

ERRATUM.—At the end of the last line, on page 4, the word "not" has been omitted.

PROSPECTUS.

THE HISTORY OF

THE GREGG FAMILY

IN AMERICA.



FROM THE ARRIVAL OF OUR EMIGRANT ANCESTORS IN THE  
EARLY PART OF THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY  
TO THE CLOSE OF THE NINETEENTH.

INCLUDING AN ELABORATE AND VALUABLE ACCOUNT OF  
THE ORIGIN OF THE FAMILY IN SCOTLAND  
IN THE NINTH CENTURY.

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TO BE PUBLISHED BY  
THE GREGG GENEALOGICAL COMPANY,  
OF ST. LOUIS, MO.

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OFFICE OF L. L. GREGG,  
132 FRONT ST., BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN,  
NEW YORK, Jan., 1898. }

**The Gregg Genealogical Co.** of St. Louis, Mo., organized November 8th, 1897, and incorporated for fifty years, under the laws of Missouri, having purchased all the Data, Correspondence, and other property accumulated by the late **Gregg Genealogy Co.**, of Boston, Mass., since its organization in May, 1893, (of which Company they were also the principal Officers and Stockholders). will now, with largely increased capital, and the knowledge and experience gained in their first effort, carry to completion the object originally contemplated of publishing a **History of the Gregg Family in America**, including the *Gragg* and *Greig* variations of the name: with their collateral lines, during the past two hundred and fifty years.

An effort will be made also, to include some account of those using the more widely variant forms, which have crept into use during the past thousand years, viz.: Grig, Grigg, Grigor, Greg, Gregor, Gregory, Grigson, Gregson, Grigerson, Gregerson, Grier, Grierson, Greer, Grigsby, Gregsby, MacGrigor and MacGregor: as all of them have a common origin, and descent from **Greg** (son of th.

Scottish King Dungallus), King of Scotland A. D. 875 to 893; and known in modern history as Gregory the Great, of Scotland.

It is intended to industriously and faithfully try to compile the genealogies of all the **Gregg, Gragg and Greig** branches—who will furnish what data and other information they can—to their Emigrant Ancestors who came to America previous to 1800. It is not intended, however, to trace at length each of the families in Great Britain previous to the departure of their Emigrant Ancestors; but, as the family, and branches of it, have held an important part in the history of Scotland—especially in Ancient and Mediæval times—the book will contain an elaborate Essay upon the Origin and Status of the Family in Scotland, with citation of the very numerous authorities on the subject, written by Mr. William H. Gregg, President of the Company; an epitome of which is presented herewith for your perusal.

The account of the Family in America will form an interesting contribution to the country's history, as it will chronicle the part taken by them during the past two hundred and fifty years, in connection with their fellow countrymen, the so called *Scotch-Irish*, who were conspicuous actors during the Colonial period, and, later, were concededly the main factors in establishing the Independence and after-development of the United States of America.

Several prominent members of the family in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, North and South Carolina and elsewhere have, at various times during the last hundred years, written more or less elaborate Memoirs of their several branches, which will be embodied in the forthcoming volume; together with the additional matter to be accumulated by the Company; and the complete narrative will show the Gregg name to be honorably associated with the foremost characters in the country's history, as Statesmen, Soldiers, Clergymen, College Professors, Physicians, Lawyers, Merchants and other Business Men, and, in fact, in every reputable walk of life; ever preserving a creditable and often distinguished career as American citizens.

All possible methods have been adopted for reaching every member of the family in this country at the present time, with their collateral lines, and we are now in communication with a portion of them in every State and Territory of the Union, as well as in British America: but, in order to make the history as full and accurate as possible genealogically, we ask *your* co-operation, by promptly sending to the Editor whatever details of *Fam. Records* you have, or can obtain from your relative

Please fill out the enclosed *Blank form* with what information you can furnish; and, if your earlier ancestors a

known to you, it is probable the Company's Records, from other members of the Family, will furnish the connecting links in the chain of your ancestry back to the Emigrant Ancestor, as they have already done in numerous instances; and we will give that information to our subscribers even before the book is completed.

*If you know of any Gregg, Gragg or Greig, or those with whom any of them have intermarried, who have not received copies of this Prospectus and the other documents, please send their names and address to us, and they will be promptly supplied.*

Full biographical sketches of the eminent and distinguished members of the family will be given, and a special effort made to obtain interesting particulars from all; especially of the earlier generations, who were among the pioneer settlers of nearly every State in the Union. For instance, the first white child born in the now flourishing city of Sandusky, Ohio, is a Gregg, whose Scotch-Irish ancestors emigrated to New Hampshire in 1718, then to Western New York in 1793, and to Ohio in 1815; and he is now an extensive farmer in Kansas.

Well executed illustrations of Old Homesteads and other interesting antiquities, together with such portraits of our earlier ancestors as are now procurable, will be embodied in the book; but portraits of the present genera-



tion must, because of their great number, be used sparingly, and can only be inserted at the cost of the subscriber.

As in most genealogical ventures, this also, is likely to prove "a labor of love" to its promoters, rather than a profitable financial undertaking; but the ample capital of the Company will insure the completion and publication of the book in any event; and they will trust to be remunerated by your subscriptions to an extent which will prevent a serious pecuniary loss.

