



Calendar

Plan now to attend or to volunteer:

2003

December 6: Scottish Christmas Walk, Old Town Alexandria, VA.
Contact: Allan F. Grant, afg@aol.com

2004

February 28: Jacksonville, FL.
Contact: Jean Grant Wilson, (904) 268-9049, clngrant@comcast.net

2005

Put August 2005, on your calendars for the next "Gathering of the Clan" in Scotland.

Reminders

- The Clan Grant USA site is a great source of information, and it looks wonderful! Take a moment to look around: www.clangrant-us.org/
- TOPICA is a way for any member of Clan Grant to send an e-mail message to all other Clan Grant subscribers. If you have a message that would be of general interest to our members this is the way to go. If you are not currently a subscriber, but you would like to be added to the list, send your e-mail address to Jean Grant Wilson at clngrant@comcast.net Jean will take the necessary action to have you included in TOPICA.

A Good Time Had By All

Potomac & Virginia Wrap-ups Nevin "Mick" Pratt Commissioner, Mid-Atlantic

As the newly appointed Mid-Atlantic Commissioner for the Clan Grant Society USA – and not being a babe in the world – I knew full well what many trials and tribulations could lay ahead during any inaugural season. Learning how to set up the tent wasn't rocket science, but putting a good face forward and being slapped mightily by Mother Nature on my first outing was NOT supposed to be in the equation.

That was just the case, and predictable, when I set up my first tent at the Potomac Celtic Festival, in Leesburg, VA. Although the weekend weather called for some drizzle for Saturday and Sunday, the 14th & 15th of June, the skies were wonderfully clear on Friday. So it was at 7 p.m. when I joined several other conveners in setting up the evening before.

Anyone paying attention to this story so far may have noted that the festival was scheduled to begin on Saturday the 14th ... meaning I was setting up on the infamous Friday the 13th. Why hadn't I noticed that sooner?

Fortunately, there aren't any pictures of the devastation wreaked upon that first tent – a medieval-styled, 12-foot square beauty with crenellated edging that I'd ordered specifically to fit the image I wished to portray for Clan Grant. Nor is there any record of the language-strewn, 30-minute tirade while I untangled and surveyed the damage. Although the tent was a total loss, I did manage to recall some of my Marine Corps training by properly securing and waterproofing all of the tent's contents that Friday evening. With a WalMart only minutes down the road, I was able to purchase a quick replacement (a bargain at \$40). Though not possessing the style of the earlier tent, in the buggy confines of Movren Park Equestrian Center (See page 7.)

Culloden Games in Georgia April 26-27, 2003



Left to Right: John and Thelma Grant, Clan Grant President David Grant, Jane Grant, and Clan Genealogist Don Grant.



Left to Right: Frank, Catherine, and Curtis Jenkins with Clan Grant President David Grant



Mick's first appearance in his Black Watch Sport Kilt and the authorized trappings of the Scottish American Military Society (complete with Marine Corps' trim).

Craigellachie

A publication of Clan Grant Society USA, Inc.

Founded 1977 by George and Lucille Grant

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From The Leadership

Raves and Rants

David Grant, President

AGM

2003 Annual General Meeting

Our 2003 AGM was held at the Arlington, TX games in early June, ably hosted by board member John A. and Helen Grant. The gathering attracted many local Grants and several out-of-towners as well, including board secretary Dr. Phil and Shirley Smith from Pennsylvania, treasurer and former board chair Richard L. Grant from Tennessee, VP Allan Grant and his new lady, Micheline, from Maryland, and former treasurer John C. and Thelma Grant, as well as Jane and me, from Georgia. It's always fun to meet clan members from other parts of the country and to catch up on happenings with old friends ... er, ah ... friends we've known for many years!

