



The Clan Grant Society is a proud member of:



The purpose of this quarterly is to promote the interests of Clan Grant, 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, and Board and Officer actions.

*From the Editor*

I vividly remember the abandoned village in Scotland. There must have been a hundred windswept, vacant stone houses like the one above on the North Sea. Most had nothing but rotten planks, and no roof to speak of. The families had long left for towns and cities, and I wondered how long it would take the authorities to notice me fixing one up and living in it.

There was a frozen peace about the place that made me want to stay. Not a soul to be seen, and a dirt road led out of sight to the nearest town...that was all. A place of the past. A place of forgetting. Part of me stayed there at the end of the world next to the stone hearth fire. A place in mind all of us have at the corner of nowhere.

If we didn't have the winter, how could we appreciate spring?



Aaron "The Hammer" Grant - Craigellachie Editor in Chief

# From the President of Clan Grant USA

Greetings everyone welcome to the winter Craig!

I'm pleased to announce that the Clan Grant Society USA will be holding its Annual General Meeting (AGM) this October 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm during the Stone Mountain Games in Atlanta GA. Our new Chief (Sir Michael Grant) has accepted our invitation and will be attending both the games and the AGM. We look forward to seeing him and many of you at the AGM and the games. Lena and I will be traveling from Texas to Stone Mountain, and we hope to see all of you again after such a long absence.



Many thanks go out to Aaron Grant, our new editor, for doing such an excellent job on our newsletters and we look forward to his continued support and are pleased that he has stepped forward to assume these duties and responsibilities.

Best wishes to Bob Grant, our chaplain who is currently recovering from hip surgery. We hope that you will be healthy and that we will also see you in Atlanta at the AGM.



We look forward to the announcement in May by the Chief of a new tartan for the Clan Grant and will share that information with our membership as soon as we are informed by the chief.

I hope this newsletter finds you all in good health and we will look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM in October at Stone Mountain. If you have any questions, please give me a call at 757-617-1652 or by e-mail at [academicdad@Yahoo.com](mailto:academicdad@Yahoo.com)

Best wishes to everyone and STAND FAST!



*Dr. Bill Grant*

IT IS GREAT TO BE A GRANT  
Bill Grant of Texas, Ph.D., FSA Scot  
Sixth Elected President Clan Grant Society-USA  
US Representative of the Chief of Clan Grant

## The Chief's Address

Dear Kinsfolk,

This year has been overshadowed by the sad loss of my brother James, who always seemed to enjoy “rude health”, so it was a great shock and surprise when he went into a sudden decline at the beginning of the year.

The Funeral on 9 June at the Abernethy Old Kirk beside Castle Roy, accompanied by Sir Patrick's piping, set the tone for a most fitting and moving occasion. James's ashes have now been interred at Duthil Kirk, commemorated by a plaque beside the entrance doors, kindly donated by the CGS.



Judy and I have both received tributes to James from Clan members from all over the world, which were most heartwarming and greatly appreciated, many thanks indeed.

This meant that I inherited the Chieftainship of the Clan, Barony of Strathspey and Baronetcy of Nova Scotia, as previously held by my father, so as such have always been part of my life. My father's Arms and Standard, automatically pass to me, as they did to James. This process required the approval of the College of Arms in London and the Lyon Court in Edinburgh, both of which were duly obtained. This only now leaves the actual drawing up of the Matriculation of Arms by the Heraldic Scriptwriter, which due to a lack of Scriptwriters, may take 2 years I understand!

Our Gathering in August proceeded as planned. As you may recall, last year was exceptionally hot, circa 30 degrees on the day, but this year we were back to more normal weather, cooled by a light rain. Fortunately, our tent sharing arrangement with the Grantown Museum was repeated, but with more room and proved to be an even greater success. It was a pleasure to welcome so many to join in the March and to meet so many visitors, both locally and from afar.

I have been blessed by inheriting a wonderful CGS team, ably led by Lady Fiona, Sir Archie and Tim. We are working on several initiatives, aimed at making the Society more relevant to the needs of members today, allowing us to “reach out” to a wider audience both here and abroad. This is only made possible by today's internet communications, a different world from when my father set up the International

Societies in the 1980s. To achieve our goals, we hope to bring together all the Cadet branches of the family, as well as our International Societies, to work together as one.

