



NEWSLETTER

Clan Grant Society

Volume I Number 3 December 1978

The Right Honorable The Lord Strathspey
Chief of Clan Grant

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GRANTS CONVENE AT STONE MOUNTAIN GAMES

The 6th annual Stone Mountain Scottish Festival and Highland Games was held October 21-22, at beautiful Stone Mountain Park, near Atlanta.

The Society sponsored a tent at the games for the first time and welcomed both new and old members to the festival. The event, like most Highland Games, featured traditional Scottish athletic, piping, and dancing competitions, ceremonies and parades, a worship service, and bag-pipers... and more bag-pipers. The honored guest was Air Commodore Aeneas Ranald Donald MacDonnell, chief of Glengarry, an important branch of Clan Donald.

The weather was beautiful, the facilities were excellent, and the events were well-planned. It would be difficult to find anyone among the thousands who attended who did not enjoy themselves immensely!

Joining with us at the Grant tent for the first time were John C. Grant, Judge William F. Grant, Ralph P. Grant, R. Peery Grant, Jr., M.D., William B. "Chip" Grant, and Harold C. Grant, with their respective families. Also present were Donald L. Grant and his wife whose previous affiliation with the Scottish Andersons will facilitate her transition to our ilk, and an adoptive cousin, William E. Rudolph, and his charming wife Lillian (Grant) Rudolph. Although they were unable to attend the games, Mr. and Mrs. John W. Grant, III joined us for dinner at the Steak and Ale Restaurant. It was a very rewarding day!

NAME THE NEWSLETTER CONTEST

Since the beginning of the Society in the United States, this paper has been called The Newsletter. Not too imaginative.... Right? Well, the staff is sponsoring a contest to re-name the newsletter.

If you have an idea for an appropriate name, write it down and mail your entry to Hank Grant, 2207 Briarcliff Rd., #2, Atlanta, Georgia 30329. Please include with your entry a suitable subtitle or motto, such as:

The New York Times
"All The News That's Fit To Print"

or

The Atlanta Constitution
"Covers Dixie Like The Dew"

Be sure to include your name and address. The winner will receive a set of six 10-ounce glasses, etched with the Chief's Coat of Arms, the Clansmen's Badge, and "Clan Grant".

Lord Strathspey will judge the entries and his decision will be final. The next issue of the newsletter will be re-named accordingly. Deadline for all entries will be January 15, 1979.

A MESSAGE FROM GEORGE GRANT:

Our Society is one year old in North America on December 15. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of all of you, we have succeeded in establishing the Clan Grant all over the United States. As the word gets out to our clansmen we will continue to grow in 1979. A list of games and festivals in which we plan to participate will be included in up-coming issues of the newsletter.

There will be an international gathering of the clans in Nova Scotia next summer. As you know, our Chief, in addition to his title, Baron Strathspey, is a baronet of Nova Scotia. Lord Strathspey advises us that he has been contacted by the sponsors of the gathering about attending the event. The Games, the oldest in North America, will be held at Antigonish during the first three weeks in July. Please let me know if we should hold a Clan gathering during one of these weeks. However, we do not wish to miss the Grandfather Mountain Games which will be held the second weekend in July.

Speaking of Grandfather Mountain, now is the time to decide if you are going to attend the Grandfather Mountain Games. Last year I was able to obtain accommodations at Sugar Mountain Resort. If you will advise me of your intentions by February 1, 1979, I will make reservations for us again. Last year the rates were \$30.00 per night. More information on this later.

William Grant & Sons has sent the Society a case of Grants eight year old whisky, for which I have thanked them. We will use it at the Clan tent to ward off the curse of American haggis.

We have arranged for a subscription to the Highlander to be sent to all of you as well as any new members as they join.

It is with great pleasure that I announce the appointment of Hank Grant as editor of this newsletter. Please send Hank any information, history, or announcements you have that will be of interest to the Clan.

Merry Christmas, and Best Wishes for 1979!

