



Craigellachie



Summer 2009

A Quarterly Publication of Clan Grant Society USA, Inc.

Volume XXXIV, Issue 2

Message from the President

Rand Allan



Now that our elections are over, I would like to welcome our elected Board Members: Jim Grant, member at large; David Grant, member at large; and Steve Grant, Vice President. These people were elected in a special election to replace recently vacated positions and I wish them all the best and look forward to working with them.

The new Board has several peas on their plate this year. First of all, we are developing an Officer's Handbook, a refinement of the Commissioners' Handbook that we had recently developed. With the high number of new members joining the Board this year, we realized that the by-laws descriptions of the officers' duties are too general in nature and don't provide enough information about the history of the office and how to carry out specific tasks assigned to

the office through past Board action. Once finished, this Handbook will not only be made available to the officers, so we will know our duties and our interactions with the other elected and appointed officers, but will also be made available to the general membership via the website so they will also know what is expected of us, and will also know what is expected of the various offices in the event they decide to run for offices.

The By-Laws and our 501(c)3 status are also ongoing efforts to improve our organization. Our By-laws will need to be brought in line with the State of Virginia non-profit regulations and tightened up to correct some of the inadequacies we encountered with some of its provisions. Once we have updated and voted on our By-Laws revisions, we can complete our 501(c)3 status.

Our AGM is coming up the third weekend in October at the Stone Mountain Games near Atlanta, Georgia. This is one of the premier Highland Games of the East Coast. Be sure and make your reservations before the hotels fill up. We will be formally inducting our new officers into the Board.

Commissioners, it is important to communicate your activities to the general membership. Please notify Holly, our Craigellachie newsletter editor, of the dates that you plan on attending local Scottish Highland Games, so she can place them in the newsletter. Also send her a little article after each Games that you host. This lets the rest of the membership know of the activities of the Clan Grant Society and helps them to plan future activities around the Games in your area. Because you are the Clan Grant Society representative of you area, be sure to be available by phone, letter, and email and respond to inquiries in a timely manner.

Finally, don't forget that next August, the Clan Grant will be having its International Gathering of the Grants in Scotland. Now is the time to begin making your reservations and plans. The last Gathering was in 2005, and the Clan Grant Society UK pulled out all of the stops for their international cousins. Next year promises more of the same. Please go to <http://www.clangrant.org> for more details of the Gathering. Stand Fast!

Internet vs Paper poll

In light of the economy these days and Clan Grant Society's attempts to become a 501(c)3, we are looking at assembling a budget to accomodate this status. Being able to offer scholarships or assistance will need to be worked out by our Treasury and one way to cut expenses would be to post *Craigellachie* on our website under a "members only" tab. The postage to put our newsletter out quarterly is very expensive. Having put that on the table, the Board would like feedback on those that may not have access to a computer and would wish to still receive a hard copy by mail. Please contact Holly Floyd at craieilachie@comcast.net, or 10620 Casa Grande Drive, Jacksonville, FL, 32257 or phone 904-268-6341 to let us know if you will still require a newsletter by regular mail. Thank You!

**Fall Deadline to
submit News is Nov 1st**

Membership Matters

By Jean Grant Wilson, Membership Secretary

Here we are into the summer issue. This year is going so fast....

We are again, *desperately*, looking for someone to take over the reins of Membership for Clan Grant! There must be a member out there that would be willing to give a few hours a week to CGS-USA. Wont you please give me or Rand Allen, our new President, a call or email?

Between now and the first of the year would be a good time to get settled in and make the switch for the new year!

A big welcome to the new members since the last issue:

Glen & Faith Grant.....	Glendora, CA
John Grant Beach.....	Desert Center, CA
Jeanne Suttie.....	Long Beach, CA
Hanson H Grant.....	Saratoga Springs, NY
Christopher Sean Dannenberger.....	Hannibal, MO
Jeffrey & Michelle Geske.....	Macomb, MI
Catherine Moberg.....	Webster, NY
Sarah Y Munoz.....	Brownsville, TX
Richard P Grant.....	Richwood, NJ
Adam & Christine Grant.....	Cheyenne, WY



Please call me at (904) 268-9049 or email me at CLNGRANT@comcast.net if you have any questions. I am here to help in any way that I can and to listen!

As always, Stand Fast!, and remember that membership does matter!



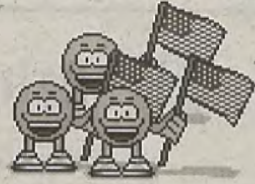
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U.S. Highland Games & Gatherings



"It's Great To Be A Grant!"



Note to Commissioners:
Please send in what Games
you will be attending
so that they can be in our Calendar

To have your upcoming events
included in this calendar
email: craigellachie@comcast.net
or call Holly (904) 268-6341
For other Nationwide Games
check out: www.asgf.org



Commissioners By State

ALABAMA To be filled	HAWAII Richard D. Souther 1550 Wilder Avenue, #A711 Honolulu, Hawaii 96822 (808) 349-2378 richard.souther@hawaii.rr.com	MISSOURI Stephen E Grant 6248 S Hunters Trail Springfield MO 65810 (417) 886-5868 sgrant@ky3.com	OKLAHOMA Kelly Grant 25841 N 3950 Road Ochelata OK 74051 (918) 333-9264 kroo_4@yahoo.com Shannon Gosney PO Box 721 Canton, OK 73724 (580) 886-2828 gosney@cimmaron.net	TEXAS, NORTH-Cont Sharon Carnes Friend 1604 University Dr Arlington TX 76013 (817) 265-6064 dsfriend@bqjtal.net
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ARIZONA Jim F Orth 520 Whitecap Circle Lake Havasu City AZ 86406 (928) 855-3521 tinamou@frontier.net	ILLINOIS See Indiana	NEBRASKA To be filled	PENNSYLVANIA Will Kenyon 2208 Quail Run Rd State College, PA 16801 (814) 865-2261 Willkenyon@aol.com	UTAH Michael James Grant 3124 W. 3875 S. West Valley City, Utah 84119 (801) 957-1938 huntinglittlehawk123@yahoo.com
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	MINNESOTA To Be filled			
	MISSISSIPPI To be filled			

Clan Grant Society USA, Inc.

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.

