



Craigellachie



Spring 1999

It's great to be a Grant!

Volume XXII Number 1

Clan Officers

President

Howard T. Parsons, Jr.
414 Carrsbrook Drive
Charlottesville, VA 22901
htp@parsonage.net

Vice-President

Allan F. Grant
651 C Street
Pasadena, MD 21122
afg29@aol.com

Treasurer

C. David Grant
1842 Alderbrook Road
Atlanta, GA 30345
d-grant@mindspring.com

Secretary

Dr. Phil Smith
372 Churchtown Road
Narvon, PA 17555
philsmith2@compuserve.com

Board Members at Large

James T. Suttie
6558 Kaneko Drive
San Jose, CA 95119

Richard L. Grant
6560 Bridleway
Arrington, TN 37014
Rlgoldcars@aol.com

George H. Grant
301 Masters Road
Hixson, TN 37343
grant301@aol.com

Appointed Officers

Membership Secretary
Cheri Grant Shull
239 S. Waggoner Road
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-9734
Kingsroost@aol.com

Games Commissioner

Scott Grant
sgrant@conknet.com

Editor

Margaret S. MacDonald Morris
P.O. Box 87
Sewanee, TN 37375
editor1@tnc.net

Clarissa Martin Chastain and George H. Grant, Jr. Exchange Vows in Chattanooga Church Ceremony

Clarissa Martin Chastain and George H. Grant, Jr., exchanged vows on Saturday, February 6, 1999 at the Pilgrim Congregational Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Officiating at the service was the Reverend John Mingus.

The Bride is the daughter of the late Mark and Mary Martin of Thompsontown, Pennsylvania.

The Groom is the son of George and Lucille H. Grant of Hixson, Tennessee.

The Bride's wore a vintage 1920s-style antique ivory wedding gown. Melissa Davis, the Bride's sister, served as Maid of Honor. Bridesmaids were Bridgett Cahoon and Jennifer Chastain.

Brother to the Groom, William T. Grant served as Best Man. Grooms-men were William Lytle and Derek Chastain.

Following the wedding, a reception was held at Ashford Mansion.



Chastain-Grant Wedding Party

After a honeymoon trip to the Caribbean island of Curacao, the couple

will take up residence in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Reservations Now Available at Snow Lake Condominiums for Grandfather Mountain Games in Eastern North Carolina

by George Grant

Make plans now to attend the Grandfather Mountain Games, July 8-11th in Eastern North Carolina, and join in the Gathering of the Clans. Grant Clan accommodations are secured, with two four-bedroom, four-bath con-

dos at Snow Lake, Sugar Mountain now open for reservations for the entire week.

For those unfamiliar with these games, Grandfather Mountain is an historical mountain resort area of Eastern North Carolina located near Linville, Banner Elk and Boone. Ski-

ing, golf, swimming, and tennis venues are available, and most of the homes are private, yet there are resorts such as Sugar Mountain, and Beech Mountain. There are good restaurants, antique shopping, and diversions aplenty: mining for ruby, sapphire, garnet, or

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BULK RATE

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Visit the Grant 'home' page
on the World Wide Web
at:

[www.parsonage.net/
ClanGrant](http://www.parsonage.net/ClanGrant)

Submissions deadline for the
summer issue of *your* newsletter

Craigellachie
is June 10, 1999!

Craigellachie

c/o Cheri Grant Shull
Membership Secretary
239 S. Waggoner Road
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-9734

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Coatesville, PA 19320-1559

Editor's Forum



By Margaret Shepard MacDonald Morris

Easter Sunday, spring flowers, birds singing—all are the calling cards of a new season come to visit. Spring's glories will soon be followed by summer games and on hurries the cycle of the year, with hardly a break in the sequence of days. Purposefully, my husband, our two sons, and I will pause from the furious pace of our 90s lifestyle, and we will return to a place of remembrance the second weekend in May, 1999.

At the Kentucky Scottish Weekend, we will stand with pride, and probably shed some tears, at the roll call of beloved ones who entered into their own glories this year past. My deceased parents, Charlie and Betty MacDonald, helped found the Kentucky games seventeen years ago, and our family spent many a happy time at the Carrollton, KY, event around the Clan activities—sharing in friendships Mom & Dad had cultivated. Spring seems a fitting time to return and enjoy the solace of the familiar state park setting, the company of kin, and the ingathering of memories with those who also knew and loved my parents.

With their memory in heart, and with near-latent journalistic skills at hand, I am also returning to the life of writing and reporting by editing this quarterly newspaper, to keep we Grants in touch and informed. In this endeavor, I happily memorialize two fine Clan members and keep, alive, the tradition they've handed down to me—*Stand Fast*, fellow Grants, spring is just begun.

Flowers of the Forest

Preceded in death by his wife Betty ninety days earlier, Charles (Charlie) Grant MacDonald, 85, died in his sleep on December 19, 1998, at Tullahoma Regional Medical Center, in Tennessee, with daughter Margaret and son-in-law Kenneth Morris at his side. Charlie was a charter member of the Clan Grant Society, USA, and a retired professional chemical engineer. Survivors include: sister Edith M. Taylor Case, Norfolk, CT, daughter Louise LaGrotta, Austin, TX, son Douglas H. MacDonald, Clarksville, IN, and granddaughter Kacie LaGrotta, Austin, and grandsons Josh A. Morris and Chas. Grant Morris, Sewanee.



