



Craigellachie



Spring 2003

It's Great to be a Grant!

Volume XXVII, Issue 2

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Reminders

Next AGM - June 6-8, 2003, at the Arlington, TX, Games. Our hosts are John and Helen Grant.

The next "Gathering of the Clan" in Scotland will be held in August, 2005.

Next Issue

- To have your upcoming events included in the **Calendar**, please email thecraigellachie@hotmail.com or call Leigh Haines at 703-753-1964.
- The deadline for articles for the next issue of *Craigellachie* is July 1. Please email items to: thecraigellachie@hotmail.com.
- 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 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.

CLAN GRANT SOCIETY AGM 2003

John A Grant III, Commissioner for Clan Grant

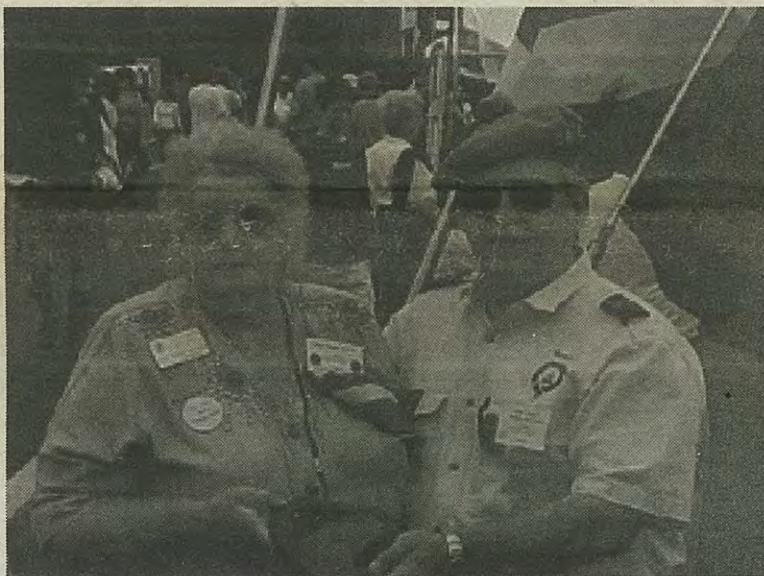
We would like to extend *Ceud Mille Fàilte* to all our brethren as well as an open invitation to share in the fun and festivities at the 2003 AGM. This year's event will be held at the Maverick Stadium during the Texas Scottish Festival on June 6, 7 & 8th in Arlington, Texas.

To assist those of you that have not been to our festival and are unfamiliar with the Arlington area, we are including pertinent information concerning the host hotel and upcoming festival activities should you wish to join us this year. In addition, a map is attached to show the general location of the host hotel from the DFW airport. Hopefully, this may make life somewhat easier for you upon your arrival.

The Host Hotel for the Scottish

Festival is the "LaQuinta Conference Center" located in Arlington, Texas. Their direct reservation line to the Arlington site is 1-800-453-7909. Identify yourself as attending the Scottish Festival and with Clan Grant. However, call soon. The area fills up quickly due to the proximity of the Six Flags Amusement Park, which happens to be right next-door. You may also make your reservation via the Internet. Go to www.laquinta.com, type in the local zip code of 76011 and that should put you at the local Arlington reservation office.

The host hotel offers shuttle service from the DFW International Airport to the hotel as well as from the hotel to the festival. If you choose this service, you will want to do the following: when you arrive at the baggage claim area, you can call them directly from the (Continued on page 6.)



Florida Commissioner (and Membership Secretary) Jean Grant Wilson and CGUSA President C. David Grant accept Jacksonville's "Best Tent Award" for Clan Grant Well done!

FLORIDA WRAP-UP

Jean Grant Wilson, Florida Commissioner

ORLANDO: The Florida Games season started in January with the Orlando Games on the 18th. Michael Bongertz did his usual great job of manning the tent. I am told the weather was very cold for central Florida but Michael was prepared with a space heater. He was very popular that Saturday! Thank you, Michael, for your faithful endeavor, year after year!

Alice Mewes, a Grant cousin, told me that over 10,000 people turned out for the festivities. She is a member of the Central Florida Scottish Highland Games Committee. In spite of the chilly weather, all who attended felt a warm comradery. However, only a handful of "Grants" braved the cold to attend!

SARASOTA: On February 1, it was the Sarasota Games. Murray Grant reports that the day was cool

and windy with low attendance in the morning due to the Columbia disaster, but picked up in the afternoon. The Sarasota tent is hosted by Murray and Bill Grant, but unfortunately, Bill's wife had to be taken to the hospital that morning with a severe nosebleed. Bill spent the day running back and forth between the tent and the hospital. Thank you both for all the effort that you put into the Games.

