



Craigellachie

The Official Newsletter
Clan Grant Society of North America



Summer 1980

It's Great To Be A Grant!

VOL. III NR. 2

GRANT PIPE BAND DEBUTS AT GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN

The Clan Grant Society Pipe Band performed for the first time at the 25th anniversary of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, at Linville, North Carolina, July 12 and 13. The band, kilted in the red and green livery of the Clan, performed exceedingly well under the leadership of Jerry Waidley, of Erie, Pennsylvania.

Other members of the band included Barbara Grant McCulloch of Lancaster, New York, Ludovic J. Grant-Alexander of Charleston, South Carolina, Phil and Edward Smith of West Chester, Pennsylvania, Eric More Marshall of Northeast, Pennsylvania, Parke Waidley, Harold Swanson, Ken Krayner, and Randy Luce, all of Erie, Pennsylvania.

Ed Smith further distinguished himself by winning a 1st and 3rd in his level in the piping competitions.

Once again the event was held in warm and sunny weather. The honored guests included The Earl of Errol, Lord High Constable of Scotland and Chief of Clan Hay, and The Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, Lady June Gordon, O.B.E., LL.D., D.L.

Attending the games for the first time were Phil, Shirley, Corrie, and Ed Smith, from West Chester, Pennsylvania, John, Thelma, and Eric Grant, from Stone Mountain, Georgia, Mr. and Mrs. Mathew Grant-Knapp, from Williamsville, New York, and Will and Pauline Muirhead, from Philadelphia. Also attending were members of the Bisset family and their "Chieftain," John Bisset, sporting a full beard and a kilt made of the new Bisset tartan.

The highlight of Saturday night was a joint clan ceilidh with the Clan MacArthur, which was unfortunately cut short by rain. The program consisted of a Gaelic song by Phil Smith, a ballad by Will Muirhead, some excellent piping by Ed Smith, who finished his performance with The Braes of Castle Grant. Finally, as George Grant was rising to sing his high school alma mater, the rains came, much to the relief of all in attendance.

The food, prepared by Connie MacArthur, was plentiful and delicious.



Craigellachie

THE LORD STRATHSPEY

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FROM THE EDITOR

The International Gathering will be held in Scotland next year. Although events are scheduled for various locations throughout the year, some members of our society are planning to meet in Edinburgh during the last week in May and convene in Strathspey the first week in June. We will be joined by a group from New Zealand, as well as a contingent from Britain, including our Chief and Lady Strathspey.

For our accommodations I have reserved Kinveachy Lodge, an estate near Aviemore, used as a hunting and fishing retreat by the Earl of Seafield. The reservation is for the week May 31-June 6. Based on occupancy by seven couples for seven days, I estimate the nightly rental rate to be approximately \$35.00 per couple. I am presently taking reservations from interested couples who wish to accompany us to the Highlands for the gathering. So far, I have received four \$100.00 deposits which represent firm commitments and look forward to receiving at least one more deposit before I mail the earnest money to the Earl's factor in Grantown. If you are interested or would like further information, please write to me at the following address: 3264A Henderson Mill Rd., Chamblee, Georgia 30341, or call in the evening, 404-938-4821. Reservations will be taken on a first come, first served basis. Additional information on events in Edinburgh, hotels, car rental, etc. can be supplied upon request. Remember, Scotland will be crawling with tourists next summer, so make your plans early!

Lord Strathspey has advised that he is working with the Tourist Board to provide some tours of the Spey River area. I have written for permission to visit the estates of Rothiemurchus, Glenmoriston, Ballindalloch, Monymusk, and the Glenfarclas Distillery. I am sure the Earl of Seafield will permit us to visit Castle Grant.

The Stone Mountain Games will be held in Atlanta, Saturday and Sunday, October 18 and 19. On Friday evening, October 17, Linda and I will host an Open House for all members of the Society, between 7 and 9. For those who might be going to the Sponsor's Party at the Northlake Hilton, our home is just five minutes away. We hope to have a good crowd for the Stone Mountain Games and we hope you will come by our home on Friday evening.

