



Craigellachie

Summer, 1981 It's GREAT to be a GRANT! Vol. IV, No. 2

Yanks invade Highlands?

Some twenty-five members, family, and friends of the Clan Grant Society convened in the country of the Grants in the highlands of Scotland during the first week of June. The scene of the gathering was Kinveachy Lodge, near Aviemore, in

Strathspey, an estate owned by the Earl of Seafield. The week's activities included day trips, educational events, tours, social gatherings.... mostly social gatherings.

While visiting the Whisky Tasting Center at Rothiemur-

chus, some members of our group were informed by the guide that the production and consumption of whisky had actually declined in the last several years. This surprising fact prompted our Convener, George Grant, to remark

reassuringly, "Believe me, we are doing all we can to help!"

Here is a summary of our week in the highlands.

MONDAY, JUNE 1— The group visited the Landmark Visitors Center at Carrbridge, followed by a trip to the Duthil cemetery and the mausoleum of the Seafield family and the Chiefs of Grant. Driving on to Grantown-on-Spey, the clan enjoyed a hearty lunch at the Seafield Lodge Hotel and toured an excellent exhibit on the town of Grantown and the Clan Grant, prepared and sponsored by the Grantown Society. In the afternoon, we visited the grounds and ruin of Castle Grant. Monday evening, we were cordially entertained at Drumintoul, Rothiemurchus, by Lt. Col. J.P. Grant, Laird of Rothiemurchus. Drumintoul Lodge is situated amidst beautiful pine forests with views of the Cairngorm and Monadh Liath Mountains.

TUESDAY — After a free morning, we ventured again to Rothiemurchus where we were given a tour of Loch-an-Eilan castle and the restoration project at the Doune House, the ancestral home of the Rothiemurchus family. These tours were ably conducted by John Grant, Younger of Rothiemurchus, who performed above and beyond the call of duty by personally rowing groups back and forth to the island castle ruin in a downpour of rain. That evening, the crowd was treated to an interesting lecture at Kinveachy, by Dr. Michail MacDonald of the Scottish Tartan Society's Museum (in Comrie). The professor called his presentation an "irreverent" look at the



Ballindalloch Castle, Banffshire— The ancestral home of the MacPherson-Grants of Ballindalloch. The estate was originally owned by a branch of the Clan Grant, but this family was forced to sell the estate in the early years of the 18th century. Ballindalloch was then purchased by a younger son of Grant of Rothiemurchus and later passed through the female line to the chieftain of the MacPherson sept known as the Sliochd Gillies. Since that time, the castle and estates have been held by the MacPherson-Grants of Ballindalloch and Invereshie. The last of this line to own the castle is the present Sir Ewan G. MacPherson-Grant of Ballindalloch, Baronet. Our society is indebted to the current residents of the castle, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Russell, as well as Sir Ewan and Lady MacPherson-Grant, who entertained our group so cordially during our visit to the highlands.

Lord and Lady Strathspey to Atlanta

In case you have not already heard, our Chief and Lady Strathspey will be coming to Atlanta, October 17-19, as honored guests of the Stone Mountain Highland Games and Scottish Festival. Naturally, we would like to have a large group of Grant clansmen on hand to

welcome them to the United States. Atlanta is beautiful in the fall and the Stone Mountain Games is growing each year.

Our airport is the largest in the world with direct flights daily to major cities throughout the United States and there are

ample hotel and motel accommodations available. Why not take advantage of the budget air fares and come to Atlanta for the games? For further in-

formation, write to Hank Grant, 3264-A Henderson Mill Road, N.E., Chamblee, Georgia 30341.

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By George!

by George

From all over the former Colonies, a mixed bag of Grants descended on an unsuspecting Scottish population. These Grants drove cars on the left (sometimes); created a shortage of Scotch whiskey (always); bought the entire village supply of breakfast rolls called "baps"; dressed in kilts; spoke in several strange tongues such as Oregonese-Southern Appalachia-California laid back-Eastern Gobbledegook. One of their members even spoke in Ancient Gaelic, which was understood by a few and one in Fifese which was undecipherable by anyone.

Who are these strange creatures? Fortunately we were able to infiltrate their lair in Speyside, Kinveachy Lodge, and glean the following information.

First, we interviewed Ed Grant Smith and his parents, Dr. Phillip and Shirley Smith. Ed has just completed a year's study at Edinburgh University where in addition to his academic endeavors, he spent considerable time pursuing a new hobby ie; The development and nurture of the Scottish native female. While this totally consumed his spare time, he did find time to play with the Edinburgh University Pipe Band—the only American good enough to play, ever.