JACKSONVILLE: The day of the Jacksonville Games was sunny and very windy but the rain held off until 3:30pm. I would rather have wind than rain any day.....

C. David and Jane came down for the weekend and participated in the Sponsors Reception and C. David also participated in the Whisky Tasting. Since the media was predicting the worst storms in years for Saturday, I only took the essentials and what I call my "rain kit." (Continued on page 6.)

Calendar

June 7-8

2003 AGM
Texas Scottish Festival
Arlington, TX

Tentative Agenda

Friday, June 6

- Arrive at the hotel and get settled in

- Patrons dinner at Maverick Stadium

Saturday, June 7

- 9:00 a.m.
Festival grounds open to the public

- 11:30 a.m.
Assemble at the Clan Tent for opening ceremony

- 12:00 p.m.
Opening ceremony (We may be the Clan that leads the opening parade)

- 12:30 p.m.-1:30p.m.
Lunch will be provided

- 2:00 p.m.
Clan Grant Officers to meet for 2003 AGM

- 6:30 p.m.
Evening supper with entertainment

Sunday, June 8

- 9:00 a.m.
Festival grounds open to the public

- 10:00 a.m.-10:30a.m.
"Kirking of the tartan"

- 10:30 a.m. 5:00p.m.
Free time

- 5:00 p.m.
Closing ceremony

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Founded 1977 by George and Lucille Grant

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From The Leadership

RAVES AND RANTS

David Grant, President

Clan News -- Years ago my first cousin and I used to avoid the "grownups" when relatives visited because all they did was sit around and talk about their ailments! Well, guess what? We're all grown up (at least physically), and many of us have had more than our share of problems.

Our *Craigellachie* editor, Leigh Haines, has survived several medical problems, hence the gaps between issues until recently. We know communications is the lifeblood of a society such as ours, and we trust that she is now on the mend and that you agree that this issue and the previous one represent a new standard in our publishing efforts. Well done, Leigh!

Husband Allen Haines (Major, US Army), not to be outdone, had shoulder surgery and has now requested deployment! At one point he and Leigh had three people in the house all taking turns nursing each other. So deployment doesn't seem like such a bad idea, right Allen?

Lucille and George Grant, our founders, have survived Lucille's bout with multiple infections over the holidays. Her biggest challenge may lie ahead – surviving George's nursing and cooking. Early on she did pre-empt his efforts trying to put together a meal. We'll keep our fingers and toes crossed, Lucille!

Christine and board member Rand Allan recently lost Christine's father. They did a superb job hosting our AGM last spring, and attracted a truly international gathering of Grants, many sporting their forest green Grant t-shirts that Rand had designed. We hope all you Southern California Grants are stepping up to share the load until the Allans can return to games duties. Christine and Rand, please know we're thinking of you ...

Marie Grant from Amelia Island, Florida, is recuperating from knee surgery. She and Ed had a surprise joint 80th birthday party at our Stone Mountain games here in October. Marie, next time don't kick him quite so hard!

Richard Grant, games commissioner, has been sidelined by a whole series of medical problems, and we're trying to provide him some help with the kits and other games arrangements. Board member John A. Grant and VP Allan have pitched in – thanks to you

both. Dick, you're in our thoughts and prayers.

Jim and Carol Suttie have recently turned over Northern California games duties to webmaster Scott Grant. Their dedication and loyalty to Clan Grant over a number of years are nothing short of inspiring, and we appreciate their service more than we can say. They hosted a board meeting in Sacramento several years ago, and impressed us with the organization of their set-up and take-down rituals, and their schedule of up to nine games a year! Enjoy the games now without all that responsibility.

Games News -- In February, Jane and I attended the Jacksonville games, hosted by Jim and Jean Grant Wilson. There was a smaller-than-usual bunch of "regulars," but a growing number of "younguns." Waiting in line for the parade of tartans, we were actually complimented by the Grahams for our youth! Imagine! Everything's relative, I suppose, and while we thanked them and minded our manners, some of them did appear to be survivors of some pretty difficult games!

Congratulations are in order for Jean, since Clan Grant won a hard-fought battle for best tent (The margin was a single point!). Have already seen some of Jean's great pictures, which appear in this issue. The temperatures were reasonable and the rains held off until mid-afternoon, so only the winds were a challenge this year!

Jacksonville had their first whisky tasting, my personal favorite, and I want to assure all that I represented the clan to my best ability. The Famous Grouse family was featured, including Macallan and Highland Park. What's not to like?

As this is written we're packing games gear to show Grant colors at the Culloden (catchy name, eh?) games just west of Forsyth, GA. We'll be joined by former treasurer John C and Thelma Grant and genealogist Don Grant for a nice small games in a very quaint little town.

