



Craigellachie



WINTER 1998

IT'S GREAT TO BE A GRANT

VOLUME XX - NO. 4

<http://www.parsonage.net/clangrant>

Although the Clan Grant Society, USA has been on the World Wide Web for some time now, it seems that there can be some difficulty finding us. Please bookmark the site the next time you arrive there (and yes, this is the web address). Howard Parsons, Society President, plans on using the site not only as an introduction to the Clan, but also as a means of communication to the membership. As we fast approach the 21st century, I find this to be great insight by our new leader. While this will **not** replace the *Craigellachie*, at least not in the near future, it is a step in the right direction. In this age of rapid communication, this should aid in disseminating information to the membership. For those without access to the Web, the Newsletter will still keep you informed.

STAND FAST!

HOWARD PARSONS ACCEPTS SOCIETY PRESIDENCY

What a day this is! My first encounter with the whole Scottish-American scene was here at Stone Mtn., 17 years ago. My wife, Judi, had to work that afternoon so I ventured out on my own. The late Lord Strathspey was the honoured guest of the 9th annual Stone Mtn. Games and I remember meeting him as well as George and Hank Grant. The following year, Judi was here on her own as I had already left Atlanta for a new job in Charlottesville, VA. Over the course of the intervening 17 years, I got to know other society members such as the late Bill Matthews (who sold me the kilt I have on today), Shirley and Phil Smith, Gordon and Mildred, Al and Eiko and George . . . well, everybody knows George. Not only has my life been enriched by knowing all of you but participation in these Scottish-American Activities in general and Clan Grant in particular has become such an important part of my life that I am truly honoured that you have chosen to entrust me with the leadership of the Clan Grant Society for the next three years. I only hope that I am worthy of your great trust.

Building on that which is past, we move from the present into the future. George has given us the very existence of our society. Not a perfect one, perhaps, but one capable of being outstanding. Through Gordon's efforts, we have a constitution and now we shall see how it works for us. We may need to tinker a bit but that's all part of an organization. For 20 years, Shirley has tied us all together. She is irreplaceable but we shall try to fill that void. Betsy Riggs has reconciled our accounts and because of her work, David has a clean balance sheet with which to begin. And now, it is up to me to move our society forward. Accordingly, I would like to outline briefly my goals for the next three years.

1. **A New Database** - This winter, I will begin building a comprehensive database of membership information; one that all our officers will be able to use and more effectively manage our society.
2. **A Survey Of Our Members:** - During the coming months, it is my intent to conduct a survey of our members so as gain a better understanding of the demographics and learn how we can best serve the needs of our members.
3. **New AGM Sites** - It is my hope that over the next three years, we will hold the AGM at different locations around the country. This is not due to a lack of hospitality in Atlanta, Ga. but, rather, a need to include as many members as possible in the activities and functions of our society.
4. **Increased Support for Duthil Kirk** - Sadly, Castle Grant is lost to us. Years ago we realized that we lacked the resources to reasonably consider a purchase and restoration scheme. If there is to be a "hame" for us in the land of our ancestors, then Duthil is

(More on p.3)

Clan Grant Society, USA
George Grant
Interim Secretary
301 Masters Road
Hixson, TN 37343

Return address requested

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New members September -November 1998 WELCOME HOME!!!

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. JoAnn M. Thomas
2936 JoAnn Drive
Richmond, CA--94806 | 13. Mrs. Pat Cranford
11270 Widenhouse Rd.
Midland, NV 28107 |
| 2. Darryl & Cynthia Grant
23 Harvard Ct.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 | 14. Daniel M. Grant
3355 Bee Caves Rd. STE. 103
Austin, TX 78746 |
| 3. Teresa Magleby
681 Charles Ct.
Benicia, CA--94510 | 15. Christina & Wayne Masters
7907 Aurora Ave. N #203
Seattle, WA 98103 |
| 4. Scott Grant
2973 Santos Lane #307
Walnut Creek, CA--94596 | 16. Pete & C.K. Mastenbroek
43177 Roger Mtn. Loop
Scio, OR 97374 |
| 5. Scott Grant Bailey
1810 N. Park St.
Visalia, CA 93291 | 17. Alana & Randall Thomas
2376 Cinnabar Ln.
Salt Lake City, UT 84121-3925 |
| 6. Ralph Mosley
3518 Hwy 12 No.
Ashland City, TN 37015 | 18. Deborah Grant Thorn
3251 Karen Drive
Chesapeake, MD 20732 |
| 7. Nancy Grant
110 Purchase St.
So. Easton, MA 02375 | 19. Grant Kalasunas
37 N. Centre Ave. 2nd Flr
Norristown, PA 19403 |
| 8. Amy K. Libby
13 Day Road
Pleasant Valley, CT 06063 | 20. Isabel & Michael Fortado
6306 Panda Court
Waldorf, MD 20603 |
| 9. Richard & Dolores Rodgers
1805 Co. Rt. 6
Fulton, NY 13069 | 21. Robert & Betty Lou Cairnes, Sr.
1753 Deborah Lane
Marysville, CA 95901 |
| 10. Richard M. Rodgers
1805 Co. Rt. 6
Fulton, NY 13069 | 22. Marlene Elsie Soria
13110 Hazel Ave.
Boulder Creek, CA 95006 |
| 11. Betty Grant
2698 Foster Ridge Rd,
Atlanta, GA 30345 | 23. Norman Grant King
P.O. Box 1111
Hixson, TN 37343 |
| 12. Bryan M. Grant IV
P.O.Box 13330
Atlanta, GA 30324-0330 | 24. Mahaly Grant
3861 Catalina Dr.
Marietta, GA 30066 |
| | 25. Debra M. Solstad
501 Rdge Hill Rd. C-5
Glenside, PA 19038 |



