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OAK GROVE.

Flint, Michigan

20 July 1909

Dr. E. M. Magruder,
Charlottesville, Va.,

Dear Sir:

My father, Judge Magruder
of Chicago, has forwarded to me
your letter to him of June 26th
together with the type-written resolutions
anent the forming of the Magruder
family into a clan organization.

He has, also just enclosed to me the printed notice or declaration (to the same effect) sent to him by Dr. Euell of Ruckersville, Va. I am his only son, & as I have always taken a great interest in the matters treated of in your communication, he has asked me to take the subject in hand & reply to you in this regard.

For a number of years past I have been living in this Michigan Sanitarium, as my health has not been good & this temporary retirement is necessary to reestablish it.

I'm afraid I shall not be able to ~~be~~ contribute anything of value on the historical or antiquarian side of the subject, as my researches were made years ago, & not having access at present to any of my notes,

papers or books, - any statement
that I might put together would
be drawn entirely from memory.
However, if my health & circumstances
should improve, before October next,
so that I can write more
comfortably, I should be very
glad to ~~to~~ set out in the form
of a paper or address a few
items of the Macgregor history that
may prove of some interest to
those ~~interesting themselves in~~ ^{who are dealing with} that subject.

P.S. I believe I have answered about all
of your questions.

The ancestor of our branch of the Magnucelus, viz:--
(who. d. in P. H. Co. Ind. 1779)
Alexander M. III was a grand-son of
Alexander, first Settler, & consequently a
nephew of Col. Samuel Magruder (one of the
Sons of 1st Alexander) & therefore a first-
cousin of Minian William & the other
Children of Col. Samuel.

The father of Alex. III was of course Alex. II
(or Alex. Jr., son to first Settler).
There was another Alexander Magruder
who was a first cousin of Alex. III who
was also my ancestor, - but whether he
was the son of Col. Samuel or of Nathaniel
his brother, I am not certain.

These two Alexanders M. were the grandfathers
paternal & maternal, of my Grandfather, the
late Dr. M. of La. My grand-father was
thus, you see, "all Magruder," his parents

~~not~~ having been 2^d Cousins &
his two grand-fathers, 1st Cousins of the
same name: Alex. M. as above.

My grand-father therefore considered
himself as a sort of double 1st & 2^d
or 3^d Cousin to about all or any
Meynuds he ever knew or heard of.

The wife of Alex. III, was Ely^d Howard
grand-da. & co.-heir of Edmund Howard (md. 1713)
She died 1803, & there are many descendants
of this couple. Mr. Leroy Boyd, of Wash^{ton} D.C.
has a 'tabular pedigree' of our connection, but
I doubt if many of them have got word of
your project.

Our branch, owned in perpetuity the homestead
estate of Alexander I & the property passed through
about "Seven (7) Alexanders Maynard" - fr. 1666 to
1816. Part of this estate - "Meynuds-on-Paluxed" an
old Perry tobacco farm, has never formerly passed
out of our family. A.S.M.

July 20, 1909

This I would send to you +

OAK GROVE.

such use could be made of it
as may be deemed proper.

On the subject of the
organization of the "Magnus" +
kindred families into a clan or
society, - which is the matter
more immediately in hand, -
I have some very decided
views, + having given the subject
considerable thought, I feel that

I am entitled to express my opinion
+ to make some observations in respect
to this proposition of proclaiming the
old Southern Stock of Maguaden as
an American branch of a Scottish clan.
These observations + conclusions of mine
I should like to communicate to you.
~~You may~~ ^{to be} given ~~them~~ such consideration
as you may think fit, or ^{then} may ^{be} ignored
~~to~~ altogether, as you choose.

Before sending in my views,
however, I will talk the matter over
with my Father whom I expect
to see in a day or so.

I may add that my Grandfather, the
late Dr. W. M. Maguaden, of Baton Rouge La.,
always considered himself, + I believe was

generally acknowledged as the
head or chief of our branch of
the Magruder family, that is, of
all the descendants of Alexander
Magruder III of Prince Georges Co.,
Md., — who married Eliz. Howard
+ whose will was proved 1779.
The descendants of this couple, both
those bearing the name of Magruder
+ those of other surnames are
very numerous, + widely scattered
+ include many families of prominence
+ consideration in the South +

July 20, 1909
especially in the state of Miss.

OAK GROVE.

Inasmuch as I was the
confidante & correspondent of
my Grandfather (being his eldest gd. son)
on these matters, I have considered
that his interest hath in a manner
been delegated to me, & that
consequently, in urging my ideas
as to 'Clan' matters, I may fairly
assume to act as the accredited
representative of all of this connection.

In conclusion I should like to state
that in handling such matters as
genealogy, descent, family renown ^{etc.}
the great thing to be desired is the
avoidance of anything like publicity,
or comment from extraneous sources,
which lead to ridicule & unpleasantness.
People in general, I think, have
little understanding of or sympathy
with such things.

You shall hear from me again.

Very truly & respectfully,
yours

Henry Lathrop Naguder

P.S. I return to you the postage
stamps which will be unnecessary to my purpose.

OAK GROVE,

Flint, Michigan,

19 August 1909

Dr. E. M. Maguder
Charlottesville, Va.

