

The Craigellachie

Summer 2002

It's Great to be a Grant!

Volume XXV, Issue 3

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Reminders

- Check out all the information and features new Webmaster Scott Grant has added to the Clan website:
www.clangrant-us.org.
- Attend the **Stone Mountain Games** in Atlanta, October 18-20.
- The Central Florida Scottish Festival and Highland Games will be held January 18, 2003, at Central Winds Park, Winter Springs, FL. More information is available at www.flascot.com
- Start planning now to attend the Jacksonville, FL, Games, February 22, 2003.

Next Issue

- The deadline for articles for the next issue of *The Craigellachie* is October 1. Please email items to:
thecraigellachie@hotmail.com.
- From Clan Grant activities to Grants in history, we have some remarkable articles this issue. The membership would like to read about the remarkable Grants in your family, or about any special interest of yours related to Clan Grant or to Scotland – art, recipes, current events, history, etc. And your Grant-related photos are always of interest. Please contact Leigh Haines at 703-753-1964 or thecraigellachie@hotmail.com.



From left to right, Clan Grant Vice President Allan Grant, President C. David Grant, and new member Nevin "Mick" Pratt at the Clan Grant tent enjoying the 29th Virginia Scottish Games.

Virginia Scottish Games

K. Leigh Haines

For the 29th year in a row, the Virginia Scottish Games were held in Alexandria, VA. From July 27-28, attendees enjoyed bagpipe bands, dancers, children's activities, dog events, pub tent entertainment (*Editor's Note: And pub tent refreshments...*), and, of course, the Clan Grant tent.

Clan Grant President C. David Grant made a special trip this year to visit Vice President Allan Grant and assisted him in hosting the tent. Former President Howard Parsons also made an appearance.

Joining Clan Grant were over 60 additional Clans as well as representatives from the Potomac Curling Club and the St. Andrews Society.

A rain Saturday afternoon shower appeared to have been perfectly scheduled to give some relief from the DC area's record-breaking temperatures, as well as to give all present another taste of Scotland. It also created the perfect opportunity to sit in the Clan tent and catch up.

After (and sometimes during) the brief shower, the weekend continued uninterrupted. On the soundstage, *Bad Haggis* (Their music can be heard in *Braveheart* and *Titanic*.) and *Clandestine* performed. On the athletic field, some of the athletes who represented the USA in the Scotland vs. USA Challenge competed for the East Coast Amateur Championship. U S Champion fiddler Elke Baker performed.

For those who enjoy all things Scottish – and all people Clan Grant – it was a wonderful weekend.

Visiting the Grant Clans

Carol Grant, Puget Sound Chapter, Clan Grant

It was my pleasure this spring to take a very long drive: 7000 miles through eleven states. Along the way, I was able to attend two Scottish Highland Games and Festivals, and once home, I attended two Scottish Highland Games and Clan Gatherings of my home state of Washington.

Along with some terrific adventures through snow storms, a tornado in the Texas panhandle, and other assorted bad weather, I also traveled through some beautiful country and enjoyed the best possible weather a person could find anywhere. When I reached California, I stayed with my brother-in-law William E. Grant and his family and was privileged to attend the Scottish Festival in Costa Mesa with them. We had a wonderful sunny day on Saturday and again on Sunday to enjoy all the festivities. The Clan Grant Booth offered fine hospitality and had extra seating for festival weary folks to crash and rest. However I never took up the temptation to rest as I was interested seeing all there was to see. The first place we headed was to the vendors and we found the local ladies and their fine home-made shortbread – mm-mmm good! After making our purchases, we spent the day enjoying the food, the entertainment, and the games. The opening ceremonies were quite impressive, including a reenactment of the raising of the flag on Iwo Jima, the Third Marine Aircraft Wing Band, and several pipe bands. It was awesome to watch the winning contestant "hurl the stone" 52' 9" in his bid to best his own previous record of 48'.

Continued on page 6.

Grandfather Mountain Games

George Grant

The Grants gathered at McRae Meadow for Grandfather Mountain Games. The weather was perfectly Scottish. Clouds covered the meadow, bringing wet drizzle and reducing sight. We had two tents, one on the track overlooking the field, another across the walkway provided attendees. Until 2:30PM, we could not see the reviewing stand only 150 feet away. Down in the valley, it was raining steadily. The usual large crowd was reduced significantly. Normally these games will attract 20

to 30,000.

Stalwart, strong, the Grants were there. Rev. Peter Grant and his bride from Atlanta, GA, signed in and attended our Saturday dinner, held at Doris Matthews' family home in Linville. They are all life members of Clan Grant.

Other notables were Natalie C. MacIlroy, Barnardsville, NC; George Grant, Johnson City, TN; Aaron Melton, Chattanooga, TN; William G. Pratt, Winston Salem, NC; John P. Maliskey, Rockwood, TN; and his sister, Phyllis Maliskey, Kingston, TN.

David Grant, Clan Grant President, and his bride Jane were assisted by Phil and Shirley Smith and Lucille and George Grant. Another George Grant arrived as usual from High Point, NC,

and marched in the Parade of Tartans with us. Rebecca Grant Evans, Seneca, SC; Pam Kennedy, Decatur, GA, and Brock Moore, Ashville, NC, expressed interest in Clan Grant. Jean Wilson will contact them.

If Saturday's rain was bad, Sunday was clear and cool. During the church services Sunday morning, "Flowers of the Forest" was played for our never-to-be-forgotten members, Christine Grant and Eiko Grant.