Angus to the US

A wealthy retired London silk merchant named George Grant, a native of Banffshire, Scotland, established an agricultural community in western Kansas and named it Victoria, for his country's queen. When Grant Transplanted four Aberdeen Angus bulls from Scotland to the middle of the Kansas prairie, they were part of the Scotsman's dream to found a colony of affluent livestock-raising Britishers.

After a long and arduous voyage aboard the S.S. Alabama from Glasgow to New Orleans, these hardy Angus bulls traveled up the Mississippi River by boat to St. Louis and then completed their steam-powered journey to Victoria by rail. They arrived on May 17, 1873.

George Grant's foresight and his importation of the four Angus bulls, probably from the herd of George Brown of Westertown, Fochabers, Scotland, were the beginning of the breed's powerful impact on our nation's cattle industry.

When two of the George Grant Angus bulls were exhibited at the Kansas City (MO) Livestock Exposition in the fall of 1873, some cattlemen considered them "freaks" because of their polled (naturally hornless) heads and their solid black color.

Shorthorns were the dominant breed then, but Grant, a futuristic thinker, crossed his bulls with native Texas Longhorn cows, producing a large number of hornless black calves that survived well on the winter range of the Midwest.

The Angus crosses wintered better and weighed more the next spring, which proved the first major demonstration of the breed's value in their new homeland.

George Grant conducted his cattle business from his limestone villa southeast of Victoria. The impressive stone house and barn stand on a hill with broad view of the rolling plains of Kansas from all directions. Both buildings were constructed from limestone blocks quarried on the ranch near Big Creek. Four large limestone posts in the front yard were used for clothesline supports.

IN 1972, the George Grant Villa was designated as a historical site by the Kansas State Historical Society. In addition to this honor, George Grant has won mention in the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center in Oklahoma City.

The first great herds of Angus beef cattle in America were built up by purchasing stock directly from Scotland. In a period of explosive growth between 1878 and 1883, more than 1,200 Angus cattle were imported, mostly to the Midwest. Over the next quarter century, these early owners, in turn, helped start other herds in the U.S. by breeding, showing, and selling their registered stock.

The American Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' Assn. (the name was shortened in the 1950s to American Angus Assn.) was founded on November 21, 1883, in Chicago with 60 members. Since then, the growth of the association has paralleled the success of the Angus breed in America.

In the first century of operation, more than 10 million head of Angus cattle were registered with the association. The American Angus Assn. records more cattle each year than any other beef breed registry association in the world.

An eight-cent postage stamp commemorating the arrival of the first Angus cattle in the United States was the first in a series of three stamps honoring aspects of "Rural America" issued by the U.S. Postal Service. The stamp features Angus bulls and Longhorn cows in a prairie setting as they might have appeared in 1873. The design was adapted from a 66-foot by 36-foot oil painting by F.C. Murphy of Chicago, which hangs in the office of the headquarters of the American Angus Assn. in St. Joseph, MO.

Although George Grant's efforts will be remembered for centuries, he died in 1879 poor and disillusioned, with no idea of how successful and important the Angus business would eventually become in the United States. ❖



1998 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



SIR PATRICK GRANT, UK CHAIRMAN, SENDS GREETINGS TO USA MEMBERS

To the Members of the Clan Grant Society of the United States of America:

On behalf of the Clan Grant Society of the United Kingdom I would like to convey our greetings and best wishes to the Clan Grant Society of the United States of America. May we offer our congratulations and support on the appointment of Howard Parsons as your new President, and also to any other new office bearers.

Over the years we have grown together to a combined societies' world-wide membership involving over a thousand people. We are all grateful to the United States Clan Grant Society who were the first to establish, under George Grant, an effective Society. George and other colleagues such as Hank were the inspiration for the revival of the British Society, and I believe the Canadian Society.

Our Clan Societies exist to promote kinship and common interest amongst all those connected to the Clan Grant. All those descended from the Clan Grant inhabitants of Strathspey, Glen Urquhart and Glen Morrison have, however distant, a blood-bond relationship, and the Societies serve as a means of reuniting the extended family of the Clan. We both organise events throughout the year to enable members to meet. In our case we have the main Clan Gathering in early August in Nethybridge and Castle Grant, with regional meetings during the winter in York, London and sometimes Edinburgh. I know that your Society has a presence at many of the Highland Games staged in North America.

Here in Scotland we continue to work together on our long term aim to establish a Clan Grant Centre at Duthil, Strathspey but in the meantime are currently working on the Millennium Gathering in early August 2000. We hope to see as many Clan members as possible attending from overseas, and are organising a schedule of events in the Clan Grant homelands, culminating in a Grand gathering of the Clan at Nethybridge and Castle Grant. The whole occasion is being organised primarily with the interests of the overseas members in mind. Please spread the word so that everyone knows about it well in advance. This will be a once in a lifetime opportunity and I urge as many of you as possible to come.