Shirley Grant Smith, our membership chairperson, is also an accomplished spaghetti

preparer. Her good humor and cheerfulness (after her first cup of coffee) was infectious.

Dr. Phil, a professor of languages at West Chester State University, kept everyone appraised of the big picture and started a tutorial course in Gaelic while on Skye.

John Bisset, born in Leven Fife, was the perfect guide. He has relatives in every hamlet north of the Firth of Forth.

John has 57 relatives in America and is proud of each and every one. His idea of afternoon tea is two glasses of a substance that is the same color. I am prepared to testify that John can motor anywhere in Scotland without a road map. He knows that Robinson Crusoe was born in Largo Fife and where his statue and house are and now I do, too.

John and Barbara Grant brought with them several items that proved of great value. Cigarettes for Barbara (25 cartons), Scotch Whiskey (3 cases), and two Camerons (more on them later). They both had the curious knack of arriving at several engagements just as everyone was leaving, however for the really important things such as cocktail time they were always 30 minutes early.

The importance of having the Camerons hostage cannot be overstated. As you know the Grants and the Camerons have not always been on the best of terms. Since we were constantly traveling on the fringes of our

mutual areas of influence, the possibility of confrontation with a marauding band of Cameron footpads was a constant threat. On Monday, at great personal danger, John and Barbara, carrying a white flag, took the Cameron hostages to visit the Lochiel, chief of the Camerons. Utilizing all of his legal skill, John was able to get the Lochiel to give the Camerons a letter of safe passage which we used on several occasions.

Wes and Barbara Cameron proved to be very willing hostages. They are both gracious and intelligent company. At every opportunity they brought out a picture showing an exceptionally beautiful young lady who a few years ago won the gold medal (1st) for Highland dancing at Edinburgh. I was shown the picture five times.

Hank and Linda Grant are totally responsible for the overwhelming success of our trip. All of the contacts and arrangements for our visits with our Scottish cousins were made by them. It was wonderful. Hank (Seamus Og) and Linda have the most extensive Highland wardrobe in all of Scotland. No matter what the rest of us wore, next to them we looked like Campbell crafters.

Mathew and Ann Grant-Knapp are excellent trackers and travelers. His mastery of Highland automobile driving was a wonder to everyone. On one trip, he visited Blair Atholl Castle and Balmoral in the same day, crossing mountain trails known only to sheep herders. Mathew and your reporter are responsible for at least one distiller working overtime.

George Wendy, David, and Joseph Hickey represented a reverse invasion. They are Irish and wishing to see the land conquered by their ancestors 12 centuries ago. In addition to several hair-raising experiences trying to keep up with Michael Grant driving through the hills. George and family had their own adventure driving from Aberdeen to Kinveachy (75 miles) in only four hours; 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. The rabbit population is permanently decimated.

Bob and Alice Grant arrived from Oregon to Kinveachy one day late. It seems Alice, who does all the driving, made a wrong turn at Bangor, Maine ending up in Maboo, Nova Scotia rather than Boston. Bob is a retired professional photographer and was in great

demand to take all Castle pictures and group shots.

George and Lucille Grant from Hixson, TN almost didn't make the trip. It seems that there was a fire in the bathroom at their house on the morning they were to leave, but fortunately the fire didn't reach the house. George was up at 6:00 a.m. every morning with breakfast goodies for everyone including kippers. George also functioned as the wake-up call for sleepers. Lucille somehow managed to keep everyone moving in the right direction at the right time. She has had 30 years experience at this with George, so is quite an expert.

The Hon. Amanda and Michael Grant of Grant also graced our visit. Their local knowledge, good humor, and lesson in how to eat kippers were invaluable to everyone's total enjoyment.

All in all, these invaders said it was the best week of their lives.

Chief Returns

The sponsors of the Stone Mountain Highland Games have invited Lord and Lady Strathspey to be their honored guest at the meeting October 17 and 18.

Patrick and Ollie have accepted the invitation. They will be in this country for probably 3 weeks seeing more of their clansmen and visiting interesting places.

This time the games will bear the majority of the cost; if at all possible make plans to come to Atlanta and meet the finest couple you'll ever meet.