These games were memorable for several reasons, not the least of which was food! (Surely you've picked up on one of my priorities by now!) We were treated to some of the best barbecue I've ever experienced for Saturday lunch. I had to admit to John that I've kidded more than my share of Texans in the past about being "those folks who pour ketchup on beef and call it barbecue." "Real barbecue," of course, is pork, slow-cooked in a pit, with appropriate sauces and varying degrees of heat, Brunswick stew, coleslaw, and served on a red-and-white tablecloth, etc, etc. Well, I managed to eat my words ... and more than my fair share of tender sliced beef and beef ribs. Incredible. A few of us managed to forego an afternoon nap long enough to hold a meeting. We had the usual lively discussions, and actually agreed on a few action items.

We're in the process of refurbishing our games kits, with the idea that our most active commissioners will have their own Grant banners and reference materials so we can reduce the number of mailings and avoid the problem of conflicting games and kits that do not arrive on time. We also discussed upcoming elections, our first since we adopted staggered terms so that we would not replace all officers and board members at once. I will be appointing a nominating committee to present a slate of candidates for the positions with expiring terms so we can have elections next spring and installation at our next AGM. Saturday night we gathered for dining and entertainment, and shared our banquet with others of the Scottish persuasion in the host hotel. Smithfield Fair, a group from New Orleans and one of Helen's favorites, gave a delightful performance to end the evening on a high note (Sorry, couldn't resist!). They did a great job with a variety of selections, includ-

Membership Matters

Jean Grant Wilson, Membership Secretary

Clan Grant Society-USA warmly welcomes back all the members that have recently renewed after an absence. We hope that you will find many new and exciting changes in the Society! And, of course, we appreciate the members that renew annually! So many of you have taken the opportunity to renew multi year, which makes my job so much easier.

You may have noticed that the Clan Grant e-mail has changed due to a buy-out between attbi and comcast. The correct e-mail is now: clngrant@comcast.net. I try to answer all e-mails promptly so if you have a question, problem or suggestion, please write me.....

I would also like to encourage all members with e-mail to subscribe to the Clan Grant Listserve. This was put in place to facilitate communication among our members and is only open to the membership. Through it you can send out general announcements, news and carry on discussions without having to remember the e-mail address of everyone in the Society. It is also an inexpensive way for me to send out membership info so if you aren't on the Listserve you may be missing out on some exciting goings on.....

Once you subscribe it is quite simple to use. You only have to remember that if you want to reply to the person that sent the message you need to type in their e-mail address. BUT, if you want to let everyone on the list see your answer or message, you just reply and it goes back to everyone on the list.

To protect the privacy of subscribers, the mailing list for the Clan Grant Listserve will not be sold or distributed in any way! You are in control of how you use it. If you change your e-mail address, you need to let me know so that I can update both the database and Topica list.

If you would like to join the list, just e-mail me your request and I will notify our Listserv Administrator, Howard Parsons.

I guess most of you are all out enjoying the Games throughout the country. Here in Florida, it was too beastly hot during the summer months to have Games so things are quiet at the moment. Starting in October we started up again with Tallahassee.

Keep in mind that membership does matter! So, recruit, recruit, recruit.....

ing familiar traditional pieces, some little ditties from Burns, and a variation of the Skye Boat Song.

Sunday we gathered for the Parade of Tartans, which attracted a surprising number of folks after a "heavy dew" that morning. We went around in search of hot coffee or chocolate instead of the abundant lemonade and water at most vendors, since they were expecting much warmer weather. I had an early retreat after the parade to get back for jury duty, of all things, bright and early Monday morning, and then was not even called for a jury pool. Imagine, they did not even have an exemption for highland games! Some nerve ... Thanks again to John and Helen for a superb weekend!

Games News

In April Jane and I joined John C. and Thelma Grant and genealogist Don Grant at the Culloden games in the quaint little town of the same name. This is a nice small two-day event just west of Forsythe, GA, about an hour and a half south of Atlanta. We renewed acquaintance with several Grants, including state representative Curtis Jenkins, who returned on Sunday with his mother.