We look forward to working together with you to build the Clan Grant Society, everywhere.

Our very best wishes to you all.

(From p.1)

surely that place. Over the years we have helped with it's restoration but there is more to be done. We do not have limitless financial resources but there are many new members who know little, if anything, about Duthil and not a few old members who wonder what has become of it.

5. Establish Mutual Support And Cooperation Among The US, UK & Canadian Societies - As many of you know, the Canadian Society has been recently reactivated. At the same time, new lines of communication have been opened up with the UK Society. Now is the time for us to begin to work together for our mutual benefit.

6. Continue Our Growth As A Society - We are not the largest Scottish society nor are we the smallest. In my role as 2nd Vice President of Clan Skene, I saw first hand what a few energised individuals can do for the growth of a Scottish Clan Society. If we are to survive, then we must continue our outreach via traditional and non-traditional methods.

7. Improve Communication - Our number one problem is apathy and we are not the only clan society faced with this malaise. However, we cannot fight this situation without good communication between our society's leadership and it's members. I will endeavour to use not only the traditional forms such as Craigellachie but also take advantage of the electronic methods that the World Wide Web and e-mail now offer. Communication is a two way street and, to that end, I hope to hold "Town Hall" meetings at regional gatherings around the country. I cannot expect our membership to listen to what I have to say until I have first listened to them.

I realize that this is no small set of goals but, with the help of people like Al, David, Phil Smith, George, Robert and James Suttie and, most importantly, the love and support of Lady Judith, I will give it my all.

And finally, it is my fervent prayer that our society will continue to be one based on friendship as much as kinship and that we will be spared the Clan politics that beset so many other societies. United in spirit and purpose, let us move forward in to the next century.

Minutes of the AGM

The meeting was called to order by the Acting Chairman of the Board, Gordon Grant.

The IRS-507c tax exemption petition was filed 18 July. There should be a response no later than November 17.

The election was unique in that it was the first in the history of the Clan Grant Society. Jean Aloe and George Grant gave a report on the election. There were 215 responses, two were invalid. 213 represent 50% of the membership, a good return considering that there was no return envelope included. Results were ...

Howard Parsons, President
Allan Grant, Vice-President
Philip Smith, Secretary
David Grant, Treasurer
Richard Grant, Member-at -Large
James Suttie, Member-at -Large
George Grant Member-at -Large

The Acting Chair, Gordon Grant, then "surrendered the gavel" to newly elected President Parsons.

Howard Parsons made a short address to the assembled members. Starting out with the statement that he was honored to follow in such large footprints as George and Lucille's over the past twenty years, he then outlined his goals for Clan Grant:

1. Creation of a new Clan Grant data base using Microsoft;
2. Survey of the members to solicit ideas and input;
3. Exploration of possible new sites for the Annual General Meeting (AGM), including one on the Pacific coast;
4. Increased funding for the Clan Grant Centre at Duthil Kirk;
5. Mutual support among the U.S., Canadian, and U.K. Clan Grant Societies;
6. Continuing the growth of the Society;
7. Improvement of communications within the Society - there are now Clan Grant sites on the World Wide Web and e-mail ability.

"This is no small set of goals but attainable within a Society based on Friendship as well as Kinship."

Allan Grant then read a message from the U.K. Society of congratulations. Recognizing the separation of the formalized Society organization from the in-formal "clanship" under which the group worked for twenty years, Howard Parsons proclaimed George H. Grant "Convenor-for-Life" with the style and accouterments with the right to lead the clan in parades, etc.

Betsy Riggs, Treasurer, reported that the Society had approximately \$10,500 in cash and assets including \$8,000 in a non-interest bearing account until the tax status is established. She pointed out that membership is declining. Contributions had been made this year to the G. P. Odum Library and Duthil Kirk Centre.

Gordon Grant suggested that the newly elected Board discuss this and come back to the AGM with some concrete proposals. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report by Lucille Grant, second by Jean Aloe. Passed unanimously.

Old Business: None.

New Business: George Grant reported on the sale of Clan related items. It was decided to continue this not only as a means of income but as a service to members.

The Highlander subscriptions: Anne Grant-Knapp turned over \$1,100 to the Society when she resigned this post. Howard parsons will take over until he can identify some one to replace Anne. She was publicly thanked for her long service in this capacity.

The next AGM was tentatively set for next October at the Stone Mountain Highland Games. The meeting was adjourned.

NEW PRESIDENCY BEGINS WITH SPECIAL APPOINTMENT

Whereas: George H. Grant was instrumental in establishing the Clan Grant Society in the United States, devoting not only countless hours but financial support to the growth of that society; and

Whereas: The title of Convenor was conferred upon George H. Grant by the late Lord Strathspey; and

Whereas: The Constitution of the Clan Grant Society of the United States makes no provision for the office of Convenor; and

Whereas: George H. Grant has faithfully served the Clan Grant Society since it's inception, causing it's members to be eternally grateful for his selfless efforts;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, HOWARD T. PARSONS, JR., President of the Clan Grant Society of the United States, under the powers granted me by the Constitution and Bylaws of that Society, and in consultation with it's governing board, do hereby proclaim that George H. Grant is appointed to the position of Convenor, entitling him to retain the style, accouterments and dignity granted by the late Lord Strathspey and charging him with the duties of leading the assembled members of the Society in all public processions and serving as the Society's ambassador of good will to other Clan Societies as well as the Scottish community as a whole.