Dear Sir:

Your letter to me, of July 31st
last was duly received & I should
have answered sooner, but writing, for
me, in my present condition is very
difficult & I am seldom in the humour
for it. I regret very much that I

shall in all probability be unable to attend
the proposed meeting in Washington in October.
I will try, however, to persuade my Father
to be present, as I should like to have
our branch of the Macguckers represented.

As to my contributing a paper, such as you
have suggested, I fear that will also be
impossible, unless my condition of health
should improve materially between now & Sept. 1st.

In any case, I don't consider myself competent
to prepare a paper that would be suitable
as a "platform address". My knowledge
of Clan Gregor history such as it is (& is not very
extensive or very profound), might be of some
little use ~~to~~ in throwing light on doubtful points
in the genealogy & in aiding ~~in~~ investigation
as to the origin of various branches of the clan;
but an initial address from a platform to an
assembly, demands an ability of a different sort.
The points should be broad & well marked
& the subject handled in a way to catch the

temper of the crowd & inspire them
with the proper enthusiasm.

If I ever succeed in finishing my
course at this Sanitarium & establishing
myself, - nothing would give me greater
pleasure than to aid in every way possible
the promoting of the undertaking which
you have in hand. And I trust you
will keep me in mind to that end.
Literature on Clem Macgregor to be
found in this country is rather meagre.
In order to do justice to the subject, it

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is necessary to visit the Libraries;

OAK GROVE.

The Public Archives & Records, of Scotland
as well as the private collections
manuscript & otherwise to be found
in that Country.

I should consider it a
great honour to be named as one
of a 'Committee on organization', but
am afraid my place thereon would be
purely an Honorary one, as my
availability in that connection is more
than doubtful.

My idea has always been the formation
of a "Clan Macgregor Society," that is, an
association of all the descendants, now alive,
of the founders of the name in this County.
Such a Society could easily be a
political ally & possibly a constituent
member of the "Clan Gregor Society
or Federation" of Scotland; just as
various other individual tribes (of other
denominations than Macgregor) are members
of that Federation.

This is a very large subject & I
don't wish to intrude my views &
observations into the management of an
enterprise that may have already definitely
shaped its course.

But for all that, I intend, as soon as I
am able to write out & commit to paper my
ideas & theories on the subject & respectfully

submit it to the consideration of
those who are interesting themselves
in this business.

I had hoped to contribute
something more definite in aid of your
project; but, as I say, my present
surroundings make it absolutely
impossible to do full justice in a
literary way to any subject.

Very sincerely yours,
Henry Ethel Nagman

OAK GROVE HOSPITAL
FLINT, MICHIGAN

23 August, 1909.

Dr. E. M. Magruder:

Charlottesville, Va.

Dear Sir:

Your kind favor of the 17th inst. was received and I had begun work on the task of setting out my views on the matters we have in common - agreeably to your suggestion - and also to formulate some replies to your several questions.

Now, this morning your letter of the 21st has arrived, enclosing the type-written memoranda of Sir Malcom MacGregor.

Of course I am yet in comparative ignorance as to the foundation and backing of the movement you are conducting and as to the various considerations and influences that may have set it on foot, as well as to its ultimate purpose and object. Inasmuch as it is quite possible that my own activities in rummaging this subject of clan history, some years ago, in Scotland and elsewhere, may have been the remote or a contributory cause in bringing about the present agitation, - I may say that I feel in honour and conscience bound to accommodate myself, as helpfully as may be, to all of your suggestions in behalf of this undertaking. I therefore accept with pleasure any place you may assign me for committee work, - though I am at a loss to know how I can serve in such a capacity, while I am confined in a Sanitarium and hampered as I am at present. I am afraid that the simple setting out on paper, as best I can - by easy stages - my general ideas on this subject, together with a few scraps of historical information that I have stumbled upon, - will constitute the sum total of my usefulness, for sometime to come.

What plan or theory has been adopted as to recruiting members, I don't know, except as I can infer from the terms of the printed notice

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which was first circulated.

But, it has seemed to me, that an attempt to gather in all persons now in America bearing the name of MacGregor, as well as those of the other denominations and variations, - (for there are Greers and Griersons; MacKalls and MacAdams; Gregorsons and Graysons and Gregories; MacLeishs and Fletchers, - without number in this country - as well as our own tribe of Magruder) -, must be attended with many difficulties and involve much of inconsistency and incongruity.

It strikes me that such an assemblage, if it could be ~~got~~ together, - would constitute rather an heterogeneous crowd of individuals.

If Canada (where there are many MacGregors and others of that blood), be included in your canvass, many families doubtless would be found, who, if not already members of the native organization in Scotland, would at any rate be so thoroughly British in their sympathies, that there could be little in common between them and such a distinctly American cult as the Southern Magruder and their kin.

Perhaps, however, I am inclined to take a narrow view of this phase of the question.

I recollect seeing in an American newspaper (about a year ago, I think it was), an account of a visit about to be made to this country by Sir Malcom MacGregor, Chief of the Clan Gregor (your correspondent) and reference was made to the fact of there being in America and especially in Canada numerous families of the MacGregor blood, as well of the name MacGregor, as of other names. Mention was also made, in the same article, to the late Commodore Magruder, U. S. N., as being by descent a MacGregor.

But as Sir Malcom MacGregor is a Briton, and the Clan Gregor Society in Scotland strictly a British organization, - it occurs to me that our old stock of Magruder, who have been so thoroughly American for more than two-hundred

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and fifty years, and who have played an important part in building up the American Commonwealth, and in American Society, might occupy rather an anomalous position on becoming a part of what must be essentially a British concern, or a mere tributary to a British concern.