Past Presidents

Howard Parsons 1998-2002 / C. David Grant 2002-2006
Dr. Christopher Pratt 2006-2008

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CGS Board Meeting by Teleconference

June 7th, 2009

Attendees: Rand Allan, Interim President, C. David Grant, Interim VP, Holly Floyd, Secretary and Jeniphr Grant, Treasurer

- I. Chairman of the Board, Jeniphr Grant called the meeting to order.
- II. Approval of May 3rd, 2009 minutes to be posted on Topica. It was agreed that going forward the minutes would be sent out prior to teleconference to save time.
- III. Announcements- Rand Allan announced the acceptance by David B. Grant as the new Genealogist for CGS. C. David confirmed 3rd weekend (10/16/09-10/18/09) as Stone Mountain Games, and Clan Grant AGM. The Corporate Filing in the State of VA was done by Gordon Grant, and used the Interim Officers to do so.
- IV. Treasurer's Report- Jeniphr Grant stated treasury balance of \$3,815.50 with recent purchases of \$919.50.
- V. Old Business- C. David noted that there was nothing new to report on the 501C3 status. Jeniphr Grant offered to follow up with Jim Morton in Atlanta. Rand Allan stated that Howard Parsons still intends to do all changes on our Website. He will follow up and get time frame. Rand Allan appointed (with the boards approval) James Grant of Delaware to be Games Commissioner for CGS. Rand stated that James Grant had accepted this position.
- VI. New Business- Rand stated that there was a need in the drafting Bylaws that there was nothing about dissolution of the organization. Also, nothing of fund-raising/scholarships. The discussion was tabled until the 501C3 issue was farther along. There was also a discussion about the current title of "Craigellachie" as our quarterly newsletter. C. David, commented that as long as we are referring to the Mountain and not the Clan motto, that it was appropriate. The board agreed.
- VII. Adjournment- Chairman of the board, Jeniphr Grant asked that our next meeting be postponed from the 1st Sunday of next month to July 12th. All agreed. *Amended by Rand Allan on July 3rd (by email) to be postponed till August 2nd.

Clan Grant Badges

CALL FOR CURRENT PRICING AS IT IS CHANGING WITH THE NEW YEAR!

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 # _____

Make cheque payable to CLAN GRANT SOCIETY USA and mail to:

David Grant
16390 Rocky Glen Rd
Perris, CA 92570
(951)943-4020
Gam750ataol.com

Our New Genealogist

By David B. Grant

Our summer has come and gone and we are starting to feel the cooler air make its way to Eastern North Carolina, it still feels like only yesterday when my family embarked on our first trip to Grandfather Mountain for the Highland Games in July. It is hard to believe after living in North Carolina for 13 years this was the first opportunity that I had to go, something always seemed to come up the same weekend.

As soon as we made the decision to go, my wife and I were able to persuade my mother-in-law to make the trip to let her experience some of the Scottish culture in the best possible way, my wife who is from Snow Hill, NC had also never experienced a trip to a Highland Games. Our trips back to Scotland always consisted of family, football and eating.



As soon as we started climbing the hill to the entrance to the games I started to get goose bumps all over, this was the closest I had been to "home" in almost two years. The excitement got worse once we entered the games, I did not know where I wanted to go first... did I want to watch the highland dancing? Did I want to go and listen to Albannach? Did I want to go and buy some good old Scottish touristy stuff? I was like a wee boy in a toy store, I did not know where I wanted to go first. Thankfully my wife was able to restrain me and told me to calm down and try and be patient.

We decided to spend some time walking around to see all the different stalls and tents, even though I know the Grant Clan tent would not be there, I kept looking for it in the hope that plans had changed and we would have some representation. It was true, after walking around twice the Grant Clan tent was not to be found.

Before we knew it lunch time arrived... oh the decisions I had to make... Haggis and Chips or a Bridie with chips... easy decision, just have both. I offered my mother-in-law some haggis, she politely refused. We sat down right next to where Alex Beaton was performing, as soon as he saw me standing there wearing my Celtic shirt, he cracked a few jokes, and then broke in to singing Fields of Athenry and then followed up with a really nice rendition of "Caledonia" that was too much for me, it is true grown men do cry. I then had to break down and buy a couple of Alex's CD's. That about wrapped up Day One.

Day 2 started with the Massed Band parade, this had to be my Mother-In-Law's favourite part of the weekend, the band's sounded great. My son and daughter told me right there that they wanted to play the bagpipes and the drums. We spent a lot of the Saturday watching the different sporting events and watching the Highland games. My son oldest David who is 5, loved the wrestling and the sheep dog trials, Abigail who is 3 loved the Highland dancing.

On our way back to the hotel on the Saturday we decided that we want to make plans to be at the games next year, it is important to us to make sure our kids grow up being proud of their Scottish heritage and making it a very important part of their life.

Our Scottish Heritage is something that we should be very proud of, there is something very great about being connected to Scotland. Wherever you go people have wonderful things to say about Scotland and great things to say about the people from Scotland.

This is my call to the Grant's out there, let's do our Genealogy, let's go on a journey to the unknown, you never know where it will take you. Let's find out about those great people that went before us, let us find out about those people that have contributed so much to the way we are now, to the life we live and to the Heritage they have left behind.

I am no expert in Genealogy, but I do have a passion for the work, and I do want to do what I can to help you do your Genealogy.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to assist you with your family history.

You can call me on 252-754-2680 or e-mail me at dgrant3@suddenlink.net



STAND FAST

Chaplain's Kirkin'

From Your Chaplain,
Bishop John C. Grant, O.B.B.C.

Back To The Basics

How many times have we all gone to the store and purchased "something" that..."Requires Assembly"...and being always in a hurry as we are in today's fast paced and high-tech society, we cast the INSTRUCTIONS aside and proceed to "ASSEMBLE"...because...after all...it can't be all that hard!!!! Sometimes we "succeed" with left-over parts!! (OR) We get "IT" together with something in the front that is supposed to go in the back...(OR) Part "A" won't fit exactly into Part "AA" and in utter frustration...we finally, (as a last resort, mind you), WE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS!! And sometimes we have to read them several times to REALLY understand how to get the job done correctly! Of course, no one but myself has ever experienced this scenario...Right? LOL



In my many years in the ministry I am still amazed at parents that come to me and make the statement that..."They wished babies came with an Instruction Book on how to raise them properly!" And I, (without apology), inform them that they do!! It's called, "THE HOLY BIBLE"!! And then further state..."That they should have read the Instructions before Assembly!!" And, that it is never too late to go back and read and re-read the Instructions until you get it right!!

I speak, of course, as a Christian Clergyman and I am very positive that those of other persuasions if they would go to their Spiritual Leaders or Instructors would be directed to the "Proper Assembly Instructions" for bringing up Children!!

One has only to turn on the TV, pick up a Newspaper, (now there is an old-fashioned habit!! LOL), to see or read about children killing children in schools, carrying guns, babies having babies, children on drugs, killing parents and the list goes on.....you get the picture!!