They hope that *you*, and every one who receives this Prospectus, will not only show your interest in the undertaking by sending your Family Records, but will subscribe for one or more copies of the book, using enclosed *Subscription form*, which contains price, terms, and all other particulars of contract.

The book will form a volume of considerable size; be well and attractively bound, and printed in clear, handsome type on good paper; and, it is expected, will be ready for delivery in about two years, *but very much depends upon the prompt action of those who receive this Prospectus, in sending in their Records, together with any biographical sketches they can.*

The Historical portion, and many of the Biographical sketches and Genealogies are already being written and compiled.

The Officers and Stockholders of the Company are as follows :

Mr. WM. H. GREGG, of St. Louis, Mo., formerly for many years President of the Southern White Lead Co., of St. Louis and Chicago.

Mr. NORRIS B. GREGG, of St. Louis, Mo., President of The Mound City Paint & Color Co., of St. Louis, Mo.

Mr. WM. H. GREGG, Jr., of St. Louis, Mo., Vice-President of The Mound City Paint & Color Co., of St. Louis, Mo.

Mr. L. L. GREGG, for nearly thirty years a Tea Broker of New York, and now of 132 Front St., N. Y.

Mr. ISAAC P. GRAGG, President of The Cape Breton Copper Co., of 53 State St., Boston, Mass.

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Mr. L. L. Gregg, is the General Manager of the Company, and will compile and edit the History. *In view of the fact that he has no light task before him he earnestly requests that you will give him your assistance by promptly sending all the information possible concerning the members of*

*the family, and their collateral branches.* He is in possession of, and familiar with, the whole of the Correspondence and Data accumulated by the former Company, but will require all the additional facts necessary to make the History accurate and satisfactory as soon as possible, if he is to complete the work in the time specified.

*Please Address all communications to*

THE GREGG GENEALOGICAL CO.,

132 FRONT ST., BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN,

NEW YORK.



## ORIGIN OF THE GREG, GRIG, AND MAC GREGOR FAMILIES.

Before entering upon the origin of the Greg, Grig, and Mac Gregor families, it will be necessary to give a short outline of the history, during some centuries before and after the Christian era, of the people who occupied and ruled, and whose descendants now occupy the countries we know as Ireland and Scotland.

The name Scotia or Scotland was not applied to the territory we know as Scotland until the tenth century. All of the territory north of the Firths of Forth and Clyde, that is, north of a line drawn from Edinburgh to Glasgow, was known to the Romans before the Christian era, during their occupation of the country, as Caledonia, Pikia, Pictavia, Alba, Albania and Albany, and the inhabitants were called by the Romans Albanians, Caledonians and Picts. The inhabitants, however, called themselves the Cruithne, after the name of their legendary, or traditional, original ancestor and first ruler, whose name was Cruithne.

Until the sixth century the island we know as Ireland was called by the Romans and others, Hibernia, and the inhabitants were known as Hibernians. Ireland received an immigration, or invasion, of a people from the continent of Europe, said to be of the Celtic race, and called Scots or Milesians. The date, or dates, of the coming of this people is still unsettled. Fordun and other early writers say they came from Spain as early as 1300 B. C., but these statements are now considered fabulous. It is generally conceded, however, that when the island was first known to the Romans, the Scots had substantially taken possession of the country and were ruling the people they had found there, and that the island finally took the name of Scotia from them. It is generally conceded that the name Scots was first used by Ammianus Marcellinus, a Latin writer, in A. D. 360, and that Hibernia was first mentioned as being also called Scotia by Isidore of Seville in 580.

A portion of the Scots who had settled in Dalraidia, which is in the northeastern part of Ireland, emigrated to, or invaded Argyle on the west coast of what is now called Scotland, and early gained a foothold there, and occupied the country with the natives, the Caledonians or Picts. This invasion is stated by some of the early chroniclers to have occurred some centuries before the Christian era, and it is not fully settled yet as to when the first invasion, or settlement, did take place, and it is claimed by some writers that the Picts drove the Scots out in the fourth century A. D., but this is not admitted by modern writers. Skene in "Celtic Scotland" says: "The first really historical appearance of the Scots in Britain is in the year 360 A. D., when in conjunction with the Picts they attacked the Roman province in Britain;" but this statement is still controverted.

From 360 to 410, the Scots, Picts, Saxons and Attacotti made war upon, and raided and ravaged the Roman occupants of Caledonia, each people seemingly fighting on their own account, but at times joining forces in part, until in 410 the Romans abandoned the whole country, including the entire Island of Britain, that year ending their rule in the country now called Scotland (or North Britain) and England.

In 503, as now generally conceded, a very important and numerous invasion of Dalraidic Scots took place under the leadership of their King, Fergus son of Ere (Fergus Mac Ere as modernly written), who seems to have gotten possession of a large portion of the country. For the next three centuries the Scots and Picts seem to have been almost continually at war with each other, but apparently with intermissions of peace. It is clear that the two peoples did to a great extent enter into social relations with each other, and that they intermarried quite generally.

In 843, Kenneth son of Alpin (Kenneth Mac Alpin as modernly written) who was descended from the Scottish King Fergus Mac Ere in the male line, and from the Pictish royal line (the Alpin) in the female line, conquered the Picts, or through peaceable and political means, gained complete supremacy, uniting the two dynasties

and peoples, and establishing what became the modern Kingdom of Scotland. His descendants, either through the male or female line, occupied the throne of Scotland until, and including James VI, who became also James I of England, the descendants of whom, either in the male or female line, have occupied the throne of Great Britain to the present time. Thus the line of descent from Fergus Mac Ere, down through the Alpin, Bruce and Stuart families to Queen Victoria is probably authentic.