The fact is, that the native Scotch, even those of the highest and most cultured families, are surprisingly indifferent and ignorant on the subject of America. Indeed, most of those who have never been here are apt to regard the whole continent as an English Colony and make little or no distinction between Canada and the United States. And as to our history and traditions; our civilization and society, not to say our Government, - they know little or nothing and care less. And as for the middle and lower classes, their idea of America is even more hazy and of the vaguest description. They conceive of the United States much as we do of 'The Phillipines.'

This observation may be a trifle exaggerated, but I think it contains enough of truth to raise a doubt as to whether the tradition of a common descent - (so remote and dubious as it is in many cases) - will prove a sufficient basis and strong enough bond to reconcile national and sectional differences, and establish that harmony and sympathy so necessary in an association of this sort.

Scotland is a small and well-knit country, and their civilization and society and system of caste so well settled and long 'established, especially their patriarchal Highland Society, - that they are practically one family and their Clan organizations are formed and exist almost as a matter of course.

While in our Country the conditions and circumstances are entirely different, with our immense geographical area and widely diffuse and mixed population with the resulting sectional peculiarities and partialities that characterize the different states and provinces.

If it is asked what bearing all this can have on the project in hand, -

I reply that it may have a good deal and requires serious consideration.

If the plan were to form a "Clan Magruder's Society" as some have imagined to be the case, it would all be plain sailing enough.

It is well known that the Magraders of Maryland, Virginia and the South, are one race of people, they and their kindred. They have a common history and tradition and have flourished for generations under one system.

It seems to me that there is great danger that this thing will end in a 'fiasco' and that more or less of 'ridicule' will fall on the old Magrader name, as gentlemen of that name seem to be the ones who are leading the enterprise.

I think there ought to be some plan whereby the surname of Magrader and all their kindred of other names who may be induced to join them, can maintain themselves distinct in one body, so that the aristocratic renown and prestige of this old name may be in no wise 'minished or reduced.

We could be a separate and distinct tribe and surname, just as are the Griersons or MacAdams or the MacAlpins, and at the same time be an arm, or at least a political ally or honorary member of the large, general Society.

If an examination were made of the directories of the several largest cities of the U. S. and of those in Canada and the Provinces, - there would be found many of the name of MacGregor. But I believe the great majority of these MacGregors would prove to be recent importations and very few of them of more than two or three generations standing in this country. And I'm quite certain none of them would know much about the Magraders, if indeed they ever heard the name.

The Magraders were, 'tis true, an old Highland family and can boast of some fame and significance in 'History and Romance' in Scotland as well as in America (as I will show in a separate sheet containing the replies to your

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your questions) but, as it happens, they became practically obsolete in Scotland many generations ago, indeed, have been extinct (or nearly so) since the '45 (1745).

There is only one family of the name left in the Highlands and that family consists of one maiden lady: - Miss MacGruthar of Anichmar House, Dunblane. So, you see the name is now little known in Scotland and, as we spell it, I may say it is not known at all, except among such of the nobility and gentry as have known Lady Abinger and members of her family.

I have always identified the name with the Sept of MacCruithair; the etymological variations of this name corresponding exactly with those forms in which we find our name in the Scottish and Maryland Records and Archives. The Gaelic form MacCruithair of MacCruiter signifies the "Son of the Harper" or "Sons of the Bards", the word Cruiter being Celtic for Harper or a Highland bard. They are enumerated as one of the septs or tribes of the Clan Gregor in the article on the MacGregor family in "Douglass' Baronage of Scotland." They were bards or sennachies to Clan Gregor, and in ancient times were the genealogists or historians and preserved the annals of the Clan, among other offices and functions.

Why could not our name which is all that is left of this ancient tribe, have charge of, or a special interest in the historical department of the Clan? This would serve to keep intact the old tribal patronymic and we could be known as the Historians of the Society and take the lead in that phase of Clan activity.

I will go into this more particularly in another letter which I shall try to prepare during the next few days; which letter will contain specific replies to your several questions as well as a further elaboration of some of my views and ideas.

In my rambles in Scotland a number of years ago, I dabbled more or less

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in these matters of genealogical inquiry.

Scottish history and Scottish antiquities and especially the romantic side of the history of old Scottish families, - has always been a sort of literary hobby of mine, or at least would have been had my health permitted me to pursue it. But I was forced to abandon it many years ago.

In my researches at the outset, I became impressed with the fact that while the Libraries were full of histories of many of the Highland families - some of them most complete and elaborate - yet there had never been published any book (of any considerable dimensions) on the Clan Gregor, although that Clan is admittedly the most ancient and one of the largest and most powerful of all the Highland families. There is no name in Scotland which has left such an impress in the annals of the country and has been so famous in song and story as the MacGregors have, since history first began. And this is but a commonplace with any one at all conversant with Scottish or English history.

So, I conceived the idea, that I would undertake to compile and supply the world with a large and comprehensive genealogical history of the Clan Alpin and all its branches, - not realizing, of course, how inadequately equipped I was for such an undertaking.

