



Craigellachie



Spring 2005

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Wanted: A King for this Castle

Reprint Sunday Times [Scottish Edition] 1/16/05
By Tim Dawson

Once the imposing family home of one of Scotland's greatest clans, Castle Grant needs new owners to return it to its past glory.

In the mid-16th century the chief of Clan Grant performed an act of barbarity that appears to have blighted his home ever since. The chief's daughter, Barbara, fell in love with a man deemed by her father to be unsuitable.

When she rejected her father's alternative suitor he locked her in a closet in the tower of the family home where, according to legend, she died of a broken heart.

A few miles from Grantown-on-Spey, the tower stands to this day over Castle Grant and is still known as "Barbara's Tower". Her ghost is said to haunt the old family fastness.

The castle sits on shoulder of hillside with views of the Cromdale hills and the Cairngorms. Within its forbidding walls there is a suite of recently finished rooms that would allow a family to move in and live comfortably from day one. Past tenants have included Chris Evans, the sometime aspiring media mogul, who lived there during his brief residence in Scotland in the mid-1990s.

Some of the rooms are intimate and warm – the barrel-vaulted library, for example. Others are impressive on a monumental scale, such as the great hall.

Then there is the rest of the castle, on which recent history has been particularly hard. Not only was much of the interior gutted by fire, but also several attempts to repair the damage failed as the project swallowed cash. Indeed little has changed today since it last changed hands in 1999.

A long-abandoned project to turn the castle into a luxury hotel attended to some of the hardest work – not least the repair of the roof. At that time a few rooms are partially partitioned and now require finishing. Elsewhere more fundamental work is needed. Roof timbers remain exposed, large areas of stonewall are uncovered and cavernous gaps remain in the interior.

The cost of finishing the castle could run to hundreds of thousands of pounds. Once finished, however, the building will be fit for a future every bit as dazzling as its past. Most of the work on today's castle was carried out by Sir Ludovic Grant in the mid-18th century. It was he who employed John Adam to give the house a new façade (Queen Victoria said that it made the place look like a factory). Sir Ludovic also established Grantown-on-Spey nearby to provide the family with industrial wealth.

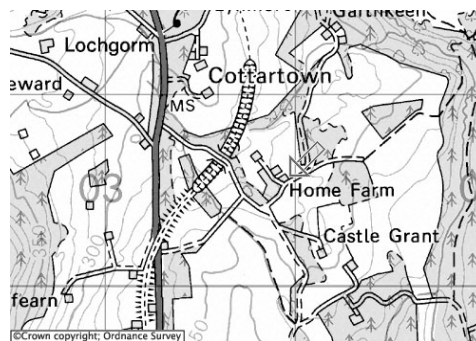
By 1911, however, the Grants were in decline and most of the family treasure was removed from the castle. A few years later the Grant estates were inherited by the eccentric Countess Nina, who for a time was the richest woman in Britain. She remained in the castle throughout the 1930s and early 1940s, even when it was requisitioned for war work.

The accounts of what happened next vary. The most popular version has it that Indian regiments – in Europe to do their bit in the Second World War – were billeted the cast. They were said to have lit fires on the floors, one of which destroyed most of the west wing. The countess left at this point, but the Grants held on to their deteriorating asset until 1983.

Then came the schemes. The castle opened briefly as a visitor attraction- but few visitors were attracted. Work to create a hotel started and faltered, as did a conversion to a private residence. The last owner but one, Graham Keeler, achieved some stunning results, although there is much still to do.

Since then little has changed, but there is one sense in which the current owners have not been that unlucky. When Castle Grant was last marketed, in late 1999, it was for offers over £390,000. Today the upset price is £1m.

(So how much have you got tucked away in your piggy bank?)



A few miles from Grantown-on-Spey, the tower stands to this day over Castle Grant and is still known as "Barbara's Tower".

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Summer Deadline to submit is May 15th!

Highland Games & Gatherings

April 2

Dunedin Highland Games
Dunedin, FL
www.dunedinhighlandgames.com
Contact: Jean Grant Wilson

April 4

Sarasota New Hampshire Games
Oak Park
Greenfield, NH
Contact: Lysle E. Grant

April 15-17

Loch Norman Highland Games
Rural Hill Farm
Huntersville, NC
Contact: Helen Furr

April 30-May 2

Aiken Highland Games
Aiken, SC
Contact: Fred W. Wood

May 22

Eugene Scottish Festival
Eugene, OR
www.oregonscottish.org/
Contact: William Burton

June 3-5

Glasgow Highland Games
Glasgow, KY
contact: Richard L. Grant

June 10-11

Utah Scottish Festival & Highland Games
Lehi, Utah
Contact: Allen Johnson

July 10

Payson Highland Games
Payson, Utah
Contact: Allen Johnson

July 7-10

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games
MacRae Meadows
Linville, NC
Contact: C. David Grant

July 15-16

Milloula Highland Games
Missoula, MT
contact: Richard L. Grant

August 20

Maine Highland Games
Thomas Point Beach, Brunswick, NH
Contact: Lysle E. Grant

August 27

Quechee Scottish Festival
Polo Field
Quechee, VT
Contact: Lysle E. Grant

Sept 23-24-25

New Hampshire Highland Games
Hopkinton State
Fairgrounds
Contoocook, NH
Contact: Lysle E. Grant

Sept 30 - Oct 1

Middle TN Highland Games
Murfreesboro, TN
contact: Richard L. Grant



To have your upcoming events included in this calendar email:

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For other Nationwide Games check out:

<http://www.asgf.org/9.html>



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The Clan Grant Society, USA was founded in 1977 by George & Lucille Grant by authority of Sir Patrick Grant of Grant (1912-1992) The Right Honourable Lord Strathspey, Baronet of Nova Scotia, 32nd Hereditary Chief of Clan Grant. And continues under authority of Sir James Grant of Grant, The Right Honourable Lord Strathspey, Baronet of Nova Scotia, 33rd Hereditary Chief of Clan Grant.

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Membership

Matters

By Jean Grant Wilson
Membership Secretary



Spring is about to spring forth here in Florida. I think this is my favorite time of the year! A renewal stage...

We have welcomed into Clan Grant Society 9 new members since the first of the year. This is a great start and the website is attracting a lot of interest. The Games season has started in some areas so lets keep the interest going...

How about a brief BIO from the new members. We'd love to hear about your life, what are your interests, occupation, etc. ...Just send it me clngrant@comcast.net or to Holly at Craigellachie@comcast.net.

Just to recap: Membership dues are as follows; 1yr....\$20.00, 2 yrs....\$40.00, 3 yrs....\$55.00 and a Life time membership is \$400.00. Upon reaching their 80th birthday, members are then entitled to free membership and become a Life member. A membership includes the 'Grant', their spouse and any children under 18 years of age. Each membership has 1 vote. The membership year is divided into 4 quarters, January, April, July and October. At the beginning of each quarter you will receive a renewal notice. Each new member will receive a welcome packet containing pertinent info about the Clan.

With each membership renewal, you will receive a letter that I hope you will keep in a safe place. It will contain your member number, date your dues were posted on the database and any other info deemed pertinent at the time. This letter could be crucial if any discrepancies should occur. When contacting the Clan it would be most helpful if you would include your member number. Your member number along with your dues date can also be found on the Craigellachie mailing label.

Don't forget that a Clan membership makes a great gift for family and friends. Be it a birthday, anniversary, or Christmas. I will include in my welcome letter, who the gift is from and why if you so request!

The Clan is pleased to be able to offer a magazine to members at a reduced cost, the Highlander (\$10.50). In order for the Clan to continue this policy, we need to submit a certain number of subscriptions per year. So please, when your renewal notice comes be sure to send it to me so that we can get credit for your subscription.

And be sure you send your change of addresses to me promptly! Craigellachie is mailed by bulk mail and will not be forwarded if you move. This is a quarterly publication. So make a note of it and if you think you have missed a copy, please let me know.

What fun, fellowship and friendships can come from belonging to Clan Grant! By getting together with others of like heritage through membership you might even discover some family connections.

And don't forget, membership does matter.....for the survival of the Society

Notes from the Editor

By Holly Grant Wilson Floyd



As I prepare this second Spring issue since my tenure as editor, I would like to share some thoughts with you. Throughout the year it has been such a pleasure to hear from so many of you!

