



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

WINTER 2015/16

Clan Grant Society USA

Print Version (Expanded version available online in the Members Only Section)

From the President's Desk

Greetings fellow Clan Grant Society-USA members. Lena and I hope you had an enjoyable Holiday. I have enjoyed talking with many of you. We were able to send Christmas wishes through our Facebook page and via email. We sent post cards to those without internet access. Hopefully I reached all of you.

Your Board met in January to discuss 2016 activities and funding. It is obvious from our workshop we will not be able to carry on a vigorous program of support for you without additional funding. Jeff Click, our web master is working on establishing a way for us to pay dues by credit card as many of our fellow Clan Societies do.

The Board meets on the 20th of February to decide what actions we need to take to assure the continued growth of Clan Grant Society-USA. I am always open to your comments and suggestions. You can find my mailing address, phone number and email address in Craigellachie. Please feel free to contact me whenever possible.

I think our Society is at a juncture. We can either work together as a group that shares responsibility for our collective success or the officers will struggle to improve our operations and services without your help and involvement. It should be obvious which path will lead to success.

Clan Grant is a great clan with a proud history. There are many Grant families in the USA that do not know their Scottish history or that they are part of a Clan. When our society was first formed we said that we would do the following;

- Literature – including publication of Scottish or Gaelic literature;
- Charitable – such as helping Clansmen or dependents of Clansmen in distress;
- Historical – especially as may be related to Clan Grant (or its various branches);
- Educational – such as financial assistance to deserving students, establishment of a fellowship in Scottish literature or music, grants to schools or colleges, and support of the Clan Grant Educational and Charitable Trust;

- Cultural – such as encouraging the perpetuation of Highland dress traditions and customs, promoting Highland Games in the United States, and supporting the Clan Grant Center in Scotland;
- Social and Recreation – promoting friendship, goodwill, and clanship among members of the Clan.

In order for us to accomplish these aims we need your help. Before the next Craigellachie arrives in your email box or mail box you will receive a letter from me explaining what actions the Board feels we need to take and what I specifically need you to step up to.

It is Great to be a Grant.



Dr. Bill Grant
President Clan Grant Society-USA

Dr. Bill Grant’s first address to the 2016 Board of Directors

I am happy to be your President. As such, I see my job is to improve communications and foster a sense of family in the Society.

I am aware I am the President not the Chief.

You the officers, have been elected or appointed and I appreciate that CGS is only a small part of your lives. Things will happen in our lives and the Board will need to work around them.

If Board responsibilities become too much for a member, I have asked them to call me. I always carry my cell phone and I enjoy talking. If I haven’t heard from you I’ll call you. Just ask Jeff Click our VP.

We hold Board meetings where everyone is welcome to contribute. Votes of record must be made by the elected officers. We operate by majority rule but if any of the board members have concerns I want to hear about them.

I feel we are very fortunate to have our two past presidents on the board. I welcome their input and advice.

I want board meetings to last 1 hour at the most. If we get into a protracted discussion I will move the subject off the table and assign someone to coordinate and summarize input at the next meeting.

I look forward to our January workshop/planning meeting. **“Remember success is the accomplishment of what you planned to do.”** I am sure you will hear from someone asking why didn’t you do this or that. Don’t let it bother you.

Thank you for your willingness to serve and support the Clan Grant Society-USA

Clan Grant Society – US New Games Coordinator

This past November it was my privilege of following the footsteps of James F. Grant, also known as Uncle Duck, as the Society's new Games Coordinator. Feeling as the new kid on the block in regards to both this position and my membership in the Society, I thought it best to combine both my thoughts on the role and a brief introduction.

This past summer my extended family and I journeyed to Scotland to partake in the 250 Grantown celebrations which commemorated the two-hundred fiftieth anniversary of the laying of the first stone building of the town of Grantown-on-Spey. You can imagine I was thrilled and put much energy into preparing. Since we'd not discovered where our American ancestor was born, I'd hoped to "tread where he trod" so I connected via email with the Highland Archive Centre. Being a novice Gaidhlig speaker, I also reached out to the event organizer to inquire and assist with having a language aspect included in the celebrations. I also connected with a religious leader there to schedule worship attendance for our party of eight.