When last in Scotland, in the summer of '97, I learned that a large, general history of the Clan Gregor was in process of compilation by one of the MacGregor family; and though I have never seen the volumes already published, I have borne it in mind and thought of mentioning it to you. But from your type-written statement just received, I see that you are already advised of its existence and probably by this time have the work in your possession.

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In this connection, I would like to state most emphatically that if the final volume of that publication is to contain any account of or reference to the Sept of Magruder - (which, 'tho' not of much significance in Scotland, as a surname, yet is of great distinction as one of the well known and greatly esteemed Southern American names) - an effort should be made and steps taken, that full historical justice be done to us. The British, as you are doubtless aware, are prone to judge of such things from a strictly British viewpoint, and are, as a rule, most insufficiently informed on the subject of "American Nobility" - are slow to recognize it at least.

I enclose a list of some of the great clans and minor septs which are supposed to belong to and to be descended from the Giol Alpin. I supply it entirely from memory and offer it merely as a "curiosity", as giving an idea of what an extensive and complicated thing the Clan Gregor Genealogy is.

Very sincerely yours

Henry Latham Magruder

P. S. I think the "Clan Gregor Society of America" by far the best name for the association.

I have not yet received the Rules and ^{Regulations} ~~by-laws~~ to which you refer in your letter.

P.S. I have just received a letter of yours dated July 22nd '09, - which it seems has been delayed in the P.O. of this town. This P.O. is not reliable & 'tis just as well to register all mail matters addressed to me. The Rules & Regulations of the Clan Gregor Society of America are now being prepared.

Possibly, all of my communications have not reached you. My last was dated 19 August '09 -

OAK GROVE,

Flint, Michigan

30 August '09

Dr. E. M. Maguach.

Dear Sir:

You have requested me, in one of your recent letters, to send in to you by September 1st, the title of such article as I may be able to contribute to your programme of exercises in Washington next October. I find that it will be impossible

— for the reasons I have before hinted — to get up a 'general survey' of MacGregor, to be used as an address, as you suggested.

I will however try to construct a "brief paper" which I will offer as a minor contribution — not to be read ^{from a platform}, or given publicly, but simply to be filed among the archives of the Society — or circulated among those who have an interest.

The Title of the paper will be:

"The Macgruders in Scotland and America",
+ it will be but a short essay or message, confined almost entirely to our own tribe + will amount to little more than a hasty re-hash of what you already possess. You may list it or not, as you see fit. It will be ready by October 1st

I posted a long typewritten letter, last week which I trust reached you in due course

I have no objection to the
filing for inspection of any
or all of my letters among
the papers of the Society.

Very truly yours
Henry Lathrop McQuinn

I will try to write out brief replies
to your specific questions & send
them to you before long; also possibly
further expressions on the Clear undertaking.

Clan Gregor + the various ¹patronymics supposed to be derived therefrom

Sìol Alpin (Clan Alpin) Mac Alpín

Mac Gregor

(note. The following are all reckoned as "Mac Gregors")

Mac Kinnon (Mac Fingon)

Mac Nab
Grant

Mac Kay

Mac Eagh = (Mac Kaig)
"Children of the mix"

Mac Quarry → (Mac Quarry)
"Chief of Ulva's Isle" Mac Quire
Mac Cormac (Scot.) Mac Gorry
Mac Cormick (Irish) Maguire
Maguire

Mac Fie

Mac Duffie

Mac Doul

Mac Diulcher

Mac Coulcher

Descendants of
"Doughall Chian
Macgregor"

Mac William

Mac Murch

Mac Gregour
Mac Grigor
Mac Griogair
Mac Gruger

Mac Aulay (anciently)
(Mac Kally)

Mac Elduy

Mac Combich

Compiled 1897 at General Register House, Edinburgh, by Rev. Henry Patton, historian, author and genealogist, and his son H.M. Patton, with General Register House for 30 years and curator from 1936 to 1958.

Black
Fletcher (See MacLeisten)

Grierson
— (Greer - Gregorson - Grayson - Greig
Greig

Leitch (Same as Fletcher)

Mac Adam

— Mac Greer
— Gregson

MacGruder (Mac Cruiten - Mac Crowder - McCrowther)
MacGruthen (Mac Chruithair - Mac Crowther - McCrowder
(Harperston) (An Strathairn - The Glen + Dalrymple)

Mac Kell (Mackillie
Mackill
Mackall)

Mac Ara — Mac Gill —

(Baron Mac Ara - a remote cadet of MacGregor - has acquired
some arms as well)

Mac Choiten

Mac Leisten (The Clan an-Leisten)
— Mac Leish — see Fletcher

Mac Liven (neish)
Mac Nie (nish)

Mac Nee
Mac Nish

Malloch (Maillair) - also the MacGregor Drummonds & Bolehall
White (White) MacStutchen - MacVicar (from the Fortingall
in Glenelg)

Oak Grove

Flint, Michigan

8 September 1909

Dr. E. M. Magruder
Charlottesville, Va.,

Dear Sir:

Your highly esteemed letter of September 2^d was duly received + much appreciated. I had already posted to you the replies to your several questions, which I set out as well as I could under the circumstances. Not having quite enough space, I'm afraid the manuscript was crowded and illegible, but trust you were able to extract the sense, such as it was.