Spring: A Time for Swift Executive Action

On The Hot Seat

by Howard Parsons
President, Clan Grant Society - USA

The past seven months since I took office certainly have been busy ones. Almost immediately following the Annual General Meeting in Stone Mtn., GA, I was off for a week's worth of training for my regular job as a software engineer. Before I left, indeed before I even took office, there was the matter of subscription renewals to the *Highlander* magazine. Anne Grant Knapp was stepping down as the publications coordinator after many years. With the changing of the guard, leadership-wise, there was no one to pick up where Anne had left off. Time for swift executive action, I picked up the ball and immediately handed it off to my wife, Lady Judith, as I headed for the airport. By the time I returned from the Rockies, Judi had the subscription situation well in hand. Since then, there have been things like telephone conference calls with the rest of the Clan Grant Board, helping the new editor of our newsletter spec out hardware and software costs, developing the new membership database and what seems like a zillion e-mail messages.

As I mentioned, we have a new editor for *Craigellachie*. James Grant stepped down due to severe time constraints, though we are grateful for his efforts to crank out the newsletter, in between school and a new baby. Fortunately, our on-the-ball Convenor, George Grant, was able to enlist

former journalist Margaret Morris, daughter of the late Charlie and Betty MacDonald, to take over the helm.

We have a new membership secretary as well. Cheri Grant Shull accepted the position held by Shirley Smith. I'm enjoying working with Cheri as much as I did with Shirley Smith. In our efforts to bring the new database on-line, there have been express mail packages full of software, a good number of phone calls, many more e-mail messages and a quick stop-over at the Parsonage for Cheri, who was en route to a winter's vacation in Williamsburg, VA. We managed to squeeze lessons in File Transfer Protocol, along with care and feeding of the database, into the 45 minutes between her arrival in Charlottesville and dinner.

There are also new membership policies that will soon go into effect: 1999 will be the last year that *all* members will receive their renewal notices in March/April. Members who join in '99, and thereafter, will receive their renewal notices the same quarter in which they joined the Society the previous year. In 2000, a percentage of members will receive their renewal notices in the second quarter, and all members will receive a permanent membership card. We're implementing this method to help Cheri deal with the more than five hundred membership renewals in a somewhat steady stream throughout the year, rather than all at once. The permanent membership card is part of our effort to reduce mailing expense.

But that's not all. The Society will begin billing for *Highlander* and *Scottish Life* subscriptions at the same time as membership renewals. This too, we hope will improve our efficiency. We'll also be offering one-, two- and three-year memberships, with the added inducement of a price break if you choose the three-year enrollment. A detailed letter, along with your renewal form, is enclosed in your spring *Craigellachie*. Of course, those of you with Life memberships, or who have already paid for 1999, do not need to renew. If for some reason, you didn't receive the letter and renewal form, contact Cheri Grant Schull at 239 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-9734.

Finally, mark October 23-24, 1999, on your calendars and make plans to attend the Clan Grant Society Annual General Meeting at the Richmond, VA, Highland Games and Celtic Festival. This meeting will be the first AGM held outside of Georgia and subsequent meetings will be held at different venues nationwide. If you want the AGM to come to your area, join us in Richmond and make your wishes known. Lady Judith has volunteered to work on plans for AGM '99, and details will appear in the summer newsletter as well as on our website: <<http://www.parsonage.net/clangrant>>

I hope to see all of you in Richmond, VA. Speaking of travel, I've got to pack my bags for the Clan Grant Board meeting in Sacramento, CA, on April 23. Look for a report in the summer *Craigellachie*.

A message from Richard L. Grant, Chairman of Clan Grant Board:

A clan of 2,000 by the year 2000

Dear Clan Grant Members:

I have the high honor and privilege of serving this year as chairman of your Board of Directors for Clan Grant USA. Although the Board plans to focus on a number of things we think may improve the workings of Clan Grant, one of the more important goals is to reach out to more of those possessing the surname, or those related and affiliated surnames, in order to increase our Clan membership. In so doing, we hope to increase participation and share with growing numbers of friends the pride of our unique heritage.

As you may know, there will be an important gathering of the Clan at Nethybridge near Grantown on Spey

in Scotland in the year 2000. As you may also know there are only some 500-plus current members of Clan Grant USA. The U.S. Social Security Service says there are something like 180,000 Grant surnames in the U.S. Adding the Clan Grant's affiliated or related surnames numbering tens of thousands must surely bring the total number of potential Clan Grant members to around 250,000.

While some of this quarter million do not have at least direct Scottish roots, or some simply remain uninterested in their heritage, I believe some of this number might be hardy souls interested in joining Clan Grant, if presented a reasonable chance. With this in mind, we have chosen to start a membership drive which we hope will

reach 2,000 bonafide Clan members for the gathering at Nethybridge in the year 2000.

Now obviously we, the Board of Directors, can't do this alone, nor do we imagine we have all the good ideas for how to go about growing our numbers, or even how to make membership beneficial to *all* members, old and new. I therefore want to ask each of you to help, not just in recruiting new members, but also in sharing your ideas and suggestions for what may bring in new members and make them happy they have joined us.

A few of the things the Board has discussed to create a more active clan and encourage participation are as follows:

continued on next page

Duthil Kirk to be Developed in Future as Grant Centre, Despite Funding Setbacks

A lengthy bid process by the Trust of the Duthil Kirk to fund the conversion of that property into a meeting place and repository for the history of the Clan Grant Society has been rejected, to the disappointment of CGS members worldwide.

