



Craigellachie



The Newsletter of the Clan Grant Society-USA

The Society shall publish a Clan quarterly named *Craigellachie*. *Craigellachie* shall be used to promote the interests of the Clan, the cultivation of a spirit of kin and fellowship and social intercourse amongst the Society's members. Further *Craigellachie* shall serve as the official publication of the Society and shall be the primary vehicle for giving the Members official notice of meetings, elections, Board and Officer actions

Spring 2015
Clan Grant Society USA

Greetings Clansmen and Clanswomen!

Springtime begins our gaming season, and the improvements of the weather for those who experienced significant winter cold. I hope you are getting a warm up of the temperatures in your locale. Here in Washington, the skies are mainly more clear, cherries and plums are blooming, and our bulbs are popping open to provide lots of color.

TARTAN DAY: Tartan Day is right around the corner on 6 Apr 2015, and I look forward to any photos you care to send in for your activities. Please send them to Dr. William Grant (willeamgrant@yahoo.com).

2015 AGM: We are planning our AGM in the Central Time Zone, and are taking volunteers for a game that will provide a meeting area with Internet connection. Our suggested locations are Oklahoma and Illinois (but will consider others). If you are sponsoring a game in Central Time Zone, please let me know, so we can set ourselves where there is already a Grant presence. The location will be announced in the next *Craig* and on the website.

2014 AGM: The AGM from last year made some changes to membership definitions including, the addition of family memberships, expanding life memberships for people over 80 years of age, and separating honorary and complimentary memberships. The changes will be posted in the next issue of the *Craig* and the Board will have a discussion of the implementing policies of the changes that will be effective during the next year.

VACANCIES: Since last year, vacancies have occurred in our Board: Vice President and Treasurer. There are no provisions in the Bylaws for appointing an interim officer (the VP and Treas.), or to hold special elections. As our membership ages, we will experience health issues, either for ourselves, our partners, or our parents, and emergencies can happen to anyone. This is a scheduled topic for this year's AGM - to modify the bylaws to allow for emergency situations. Please let me or another Board member know your thoughts about the topic to bring up at the meeting, if you cannot attend yourself. Additionally, I would like to know if there are any of you who are interested in serving the society in these capacities, prior to appointing the nominating committee for the official process. Thanks!

WEBSITE: We have a fantastic new website created and updated by Jeff Click!! There is general information for potential members, and a specific area with expanded information for members. Our Historian, James "Hank" Grant, put forth significant efforts and updated and expanded the information available for you about the Clan Grant. He has also rewritten the FAQ responses for potential members. I encourage you to review this information and incorporate it into the stories you tell at the games.

LOGINS FOR WEBSITE: Thanks to the about half of you who have checked in with Jeff Click to get your member login to our new site, and this is a reminder for those others to get your login, and take a look at the content. Comments, questions, and articles are welcome. We are placing information within the members' only section, to get to know each other better. Jeff may be contacted via email at: jclick@msn.com.

WEBSITE SURVEYS: We have a location for an online poll to see if our new website is meeting your requirements and what you would like to see included. This area may be expanded to allow full membership voting in a secure mode (linked to a single member number log in), and enable us to be more efficient in our elections and discussions with the members. Right now, the area is a placeholder.

TRAVEL TO SCOTLAND: Grantown is celebrating their 250th anniversary this year, and is sponsoring a festival for the last week in June. Information is available at www.grantown250.org. There is not a scheduled International Gathering of the Clan Grant in August, however, the Abernethy games will be held, and Homecoming Scotland 2015 has a focus of Food and Drink with events throughout the year.

