auld kirk at Balquhider."

May his spirit, sense of Clan, fairness and honor inspire all of us!

A Toast for Rob Roy's Birthday

A TOAST FOR ROB ROY'S BIRTHDAY

In times past there have been many heroes in the Scottish Highlands. Many names have gone into the history books, telling of brave deeds and lofty ideals. And some were heroes even though their names will never be known, for just to survive in the bleak wilderness was, and is, heroic.

Tonight, however we have gathered to honour one man. If we have to choose one man from all the Highlanders of history, one man who might best represent the sterling qualities of that unique race, one man whose life story reflects all the hardships, all the bravery, all the unfair persecution inflicted upon these people, we can do no better than to choose Rob Roy MacGregor.

Baptized in 1671, married in 1693, the father of 4 sons, this was no man of myth, but very much a man of a time gone by. He was among the last of the great free spirits of the Highlands, before a foreign way of life swept them all away and branded the Highlanders as misfits and criminals.

He was a well learned and a well-trained man in Highland ways as befitted the son of a chieftain of Clan Gregor. Not only was he trained to handle finances, make decisions, and battle skilfully but there was no more cunning or better reiver than he. He also knew when and where to fight or to walk away when the odds were too great against him and come back another day.

He has been described by some as a great rogue. But was he really? Highlanders thought of him as the "Scottish Robin Hood", so frequently did he help those less fortunate. He was outlawed many times by government officials, who have ever favoured the wealthy. He was pursued mercilessly by those who wanted his land or revenge, but he skilfully evaded capture or was able to escape, being crafty as he was, for he knew the territories and ways of the highlands like no other and he had the love and cooperation of the Highlanders to assist him. He survived by anticipating danger, by skill and by knowledge. He had the total respect of those who knew him well, for he never compromised his principles or his honour, even when it meant losing the opportunity of regaining land that had been taken from him. Twice he was asked to bear false witness, the reward being freedom and land. But he refused as that was not an act of a Highlander as he.

When he died, it was in his own bed, surrounded by family and friends, and was much mourned by all those who knew and respected him.

So, let us toast our hero, this last of the great free Highlanders. Let us remember this man, who lived at the end of an era, let us remember him for his high standard of honour, of education, of courtesy, of humour, and of the integrity that he embodied.

***By David MacGregor,
President of the Clan Gregor Society***

The Braes O'Balquhiddar

The Braes O' Balquhiddar

An Historical Guide to the District

This little book is a great read and primer for any member of the Clan Gregor Society. It is written by Elizabeth Beauchamp, a former teacher at Balquhiddar School and published by the Friends of Balquhiddar Church. It is in its 4th printing which attests to its popularity.

There are several reasons for this. The book is just 169 pages and it's divided into 37 chapters of four to five pages each. So it makes for easy reading in a week, or to keep by your favourite chair to pick up for a read of a chapter for five to 10 minutes.

It has 15 chapters that deal with Clan Gregor history from the 1300's to the persecution beginning in 1603 through to the exploits of Rob Roy and his sons. Each son has a chapter or two and Rob Roy several.

The author has included an extensive bibliography of 50 sources at the back – a handy list for reference and potential reading in the future. And she has created an index at the very end for easy referencing of various events and people she has mentioned. Each chapter is chock-a-block with detail to refer to at any time.

Other chapters include a topographic description of the braes and glens of the area – Lochs Voil, Doine, and Lubnaig; early stones and people; the MacLaren and Ferguson Clans; owners of assorted estates in the 1800's; and the joy of life in the country.

If you'd like to sort out and keep handy, accounts of the major historic events of our Clan, this little primer is a gold mine and highly recommended.

Elizabeth McDonald.
December 2018.



Elizabeth MacDonald at the Gathering



Balquhiddar Church, burial place of Rob Roy MacGregor.

Image Credit : Alistair Reid (2004) public domain Wikimedia

Remembering the Clan Gregor Gathering

Remembering the Clan Gregor Gathering 2018

Here are some first-hand reflections from some of the Canadian Gregors who attended the Gathering in Scotland this past summer.

When I first booked this trip, I intended for it to be a bonding experience with my father. But it ended up being so much more than that. I found a passion for my heritage, a deep sense of pride in our clan's courageousness, and a sense of belonging like none other. The breathtaking scenery, storytelling, and architecture added greatly to the sense of majesty.

My most heartfelt thanks to all who helped make this event a reality. Here's to 2022!