Given under my hand, this 17th day of October, 1998.

Howard T. Parsons, Jr.

President, Clan Grant Society of the United States

Amarillo Enjoys Success at 1st Highland Scottish Festival

by John Grant
High Plains Commissioner

The first ever Scottish Highland Festival was held in the High Plains of Amarillo Texas on August 21st and 22nd. Clan Grant along with seven other Scottish Clans were there for the inaugural event. The festival was held in Ellwood Park, a scenic, moderately wooded area, located in the northeastern portion of the city.

Amarillo's population is approximately 170,000 of which 35% are of Celtic origin. The city draws from an estimated 500,000 populace from the states adjoining the Texas panhandle. This includes western Oklahoma, southern Colorado and eastern New Mexico.

In our spare time we were able to tour the local area and visit the Palo Dura Canyon. It is a miniature Grand Canyon and especially exquisite during the evening hours. We witnessed the setting suns rays as they reflected off the geological record exposed on the canyon walls. It was a sight to behold. We can only imagine the magnificence of the Grand Canyon, not having been there, as we awed over this miniature work of nature.

For the first festival nearly 2500 visitors attended. They were entertained by five professional musicians, lots of bag pipes, country

dancing, Gaelic language workshop, and the Massed Bands. Haggis, Neeps, Scotch Eggs and Shortbread were available throughout the event. The athletic events were instructional rather than competitive during this festival.

We visited with several descendants of Grant heritage and associated Septs. As usual we assisted many patrons in identifying with their Scottish roots, one of the pleasures of our endeavors. Although a small festival this year, it was a successful one with vestiges of great promise for a more successful year in 1999.

MCPHERSON KANSAS GAMES

by JOHN GRANT
HIGH PLAINS
COMMISSIONER

McPherson Kansas began their annual Scottish Festival on September 25th with our own Dr. Philip Smith leading an all day Tartan Seminar. This event was just one of several designed to promote the Scottish theme of the city and heighten the awareness of the regional population to the culture of Scotland and the heritage of its descendants. On the 26th and 27th, the festival expanded to Lakeside Park, a lovely setting in this quaint little city located in the center of the plains.

It was another unusual September weekend. Hot and Humid and very little wind. But, we "pressed on" as one country and western singer put it and we finished out our Scottish festivals for another year. For the first time, we had three generations of Grants marching in the Parade of Tartans. It was an exciting day for the Kansas Grants.

The usual athletic competition, Irish "Curaugh" boat rides and piping continued throughout the festival. The Saturday evening Ceilidh was held at the local convention center with Margaret Gravitt, Ed Miller, Thad Beach and "Bur" providing the entertainment. Next door at the Red Coach Inn, the Wichita Scottish Dancers performed for the patrons to round out the evenings entertainment.

Throughout the weekend, sheep dog demonstrations, highland dance competition and the McPherson College Renaissance Troupe entertained the crowds. The City of McPherson holds their annual Harvest Festival at this time also. Craftsmen demonstrate the early trades required during the settlement of the area, e.g. soapmaking, blacksmithing, butter making, etc..

This year we would like to thank the Festival Organizers for their support. Lunches were provided both days to all participants. In addition, a steady supply of water was wholeheartedly received to combat the unusually hot weather we were experiencing. It was an entertaining and educational visit to McPherson. As we close out our year of festivals in the plains, we also extend our thanks and appreciation to the Clan Grant Society for the support.



STONE MOUNTAIN GAMES

Grants gathered from everywhere, the weather was perfect, in short a great weekend. Our tent location, thanks to John A. Grant, President St. Andrews Society., Atlanta and our member cousin, saw to it we were located on the most used walkway. We had more interested visitors than ever before. More new members joined with a full list to follow up.

Friday evenings reception was, as usual handled with southern hospitality and charm by Jane & David Grant, at their home. They even had two token McGregors. Endless supply of finger food. (We were still eating leftovers Sunday, at the games).

Saturday morning the tartan mile was won by, ERIC GRANT and JEFF COVINGTON CAME IN 4TH. Both running in Grant Tartans. The weekend was off to a great start. The tent was filled with cousins. Ed & Jean Aloe, Greenwich, CT, Gordon & Mildred Grant, Arlington, VA, Phil & Shirley Smith, Penna, Alan & Eiko Grant Md. Eric & Tessa Grant, Term, Richard Grant, Term, Jeff & Jai Covington, No. Car., Leonard Wood, IL were a few of the cousins who shared experiences.

Saturday evening we got together as usual, at Duane & Maggie's home. The buffet was sumptuous and tasty. Duane & Maggie live on the same street as David & Jane Grant. On Friday & Saturday we drove from the motel, carefully following the map supplied. On both occasions we missed the street, a right turn, and had to U turn back. You'd think we'd learn.