I find that agitating these matters in my mind, as I have been doing for the past month or so, has a bad effect on my general condition and tends to postpone the recovery of my health, if not to defeat it altogether. I believe it would have been wiser for me to have dropped the business entirely for the time, until my health could be established. I might then possibly be of some real use to the undertaking. I feel assured that such a Society or Association as that now being assembled, could eventually be made a great success, realizing, as I do, the eminence and worth of the gentlemen whose names you have listed in your letter. With such support and endorsement, there should be every prospect of a good beginning. I am sure I feel much honoured in having my name included on such a Committee, but cannot help feeling how absurdly

ill qualified I am to serve in such a capacity.

Your list, for the most part, is of men of matured judgment and experience in life, who are doubtless already members of various Societies, Associations, fraternal-orders & the like & are accordingly familiar with the organization of such institutions. I have little knowledge, as yet, of such things, And as to the subject of "Clans", The MacGregor history ect., - I must say that you are in error in supposing me possessed of any wide intelligence, even in these lines. I am neither learned nor particularly well informed on the history of Scottish Clans; and if I were, I can't see how it would avail much in launching such a project as that you have in hand.

The more I think of it, the better convinced I am that a large, indiscriminate, general Clan Society - including all MacGregors in America (from Maine to California & from Hudson Bay to Mexico), such as was first suggested, - is absolutely impracticable. If such a thing, or anything like it, is ever attempted, I think it ought to be done under the direct patronage & countenance of the Native Society, in Scotland, & of its 'Chief'. Some one of the leading men of the name of MacGregor in Canada, for instance, it seems to me would be best fitted to head such a gathering & he ought to be chosen or qualify on the nomination of Sir Malcolm MacGregor himself. In such case the burden of the initiative would be where it properly belongs. At any rate, I should think it the height of folly for gentlemen of our name (Macgruders), to act on behalf of the whole Surname of MacGregor in America (or even in U.S.)

and to undertake to be responsible therefor, - especially, to the Chief of the Scottish Organization.

I have the very greatest respect for the native Scotch in general and for the family of Macgregor in particular. Indeed I know of nothing for which I have greater respect. And for that very reason, I think all steps are to be carefully avoided which might eventually prove disappointing or vexatious to the people on the other side of the water. This is my attitude personally on this point, because I feel that I may have already, in the past, stirred up more or less of trouble in those very quarters.

Therefore, - and for other reasons (such as cited in my type-written letter) - I quite agree as to the propriety of limiting the Society, for the present at least, to our immediate clan or tribe; that is, to the descendants of Alexander Macgruder; Admitting also such other families (of Macgregor blood) as may be allied by marriage, propinquity, etc., & suitable on those grounds.

I could enter heartily into such an Association and so also, I believe, could most of our branch of the family - (the progeny of Alex^r Macgruder, III. & his wife, Eliza Howard); not only all of our Macgruders, but also some of the other lines: such as the Marlburys, Covingtons, Bealls, Hansons, Mackalls, Lents etc.

I assume that you have seen the article on the Macgruders, which appeared in the 'Baltimore Sun' a number of years ago (Oct. 2-'04) by Mrs Hester Dorsey Richardson (Mrs A. L. Richardson, I think) - in which the idea is suggested of the Macgruders & kindred families forming themselves

into an organization such as is now under way. The idea appealed to me at the time & I have often thought of it since.

It seems to me that the distinction drawn between a 'Clan' & a 'Society', as explained in the communication of Sir Malcolm Macgregor, - is a strong point in this connection. In Scotland, the 'Clan' membership is necessarily confined to those of one surname, that is, to the male lines of descent - their kindred of other surnames belonging, in most cases, to other Clans. With us, however, the strength & excellence of the 'Macruder Cult', lies largely in families of ^{the} Macruder blood, but of other names.

So, - that the association in which these other lines might be induced to join, would be more properly a "Society" or "Federation".

It is true that the name of MacGregor is a 'Tower of Strength' in itself; & the spirit of Clanship as well as other qualities peculiar to the Scotch temperament, have come down to us as an heritage from 'Macgregor'; - so that it is undoubtedly highly proper that the Macgregor tradition & Scottish earmarks and partialities should in some way be preserved - as a distinguishing feature - in a fraternity having its foundation largely in such tradition. As I understand it, so far, the idea has been to preserve such Scotch tradition, by calling the Society: The "Clan Gregor Society of America". But, altho' this title would assuredly be the correct designation for the great & comprehensive Clan first mooted, - it seems to me hardly a proper name for a Federation consisting very largely of

families of other names than Magruder or Macgregor. However, this is merely a matter of choice or preference, easily settled, as by a majority vote.

I must confess my idea, from the outset, has been that the proper appellation for the 'limited organization' would be:

The "Clan Magruder Society", - or the "Magruder Federation" or - not to give undue prominence to our Surname - "The Dumbarton Fed."

This might afterward offer itself as a 'Chapter' of the larger 'Clan', should such ever come into being.

There are families of Magruder descent in New York City + in Philadelphia as well as in Ohio + in other Eastern and Northern localities, as may be seen from the names listed at the End of the article referred to, in the Baltimore Sun. It seems to me it would be a great advantage if some of these families could be persuaded to espouse this undertaking, - thereby divesting it of any 'sectional exclusiveness'. That is, it would be seen, that it was not necessarily limited to 'Southern families'.

As to the matter of adopting a 'Constitution & by-laws', to which you have repeatedly referred in your correspondence, I'm obliged to say that I have little knowledge & no experience of such things. But, with eminent jurists, lawyers & men of affairs on the committees, it would seem that little difficulty could attend that phase of the enterprise.

