

THE 'CLEANSING' OF BRITISH HISTORY

(To expunge the MacGregors)

Excerpts from: http://members.tripod.com/~Hal_MacGregor/gregor/rewriting.html

Editor's note: Similar to efforts in several dictatorships throughout the world, the British have "cleansed" their history to reduce, and in some areas, eliminate traces of the MacGregors. It has been an unrelenting effort to belittle the MacGregors and to trivialize the British Government's horrific campaign of genocide against a family that represented the remnants of the ancient Pict aristocracy. This methodical re-writing of history has taken many forms.. some obvious and others less so. The following are some accounts of those the reader may find interesting.

Preamble

Although most Highland Clans have a history of bloodshed and struggle for survival, only the MacGregors have experienced a systematic determined effort by the Scottish and British Governments to exterminate their race, as well as the outlawing of their very name. Letters of *Fire and Sword** were granted against the Clan Gregor in 1488, again in 1563, 1588, 1590, 1597, and were renewed at intervals over 130 years. This government policy was pure *Genocide***. Never before or since had such an ugly persecution been applied so persistently to any race of people in Britain since the Germanic hordes submerged the Celts.

Since several generations were forbidden to call themselves MacGregor or even name their children Gregor, many unrecognized descendents of the clan flourish today, dispersed at home and abroad under inherited pseudonyms.. Most have no recollection they are actually MacGregors. This is exactly the result the Government desired.

No effort has ever been made by the British government to apologize for this pogrom, which, if it happened today, would be universally recognized as ethnic cleansing, and would be roundly condemned by every civilized person on earth.

One can only surmise that since the MacGregors have always claimed to be the senior descendents of the old Pict establishment, their Pict Legacy was the true target of this longstanding Government conspiracy.

* A government commission to murder and plunder a designated group.

** A systematic effort to eliminate a cultural or racial group.

The Origins of the Mac Gregors

The Lie: Most historical accounts claim that the MacGregors were Dalriadan Scots, and arose in Argyll, and only spread to western Perthshire when they were dispersed by the Campbells.

The Truth: "Clan Gregor" (published by the Clan Gregor Society in 1977) the only authorized history of the Clan, stated the Clan arose in the western Glens of Perthshire, and was the progeny of the remnants of the southern Pict establishment. The successful efforts of Finghus, a Pict monk, and a descendant of Grig, to obtain permission from the contemporary Pope, Benedict, to marry and expand the Pict population in that area is recorded in several historical records (both Scottish and Irish). Clan Gregor acknowledges a common ancestry with several other Perthshire-based Pict-derived clans; Clan Finghin (MacKinnon), Clan Duffy (MacPhee), Clan MacNab, and Clan Fergus (Fergusson), and is universally recognized as the senior member of that group, the "Siol Alpin"..

The truth is the MacGregors swept into eastern Argyle from Perthshire and assimilated the Dalriadan Scots in that vicinity. That fact is particularly difficult for Scots racists to accept.

Seniority of MacGregors in western Perthshire

In the early 15th century (1600s), the MacGregors who attended church in Balquhidder, had the 'right of seniority', that is, out of respect, no one sat until all the MacGregors were seated. This fact is conveniently erased from history. To acknowledge it would be to admit the MacGregors were a very significant part of Scotland's history.

THE ERASURE OF OUR CONNECTIONS TO MACGREGOR (ALIAS) FAMILIES

It must be remembered that Clan Gregor was originally a Pict society that assumed the name "Gregor", because they had for centuries signed their names as (eg) "Donaldus *Gregorii*" meaning "of the Gregor group" in English. Being spread throughout many Glens (valleys), these clansmen took on several names.

Most clansmen did not go by the surname MacGregor, that particular surname was generally reserved for the Chiefs, and their immediate families. Most Clan members used local names which denoted their trade, appearance or unique associations. eg. The Fletchers, MacGruders, Skinners, Fishers, Orrs and Brewers lived in Glen Orchy, the MacIvers and MacLivers lived in GlenLyon, the MacNishes and MacNeishes lived in Glen Dochart but they were all MacGregors under the skin. When threatened, like beads of mercury, they would coalesce and punish their tormentors. Surnames only came into use in Scotland about the 11th century.