It is my goal that each issue of our Craigellachie reflects the past, present and future of Clan Grant. It's important to publish member's personal history as well as to comment on ancestors past, to report on what has occurred with our members in the most recent quarter of the year, and to share our plans for the future.

It is my opinion that the written word is our way for members to perhaps read similar heritage, keep up with current events, and most importantly reach new Grants.

Our Craigellachie is a permanent record or tribute to Clan Grant USA! This mixture of articles helps many of us with confirmation, clarification and gives a sense of kinship of all things "Grant".

On a personal level I feel my grandparents and great grandparents would be pleased with how world-wide Clan Grant has become. We must continue this sharing of ourselves so future generations can see the evidence of our Clan's existence.

When you send in articles to the Craigellachie you are contributing to the permanency and life of our clan. Each issue is a snapshot of this generation and just as we enjoy reading archives and researching our families-so will our children's children.

In this age of computers and the world-wide web we can touch quite an audience as well as reach many members. We have an excellent website and our Listserv is a wonderful platform for soliciting help, giving advice and sharing ideas....and e-mail gives such instant gratification!

I have been in touch with many of you and know you have the same passion for information and I am most grateful to those of you that have committed to four articles a year.

I love sharing the clan news and there is soooo much out there to learn from. Just by becoming active in your local Scottish organizations and observing and participating in Scottish events we can glean a lot of knowledge and this will help us to continue to grow.

For those of you that are in the process of making your plans for the 2005 Grant Gathering abroad, you will find three different tips in this issue.

The first can be found on page six noted from the UK society. Then our clan president mentions another suggestion in his article on page four. You will also read in the "Clan Chatter" that our secretary, Phil Smith and his wife Shirley are working on a third recommendation. At any rate it's a wonderful opportunity that only comes every five years!

"A h-uile là sona dhuibh 's gun là idir dona dhuibh."

(May all your days be happy ones)

Summer Deadline to submit is May 15th!



Raves & Rants

By C. David Grant, President

Greetings All - Sorry to have been out of commission for so long - Jane and I are both still recovering from our bouts with colds that progressed into flu, with all the usual accompanying symptoms, the less said the better! This year we blame the Feds and other bureaucrats responsible for the scarcity of flu vaccine - by the time our age group was approved for treatment, we were already sick!

Scotland, 2005 - We hope you are making your plans to join us for the Clan Grant International Gathering in August. Last issue we published the plans for the week's activities in and around Grantown prepared by Robert Grant, UK Society vice-president and secretary. It will be necessary for you to decide on the activities in which you wish to participate (I was taught that a preposition is not a proper word to end a sentence with!) and make the necessary deposits. Follow Robert's directions about paying the UK Society representatives directly or arrange to route your payments through our secretary, Phil Smith who has accounts in Scotland. The latter alternative saves you the time and expense of arranging for pounds sterling money orders. Current exchange rates are almost \$2 per pound now, quite a bit less attractive than the \$1.55 or so that prevailed during our 2000 Gathering.

Board Secretary Dr. Philip Smith has agreed to coordinate our plans for the US Society, so please let Phil know if you plan to attend, whatever your travel and payment plans are. Phil also maintains a bank account in Scotland, so check with him if you would like help making your deposits. I'm sure Robert will appreciate all the prior notice we can give him, especially for the Saturday night banquet after the Nethybridge Games and the tour bus arrangements.

Jane and I have just made our own reservations in Grantown. One suggestion is to use the website of the Scottish Tourist Board at www.visitscotland.com and see what is available. Click on "Accommodation" at the top of the page, then "Accommodation Search" at the top left, and specify region or town and type (Yes, I was asked for details!). We then contacted individual B&B's directly through their websites to avoid the Tourist Board surcharge! If you plan on using the tour buses, notice they will have stops each day on the square in Grantown and at the Nethybridge Hotel.

AGM in Scotland? - Our best opportunity for a large gathering of Grants this year is probably during our visit to Scotland. The best time looks like Sunday afternoon after the UK Society meeting earlier that morning. We'll explore using Duthil, maybe bringing a lunch with us in the morning? Just a thought ... We need to discuss our upcoming elections in 2006, among other things.

Membership Czar - OK, maybe Czar is a bit much, but we are in great need of someone to coordinate our activities to make sure we have a Grant presence in all parts of our country and to grow our membership. We have great activity in many areas, a terrific newsletter, an active board and elected and appointed officers, not to mention great, interesting and accomplished members! Let's share our heritage and good fortune to be Grants with all those others out there who do not know of us or are waiting to be asked. The ideal candidate would be a member in good standing who knows members in several parts of the country and who has some innovative ideas about communicating our existence and recruiting new members to our ranks. Please let me know of your interest.

Upcoming Games - Games schedules appear elsewhere in this issue. Jane and I plan on attending the Loch Norman Games just north of Charlotte, NC, in April and the very traditional Grandfather Mountain Highland Games outside Linville, NC, in July. The Grandfather Mountain Games are the oldest in the Southeast, celebrating their 50th anniversary this year.

Listserv - Our listserv is a great new-age tool which allows us to communicate very quickly and cheaply about matters of concern to our clan, to announce games or inform the group about other clan business. Unfortunately, we have had recent abuse of the rules for use of the listserv and the scope of matters which are communicated. Please limit your listserv activity to Clan Grant business and matters that should be of interest to a wide segment of the membership. And read and abide by the rules! If you would like to participate, just ask Membership Secretary Jean Grant Wilson to certify your current membership status and former President Howard Parsons will add you to the list. And as my Mother would have said, "Mind your p's and q's!" She probably never realized that refers to "pints and quarts" - those early Scots were already concerned with getting accurate (or generous!) measure for their money. So let's practice courtesy and show proper respect for the opinions and feelings of other members.

Tests Trace the story of the Grants

Reprint from *Strathspey & Badenoch Herald*

DNA is being used to try to trace the origins of one of the most famous clans in the world, which has its heartlands in Strathspey.

A scientific study has been launched on the other side of the Atlantic to establish the ancestry of Clan Grant, in a bid to solve the mystery of its origins.

Grants will be able to find out whether they are descended from clan chieftains by taking a simple DNA test in a project launched by clan society researchers in the USA.

They have hit the genealogical equivalent of a brick wall - where there is no evidence to prove a suspected relation - and are appealing for Scottish clan members to come forward so that they can more accurately trace the clan lines.

Using the results of the DNA test, researchers are able to match "DNA markers" from person to person and indicate the likelihood of two people having a common ancestor.

The more markers in common, the more likely the relationship.

Adrian Grant, of Freuchie, who is involved in the project, said: "The project is in its early days, but we are in a position to say whether people are related to the chieftains or not."

"It is interesting because people in the project have already found that they are related to the chief line and had no idea about it, while those who thought they were have been disappointed."

The project is an independent attempt to trace the migration of the clan and untangle its origins.

Mr Grant said: "The project has already far exceeded our expectations, giving us a plausible exemplar of a direct ancestor of the original Norse chiefs and several people directly related to the later - post-1330 - chiefly line."

"This has provided substantial support for the Norse-origin proposition, and further knocks on the head the Anglo-Norman proposition advanced in the last 150 years or so."

The more people who go on the database, he said, the easier it is to make links and paint a fuller picture of the clan's origins.

"People will be able to see that they are related where they did not realise there was a relationship, just by looking at the DNA result. They could discover long-lost relations and fill in gaps in their family history," continued Mr Grant.

"For example, due to the dearth of Duthil Parish records, it is likely that I will not be able to trace my male Grant line back beyond 'John Grant in Glenchernick', around 1750.

"But if enough people took part in this test, it may well be that I will find relatives where the common ancestor we share dates from before that time, and a larger family tree will indeed be able to be constructed."

Grants who have already been tested have been divided into three separate groups - the first who are descended from ancient Norse chiefs; a second descended from the Stewart chiefs; and a third including ordinary clansmen.

It is expected that further testing would divide the last group even further.

Only results from men are relevant, because the project is tracing the history of a surname, and women do not carry the Y-chromosome being examined.

While women can also be DNA-tested, their results cannot be tied to the surname project.

The DNA test itself involves scraping cells from inside your cheek and sending them away to a laboratory to be tested for up to 37 different markers.

