



Craigellachie



Summer 1999

It's great to be a Grant!

Volume XXX • Number 2

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Richmond, VA, Named Annual General Meeting Site

October AGM Invitation Tendered to All Clan Grant USA

Our 3rd Annual General Meeting is just around the corner. This year Clan Grant will meet in Richmond, Virginia, at the State Fairgrounds (site of the NASCAR track and Strawberry Hill horse races) for the Richmond Highland Games and Celtic Festival on October 23 and 24, 1999. Arrangements for the General Membership Meeting have been made for 5:00 p.m. (EST) Saturday (Oct. 23rd) at the Holiday Inn North, 801 East Parham Road in Richmond, following a fun-filled day at the games. Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be provided before the meeting. After the business meeting, attendees may stay to socialize or go out for dinner. The meeting room is reserved for the entire evening, and at least one other event may be

expected during the evening's festivities.

Hotel rooms are available on a first come, first served basis at \$69.00 per night. The Holiday Inn is a few short miles from the Fairgrounds, just past the intersection of I-95 and I-295 on the north side of town. To make your reservations, call 1-804-266-8753 and tell them that you are with the Clan Grant Society. The limited number of available rooms is expected to book up quickly, so make your reservations soon. Additionally, please drop a line to AGM organizer Judi Parsons, address below. Let her know the number and names of those in your party, as she is in charge of arranging seating and food, so we can all look forward to sharing the many treats in

store for us this fall.

October is a wonderful time of year in Central Virginia, and Richmond is a mere hour or so from the Blue Ridge Mountains and marvelous fall foliage. The Fairgrounds are convenient to the Richmond International Airport, I-64, I-95 and I-295.

Remember, the Society is only as successful and active as its members. We can be one of the best with your participation. If you cannot be in Richmond this year, please consider assisting with the operations of the clan tent at a Scottish event near you.

As the Annual Meeting approaches, updates will be posted on the Clan Grant Society website at:

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

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Proposed Agenda Published for Year 2000 Gathering in Scotland

A tentative agenda for the Clan Grant Year 2000 gathering in Scotland has been released. While the gathering is still in the planning stages, this early glimpse of planned activities should encourage US Clan Grant Society members to start making plans for 2000.

Lyn Thomson, Personal Assistant to Sir Patrick Grant, has been charged with determining the precise details, including transportation between the various locations. Lyn is also gathering information on local accommodations.

Needless to say, she will be a very busy lady!

The suggested schedule of events:

Saturday August 7th -

Gathering at Nethybridge followed by Dinner and a Ceilidh

Sunday August 8th -

Afternoon or early evening UK Society AGM

Monday August 9th -

Ballindalloch and Distillery tour

Tuesday August 10th -

Loch Ness cruise, tour Urquhart Castle and Grantown Museum

Wednesday August 11th -

Doune Rothiemurchus and Abernathy Nature Reserve tours

Thursday August 12th -

Castle Grant tour

Those of us here on the western side of the Atlantic can help Lyn in her planning by notifying her of our interest in attending the UK gathering in 2000 as soon as possible. Vice President, Allan Grant has been charged with gathering information on poten-

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Visit the Grant 'hame' page on the World Wide Web

at:

www.parsonage.net/ClanGrant

Submissions deadline for the fall issue of *your* newsletter

Craigellachie
is September 3, 1999!



Clan Grant Society USA, Inc.

c/o Judi Parsons
Acting Membership Secretary
414 Carrsbrook Drive
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Kentucky Games Brightest Ever

by Margaret S. MacDonald Morris

"The sun shines bright in my Old Kentucky Home," wrote Stephen Foster, the famous Bluegrass composer. Never was a Kentucky Scottish Weekend day more characterized by this line from its state song than May 8-9 of this year.

"They were looking down on us up there," said KSW President Jesse Andrews, grinning and pointing to the flawless blue sky. He and all the KSW workers remembered their late friends and KSW co-founders Charlie and Betty MacDonald by dedicating the 17th annual KSW to their colleagues—my late parents. I had to agree the weather was a gift, having been a veteran together with Mom & Dad through 'hot-as-jalapenõs' and monsoon-like Weekends.

"They were with us from the beginning," read the dedication in the program of events. I could just imagine they were still with us, as we sat in the almost-full bleachers absorbing each soothing strain of the piper playing familiar Scottish hymns. The breeze blowing through the bright-striped tent, the thought-provoking sermon, and the ingathering of old and new Scottish friends around their family's flags made the Morris family happy to have been there.

Soon May has turned to June and summer games are here. I'm delighted to have many reports to share with you, from Hawaii to Texas to the Plains to the Ozarks to Glasgow, KY, and on down to Central Florida. There are many games soon to be played in an area near you, among them the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.

Speaking of Grandfather Mountain, I'm also delighted to be among those scheduled attendees, along with my niece Kacie LaGrotta of Austin, TX. My parents were excited each year

Stand Fast Corrected

CGS member Sue Myers wrote — "Your last paper that came a couple of days ago stated that 'Reservations...at Snow Lake Condominiums for GMG in *Eastern* NC'... unfortunately, whoever wrote this article failed to notice that GMHG are in *Western* NC, near Linville and Boone. I am sure by now you have heard from quite a few people."

Thanks, Sue, at press time you were the only one to have sent this correction in.—the Editor.

as the GMHG drew near and the Grants busily prepared—with rented condos, coordinated meal plans and fun outings—and generally planned for a big blowout at the annual *Western* North Carolina event (see Editor's note below). Now I get to see what the shoutin's all about.

Also in this summer issue of your *Craigellachie*, be sure to cast your eyes over a column or two: Harold Parsons writes from his presidential perch 'On The Hot Seat'; Clan Genealogist Beryl Grant outlines tips for researching your roots in the 'Genealogy Corner'; the 'Notes from Shirley' news column is revived (!) by our former membership secretary, Shirley Grant Smith; our executives give 'marching orders'—a.k.a. reasons why you should attend the Annual General Meeting in Richmond, VA this October according to hard-working Board Member Allan Grant and busy Games Commissioner Scott Grant; and finally, Convenor George Grant reflects on the Sacramento, CA Board Meeting, with a special tribute.

Thanks are due Judi Parsons for stepping in to fill the spot left open by Cheri Grant Shull, who resigned as



Grant Morris, Margaret S. MacDonald Morris, and Board President Jesse Andrews at the 17th annual Kentucky Scottish Weekend, held annually the weekend after the KY Derby.

Membership Secretary. CGS thanks are sent to Cheri for her service. Not only is Judi now the Acting Membership Secretary, she is the AGM Committee Chair and contributed the information for our page one story on the Annual General Meeting in Richmond, VA, in October.

Additionally, plans for the year 2000 Clan Grant gathering in

Nethybridge, Scotland, are taking shape. A tentative agenda has been announced, and you are invited to read up, be informed, and find out what to do to join in.

From my mountain home in Sewanee, Tennessee, I'm hoping each of you enjoys a safe, refreshing, fun-filled season. And now, fellow Grants, let the games continue!

Clan Presses Forward in Restructuring Plans

On the Hot Seat

by Howard Parsons

President, Clan Grant Society - USA

Robert Burns wrote, "*The best laid schemes o' mice an' men Gang aft Agle*". Transitions are never easy. The transition from our Society's old administrative structure to the new has certainly had its rough spots. We have had more than our share of crossed wires and disconnects—and that's before you factor in our computer problems. Nonetheless, we are pressing forward with our reorganization.

After a challenging time with the spring publication, the summer issue is in your hands, and I hope those of you who are regular members will have mailed in your membership renewal by now. If you haven't, save yourself a bit of worry next year by renewing for two or three years. There's a five-dollar price-break if you opt for three years. Of course, the ultimate worry-saver is Life Membership at a cost of only \$400.00 US.

Speaking of membership, Cheri Grant Shull has reluctantly stepped

down from that position. In the interim, Judi Parsons has stepped in to fill the position until a permanent replacement can be recruited. Send your dues renewals to (or volunteer to relieve):

Judi Parsons

Acting Membership Secretary

414 Carrsbrook Drive

Charlottesville, VA 22901

Ph.: 804-873-5409

e-mail: <judi@parsonage.net>

In April, I had the opportunity to take a break from springtime allergies on the East Coast and sample the springtime allergies on the West Coast. The real purpose of this trip was to join the other officers of the Clan Grant Society in visiting the Sacramento Valley Scottish Games and Gathering at the Yolo County Fairgrounds in Woodland, California. This was my first opportunity to attend a Scottish event on the West Coast and also to meet the legendary Jim Suttie. Jim has been the Clan Grant anchor in California for many years. What a pleasure it was to finally meet him and his lovely wife, Carol. Of course, there was the spring CGUSA Board meeting to attend, as well as the games

themselves. While the California variety of Scottish event is somewhat different than the fare in my native Southeast region, it was nonetheless the same good times, good music, and good friends one expects at these gatherings.

