



Craigellachie

Spring, 1981 It's GREAT to be a GRANT! Vol. IV, No. 1

"Like a factory," Queen Victoria said of Grant Castle, during Highland Tour

by James H. Grant, Jr.

The former stronghold of the Lairds of Freuchie and the Chiefs of Grant is located approximately two miles from the thriving town of Granttown-on-Spey, Morayshire. Although the castle is located on the crest of a knoll with an excellent southeasterly view of the valley of the River Spey, it is shrouded by trees to the north and cannot be readily observed from the Forres Highway which passes nearby. The estate is owned by the Right Honorable Ian Ogilvie-Grant, Earl of Seafield, cousin of the present Chief of Grant.

It is said that the original tower of Castle Grant dates to the 15th century. At that time it was called Ballachastell, meaning the town of the castle but on occasion it has been rendered Balloch Castle, the castle in the pass. In any event the fortalice was to be the principal residence of the Lairds of the Barony of Freuchie and the Grants.

During the four-hundred-year occupancy of the castle by the chiefs many alterations and additions were made to the building as their power and influence increased. The oldest portion of the existing structure is Babette's or Babie's tower reportedly named for one of the Laird's daughters named Barbara who was locked in the keep for disobeying her father. The front of the original manor house faced toward the south but one drastic renovation changed the entrance to the north side. As a visitor approaches the building from the road the initial impression is one of disappointment. The enormity of the structure notwithstanding this view of the castle is as Queen Victoria recorded in her journal on her highland tour "a very plain-looking house like a

factory." It is only when one ventures to the south side that the imposing battlements the raised courtyard the massive wings and the ancient tower can be viewed and appreciated.

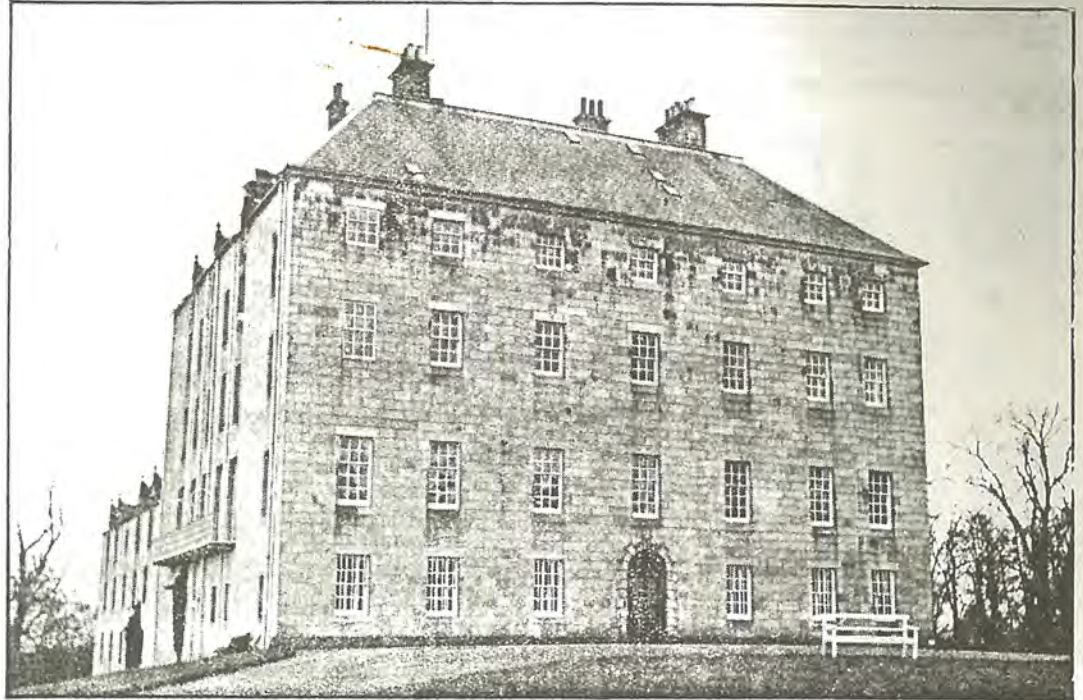
The main portion of the castle is four stories high. J.F.S. Gordon in his revision of Lachlan Shaw's *History of Moray*, numbers the bed-chambers at twenty, seemingly an under-estimation by this reporter. Perhaps the most impressive room in the castle is the wood-paneled dining hall which measures 47 feet by 27 feet. This room served as a gallery for a collection of over one hundred paintings and portraits.