We had a wonderful time experiencing the delicious food, visiting ancient buildings and glorying in the incredibly beautiful scenery. However, one of Scotland's best treasures is its warm, connected people. Walking through Grantown one evening I saw a man struggling with a tent and I stopped to assist him. Turns out he was the event organizer I'd been emailing. The man in period dress who pulled out a map and gave me directions to where my ancestor lived? He was the one I'd emailed at the Highland Archives. The pastor at the local church was thrilled to welcome all of us and we enjoyed post-services snacks with his young children. The man walking past who kindly agreed to take our group photo in front of Castle Grant? He was Ian Bailey-Scudamore, the former owner who told us charming tales of his time living there.

That leads me to the Society and our attendance at highland games and Scottish festivals. We are all connected in some way to an interest and to one another. We are fortunate to have some incredible people who are currently enjoying attending these events on behalf of the Society. We are also fortunate to have some incredible people who have retired from their season of attending these events on behalf of the Society. Please take a peek at the list of Games Commissioners and if there is a Games Commissioner attending an event in your area, make a point to come out and connect with them! If you don't see a Games Commissioner in your area and you like to talk to people, have a passion for any aspect of Scottish-ness or even if you just like to have fun, please connect with me. Chances are there is a former Games Commissioner in your area who would be thrilled to mentor you!

The longer I live the more I realize we are all standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before and those coming behind us look to us to fill that role for them. You never know when that one handshake could lead to a lifelong friendship or that one event could be a precious pearl in the string of many moving memories. I look forward to connecting with you and for moving forward together.



Annette Hester
Clan Grant Society – US
Games Coordinators

Current Highland Games that will have a Clan Grant Society-USA Tent in 2016

The Celtic Festival Highland Gathering of Southern Maryland	Southern Maryland	April 30, 2016
Frederick Celtic Festival	Prince Frederick Maryland	May 14, 2016
Colonial Highland Gathering at Fair Hill Race Track, Elkton, Maryland	Fair Hill, DE	May 21, 2016
Scottish Fest	Costa Mesa, CA	May 28-29, 2016
Greenville Scottish Games at Furman University	Gallabree, SC	May 30, 2016
San Diego Scottish Highland Games & Gathering of the Clans	San Diego, CA Brenle Terrace Park, CA	June 25-26, 2016
Main Highland Games	Topsham, ME	August 20, 2016
Quechee Scottish Festival	Quechee, VT	August 20, 2016
The New Hampshire Highland Games & Festival	Loon Mountain, NH	September 16-18, 2016
Charleston Scottish Games & Highland Gathering	Charleston, SC	September 17-18, 2016
Ligonier Scottish Games	Ligonier, PA	September 24, 2016
Seaside Games	Seaside, Ventura, CA	October 7-9, 2016
Stone Mountain Highland games	Stone Mountain, GA	October 14-16, 2016
Central Virginia Celtic Festival & Highland Games	Central Virginia, Richmond	October 22-23, 2016

News from Siol Lewis Sept Association

Kathy Robinson, President

Sadly, I announce the resignation of Patsy Edgar from the Board of Trustees of the Cherokee National Historical Society which also ends her service to the Soil Lewis Sept Association. Patsy is recommending Honor Keeler, another Ludovick Grant descendant, to replace her in this position. Even though Patsy will no longer be our Liaison, she is a Ludovick Grant descendant and I look forward to seeing her at our Annual Meetings. Thank you Patsy for all your hard work.

It is my pleasure to introduce everyone to the Vice President of Siol Lewis Sept Association, Dr. Cara Cowan Watts. Cara recently received her PhD from Oklahoma State University in Biosystems Engineering. Please join me in congratulating Cara in a job well done.

Not only has Cara been hard at work scholastically, she is also our Facebook Administrator. We were having problems with non-members using our pages to advertise non Grant activities. It is our desire that the Facebook pages be used specifically for our Ludovick Grant discussions and hope that all potential members will contact Gene Norris at the Cherokee Heritage Center to fill out their paperwork and become a member.

In November 2015, I was honored to be appointed to the Board of the Clan Grant Society, USA as the liaison for the Siol Lewis Sept Association. It is my pleasure to participate.

This winter, Oklahoma has been having its fair share of rain and storms. We recently had over 14 inches of rain in Claremore. Consequently, most of the Siol Lewis Sept Association Members are busy taking care of family and home.

WANTED: More Clan Grant Society Family Trees!

Is your family tree on our database?

