



# Craigellachie



Fall 2005

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## Raves & Rants

By C. David Grant, President

### Second Annual International Gathering of the Clan Grant Society

Jane and I were privileged to join about 40 of our fellow countrymen to make up the US contingent to the 100 member plus gathering of Grants from all over the world. There was a group from Canada, two from Spain, a family from South Africa, and a couple from the Cook Islands near Australia. We were treated to cool temperatures and warm hospitality, and plenty of rain to get the "full Scottish experience." Our thanks go out to our hosts, Norman Grant and Arthur Jones, to Sir Archibald Grant of Monymusk, chairman of the UK Society, and of course our Chief, Lord Strathspey. It was truly a spectacular experience, and the planners should be very proud of the event they put together. Special thanks go to Robert Grant, long-serving UK Society secretary and vice-chairman, who planned both the 2000 and 2005 gatherings and then had to step down from his clan duties to spend his time with his wife, Maryrose, who was very seriously ill. Tragically, she passed away about a week after this wonderful week. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Bob and the other members of their family.

The week began on Saturday with the 125th anniversary of the Abermethy Highland Games held at Nethybridge, a village outside Grantown-on-Spey. My 15 minutes of fame lasted all day, since I was asked to serve as Chieftain of the games and to officiate at the opening ceremony. The Canadian Society president opened the games in 2000. We had quite a view of the bands, flags, the "pike men," and the rest of the "killed warriors" and others wearing the Grant tartan as they marched across the field and then past the reviewing party.



We spent the day enjoying all the activities and seeing old friends (No, "cousins" we've known a long time!), and making many new ones. I was honored to meet many of the volunteers who run the games and thank them for their service. Oh, yeah, we had a wee dram or two as well!

Saturday evening we bussed to Aviemore for a formal dinner and ceilidh, during which Sir Archie and Lady Barbara patiently tried to teach some of us "furriners" the rudiments of Scottish dancing. I must have made quite a sight, combining a lack of coordination with inexperience with the dancing steps! At least lubrication was available to limber up some seldom-used joints and muscles ...

A highlight of the evening was Rosemarie and Richard Grant, a couple from Wasilla, Alaska, who renewed their marriage vows as we helped them celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Dr. Raymond Grant from Canada, chaplain of the Society, performed the ceremony and Lord Strathspey stood up for the "newlyweds."

Many of us attended the UK Society annual general meeting on Sunday morning, held at the Clan Grant Centre at Duthil. Many former Chiefs of the clan and other prominent Grants are buried just outside the former church building. I learned that the clan acquired Duthil for one pound! Plans are proceeding slowly to raise money to renovate the building so it can be a real operating seat for the clan, complete with modern wiring and plumbing, as well as security so some of the clan's relics and paintings can be released for display. There were reports during the meeting showing a slight decline in UK Society membership, and there were lively discussions of ideas to increase membership and raise funds. Election of officers also took place, including another term as chairman for Sir Archie.

Sir James and Judy invited all the Societies' officers for drinks at Duthil's Old Manse, which they acquired several years ago and are busily restoring to its former glory. Over the years it had sprouted three "modern" wings and saw service as a bed & breakfast, so there was and is much to be done. We had a great tour to see the progress they have made and to hear what potential the grand old building has. Our Chief is apparently very talented in building construction and is not shy about getting his hands dirty - he and Judy are now doing much of the work themselves!

We visited Rothemurchus on Monday, including a personal tour of The Doune House by Mr. John Grant himself ("Just call me plain Johnnie"). He explained the restoration efforts and discussed management of the land, properties and activities of the estate amid governmental and environmental restrictions. We even got a peek at the family living quarters. Later one of Johnnie's rangers guided us to the house where his father lived (now used for conferences and corporate meetings) and we saw some of the gorgeous grounds, with ferns and the native Scotch pine with its red bark and several different species of heather.

Monday afternoon we traveled to the new Funicular Railway, where we had lunch and then took the train to the summit of the Cairngorms, which were enveloped in a real "Scottish mist" and a high wind to boot. Just as we began our descent, the mist cleared and we had a spectacular view of mountains across the way with patches of heather in various stages of bloom and the resort town of Aviemore.

Monday night Jane and I had dinner with our friends Inge Turnbull and daughter Antonia. Inge and her late husband, George, whose mother was a Grant, lived in Grantown when we made our first trip to Scotland in 1994. We had a nice visit and were sorry they had to return south instead of playing with us the rest of the week.

Tuesday had us busing to the Highland Life Theme Park, which has two locations - the museum at Kingussie (Thanks go to the American who suggested we have an advantage pronouncing Kingussie with a silent "g," since we sing "Oh, say, can you see?" So it's kin YOU' see, see?) and an 18th century Highland Village at Newtonmore. This project was the lifelong dream of Dr. Isobel Grant, author of the little red pamphlet on Clan Grant that so many of us have. She collected many of the artifacts on display and had the vision to plan much of what has now come to be. I cannot leave Kingussie without mentioning our lunch at the Duke of Gordon Hotel. I had the best haggis I've ever eaten - wonder if the Glenmorangie-flavored sauce influenced my judgment?

Loch Ness was on the agenda for Wednesday, bus trip to the Drumnadrochit Loch Ness Centre for presentations on the lake, how it was formed and the various attempts to confirm or

explain "Nessie." Then we toured the new multi-million-pound Visitor's Centre by Urquhart Castle. The program covers acquisition of the castle by the Grants, the struggles to hold it against invasion, and the ultimate decision to destroy it and move on. Then the theater curtain opens to reveal the actual castle right before us - very dramatic effect! The cruise down the loch provided some beautiful scenery, but was otherwise uneventful, except for the children's efforts to spot Nessie.

One of the many highlights for me was our visit to Ballindalloch Castle, which has been the home of the Macpherson-Grants since the 1500's. Mrs. Clare Macpherson-Grant Russell is the laird - she says she committed the cardinal sin for a Scottish girl, she married an Englishman! She and her husband, Oliver, run the estate as an active enterprise, raising cattle - the black Angus was first bred here - and encouraging tourism. She was a delightful hostess, giving us a personal tour of the castle and gardens, and inviting us to walk over the grounds. Jane and I saw the Ballindalloch Rose in the walled garden, not minding the gentle rain that fell during much of our time there. Mrs. Russell's son Guy has agreed to carry on the Macpherson-Grant name, and is engaged to a young woman who loves castles and has studied historical preservation. It was very obvious they are thrilled with Guy's choice.

We visited the Grantown Museum Thursday afternoon and saw displays showing the formation and early life of Grantown as a village of tradesmen, where the populace had more opportunities for employment than traditionally. A surprise was the appearance of a piper who is a descendant of the chief's piper in the famous painting that used to hang in Castle Grant (see our website).

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# U.S. Highland Games & Gatherings

## Editor Note:

I want to encourage all commissioners to send me a listing of Games where they will be hosting a Grant tent. . . . .and even if you do not have anyone to man the tent in your absence, please send a listing of those as well, in hope that a member in your state might like to volunteer!

We need to have Clan Grant represented in as many Highland Games and Festivals that we can!

## Stand Fast!



### Sept 9-10-11

Kelso Highlander Festival  
Contact: Michelle Poitevin

### Sept 23-24-25

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

### Sept 30 - Oct 2

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

### Oct 14 - Oct 16

Stone Mtn. Highland Games  
Stone Mtn Park Meadow  
Stone Mountain, GA  
Contact: C. David Grant

### Oct 22

Tallahassee Scottish Highland  
Games & Festival  
Sunny Hill Farm, Tallahassee  
No Grant Tent at this time  
If interested contact: Jean Grant Wilson

### Nov 19

Dunedin Celtic Festival  
Highlander Park  
Dunedin, FL  
No Grant Tent at this time  
If interested contact: Jean Grant Wilson



To have your upcoming events included in this calendar email:

[craigellachie@comcast.net](mailto:craigellachie@comcast.net)  
or call Holly at (904) 268-6341

For other Nationwide Games check out:  
<http://www.asgf.org/9.html>



Opening Ceremony Nethybridge 2005



Nethybridge Bands 2005

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## Membership

### Matters

By Jean Grant Wilson  
Membership Secretary



My article will be short and to the point this quarter because of all the info printed in this issue on the 2005 Gathering in Nethybridge. I want to address the procedure for getting the Clan Grant discount for *The Highlander* magazine.