I suppose the 'institution' would eventually have to take on some sort of a 'legal status', such as a Corporation, Stock-Company or Trust Company, with either a State or Federal Charter.

It has often occurred to me that, if this business is actually ^{to go} ~~forward~~ forward + ~~be~~ pushed to a successful Conclusion + the Society duly incorporated + the membership developed + extended — as, from your letters I gather is likely to be the case, — there ought to be some fixed and guiding 'purpose' ^{decided upon} to colour the life, activity + philosophy of the Society; some general 'theme of its existence'; some 'destiny' to achieve, involving principles and tenets which would have perhaps a direct bearing on the social and political careers of its members + influence their outlook on life + society generally; such tenets and guiding principles to be clearly set out in the Constitution + oath of admittance to membership.

I mean by this that there might be, or ought to be, some larger object or purpose than the usual + customary policies + incidents of fraternal orders: such as 'Community of interest', mutual aid + various social + administrative functions; these are all understood as a 'matter of course', though the precise character of these minor incidents also would appear in the Constitution.

As to Rules + Regulations, By-laws etc., governing admission + general conduct of members + all that sort of thing; these, I take it, are items of lesser importance + readily handled by Executive + administrative committees.

You see that I am disposed to express myself rather freely in obedience to your request that I do so, though my ideas are of the vaguest description.

I shall not attempt to elaborate further these views of mine; Suffice it to say that my 'visions of the future' in this behalf may never be realized & that they include a variety of plans: such as for instance - the purchase of some one of the old Magruder Estates in Maryland (preferably in Prince George's County on the Potomac), & the building of a 'Clan Castle' or Club House to be used as a sort of 'Country Club' by members of the Society, and to be called 'Castle Magruder' or Castle Macgregor, or 'Dumbarton Castle'. The membership of such club would be drawn from the general membership of the Society, yet would not necessarily take in all, & would be divided into Charter-members, resident members, (within a radius of say 100 miles) & non-resident members, scattered throughout the country.

The various & manifold uses & purposes to which such a 'Club-house' could be put ~~and~~ need not be set out at present. The Scheme is somewhat fantastic & can be developed later if the proper occasion should ever arrive.

It may be that I shall have to abandon

The task of getting up a 'paper' as a contribution to your Washington programme. I doubt much whether I shall be able to keep my promise in that particular. It would amount to very little in any event. But I will do it if I can.

very truly yours

Henry Lathrop Magruder

P. S. Your further communication, dated September 5th, has just reached me.

I am very sorry that my opinion as to the origin of the Magruder_s, as conveyed in my replies to your several questions, should have had an unfavourable effect on the general aspect of your project. I did not intend - distinctly & finally - to give ~~them~~ the impression that the Magruder_s are not descended of Macgregor. My notes were simply offered as throwing some light on the possible remoteness of the descent. The Macgregor tradition has always been as strong & persistent in our branch of the family as in all others, & we have ever cherished it & been very proud of it. I fully recognise the force

of the several reasons which you offer as tending to support the ^{idea} of a MacGregor descent.

I have seen the Act of the Maryland Legislature to which you refer, & am also well aware of the connection with the family of the 'Lords Abinger' & of the circumstance of the late Lord having been given the name & style of "MacGregor - Scarlett" out of compliment to the mother's family.

The enumeration of MacGregor Lepts & tribes on the postcard &c I have seen.

There must, as you say, be some foundation for such a widely known & persistent tradition. I know that the notion was rife in our immediate family in Revolutionary times, at least before the close of the 18th century. But in spite of all this, I am still inclined to the view that if there was any direct change of name, it came about many generations before the Settlement in Maryland.

But does it really make so very much difference whether they were actually MacGregors in the middle of the 17th century, or only a remote cadet of the same general stock?

They were indubitably 'Scotch' & indubitably a Highland 'mac'.

I think so much agitation of these points tends to cheapen the name of Magruder, with a resulting loss of dignity & prestige.

There is nothing obscure or dubious about the Magruder

that I am aware of. They have been a well known & distinct surname in this Country (especially in the South of Course) for fully 250 years.

It is a great thing to be a Macgregor, but 'tis also, in my opinion, a great thing to be a member of the famous Southern family of Magruder.

I will give you an illustration:

The Scottish border clan, the "Griersons" (of which the chief family is the Baronet of ~~Lag~~) — are Macgregors in blood & descent. Their name was founded as far back as the end of the 14th or the beginning of the 15th century when Gilbert Macgregor, a 2^d or younger son of ~~Malcom~~ Malcom, Lord of Macgregor (so 'tis said), called himself Grierson (a contraction of Gregorson, which is plainly but an English form of Macgregor), & settled in the Border Country & became possessed of large estates. His line & progeny have been known as Greers & Griersons ever since; & the "Sairds of Lag" are famous in Border history. The present Laird (a Baronet) doubtless acknowledges his Macgregor descent & is proud of it; but it is certain that he is no less proud of

being a Grierson + representative of the long line of renowned Border Laids. The point is, that the Griersons, as such, have a history distinct from that of the original surname of Macgregor.