I think it is way past time for us all to ...STOP...and get back to the basics and READ THE INSTRUCTIONS!!! APPLY THEM and maybe...just maybe...we will get the job done...correctly!!!

Fellow Clansmen, some will read this and think that ole Bish is not making alot of sense...but for those who are reading between the lines...my point is well driven home!!

We do not have many young people in The Clan Grant Society-USA at present and those of us who are present day members...if we are willing look in a mirror...we will find a few gray hairs up there! Point made! The Scripture says that if we raise a child up in the way he should go when he gets old he will not depart from it. That can well apply to teaching our culture to our young people and if we ALL as present day members do not make a genuine effort to bring young people into the Clan...there will be no Clan Grant Society-USA in the future! Recruiting and passing our rich culture on to the next generation is the responsibility of each one of us who enjoy it's fruits today. Lets ALL get..."BACK TO THE BASICS"...READ THE INSTRUCTIONS" and get the JOB DONE...CORRECTLY!!

STAND FAST!!
GOD BLESS EACH OF YOU!!

Flowers of the Forest

No Flowers of the Forest were sent in for this issue but I encourage anyone that might still like a loved one to be recognized at

the AGM Stone Mountain Games to please contact

Bishop John C. Grant at (828) 926-8669

and he will submit for the ceremony there.



Clan Grant International Gathering 2010

Hosted by Clan Grant Society UK
Draft programme (ie potentially subject to change)

Friday August 13th

Evening: Clan Grant Society AGM (time and place to be confirmed)

Saturday August 14th

Morning and Afternoon: Abernethy Games including Clan March etc.

<http://www.nethybridge.com/highlandgames/>

Evening: Banquet at the Hilton Hotel, Colylumbridge. (Dress: kilts, Black tie)

<http://beta.hilton.co.uk/coylumbridge>

The evening will commence with a group photograph to be taken by Stewart Grant.

<http://www.swpp.co.uk/members/Grant5947.htm>

Copies will then be available for purchase from his studio in the Square, Grantown.

Dinner will be followed by dancing to the Graeme McKay Band.

As requested there will also be a "quiet area" for those preferring not to dance.

Midnight: Auld Lang Syne

Sunday August 15th

Morning: Volunteers needed to take the tent down

Morning: An informal Golf competition organised by Prof. David Grant (details tba)

Afternoon: A walk up Craigelachie (yes this is the real spelling!) led and guided by a local

Ranger <http://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/cairngorms/craigellachie.shtml>

Afternoon: (venue tba) Adrian Grant, Clan Seannachie, will give a talk and answer questions about clan history etc. www.clangrant.org.uk

Evening: Adrian Grant will do a second session particularly for the walkers and golfers

Monday August 16th

Morning: Visit to the Battlefield at Culloden and new Visitor Centre

<http://www.nts.org.uk/Culloden/Home/>

Lunch at Visitor Centre

Afternoon: Visit to Fort George

<http://www.aboutbritain.com/FortGeorge.htm>

<http://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/nairn/fortgeorge/>

Tuesday August 17th

Morning: Excursion into the Moray Firth for Dolphin watching

<http://www.inverness-dolphin-cruises.co.uk/>

followed by a tour of the Highland Archive Centre in Inverness courtesy of Alistair

Macleod, Archivist

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/leisureandtourism/what-to-see/archives/highlandcouncilarchives>

(this will be of special interest to those interested in researching their family history)

There will also be an opportunity to explore Inverness City Centre.

<http://www.inverness-scotland.com/>

Lunch: bring or pick up a "piece" to eat on the bus...

Afternoon: trip to Dundreggan (Glenmoriston) to see and learn about the reforestation project

<http://www.treesforlife.org.uk/dundreggan/>

and the "7 men of Glenmoriston" of the Jacobite era

Wednesday August 18th

Morning: A special tour of Glen Grant Whisky Distillery.

<http://www.glengrant.com/>

Glen Grant distillery also has extensive gardens which were laid out in Victorian times - and ideal stroll for those for whom whisky is not their "thing".

Lunch will be provided courtesy of the distillery and there will also be an excellent opportunity for retail therapy at the gift shop.

Afternoon: early return to give you a chance to put your feet up!

Evening: Dinner on the Strathspey Steam Railway [There is a maximum of 50 tickets available - these will be allocated on a first come first served basis.]

<http://src.insch.info/>



Thursday August 19th

Morning: Visit to Braemar Castle

http://www.braemarScotland.co.uk/visiting_braemar/Braemar%20castle.htm followed by lunch in Braemar. This visit is exclusive to the Clan Grant group as it is normally only open at weekends.

Afternoon: Visit to Tomintoul (the highest inhabited village in Scotland). <http://www.visittomintoul.co.uk/>

You can just soak up the atmosphere or choose between a "Nosing and Tasting" courtesy of Whisky Castle <http://www.visittomintoul.co.uk/Whisky%20Castle.htm> and a tour of the small Folk Museum (free entry). The tea shop at The Clock House seats 60 and there are gift shops.

Friday August 20th

Morning: Visit to Elgin. The visit will begin with a tour of Elgin Cathedral <http://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/elgin/cathedral/>

followed by a talk by Graeme Wilson, Moray Council Archivist http://www.moray.gov.uk/LocalHeritage/Assets/html_pages/single_pages/archives.html

(this will be of special interest to those interested in their family history)

and then on to Johnston's Woolen Mill for lunch. <http://www.johnstonscashmere.com/> This is a working mill and tours are available.

Afternoon: Visit to Speyside Cooperage which promises to be fascinating <http://www.speysidecooperage.co.uk/>

Evening: Ceilidh to be organised by Norman Grant



Saturday August 21st

Gather at the Nethybridge Hotel for a talk by Adrian Grant, Historian to the Chief of Grant in the Revack Suite and Farewell Lunch (the dining room will be open exclusively for our group).

http://www.strathmorehotels.com/neth_site/index.htm

Need help making plans?

UK Clan Grant is handling the details for the "Gathering". But, members, family and friends might want help scheduling and booking their round-trip airfare reservations from where ever they are departing from (to Scotland and return).

Also, some members and their families might want help planning, scheduling and booking travel arrangements for their pre or post travel plans in conjunction with the UK Clan Grant 2010 Gathering (to other areas around Scotland, somewhere else in Britain, Europe or elsewhere which we can accommodate).

Travel Unlimited is a "full service" travel agency and we can handle all types of travel arrangements for people: Airfare, hotels, cars, trains, cruises, tours, excursions, etc. I have been an agent for nine years and Travel Unlimited has been in business for 28 years.