The Society is grateful to *The Highlander* for giving our members this discount but it must be sent in through me, your membership secretary. Most members subscribe or renew when they pay their dues. When your subscription is coming due you will receive a renewal notice from the magazine just like every one else but it will not reflect the discount! It will list the full price. To get the discounted price, you need to send me your cheque for the \$10.50 or however many years you want (2 yrs = \$21.00; 3 yrs = \$31.50; etc) If, you are sending a dues payment at the same time, one cheque is sufficient unless you want to send separate cheques for your own records. I will then send you a copy of the letter that I send to *The Highlander* for your subscription as a receipt.

I would suggest that you keep these letters in a safe place incase there is ever a question about your subscription! I also include a phone number in the event that you may need to contact them direct as to a change in name, address or whatever question you might have!

Those of you that were not able to attend the 2005 Gathering I am sure are as anxious as I to read all about it, so I will not take up any more space.....

- Don't let Christmas Creep up on you!
- Remember the Clan items for sale on the back page! Truly pass on our heritage with the History of Clan Grant! Or give a Golf Shirt embroidered with the clan crest to really show pride! And don't forget Memberships always make a wonderful gift!



## Notes from the Editor



It has been so much fun gathering the information for this issue since Clan Grant seems to be getting stronger and stronger as members get more and more involved by sending things in! I truly feel that our newsletter is of interest to many and draws our members together as we keep up with what everyone is doing. We get the flavor of Scotland told by our own! We see what other members do, keep everyone up on our Society news and even learn a "new" scottish recipe that we may have lost! Sharing our one common heritage is such a joy! My thanks to all! And kudos to Kelly Grant and Shannon Gosney, from Oklahoma and also Penny and Alan Grant for all the photos of the Grant Gathering 2005!

Just a short note from me I'm afraid, but know this---  
"If you send it—I'll do my best to print it!"  
Auch aye the nooh.....Holly

PS: Notice the advertisement on this page about gifts you can purchase from our clan folk for the holidays! All profit is for the good of Clan Grant!

### Congratulations!

With the enthusiastic approval of the Board, I am pleased to award life memberships in Clan Grant Society USA, Inc to Jim and Jean Grant Wilson.

Jean has been our long-time membership secretary and Florida commissioner and she and Jim fold and mail each issue of *Craigellachie*. They also are active in putting on the Jacksonville games, now called Northeast Florida Scottish Games & Festival.

This is a token but well-deserved recognition for their work for and loyalty to Clan Grant, and it is my hope that they will continue to so perform for years to come.

Congratulations Jim and Jean!

David Grant, President



## Clan Grant Membership Application



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

New [ ] Renewal [ ] Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Names \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

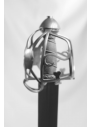
PH \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

# How To Shop For a Sword

By Allen Johnson, Utah Commissioner



There is probably no other icon more associated with heroics and warfare than the sword. It is a topic that has obsessed minds for as long as the weapons have existed. From chivalric knights in armour to mystical, katana wielding samurais, many people long to have a part of that culture. In recent years there has been a big resurgence in the general public on the subject of swords- resulting in many for a desire to own one. For many, the Highland Games and summer renaissance faires are a place where one might be able to have a chance to purchase one. The purpose of this is to educate one on what to look for and what to look out for when buying a sword.

## Why?

Whenever someone asks me 'What kind of sword do I get?' I always ask them 'what do you plan to do with it?' If all you want is something to hang on the wall and never actually use or swing around, then it's a simple solution—find one you like. You can go as cheap or as expensive as you want. If all it is going to do is sit on the wall then there are not many qualifications you need to fill other than personal taste. If you want to actually use the thing, then the fun starts.

## Dispelling Myths

For most of us, the extent of our exposure to swords is what is fed to us in movies, TV, video, and role playing games. Most of this is based on little to no historical evidence. A good example of this is the legendary katana. This sword has been idolized and misrepresented for many years. Hollywood would have us believe that a katana can cut through concrete, machine guns, other swords, even SUV's and emerge with out a scratch. This is pure fantasy. It is made of steel – nothing more. Katanas can break, they are susceptible to the laws of physics and no, they can not cut a piece of silk by dropping it on the blade. The blade is not folded hundreds of thousands of times as many believe. The common ideal of a 'ninja' sword being a straight, black blade with a square guard (tsuba) never even historically existed. Most people also believe that the standard European knightly sword weighed 10, 20 even 50 lbs! Again, this is complete fantasy. The average weight for a medieval sword was around 2.5 – 3.5 lbs. The heaviest swords (the massive 6-foot German Zweihanders and the very largest Scottish two-handed "Claymores") weighed no more than 5-8 lbs. We know this, because many of these antiques still exist. There are many other myths and misconceptions out there. After some reading and research from experts who have experience with actual period weapons, these are easy to spot and even become laughable.

## Balance, Flex, Tangs & Polish

There are a few things one should be on the lookout for when considering a sword for purchase: balance, flex, tangs and polish. First, balance; I can not tell you how many times I have been to a knife shop, Highland Games or anywhere else that blades are sold and see someone balancing the blade on their finger at the hilt. If it balances there, the individual usually grunts his or her approval as having "good balance" and considers it a worthy blade. If the balance tips one way or another it is usually discarded as rubbish and not worthy of attention. There are two problems with this. First, for knives- the weight is so minimal that any weight displacement any where in the blade isn't going to matter. If you have an issue with your dagger weighing an ounce or two heavier in the blade then you really have no business using it. (this is a different situation for throwing knives, but that's a whole other situation as most knives were never intended to be thrown) With swords it's a question of method of use or blade type. Different swords have different functions. The Scottish *claidheamh da laimh*, more commonly and dubiously known as the two-handed claymore, has a very long, strong cutting blade. The medieval European falchion has a relatively short, curved blade- also optimal for cutting. The renaissance swept-hilt rapier has a long, slender blade, used almost exclusively for thrusting. All three of these weapons are going to have different centers of balance. Because of the length of the blade, the Scottish sword will have a center of balance further down the blade from the hilt. However, the blade also has distal taper which means it slims as it gets closer to the tip, so that would pull the balance point back a bit, but not at the hilt. The falchion normally widens towards the tip, which would obviously bring the balance point much further down the blade. This put more weight in the tip for some very powerful cuts. Remember, these swords are not 10+ pound monstrosities that most think they are. A falchion would weigh no more than 3 pounds. On the flip side the rapier would have a balance point more in the hand than at the hilt. The slender blade is heavily counter balanced by the pommel and steel guard protecting the hand. Many have expressed their marvel when handling antique rapiers that the things feel virtually weightless in their hands despite their surprising 3 pound weight. It's a matter of weight displacement and blade function.

Flex is fairly simple. A well tempered sword should be about to flex about 30 degrees and still return to true with out taking a set or bend. Flex is essential for a sword in order to take a beating and not shatter. A blade should not be so flexible that it sags when being held out or take a heavy bend when using light pressure. For instance, sport fencing weapons, foils, epees and sabers all have a very high degree of flexibility to ensure safety for the users. This is not accurate with how they were historically and are not accurate for any period weapon.

The tang of the sword is the piece that extends from the base of the blade through the hilt and into the pommel. Many cheap, wall hanger swords will have little to no tang. It might extend about halfway into the hilt and then stop. This creates a weak point and is not historically accurate. A proper tang should extend the entire length of the blade and should either be screwed or peened over the pommel. There are also ones called 'rat-tail tangs'. These are usually tangs that are welded on the base of the blade with a separate piece of metal. These are no good either. The weld is a weak point and will certainly snap there if used.

Polish is usually a matter of personal taste but there are some things to be aware of. Most real swords do not have a mirror polish. Most real sword blades possess more of a brushed satin look to the steel. A super high gloss is usually a sign that there is nickel or chromium in the blade (or worse, painted on) and is not worthy of use. Even in the hilt and pommel fittings, one should be cautious of over shiny-ness. Granted, there are examples of very elaborate and very shiny swords, but these are usually the ones used for dress occasions and not the ones to take out slogging into battle on a wet day.