Whether these border families of Greer + Grierson maintained any communication or connection with their Highland Cousins + just what it amounted to, I don't know. Nor do I know whether the "Laird of Lag" of today is a member of the Highland Society, - though he might consistently be. In the same way the "Macgruders" of Md., Va. & the South (+ elsewhere in America) have a history of their own + bear a name which has become illustrious for ages of virtue + rendered famous by the valourous deeds of many a gallant gentleman, in War as in peace + in all the honourable walks of life.

Why should it be merged in the more general name of Macgregor which has no distinctive history in this country? I am as proud of the Scotch descent as anyone of us and some day it may be

(12)

satisfactorily cleared up. I don't wish to be understood as in any way repudiating this tradition, far from it.

My views as to the proper name for the society are expressed above; but there is no reason why they should have any weight as against those of other people. I merely offer them for what they are worth.

H. L. M.

OAK GROVE,

Dr. E. M. Magruder
Charlottesville, Va.,

Flint Michigan
26 September 1909

Dear Sir:-

I was glad to have your very
interesting letter of Sept^r 17th

Anything that has to do with the history of Scotland
or of Scottish families always has had & always will have
a peculiar interest for me.

I hope, before long, to send for the volumes that have
been issued of the "History of Clan Gregor" by Miss Amelia
Murray MacGregor, of the family of the Chief, Sir Malcolm
MacGregor. I suppose they can be readily purchased
from one of the large publishing houses, - such as Scribner's
Inc., N.Y. or -

say (& I think you will appreciate the truth of the remark), that few persons in Great Britain or elsewhere, will examine these volumes with greater interest & enthusiasm than myself.

I did not know that such an active correspondence had been maintained with the ^{chief} of the Scottish organization ~~at this~~ & trust that he will not be grievously disappointed in the outcome of this business. The family of the present Chief is a very high family in Scotland & it strikes me they have acted with great generosity & fairness.

I have made another effort to persuade my Father to attend your meeting in Washington, but I doubt if it will be successful. If I were well enough, I should like exceedingly to be present myself, but that of course is now out of the question. I hope it will be a great success & should be very glad to hear an account of the results.

I have about finished the 'paper' which you have asked for, but, as I predicted, it amounts to very little. I have no notes & could only write from memory. It is simply a 'hash up' of a few things I happened to remember. The 'MacGregor' part of it is quite 'bulky', but I am ^{pretty} ~~quite~~ certain that almost any 'Scottish guide book' or 'Railway Almanac' would supply you with a far better & more accurate account.

You will readily perceive that my 'paper' is not at all suited for an 'oral address' & could not possibly be used as such. My intention was to have it written up in type, by a Stenographer & I will try to have this done; in which event, I could not get it to you before the 4th or 5th of October. If I don't succeed in getting someone to write it up, - I will simply have to present it to you in its present 'manuscript form'. It comes to something more than '70 pages' & the 'voluminousity' of it, I should

Imagine would quite stagger any one who
may set out to go through the whole
of it. Such as it is, 'tis entirely at your
service, & I suggest that it be filed together
with the rest of my correspondence on this subject.
(If the letters have been preserved) so that my position
in ~~this~~ this matter, if it is ever investigated, may
be clearly understood.

Your letters are very interesting to me
& I shall be very glad to hear from you
further at any time.

I bespeak great success for yourself & other
Gentlemen of the Clan -

Very truly yours

Henry John Nagler

3) Explain the variations in the names of Alexander Magruder, the Ancestor, such as "Magruder", "Macruder", "Magruther", "Macruther", which have you & others apply indiscriminately to him & to his son Samuel. Which of these was the correct name of the ancestor?

In the Scottish Public Records, the forms McGruder & McSnutter are used indiscriminately; this variation - substituting the "th" for "d" is of common occurrence in Scottish & Irish names. For instance the Surname "Rutherford" (now universally so spelled) appears very often, in the early writs, as

^(Ruddiford) Ruddiford. Probably many other illustrations could be cited. There is no explanation that will account for the change, except that the "th" gives a "broader Scotch", the "d" being more common to the English roots. It can simply be dubbed a "Celtic aspiration". The pure Gaelic forms would probably contain the "th" or "t", instead of the "d". This same variation in the consonants is familiar to us in the use of such words as: murder, powder, Shoulder etc., which even in the present day we often hear broadened to "murther", "powther", "Shouther to Shouther" etc. etc.

In the Crown Charters (Grants under the Great Seal of Scotland) which are in Latin, the form McGruder is generally given. The same spelling also appears in the Records of the Privy Council; while in some other classes of records, such as the Returns of Service of theirs; the Testametary Records (not published) & the Records of Births, Marriages &c, both forms appear, - being often applied to the same individual without preference.

