



Craigellachie



Spring/Summer 2000

It's great to be a Grant!

Volume XXIII • Numbers 1-2

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
442 Freedom Blvd.
West Brandywine, PA 19320-1559
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

Jean Grant Wilson
11249 Irish Moss Dr.
Jacksonville, FL 32257-1537
clngrant@mediaone.net

Games Commissioner

Scott Grant
116 Durgin Road
Bennington, NH 03442-4512
sgrant@conknet.com

Editor

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

Last Call For Clan Grant Scotland Gathering!

The Clan Grant Millennium Gathering in Scotland is three short months away. All who are planning to attend this landmark gathering should have almost-completed or finalized travel plans.

The dinner and Ceilidh scheduled for Castle Grant on August 12th has sold out and no more reservations will be taken; however, all other events for the week of August 12th thru 18th are still open for reservations.

The UK society *does* need to finalize the bookings for the motorcoaches during that week. As of press time, the number of reservations available for motorcoaches is somewhat less than

the number of people who plan to attend. So, all who wish to join in the Grant country excursions August 12th thru 18th must fill out and submit the Reservation Form on page three as soon as possible, if not already sent in. The completed forms must be accompanied by a Sterling Money Order for the total amount. Reservations without payment will not be accepted. Address correspondence to:

Grants of Dalvey
Alness, Ross-shire
IV17 OXT, Scotland, UK
Attn: Lyn Thompson
Since time is rather short, you may fax your form to Lyn and then phone

her with your credit card information, since airmail can take up to two weeks or more. Time is limited. The FAX number is +44 1349 884 100 and the voice number is +44 1349 884 111. (Remember to first dial 011 for international direct dialing!)

Vice President Allan Grant is in charge of coordinating trip information for members of the US Clan Grant Society. For the latest news, contact him at:

651 C Street
Pasadena, MD 21122
Phone: 410-437-1399
e-mail: afg29@aol.com

...see you in Scotland!

Plans Underway for 4th AGM at Loon Mtn. Games

The 4th Clan Grant Society AGM will be held in conjunction with the New Hampshire Highland Games, September 15th thru 17th at the Loon Mountain Ski Resort in Lincoln, NH. Callum Grant, owner of the Scottish Connection, and New Hampshire Commissioner, Lyle Grant are helping plan activities for this Society event.

Through the efforts of Callum Grant, a block of 40 rooms is reserved at the Comfort Inn and Suites in Lincoln. The price is \$109.00 per room, double occupancy, including continental breakfast. Rate does not include tax at 8%. Callum Grant has indicated that the Loon Mtn. Event always tends to draw a significant number of Grants, so this block of rooms will likely be reserved early. Past attendees know that the Loon Mtn. Games hotel/motel accom-

modations are quite dear in Lincoln, NH, on the weekend of the event. Therefore, make your plans and reservations now, by contacting:

Comfort Inn and Suites
Route 112
Lincoln, NH. 03251
Attn: Ms Susan McHenry
Tel: 1-888-589-8112
<http://www.comfortinnloon.com>

Event information, advance tickets, etc., may be obtained through:

New Hampshire Highland Games
P.O. Box 358
Lincoln, NH 03251-0358
or via the World Wide Web at:
<http://www.nhscot.org>

A complete agenda and schedule of events will be sent to members for July receipt.

Since we endeavour to hold our

AGM at different locations around the country, it may be some time before the AGM returns to New England. If you live nearby, within any relatively easy driving distance, please make every effort to attend this event. The AGM for 2001 will be held in conjunction with the Glasgow, KY, games and 2002 could well find the Grant Clan meeting in California.

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST



Memorial Tribute to Elaine Grant, and list of other Flowers of the Forest, pp. 2-3

Inside this issue...

Editor's Forum	2
Letter from Strathspey	2
Elaine Grant Memorial	2
Coach Reservation Form	3
Millennium Events	3
Flowers of Forest	3
Clan Grant Origin Found	4
Castle Grant News	5
Games Pages	6-7
Armoury, Tartan News	8

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

at:

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

Submissions deadline
for the fall/winter issue of the
Craigellachie
is September 27, 2000

Craigellachie

c/o Jean Grant Wilson
Membership Secretary
11249 Irish Moss Dr.
Jacksonville, FL 32257-1537

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 65
SEWANEE, TN

Bound to Scotland

Editor's Forum

by Margaret S. MacDonald Morris

The time of departure is drawing close for the Millennium Gathering of Grants in Nethybridge, Scotland, **August 12-August 18, 2000**. The events are planned, most bookings are secured, and Lord Strathspey & Committee assure the US Grants of a "warm *Highland Welcome*."

I, for one, am already packing for my first trip abroad and my first visit to Scotland, the Homeland.

As you will note, this is a spring/summer edition of *Craigellachie*, due to another venture of your editor—who is back into the final half of a graduate program in English, writing concentration, at Western Kentucky University. I plan to produce separate fall and winter issues, and thank you for your patience and good wishes in the fall!

Meanwhile, thanks to all Clan Grant members who have begun to submit their games reports and news of home and hearth to my e-mail address or the PO Box in Tennessee. Keep up the good work. This newsletter is for *you!* *Your feedback and contributions are essential to its success.*

On page one of this issue, please read the important article from President Howard Parsons on the Annual General Meeting in Lincoln, New



Hampshire at the Loon Mountain games in September (the 15-17th). *Sometime in July, Howard Parsons will send you a letter with details of the AGM itinerary. Look for this important mailing in your PO box!*

Also note the Coach Reservation form on the facing page. If you wish to join the Clan Grant entourage on the planned excursions, you must make your reservations immediately. Simply fill in the form, then clip and mail it in.

Articles in this edition will apprise you of: Castle Grant's new ownership and the Castle itself; the final installment of the Clan Grant Armoury article; news about our Clan history; Scott Grant's report on the state of our Games; games reports themselves; and Tartan news.

We mourn the passing of a lovely member of our Grant clan—Elaine Grant. Yet we celebrate her life and spirit in an article from George and Lucille Grant. We have other Flowers of the Forest to report, and to each family represented, we share in your loss and keep you close in thoughts and prayers.