As a travel agent with Travel Unlimited, my specialty area is Britain. Also I have personally traveled throughout Britain, Europe and elsewhere and, therefore, help people with travel plans and arrangements to destinations in many countries around the world and the USA.

I am in the 2nd year of service with the Board of Directors for the Nevada Society of Scottish Clans (NSSC) here in Reno, Nevada and now serve as the NSSC Membership Secretary. I have been a member of NSSC since 2000.

Best regards, Gail Pratt

gailpratt@aol.com

2009 CG Society AGM Stone Mountain, GA

Greetings Fellow Clansmen -

Please come and join us in October at the Stone Mountain Highland Games just east of Atlanta.

Out-of-towners are encouraged to stay at the host hotel, Hilton Atlanta Northeast, info below. I plan to be there for the whisky tasting, maybe more!

Friday, Oct 16 - Many activities at hotel during the day - music, genealogy, whisky tasting (3 PM), Sponsors' Reception (8 PM - Highland formal), Patrons' Reception

Saturday, Oct 17 - Games at the mountain all day.
Evening - covered dish dinner at home of Maggie Kline, 1902 Alderbrook Rd, Atlanta, GA 30345

Sunday, Oct 18 - Games at the mountain all day. Parade of Tartans usually noon or 1pm. Morning inter-denominational church services on the field.

The Games will have many activities that would be of interest to small children, and children are welcome at Maggie's house Saturday evening as well.

Relevant addresses - Please generate your own MapQuest or other directional packages.

Games website
advance tickets, games schedule, maps, sponsorships, other info www.smhg.org

Hilton Atlanta Northeast
5993 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., Norcross, GA 30092-3416 (several miles outside I-285, Atlanta's perimeter hwy - about 32 mi from Hartsfield/Atlanta Internat'l Airport)

Games site - Stone Mountain Park, Stone Mountain, GA 30087
(approx location - about 15 mi from hotel)

Maggie Kline - 1902 Alderbrook Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30345

Will be happy to answer any questions by e-mail or otherwise -
David Grant, 408 Parkbrook Way, Canton, GA 30114 (770) 704-6273 (home phone)

Please pass this information to anyone you think would be interested!



DNA Vindicates the Highland Seannachie

By Adrian C. Grant



"The Family of Grant, like all other great families in the Highlands, have had their bards or seannachies, who sang the praises of their chiefs, and assigned to them a glorious ancestry of fabulous antiquity. In the case of the Grants, the licence usually given to the imaginations of the family bards has been largely exercised, the earliest ancestor claimed for the clan being no less a personage than Odin or Wodine, the well-known Scandinavian warrior or demigod. But the muse who presides over modern history permits no such flights of a romantic spirit, and the present work treats only of those members of the family or the name of Grant who appear in historic times and authentic records.

The origin of the Grants, like that of many other ancient families, has formed the subject of keen discussion. But recent investigations have displaced the fabulous ancestry assigned to them, and put the history of the family on a true and sure foundation. Wodine and Hacken Grant, with many generations of their supposed descendants, may now be discarded as ancestors of the Grants, as unceremoniously as the fabled Thanes of Lochaber, Banquo, and Fleance, who were long accepted as ancestors of the royal and illustrious house of Stewart."

In 1883 with these words Sir William Fraser paraded his contemptuous arrogance. His twisted his weasel words about confining himself to written records not say that nothing could be said about the origins, but rather used them as an excuse to deride (as he did in the second paragraph) and then dismiss the original story and to substitute a different (Norman-based) one for which, of course, there has never ever been any hard evidence whatsoever. The traditional story of the origins of the Grants about which he was so contemptuous had been told consistently in written form for at least the previous 260 years, and, there can be no doubt, had also been told both in writing now lost and orally for very many years previous to that.

My researches, stimulated by Steve Grant writing in Standfast exactly ten years ago and then liaising with Peter Grant of East Lavant, supported by several Society members in seeking out records of many sorts, showed that both Sir William and those upon whom he had relied as authorities had made many errors so crass that we are left with that perennial legal question: "Was he a fool or a rogue?" for surely he - and they - must have been one or the other. Although the traditional stories were severely garbled, yet within them there was so much which, once teased out, could be shown to be true. I was also able to find plausible explanations for many of the more important discrepancies.

The central themes which Fraser sought to deride were (a) that the original Grant chiefs were Viking and that (b) when the main line 'failed' to an heiress in the early 1300s one Andrew Stewart took the name Grant, thereby perpetuating the Clan.

Science has proved the Seannachies right and Fraser wrong.

It was a long time ago - probably around 2002 - that Peter first suggested DNA as a way forward to sifting through the problems that we faced. Professor Sykes with his Oxford Ancestors was very much in the news explaining how DNA could be used to show elements of a person's ancestry. But at that time the science was in its infancy and what was on offer then was not going to address our problem. As is too often the case it was the Americans who saw the commercial angle, with the company Family Tree DNA being set up primarily based on identifying specific aspects of the Y Chromosome (inherited only by males and only through the father). By doing the research within a surname structure (this also inherited normally through the father) great synergy can be obtained - ie if you share the surname AND you share the genes then there is a FAR higher chance that you are indeed related in historical times.

And so it was that in the spring of 2004 I was the first Grant to take the plunge and have my DNA analysed. I got the cheap "group" rate courtesy of the generous hosting of the MacDonalds who already had a project up and running. But by now this was spreading like wildfire and it was but a few weeks later that a Grant project was set up independently of any Clan Grant Society by Jon Grant of Charlotte North Carolina (indeed for more than another year Clan Society Councils on both sides of the pond showed considerable hostility to the project).

Cont on page 10

Grant Games



Taste of Scotland Festival Franklin, NC

Submitted by Rev John C. Grant

Father's day weekend, June 19, 20, & 21st, 2009 saw another awesome "Taste of Scotland Festival" in Franklin, North Carolina!! The down-turned economy did not seem to deter the Stout-Hearted Scots as the attendance was excellent, the weather beautiful and the entertainment: OUTSTANDING!!

Directors Clair Suminski and Kathie Akins with their faithful team also did an OUTSTANDING job in coordinating the presentation of this year's event and parade! The John Moor MacIntosh Pipe & Drum Band was back again this year and stirred the Scottish Blood of even our Irish and English Brothers and Sisters!! LOL The Honorable Matthew A.C. Newsome; Curator of the Scottish Tartans Museum in Franklin, NC was this year's Guest Of Honor and lead the Parade!! Our own Jean Hayes, Piper-In-Residence at the Tartans Museum also blessed all in attendance with her Piping skills throughout the day! There were so many wonderful groups and individuals that entertained also throughout the day...I would be remiss for fear of leaving someone out!!