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ATTENTION PARENTS:

Please encourage your youngsters to participate in the Society and contribute to the newsletter. Hopefully, in the near future the paper will feature a Youth Page which will appeal to your sons and daughters. We would like very much to receive letters from the young people giving us some feedback on how to proceed with this project.

We would enjoy publishing articles, poetry, and art-work relating to Scottish heritage, and especially, answering questions they might have regarding the Society and the history of the Clan Grant. Also, we will try our best to find pen-pals in Scotland for those who might be interested.

A future benefit of a meaningful youth participation in the Society will be the scholarship program which is to be established. Stipends will be granted to parents of youngsters who enroll and complete instruction in Highland dancing and piping. These lessons are available in most metropolitan areas and near Highland Games.

Early Origins of the Grants in the Scottish Highlands

Much of the history of the Grants prior to 1434 is shrouded by a web of conjecture and tradition. Considerable conclusive evidence exists, however, which places Grants in positions of importance in the Highlands as early as the mid-13th Century. Most notable among these early clansmen was Sir Laurence le Grant, Sheriff of Inverness, who witnessed an agreement between the Bishop of Moray and Sir John Bysset, in 1258. The document itself is of little importance to this discussion, but the fact that the signing marked the first record of our original ancestor is quite significant. Other Grants of this early period served the Earl of Mar and were captured by the British in 1296, at least two were knighted, two others earned safe-conducts to travel to England and abroad to conduct business and affairs of state, and several others received charters for land which was to become the ultimate strength and heritage of the Clan.

Two prevalent theories exist regarding the origin of the Grants in the Highlands. The first links the Clan with the ancient Alpin dynasty of Scotland and suggests a descendency from King Kenneth MacAlpin, thus explaining an historical bond with Clan Gregor, a principle claimant of traditional lineage from that royal ilk. The second, and more plausible idea of origin, describes the Grants as being of Norman-French blood, locating in the Highlands, after a sojourn in Nottinghamshire, England. Their foothold in Scotland resulted from an alliance with the once-powerful Bysset family.

Of primary importance in any discussion of the Clan Grant (or any clan) is to establish a point in time from whence a meaningful development of the clan's history can be launched. This date, with respect to the Clan Grant, based on accepted documented evidence, is the year 1434. This was the year in which King James I declared Duncan Grant the lawful heir of his mother, Matilda of Glencharnie. Matilda was the reputed wife of John Grant (known as Ian Ruadh), knight and Sheriff of Inverness. Duncan Grant was to become the first Laird of the Barony of Freuchie and more importantly, the progenitor of successive lairds and ultimately chiefs of Grant.

- James H. Grant, Jr.

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Congratulations are in order to the Georgia Tech Yellow Jacket football team. They recently completed a very successful season and earned a berth in the Peach Bowl. Clan Grant can take pride in knowing that Grant Field, the Tech stadium, stands on property donated to the Institute by John W. Grant, the grandfather of Society members John W. Grant, III, and Mrs. Lillian (Grant) Rudolph.

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WANTED: Authentic copies (or originals which can be copied) of documents, manuscripts, and correspondence, of a historical nature, relating to Grants in North America during the colonial period. This information will be transcribed and maintained in a mini-archives for future reference and study. Please send any material of this type to Hank Grant, 2207 Briarcliff Road, #2, Atlanta, Georgia 30329.

From the Editor

This being the first issue of my editorship of the newsletter, I am going to take this opportunity to clean up some unfinished business.

First, I want to thank all our members for joining with us to formalize our interest in our Scottish heritage. The Society welcomes anyone with the surname Grant, anyone descending from a Grant, or a sept of Grant. We also welcome those who can document an historical affiliation with the Clan in the Highland regions of Strathspey or the glens of Moriston and Urquhart. Furthermore we are proud to convene with spouses and friends of Grants, who like our adoptive cousin Earl Mally, have contributed enthusiasm and support to the Society. We are all Grants.

Next, it is high time we give credit to our Conveners, John and George, for their idea. Through their initiative, their time, effort, and aggressiveness, the Society has become a viable and meaningful organization in a very short period of time.