## Materials

Another topic of concern is, what the sword- and especially the blade- is made out of. The first and easiest is Stainless Steel- no matter what other words are attached to it, (i.e.: High carbon, spring, battle ready, ect) stainless steel is no good for swords. While **it might make a great kitchen** knife, the elements present in this type of steel make a very poor and unusable sword blade. Titanium is a metal receiving much press coverage these days. As far as swords are concerned, titanium would make no better a blade than aluminum would. Other favorites for alternative blade materials are silver (product of vampire movies and has no practical value to it) and diamond edged (cost and construction practicality keep this idea in the pages of fantasy). Bottom line is, if the guys who used this stuff on a regular basis did well with hand forged steel, so can we. Be careful of the term "battle ready". This is being used by many who have no idea on what that actually means. In fact, it's almost to a point, that if a sword is being advertised as "battle ready" it's a very good possibility it's not legit. After time and research you will know which brands to trust. Many times you will see a sword claiming to be made of Toledo steel, or merely, made in Toledo. This Spanish city was once a bit of a hotspot for sword making. Today, the swords that come from there are mainly glorified paperweights. 99% of the time if a sword is bragging about its Toledo origins, it is not worthy of use. A good rule of thumb is that if the blade is stamped with "India", "Pakistan", "Toledo" or "China", it's not going to be good enough to actually use. The two exceptions I am aware of are the Museum Replicas Limited/Windlass Steelcrafts line from India and the CAS Iberia/ Paul Chen Hanwei line from China- more on brands later.

## Use

Make no mistake- swords are weapons and their purpose is to maim and kill. They should be treated with the utmost respect and care. It is said that the only thing more dangerous than a trained swordsman- is an untrained swordsman. That being said, there are a few items that need to be addressed. There have been many cases of people getting injured or very near to injury using replica, wall hanger swords. Most of this comes from people picking up a 'sword' at a festival or off a late night shopping channel and thinking they are suddenly Conner MacLeod. The most common fate of these cheap, knock-off blades comes from poor, helpless trees. First of all, even with a real weapon, swords were never meant to chop trees. This is what an axe does. Swords were meant to cleave people- not poplars. I have even heard of swords breaking and the blades flying out of handles during a session of just swinging the thing around. This can and does cause injury to self, others and property. There are many experts that offer instruction, both in person and through books, on the use of actual functional weapons. Take note: for each type of weapon there is a specific fighting style to go with it. Most of these styles do not cross over well. Example, the eastern martial arts, 'kata', is meant to look pretty and demonstrate balance and control. Don't try this with a European blade- it just doesn't work. People have seriously injured themselves trying these with sharp blades. Tai Chi does not work with real swords. It is heavily advised that a beginner start his training with wooden wasters. After that, one might graduate to blunted steel swords. Sharp swords, or "live steel" should never, ever be used in sparring against a human opponent. Many misinterpret the term "live steel" as meaning just, steel. In sword practitioner circles, "live steel" refers to sharp blades.

**What Now?**

So where does this leave us? Well, we are now ready to learn more and get into the real world of swords and swordsmanship. One that is unmarred by movies, fantasy books and role playing games. I am no expert, but the people I study from are. Below is a list of suggested reading and other links to information and sellers that may be of interest. This is by no means a complete and exhaustive list. I hope you enjoy and remember to be safe at all avenues of this exciting—and I dare say, very habit forming—interest in swords.

**Links**

NOTE: I am not being paid for this. These are sites and organizations that I have found to be valuable in providing legit information and have a desire to educate the public in the use and understanding of bladed weapons.

The sellers, are companies that I have had good experience with or have had repeated reports of good customer service and quality products. For practical purposes, I have listed only companies that sell functional weapons. The few exceptions are noted below.

**Information & Studies**

Sword Forum International: [www.swordforum.com](http://www.swordforum.com)

ARMA – The Association for Renaissance Martial Arts: [www.thearma.org](http://www.thearma.org)

Association for Historical Fencing- [www.ahfi.org](http://www.ahfi.org)

**Sword makers and Sellers**

Albion Armors: [www.albionarmors.com](http://www.albionarmors.com) —High end cutting weapons that are historically based in looks and engineering. These will cost a bit more but you really are getting a beautiful, accurate, high end weapon. They also have released a “Squire Line” and a forthcoming “Maestro Series”, a series of blunt blades, solidly built for Western Martial Arts training. The price is much, much lower on these than their sharps but understandably have much less detail. Armour Class: [www.armourclass.com](http://www.armourclass.com) —noted for their great Scottish weapons but have products spanning from Viking times up through the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. These are fantastically reviewed swords—I have never heard a single bad comment about them or the service of the makers. Made in Scotland. Arms & Armor: [www.armor.com](http://www.armor.com)—A & A has been a giant in the Western sword community for quite a while. They are capable of making just about anything you want. Their wide range of high quality swords, axes, pole arms and armor make them one of the more sought after companies.

CAS Iberia: [www.casiberia.com](http://www.casiberia.com)— Note about CASI- these are, in my opinion at the bottom of the scale for acceptable weapons that can handle abuse. If you want a blade from CASI that you actually want to use, only choose ones with the “Hanwei” logo on it. Swords without the name and logo are crowbars at best and are not meant for use. These blades have just recently gone through a series of upgrades and are reportedly getting a lot better. When shopping for these ask specifically for the Generation 3 models—they are the most recent and will be the most reliable. For beginners or first time buyers on a budget, these are a good choice. For sparring and training weapons look for their “Practical” series.

Del Tin- An Italian company who has been a major supplier of solid European swords for quite some time now. They are in high demand around the world and are becoming a bit harder to acquire. Always a good buy. Their weapons are usually a touch on the heavy side as they blades are a little beefier for blunt training. Art Elwell of [www.a-work-of-art.net](http://www.a-work-of-art.net) is a good reputable US dealer of Del Tin swords.

Darkwood Armory: [www.darkwoodarmory.com](http://www.darkwoodarmory.com) - Specialized in rapiers and later period weapons. They are able to do customizations as well. Great prices considering the quality of product you are getting. Quite frankly they could almost charge double what they are and it would be a decent buy.

Lutel: [www.lutel.cz](http://www.lutel.cz)—A Czechoslovakian company that has been supplying European re-enactors with great weapons for several years. They specialize in rebated (blunt) blades but are able to sharpen them if you wish. There is usually a 3-

6 month wait due to their high demand and the construction of each individual sword as it is ordered. They do lots of business with people in the US, so don't worry about that. Museum Replicas Limited: [www.museumreplicas.com](http://www.museumreplicas.com)— Note about MRL- MRL swords are historically inspired. Like many of the CASI swords they aren't fantastic weapons and aren't super reliable. They are a good choice though for first time buyers and those on a budget. We have found that their shorter weapons tend to be built a little better than their longer ones. The edges on these swords aren't super sharp, but they aren't really safe for blunt sparring.

**Final words:** If you are in doubt about a sword, a good fall back plan is; can you find this design in a museum? If not, I'd leave it for the fantasy lovers.

DO THE RESEARCH! If you have a question about a sword, ask around! There are many sword forums located online (some noted above) and there will be many there willing to lend an opinion on your purchase plans.

## Flowers of the Forest

**James G. Francis**, husband of Janet Francis passed away on February 2, 2005 in Maumee, OH



**Maryrose Grant**, wife of Robert Grant, UK Society secretary and vice chairman, passed a week after the Grant Gathering in August.

**Catherine Martin Jenkins**, mother of Frank L. Jenkins passed away on August 4th, 2005 in Georgia

**Nellie Mae Martin Stuart** passed August 24th, 2005 in Georgia. She was sister to Catherine Martin Jenkins and Aunt to Frank L. Jenkins

**John Grant Heller** of Dowagiac, MI passed January 2005 in Decatur, Indiana

**Betty Pratt**, mother of former Mid-Atlantic Games Commissioner Nevin “Mick” Pratt, passed away on Friday, 24 June 2005

## Raves & Rants- Continued from page 1



Friday was the long-anticipated (by me) visit to the Glenfarclas distillery and lunch in their Ships Room, so called because the paneling, ceiling, carved mahogany bar and cut glass mirror were liberated from a sailing vessel. Absolutely beautiful! As usual I managed to be around enough non-drinkers to wind up with a fair amount of their product, which I put to a rigorous test! We stopped by the Walker's Shortbread facility before returning to Grantown, so shortbread joined the terrific lunch with wine and Scotch! A tough life that day!