Our annual general meeting was held on time and the officers and board duly invested in office. A complete report will be filed, along with the minutes by The Honorable Secretary, Dr. Philip Smith.

Plan to come south next year and share the good times and friendship at Stone Mountain Games.

STAND FAST!



Great Grants at the Games

TULSA OKLAHOMA GAMES

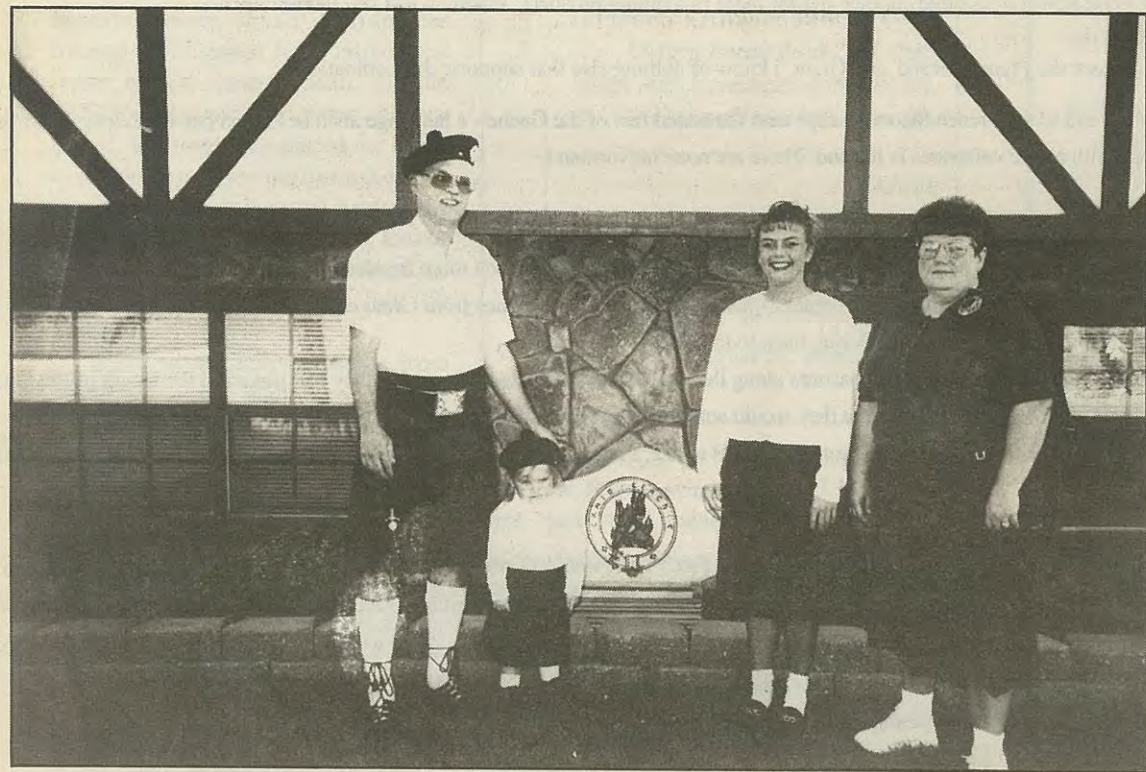
by JOHN GRANT
HIGH PLAINS COMMISSIONER

This was the largest gathering of Scottish Clans to date for the September "City of Tulsa Highland Games" on the 19th and 20th of this year. Over 52 Clan Tents surrounded the parade field on one of the hottest weekends on record for the Tulsa area. The weather reminded us of Arlington, Texas in June, "Hot and Humid". Of course this was not the only "First" for the 1998 Tulsa Games.

One of our local members and supporter, Carole Richmond of Tulsa, opened up her home and held the first "Gathering of the Clan" on the Friday night preceding the festival. Carole's intent is to entice the descendants of Ludovick Grant and Elizabeth Coody, a Cherokee, to become acquainted and involved with their Scottish heritage as they are with their Cherokee ancestry. Several local residents brought along their genealogical research showing their descent from the pair to the present time. These genealogical charts were very impressive. Those present were; Virginia & Jean Vann Perry, Mary Jane Dossett, Patsy Brickey, Minta Keys(MacKie), Elizabeth Butler, John & Helen Grant, Carole, Fields the Schnauzer, and 96 year old Uncle Roy Giles.

Uncle Roy informed us he was of English ancestry and he was holding out for the century mark. He wants to hear Willard Scott announce his accomplishment on national television. He was a interesting and delightful host and as Shirley says, "we will adopt him". By the way, he did sign up a couple at the Clan tent while we were on the parade field.

Although we tried to assist Carole financially with the food and drink, she informed us she would not accept it. She pointed out it was the custom of Native Americans to provide their guests with shelter, protection and nourishment, a Highland custom also. This and other similarities between the two cultures is what drew them together. For example, a reverence for the land, a Clan Tribe hierarchy, a mountain people and the use of eagle feathers as part of their attire to name just a few similarities.



Three generations of Grants at McPherson, Kansas.
(L-r): John Grant, Brittany Wyss, Cindie Grant Wyss and Helen Grant.



Pictured with John and Helen Grant at the Tulsa Oklahoma Games are descendants of the Scot/Cherokee Ancestry: (l-r) Minta Keys (Mackie), Mary Jane Dossett (Grant), John, Helen, and Carole Richmond (Grant).