MEMBER INVOLVEMENT: We continue to experience difficulty in getting articles about the games in which we are participating. As with any organization, no job is complete without the paperwork. In our case, that paperwork is the photos and reports of the games participation. I would like to recognize new members in each issue of the *Craig*, see members in attendance, and any outstanding events that take place at particular games across the country. Additionally, as with other volunteer organizations, there are a few active members who are trying to keep the Society afloat with little assistance from others. This is especially trying, as we continue to request minimal information about the activities, encourage reporting to let others know what the Clan is doing, and to get participation at our annual meeting. We have expanded how we allow AGM participation, and still had less than 1% of our membership engaged in the meeting. This does not bode well for our future, and I would like to engage the membership in a dialog about what you desire from your Society, and what you are willing to do to ensure it continues. Please email me your comments and suggestions to the email president@clangrant-us.org; or (alternatively) we could discuss this in the general discussion forum of the "member's only" section of the website.

STAND FAST!!
Jeniphr Grant

This year marks my twenty second year of being a Celtic harper. I have included a photo of my harps. The harp in the center of the photo is the one I started with at first. The other two entered the story much later.

It all started one dark rainy day in July when I walked into my favorite music store in Kent, CT to purchase some music for an instrument that I was playing at the time. My friend was working that day and told me that a new harp had come in that morning from the factory.

" Since you have played all the other instruments here in the shop, go try the harp"

He got me a chair while I tuned up the harp. After seeing the price tag hanging off the front of that harp, I removed my watch. The harp's price was a good deal more than the few crumbled singles that were in my faded old jeans.

I felt as if I had been transported back in time just listening to the bright notes as they danced off the many strings. I had never seen a harp like this one before and here I was playing it!

I had completely lost all sense of time as I was drawn into the music that was flowing all around me until I heard a soft voice just behind my right shoulder "Excuse me, Miss? How long have you been playing the harp" ?

I was so surprised to see that there were quite a few elderly ladies who had come in out of the rain and they were all standing around me quite spell bound. I had no idea how to answer her question. " How long had I really been sitting there with that lovely harp? My friend told me it was about forty five minutes and told me to keep playing. By then it was standing room only, the tiny music shop was full of people!



A month later, I returned to that shop in Kent pick up my first new harp. It was my mother's birthday. I got together with two other musician friends and we went to my parent's home and gave my mother a gift of a surprise birthday concert. I had only owned that harp for four hours. Five years later in 1998 I released my first recording.

The owners of the harp company were so impressed with it that they wanted me to have one of their largest model harps. Just like that one I first had played.

My parents surprised me and purchased that floor harp as a Christmas gift for me. In 2003, I had been playing my smaller harp in a tiny local Irish pub for many years as a member of a traditional Irish music session group.

A reporter from the New York Times was in attendance one rainy night when we were performing. Wendy had interviewed the pub owner and everyone in our merry band. A few months later, those interviews and photos were transformed into a New York Times best seller.

The book was called "Little Chapel On the River" by Gwendolyn Bounds.

I never thought I would ever be in a book even as a minor character but there I was, in chapter seven.

This year my eldest harp student of eight years will be turning ninety . I have three other harp students, one of whom is my own mother. This year I inherited a third harp which I have restored to playing condition and plan to use as part of my newest harp workshop programs.

I will be doing a special school assembly program on March 20,2015. I will be doing part of my new school program presentation in Irish Gaelic.

All of this came about because I sat down to play a strange lovely instrument one rainy day in July 1993!

Respectfully submitted by Candace L. Coates

Soil Lewis Sept Association Descendants of Ludvick Grant

March 12, 2015

Osiyo (Hello) from the Soil Lewis Sept Association in Cherokee Country. We're enjoying a beautiful day here in northeastern Oklahoma.

As Sept Members we are heartily in support of keeping the Federal Register House in Edinburgh open. Several of us have signed the petition to stop this landmark from being closed.

Hopefully some of us will be able to attend the Grantown Sestercentennial Festival in June 2015. This writer has very fond memories of my visit in August 2010 and especially meeting all my Grant Kinsmen and Clansmen.

One of our Kinsmen and President of the Soil Lewis Sept Association has added two new potential members. Samonia Clm Byford gave birth to twins, one little girl and one little boy. They are fondly referred to as the Itty-bitty Byfords.