Over a period of many years the Chiefs of Grant had accumulated one of the finest collections of family portraits by artists Kneller, West, Ramsey,

and a group of nearly 30 by Richard Waitt. One of the last to be added to this group was the portrait of Ian Charles, 2nd Lord Strathspey by Sir Francis Grant President of the Royal Academy. This large portrait was presented to the Master of Grant by his clansmen and the tenants of his father's estates on

the occasion of his 21st birthday in 1872. The portrait now hangs in the dining room at Kinveachy Lodge. Also among the portraits were life-sized representations of the Laird's champion piper and hen-wife. A huge portrait of

(Continued on Page 4)



Castle Grant.

Grant Tour Group Will Visit Castle

INTERNATIONAL GATHERING 1981: We have space for one more couple at Kinveachy Lodge for the week of May 31-June 7. Inquire of Hank Grant, 3264-A Henderson Mill Road, Chamblee, GA 30341, phone (404) 938-4821. Reservations will be made on a first-come, first-served basis.

We regret to inform you that Mr. David Stewart, retired architect for the Grant Estate in Granttown-on-Spey, kind host to many visitors and an honorary member of the U.S. branch of Clan Grant, passed away last Nov. 29. He leaves his wife, Agnes, after nearly 50 years of marriage. They resided in Granttown-on-Spey. Our sincere sympathy to her.

Craigellachie

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The Right Honorable the Lord
Strathspey, 32nd Chief of the
Clan Grant, Lt. Col. Sir Donald
Patrick Trevor Grant of Grant,
Baronet of Nova Scotia.

By George!

The Scot Games

Orlando in January sounds great from a cold Tennessee viewpoint, but over the last years our experience has been as varied as Florida weather can be. The warmth of the people who attend these games every

year more than make up for Mother Nature. Lucille and I attended the Orlando, Fla., "Ice bowl" Games in January. The weather was bone-chilling cold with a 20-knot breeze blowing all day. If it were not for visiting with our cousins, Pamela Scheulfer, James Russell Grant,

Pipe Band Practicing for Summer Events

The Clan Grant Caledonia Pipe Band, officially recognized by the Lord Strathspey at the Grandfather's Mountain Highland Games in July, 1980, has been keeping a busy practice schedule, getting ready for the Summer, 1981, competition. Meeting on Tuesday evenings at a high school near Erie, Pa., the band drills under the command of Jerry Waidley, Pipe Major. The pipers include Parke Waidley, Pipe Sgt.; Eric Marshall, Quartermaster & Secretary, Kenneth Krayer and Harold Swanson. Drummers include Jack and Dave Gilbert, Mike Shoop and Randy Luce. The dancers that perform with the band are Deborah and Laura Marshall and the band treasurer is William D. MacMurtrie.

The band is presently playing

Warren
Slow: The Mist—covered
Mountains
Marches: Midlothian Pipe Band,
The Steamboat
Slow Air: 74th's Slow March
Drum Salute:
March: Flett from Flotta (into
circle)
Strathspey: Aspen Bank
Reel: Jock Wilson's Ball
Hornpipe: The Black Bear
(repeat first part once at
end)
Marches: 42nd Highlanders &
Scotland the Brave (march
off)

Pipers of Clan Grant in the
Erie area are urged to contact
the band. Others are urged to
march with the band when
participating in the massed
bands at Games which the band
attends.

The 1981 season although not

Doug Grant, from Grant, Fla., and many others we might have partaken of the Grant water of life.

Our good Clan Grant members Steve and Diane Pohl are officers of the Scottish American Society of Central Florida Inc., and help to make this first game of the year that we attend always successful.