One gathering we all have to look forward to is the Clan Grant Annual General Meeting to be held in conjunction with the 5th Annual Richmond Scottish Games and Celtic Festival on October 23rd and 24th in Richmond, VA. Look for information on the event elsewhere in this newsletter. I want to strongly urge those members living a reasonable distance from Richmond to make every effort to attend this meeting. Our vision for the Society's future can be realized, if you take the time to be involved. I can promise a special gathering of Grants, if we begin our 1999 AGM with each and every one of you in attendance.

While we are well into the 1999 Scottish Games season, it isn't too late to remind you of our own Games Commissioner Scott Grant. Scott is ready to help you in hosting a tent at

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Secretary Dr. Phil Smith Reports on Clan Grant Board Meeting Decisions

April 24, 1999 Woodland, CA—The first quarter Board of Directors' meeting of Clan Grant, Inc. was called to order by Board President Richard Grant with a statement of thanks to California Commissioner Jim Suttie and Carol Suttie for their hospitality to convening members.

Present were: Howard Parsons, Clan Grant, Inc. President; Richard Grant, Board President; Allan Grant, Vice-President; Philip Smith, Board Secretary; C. David Grant, Treasurer; Jim Suttie, Member-at-Large and California Commissioner; and George Grant, Member-at-Large and Convenor *Emeritus*.

Treasurer C. David Grant presented the Treasury report, and the Board voted unanimously to accept it. President Parsons reported on a new database he created for Clan Grant, into which former Membership Secretary Shirley Grant Smith and George Grant's data was transferred.

Margaret Morris, daughter of Charles and Betty MacDonald, was reported as the new editor of *Craigellachie*, and mailing labels are to be generated, then sent to her. The

spring issue of *Craigellachie* will have a dues notice in it. It was also proposed that the newsletter editor obtain a subscription to the *Strathspey and Badenoch Herald*. "Return postage guaranteed" will be continued on the newsletter, in order to track readership changes.

In other President's business, Parsons has retained an attorney, and secured advice that non-profit corporations with less than \$25,000 net income are not expected to file income tax returns. Also, the Clan can legally sell "clan-related" materials. Jim Suttie was made California Commissioner to serve the entire state, until someone can be identified to serve in Southern California, and Gene Grant was named California Commissioner *emeritus*.

A decision was made that Commissioners be supplied with a printout of members and recent members for follow-ups, and a survey was proposed to determine the desires of the Clan membership as to what course their Society should take.

The venue of the next Annual General Meeting was fixed as Richmond, VA, Oct. 24, 1999; the venue for

AGM 2001 was determined as Glasgow, KY, the time and place to be decided.

In news from abroad, the Millennium Clan Gathering agenda was announced to include a dinner and ceilidh at Nethybridge, Aug. 7; a visit to

*Clan Grant USA
will continue
to cooperate with
the UK society
and contribute
to the "Duthil
Kirk Fund"*

Ballindalloch Castle on Aug. 9; a Loch Ness cruise and visit to the Grantown Museum, Aug. 10; and the annual gathering at the Nethybridge Games on Aug. 11, 2000. The "Two thousand by 2000" campaign was discussed, with Dr. Smith suggesting the UK model be adopted, in which each member would receive a small number of mailing labels and Clan litera-

ture to mail at their own expense. President Richard Grant suggested the matter be referred to a smaller committee, and asked members of the Board to suggest committee nominees.

There was discussion on the situation at Duthil Kirk, concluding that Clan Grant USA will continue to cooperate with the UK society and members will be encouraged to contribute to the "Duthil Kirk Fund" maintained by Edward Grant (MI). Funds will be sent to Scotland periodically.

New membership certificates will be printed with spaces for signatures by Clan Grant, Inc. President and Secretary; the fiscal year was changed to begin November 1, with a formal budget adhering to a range of fifteen percent flexibility; a standing By-laws Committee will be appointed from non-officers or Board members by the President of the Society to review some of the wording of the by-laws; Howard Parsons will be a signator on the Clan Grant checking account; and several returnable Games kits will be made available for use by the local Society members at their local games venues.

Clan Support Available for Local Games

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your local event. Contact him for games kits, copies of *Craigellachie*, membership brochures, and reimbursement for sponsorship fees.

You can also help your Society by informing Scott of the games you plan to attend even if a games kit or sponsorship money is not required. Then, we will post a list of events in which we plan to participate, both on the World Wide Web and in *Craigellachie*; potential visitors will thus know where we plan to be. For more information, contact:

Scott Grant

116 Durgin Rd.

Bennington, NH 03442-4512

Ph.: 603-588-6256

e-mail: <sgrant@conknet.com>

Scott also sends follow-up letters to prospective members who visit the Grant tent, so be sure to send him copies of your guest book.

Gordon Grant, former chair of the Society's board and drafter of the Constitution and By-laws, will be serving as the Society's liaison with the Virginia Corporation Commission, where the Society is organized as an

entity (under Virginia state laws).

The Society is beginning a search for a Clan Quartermaster. George Grant has filled this position over the years, and is now so enthused with the idea of retirement he's willing to give up being Quartermaster as well. For newcomers to the Society, we carry a small selection of Grant-theme items for sale at a reasonable price to members, as a service to those members. Any profits realized are turned over to the Society treasury. Candidates for the position of Clan Quartermaster would be responsible for procurement, distribution, and development of new products. If you're interested, please contact me.

Congratulations are in order for Betsy Riggs, former Treasurer of the Society. Betsy recently retired from the Federal Reserve. Betsy already has a number of projects lined up and is considering attending a few more games this year.

Finally, the summer games season is under way and your President is looking forward to seeing you at Grandfather Mountain! Have a safe summer.



Left to Right—CGSUSA Board Officers Richard Grant, Jim Suttie, and Howard Parson in Sacramento, California.

Suttie Serves Clans in California Games

by George Grant

Jim and Carol Suttie were recruited by Gene & Jule Grant, who were the first Clan Grant Commissioners for California. At first, Jim and Carol helped with the tents and covered at some games, which Gene or Jule could not attend. Gene's health concerns led to turning the commissionership over to the Sutties. Jim and Carol haven't looked back.

For the past 10 years, Jim and Carol have become a major force in the California Scottish community. Jim is on the Board of Directors of the Games Committee in Campbell, California. He is Treasurer of the Clan Information Society, a group that helps Clan Societies interface with the various games' sponsoring committees, and he is a CGSUSA Board Member at Large.

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Smith Sets Records Straight After Busy Year, Asks Favor

by Shirley Grant Smith

It's been nearly a year since I last tried to write a column for *Craigellachie*. So much has happened in that year. We've lost Charlie and Betty MacDonald, elected new officers, have a new Editor and Membership Secretary, and attended some new Games.

I owe so many apologies to so many people: to our new members and also the "regulars" whose checks were delayed being cashed (some by several months); to members waiting for pictures to be returned or even to appear in *Craigellachie*; and to those wanting an answer back from me—my sincere apologies for the delay and silence.

Resigning after 20 years as Membership Secretary in December, 1997, little did I know that the coming year was going to be even wilder than expected! George helped out until we located a new secretary in October—and here I owe apologies to Cheryl for not helping her out once she started. Now we've lost her and Judi Parsons has come to the rescue.

I dislike having a column about "just me" but to summarize our past year, Phil and I "downsized" and moved into a retirement village "condo" last August 31st. (We are still up to our necks in boxes.) We traveled most of Sept. and Oct. to Highland Games, of course. Then the 'holiday' came upon us. We left for Florida at the end of January, came home in the middle of February and promptly left for Arizona. March saw us in Scotland for Tartan meetings, and we went on to California in April for the Grant Officers' meeting.

In April, Mr. William Johnston died, after a severe stroke the previous year. We were with Barbara and Bill while in Scotland on what would be his last trip overseas. It was an interesting trip, learning what wheelchairs can and can't do. (Lesson #1. American deluxe wheelchairs are not sized metrically as in European countries; lesson #2. Airlines can not only lose luggage but also wheelchairs and wheelchair parts which have been well labeled!) While many Grants did not know Bill personally, he actively participated in many Scottish events and took a leadership role in the Scottish Tartan Authority, the Scottish Tartan Society, and in Tartan Educational & Cultural Association (TECA). He held many workshops with Phil and gave out information (and corrected misinformation) at the Tartan Information Tent for many years. He is also the co-author, with

Phil, of three new books on Tartan that are currently at the publishers.