Additionally at these games we wish to honor our very first member, Elsie Grant French, who joined in Orlando Fla., where we set up our first game tent. Elsie said I looked so lonesome she took pity on us. Elsie and her sisters and family are all active supportive members. Elsie and Earl Mally have contributed more to the growth of our society than anyone. Their ideas, enthusiasm, and participation have made all of my efforts worthwhile, just to have met and known them. So plan on being there for this event. Incidentally Elsie and her sisters all graduated from Stone Mountain High School and were born there. Their father came over from Aberdeen to be the foreman on the carving done on Stone Mountain.

What is a Scottish Clan?

by George H. Grant

The Highlands and Islands of Scotland have made a name for themselves throughout the world out of all proportion to their population or economic importance. The distinctive way of life of the Highland clans has been remembered long after the 'clan system' disappeared, and the aura of romance which still clings to them is undimmed by

although marriage with an heiress might have made it.

It was plainly of importance to have a man of bravery and good judgement as chief, but once the line was established the question of who should be its leader was not often in dispute. Chiefship was not 'elective', but the old Celtic method of selecting an heir from a limited group of male kin lingered on in some

within the family group and outside it formed a complicated web of relationships which further strengthened the clan. It was a classless society although the degree of propinquity to the chief was not ignored in pride and precedence; the cadet whose family had come earliest from the main stem was usually a man of special importance,

Their common kinship, real or nominal, knit together every Highland community from the chief to the humblest follower. Official records might speak of the earl of Argyll and the Lord of the Isles, Lord Lovat, or the Laird of Comar, and that was how they would be known in Edinburgh, but in their own country, and to all their clan, they were simply MacCailean mor (son of great Colin) or MacDhomnal (son of Donald), MacShimidh (son of Simon), or

Donates to Clan Band

The Clan Grant Band has received a generous donation from Mrs. Doris Proctor Bush, of New Jersey, a Clan member who is particularly interested in the McPherson-Grant connection, according to Mrs. Harold C. Grant, Clan genealogist.

Yanks Invade

Continued from page 1

history of tartans, but I think we found it to be realistic and most interesting. The evening was sponsored by Phil and Shirley Smith who also prepared an excellent spaghetti supper.

WEDNESDAY — A busy schedule began with a tour of Ballindalloch Castle, the beautiful residence of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Russell, and formerly the home of Sir Ewan and Lady MacPherson-Grant of Ballindalloch. Mrs. Russell conducted a most informative orientation to the castle and served the group coffee in the dining room before our departure. From Ballindalloch, some of the group drove to Dufftown for a tour of the William Grant & Sons Balvenie Distillery. We assembled again that afternoon at Cullen House, in Banffshire, where the Earl of Seafield gave us a tour of the beautiful grounds surrounding Cullen House, the former home of the Chiefs of Grant and the Earls of Findlater and Seafield. We were then escorted to the Seafield Arms Hotel, in Cullen, where we were Lord Seafield's guests at tea. Upon our return to Grantown, we went to Revack Lodge, the home of the Lady Pauline Ogilvie-Grant Sykes, for cocktails, and then to the Seafield Lodge Hotel for an excellent meal, provided by our friend, Nigel Grant.

THURSDAY — We ventured to Aberdeenshire for a tour of the House of Monymusk and Monymusk estates conducted by the Lady Tweedsmuir and Sir Archibald Grant of Monymusk and Cullen. We were also given an interesting tour of a restoration project being carried on at Pitfichie Castle, near the village of Monymusk. We also enjoyed a beautiful luncheon at

Nova Scotia Roots Fun to Trace Again

After the showing of the "Roots" program on TV several years ago, many people have begun the search into where their ancestors came from. In America where perhaps ten percent of our residents move every year, many have lost sight of earlier generations and find they have to go to Libraries and Archives or return to the locality.

In our case, while growing up in Norwalk, Conn., the only relative we knew for many years was my mother's sister and her family. Originally both my parents started out from Pictou, Nova Scotia, settled in New

Jersey for 15 years before moving to be near her sister. And in my engineering career, the work led me to the Army, then Baltimore, Md., Scotch Plains, N.J., Paducah, Ky., and finally to Eminence, Ky., where retirement arrived.

We had never seen our grandparents—the last one died in 1927. My brother and I had visited in Nova Scotia briefly, in 1940, the ones we knew about — two uncles and one aunt. While we did exchange Christmas cards over the years, even this stopped when there was no reply. So during last October we set out to trace them.

the Grant Arms Hotel. Upon our return to Strathspey, we joined our new friends from New Zealand, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Grant-Burgess, at the Coylum Bridge Hotel, in Rothiemurchus. Fred very graciously entertained our entire group for dinner which featured the traditional Scottish dish, haggis.