The question as to whether the supremacy of Kenneth was attained by warlike or peaceable means has been a disputed one, and will probably never be settled, but it is a fact that he did rule the territory north of the Firths of Forth and Clyde, and that he was called "King of the Scots," and sometimes "King of the Picts."

It is doubtful as to just when the country began to be called Scotia or Scotland, but by the tenth to eleventh century it had fully acquired the name, and took it from the Scots, just as Hibernia had in the sixth or seventh century taken the name of Scotia from them.

The Dalraidic Scots, or as they are sometimes called, the Irish-Scots, had before the time of Fergus Mac Ere embraced Christianity, and had built churches and monasteries, some of the latter becoming noted seats of learning, and their scholars, of whom there were many, absorbed from the continent the literature of the times. They introduced into Scotland (as now called) their religion and the degree of education and culture then existing, to which the Picts had been strangers, having had, so far as is known, no written language.

The language of the Irish-Scots was undoubtedly the continental Celtic, but was called by nearly all early Scottish and English historians, the "Irish." Camden (sixteenth century) calls their language the "Irish," and says it is spoken by the "Highlanders" of Scotland. He also says regarding the language of the Picts "there is hardly a syllable of it to be found in any author." He also says "that the Scotch nation is the offspring of Ireland is sufficiently proved by the resemblance of language and dress, as well as arms and customs, continued to this day." Hume (eighteenth century) also calls it the Irish language and agrees with Camden as to descent of the Highlanders from the "Irish-Scots." During the present century it has been called by writers on Scottish subjects the "Irish," "Celtic" and "Gaelic" language, all meaning the same.

There has raged for nearly three hundred years a controversy among the Scotch, Irish, and English historians and antiquaries regarding the history of Scotland down to Kenneth's reign, or, in fact, three or more reigns later, growing out of the unwillingness of the modern Scots to admit that Kenneth and his Dalraidic predecessors completely subjugated the Picts. Some of the Scotch writers are not willing to admit that the Dalraidic Scots gave to the country its civilization, laws, etc., nor that the Kingdom of Scotland and its people were the progeny more of the Scots than of the Picts. This controversy is not yet ended, and it, with the so called English claims in Edward the 1st's time, and the more recent long-continued religious quarrels, has to a great extent confused and complicated the study of Scottish history. All of the histories, etc., particularly since Innes time, are more or less controversial from the Scottish or Pictish, or the Catholic or Protestant, standpoints.

The Greg, or Grig, family originated in Scotland, and the name is the root from which have sprung the Greggs, Greigs, Griggs, Graggs, Gregsons, Grigsons, Gregors, Grigors, Grigorsons, Gregorsons, Mac Gregors, Mac Grigors, Griers, Greers, Griersons and the Scotch family of Gregory.

The family played an important part in the ancient and mediæval history of Scotland, the first historical mention of any person of the name having been Greg, or Grig, who was the fourth King of Scotland after Kenneth Mac Alpin. Greg was of the Alpin royal line, and reigned from 875 until 893 A. D. In the earliest chronicles he is called Ciric, and in later ones Giric, Girc, Girc, and by some of the Latin writers Cirici and Ciricium, and in still later chronicles and histories, Gregor, Grigor, Greg Mac Dongal, Greg Mac Donnagal (Greg, son of Dongal or Donnagal), Gregory, Gregorius, and Gregory the Great, there never having been among the chroniclers, historians and antiquarians any question as to the identity of the individual. Skene, editor of "Chronicles of Picts and Scots," published by the English Government at Edinburgh, 1867, indexes him under the names Grig, Gyrg, Girc, Giric, Greg, Gregour, Gregorius, Ciric, Carus, Tirc, son of Donald, and Dungal, King of the Scots. The different ways of spelling occurring in the different chronicles. His home and castle was at Donedour, in the Garioch, Aberdeenshire, and Ecclesgreg (Greg's Church) is said to have been founded by, and named after him. He was of mixed Scottish and Pictish descent, as were all of the Alpine line, and the name Ciric



probably came from the Pictish legendary account of Cruithne and his seven sons; Cruithne, according to the legend, having been the progenitor, or first King or ruler, over the original inhabitants of the country now known as Scotland, and Ciric having been the name of one of his seven sons.

Thus the name Grig, or Greg, and all of its derivatives had an origin in Scotland entirely distinct and separate from the continental names of Gregory, Gregorius, etc., and their root.

During Greg's time, and for many years after, the Gaelic word "Mac" was simply a descriptive one, meaning "son" or "son of," and was not used as part of a surname until the eleventh century, so the early chroniclers call him Greg, son of Dongal, or son of Donnagal, or Donghal, etc., etc. He was the son of Dungallus (or as variously spelled Dungal, Dunegal, Dongal, etc.), who was the King next before Alpin (the father of Kenneth Mac Alpin), and from him derived his right to the throne. Dongal was a cousin in the first degree on the paternal side of Achais (father of Alpin), who married a Pictish princess, Fergusia, daughter of Hungus, a Pictish King, and thus united the Scottish and Pictish dynasties. It was through this descent that Alpin (Achais' son), claimed the right to rule over both the Piets and Scots, and that his son, Kenneth Mac Alpin, maintained the right, and was the first King of the two peoples, and founder of the modern Kingdom of Scotland.