The evening was both social as well as educational. Plenty of food, drink and company and a good time was had by all. We hope this gathering continues and grows along with the festival. There were large crowds during both days of the festival.

The sheep dog demonstrations remained a main attraction. Ben, the border collie, was very impressive. His love for smoked turkey leg has not deteriorated with time. The sheep had to wait as Ben trailed a patron through the crowd begging for a wee bit of the morsel. As soon as his handler got his attention, he was back on track and displayed his talent as he herded the sheep into the center corral.

The athletic events were still a main attraction as the crowds surrounded the field throughout the day. Spinning and weaving demonstrations were an addition to the games this year. Traditional hand-woven tartan material was woven on the floor loom by local members of the Hand-weavers Guild much to the observers delight.

There were seven pipe bands filling the parade field continuously. The competition was intense and pleasing to the ear. During the high noon "Parade of Tartans", we had a few Grants marching with us, another first for Tulsa. Descendants of Scots and Native Americans living in the area, paraded for the first time. They were a colorful group wearing their Cherokee Tear Dresses draped in their respective Clan Tartan. We look forward to this group expanding and eventually marching along with their Clans.

We were busy at the Clan Tent this weekend and had quite a Grant turnout. Many new, as well as familiar, faces stopped by. We were happy to see them all and they were all informed of next years "Friday night Gathering in Tulsa". This could be the beginning of a new chapter for Tulsa and the Clan Grant. We certainly hope so. It was a fun weekend in Tulsa and we are looking forward to more of them in the future. We would like to thank the Society for their support in this endeavor.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

One man takes a new look at the origins of Grant.

The origin of the Grant name has for years been accepted as Norman in origin. Although there are some sources that attribute our clann to being Celtic, the generally accepted view was that the Grants came Scotland in the court of Malcolm's English bride. A web site was pointed out to me and, upon inspection, I found a refreshingly unique point of view of the origin of Clan Grant. I submit here a portion of what is on this sight. I suggest that those of you interested in the topic take a look for yourselves. The URL is <http://www.ndirect.co.uk/~steve-grant/name.html>. The subject is discussed in greater detail and there is even a posting of comments from readers. You be the judge. (The editor)

We have long accepted the conventional wisdom that the name 'Grant' originates from the French 'Grand'. Indeed, it seems perfectly reasonable. However, during recent research on a completely unrelated matter, I stumbled across something that made me question this widely-held view. I have since researched it further, and I am now of the firm opinion that we are mistaken.

The origin of the name was first mooted by the Victorians, who did much to romanticize and lyricize the clan system. Queen Victoria was a lover of Scotland, and she directed much interest into Scotland, its history and its peoples. I refer also to John Brown's act of selflessness at Windsor, which did much to elevate the status of the noble and independent Scot in the eyes of the nation. It was during this time of romanticism in the arts and in culture that the clans came to the fore, and there is little doubt that there was much assumption and 'filling in of blanks' which we now accept as fact. Be that as it may, we clansmen owe the Victorians a great debt, because it was they who 'rediscovered' our rich heritage, be it embellished or not.

Whilst researching a book which deals in part with Old Norse traditions, I came across a reference to a Nordic family name of **Grandr**, who settled in Iceland. This put me in mind immediately of the Gaelic **Grann**. One does not need to be a linguist to know that Gaelic has much in common with Old Norse, and a quick glance at a map of Northern Europe will explain why.

The particular 'saga' (in the loosest sense of the word) that intrigued me was mention of the eruption of mountains which covered everything in filthy ash and made it 'impossible for a man to breathe'. Iceland is one of the world's most volcanically active islands, and there are regular eruptions. In 1783, Lakagigar erupted and 9,000 people died - not from the eruption itself, but from starvation. Further research revealed that the largest volcanic eruption in modern times was Eldgja, which began in 935 and lasted many years - an eruption that meant Iceland would have been uninhabitable.

So, we have an Old Norse family name with a striking similarity to the Gaelic. We also have a geographical proximity far more logical and reasonable than that of?. Scotland and Normandy. Add to this the long standing claim of ancestry from MacAlpin of the 9th century, some 200 years before the Norman invasion on the south coast of England, and one is left with a rather different picture.

Further, and in my opinion conclusively, the North of Scotland is resplendent with Nordic and Viking history, words, names and artifacts. You'd be very hard pressed indeed to find any French artifacts, but one positively trips over Nordic history.

It is a historical fact that the Nordic method of colonization was via approach by estuary. Considering the coastline of Norway, one could see easily why they were naturally inclined to sail offshore until an estuary or inlet was found, and then to navigate it until a suitable and safe landing area was identified. If one sails South from Iceland, the first major feature of this kind is the ~ Moray Firth. I need hardly remind clansmen of the location of Grant country. There is the smaller and exposed Firth of Dornoch, but unlike the Moray, it is easily missed at night or in bad weather, and even if found, trying to land on those notorious sands would send anyone on their way. The Moray Firth and the immediate shelter behind Chanonry Point however, is quite another and far more welcoming prospect. Where would *you* land?

So where does that leave us?

1. The accepted origin of the name is founded solely on the similarity between the French 'Grand' and Grant. I know of nothing else that supports this contention.