This is my last issue as editor of the newsletter. I have really enjoyed editing CRAIGELLACHIE for the past two years, but I find that I am just too lazy to continue the job indefinitely. I am sure my successor will do a better job and not agonize half as much.

THANKS, Hank



Clan Grant Society



CLAN GRANT SOCIETY PIPE BAND at Grandfather Mountain
Highland Games, Linville, North Carolina,
July 12, 1980.



John Bisset displays his
new Bisset tartan kilt at
Grandfather Mountain.

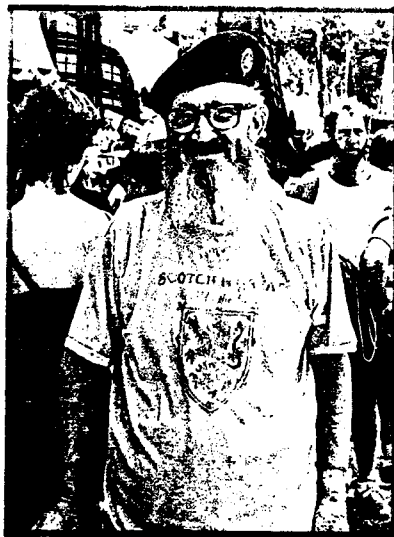
GEORGE AND LUCILLE GRANT, of Hixson, Tenn.



SCENES FROM GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN HIGHLAND GAMES



GEORGE GRANT mounting our clan crest on our tent display.



JOHN BISSET sporting his new shirt with the motto "Scotch is Great - the older, the better!"



MATHEW GRANT-KNAPP of Williamsville, N.Y.



THE EARL OF ERROL, Lord High Constable of Scotland, and Chief of Clan Hay, with Linda Grant, of Atlanta.

Since the establishment of our society, there has been some confusion about the various surnames associated with the Clan Grant. In order to explain why certain names are related to our clan, it is first necessary to have a basic understanding of patronymics and septs.

Surnames were not used extensively in Scotland until the 17th century. Men were generally named after their fathers and the patronymic was used as a surname substitute. Patronymics were derived by placing "mac" (meaning the son of) in front of some variation of the father's name, or simply by adding "son" to the end of the father's name. For example, Aeneas Mohr MacAlistair Ranaldson would mean Big Angus, the son of Alexander, the son of Ranald. As the use of Gaelic began to decline, surnames such as Grant, became a matter of course. However, in regions where Gaelic was still the prevalent language, such as the Western Highlands and Islands, patronymics were being used extensively into the 18th century. Obviously, in some instances, patronymics became surnames.

A sept is a family within a greater clan whose surname is not necessarily the same as the rest of the clan's. Although septhood is a little more complicated than this brief definition, for our purposes in this discussion, this definition will suffice. Many septs originated when patronymics were adopted as surnames.

The name ALLAN became associated with our clan perhaps as early as the 13th century, but not necessarily as a surname. There is a tradition that Gregor le Grant, the undocumented father of Sir Laurence le Grant (Sheriff of Inverness in 1258), had three other sons, Robert, Lucas, and Allan. Lucas was called Ciar because of his grey or dusky appearance and is the traditional progenitor of the Clan Chiaran Grants, who originally inhabited Auchnarrow and later became known as the Grants of Dellachapple, in Cromdale Parish. Allan was the ancestor of the Grants of Auchernach (au KHER nick), or the Clan Allan Grants. Although I have found no evidence to support the existence of Grant septs named MacALLAN or MacKIARAN, it is possible that descendants of these branches of Clan Grant have born these or similar names. Of course, by the same token, the names MacPhadrig (Patrick), MacQueen (Suene or Sween), MacRobie (Robert), and MacConnachie or MacDonnachie (Duncan), could be just as valid. These are all patronymics derived from early popular Grant family names.