Did you know that Clan Grant Society U.S. maintains a database of member family trees? Currently we have the trees of 29 of our current and former members.

The family tree database is privately held and is maintained by a Clan volunteer; there is no professional genealogist on staff. Through information provided by some of our current and former members, it traces the Grant side of familial lines. The purposes are:

1. To assist CGS members in developing and further expanding their own family trees.
2. To assist CGS members to connect with other CG members found through common ancestors (cousins!)

The Clan Grant Society U.S. is seeking more family trees to add to our database. We'd like it very much if you would consider adding your tree to the information. The more information we have, the more that we can help our members to further knowledge of their own ancestors.

The information that you provide should be simple and straightforward.

1. Your name & those of any spouses and/or children; your parents; your grandparents and great-grandparents, etc. on or leading to the Grant side
2. As thoroughly as possible, include the following
 - a. Full Names
 - b. Birth Dates
 - c. Birth Places
 - d. Death Dates
 - e. Death Places

Of course, you can maintain your family tree simply with pen and paper. However, there are many programs, both software and on-line, available to help you to organize and maintain your family tree. Some are free and others are fee-based. If this is your first time attempting to trace your family tree, please refer to the article in the November Craigellachie "Common Rookie Mistakes."

When you have, to the best of your ability, completed your family tree and you have run in to the inevitable roadblocks, please refer to the Genealogy section of the Clan Grant U.S. website: <http://www.clangrant-us.org/?q=page/genealogy>. There you will find recommendations, borrowed from the Clan Grant Society UK website, helpful suggestions of avenues to pursue.



Ann Scherzinger
Clan Grant Society -US
Genealogist

Help Us Reconnect with These Members

First Name	Last Name	City	State
Barbara	Wright	Montgomery	TX
Bernice	Grant	Gainesville	GA
Gail	Claypool	Chattanooga	TN
Roy	Williams III	St. Petersburg	FL
Helen	Schmidt	Decorah	IA
Joyce	Grant	Walnut Creek	CA
Kenneth	Grant	Hillsboro	OR
James	Chapman	Camp Verde	AZ
Donald	Grant	El Dorado Hills	CA
Mary	Warren	Roswell	GA
Judith	Grant	Houston	TX
Stanley	Allan	Philadelphia,	PA

We have lost contact with the members listed above. They may have moved and left no forwarding address, or they may have passed away. If you know anything about the status of these members, please let Rand Allan, our membership Secretary, rballan@san.rr.com, know so we can update our membership database and possibly reconnect with them.

ATTENTION CLAN GRANT SOCIETY-USA MEMBERS

Do you have a

- **Kilt**
- **Kilt belt**
- **sporran**
- **Tweed kilt jacket**
- **Prince Charlie Coatee**
- **Etc.**

That you would like to sell to a fellow Grant? If so email your contact information and what you have along with sizes to uilleamgrant@outlook.com.

We will be posting items for sale in future Craigellachies.

From Rampant Scotland Newsletter

As a Christmas present one year, the Laird gave his gamekeeper, MacPhail, a deerstalker hat with ear-flaps. MacPhail was most appreciative and always wore it with the flaps tied under his chin to keep his ears warm in the winter winds. One cold, windy day the Laird noticed he was not wearing the hat.

"Where's the hat?" asked the Laird.

"I've given up wearing it since the accident," replied MacPhail.

"Accident? I didn't know you'd had an accident."

"Yes. A man offered me a nip of whisky and I had the earflaps down and never heard him."

Seasonal Events

Burns Night 2016

Stephen and Aina Grant were caught in a lovely photo celebrating this year's Burns Night (~January 25th). Way to represent the Grants!!



National Tartan Day (Upcoming)

National Tartan Day is a celebration of Scottish heritage on **April 6**. This is the date on which the Declaration of Arbroath was signed in 1320. Wear some tartan with pride on this day!!

Hogmanay

New Year's Eve in celebration in Scotland. Here is a recounting of a wonderful time had by our own Hank Grant back in 1969!

Hogmanay 1969

The Scottish holiday known as *Hogmanay* is celebrated on New Year's Eve. The festivities frequently begin early in the morning and extend until the *wee sma'* hours of the following day. Celebrations generally include socializing with friends and neighbors, immoderate imbibing, unbridled conviviality, and invariably end with an impromptu *ceilidh*.