AGM in June! -- Please look for John A Grant's announcement about the 2003 AGM in Arlington, TX, in June. His wife Helen and he have agreed to be our hosts this year. Let's have a large turnout and beat the 35 or so we had in California. So far as I know, it's just a vicious rumor that we must notify the authorities if more than 25 Grants gather at one time!

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Jean Grant Wilson, Membership Secretary

Thank you all for returning your renewal notices so promptly! It makes my job so much easier. You can tell when your dues come due by checking the mailing label on the *Craigellachie*. The number – year specifies the quarter and year that they are due. The 'R' number is your membership number. It is a big help if it is included in all correspondence to the Society. With so many members with the name Grant it is some times hard to decide which one is really you...

Membership is climbing but could still be a lot better. Get those aunts, uncles, cousins, and children to show their

Scottish pride and join. Memberships make great birthday and graduation gifts... And it's never too early to start shopping for Christmas gifts...

We encourage all our members to actively participate in the activities of the Society by attending the various events throughout the year and working with the Commissioner for your area. We believe you will enjoy and benefit more from your membership by participating. Along with your membership comes a host of responsibilities like recruiting, volunteering, writing articles, or sending in info on births, deaths, etc., to the

Craigellachie. Through the membership, Clan Grant will either prosper or decline! Remember, if you don't give of yourself, you won't get all the enjoyment that will come to you through membership in the Clan Grant Society.

Have you received your copy of the 2003 Highlander Directory yet? On its cover is a photo of Milton Hatleli from Indiana. His wife Jean wrote me that his band had gone to New York in 2002 to march in the Tunes of Glory Parade. She just joined this year and requested a subscription to the Highlander. The first issue she received was the Directory.

What a thrill that was for her!

Until next time, remember that membership does matter. The "Member-Ship" cannot stay afloat with only a few in the "crew"... Help pass down our heritage with all the knowledge and fun activities that a membership in Clan Grant can give.

Clan Grant News



Granddaughter Britt with caber.

OK GAMES AND GATHERING

John & Helen Grant, High Plains Commissioners

The 23rd annual Tulsa Oklahoma games were once again held at Chandler Park on September 20 through 22, 2002. The weekend began with a wonderful gathering and dinner at the home of Carole Richmond (Oklahoma CGS-USA member). Local members of the Cherokee "Goingsnake Historical Association," many who are descendants of Ludovic Grant, were there. Members in attendance were: Virginia Vann Perry*, Jean Vann*, Curtis* and Florence Rohr, David Hampton, Jack D. Baker, Roy Giles, Ruth and Jay Faulkner, Marybelle Chase, Chinnubbie and Nancy McIntosh, Carole* and Edna Richmond*. (* denotes Ludovic Grant descendants.)

Carole, when having these gatherings in years past, has invited Helen and me to share in the event. She points out that the Native Americans embraced the Scots, as their customs and geographic heritage were very similar to their own. Her gracious hospitality reflects not only that of the Native American but of the Highlander as well.

It was perfect weather for the weekend events. One of the largest crowds ever attended this year's event. They were greeted by sixty-five Clan tents, the largest ever, surrounding the parade field. It was a glorious site. Our Clan director, Larry Link, attributed the large turnout to the heavy advertising the two weeks prior to the festival.

We had a lot of current members as well as many new faces come by the tent. Some of the new faces included David, Janet, William, Mark, and Michael Grant; Megan Nunemaker; Bruce Singer; Winston McElroy; R.L. Bearer; Marcy Clements; Verena Street; and Jayne Mitchell, all of the Tulsa area. We hope they were encouraged to join the society and look forward to seeing them again next year.

Members Shannon and her sister

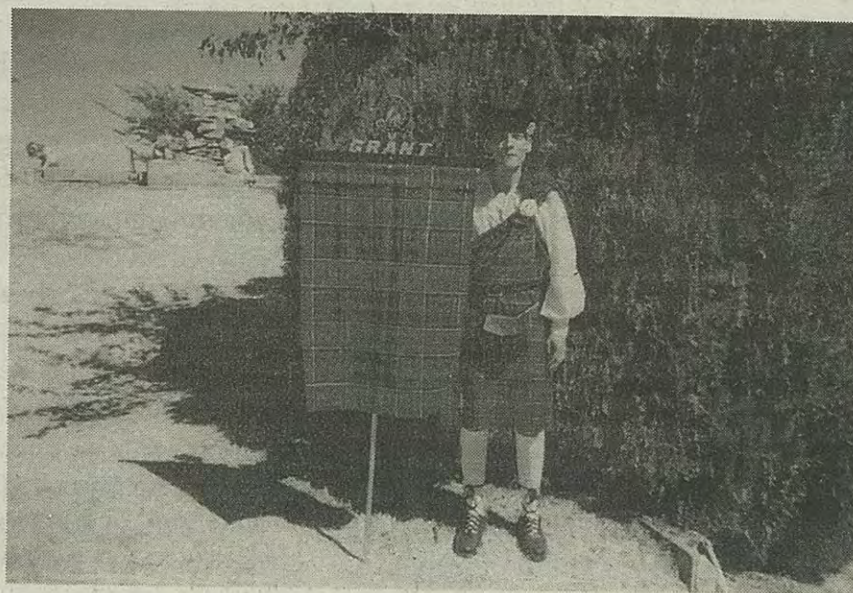
Kelly introduced their father, Jink, and mother, Janet, to the CGS this year. They would have arrived in time for the mid-day parade, we were informed, but a bit of horse-trading was the first order of business that morning.