One of the most interesting names which appears to be a legitimate sept of the clan is MacILROY. This patronymic is a diminutive form of Mac-Gillie-Roy, meaning the son of the red-haired gillie. This is a reference to Seumas an Tuim (James of the Hill), the son of John Roy Grant of Carron. Seumas was the infamous Strathspey freebooter who terrorized the country during the early part of the 17th century. Dr. William Fraser, in his three volume history, The Chiefs of Grant, refers to him as GILDEROY. Like most patronymics, there are variant spellings of the name, such as Gilroy, MacGilroy, and MacElroy.

Another sept of the Clan Grant is the Strathspey family of McCOOK, formerly known as the McJockies "in Tulloch." According to Rev. Forsyth, in his book, In the Shadow of Cairngorm, the McJockies were John Grant in Tulloch and his two sons, Patrick Grant McJockie and John Grant McJockie. The three were hanged in 1637, for harbouring outlawed MacGregors and killing two of the king's officers attempting to capture them. Although the name McCook is most frequently listed

among the septs of the Clan Donald, there are six listings for the name in the 1979 Highlands and Islands, and Aberdeen and Northeast, telephone directories. All six families live in Strathspey.

The surname FRONTACH has been documented as a spet of Grant in the county of Sutherland. Although now extinct in the Highlands, the name was gleaned from parish records from the period 1750-1770, by Miss Margaret Grant, a writer and historian from Golspie, Sutherland. The only logical explanation of the origin of the name is that English educated clerical recorders of the period misunderstood the Gaelic GRANTACH to be Prontach. This information was furnished to the editor by the Convener of the New Zealand Society, Frederick Grant-Burgess.

The BISSET family descends from a very old and once-powerful baronial family in Inverness-shire. Dr. Fraser documents the alliance between the Grants and Sir John and Walter Bysset and suggests that the Grants might have originally come to Scotland in the train of the Byssets during the 13th century. The family of Bisset is not a sept of Grant, but has a well-documented historical affiliation with our clan dating to 1258. Several other names deserve mention as having been associated with the clan during this early period. They are not septs, but are documented as relatives by marriage. These names are SERES, PYLCHE, and PRAT.

The name Suttie has a remote and isolated association with the Monymusk branch of the clan, but cannot in any way be construed as a Grant sept or family name. In the 18th century, Sir Francis Grant of Monymusk, the eminent Lord of Session, known as Lord Cullen, had three sons. His second son, William, also became a Lord of Session under the title Lord Prestongrange. This famous advocate had three daughters, but no male heir. His second daughter, Agnes, married Sir George Suttie of Balgone, Baronet. From this union descended Sir James Grant Suttie of Prestongrange.

During his visit to the United States in 1978, Lord Strathspey extended an invitation to the members of the John More Association to become members of the Clan Grant Society. This organization, the largest of its kind, is made up of the descendants of John and Betty More, Scottish emigrants who once inhabited the farm of Drumchork, at Coylum Bridge, Rothiemurchus, in Strathspey.

Naturally, other names have been associated with Strathspey and the Grants without being either septs or related to the clan, save by the indisputable bond of tenant to landlord. For hundreds of years Strathspey has been inhabited by Camerons, Cummings, McDonalds, McGregors, Rosses, and Stewarts, to name a few. Other lesser known names which occur regularly in the annals of the strath and upon its tombstones are Burgess, Clark, Carmichael, Cruikshank, Forsyth, Lawson, and of course, Smith.

This clarification of these Clan Grant names is not in any way an attempt to limit the membership of our society, or to stimulate its growth. It is merely an explanation of how these names became associated with our clan family and to clear up some areas of confusion. I think our conveners would agree that we welcome anyone into the society who has a sincere and genuine interest in our clan's history and the fellowship of our organization.

THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY GRANT PORTRAITS BY RICHARD WAITT

by Linda C. Grant

Richard Waitt was a traveling portrait painter in the Highlands during the early 1700's. He is perhaps best known for his collection of Grant portraits, formerly displayed at Castle Grant, which numbered 26-30. Waitt worked for only a few shillings which caused many of his critics to classify his works as second rate. In fact, the famous Morayshire historian, Cosmo Innes, said of him when referring to a collection of his works at Kilravock Castle, "who the Mr. Waitt was who... covered the walls with the coarse representations of humanity that still hang at Kilravock, it has not been thought worth while to inquire."

His patrons, on the other hand, praised his ability to reproduce with exactness his subject's face. Descendants of his subjects reportedly bore a phenomenal resemblance to the works. In fact, there is some speculation that Waitt only painted the faces of his clients and that he had helpers who painted the rest, as there have been instances of portraits lacking faces being found abandoned in the Highlands. Differences can also be noted in the various backgrounds employed, as some are more elaborate than others. Nevertheless, this collection has given us quite a record of Grant history, Highland life, and dress of the period.

Brigadier Alexander Grant of Grant was the first to employ Waitt during the period 1713-1717, and later his brother, Sir James, hired him during the years 1724-1727. Waitt also painted portraits for other branches of the clan, notably the families of Rothiemurchus and Arndilly.

The Rose family of Kilravock was also painted by Waitt for three payments of thirty shillings each. The Lord Lovat and Kenneth Sutherland, 3rd Lord Duffus, were also his clients.

Perhaps the most famous portrait from the Grant collection is that of Alistair Mohr Grant, the Laird's Champion, displayed in full Highland dress with broadsword and shield. It was painted in 1714 to match the life size portrait of the Laird's Piper. The Champion now hangs in the foyer of the Earl of Seafield's hunting retreat, Kinveachy Lodge. Dr. I.F. Grant used the portrait for the frontpiece of her book, The Clan Grant. The story book character of the Champion seems to come alive on the canvas and it is obvious that the Laird was in good hands when under the protection of this giant.

The only other life size portrait is the Laird's Piper. There is some discrepancy concerning his actual name. Sir William Fraser lists him as Ian Mohr, but other sources refer to him as William and Robert Cumming, alternately. The piper is in full Highland costume and is portrayed playing his instrument with streamers of the Grant arms with the motto, "Stand Fast," blowing in the wind. A castle is depicted in the background having a similar facade to Castle Grant, but is certainly not an accurate representation of it. Like the Champion, the painting is owned by the Earl of Seafield, and in 1978 was on display at the Museum of Scottish Antiquities, Edinburgh.

Another interesting portrait is that of Robert Grant of Lurg, who held that estate from 1709. He was commonly called "Stacan," meaning stubborn.



THE LAIRD'S PIPER, painted by Richard Waitt, on display at the Scottish Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh. This 18th century portrait is owned by The Right Honorable The Earl of Seafield.

The portrait of Grant of Lurg demonstrates Waitt's ability to represent facial features and characteristics. James Alan Rennie, in his book, Romantic Strathspey, notes that the portrait illustrates the classic Gynric or Celtic physiognomy which is still prevalent in certain branches of the clan. The tartan worn by Lurg has also been said to most closely resemble the present day Grant red tartan. It is significant to note that the portraits of the champion, the piper, and Robert Grant of Lurg all feature tartans of green and red. Although the patterns do not match, the colors of the livery and their distinct distribution indicate that they conform to their Chief's instructions for clan dress, being a "...tartan of red and green sett broad sprunged..."



REV. JAMES CHAPMAN
Minister Cromdale
1702 - 1737

The painting of Reverend James Chapman is easily viewed by the public. This work now hangs in the vestry of Cromdale Parish Kirk, where Chapman was minister from 1702-1737. During his ministry he wrote Ane Account of the Rise and Off-Spring of the Name of Grant, a work which has since been discredited as being less than objective and historically inaccurate.