These games are a gathering of the Clans. There were plenty of pipe bands; they marched around the clan tents, playing all day. Please try to come one year – you'll truly enjoy the experience.

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From The Leadership

Raves and Rants

David Grant, President

Greetings All - Just getting "connected" again after multiple bouts with computer viruses, reloading of systems, loss of files, and all those frustrating new sets of problems we must learn to deal with if we're to live in the computer age. My apologies to anybody I have been tardy responding to (a preposition is not a good word to end a sentence with!) or missed altogether. Electronically, it's sorta like I have amnesia for everything before about two weeks ago, and then spotty after that.

Appointments - It's my pleasure to welcome two more members into the "official" ranks of Clan activity. Hank Grant (Hickory, NC) will be our east coast historian, bringing to us the benefit of his years of research and multiple trips to Scotland. His photo albums are a history lesson by themselves. My very first Clan Grant activity "several" years ago was a gathering in his home when Hank and his wife Linda were still in Atlanta. Look for what I trust will be the first of many articles elsewhere in this issue where Hank shares his scholarship with us.

Scott Grant has agreed to do double duty as both our west coast historian - providing a good complement to Hank - and our new webmaster. He has recently acquired for us our very own domain name, after the good start made by president emeritus Howard Parsons, who created our first website as we began our transition to a more formal organization several years ago. Check out all the new information and features Scott has added at www.clangrant-us.org. Good job, Scott!

Games Season - Since our last issue, I've enjoyed seeing old friends and meeting new folks at two games: Grandfather Mountain, NC, and the Virginia Games in Alexandria.

Jane and I drove up for Grandfather, the aptly named and very traditional games of the South for more than forty years. We shared condo space with George and Lucille and Dr. Phil and Shirley Smith and had a nice reunion with these folks who were the Society for many years. Ed and Marie Grant made the trip up from Amelia Island, FL, just one stop on a multi-leg trip away from home. We enjoyed a reception that put Stone Mountain's to shame, and visited with Graham, Kilpatrick, and McNeil friends from Atlanta.

The weather Saturday was cold and rainy at the games, imported especially from Scotland, and so foggy that we had trouble seeing the field, much less any athletes! But Doris Matthews fixed all that with a very warm covered dish gathering Saturday night at the lovely home she and her late husband, Bill, built in Linville just at the base of the mountain. Most of the Grants who came by the tent also found Doris' place, so we had a good crowd. Among the guests was Peter Grant, an Atlanta minister originally from Scotland, who brought his family and his brogue. Doris and daughter Judy are both continuing Bill's interest in selling items Scottish, including my personal favorites, his wonderfully detailed clan crest badges and kilt pins.

Two weeks later I accepted VP Allan Grant's kind invitation to stay with him and attend the games in Alexandria. He volunteered to chauffeur and put me up, so what

thrifty Scotsman could resist an offer like that? Great seafood, a visit to Allan's favorite single malt supplier, and his new golden retriever puppy, not to mention Allan's hospitality, made this much more than just another games weekend. Grants in attendance included Bob Grant, recently married to Judy Montgomery Becker, president of Clan Montgomery, who were having an international gathering at Alexandria, including their chief. Betsy Riggs' daughter came by with some of her friends, and Howard Parsons made it on Sunday before heading to the airport to begin his two-week-plus visit to Scotland! The military was well represented, including Navy JAG lawyer Michael Jacksonis, former Marine and new commissioner Mick Pratt (Great pictures, "Jarhead!" Sorry, Mick!), and career Army veteran Allan, himself. Michael and his family were also at our AGM this spring at the Loch Prado Games. Allan's late wife, Eiko, whom we lost last fall, was remembered in "flowers of the forest."

Next AGM - New board member John A. Grant ("John from Kansas," who's now living in Texas. Got that?) has agreed to host our next AGM in Arlington, Texas. The games are sometime in June. Rand and Christine Allan set a very high standard this year at Loch Prado... John, especially the food, but no pressure! Helen, please help before he gets in too much trouble...

Tartan - The Clan has ordered some red Grant tartan material in poly/cotton (lightweight and durable) twill (to hold its shape) to sell to members at a wee profit (for the Clan, not me!) for lighter weight clothing or other uses. I'm planning to use some for tablecloths at the Stone Mountain Games. We should have an initial mill run soon for our approval before we

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From The Leadership

commit to the 150-yard minimum order. We can increase that order if we get commitments from you soon, so let us know what you want. Thanks to George, for negotiating a great price, and to Phil, for providing correct thread count and color. Member price has not been set by the board, but should be \$12 or less per yard.

Clan Genealogist - I regret to say Marge Woodruff has had to step aside as our genealogist due to ill health. If any clan member can, or knows of someone who can, coordinate our genealogical research, please let me know.

All our prayers and best wishes go with Marge.

Duthil Commissioner - Ed Grant asked to be relieved of his duties some time ago as he prepared to leave Minnesota for Hawaii. Can someone help us with fund-raising for the Duthil Centre? Or help me persuade Ed to continue? Duthil is the official repository for clan items and the site of the UK Society's annual meeting, on Sunday after the Nethybridge Games on Saturday.

Stone Mountain Games - Don Grant of Atlanta is helping me host the games this year, October 18-20. We have our own Grant activities as well as the games, so put this on your calendar, whether you'll just be in the area or can plan a special trip. Details later.