The next personage of the name of Greg, mentioned in Scottish history, is Greg, Grig, Girgus, Grim, Girgus Mac Kinath (Girgus, son of Kenneth), or Kenneth Mac Duff, who was the ninth King of Scotland after Gregory. He came to the throne by right of birth in the regular line. According to all who have written on the subject, Lady Gruoch, his granddaughter, married Mac Beth, and so became the Lady Mac Beth of history and of Shakespeare's drama. By nearly all authorities he is called Kenneth IV.

The clans of Scotland were not in existence until long after the reigns of Gregory, and Greg, son of Kenneth, for which statement there is abundant testimony. Skene sums up this testimony in the following statement: "It is in the reign of David I that the Sept or Clan first appears as a distinctive and prominent feature in the social organization of the Gaelic population," and "they were distinguished from each other by their patronymics, the use of surnames in the proper sense of the term being unknown to them." Pinkerton says: "The 'Mac' now used was never anciently part of a fixed name till surnames arose in the eleventh century."

In mediæval times, after the Clans came into existence, and, in more modern times, under the names of Gregor, Grigor, Mac Grigor and Mac Gregor, the race, or family, were very prominent, and a great deal of romantic interest attached to the Clan Gregor, owing to their misfortunes in being dispossessed of their landed possessions by their more politic and unscrupulous neighbors. The history of the loss of their lands and titles furnished Scott with the foundation and material for his indimitable novels of Rob Roy and Legend of Montrose, and the character of Roderic Dhu in his poem *Lady of the Lake*. The Clan lived under acts of attainder or outlawry from 1488 until 1784 (Anderson), during which time the acts were enforced with more or less rigor, and part of the time it was against the law to name a child Gregor or Grigor. The Mac Gregors claim descent from the Alpin line through Alpin, Kenneth Mac Alpin (Kenneth, son of Alpin), and Gregory the Great, and, as is well known, have from time immemorial been called the "Clan Alpin," and their claim is a good one. The Rev. Thos. McLaughlan, one of the foremost, if not the very foremost, Celtic and Gaelic scholar of this century, who translated the "Book of the Dean of Lismore," and was the author of the article on Gaelic Language and Literature in the last edition of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, in his "Early Scottish Church, 1865," says, in writing of Alpin, father of Kenneth Mac Alpin, "The Clan Alpin, embracing as they do such races as the McGregors, the Grants, the McNabs and the McKinnons, are said to take their generic name from this monarch." Macleay says "Various Celtic annals are favorable to the extreme antiquity of this race; and an ancient chronicle in that language, relating to the Clan Mac Arthur, declares that there is none older except the hills, the rivers and the "Clan Alpin;" a Highland proverb says that "The hills, the Mac Alpins and the Devil came into the world at the same time;" and a Celtic proverb says, "The Mountains, the Rivers, and the Mac Gregors are coeval"

The Bruce family descended from the Alpine line in the female line, and the Stewart family descended from the Bruce in the same way.

The above short account of the origin of the Greg and derivative families is the result of the examination and analysis of a large number of chronicles originally written in the Latin, Irish (Gaelic) and Lowland Scotch languages, and assigned by antiquarians, historians and critics to dates beginning in the tenth century and ending

in the sixteenth, and having been written in all, or nearly all, cases by the priests, monks, priors, etc., of the Christian Church, and preserved in the churches, monasteries, priories and abbeys of Scotland; also an examination and analysis of "John of Fordun Chronicle of the Scottish Nation," 1394 A. D. "The original chronicle of Scotland by 'Andrew of Wyntown,' 1420, which two authors, it is generally conceded, had never met, and did not know each other, but agree in the main in their chronicles, both of which may be considered histories rather than chronicles; "The History and Chronicle of Scotland by Hector Boece," 1526; the "Scottish Chronicle by Raphael Hollingshead," written during the sixteenth century, edition of 1805; and "History of Scotland by Geo. Buchanan," 1582.

In all of the above works Greg is mentioned as the King of Scotland of the Alpin line, or as a son of Dongal, etc., who reigned next before Alpin, and in those where the date or order of his reign is treated of he is mentioned as fourth after Kenneth Mac Alpin, and in many of the works his reign is given much space and importance. His reign was the most important one between Kenneth Mac Alpin (854), and Malcolm Canmore (1057). (Fordun.)

The Book of Deer, supposed to have been written in the ninth or tenth century, in Latin, with marginal notes in Irish "at a later date," as stated by the editor, makes mention of a family of the name of Giric who occupied the country where the Monastery of Deer was founded (in Aberdeenshire) by Columba and "Drosten, son of Cosgreg" (translated "Cosgrach" by the editor), during the sixth century. One of the marginal notes reads "Domnall son of Giric, and Malbrigte son of Cathail, gave Pettitin-Muleme to Drosten." That is, they gave a mill to the church or monastery which Drosten had assisted in founding. In a note the editor says of St. Drosten: "According to the Legend of St. Drosten in the Breviary of Aberdeen, he was descended of the Royal Family of the Scots. His parents, in consequence of his devotion to religion, sent him to his uncle, St. Columba, in Ireland, to be perfected in his studies."