When the test is complete, participants receive a certificate with a set of numbers.

Anonymous results are published online on the project website, and participants can easily see if any kits match.

Mr Grant continued: "The numbers look just like gobbledygook - until you compare them with other people's.

This will allow you to see how closely related you are.

Continued on page 10

Alastair Grant: The Trappings of a Champion

By Allen Johnson, Utah Commissioner

Most of us are familiar with the fantastic painting by Richard Waitt (apx. 1714) of a menacing looking Alastair Grant, clad in a great kilt brandishing a strange sword behind a round shield. Unfortunately, there is precious little information about this man. This does, however serve as a great example of what the Highland gentleman would have been outfitted with during the early 18th century. I will break down his different trappings and armaments and identify them.

The Tartan

One of the first things one notices about this man is his interesting tartan. The gold-ish brown and red sett is not one commonly seen and certainly not the Grant tartan we know today. There is a common misconception that the idea of "Clan" tartans existed anciently. When in fact, the idea of Clans appointing different patterns to be their "official" colors didn't start happening until around the 1800's. Tartan and the kilt itself is a much newer item of clothing than most realize. We can really only find concrete evidence of kilts and tartans being as old as around 1600. William Wallace never wore a kilt- they didn't exist then, nor for about another 300 years. An interesting aspect of this is that we have Alastair here with his tartan, and we also have another painting of 'The Piper to the Laird of Grant' also by Richard Waitt, believed to have been done at about the same time as the portrait of Alastair, with a nearly identical tartan. Does this refute the idea of clan tartans? No, it does not. It was quite common for a weaver to make many, many yards of a particular pattern. It would not make sense to go through all that trouble for a single piece of 4 to 5 yard material. Thus we will find evidence of several people in a single area with some similar tartan. We do know that famous edict by the Laird of Grant in 1704-5 that his men were to be dressed in red and green "broad springed". (See Phil Smith's fantastic article on the Grant tartan on the Clan's webpage.) Though this edict does advise a certain color scheme, it does not state a specific pattern or set. Because of the dyes of the time, colors in tartan were usually not nearly as bright and vibrant as ones are seen today. In that theme, most clans today, have developed 'muted' or 'ancient' versions of their tartan to reflect the natural fading of the dyes that would have occurred historically. The 1860 sett of the Grant tartan is our own version of this. So we have Alastair clad in the period great kilt or feilidh-mhor, with a unique but obviously local tartan that seems to have been worn by at least one other person. The smaller kilts, without the plaid upper portion, seen today, didn't come into existence until around the very end of the 1700's.

The Sword

Another one of the more interesting aspects of this painting is the strange curved basket hilt broadsword Alastair is wielding. Though extremely rare, these swords did exist. Today they are termed and identified as "turcaels". There is some speculation that the blades were imported from the east and then fitted with locally made baskets. Seeing as though the vast majority of all blades and armor that could be found in Scotland was imported from Germany, this idea may not be off by much. There were a few Scottish blade makers as well and it's possible that Alastair Grant could have commissioned one for this unusual sword. In addition to this painting there are several examples of what appears to be a similar sword type in the famous Penicuik Drawings, depicting Highlanders fighting during the '45. You can find surviving examples of these swords in The Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh.

The Musket

Off to the right of the painting we see a long musket with a uniquely flared and deeply fluted stock. These weapons are known as 'snaphaunces' or also sometimes referred to as 'fowling pieces'. These designs were a unique Highland design and were common among the wealthy during the 17th century.

The Dirk

This long bladed dagger is the centerpiece of any Highland man. Even when in church services he retained his 'holy iron'. The dirk of the 18th century is quite a bit different from the gaudy, 'jewel' encrusted ones seen in the Victorian age through today. I have heard many people claim that Scots anciently didn't trust banks and so they attached their valuable jewels to the pommel of their dirk for safe keeping. Not only is this not supportable by any common artifact of the time, it just doesn't make sense. It would be like strapping your savings account to a rifle or hammer. The dirk was a weapon and a tool- not an investment house. It is true, however that many dirk blades were constructed from filed down, broken broadsword blades. Steel was relatively scarce in Scotland and recycling like this would be common.

The Targe

Protecting Alastair is a wide, leather covered targe (shield). These wooden shields were generally about 18-22 inches in diameter, usually decorated with brass tacks, and occasionally sported a long spike that could be screwed into the center boss. It is interesting that this shield and the Highlanders use of them is one of the last recorded use of a shield in a battle (heavily used during the '45). The targe was an essential element of the feared 'Highland Charge' that decimated many a bayonet lines. Their use is described in personal journals of the time from first hand witnesses—both on the giving and the receiving side. When the command was given the Highlanders would charge the bayonet line. Those that had muskets and pistols fired them and discarded them. Upon nearing the line they drew their broadswords and brought forward their shields. In an impressive maneuver the Highlander would stoop low and deflect the bayonet tip upwards and then cleave the man behind him with his sword. Often times he would also have his dirk in a downward grip behind his shield. So as he deflected the bayonet upwards, he would descend with his dirk upon the user, effectively dispatching him fleeing. Slaying two men at a time and smashing deep into the tight lines was usually more than an army could stand for which resulted in the lines breaking and fleeing. In a dueling situation a skilled targe user was a very dangerous opponent. However several sword masters of the time recorded that an unskilled user would easily blind himself behind the targe if not trained properly.

The Pistol

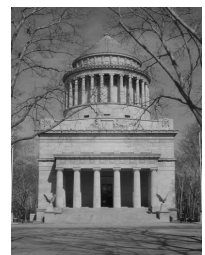
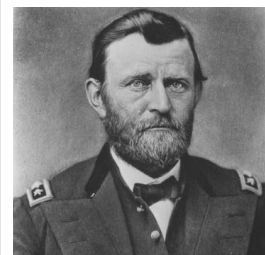
As if he needed any more help, Alastair has a steel pistol in hand behind the targe. At the time, and especially in Scotland, these all steel pistols were very prevalent among the wealthier clan members. Sporting beautiful engravings and intricate scroll work on the stock these were used from the end of the 17th century on. There are many accounts of after firing one of these pistols during a charge, a man would simply hurl the gun at the front line as he approached it. Needless to say a heavy steel pistol hitting you in the face would certainly be distracting enough for just about anyone to close distance on you and drive his steel home. There are also a few accounts of men using the pistol in the off hand as a parrying (blocking) device. Similar to the use of daggers in the off hand in almost every form of Renaissance dueling, he would deflect a sword cut to the outside at the same time slashing as his opponents opening.

Hopefully you have found this to be informative and interesting. We know that our history is a turbulent one. One can gain much appreciation for our ancestors and indeed the relative safety we enjoy in life, when faced with the daily trappings of the Highland man and our very own Champion, Alastair Grant. If you have further questions about this or any other related topics, please feel free to contact me! allen.johnson@acs-inc.com



"The Champion" is one of a series of some 30 portraits of Clan Grant commissioned from Richard Waitt by the lairds of Grant between 1713 and 1726.

Ulysses S. Grant was one of the great figures in American history. In war and in peace, his extraordinary leadership saved the Union and worked to insure a new era of peace and equality for all Americans. His death was followed by one of the largest outpourings of public grief in history, and Grant's Tomb was for many years among the most popular American landmarks. Over the course of the 20th century, however, Grant's reputation unjustly suffered, as general and especially as president, and his final resting place eventually became a national disgrace as it fell victim to desecration and neglect. The Grant Monument Association called the nation's attention to the deplorable condition of Grant's Tomb during the 1990's, and this website is presented to alert the public to what has been achieved and what remains to be done at this significant monument, as well as to further the education of the public on the life and legacy of a hero president who still commands a salute. <http://www.grantstomb.org/gmail.html>



Extra Points for Migrants to Scotland

The Rampant Scotland Newsletter



News from home

Grant Gathering 2005



A new control system for migrants, which is being introduced by the UK government, will give extra points to those applicants who want to settle in Scotland. The UK-wide scheme aims to attract those who have skills to offer and who already speak English. The most highly qualified, such as doctors and university graduates, would be able to come to the UK, even if they did not have a prior job offer. And after a five-year limit, would almost certainly be allowed permanent residency if they wanted to stay. With a declining population, Scotland's need for immigrants to fill employment gaps in some areas is greater than in the UK as a whole (where the population is continuing to rise). In order to address the skills shortages, the Scottish executive introduced a "Fresh Talent" initiative last year to attract those from abroad who could make a contribution to Scotland's economic development. The UK government's new system of controls announced last week seemed to be making it more difficult for Scotland to follow that policy. The "extra points" arrangements for those coming to live in Scotland appear to get round that.