Our Tulsa baker of fine Scottish goods, Paula Grant Gorman and the ever-faithful Ernest Kerns and family returned this year for a visit. Ernest, dressed in his Feiladh Mor, is shown in the accompanying picture holding our Clan Banner. The Tulsa Oklahoma Scottish Society manufactured this particular banner for us. It is for display and the attending Clans' use during the parade.

The theme for the festival this year centered on the "wee people." Our Chairman expressed those thoughts in her welcoming statements as she remarked, "Our future depends on them so we honor children this year with many special Celtic activities in the Kid's Glen." And so they did with Celtic puppet shows, miniature golf, pony rides, ring toss, sack race, potato race, crawl through Nessie, tug of war, and the cabar toss to name a few.

Our granddaughter Brittany competed in the events and successfully returned to the tent to display her winning ribbons. She is shown in a picture preparing for the caber toss. My younger brothers had contemplated competing in the amateur class, at the Beckley, WV, festival. After some serious deliberation amongst themselves, they declined with various senseless excuses. I, on the other hand, professed age and gracefully declined. Eat your heart out guys - Brittany will show you how it is done.

Colin Grant-Adams, Scottish entertainer, came by our tent several times throughout the weekend to chat with us. We enjoyed Cohn and his wife Julia's company in addition to his performances. He received favorable reviews from the patrons and we expect to see him there again and at other future events. Well, it's off to McPherson, Kansas and another enjoyable festival.



Ernest Kerns dressed in his Feiladh Mor displays our Tulsa Clan banner.

MCPHERSON SCOTTISH AND HERITAGE FESTIVAL

*John & Helen Grant,
High Plains Commissioner, CGSUSA*

Lakeside Park once again provided the serene setting for this year's Highland festival. As before, the local inhabitants turned out to support the weekend event. Seven



Helen Grant, Bonnie Henry, and John Grant with their new Clan Grant Society display at the McPherson Games.

Pipe Bands led the procession of the Clans at high noon, officially opening the games. Over 26 Clans participated this year, the largest group to date.

Clan Campbell was the honored Clan this year, and with that honor went the privilege of manning the hospitality tent.

Events were ongoing throughout the weekend with Alex Beaton the featured entertainer. Scottish and Irish dancers were on hand to demonstrate and compete for the events prizes. The festival organizers brought a "wee bit o' Scotland" to the event by sponsoring Celtic activities for the children. One activity involves the children going from Clan tent to Clan tent to obtain a signature or stamp for their booklet. When they have fulfilled the

task they redeem the booklet for a prize. No one goes away empty handed and it's a super way of getting the children involved in the festivities.

We were also privileged to having our good friend Bonnie Henry stop by the tent. Many, many years ago, George Grant (convener emeritus) loaned me his target for display here in the central plains. I asked George if I could duplicate it and display its historical significance at our festivals. He gave me the go ahead and FINALLY after several unsuccessful attempts to get it duplicated, along came Bonnie. A "toll painter by trade" she took on the task and within a two week period did a fantastic job for us. We proudly display it in a setting Helen and I designed.

It has been a busy year for us, moving and all, and this was our final festival for the year 2002. We once again thank the CGSUSA for their support in our endeavor to promote our Scottish heritage and culture.

Notes From "Home"

My heart is in the Highlands, my heart is not here; My heart is in the Highlands, a-chasing the deer. -Robert Burns-

JOURNAL FROM SCOTLAND

JULY 19 – AUGUST 9, 2002,

CONTINUED FROM LAST ISSUE: PART TWO

*Dr. Christopher Pratt and Mrs. Jimmie Cochran Pratt
74th Chief Board of Directors
New York Caledonian Club*

Many people ask about traveling in Scotland, and we always answer quickly that it is easy and among the best destinations. We have been fortunate to travel to Scotland about every other year, and this was the most recent trip.

ISLE OF SOUTH UIST

We visited Flora MacDonald's birthplace, a lovely museum at Kildonan, and a fine coffee shop leased by a very nice lady and a fine cook, delicious salmon salad sandwiches on South Uist. We really enjoyed the great little museum of island life there too. We also stopped at Salar Salmon where they pack the best fresh salmon from South Uist!