The Book of the Dean of Lismore, written 1512 to 1551 by two brothers of the name of Mac Gregor, and translated and published in 1867, has much valuable matter regarding the Mac Gregors, the Alpin line, and their descent from it.

The "Early Scottish Church," by the Rev. Thomas McLaughlan, 1865, also has much confirmatory matter as to the Mac Gregors descent from the Alpin line.

I mention the above few works as quite prominent among the almost innumerable books written during the present century and previously, bearing on the subject in hand. Very many city, county, and family histories, biographies, gazeteers, etc., touch more or less on the subject. In the modern works of many Scotch writers and books of heraldry the Mac Gregors are said to have descended from Gregory, and from the kings of the Alpin line before him. *Gregory thus had as regular and unquestioned place in Scotch history as any monarch of his century, or of the preceding or succeeding century.* His descent and right to the throne was never called in question until long after the appearance in the latter part of the sixteenth century of a so called "Pictish Chronicle, Colbertin," written in Latin, in which it is stated (if the translation is correct) that "Eochodius, son of Ku, King of the Britons and nephew of Kenneth, reigned eleven years, and with him Ciricium, his guardian, also reigned. In the second year of his reign Neil died, and on Cirici day there was an eclipse of the sun, and Eochodius, with his guardian, was expelled from the Kingdom." This statement covers the date assigned to Gregory in all the previous known histories of Scotland. The so called "Pictish Chronicle" has a very suspicious and very doubtful history, and its authenticity has never been, and can never be, proved, or, in the opinion of the writer, even made probable. Its most complete and earliest history is given in "Thos. Innes' Critical Essay on the Ancient Inhabitants of Scotland," 1729. Innes stands very high indeed among Scotch scholars, antiquarians and historians, for impartiality and fairness, and is generally quoted by all later writers on the early history of Scotland, and his account of the Pictish Chronicle, and his copy of it printed in his appendix are usually referred to as the first account of it, several stating he was the first to print it, but Innes himself says Camden printed it in one of his editions of 'Britannia.' He says: "This MS. belonged formerly to Secretary Cecil, Lord Burghley, afterward Lord High Treasurer of England," etc., and "Cecil's Library being afterward put to sale, this, with several others, was bought up by order of Mr. Colbert, Minister of State to the late King of France," and "this MS. seems to be written above four hundred years ago, and contains some other pieces relating to Scotland, which will be found in the appendix to this essay." "I am lately informed that this whole MS Library of Mr. Colbert is bought up by the King of France to be added to the Royal Library." Innes saw the original, as he says, "This Chronica de Origine



Antiquorum Pictorum, bears that title in great red letters in the MS. in which I found it." He decidedly and distinctly divides the MS. into three well defined, separate parts or "pieces," and so prints them in his appendix as No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3. Because they agree with chronicles, etc., he had previously read, he credits in the main, parts 1 and 2, but he decidedly and emphatically does not credit part 3, in which the account of the reign of Eochodius and Ciricum appears, and gives his opinion of it as follows: "The third piece is an extract of an ancient history, or chronicle, of eleven of the Kings of Scotland, containing their succession and a short account of their lives and chief actions from the subjugation of the Piets by Kenneth Mac Alpin, till the reign of Kenneth III, son of Malcolm I, during the space of one hundred and thirty years. The only copy I have seen of the short chronicle is taken from the same MS. as the former, from whence Camden hath quoted some passages." "The history or chronicle from whence it hath been extracted appears evidently to have been written in the Gaelic or Irish language, and the mention that it makes of the succession and death of some of the Kings of Ireland; as also some particulars it contains (such as the confused manner in which it relates King Gregory's reign) all make me doubt whether it be not rather an extract of Scottish matter from some Irish chronicle than from a Scottish one. The Latin version, such as we have it in this only MS., is most barbarous, and in every way imperfect and written by an ignorant translator that hath not known the Latin tongue, and by consequence is so incorrect that no sense can be made of it," and "the same anonymous piece informs us that King Kenneth attacked the Saxons six times," etc., and, "after all, we know nothing about the epoch nor the authority of this piece." Can any one read his downright condemnation, as above, of this "piece" No. 3, and for one moment think he considered it part or parcel of the *Chronica Pictorum*, or that he gave it the least credit except as an imperfect translation into Latin from some old chronicle written in Irish? I will now quote the paragraph from the *Chronicle*, as given by Innes in his appendix, 1729, by Pinkerton as printed in his "Inquiry into the History of Scotland," 1814, and as printed by Skene in "Chronicle of the Piets and Scots," 1867.

Innes, p. 784, v. 2. "Eochodius autem, filius, Ku (sic) regis Britanorum, nepos Kinadi ac fil regnan XI. Licet Giricum fil alii dicunt hic regnasse eo quod alumpnus Ordinatorque Eochodio fiebat, Cugus secundo anno Aed fil Neil Moritur ac in nono anno ipso die Cirici eclipsis solis facta est. Eochodius cum alumno suo expulsus est nunc de regno."

Pinkerton, v. 1, p. 495. "Eochodius autem, filius, Ku regis Britanorum, nepos canadei ex filia, regn XI. Licet Ciricum fil, alii dicunt hic regnasse, eo quod alumpnus ordinatorque. Eochodia fiebat, Cugus secundo anno Aed fil, Neil Moritur, ac in nono anno ipso die Cirici eclipsis solis facta est. Eochodius, cum alumno suo, expulsus est nunc de regno."