Michelle MacAdam, Montreal Quebec

Some thoughts on our recent Clan Gathering. Barb, Don and I were very pleased with our accommodations and with the hospitality shown by all at the Clan Gregor Gathering. I know that when I visit Scotland I feel like I have come home. The tours were well organized and I feel fortunate that Peter Lawrie was our tour guide. His incredible knowledge of MacGregor history, which he freely shared, has motivated me to research further into my family tree.

Barb, Dale & Don MacGregor, Kanata Ontario

I have been thinking about the MacGregors and the Scotland trip a lot. I just wish I could get that connection back to Scotland, and maybe someday I will. I am working on it.

For me (going to the Clan Gathering) was a trip of a lifetime. So many memories! What stands out the most is the trip to the 3 Isles and the beautiful scenery that the Highlands offer. If I were to live there, I would never be tired of looking at the highlands and the waterways. So much was packed into that week!

The history and Peter's storytelling! The history is fascinating and whets the appetite for more.

Francis Ferguson, Bobcaygeon Ontario

This was a fantastic Gathering as usual. There are a million new memories. The most sentimental memory is the intense emotion I had when walking with the other Clan members in the parade of the clans at the Lachearnhead Highland Games on Saturday July 21st. I was kitted in walking kilt and sash but also socks of the Rob Roy tartan with red maple leaf on them - odd, but 'game' for the occasion. For me, the emotion always generates when with other clans because of the history of our clan's proscription - I guess that emotion is part of the outrage and frustration experienced by anyone who is in a minority and being victimized.

The most delightful memory was the shopping spree indulged in at the Clan Gregor tent. Used items from other members led to impulse purchases at lost-leader prices.

The warmest memories are the chats with table mates at Loch Awe Hotel each breakfast and dinner. Mates were Tom Kerr and wife from Mississauga and Guy McGregor, Clan treasurer, and wife from East Anglia.

The most grateful memory is touring and reading the exhibits in the new Clan History Room in the Clan Menzies Castle. A huge undertaking and a job well done thanks to Peter Lawrie.

The most lasting memory has been the time spent since, reading the delightful book by Elizabeth Beauchamp, *The Braes of Balquhiddy*, purchased at the tent during the games on the suggestion of Council member Ross McGregor. It is easy reading of some 25 chapters, 4-5 pages each, which outline the history

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Remembering the Clan Gregor Gathering (cont)

(Continued from page 9)

of the area and of the clan. Can't wait for the next gathering - in 2022

Elizabeth MacDonald, Sarnia Ontario

My highland journey. Visiting the highlands was on my bucket list but now having learned a bit about my Gregor heritage I am excited to try to fill the bucket. The entire clan meeting was well planned and went smoothly. We were well treated and kept busy with interesting daily tours and activities. A real joy to share this with my daughter.

Sandy MacAdam, Truro Nova Scotia

Sharon and I had a wonderful time and there are too many highlights to name them all. Here in some order are the best of the best.

- 1) Getting to the Menzies Castle and seeing everyone dressed up was the top.
- 2) Although it was a long day, our trip to Mull, Iona and Staffa Island was fabulous. I have done a lot of research on the McDougall Clan. They came from Mull to the Wallaceburg area in 1804. Staffa was just like The Giant Causeway in Ireland and stunning.
- 3) The march-in at the highland games was my third special moment. The McGregor clan made a great splash at this event.

We loved the accommodation at the Loch Awe Hotel, also Kilchurn Castle and the crannogs tour. There were no poor tours and we got a great pint after getting back each day and so we have only good memories! Sorry Dr. Richard McGregor wasn't on the agenda to give us a DNA update. Thanks for getting us together as a Canadian group.

Tom and Sharon Kerr, Thornhill Ontario

Scotland 2018 was an amazing trip. It was

wonderful to be part of such a large group of kin! The palpable connection to the past that I felt, especially in the yard at Dalmally Kirk, is not something I will ever forget.

Looking forward to 2020!

Dan Greer, Creemore Ontario

In 2018 I went to my first Gregor International Clan gathering. I had volunteered at our local Highland Games, and after looking for a clan tent representing MacGregors without any success, I started searching online. Within minutes I came across the International Gathering, and decided it sounded like a great way to meet possible relatives and see some of Scotland at the same time.

What I was very surprised at, was how everyone knew the history of the Gregor clan and of Scotland. Yes history was my least favourite subject in school, however, many of the attendees knowledge of history was way beyond what might have been taught in Canada. Seeing the countryside, castles and churches in Scotland, and hearing of the battles our ancestors went through defending their land, piqued my interest. Will I ever be interested in such in-depth knowledge as some of the history buffs? No that will never be me, but understanding what happened and why, is something I would like to learn more about.