Games Banners - We're looking at several different designs and vendors to replace and/or add to our supply of banners and other games kit items. We're starting with the long sturdy plastic banners to hang above the tent openings, about 2' x 6' with grommets, in a distinctive eye-catching style. May go into tartan banners for parades next. Will narrow options before presenting to board for approval.

Membership Reminders

Jean Grant Wilson,
Membership Secretary

Greetings from Florida! And congratulations to the new Officers and Board Members.

Thank you all for being so prompt in returning your dues cheques in response to the renewal letters and including your membership numbers. Your membership number is necessary to identify you on the database, especially if you have the surname of Grant. This info can be found on the mailing label of *The Craigellachie*. It is also important that you promptly send me any change of address. The PO does not forward bulk mail and you don't want to miss any issues of *The Craigellachie*...

Several of our members are now passing their 80th birthdays and are being honoured by being made Life Members as per the By Laws. However, a member that is 80 years old and joining for the first time must pay for a year or two to show loyalty before receiving the Life Membership. Commissioners and Tent Hosts should make note of this!

Having said that, our membership doesn't decrease but the income from memberships does. So getting new memberships is an area that we really need to work on. Anyone have any good ideas on how to accomplish this?

Would anyone like to volunteer to contact and track down ex-members? With more than one volunteer, the list could be divided up into areas. With just a little bit of effort on everyone's part, this area could be vastly improved! Come on now - I know there are a few Grants out there with the gift of GAB who enjoy talking to people!

You will have noticed that we are no longer offering *Scottish Life* through the Society. I was notified by the editor/publisher Neill Kennedy Ray, that he will no longer be able to offer *Scottish Life* at a discounted rate because of increasing costs that include increased postage. You can still continue your subscription to this wonderful publication by dealing directly with them.

I am still mailing out the laminated membership cards so please bear with me... Now that my life is getting back on an even keel, I should have that project completed with the fourth quarter renewals.

We are still trying to standardize all the membership applications. So Commissioners, please destroy any old ones that you have laying around and make sure that the brochures contain new ones. If the application does not contain a space for Date of Birth, E-mail address, or show my new mailing address, then you have an old application! If you need a new master copy, please let me know and I will gladly send you one.

And don't forget, a membership makes a great gift to family and friends!

Notes from Shirley

Shirley Grant Smith

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

Sue Barker writes to let us know that her husband **Jack Baker** passed away last year. He had been ill for several years and we are sorry to learn this so belatedly. (Sue wrote last Xmas but the letter was forwarded to me in July!) Sue is the daughter of John Bisset, one of our original members who introduced Clan Grant to all of his family. Our longer-term members will remember the fun we've had with Sue and Jack in past years. Sue resides in Huntsville, AL, with their children.

Henry Lee Grant, III, died last October at the age of 81. "Hank" served Clan Grant well, taking care of the Old Westbury Games in New York. He was an editor for US Tool & Manufacturing Society and ran his own photo business for 15 years. Serving as a Navy Commander in World War II, he received the Bronze and Silver Stars along with the Submarine Combat Insignia. Henry graduated from Annapolis in 1942.

Mr. Grant was very active in a number of organizations, particularly fish and game clubs. He and his wife, Mary, lived in Port Washington and Manhasset, NY, before moving to Tom's River. Our thoughts are with his family: his wife; a son, Henry Allison Grant; a daughter, Victoria Grant Axelrod; and three grandchildren.

Laird T. Grant, III, lost two family members this past year: **William Malcolm Grant** and **Malcolm Sinclair Grant**.

Jean Aloe's mother passed away a year ago and **her brother** died in August. But life has its blessings as it goes on: a new grandchild, **Ava Jean Kaiser**, arrived a week later after Jean's mother's death.

Our sympathy and love goes out to all who have lost dear ones.

TO THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Emma Jean and Hugh Dunn write that Hugh had a seizure while driving their car last March, hitting a tree and totaling the car. The accident put them both in the hospital and then nursing homes until the end of July. They hope to make it on their own with the help of their two daughters. Members since 1981, they faithfully attend the Ligonier Games! And they were very much missed this year!

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Our newest bride and groom, **Edmund and Marie Grant**, on the first of September! Edmund introduced Marie to us at the Jacksonville Games and she received everyone's approval! They will continue to reside on Amelia Island in Florida and we look forward to seeing them often!

Leigh Haines, our new editor - May we always appreciate the time and effort this job takes! The Editor and the Secretary (Jean Wilson) are the "glue" that holds us together!

Continued on page 6.

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To be filled.

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Clan Grant:

The Leaders and Heroes of Clan Grant

Rand Allan, Commissioner and Director-at-Large, and John Pratt, Jr., Clansman of Clan Grant

INTRODUCTION

We have much documentation on the history of Clan Grant and all of its leaders of the past and the present. However, we have not been very good about documenting the contribution to history of the various people claiming membership with Clan Grant or ancestors of people originating from our clan. When you look throughout the history of Scotland, the British Isles, Canada, Australia/New Zealand, and the United States, you will find that there are Grants present at all levels of history.

John Pratt, a member of the Clan Grant Society USA, brought an example of the involvement of Grants in our US history to my attention. It involves a World War I vice-admiral, the commissioning of a warship bearing his name, its involvement in World War II, and the presence of John's father and people of other septs of Clan Grant aboard that ship.

VICE-ADMIRAL ALBERT W. GRANT

Albert Grant was born in Benton, Maine, in 1856. Never having access to any education beyond elementary school, Grant directly entered the US Naval Academy in Annapolis in 1873, graduating in 1877. In 1898, during the Spanish-American War, Grant served aboard the battleship USS Massachusetts at the battle of Santiago, Cuba, where the ship and its crew played a key role in the destruction of the Spanish Fleet.