Friday night Norman Grant organized a ceilidh after he had a cancellation of some earlier plans. He said a ceilidh was originally how Scots entertained themselves, especially during lonely winter months. Everyone would contribute some talent and gather about some food and beverage for an evening's entertainment! He found a local group that would perform within our budget and even recruited one of his neighbors. Chaplain Dr. Raymond Grant gave a couple of recitations and our own Dan Grant from Seattle wowed us all with his singing. Sign that boy up! I even contributed a story or two, including one that sort of followed Maryrose's children's book about the haggis being a wee shy forest animal. That turned out to be very good timing, because the very next activity was the presentation of, and address to, THE HAGGIS! Much fun was had by all, and we departed for Grantown a fairly mellow but weary bunch.



inconsistency in dealings with visitors. We saw slides of the Anagach Woods, recently purchased by Grantown for preservation and enjoyment by the community. It was a great civic effort to raise over a million pounds for the purchase. Then UK Society genealogist Adrain Grant gave us the highlights of his research on the arms of Clan Grant and Grant history. He is tending toward the Norse origin theory, so those of you who support the Norman side of things had better prepare your defenses! Adrian is involved in several projects, including the DNA study, producing CD versions of the “Chiefs of Grant” from Sir Archie's copy, recording traditional Grant music, and probably several other things. He should have more information to us soon on several of these.

Our farewell luncheon followed the more formal part of the program. This week was such a spectacular one in so many ways and such a labor of love on the part of several dedicated UK members that we just had to recognize their efforts in some way more than just a “Thank you” and then goodbye. Jane found a small quail in one of the jewelry stores, so we presented this traditional Scottish two-handed (!) drinking cup to Norman Grant, Lord Strathspey, Sir Archie, Arthur Jones, and Robert Grant (in absentia) for all they had done to make our Gathering such a memorable one. And more than a few folks have already started talking about 2010!



Saturday we had a couple of presentations followed by our farewell lunch. Earlier plans for visiting the Castle fell through because of the bankruptcy of the current owner and his

### Portland OR 53rd Games

Submitted by William Burton, Oregon Commissioner

The 53rd Portland Highland Games Association's gathering of Clans, Athletes, Pipes & Drums and Dancing competitors, began under morning clouds which cleared off for a sunny afternoon. Public Gates opened at 9 am, and the people came to seek out their roots, gain wisdom about things Scottish, and enjoy the colors, taste the foods, see the sights and hear the sounds usually found at a Scottish Festival.



Members Jim & Sandy Entler, who are now Benefactors for the PHGA, stopped by to give welcome and encouragement.



Lupe Felix, was also a welcomed visitor while on his break time from the Rampant Lion vendor tent where he assisted. Lupe is an artisan whom fashions leather Sporrans and knife sheaths.

Jim Glasgow presented pictures of his recent trip to Scotland which had personal connections for the Oregon commissioner.



Under a new Tartan Banner for the Clan Grant Society USA, a dozen-and-a-half people signed the visitor's page, with twice as many curiosity-filled folk that didn't. The visitors whom had come the furthest distance to attend the Gathering & Games were David & Alicia Grant from Austin Texas.



Three visitors became members of the Society by paying their dues for membership. Each was given a Temporary Membership Card, a packet of Clan Grant History, back copies of the Society's newsletters, a 3-inch round button depicting the Clan Tartan, Badge & Name. plus a swatch of the Clan Red Tartan fabric. New Members to the Society are: Cindy Mastenbroek of Scio OR; June Homan of Tigard OR and David Grant of Austin TX. A heartfelt Welcome to these new members!



Michael Bongerz has retired from manning the tent in Orlando, Florida to retire in Abbeville, SC. .... Jean Grant Wilson, FL Commissioner, awarded him a certificate for his many years of dedicated service for the Clan. Good Job Micheal!

### 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

## Grants Games

### 75th High Desert Celtic Festival & Games

Best wishes to William "Bill" Burton as his health is steadily improving and he is active as ever! Another event that he was able to travel to this season was in Bend OR, where he set up a 'booth' (or tent) for the Society at the 75th Annual High Desert Celtic Association's Festival and Games. Many people that stopped by were "first time visitors" trying to link their Scottish heritage. It was a full day of passing out information, and answering questions. His wife, Mary, made a new banner for him, from the Clan Grant Red Tartan he purchased from George Grant (see ad in this issue). Mary used her computer to print the pattern for the Clan Badge and letters, and carefully sewed them all on just prior to their Portland Games. (Photo at left) This is one talented couple! The photo at right is of Bill showing his crocheted tartan afghan that he worked on while he was recovering from his illness!



### Glasgow Kentucky games June 2005



Richard Grant, Clan Grant Society Treasurer, relaxing in the tent with our Midwest Commissioner, Michael Johnson and wee Morgan Grant Johnson



### Stone Mountain Games Oct 14 -16

We're trying a new motel this year -the Stone Mountain Comfort Inn, 5355 Stone Mountain Hwy, Stone Mountain, GA 30087, (770) 465-1888. We've reserved 10 rooms at \$69.99 per night (supposedly a \$20 discount) - includes full breakfast. Jacuzzi suites are available for \$99.99 per night. Ask for "Grant Clan." Reservations deadline is Tues, Sept 13, to be guaranteed one of these rooms. But if you have not done so already -you can still give it a try. Feel free to e-mail either Jane or C. David Grant or call (404) 634-9051 if you

have any problems. Location is on Hwy 78 (Stone Mtn Freeway) east of the entrance to Stn Mtn Park and 8 1/2 mi east of I-285 (Perimeter Hwy). The Friday night reception will be at the motel in their meeting room. There will be a small charge. Maggie Kline is looking forward to resuming her tradition of having everyone over for Sat night's covered dish dinner. Advance tickets, sponsorships, etc, available at (770) 521-0228 or website. Buy the multiday park pass with your advance tickets to save some \$.



### Request for Music Contributors



Clan Grant Society UK member Adrian Grant and Clan Grant Society US member Rand Allan are undertaking a project to assemble all known music related to Clan Grant before its knowledge is lost to the Clan. This includes music important to Clan Grant as well as music about Clan Grant personages and places. Many of the pieces were originally performed on the fiddle and/or harp as well as bagpipes. We are requesting that anyone with formal sheet music as well as MP3, or similar, recordings of the pieces please submit them by e-mail or old-fashioned mail to Rand Allan, 6102 Calle Vera Cruz, La Jolla, CA 92037, rballan@san.rr.com. The recordings and sheet music can be for fiddle, pipes, harp, etc. Recordings should be competition quality or better. Please provide the source of the recordings so we can secure copyright permissions. If anyone has stories related to the origins of the music, please provide them also. It is anticipated that if successful in our endeavors, we will be able to provide all Clan Grant Societies with archive CDs and possibly offer them to members for a fee.

Known songs include, but are not necessarily limited to:

Craigalachie (Grant's Gathering), Reel of Tulloch, The Braes of Castle Grant, Tullochgorm, The Burning of the Black Mill, Rothiemuchus Rant, Castle Urquhart, Captain Grant, Sir Patrick Grant, Monymusk, Braeriach, Heather Grant of Strathyre, and Pipe Major George Allan.

## The 2005 International Gathering of the Grants, Events and Impressions

by Rand Allan, VP Clan Grant Society USA

This was my first time to Scotland and needless to say, I was quite excited at the prospect. I have spent years studying my family history and have communicated with distant relatives in North Scotland about my ancestors and the regions where they lived. My wife, Christine, and I decided to spend about a week before the Grant Gathering just settling in and exploring the local region.