I am very much looking forward to next year and the Society's Programme of events both here and abroad.

May I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year, raising a toast to a wonderful 2024.

Your Kinsman and Chief,

*Strathspey*

Standfast Craigellachie!



## The Rt Hon Lord Strathspey, Sir Michael Grant of Grant Bt. MA, MRICS. 34TH Chief of Grant

My late father, Sir Patrick Grant, Lord Strathspey was the 32nd Chief of Grant, who was succeeded by his eldest son, my half-brother James in 1992, who became the 33rd Chief of Grant until he sadly passed away in May this year.

I was born in 1953 and brought up in Edinburgh. I have happy memories of living at No. 9 Anne Street, riding my tricycle in the Dean Gardens, Sunday lunches at Edinburgh Zoo, sailing from Crammond and my first proper school, the Edinburgh Academy. The friendly atmosphere in Anne Street, the cobbled streets, the wonderful architecture and the Edinburgh Tattoo, seen as a child from a balcony in the Castle, all come back to me.

In the summer, my parents loaded the cars, nanny, dogs and the cat to drive down to West Wittering in Sussex for our holiday - more sailing, the beach and dare I say it, warmer weather! My Mother had spent much of her younger years in West Wittering, my parents later retiring there, my father being able to commute to the House of Lords in his later life, so it really became home.



My father was later posted to the Ministry in London and so we moved from Edinburgh to the south, with my going to Prep School in Gloucestershire, followed by Harrow (1964-70) and then Oriel College, Oxford (1971-4), where I read Modern History.

I was hopeless at Scottish Country Dancing, the worst child I think, then also at “Games”! I could never master kicking a football or catching a cricket ball, but enjoyed fencing and sailing, being in both the school teams. During my time at Oxford I was able to travel, especially to France, Italy and Spain. My Special Subject was English Baroque Architecture, so seeing the Classical buildings in Europe was truly a joy to experience.

My love of buildings and architecture led me to become a Chartered Surveyor (RICS), where Project Management became my forte, whether a simple flat refurbishment or a major ground up Commercial Building. This involved design briefs to the Architects, final design, selection of finishes, programme, cost control and a leasing or sales strategy.

I worked in London in the earlier part of my career, but major projects drew me to Dubai in 1992, where local owners were keen to have the best, without any limit, which was both exciting and challenging. This also meant travelling throughout Europe, Asia and particularly Thailand, for both work and pleasure. Many holidays from School in the 60s were spent coming up to Scotland, staying with our late cousin, Nina, Countess of Seafield,

when my sister Amanda and I were children. Christmas holidays were spent at Cullen in Banffshire and summers at Kinveachy, near Carr-Bridge.

Later, in the 70s/80s we would come up with the parents for the Clan Grant Gathering at Nethy Bridge, which I continued to do, with my mother in 1993 over the last thirteen years or so from Dubai, staying with James and Judy.



I am now retired and live in Chichester, still sailing my boat from West Wittering, having returned there in 2013 to look after my mother Olive, who passed away in 2019 aged 105. My immediate relations, being my sister Amanda and half-sister Janet both live in London.

An active walker, whether on the beach or streets of London, admiring the architecture, I also enjoy cycling and kayaking. I am also a keen motoring enthusiast, being a lover of cars both old and new since boyhood. Other interests include contemporary art, reading and collecting watches.

Recently, I have become more actively involved in the Clan Grant Society. I understand that most of the Clan Societies are finding their numbers dwindle post Covid, as an increasingly elderly membership base slip away. My aim as Chief is to try to make the Society more relevant to the present day, attract a wider audience by embracing social media, attending functions and bringing together the Cadet Clan Grant Families, as well as our Clan Grant International Societies, in order to enjoy “mutuality” and become more sustainable.

Having lived abroad in expat communities and travelled in the USA, I am very aware of how strong enthusiasm and interest is in both Scotland and the Clans, in its history, tartans, whisky, Highland Games and so on – I hope we can find the right way together to “make it happen” in the future for Clan Grant.