In an open letter 'from the Hon. Sec's Desk' in the Winter, 1998 *Standfast* magazine, Robert Grant writes, "It is with regret that I have to tell you that our application for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to convert Duthil to a Clan Grant Heritage and Visitor Centre has been refused.

"The reason given by the Lottery Fund was that they had already made a grant of funds available to Grantown Museum and they considered that our project and the museum project were related and represented duplication," he added.

Because the Society was unsatisfied with "some aspects of the assessment process," an unsuccessful two-tiered appeal was undertaken first to the Director of the Lottery Fund and, subsequently, to an independent outside body, without success.

Robert Grant further explained the Society's rationale in pursuing the ap-

peals: "The Grantown Museum deals with the town, its planning, architecture, economic, cultural, social aspects, etc. and will do so very effectively. This is one aspect (albeit a very important one) in the history of the Clan and its Strathspey area.

"The Society, however, is concerned with today's people. With the name of Grant and the people and events which made up the whole of the Clan's fascinating 750 years of his-

The development of Duthil will, probably, take place as a result of our own efforts.

tory. In addition, the Society is outward looking . . . making it uniquely well placed to satisfy the interest in the whole heritage and history of Clan Grant to many of the visitors to the area—including many Grants."

With words of praise for the efforts of the Society Council and Trust Directors, CGS Chairman Sir Patrick

Grant of Dalvey, in the same issue of *Standfast*, said of the Heritage Lottery Fund organization, "there is no doubt in my mind that the reduction of their budget by 75%, by the present government is the real reason for our lack of success." But, Sir Patrick Grant added, "the Grants are nothing if not resilient."

Robert Grant said, "Despite this set-back the Society's Council and the Trust Directors were unanimous in agreeing that we should continue with our plans to develop Duthil as the Clan Centre.

"Whilst every effort will be made to identify and approach sources of funding outside our own resources it is impossible to escape the conclusion that the development of Duthil will, probably, take place as a result of our own efforts, and consideration of ways forward in this respect is taking place at the time of writing," Robert Grant said.

Duthil first opened publically during the summer of 1998, with several Clan-related products for sale on a table, and a display of two donated pictures. Donations of Grant memorabilia are welcomed at Duthill.

Watch for periodic updates in future editions of the *Craigellachie*.

Membership Chair Calls for Clan Ideas, for New Participants

continued from page two

- Expand tent duties at as many local Highland Games as possible.
- Become involved in local games and events committees.
- Form Clan Advisory Committees from among membership for Clan activities.
- Pursue public service projects.
- Search out, form and sponsor a Clan Pipers' Band.
- Form a Committee to research and record interesting Clan forebears and events.
- Special committee for related and affiliated family history and events.
- Develop, promote and sponsor Clan athletes' participation at Highland Games.
- Encourage individual and group visits to Scotland for fun and research.
- Form, authorize and assist local Clan chapters.
- Form a "Find the Clan" committee to locate and communicate with folks who do not know us, i.e. 'network the clan.'
- Encourage contributors to the *Craigellachie*.
- Print extra copies of the newsletter and distribute to non-members.

This list is just a start. Please add your thoughts. Can you imagine the fun, friendship and fellowship which can come from getting together with hundreds of people of like heritage and maybe even discovering some family ties at the more than three hundred Scottish events which take place each year in this country?

In Scotland large numbers of the Clan turn out. We outnumber them by a huge proportion, and we should be able to help each other easily reach our goal of 2,000 members by 2000. If each Clan member can bring in four or five new members, we can get started with new participation programs, with fresh new ideas.

Please do not hesitate to communicate with me and other Clan members even if only to say "hello."

Richard L. Grant, Board Chairman
P.O. Box 67
Arrington, TN 37014
phone: 615.395.9232
e-mail: Rlgoldcars@aol.com

'More than a Clan Gathering...'

Plan Now for Grandfather Mountain Games

continued from front page

diamond gems in the nearby streams, visiting area art schools, or scouting for mountain crafts in the many area shops, among others. The gathered Grants do all of the above during the week, including 'kicking back.'

The games begin on Thursday evening, 6:00 p.m. (EST) with a catered picnic on the games field. After dark, a colorful ceremony, "Calling the Clans," commences. Each Clan has a kilted representative, in one of four lines at the corners of the field, carrying a flaming torch. With the Clansmen in place, torches alight, the setting takes the shape of a Flaming Saltire Cross. Each Clan representative moves forward, in turn, to a microphone, and announces his Clan—in a manner unique to the Clan—as being, "HERE" for the games. As the torch bearer pronounces their presence, a cheer from fellow clansmen is heard. After the announcement, that Clan's burning torch is tossed into a bonfire in the center. Quite impressive.

Friday there are activities such as

Scottish History lectures, Scottish vendors, and in the evening, two different Celidh's. A Sponsor's Reception is held in Boone, NC, in the early evening.

The Games begin Saturday morning. The highlight of the morning is the completion of the toughest marathon in America: a race from Boone, NC, to McRaes Meadow, which serves as the field for the games. Two years ago, our *hero*, Bill Riggs, ran and finished this grueling race. Clan Grant's tent was close to the runners' entry onto the field track. Standing nearby was Bill's sister, Maggie, who yelled "Here comes Bill," and he stopped to put on a Grant kilt for the run to the finish line. All Grants were cheering their hearts out. Later that day, Bill and Eric Grant ran and finished, first and second, in the kilted mile. WOW, I wish I were in that shape.