Hogmanay is one of those strange traditions that have evolved over the course of many centuries. Every Scotsman knows what it is, but no one seems to know the precise origin of the holiday or the word.

The folk ritual known as first-footing is practiced at midnight on *Hogmanay*. According to tradition, if a tall, dark stranger bearing a gift is the first person to cross the threshold of your home after midnight, the family will enjoy good fortune throughout the year. The token gift can be anything – a piece of bread, a coin, a lump of coal, or a wee dram of whisky.

In 1970, I was the first-footer at the Baxter home in the Edinburgh suburb of Clermiston. The Baxters were the parents of Violet Stephens, the wife of my friend Jim Stephens. Jim was from Coral Gables, Florida, and served with me in the U.S. Air Force at RAF Chicksands in Bedfordshire, England.

As the first-footer, I had to wait patiently outside the front door of the Baxters' home until I heard the local church bells toll the arrival of the New Year. Actually, it occurred to me that the Baxters might be playing some sort of joke on me – perhaps the Scottish version of the old snipe hunt. Nevertheless, at the stroke of midnight I heard the bells, knocked on the door, and was welcomed inside. Fortunately for me, my wait was only a few minutes because it was very cold that night.

When I entered the Baxters' home, I presented my lump of coal and the celebration began – or more accurately, resumed. There was music and dancing and singing. Mrs. Baxter asked me to dance. She apparently thought that dancing with the first-footer would enhance her family's prospects for a successful and prosperous year. Thinking of no graceful way to demur, I accepted with a forewarning that we were embarking on the venture at her risk. (Moreover, she was about a foot and a half shorter than your humble reporter.)

After a while the festivities evolved into a *ceilidh* with each person singing a song, reciting a poem, or telling a story. As each person took his turn, I became increasingly aware that I was eventually going to be called upon. Panic set in! The only thing I could think of was to sing my fraternity's sweetheart song. When the time came, I proceeded, and regrettably, got off to a shaky start:

She has two dreamy eyes of blue, a smile beyond compare.

Two ruby lips to greet you with and a wealth of golden hair,

... but managed to finish with a flurry:

She's the sweetest girl in all the world, the fairest flower that grows.

She's my sunny, southern sweetheart, she's my Kappa Alpha rose.

Everyone gave me a polite round of applause and I was just thankful the ordeal was over. When the party finally broke up around 2:00 a.m., I went to sleep on the Baxters' sofa, even though I had a room at the Thistle Hotel in Edinburgh. It was probably for the best. At least the Baxters' home was warm. The Thistle was a nice tourist hotel, but had no central heating. The only way to heat the room was to put two Shillings in a small space heater about once an hour. Unfortunately, it took several hours to begin feeling any warmth at all in the cold room which I reckoned to be about 50 degrees *Fahrenheit*.

In the morning, about 9:30, Mrs. Baxter served a full Scottish breakfast: tea, juice, eggs, bangers, and toast with butter and orange marmalade. Fortunately, there were no hangovers and we all 'tucked in' to the delicious breakfast.

Until recently, the traditional football match known as the Edinburgh Derby was played on the bank holiday following *Hogmanay* – almost always on January 1st. The Derby is a grudge-match between the two Edinburgh soccer teams: Heart of Midlothian and Hibernian. The Hearts *versus* Hibs rivalry began in 1875. It is one of the longest-running rivalries in world football. As is the case with Celtic *versus* Rangers in Glasgow, the Hearts and Hibs match has sectarian undertones with occasional derogatory chanting and scuffling between Protestant and Catholic factions before, during, and after the game.

It had already been decided that Mr. Baxter, Jim, and I would go to the football match that afternoon. What I did not know was that Jim had planned for us to take a bus to Edinburgh Castle, walk down the Royal Mile, and have a pint at each pub along the way. I had never been to the Royal Mile before, but knew instinctively that this was a fool's errand. I was concerned about poor old Mr. Baxter. Although I did not doubt his credentials as a formidable quaffer at some former stage in his life, I knew it was highly doubtful that he could keep up with Jimmy Stephens! And fortunately, I was right! We made it about as far as St. Giles kirk and decided that discretion was the greater part of valor. Besides, we had to take a bus to Easter Road for the big game.

I was surprised that tickets would be available at the gate for such a traditional match between two intra-city rivals. I imagined that there would be a huge crowd similar to Southeastern Conference college football games in America.