The next game is Dunedin Fla., on March 19. Dunedin was founded by a Grant and is held at Grant Field. The weather is always warmer at this time of the year in Florida but our Northern friends usually are still wintering in Florida. We get to visit with Clan Grant members that we would ordinarily not meet, unless we went to a north-of-the-border game.

Coming up April 11 is Jacksonville Fla.. Our very first member, Elsie Grant French, and her sister Charter Member Mary McDonald, live in Orange Park, where the games will be held this year. We have quite a few other members in this area, and if you have not visited this city before, it is a worthwhile trip. John C. Grant, our Treasurer, and his son Ardis, are planning on helping to man the tent in Jacksonville; they are making the trip from Stone Mountain Ga. Lucille and I will miss this game this year as we will be attempting to ready

Strathspey as well as Grants from Australia New Zealand, Scotland, the United States and Canada.

Vendors

The vendors who attend games in specific areas always seem to be able to reach out and pick up something you can't find a reason for doing without—a great book, record, jewelry. These hard-working men and women can still smile and go over old times even though they have been on their feet from 8 or so in the morning until 6 p.m. and look forward to packing up their unsold wares and usually a long drive home the next day. Some even have energy to attend the Tartan Balls after the games or Country Dancing of a Ceiladh. I admire their tenacity and cannot imagine a game without these remarkable people.

Our favorite vendor, also the newest, is none other than Bill Mathews, Dunedin Imports. Bill has been a member of Clan Grant for three years. He spent several weeks last summer in Scotland gathering the best tartan material available. We now have a new source locally. He has in stock in the USA four Grant tartans: Red, Ancient, Grant Hunting, and Ancient Hunting (not Black Watch, but the greens and browns—Lady Strathspey wears the Hunting Grant.) Bill Mathews tells me a man's kilt (unless you are very tall) would take 3½ to 4 yards. He has a kiltmaker as well in the USA-delivery in 3-4 weeks in Saxony material and will give a special price to Clan Grant members. Read the Highlander for his ad. Bill and Doris have three lovely daughters who have been Highland Dancers and competition winners many times. Dunedin Scottish Imports will be vending in Dunedin and Jacksonville this year. Stop by and say hello.

Contacting Clans

I am contacting other clan societies, notably McDonald and MacLeod, to learn how they structure the duties of state commissioners. These societies have been successful in their

Clan Membership Nearly 200 in 3 Years

There are presently 174 members of Clan Grant, and 22 Honorary Members! Clan Grant Society of North America was formed four years ago last December.

Did you know that a Life Membership may be purchased for \$250.00 each?

Membership fees are due this March. Please send the dues to Mrs. Shirley Smith, Membership Secretary, 1207 Cavalier Lane, West Chester, PA 19380. The initiation fee has been eliminated and the cost is just \$15.00 per person (cards can be made out in family names, if preferred). Make checks payable to Clan Grant Society. Remember we can double our membership if each member will get just one new member this year!

Let your membership secretary know if you have not received a copy of our newsletter *Craigellachie*, the magazine *The Highlander*, your membership card or certificate. Help us save on postage by renewing without a reminder notice.

Members who have joined since November are: COKER, Mr. & Mrs. Chester, P.O. Box 315, Jacksboro, TN 37757.

COOPER, Mrs. Vernelle E., 200 Olive St., No. 97, Vista CA 92083. DUNN, Mr. & Mrs. Hugh B., Jr., 117 Vernon Avenue Belle Vernon, PA 15012.

ELROD, Mrs. Lowell A., 11136 Glenhaven Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70815.

FERRY, Mrs. Margaret 1939 Barrington Dr. Clearwater, FL 33515.

GRANT, Mr. & Mrs. James Marse 1438 Ridge Rd., Raleigh NC 27607.

GROSS, Mr. & Mrs. Robert C., 1053 Cypress Lane, Cocoa, FL 32922.

HELLER, Mr. & Mrs. John Grant, 325 Winter St., Big Rapids MI 49307.