The Clan Tents were welcoming folks and this year's Honored Clan was Clan Hayes! The whole town of Franklin was abuzz with Scottish activities and the storefronts of the community reflected the celebration!! The Taste of Scotland Festival is held Annually over the father's Day Week-end! For an experience that will surely please...plan to attend next year one of the BEST Scottish Festivals you could experience! You will not be disappointed!!



Grandfather Mt Games in 2009

Submitted by Shirley Grant Smith

Remember last year when we found 3 Grants wandering around looking for the non-existing Clan Grant tent at the Grandfather games? This year we managed to scour up 10 lost Grants at the Tartan Authority tent!

Our friends with the North Carolina museum brought some rain gutters and attached them to the tent in the hopes of diverting some of the water away from our displays and computers. Actually, it might have worked—except the grounds (?) committee, worried about tents collapsing, carefully lowered all the tents during the evening hours! Every Grandfather Mountain Highland Games brings a new twist to the weather as well as to the participants.

Grants making contact with Shirley include Carol Grant for Jared & Jessica Sprague from Apex, NC; Ella Grant and Glenn H. Moore, both from Newland, NC; Katherine Grant Arbno and her son, David from Ft. Myers, FL; Elaine Grant AQUI, of Orlando, FL; Terrie Allison, Southport, NC; John Linderman from Cary, NC and Carol McElrath, Titusville, FL.



Invitation to Cullen House

Written by Marilyn Grant Hall



As a youngster, my Scottish-Canadian family endeavored to teach us the history of our clan Grant, it's several branches, our folklore and visits they had made to our Strathspey territory prior to World War II. Our family was a royalist one with ties going back to many monarchs. My elderly great aunts had cherished pictures and memories, and their Scottish hearts were in the highlands. Their shared memories embedded themselves in my mind.

Nina Seafield at nine years old was chosen by Dowager Countess Caroline to succeed to the Seafield title. She later became familiar with our family by her correspondence and pictures. As my great aunts aged, it was hoped that I would not neglect to visit our kin in Scotland.

In my early 30s, I received an invitation from Nina, Lady Seafield, to visit her at Cullen House, Banffshire. I was in London at the time with my American husband and she kept abreast of our travels on the way north to the highlands. I spoke with her from our hotel in Braemar and, with her characteristic thoughtfulness, she arranged for us to sit in "Te Royal Enclosure" (perhaps her seats?) at the 1966 Highland Games. These "invitations" were somehow delivered to our hotel. We were thrilled and happily attended. We met the Earl of Mar Cat Farquharson of Invercoud, the Earl of Ross and Cromarty and many other Scots. The arrival of the Royal Family was another pleasure in those days of casual security. To my surprise, a reporter from a Scottish newspaper wanted pictures of us and an on-the-spot interview as to how we came to be in the Royal Enclosure. After a brief explanation we were warmly welcomed and enjoyed the games. Military men guarded the enclosure.

Lady Seafield's invitation to Cullen was for luncheon the following day, so we proceeded by train to the proper station the next morning. Lady Seafield had sent her car and Stewart, her driver, for us. Upon approaching the entrance to Cullen House, my very western-bred husband, Douglas, could not believe it's imposing view perched high as it is on a rock above the bridge and burn. What a feeling came over me to finally be there after all the years of stories, pictures and history. We noted the Seafield flag was flying proclaiming the Countess was in residence.

The beauty of the scenery and Cullen's policies surrounded us. The home of the Ogilvy-in the motion picture industry then, with Walt Disney Studios. He was especially impressed by the architecture of Cullen House.

Once inside, we were warmly greeted by Lord Patrick Strathspey, 32nd Chief of our Clan Grant, who ushered us into a first floor reception room filled with several guests. Nina, Lady Seafield, appeared from upstairs after introductions and hugs all around. Cocktails were enjoyed and then, her ladyship, who insisted we call her "Nina" commented on my strong resemblance to a portrait of an earl upstairs. She insisted we all proceed to the second floor portrait room and posed me in front of the Earl's portrait where pictures were taken. I have these pictures to this day and, while in Scotland, was teased about it because I think he was "The Mad Earl". By coincidence, that day I wore a plum velvet turban and his lordship wore a satin turban of his time. This accentuated our resemblance.

Proceeding to the dining room for lunch, we were mesmerized by the beauty of Cullen House. The Countess, on this occasion, had a huge round dining table in the center of the room which added more to the interaction of the guests than the usual rectangular table. The painted ceiling displayed family crests. The walls were hung with two large Mortlake tapestries.

An elegantly set table of sparkling crystal Waterford glass and colorful flowers greeted us. The luncheon was delicious with the bounties of the home farm. Fresh salmon, Angus beef and many delicacies were set before us. Soon, everyone was chatting animatedly and Nina asked if my husband would like to join the Seafield shooting party next day at Kinveachy Lodge. As an ex-marine from WWII, he was a certified sharp shooter and knew about rifles, so he replied affirmatively.

After lunch, we toured Cullen House partially. A few days later Nina arranged for just the two of us, my husband and me, to spend a couple of days alone in Cullen House because her other guests were at Kinveachy Lodge. How kind! She assigned a wonderful couple to look after us there which they did so well. She told me to feel free to explore the ancestral home from top to bottom and I believe, within the bounds of propriety, we did.

A funny incident happened during this stay. One early afternoon, a huge tour bus pulled into the driveway to Cullen House. We were up in the portrait room and peeked out to see a large group of ladies and their guide, a Miss Grant, entering the grand foyer. We were sipping brandy and, when this group arrived upstairs, they seemed very surprised to find us there. I stepped forward to introduce ourselves and to reassure them it was perfectly fine to continue their tour. My husband even joined the tour and enjoyed it. These tourists were excited the place was occupied.

James, 6th Earl of Findlater and 3rd of Seafield resided at Cullen House (1714-1770). He was called "The Mad Earl". The right hand end of the east hall of the portrait room displays his portrait. This is where the pictures of me were taken because of our resemblance. He, according to our family story, sometimes had mad fits. He would lock himself in the library and drop the key out the window to his Factor who would later release him when he's recovered. Alas, one day the Factor released him too soon and was murdered! Thus, the cause of the blood stains on the pink marble staircase. The ghost of this troubled Earl haunted the pink staircase. So many guests and servants believed it to be, that in Nina's time, it had to be exorcised by clergy. Later, on subsequent visits, our bedroom was near this staircase. In those days, one had to use the long hall to go to the lavatory. It was with some trepidation that I did so alone. I wanted to allow my genetic memory and vibrations to be open when late at night I passed there. You may read of this experience in my poem "Scotland Revisited", contained in the introduction in my book *Tartan Thunder*. I felt strongly about this and one may draw his/her own conclusions. A deep sense of dejavu - perhaps those of a young writer, but unexplainable to me.