FLORA MACDONALD'S BIRTHPLACE (3 miles north of Daliburgh): Half a mile north of Milton, follow the farm track about 200 yards to a cairn on top of a small hill. Flora was born here in 1722. She famously helped Bonnie Prince Charlie in the Jacobite Rebellion.

KILDONAN MUSEUM: Local history displays, crafts, and cafe. Open during the summer. Tel: 01878 710343 or 700279.

ORMACLEIT CASTLE: The guide books relate that Ormaclite (or Ormaclite) Castle was built for Ailean, chief of the Clan Ranald, over a period of seven years at the beginning of the 18th century. Unfortunately, it burned to a shell in 1715 when a side of venison caught fire in the kitchen on the eve of the Battle of Sherrifmuir when the clan chief was killed. Today, quite a lot of the structure remains and it appears to have been a two-story house with a T-shaped layout rather than a fortification. Over the doorway you can see what is apparently an armorial panel.

LOCHBOISDALE: Terminal for the vehicle ferry from Oban and Barra, this is only a small village with post office, garage, grocers, cafe, public toilets, tourist information office, Royal Bank of Scotland, telephone, and hotel. It is the "capital" of South Uist. Cycle hire available.

Beneath the ferry pier are the remains of Stornoway Castle which was the stronghold of the MacLeods of Lewis early in the 16th century. It was destroyed by Cromwell's troops in 1653.

RUEVAL (Where religion meets radar): The hill is the site of both the Catholic statue of "Our Lady of the Isles" and the tracking equipment for the Army missile range. It overlooks Loch Bee and the causeway to Benbecula in the distance. This is more or less the dividing line in the Western Isles between the Catholic south and the Protestant north (Not to be confused with the hill also called Rueval on Benbecula).

We spent Thursday evening at the Lochmaddy Hotel. And Friday morning, we had a great breakfast by Ian, including porridge with Chinese lanterns, herring in oatmeal, and smoked haddock with our eggs.

We also visited the wee arts centre called Tigh Chearsabhaigh in Lochmaddy on North Uist, and bought two old books there with beautiful engravings. Bought raffle ticket, hope to win!

(Editor's Note: Well, did you?)

We took the ferry back to Skye and drove around the north coast past the Flordagarry and Am Dig, Staffin Bay, and through Port Rìgh and Broadford south to the ferry from Sleat to Mallaig. From Mallaig we took the wonderful road to Strontian where we stayed in a wonderful B&B with Collette Greenaway at the Stable Cottage, Ardnamurchan in Argyll.

It rained off and on as we traveled along on Friday.

MULL

On Saturday we drove across Morvern to the ferry from Loch Aline to Mull. Visited Torosay House and Duart Castle talked with Laird Lachlain McEwan and great homemade food in the tearoom there. We had lots of heavy rain on Mull, but it was beautiful there.

We stayed in Tobermory while on Mull.

On Sunday, we drove around Mull to take the ferry from Fionnphort to Iona where we had showers off and on again.

One of Scotland's most historic and venerated sites, Iona Abbey is a celebrated Christian centre and the burial place of early Scottish kings. The Abbey and Nunnery grounds house one of the most comprehensive collections of Christian carved stones in Scotland, ranging in age from 600AD to the 1600s. In AD 563, Columba and his twelve disciples landed at Port na Curaich (Harbour of the Coracle) to build a monastery and establish a school of learning, having travelled in a hide-covered craft from Ireland. They introduced the faith which was to spread far beyond Mull and indeed Scotland itself.

We had great homemade soup in a coffee shop on Iona and climbed Columba's View above the abbey. Later, after a rainy ferry back to Mull, we had a good dinner at the hotel on the hill, including great hot

toffee pudding – yum!

There was no rain on Mull on Monday, and we drove across Mull to catch the ferry to Staffa. We had fun exploring the island and its famous cave. It rained heavily on the way back from Staffa.

We took the ferry from Craignure to Oban and drove all the way on to Killen where we stayed in the lovely Cottage Drochart Falls with Stanley and Johnnie Mudd, and their Westie guest and old yellow Lab. We had a good dinner at the hotel next door, and a nice breakfast with great porridge from the mill at Aberfeldy.

On Tuesday, we bought preserves at the butcher's in Killen, and

oatmeal and a spurtle for making porridge at the mill where the porridge at the Mudds' had come from. We drove to Blair Atholl and visited Blair Castle where the day ended with a big thunderstorm.

Blair Castle is located in Blair Atholl on Tayside, eight miles from Pitlochry. Situated in the wide Strath of Garry, it commands a strategic position on the main route through the Central Scottish Highlands.