Yet we have Old Norse Grandr, the Gaelic Grann and the name Grant - equally valid to the French theory, except with the added fact of the Gaelic - a language alien to French but very close to Norse.

2. The arms depict mountains on fire. The only place in Northern Europe with active volcanoes is Iceland. There are none in Normandy.

3. Grant country is accessed down the Moray Firth - precisely as one would predict Norsemen to travel.

4. The Scotland of 1214 was full of Norse ascendants, and the evidence is there today in place names, family names, burial mounds and much more besides.

Balbeg, Essich, Eskadale, Gorthleck, Killin, Ord, Ardnagrask, Strone, Lenic, Ordhar, Ruthven, Tornagrain, Torness - just a few of the Norse names from Grant country.

French? Not one. Not a *single* French name. Where is there a single artifact known to be French in origin dating back to that time?

5. To settle in Grant country, the Normans would have traveled North, negotiating considerable natural barriers along the way. Is it conceivable that even if they had traversed the length of England and made it as far as the narrow, fertile and relatively flat lands between the Clyde and the Firth of Forth that they would continue a further 100 miles - over the Grampians and the Cairngorms? If so - *why*? What would be the motivation for such an arduous journey? Having settled, it is ridiculous to suggest that not a Loch, not a lake, village, mountain, river, valley, forest, not a single forlorn crag bears a French name - yet we readily accept that Grant is French.

If so, it would be the **ONLY** French name in the entire region

I suggest that for many years, we have been subject to a simple linguistic similarity, put in print by Eyre-Todd and then accepted as fact. The balance of probabilities; historically, geographically, geologically, linguistically and above all logically - points to the North and the Norse. The only evidence for the 'French Connection' is a similarity in spelling. Finally, the most striking piece of evidence to support this contention lies in our clan badge. It is my contention that our ancestors fled from the eruption of Eldgja in the tenth century. Their fields covered in ash, their fishing grounds muddied with choking grey slime and day rendered night with clouds reaching the stratosphere, they had no choice but to flee south to survive. This sight has been forever preserved on our badge.

What does the name Eldgja mean? Fire-hill. I think our origins have been staring us in the face for a thousand years, could we but see it.

(For more reading on the origin of the Clan, check out <http://www.baronage.co.uk/bphtm-03/grant-01.html>)

Genealogy Corner.

By: Beryl Grant

Just a few suggestions for doing your genealogical research:

1. Write down information in a notebook. Write down names, dates, locations, stories, and surname of females entering family.
2. Talk with older members of your family and write down their information. Is anyone in possession of birth, marriage and death records?
3. Always list and date where you found your information. Keep a diary - sometime you might want to call and confirm something.
4. Check local libraries and historical associations to see if the work is already done! If this is not in your present location, write me with name of town/county/state and I will see if I can get you an address to write.
5. Church of Latter Day Saints (Mormon church) can help you with census records. Don't forget naturalization records.
6. See if you can copy pictures family members may have. Be sure to put the names on the reverse side!
7. Write me for a copy of pedigree chart and family group sheet (I need a self-addressed, stamped envelope). When you get them, make lots of copies of each; you will need them.

Always feel free to write and send me copies of your research to date -- it may tie in with someone else's research. This has happened quite often with our members. Good luck!

Beryl Grant,
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Altamont, N.Y. 12009.
E-mail: bgrant3@juno.com.

Her son, Douglas H. MacDonald, offered a poem in remembrance and Daughter, Margaret wrote a brief Life Story. Together, they are eloquent tribute to the remarkable, Betty MacDonald.

HER LIFE STORY

ELIZABETH SHEPARD HANCOCK MACDONALD was born November 4, 1921---Election Day---at the Bridgeport, Connecticut, home of her parents, Alvin Homer Hancock and Mabel Marsh Hancock. Her father was a Realtor and her mother kept the home for the family of seven children, 4 boys, 3 girls.

Betty, as her family dubbed her, was a "cute baby", according to one elder brother Max. He remembered the surprise of yet, "another sister", when he came home that day to welcome the youngest of the Hancock brood. Betty always said their home at 527 Laurel Avenue was, "a fight or fun, but never a dull moment!"

She learned to cook for the family of nine people as a teenager, and said her morn, "spoiled her", by cleaning every pot and pan because her mom was so happy for Betty to cook. Betty relished the anecdotes of her growing up years---summer visits to the upstate farm of family friends; the treat of a few cherries carefully apportioned by her father during the lean years of the Great Depression; funny stories of her brothers, who alternately sheltered and bossed; and memories of much admired sisters whom she loved for a lifetime.

She graduated from Bridgeport High School and spent her next few years training to be a nurse in Brattleboro, Vermont. But an important event would interrupt her training. Her brother, John, introduced Betty to his closest friend, Charlie MacDonald, and a unique history began. The two were united for life in a simple ceremony performed in the living room of her beloved Bridgeport home. Her only surviving sister, Esther Hancock Matis, was her maid of honor, on that special day, July 28, 1945.