Last, but, not least, a joy only grandparents know: we became Grandparents of #7! Ed and Sara had a baby girl on May 2nd, Paige Austin Smith, 8 lbs. 3 ounces. That catches you up on my absence these past months. Clan Grant is still a top priority but I have a favor to ask of you, the readers. Please write once again to me so that we can resume this column. The momentum increased until I came to sudden halt. Let's try again to get things going. Our new address is:

442 Freedom Blvd.

West Brandywine, PA 19320-1559

Ph.: 610-466-9425

Fax: 610-466-9426

e-mail <Sgrantsmith@juno.com>

Now on to the news:

RECOVERING: Lucille Grant from by-pass surgery in May for a blocked artery in her leg. She is doing well, and as George puts it, "her foot is now the proper color and the pain is gone."

Tony R. Grant is in a nursing home in Wood River, IL, having moved from his home in Oklahoma. Tony joined the Society in 1991, when he and his grown children attended the Grandfather Mountain Games. Tony became a Life Member in 1992 (forgetting to tell us he was 80 yrs. old when he joined) and faithfully corresponded with us over the years. He'd appreciate hearing from members, so send him a card now and then to: 111 W. Acton, Room 313, Wood River, IL 62095.

SUMMER GAMES ARE HERE: Melissa and Eric Holman (TX) report that their three children are gearing up for the Highland competition season down San Antonio way. Unfortunately, Eric is now in the Balkins—we hope he has a safe return to his family.

Once again Ruth and Stony Grant, and Michael Bongertz lent a "helping hand" to Jean Wilson at the Jacksonville, FL games. Many thanks from all of us. As reported earlier, they were swamped most of the day by visitors.

Helen Grant Schmidt writes that they had a Clan Grant float in their Susquiscentennial parade in June. (We assume in Decorah, IA?) Expect further details.

WHEN IN D.C., LOOK FOR: A portrait of William Grant by Gilbert Stuart called, "The Skater" in the National Gallery of Art. A letter from Ethne Hubbard informs us that the picture was in her family until after WWII.

She is in the process of obtaining a large copy for the Grant dinner held in London this Spring.

SIDE NOTES: Our officers met in April in Sacramento, CA for their first official get-together since elections last October. In review, the weather was perfect and the games fun! We're not sure how our hosts, Jim and Carol Suttie managed that but more power to them.

Those who arrived early took in some of the sights. It came as a shock to this reporter to visit "old Sacramento" restored. Especially after having known it as a derelict bus stop many years ago. The train museum is a must for those who love such. (And don't miss the mail car. The mail man is great!) We even learned some things about the "Gold Rush" to add to our "vast storeroom of knowledge." The Sutties introduced us to some fine restaurants for seafood, steak—and even authentic Mexican.

For those who have been members of the Society for a long time, we still have a few membership certificates signed by our 32nd Chief, Lord Patrick Strathspey; George Grant, Convener; and John C. Grant, Treasurer. There are some left that were signed by Lord Strathspey, George, and our second Treasurer, Betsy Riggs.

If you would like to have one, send a postcard to yours truly and mention when you joined, if possible. We'll be happy to send you one. There are only a few left, so first come, first served.

MORE GENEALOGY: A letter from Richard A. Grant (CA) informs us that he is trying to trace some Grants in the Riverside/Chino area (Southern California). His family was born in Springhill, Nova Scotia, and most of them died in Cambridge, MA. His Grandfather was William R. Grant who married Sarah J. Bishop. They had John E. (Richard's father), Minnie May, Leona J., William B., and Amanda Grant. He's hoping to get those family members he finds in Southern California active again—so let's help him out.

DIDJALL REMEMBER: Tartan Day this year? April 6th is the date to mark on your calendars now for next year! (You do have one, already?) Everyone is to wear the Tarta. Phil put on a Tartan program for about 50 residents (inmates?) in our new home and several joined in the fun by proudly wearing their tartans!

Clan Membership Growth & Changes

NEW MEMBERS

GRANT, Mrs. Marguerite J.
136 Lowell Street
Dunstable, MA 01827

LEARY, Ms. Carolyn Grant
15 Rimmon Road
Woodbridge, CT 6525

SCHIRMER, Mrs. Karen G.
804 Christy Cove
Jacksonville, AR 72076

RENEWALS

ETHRIDGE, Mr. & Mrs. Larry C.
2402 Longest Avenue
Louisville, KY 40204

GARRISON, Mr. & Mrs. C. Dale
33338 Ridge Manor Boulevard
Ridge Manor, FL 33523

HOLMAN, Mr. & Mrs. Eric M.
8442 Timber Lodge
San Antonio, TX 78250-4160

KLOSE, Esq., Mr. Wolf-Dieter
8912 E. Thomas Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85256-4206

SMITH, Mr. & Mrs. Edward A.
4413 S. Genessee Road
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SMITH, Jr., Dr. & Mrs. Philip D.
442 Freedom Boulevard
West Brandywine, PA 19320-1559

TIMMONS, Mr. & Mrs. C. Wayne
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Holly, MI 48442

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33338 Ridge Manor Boulevard
Ridge Manor, FL 33523

GRANT, IV, Mr. Bryan M.
P.O. Box 13330
Atlanta, GA 30324-0330

GRANT, Mr. Tony R.
111 W. Acton, Room 313
Wood River, IL 62095

GRANT, Mr. William J.
100 Moss Lane
Adkins, TX 78101-2654

GRANT-ADAMS, Mr. Colin
103 S. Franklin Street, #A
Glasgow, KY 42141-2609

MARKS, Mr. Joshua
240 Broxville Road, Apt. C-4
Bronxville, NY 10708

SMITH, Mr. & Mrs. Edward A.
1507 Transue Avenue
Burton, MI 48509

SMITH, Jr., Dr. & Mrs. Philip
442 Freedom Boulevard
West Brandywine, PA 19320-1559

WIGGINS, Rev. & Mrs. Allan
4215 Hanging Moss Drive
Orange Park, FL 32073-7642

Schedule Published With Games of Interest for This Year and Next

July 10-13: Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.

July 17: Glasgow Lands Scottish Heritage Festival at Stanley Park in Westfield, MA. The festival spotlights Scottish animals, wool spinning and weaving, art, among others. Phone: (413) 848-2061 or 2838; e-mail: <glasgow@clanmackenzie.com>

Sept. 4: McLain Highland Festival in Carlisle, PA, sponsored by the Cumberland County Historical Society. Contact Jo McBride, Two Mile House Manager, McLain Highland Festival Committee, 1189 Walnut Bottom Road, Carlisle, PA 17013. Phone: (717) 243-3437 or e-mail:

<longwellr@aol.com>

Sept. 4-5: Black Hills, South Dakota Highland Festival & Scottish Games. Write to: 1224 Junction Ave., Sturgis, SD 57785, or call (605) 347-2762; e-mail: <tweac@dtgnet.com>

Sept. 10-12: The annual Legonier Highland Games in the mountains of Western Pennsylvania. Open Gold Medal Piobrochd, a Scottish Dinner, Rugby, Barra the Bard, Gaelic Jam Session, Southminster Ringers, Scottish Walk and a Concert are just some of the activities for these two-day games.

Write to The Legonier Highland Games, P.O. Box 884, Bethel Park,

PA 15102, or call (412) 851-9900.

Oct. 3: The New Jersey Highway Authority at the Garden State Cultural Center in Woodbridge, NJ, announces their Scottish Heritage Festival. Contact: Douglas G. Sipe, Chairman, 1217 Barbara Avenue, Union, NJ 07083, or the New Jersey Authority, Woodbridge, NJ 07095-5013.

Oct. 16-17: Stone Mountain Highland Games in Atlanta!

AND IN THE YEAR 2000:

July 15: A first for Philadelphia, PA, are the U.S. Highland Dancing Championships at the Seaport Museum at Penn's Landing with competition from ninety Scottish Dancers, representing

finalists from six regional championships.

The North American Championships with United States, Canadian, and Scottish contestants take place at the same time. Donations are gladly accepted and proceeds will go to the Ronald McDonald House.

Contact Marguerite Reid, Founder, Philadelphia Highland Dance Association, 2913 Benner Street, Philadelphia, PA 19149, or Loch Lomond Association, U.S.I.R., 2000 Fundraising at the same address.

June 1-4: Glasgow Highland Games, held in Barren River Lake State Park in Lucas, KY, are also announcing their games early. We do have Grants represented there so plan accordingly. These games highlight "Battle Axe" competition, a Ham Breakfast, a Tartan Ball, an SK run, a barbecue, and even a golf tournament. Contact: Glasgow Highland Games, 119 E. Main Street, Glasgow, KY 42141. Phone: (502) 6151-3141, or fax: (502) 651-9090. Also visit the website at <w.w.w.glasgowbarren.com>

In case you were wondering, Glasgow organizers have set the dates for 2001 (May 28-June 3), 2002 (May 30-June 2), and 2003 (May 29-June 1).