Having the opportunity to see the gorgeous countryside with rolling hills, endless lochs and sheep, was wonderful. I fell in love with the Highland Coos! To pass through villages that were so quaint and unlike Canadian towns was lovely, though I really wish we had been able to stop in more of them, and wander/ shop/ have a drink or bite to eat and talk to the locals.

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Remembering the Clan Gregor Gathering (cont)

I enjoyed having the hotel to ourselves, knowing that whomever I passed by would be a fellow member of the gathering, making it much easier to randomly speak to others. Meeting others from around the world was great, seeing two sets of twins in a relatively small group of people surprised me! There are good and bad sides to Facebook, and the good being it

allows an easy way to keep in touch with those we met and help keep those memories alive.

Impatiently waiting for the next Gathering in 2022.....

Joanne Howlett, Victoria BC



Canada Chapter in Scotland - L to R Wayne Parker, Sandy MacAdam, Tom Kerr, Sharon Kerr, Michelle MacAdam, Vina Parker, Frances Ferguson, Dan Greer, Elizabeth MacDonald, William Petrie, Sylvie Thériault, Front row Melba Clark and June Jain

Pictures from the Gathering



Castle Menzies where the Clan Dinner was held



Arrochar Alps at the top of Loch Lomond



Iona Ferry



Iona



Dalmally Kirkyard where our Chiefs are buried

Pictures from the Gathering (cont)



North American Rep Keith MacGregor



Abbey ruins on Iona



Oban coast



Loch Awe



Kilchurn Castle on Loch Awe

Pictures from the Gathering (cont)



Gregor Chief burial slab at Dalmally



Detail rendering of Gregor Chief burial slab at Dalmally



Touring Kilchurn ruins

Pictures from the Gathering (cont)



View of Loch Awe from Hotel grounds



Lochaber



Looking towards Fort William



Glencoe Highlands

Pictures from the Gathering (cont)



Chairman Dr. Richard McGregor



Sheila Fowler of the PNW Chapter



Ross MacGregor and Vina Parker



Keith MacGregor and Vina Parker at Menzies Castle

Pictures from the Gathering (cont)



Sara Hynd and her aunt, Ishbel McGregor



Society VP Alpin MacGregor of Cardney



L to R SE Chapter Chair Inez Boothe, Dr, Glenn and Linda Zaepfel , Michelle McAdam, Quebec and father Sandy MacAdam, Nova Scotia

Pictures from the Gathering (cont)



Achim Selbe and Erika Hettich, German Chapter at Castle Menzies



Dr. Nirmal Jain and Councilor June MacGregor Jain



Lady MacGregor

Pictures from the Gathering (cont)



Chris McGregor, Australia Chapter & Sonya Llewellyn, PNW Chapter



Col MacGregor from Australia



Gregors gather at the Row of Kings on Iona



Henrich and Angelika Winter from the German Chapter

A Choice of Graces

Here is a wonderful lesson in perspectives.

Selkirk Grace – Robbie Burns

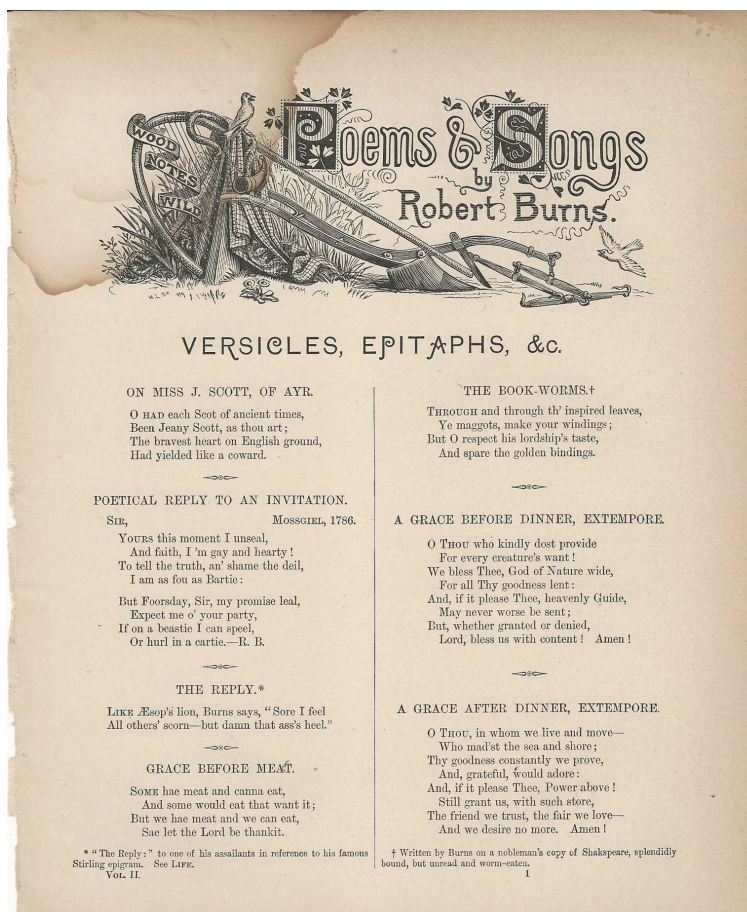
Some haemeat, and canna eat,
And some wud eat that want it.
But we hae meat, and we can eat,
And say the Lord be thankit!