Betty would follow Charlie from Bridgeport to Baltimore, where Douglas Hancock MacDonald and Louise Grant MacDonald (LaGrotta), would be welcomed into the family, on to New Jersey, where Shepard MacDonald (Morris) would be added. The three kids were, "stair step", babies. Betty had her hands full with an infant, a two-and-a four-year-old. Somehow in the midst of child rearing, she and Charlie managed to center their home life around their local church and church friends. She always said, they knew that in any move their first priority was finding a church home. Where they could sing in the choir and build a circle of like minded friends.

In 1961, the family moved again---further this time---to Paducah, Kentucky, where they joined the United Church of Christ, and where Betty set up housekeeping in three homes across a span of almost a decade. The last house, designed by Charlie, was her favorite because she finally had all the kitchen closet space she needed for all her kitchen tools. And she baked and cooked for her family and friends, church events, a homemaker's club. Christmas gift giving, (her Christmas applesauce cakes were legendary, awaited by family and sent to may a cross-country friend in their carefully wrapped tin via US mail).

In Paducah, she explored her gifts in painting, read avidly, and returned to finish the nursing training of her youth, earning an associates degree in nursing and passing her Kentucky state boards to become a Registered Nurse. She practiced some fifteen years, specializing in geriatric nursing and hospital patient care.

*From the beginning, nobody knew,
Something all bright and so true
Could turn out so blue.*

*A Mother's love is undeniable
In a heart so pure
That nothing on God's great green
earth
Could make it unsure.*

*To those who don't know
Just what a Mother is--
Our Mother is **who** she is.*

*Growing closer to Mom,
Each and every day,
Has brought endless joy to a son's
heart
In a very special way.*

*From Lucky Strikes to:
"Oh, Mom, they're only candy!"
Can I ever know the truth
Without feeling regrets?*

*I was young at heart, as you
You knew and told the truth.
From the East Coast to the West
No matter what I said or did,
There was never a moment lost,
Or a change of heart in you.*

*Someone as true would never be
Able to love as you loved me---
Yet God's gracious love through
Mom's heart gold and true,
Has comforted her son's heart.
That will see me through.*

AMEN.

*I love you Mom.
Your Son,*

Douglas H. MacDonald

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

by: Lucille & George Grant

Elizabeth Hancock MacDonald

November 4, 1921-September 10, 1998

Betty MacDonald, one of our best friends, has gone to her reward. All of our memories of her are happy. Her cheerful outlook on life, always taking care of everyone, thoughtful consideration, highlighted her life.

Betty's cookies & cakes, offered with smiling goodwill, soon had everyone smiling with her and a satisfied sweet tooth.

Betty and Charlie were charter members of Clan Grant Society, and our first Games Commissioner. Most Highland games in the south and east have been blessed with their presence. They were on the founding committee of the Carrollton, KY games and manned a Grant Tent.

MEMORIAL GIFTS MAY BE SENT TO:

The Elizabeth H. MacDonald Music Memorial Fund

c/o Farmer's Deposit Bank

Eminence, Ky 40019

or

The Henry County Library

Eminence, Ky 40019

We have fond memories of our experiences with Betty and Charlie. On a trip to Scotland, an all GRANT golf tournament was scheduled. Charlie said he couldn't play because he had to attend the Grantown-on Spey Rotary meeting. Betty had a few words to say about that and he played. At Duane and Maggie Kline's Saturday night dinner, during the Stone Mountain Games, working in the kitchen with Betty while Charlie and George entertained. Manning a Clan tent at Nashville games so Margaret, husband Ken, plus Josh & Grant could be with us in the 105 F heat the first year and a driving rainstorm the next. Absolute joy Betty and Charlie expressed when they found Shirley Grant Smith was a cousin from Nova Scotia ancestors. Betty and Charlie calling to cheer us up after Charlie '5 heart attack.

We were privileged to attend their 50th wedding anniversary. Family, friends from everywhere. Charlie's college and professional buddies, Betty's sister and half the town of Eminence. Have never seen two people more happy. Margaret organized everything for her parents, including a picture montage and book of their lives.

We will miss but never forget this wonderful and great friend. John C. Grant attended the celebration of her life with us, at the First Presbyterian Church, Eminence, KY.

With the kids launched, and her husband's first retirement accomplished, yet another move was in store for Betty, this time to Eminence, Kentucky, and a new church, a new choir, and a wonderful set of devoted friends. She would sing in the choir with Charlie, work in the Clothes Closet, attend homemakers' group functions, support her beloved's Rotary and civic routines, and keep the homes fires kindled for her three children throughout.

In Eminence, her circle of friends and family would expand and deepen through her supportive activities within the Clan Grant and at annual stays at General Butler State Park for Kentucky Scottish Weekends. Newly discovered relatives in Nova Scotia would win Betty's heart with their welcoming ways, and she returned their deep affection through letters and baked goods sent via Canadian post.

She welcomed with unique pride three grandchildren, Josh Morris, Grant Morris, and Kacie LaGrotta, and enjoyed every new stage in their life, often relishing with detail their latest accomplishments to her many friends.

On September 9, 1998, Betty spent the last day of her life caring for Charlie, attending one last choir practice, and going home to be with her Lord on September 10, 1998.

"She went out with her sails flying high" Charlie said.

May God rest her soul and may the peace of her Lord abide with her family and friends.

All my Love forever
Your Daughter

MARGARET SHEPARD MacDONALD MORRIS



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