**All the best from your Chief**  
29/8/2023





## A Clan Newsletter? Yes, your Clan is **THAT** awesome.

We are a great clan with a many Grant families in the their Scottish history or that When our society was embrace the following...



proud history. There are USA that do not know they are part of a clan. formed, we committed to

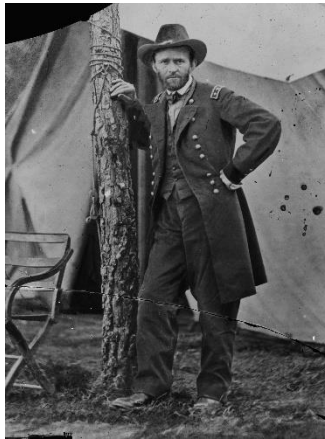
**Literature** - including publication of Scottish or Gaelic literature.

**Charitable** - such as helping Clansmen or dependents of Clansmen in distress.

**Historical** - especially as may be related to Clan Grant (or its various branches).

Ever heard of Ulysses S. Grant?

**Educational** - such as financial students, establishment of a or music, grants to schools or Clan Grant Educational and



assistance to deserving fellowship in Scottish literature colleges, and support of the Charitable Trust.

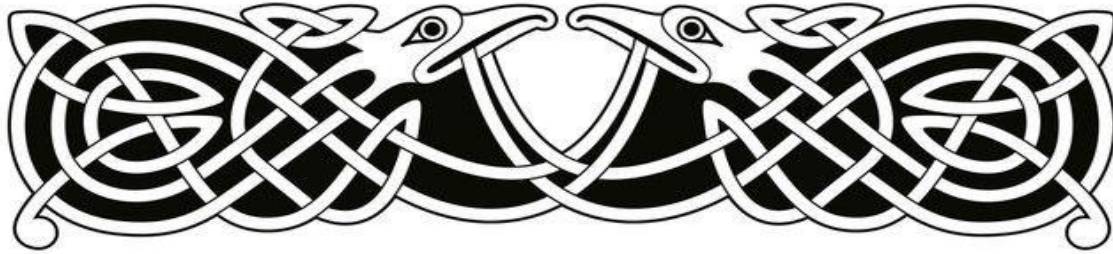
**Cultural** - such as encouraging dress traditions and customs, the United States, and supporting the Clan Grant Center in Scotland.

the perpetuation of Highland promoting Highland Games in

**Social and Recreation** - promoting friendship, goodwill, and clanship among members of the Clan.

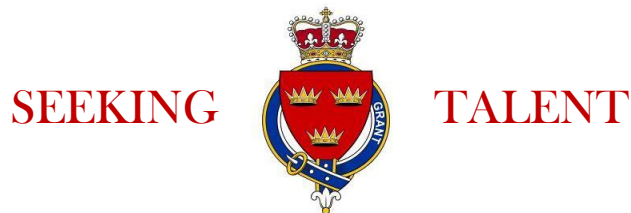


## You are the next Generation



## HEADS UP!

The Clan Grant Society-USA General Meeting is annually at the Stone Mountain Games in Atlanta, Georgia. We'd love to meet you.



Clan Grant Society is looking for an Assistant Webmaster to help maintain our society website as well as being a backup for the current webmaster. Our website is currently hosted by GoDaddy and is using Drupal open-source software as the basis for our website. We are looking for a volunteer who has at least some basic knowledge of websites as we do not yet have a manual containing the information necessary to train someone from scratch. However, this individual does not require specific knowledge of Drupal or GoDaddy. Please send an email to [admin@clangrant-us.org](mailto:admin@clangrant-us.org) expressing your interest and listing your experience.

Interested in a tour guide for your next Scotland visit?  
Robert and his wife highly recommend:

David Nisbet: <https://albawhiskytraveltours.com/> & <https://haus-alba.co.uk/>

John Halliday of Strathspey Tours: [www.strathspeytours.com](http://www.strathspeytours.com)





## The International Clan Gathering will be: AUGUST 3<sup>rd</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> 2025 in Abernathy, SCOTLAND!

“The gathering will culminate in a Clan March & Banquet on the 10<sup>th</sup> at the Abernathy Highland Games.” - Tim Atkinson, Clan Gathering Chair.