I was privileged throughout the 1960's to have several other visits of long duration, and during those years, valued friendships were made. Lord Patrick Strathspey was often there too with his second wife, Olive, and his younger son, Michael and daughter, Amanda. We enjoyed a happy visit with them in their home in Sussex, England. A special time was when we went sailing. My husband "crewed" for Patrick and we came in last in the race! Olive and I watched in dismay, but Patrick took it good-naturedly. We had gotten to know them well when we all spent holidays together at Nina's Kinveachy. Lord Strathspey was then my mentor about all things Grant. He filled me with tales and legends of our family and clan. It was my understanding that Clan Grant is one of 40 royal clans descending from the "old race" back to the ancient kings. Patrick wrote to me often in California after Nina's death through the 70's. His letters, I still have today.

During these halcyon days, our present Earl, called "Ginger" by the family married to Lady Mary, daughter of Lord Illingsworth. They had two adorable sons, James, 4, and Alexander, 6. Sometime in the 70s they divorced and he remarried. He was the most fun fellow. When I appeared in a leather suit, he called me his "kinky cousin". He once lifted me up from the dining room table by my elbows and took me out to dance to his favorite Aretha Franklin music. He always had a twinkle in his eye and liked to hear stores of the "old west" from my husband. He was so especially kind to us both and came up to Cullen when we were alone there to take Doug shooting.

Nina's daughter, pretty Pauline, was at Kinreathy - about age 25. She liked to stalk the red deer. She was still unmarried then and spent much time in London. Today, she has her own estate called Revack.

In closing this article, I should mention that Nina gave us her London penthouse flat near Sloane Square Belgravia to reside in while we were in London, complete with Mario, the chauffeur, and Mrs. Hallett, her housekeeper. I shall never forget Lady Seafield's kindness and generosity. She was quiet, a superb hostess, attractive, charming, and did like to have fun. She favored tailored, well-designed clothes. She wore lambskin leather jackets and Ferragamo loafers. Nina dressed as a Scottish country lady. We dressed for dinner every evening and then we sparkled a little. Those were much more conservative days than now.

At her death in 1969, newspapers headlined her passing as "Britain's Richest Peeress Dies". This was a sad day for our entire clan for she was much loved. In my next article, I will describe Kinveachy Lodge and the shoot.



Marilyn Hall is also an author of *Tartan Thunder*. It is a fictional story of the bravery and independence of Scottish highland people, their nobility of character and their mutual respect for each other in spite of politics that divided them before and after the Battle of Culloden. She will personally autograph each copy to you and ship it direct if it is ordered only through her. This saves cost as she charge less than the publisher and the ready receives a signed copy from the author. The story is one of true events occurring in Scotland after 1745-46 told in a fictional format. A sequel called *Tartan Passage* is a work in progress.

To order direct from author: Send \$19.95 plus 4.55 S&H for a total of \$24.50 to: Marilyn Grant Hall, 6955 Carlisle Court #D351, Naples, FL 34109. Telephone: (239) 593-0935.



Let Us Teach Our Children

By Dr. Christopher Pratt

I have been going to Highland games for about 60 years and I have rarely seen children and young people regularly at clan tents. I have often wondered how many of the young dancers, fiddlers, singers, athletes, sheep dogs, pipers, drummers, pipe majors and so on are supported by their clan societies. How many clan folk even pay attention to these competitions for the young? How many of us offer scholarships to study or prizes to those who compete?

How many of us read Nigel Trantor, John Prebble, Scott, Stevenson, Tom Devine, Peter Reese, Duncan Bruce, or even Burns? Who has read Blind Harry's Wallace?

Which clan society is more interested in our children and their learning about Scotland than about sitting under a tent at Highland Games all over North America talking to each other and drinking?

Now, as anyone who knows me will tell you I am a Scot and I love my whisky, aqua vita indeed. But let us also teach our children. Where better than in our clan societies. Let us teach them the stories and songs, dance and pipes, to raise Highland Cows and sheep, make oatcakes and scones, Gooney Toffee Pudding, and Smoked Haddock, Hagus, tatties and neeps. Teach them how whisky is made and why in the Highlands. Teach them about the history that Scottish children have not learned in the schools because their neighbors co-opted the curriculum and the teacher training programs years ago. Teach them about being a Scot even though the BBC only refers to Scots when they fail to meet English expectations. See the stories about Andy Murray on BBC if you have questions about that one.

And teach them more than about tartan and pipes. Take them to the fabulous National Museums of Scotland in Edinburgh, one of the truly few top best museums in the world. Teach them about the Dalraida Scots and the Picts, teach them about the Irish and Norse and the French and the Dutch.

Teach them about oil.

Teach them who owns the North Sea oil and where the money from it goes because the English don't believe the Scots can do it for themselves, nor should they have all that wealth.

Teach them about world class oil trade in the 13th century when Lord of the Isles created a trading enterprise to harvest, package, ship and deliver bird oil from the Hebrides to the Hanseatic League in the Baltic Sea.

Teach them about the Saltire.

Teach them about how In 832 A.D. King Óengus (II) (or King Angus) led the Picts and Scots in battle against the Angles under a king named Athelstan near modern-day Athelstaneford in East Lothian. King Angus and his men were surrounded and he prayed for deliverance. During the night Saint Andrew, who was martyred on a saltire cross, appeared to Angus and assured him of victory. On the following morning a white saltire against the background of a blue sky appeared to both sides. The Picts and Scots were heartened by this, but the Angles lost confidence and were defeated.

Teach them about Kenneth Macalpin, Cináed mac Ailpín (Modern Gaelic: Coinneach mac Ailpein)[1], commonly Anglicised as Kenneth MacAlpin and known in most modern regnal lists as Kenneth I (born 810 died 13 February 858).

Teach them about Máel Coluim mac Donnchada (Modern Gaelic: Maol Chaluim mac Dhonnchaidh),[1] called in most Anglicised regnal lists Malcolm III, nicknamed Canmore, "Big Head."

Teach them about Aengus, Celtic God of Love, Angus Og (comic), a comic strip which ran in the Daily Record, Aonghas Óg of Islay, Lord of Islay at the time of Robert the Bruce, and Aonghas Óg (d. 1490), bastard son of John of Islay, Earl of Ross and Lord of the Isles.