Skene in *Chronicle of the Piets and Scots*, p. 9. "Eochodius Autem filius Run regis Britanorum, nepos Cinadei ex filia, regnavit annis XI. Licet Ciricum filium alii dicunt hic regnasse; eo quod alumpnus ordinatorque Eochodio fiebat. Cugus secundo anno aed filius Neil Moritur; ac in ix egus anno, in ipso die Cirici, eclipsis solis facta est. Eochodius, cum alumno suo, expulsus est nunc de regno."

It will be seen that Innes has a question, or doubting, mark at the end of Ku (sic), which shows that he was doubtful as to the meaning of the word, and it will be seen that Skene solves the question by changing the "ku" to "Run," and gives as his reason: "Pinkerton reads this name Ku, mistaking K for R, and overlooking the stroke over the U which makes an N." He also says that Run, King of the Britons, married one of Kenneth Mac Alpin's daughters, and gives as his authority the *Pictish Chronicle*. There has been but little effort to trace the chronicle to its original home, but Skene thinks it was probably compiled by the monks of Brechin, and also thinks it was transcribed from another MS. at York, "and not always correctly," by Robt. de Populton. He also says: "The second and third divisions of this chronicle have obviously been translated into Latin from an Irish or old Gaelic original, and the translator has left some words untranslated, which he appears not to have understood," thus agreeing to some extent with Innes. He also says: "Innes was mistaken in supposing that this latter appears in the Colbertine MS. as a separate chronicle. All three pieces are evidently transcribed as one chronicle, though possibly compiled from different sources; but there appears to be something omitted between the second and third divisions of the chronicle," etc., thus agreeing with Innes again. Pinkerton says of it: "As it was written about 1350, after the expedition of Edward, it seems uncertain how it passed England."

It is well known that King Edward I, while pushing what are called the "English Claims" to the Scottish throne, gathered up all Scottish chronicles, etc., he could get and destroyed them, and that he also issued commands to English scholars to bring him all the Scottish chronicles and other historical matter they could find. Taking this in connection with the time and place the Pictish Chronicle was discovered, it certainly has very doubtful authenticity, and has an "ancient and fish-like smell."

*On one paragraph alone in this one "piece" rests the claim that there ever existed a man by the name of Eocha, or Eochodius, who reigned with Gregory, and that Kenneth Mac Alpin had a daughter who married a King of the Britons named Ku or Run. No other chronicle, claimed to be older or more modern, has ever made mention of Eocha, or of the daughter of Kenneth Mac Alpin in this connection. Could human credulity go farther than the acceptance of statements in a so-called historical document, with such a history as it has, and which has been made to overturn an important part of Scottish history, as previously believed and relied upon?*

Greg, or Gregory, has been assailed as a usurper, and his descent from the Alpine line denied upon the few words in this doubtful chronicle, and upon them alone, and I am afraid that if an eclipse of the sun, which is provable to-day, had not occurred during his reign, his very existence would have been denied. That eclipse was too much for even the anti-Celtic Scotch antiquaries. A very remarkable and significant fact regarding the so-called "Chronicle Pictorum" Colbertin is, that Skene in "Chronicles of the Picts and Scots," 1867, prints an old MS. Chronicle in Trinity College, Dublin, H. 3, 17, called the "Irish version of the Pictish Chronicle." This MS. commences with Cruithne and his seven sons, as many others do, including the Pictish Chronicle in question, and runs down the line of Pictish Kings to the union of the Scottish and Pictish lines under Kenneth Mac Alpin, and then down to Gregory's reign, in which it places him, as many others had done, in his regular order, and calls him "Girig Mac Dungaile" (Girig, son of Dungaile). It does not mention Eocha, or Eochodius, or any one, as reigning with Gregory. So the "Irish version" distinctly contradicts the English, or Colbertin, version, and agrees with Fordun, Wynton, Boice, Buchanan, and the regular well-known and time-honored chronicles upon which their histories were based. Skene prints a fac-simile of the Pictish Chronicle in Chronicle of Picts and Scots, an examination of which will convince any unprejudiced person that Innes was correct when he said "the Latin version, such as we have it in this only MS., is most barbarous and in every way imperfect and written by an ignorant translator that hath not known the Latin tongue, and by consequence is so incorrect that no sense can be made of it."

The descent of the Mac Gregors from the Alpine line has also during this century been denied, and, the writer believes, with no more foundation and reason than the denial of Greg's descent from the same. Both denials are almost wholly the result of argument, and not of well authenticated documentary or traditional evidence. The documentary evidence is, with the exception of the Chron. Picts, entirely against the conclusions of the deniers, and the traditional evidence is overwhelmingly against them.