Our first stop was in Edinburgh where we visited the castle and paid homage to the shops on the Royal Mile. The castle is very well maintained and looks just like the pictures. The city was very crowded with tourists and is not the kind of place you'd like to stay in for any length of time if you prefer wide open spaces. It was, however, a beautiful, clean city, and everywhere you look there is reminders of the long and glorious history of the city. took the train to our final destination in Aviemore, near the southern end of the Strathspey Valley. The weather was absolutely delightful....cool, cloudy, and breezy with a hint of rain in the air. Scotland was going through one of its cooler summers in recent memory. Coming from Southern California where the dominant summer color is brown, we were awed with the riot of green everywhere we looked. The heather was just starting to bloom on the hillsides, but there were plenty of other flowers to view on our trip north.

Aviemore used to be at the center of a thriving winter ski industry. The entire downtown area and nearby hotels were built in the early 1960s, but had little of the flavor of the local historic architecture, looking more like a European skiing village. Over the years, the climate in Northern Scotland has warmed to the point that there are now an average of only two weeks of favorable conditions for skiing, which caused the ski industry to collapse completely several years ago. Being the resourceful people that they are, the residents of the Strathspey Valley have converted over to a very successful summer tourism industry, offering hiking, biking, swimming, fishing, hunting, and general tours.

Stepping off the train at Aviemore, we were hit with our first of many incidents of culture shock....people actually stopped their cars in the middle of the main street when they saw us waiting to cross and motioned us across. The people of the Spey Valley are also very laid-back and easy-going compared

to the people of San Diego. We hiked the ½ mile to our timeshare at Scandinavian Village and discovered to our pleasant surprise that we were based at the foot of Craig Elachie, the Clan Grant's "Rock of Alarm" where the clansmen of old were called to battle. True to the romantic misinformation we have been fed in the States, we expected more people to be wearing their kilts or at least their clan or regional tartans. While we did find a few men wearing kilts, most were associated with the Clan Grant Gathering. Most people we talked to were well versed in their local history and did seem to be aware of their clan heritage, but sadly that clan heritage did not seem to be very important to them.

The people of the valley were very friendly to us "Yanks", especially when they found out that we were Grants, and would talk our ears off if given half a chance. Many people in the Aviemore region knew "Jonnie" Grant of Rothiemurchus personally and considered him their local Laird.

I was determined to sample traditional highland cuisine, and in this I was not disappointed. From Venison Casserole to Black Angus Beef to Haggis and Salmon, the food was delicious. As a matter of fact, there was so much good food there, the only reason I didn't gain weight was because we walked everywhere.

The public transportation system was excellent. We traveled everywhere by train and bus, and whenever they weren't available, there were always cabbies waiting to take you to your destination. We hopped the train to Inverness and spent two days exploring the town and visiting Cullodden Moor, the fateful site of Bonnie Prince Charlie's last battle with the British Government forces in 1745 and the end of Highland life as it was then known. It was an emotional experience to see the gravestones and mass graves of Chiefs and their clansmen and to know that 250 years ago, on the moor that you were walking, the Highland way of life was ended forever.

The second week of our stay opened with the Abernethy Highland Games and the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Gathering of the Grants. The site of the games was what appeared to be a large soccer field in the town of Nethybridge. The layout of Highland Games in Scotland, and Nethybridge in particular, are much different than our Games in the States. The athletics and



dancing competitions are held in the field, piping competitions are held away from the main part of the field, and vendor tents ring the outside of the field. Benches are placed around the perimeter of the field so the public can sit down and watch the activities. One of the events that they had which are quite popular, but is not a part of our Highland Games in the States, are the tug-of-war competitions. Each local town has their own team and they apparently travel from Game to Game competing with each other. The clans are essentially a non-presence at the Games, which is such a shame considering that they are the ones who originated the Games in the first place. The exception at the Nethybridge Games was Clan Grant and one other clan, who were both having Gatherings that week.

As Clan Grant was the honored clan at the Games, we all assembled at the Nethybridge Hotel, along with all of the pipe bands in order to march as a unit the quarter mile to the Games location. The pipe bands lined up first and were followed in turn by the Clan's standard bearer, then Lord Strathspey, Chief of the Grants, who was followed by the standard bearers of the flags of Scotland, Canada, and the United States (I had the honor of carrying the flag for the U.S.). All of the men of Clan Grant who were wearing kilts were designated the Chief's Men and were assigned to carry pikes, or long spears. The women of Clan Grant who were

Continued on page 8



### The Home of Lord Strathspey, Chief of the Grants



By Rand Allan, VP Clan Grant Society USA

Recently, Lord Strathspey, Chief of Clan Grant, acquired property in the Strathspey Valley. Up until a couple of years ago, the Chief lived on the West Coast of Scotland, many miles from the land of the Grants along the River Spey, and physically separated from his people. Desiring to return to the land of his ancestors, the Chief kept a watch on the local properties.

Finally, a Bed and Breakfast located next door to Duthill Kirk, where many of the Grant Chiefs are buried, failed and was put up for sale. Lord Strathspey bought the property and immediately began the slow process of restoring the property to its former glory. The home, now known as *The Old Manse*, was originally built in the 1500s and served as the home of the priest of the then-Catholic Duthill Church. In the 1700s, the Church of Scotland became the official State religion, the priest was driven from the home, and the Church was converted over to the Kirk, what we know as the Presbyterian Church. Since ministers of the Church of Scotland were permitted to marry and have families, the Old Manse was insufficient for the needs of the large families of those days, and the property was sold. A new, much larger wing was added to the house in the 1700s that contained 5 separate levels above and below ground. In the 1900s, a second wing

was added to the house, which was eventually converted into a bed and breakfast establishment.

When Lord Strathspey acquired the house, one of the first major projects was to demolish the wing of the house built in the 1900s, since the Chief wanted to restore the home to the condition of the home in the 1700s. Many surprises awaited him while renovating the house, such as the discovery of a fireplace sealed behind a bathroom wall, or the discovery that many of the fireplaces in the home were actually inserts fitted into functional original fireplaces dating to the 1700s. Removal of multiple layers of wallpaper revealed the signature of the original paperhanger dated 1912. The outside walls, covered with what we in the States recognize as a type of stucco, revealed an original wall built of stone blocks behind the covering, which will be restored to their original condition. The front yard, which is about ¼ acre in size, looks south up the Strathspey Valley. Centered in the view from the front steps lies Craig Elachie, the Clan Grant's Rock of Alarm, where Grant Chiefs of an earlier era called their men to battle.

The Chief estimates that it will take him at least 5 more years to complete the renovations, which includes the renovation of more than 15 bedrooms, sitting and living rooms, bathrooms, kitchens, and more. When finally completed, the Chief will be able to receive and entertain Grants from around the world.



Photo 1: The Front Facade of the Old Manse showing the Outlines of the 1900s addition to the house.

Photo 2: The view of Craig Elachie from the front steps of the house. Pictured from left to right are Richard Grant, Treasurer of the US Society; David Grant, President of the US Society; John Grant, Secretary of the UK Society; and Lord Strathspey, Sir James Grant of Grant.



## 2005 Gathering Impressions



wearing skirts of the clan tartan followed next. Finally, the rest of the clan members lined up behind the women and we all marched in procession across the town of Nethybridge to the Games site. All in all, the clan numbered about 150 and made a fine showing as they marched towards the Field.

It showered off and on throughout the day, and I marveled at how little it seemed to bother anyone. Most of the people either put up umbrellas or just pretended that it wasn't raining. The remainder would move under the tents for the 10 or 15 minutes that it was raining, then would come out once the rain slowed to a drizzle. I am embarrassed for all of us in the States who behave as if a natural disaster is about to befall us and huddle in our homes at the merest mention of rain instead of traveling to the Highland Games. Southern Californians are the worst of the lot, who will stay home even on a day of fog and drizzle.

That evening, the inaugural dinner and Ceilidh (*Kay-ee-lee*) were held at the Highland Hotel Conference Centre in Aviemore. Dinner started off with a seafood appetizer, which was followed by Cock-a-Leekie Soup, Roasted Rib of Angus



Beef, carrots, turnips, wine, and a dessert of Raspberry Cranachan with homemade shortbread. Following the dinner, Rosemarie and Richard Grant of Wasilla, Alaska celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary by renewing their wedding vows in the presence of Lord Strathspey and members of the Clan Grant. We closed the celebrations with a modern Ceilidh where everyone was taught several styles of Scottish Country Dancing.