Needless to say, I was astonished that the stadium on Easter Road only accommodated about 35,000 fans, all on terraces without seats or bleachers. Even though the stadium eventually filled to capacity, there were tickets available when we arrived.

Hearts and Hibs played to a scoreless draw that day on a chilly overcast afternoon. As a casual observer, I did not see any particular incidents of inappropriate behavior on the pitch or in the stands. In fact, the crowd was fairly subdued by American college football standards. Perhaps it had something to do with the festivities the night before.

Celebrating *Hogmanay* and its traditions in Edinburgh in 1969 was an interesting experience for a young sergeant in the U.S. Air Force. I vowed to return to Scotland later that year to visit Strathspey – the country of the Clan Grant. And I did.

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

Member Recipes

From: Nora Feavel

This is another favorite recipe of mine!

Jumbo Shrimp In a Whisky Cream sauce with Linguini:

Many a restaurant will serve a pasta dish with a white wine cream sauce, but just you wait and see what the Scots can do when they substitute good Scotch for wine. You will wonder why no one ever uses this version in a restaurant.

Serves 4

- 12 Large Jumbo Shrimp
- ½ Cup of Heavy Whipping Cream
- 1 Yellow Onion
- 6 ounces Linguini Pasta
- 2 ounces Monterey Jack Cheese, Finely grated.
- 2 Tbs Scotch Whisky
- 2 Tbs Melted Butter
- 1 ounce Olive Oil
- 1 tsp Chopped Parsley
- ¼ tsp White Pepper
- Salt to taste

Step 1: Fill a large sauce pot with water and bring to a boil adding the linguini and olive oil.

Step 2: In a large frying pan melt the butter, then add the onions, sauté them until soft.

Step 3: Add in the Jumbo shrimp. When the shrimp turn red add in the Scotch, simmer for 2 more minutes.

Step 4: Add in the cream with the salt, pepper and parsley and bring to a slight boil.

Step 5: Drain the pasta, then add first the cheese to the sauce then the pasta. Make sure the sauce gets evenly mixed with the cheese and pasta. Serve immediately.

From the Kitchen of the Celtic Caterer,
Recipes from all 8 Celtic Nations, Book 1 – Scotland, pg. 78

The Arts

Hail, Land of My Fathers!

Prof. John Stuart Blackie (1809-1895) was appointed to the Greek Chair in Edinburgh University in 1852. He worked hard to preserve the Gaelic language and literature and he was instrumental in founding the Chair of Celtic Literature in the University of Edinburgh. His Scottish-related poetry was published in "Lyrical Poems" (1860), and "Lays of the Highlands and Islands" (1872). Although "Land of My Fathers" has become associated with Wales (being the title of their national anthem), the phrase can be equally applied by people in any country - including Scotland.

Hail, Land of My Fathers!

Hail, land of my fathers! I stand on thy shore,
'Neath the broad-fronted bluffs of thy granite once more;
Old Scotland, my mother, the rugged, the bare,
That reared me with breath of the strong mountain air.
No more shall I roam where soft indolence lies
'Neath the cloudless repose of the featureless skies,
But where the white mist sweeps the red-furrowed scaur,
I will fight with the storm and grow strong by the war!
What boots all the blaze of the sky and the billow,
Where manhood must rot on inglorious pillow?
'Tis the blossom that blooms from the taint of the grave,
'Tis the glitter that gildeth the bonds of the slave.
But Scotland, stern mother, for struggle and toil
Thou trainest thy children on hard, rocky soil;
And thy stiff-purposed heroes go conquering forth,
With the strength that is bred by the blasts of the north.
Hail, Scotland, my mother! and welcome the day
When again I shall brush the bright dew from the brae,
And, light as a bird, give my foot to the heather,
My hand to my staff, and my face to the weather;
Then climb to the peak where the ptarmigan flies,
Or stand by the linn where the salmon will rise,
And vow never more with blind venture to roam
From the strong land that bore me — my own Scottish home.

Meaning of unusual words:

scaur = cliff, precipice

ptarmigan = Large arctic and subarctic grouse, usually with white winter plumage

linn = waterfall



Stand Fast Craigessachie

For centuries our fathers slept
within their Chieftain's way;
Where ospreys plunged and salmon leapt
In the tempestuous Spey.
Their dear-loved homes they viewed with pride
Their peaceful joys to count;
They rallied to their Chieftain's side
Where blazed the "fiery mount."