The Clan Grant Society of the United Kingdom presents information about and timetable of events for the Second International Gathering of Clan Grant taking place from 13th to 20th August, 2005, (Inclusive) in the Clan homelands of Strathspey in the Highlands of Scotland. The Second International Gathering is being organized by Robert Grant, The UK Society's Vice Chairman and Secretary. Address: Creg ny Baa, Skye of Curr, Dulnain Bridge, Inverness shire, PH263 PA, Scotland. Tel. no. 44 (0)1479 851712. E- mail: robertjgrant2clangrantcentre@tesco.net and also Prof. Arthur S Jones CBE. The UK Society's Treasurer. Address: Begsdell, Caskieben, Kinellar, Aberdeenshire, AB21 OTB, Scotland. Tel. no. 44 (0) 1224 790340. E-mail: arthursjones@onetel.com.

When making reservations for gathering events please send to Prof. Arthur Jones together with the relevant payments. Cheques should be made Payable to the Clan Grant Society UK. In the case of Payments from outside the UK, Payment by Sterling Money Order would be appreciated. For all other information contact Robert Grant.

The year 2005, as well as being the year of our Second International Gathering, marks the 125th anniversary of the holding of the first Nethybridge Highland Games. It is planned to hold some special events to mark this important anniversary on Games day, Saturday, 13th August, 2005.

The Second International Gathering of Clan Grant will consist of eight days of events. Each day it has been arranged for a coach to take visitors to each event and return at the end of the day. The point of contact for accommodation information is the Highlands of Scotland Tourist Board, Grampian Road, Aviemore, Inverness shire PH22 1 PP, Scotland. Tel. no. 44 (0) 1479 810363. Email: aviemoretic@host.co.uk or visit www.Visitscotland.com.

Prominent Landowner in Strathspey

Reprint from Strathpey & Badenoch Herald

A PROMINENT landowner in Strathspey has claimed that maverick individuals are giving the majority of landowners a bad name and dragging their names into disrepute.

Lord Seafield, owner of Seafield and Strathspey Estates, has expressed his concern over how private landowners and large estates are viewed by the public in the estate's latest edition of "News Review".

Landowners in Scotland have so often been portrayed as difficult, obstructive and behaving above the law, he said, but for most that picture was simply untrue. He believes that certain factions have been eager to promote the transgressions of a few bad eggs

as the norm, damaging the reputation of other landowners in the process.

The Seafield family owns around 57,000 acres in Strathspey, and has held land in the area since the 14th Century.

Neither the factions or rogue estates are identified by the laird in his annual news review. Lord Seafield wrote: "Over recent years I have become increasingly concerned about how private landowners and large estates are viewed by the public in its broadest sense - a public that embraces MSPs and MPs, Government agencies and non-government organisations, local councillors and council officers, those living in the communities that neighbour estate ground,

those with whom we do business, those who use the estates for access and other recreation, our tenants both agricultural and residential, and our staff and their families.

"Every management decision which we take regarding the estates requires consultation with some of these - some proposals require consultation with all of them. I think, however, that despite legislation, increasing public interest and the move towards greater transparency, we can go even further than this." That's why, said Lord Seafield, he took the decision some years ago to hold open days, produce a news review and generally adopt a more open approach.

"I have been impressed by the way in which

Play Your Cards Right

From the Washington Post

"For each purchase made in foreign currency, we add an additional finance charge of 3% of the amount of the purchase after its conversion into U.S. dollars." Read the fine print. The non-profit advocacy group Consumer Action last spring surveyed 45 companies that issue credit cards and found that 26 were adding currency conversion fees—up from 17 the year before. Following is what you need to know:

** When converting overseas charges into dollars, Visa uses the wholesale exchange rate plus a 1 percent conversion fee. MasterCard and American Express add 2 percent.

** The companies that issue Visa and MasterCard may add another fee, typically 1 to 3 percent. (American Express issues its own cards.)

** Issuing companies that don't add an extra fee: Capital One, MBNA and numerous smaller banks and credit unions.

** Among issuing companies that do charge an extra fee: Bank of America, Citibank, Chase Manhattan and Wells Fargo.

Advice: No matter how you spend money overseas, there is no way to avoid foreign currency exchange fees. Credit cards remain a good option—if you play your cards right!

landowners in Sweden have, through concerted effort, investment and commitment, significantly changed how they are perceived. In Sweden, it has taken around 15 years for landowners to gain the recognition they deserve for the contribution which they make to the economy and indeed to everyday life. They have moved perceptions from what might be described as 'open hostility' to genuine and widespread appreciation of what they stand for and what they deliver. In Scotland we are involved in a similar exercise, and I make no secret of that. Landowners here have so often been portrayed as difficult, obstructive and behaving above the law. True, there have been maverick individuals who have abused their position and neglected their obligations.

Continued on page 11

Selling Castle Grant

Reprint from Strathpey & Badenoch Herald

THE future of a historic Strathspey castle - the ancestral home to one of the country's most famous clans - is again uncertain after it was put up for sale this week. Current owners Ian and Helen Bailey-Scudamore have placed Castle Grant, on the outskirts of Grantown, on the market for offers over £1 million, five years after they bought the 600-year-old property. Community leaders now hope that the listed building could be converted into an exclusive hotel to provide a boost to tourism in the area. In the past century, the castle has fallen victim to death duties, dry rot, fire and a succession of failed business plans to restore its fortunes. The Bailey-Scudamores bought Castle Grant in 2001 for £600,000 and soon afterwards announced £1.5 million plans to refurbish the castle to its former glory. At the time, Mr. Bailey-Scudamore said he wanted it to be a home and base for his business as an international business development consultant, complete with swimming pool, IMAX cinema and spa. He also proposed to use the castle, which is still used for annual gatherings of Clan Grant members from across the globe, for charity and community events. But while repair work has been carried out during the couple's time there, grandiose plans for the property have failed to come to fruition amid allegations that Mr. Bailey-Scudamore was in financial trouble. The castle was put on the market in 2002, only for the agents to withdraw it soon after. John Coleman, partner in the Edinburgh-based estate agents Knight Frank, confirmed on Tuesday that Castle Grant was once again up for sale. He said that Mr. Bailey-Scudamore had been ill for some time and his wife wanted to concentrate on the couple's business interests in Devon. Five viewings have already been set up from Knight Frank's own contact list. Mr. Coleman described the castle, which also boasts 35 acres of parkland, as a special place. "There are three things which make it stand out in the market place, both nationally and internationally," he said. "The first is the location, which is stunning. It is exceptionally well located for Inverness airport and being accessible makes a huge difference." The castle also has a considerable historic significance. There are some great stories attached to it - both gruesome and royal - that generates a lot of interest. "It is also a substantial property, and the size means it could have a number of uses, either as a single residence, a family home or a country house hotel. "He added that similar properties in Scotland had fetched between £950,000 and £7 million. "This property does need money spent on it to bring it into use, but the Bailey-Scudamores have made it wind and water-tight and there are very comfortable apartments ready for living in. "The rest is a blank canvas for whoever moves in."



Greetings on National Tartan Day, 2005

By Dr. Christopher Pratt, Board Member at Large

What is it that makes National Tartan Day a holiday for us in the US and Canada?

Is it because 6 April 1320 is household knowledge, or because Scotland of 2005 is as it was 700 years ago, or is it because each of us relishes the spirit of independence, of self-reliance, and cherishes the freedom that date represents?

Is it because contemporary Scots wear tartan, or is it that our beloved tartan is a reflection of the hues and tones of human experience that bind us together from every corner of the world where Scots helped build a better life for themselves and those around them?

Is it because Scots alone built these great nations, or is it because the ideals and values of a people and a land offer a vision and voice that carries inventiveness, art and healing round the world to people everywhere?

National Tartan Day is a North American holiday enacted first by the Canadian government and then by the US. Shared by Canadians and Americans, we celebrate and educate about the historic and current contributions of Scots and those of Scottish descent to our respective nations and to the world.