Saturday evening, after the games, the Grants have a gathering and buffet at the Matthews' home, in Linville. Doris Matthews and her lovely family look forward to hosting the evening.

Sunday will hold more games, be-

ginning with a Church Service at 10:30 a.m. (EST). This is followed by a color-filled sight, The Parade of Tartans. Led by the Honored guest and his Clan, each participating Clan marches around the quarter-mile track past the reviewing stand. In Scotland, the tradition is that only men march, but at Grandfather Mountain women do march with some of the Clans in the reviewing parade.

These are but a few of the happenings at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, and Gathering of the Clans, and we Grants think it is *more* than a Clan Gathering, and, therefore, *much more* enjoyable. Make your plans now to attend these great games. The accommodations will cost less for the entire week, July 5-12, than for a three- or four-day stay. Last year the cost was \$225.00 per couple for the week. If you wish to stay in the Grant Snow Lake condo at Sugar Mountain, call Lucille Grant @ 800-445-2185. You can also e-mail George or Lucille at <grant301@aol.com> or write to them at 301 Masters Road, Hixson, TN 37343.

Grant Presence Grows at Jacksonville Highland Scottish Games



Michael Bongertz bears the Grant flag to lead the Clan members on parade at the Jacksonville Scottish Highland Games in Jacksonville, Florida this February past.

by Jean Grant Wilson

A Friday morning Kilted Golf Tournament at Hyde Park Golf Course was the kickoff event to the February 19-21, 1999, Jacksonville Scottish Highland Games in Jacksonville, Florida. The golf course was designed in 1925 by Donald Ross of Scotland, and forty-one golfers, all men, teed off to open the Games (the only lady's foursome canceled at the last minute). No Grants participated!

Grant tartan was visible, however, at the Friday evening Sponsors Reception, with Stoney and Ruth Grant, along with Jim and myself in atten-

A letter of invitation to Grants in our area brought many visitors out for a festive day at JSHG.

The Tent was a beehive of activity, and staffers busily answered questions, as well as met and greeted old and new friends.

Opening ceremonies were a delight starting with the SAM'S Colour Guard, followed by the U.S. Navy Band and eleven pipe bands. The Parade of Tartans had all the Grant flags and banners on the field. Michael Bongertz, from Orlando, was in front with the tall Grant banner. Thanks go to Michael for making the trip up. Thanks also go to the Wiggins and Newbill families for marching. Each year our little troupe gets more impressive.

There was Scottish Country Dancing, Highland Dancing, Pipes and Drums Competition, and Children's Games on the main field throughout the day. The Athletics field was filled to overflowing with fifty athletes competing. Only thirty had pre-registered. There was also a Harp Workshop/Demonstration. A new event this year for the JSHG was Axe Throwing. Reports are that both the merchandise and food vendors were very busy. I am sorry to say that this year I was too busy to sample the Scottish fayre. At the close of the day I think I can say, "a good time was had by all." Weather was perfect—a pleasant Scottish spring day.

dance. Colin Grant-Adams and Mary were also there, as Colin was one of the entertainers at the Games. After the Reception, a concert was given by the *Seven Nations* band which was enthusiastically received by both young and old.

Saturday arrived crisp and windy, but "dry"! Not a cloud in the sky. By noon it was nice and warm, out in the sun. A better day's weather couldn't be found. Again, the Grant Tent was up and running with the help of Stoney and Ruth Grant. Stoney built a beautiful flag rack to display the five flags, making the Grant Tent very visible. Four people manned the sign-ins for joining or renewing members. Even several Native Scots, of Grant lineage, stopped by. A letter of invitation to Grants in our area brought many visitors out for a festive day at JSHG. This year, for the first time, the ones that couldn't come RSVP'd, which was very helpful.

Saturday night was yet another enjoyable event, the Scottish Evening, featuring Colin Grant-Adams, *The McIlroys* and *Celtic Soul*. To finish up a great weekend, Sunday morning was the Kirkin' of the Tartan.

As always, we wish to thank the Clan Grant Society for supporting the JSHG and providing "us Grants" a place to meet, greet and mingle. **IT'S GREAT TO BE A GRANT!**

Enterprising Clansman Found New Wealth by Princely Prediction

In August, 1861, an American bearing the name of George Grant was living in London, England. This enterprising clansman read that Prince Albert was seriously ill. Terminal maybe. Grant bought up all the black crepe in London. Albert died. Grant made about \$250,000.

CLAN GRANT SOCIETY Membership Application

I (We) wish to become a member of the Clan Grant Society

Name(s): _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone (Home): _____

Phone (Business): _____

E-mail: _____

Make all checks or money orders payable to the Clan Grant Society.

Mail to: Ms. Cheri Grant Shull
239 S. Waggoner Road
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-9734

Dues Paid in: Cash Amt. _____ or Check #/Amt. _____

ASSOCIATE DUES: \$20 annual
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP: \$400

Clan Grant Participates in Games Nationwide

As of March, Clan Grant plans to participate in the list of events below. All details are accurate, to the best of the editor's information. If you do not see an event, or event detail, that should be listed (or corrected), please send the information to Scott Grant, Games Commissioner.