Our own Janette Kaiser is diligently continuing to research our grandfather, Ludovic Grant. She has found several more documents and is continuing to work with Adrian Grant, the official genealogist for the Grant Clan as well as Irene Grant. Thank you so much for your continued efforts.

If anyone is a descendant of Ludvick Grant and interested in joining the Soil Lewis Sept Association, please contact Gene Norris at the Cherokee Heritage Center in Tahlequah, Oklahoma at www.cherokeeheritage.com or call 918-456-6007 x 6159.

Hi de go sta ya (Standfast !) Kathy Robinson



Greenville Scottish Games



Greenville Scottish Games

*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 Honorable Lord Strathspey, Baronet of Nova Scotia, 32nd Hereditary Chief of Clan Grant. It continues under authority of Sir James Grant of Grant, The Right Honorable 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 / Rand Allan 2008-2013*



President - Jeniphr Grant

36206 Allen Rd S Roy, WA 98580 jeniphr@yahoo.com (609) 864-4615

Vice President - VACANT

Secretary - Lena Grant

3700 S. Westport Ave #3936 Sioux Falls, SD 57106 lenagrants@gmail.com (757) 617-1652

Treasurer - VACANT

Member At Large - Janette Kaiser

1504 Washington St Bellingham, WA 98225-2842 abbrrd@gmail.com (360) 325-5127

Member At Large - Jim Grant

PO Box 248, Odessa DE 19730-0248 uncle.duck@verizon.net (302) 378-9090

Member At Large - Robert E. Grant

828 Lipton Dr., Newport News VA 23608 hk661dsp@yahoo.com (757) 617-3745

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Assistant Secretary - Gordon Grant

4506 N 35th Rd Arlington, VA 22207 (703) 241-7789

Craigellachie Editor - Dr. William Grant

3700 S. Westport Ave. #3936 Sioux Falls, SD 57106 uilleamgrant@yahoo.com (757) 617-1652

Chaplain - Bishop John C. Grant

294 Black Camp Gap Rd. Maggie Valley, NC 28751 bjcgccc@gmail.com

Games Commissioner - Jim Grant

PO Box 248, Odessa DE 19730-0248 uncle.duck@verizon.net (302) 388-0436 - (302) 378-9090