Church of England

Oh Lord, grant we may not be like
Porridge; stiff, stodgy and hard to
Stir, but like cornflakes –
Light, crisp and ready to serve.

Church of Scotland

Oh Lord, grant we may not be like
Cornflakes; lightweight, empty and cold
But like porridge –
Warm, comforting and full of natural goodness.



A page from the editors' copy of *The National Burns*

PITCAITHLY BANNOCK

- 4 oz butter
- 2 oz sugar
- 7 oz plain flour
- 1 oz, ground rice flour
- Pinch of salt
- 1 oz blanched almonds, finely chopped
- 1 oz candied peel or citron peel, grated.

Cream the butter and sugar well. Mix in the flour, salt, almonds and peel. Form into a round cake, about 1 inch thick, pinch the edges and prick the top with a fork. Place the ban-

nock on a buttered baking tray and mark into 8 pieces with a knife. Bake in a preheated oven at 350 F for about 40 – 45 minutes until golden brown. Alternatively omit the almonds and peel and just sprinkle sesame seeds over the top before baking.

Unique to Scotland, originating when peat was the only fuel available and every home had a bakestone on which the bannock would be cooked fresh each day. When the "iron age" came along and the girdle or griddle was invented, the name was derived from the Gaelic "greadeal" meaning hot cooking stones.

From Mary MacGregor's *Wee Taste of Scotland*

Canada Chapter Gregors in the News

Canada Chapter Gregors in the News

From: news

Nova Scotia Teachers Union

Date : June 21, 2016

Valley Teacher Wins 2016 Lieutenant Governor's Teaching Award

Theresa MacGregor Pelley, an English, Canadian Families, Healthy Living and Mi'kmaq Studies teacher at Horton High School in Wolfville, Nova Scotia is the 2016 recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's Teaching Award. In a ceremony held today at Government House, Lt.-Gov. J.J. Grant presented Theresa MacGregor Pelley with her award, a specially designed Nova Scotian Crystal sculpture and a framed certificate to recognize this achievement.

"Teachers are leaders in our communities who generously give their time, energy and skills to help make our province (Nova Scotia) a vibrant and caring place to live," said Lt.-Gov. Grant. "It is my great honour to recognize Ms. Theresa Mac Gregor Pelley, whose commitment to fostering an inclusive environment where every student is valued for who they are has made a profound difference in the lives of many."

Pelley has been teaching at Horton High School, in the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board, for five years, teaching a variety of subjects including initiating the school's offering of Mi'kmaq Studies. In a career that spans 35 years, Pelley was a music educator for 25 years, has been with the AVRSB for 20 years, and has taught at all levels, including teaching assignments at West Kings High School, Coldbrook and District School, and Hantsport School.

She is an active advocate for all of her stu-

dents with a strong sense of social justice, which she brings to her classroom, school and community. She knows the importance of supporting and building up her students in any way she can so they can become successful.

In thinking about her teaching career, Theresa MacGregor is reminded of a quote by science fiction writer Robert A. Heinlein – "When one teaches, two learn."

"My students have taught me the greatest lessons in how to teach them. They have taught me that sometimes the breakfast program is in fact the supper program," she says. "They have taught me that sometimes poverty and circumstances are so overwhelming that even when they want to learn they can't. They have taught me that support and love can go a long way to enhance learning. My teaching practice continues to be shaped by what I learn from my students."

"Theresa embodies this award," said Nova Scotia Teachers Union president Shelley Morse. "Through her devotion to her students -especially those who have difficult lives, her support as a mentor and leader in encouraging others to improve their teaching practice, and her community work in promoting the arts - she is an inspiration to all. She is a true credit to her profession, an outstanding example of the important work teachers do every day."