The next day was the UK Clan Grant Society's AGM at Duthil Kirk. John Clinton was approved as the new Secretary and Adrian Grant was assigned the task of the UK Society's Genealogist. The UK Society is having difficulty retaining membership, having lost nearly 20% of its members over the last few years. Ever optimistic, the Society is making plans to consolidate its membership and hopefully become more active in the Land of the Grants.

Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, was reserved for a tour of the Rothiemurchus Estate near Aviemore, a vast tract of land owned by John Grant, the Laird of Rothiemurchus and head of one of the main cadet branches of Clan Grant. John holds a large amount of the land in forest, and participates in the tourist industry with hunting, fishing, boating, and hiking. He also maintains a herd of about 80 highland cattle. John Grant and two of his top crewmen took us on a personal tour of the Rothiemurchus Home (not quite a castle and more than a simple mansion). You could tell that John Grant was greatly admired by the people who worked for him....I could see and hear it in the pride in their voices and on their faces when they spoke of him, and I had no doubt that there was not much they wouldn't willingly do for their Laird.

Later in the afternoon, went to the Cairngorm Summit, part of the highest mountain range of Scotland. On a clear day at the Summit, you can look off to the west and see the islands in the western sea, and look off to the east and see the coastline. Unfortunately, when we got there, it was overcast, about 42 degrees, the wind was blowing a steady 30 mph, and you could only see the valley at the base of the mountains. All in all, a wonderful day for one who loves variation in the weather (me).



The next day, Christine and I decided to break with the rest of Clan and explore a little of my own personal heritage. We took the train to Forres, a small town about 25 miles north of Aviemore on the north coast. This was the land where many of my ancestors lived and I went to visit several of my cousins still living in the region. While we were visiting, we traded genealogy information, which enabled me to fill out my family tree a little more. One of the highlights of the day was a tour of the countryside to visit homes of several of my ancestors. The first home was the home where my GGG Uncle used to live. The home was still occupied and the current owner invited us into the home and showed us around. We next visited the farm of my GG Grandfather, which was long since abandoned. A final stop was at Pluscarten Abbey, where countless of my ancestors were baptized, married, and were buried. All in all, an inspiring day.

On Wednesday, the whole of Clan Grant went over to Loch Ness to visit the Castle Urquhart and take a boat trip up the loch. I was a little slow getting into the gift shop and by the



time I got there, the Grants had bought out all the Grant souvenirs. Rather unsporting of them, if you ask me. Sitting down to watch the docudrama of the history of the castle, I already knew that the British Government blew up the castle in the early 1700s to keep it from falling into the hands of the threatening Jacobite army. However, I was shocked to find out that the government troops were the men of Clan Grant, who supported the British Government in that first Jacobite uprising and willingly blew up their own castle. I guess that day was not a "Stand Fast" day for them. At the end of the video, the curtains opened up to a glorious view of Castle Urquhart and Loch Ness, and a rousing cheer went up from all of the people of Clan Grant in the audience. We spent quite a while exploring the castle, then boarded a tour boat for a relaxing tour up Loch Ness (no, didn't see the monster, but the RAF was out in force that day over the loch with maneuvers).

Thursday, the Clan Grant went to Ballindalloch Castle, home of the Lady Laird Clare McPherson-Grant Russell. She and her husband gave us a personal tour of their home, then treated us to lunch at their gift shop and restaurant. Ballindalloch Castle is home to the original herd of Black Angus Cattle, which was developed by Clare's Great Grandfather. In addition to the maintenance of large herds of Black Angus Cattle, the estate also hosts hunting, fishing, and golfing.



That evening, the officers of the US Clan Grant Society, the new officer of the UK Society, and their wives were invited over to the home of Lord Strathspey and his Lady, Judy, for drinks and snacks. The home, which was first built in the 1500s with an addition built on in the mid-1700s and a final addition built in the mid-1900s, is a work in progress, as the Chief is returning the home to its original condition in the 1700s (with the addition of a few modern conveniences, of course). We talked a lot about the home and the little discoveries that he has encountered while renovating the home, and talked a little about the Clan and where we need to take it. The home has a beautiful view of the entire Southern Spey Valley, and centered right in the view of the sitting room and front yard is Craig Elachie. Lord Strathspey indicates that when the home is fully renovated in five years (just in time for the next international gathering) it will contain several rooms for guests.

On Friday, our last day before we had to depart for Edinburgh, the Clan went on a tour of the Glenfarclas Malt Whisky Distillery, owned by George and John Grant (not of Rothiemurchus). Their ancestors bought the local land in the late 1800s, intending to farm it, but the owner of the land stipulated that if he were to sell the land, one of the conditions of the sale would be that the small distillery on the land would not be closed. The Grants kept the distillery, improved upon the quality and quantity of its output, and it is now one of the oldest working distilleries in the country. Following the tour, the Grants hijacked the bus and made an impromptu trip to the Walkers Shortbread Factory, 5 miles north of the distillery. Walkers uses the Clan Grant dress tartan as the design on their boxes and produces some of the best commercially-made



# Clan Grant Gathering Gallery 2005

That night, a traditional Ceilidh was held at the Nethybridge Hotel. In days long ago, neighbors would gather together at each others homes for a ceilidh, and sitting around the fire, they would entertain each other late into the night. One person would tell a joke, the next one would play a tune on the bagpipes, two more might put together a skit, someone else would tell a story about the history of their clan, and so on. We had a wonderful time that night with wonderful talent all around. We also discovered that American humor often went over the heads of our Scottish guests. Our Scottish friends



Highland Dancers at Nethy Games



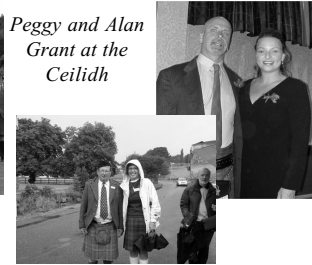
Shannon Gosney at Glenfiddich



Kelly at Glen Grant



Opening Ceremony by C. David Grant, our President of Clan Grant USA



Peggy and Alan Grant at the Ceilidh



Kelly & Shannon at the Grant Tent

returned the favor, with similar results.

On Saturday, Christine and I said goodbye to our newfound friends and boarded the train for Edinburgh. Through our connections with the hotel's concierge, we were able to secure tickets to the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Turns out that the travel agents of the town snap up a significant percentage of tickets before they become available to the general public (which was why we couldn't purchase tickets over the internet even 3/4 of a year before the event) and our concierge knew a travel agent who was having difficulty unloading a few tickets. The Tattoo was the performance of a lifetime and was well worth the cost. While we were waiting to get into the performance, we were walking around the castle when we heard a deep booming voice behind us calling our name. We turned around, and came face to face with some friends of ours in the North County Scots, an organization we belong to in North San Diego County (small world, you have to go halfway around the world to meet some of your friends).



Here come the Grant Women.....



Queing up- for the march



Grants prepare for the parade

Well, that was the end of our trip. The trip was the event of a lifetime, had a profound impact on me, and was a thrill from start to finish. I greatly admired the simpler and slower-paced lifestyle of the people of that country. Meeting Lord Strathspey, the rest of the UK Clan Grant Society, and being inundated with Clan Grant history wherever I turned had the effect of strengthening my relationship with Clan Grant. I would recommend a trip to Scotland for anyone with Scottish ancestry. Be sure to reserve at least two weeks and possibly



Led by the Grant Men.....



Grants on Parade



The Ceilidh at Aviemore



Shannon & Kelly at the Ceilidh



More dancers.....



More Grants on parade...



Grant men assemble for parade



Three new views of Castle Grant!



**Winter Deadline to submit is Nov 30 th!**

**New Wee One!**  
Suzanne Wilson and her late husband announce the birth of their first grandchild, a boy, **Blake Owen Nunan**, born June 6, 2005. Mother and son are doing just fine.

# Grants In The News



Clan Grant Society Vice-President **Rand Allan** and wife **Christine** of La Jolla, California proudly announce the marriage of their daughter, **Jennifer Lynn**, to **Matthew Goldman**, son of **Terry and Bernadine Goldman** of Los Alamos, New Mexico. The wedding took place May 20, 2005 at the Dana Inn on Mission Bay in San Diego, California.