As we take on a schedule of summer games and enjoyment across the United States and Overseas, let us keep in touch and Standfast—because that is our heritage—remembering it's *great to be a Grant!*

Edited from Letter
Spring Standfast/No. 15

Lord Strathspey
School House
Lochbuie, Isle of Mull
PA62 6AA



Dear Kinsmen,

Spring has arrived at last and I can look out of my window here on Mull at the daffodils blooming and the rhododendrons...

I have just returned from a weekend at Nethybridge...I am delighted that the new (Castle Grant) owners are honouring our booking and look forward to a future at the castle which I hope will include the Clan and the Society.

Our Committee have worked tirelessly to make the (Millenium Gathering) week's events enjoyable. I understand there will be a sizeable contingent from Overseas. I know that we will give them a truly warm "Highland Welcome."

Standfast Craigellachie,
Your Kinsman and Chief
Strathspey

Elaine Rose Schmitt Grant is Fondly Missed by Many Friends

by George and Lucille Grant

We first met Elaine at Grandfather Mountain Games in 1985. She and Ed were on a golf vacation with friends and came to the games as spectators. They stopped at our tent, and we talked with them for quite a while. Elaine's wore a large-brimmed hat, and a big smile—her trademarks. She showed genuine interest in the Grant Clan. Later, they returned and joined the Society.

We invited them to go to Scotland in August with a group of Grants, and, after they returned home and thought about it, said "yes." We had a great time with them and became fast friends. We visited them at Ocean Reef and they came to Hixson. We played golf, shopped antique stores, and bargain clothing shops. We attended Highland games in Florida during the winter.

One year in Orlando, we heard about a curling event. A Bonspiel was held at the Ice Rink on International Boulevard. A bunch of Canadians were in town. Elaine organized Ed, a Scottish couple, and us into a curling team, with her as our "SKIP" (Captain). We lost our first and only match



Elaine Rose Schmitt Grant
April 18, 1926—February 3, 2000

6-4 to a group of experts from Thunder Bay, Ontario. Elaine received an ovation from our opponents when her stone cleared the button of three of their stones. Her smile lit up the rink.

When Ed and Elaine's son, Doug, was promoted to Colonel, we sent her

two three-inch long eagles to wear at the ceremony.

Elaine's enthusiasm in everything she did made being with her a wonderful experience. She was a person of strong convictions and opinions; she was never shy about expressing either. She gave loving, thoughtful advice, that if followed would make life better. No one like a good story more, straight or risqué.

When she talked Ed into buying a computer with Internet capability, you could be sure of receiving something several times a month in your e-mail. She would produce birthday and anniversary cards, and print them out in color for her friends. Just two weeks before her passing, she sent a great joke: "The missing Chapter of Genesis." We can still hear her delightful laugh.

There are far happier stories to share than space in the newsletter will allow. By now, she has found the antique clock case she sought. We are thankful Elaine shared herself with us. We are both better for the experience of knowing her. We'll miss Elaine, but will never forget her. She

was interred at Arlington National Cemetery February 22, 2000.

Rest In Peace

Eulogy by Rev. John Harland at Amelia Plantation Chapel, February 5, 2000

We remember one of God's most faithful and beautiful servants this day with deep affection and sincere gratitude. Elaine was a woman who knew the value of family and love and loyalty that went with a 54-year marriage. She was a woman who met the man of her life on a blind date in Yale—in the midst of World War II, and who nine months later married Edmund in Alamogordo, NM, where Ed was in flight training. Her devotion to family, as a wife and mother, is a living testimony of the values she cherished, taught, and lived. The sons of her home and marriage are reflections of the honesty, truth, and patriotism that were always a part of her teaching and living. It was never, "do it because I told you so," but rather a gentle but firm sharing of the knowledge and value in the best of life's teaching in a way that Geoff and Doug could understand and would remember in the living of their lives.

continued on page three

Elaine Grant eulogy continued:

One of the values she taught and lived was "The responsibility of giving back." Elaine was a person who was grateful for the blessings of life and never forgot who and what were most important in her life—her husband Edmund and her sons Geoffrey and Douglas, their spouses Sherill and Susan, and her grandchildren Lisa, Jason, Tyler, and Micah. But beyond that there were agencies and Societies that met the needs and concerns to which she was devoted: such as volunteering at the Park Ridge School for Girls and the Infant Welfare Society of Chicago and always making neighbors and friends feel the warmth of welcome that she could so graciously convey.

Elaine had a great variety of talents—she could create beautiful things with paints stained glass, and was a wonderful seamstress as well. On the golf course, she was a great and gracious competitor, or on the ice, a competent curler; but whether it was victory or defeat, she always had an eye towards the finish line. Elaine was a friend to all, whether that was Chicago, Ocean Reef, or Osprey Village, others knew her warmth and gracious spirit.

The one who knew her best, of course, was Edmund. Ed and Elaine: a great couple. Through 54 years of sharing, loving, and adventure, they built a warm and secure home in which they nurtured their sons to be the kind of people that make this world better. Their faith expresses the belief that the Providence of God brought them together and guided them through those years. Elaine's Presbyterian heritage had a great influence on their life and the celebration of life within the Grant Clan in the Scot tradition. Why did Ed fall in love with Elaine and share those fifty-four years? Perhaps it can best be summed up in a line from "The Rose of Tralee": "Ah no, was the truth in her eye ever dawning." We can only say, "Thank you, God, for Elaine. For her gentle-hearted, wise, patient, humorous, caring, loving life! Thank, you GOD!"

Memorial contributions may be made to the Community Hospice of Northeast Florida, 4266 Sunbeam Road, Jacksonville, FL, 32257.



Flowers of the Forest

Sarah Elizabeth Grant, mother of Stoney Grant passed away October 31, 1999, at 2:40 am. She was 98 years young, from Jacksonville, FL.

Jean Grant Altevogt of Ft. Wayne, IN, died February 27, 1999.

Clarence Hubert Grant of Salisbury, MD, died April 16, 1999.

Jenora W. Miller of Clewiston, FL, has passed away; no date was given.