Genealogy Corner

Clan Genealogist Beryl Grant Offers Family Research Help

For novices getting started in their genealogical research, Clan Grant Society genealogist Beryl Grant recommends beginning with a self-addressed stamped envelope addressed to her at 1063 Leesome Lane, Altamont, NY 12009. She will send forms that will enable systematic documentation of the information you have on hand. According to Ms. Grant, using the forms also helps pinpoint gaps in your research.

She offers the following tips to help you avoid problems in research:

Always note the source of information and date acquired, whether from a family member, a historical association or library. If the source is a book, note the author, date, publisher,

and the library where you found the book. Include page numbers. She suggests keeping a loose-leaf notebook; scraps of paper get lost.

Make copies of all letters you write. Always include a SASE envelope to ensure a reply, particularly if you are writing to an historical society or library. No envelope ensures no reply.

Always acknowledge replies received even if only with a postcard stating the information was received.

Make backups of all computer disks; store copies of same and photocopies of your irreplaceable documents in another safe location.

Avoid the mail-order promotions offering a personalized genealogy of your surname. These are usually little

more than computer-generated lists of names from telephone directories with some very generalized how-to-research information. They aren't worth the asking price.

The Clan Grant Society has an extensive reference library, with several of the Grant family books and with reference materials gleaned from libraries, then submitted by Clan members. Ms. Grant welcomes you to contact her at the above address or at <bgrant@juno.com>. She also answers several inquiries on the Grant-L Rootsweb list. Any information received from you is filed by location and entered it into a database. Some of the data already on file may aid you in your research. Ask for help today.

International Tartans Centre Final Plans Take Shape

Scotland's greatest cultural symbol—the tartan—will soon finally find a permanent home in a specially designed International Tartans Centre on the outskirts of the ancient Scottish city of Perth, once the country's capital.

In the final planning phase, ITC will house the definitive world collection of tartan, tartan artifacts, records and archives, and will offer state-of-the-art facilities for researchers, scholars, and records keepers. The Centre will cover 45,000 square feet and be constructed at a cost of \$10 million.

Additionally, the facility will have conference space and offer changing programs for use by the general public, school visitors, cultural groups and others. Displays and demonstrations

of spinning, weaving, dyeing, and making of tartans, plus a host of related activities, are planned for this tartan 'mecca.'

The independent Scottish Tartans Authority, formed in 1996, is credited with bringing commercial and academic interest and government agencies together for the implementation and construction of the facility. The STA, a Scottish charity, has provided seed money for the project through a consortium of donations funneled through its coffers.

Together with Tartan academics from Scotland and America's TECA (Tartan Educational & Cultural Association), the Authority has planned the enthusiastically supported project. Eventually, reins to the Centre, said

STA Chair Blair C. Macnaughton of Pitlochry, will be run by an independent management body operating under strict national and charitable guidelines to "ensure... its long term stability and its academic integrity."

"It is most fitting," concluded Macnaughton, "that in a year that will see the historic establishment of the first Scottish Parliament for 300 years, we also stand on the threshold of a permanent home for tartan—the embodiment of the Scottish identity."

The widespread support from Scots abroad has prompted the STA to incorporate a number of architectural features to commemorate all the individual and corporate gifts. A world-wide appeal for funding will commence when plans are finalized.

Reports of ESP Unfounded

Clan Grant Society Acting Membership Secretary Judi Parsons states she does *not* have extra-sensory perception. When a member moves, Judi finds out, upon return of the current *Craigellachie* by the Post Office with postage due. To save postal expenses, the Society opts for a reduced Bulk Rate on domestic mailings, which are unforwardable. Our loss is two-fold in this situation: the Society is out extra money for return postage, and you don't receive your current *Craigellachie*.

There is a solution. Simply inform the membership secretary of your new address as soon as you know it. You'll get your newsletter on time and the Society will save postal expense. *Thanks!*

Call, send letters, or e-mail:

Judi Parsons, AMS
414 Carrsbrook Drive
Charlottesville, VA 22901-1216
Ph.: 804-973-5409
e-mail <judi@parsonage.net>

Why should you attend the AGM?

by Allan Grant, Board Member

The question is 'why should you attend the Annual General Meeting of Clan Grant?' Well if you are a Clan member, live within a reasonable distance of our meeting place (in this case Richmond, Virginia), and are physically able, the answer is: There isn't a reason for *not* being there. But, there are literally dozens of reasons why you *should*. I won't try to enumerate all of them, but, first and foremost is the fact that you are a member and should make your voice heard. This is your chance to let the CGS Board Members, elected by you to act on your behalf in Clan matters, know if the way they are running the Clan meets your expectations. Maybe you have some ideas you think should be considered.

By attending the meeting you get to see, hear and have input into the process with people currently 'in charge.' Or it might be you don't like the way things are going, and by attending you can start an impeachment proceeding or demand new elections. Then *you* might be one of the chosen few and be elected to something...but I didn't want to scare anyone away.

If you attend, you will see the Board in action, add to the discussion, and be part of what the future holds. Actually the Board is made up of some pretty good people, in my opinion, (I have to say that, I'm one of them), and they put in a lot of hours on Clan Grant business. I know firsthand, they could use your help in determining what is needed and wanted.

I understand there will be free snacks at the meeting. Now how could a good Scot resist that? You might even end up enjoying yourself. We, your representatives, would love to meet more of you, Clan members, and then we will add to *our* enjoyment of the Annual General Meeting. Being part of a Clan is a togetherness thing.

Being part of a Clan is a togetherness thing. Come out and get together with us; make us feel like we are really wanted and doing something worthwhile...we actually get serious. Sometimes.

Come out and get together with us; make us feel like we are *really* wanted and doing *something* worthwhile. If you don't, you might push some of us more emotionally charged Board Members closer to the line and you wouldn't want *that* on your conscience. Come join us, we actually get serious. Sometimes.

'Blessed Be The Tie That Binds'

by Scott Conklin, Games Commissioner

By attending the Annual General Meeting, everyone will have the chance to make 'the tie that binds' grow even stronger and to make the Clan the best it can be. The Clan Grant Board members and appointed officers enjoy the privilege of serving our members. I most enjoy the responsibility of getting materials to Clan Grant members so their turn hosting the Clan Grant tent will go well.

Why do we do what we do and enjoy it? Well, from my perspective, the answer is, I love hearing that Clan games hosts had what they needed in order to recruit members to the Clan, as well as help others begin to explore their roots, as I have. I know that every role from hosting the Clan tent to taking a leadership role in the Clan requires a great deal of effort on the part of the Clan Grant tent host, Board members, or appointed officers. But the effort is worth it when people come up to you and say that *they* are a

Grant. That alone just makes my day complete.

With that in mind, we need your input on how to make the Clan a better place for fellowship and growth. The

We need your input on how to make the Clan a better place for fellowship and growth.

common tie we all share are the Scottish roots we all claim, each in his or her own way. I look forward to seeing a large gathering in Richmond, VA, at the Annual General Meeting, and at the many and varied nationwide Scottish games throughout the year. Stand Fast.

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): _____

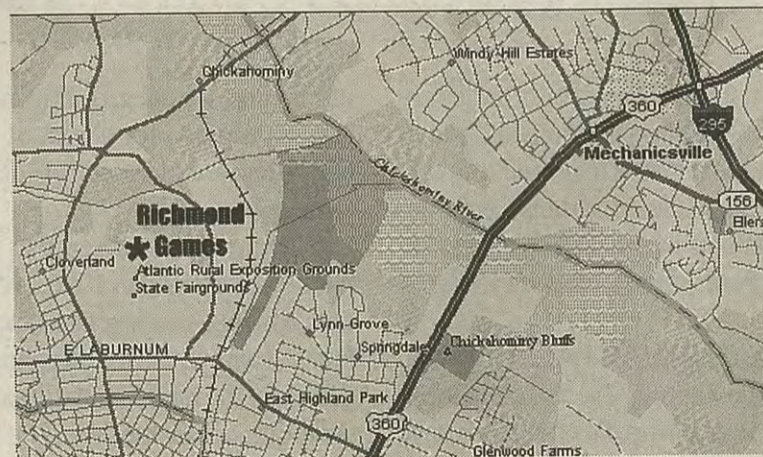
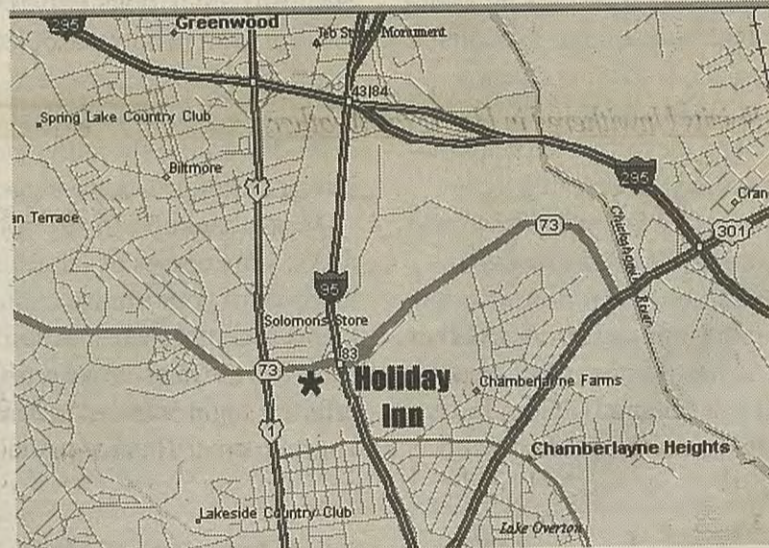
E-mail: _____

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

Mail to: Ms. Judi Parsons
414 Carrsbrook Drive
Charlottesville, VA 22901

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

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



continued from page one

Directions to the Holiday Inn and the Richmond Games are printed above. Read the essays on this page, and decide for yourself. It's worth it to come to Richmond this October. You can be proud to be a Grant and attend your AGM this fall!