In December 1907, Grant assumed command of the newly recommissioned USS Arethusa, a torpedo flotilla tender, and participated in the flotilla of military ships sent on a two-year around-the-world tour by President Theodore Roosevelt. Known as "the Great White Fleet" for the characteristic white ships with gilded scrollwork on their bows, these ships were intended as a grand show of US military sea power. Albert Grant continued to advance through the ranks, and by 1908-09, he had been appointed Chief-of-Staff of the Atlantic Fleet. Grant was commander of the USS Texas from its commission in March 1914 through June 1915. During the first half of his command of the USS Texas, Commander Grant was involved in tactical support in the Gulf of Mexico during tensions with

Mexico. In late 1915, he was promoted to real-admiral, reaching the rank of vice-admiral during World War I. Although not involved in any major battles during World War I, the Navy had the job of keeping the sea lanes open and free of the German U-boat submarine menace. By 1918-19, Vice-Admiral Albert W. Grant commanded the entire West Atlantic U.S. Fleet. At the time of his retirement in 1920 at the age of 64, Grant was commandant of the Washington Navy Yard. He died September 30,



U.S.S. Albert W. Grant, Destroyer Class, DD649

1930, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

USS ALBERT W. GRANT, HER CREW, AND HER HISTORY

The USS Albert W. Grant, Fletcher Class Destroyer, which we will refer to as the GRANT (even though there was a submarine called the USS Ulysses S. Grant and a transport ship called the USS US Grant), was laid down (construction was started) on December 30, 1942, at the Charleston Navy Yard. It was launched on 29 May 1943, sponsored by Miss Nell Preston Grant, granddaughter of Vice-Admiral Albert W. Grant, and commissioned on November 24, 1943, with Commander T.A. Nisewaner in command. On board was a fantail gunner, Boatswain's Mate 1st Class John Robert Pratt, father of the current Clan Grant Society member John Pratt Jr.; Machinist Warren M. McElroy (a sept name of Clan Grant); and Machinist's Mate 1st Class Clyde A. Cairns (while not a sept of Clan Grant, a name closely-associated in friendship with the Clan).

On April 4, 1944, the GRANT sailed for Majuro where she joined Task Force 58 for the invasion of Hollandia, New Guinea. She engaged in picket duty, inshore patrol duty, and covered landing force operations. Following conclusion of those operations, the GRANT embarked for the Caroline Islands and covered the carriers during strikes on the Truk Atoll.

After a brief rest in Hawaii, the

GRANT left for the invasion of the Marianas, helping to capture Saipan and Tinian. During this operation, the ship covered the initial landing; fired on numerous targets of opportunity; and furnished illumination, counter-battery, and call fire, which succeeded in destroying many of the pill boxes and other defense structures that had pinned down Allied troops attempting to secure the islands.

By August, the entire Pacific defense structure of the Japanese military was beginning to crumble.

was a tremendous explosion inside the ship, and the GRANT shuddered and paused. Fires broke out and then ammunition began exploding. Power lines and fire mains were destroyed by the explosions. With the steering control knocked out, the GRANT began swinging in a wide circle back toward the Japanese fleet.

As if it wasn't enough that there was no power to the ship, explosions were wracking its interior, and the dead and dying were lying on the decks, the engine of the GRANT cut

out right when the ship was at point-blank range to the Japanese fleet. The GRANT was now in the direct line of fire between the two fleets, and was repeatedly raked by gunfire from both sides, suffering 22 major hits, many by 6-inch shells. The GRANT was down by the head, listing heavily to port, and was in serious danger of coming apart at the seams. Then, as suddenly as the attack started, all firing ceased. In the quiet

that followed, heroes were born by the score. A gunner's mate dove down into the dark, flooding depths of the ship to retrieve unexploded shells and heave them overboard. An engineer dove underwater into flooded bilges to close seacocks that were allowing water to flood in. Others stuffed mattresses into shell holes below the waterline and rigged emergency patches. An assistant engineering officer ran through scalding steam below deck to secure steam lines and fuel valves.

Dawn saw the GRANT still afloat with enemy planes circling overhead safe from guns that wouldn't work. The crew rigged emergency power lines and the GRANT slowly regained the power to fight back. Finally, the engines were patched up so that power could be restored and the ship slowly backed out of the line of fire into the safety of the US Fleet.

Even though she took several major hits during the battle, the GRANT threw out shells at the Japanese fleet by the thousands. Even though she was in danger of sinking, she continued fighting and was still directly involved in assisting two Japanese battlewagons, four cruisers, and 10 other ships to the bottom of the Surigao Strait. After the battle, the GRANT was taken in tow, but before reaching the safety of a friendly port, she still had to face one more trial by weathering a typhoon. Following temporary repairs, the GRANT was towed to Mare Island, CA, where she underwent major repairs.

The GRANT helped to wrestle Peleliu and Angaur in the Palana from the Japanese, blasting a hole on the beach for our troops during the pre-invasion stage and covering them with anti-aircraft and call fire once they were established.

The ship and her crew departed for the Philippines on October 12 to participate in the initial stages of the Philippine campaign, where she provided protection for the fast transport Crosby, while they unloaded US Rangers on Suluan Island in the Philippines. The destroyer was one of the first to pierce Leyte Gulf, and from October 17 to 24, covered the first troops to land on Philippine soil.