RESERVATION FORM (Coach only)

As a lot of organisation is required, it would be very helpful if you could decide which trips you wish to take, and make your coach bookings as soon as possible. This will enable us to book an adequate amount of coaches for the number participating on any particular day. If left until the last minute, there may not be any seats available, and people could be disappointed. The amounts below are for coach costs only. Entrance costs to venues, e.g. Nethybridge Highland Games, Rothiemurchus Estate, Loch Ness Cruise, etc. should be paid by members themselves at the various locations, on the day. (Entry fees are given along with other details daily, for information only)

	Coach Cost(per person)	Number Required	Total Cost Per Day	Please Tick To Reserve
Day 1. Saturday 12 th August	£4.50			
Day 2. Sunday 13 th August	£2.00			
Day 3. Monday 14 th August	£2.50			
Day 4. Tuesday 15 th August	£4.00			
Day 5. Wednesday 16 th August	£3.00			
Day 6. Thursday 17 th August	£3.00			
Day 7. Friday 18 th August	£1.50			
TOTAL COACH COSTS FOR WEEK :			£	

For overseas members, please pay by Sterling Money Order.

For UK members please pay by cheque, in both cases, made payable to the Clan Grant Society. YOUR REMITTANCE IS TO COVER TOTAL COACH COSTS FOR THE WEEK. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY:

Membership Number.....
 Name(s).....
 Address.....

Please Return the completed form to

**Lyn Thompson,
 Clan Grant Society,
 C/o. Grants of Dalvey,
 ALNESS,
 Ross-shire,
 IV17 0XT.**

POSTED EVENTS FOR AUGUST 12-18TH

CLAN GRANT MILLENNIUM CELEBRATION, NETHYBRIDGE

- DAY 1, SAT. 12TH: ALL DAY UNTIL 5 P.M. *Highland Games & Clan Gathering, Nethybridge*
 7:30 P.M. UNTIL MIDNIGHT *Dinner & Ceilidh at Castle Grant, Grantown on Spey*
- DAY 2, SUN. 13TH 11:00 A.M. *Annual General Meeting at Duthil Kirk (NO COST)*
 P.M. *Free time*
- DAY 3, MON. 14TH: 10:00 A.M. *Rothiemurchus, Estate Tour by Coach, accompanied by Countryside Ranger, a visit to the Doune, and welcome by John Grant of Rothiemurchus.*
 2:30 P.M. *Abernethy Nature Reserve, Loch Garten – to see the Ospreys.*
 EVENING *Museum private visit, Grantown on Spey*
- DAY 4, TUES. 15TH: ALL DAY: *Coach trip begins at 9:45 a.m. down Loch Ness to Urquhart Castle, with 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. stop-off at Loch Ness Monster Exhibition at Drumnadrochit and at 12:30 p.m. a visit to Castle Urquhart. Cruise underway at 2:00 p.m. through Caledonian Canal to Muirtown Locks.*
- DAY 5, WED. 16TH: 11:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M. *Visit to Ballindalloch Castle*
 4:00 P.M. *Strathspey Steam Railway, Boat of Garten (one-hour roundtrip)*
- DAY 6-THU. 17TH: 10:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M. *Visit w/lunch (NO COST) at Glenfiddich Distillery, Wm. Grant Ltd.*
- DAY 7-FRI. 18TH: 10:30 A.M. *Farewell Address at Castle Grant*
 P.M. *Free time*

Note: Coaches will pick up and deposit passengers daily at War Memorial, The Square, Grantown on Spey and at Nethybridge Hotel. If you have not made transportation reservations already, fill out the above form and post (with haste) to Lyn Thompson in the UK. Tartans or appropriate dress requested for Clans on Parade and Dinner and Ceilidh at Castle Grant (dinner at Castle is now booked with standby list).

Cromdal Text Plows New Ground to Unearth Grant Origins

by Edward A. Grant

The story of *how* the origins of the Clan were 'rediscovered' is material enough for a book, and far too long for the pages of *Craigellachie*. The short version is that various Clansfolk from all over the world contributed, sending their pieces of the jigsaw. Their observations and support culminated in the discovery of an old book entitled *Genealogical Collections*, published in 1750. The book had gathered dust in a library in Minnesota, until one chapter led to a discovery.

There has been much debate and argument over the origins of Clan Grant, especially since Sir William Fraser's *The Chiefs of Grant* of 1884, in which he first raised the idea of Norman origins. This piece of conjecture soon became established a 'fact' as ensuing writers and publishers referred to the work.

Over a hundred years later, however, tales of Sol Alpin, of Norsemen, and the Clan's ties with Clan MacGregor, persisted. My own study of the Normans and Scottish history, made Norman origins seem impossible—but it's one thing to make such a statement and quite another to actually prove or disprove it.

So what were the Clan's origins? Would it be possible to find any evidence of a link with the first Scottish King? Where did stories of Norsemen come into play? These questions seemed important to me. Even if clan origins could not be properly identified, at least the Norman nonsense could be exposed. After all, our heritage and origins *do matter*.

The book changed everything.
EARLIEST YEARS

The origins of a Clan are more than the bloodline of its Chief—origins are about the men, women and children of a region, and how they formed interdependent communities and an identity. Clans didn't suddenly come into existence; indeed, the point at which a community of people actually becomes a Clan is unknown and probably always will be.

We do know that the Scottish region known today as Grant Country was in the heartland of the Picts for many centuries, and that Kenneth MacAlpin and his army did their best to erase Picts from Scotland with a singleminded purpose that beggars belief. The Picts were all but erased—despite many centuries of their tenure in Scotland, we have little evidence of them or their culture.

So by 850, the region was populated by the remnants of the Picts and by the all-conquering Scots. During this period, the Vikings were coloniz-

ing great swathes of Northern Europe, and the North and West of Scotland effectively became Norse territory. The Vikings also colonized Iceland to the North. There they founded a tolerant, enlightened community which became a destination for newly converted Christian Vikings. These converts faced persecution and death in their Norwegian homeland at the hands of those who worshipped the *Aesir*—the Norse gods.