KOVACS, Mr. & Mrs. Bruce D., 42 Willis Ave., Cresskill NJ 07626.

KRUMM, Mr. & Mrs. George A., P.O. Box 654 Twentynine Palms CA 92277.

McMAHON, Miss Margaret, 11 Marjorie Dr., Albany NY 12203. PEGRAM, Mrs. H.M., 307 W. Birnie St., Gaffney, SC 29340.

REED, Linda A., 1020 Thistle Ct., Sunnyvale CA 94086.

SCHRECK, Mr. & Mrs. Edward

2470 Vallejo St., Santa Rosa CA 95045.

WINTERS, Mr. Ernest M., 481 Halwick Way, Stone Mountain GA 30083.

Grant Histories

Do you have a question about a Grant relative or connection? If so, write to the editor, Dick Heller 141 S. 2nd, Decatur, IN 46733, and ask away!

Mr Robert C. Gross of Cocoa Fla., is looking for information on John (Johannes) Grant of Quakertown, PA, B. 4-13-1800; died, 5-12-1868.

Robert H. Grant, of Portland, ME would like to know of a Dr. Grant in Lancaster or Hannover, PA who might have a complete genealogy of the Grants.

Genealogy Corner

Several of you have mentioned Grant publications. These include *Peter Grant Exiled*, by Leola Bushman, the "Grant Family Magazine", *A History of the Grant Family*, by Mrs. A. N. Grant, published in 1935 and a Grant genealogy published in 1926 by John Grant Stamford, NY. It will help our genealogist Mrs. Beryl Grant and our library in care of George Grant Convener if you could send copies of these publications to them. If you know of some not mentioned please let us know about them. It is with your generous cooperation that we will some day fill in the blanks in the Grant history! We now have information on the Grants in the New York Catskills, Connecticut Virginia and several of you have passed on information in other regions.

News Deadlines

Deadlines for getting articles in the *Craigellachie* are:

June 20 for July 15th issue
August 22 for Sept. 15th issue.
Nov. 21 for the Dec. 15th issue.
Feb. 1982 for the March 15 1982 issue.

Items concerning the Grant Clan, any of its activities, any suggestions for activities, any Grant history or genealogy, Grant pictures, are solicited for use in future issues. Please send them to the editor address in masthead.



David Stewart, left, retired architect for the Grant properties near Grantown-on-Spey, discusses Castle Grant with Prof. John Grant Heller, of Ferris State College, Big Rapids, MI during the latter's trip to Grantown last June. Mr. Stewart has since passed away.

1981 Grant Games Now Scheduled

If you can possibly attend one of these games, would you man a Grant Clan tent? If you would like information on manning a tent, please write George H. Grant, 301 Masters Rd., Hixson, TN 37343, giving your name, telephone number including area code, and best time to call, as well as your address.

March 28-Phoenix Games, Scottsdale, AR.

April 11-Jacksonville, FL games.

25-Statesville NC games.

May 2-Rockville, MD games.

2-Savannah, GA games.

9-Virginia Beach, VA games, 2 days.

16-Southwestern Games,

Houston TX.

23-International Gathering, Edinburgh, Scotland.

23-Prince Frederick MD games.

23-Alma, MI games, 2 days.

June 6-Fair Hill MD games.

14-Tulsa OK games.

20-Delco Games, Devon PA.

27-Ohio Games, Stow OH.

27-Long Beach CA games.

July 4-Round Hill games, Norwalk CT.

11-Ft. Ticonderoga NY games.

11-Grandfather Mtn. games, Linville NC.

18-Adirondack games, Schuylerville NY.

25-Virginia games, Alexander VA.