On October 24, the GRANT, and the US Pacific Fleet she sailed with, steamed toward a deadly encounter with a Japanese task force moving north from the Sulu Sea toward the Surigao Strait. During the night, the Japanese fleet came into view as a series of dark blobs on the horizon. The US fleet began pouring in round after round of fire at the Japanese, but it was the job of the GRANT to get as close as she could to the Japanese fleet to launch a torpedo attack. With a constant barrage from the guns of the US Fleet whistling just overhead, the GRANT moved in to make its run. Several minutes later, she launched her torpedoes at Japanese targets. Two minutes before the torpedoes were due to hit the ships of the Japanese fleet, the GRANT was hit by two shells near the water line, one on either side of the ship. A split-second later there

Focus on the Family

Wounded during the attack were 104 crewmen, and 38 men were killed, among them machinist Warren M. McElroy and Machinist's Mate 1st Class Clyde A. Cairns. The crewmembers of the GRANT had triumphed over adversity, unknowingly behaving exactly the way the motto of the Clan of their ship's namesake, Vice-Admiral Albert Grant, exhorted them to do... **STAND FAST!!** The crew was steadfast and unwavering in their task and finally came out on top. While the GRANT was undergoing repairs, the crew put together a newsletter, called "The Deck Ape Gazette." They recounted all of the horrors and triumphs of their battles in the Pacific. Their intense pride in what they had done and why they did it was clear. They had great admiration for the men who had fought the good fight, and knew and loved each other as brothers... men such as:

1st Lt. Crissy - "A humanitarian devoted to duty. Expecting the best of you, ignoring the worst. Good to have with you and bad to have against you."

Vuksta - "Conscientious, hard-working, reliable, came aboard as a second class, and never looked back."

Pratt - "Quiet, a gentleman, exacting obedience and respect. Has piled up an amazing amount of man-hours mooning over probable future love affairs."

Ball - "A Second Division Simon Legree, hard worker, conscientious, serious disciplinarian, but fair. Entrances crews by interposing notes from Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata into his efforts to pipe chow down."

In spite of all their pride for what they went through and the manner in which they conducted themselves, they mourned their dead in a memorial to their fallen crewmates: *They did not ask to die, nor did they want to die, but all of them knew they were going to die and they were brave. Some died with a smile on their face, some with a prayer on their lips, some bid a last farewell to shipmates close by. But all of them were brave. We know because we were with them. Let it be known to all of you now, who are not members of our crew, that we miss them, we will remember them; for what they were, for what they did, and for what they are.*

Even after all of the devastation, the GRANT and the remainder of its original crew continued active service for the war effort. On April 23, 1945, the ship sailed for the Philippines to join the General Douglas MacArthur tour, currently in the process of securing the Philippines from the Japanese. While with the tour, the GRANT sailed southwest to Brunei Bay in Borneo to cover the June 10 assault on Brunei Bay. Rejoining the MacArthur tour, the GRANT continued operations

from Manila Bay until mid-July, when she traveled to the North Pacific for a tour of duty in Adak, Alaska. On the day before her arrival in Alaska, the crew received word of the Japanese surrender on August 15 and set sail for Ominato on Honshu, Japan, arriving there on the 10th of September.

The GRANT remained on occupation duty in Japan until mid-November when it went to the shipyards in Seattle, Washington, for overhaul. On July 16, 1946, the GRANT was placed out of commission on reserve in San Diego, receiving seven battle stars for its World War II service. On April 14, 1971, the GRANT met a quiet end to its honorable history when its name was struck from the Navy list and the ship was sold for scrapping.

Although most of us reading this article are proud citizens of the United States, there is something special in who we are and what we have done that causes our hearts to stir. Our Scottish ancestors brought to this land a determined, fiery, defiant Scottish blood and spirit that



John Pratt, Sr.,
Boatswain's Mate 1st Class

infused the people of this country with the same determination and defiance, helping to shape the developing nation that we call the United States. This same blood rises up again and again during times of crisis and rough times, saying "Never quit, never say die." The GRANT and her crew had that same fiery defiance so characteristic of many of our country. Although crippled in action, they still sent many a Japanese ship to the ocean floor. They had to fight on through the night to keep their ship from sinking, but there was something in their hearts that said, "Never say quit. Never say die... **STAND FAST!!!**"

Peter Grant: Scottish-American Soldier, Slave, and Settler

Michael Jacksonis, Clan Grant member and 11th generation descendent of Peter Grant

I offer this glimpse into my (and Clan Grant's) family history in hopes of encouraging regular contributions to *The Craiggellachie*, our extended family newsletter, about the people and events that made us who we are today.

A common trait in Scottish culture is a keen interest in our ancestors. It strengthens our sense of identity, tradition, and continuity through the years. One of the fascinating, and little known, chapters in Scottish and American history concerns "Cromwell's Slaves," of whom Peter Grant was one.

In 1650, the English Civil War had spread into Scotland. Scottish forces supporting Stuart King Charles II faced England's Puritan leader Oliver Cromwell and his New Model Army at the Battle of Dunbar. The Scots had backed Cromwell up against the east coast of Scotland and were able to hold the high ground, expecting to starve the English into surrender. Capitalizing on a tactical error by Scottish General Leslie, the English under Cromwell launched an early morning attack on September 3, 1650, and routed the Scots.