However, in the year 950, Iceland was torn apart by the eruption of Eldgja—a huge volcano. The US Geological Survey estimated that the eruption lasted for between five and eight years, and was some 400 times as powerful as Mt. St. Helens. Every plant and tree was choked by ash. The fisheries were destroyed by a crust which blocked the sun's life-giving rays. The skies

*We are certain
the name Grant
is derived from a
fearsome Viking,
and that Alland,
his grandson,
brought the name
to the people of
Strathspey.*

darkened with ash, dust, and clouds laden with acid rain. The people of Iceland had a stark choice: to leave or to starve. But where could they go?

The fact is that we do not know: no record has yet been found. However, we do know they couldn't go to Norway, to the Shetlands or the Orkneys, or to the North or West of Scotland. This leaves only the Viking settlements in Ireland, which were tolerant of Christians, or the East Coast of Scotland. It is my contention that ships laden with men, women, children and such livestock and goods as they could muster, sailed south and found landfall in the Firth of Moray. With them came valuable skills, ships and a degree of military strength, but first and foremost they were exhausted refugees seeking somewhere to settle—a people which arrived with incredible tales of mountains that spewed flames.

HAAKON THE GRANDT

Back in Norway, the all powerful Haakon, Earl of Trondelag, ruled the greater part of Norway. Although he was never appointed King, he is to-

day referred to as King Haakon II. He united Norway, supported the Danish King against invading Russians, and defeated the Jomsberg Vikings who had sworn to bring Christianity to Norway. His military strategies and the power of his army were the stuff of legend: "He was a man not only great in power but also of great strength, and was therefore called Hacken Grandt alias Grant or Grott, which in their language is the same as Great or in Latin Grand is, great and valorius, and all his posterity after him are commonly called Grants," said a chapter from the Genealogical Collection of 1750, in reference to Haakon.

This chapter which covers the Grants—now known as the "Cromdale Text"—later refers to the Clan motto which was given to Haakon after he was ambushed, yet 'stood fast' and killed a number of his attackers.

The Cromdale Text relates how one of Haakon's sons, Hemming, was converted to Christianity and sought refuge in Ireland, with his wife Tora. There, they had two daughters and four sons. The four sons all went to Scotland at the same time, being approximately the year 1000, and one of them, Alland, became the progenitor of Clan Grant.

The thought of four young men decamping together from a life of nobility in Ireland to an unknown future in Scotland is untenable. The Cromdale Text merely states that they left—but gives no reason other than 'to push their fortunes'. If, however, there was a Norse enclave in Scotland keen to have a Viking noble as leader, their fortunes would be assured.

The text states that Alland's brothers all became leaders in their own right: Gregor of Clan MacGregor, Fingon of Clan Fingon and Ruthven of Clan Ruthven (*Hemmingus genuit protector maximus Hackin Hine Grantes, Fingon, Ruthven, Gregorius orti*).

The discovery of this book by Phil Moody was enormously exciting, but bitter experience teaches us that one book does not a history make. We then carried out some cross referencing to see if more could be learned about Haakon and his son, Hemming. The great texts of the Norse are the *Sagas*, written by Snorri Sturluson. In the *Sagas*, we found long tracts describing the exploits of Haakon the Grandt, and much to our delight, a direct reference to his son, Hemming. This provided cast-iron proof of the provenance of the Cromdale Texts, because they were written in 1729 and the *Sagas* were not translated from

Old Norse until 1931—two hundred years later. But that was not the only striking correlation.

THE SISTER CHURCHES

The Cromdale Text states that the two sisters, Astrid and Gurrie, married and returned to Norway, which was by that time a Christian nation. There, they "caused to build two Christian churches adorned with steeples within a fathom of each other and covered them finely with lead, to which they gave the name of Grants, and the parish is called Grandtsogn, or Grant's Parishioners, The which churches and steeples only nine miles from Christiana and remain as yet."

I contacted Tore K. Nilsen in Norway who, after researching on our behalf, advised me that Christiana was the old name for Oslo, and that there is a village called Gran Sogn just north of Oslo. Further research revealed two churches built next to one another, and a local legend that says they were built by two rival sisters. The churches still stand, and are called 'the Sister Churches of Gran'.

The Cromdale Text describes in detail the succession from father to son, and joins known history with Gregor, Sheriff of Inverness. The chapter also contains a tantalizing reference to a marriage between Alland and Moral, a direct descendant of Gregorius, thus underlining even further the connection between the Grants and the Macgregors. Was Alland's brother Gregor the progenitor of Clan MacGregor, or did Clan MacGregor already exist and take him as leader? Perhaps we will never know, but we can be sure that the relationship between the two ancient Clans is very real.

CONCLUSION

We can't be certain that the Norse settlers in the region were refugees from Iceland, but absolutely everything points to that conclusion. If they had arrived in the region with tales of mountains spewing fire, what better way of identifying themselves than with a direct graphic representation? If our Clan Badge does not represent volcanic activity, I'd love to know how or why our ancestors adopted such a bizarre image!

Neither can we be certain of the ancient link to Sol Alpin, but again, we have found not a single reason to reject it out of hand—indeed the more we learn, the more likely it seems. What we *are* certain of is that the name Grant is derived from a fearsome Viking, and that Alland, his grandson, brought the name to the people of Strathspey and the seeds of Clan

continued on page five

Features of Vast Castle Described from Past to Present

by Tim Dawson

Castle Grant is a place to chill you to the marrow. Walk around its perimeter any time but the height of the summer and an uncomfortable foreboding quickly descends. The castle's situation exudes intransigence. Its walls are as hard-nosed and forbidding as a gangland enforcer and its history, at least in parts is, as unpleasant as any in Scotland.

It ought to be an idyllic location. Set on a rise in the land surrounded by barren heath moor, it affords a view for miles. To the south are the rolling outlines of the Hills of Cromdale. Beside them are the peaks of the Cairngorms. It is an outlook to die for—but that is the point.

Were the building at the centre of this panorama any other, it would be a dream setting. Castle Grant, however, is a potent reminder of why humans have traditionally sought homes with a good prospect: for defensive purposes. This pile was erected to be fought over and died for.