I met several of our regulars in July for the Grandfather Mountain (NC) games, the oldest in the Southeast. George and Lucille shared a condo with

Phil and Shirley, John and Thelma, and Ed and Marie Grant from Amelia Island, FL. Jane stayed home to help a former co-worker and roommate who was having cancer surgery (successful, so far!), so it was left to Lucille, Thelma and Marie to see that I behaved! The setting for the games in MacRae Meadow with the mountain backdrop is just spectacular, and the weather cooperated this year, as well. Last year we suffered through a cold rain, wind, and morning fog that obscured the field so that at times the athletes were not visible. We had our usual gathering Saturday night at Doris Matthews' beautiful house in Linville, at the foot of the mountain. Fewer folks showed this year, so we had to have a better time to make up for it!

Doris and late husband Bill owned and operated Dunedin Scottish and have supplied many of us with our Scottish regalia over the years. Daughter Judy operates Near and Far Scottish in Charlotte, so they've kept it in the family. My clan crest and kilt pin from Bill's very detailed molds are in another league from most vendors' fare. Doris measured me for my first kilt - would that those numbers were still valid (see paragraph on barbecue above)!

Scotland 2005

Put August 2005 on your calendars for the next "gathering of the clan" in Scotland.

Grants In The News



From Left to Right: LTC Robert Sheppard, Col. William Reeder (Ret.), Tessa Grant with Turah, Major John Eric Grant, Col. Lynn Rolf (Ret.).

John Eric Grant, US Army-Signal Corps, has been promoted to Major at Fort Leavenworth, KS, where he is in a support assignment for the Army's Command and General Staff College. He has been selected to attend the College during the 2003-04 term.

Eric has had previous assignments with the 3rd Infantry Division (Wurzburg, Germany) and 101st Airborne / Air Assault Division (Fort Campbell, KY). His military education includes Infantry Basic and Advance Individual Training, the Signal Officer's Basic Course, the Brigade / Battalion Signal Officer's Course, the Signal Officer's Advance Course, the Airborne School, and the Air Assault School. He is a graduate of North Georgia College (Computer Science).

Eric has been privileged to have "godparents" Lucille and George Grant (Hixson, TN) attend several prior significant occasions with him (college graduation, commissioning, wedding, assuming and relinquishing Company Command); maybe the next one will be closer to Tennessee!

Eric, wife Tessa, and their daughter Katurah (Turah, for short) reside in the city of Leavenworth.

In light of his outstanding leadership and oversight of the agency's reactor safety program for the Midwestern United States, **Geoffrey E. Grant** received the 2002 Presidential Meritorious Executive Rank Award.

Mr. Grant has consistently demonstrated his commitment to enhancing public trust in the agency's ability to minimize the health and safety impacts of nuclear power reactor operation. His sound vision and *proven technical expertise enable him to instituted sweeping changes to the region's inspection activities.* In so doing, Mr. Grant focused technical resources to promote early problem identification and resolution, while implementing the agency's revised reactor oversight process at all of the region's operating reactors.

Mr. Grant also played a pivotal role in managing the regional response to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, and he continues to monitor the potential threat to nuclear reactor safety.



Geoffrey E. Grant



Bryan "Beau" Grant

Bryan "Beau" Grant, a clansman in Atlanta, GA, joined Michael McFadden and Rachel Latham to embark on the business of running a top notch real estate service in North Atlanta. Exit Realty Team 400, a residential and commercial real estate brokerage, held its grand opening on September 24. The North Fulton Chamber of Commerce was on hand to perform the ribbon cutting ceremony.

For more information, or to see this picture of Beau in his Clan Grant kilt in color, visit www.exit400.com.

Grants In The News

Finding, or Being Found?

Nevin "Mick" Pratt
Commissioner, Mid-Atlantic

In June 2002, a friend invited me to attend the Potomac Celtic Festival in Leesburg, VA, saying it would be a great opportunity to meet not only deep-rooted Scots, but others, like myself, who had only recently discovered their ancestral heritage.