In 1269, while the Earl of Atholl was away in England for an extended period, a neighbor, John Comyn, started to build a castle on the Earl's land. Atholl complained (Continued on page 6.)



Allen and two Grants from Australia visit Duthill Church.

OUR FIRST TRIP TO SCOTLAND, PART 2

K. Leigh Haines

GRANTTOWN ON SPEY

While we had always planned on visiting the Grant cemetery, it was actually by chance – and/or a rather confused reading of the map – that we found ourselves driving through Duthill on the way to Granttown on Spey. We actually found ourselves right in front of the Grant Centre at Duthill Church. While the church itself was closed at the time, we spent a couple of hours walking the graveyard, reading tombstones, and putting together family names and lines... in the pouring rain, of course.

Right before leaving, we actually met two more Grants – a man and his daughter-in-law from Australia – who were making the same trip into their heritage that we were. Our Grant-from-down-under wanted to visit Duthill Church in particular because that is where his grandfather was baptized.

We finally arrived in Granttown, just a little soggy, and found our bed and breakfast. We took it as a sign that in a house where all rooms were named after a Scotch, we were given – you guessed it – the Glenfiddich Room.

Granttown was quite a bit larger than Drumnadrochit, so it was here we first noticed that, instead of numbers, most homes had names. It was also here that we learned a few other things about the Scots. In addition to names, most of the homes had beautiful, perfectly manicured gardens. Due to the cold weather, many homes had built on greenrooms. Despite the wet and the cold, they are very fond of ice cream. While British food has a very poor reputation, Scottish food is very, very good. Desert or "sweets" are served with every meal and often between meals. My husband fell madly in love with shortbread. And cats – cats were everywhere.

Of course, we had to visit Castle Grant. There is no official tour – the castle is closed to the public – but we were fortunate enough to meet a number of people who were very knowledgeable about the Castle and its history.

(Continued from page 5.) The short version is the castle has passed through many hands, and in recent years, has lost several short-term owners or potential buyers and continues to decline. It has been partially renovated, but much of the castle is near ruin.

There are many stories and legends associated with the Castle. It is said that there is a small, windowless room where a daughter of the house was sealed up for refusing to marry her father's choice. Another story: There is a cross carved into the side of the castle said to be the spot where a piper died after marching and playing all the way from Inverness. Why he did this was never made clear.

Of course we had to tour the grounds and discovered another Scottish tradition. Back home, walking across someone else's land is considered trespassing. In Scotland, it is actually encouraged as long as livestock is left alone and gates are closed. Following this tradition, and taking advantage of Scotland's surveyors' maps, we found pagan stones in the middle of a field, a fort/cave built into a deep crevice, and a castle built on an island in the middle of a loch.

Our driving adventures were just as varied. We saw fishing on the banks of the Spey. We found a World War II monument that showed that almost every single surrounding town, many of them very small, had lost men. And we discovered that the American version of a main road is not the same as the Scottish idea. Returning from a day trip, we drove an alternate route to Granttown directly along the Spey. Our main road gradually became a dirt road, and went from two lanes... to one lane in a ditch. The only way to pass was to pull off at designated spots... and to hope one of these spots was there when you needed it.

But it was along this "main road" that we discovered why hunting is popular in Scotland. It still makes me laugh to think of this farm we drove by. The field had hundreds of odd stalks sticking out of the grass... that started to move when we drove by. Rabbit ears! We had startled hundreds and hundreds of rabbits now running through the field. Pheasants and odd, miniature deer walked across the road without hesitation.

It was moments like these that came to epitomize our trip. A slower pace, a beautiful place, full of surprises. And that was our Scotland.

(Continued from page 1.) Despite the weather predictions, the Grant tent always seemed to be overflowing with Grants during the day. We were kept busy welcoming new members and old. And to our total surprise, Clan Grant won the "Best Tent Award," which was presented to C. David and me.

At about 3 pm, the sky turned threatening and we started to pack up. Thank goodness we did - by 3:30 the rain was coming down in buckets. All in all, a great day was had by all.....

A special thanks goes to Stoney and Ruth Grant who have helped me with the Jax tent these eight years. I would not have been able to do this without you.....

Some of you who went to other games, especially Dunedin and the Southeast FL Games, may have been disappointed that there was no

Grant tent. Unfortunately I haven't been able to secure a volunteer to host either of those Games. Any takers?????

Mary Kelly joined at the Jax Games and has very generously offered to host the tent at the Tallahassee Games in the fall. I am building her up a starter kit that I will be posting to her soon. Many, many thanks to you, Mary! I do hope that the Grants in that area will support you and stop by to say hello.