A great deal has changed in the building that stands on the site today, but the warring spirit has never passed. At the heart of the castle is a substantial 16th century tower. Now completely enveloped in the much-added-to seat, it still provides the castle's highest point.

It was in the tower that the castle's infamous act was committed. Barbara Grant was the daughter of the chieftain. When she refused to marry as

her father wished, he had her bricked up in one of the towers highest rooms. Her view might have been good, but she was not to leave until her dying day and some believe that she still haunts the place.

It was Sir Ludovic Grant who did most to create the castle of today, as well as establishing nearby Granttown-on-Spey in the hope of bringing some industrial wealth to his family. To the south he added two projecting wings surrounding a raised courtyard. He also commissioned the castle's most emblematic and mysterious feature. In 1752, he engaged John Adam to give his home a new façade. To do this a substantial addition was made to the north-facing wall: the tightly drawn end result bristles with power.

Writing in her journals, Queen Victoria noted disapprovingly that the castle was "a very plain house, like a factory." Today, now that factories have more of a benign air, it has more the feel of the administration block of an alien occupier.

Since Victoria's visit, the Grants' influence has waned. In 1911 many of Castle Grant's treasures has been removed. During the first world war, the estates were inherited by Countess Nina, who for a time was the richest woman in Britain.

Nina stayed until the second world war when all but her own apartments were requisitioned for army use. Gamely she lived among the soldiers until disaster struck. Legend has it that

many of the troops were from regiments raised in India. Expected to provide for themselves, they lit fires for cooking throughout the building with predictable results: the west wing burnt down. The Grants would not sell the castle until 1983, by which time it had been entirely stripped and, at times, was used for storing jay.

Initially it opened as a public attraction before being sold for development as a luxury hotel. The works started during this period may yet lay the foundation for a stunning restoration of the entire castle. However, many parts bear the scars of work started and then abandoned.

The (former) owner, Graham Keeler, worked steadily to complete the project with often stunning results. There is certainly enough space now for a large family to live in considerable comfort, but at least half the castle remains untouched.

Internally this is a vast building. The wings alone are of sufficient size to make considerable family houses; the public rooms in the main block are on a scale that could happily play host to royalty.

Formal entrance is from the north into a comfortable hall with a stone fireplace and a big circular ceiling frieze. You follow the stairs—past racks for ancient weaponry—to a galleried landing. From this opens the great hall, a room that truly rises to its name. More than 40ft long and nearly 30ft deep, it has five high astragal windows

facing south. It is an accommodation of this quality that has attracted guests such as Chris Evens, the television presenter, who rented the castle during his brief stay in Scotland a few years ago.

Leave the beautifully finished rooms behind, however, and you step into a building parway through a radical transformation. At times this is fascinating. The floors in the top of the tower are missing allowing a clear view of the bare walls, the trace of every door, window, fireplace and stone shelf for hundreds of years can be seen clearly.

Elsewhere the renovations have the look of wanton vandalism. At the time the castle was to have become a hotel it was re-roofed. The absence of damp patches and drips is a relief, of course, but the price was high. At the top of the original tower the internal structure of the roof can be seen easily—giant timbers, all hand hewn—but dozens of them have simply been cut away to allow for a more modern protections from the elements.

Quite how any of this will be finished is difficult to tell. Clearly a hotel is a possibility, though for its size, Castle Grant might not quite be big enough to warrant the cost of conversion. Perhaps more fitting would be a home for a self-made person who wanted to keep themselves to themselves.

Featured in UK Sunday Times, 9/26/99. Submitted by Dr. R.G.M. Philip, Freeport, Bahamas.

Link to Clan Grant Origins Uncovered

continued from page four
Grant were sewn.

As for the Normans?
I can do no better than to quote Lord Strathspey, our Chief, who at a recent meeting in York, England, described the Norman theory as 'absolute bloody nonsense'!

Further details of the origins of the Clan, including the Cromdale Texts and the Sister Churches of Gran can be seen at <http://www.clangrant.org>.

The author would like to thank the following for their invaluable contributions and support: Phil Moody, CGS-US, who discovered The Cromdale Text; James Grant, CGS-US, for his information concerning Sir William Fraser; Tore K. Nilsen, Norway, who founded Gran Sogn; Ole Pedersen, Norway, an expert on the *Sagas*; Adrian Grant, CGS-Scotland, who forces close examination of theory; Don Grant, CGS-Scotland, Editor of *STANDEFAST*; and Howard Parsons, CGS-US, President.

Author's addendum:

According to the UK web site, the official origin of the Clan Grant is now accepted to be from Haakon the Grandt, died 995 AD, whose grandson, Alland (Andlaw) and three brothers arrived in Scotland about 1000 AD.

The Norman-French myth started circa 1884, that Sir William le Grand became Sherrif of Inverness, and thus is 'out.' Darn, I just spent a wonderful day at the Macalester Scottish Faire repeating a debunked myth.

Anyway, if you have not already been enlightened about our origins, spend some time on the UK web site.

Don't miss the link—to the Cromdal Texts. Just click on the title page graphic to read four pages of the text. Then, two paragraphs below the title page graphic click a link and discover the story behind the Norman-French myth: "One of the persistent stories concerning the origins of the Clan is about the Normans. Click here to see how this came about."

<http://www.clangrant.org>

Castle Grant Sells to CGS-Friendly Owner

David Grant, a partner in television and media resources in the US, is the new owner of Castle Grant, the partially restored, 365-room edifice near Granttown-on-Spey, Scotland.

Grant's partnership will restore and market the Castle as a holiday destination, museum, library, and a resource center for history and genealogy. Grant has shown positive interest in CGS.

NY Grant Sends in News of Grant Cottage, Grant Wedding

Clan Grant member Wayne H. Harvey of Scotia, New York, writes: "Grants are always busy! Think Spring! He encloses a newspaper clipping of an April Fools' Day Magic Lantern Show put on by the Friends of the Ulysses S. Grant Cottage. The multi-media show illustrated the famous Grant's life. The Cottage is preserved as an historical site that welcomes some 2,500 visitors annually. No admission is charged to tour the Saratoga Springs, New York landmark.

Another news clipping enclosure covered an address by author Frank Scaturro to a Friends meeting on his book "President Grant Reconsidered."