So proudly let our glorious chant
Still echo through Strathspey.
"A Grant! A Grant! A Grant! A Grant!"
Stand fast Craigessachie!

New Grants are found o'er a' the earth,
And seas may surge between
The land that gave their fathers birth
And many a foreign scene.
Yet still "Three crowns within a shield"
Their symbol dear remains;
And auld Strathspey shall be their bield,
While blood runs in their veins.

So proudly let our glorious chant
Still echo through Strathspey.
"A Grant! A Grant! A Grant! A Grant!"
Stand fast Craigessachie!

Though new Clan Grant is scattered wide
It's writ shall ever run;
One sentiment that can not hide
Unites all souls as one.
Ner time, ner space, ner lands apart,
The wish can e'er supplant
The dearest wish of ev'ry heart,
To greet the Laird o' Grant.

So proudly let our glorious chant
Still echo through Strathspey.
"A Grant! A Grant! A Grant! A Grant!"
Stand fast Craigessachie!



History

James William Grant, Astronomer

James Grant, historian, Clan Grant Society - USA

James William Grant was born at Wester Elchies, Morayshire, in 1788. He was the second son of Robert Grant (1720-1803), a London businessman who made a considerable fortune in the Canadian fur trade. In 1783, Robert Grant purchased the estate of Wester Elchies and later added the nearby properties of Carron, Knockando, and part of Ballintomb.

The mansion house of Wester Elchies purchased by Robert Grant in 1783 was originally built as a fortified house and held by other unrelated branches of the Clan Grant since the 16th century. The earliest of these was actually a cadet of the Grants of Glenmoriston.



Wester Elchies House, near Charlestown of Aberlour, Morayshire

James William Grant entered the service of the East India Company as a writer in 1805 and earned promotions of increasing importance in Bengal until his retirement in 1849. While in India, he developed an interest in astronomy. In 1844, with a small achromatic telescope, he discovered the companion of *Antares* (one of the brightest stars in the constellation *Scorpius*) two years before it was officially recorded by another astronomer. Grant's excessive modesty had prevented him from publishing the achievement. His discovery only became known when another noted astronomer, Prof. Piazz Smyth, examined Grant's observation papers years later.

James William Grant was married to Margaret Wilson, daughter of the Rev. Thomas Wilson of Gamrie, Banffshire, in 1807. They had eight sons and four daughters, all born in India.

Upon the death of James' elder brother Charles in 1828, he inherited the family estate and became the 3rd Laird of Wester Elchies.

[The town of Charlestown of Aberlour was named for James' brother. Today, the town is known simply as Aberlour and is the worldwide headquarters of Walker's Shortbread Limited.]

In 1849, after a long career in India, James William Grant retired to Wester Elchies. Two years later, he purchased the magnificent telescope from the Great Exhibition of 1851, which was held at the

Crystal Palace in London. Grant had the telescope installed in a fine granite observatory at Wester Elchies. The instrument featured an eleven-inch diameter object glass and was the first large telescope of its kind in Scotland. The entrance to the impressive observatory was guarded by two large carved sphinxes, over which Grant had inscribed: “*And He made the stars also.*”

Grant was elected a fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1854. His sole publication was an article entitled “On the Influence of Climate upon the Telescopic Appearance of a Celestial Body”. The report was accompanied by two sketches of Mars made at Calcutta, West Bengal, India, and at Wester Elchies in the highlands of Scotland.

In addition to astronomy, James William Grant was also interested in botany and natural history. He was an accomplished microscopist and his slides were admired by both Scottish and foreign experts in those fields.

Declining health prompted the sale of the massive telescope to a Mr. Aytoun of Glenfarg, Perthshire, in 1864. Grant died in 1865 and was buried in the church yard of Knockando Parish. By all accounts, James William Grant, Esq., of Wester Elchies, JP, DL, was a kind and loyal friend, a fair and equitable landlord, and a generous benefactor to the poor.

The estate of Wester Elchies remained in the family and was held well into the 20th century by a descendant, James William Hamilton Grant. The mansion house and property was eventually sold to Gordonstoun preparatory school. The last surviving heir of the family of Wester Elchies was Archibald Grant who died in 1951 without a male heir. The mansion eventually fell into disrepair and had to be demolished in 1968. Today, only a few granite stones remain of the once-great manor house and observatory.