In the Public Records & archives of Md., precisely the same variations are found except that the "e" in the "mac" (barring one or two instances) is dropped, probably for no other reason than that is easier to write it so; as in Magee, Mayall etc. In the earliest charter, or Land Patent, from the Lord Proprietary (Cecil, Lord Baltimore) dated 1651, & conveying 600 acres of land in Calvert Co. the name of the grantee (on a marginal entry) appears as Alexander "Macruder" (sic). But in the other Charters & Testaments, that I have seen, the name generally is spelled Magruder or Magruther with an occasional variation of the second vowel to "ou", "oo" or "ow". In the case of our surname I believe the changes are not due either to illiteracy or negligence, nor yet to carelessness of Scribes, but that a sound etymological basis or excuse can be found for all of them. If the name is founded on the Gaelic word Chruithir or Chruithair (meaning a Harper or Highland bard), - these changes will be easily accounted for by consulting Webster's Dictionary under Crowd & Croud (q.v.). Sir Walter Scott in his novel "Fortunes of Nigel", recognizing such a derivation & variation in the Surname of the Character: Sir Mungo Macgruther (q.v.) after the death of the first settler in Md. (1676), the spelling "Magruder" seems to have been settled & has continued so to this day, and I believe there is no name better known or more greatly esteemed throughout the South. It is also well known in Newport & N.Y. & the other large cities - also in Ireland as in England; in Rome, Florence & in Paris.

believe our surname with its established & distinctive spelling is well & highly known in all circles of high Society where the people, as a matter of course, are familiar with such matters.

(4) When & under what circumstances did Alexander Macgregor¹⁹⁰ ^{emigrate} if he was a member of Clan Gregor & the son of a Macgregor, choose his name - & to what did he change it?

There was no change of name, as many have supposed, but I am quite certain that the "first settler" & his family, for many generations prior to the 17th century bore the name substantially as we find it to day. Nor is it a derivation, or perversion, or corruption of the name Macgregor as some have ~~supposed~~ ^{assumed} or claimed. It is most difficult, if not in some cases, absolutely impossible to make the average layman comprehend the fact ^{that} many of the Scottish Surnames (those of the clans especially) had their origin in remote times, before the system of family names & given names - in common practice in modern times - had become settled, or had fairly begun to be settled. Suffice it to say that a number of the ancient tribes of the Clan Gregor which from remote times were allys, adherents & actual members of the clan came off the stem of Macgregor ~~in~~ at a very early date; in some cases they were not offshoots of one of the main lines known as Macgregors but were ^{sprung} from the ~~10th~~ 10th + 11th ^{or 12th} centuries from the Great alpsium Stock from which ¹⁰ many of the great clans were ~~spring~~ cadetted.

It is not easy to understand & appreciate this fully without making a study of clan history. The system of "tribal patronymies" gave birth to many of these sorts of distinctive surnames. But they were nevertheless Macgregors ^{in blood} and Macgregors, & were ranked as such, tho' known from early times by a different appellation. This subject of the Macgregor nomenclature is further complicated by the fact that during those dark days of their history, in the 15th, 16th centuries when they were struggling to resist incursions on their ancient holdings, in Argyll & Perth & in other districts; when sentence of outlawry & death by sword were passed upon them, - many of their families did actually adopt other surnames, and later on after the battle of Glenfruin ¹⁶⁰⁹ when the surname of Macgregor was called down by Parliamentary enactment, - all of the name were forced for the time to call themselves by other names. But in most cases these changes were but temporary, the old name being resumed when these statutes were repealed. But in the case of the Magruder, there was no change of this sort, the patronymic simply originated in one of the Early Centuries (12th or 13th) when some ancestor of the old stock of Macgregor or Macalpin, from his office or occupation was distinguished by a Gaelic epithet which in shape of a patronymic was passed on to his ^{one} descendant. I think that the Macgregor tradition in N. H. was given color & strength by the fact that "James Macgregor" & his son Hugh (Ewan) were in N. H. 1649 until their death 1677 or the death of the Elder at least; & that this family was one of the last chiefs of the old line. The probable of his race is indicated as "Magruder".

37 I would like to trace Alexander Magruder, the Emigrant's pedigree
or for better or it can be traced.

I cannot supply this. My impression is that the father of the Emigrant
was named James & not Alexander & that they were Presbyterians
of the Covenanted ^{Presbyterian} ~~class~~ & were probably middle class tenant-farmers
in Strathblane, in the "Tennix". There was a place called "Dunblane" near
"Killearn" in this district in the 16th & 17th centuries, wh. is not to be confounded
with the old Cathedral Town on the "allan", in "part of Sterling" some 30-35 miles
to the ^{no} East of Killearn. Yet from the similarity of the names & from
other circumstances it is hard to resist the conclusion that they belonged
to the same old Highland family & were cousins of the families of the same
name in Strathearn (Perthshire) (yet the historians say that that those Magruder
were "Robertsons" (a branch of the McDouglads) & not McDougals).

I had some notes on the branches of the name in Strathearn, mainly
the results of searches made for me by Mr. Henry Paton of Edinburgh.
He had also begun work on the parishes in the Tennix & Loch Lomond Side.

I enclose you a letter from him which you can use if there is
anyone within your ken. of sufficient means & energy to continue the investigation.
Mr Paton's services were employed to good effect by the author of the
work on the Bowie family - a book which you have doubtless seen.
There is no better man in Scotland in this line of work. He is honorable,
conscientious, & scholarly & his charges are reasonable.

There is a good deal that is most interesting & romantic woven around the Magruder in
"Strathearn" from their connection with the family of Stewart of Ardvoilich
(See Scott's "Legend of Montrose"); the Murrays of Strouan; the Reidards, Campbell,
Drummonds etc.

To sum up: - whatever the parentage of the Colonists of the name in Maryland, it is enough that
they were "Scots" of a good "Canny" stock & fibre; that Alexander M. was a successful planter & man of
substance & political influence. 3000 & 4000 acres of the best land in Md. most of which
he left to his six children, who (the sons) all married well & held positions of responsibility in
the civil & military life of the Province.