For information or reservations help, contact our AGM Committee Chair:

Judi Parsons
414 Carrsbrook Drive
Charlottesville, VA 22901-1216
Ph.: 804-973-5409
e-mail: <judi@parsonage.net>

Grant Presence Discovered in Honolulu at Hawaiian Scottish Festival

by Bruce Grant

While recently visiting several Pacific Island nations, I found myself idle in Honolulu for two days waiting to catch the next flight to American Samoa. As luck would have it, these were the same days as the annual Hawaiian Scottish Festival. I soon found myself on the grounds of the Festival at beautiful Kapiolani Park, nestled between Diamond Head and the surf and sands of Waikiki. The Festival featured a myriad assortment of Scottish culture and music with local favorites including the Oahu Highland Dancers, the Royal Hawaiian Band, and the Celtic Pipes and Drums of Hawaii. By far my favorite local, however, was our own Bob Grant of the Hawaii Clan Grant. Bob (a retired Coast Guard Commander) stayed on in Hawaii after his military discharge. He has been keeping busy ever since with many Scottish organizations in the *Aloha State*—including the Saint Andrew Society of Hawaii and the Hawaii Scottish Association, which sponsors the Hawaiian Scottish Festival.

Bob and his son were most gracious hosts during my visit at the Festival,

and I was thrilled when Bob asked me to march beside him and help carry the Grant Banner during the parade and opening ceremonies. The Grants were one of only eleven clans represented at the Festival, and we can be assured of continued Grant visibility in Hawaii with Bob's help.

As I roamed around the festival grounds sampling the cuisine and trying not to get too sun-burned, I noticed an interesting booth sponsored by the Caledonian Society of Hawaii. The booth featured an intriguing display about the history of Scots in Hawaii and elsewhere across the South Pacific. From Captain Alexander Adams (adviser to King Kamehameha I), to Robert Louis Stevenson (novelist and poet), to Hawaii's own Princess Kaiulani who was half-Scottish, the Scots have made an indelible imprint on the life and social fabric of cultures throughout the South Seas during the past 200 years. As an anthropologist, I was particularly heartened to learn of the contributions that many Scots made to ease the plight of indigenous Pacific peoples. As a result of inevitable culture conflict

which arose with European and American colonization of the Pacific Islands, many Scots often took sides

*From Robert
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social fabric
of cultures
throughout the
South Seas.*

with the natives and staunchly advocated for their rights and well-being.

Most notable perhaps was Robert Louis Stevenson who became capti-

vated by the allure of the South Pacific and built a large house in Samoa which he called Vailima (Five Rivers). He lived here during the final years of his life and so endeared himself to the local Samoans that they built a road leading to the house which they called "the Road of the Loving Heart." I had the good fortune to visit Vailima and found it to be a truly enchanted place that remains somewhat of a pilgrimage site for all Scots traveling in the South Pacific. The sheer beauty of the lush gardens, jungle paths and tropical waterfalls that surround the home are worth anyone's visit for that matter.

Upon having come back home to Maryland with a greater appreciation of the Scottish—and Grant—presence in the South Pacific, I feel urged to learn much more about our heritage and legacy in this part of the world. Perhaps we can explore stronger linkages with the Clan Grant Societies in Australia and New Zealand, in addition to those in Canada and the UK. I'm sure we'll discover many stories that will make us all feel Great to be a Grant!

Spirits Unwithered in Hot Texas Weather

Great Local Participation in 12th Annual Texas Scottish Festival

by John Grant, High Plains Commissioner

The 12th Annual Texas Scottish Festival and Highland Games were held June 4-6 at Maverick Stadium in Arlington, TX. Held in the usual hot and humid Arlington weather, the temperature stayed in the 94-degree range all weekend. We would have all withered away in the Texas sun, had it not been for the casual breeze.

Our spirits were heightened during the entire weekend as new patrons came by the Clan Grant tent. We signed up several new members: Sharon Carnes Friend, Robert and Charlene Grant, Denise Farrel and several others promised mail-in registrations. Many current members came by to say hello and to offer their encouragement.

On Saturday, the Hamilton Pipe Band from Houston, TX, led the patrons in the high noon festivities. There were 74 Clan tents this year, the largest number ever. The "Parade of Tartans" was well-received and supplemented by a large display of "Clan Grant Tartan." We had our largest group ever to march around the pa-

rade field this year, a significant showing and promise for the future. Our daughter and granddaughter accompanied us in the parade to the delight of the crowd, especially the photographers present. They scurried to the edge of the field to take pictures of her marching amongst the members. I guess they had never seen a three-year-old in a red Grant kilt!

The entertainment was expanded with the addition of the musical groups "Seven Nations," "Brother," "Clandestine," "Poor Man's Fortune," and "Six Mile Bridge" sharing Celtic folk songs and music.

Athletic competitors strained to be the best in contests of strength and skill involving the throwing of various weights, including the Braemar Stone Put, Hammer Throw, Sheaf Toss, and the crowd-pleasing Caber Toss. Highland dancing and piping competitions concluded the weekend events.

With the close of this year's Texas festival, we are encouraged with positive feedback from local members toward a local presence "manning the tent" in next year's event. To that end,

with many "Grant & Septs" at next year's festival, we will have accomplished our goal in North Texas, as in Southeastern Texas, of more, direct, local participation.

Editorial Policy

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

Grant Items for Sale

<i>Traditions of Scotland</i> by Gilber Summers	\$25
<i>History of Clan Grant</i> by Lord Strathspey	\$35
Clan Grant Knit Shirts—Teal w/Gold Badge	\$17.50
<i>S-M-L-XL, please specify</i>	
Grant Pewter Kilt Pin (no postage)	\$15
Grant Ancient Tartan	\$40/yd
<i>(worsted, man's kilt= 5 yds., woman's skirt= 1 1/2 yds.)</i>	
Clan Badge Rubber Stamp	\$10
Grant Coat of Arms, 6"x4" Bronze Plaque	\$40
Coat of Arms Key Ring w/Leather Fob	\$30
Grant Wooden Wall Plaque, Large 10"x12"	\$65
Wooden Wall Plaque, Small 7"x8"	\$50
McClan Color Print—Grant Gillie	\$10

Add \$3 per order and give street address for UPS shipment.
Shipment to Canada invoiced at cost.

Make check payable to: Clan Grant Society
Send to: George Grant, 301 Master's Road, Hixson, TN 37343

Fourth Annual Midwest Scottish Heritage Festival Sees Growth

by John Grant, High Plains Commissioner

The United Scottish Clans of Oklahoma, Inc., sponsored the fourth annual Midwest Scottish Heritage Festival held on March 20 at Joe B. Barnes Memorial Park in Midwest City, OK. Cool, damp weather during the early hours of the morning warmed up for a lovely afternoon with the arrival of more than 3,000 festival-goers, a significant increase over last year's event.

Thirty-four Scottish Clans were represented this year, and the Clan tents were well-decorated with colorful banners and flags. Attendees dressed largely in their respective Tartan, adding to the colorful displays.

The 23rd Street Pipe Band, the North Texas Caledonian, and the Oklahoma Scottish Pipes and Drum

opened at the noon ceremony. The Parade of Tartans soon followed with a showing of Clan Grant Tartan. Special thanks goes out to Carole Richmond, who, dressed in her red Grant kilt skirt, drove over from Tulsa to support our Clan in the Parade.

A historical and educational event, the re-enactment of the crowning of Robert the Bruce during the opening ceremony is always a special feature of the MSHF. The re-enactment group comes from Tulsa, OK, and designs, reproduces and hand-makes all the clothing for their event.