A very special thanks goes to our Chief, Lord Strathspey, and Lady Strathspey, who came to the United States this summer to launch this venture which must ultimately be meaningful to us all.

As Editor of the newsletter, I will try to keep you posted on Clan activities, news, and hopefully, supply you with information which will make your affiliation with the Society worthwhile. In return, you can help me by letting me know how I can make the newsletter better. That is all I ask.

- Hank Grant

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THE MORES OF DRUMCORK

(Editor's note: In our last newsletter you probably saw the article entitled "MORE OF DRUMCORK". In an attempt to give you more information about this interesting family we contacted Eric More Marshall, Executive Vice President of the John More Association and Commissioner of the Clan Grant in Pennsylvania, and asked him to do an article on the More Family. At the present time this family constitutes the largest organized group of Grants in the United States. We extend our thanks to Eric for this informative synopsis of the history of his family.)

John and Betty Taylor More were Scottish Highlanders who came to the new world in 1772 and settled near Roxbury, New York. John was born in Forres and Betty at nearby Elgin in Morayshire. Once in America the Mores raised their family of seven sons and one daughter, enjoyed a bountiful life, and died peacefully in old age. Seven or eight generations of their descendants, organized as the John More Association and numbering many thousands, are widely scattered throughout the United States. Probably no American family of comparable size has kept in touch with its members so well, or paralleled its quinquennial reunions and its family Directory.

John More fought in the War of Independence, and his descendants helped in the conquest of the interior of the new continent. Many of them have been recognized for their accomplishments and they all reflected the Scottish beliefs and the ideal of freedom founded upon law. A monument was erected to John and Betty More at Roxbury in 1890.

The history of the More family in Scotland cannot be traced with a great deal of certainty much more than four generations prior to John. Part of the problem is the name. "More," "Moir," "Moor," "Muir," and "Mure" are variant spellings of the same name. John wrote to his brother, David, and addressed the letter to David Moir while John spelled his last name as More. At any rate, there had been a very definite connection between the Mores and the Grants for several centuries prior to John coming to America.

History records that there were Moirs serving Sir John Grant, sixth Laird of Freuchie and later William Moir was, from 1622 to 1632, chamberlain of the Laird's estate at Mulben. Other mention occurs when, in 1552, John Grant Moir paid John Grant of Ballindalloch for "the maill (rent) of ane hous" in Elgin. In 1618 Robert Moir of Pitcory was, with about 100 others, including Patrick Grant of Ballindalloch and many other Grants, charged before the King's advocate in Edinburgh, with some kind of riot in Elgin. Judging from the party the Mores and Grants had at Alexandria (Virginia) last summer, things have not changed much since then.

Romance played an important part in the More-Grant relationship. Gregor More and Isabel Grant who lived in Cromdale parish had a son they named John. He was named for John Grant of Burnside. Burnside lies a mile south of the village of Cromdale and two miles east of Inverallan church on the Spey. This entire area was dominated by Clan Grant. It may not be significant that the founder of the Grants of Glenmoriston was Iain Mor, but it demonstrates that the name existed and was carried by an influential person.

John More's father, also a John who spelled his last name Moir, was, at the time of his marriage in June 1770, employed by the Grants at a farm called Drumcork (properly spelled Drumchork) in Rothiemurchus parish. Later John More's brother David married Helen Grant and continued to reside at Drumcork for a number of years. The present use of the name "More of Drumcork" was assigned by our Chief, The Lord Strathspey, to designate the descendents of John More from other Mores desiring to affiliate with the Clan.

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GENEALOGY

Several members have been kind enough to share their genealogies with us. We are grateful for these and suggest that others document their family trees and send along a copy for our files. Some day the Society will be able to compile these records into an archives to be used by all our members.

If you have wondered about your roots, and I think all of us have, now is the time to do some research. In an upcoming issue of the newsletter, an experienced genealogist will offer some tips on how to unearth your family tree, but in the meantime, start with your nearest antecedent named Grant and work back in time. Use your family bible, the local courthouse, census records, and correspondence records with relatives. Remember, what you discover is your heritage. It should be interesting to you and could help other Grants in their research.