For those who have not yet done it, the process of uncovering one's heritage can be a daunting undertaking: it took me over three years; time spent researching family bibles, letters, wills, military records, and countless online sources, as well as a tenacious writing campaign with the New Register House in Edinburgh. In the end (for me) was the pleasing discovery that Scottish blood, not English, coursed through my family's veins. Our affiliation with Clan Grant, in fact, is recorded to the Strathspey region as far back as 1648. But, I digress ...

I did have a great time, making quick friends among those who extended their hand (for something other than payment). I was quickly welcomed into the Scottish American Military Society (having recently retired after 21 years in the Marine Corps), the Clans of Scotland (whose membership requirements seems to include a flask in every sporran), and a host of other groups in search of fresh ideas and faces (and, perhaps, cash?). Sadly, there wasn't any representation from Clan Grant. One of the festival hosts had quipped: "I don't think they convene anymore."

How could this be, since the Grants are steeped in history, noted for their scotch whisky, and "Nessie" lives in their own backyard?

"Simply put, there just aren't enough Grants getting involved," said Allan Grant, vice president for the Clan Grant Society USA, when I reached him by phone later that week. "We're in need of some new blood," he hinted. "Are you a member?" Sounding a lot like a challenge, I took up

the gauntlet, promising to register online immediately AND offering to meet him at the very next game. "Ok," Allan said, "that'll be the Virginia Scottish Games in Alexandria, VA. See ya then." From his tone, I got the distinct feeling that I wasn't the first to offer help ... and Allan was used to disappointment.

A month later, when Allan arrived at Episcopal High School to find me standing on the very spot the clan's tent would occupy, the look on his face was priceless. "I didn't really think you'd show ... especially this early," he said. "David, this is the fellow that called me last month asking why we weren't in Leesburg." "Glad to meet you," David Grant - very informally introduced as the Clan's president - said. I shook his extended hand and allowed myself to be pulled in the general direction of the truck they drove up in, as he added: "Can you give me a hand with some stuff?"

And so it was, my introduction to convening. Several drams of scotch later (I dis-remember how many), I commented how much fun the day had been. A few handshakes later, I accepted Allan's offer to take over as the Mid-Atlantic Commissioner. Let that be a word of caution: Glenfiddich is a powerful persuader.



Anne Arundel County Games.

Allan F. Grant

On 11 October, we gathered for the Anne Arundel County Games. These are small, one day games, and very enjoyable. Didn't get a lot of new Clan Grant members. Seems most all of them in this area already belong, but got to help others track down their clans. This is what it is all about. Also got to meet and greet a lot of old friends, which makes it all worthwhile.

The people in the picture are all from Pasadena, Maryland. On the left is Steve Grant with his son Stephenson. Next to him is his mother Anna, then my friend Micheline Reinhardt, then Steve Grant's father, and yours truly.

It was a nice day, a little windy, but other than that, very enjoyable. Come out and see us sometime!

Clan Grant Golf Shirts

Golf shirts embroidered with clan crest and "Grant," 100% cotton, usually have adult L and XL, navy, forest green or white in stock, other sizes and colors available after next clan order.
\$37 plus shipping.

T-shirts, 100% cotton, forest green with 3-color crest on back, small logo on front. Design originally ordered by Rand Allen for Southern California Grants. Adult and children's sizes.
\$17 plus shipping.

Contact: C. David Grant, 1842 Alderbrook Road, Atlanta, GA 30345-4112; (404) 634-9051;
d-grant@mindspring.com.

SHIPPING ADDRESS:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Member # _____ E-Mail _____

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

More From The Leadership

Greetings Fellow Clansmen

David Grant
President, Clan Grant Society USA, Inc.