Teach them about Somerled, Gilledomman's grandson, seized the Isles from the King of Mann in 1156 and founded a dynasty that in time became the Lords of the Isles. He was both Gael and Norseman: his contemporaries knew him as Somerled Macgilbred, Somhairle or in Norse Sumarlídi Höld ('Somerled' means "summer wanderer", the name given to the Vikings). He took the title ri Innse Gall (King of the Hebrides) as well as King of Mann.

Teach them about how Scots built countries, companies, hospitals, churches, schools, communities all around the world. Teach them about the inventors, physicians, scientists, explorers, teachers, engineers, and ship builders.

Teach them about the faith of their forefathers. Tell them about Rule, Padraig, Mungo, Margaret and Magaretsons. Tell them about the Reformation.

Teach them about our heros, Wallace and Bruce, Macbeth and Fion, the Argyle and Sutherland, the Frasers, the Gordons, the Seaforth Higlanders and the Highland Gunners fighting in the Balkans, Iran and Afganistan.

Take them to Dunaad, and Callanish, Skara Brae, believed to have been inhabited from around 3100 BC. Standing Stones of Stenness, the Maeshowe passage grave, the Ring of Brodgar, to the Falkirk Wheel, and to the University of the Highlands and Islands, <http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/>.

And teach them all the things that you all know about Scotland and the Scots that I don't know. Learn together.

Teach the children, please.

"Cuimhnich air na daoine on tàinig thu."* Remember those from whom you are descended.

"Figh breacan an ama tha romhainn, Alba ar latha-ne, ionnsaich e, gabh ris, cuir ris."*

"Weave the tartan of tomorrow, contemporary Scotland, learn it, love it, invest in it."

*Translation thanks to Scotland's only Gaelic College, Sabhal Mor Ostaig, Sleat, Isle of Skye, University of the Highlands and Islands - <http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/>

We all have family stories that have been told to us.....memories that we hold dear from those that have passed. Perhaps if you are a native Scot and have settled in America to raise your families, you have things to share as you reflect on that decision in your life.

Something that comes to mind for me was shared by my mother. (Jean Grant Wilson) She came across the pond as a child and when she made it to America, in her child's mind she was disappointed that the streets weren't "paved in gold!" On a more serious note she can tell of a time in her life when the German bombs were dropping while her family lived in Clydebank. Growing up around my nana and papa and hearing the thick brogh in their voices and the quaint stories of their life in another part of the world known as Scotland was a blessing.

As editor of our Craigellachie, I ask that you take a minute to reflect on things that you were told, lived, or recall of your heritage. Although it may not be enough to fill a page I would love to share these snippets as a collection in a future issue. Please send these to me at craigellachie@comcast.net or mail to 10620 Casa Grande Drive, Jacksonville, FL.

You will be glad you did and you never know who you will touch.....

Your Editor,
Holly



DNA Vindicates - cont

The Chiefly line

The Grant project was boosted very early on by the participation of our chief; this meant that over the years that followed – in some cases just a few months – many Grants who had no such idea or any expectation have discovered to their delight that they were blood members of the chiefly line. As we pieced their lineages together we have been able to specify the DNA signature of many of the cadet lines. Among these lines are:

(a) Corrimony: This line descends from John Grant, son of the Bard Roy. In this case it is no doubt a relief for the participants including Chris the Chef and Kiwi Peter to see their signatures match the prospective chieftain himself!

(b) Lurg: This line descends from Robert, son of Duncan Grant younger of Freuchie. We have the redoubtable Norah Parry Davis in this lineage courtesy of an antipodean relative who has joined

(c) Glenloch (otherwise the MacRobbies): Tradition is that this line is from an illegitimate son of Robert Grant the Ambassador. Descendants of this line found themselves involved in the Canadian fur trade

Now our hope is that more members of known cadet lines will join in to allow others to be able to narrow their search when trying to extend their family trees and link in to the known chiefly line.

At this point (the reason will become clear later) we should note that the proven Lurg tree (ie in this case we are 100% sure) showed up to be only 60% likely from DNA – in other words if you took ten examples four would turn out not to be the case.

A few of the project members had a DNA signature which was fairly close to the Chiefly line, but nevertheless far enough away for them not to be included in that group automatically. I urged the project coordinators to consider them as possible connections. They were sceptical, but to humour me they set them up as a sub-group with loads of question marks!

Viking members

From a very early stage we had what looked like a good candidate for a representative of the the particular sub-group which fitted the old stories (so, for example, NOT the same sub-group as Somerled, the King of the Isles and progenitor of the MacDonalds) – but the problem was that we did not know enough about Scott's pedigree – so that had to wait for confirmation of some sort. Later another member tested R1a1; again it was the same sub-group – but the two signatures just did not match. This meant that at best only one of these two could be from the Old Chiefs and we had no way of telling. Some time later, another R1a1 turned up – that well-kent Clan Society stalwart Charlie Grant of Currie had joined the project. Again it was the same subset and again he did not match with either of the others. So now we had three candidate signatures for the original chiefly line!

Sir William Fraser was particularly mocking of the Clan Allan Grants – the Grants of Auchernack (properly and anciently Achachearnach). In our genealogies, and in their own lore, they are stated to be descendants of Allan – a brother of Sir Lawrence Grant who was born around the year 1210. Instead Fraser claimed that these were merely local Abernethy peasants who had at some unspecified stage adopted the name Grant for their own safety or their own gain. Fraser's story made no sense – but that had not stopped him elsewhere!

In the spring of 2008 Torcuil Grant, son of the David Grant who had taken his family round the world on a horse drawn wagon, joined the project. Here was a member of the Clan Allan with a known and unbroken pedigree stretching back to the middle 1600s and..... he tested R1a1! Again this was the same subset of R1a1 which would be expected if the old genealogies were true. So given that the family lore exactly matches the science, we may be quite certain that Torcuil's signature does indeed represent the ancient chiefly line.

And of the others? The prize goes to Charlie who turned out to be a very clear match with Torcuil and hence descended also from the Viking Chiefs. It is curious that all our R1a1 signatures come from the same ethnic subgroup and from this we should conclude that in Scott and the other member we have the descendants of family servants/retainers who will have been with Olaf Hemingsson and his ancestors over many generations – all the way back to Denmark in 850 AD!

The Stewart Signature

The old Seannachies being vindicated, we now needed to see whether the Chiefly line signature would demonstrate the veracity of the claim about Andrew Stewart. We had tried to look into this before, but failed to find any criterion signature to compare with. I mentioned before that this DNA project is a very fast moving investigation – so when I searched the internet again I was able to find two quite separate benchmark examples through the Stewarts of Balquidder.