Another painting of note attributed to Waitt is of Maggie Sinclair, the Hen Wife. Her position must have been one of high esteem to warrant a portrait commissioned by the Chief of Grant. It was her duty to collect the rents from the Chief's tenants. Often times she received milk, butter, meal, or eggs. During the famine and the years to follow she could only manage to collect eggs and capons, from which she gained the name of Hen-Wife. Mr. I.K. Grant notes that Maggie Sinclair's portrait is one of the few examples showing the dress of a country woman of this period. The whereabouts of this painting is unknown, as is the location of Grant of Lurg.

These portraits originally occupied the walls of the great hall and the staircases at Castle Grant, along with many others from the collection, most of which were of relatives and chieftains of cadet families. During the 1950's, Mr. Rennie reported that many of these portraits had been stacked in corners of empty rooms in Castle Grant. Some were in bad repair at that time.



LEFT - Maggie Sinclair, taking a pinch of snuff from a black horn with a snuff pen.

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of Moray.

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The Setts of the Scottish
Tartans.

R.W. Munro,
Highland Clans and Tartans

For those who are planning to attend the Gathering in Scotland next summer a "must" on the long list of Scottish attractions is Nessie, or the Loch Ness Monster.

The identity of Nessie, according to Dr. Bigfoot B. Balderdash, of the Speyside Institute for Non-essential Studies, has been a subject of wild speculation and imagination for years. Only last year CBS News reported the incredible story that Nessie was an elephant which swam about the loch with its trunk out of the water like it was a snorkle. Then last fall a noted magazine published an article about how Nessie brought Christianity to Pictland, a yarn so fantastic much of it was in Latin so as to enhance its credibility. Dr. Balderdash says that Nessie is neither a scuba diving elephant nor an aquatic Billy Graham looking for Druids, Magi, or other infidels to evangelize, but is merely an overgrown albacore tuna with a glandular problem.

It all began many thousands of years ago when the Earth was covered with water and there was no dry land. Nessie was then a quiet, unpretentious, young tuna, at times so shy he appeared to be afraid of other fish. For this he was called "Chicken of the Sea" by his detractors. One day he was swimming in the vicinity of 5 degrees West Longitude and 55 degrees North Latitude when suddenly there was a tremendous upheaval of the ocean floor, not unlike an event described in the best-seller "Book of Genesis," written by an ancient Jewish author named Moses. This upheaval formed a body of water surrounded by land, with Nessie engulfed therein.

What happened to Nessie at this point was of such a nature that parental guidance should be exercised in allowing teen-agers and squeamish persons to read about it.

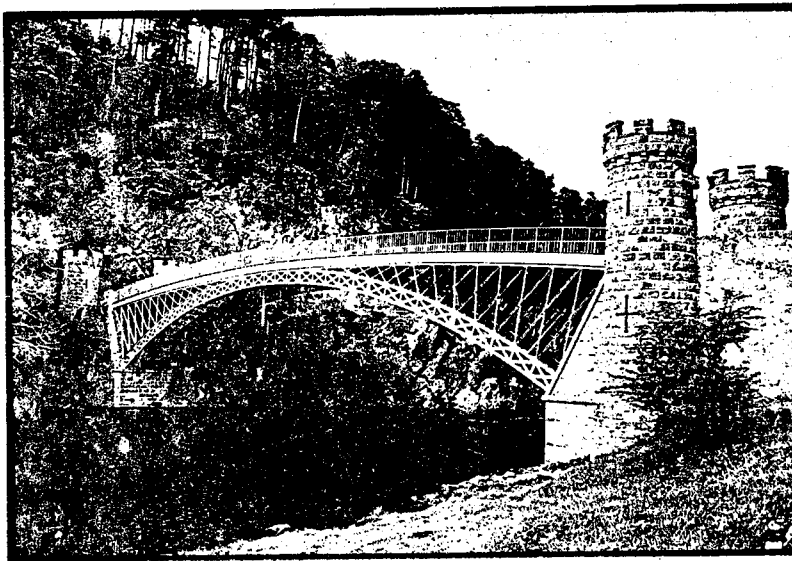
As the ocean floor rose, the sudden on-rush of water threw Nessie head-on against a sword fish. This caused the sword-fish's scalpel-like proboscis to incise Nessie's post-pectoral area, penetrate the lower geranium, and with a rotating motion perform a total resection of the geriatric gland. This immediately put Nessie on the critical list.