Olive, Lady Strathspey's Birthday

George Grant, founder of our US clan and Convenor Emeritus, has alerted me to a special event. Olive, Lady Strathspey, widow of our late chief Sir Patrick and mother of Michael, celebrated her **90th** birthday on **August 6**. She is a grand lady, very warm, with a wonderful ability to put everyone around her at ease. She served as a colonel in the British army during World War II, and was General Mark Clark's British liaison during the Italian campaign. Jane and I met her during our first visit to Scotland in 1994. She and their son Michael joined in the festivities at the Nethybridge games and were delightful dinner companions when George, Lucille, Jane and I hosted a Grant dinner at our b&b.

George and several other attendees at the Alexandria games this year discussed how nice it would be if a large group of Grants from "this side of the pond" sent belated birthday cards with a personal greeting and perhaps a picture (Our original information was that her birthday was in September). If you wish to send a card, please be sure to specify **airmail** – postage should be about \$0.80.

Her address is: Olive, Lady Strathspey (or Olive, The Dowager Lady Strathspey), 111 Elms Ride, West Wittering, Sussex PO20 8LP, England.

The greeting inside the card should be "Dear Lady Strathspey."

Clan Grant Listserv

Come join us in the electronic age! A relatively small number of our clansmen have registered their e-mail addresses with our listserv. A listserv allows a message to be sent with a click of the mouse to everyone whose e-mail address is registered in the listserv. This can be a very effective way of communicating time-critical information to our Society without incurring postage expense or waiting for the next issue of the Craigellachie. But, you must actively ask us to include your e-mail address. If you want to join the listserv, please send your request to Jean Grant Wilson, our hard-working membership secretary, at clngrant@comcast.net. She will verify your membership status and send you a copy of the listserv operating rules. Howard Parsons will add your address to the current members so you will be able to send and

receive messages. This will continue to be a protected list of the active membership – no vendors or aliens, please.

Elections

The by-laws now provide for staggered terms of our officers and board members. The terms of our current vice-president and board secretary and two of the at-large board members will expire next year. I am charged to appoint a nominating committee to select a slate of candidates for these positions so their names may be published and an election held next spring. The newly elected officers and board members will take office during next year's AGM. **Please** send me your suggestions for either the nominating committee or the open positions. We would like not only a large number of Grants willing to work for the benefit of the Society, but a broad geographical representation as well.

AGM 2004

We have a couple of board members already looking for a host and an appropriate venue for our Annual General Meeting next year, but there may be someone who is anxious to volunteer both themselves and a location. We've held AGM's at Stone Mtn (GA), Richmond (VA), Glasgow (KY), Loon Mtn (NH), Loch Prado (CA), and Arlington (TX). Please let me know if you have any candidates for the board to consider!

Volunteers

Let me know if you are interested in becoming more active in the Society, whether writing letters, manning a tent, recruiting new members, or hosting a whisky tasting (OK, maybe I got carried away!). We always have more things to be done than people to do them.

See you at the games ... and ... *Stand Fast, Craigellachie!*

Clan Grant Name Tag Order Form

\$8.00 EACH, including postage. Make check payable to CLAN GRANT SOCIETY and mail to: Jean Grant Wilson, 3815 Millpoint Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32257-8933

BADGE #1

Name _____

Line 2 (optional) _____

(ex: Title or office or city/state)

BADGE #2

Name _____

Line 2 (optional) _____

(ex: Title or office or city/state)

SHIPPING ADDRESS:

Name _____ Member # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Membership # _____ E-Mail _____

Upcoming Games

(Continued from page 1.) (Reading the fine print, that means a horse field.), the screen was an occasional Godsend.

While only 13 visitors signed in, the Clan Grant tent was a buzz of activity, thanks in great part to a pre-planned Claymore Sword raffle. Over 285 tickets were sold, with the "fine Scottish letter opener" going to Bob and Elaine Woodward of Reston, VA. They weren't present for the drawing (a crowd of over 50 anxious ticket holders were), but they graciously accepted delivery of the sword to their home a few days later, when delivered by Connie Taylor McLaughlin.