Harvey also writes that the

Schnectady County Historical Society displayed a framed page of a newspaper report of George Washington's obituary printed January 1, 1800, along with a list of letters not yet picked up—including ones for John Grant and Alexander Grant in nearby Stamford, New York. Harvey asserts he "did not drive over to see if they are still there" some 200 years later.

In other Grant news, Harvey encloses a wedding announcement for Robert D. Grant, Jr. to bride Traci Ann Palotta in Amsterdam, where the happy couple resides. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pallotta of Amsterdam, and the groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Grant Sr. of Gloversville, New York.

Scott Grant Reports on State of Clan Grant's Games

Our participation in the Highland Games and Festivals for the year 2000 has gotten off to a good start. As of this writing, we have participated in the following events:

Orlando, FL Scottish Games – Jan. 15th

Queen Mary Scottish Festival, Long Beach, CA – Feb. 19-20th

Jacksonville Scottish Highland Games – Feb. 26th

Dunedin Highland Games, Dunedin, FL – Mar. 31st -Apr. 1st

Loch Norman Highland Games, Huntersville, NC – Apr. 14-16th

Celtic Festival of Southern Maryland, St. Leonard, MD – Apr. 29th

The All Clans Picnic, Brea, CA – May 6th

Colonial Highland Gathering, Fair Hill, MD – May 19-20th

United Scottish Society Festival, Costa Mesa, CA – May 27-28th

McHenry Highland Festival Deep Creek Lake, MD – June 3rd

So far, our calendar for 2000 lists the following scheduled events:

San Diego Scottish Games, Vista, CA – June 24-25th

Grandfather Mtn. Highland games, Linville, NC – Jul. 6-9th

Virginia Scottish Games, Alexandria, VA – Jul. 21-23rd

Arizona highlands Celtic Festival, Flagstaff, AZ – Jul. 22nd

Pacific North West Highland Games, Enumclaw, WA – Jul. 29-30th

New Hampshire Highland Games, Lincoln, NH - Sept. 15-17th (*site of Clan Grant Annual General Meeting*)

Williamsburg Scottish Festival, Williamsburg, VA – Sept. 23rd

Anne Arundel Scottish Festival, Crownsville, MD – Oct. 14th

Loch Prado Highland Games, Chino, CA – Oct. 21st-22nd

Richmond Highland Games and Celtic Festival, Richmond, VA – Oct. 28-29th

Scottish Christmas Walk, Old Town Alexandria, VA. – Dec. 2nd

For members with access to the World Wide Web, the Clan MacLachlan Association of North America hosts a comprehensive listing of Highland Games both within and outside the United States. This website includes contact information and travel directions and is a "must visit" website. You will find it online at <http://www.maclachlans.org/games.html>.

There are, of course, more events than this on our Clan Calendar. I'd like to request that all Commissioners and tent hosts send their schedules to me as soon as possible so that I may schedule the games kits to go out and promote the events in these pages as well as on the World Wide Web. Lead-time is extremely important in avoiding conflicts.

Last year, 1999, we experimented with having the Games Commissioner (me) write all checks for participation and mail them with the accompanying registration form directly to the event organizers. While this was a noble experiment, problems arose because the registration forms had to pass through too many hands and the deadlines imposed by the organizers of some of the events were compromised. Therefore, beginning April 15th, we will return to a policy of **reimbursement only** except in certain circumstances. An example of this exception would be the Grandfather

Mtn. Games where we reserve two tent spaces and pay a significant fee or the privilege of participating. No volunteer, however dedicated, should have to write a check of that size and wait for it to clear before requesting reimbursement. Similarly, there are some volunteers on a tight budget whereby waiting for a modest check to clear is a hardship. In these cases, we will provide immediate reimbursement. The responsibility of writing the check and mailing the registration forms to the event organizers, however, remains yours.

All requests for reimbursement must include a photocopy of the check and registration forms. I also request that you include a copy of the event's souvenir program if possible. These programs often contain valuable information and contacts that are kept on file for future reference. Just place a copy of the program, if you have a spare one, in the games kit when you return it by mail to me.

Finally, the President has asked me to remind all Commissioners and tent hosts that the fiscal year for our Society ends on October 31st. This tends to roughly coincide with the end of the games season here in the U.S. Requests for reimbursement for events held before Oct. 31st must be received by December 31st. Otherwise, your expenditure will be considered a gift to the Society.

Thanks to all who help out with the Grant tent at events around the country. You folks are doing a great job out there.

Stand Fast!

Scott Grant

e-mail: <sgrant@conknet.com>

New Commissioner Reports on His First So. California Games

by Richard A. Grant, SOCA Comm.

I attended two other events run by Jim Suttie, Commissioner for Northern California, and have now successfully held a two-day Southern California event. I'm very happy to report that both days of our two-day games were a huge success.

The Southern California branch of Clan Grant hosted their first games February 19-20 in Long Beach, aboard the large steamship, the Queen Mary in her main Ball Room. Games-goers visited three deck levels where vendors, clan booths, and food and entertainment were available.

The event featured piping competition, Highland Dancing competition, and musical entertainment by Alex Beaton, "Clandestine," "The Wicked Tinkers," and "Men of Worth." Outside, six area pipe and drum bands entertained the guests. A Grand Parade was held on both Saturday and Sunday at noon.

By all reports, the many visitors enjoyed the event. On Saturday, February 19th, a huge number of people stopped to look in our booth, asking questions. Fourteen people signed our guest registration book on Saturday. We also had one young lady return that day, and sign up to join Clan Grant.

On Sunday, February 20th, the day was very rainy, however, we did not care as the event was held inside aboard the "Queen Mary." By noon it cleared up and we proceeded with the "Gathering of the Clans Parade." Weather held off till after the Parade was over. The best comment we heard during the parade was, "Look: The Grant Clan is Back."

In May, the So. CA Clan Grant will have a presence at All-the-Clans Picnic in Fullerton (6th) and the Scottish Festival in Costa Mesa (27-8th). June 24-5th, Clan Grant will visit the San Diego Scottish Gathering and Highland Games. July 22nd, Arizona Highland Festival will be a Grant destination. Parades in Capistrano, Los Angeles, and Downey, CA will involve a group from the Grants of southern California—an auspicious calendar of events for the new branch.