Genealogist - Ann Scherzinger

2604 NE 142nd St, Vancouver, WA 98686 scherzi2@hotmail.com (360) 635-4312

Historian - James Grant

1257 NW 9th St Hickory, NC 28601 standfast@charter.net (828) 322-2659

Membership Secretary - Rand Allan

6102 Calle Vera Cruz La Jolla, CA 92037 rballan@san.rr.com (858) 454-3846

Quartermaster - Ed Meininger

62223 Jig Road, Montrose, CO 81401 kristyedjighome@aol.com (970) 249-7925

Webmaster - Jeff Click

2604 NE 142nd St, Vancouver, WA 98686 jclick@msn.com (360) 635-4312 - (303) 513-1178



GAMES COMMISSIONER

Jim F Grant PO Box 248 Odessa, DE 19730, (302) 378-9090,

Uncle.duck@verizon.net

<u>Name</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>City & State</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Games</u>
James F. Grant	Games	P.O. Box 248	Odessa, DE 19730	302-378-9090	uncle.duck@verizon.net	South. MD, Fair Hill
Michael L. Johnson	IL, IN, KY NH, VT,	619 Prince Drive	Newburgh, IN 47630	812-490-5726	reiverrat@msn.com	
Lysle E. Grant	ME	36 Tuttle Lane	Dover, NH 03820	603-742-0564		Loon Mtn., VT, ME
Will Kenyon	PA	2208 Quail Run Road	State College, PA 16801	814-571-7570	willkenyon@aol.com	Ligonier, PA
Fred W. Wood	SC	204 Bent Creek Drive	Greer, SC 29650	864-498-0296	fred@bmc-controls.com	Greenville, Charleston
Shirley Grant Smith	TN	1318 Park Drive	Cookeville, TN 38501	931-526-6194	sgrantsmith@msn.com	AL, TN, KY
John A. Grant III	North TX	3413 Hunter Glen Dr.	Mansville, TX 76063	817-907-2349	jhg3tx@hotmail.com	
Grant L. Bush	LA	211 Gateway Drive	Moss Bluff, LA 70611	337-855-2191		
R. Steve Grant	MD, DE, VA	7740 West Shore Road	Pasadena, MD 21122	410-255-6841	odengrant@msn.com	So. MD, Fair Hill, Alex.
Stephen E. Grant	MO	6248 S. Hunters Trail	Springfield, MO 65810	417-886-5868	sgrant@ky3.com	
Gary M. Grant	GA	3834 Running Fox Dr.	Marietta, GA 30062	770-585-0863	garvm_grant@yahoo.com	Stone Mountain, GA
James H. Grant	NC	1257 Ninth Street NW	Hickory, NC 28601	828-322-2659	standfast@charter.net	

Membership Matters - Rand Allan – Membership Secretary

Membership in the Clan Grant Society has decreased slightly since our October 2014 Craigellachie. As of 3/15/15, we have 222 active members in the States, and 12 active international members. Of those members, 50 are paid life members, 51 have achieved lifetime membership, and 133 are current dues-paying members.

I would like to belatedly welcome the following new members that have joined since October 2014: David and Sharon Grant of Roseville, MI; Richard and Jamie Welch of Spokane, WA; William and Beth Grant of Charlotte, NC; Laura Lovett of Larkspur, CA; Richard and Maryann Grant of Mullica Hill, NJ; Kristie and Daniel Tellier of Hillsdale, MI; and Judith Grant of Houston, TX. Welcome all, and I hope you will find your association with the Clan Grant Society to be a rewarding one.

We have 32 active non-life members who have not yet renewed their dues. If you have not yet paid your dues yet for this year, please do so ASAP. After March 31, I will have to mark all of those members in arrears as inactive and you will no longer receive the Craigellachie newsletter or have access to the Clan Grant Society members-only website. You can obtain a membership application from this newsletter or from the Clan Grant Society website at <http://clangrant-us.org>.

In any society, membership is constantly in flux. Older members are passing away, new members are joining, long time members continue their association with the society, and some members decline to renew their memberships. Our tasks as members of the Clan Grant Society, and especially those of the State Commissioners, is to constantly strive to engage the existing members so they will continue their association with us and locate and recruit new members at the local Scottish Games to keep the Society growing.

Stand Fast!

Clan Grant Heritage Centre – Duthil Kirk

Rand Allan – Membership Secretary

I would like to report that there has been a tremendous amount of work done lately in and around Duthil Kirk, the Clan Grant Heritage Centre. Clan Grant artifacts are slowly returning back to the Clan and are being stored at the kirk. Fiona Grant, the Clan Grant Society UK Chairman, reports that they are actively building relationships with The Association of Highland Clans and Societies and the Highland Clan Partnership Group in order to place the Heritage Centre on the map and ultimately build new sources of grants and other revenues to help support the Centre and allow the Centre to continue to be a place where Grants around the world can meet and greet each other.

Currently the Centre is trying to raise money to install decent toilet facilities, update the sign outside the Centre, improve lighting, accrue more Clan Grant artifacts, and continue to maintain the building and surrounding land. The UK Society has been providing the lion's share of the funding for years, and it's time that members of her sister Societies step up to assist with the expensive tasks involved with maintaining and improving the Centre.

Since we restarted our efforts to help fund the Centre late last year, members have stepped up to donate \$275. A combined donation will be wired to the Foundation supporting the Centre each time sufficient funds have accumulated in the account. Thanks to members James "Hank" Grant, Coleen Hardin, Kathy Robinson, Richard Welch, Karen Cook, Susan White, Susan Turpin, and Elizabeth M. Grant for their donations. Special thanks to Life members George William Grant III, and Patricia Grant Binette. Their membership renewals will be directed towards the Heritage Centre.