Mark your calendars, **this will be the event of a lifetime**. You must go at least once; your editor has been there, and it is not to miss.

## Celebrate your cultural heritage!

Notice all the knotwork?  
Your ancestors mastered art like nowhere else in the world.  
Show it to your children and watch them color it in.  
Perhaps they will venture to create some of their own...

If they do, send them to your editor:  
[a.mg006@yahoo.com](mailto:a.mg006@yahoo.com)



Can you identify his tartan?  
Better yet, who is he?





## CLAN GRANT INTERNATIONAL GATHERING 2025

**Optional pre-Gathering activity for those arriving early:**

**Saturday 2nd Day suggestions:**

Aberlour Highland Games - in Strathspey

[www.aberlourhighlandgames.co.uk](http://www.aberlourhighlandgames.co.uk)

Newtonmore Highland Games & Clan Macpherson Gathering

[www.newtonmorehighlandgames.com](http://www.newtonmorehighlandgames.com)

Aboyne Highland Games

[www.aboynegames.com](http://www.aboynegames.com)

**NB There will be no organised activities on this day and the above are simply suggested possible visits.**

### **2025 INTERNATIONAL GATHERING – OFFICIAL PROGRAMME**

**Sunday 3rd**

**PM**

Registration and welcome drinks at Duthil.

**Monday 4th**

**Day:**

Visit to Urquhart Castle via Jacobite Cruise, & Cnocan Burra - return by coach. Hosted by Chris Grant

<https://www.jacobite.co.uk>

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/places/urquhart-castle/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xUugsid-DdY>

Lunch venue TBC

**Evening:**

**TBC**

**Tuesday 5th**

**Day:**

**AM:**

Visit to Castle Grant grounds and visit to Grantown Museum

<https://www.grantownmuseum.co.uk>



**PM:**

International Society meetings venues TBC / Free time for self-guided visits

**Evening:**

Dancing Practice at Duthil (Peggy Crossman to arrange)

**Wednesday 6th****Day:**

Visit to Ballindalloch Castle. Lunch and tour of Glenfiddich Distillery  
[www.ballindallochcastle.co.uk](http://www.ballindallochcastle.co.uk)  
[www.glenfiddich.com](http://www.glenfiddich.com)

**Evening:**

Concert and ‘Music of Clan Grant’ launch. Venue: Castle Roy, Nethy Bridge

**Thursday 7th****Day:****AM:**

Visit to Rothiemurchus Estate with its various activities and shopping  
<https://rothiemurchus.net>

**Lunch** at Cairngorm Mountain Base Station

<https://www.cairngormmountain.co.uk>

**PM:**

Walk up Craigellachie, Aviemore, walking boots or stout shoes essential

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

**Evening:**

Talk on Tartans by Peter Macdonald TBC

**Friday 8th****Day:**

Free day for visits – see Self-Guided Tour Suggestions below:  
 Tent erection etc. on Games field (Council Members)

**Evening:**

**CLAN GRANT INTERNATIONAL GATHERING 2025  
 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENT  
 Beating Retreat & Music - The Square, Grantown on Spey**