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.

Disaster at Loch Prado

NorCal Commissioner and Wife Persist at Unusual Games

by Jim Suttie, NorCal Comm.

At the Board of Directors meeting at Woodland, CA. In the spring of 1999, I was authorized to try to recruit a new commissioner to take over Southern California Grant Clan branch. My wife Carol and I were to set up the Loch Prado Games in mid-October, to meet with, and confirm our selections for Commissioner.

The Loch Prado Games are a two-day event held in Prado Regional Park, in Chino, California. The site of the games is a low hill, in the northeastern corner of the park, overlooking Lake (Loch) Prado on the edge of the Mojave Desert.

On October 15th, we drove south, arriving at the park in mid-afternoon. We found our space, unloaded, and did a partial set-up of the tent. We

secured things for the night, checked in, had a quiet dinner, and turned in.

At 2:45 a.m., we were awakened by our bed doing the Rock'n'roll. Does anyone remember a 7.1 magnitude shaker called the Ludlow Quake that knocked an Amtrak train off the track in the Mojave Desert on a Saturday morning? Carol and I looked at each other and asked, "we had to come 450 miles for this?" We could have stayed home only twelve miles from the epicenter of the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

Fortunately, not much damage was done in the populated areas of Southern California, and the Games were held Saturday, as scheduled. Both candidates for the new commissioner post showed up, and it was decided they would serve together. After a day

of activities, we secured (?) the tent, went back to the motel, cleaned up, had a nice dinner, and retired.

Sunday morning, the Santa Ana (devil) Winds came in off the desert, with 45-65 mph gusts. Tents were blown loose from their moorings, vendors' merchandise blew everywhere, the castle-like main gate was damaged, and the Sunday session of the Games was canceled. Three tents wound up down the hill in the lake, and ours sustained two bent legs, which may not be repairable. We spend the morning fighting the wind and dust to pack our stuff and leave.

We've been informed the Games will be held in the same place next year. We wish them luck, but since we have new Co-commissioners, Carol and I won't be there!

Co-commissioners Found For South CA

by Jim Suttie, NorCal Comm.

It is my pleasure to announce the appointment of Todd Covert and Richard A. Grant as Co-commissioners for Southern California. They will be working together to see that the Clan is represented at all events for their area. Congratulations fellows and good luck!

They may be reached at:

Todd Covert,
2314-C No. Catalina St.
Burbank, CA 91519
(818) 567-0694
e-mail: Tcovertops@aol.com
and Richard A. Grant
15111 Pipeline Av.-Sp 162
Chino Hills, CA 91709
(909) 393-5749
e-mail: Rgrant8281@aol.com

Highland Harp Concert in Rhinebeck this Aug.

by Candace L. Coates, Concert Dir.

A harp concert this August 27th will feature four harpers from three states in a benefit performance at the Center for the Performing Arts At Rhinebeck. The music selections begin at 8 p.m. and will feature Celtic music from Scotland, Ireland, Cornwall, Wales, England, and Brenton.

The concert will include the oldest Irish tune, written by a monk in the year 1066, and found by one of the performance's harpers. The tickets are \$20 and are available by calling: (914) 876-3080. All Clan Grant members are invited.



Jim and Jean Grant Wilson man the tent in Orlando, Florida games.



Richard A. Grant (L) and Todd Covert (R) are the new Co-commissioners for Southern California.

Great Response Greeted Commissioner at Bakersfield games

In April, Richard Grant and wife arrived early at the 5th annual Scottish Gathering and Games in Bakersfield, CA, for their very first tent set-up. They met "great people" and enjoyed a "large Barbecue potluck dinner for all clansmen who came in early to set up."

Old and new friends were on hand at Stramler Park, site of the one-day event. The tent, according to Grant, was busy from 9 a.m. till 6 p.m. Folks came from far and near, with twelve



Newfound Grants rally with banner bearer Southern California Commissioner Richard Grant in Cathering of the Clans Parade in Bakersfield Clan Games.

visitors signing the log, and five receiving applications for membership in the Grant Clan.

Four new folks joined Richard and his wife in the "Gathering of the Clans" parade. A public Ceilidh, with lots of

music and fun was held.

San Diego is the next stop for the Southern California Grant Clan. Any Clan members in the area are encouraged to drop by the tent, say hello and rest a bit, June 24-25th.



Alexandria, Virginia Christmas parade is joined by a hearty contingent of Clan Grant marchers—young and old(er).

2000 Orlando Games "Successful"

by Jean Grant Wilson, FL Comm.

January 15th started out cool and foggy, but the time we got to the Casselberry Dog Track it was warming into a beautiful sunny day. Michael Bongertz met us at the gate as he carried in the Tent 'stuff.' A lot of activity at the tent kept Michael, Jim, and me busy as we handed out brochures and information.

A cheery Milton Camp, from Melbourne, stopped by several times to chat. William and Tandy Carnes, of Gainesville, marched with Michael in the Parade of Tartans. Joe Grant, who was on holiday from Dunoon, Scotland, stopped by to sign in. Clan Grant picked up two new members, John and Judith Jankowski of Leesburg, FL.

This was my first outing as Florida

Commissioner and I was pleased to finally meet, in person, several of our members. It is always nice to put faces to the names and voices on the phone. Remember, I am your Clan contact person for Florida—so keep in touch!

During the afternoon the wind shifted and the sun retreated. It got quite cold. Being out in the cold bothers Jim these days, so Michael, being his kind self, sent us on our way to Jacksonville early. From what I heard, the closing ceremonies ran much later than expected and the Athletics finished well after dark.

All, in all, I think the Clan Grant Society had a successful day in Orlando. I wish to thank the Society and Michael Bongertz for their help in our participation in these games.