The crowd was once again entertained by competitive events as they dispersed about the park. Musical entertainers, Highland Dancing, Sheep Dog demonstrations, and athletic competition were all integral parts of the

festival. And as usual, the "king of events" Caber Toss held everyone's attention to see which brawny competitor would prevail in an attempt to have the log fall properly to the ground in perfect alignment.

*Carole Richmond,
dressed in her
red Grant kilt skirt,
drove over from Tulsa
to support our Clan.*

For those of you who are unaware of the location of this festival, the Barnes Memorial Park is located just north of the destructive swath that recently devastated Oklahoma City and the surrounding communities. Our

friends tell us that the once non-visible entrance to Tinker Air Force Base can now be readily observed from their home near Memorial Park.

When my wife Helen and I began our attempt to organize the Plains States Grant Clans and their games in our area, our goal was to make the public aware of the Society and to encourage enrollment. With each passing year, more of the "Grant Red" appears in the opening ceremonies—a true measure of success in our endeavors and the mark of worth in every return trip.

Despite Last Minute Delays and Logistic Snafu, Clan Grant Takes the High Ground at Central Florida Highland Games

by Mike Bogeraz

This year's two days of Scottish Highland Games in Central Florida were blessed with the finest weather possible. By noon Friday, the temperature was 80 degrees, and attendees enjoyed the games under bright, clear skies. Friday was devoted to the young people, with all manner of game tents, face painting, clowns, and balloon creatures. In addition, the festivities included the usual Scottish agenda of sword fights, mounted knights, and challenging sporting events.

The food vendors this year were spread around the games area, rather than a single food service area. Likewise, vendors of Scottish merchandise were also spread out around the grounds. The decision to decentralize the booths eliminated crowding and any wait because of long lines. (My hot Fish & Chips were served within a five-minute window!) The public address system was also upgraded from last year and speakers were strategically placed throughout the Clan tent area. It's really surprising how many parents get lost from their kids.

Okay, that's the general good report.

For a more personal report of the day, the news began this way: "Murphy's Law" was in effect early on, continuing through midday. At 6:30 a.m. I went out to load up my jeep with the tent kit. I was greeted with a flat tire. Since jeeps use an over-sized

off-road tire, there was no way to just change a flat. A call was put into AAA, and I waited two hours before they showed up to patch it.

Consequently, I arrived at the games about 9:30 a.m., somewhat later than everyone else. The late arrival resulted in my inability to find the assigned location for the Clan Grant tent, nor anyone who knew anything about anything. It seems, the Game organizers didn't have a central location for the late people, like myself, to go for information.

Still the Clan Grant standard passed the reviewing stand without neglect in the Opening Ceremonies and a loud cheer went up. Right then and there, I knew I had to do something and *quickly!*

Standing fast, on a small hill, behind and above all the other Clan Tents was a shed with a lean-to attached. I immediately secured this location (like a sort of squatter) and raised the Grant standard. Judging from the number of sign-ins and copies of the *Craigellachie* handed out with membership applications, I don't believe we lost any opportunity to meet old and new friends.

The size of the crowds and the overflow in parked cars parked, with vacant fields pressed into service, all indicate a most successful games this year. Despite the series of personal

snafus and snarled traffic, the fun, plentiful attendees at the Central Florida Scottish Highland games found the Clan Grant properly represented, even elevated to new heights.

Fairhill Highland Games Draw Great Crowd, Showcase Native Sons on Bagpipes and Drums

by Allan Grant

May 15, we made our annual trek to Fairhill, Maryland, to the Fairhill Highland Games. This year our trip was a little different. Instead of getting up 'bright and early' to rush there and set up a tent, we were able to take our time, ride up with Henry and Ann Dagenais, and arrive like regular attendees to the games.

Our new Mid-Atlantic Commissioner, Bruce Grant, his wife Gigie, and sons Brian and Jason were doing the honors this year, setting up and manning the Grant tent. We were needed occasionally to help guard the valuables and talk to the visitors while they took a break. A really beautiful day of nice weather, drew a great turnout. The Grant tent had lots of visitors and greeting them was a very enjoyable event.

One of the highlights of the day was in the afternoon when, for the first time, I was able to hear Brian play the bagpipes. I knew he was doing well with

the chanter, taking first place at all the games in his class, but I didn't know that he had moved up to the pipes. Brian and a couple of others about his age, 11, put on a great show in the clan area for an hour or so. Their playing was well received and they got lots of applause.

Now Clan Grant has its own home-grown piper. Brian has promised to lead Clan Grant in the Christmas walk in Alexandria VA, this year. His brother Jason has taken up drumming, so it shouldn't be too long before we have the pair of them performing for us.

For the first time in years we were able to wander the grounds and watch the various events, listen to the music and just take it easy. I think I could get to like that. Manning the tent is always fun, too; you get to meet lots of interesting and fun people, and at every outing learn something new.

If you live in the Fairhill area, come out and see us next year. We are sure you'll enjoy yourself.



Ozarks Games Test Grant Mettle with 20-degree Windchill



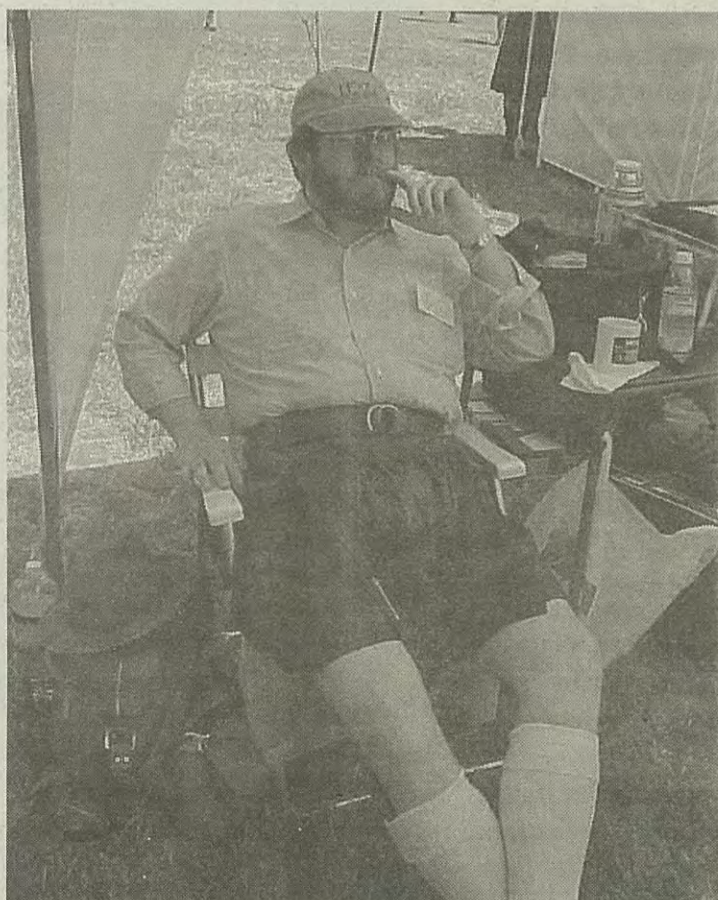
Ozarks Celtic Society proclaims Steve Grant "Honorary Chieftain," with a presentation at the group's annual gathering in Springfield, MO.



Ozarks Commissioner Steve Grant endured 20-degree windchill with members of Clans Ross, Sinclair, Macauley, and Gumm, wearing the regulation "Stand Fast" crest badge and a modern Grant tie.



L to R: "The Board of Clan Grant Society at the Sacramento Games — David Grant, Treasurer; Richard Grant, Member-at-Large and President of the Board; Howard Parsons, President of the Clan Grant Society; Allan Grant, Vice-President; Phil Smith, Secretary; Jim Suttie, Member-at-Large and California Commissioner; and George Grant, Member-at-Large and Convenor Emeritus."



California Snaps Show Board Members and Ladies at Sacramento Games

Above: "The power behind the thrones": Lucille Grant and Shirley Grant-Smith at the Sacramento Games. Lucille is wearing the ladies' "Grant of Auchnarrow" tartan. Left: Clan Grant USA Pres. Howard T. Parsons thinks 'on the hot seat.'



Bits o' the Thistle...

Events and News Briefs from the Hameland



Edinburgh Book Fair in August

Plans were recently announced for the Edinburgh Book Festival to be held on Charlotte Square in Edinburgh, Scotland from August 14 through August 30. Festival organizers have announced participation by Scottish authors such as Iain Banks (whose new novel "The Business" has an August publication date), Peter Ackroyd, Beryl Bainbridge, Ruth Rendell, and Will Self.

New Scottish Stamps in Use

The Post Office has unveiled a new set of stamps to mark the start of the new Scottish Parliament (and another set for the Welsh assembly). The first and second class stamps show the lion rampant and the saltire, while the 30p stamp has a thistle. The highest denomination, 64p, has a tartan design. The stamps went on sale June 8, 1999. Normal commemorative stamps in the UK have short lifespans, but these stamps will be in use for a longer time period.