For more specific information on a particular event, be sure to visit Clan MacLachlan's outstanding Scottish and Celtic Games Listings on the net at: www.shirenet.com/macLachlan.games.html

MAY

7 - 8 Houston Highland Games—
Houston, TX
e-mail John and Helen Grant at standfst@southwind.net

7 - 9 Kentucky Scottish Weekend—
General Butler State Park,
Carrollton, KY (no tent)

JUNE

4 - 6 Texas Scottish Festival & Highland Games—
Maverick Stadium - University
of Texas,
Arlington, TX
(817) 654-2293

12 Kansas City, MO
P.O. Box 25892
Shawnee Mission, KS 66225-5892
(913) 432-6823
WWW.KCSCOT.COM or
e-mail John and Helen Grant at
standfst@southwind.net

JULY

8 - 11 Grandfather Mountain Highland Games—
Linville, NC
Grandfather Mountain Highland
Games, Inc.
P.O. Box 1095
Linville, NC 28646
(704) 733-1333
www.gmhg.org

23 - 25 Virginia Scottish Games—
Episcopal High School,
Alexandria, VA
e-mail vsinfo@scotlandmail.com
www.alex.org/homepages/vsg

AUGUST

27 - 29 League of Celtic Nations Highland Games Festival—
Amarillo, TX
e-mail John and Helen Grant at
standfst@southwind.net

14 - 15 Colorado Scottish Festival Rocky Mountain Highland Games—
Highland Heritage Park,
Highlands Ranch, CO
e-mail John and Helen Grant at
standfst@southwind.net

SEPTEMBER

17 - 19 New Hampshire Highland Games—
Loon Mt., NH
www.nhscot.org

25 Williamsburg Scottish Festival—
Williamsburg Winery,
Williamsburg, VA
e-mail
willscott@widoemaker.com or
[www.gohamptonroads.com/
community/groups/wmsbgscottishfest/](http://www.gohamptonroads.com/community/groups/wmsbgscottishfest/)

OCTOBER

9 Anne Arundel Scottish Festival—
Anne Arundel Fairgrounds,
Crownsville, MD
e-mail aasft@aol.com
or visit [members.aol.com/
aascot/homepage.htm](http://members.aol.com/aascot/homepage.htm)
14 - 17 Stone Mtn. Highland Games—

Stone Mountain, GA
e-mail Info@smhg.org
or visit www.smhg.org

22 - 24 Clan Grant Annual General Meeting at the Richmond Highland Games and Celtic Festival—

State Fairgrounds at
Strawberry Hill,
Richmond, VA
e-mail aa@strawberryhill.com
or www.strawberryhill.com/

DECEMBER

4 Scottish Christmas Walk Old Towne Alexandria—
Alexandria, VA
Location of post-walk luncheon
to be determined.
e-mail Howard Parsons at
htp@parsonage.net



Nessie Website is Launched into Cyberspace

Excerpted from a story in
The Scotsman Online (2/6/99)
www.scotsman.com

The long cold days of perching uncomfortably on the banks of Loch Ness straining for a view of the mythical monster are over. The internet has come to the rescue of those determined to catch a glimpse of Nessie—without catching pneumonia.

In the cold of the Scottish February, chances of a Nessie sighting greatly improved, as four video cameras were trained over the inky waters where Nessie is believed to reside in the waters of the Loch Ness.

Monster-watchers across the world, who cannot afford the pilgrimage on a regular basis, may now view the live images of the Loch, broadcast to the world at www.lochness.co.uk/livecam. A simple internet connection will allow anyone access to the panoramic views of the Loch. The Nessie on the Net website is visited by about

40,000 web surfers each week, and is funded by the Loch Ness Monster Exhibition Centre.

Official Loch Ness Monster Fan Club President, Gary Campbell, welcomed the development, "Most of our members are overseas and this will

*Monster-
watchers across
the world, who
cannot afford
the pilgrimage...
may now view
live images.*

allow them to visit the website and look for Nessie. If they do spot something out there on the water they can grab a picture from their screens." Nessie was first spotted by St. Columba in 565 AD, and the latest sighting was on November 23

last year, one of a total of eleven Nessie sightings in the year of 1998.

The cameras have been installed by Mikko Takala, a technical wizard and Nessie-hunter, who lives near Loch Ness. The views of the Loch are broadcast by a digital radio signal to the Loch Ness Monster Exhibition Centre in Drumnadrochit. The images, updated every two minutes, are then fed onto the web.

Positioned where most monster sightings have been made, the cameras point directly over Urquhart Castle to the deepest area of the Loch where Nessie's Cave, a 30-foot-deep hole, is said to lie. The hole was discovered by a boat skipper, George Edwards, who tracked it in 1990 using sonar, although its origins still remain a mystery.

A second company, Loch Ness Marketing, of Drumnadrochit, is also planning to beam live pictures of the Loch onto the internet, using one camera.

Form Enclosed for Renewing Membership

Please take the time now to fill out the separate *Membership Renewal* form enclosed in this spring issue of your Clan Grant newsletter, *Craigellachie!* Send the form, along with your check or money order, to:

Cheri Grant Shull
239 S. Waggoner Road
Reynoldsburg, OH
43068-9734

Also remember to send along the *New Members* form (see pg. four) with your Grant recruits!

Finally, be sure to add a sheet with an update of your life events (births, deaths, weddings, et al.), any and all you'd wish to share with your fellow Grants nationwide. Pictures with self-addressed stamped envelopes will be returned after publication.

Website Links Lead to On-line Discovery of Scotland

With the new world of technology, *Craigellachie* would be remiss without an attempt to bring its readership the means to on-line discovery of Scottish people, places, and things.

Although not exhaustive, a few of the informative and important sites listed below may provide a launchpad into cyberspace for Scots-loving websurfers.