**Saturday 9th****Day:**

**Clan Grant Gathering at Abernethy Highland Games**

<https://nethybridge.com/abernethy-highland-games/>

**Evening:**

**19.30 Clan Grant Banquet venue TBC**

**END OF THE INTERNATIONAL GATHERING 2025**

**Self-Guided Tour Suggestions:**

Inverness Castle	
Culloden Battlefield	<a href="https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/culloden">https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/culloden</a>
Fort George	<a href="http://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/places/fort-george/">www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/places/fort-george/</a>
Cawdor Castle	<a href="https://www.cawdorcastle.com">https://www.cawdorcastle.com</a>
Highland Folk Museum	<a href="https://www.highlifehighland.com/highlandfolkmuseum/">https://www.highlifehighland.com/highlandfolkmuseum/</a>
Highland Wildlife Park	<a href="https://www.highlandwildlifepark.org.uk">https://www.highlandwildlifepark.org.uk</a>
Clan MacPherson Museum:	<a href="https://www.clanmacphersonmuseum.org.uk">https://www.clanmacphersonmuseum.org.uk</a>
Blair Castle	<a href="https://atholl-estates.co.uk/blair-castle/">https://atholl-estates.co.uk/blair-castle/</a>
Castle Menzies	<a href="https://www.castlemenzies.org">https://www.castlemenzies.org</a>
Elgin - Johnstons of Elgin	<a href="https://www.johnstonsofelgin.com/">https://www.johnstonsofelgin.com/</a>
Grant Lodge	<a href="http://grant-lodge.org.uk/index.html">http://grant-lodge.org.uk/index.html</a>
Elgin Cathedral	<a href="http://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/places/elgin-cathedral/">www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/places/elgin-cathedral/</a>

**2025 Organising Committee – Planning phase**

Tim Atkinson - Convenor  
 Michael Grant  
 Jill Standing  
 Peggy Crossman  
 Viscount Reidhaven (James)  
 Chris Grant  
 Duncan Grant – Grantown Community event co-ordinator  
 Beatrice Oliphant

Dan Cottam – representative from Grantown Museum



# WE WANT YOU

to be  
**ONE OF US!**



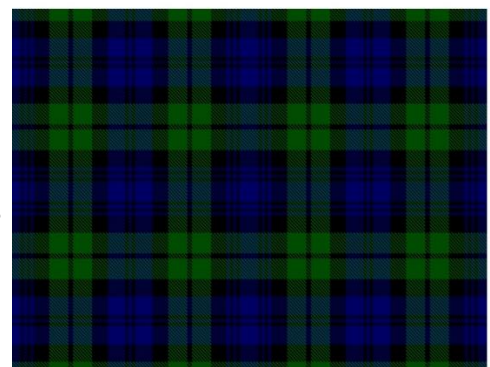
## Here are allied families and septs of Clan Grant:

Allan, Allen, Bisset(t), Bowie, Buie, Gilroy, MaccAllan,  
M(a)cgilroy, M(a)cilroy, McKerran, M(a)cKiaran, M(a)cKessock,  
Pratt, Suttie.



Clan Grant Tartan - Plate XIX  
by James Grant, Edinburgh - 1886

Official Clan Tartans



Grant Hunting Tartan - Black Watch  
42<sup>nd</sup> Highland Regiment - 1725

# The Grant Tartans

Dr. Phillip D. Smith, Jr., PhD, GTS, FSA Scot

Many years ago, a man named Ronald Grant joined the Society. By vocation he was a state prison officer of some rank. He wanted to buy a kilt.

At an Annual Meeting at Stone Mountain, he was confused by all the different "Red Grant" tartans he saw on other members who were wearing the kilt.

When he asked about the multiple variations he saw, he came to me with the question, "Which one is the correct one?"

I explained that some Grants wore their kilts in "Modern," "Ancient," "Muted," "Reproduction," or "Weathered" colors and that various mills wove different sized patterns or "setts." These terms are confusing to the beginner as they are merely sales gimmicks chosen by the weaving firms. "Moden" is more than a century older than "Ancient" and does not really show the shades of dyes used prior to 1860. "Muted" and "Weathered" are essentially the same but by different mills. "Reproduction" are colors from a fragment said to have been buried at the battlefield of Culloden and shown to Donald Dalglish (but never to other tartan manufacturers).



He copyrighted them and bought out the line in the late 1940s.

The color red does not look very good in this set of hues, so, the Grant tartan is not included in this palette. The newest palette is the "Antique," developed and copyrighted by Johnstons of Elgin in the 90s.



I explained that it was up to the individual as to which color shades and size he or she wanted and to which variation to wear - as long as the pattern was the same. The exact shade of red made little difference. At that point, he pointed to “Hank” Grant and asked what tartan he wore? I explained that "Hank" was a handweaver and wove his own material and that the absence of the azure stripe indicated that it was a “Grant of Glen Moriston” tartan.

Ronald shook his head and walked away. The next two years he came back, still without a kilt and with the same questions. "Which one is the “real one?”

Each year, I carefully went over the same ground with him. Then it became clear. Ronald was a police officer and used to uniforms. He wanted all of us to wear a uniform tartan.