For those who are not aware of it, the geriatric gland is the organ that produces Geritol, a brownish-red liquid (it also comes in an easy to swallow capsule) that is vital to the aging process. Without it, growing old is impossible. Thus, Nessie has continued to live and become the world's oldest and largest albacore tuna. Unless he takes up smoking, hang-gliding, or winds up in a giant tuna casserole he'll probably live forever.

In relating this account of the life of Nessie, Dr. Balderdash said that from Nessie's experience two great lessons can be learned. First, "Don't fool around with a sword fish," and secondly, "Anytime you are contemplating major surgery, it is always a good idea to get a second opinion."



STRATHSPEY WITH THE CROMDALE HILLS AND THE CAIRNGORM MOUNTAINS IN THE BACKGROUND.



TELFORD'S BRIDGE SPANNING THE SPEY AT CRAIGELLACHIE

Sir James Grant's regiment was originally called the Grant Fencible Regiment, but this clanish title being objected to, the regiment was officially named the Strathspey, or 1st Fencible Regiment. The unit's belt plates and buttons were incised with "Strathspey Fencibles" and featured a crown and a thistle. This motif was also displayed on the regimental color (flags) in conjunction with the traditional "Union Jack."

In early August of 1793, marching orders were received and the regiment departed Forres at intervals from August 13-20. It is interesting to note that on the eve of their departure, Sir James entertained his officers and a few friends at an inn in Forres. The total bill for the evening was thirteen pounds and six pence, the greater portion of which was spent on ale, whisky, and various wines. A gratuity of five shillings was given the maids and a two shilling charge was levied for broken glasses.

Having mustered at Aberdeen in late August, the regiment marched to Glasgow, arriving on October 8, where they wintered. In the spring it was learned that a large number of men were to be deployed to England, a circumstance which would violate the terms of recruitment for fencible regiments.

The actual proposal was to send five hundred volunteers from each of four regiments-- the Strathspey Regiment being one of the four. The purpose of this deployment was to repel the threatened invasion of England. Sir James received the orders at Falkirk, on March 15, while his regiment was on the march from Glasgow, and made his initial appeal to his men on the 17th, after arriving at Linlithgow, the regiment's new headquarters. To his amazement and utter dismay, the men categorically refused to go to England by sea, and the majority said they would not go by land.

Four days later another appeal was made by Sir James while in the field, at which Captain Macdonell's whole company, some of the grenadiers, and many more from the other companies ran from the field. They took possession of the Palace of Linlithgow, and breaking open the stores, distributed the ammunition among themselves. Some of the mutineers actually proceeded to the opposite side of the loch and fired a volley of rounds at the rest of the regiment still in the field.

In an attempt to restore order, Captain Macdonell went to the Palace and tried to reason with the mutineers, but was in fact taken hostage himself. Order was finally achieved only after certain written assurances were given by Sir James Grant.

Despite the mutinous behavior and the strife within the regiment touched off by the proposed deployment to England, the officers and men of the Strathspey Fencibles continued to train vigorously and were commended by Lt. General Leslie upon being reviewed.

During the rest of 1794 and the remaining years of the regiment's active service until its disbandment in 1799, the unit inhabited a number of headquarters, being located at Paisley, Dumfries, Musselburgh, Dundee, Ayr, and at Edinburgh Castle. During this period, the regiment's history was, in the main, uneventful. Orderly records, formerly a part of the family muniments stored at Castle Grant, reveal the expected routine regimental business, including parades, honor guards, escorts, inspections, local civil law enforcement details, and other garrison duties. The regiment frequently received good reviews from the local newspapers

in the burghs where they were stationed, as well as commendations from their superior officers.