Do people in Scotland wear tartan today, or is it a reflection of the brilliant hues and tones that bind us together and to the land and the people?

As with so many other things, opportunities are available everyday in the many choices we may make to make this celebration meaningful. Honor your family by learning more about Scotland and its people today. On National Tartan Day, 2005, wherever you are, share the celebration of contemporary and historic Scotland.

How can we make this celebration meaningful?

Start today and continue throughout the year to:

- join the [Clan Grant listserv](#), [march as Clan Grant in NTD parades](#), and [reach out to your neighbors to establish local Clan Grant chapters where you live and work](#) – hold your own NTD celebration in your hometown

- read the Scottish news online at BBC Scotland, in The Scotsman, and The Herald, for example

- encourage the organizations and institutions with whom you are affiliated to engage with like organizations and institutions in Scotland including professional organizations, trade, church, universities, colleges, schools, hospitals, literary, artistic, cultural, athletic, research, etc

- encourage local, county, state political, civic, fraternal, and religious groups to observe the contributions of Scots with declarations, services of commemoration, blessing of the tartans, exhibitions of Scottish life, crafts, trades, science and medicine, AND celebrate contemporary Scotland

- go to Scotland, bring your gift to Scotland, what you do is what you can do, go meet Scots, learn from them share with them, work with them, offer what you can, do what you do with contemporary Scotland

- ensure that Scotland is included and understood in local discussions of diversity, immigration, religious freedom, education in schools, churches, libraries, colleges, etc

- go beyond Braveheart to learn about and tell the stories of your family and your part of Scotland, where your people come from, and where they live today, what they did, how they came to where you are now AND what as Scots you are doing today

- ask Scottish Development International, <http://www.scottishdevelopmentinternational.com/pages/index.asp> how you can help them help develop economic ties between the companies and schools, hospitals and municipalities where you work and those who do the same in Scotland today

- write to your local, regional, and national, Congressional or Parliamentary delegation on behalf of improved connections with contemporary Scotland

- ask your local, regional television, radio and print media including CBC, PBS, NPR, CBC Radio, the Travel/Discovery Channel, HGTV, etc to celebrate contemporary Scotland; ask them to produce feature programs about Scotland as they do about other countries, see <http://www.cbc.ca/>, <http://www.npr.org/>, <http://www.pbs.org/>, <http://cbc.radio-canada.ca/index.asp>, <http://travel.discovery.com/>, <http://www.hgtv.com/>



Chris Pratt (Right) at Stone Mountain Games in Atlanta, GA

US National Holiday in Honour of Scotland?

The US House of Representatives has approved unanimously a resolution calling on President George W. Bush to declare a national holiday in honour of Scotland. 6 April was designated Tartan Day by the US Senate in 1998 "in recognition of the monumental achievements and invaluable contributions made by Scottish Americans." This latest resolution also acknowledges the great Scottish Americans and the similarities between the US Declaration of Independence and the Declaration of Arbroath. Such connections are hardly surprising, given the number of Scots involved in drafting the US document.

Clan Grant Membership

Application

(We) wish to become a member of the Clan Grant Society

New Renewal Membership # _____

Date of Birth _____

Names _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

PH _____ E-Mail _____

Make all cheques or money orders payable to
Clan Grant Society
Mail to: Jean Grant Wilson - Membership Secretary
3815 Millpoint Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32257-8933



PAYMENT OF DUES: Cheque # _____

Dues: \$20.00 1-year \$40.00 2-years \$55.00 3-years

Clan Grant Badges

PRICE IS \$10.00 EACH (Includes US postage)

Please PRINT CLEARLY as you wish the name tag to read. Second line is optional!

Badge # 1 _____
name

line 2 optional (Title or Office or City/State)

Badge # 2 _____
name

line 2 optional

Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ - _____ Membership _____

[Please note: To take advantage of bulk pricing, there may be a delay in placing this order.]

Make cheque payable to CLAN GRANT SOCIETY and mail to:
Jean Grant Wilson
Membership Secretary
3815 Millpoint Drive
Jacksonville FL 32257-8933

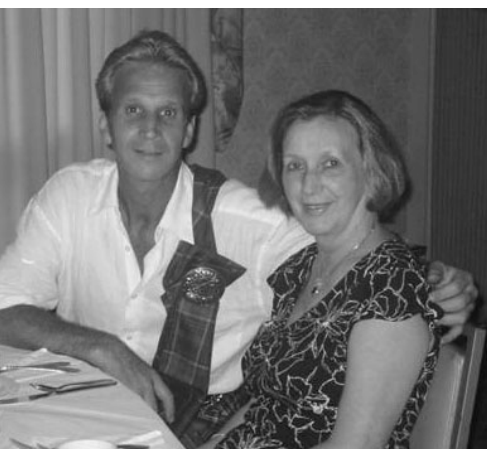


Suzanne Wilson of Clan Grant made lots of new friends while working at the Mesa, AZ Games in February!

William B. Grant manned the Grant tent at the Sarasota Highland Games & Festival, Feb 5th, 2005 in Florida. **Donna Grant Smith** joined him in the Grand Parade of Clans and **Jill Grant Fisher** stayed with him at the tent most of the time and greeted everyone that stopped by. Thanks for representing Clan Grant again this year!



Michael Bongerz and his lady friend Rose Marie Tucker with her grandchildren at the Central FL Scottish Games, January 15th.



Grants Games



NE FL Grants on Parade



Games Info

By Allan F. Grant
Games Commissioner

As you all know by now I am no longer Vice-president of the Clan Grant Society. That honor is now held by Rand Allen of California. In my six years in that position I had a lot of help from various Clan members. Without that help I would never have accomplished anything. I will not name names because invariably doing that you miss someone and I would not want that to happen. (At me age that is a foregone conclusion). But I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone. The experience was a good one that I shall always remember. It was a pleasure to represent our great society. I have not completely faded into the background. I am now, temporarily, the games commissioner. I don't have a lot, but I can supply a games kit that is good enough to set up a tent. I hope eventually to build up another kit, but with everyone's cooperation we will make do with this one for now. Also I have brochures if anyone needs them. If you need to pay a fee for tent space, I can sign the authorization and Richard Grant, our treasurer, will pay the fees. If you pay out of your own pocket, send Richard a receipt, and he will reimburse you. If I can be of assistance in any way please contact me. My address for regular mail is 651 C. St., Pasadena, Maryland 21122. My e-mail address is afg29@comcast.net and my home phone number is 410 437-1399.



NEFL Games, February 2005

Submitted by Jean Wilson
FL Commissioner

Dawn was just breaking as I headed south to the Clay County Fairground on Saturday, 26 February. Temperature was 54°. After one false start, I forgot the flags and had to turn around and go home for them, I was on my way.

It had rained on the Friday as it would again on the Sunday. Thankfully the day was dry but overcast. One great thing about having the games at the fairgrounds is that the clan tents are under cover in the main arena so rain is no threat. Also, there are enough large buildings that all events could be held under cover in the event of heavy rains as we have had in years past!

Since I was going to be on my own setting up I commandeered a good friend to help. After we unloaded and set up the banner and flags I realized I had only brought one tablecloth. We made do and over all, it all turned into a wonderful day!

I had sent out about 60 post cards to local Grants so at the last minute I had gotten a second tent in anticipation of the hoards of Grants that would crowd the one tent. But at the last minute C David and Jane had to cancel because of the flu. They were to drive down from Atlanta. We also had a death in the family so that kept the Floyds from attending. We were so looking forward to having our 15-month-old great-grandson, Ian, march in the parade in his first kilt but it was not to be...

The Newbill side of our family came out in force so they helped fill up the big tent along with Ed and Marie Grant from Amelia Island, Stoney and Ruth Grant from Jax. Vince Carnes and Gary Pickett showed up to lead the Grants in the Parade of Tartans or we wouldn't have had anyone in kilt. Thanks to you both! And to a local prospective member, Cecil Goodin, who marched proudly with our small band of members. George and Lucille Grant from Tennessee arrived mid afternoon.

There was also good interest throughout the day by local Grants stopping by to chat or get info.



Michael Struck and Elaine Schott of Cape Cod (left) represent Clan Grant in Massachusetts.