Come on, you Florida Grants out there... There are many other Games in Florida that need to have the Grant colors flying! Ocala, for one, is coming up in the fall. Hosting a tent is not hard. Just one day out of your time and you have such fun meeting new and old friends! I will supply you with a starter kit and help you all I can.

Let's show that Scottish pride and share our heritage!



Murray Grant, Bill Grant, and Vince Carnes on the march for Clan Grant in Sarasota.

(Continued from page 5.) to King Alexander III, got his land back, and incorporated the usurping tower into his own castle.

It is still there, called Comyn's Tower. It has been occupied by attackers on four occasions, including the Cromwellians during the English Civil War. During the 1745 Jacobite Revolt, Bonnie Prince Charlie stayed at Blair Castle on his way south after landing at Glenfinnan. Inevitably the English army occupied the castle in 1746 as the Jacobite revolt came to its sad conclusion. The Jacobites, under Lord George Murray, lay siege to Blair in what is believed to be the last castle siege in Britain.

Wednesday was sunny throughout the morning and much of the day. We revisited Blair Castle to walk the grounds and beautiful gardens. Later we stopped in the village of Blair Atholl to buy a kilt piper's jacket.

Then we drove to Perth to visit Scone Palace. It has a lovely collection of lacquered paper mache vases done by French brothers who took the secret of their work to their grave. We learned about it from a very nice and slightly older lady. We also spoke with a guide there. She and her husband had been farmers until they retired. We also enjoyed the ground's fun maze made of hedges with a fountain in the center and an observation deck to help "rescue" those who were lost.

GRANTTOWN ON SPEY

From there, we drove on to Granttown on Spey and stayed at the Ravens Court House. We enjoyed a good dinner at the Garth Hotel and very nice service. Ravens Court House has a wonderful large conservatory and the hosts prepare lovely breakfasts. It has a grand sitting room and is walking distance to town and an ATM without being on the main street.

We should be used to rain in Scotland. But there is normal rain, and then there is the sort which fell on Tuesday.

Torrential, monsoon-like rain in central Scotland caused severe flooding, landslides, closure of main roads, railways, and airports. Some areas got as much rain in 24 hours as normally falls in a month, falling at the rate of an inch an hour. As a result, all railway lines between Glasgow and Edinburgh were blocked with flooded track, and services from Aberdeen and Inverness terminated at Stirling because trains were unable to get into Glasgow. Some rail services were not expected to get back to normal until the following Monday.

On Thursday, we finally had some sun in Granttown, so we drove to Inverness. Later we went for a nice walk in the woods on the banks of the Spey in Granttown. Again we had a lovely dinner at the Garth Hotel with the manager/bartender Bruce as our host.

On Friday, we met Anne and John MacPherson in Newtonmore for lunch, saw Howard Parsons, former Chief of our Clan Grant Society in America, and visited the

(Continued from page 1.) courtesy phone service provided there. They will be identified as the "LaQuinta Conference Center" in the courtesy listings. Provide your reservation confirmation number along with your Terminal and Gate number to the Host Hotel. They will have their shuttle pick you up at the Terminal and deliver you to the conference center at no extra charge. If you prefer a rental car instead, they are available at the airport and at a location near the Conference Center. The hotel and shuttle service can assist you with the rental agency near the Center at no extra charge. Fortunately for us, the Scottish Festival is within the five (5) mile radius limitation of the hotels shuttle service. Thus, you can sign up at the front desk in the main lobby and the shuttle will take you to and from the festival, and again at no cost to you. I am told the shuttles will be running "on the hour." There are also many local restaurants and shops available within walking distance to the hotel.

The Host Hotel will also provide the Society with a conference room on Saturday June 7th, for an evening of dining and entertainment. The meal will be a dinner buffet at a cost of not more than \$25.00 per person. Beverages do come with the meal. A "cash or host bar" may be available. It is also our intent to have a Celtic musical group to perform if they are available that evening. **HOWEVER**, this is currently a tentative plan. The Conference Center will require a minimum of 35 guests guaranteed before letting the facility. So, plan early and RSVP us at jgrant4@myfirstlink.net or at 1-817-884-9256 at your earliest convenience. We have plenty of time to plan an alternate event should the final tally fall short.

The weather can change quickly here on the central plains. It does get hot in June and we have had some torrential rains at times, so come prepared. There are air-conditioned rooms that do become available between events at various times throughout the day. You can contact us at anytime prior, for any additional information or assistance that you may require. So, come out Clansman and support your USA Society while enjoying the camaraderie and hospitality of the Texas Arlington Scottish Festival.

MacPherson museum.

Later we took a nice walk around Loch Morlich in the Glen More Forest Park. That evening we had a poor dinner near Grantown, but met nice people whose son once lived in Asheville where Jimmie is from.