Schoolgirl Grant Gets Outing

Eileen Grant, the last and only pupil at Loch Choire Primary School in Sutherland was recently taken on an educational trip to London by her teacher, Mary Harris. Mrs Harris, who has taught Eileen for the last five years, described the trip as "a success but something of a culture shock".

Scot Golfers July Schedule

Colin Montgomery and Ernie Els will be amongst those participating at the Standard Life Loch Lomond Golf competition July 10. They will be getting in some last minute practice before the Open Golf Championship at Carnoustie on July 15-18.

QEII Declares Dec. 31 Holiday

In the last week of June, Queen Elizabeth declared December 31, 1999 as a public holiday, to be observed throughout the United Kingdom. The holiday was set aside in order for as many Brits as possible to have time to prepare for millennium celebrations.

Space Limitations, Deadlines Encourage On-line Use of MacLachlan Games Listing

With the growing numbers of Scottish events in North America, the challenge is increasing to keep up with them all. Publications like *The Highlander* and *The Scottish Banner* do a good job publicizing the schedules of games, but have space limitations and deadline constraints, as does the *Craigellachie*.

However, if you have access to the world wide web, you may have an edge in awareness. Clan MacLachlan publishes the Scottish Highland Games and Celtic Festival Listings, a most thorough and authoritative listing of Scottish Festivals and Games. Here you will find detailed, up-to-date information about most of the events in North America. Clan MacLachlan lists events up to a year in advance, a big help if you need to plan next year's schedule. To see for yourself, point your browser to <<http://www.shirenet.com/macLachlan/games.html>>

Scottish Fiddlers in USA, Canada

The Scottish Fiddle Orchestra, run by the members and directed by Conductor/Musical Director, John Mason, MBE, will tour Ireland, Canada and the USA this year. The Inaugural Concert of the orchestra in March, 1980, took place in the Music Hall, Aberdeen, Scotland.

Since that time the established program consists of six annual concerts—usually held in the Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow; the Usher Hall, Edinburgh; the Town Hall, Birmingham; the Music Hall, Aberdeen; the Caird Hall, Dundee; and the Royal Albert Hall in London.

The orchestra is not paid and is self-governed, aims for a quality and range of the music, and to be lighthearted and joyful. The average number of players at any concert is eighty.

The orchestra will play in Seattle, WA, on July 13 and 14, ending with concerts in Canada on July 16. For concert schedule information visit their website: <http://www.relrecords.co.uk/Artists%20SFO.htm> or phone the Seattle Box Office at: (206) 628 0888 or (206) 628 0888.

Nessie Sighted Via Webcam

A couple from Texas, who were watching Loch Ness via the Internet webcam last week, claim to have seen the elusive Nessie, the shy local monster. They saw a head and neck in front of Urquhart Castle travelling fairly fast and leaving a V-shaped wake behind. June is apparently a popular month for sighting Nessie. There have been over 3,000 sightings of strange objects or animals in the 23-mile long loch. The webcam is at <www.lochness.scotland.net> or visit the web at <www.lochness.co.uk/livecam>

Campaign 'Keep Left' Begins

In some parts of the Highlands and Islands almost one third of all road accidents involve foreign drivers and in the area as a whole the figure in the summer months is around ten percent.

While some of this may be attributed to driving on unfamiliar roads, anyone who finds themselves driving on the "wrong" side of the road (whether tourists here or UK residents driving abroad) will know the difficulties involved.

So from this week, a multi-lingual leaflet "Driving in Scotland" is being promoted at tourist outlets. Crashes and near misses often arise when drivers leave a stretch of Highland single track and fail to keep left. Starting out early in the morning, is another major cause of accidents and the leaflet incorporates a dashboard sticker reminding drivers to "keep left!"

Beer Sales Fall Flat in UK

Figures published this summer show that beer sales in British and Scottish venues have declined to the lowest numbers in 28 years. Wine now outsells beer in the UK, and red wine, with purported health benefits, outsells its counterpart white vintages. Due to lower French duties on alcohol imports, there are widespread reports of beer and alcohol cargo in private cars returning from France through the channel tunnel.

Capitol Humor...

An advertisement in an Edinburgh newspaper read "For sale. Genuine leopard-skin coat. Spotless condition."

Passport Woes in the UK

A crisis is currently underway at the British Passport Agency's Home Office, according to reports in *The Scotsman*, a Scottish daily. Facing a backlog of more than half-a-million passport applicants, a number of measures have been set in place to deal with the unfolding trouble, yet without much success to date.

The processing delays were blamed on problems with a new computer system, a summer surge in applications, and new regulations demanding children have passports of their own.

A telephone hotline set up for travelers caught in the backlogged process crashed under the volume of calls earlier this month. The phone center had been opened to ease the pressure on the processing system and to shrink the waiting applicants pool; however, thousands of callers dialing the toll-free number found them constantly busy.

All 1,500 main UK post offices were authorized to provide free, two-year extensions to passports for a week-long period. Agency staffers slated to participate in an annual Home Office sports day were also called back to work.

Some reports suggested that workers at the Liverpool issuing office still went sightseeing in London, where the sports day was underway, when unable to cancel their travel reservations at notice of the call back. This added to the fuel of critics who upbraided the current Government for the continuing passport crisis.

Reports from Glasgow stated that the 25 Scottish Passport Office employees due to travel to London for the sports day were at their post at their home desks. One staff member said: "Morale is pretty low, but the queues were a bit shorter today, so everyone is hoping there is some light at the end of the tunnel." Staff members are working at night and over weekends.

An additional hundred staffers will be hired for the passport offices, to join 300 workers already hired, until the backlog abates. However, UK's Home Secretary Jack Straw concedes a dramatic fall in numbers of applications would have to occur for the service to be back to normal, even by October.

Even calls by the press to the Home Office media desk went unanswered.

California Games Commissioner Suttie, and wife Carol, Attend Almost All CA Games

continued from page three

Jim retired in 1985 after a successful career as a technical specialist in Silicon Valley, and Carol retired three years ago. Yet 'retired' is the last activity you associate with these two, after watching them work at a Highland games. There are Scottish Highland Games every weekend in California, beginning annually in April. Jim and Carol represent Clan Grant at almost all of them. Loaded with tents, chairs, tables, artifacts, coolers, their station wagon is a rolling repository of everything required to pitch a top-notch Clan tent.

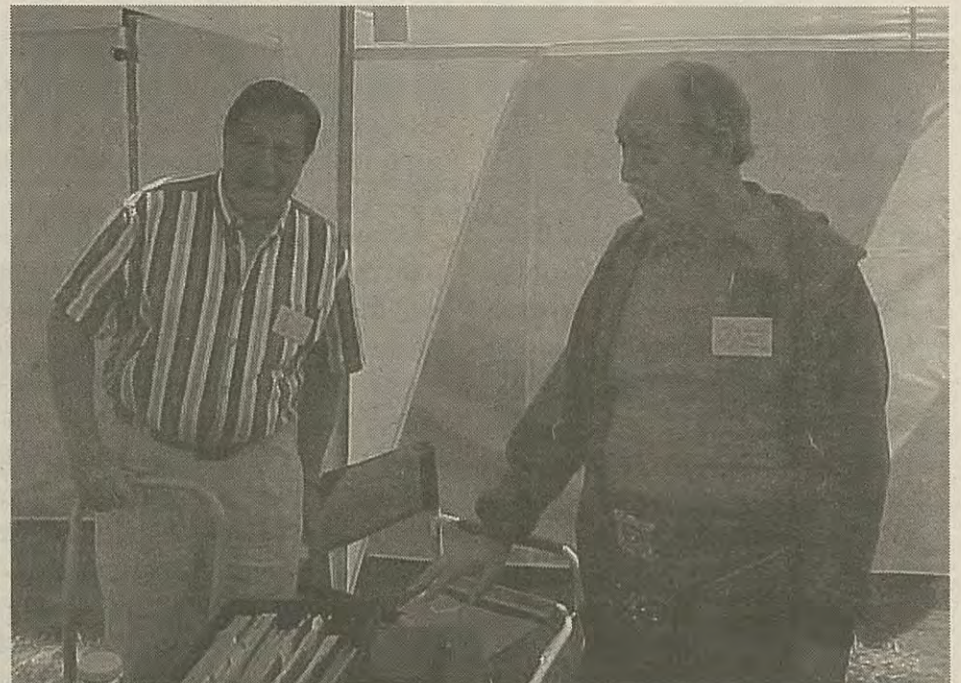
Each item is folded or packed precisely to fit in a specific place in the wagon. Because we held the CGS Board meeting at the Sacramento Games this year, they brought two

tents and extra chairs for the visiting Board Members. Amazingly, even the extra supplies still fitted into that wagon. With Jim and Carol's directions, it took only 30 minutes for four people to close up shop and get the

With members like these two, no wonder we're growing!

wagon ready for the next stop.