Michael Struck, from Cape Cod, MA is the Upper Atlantic Commissioner for Clan Grant. He and his mother, **Elaine Schott** do a great job of representing Clan Grant in that area! One of their ancestors fought in the battle of Dunbar in 1650 and was captured by Lord Cromwell's army and forced to march to the English coast from where he was brought to the colonies in 1651 aboard the Unity as an indentured servant. Peter Grant, his 14th great grandfather helped in starting the first iron works in America in Saugus, Massachusetts, near Boston. He then went on to co-found Berwick, Maine and the Scots Charitable Society in Boston. Michael and Elaine will be attending the 2005 Grant Gathering in August.

2005 Robert Burns Dinner Springfield, Missouri

The newly-formed Scottish Saint Andrew's Society of Springfield, Missouri held its first annual Robert Burns Night Dinner Saturday, 15 January 2005, to celebrate the Immortal Memory of Scotland's bard. The Ballroom at the Sheraton Hawthorn Park in Springfield served as a cozy and intimate venue for the festivities, and the 96 hardy souls braved the "blast of Janwar win" seemed to have a wonderful evening.

Todd Wilkinson, the society's bard, served as Master of Ceremonies and Chairman for the evening. Greetings were read from the Northwest Territorial Pipe Band in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada, as well as the Caledonian Societies of Norway & Sweden. Toasts to the United States, Scotland and HM Queen Elizabeth were given by Ian Donnelly, Suzanne Evans, respectively. Mrs. Evans, who is also the society's president, recognized **Lord Strathpey as the society's new honorary patron**, and offered a toast to him and **Steve Grant**, local newscaster and Missouri representative for the Clan Grant Society, who is Lord Strathpey's liaison to the society. (While Steve could not be at the Dinner, he did provide copies of the Clan Grant Society's newsletter, Craiggellachie, which were distributed to the company!)

The "Haggis Guard" made sure that the "wee beastie" was well protected, and Society Piper Joel Wren certainly earned his "wee dram" that night. Alex Sutherland & His Cronies again made the long drive down from St. Louis to entertain us with Scottish music and song. The Immortal Memory was given by Jim Duffy, originally of Dunfermline, Scotland, who now resides in St. Louis. Jim is an active member of the St. Louis Saint Andrew's Society, and gave a very thought-provoking speech about the life of Burns through his songs, which were sung by Alex & the Cronies. Jim also gave the Address to the Haggis. The Toast to the Lassies and the reply was a "joint-effort" this year by Jim Gallion, his sister Deb, and his daughter Adele O'Dell.

The society also collected donations for the American Red Cross's Tsunami relief fund, in keeping with the charitable origins of Saint Andrew's societies in the new world, and in Burns's belief "that man tae man, the world o'er, shall brothers be, for a' that".

Across Southwest Missouri and Northwest Arkansas, lots of folks consider **Steve Grant** a member of the family and frequently tell him so.

Clan Grant's Ozarks commissioner is marking his 30th year of news anchoring on KYTV, the NBC affiliate in Springfield, Missouri, and one of the top performing local stations in the nation.

Steve started as a summer intern at "KY-3" at the end of his sophomore year at Evangel University. His membership with the Society began after his first visit to Scotland, and an invitation from the Laird of Rothiemurchus to join up with a group of "visiting cousins" from America about to tour the famous Grant estate.

We invite you to share your photos with us.....either submit by e-mail to: craiggellachie@comcast.net or by regular mail send to 10620 Casa Grande Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32257



Grants In The News

Celtic Folk Singer

Welcome to our New Comissioner in Utah



Allen Johnson, though a South Carolina native, currently resides in Salt Lake City. He is a graduate of the University of Utah in Filmmaking with an emphasis in screenwriting and acting. He is represented by a professional acting agency in Salt Lake and has appeared in a few independent films and local television spots. He works doing system support at a business process company at nights so he can attend auditions and work on films during the day. Though a relative newcomer to the official folds of the Clan Grant Society, Allen has been immersed in personal research, not only about the Grants, but all Scottish culture, for several years. One of Allen's biggest passions is studying and training in Medieval and Renaissance swordsmanship. (Be sure to read his article on page 5!) He trains weekly with The Association for Renaissance Martial Arts, an organization dedicated to recreating European sword arts exactly the way they were taught then, by translating and training from the actual historical manuals. He is currently single and has family scattered over most of the United States. Look forward to more exciting information from Allen as he has committed to doing four articles a year for our Craiggellachie!



True Band of Brothers

Submitted by G.K. Grant, Commissioner, S.TX

Back in 1997 and 1998 there were three young lads cleaning up ribbons and medals at the highland games in Houston. Well those "wee lads" are grown now but they are still collecting ribbons and medals only on a grander scale. My oldest, **Matthew**, is currently staged in Baumholder, Germany preparing for his third tour of duty in Iraq with the 1st Armoured Infantry. His chest is adorned with many ribbons as you can see in the photo. The combat infantry badge is the one he holds in highest esteem. His younger brother, **Aaron** is currently at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina preparing for his first tour of duty in Iraq with the Marine Corp. Aaron, though just out of basic training last summer, already has unit citations for high shooter in his platoon and finished #2 overall in physical training element. The youngest of my sons, **Gordon Jr.**, is still in high school but upon graduation plans to become a ranger at Ft. Benning Georgia and follow in the footsteps of his brothers. I could not be prouder of my boys! They have all grown to be fine young men! A true band of brothers!

Celtic folk singer **Colin Grant-Adams**, with guitar in hand has performed professionally for thirty years, entertaining audiences from the concert stages of Carnegie Hall, to headlining venues across America at Celtic festivals, folk clubs, concert halls and many other events.

Stimulating stage performance, fiery guitar work, stirring vocals and strong personality are just some of the terms used to describe Grant-Adams who has a national standing in his genre, and the New York Times called him "A spirited spokesman of a vigorous Scots folk tradition...unabashed in its patriotism and attachment to the homeland."

Colin Grant-Adams has been called the best Scottish balladeer in the world today. Patrick Campbell Irish Echo NY describes Grant-Adams as "a balladeer in the tradition of Alex Campbell, Liam Clancy and Tommy Makem."

Noted in Celeste Ray's recently published Highland Heritage-Scottish Americans in the American South. "As one of the premiere performers for this cultural phenomenon."

Colin, born and raised near Winchester, England in a predominantly Scottish community, was exposed to the culture and heritage that would shape his career. Originally from Edinburgh, Scotland, and a gifted musician himself, Colin's father was an early influence on his musical career. Colin served his apprenticeship as a welder, but soon left his trade for life on the road, playing the folk circuits of Great Britain and Europe. He worked both as a solo artist and as a member of the highly acclaimed folk group, The Ozark Mountain Boys. Colin immersed himself in his Scottish heritage when he moved to Oban, on West Coast Scotland, in the early seventies. Where for next 15 years he performed and promoted Celtic and Country music shows at the Great Western Hotel. Also he worked with local area musicians and toured throughout Scotland, the Hebrides & Orkney Islands, Scandinavia, and America. In 1996, the Glasgow Highland Games of Kentucky, awarded Colin an Artist in Residence Fellowship in Celtic music, enabling him to study, compose and record music about the early-century Scots who arrived in America bringing with them a wealth of culture. It was through the residency that Colin came to relocate to the United States and the Glasgow, Kentucky area.

Robert E. Harrison, President of the Glasgow Highland Games. "Colin Grant-Adams is an extraordinarily talented vocalist and guitarist. His live presentation demonstrates his awesome ability to both deliver his own songs with meaning and add depth and insight to many traditional favorites."

Richard Van Kleeck, Artistic director / Producer "The Lonesome Pine Specials" Kentucky Center for the Arts. "Any performance by a musician with Colin Grant-Adams, artistic credentials, no matter the venue, implicitly educates and increases public understanding of our own cultural heritage and the passing of tradition from one generation to the next.

Colin Grant-Adams is today in high demand at major festivals, concerts, and other events across the breadth of America, and would be a great addition to any venue.