Cont on page 12

Clan Grant Membership Application



Please circle one: NEW RENEWAL

Membership # _____

Date of Birth _____

Name _____ Spouse _____

Street _____ Apt# _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (____) _____

Work Phone (____) _____

EMail _____

How are you related to Clan Grant? _____

Please check if you wish to be added to the Clan Grant Listserv. This is one way we have of getting info out to members and keeping our costs down!

Make *ALL* cheques payable to CLAN GRANT SOCIETY

Mail to: Jean Grant Wilson
Membership Secretary
10538 Docksider Dr East
Jacksonville FL 32257-6374

DUES: \$20.00 1-year \$40.00 2-years \$55.00 3-years
LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$400.00

Note: Starting in 2009

Membership will run from January 1 through December 31.
New members joining after June 30th will pay only \$10 for their first year of membership.

We also offer subscriptions through Clan Grant at a discounted rate to the following magazine:

THE HIGHLANDER \$15.50 per year [regular price is \$26.50]

It's Great to be a Grant!

CGS Election Results

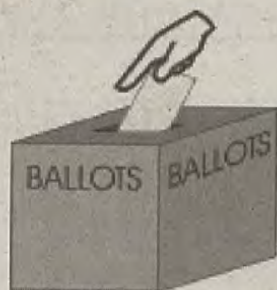
Results of Clan Grant Society 2009 Election

President: Rand Allan

Vice President: Dr. Robert S. Grant II

Board Member at Large: David Grant

Board Member at Large: James F. Grant



Installation of Elected at Stone Mountain, GA

See page 6 for info on our AGM next month.

Please note that due to our Emergency State, the Board was unanimous in preserving our staggered terms in accordance with our current By-Laws.

The terms noted for this election are: President- one year, Vice President- three years, Board Member- three years.

Congrats all around!

May this be a year of growth for our Clan
and the year that we all get more involved!

"It's Great to be a Grant"

Grant Guidies



Empire Biscuits

From the Scottish Snippets

In the days when Britain had an Empire (not all that long ago) nobody thought it unusual to use the term "Empire Biscuit." North American readers might like to be reminded that a "biscuit" is a "cookie."

Ingredients:

1/2 lb (two cups) sifted flour

1/2 lb (two sticks) butter

1/4 lb (slightly more than half a cup) castor sugar (finely granulated sugar)

Jam or jelly or jell-O

1 egg

Method:

Cream butter and sugar, add egg then add the flour. Make into a stiff paste, roll out and cut in rounds. Place on greaseproof paper (vegetable parchment or waxed paper) on a baking tray (cookie sheet). Cook in a moderate oven until slightly brown. When cold, spread jam/jelly on one round and place another round on top. Ice (the icing used is usually glacé icing) the top of the sandwich and put half a glacé cherry in the middle of the icing.

DNA Vindicates - cont

They had entirely separate pedigrees, linking into the line of the High Stewards of Scotland at quite separate points – but their DNA matched 37/37 so there could be no doubt that this was the true DNA signature.

Somewhat bizarrely the three members who I had been suggesting should be linked to the chiefly line matched this Stewart signature without any possible room for doubt. This group included George Grant in the USA who founded the Clan Grant Society over there and Sue Hateley, who is now very much Lady CGS-Oz (she had persuaded a male relative to join the project)!

But precisely because there had been some doubt as to whether this group belonged to the Chiefly line, there was now some doubt as to whether the chiefly line really was Stewart! From the historical point of view the story was complicated by the fact that for many years, the Lords of Kincardine (between Abernethy and Rothiemurchus) were Stewarts – so it was at least logically possible that the members who showed the Royal Stewart signature could be the result of some unrecorded how's-you-father between the two families!! We cast around to see what explanations we might come up with, but had no convincing result. Clearly there was room for doubt, but just as it had been me who had asked for this group to be recognised in the first place, so nagging me still was the idea that some people were making this out to be a bigger problem than it actually was.

Statistics to the Rescue

And so it was that towards the end of last year that I wrote to Family Tree DNA to ask what the chances were that both these two lines, which appeared to be separate, might in reality descend from a common ancestor born around 1260. The answer came back: 40%. In other words if you took ten examples of this sort of thing at random, then in 4 out of 10 cases it would prove to be correct. This is not the overwhelming incontrovertible proof we might have wished for, but it is entirely consistent – there is no basis for denying it. (remember the 60% score for the Lurg line which we KNOW to be correct).

The conclusion we draw is that George and Sue descend from a junior son of Andrew Stewart, while the chiefly line then descends from Patrick Beg mac Mauld, the heir – as told in the old genealogies. Of course although I am wholly sure of this, I want to increase the certainty for those of a more sceptic persuasion.

In the late autumn there was a programme on TV about the "contest" between male and female chromosomes while the baby is still in the womb. For example the mother can "switch off" some genes in the foetus – particularly those which would produce a huge baby at birth. In this context I noted that Andrew and Maud's son and heir was called Patrick BEG – ie he was noted for his smallness – so I made contact with the top researchers in this area, including those who had been on the TV programme (and I contacted Family Tree DNA again), to see whether this mechanism might also be responsible for a greater than average number of mutations on the Y Chromosome. The answer I got was consistently negative, so I will have to think again, but so far as I can see the scientists still don't know what causes the trigger to fire in the first place. So I still suspect that when that is known it may show that there may be a common underlying cause.

Summary:

The Monymusk Text and others are consistent in saying that the original Grant Chiefs were Viking.

The DNA evidence proves that this is true.

The Monymusk Text says that when the Viking line died out it was Andrew Stewart who married the heiress.

The DNA evidence is consistent with this.

Postscript

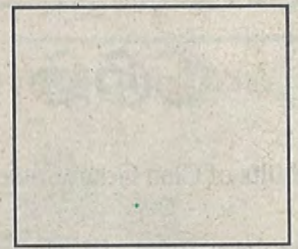
Of course all of the above accounts for only a small proportion of all Grants. The vast majority, like Don and myself, are the ordinary clansmen whose ancestors adopted the surname in the late 1400s. I have one marker which I would like to think specifies me as Pictish rather than Scottish – but the truth is that that sort of discrimination is just not possible yet.

And as for Peter? It turns out that his male line ancestors were in Scotland long before even the Picts arrived! Next time you want to know who has the best bragging rights for having been in Strathspey first or if you want to know what Stone Age man was like.... say hello to him!



Craigellachie

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