Good Weather, Fun at Christmas Walk in Alexandria, VA

by Allan Grant

The Grants were there and everyone knew it. Led by Mike Jackson carrying the Grant banner, and flanked by piper Bryan Grant, 12, and drummer Jason Grant, 9, we stood out. Mike is a tall presence, so our banner flew high and proud. Because of Bryan and Jason's youthful ages—and the fact that they played so well—we were really noticed and applauded along the whole route. The boys were a big hit. Mike had his wife, mother, sister, and sister's boyfriend along. Bruce and Gigie Grant were there as proud parents of Bryan and Jason. Our clan President, Howard Parsons and wife Judy, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hdowatt participated, along with yours truly. We had a nice group, but next year I'll carry paper and pen to record all participants' names. I'm sure I've missed some.

Each year, more Grants join us and we appreciate that. Now that we have the nucleus of a Grant band, perhaps we will get even more participants. We have a couple more young pipers that we believe will join us in the future. The weather was beautiful and we all enjoyed ourselves. After the parade, we gathered at the olde and famous Gadsby's tavern for lunch and fellowship. We Grants, in and near Virginia, hope you who live close by will join us next Christmas.

Old, Fine Weapons Made Proud Collection at Castle Grant Armoury

Some of the weapons now on show can be identified with items in the list: one bears the arms of George Mackenzie, Earl of Seaforth, and is listed as "Seaforth's gilt gun"; "Sir John Grant's little Gun" is that which has his initials on a brass plate inset in the barrel; and "The Two-handed Sword" is also in the list. Finest of all are the sporting guns and rifles: "Highland" guns according to the 1720 list, when there were 15 of them. Only some twenty-three of the type survive any-

The finest and earliest, has inlaid silver horseman and animals set in the dark Brazil wood of its butt and stock... the barrel is inscribed with Sir John Grant of Freuchie.

where, and this group contains the best of them.

The curved butts have a fluting which follows the curves, and often have other low relief carving and engraved silver or brass butt plates. The finest and earliest, which bears the initials of the Dundee maker Andrew Philip on the brass lock plate, has inlaid silver horseman and animals set in the dark Brazil wood of its butt and stock. The barrel is inscribed with the name of Sir John Grant of Freuchie, the sixth Laird (1596-1637).

The steel lock plate and firing mechanism are richly engraved in some cases, notably the "Ballachastel" gun signed "Gulielmus (William) Smith", on which a man's head and a rabbit are depicted. Like the imported guns in the collection these were used over a long period which meant that parts were renewed or improved from time to time, and accounts for the conflicting dates on the locks and barrels of a few of them; sometimes the barrels were made on the Continent.

Several lock plates are signed or initialed by William Smith, or perhaps by members of his family. A document in the Seaford papers, dated 1675, records a 19-year lease by Ludovick Grant, 8th of Freuchie and 1st of Grant, to William Smith "Gunsmith in Duthell" (Inverness-shire); in return the said William is to "Accompanie and convey the sd. Ludovick ...in his hostings and huntings" as other tackman do. Smith was therefore gunsmith to the Lairds of Grant and handled many of these weapons, and made some of the finest.

Scottish pistols with heart-shaped butts are associated with East coast gunsmiths; the three in the Grant Armoury date to c. 1665, 1671 and 1701, the first two pairs being signed WS and the last Io Stuart.

Besides a true Claymore, that is a two-handed sword of Highland type, the collection also includes a good example of a two-handed sword with shell guards, in use in the Lowlands at the same time in the late 16th and early 17th century.

One of the basket-hilted broadswords is of particular interest. The blade is etched with the arms and initials of Sir John Grant (1596-1637) and a spurious date, 1562, while the hilt is a rare early 17th century piece of Scottish silver-inlaid decoration. An early 18th century basket-hilted sword may have been spoils of war, for its richly decorated blade (of German manufacture) with figures of St. An-

Perth Site is Chosen for Int'l Tartan Centre; Hopes for Tourist Draw

The latest issue of the *Tartan Banner* has located the projected International Tartan Centre in Perth at a high profile location which will also house the Scotland National Garden, a new Whiskey Heritage Centre, and a five-star hotel and conference facilities.

The Centre is expected to become a leading tourist attraction with a central tartan repository and research facilities, interactive historical displays, demonstrations, and events for visitors.

Long-time friend of the Grant Clan Bill Johnston owned the collection of tartan swatches that will provide the core of the Scottish Tartan Authority's own collection. The collection was donated by Johnston heirs Judy Johnston-Wexler and William Johnston to STA representative Alastair Buchan at a ceremony at last fall's Stone Mountain Games.

drew and James VIII (the Old Pretender) and Jacobite slogans, including: "Prosperity to Schotland and no Union."

Editor's Note: This summary of the weapons in the Castle Grant Armoury collection comes from an old press release dated 31st May 1977 and is continued from last edition (Vol.22 / No. 4).

National Tartan Day Celebrated in D.C.

A three-day celebration of the National Tartan Day was held this year from April 6-8th in Washington D.C. with a festival in the blocked-off city center streets.

Senator Trent Lott was presented the prestigious Wallace Award, and a forum was presented at the Smithsonian Museum on "The Living Legend of Scotland." The turnout coincided with the popular Cherry Blossom parade and festival held on the same weekend.

COSCA to Hold its AGM at Grandfather Mtn. Games

The Annual General Meeting of the Council of Scottish Clans and Associations will be held at the Chief's Tent on Saturday, July 8th at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in Linville, North Carolina. All member clans are urged to send a representative to the meeting set for 1 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, and any nonmember clan may also send a representative.



If you've ever wondered about the generations of your ancestors, and your name is Grant, Allan, Bisset, Bowie, Cairns, Gilroy, MacIlroy, MacAllan, MacKerron, MacKieran, Pratt, or Suttie, you could be a full Clansperson, and we'd love to introduce you to your family!

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: _____

ASSOCIATE DUES: \$20 year
TWO-YEAR DUES: \$40
THREE-YEAR DUES: \$55
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP: \$400

Make all checks or money orders payable to the **Clan Grant Society-US**;
mail with this form to: Ms. Jean Grant Wilson
11249 Irish Moss Dr.
Jacksonville, FL 32257-1537

WRITE FOR A FREE BROCHURE ABOUT THE GRANT CLAN
Dues Paid in: Cash Amt. _____ or Check #/Amt. _____