An Annapolis Valley native, Theresa received her B.A. in Music and B.Ed from Dalhousie University, and a Master's of Education for Acadia University.

The Clan Gregor Society Canada Chapter recognizes Theresa MacGregor Pelley and congratulates her for receiving this meaningful honour.

Clan Gregor Society Canada Scholarship Award

THE CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY

COMUNN CHLOINN GHRIOGAIR

Founded 1822 - Charity No. SC007391

Affiliated to An Comunn Gaidhealach

Patron: Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor Bt.

CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY CANADA SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The Canada Chapter of the Clan Gregor Society has established a partnership with the Rob Roy Pipe Band named after our most famous clansman. Founded in Scotland in 1822, The Clan Gregor Society is one of the oldest Clan societies. It was established for the purpose of helping to educate the disadvantaged youth of the time. Today we honour this tradition by providing financial assistance to persons studying piping, drumming or highland dancing. This scholarship is awarded in keeping our founding principles.

A list of candidate students recommended by the Pipe Major and Band Executive was presented to the Society for review. After consideration by a committee of MacGregors the following recipient was selected by majority vote. It gives me great pleasure to present this award tonight to Madison Westcott.

Madison is a Grade 12 Honour Roll student, an

actively competing Premier Highland Dancer and a Tenor Drummer in Rob Roy's Grade 5 Pipe Band. She is a dedicated member of the Rob Roy Pipe Band and Highland Dancers performing group who has excelled in the art of Highland Dance, both as a longstanding student and recently, as an assistant instructor who teaches and inspires young beginning dancers. The Clan Gregor selection committee added the following comments.

We are in agreement that Madison Westcott should be the recipient. It certainly requires a great deal of sacrifice and devotion to be a full time student and active in both dancing and drumming at the same time. Our final decision is to honour Madison's efforts and accomplishments with this award. We agree she must be a remarkable young lady. She is maintaining an honour roll position in grade 12 along with participation in not one, but two aspects of the group, dance and band. Her time must be very full between studies, practice and performances. On top of this, and most important, she finds time to be an assistant instructor and pass on her passion to a younger generation. This is one of the most important things that any of us can do with our lives and she is doing it from such an early age.

Congratulations Madison!

January 27th, 2018 Kingston Ontario

Dear Mr. MacGregor Parker

Thank you again, for the generosity and kindness that the Clan Gregor Society has shown in acknowledging young people for their involvement and participation in the highland arts. Madison has thoroughly enjoyed her time with the Rob Roy Pipe Band and Highland dancers, and is nothing but pleased to pass on her knowledge to others. She is what you would call a member for life. We are all very proud indeed to wear the MacGregor tartan!

She will be promptly depositing the funds into her registered education savings plan, as she prepares for university, and your contribution to her education is a valuable asset in continuing her

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Clan Gregor Society Canada Scholarship Award (cont)

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growth in seeking higher knowledge. Please pass on our sincere gratitude to all those who were involved in the decision making, this was a very special moment for Madison that she will treasure for a long time.

I've attached two photos from the Robbie Burns dinner if you would like to include them in your newsletter. I would also like to add the pictures on our Rob Roy Pipe Band and Highland Dancers social media if you are agreeable to us using your image. If you have a website address you could send me, I could link it on the posting.

If you get a chance, check out the latest issue of Our Canada magazine Feb/Mar on page 54. Madison recently had an article published combining her Scottish heritage with her love of creative writing. You may find it an interesting read.

Thank you again for your continued support of the Rob Roy Pipe Band.

Meredith Westcott & Madison Westcott



Important Reminder

Important Reminder

Membership renewals for 2019 are now due and I would appreciate your prompt payment. Please send your \$39.00 cheque to CGSCC, PO Box 232, Dorset, ON P0A 1E0. Keep in mind that you can renew for five years for the price of four (\$156.00). Alternately you can pay by e-transfer. If you choose e-transfer, please send me an email or call to let me know it is coming. Otherwise my dial up connection sees it as spam and dumps it. Your prompt attention to this will be much appreciated.

If I don't receive your subscription by the end of May I will send you another email reminder. Your Chairman will greatly appreciate not having to chase you down! I'm a volunteer with a day job and it's always nice to have prompt renewals without repeated appeals. Many thanks.

Wayne MacGregor Parker



Canada Chapter thanks Honorary Secretary Ishbel McGregor for her many years of service