A REPORT FROM JOHN GRANT: (Paraphrased from his letter to the Editor
December 8, 1978)

The Clan Grant Society was officially represented for the first time in California, June 24th, at the Scottish Societies Long Beach Highland Games. An estimated 15,000 Scottish Americans were in attendance. The Grant tent was manned by our Convener, John, and Ivor MacPherson Grant.

A second important event took place in July when John and Barbara hosted a gathering at their Bel-Air home, honoring our Chief and Lady Strathspey. Among the guests were many Grants and other Californians of Scottish ancestry, including Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, IV.

Other Western events this summer were the Hawaiian Games (July 8), Portland Highland Games (July 15), Monterrey Peninsula Highland Games at Carmel, California (July 15), Athena, Oregon Highland Games (July 22), San Diego Highland Games (August 6), Golden, Colorado Games (August 12), and all-important Santa Rosa Games in Northern California.

Last February, John joined a group known in his area as "Clans of the Highlands." The organization is made up primarily of the Clan Fraser Association, as well as Camerons, Macraes, MacAllisters, MacDonalds, MacLennans, Campbells, MacNeils, Robertsons, and of course, Grants. This affiliation will be a plus for Clan Grant as we develop in the West in '79.

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JOHN "STANDS FAST" -- BARBARA DISAGREES!

Last December, John and Barbara, with their friends the Camerons, were in the midst of preparing fifty pounds of haggis for their Saint Andrews Banquet. At one point things were getting pretty hectic and John shouted, "Stand Fast," whereupon wife Barbara, sensing a crisis, merely stated that she was changing John's motto and demanded that he "STAND BACK AND STIR!"

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It is with great uneasiness that we announce that the next issue of the newsletter will include a totally irrelevant and unknowledgeable commentary on Scottish-American triviality by the infamous and degenerate documentarian, Seamus Mor Grant, founder and director of the Speyside Institute of Non-essential Studies (SINS).

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Attention Georgia Chapter:

Please join us Saturday night, January 20, at 7:00, at the Steak and Ale Restaurant on Piedmont Road in Atlanta. This will not be a formal chapter meeting, but a casual get-together so we can get acquainted. Please drop me a card or call 404-634-4822, and let me know if you can attend so reservations can be made. Please communicate your intentions by Jan. 15th.

Thanks - Hank Grant

From the Editor:

It would be a great help to the Staff if you and your family would respond to this questionnaire. It is our aim to keep you posted on all Society activities, keep you up to date on Clan news, and perhaps, teach you a little something about Clan Grant. Hopefully, we will learn something from our members as well!

As Editor, it is my primary ambition to get all members involved in the Society and as my wife Linda puts it, bring together the thoughts, ideas, and hopes of Grants "from the four corners of the world," onto the pages of this newsletter.

Please take five minutes of your time and help us by filling in this questionnaire.

- (1) What kind of information do you want to see in the newspaper?

- (2) Would you be willing to write a column, article, or report for the newsletter, and if so, what information do you have that would be of interest to our readers?

- (3) How can we expand our membership? Would you help in this venture?

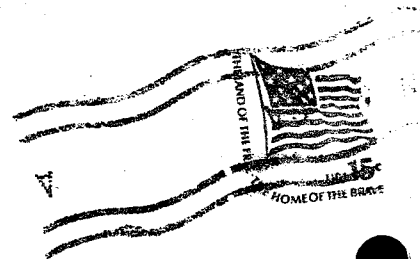
- (4) Have you been to Scotland? Do you plan to go soon? If so, what kind of information do you need to prepare for such a visit?

- (5) If you have read The Clan Grant, by Dr. I.F. Grant, and have specific questions about the book, please list these so we can attempt to answer them in upcoming issues.

- (6) Please use the space below for your comments regarding the newsletter, or the Society in general. Your encouragement will be appreciated and all criticism will be taken in the family spirit.

Address all correspondence to:

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