Contact information:

Julia Schooler

104 Hatchett Court, Glasgow, KY 42141
Phone / Fax 270-651-3823

E-mail: cgaceltic@glasgow-ky.com or

jschooler@glasgow-ky.com

Web site: www.colingrant-adams.com



Julia and Colin

Clan Chatter

Soon after the tsunami disaster we learned that **Michael Grant** whose residence is in Thailand had been safely in the UK visiting his mother and sister for Christmas when the disaster struck. Luckily, Koh Samui is on the east coast, so he was not directly affected however the region will suffer both a personal and economic aftermath for some time. He is spending these days in Dubai.

Julia and Colin Grant went to the Caribbean for their holiday in January. What a nice way to start the New Year!

Richard Grant, the treasurer for our Society, has an intense interest in Castle Grant. He is intrigued by the differences seen in so many portraits dating back over more than a hundred years and the changes that have been made in the architecture. Hence, he and his wife have been doing a lot of research in order to do models of the castle in various states with today's configurations and working backwards, hopefully to the original. Richard's request for information was posted in the most recent Standfast in the UK so if you can assist with any reference sources let him know.

In a short note from **David Renwick Grant** from Weem, Aberfeldy after he read our last Craigellachie. "Many thanks for yet another interest-filled account of the doings of Grants in the US (I nearly put colonies!!!). I do hope that 2005 will be a good year for you and all the clan. With all good wishes."

Colin Grant-Adams has a new CD released titled "Colin Grant-Adams and His Guitar" featuring the song "The Lone Piper". The tune is a true story of Jimmy MacFie and this man's dedication to his friend, told to Colin by his sister-in-law, **Kelly Schooler**, about a Piper who played in the cemetery across from her home in Centerville, Ohio. This piper originally from Edinburgh, Scotland emigrated to America in the early sixties. He was working in a factory when his best friend was sent to fight in Vietnam, before he left he asked his friend to promise to play the pipes for his birthday when he got back home. This soldier lost his life in battle, so to keep his promise to his friend he plays the pipes by his graveside for the last thirty odd years, be it rain, hail, mist, or snow.

Grandparents **Dennis and Judi Thompson** would like to announce the birth of their new Grandson: **Cameron James Black**, Born November 1, 2004, Carefree, Arizona.

Don Grant, editor of the Standfast in UK had this to say about the pictures from the Estate Agent for Castle Grant. "They present the premises in the best possible light, obviously to effect a sale, but what they don't mention are the remaining 50+ rooms, roof and wall cracks and splits which require extensive renovation. The last estimate I heard to complete the whole place to a good condition was about £1.5M! In 2000 we were allowed by the then owner to wander around the entire building without a guide. So my daughter Michele, Paul (now her husband) and I climbed all over the place, jumping from roof joist to roof joist, around interior rooms without walls, stairs with missing treads etc, etc. We took some pictures, but they cannot show how much work is required. The new owners will have to do a great deal. I expect that it will go to a developer who will try to turn it into an exclusive hotel similar to Skibo Castle (where Madonna was married) rather than become a family home. Whatever happens it seems likely that access to the castle by the Clan will be severely restricted at best and totally inaccessible at worst."

Jennifer Allan, daughter of **Christine and Clan Grant Society Vice President Rand Allan**, is engaged to be married to **Matthew Goldman**, son of Terry and Bernadine Goldman of Los Alamos, New Mexico. Their wedding will take place at sunset on May 20 at Mission Bay, San Diego, California. A semi-Scottish wedding is being planned. Following the wedding, the newlyweds are scheduled to take a weeklong cruise to Alaska. Details on the wedding will be provided in the summer issue of Craigellachie.

Robert J. Grant from Australia says the re-organization of Clan Grant Australia is well under way. They are sending membership forms to all those who have made contact so they are up and running! It had been rather slow at first as they tackled their insurance and legal problems on incorporation and Robert had been traveling for three months. Now they are in the process of developing a website, etc. There are a lot of Grants in Australia so it should develop rapidly from now on. They will have a tent at the Highland festival in Geelong in March and been in touch with a number of the Scottish Groups in Victoria.
E-mail: rjgrant2@ozemail.com.au

Carol Grant, a member from Woodinville, WA, recently inquired about Scottish wedding traditions on our online Listserv forum to be able to pass on the information to **Richard and Rosemarie Grant** from Alaska. They all had met at the 2000 Clan Gathering in Grantown and have kept in touch. This year Richard and Rosemarie Grant want to do a rededication of their vows for their 50th wedding anniversary while attending this year's Grant Gathering in August.

Sir Archibald Grant, Chairman of the UK Clan Grant Council, shared the latest update concerning the **Duthil Clan Centre** project. They have received the Building Warrant and are working on getting the Felling License from the Forestry Commission to cut down the trees on the car park area and also from Seafield Estate because the trees belong to them. Once these permissions are in place, they will be able to put some evidence on the ground, which will hopefully be in place by the time of the 2005 Gathering.

Stoney Grant, of Jacksonville, FL, recently brought the big wooden flag-stand out of retirement from his attic. His craftsmanship on this is a beautiful thing—much like a piece of furniture with the Grant Crest that displays all the flags. He had made it to display that year and we think it helped the Grant Tent win "Best Tent" a couple of years ago at the Jacksonville Highland Games! **Jean Grant Wilson** has had a plaque made for it acknowledging **Stoney Grant's** workmanship.

Shirley Grant Smith has been out of commission for nearly a month. It all started with a "virus"—she ended up in the hospital for a week; then infection set in where they took the IV out and she spent the next week holding her arm up in the air with hot packs on it every hour. The third week she just slept away—and was still dragging by nightfall. Best wishes go out as she catches up on her busy life! Her husband is **Phil Smith, Clan Secretary**, and they have had to cancel their appointment with their travel agent several times. Plans for a Group Tour for the Clan in August is still being negotiated. Seems with the exchange rate as it is, it is not a good time to go to Scotland. However follow up will be reported in the next issue of the Craigellachie for those that have not booked passage by then.

Lord Seafield's full name is Ian Derek Francis-Ogilvie-Grant, 13th Earl. Currently he lives in Little Cullen, which is on the coast of the Moray Firth. The majority of his land holdings (40000 acres) are in trust for his elder son James Andrew (who is known as Viscount Reidhaven). Therefore Lord Seafield owns 17000 acres, which is basically controlled by local factors. **Lord Strathspey's** interpretation of the article reprinted in this issue of the Craigellachie (beginning on page 6), entitled "Prominent Landowner in Strathspey" is that he feels that Lord Seafield is leveling criticism at "white settlers" ie: those people from the south who have bought land and pretend to be lairds. It is his opinion, as is that of Seafield, that these people are not lairds in the true Scottish tradition.

DNA-Continued from Page 4

"The comparison is best done via the Internet. The data is normally published anonymously, using your kit number only as identifier, but you could get in touch with other people who share your markers very closely - provided that both of you want to."

Mr Robert Grant, secretary of the Clan Grant Society, said that the project was not well publicised among society members.

"Little information has filtered out about the DNA project," he said, "and our members have not been approached to take part in the study."

Strathspey and Grantown are regarded as being the heart of Grant country, with the historic seat of the clan at Castle Grant, which is currently up for sale.

There are also plans to create a clan centre at the former church in Duthil, which was a burial place for the clan chiefs and clansmen since the mid-1500s.

The Grants have held land in Strathspey since 1316, but since there are few written records, there have been several theories about the clan's origins.

Surviving documentary evidence indicates that Sir Laurence le Grant, Sheriff of Inverness, was among the earliest Grants in the Highlands, around 1263.

In the 16th Century, Sir James Grant of Grant, the 16th Chief of Clan Grant, rallied Clan Grant to the Royalist cause and raised King Charles I's standard in the Highlands.

After the Union of the Crowns in 1705, the two uprisings in 1715 and 1745 divided the clans, with each containing sections of support for both Hanoverians and Jacobites.

Grantown itself was founded around 1765 by Sir James Grant, who lived at Castle Grant.

The Clan Grant Society was founded in 1890, and has branches throughout Scotland and abroad. It holds its annual gathering in August at the Nethy Bridge Highland Games, with members attending from all over the world.

Anyone wanting more information about the project should contact Mr Grant at acgrant@standfast.wanadoo.co.uk or the project coordinators: Scott Grant at scottg2@comcast.net or Jon Grant at govols@carolina.rr.com

"People will be able to see that they are related where they did not realise there was a relationship, just by looking at the DNA result. They could discover long-lost relations and fill in gaps in their family history."