News from the Clan Grant Sept of Siol Lewis

Rand Allan – Membership Secretary

I recently received news from Cara Cowan Watts, Clan Grant Society member, Siol Lewis Association member, and Cherokee Tribal Legislator, that Chad Smith, who belongs to Siol Lewis and was Chief of the Cherokee Nation when he represented a contingent of Cherokee members of the Siol Lewis at the 2010 International Clan Grant Gathering in Scotland, has decided to run again for Chief of the Cherokee Nation. Members of the Clan Grant and the Siol Lewis Association who are eligible to vote in the June 27 tribal elections, are encouraged to vote for Chad Smith as Chief of the Cherokee Nation. You can learn more about Chad Smith at his election campaign website, <http://www.chiefchadsmith.com/>.

**Clan Grant Society
Games Participation Report**

1. Submitted by:	Fred Wood
2. Game attended (name):	Greenville Scottish Games
3. Location of game (City, State):	Greenville, SC
4. Date(s) of game:	May 23 & 24, 2014
5. Tent manned by (names):	Fred & Myra Wood
6. Number of new members:	4
7. Names of new members:	Tom Watgen, Tina Butler, John & Susan Grant
8. Donations received for Duthil (amount):	
9. Donations received for scholarships (amount):	
10. Items of special note (birthdays/births celebrated, achievements of Clansmen, retirements of Clansmen, new employment, etc.):	For the Seventh year in a row Clan Grant placed (Top 3, Men or Woman) or won the Axe Throwing Competition . Joy Wood won 3 years strait and placed 2 years. Fred Wood won 2 years and placed 2 years in a row.
11. Identification of people in attached photos (names):	Back/left to right – Joy Wood, FB Wood, Tom Watgen, Fred Wood, Myra Wood, Tina Butler – In front left to right – Pheobe Wood & Harleigh Wood
12. Other (anything you would like the Board of Directors to know about the event)	
13. Guest names and contact information (for follow-up contact by state commissioner)	



Clan Grant Tartan

The following article was written by Marina Dennis, a folklorist, historian, and activist who lives at Tulloch on the edge of the forest of Abernethy, in Strathspey – the country of the Clan Grant. The article was featured in Tulloch Talk, a local community newsletter, on the occasion of Remembrance Day, November 2014, which marked the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the Great War, 1914-1918.

— *James Grant*

TULLOCH TALK

“I had a morning with Alec Morley remembering the men from Tulloch who died in the Great War, 1914–1918. A memorial to them once hung in the school here but can now be seen in the cool silence of Kincardine Church. There were eight of them including two sets of brothers. As Alec said it will soon be a hundred years since that war started, and here we paused, as we felt in our hearts and minds the horror and waste of those young men dead in a muddy trenches far from the tranquillity of Tulloch. And then there was the grief and loss felt by those at home in this small township where those men would have walked the tracks and paths through the birches and pines of this cherished place; they would have sat on the back of a peat cart with other children and met their neighbours for a ceilidh or a game of cards.

Those who died in France were James Cameron, Easter Tulloch; Ronald Robertson, Crofts of Tulloch; Alexander Stuart, Straan; James Dow and George Dow, Straan; Peter Gordon and James Gordon, Mill Croft; James Grant, Easter Tulloch.

James Cameron was my old friend Jimmy Cameron’s uncle, and like most of the Tulloch men, he was in the Cameron Highlanders. Jimmy once showed me a photo of him in full Highland dress uniform attached to which was a scrap of Cameron tartan – perhaps he had sent this home to his mother. James Cameron was killed along with five others when a shell hit the trench they were in – he was just 18 1/2 years old. Six Highlanders wiped out in the thunderous flash of a German shell. Jimmy’s father, Johnny, was also in the Cameron Highlanders in France and was attached to the transport division. His duties included taking the harness and saddles of the dead horses. Eight million horses died on both sides in the First World War. Their injuries were horrific as they were driven to the front line pulling huge guns often straight into the line of fire. And then there was all the barbed wire which ripped through their flesh as they charged through the mud and exploding shells. Johnny Cameron came back to Easter Tulloch from the war uninjured and the next day he was cropping neeps in the calves’ field and loading them on a cart to take them to the keeper at Rynettin. What must he have felt walking through the peaceful birch woods of Tulloch with his horse and cart but having lost his brother in France?