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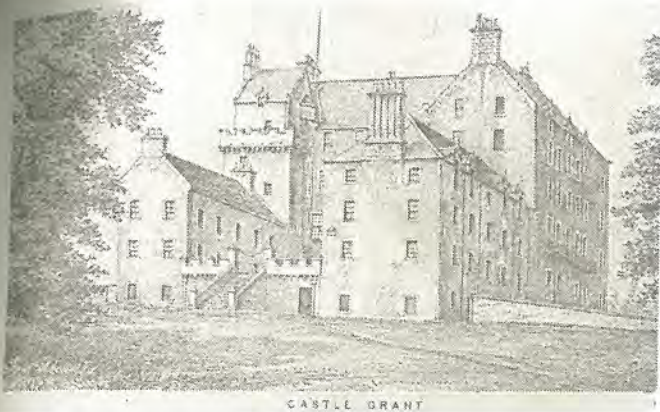
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"Like a factory"

(Continued from Page 1)

Charles Grant, Vicompte de Vaux in France, hung in the northern entrance to the castle.

The main entrance hall and staircase resembled an arsenal where the muskets, pikes, and other equipment of the Grant Fencible Regiment were prominently displayed. In 1720, an inventory of the weapons in the castle armory was taken. Among the list of blunderbusses, long guns, fuses, pistols, and swords are two references which indicate that someone charged with the procurement of weapons had a sense of humor. The longest gun in the arsenal was inscribed, "Clerk to the Laird of Grant," and one of the largest brass blunderbusses was engraved, "Grant's pocket pistol."

In the 19th Century, Sir Lewis Alexander Grant, Baronet, inherited the titles and estates of the Earldom of Seafield. His

successors divided their time between Castle Grant and the much more commodious and beautiful environs of the Seafield estate, Cullen House, in Banffshire. Although Castle Grant was kept in good repair and remained habitable for half the 20th Century, having been used to house troops during World War II, a fire in one of the southern wings in the late 1940's brought about the inevitable closing of the castle.

Today the castle which was once the home of the Chiefs of Grant and the rallying monument of the entire clan is in ruin.

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New Editor

The last issue contained a "plea for help" in editing our newsletter. The response was great! I received five enthusiastic volunteers: Willard C. Grant, Westland, Mich., Darlene Grant Baker, Tawas City, Mich., Charles Grant McDonald, Eminence, Ky., Mathew Grant-Knapp, Williamsville, N.Y., and Dick Heller, Decatur IN.

All are extremely well qualified and competent. Dick Heller accepted the challenge and is handling this issue. His mother was Martha Grant Heller and he is the 7th great-grandson of a William Grant who settled in Virginia about 1690. He is a third-generation publisher of The Decatur Daily Democrat, and visited Granttown-on-Spey with his brother J. Grant Heller last summer. His hobbies are genealogy, history, hiking, and birdwatching.

This issue will be put together by Heller and printed at Ferris State College Big Rapids MI, where J. Grant Heller teaches printing.

I am sure you will all be relieved that the job is in better hands than mine. Good Luck, Dick!

Scotland Trip

Lucille and I are looking forward to visiting Scotland this summer, I hope that more of you can make the trip and be with us in Granttown-on-Spey.

Where members live

A quick survey of individual representatives in the Society reveals that California, Florida, and Georgia are the "top three" with a count of 28, 25 and 21! Next are Pennsylvania, 16; New York, 10; North Carolina, 9; New Jersey and Tennessee 7 each; Massachusetts and Texas, 5 each; South Carolina and Virginia, 4 each; Louisiana, Maryland, Maryland and Michigan and Vermont, three apiece; Alabama, Washington D.C., Connecticut, Indiana, Maine, and Ohio, two each. Those with only one each are Arizona, Delaware, Kentucky, Oregon, and Rhonde Ksland.

Grandfather Mtn.

Games July 9-12

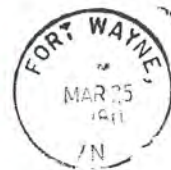
The Grandfather Mountain Games 1981 will be held July 9-12; these are old, well-attended colorful affairs that draw huge crowds to a primitive mountainous sector of western North Carolina. They are worth a visit if you can arrange it.

Any Grant Clan members who wish to attend should write to Jerry Helms, Box 663, Banner Elk, NC 28604, mentioning that they are Grant Cland members. Helms is arranging for condominium space for those interested; motel camping and other space is taken well in advance.

The Craigellachie

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