Saturday, we visited Castle Grant and Duthil Kirk, home of our Clan Grant. From there, we drove through Tomintoul and across the mountains to visit Balmoral Castle. It was foggy and rained hard, but along the way, we saw lots of ptarmigans, had a nice lunch, and bought new day pack at the Glenmullach Nordic Ski Centre.

Balmoral was closed because the royals were there, but we drove around a bit and looked in where we could. We visited the Information Center in Royal Craithie and Chris "washed" in the rain pouring down off the roof in buckets! He also bought a Scotland cap and some nice books there. We visited the HRH's Presbyterian Craithie Church across the road. From there we drove to St. Andrews, and then on to camp at Tayport on the beach north of St. Andrews.

On Sunday, it didn't rain and the sun actually came out! We drove to Dalgety Bay, where we stayed in a B&B, took the train into Edinburgh, and saw the festival parade. Chris bought a beautiful hand made in Scotland oatmeal Arran sweater, and we heard the Tannerhill Weavers in concert at the University as part of the Festival. It actually got quite hot that day, and Edinburgh was very crowded.

Monday was hot and sunny, and we took the train into Edinburgh again.

The castle is Edinburgh's best known and most popular visitor attraction. Edinburgh Castle was of strategic importance during Scotland's wars of independence. Long before that, however, the precipitous rock, rising out of surrounding forest, is known to have been a tribal refuge and settlement. There is archaeological evidence of human habitation on the crag in the Bronze Age, about 1,000 BC. This evidence makes Edinburgh one of the longest continuously inhabited places in northern Europe. The name Edinburgh could be a corruption of Edwin's Burgh, commemorating a ninth-century king of Northumbria, whose realm extended to the Firth of Forth. Other authorities, however, suggest that the original form of the city's name was "din Eidyn." This is Brythonic, a language akin to Welsh, spoken in the south-east of Scotland at the time.

We had meetings at the University of Edinburgh, and that evening, we saw Allison Brown in concert at Reid Hall as part of the Festival. She had her four-week old little baby girl with her - so cute! Chris bought CDs for Jimmie and our friends in Milngavie. The train back to Dalgety Bay was very late and we waited at the station with quite a crowd until they finally brought one around for us.

Tuesday was mostly hot and sunny and again we took train in to Edinburgh. We had meetings with Patricia Ferguson, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs of the Scottish Executive, Scottish National Parliament, and the Scottish National Museums, and with our friends Magnus, Susan, and Thomas at Epic

Concepts.

We took a sunny, hot tour bus ride around Edinburgh, and attended the Edinburgh Tattoo where it rained a little during the show. After the Tattoo, we got to Waverly station as the last train to Dalgety Bay was announced. They would not let us board though the train was still sitting there. We had to take a cab in the pouring rain (£30!). From there we drove on to Milngavie in a real downpour.

Sunshine and higher temperatures (23/25C or 73/77F in Glasgow, for example) continued until Tuesday when heavy rain returned in the evening. A torrential downpour in Perthshire on gave the equivalent of three weeks of rain in one hour, resulted in flash floods and the closure of the railway line between Perth and Inverness after a landslide removed the ground below a stretch of the track. There were also lengthy delays on the main east coast line from London to Edinburgh after a landslide blocked part of the line north of Berwick. Passengers had to complete their journey by bus. On Friday, it was Edinburgh's turn to experience monsoon conditions with 1.4 inches of rain and temperatures tumbling to 13C (55F).

Because of the heavy rains and flooding the reservoir in Milngavie serving much of the area had been contaminated and residents had to boil there water. The Water Department drove through the neighborhoods announcing the warnings and later that the water was then OK on loud speakers mounted on trucks. It was like a scene out of the 1930s or 40s.

Wednesday was a nice mostly sunny day in Milngavie. Our friends took us to the Trossachs for a nice lunch in Dryden, where we also visited an art gallery and Jimmie bought two small card prints. Later we climbed the "Dumpling" for magnificent views of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs.

On Thursday there was no rain, but it was cloudy all day. We drove to the Wool Center at Aberfoyle where Jimmie bought a blue tartan kilt and an Arran sweater for our baby niece Anna. Chris had his photo taken with a golden eagle and we had a nice picnic in the Queen Elizabeth Forest.

On Friday, it rained in Glasgow and Manchester. We caught a 9:45am BMI flight to Manchester on which they made us pay for extra luggage and would not check our bags through to the US. We returned to the HHH in Philadelphia and NYC, and US Airways lost our luggage between Philadelphia and LGA, but finally delivered them to us at home on Saturday morning.

All in all it was a very wet time in Scotland. In all the times we have visited there it has rarely rained two days in a row, but this time it rarely didn't. However, even with the clouds, rain and cool temperatures... we are ready to return to Scotland.

Grant Miscellaneous

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Grant Miscellaneous

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