**Jennifer and Matthew** met while both attending Claremont McKenna College (CMC) in Claremont, CA. Following graduation from CMC, Jennifer continued her education receiving a Masters in Information Sciences at the University of Michigan. After graduation, Matthew now works with Deloitte Consulting in Los Angeles, California.

The wedding included blended traditions of both Scottish and Jewish marriage ceremonies. **Rand Allan**, proud father of the bride, wore his finest Scottish attire and a professional piper played the musical accompaniment to the wedding. The ceremony prelude featured "Craigellachie", a piobairchd traditionally used to gather the Grants together during important events. The bridesmaids and groomsmen marched down the aisle to "Highland Cathedral" and **Jennifer** and her parents were piped down the aisle to "Mairi's Wedding". One of the Jewish wedding traditions is the sharing of kosher wine between the bride and groom. They incorporated this tradition using a silver Scottish quaich, a two-handled drinking cup that was historically used to share a drink between two Highland Chiefs as a bond of their friendship between their two clans; hence the nickname "friendship cup". Upon the ceremony's conclusion, the piper escorted the new couple, wedding party, family and guests back up the aisle playing "Reel of Tulloch" leading them to the reception, followed by a formal dinner dance.



## Wedding Anniversary Celebration

On August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005, **Rosemarie and Richard Grant** of Wasilla, Alaska celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in the presence of **Lord Strathspey**, Chief of the Grants, and approximately 150 Grants from the UK, US, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, and Spain, who had assembled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Gathering of Clan Grant. Presiding over the ceremony was **Dr. Raymond J.L. Grant** of Canada, while **Lord Strathspey** stood by the couple in support of the renewal of their vows.

Following the re-affirmation of their vows, Grants from all countries celebrated with a rousing evening of Scottish Country Dancing. Congratulations, **Rosemarie and Richard!**

## New Member

**Lupe Felix** had been born into a Hispanic family, and then orphaned at a fairly early age. When he was adopted, it was by a "Grant". Lupe states that the man was the best and only father he ever knew. Mr. Grant was so very caring and giving throughout their relationship, that when he passed away, **Lupe** had become so impressed with the man, that in order to continue to honor Mr. Grant, Lupe sought out the society so he could join in memory of his adopted father. Photo is of Oregon Commissioner, **William Burton and Lupe**.



**Lupe Felix** now resides in Newburg Oregon, and works for "The Rampant Lion", a Scottish Retail outlet, as a Leatherworker. Sporrans, Belts, and Dagger sheaths are but a few of Lupe's accomplishments. In the picture he is wearing a pair of Celtic inspired shoes which he had completely handmade himself, to complete his "weathered Grant Tartan" kilt outfit.



From left to right: **Dave Anderson**, Chief Executive, Scottish Enterprise Dunbartonshire; **Dr. Christopher Pratt**, Dean, Columbia University, New York; **Tom McCabe**, Minister for Finance and Public Services Reform; **Jack Perry**, Chief Executive, Scottish Enterprise; **Greig Sinclair**, Research and Enterprise, University of Glasgow. Right photo is of **Christopher and Jimmie Pratt**.

## Grants on EDGE

**Clan Grant Board Member, Christopher Pratt and his wife Jimmie** have been in Scotland most of the summer supporting students from NYC Columbia University, the University of Glasgow, and Dunbartonshire high schools in a new entrepreneurship development summer programme called Encouraging Dynamic Global Entrepreneurs (EDGE). It is unique as it encourages students to apply theoretical knowledge to business growth projects with 16 Dunbartonshire businesses through an innovative, entrepreneurial approach. **Dr. Christopher Pratt**, Dean of Career Education, Columbia University in New York City, commented, "The international aspect of EDGE gives the students a chance to share knowledge, experiences and learning between the US and Scotland. The Columbia University students will take with them not just the practical experience of helping established businesses grow and develop, but also an understanding of Scotland's business and enterprise structure. All EDGE students will carry these experiences with them throughout their life's work as they become truly global citizens." Photos and further information about EDGE are available online at Scottish Enterprise, [www.scottish-enterprise.com/edge](http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/edge), at the University of Glasgow, <http://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/business/content/news.htm#edge> and at Columbia University, <http://www.cce.columbia.edu/students/experiential/edge.php>.

## New Commissioner in Arizona

The Clan Grant Society is pleased to accept **Jim Orth** as **Commissioner of Arizona**. Jim has been involved in Scottish activities in Arizona for many years. Previously, Jim helped out at the Clan Kincaid (his mother's clan) tent at some of the Highland Games in Arizona. Eventually, he became aware of his Clan Grant roots on his father's side and threw his lot in with Clan Grant. We wish Jim "Good Fortune" with his activities in Arizona. For those Arizona members, Jim Orth's contact information is: 520 Whitecap Circle, Lake Havasu City, AZ. 86406 Ph. 928-855-3521 [tinamou@frontiernet.net](mailto:tinamou@frontiernet.net)



## Candace Coates, Harpist Releases Flights of Fancy



Ms. **Candace Coates**, a Clan Grant member, resides in Dutchess County, New York and has been playing the harp publicly since 1993. She performs an assortment of music in the Renaissance and Celtic formats. She has performed in a great variety of venues, ranging from Irish pubs, bookstores, small concert halls to outdoor performances at Renaissance Fairs. Candace has found that performing in Renaissance garb from the Fourteenth century adds significantly to the impact of her educational performances. She has researched the clothing worn in Old World Europe and uses authentic reproductions of clothing from this time period. In the summer of 1994, she founded the Celtic and Renaissance ensemble, **Druid Moon**. The group, which numbered seven members, did public performances to educate listeners on the variety of Celtic and Renaissance music. Ms. Coates

adopted the folk-education approach she learned from her ongoing involvement with Folkevirke Appleseed.

Candace released an album of her work entitled "Selected Love Poems with Celtic Harp, Volume 1" in the summer of 1998. Before going out of print in 2003, the album reached 12 countries..

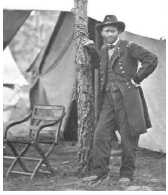
In the summer of 2000, she directed and produced a cable television cable "A Parcel of Harps." This was a benefit concert for the Rhinebeck Center of the Performing Arts in Rhinebeck, NY. The music which was performed was a collection of traditional Celtic music. The quartet members came from Connecticut Massachusetts and New York State. The concert was taped live for later broadcast. In September of 2001, she toured with the show in Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

In 2003, she began recording her second album, "Flights of Fancy." This newest work is available with check or money order for \$18.00 per CD plus \$4.00 shipping from PO Box 432, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533.



## General Grant: Dispelling the Myths -Part I

by Scott Grant – Northern California Commissioner, Webmaster and West Coast Historian



*Ulysses S. Grant at Cold Harbor – June, 1864. Voted the most famous photograph taken during the Civil War by the editors of Civil War Times Illustrated.*

**“I should like to see history truthfully written.” - Ulysses S. Grant**

Certainly myth has transformed many historical persons into grotesquely distorted caricatures, but few personalities have been maligned as greatly and as unjustly as that of Ulysses S. Grant. Grant's life is a broad and epic tale, and many authors have spent volumes in the telling of it. My intent in this article is merely to dispense a few of the more interesting facts about U.S. Grant's life, and to dispel a number of the biggest myths (which is more charitable than calling them outright lies). In order to understand the myths about Grant it is first necessary to examine how Grant's reputation has changed between the 19th and 20th centuries (and continuing into the 21st).

U.S. Grant was unquestionably the most popular man of the 19th century in America. More popular even than Lincoln, a fact seldom remembered today, he was perhaps the most photographed man of the 19th century as well. Grant's trip around the world, between 1877 and 1879, made him the best traveled and best known American statesman in history to that point in time, and his popularity and fame became a worldwide phenomenon. He was greeted as a conquering hero by everyone from Queen Victoria, to the Duke of Argyll, to the Emperors of China and Japan.