FRIDAY — Most of the group visited the famous battlefield of the 1745 Rebellion, Culloden Moor, and then drove down the north side of Loch Ness to Invermoriston where we met for lunch at the Glenmoriston Arms Hotel. After lunch, we were given a tour of Glenmoriston Estates, including a look at a salmon farm, conducted by Ian F.H. Grant, Managing Director of the estates. Before our return to Strathspey, we visited the Laird of Glenmoriston, James E. Grant, who showed us around his home, Invermoriston House.

SATURDAY — Most of the day was spent preparing for the reception for Lord and Lady Strathspey which was the grand finale to the week. Some of the group did attend an open house given by Mr. and Mrs. George Grant Turnbull, at Reidhaven, their lovely home in Grantown. The Turnbells hosted Lord and Lady Strathspey during the week and accompanied our group on many of our day trips and tours.

THE RECEPTION — The highlight of the week was our reception honoring our Chief and Lady Strathspey. Approximately ninety people attended the event which was

given by the members of our Clan Grant Society and held at Kinveachy, Saturday evening.

In addition to the honored guests, other special guests included the Earl and Countess of Cromartie. Representing families and cadets of the Clan were the Lady Pauline Sykes, Sir Patrick and Lady Grant of Dalvey (Clan Donnachie), Sir Archibald Grant of Monymusk and Cullen, Sir Ewan and Lady MacPherson-Grant of Ballindalloch, James E. Grant and Mr. and Mrs. Ian Grant of Glenmoriston, John Grant, Younger of Rothiemurchus, and Brig. Eneas Grant and Mr. Patrick Hugh MacKintosh-Grant, representing the ancient cadet of Tullochgorm. Also in attendance were the Hon. James Patrick Grant, younger of Grant, and his charming wife, Linda, and the Hon. Michael P.F. Grant and the Lady Amanda Grant. We were honored to have had Michael and Amanda as our guests at Kinveachy during the week.

Lord and Lady Strathspey greeted the guests as they arrived and then were "piped-in" in traditional fashion by Mr. Edward Smith, the Laird's Piper. Additional music was performed by members of the Grantown and Badenoch Pipe Band. The honorees were presented by our Convener, George Grant, who is to be congratulated on his brevity. His lordship delivered an excellent oration which summed up the entire week's activities and brought to a close a most successful and enjoyable visit to the highlands.

—Hank Grant

We arrived on their Thanksgiving weekend in October, and knowing that most places would be closed we started by looking into the cemeteries there, copying down the Grants, and which MacDonalDs we thought might apply.

Bear in mind that there are 15 Grants and 117 MacDonalDs listed in their telephone book for Pictou alone (population 4250). Later in the month we visited A.I. Grant who, like all those folks, invited us in and gave us a copy of his family tree. He told us that he knew of 13 families of the name with only two of them distantly related. This project grows on you — as you talk to the people at the Hotel where we stayed, or at Rotary Club meetings, some one would tell you to go see, as he is an old-timer and should remember your parents. Now they do have the Hector Historical Center there — the ship Hector landed there in 1773 with the first big load of 200 Scots — but connected with this are some of the old records — microfilms of newspapers, cemetery lists, their 1871 Census indexed alphabetically.

As we looked further, we tried to obtain copies of old books such as Rev. Dr. Patterson's 1877 History of Pictou County, an Atlas of the County of 1879 showing farms of the Cariboo-Scotch Hill areas with owner's names. This was invaluable as it showed the tangle of Scotch Hill Grants, some but not all related. The two chief progenitors known by us in that area include James Grant, a Hector miller from Glen Urquhart, or Peter Grant, teacher of the first Pictou school from 1793-1800. He had come with his father Alpin Grant (an ex-soldier—?) in 1784, stayed in Halifax for schooling before going to Pictou, and afterward settled in Scotch Hill.

Somewhat later it was possible to go back through early land deed records, as well as probate files; the former were much help. Grandfather Daniel Grant had the Grant's Corner farm just outside of town, and we traced it back to 1840 when his father James bought 215 acres jointly with his brother Alexander while a third brother Alpin Grant had ink in his veins and followed the printing trade, locally and then

Continued on page 5