Sadly, Ronald dropped out of the Society. A few years ago, the present Clan Chief, Sir James, indicated that he would like all Clan Grant members to wear the so-called “1860’s sett” woven by Lochcarron Mills in Selkirk (actually it is first illustrated by James Grant in a book dated 1886). That would put all members in a “uniform” tartan.

The officers in the UK Society did purchase new tartan outfits and a few of us had kilts and skirts already in this tartan. One variation of the “Red Grant” tartan. Most mills and kiltmakers are still turning out the “Red Grant” as in the past. Sir James as “The Lord Strathspey” often wears the green, black and blue "Strathspey District" tartan woven by The House of Edgar at Inveralmond near Perth.

Lain Zaczek in his book *World Tartans* makes this preposterous claim about the Clan Grant: “The diverse nature of the Grant Clan is emphasized by diversity of its tartans.



The regimental sett is well established but apart from that it is hard to say that which of the many designs (16 at present) is best suited for use by the entire clan.” (p. 121). The accompanying illustration is a defective version of the “Grant of Achnarrow,” tartan taken from a woman's wedding dress.

As far as Zaczek's statement that there is confusion as to what tartan the Grants wear, nothing could be farther from the truth. True, there are many branches of the clan, as there are of most large clans, but Grant of Monymusk, Grant of Dalvey, Grant of

Rothiemurchas and all others wear the "Red Grant" tartan designated by the chief of the clan, Lord Strathspey.

The portrait artist was well known for painting figures but leaving the faces blank to be filled in when someone commissioned a portrait.

The regimental sett Zaczek referred to is the "Black Watch" or "Government" tartan, worn as a "Hunting" tartan by the Grants.

Of the seven companies of the original "Watches," two were led by Grants. Most modern scholars agree that the regimental sett was an original design and not an early "Campbell" one. This last position was held by the late Duke of Argyll who insisted that his clansmen wear the "Black Watch" in slightly different shades of colors. The tartan distributed to the "original Watch" companies was woven on the Grant's Ballindalloch estate.

The "Red Grant" tartan was earliest alluded to in the famous directive of the Laird of Grant in 1704 that upon seeing the "fire on the mountain," all males from sixteen to sixty were to rendezvous at Ballintomb Farm (near modern Duilnain Bridge) within 48 hours fully equipped and dressed in "red and green, broad springed."

He further specified "jackets and trousers" as well as a reminder to the MacDonald brothers, tenants in Laggan, that they were not exempt.

While no definite setts described other than "red and green," the Clan Historian, James H. Grant, points out that to meet the deadline off forty-eight hours, the men must have had the clothing on hand.

The young Grant Laird had recently returned from service on the Continent where uniforms were just coming into vogue. Ostensibly, his directive was for "hunting," but English officers were concerned that he could put six-hundred men in the field, fully armed, in forty-eight hours. This far outnumbered the regulars stationed in the Highlands.

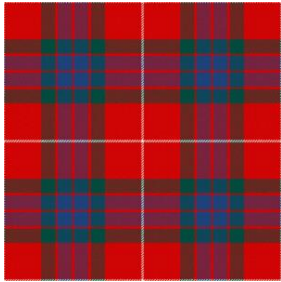
The "Red Grant" tartan in its current form dates from at least 1819 when Grant of Redcastle ordered two hundred yards from Wilson's of Bannockburn to outfit his followers. This is two years before the famous "staged by Sir Walter Scott Laird Stuart of Garth's" 1822 visit of George IV to Edinburgh.

At that time there was a great clamor from chiefs who did not know “their own clan's tartan.” D.C. Stewart states that the earliest portrait of someone dressed in the "red" tartan is one of Robert Grant of Lurg (1678-1777).

This tartan has been adopted by the Frasers as their “clan” tartan based upon it appearing in the *Vestiarium Scoticum* and on an old plaid worn by Fraser of Bobliny.

Regretfully, the portrait in question of Robert Grant has disappeared.