There are numerous accounts in the muniment records which report that the officers and men donated a day's pay to the poor in the towns where they were billeted, or for the widows of men who fell in battle. On several occasions volunteers from the regiment helped in the harvesting of crops.

The only other significant and tragic event which marred the regiment's history occurred at Dumfries, in June 1795. A group of fifty or sixty men tried to rescue two of their comrades who had been placed under garrison court martial. In a near-violent confrontation, Lt. Colonel Gunning, Major John Grant, and Captain John Grant, Jr., were threatened by the mob with bayonets. When order was finally restored, five of the mutineers were sent to the guard house and later placed under courts martial.

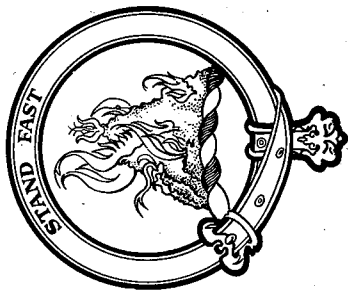
In the meantime, the regimental headquarters was transferred to Musselburgh, where the court martial proceedings were opened on July 6, 1795, with Colonel Wemyss of the 2nd Fencible Regiment presiding. The trial lasted four days and the sentences were pronounced a week later. Four of the five men, Lachlin M'Intosh, Duncan M'Dougall, Alexander Fraser, and Charles M'Intosh, were sentenced to death.

The executions were carried out with much pomp and ceremony. Thousands of witnesses lined the Links of Gullane, near Musselburgh, including members of four Fencible Regiments and representative groups with field pieces from five other military units. After the articles of the courts martial and the sentences were read, the regimental chaplain, Rev. James Grant, sang Psalms and prayed. It was decided that Fraser, being the most guilty, would be executed first. Then the other three men would draw lots to see which one would die-- two of the three were allowed to live with the stipulation that they would be drafted to serve in regiments abroad. Charles M'Intosh drew the unlucky lot.

Fraser maintained his mutinous disposition to the end, calling for his countrymen to rise up and release him from his fate. He finally had to be bound hand and foot. Rev. William Forsyth, in his book In the Shadow of the Cairngorm, reports that the first volley only wounded Fraser and that he cried out in Gaelic, "Surely there is some Fraser present to put me out of pain," at which a lone, friendly shot rang out from some unknown quarter.

M'Intosh, on the other hand, accepted his fate, kneeling upon his bonnet at prayer. After the executions, the troops marched around the bodies in slow time before departing the scene for their respective encampments.

In March 1799, the Strathspey, or 1st Fencible Regiment was disbanded. The circumstance which brought about the termination of the regiment was a request made by the Commander-in-Chief that 300 men should volunteer for service in Ireland or Europe. If this could not be accomplished, the disbandment of the regiment was the only alternative. Since sizable bounties were being offered to recruits to join newly forming regiments, it was too much to expect the men of Sir James Grant's regiment to volunteer for service abroad without further monetary reward. Only 160 men agreed to remain in the Strathspey Regiment. In April 1799, the officers and men handed over their arms to the storekeeper at Stirling Castle. The regimental colors were given to the Colonel, Sir James Grant.



Clan Grant Society

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"STAND FAST" IS A PROUD CLAN MOTTO,
MR. GRANT, BUT IT'S NOT MEANT TO
APPLY WHEN TOSSIN' THE CABAR.

COMING EVENTS:

- Sept. 28, 1980 Kirkin' O' the Tartan, Trinity Cathedral, Sacramento, Cal.
- Oct. 11, 1980 Waco Highland Games, McLennan Community College, Waco, TX.
- Oct. 4, 1980 Scottish Festival in Fresno, Gateway High School, Clovis, CA.
- Oct. 18, 1980 Stone Mountain Highland Games, Stone Mountain Park, Atlanta, GA.
- Oct. 22, 1980 Scottish Ball, New York, NY