During the present century, beginning with Chalmers and Pinkerton, and ending with Skene, an entirely new school of histories and historians of Ancient Scotland has been evolved. In their anti-Celtic zeal the three above-named writers, and their followers, have labored to prove that the courage, civilization, culture, education and advancement of the modern Scots has been as much (or more) the product of their Pictish or Caledonian, as of their Irish-Scot ancestry. They have not seemed willing to acknowledge their obligations to the Irish-Scots who emigrated to, or invaded Scotland soon after the Christian era, and took with them the Christian literature of the day, and with it its accompanying knowledge, and desire to impart that knowledge to others, and finally gave to their new home the name of Scotia, as they had in earlier days to Ireland. The Picts whom they found occupying the country certainly had no well-defined religious belief, or practice, and there are no remains of any *written* Pictish language, not a pen stroke, the only remains of it being in the names of mountains, rivers, cities, personal names, and possibly some carvings on stone. They have left no sign of culture, education, or what we call civilization. They were certainly brave to the last degree, and ready to defend their rights, and did so, but the Irish-Scot element finally prevailed, as it was sure to do with its superior culture imported from the continent. Mr. Skene, in his efforts to promulgate his views, has endeavored to show in his History of the Highlands, 1837, and Celtic Scotland, etc., that the Highlanders were the lineal descendants of the Picts and not of the Irish-Scots. This in the face of all legendary, traditional, and written knowledge of the people of Scotland up to that time; of all the histories, written and oral; of the fact that the language of the



Highlanders from time immemorial had been, and is still, the Irish, as it was generally called up to this century; and of the generic names of the Highland Clans, which are nearly all of Irish origin. There is no claim that many of them are Pictish. In his preface to "Hist. Highlands" Skene says, vol. 1, p. 9: "In presenting this work to the public, it will be necessary to say a few words regarding the system of history developed in it. A glance at the table of contents will show that that system is entirely new; that it is diametrically opposed to all the generally received opinions on the subject, and that it is in itself of a nature so startling as to require a very rigid and attentive examination before it can be received." He then says that he "came to the conclusion that the fundamental error was the supposed descent of the Highlanders from the Dalraidic Scots, and that the Scottish conquest of the ninth century did not include the Highlands," and "it will be the first attempt to trace the Highlanders and to prove their descent, step by step, from the Caledonians, an attempt which the incontrovertible Irish origin of the Dalraidic Scots has hitherto rendered altogether impossible." "The author is aware that to many this system may appear wild and visionary, but he feels confident that a perusal of the chain of reasoning contained in the first few chapters will be sufficient to satisfy any unprejudiced inquirer that the true origin of the Highlanders is therein ascertained, that their descent from the Caledonians rests upon historic authority of no ordinary strength."

In the writer's opinion, Skene has shown but very little documentary, or traditional proof of his theory, but has relied upon a peculiar method of argument and reasoning to prove his deductions from his historic matter, which is composed mostly of the same chronicles, etc., written by monks and priests, that Fordun, Wynton, Boice, etc., etc., had used in their histories. He found nothing new, if the Chron. Picts be excepted, and he has made large use of that in all his works, thinking it supports his theory. In order to support his theory, it of course became necessary to destroy or render of no value many of the previous legends, traditions, family histories, etc., etc., of the Highland clans and families, and then to find new ancestors for them; and this he has attempted to do. For instance, he says, p. 18: "The general appellation Siol Alpine has usually been given to a number of clans situated at a considerable distance from each other, but who have been hitherto supposed to possess a common descent, and that from Kenneth Mac Alpin, the ancestor of a long line of Scottish Kings. These clans are the Clans Gregor, Grant, McKinnon, McQuarries, McNab and Mac Cauley, and they have at all times claimed the distinction of being the noblest and most ancient of the Highland clans. "S'rioghail Mo Dreamh," "My race is royal," was the proud motto of the Mac Gregors, and although the other Highland clans have for centuries acquiesced in the justice of that motto, yet this lofty boast must fall before a rigid examination of its truth. For the authority of the MS. of 1450 puts it beyond all doubt that that origin was altogether unknown at that period, and that these clans in reality formed a part of the tribe of Ross." On p. 8 he gives the history of the MS. (of 1450) on the authority of which the above statement is made, as follows: "This MS., the value and importance of which it is impossible to estimate too highly, was discovered by the author in the collection of the Faculty of Advocates. After a strict and attentive examination of its contents and appearance, the author came to the conclusion it must have been written by a person by the name of McLachlan as early as 1450, and this conclusion with regard to its antiquity was afterwards confirmed by discovery upon it the date of 1467." He then says he will refer to it as the "MS. of 1450," and that he had translated it and published it in the first number of the "Collectanea de Rebus Albanacis," edited by the Iona Club. He does not state who Mr. McLachlan was, nor why he accepts the document as absolutely true, although he knew it overthrew other traditions and MS. regarding the Clan Gregor, etc., and the beliefs of the people of Scotland. He does not state where the MS. originated, simply where he found it. How can he say "the authority of the MS. puts it beyond all doubt that that origin was unknown at that period" (1467)? Is the absence of a statement in one old document a proof that that statement had never been in any other old document? Is the absence of a statement in a document written, or supposed to be written, in 1467, a proof that there was not at that time (1467) a prevalent belief that the Mac Gregors were of the Alpin line? On p. 12 he says: "In a MS. of genealogy written in 1512 I find that the Mac Gregors are brought in a direct line from Kenneth Mac Alpin, a hero famed in fabulous history as the exterminator of the whole Pictish nation; whereas, in the MS. of 1450, we have seen that their origin is very different; so this change must have taken place between these two periods. The publication of Fordun and the chronicle of Wynton had given a great popular celebrity to the heroes of Scottish history, and some of the Highland

seannachies finding a tribe of the Mac Gregors termed Mac Alpins probably took advantage of that circumstance to claim descent from the great hero of that name. The same cause apparently induced them afterwards to desert their supposed progenitor Kenneth, and to substitute Gregory the Great, a more mysterious and, therefore, perhaps, in their idea, a greater hero than Kenneth. He gives no authority for the above statement of seannachies finding McGregors, etc. He says they *probably* took advantage, etc. How does he know the seannachies ever found them? And again in regard to the McGregors' desertion of Kenneth, he says they *apparently* deserted him. He does not say they did desert him.