The law of the land offered no protection for any MacGregor so they naturally became "outlaws". As in many guerilla campaigns in the world, they were feared by many, and ruled the night. Forts such as Inversnaid were built to try to control them. MacGregor women were tarred and feathered. MacGregor children were forcibly taken into other families and raised as their own. The men were either hanged or sent to the New World as indentured slaves to die of disease and mistreatment. Rob Roy himself, was actually taken on a ship bound for Barbados, as a slave. Through a lucky stroke, he was pardoned before the ship sailed.

After the Campbells began their state-sanctioned land-stealing, culminating in genocide against the MacGregors, many of our families were forced to take over 40 names of convenience to escape the persecution. It remained a crime to give aid to any MacGregors so many of these families in hiding allied themselves with powerful landlords for protection. This was merely a necessary strategy of self-preservation at that time. They all recognized only MacGregor Chiefs as their legitimate leaders, and in turn, paid little respect to their new landlords.

Since those dark days, official Scottish history has been revised to reflect a make-believe world in which the Clan Gregor existed only as an unhappy client of the Campbells. Nothing could be further from the truth.

MacGregor aliases essentially came under five types;

1. Those more ancient names which belonged to MacGregors who took names which reflected their trade or appearances; Alpin, Malloch, Skinner, Fisher, Fletcher, Dhu, Orr, Brewer, Carter, Black, White, Bowers, Dungall etc.
2. Those who took names which were derived from "Gregor", such as Greer, Greg, Greig, Grierson, Gruer, Gregory, Magee, Gregorson, Crerar, MacGruder, Magruder, MacGrowther, etc.
3. Those who took the names of geographical locations; Grant, Stirling. Docharty, Stirling,
4. Those names which were fabricated; MacAdam, MacAra, Macaree, MacIver, MacLiver, MacNeish, Mac ish, Landel, Landless, King, Roy, Royal, Leckie. Comrie, Petrie, Peters, Peterson, etc.
5. Those who borrowed names of influential families; Campbell, Drummond, Graham, Stuart, etc.

It should be remembered that today's MacGregor names have almost all been anglicized from the original Celt or Gaelic. Sadly, most of these people would deny they are descendants of MacGregors. It appears the British governments of "olde" actually attained their original purpose. Only ydna test can verify these connections. The good news is that these tests are ongoing on an ever wider scale.

The "Clan" Fletcher

The Lie: Several Scottish history records claim the Fletchers of GlenOrchy were a distinct clan with no special attachments to any other. Some even claim they were a sept of the Campbells.

The Truth: Traditional arrow makers to the MacGregors, this sept lived in Glen Orchy. From there, they spread throughout Scotland. They are included in the official Clan Gregor website and have their own parish records there. While there were small bands of Fletchers scattered throughout Scotland, their largest centre was in Glen Orchy where they claimed to have been the first inhabitants to have drawn water. Until the Campbell usurpation of the MacGregor ownership of Glen Orchy in 1440, the Fletchers owed allegiance to the Clan Gregor chiefs of GlenOrchy.

In 'Homelands of the Clans' written by Gerald Warner (O.St.J., M.A., F.S.A.Scot.), which has proved to be a far more accurate far-reaching record of the clans documented within its covers, Clan Gregor septs are listed as: Comrie, Crowther, Fletcher, et al ..

I will mention two traditional MacGregor tales which will demonstrate how synonymous the Fletchers were with the Clan Gregor.

1. A well known tale of a Campbell property stealing trick was explained in several historical annals as - *A Campbell laird rode into the countryside with his friend and led him up to a MacGregor's cornfield. The Campbell led the two riders into the field where their horses sampled the mature corn. The farmer heard the noise and saw his corn being eaten. He took out his rifle and shot the nearest rider. The Campbell then rode up to him feigning friendship and suggested he temporarily hand over his deed as the authorities would soon be after him.*

Thanking the gracious laird, the MacGregor scurried off into hiding. The deed was never returned.

Note: This MacGregor was in fact a Fletcher.

2. In 1745, the Jacobite army seized Carlisle on the English side of the border, and offered the former garrison safe passage if they promised not to take up arms against them again. In 1746, the advancing Hanoverian army retook Carlisle and imprisoned the Jacobites. They eventually released the regular Jacobite troops but retained the three officers. They were sentenced to be hanged and quartered. Each was given the opportunity to write one last letter to his wife.

The MacGregor officer from Loch Earn wrote a poem which eventually became one of the most endearing love songs ever written. Its name was Loch Lomond. The MacGregor was actually a Fletcher.