Ronnie Robertson of the Crofts of Tulloch was not actually called up but his brother Jimmy was, who Alec says, was a bit of a 'galout' and would never have made a soldier. Ronnie informed the authorities of this and volunteered to go instead. He was in a trench along with a tinker and Ronnie was hit by a sniper while the tinker survived.

Brothers George and James Dow were boarded out and were brought up by Mrs. Cameron in the Straan. Both brothers were killed although Alec thinks a third survived.

Tulloch families from the Straan and lived very close to each other. I feel he would have been mourned by both families.

Robbie Gordon of the Mill croft lost both his sons, Peter and William. The family has long since disappeared from Tulloch but this small croft at Aundorach is still known as Robbie's Park.

James Grant lived in a little house on the road to Easter Tulloch where Kenny and Miranda MacMillan now have their house. I remember the ruin as a ruckle of stones and a flowering currant bush. As Alec says he was a 'buckshee Bhoan' although the rest of his relatives lived in the wooden house still standing behind Klondyke. The Bhoans as they were known locally, were a family of Grants cleared from the croft of Revoan in 1868 when Seafield estate established the deer forest. He contracted pneumonia and died in France.

A friend from South Uist told me of what happened in his township in 1914. The factor of the Askernish estate, acting on behalf of the authorities, went to his community and said – "Give me your horses and give me your men and when they come back they will be given land of their own". When the 15 survivors of the war came back to South Uist there was no land for them. A year later those men marched from Daliburgh to Askernish led by Pipe Major (later) John MacDonald and raided the lands of the estate occupying what was promised to them.

My own family connection with the war is tenuous. My aunt, who was 14 in 1914, came up on the last stage coach from Fort William to Aviemore, the horses being changed at Kinloch Laggan Inn. The next day all those horses were requisitioned for the war effort. My aunt lived here at Inchdryne for the next 78 years and never forgot those horses. A memorial in Hampstead to the horses of the Great War reads: "Most obediently and often most painfully they died – faithful unto death."

– Marina Dennis - mtdennis1@aol.com

About Marina Dennis: My family have lived on a croft in Tulloch since being cleared from the Braes of Castle Grant in 1809. I am an active crofter – both at a practical and strategic level – having been a Commissioner at the Crofters Commission for 10 years as well as involvement in other land based agencies. Like most crofters I have other jobs which include running a successful self catering business on my croft which gives me the opportunity to tell visitors about the history and culture of Tulloch

Weaving an 18th Century Grant Tartan

Last year, someone asked if I was doing anything special for National Tartan Day on April 6th. Quite frankly, I had not given it much thought, but since I was already involved in the planning of a weaving project it seemed logical to set a goal to finish the weaving by Tartan Day. I am a hand-loom tartan weaver who specializes in old, obscure Clan Grant tartans.

When my family and I were in Scotland in September 2012, we were fortunate to see two old 18th century plaids from Rothiemurchus in Strathspey. (Remember, a plaid is a tartan garment, not a pattern. It is a long expanse of fabric – usually about 42-48” wide by 8-10 feet in length and fringed on each end. Hand-woven plaids are frequently made of two-half widths approximately 21-24” wide, joined and stitched at a common selvedge down the middle.)