How was it then that Grant's reputation could take such a turn? It began with the rise of the “Lost Cause” romanticism that took hold in the South after the war. As Southern historians began to write their accounts, and Confederate veterans (mostly the generals) began to write their memoirs, speak at veterans reunions, etc, General Lee began to be elevated by them to demi-God status, a venerated symbol of the Lost Cause. Lee's name and reputation became almost sacred, never to be challenged or besmirched. Many of these historians and veterans found it necessary to explain the South's defeat in ways that exempted Lee from any blame. (General Longstreet, one of Lee's most trusted commanders, his “Old War Horse”, found this out in the most painful way when he dared to question Lee's actions at Gettysburg in his memoirs. Longstreet quickly earned the wrath of Southerners and found himself on the outs with his old comrades.) Therefore Southerners, especially the veteran generals, found it necessary to besmirch and malign Grant in order to elevate Lee. Here is where the myths began to take hold: Grant “was a drunk” (though one wonders how it enhances a cause's hero to claim he was beaten by a drunkard rather than a great general); he only beat Lee by “overwhelming numbers”; he was a “butcher” who cared nothing for his men...gruff, crude, slovenly, stupid, a poor tactician and strategist, etc.

But Grant's bad reputation was sealed in the twentieth century...by a book. In the 1920's a book by W.E. Woodward (whose previous project was a book trashing George Washington) called “Meet General Grant” was published. It was a best seller, selling tens of thousands of copies. The book trashed Grant thoroughly, grossly misinterpreting even the most innocent events of Grant's childhood, and creating the impression that Grant was a thoughtless, unimaginative, clod; a cold, gruff, unfeeling, simpleton who simply blundered into the Civil War, through it, and then blundered through two terms as President. Woodward's venomous account was so utterly far from the truth that it was laughable to anyone who knew U.S. Grant. But the book had a devastating impact on Grant's reputation, especially since Lost Cause adherents leaped upon it as affirmation of their own vision of Grant.

Hollywood picked up on Woodward's portrayal, and movies sealed the deal. Grant was portrayed in hundreds of movies through the 20th century, usually as a gruff, slovenly, cigar smoking, clod and drunkard. (One film even had him “hiccuping” and falling over backward in his chair). In other words, Hollywood created a “caricature” of Grant that set his image, in the public's mind, in stone. Only a few films, notably the mini-series “The Blue and the Grey” which was done in the early 1980's, treated Grant with any kind of respect for the truth, but by then the damage was done. To this day, if you mention the name U.S. Grant (especially in the South, as this author learned when visiting Vicksburg and Shiloh), the first sentence out of another person's mouth will typically contain the words “drunk” or “butcher”.

What follows is a list of the “myths”, followed by an explanation of the facts:

**Myth: “Grant's father was from Rothiemurchus in Scotland”**  
Since this article is for the Clan newsletters, I'll tackle it first. This myth says that U.S. Grant's father was someone named “Black Sandy”, who, after a fight with a young lady, tore her ear off (I have heard other variations on this story). To escape prosecution he supposedly fled to the United States.

I am not quite sure how this interesting myth got started, but the fact remains that it is a myth. U.S. Grant's genealogy is well established and thoroughly researched; his father Jesse was intensely interested in genealogy (indeed, it seems the whole male line was), and Grant's own memoirs open with an account of his family's genealogy. Ulysses S. Grant was descended of Matthew Grant of Windsor, Connecticut (b. Oct. 27, 1601 in Woolbridge, Dorset, England) and his wife Priscilla Grey. Matthew and Priscilla sailed from Plymouth, England on March 20, 1630 on the “Mary and John” arriving in Boston on May 30, 1630. Matthew ended up in Windsor, Connecticut where he became the town surveyor. Noah Grant, U.S. Grant's great-grandfather, fought in the French and Indian War and his son, also named Noah Grant, was a captain in the Revolutionary War.

U.S. Grant's ancestors were English Puritans from southern England and any connection to the Clan Grant would be before 1601 A.D. It should be noted, however, that the Grant's always considered themselves of “Scotch” ancestry, and U.S. Grant's wife Julia took to dressing their youngest son Jesse in a kilt outfit she had made for him. It seems this Scottish tradition ran strong in the Grant family although it must have been a distant connection. There is also an unconfirmed legend that says that General Grant carried a swatch of the Grant tartan with him throughout the Civil War.

**Myth: “Grant was a drunkard”.**

Grant's reputation for drink began in 1854 after he was assigned as quartermaster to a remote outpost in California called Fort Humboldt. Grant was a sensitive man, with a deep attachment to his wife and family, they were his emotional anchors. Grant often wrestled and played with his younger boys on the floor of his home or his headquarters, when visitors were present, and showed demonstrable affection for his children in public places. This was considered shocking to the reserved and uptight standards of Victorian society. Grant's early letters talk about his children constantly, his love for them, and demonstrate his great attachment to, and affection for, his wife Julia.

When Grant left for the West in 1852, he was unable to take his wife and family with him both for financial reasons, and the fact that his wife, Julia, was pregnant with their second child.

**To be continued in the next issue!**

## Grant Guides

### Scotch Eggs

*A simple recipe for making a traditional Scottish dish which is still popular served either hot, or cold at picnics.*

#### Ingredients:

- 1lb sausage meat
- 5 small hard boiled eggs, with shells removed
- 1 large raw egg
- 3oz approx of dry breadcrumbs
- Pinch of mace, salt, freshly ground pepper
- Small quantity of flour
- 1 tablespoon water

Dust the hard boiled eggs in a little flour. Mix the mace, salt and pepper with the sausage meat and divide into five equal portions. Place on a floured surface. Wrap/mould the sausage meat round the egg, making sure there are no gaps. Beat the egg and water together and coat the meat-covered egg with this and then breadcrumbs (you may have to press the crumbs onto the meat). Deep fry in hot oil (360F/185C) taking care as you put the eggs into the oil. Cook for about 5/6 minutes. If you don't have a deep fat fryer, they can be cooked in oil in a frying pan, turning frequently to ensure the meat is fully cooked. Drain and serve hot or allow to cool and keep in a refrigerator for a cold snack later.

### Whisky Punch

*Here is a recipe which will get any party going with a swing! The Punch can be made either hot or cold.*

#### Ingredients for Hot Punch:

- 2 pints of freshly made, hot, milkless tea
- 1 pound of lump/cube sugar
- 1 bottle of whisky
- One thinly sliced lemon

#### Method for Hot Punch:

Heat but do not boil the whisky. Pour the hot tea over the sugar and lemon and stir with a silver spoon until all the sugar has dissolved. Add the hot (but not boiling) whisky. Flame and serve.

#### Ingredients for Cold Punch:

- 2 pints boiling water
- Half a pound of lump/cube sugar
- 1 bottle of whisky
- 3 lemons
- A few leaves of mint

#### Method for Cold Punch:

Use a sharp knife to remove the yellow rind (not the white pith) from the lemons before squeezing out the juice. Place the peel, juice, mint and sugar in a large jug and add the boiling water. Stir until the sugar has dissolved. When it is cold, remove the lemon peel and mint and add the whisky. Chill before use. Add some thinly sliced soft fruit before serving from a punch bowl.

### Whisky Toddy

*Just what you need when suffering from a cold or the 'flu!*

*As Burns said:*

*“Sit roun' the table weel content  
An' steer about the toddy.”*

#### Ingredients

- Well Matured Scotch Whisky - 50 ml (2 fl oz)
- Boiling water
- Lemon juice - 1 tablespoon
- Cube sugar (four pieces)

Half-fill a tumbler with hot water. When the glass has reached a comfortable temperature, pour it out and put 3/4 pieces of cube sugar in the glass. Pour in a wineglass of boiling water and stir (silver spoons are recommended!). When the sugar is dissolved, add a wineglass of whisky and stir. Sip with “tender loving care” If one doesn't work - try another!

## 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  
XXL and larger \$40 plus shipping

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  
XXL and larger \$20 plus shipping

Contact: C. David Grant,  
1842 Alderbrook Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30345-4112  
PH: (404) 634-9051 or [d-grant@mindspring.com](mailto:d-grant@mindspring.com).

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

## Grant Items For Sale

PH: 423-842-4581

1876 Grant Tartan Fabric .....\$14.00 yd  
50/50 Poly/Cotton - 60 inches wide

Clan Grant Knit Golf Shirts; Teal with Gold Badge (s-m-l-xl)..... \$ 17.50

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  
Etched Clan Grant Highball Glasses, 6 oz, set of 6 .....\$35.00  
Lord Strathspey's History of Clan Grant .....\$30.00

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