As with all new endeavors, it is left to the *Craigellachie* readers to pose the questions and to test the veracity of the information found in any on-line search.

RAMPANT SCOTLAND INDEX

<scotland.rampant.com>

A very engaging, extensive site, with some 6,000 links to all sites Scottish. Go here first and find the motherload of links to all things pertaining to Scotland: people, places, shops, agriculture, periodicals, geology, history, news, job market, tourist trade, to name a wee few.

SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL LIBRARY

<www.nls.uk>

Fast-loading, professional looking website of Scotland's stacks. User-friendly and typical of library sites you'd find stateside—organized & catalogued, a wealth of books, periodicals, resources.

SCOTTISH HISTORY SITE

<members.aol.com/skyelander>

Robert M. Gunn reveals his knowledge of Scottish history in his website, complete with accurate timeline and associated links.

THE CAPITAL SCOT

<www.webcom.com/us_scot>

Scottish or Americans living in the U.S. capital may appreciate this site constructed for informing Washingtonians (D.C.) about their heritage, their local events, and things Scottish. Site offers some interesting links.

PURE DEAD GLASGOW

<www.scotbanner.com/scotlinx/scotlxl.html>

Glasgow is revealed by this site's many links. Not too graphically appealing, but worth a look-see for the links.

THE GATHERING OF THE CLANS HOMEPAGE

<www.tartans.com>

For a first contact with your clan, this award-winning site might be of help. Let the site steer you through the maze of clans with its amazing number of links.

THE US-SCOTLAND LINKS PAGE

<www2.wcoil.com/~highlander/main.html>

Comprehensive site of resources for anyone wanting to explore Scottish people, locations, or things native to the hameland. Good general site to visit for first-time surfers.

SCOTTISH WEATHER

<src.doc.ic.ac.uk/weather/images/uk/uk/jpg>

Real-time image, in an aerial view, of weather over Scotland.

U.S. SCOTS MAGAZINE

<www.usscots.com>

The site of *U.S. Scots* magazine, a news & features-rich monthly dedicated to informing its Scottish-American constituents; subscribe on-site.

SCOTTISH ORIGINS LINK

<www.origins.net>

Credit card in hand, use this site to research extensive Scottish ancestry database.

SCOT WEB

<www.scotweb.co.uk>

Nicely designed graphics at this site featuring lots of links to Scottish culture, cuisine, people and places to experience, sample, meet and visit.

GRANT SITES

<www.parsonage.net/ClanGrant>

This site will connect you with the vital statistics of Clan Grant Society, stateside. Find out history, clan officers, news updates, and membership information at this user-friendly site.

<www.ndirect.co.uk/~steve-grant>

History site, focuses on genesis of Clan Grant, with historical proofs offered in support of thesis.

<www.grantown-on-spey.co.uk/clangrnt.htm>

Offers a glimpse of Scottish town around which Grant Clan is centered. Intriguing to anyone bearing Clan allegiances.

National Tartan Day Declared

Tartan Day, a new national holiday was officially celebrated on April 6th of this year. The annual holiday highlights the accomplishments and contributions of Scottish-Americans to this country since the first settlers arrived in 1607.

All Roads Lead to Scotland...

Upcoming Games, Events in Bonnie 'Hameland'

MAY

30 - May 2: Oban, Argyll - Highlands and Islands Music & Dance Festival. A festival developing the traditional culture of the Highlands. Oban, Tel:n (0163) 171-0201

5: Blair Atholl - Atholl Gathering and Highland Games, traditional games with dancing, heavy events, piping and stalls.

Tel: (0179) 648-1355
Fax: (0179) 648-1216

MAY 14 - Oct 16: Pitlochry - Pitlochry Festival Theatre Season 1999 - Various Performances.
Box Office Tel: (0176) 472-680

JUNE

6-13: Arran - Isle of Arran Folk Festival.
Tel: (01770) 30-2311

12 - 27: Glasgow - West End Festival - free events, parade, music, etc.
Tel: (0141) 341-0844

14 - July 7: Paisley - The Shot Festival. A summer festival including music, arts and drama.
Tel: (0141) 889-3151

20: Aberdeen - City of Aberdeen Highland Games. A traditional highland games, with dancing, piping, vendors, etc.
Tel: (0122) 452-2190

Golf Addicts Book Ocean Passages for St. Andrews' Year 2000 Tourney

Queen Elizabeth II, one of the world's most eminent luxury liners, is soon to become a 1,600-bedroom

floating hotel for the Millenium Open at St. Andrews.

Affluent golf addicts from around the world are arranging to pay up to 7,200 pounds for a six-day package which includes accommodations aboard the QEII, travel to and from the course and entry to the 2000 Open. The cheapest berths for the week start at 2,000 pounds.

The 20-year-old liner has been chartered from owners Cunard by Glasgow-based Scotia Travel and is to be moored off Anstruther. Several enquiries have already come in from South Africa and the U.S.

Reprinted from the Scottish Banner.



Editorial Policy

It is the policy of the *Craigellachie* editorial staff to secure appropriate permissions for all articles and/or information drawn from other sources, within the constraint of publication deadlines.

When in Glasgow...listen in Glaswegian:

Local Color, Humor Show up in Regional Scottish Parlance

"Parliamo Glesca?"