During our visit to the Doune of Rothiemurchus, the Earl of Dysart, John Peter “Johnnie” Grant, 17th Laird of Rothiemurchus, DL, allowed us to photograph and document the two old tartans which have been in his family since the 18th century. Both plaids were almost certainly woven on his family’s estate. Both featured wide blue and green stripes on a field of scarlet. One was a symmetric sett (pattern); the other was unbalanced (repeating, but not symmetrical).

My wife, our daughter, and I photographed the plaids and took precise measurements of each color bar in the sett. We measured the width and length of the plaids, tried to memorize the intensity or subtlety of the colors, the fineness of the yarns – all the aesthetic qualities that define the style, the character, the allure of a piece of cloth.

In any event, when I learned that Tartan Day was looming (no pun intended) in the not- too-distant future, I intensified my efforts to decide which tartan to reproduce. I had to dye the yarn, warp the loom and get started throwing the shuttles as quickly as possible. It takes a while to weave three yards – particularly as slowly as I weave!

In my view, custom dyed colors are an absolute prerequisite for a unique piece of tartan goods. Commercial tartan weavers use the same old colors over-and-over-and-over until all setts start looking the same. My colors are never the same from one tartan to another. And that, of course, is the way it was in the 18th century. Why should it be any different today?

Likewise, my patterns are never the same. Although scaled to match the original tartan, the actual repeat of the sett can vary from one project to another. (After all, I am 6’4” tall and the average height of a highlander at the battle of Culloden Moor in 1746

was 5'7".) Each color bar is scaled exactly according to the original old tartan, but only occasionally will I weave a tartan the same size.

For any hand-weavers out there, here are my specifications. I use a four-harness LeClerc loom, set up for a twill weave (1-2, 2-3, 3-4, 1-4). My yarn is 20/2 worsted wool, warped and woven at 36 yarn ends per inch.

My colors are custom-dyed using combinations of standard RIT dyes. For example, my tartan scarlet is mixed one-half RIT color Scarlet and one-half color Sunshine Orange. The subtlety or intensity of the color is determined by the amount of water used and the length of time in the dye bath. Tartan green is a combination of Kelly Green and Lemon Yellow, etc. My yarn supplier already has an exact off-the-shelf purplish-blue which is ideal for the dark blue in Grant tartans.

The two photographic images below illustrate the original 18th century Grant tartan from Rothiemurchus, monogrammed "PG" for Patrick Grant, compared with my reproduction woven in the spring of 2014. If you look closely, you will see where my plaid is joined and stitched at the center. But don't look too closely!

Over the years, I have developed a personal philosophy on tartans. I do not believe it is possible for anyone to truly understand tartan until they have known the frustrations of warping a loom and the joys of throwing a shuttle.



courtesy of the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Dysart

Reproduction of the 18th Century Tartan woven in 2014



An 18th Century Grant Tartan from Rothiemurchus, monogrammed “PG”

James Grant, historian Clan Grant Society – USA standfast@charter.net

250th Anniversary of Grantown Morayshire, Scotland 1765-2015

The Grantown Society has recently announced the 250th anniversary – the Sestercentennial Celebration of Grantown, the planned village established by Sir James Grant of Grant, Baronet, in 1765. The week-long festival will showcase the town and its beautiful surroundings with a vast array of planned activities, beginning on June 21st – June 28th, 2015.

The society's stated goals for the celebration are ...

- To commemorate the 250th anniversary of the town's foundation,
- To celebrate the vibrant community it has become,
- To illustrate the story of the dawn of the modern Highlands,
- To create an exciting and fun-packed week of activities, and
- To built an important legacy for the future.

More specifically, the activities are focused on seven key themes: Heritage & the Environment, Tourism & Trade, Music, Food, and Sport. There will be museum exhibitions and educational opportunities, shopping at the traditional Figgat Fair, traditional and gala dining, church services, a festival of flowers, music, drama, a fashion show, cycling, walks and sporting events, and a "Foundation Day Picnic in the Square" – just to name a few of the many events planned for the week.

Additional information may be obtained at: www.grantown250.org



This is a fun example of news items that arrive on our website through Members Only – Scottish Highlands News Feed. This is one of those features that we have added that make it worthwhile to visit our Society website often!