Skene has nowhere else spoken of Kenneth Mac Alpin "as famed in *fabulous* history."

His views have, however, gained ground, and, the writer can not help but think, because of the strong anti-Irish or anti-Celtic prejudice, coupled with religious bias, prevailing in Scotland during the past two hundred years or more.

Article in the Encyclopedia Britannica on Scotland, p. 477, in note says: "The above statement is a brief outline of the reconstruction of this period of Scottish history due to two scholars who have done more to elucidate it than any others, Father Innes and Mr. Skene. Their negative criticism, which destroys the fabric reared by a succession of historians, from Fordun or his continuator Bowmaker, to Buchanan, is a masterly work not likely to be superseded. Whether the constructive part will stand is not certain, but it explains many of the facts."

Innes did not go into details as to descent of the clans. His criticism was mainly directed against Fordun's line of Kings previous to the Alpin line, and he did not agree with Fordun and others as to the subjugation of the Picts by Alpin and Kenneth Mac Alpin, but considered the union as partly voluntary. He was a Catholic priest—Skene, of course, a Protestant. *Gregory's place in history does not depend upon Fordun, Wyntown, Boece and Buchanan, as it comes from chronicles preceding any of their dates.* The modern school of ancient Scottish history have especially attacked Gregory, because they think the Churchmen have unduly praised him and magnified his reign, and they particularly attack the monks of St. Andrew, who recorded much matter pertaining to his reign. As the monks and priests of Scotland were the only recorders of the events of their times, their productions are the *original* matter from which the later writers, as well as the older ones, drew their material for their chronicles and histories. If the earlier chroniclers had been heretofore rejected because they were monks, etc., or because they were biased in favor of the Church, or of a certain line of kings, we would have had no history of ancient Scotland. The result has been that the modern school have analyzed, sifted, compared and rejected, as to each seemed proper, and have written accordingly, and all have written from either a racial or religious standpoint.

The new history of ancient Scotland can be destroyed by very much less labor than was expended in building it. All of the material used in its building can be called into play to work its easy demolition under capable and industrious direction, and the writer thinks the work will be done.

The word "Mac" having been, as is well known, of Irish origin, dating certainly from before the Christian era (see the Four Masters and other Irish works), is almost sufficient alone to explode Skene's theory. It is the prefix to many of the clan's names, and Lower, in "Patronymics," gives six hundred and eighty-seven proper names to which it is the prefix, collected by Lord Stair, Patriek Boyle, and himself. Part of the list had been privately printed by Lord Stair, under the title, "Seven hundred Specimens of Celtic Aristocracy, or Almacks Extraordinary."

A slight examination of ancient Irish and Scottish literature will show that a vast majority of the present Scottish proper names are of Irish-Scot origin, comparatively few of them being Pictish. *The heredity of names, of course, plays a very important part in this question, but to it Skene especially seems to have given no weight.* For instance, in Hist. Highlanders he devotes all of the first volume to his theory and general statements and arguments therefrom on the Highlander subject generally, in which the MS. of 1450 plays a very important part, and in the second volume gives his account of the separate clans, among which he includes the following of unmistakable Irish-Scot names, viz: Clans Rory, Donald, Dugall, Neill, Luchlan, Dugall Craignish, Lamond, Atholl, Quarrie, Donnachie, Pharlan, Mac Pherson, Mac Intosh, Duffie, Aba, Nachtan, Gille-Eon, O'Cain, Roich, Gillemhaol, Kenneth Mathan, Fingon, Mac Aula, Garmoran, Nicaill. *Did Mr. Skene get these names from the Pictish language?*

It is remarkable that he does not credit the MS. of 1450 in its entirety, and says of it: "It will be shown in another place that there is every reason to

think that the genealogies contained in the MS. are perfectly authentic for the past *fourteen* generations, or as far back as the year 1000, but that previous to that date they are to be regarded as altogether fabulous," and "the MS. of 1450 is supported in its genealogy of the Mac Donalds by all other authorities up to Suibne, and here the true history as contained in the Irish annals and the genealogy of the MS. separate;" and "we may therefore conclude that previous to the eleventh century the MS. of 1450, and the Irish genealogies of the Highland Clans are of no authority whatever, and that consequently the Siol Cuinn is of native origin." In this he throws out both the MS. of 1450 and the Irish authority, and uses the MS. back to a certain date, and has no use for it back of that date. Take it altogether the MS. of 1450 seems to be as uncertain a document as the Pictish Chronicle, Colbertin, the writer of it not being definitely known.

As stated in the prospectus herewith an elaborate analytical essay, with quotations from and citations to the very many authorities examined by the author on the above subject, will be printed in the history of the Gregg family, which we trust will clearly prove the truth of the above epitome, and we hope it may prove interesting to all members of the race and collateral lines.

December 22, 1897.

WM. H. GREGG,  
St. Louis, Mo.