Peter Grant, from Inverness, was a 19-year-old participant in that fateful battle. The Scottish Presbyterian Covenanter's clerical committee had already purged its army of many of the best warriors, considering them "unbelievers," and then persuaded Leslie to leave the high ground and camp for the night prior to a September 3 assault on the English. Cromwell seized the advantage by attacking before sunrise in a down-pour.

Nearly 3,000 Scots were killed, many more wounded, and around 9,000 were taken prisoner. Peter Grant and his fellow captives were marched half-naked and ill fed from Dunbar to England. After nearly continuous marching, day and night, only 3,000 reached Durham alive and over half of those died shortly thereafter. The survivors, many of whom were more rugged Highlanders, faced an uncertain future. Peter Grant was one of 150 who were ultimately sold into slavery for shipment to the Lynn Iron Works in Saugus, Massachusetts (near Boston), at 30 pounds each.

The December voyage of these soldiers-turned-slaves across the icy Atlantic in the tiny ship *Unity* lasted six surely miserable weeks. Upon arrival, they were put to work in the iron foundries for the duration of their seven-year contracts of servitude. By 1659, however, Peter Grant's prospects had turned around. He had regained his freedom and was able to

purchase land in Kittery (now Berwick), Maine. His brother James had thus far shared the same fate, but he died shortly after arriving in Maine, possibly at the hands of Native Americans.

In 1664, Peter married James' widow Joanna, the daughter of Lieutenant George Ingersoll. Peter had been brought before the Church court and accused of living with her and having a child out of wedlock. Peter and Joanna asserted that the child, Elizabeth, was fathered by James, and they were apparently acquitted of the charge.

Although they had seven children together, only sons William and James had families. Those families grew through the years and made significant contributions to the development of New England and the birth of this nation. Peter's descendants served in the American Revolution and in the Civil War, and he himself was a prominent citizen and an original member of the Berwick Church. Peter and Joanna had a long life together, dying within few years of each other c.1712. Their gravesites are unmarked, but are likely located in the Grant Cemetery along the Salmon Falls River.

I am amazed at the amount and detail of information about Peter Grant that has survived through the years. The Library of Congress and the National Archives are fantastic resources and helped me immeasurably. I was even able to locate a reprint of Peter Grant's last will and testament. Christine Petit, another descendant of Peter Grant, has a marvelous website at <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/p/e/t/Christine-M-Pettit/GENE32-0001.html>, where you might find a family connection too. I encourage you to gather your Grant family stories and share them with us all!

Visiting the Grant Clans, continued from page 1.

On Sunday, we returned for more entertainment and fun. One of the funniest groups was the Scottish Midgets, a group of men in kilts, their tummies exposed and painted like faces, and their heads and arms tucked up inside a giant Scottish tam. Around their waists they wore a false vest with arms attached and then they danced! The usual array of singers of Scottish songs kept us entertained along the way, and my favorite, "The Wicked Tinkers," played the main stage as well as the smaller stage. Alex Beaton played and sang and Alasdair Fraser fiddled and came up into the grandstands close to us where a little girl danced as he played. There were 63 Clans in attendance. It was a grand day!

On the road again, I headed north to stay with Grant Clan members, Doug and Robin Acterberg, in Antioch near San Francisco, and attended the little one day St Andrew's Society Highland Games and Clan Gathering in Modesto. It was a beautiful day and a beautiful setting in a little city park. The first thing that caught my eye as we entered the park was a group of blue painted men and women practicing for a pageant. The Picts had arrived! Then we headed for the Grant Clan tent and spent the day visiting with Clan Hosts Jim Suttee and his wife and other Grants as they checked in. The tent was so centered on the grounds that we could see almost everything that was going on from there, but we made the rounds of the Country Dance Contest, the Highland Dance Contest, and the Games, as well as food booths and vendors. The entertainment was close by as well. It was an honor to march with Clan Grant in the parade of the Clans.

Once I was home, it wasn't long until it was time to attend the Skagit Valley Highland Games and Clan Gathering in Mt. Vernon, Washington. My son Dan Grant and his children Kayelynn and Logan attended with me as well as a friend, Melody McDougald, and her daughter Kelsey who was seeing her heritage in real time for the first time. We have been coming to these games almost from their beginning and it has been fun to see them grow each year. Our local chapter of the Grant Clan plan to have a booth at these games in the near future. It is interesting to recall what things are important to see at these games that we don't find as much fun at others. One of the things we enjoy seeing here are the Doggie races and herding trials. And my granddaughter loves to sit for hours and watch the spinners. The children's events seem to be more fun and better organized as well. There are more farm animals to see and touch here as this is farming country. It is a two day event but as yet we just come up from Seattle for the day.

The end of July holds the big event of the year for our Clan; the Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games and Clan Gathering at Enumclaw, WA, is the biggie we all look forward to all year. We plan for time off work and arrive on Friday, staying at the big campground on the King County Fair Grounds. For us, it

is a big family reunion. Christina Masters and her sister Michelle Poitevin, along with my daughter Kristina, son Dan, and I were instrumental in getting our local chapter going a few years ago. We set up our own camps and then headed for the main area to set up the Clan booth. Our games are bigger than the ones in Costa Mesa and there were 78 Clans attending this year.

I stole an idea from the Modesto Games and made a Grant Clan Challenge for the kids attending the games. The idea was to fill up 25 squares on a piece of paper with Clan stamps or signings for a prize. Afterwards, several clans commented on what a good idea it was and how much fun the kids had going from clan to clan to fill up their papers.