The phrase "Parliamo Glesca" was introduced into Scottish culture by the actor and comedian Stanley Baxter in his TV show. He played the part of a linguistic academic who was enchanted by the "patois" of the natives of Greater Glasgow. He would relate his findings in a "posh" voice, quoting his latest gems to an audience who knew only too well the real meaning of his new-found words.

Here is an example (just pronounce the Glaswegian phonetically):

"How exhilarating it was to sojourn once more in Glasgow, that charming citadel of tradition and culture. By a happy chance my arrival coincided with the ancient and picturesque Festival of Hogmanay or, as it is known in the native patois, "Ra big booze-up."

"It was my good fortune to meet with a gentleman who invited me to accompany him to the sacred Hogmaniacal rites at a residence in the remote Southern terrain of the city called "Rasooside."

"When I suggested that it might be expedient to engage a taxicab my companion mentioned a lady's name. 'Norah!' he said, 'Norahbliddichance.' Before I could question him as to the lady's identity he made certain obscure references to snow and the Yukon... 'Snofaur' he stated, 'Yukonhoofit.'

One of the shows presented on TV during Hogmanay 1998 was Stanley Baxter—giving his first interview in over forty years in show business. In addition to the interview, there were excerpts from many of his hilarious and unique shows, including of course his "Parliamo Glesca" sketches.

One observer said, the joke was not the impenetrable Glasgow accent but the pomposity of those who analysed the "patois."

For example: Note carefully the use of the key native word "Helza" often used during social functions, thus, "Whenna-Helza Party Startin?" or "Wherra-Helza Burds?" and most frequently "Wherra-Helza Booze?" Another word which is frequently overheard is "Whirra-Boora" as in "Whirra-Boora Bashtra Pash?" which is invariably used in a romantic context. To show his generosity to his beloved, the Glaswegian male may be heard to say "Whirra-Boora Nurraglessa Gin?"

It is surprising just how many words there are in Scots which mean

"shambles, mess, confused, muddled and disordered." Here is a selection!

Boorachie, Carfuffle, Guddle, Heels over gowdie, Heliegolerie, Hickertie pickertie, Hirdum-dirdum, Hither an' yon, Hodge-podge, Knacker's midden, Mish-mash, Mixer-maxter, Paddy's market, Plaister, Rach-ma-reeshil, Rummed, Skitter, Tapsalteerie, or Tousie.

Some Scottish scoldings include:

"Get your heid in your hands" - receive a severe scolding. In Glasgow the severity is added to by "Ye'll get yer heid on yer hauns - an' yer teeth tae play wi'".

"Gang oan about" - make a fuss, as in "Ye didnae need tae gang oan about me spillin' the milk."

"Get it over the fingers" - a reprimand, no doubt derived from the days when pupils were rapped over the knuckles by the teacher.

"Pit the hems on" - keep in order, as in "Jeannie pit the hems on her husband so he couldnae get to the pub."

"Go your dinger" - lose your temper.

"Gie someone his coffee" - scold someone soundly.

"Pit oot his pipe" - put him in his place.

Here are some longer phrases the Scottish tourist might be exposed to:

"Mak a kirk or a mill o' it" - make a kirk/church or a mill of it, or "the

choice is yours."

"Steps and stairs" - a large family, evenly spaced out, so that when a family photo is taken with the children sequenced by age, they look like a set of stairs.

"Doon the Dee on a digestive" - this is the Abedonian equivalent of "Do you think I came up the River Clyde on a banana boat?" — or in other words, "do you think I'm

*"Haud up yer heid
like a thistle"
—hold up your
head like a thistle
—and be
a proud Scot!*

daft?"

"Auld claes and cauld porritch" - when you are out of money, particularly after spending a lot on Christmas or a holiday, it's back to basics with "old clothes and cold porridge."

"Days here and there" —people who could not afford to go away on their summer holiday/vacation would often have odd days here and there.

"Dinna droon the miller" - don't put too much water in the whisky (the miller being the supplier of the grain which went in the whisky).

"By-the-way" —Billy Connolly has made this Glaswegian addendum to sentences well known around the world. "That wis a right stupid thing tae dae, by-the-way" or indeed any other comment phrase added to it. So much so that other parts of Scotland sometimes refer to Glaswegians as "By-the-ways."

"Furryboots are ye fae?" - this is an Aberdonian phrase, by-the-way. Translated, it means "Whereabouts are you from?" It is so identified with Aberdeen that Aberdonians have been known to be called "Furryboots."

"Keep a calm sooch" - the 'ch' in sooch is pronounced as in 'loch' and the word "sooch" means "wind". So the phrase is used to encourage someone to keep calm or hold their tongue.

"Away in a dwalm" - a 'dwalm' is a daydream so someone who is away in a dwalm is certainly not concentrating on the job in hand!

"Twa bubbles aff the centre" —derived from the bubbles on a spirit level, someone who is "twa bubbles aff the centre" is regarded as a bit simple or stupid.

"Ahm spewin' feathers" —I'm very thirsty.

"He's goat mair degrees than a thermometer" —he's very clever (and has the "varsity" or university degrees to prove it)

"Whit are ye mollachin about" - why are you wandering about aimlessly?

This article is compiled from the Rampant Scotland Directory—used by permission.

Clan Grant Board Meets April 23-25 in Sacramento, CA

At press time, the Board of the Clan Grant Society of America were meeting on the West Coast to act upon the President's agenda following:

1. Proposal to Set Fiscal Year
The Constitution and By-laws of Clan Grant, USA does not specify the beginning and ending dates for the fiscal year. It is proposed that the Board fix the beginning and end of the fiscal year to November 1 and October 31, respectively. For the most part, the "Games Season" in the U.S. is over by the end of October. The Society will have had its AGM by that date and any decisions regarding Society finances can be put into effect at that time. Also, Nov 1. is the beginning of the year on the Celtic calendar.