[Note: Robert Grant, the father of James William Grant, was also the guardian of his nephew, William Grant (1752-1832). William studied law at Aberdeen University and the University of Leiden, in the Netherlands, and was called to the bar in London in 1774. He worked for his uncle’s firm in London and in Canada, where he served as attorney general for the province of Quebec. William returned to London in 1778 and eventually became a distinguished Member of Parliament. In 1799, he was elevated to the position of Solicitor General and knighted that same year. The Rt. Hon. Sir William Grant, Knight, became Master of the Rolls and served in that position from 1801 until 1817. After retirement, he continued to hear appeals before the Privy Council and served on a Royal Commission. In 1820, Sir William was awarded the degree of Doctor of Civil Law by Oxford University in 1820.]

* * *

Sources:

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- Andrew Jervise *et al*: *Epitaphs and Inscriptions in the Northeast of Scotland*, 1875
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OTHER ITEMS

Appeal for Funds for the Clan Grant Centre at Duthil

Submitted by Janette Kaiser, Treasurer and liaison for the Clan Grant Center

Written by Adrian Grant from UK Society

Members who have not visited the Clan Centre at Duthil in the last few years would be hard pressed to recognise it such have been the changes and improvements, but more money needs to be spent to make it a truly viable asset.

Background: The old Church at Duthil, at the heart of Grant territory, was donated to the Clan Society in 1986. With the prospect of the need for major repairs society members needed to be protected from potential liabilities and so in 1993 a charity with limited liability company status was formed to manage the building. Scotland's charity laws were brought very much up to date in recent years and so in 2014 we were able to drop "company" status in favour of that of SCIO - a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation - which means we need only answer to the Charity Regulator while retaining the protections we had had as a company. Those members who have read my book ("Scottish Clans: Legend Logic and Evidence" - where you can see the full explanation) will know that my opinion is that this church was originally founded by our Clan Progenitor, Olav Hemingsson sometime in the 1060s, making it highly apposite to have as the Clan Centre.



Plans for the building: Having been given the building the first problem was to make it wind and water tight. This was done, but contractors let us down, which (as can be imagined) generated some bad feeling and we have had to pick up the pieces. The next question to arise as to what to do with it. The first choice was to create a museum in it, but the viability depended on receiving support both from the National Lottery and from the local council. In the event we were not successful in gaining funding - and so the decision was taken around the year 2000 to develop it as a it as a Clan Centre.

Functioning of the building: Even though much still needs to be done, the centre is already functioning usefully. We hold several events at the centre throughout the year. Visitors are welcome whenever someone (often the chief himself) is available to show people round. We are able to store the Tent, all the flags we parade at the Games and such records as we have. We have developed a most interesting display with cabinets featuring Cherokee and Métis materials. Generous donations in kind allow us to display copies of two famous paintings: The Champion and The Piper as well as the Mourning Brooch when it is not at Granttown Museum.

Running the Centre

(a) Essential basic running costs

- (i) Insuring the building (mainly for legal liabilities) is over £200 per year,
- (ii) Maintaining an electricity supply is rather over £100 per year
- (iii) We need to allow some £300 per year towards regular maintenance
(especially eg. repainting the exterior wood of the windows)

So as we can see this means a minimum of some £600 - or nearly \$900 per year at current prices.

(b) Recent developments:

Members will not need reminding that all building is expensive. Nevertheless, several improvements have taken place in recent years:

- A fire exit has been established by opening up the bricked-up door at the East End of the building
- the raised platform has been removed
- the asbestos which clad the old boiler was removed safely
- the old boiler itself has been removed
- the old chimney stack (which was in dangerous condition) has been removed and the roof made good
- The render on the West side - the main entrance - has been taken off. All the old stonework has been revealed and re-pointed.

All in all this work has teetered towards \$10 000.

(c) Immediate plans (when funds permit)

The big thing we still need to do is to get water in and out. Installing a lavatory (with the boiler removed we now have space for one which can be disabled-compliant) and being able to make tea and coffee etc. will be a major benefit - but it won't be cheap and this is the top priority for spending.

Once this is done then the next likely priority will be secondary glazing to the windows, especially those on the North side.