-Adrian Grant



Gaelic Bits

Submitted by Philip Smith, PhD, FSA Scot, Clan Grant Society USA, Secretary

Two hundred years ago the major language of Strathspey, Glen Urquhart and Glen Morriston was Gaelic – then often called “Erse.” A hundred years ago it was spoken by only a minority in Strathspey although the northern glens still had a majority. Today the native speakers of Gaelic in the Grant lands can be numbered in the dozens. There is a concerted effort to revive the language after centuries of neglect and even active suppression. For example, one of the greatest of Gaelic hymn writers was Peter Grant of Grantown-on-Spey. Now a simple bronze plaque is his only legacy in the village.

Gaelic has only seventeen letters a, b, c, d, e, f, g, i, l, m, n, o, p, r, s, t, u and two “signs”, h and a grave accent applied to vowels (à, è, ì, ò, ù). These accent marks are sometimes referred to as “lengthening marks” since they extend the sounds of the vowels by about half. These few letters must be used to represent almost forty sounds. Gaelic spellers do a good job, perhaps better than English. A seeming “tongue twister” such as smaoineachadh is only three syllables /SMOON-yahk-uh/ “thinking.”

Much of the confusion from English speakers learning Gaelic is that we try to apply English spelling rules to Gaelic writing. They are *not* the same. Probably a third of Gaelic letters are not meant to be pronounced at all – they exist for two other reasons. First, to show you how to pronounce the consonants properly and, second, to maintain the Celtic need to see balance in all art forms, including script.

An example of applying English reading rules to Gaelic is the word plaid, meaning “blanket.” Since we have learned “laid” rhymes with “layed”, English speakers often mispronounce plaid as “played.” Not true. The “l” is there to show the reader to pronounce the “d” as /j/ and is not pronounced at all. Plaid is properly pronounced /plahj/, closer to the American pronunciation /plad/.

Another example is the word seo “here”. The “e” is silent – it is there to show you that the “s” is pronounced as /sh/. Seo is pronounced /shaw/.

Here are a few Gaelic phrases to get you started:

Maduinn mhath	/MAH-tuhn vah/	“Good morning.”
Feasgar math	/FES-guhr mah/	“Good afternoon.”
Ciamar a tha sibh?	/kimmer uh HAH sheev/	“How are you?”
Tha gu math.	/HAH goo mah/	“Fine.”
Chan eil dona.	/hahn eyl DOH-nuh/	“Not bad.”
Tapadh leat	/TAH-puh let/	“Thanks” (to a friend)
Tapadh leibh.	/TAH-puh	“Thanks (to a new acquaintance or more than one person)

Craigellachie is pronounced /KRAK-el-uh-hee/ and means “rock of alarm.”



Lord Seafield-Continued from page 6

In attracting criticism, they have dragged every estate into disrepute and certain ‘factions’ have been all too eager to promote these individual transgressions as the norm. What we have to show, and I believe that in general land owners have accepted this, is that we will work within the boundaries set by new legislation such as the Land Reform (Scotland) Act and Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act.”

Furthermore, Lord Seafield believes estates and landowners have an important role to play in the consultation of new laws and refining of existing legislation to create laws that are practical and balanced.

“A fter all, “ he said, “we should all be working towards a vibrant Scottish rural economy. I strongly believe, as has now been accepted in Sweden, that the private landowner has a vital role to play in achieving this. It is a major challenge for all of us who own and manage private land - but we are committed to the process and to seeing it through.”



A spokesman for the estates declined to name those landowners referred to by Lord Seafield. Seafield and Strathspey Estates employ 17 full-time staff and buy in the services of 85 local contractors. They employ 10 further part-time staff in the lodges in the summer, and 30 beaters and helpers on the grouse moors. Main land uses on the estates are farming, forestry, conservation and leisure, and country sports. The estates also let residential property and release land for residential development.

Scottish Emigrant Farewell

By Alexander Hume (1811-1859)

Fareweel, fareweel, my native hame,
Thy lanely glens and heath-clad mountains!
Fareweel thy fields o’ storied fame,
Thy leafy shaws and sparkling fountains.
Nae mair I’ll climb the Pentlands steep,
Nor wander by the Esk’s clear river;
I seek a hame far o’er the deep-
My native land, fareweel for ever!
Thou land wi’ love and freedom crowned,
In ilk wee cot and lordly dwelling
May manly-hearted youth be found,
And maids in every grace excelling.
The land where Bruce and Wallace wight
For freedom fought in days o’ danger,
Ne’er crouched to proud usurping might,
But foremost stood, wrong’s stern avenger.
Though far frae thee, my native shore,
And tossed on life’s tempestuous ocean,
My heart-aye Scottish to the core-
Shall cling to thee wi’ warm devotion.
And while the waving Heather grows,
And onward rows the winding river,
The toast be “Scotland’s broomy knowes,
Her mountains, rocks, and glens forever!”

* shaws=flat piece of ground at the foot of a hill

* ilk wee cot=very small cottage

* wight=vigorously

* broomy knowes=hillock clad in broom

Grant Guidies

Measurements (British, metric and US)

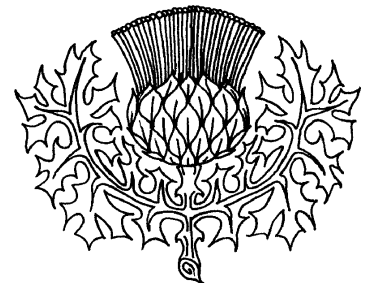
No recipes were sent in to share this issue however it would probably be helpful to have the following instructions for converting those old family recipes!

1 ounce flour = 25g = quarter cup
4 ounces flour = 125g = One cup
8 ounces flour = 250g = Two cups
2 ounces breadcrumbs (fresh) = 60g = One cup
4 ounces breadcrumbs (dry) = 125g = One cup
4 ounces oatmeal = 125g = One cup (scant)
5 ounces currants = 150g = One cup
4 ounces shredded suet = 125g = One cup (scant)
4 ounces butter and other fats, including cheese = 125g = One stick
8 ounces butter and other fats, including grated cheese = 250g = One cup
7 ounces caster/granulated sugar = 200g = One cup
8 ounces caster/granulated sugar = 250g = One and a quarter cups
8 ounces meat (chopped/minced/ground) = 250g = One cup
8 ounces cooked, mashed potatoes = 250g = One cup
One ounce (1oz) = One rounded tablespoon
One tablespoon of liquid = 3 teaspoons
One teaspoon liquid = 5ml
One British teaspoon is the same as an American teaspoon
One British tablespoon liquid = 17.7ml
One US tablespoon liquid = 14.2ml
8 tablespoons = 4 fluid ounces = 125ml = Half cup
8 fluid ounces = 250ml = One cup (Half a US pint)
Half pint/10 fluid ounces = 300ml = One and a quarter cups (scant)
Three quarters of a pint/15 fluid ounces = 450 ml = Two cups (scant) or one US pint
One British pint/20 fluid ounces = 600ml = Two and a half cups

Stand Fast!

The Grant’s motto is “Stand Fast!”, and has a few possible origins. One story suggests that the motto stems from the original Tenons Ferme (“Stand Fast” or “Hold Firm”) motto of the Norman family “Le Grand”. Another possibility is that it refers to a historical incident with the Norse King “Haaken”, considered to be a distant forebear of the Clan, according to the Clan’s oral tradition.

As this story goes, Haaken was set upon by a group of enemies at which point he ripped a tree out of the ground and used it to successfully hold off his attackers. “Stand Fast” became the motto of his family and stems from this incident.



**Summer Deadline to
submit is
May 15th!**

Clan Grant Shirts

Golf (polo) shirts, short sleeved, embroidered with clan crest and "Grant," 100% cotton.

Navy, White or Forest Green. S (few) M, L, XL \$37 plus shipping
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T-shirts, 100% cotton, forest green with 3-color crest on back, small logo on front. Design originally ordered by Rand Allan for Southern California Grants.

Children's sizes 6-8 and 10-12, Adults S (few), M,L, XL
\$17 plus shipping
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Contact: C. David Grant,
1842 Alderbrook Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30345-4112
PH: (404) 634-9051 or d-grant@mindspring.com.

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Lord Strathspey's History of Clan Grant.....\$30.00

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