I tried to encourage the kids to ask what the symbols on the stamps meant



Left to right: Clan Grant Vice President Allan Grant, former President Howard Parsons, and new member Nevin "Mick" Pratt at the Clan Grant tent during the 29th Virginia Scottish Games.

for the clans so they would learn a little bit of history along with the fun. For these games, I brought along another friend, Jean Strait, who plans to go with me to Scotland in 2005 for the Grant Clan Gathering. She decided to join the Clan and had a wonderful time exploring her possible heritage.

I tried to attend as many events as possible and still helped man the Clan booth. We had two days of official ceremonies to attend and two Parades of the Clans to participate in. Friday evening, they had the Saltire, and they also had a Ceilidh both Friday and Saturday. Again, my favorite band, The Wicked Tinkers, were playing, as well as Men of Worth, Alex Beaton, and Ed Miller, and the Royal Stuarts performed for their last year.

For me, just being with my Clan and friends and family for the weekend is the most fun of all. On Sunday, we attended the Kirkin o' the Tartan and church service. For most of the day we had drizzle – not enough to scare anyone off but enough to keep everyone and everything wet.

We have a friendly competition with the Gregor Clan each year to build attendance at the Parade of the Clans and outnumber them. A member I won't name spilled the beans that the Gregors will be in Scotland next year during these games, so maybe – just maybe – we can finally outnumber them. Come on Grants of the Northwest come join us next summer!

Notes from Shirley, continued from page 3.

Leigh's husband, Allen, is an Army Major and they reside in the great state of Virginia!

Margery Woodruff, who has taken on our genealogical services! And thanks to all of our "volunteers!" There is no pay – just the glory!

Former editor, **Margaret MacDonald Morrison**, now attending Purdue University to earn her doctoral degree. She is enrolled in the Rhetoric and Composition program. She finished her Masters program, being voted as the outstanding graduate student for her department! For this honor, she received a city cash award, the highest honor given to a graduate student at the University. She was

space station shuttle and Deputy Director for the Johnson Space Center.)

Wife Nancy is teaching Biology after going through the thralls of moving her classroom in June for renovations this summer. In September, at the start of school, she discovered that things stored in a trailer ended up missing or destroyed!

Eric is serving as president for his fifth five year term for the More Family Association. (To our newer members: the Mores are part of Clan Grant from the Drumcork Farm on the Rothiemurchus Estate. They have documented their genealogy since their original family arrived in the US.)

Steve Grant (Commissioner in MO) sent a "Christmas" letter (Yes, I'm behind as usual, but HE was catching us up on the past EIGHT years since he married Stephanie!) She is now the director of a Springfield nursing home and recently received the "Nursing Director of the Year" award for her work. Steve anchors a morning and noon newscast (2 1/2 hours) on KY3-TV as well as writing special reports for evening programs, some carried nationally. They still travel a lot and particularly enjoy week-long stays in Ixtapa, Mexico and "get-away weekends" in Eureka Springs, Arkansas.

Our faithful correspondent, **Everett Grant** is alive and well up in Frederickton, New Brunswick! In spite of being buried in snow most of this past winter! He's still lawn bowling in the summer, chauffeurs vision-impaired people around for their appointments, tries to "keep ahead of diabetes" and enjoys his men's club with 94 active members! (This was written some time ago—now he's cleaning out flower beds and celebrating "Thanksgiving", which in Canada is Oct. 8th!)

Everett's sister, **Betsy**, in Zephyr Hills, FL is busy "cruising"—and his nephew, Dr. Darrell Grant from St. Catharines, Ontario, paid a visit on his way through Frederickton.

"Chief Doer of the Miscellaneous Items" is the title **David Grant** gives himself for the Boy Scout Lifeguard training session he attends in August. As he explains, "Since I'm retired and, of course, have nothing else to do!"

Hal and Beryl, up in New York, kept a German exchange student with them this spring and a younger brother joined him for a visit at the end of the school year. They organized a few bus trips so the boys could do some sightseeing!

Sharon Atkins (OR) traces her family back to 1808 in Scotland and plans to "go over" next year to continue her search. She would like to know if anyone is acquainted with a good tour group that she might contact. (Beware—some advertise well but cover very little of "Grant" territory!)

ADDITIONAL BITS AND PIECES

Jean Aloe (CT) visited China in May and later took a poetry writing workshop at the University of Iowa "just for fun!" Their eldest daughter became engaged New Year's Eve

NEWS IN GENERAL

Eric and Nancy Marshall (two Charter members) write that they are still teaching but only a couple of years away from retirement! Eric spends his time putting "several thousand feet of drain tile in for his new hybrid wine vineyard" and "playing the pipes and organ for weddings and funerals." Eric notes that he played for nine weddings from the last week in August to the last week in September. (Figures he'll retire and just play!) His most recent activity was playing at a dedication ceremony for the new Paul Weitz Stadium. (Paul Weitz served as Commander for the sixth

and received her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology in Scotland in August. Jean traveled over to attend the ceremony and then they both went hiking on the Isle of Skye and visited friends in Dulnain Bridge.

The Dunns' return address label has their picture on it. They both look great for all the troubles they've had!

GAMES TIME

Doris Matthews hosted everyone after the games at Grandfather Mountain on Saturday night. Although the "crowd" was small, we had a lovely evening eating all of her delicious food—especially good after a long day manning the tents! Next year, plan on being with the Clan on Saturday night—it's a great time to really get to know one another and everyone is invited. Money is put into the pot to help pay for the meal—and worth twice what anyone puts in! 'Tis a good bargain! Many thanks, Doris (and her family) for all the work you put into a most enjoyable event!