They are both Life Members of the Clan Grant Society, USA. Next year, Jim and Carol hope to go to Scotland for Clan Grant Games in August. With members like these two, no wonder we're growing!



Richard Grant, CGUSA Board President and Member-at-Large, and Jim Suttie, California Commissioner and Member-at-Large, organize the Grant files at Sacramento Games in May.

A View of Y2K from the Other Side of the Pond

After Concern and Some Debate, Local Council is Confident Following Latest Check of Moray's Preparedness for Millennium Bug

Preparations being made by Moray Council to deal with possible disruption caused by the Millennium date change have taken on a brighter hue, according to the latest review of Scottish local authorities.

The council was concerned earlier this year when a COSLA/Scottish Office report was made public which branded Moray as being unprepared for the potential problems which may be caused by the arrival of the year 2000.

The latest check, however, has taken Moray out of the danger zone. All organisations and businesses have been urged to take steps to stamp out the threat of the Millennium Bug.

There is a possibility that IT systems (including equipment containing embedded chips) may fail to operate correctly due to an inability of the program to cope with certain forthcoming dates, explained Mr Douglas Reid, who is heading up the council's Year 2000 team, in a report to Tuesday's meeting of the policy and resources committee.

"This failure may then cause any 'service' reliant on the use of such equipment to be compromised," he revealed.

"Estimates of the impact of the event range from total reversion to the Dark Ages to minor inconvenience.

"Assurances have been forthcoming from the main utilities that services will not be interrupted but no-one is willing to give an absolute assurance of this."

The council had strongly denied the classification given to it in the first main survey that it was ill-prepared.

Based on an initial survey questionnaire, most of Scotland's 32 local authorities were considered not fully prepared for the Millennium.

Councils were colour graded on their responses to the questions posed

"We are not exactly finished but our plans are well on target with enough time to tidy up any outstanding matters before the end of the year."

—green if they were computer bug free, amber if they were on course to stamp out the threat and red if COSLA was concerned at their progress.

Moray was one of 13 local authorities given the red light. The position was disputed by the council, however, which stressed that work has been carried out over the past 18 months to

check all systems ranging from personal computer to traffic lights, street lights and heating in old folks homes.

It was said then that the results of the questionnaire had been misinterpreted. Following the latest Accounts Commission detailed audit on the council's action, it has been given an amber grading.

"We are now amber, very amber," said Mr Reid. "We are not exactly finished but our plans are well on target with enough time to tidy up any outstanding matters before the end of the year."

Policy and resources committee chairman, Councillor Ali Farquharson (Elgin-Central) praised the hard work already put in by the project team.

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Call is Out for Number Attending 2000 Event

continued from page one

tial attendees from the stateside Society. A 'guess-timate' of forty (40) attendees has been posited, but we need to get a better idea as soon as possible. If you are seriously considering attendance at the 2000 gathering, contact CGUSA Vice President Allan F. Grant to register your interest at: 651 C Street, Pasadena, MD 21122. You may also contact Allan by phone at: 410-437-1399 or e-mail him: <afg29@aol.com>

Craigellachie

Submissions Policy

The *Craigellachie* is the official quarterly publication of the Clan Grant Society USA, Inc. — a non-political, nonsectarian, and nonprofit charitable organization under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Service Code 501(c).

The newsletter is used to promote the interests of the Society and cultivate the ties held by its readership.

Official notice of meetings, elections, and Board or Officer actions will be published herein.

The Editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length, for content, and for agreement with the CG USA, Inc. mission.

Submissions deadlines will be published in advance of each issue.

Year 2000 Opportunities for Scottish Music Events

The Royal Scottish National Orchestra's annual Viennese Ball will be held at the Glasgow Hilton on Saturday, January 29, 2000, while Edinburgh's Gala Ball will take place on Saturday, March 25, 2000, in Edinburgh's Assembly Rooms.

These gala events include drinks reception, excellent cuisine and the opportunity to dance to jazz, Scottish dance music and Scotland's national symphony orchestra.

To reserve tickets or tables of ten and receive further information, please contact Carol Stevenson or Claire Armstrong at the RSNO, telephone 0141 225 3565 or 0141 225 3560.

Glasgow Games Hold Enjoyment, New Members, and—in 2001, the Int'l Games!

by George Grant

Glasgow is located in rural south central Kentucky, not accessible by interstate. Lucille and I stayed in Cave City on I-65 and drove the 24 miles each way to Barren River State Park, the location of the Glasgow Scottish Games. The country was quite beautiful—consisting of farming land and small manufacturing plants. The rural setting provided the perfect backdrop for the 3,500 people attending the games.

Richard Grant set up and organized the Clan Grant tent at the Glasgow Games, making it a warm and inviting sight. The tables were arranged on the left side and across the back, with potted plants flanking both sides of the entrance.

We attended the Friday night Sponsors' Reception and Barbecue, and Saturday evening we opted for a quiet dinner and early evening, rather than joining the crowd at the Saturday night Tartan Ball.

Saturday morning, we were ready for visitors by 8:00 a.m. We joined with Richard and Kathy at the tent, inviting people inside for conversation.

We had an architect from Nashville, TN by the last name of Allan join, along with his family. Several others expressed interest in membership in the Society.

Clan Grant sponsored its first annual trophy for the Harp Contest at the Glasgow Games. Richard made the presentation to Lady Di Pennington in memory of her late daughter, an accomplished harpist and five-time winner at various games, who had died at the age of twenty-eight about four months ago [a first "Flowers of the Forest" award in the harp contest].

At some point, Richard had the creative idea to give away the potted plants in some spectacular fashion that would bring credit and attention to Clan Grant (or Kathy would make him dig holes and plant them, upon arriving home!). We decided the plants needed a moniker and "American Heather" came to be. All of us have bought a Heather plant at a game, only to have it die one week after planting. So, we told the Game organizers that Richard had, after several years, grown a Heather plant that would, in fact, grow in the United States. Its only

drawback was that it would not turn purple in the summer. We suggested the plants be given away to one of the participating Clans at the games. The offer was enthusiastically welcomed. George went around to all the Clan tents and got them to put their Clan name on a piece of paper for the drawing. Sunday morning. After the Church service, Richard and George conducted the drawing in our tent. The winning names were given to the Games announcer to be revealed at the end of the Parade of Tartans.

For the Parade of Tartans, Colin Grant-Adams, the Scottish singer and

musician, marched with Richard. Both wore Ancient Grant tartan kilts.

The Plan went well, the names were announced, Clan Grant received accolades for the gesture. One winner gleefully picked up his hard-earned prize! The other winner had left the games early, leaving Richard to dig at least one hole. All in all, we had an enjoyable weekend spent with good friends.

Remember that in the year 2001, the International Highland Games will be held in Glasgow, KY. We are planning a big bash. The call is out to all Grants: be there in 2001!

Royals, Ministers, Scots Celebrate Historic Day

Queen Elizabeth was in Scotland on July 1, 1999 for the opening ceremony of the first democratically elected Parliament in Scotland's history.

In an otherwise rainy week, the sun shone on the Thursday gathering as the Duke of Hamilton, dressed in a Douglas tartan kilt, carried the crown of Scotland, to the Parliament He is the premier peer in Scotland and a descendant of King James IV. The crown that he presented before Parliament was last used for the coronation of Charles II in 1651.

Wearing the colors of the thistle (a green dress with purple overcoat coat and hat), the Queen addressed the Parliament, saying, "Now you must make it work."

She also presented an engraved mace made of Scottish-mined silver, with a gold band panned from Scottish rivers, bearing the opening sentence of the enabling Act of the Westminster Parliament: "There Shall Be a Scottish Parliament" and also the words "Wisdom, justice, compassion, integrity."

A spontaneous round of applause from the other Ministers in the Scottish Parliament greeted Donald Dewar, the First Minister, as he entered the

Chamber for the ceremony. Some journalists dubbed the event D-Day (Donald's Day). Dewar remarked, "The past is part of us, part of every one of us and we respect that. But today there is a new voice in the land, a voice for the future."

David Steel concluded his welcome to the Queen with "we greet the monarch in the historic and constitutionally correct manner, with warmth and affection, as Queen of Scots."

The ceremony was followed by an RAF Red Arrows display team flypast, with a Concorde leading the aerial group.

Historical Quote Shows 'Need' for Parliament

"I dinna ken muckle about the law," answered Mrs Howden; "but I ken, when we had a king, and a chancellor, and parliament-men o' our ain, we could aye pebble them wi' stanes when they werna gude bairns. But naeboddy's nails can reach the length o' Lunnon."

From "The Heart of Midlothian" by Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832)

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