Following the calamity of Leesburg, and perhaps fearing for my safety in any upcoming storms, my wife, Allian, and my two sons, Nickolas and Adam, bought me a 10' x 10' EZ-up, with sides, as a late Father's Day present ... and just in time for the 30th Annual Virginia Scottish Games in Alexandria, VA. Now, I had the EZ-up for my main display and the screen tent for a hospitality suite. And it's a good thing too, as Grants came out in droves, bunches, and carloads.

Clan Grant Society USA founders George and Lucille Grant of Hixson, TN, lead the way and stayed nearly the entire weekend. Joining later were charter members Gordon and Mildred Grant of Arlington, VA, and a host of other Grants of all sizes and ages.

At least 24 visitors signed the rolls this time, and our parade ranks swelled from just myself at the Potomac Celtic Festival, to seven or eight at Alexandria. We kinda straggled a bit ... so the exact number of marchers is still in debate. I'm quite sure I reached my full height of 6'1" that day - swaggering proudly with my fellow Grants.

Following on the success of the raffle at Potomac, I decided to try another raffle here, this time with 1st Prize being a Baskethilt Sword and 2nd Prize a stainless steel flask with leather pouch. Taking advantage of George's celebrity, I asked him to draw and present the winning tickets. Although 265 tickets were sold, it only took the calling of one name to draw some excitement. Upon hearing his name called from across the parade field, Lee Taylor of Clan Cameron ran across for "his" sword ("I've never won a thing in my life," he proclaimed later). Navy Cmdr Pamela McDowell of Bethesda, MD, won the flask, but wasn't present to accept ... she had left that very day for a two-week vacation in England and Scotland.

And so it was that what began as a tragedy at the Potomac Celtic Festival in Leesburg, VA, turned to triumph by the Virginia Scottish Games in Alexandria, VA. I can't wait to see what happens in the games to come ... or maybe I can!

Florida Games

Jean Grant Wilson
Florida Commissioner

If any of my Florida Grant members wish to host a Grant Tent at any of the FL Games in their area, please contact me. The last two big Games this year are Tallahassee and Ocala. Any one in the Ocala area willing? I get so many comments from you saying that you are disappointed that Clan Grant isn't represented at Games you attend. Come on, show some spirit and step forward. The Society is only as strong as it's membership! Don't leave all the fun to a select few. We all need to work together for the good of the Clan Grant Society-US and help it prosper! And besides, look at all the fun you are missing and the new and old friends that you can meet.

A "BIG" thanks to my stalwart Grants that are already committed! You make my job as Commissioner a lot easier!

This is a list of some of the 2004 events in Florida that I know of:

- Orlando... 16 January
- Sarasota... 31 January
- Pace River... 8 February
- FL State Fair... 12 & 13 February
- Jacksonville... 28 February
- SE Florida... 5 & 6 March
- Panama City... 13 & 14 March
- Bradenton... 13 & 14 March
- Dunedin... 10 April
- Pace... 1 May
- Ft Walton Beach... 22 May

If you know of any others, please let me know.....

Grant Items For Sale



423-842-4581

Tartan Fabric, Red Grant	\$ 12.00 per yd
50/50 Poly/Cotton - 60 inches wide	
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

Make check payable to CLAN GRANT SOCIETY and mail to:

George Grant
301 Masters Road.
Hixson, TN 37343

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

SHIPPING ADDRESS:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Member # _____ E-Mail _____

Clan Grant Society Membership Application

NEW RENEWAL Membership # _____ Date of Birth _____

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Dues \$20.00 1 year; \$40.00 2-years; \$55.00 3-years; Life Membership \$400.00

We also offer a discount subscription to The Highlander, \$10.50 per year

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

Jean Grant Wilson
3815 Millpoint Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32257-8933

Craigellachie

c/o Jean Grant Wilson
Membership Secretary
3815 Millpoint Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32257-8933