Dick Grant resigned as Commissioner for Southern California as he's moved to Bridgeport, Texas! Rand Allan, the new Commissioner, assures us that Dick intends to keep active in Clan Grant!

AND...

John A. Grant, our Kansas Commissioner, has been located down in Texas! (Question: Are ALL our Commissioners moving to Texas?) In the meantime, back at the ranch (Kansas) John met up with Eric and his Dad, John C. Grant at the McPherson Games! Seems they left Tessa and his Mother, Thelma, at home to paint the living area. John feels that that was a big mistake; he figures they painted a couple of hours and then went shopping in Kansas City! (Wonder if the gals will ever tell?)

Ed Grant, Commissioner-in-Minnesota-About-To-Retire-To-Hawaii, reports that their Games, "Had lovely weather: wet-drizzle all day until 3:30 and then rain! Windy, 10-15 mph steady. 50 degrees. A bone chilling experience!" He mentions, too, "That most of the food vendors were selling ICED coffee, not HOT! The one stand selling hot coffee did very well at \$1/cup!"

AND NOW THE COMMERICALS

Bob Thomson, who made a 52 minute movie on video of the Clan Grant Reunion in Scotland, still has a few VHS copies left (on NTSC). Several versions are available: the program itself and also hours of "rushes"—your choice! (Or both). Each tape is \$15.00, postpaid. If you would like to order one, contact him at: Mr. Bob Thomson, Braemar AB35 5YW, Scotland; (Phone): 013397 41214.

A letter from **Winifred A. Drever**, daughter of William Simpson-Bell, who sold reproductions of the McIan prints: She still has on hand about 1000 copies of her father's stock (both Grants: the barefoot boy with game in his hand and the one of Grant of Glenmorrison) and is anxious to sell them. A minimum order size is 10 prints. For order

under 100 prints the cost is \$6.00 each.; over 100 prints is \$5.00 each (U.S.). These are large prints (about 10 1/4" x 14 1/8"). If interested, contact your Commissioner.

An interesting letter arrived from **Polmailly House Hotel in Drumnadrochit**, Inverness-shire, along with a beautiful brochure inviting couples and families wishing to take a break in the Scottish Highlands, to stay with them! Children are well provided for with a wide range of activities.

Enclosed was a bit of the history in the area! The letter points out that Grants were the major land owners of Glenurquhart and were and still are from the House of Grant, Rothiemurcus, Speyside. Originally the property consisted of a house, a farm and a small tack of land owned by the Laird of Grant, Sir Ludo, who let it to Alexander Grant of Shewglie. Another of the Alexanders at that time was Alexander Grant of Corriemony.

On the evening of April 15, 1746 (Battle of Culloden), the Mistress Grant of Polmailly gave birth to Charles at her parent's home at Aldourie Castle (On the other side of Loch Ness). Charles became Sir Charles Grant, Member of Parliament for Inverness-shire and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the East India Company.

Local men immigrated to the middle west of America in the 1880's, working as masons, joiners, and carpenters. Their ancestors still return to visit relatives in the Glen. Approximately 70 families from Glenurquhart immigrated to America.

During the 1880's, Sir Lewis Grant resided at Balmacaan House. An American, Bradley Martin leased the estate for hunting purposes for 30 years. This house was demolished as deemed unsafe in 1972 but the gardens and outbuildings such as cool houses can still be seen.

In 1920, Polmailly House Hotel was purchased by John Grant (nicknamed John Cairo), who made his fortune in Egypt as a Hydraulic Engineer. Sir Duncan Grant of Dalvey (unrelated) purchased the estate and it remained in the Grant family until 1960.

Drumnadrochit has exclusive Grant burial grounds, with graves dating back as far as the fifteen hundreds.

For reservations, prices and other information write to: John and Sonia Whittington-Davis, Polmailly House Hotel, Drumnadrochit, Inverness-shire IV3 6XT. Phone: (01456) 450343 or Fax: (01456) 450813.

Now that we have a new editor, **I'd love to hear from new and old correspondents!** Just write to: Shirley Grant Smith, 442 Freedom Blvd., West Brandywine, PA 19320-1559.

Grant Miscellaneous

Grant Items For Sale

Please make check payable to CLAN GRANT SOCIETY and mail to:

George Grant
301 Masters Road
Hixson, TN 37343-3017
1- 800- 445-2185

Clan Grant Knit Golf Shirts; Teal with Gold Badge.....\$ 17.50

Please specify, S - M - L - XL

Grant Pewter Kilt Pin (no postage).....\$ 15.00

Grant Coat of Arms Bronze Plaque 6"X4".....\$ 40.00

Grant Wooden Wall Plaque 7"X8".....\$ 50.00

Grant Wooden Wall Plaque 10"X12".....\$ 120.00

Grant Coat of Arms Key Ring with Leather Fob.....\$ 30.00

History of Clan Grant by Lord Strathspey.....\$ 35.00

Traditions of Scotland by Gilbert Summers.....\$ 25.00

Etched Clan Grant Highball Glasses, 6 oz, set of 6.....\$ 35.00

Postage will be charged at current Post Office rates and discussed at time of order.

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\$8.00 EACH (Includes US postage)

Please PRINT CLEARLY. Second line is optional! Please note: We collect as many requests as we can before ordering. There may be a delay before your nametag is ready! Please make check payable to CLAN GRANT SOCIETY and mail to:

Jean Grant Wilson
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Grant Miscellaneous

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