2. Set Spending and Accounting Procedures for:

- (a) Membership Secretary
- (b) Games Commissioner
- (c) *Craigellachie* Editor

3. Proposal to Waive Dues for Volunteer Positions
The positions of Membership Secretary, Games Commissioner, and Editor of *Craigellachie* are all essentially volunteer positions that are a labour of love. While we cannot begin to provide the remuneration that these jobs deserve, we can waive the membership dues during their time of service. This proposal formalises a previously informal practice.

4. Proposal for a Formal Budget Process to Begin with FY '00.

5. Proposal to Adjust Terms of Current Non-Official Board Members to Comply with the Requirements of the Constitution
The Constitution and By-laws of Clan Grant, USA, requires that the three elected Board Members serve four-year staggered terms, to commence and terminate at the time of the respective AGMs in each second year. All three non-official board members took office at the same time in October 1999 and were all elected for a four-year term.

6. Discussion of Plans For 1999 AGM in Richmond, VA.

7. Discussion of Scheduled Events For Y2K Gathering in Scotland.

Ex-Pat Editor Wants New National Anthem: Beginning of 'Many' Changes Possible After Scots Choose Government

By Valerie Cairney, Editor
the Scottish Banner

In Scotland, debates are heating as May 6th, the day that Scotland goes to the polls, draws ever closer. History is being made there and we will be watching closely with great interest in the weeks ahead. Many changes will be taking place, some soon, others not. Of course they will not be able to be done all at once, some may wait years before certain changes take place. Do you have a 'wish' for Scotland? A specific change you believe should be implemented after the polls? Has something been sticking in your side and you would like to see a change made? Well, I certainly do.

For me, it is the National Anthem. I have long thought it should be totally banned in Scotland. First composed in 1746, it was meant as a hymn of thanks for deliverance from the Scottish army. Its infamous fourth verse reads as follows:

"Lord grant that Marshall Wade,
May by thy mighty aid,
Victory bring,
May he sedition hush
And like a torrent rush
Rebellious Scots to crush,
God save the King."

It is absurd that the Scots accept this as their own country's National Anthem. It is not good enough that we sing just the first and perhaps second verses.

Last May an opinion poll was launched by the Scottish Media Group. This incorporated Grampian Television, the *Herald* and Scottish Television. The poll asked if it was time for a new National Anthem, and if so what it should be. Simultaneously a competition was launched for a new song for Scotland.

The replies showed 38% of those polled believed it was time for a new anthem. All entries for a new song or anthem for Scotland were to be in by St. Andrew's Day last

year, and the results were given on Burns Night this year. It was judged blindly and so none of the judges knew who wrote which entry. The result was William Jackson and his "Land of Light."

I spoke to William at his home in Scotland. The quietly-spoken musician told me how he had planned the words which could be sung as easily in Gaelic as English (the Gaelic lines actually mean "Scotland my homeland for ever"). He looked at Scotland's past achievements, its present and its future in a positive way.

I asked him if he thought it conflicted with Flower of Scotland or Scots Wha 'Hae' (both of which have been named possible anthems in the past). He feels they are totally different in their wording, which of course they are. No battles. No blood. . . Let's go for it. No more National Anthem as we have known it in the past. There it is—my wish for a small change in Scotland. Not the most important, but it should be removed.

Ed. Note: Text of this editorial is reprinted from the April on-line edition of the Scottish Banner, with permission.

Scotland's First 'Rule' in 290 Years:

Historic Polls Open on May 6th to Elect 'Devolved' Scottish Parliament

On May 6, 1999, an historic election will take place in Scotland—perhaps the most important ever—as a new Scottish Parliament will be selected, the first Scottish legislative body in nearly 300 years.

The election is the fulfillment of Labour Party Prime Minister Tony Blair's campaign promise to push for a Scottish Parliament. In a process, popularly known as "devolution," the new legislative body will have broad powers to make laws and will have a right to vary taxes up to 3% from those imposed by the Westminster Parliament.

The Labour Party's aim in sharing rule with Scotland, reports say, are to strengthen and reinvigorate the Westminster body, while the opposition party in the election—the Scottish National Party (SNP)—hopes to widen the election into its objective of a totally independent Scottish state.

The SNP is expected to have a measure of success in the May referendum, but the legislative body, which will decide future policy,

may attenuate any early successes of the SNP in the election.

The Westminster Parliament will retain certain powers over specific areas such as the United Kingdom's constitution, borders, national defence/security, among others. The new Parliament in Edinburgh will enact laws about 'devolved' Scottish issues, such as health, the arts, environmental concerns, the courts, land use, transportation, and a host of other areas.

The new Scottish Parliament will have 73 directly elected members, plus 56 party-affiliated members, for a total of 129, led by a Scottish Executive and presided over by a Scottish First Minister.

The polling will be done at polling stations, and three ballots will be handed out: one for a local representative (the 73 to be elected), one for the local party representation (56 members elected, seven from each of eight regions based on party lines), and one for a local councillor. The voting system is called the 'Additional Member System' (AMS).

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For information about
the **Clan Grant Society**
in America, contact:
Cheri Grant Shull
239 S. Waggoner Rd.
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-9734
or e-mail her at
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