Clearly it would be beneficial to create a car park between the road and the cemetery wall. Some years ago we took down the trees (which were in any case all rotten to the point of being dangerous - and passing drivers are uniformly delighted by the improved line-of-sight, but the main beneficiaries will be those visiting the cemetery, so we hope that in due course we may persuade others, especially the local authority, to assist with the cost of this.

Other activities

Although the principal activity of the Trust is maintaining and developing the centre, we have a range of underlying purposes - which are set out in our constitution and available on the website. Some of these activities have been referred to above, but we may illustrate another one here. Recently Patrick Grant, Chieftain of Tullochgorm discovered a manuscript which is an 1804 copy of a 1752 original. The main text runs to some 30,000 words and is of great interest in a number of ways. Funds have been agreed to assist with the typing of all this into a computer, and we will be able to make the text available to all via the website. This adds to the work we have already done some of which is presented on the website and much else which is available on *two CDs. One CD contains the three volumes by Sir William Fraser, L.L. D, "The Chiefs of Grant" which is indexed and searchable. The other CD contains several works of particular interest to anyone researching Grant history. Because the net cost of producing these CDs (around £1700 - \$2500) has been recouped we are now in a position to offer copies free to anyone making a substantial donation to the Trust. These CDs (together with "Scottish Clans...") provide as close to a complete historical background for any Grant as one might wish for! I am sure that other such projects will emerge in the future.

***A special note from Janette Kaiser:** Clan Grant Society US has designated a liaison for the Clan Grant Center and I am pleased to serve in that role. Our first action is to collaborate with CGS UK in providing the two CD's to CGS US members through the liaison which reduces costs. Fraser's three-volume "The Chief's of Grant" contains family trees for the Chief's and their families beginning in with Sir Laurence Le Grant in 1200 and continues into

the 1800's in some cases. In addition, you are provided Memoirs and Correspondence, complete with pictures, arms, etc. While Fraser's work is available for download free of costs, it is a very large volume of work and once downloaded is not indexed or searchable. The second CD is A Clan Grant Compendium which completes your library on Grant history. These are essential tools for anyone wanting to trace family origins and learn about your history, your heritage. You can contribute to a special fund setup within our US Society. This will be compiled and sent to the UK as one payment to reduce the associated bank charges that accompany international monetary transfers.

Summary

The Clan Grant Centre Trust has made substantial progress, but much more remains to be done. We hope that you may be excited about what we have done and what we have in mind and that excitement will persuade you to dig deep. The Trust's finances have been precarious, but such is the new found enthusiasm amongst UK Society members that £5000 has just been donated on a one-off basis and a higher annual gift has been agreed.

Are you coming to the AGM?

It is never too early to plan to attend the Clan Grant Society-USA Annual General Meeting at the 44th Annual Stone Mountain Highland Games

October 14 - 16, 2016.

We will be holding the AGM on Saturday 15 October at 1:30.

All you Grants are welcome to attend.

Come meet Dr. Bill Grant our President and Lena Grant our Secretary and many other fine Grants.

It is important you attend because we will be voting on bylaws changes.

See You There!

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 / Jeniphr Grant 2013-2015



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CLAN GRANT SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

[] NEW [] RENEWAL (Membership # _____)

NAME _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

2nd ADULT (if family membership) _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

STREET _____ APT # _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

2ND ADULT EMAIL (if family membership) _____

To save money, we send out our newsletters by email.

[] Check here if you want to receive a paper copy of the newsletter (additional fees may apply)

DUES (please circle):

INDIVIDUAL (single voting adult) \$20 1-year \$40 2-years \$55 3-years \$400 LIFE MEMBER

FAMILY (2 voting adults, same address) \$35 1-year \$70 2-years \$100 3-years \$700 LIFE MEMBER

Note: Membership runs from January 1 through December 31. New members joining after June 30 will pay half of the listed amount for the current year of membership, and the full amount upon renewal the following January.

DONATIONS:

Clan Grant Centre Fund: \$ _____

Scholarship Fund: \$ _____

We also offer subscriptions through the Clan Grant Society at discounted rates to THE HIGHLANDER Magazine \$15.50/year (3 years max): \$ _____

Total: \$ _____ Check # _____

Make all checks payable to CLAN GRANT SOCIETY

Mail to: Rand Allan, 6102 Calle Vera Cruz, La Jolla, CA 92037