19 February 2015 Last updated at 19:59 ET

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-31535505>

Toymaker Mattel creates new doll

Lorna McNessie



Lorna McNessie is a character in the Monster High series of dolls

The toymaker behind Barbie has created a new doll inspired by the Loch Ness Monster myth.

Lorna McNessie is one of the latest additions to Mattel's Monster High, a range of characters that also includes zombies, ghosts and werewolves. She is described as the daughter of the Loch Ness Monster and is from Rotland - Monster High's version of Scotland.

Loch Ness Bid, an organisation that promotes the loch and surrounding area, has welcomed the doll's creation.

Graeme Ambrose, of Loch Ness Bid, said: "The introduction of the character Lorna McNessie is a testament to the continued interest and drawing power of the Loch Ness Monster.

"The monster is shrouded in mystery and perhaps slightly scary in a nice way for children and it is therefore of little surprise that Mattel have chosen to introduce this character, daughter of the Loch Ness Monster."



The character is the daughter of the Loch Ness Monster

Mr Ambrose added: "I am sure that it will have many children begging their parents to take them to Loch Ness which can only be of benefit to the area."

As well as the doll, Mattel has had an animation made of the tartan-clad Lorna McNessie. The short film shows her having to leave Rotland for Monster High to avoid publicity caused by her appearance out of the loch.

Other toymakers have drawn inspiration from Scotland in the past. In 2013, a Scottish island was twinned with a video game's virtual world. Skye's twinning with the fictional isles of Skylands was done to promote a new version of Skylanders.

VisitScotland said at the time that the move would also boost tourism to Skye, and was the first time a video game "world" had been twinned with a real place.

Highland Council was also involved in the twinning, which involved game characters appearing on Skye's official tourism website. A large scale version of one of the game's characters was also taken to Skye for publicity photographs.

Disney also has a range of toys to accompany its Oscar-winning animated film Brave, which was set in the Scottish Highlands.

GENEALOGY CORNER

By Ann Scherzinger

Has the genealogy bug bitten you? Since you are a member of the Grant Clan Society USA, it is an easy leap to assume that you could have an interest in family history. But where does one begin the search?

Our new and improved website has tips to offer on the subject of searching Scottish roots directly from the Clan Genealogist in Scotland. Check it out at: <http://clangrant-us.org> You will find the entire article in the drop-down menu under "The Society."

Naturally, you will want a list on hand that includes the names of yourself, your parents and as many grandparents, etc. that follow the Grant line as possible. Include in your list as many dates (birth, marriage, death) and any relevant locations as you can find.

Now the real search begins. The high points of the suggestions mentioned above follow. Be sure to check out the full article as it offers much more in the way of explanation and detail than can be included here.

1. Consider arranging for a male-line relative to participate in the Grant DNA Project. More information on the project can be found here:
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~grantdna/index.html>
2. You should purchase family tree software which is GEDCOM compatible. This will enable you to add your family tree to the Grant Clan Society-USA family tree database. (There are currently 11,000 names in this database!) If we find that you have any relatives in our database, we let you know.
3. Check through census records, civil registrations, old parish records and passenger lists for the appropriate people and years. Courtesy of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, many records are available at <http://www.familysearch.org>
4. Check out any archives related to the locality of your Scottish ancestors. Many Grants have ancestry in Strathspey, Glenurquhart or Glenmoriston.

In addition, there was an excellent and detailed article on the subject by Dr. Bruce Durie in a recent issue of Scotland Magazine. You can check it out here: www.scotlandmag.com

This is just a start. There is much more information and are quite a few more tips and website links for continuing your search at Clan Grant Society -USA.

Good luck in your search and may you have many happy hours in the pursuit of your own family history.



*Thank you for your contributions to
Craigellachie.*

If you have future submissions or questions
about our newsletter, email Dr. William Grant
at uilleamgrant@yahoo.com