(Lurg)

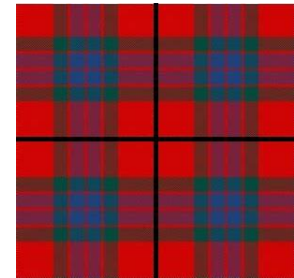


Tartans were often sold under two names and there is a long handwritten “New Bruce” in the margin of the page illustrating the red Grant tartan but no indication that the pattern was ever woven and sold as the “New Bruce.”

This pattern is truly “broad.” Notice the thin black lines are only two threads each and that the size of the red and green squares has been reduced by a factor of four, one fourth the original size, to allow the pattern to fit on the page.

With the white stripe turned to black, this tartan is known as the Grant of Edinchip.

The "Red Grant" worn today is recorded not only in the 1819 *Wilson's Pattern Book* but also in books by Logan (1845), Smibert (1850), and the Smiths (1850). In the earliest recording (1819), the proportion of green to red favored green by fourteen percent (178 ends to 156). By the last quarter of the nineteenth century red predominated over green by twenty percent (Grant, 1886). The narrow dark blue stripes on the red field were of unequal size in 1819; in 1886 the narrow black stripes were equal. In the twentieth century they again became unequal and the red and green became equal. This is how many mills weave it today, although Shirley Grant-Smith has a kilt skirt purchased at the Glenfarclas Distillery Shop in which the red predominates.



1886 RED GRANT AS ILLUSTRATED IN THE CLANS AND TARTANS OF SCOTLAND

The "Red Grant" was adopted by the Drummonds in the nineteenth century and is still being sold, sometimes with minor modifications, as the "Drummond."

To avoid this confusion, the book, *Tartan for Me!* suggests the "Drummond of Perth" tartan for all members of that clan as Lord Drummond is the Chief of the name and his castle is located in Perthshire. Other Grant tartans do exist, but they are generally historic curiosities except for one or two.



The "Grant of Rothiemurchas" is from a wedding dress as is the "Grant of Achnarrow." It is inappropriate to refer to the latter as "The Lady Grant" tartan since the designation "Lady Grant" is reserved for the wife of the chief.

There are a number of thread counts for the Grant of Achnarrow. This is due to the difficulty of counting the width and color of stripes under glass as the original garment is on display in a museum in Kingussie. The illustration is the correct one.

The pale-yellow of the "Grant of Achnarrow" was particularly hard to see and was missed by two tartan specialists. It is close to white, and both are badly faded. It was recorded as white and the first modern weavings by Lochcarron Mills was so specified by the author. Lochcarron Mills was so specified by the author. Subsequently the pattern was corrected.



The "Grant of Monymusk" is from the Cockburn Collection (c.1801) and today exists outside that collection in only three sashes, all woven by Col. Peter MacDonald TD GTS FSA Scot. He recounted and corrected the pattern of the original fragment. One sash was presented to Sir Archibald Grant of Monymusk by Shirley Grant-Smith. The others remain in the possession of Mrs. Grant-Smith.

The "Grant of Glenmoriston" is the same sett as the "Red Grant" without the light blue stripe and is worn today by James H. "Hank" Grant who wove the material.





The “Grant of Ballindalloch” was designed in 1993 for that estate and is woven by Johnson's of Elgin. It is a more crowded version of the “Red Grant” where the narrow azure and central dark blue stripes have been expanded at the expense of the red ground. The “Grant of Ballindalloch” is reserved for owners and employees of that estate.



The Faunce family have two plaids which they believe date from the 1740s. One approximates the “Grant of Glenmorrison:” These are also green and red but with a smaller and more complex sett and a white overstripe.

James Scarlett dated these from the 1840s. Another exception to the “curiosity” category is the “Grant Hunting” or “The Sheriff Grant” in the parlance of the late John Dalgety.

He referred to it as the “Sheriff” due to its being habitually worn in the thirties to fifties by John Grant of Rothiemurchas, Sheriff of Invernesshire and grandfather of the present Laird.



He was a great specialist in pibroch and much in demand as a judge in piping competitions. This sett is recorded in the 1819 *Wilson's Key Pattern Book* as “Hunting Grant.” It is an attractive sett, “Black Watch B” with red and yellow over stripes on the green field. James Scarlett conjectures that this may have been a military sett (Scarlett, p99).

The “Black Watch” or “Government” tartan has alternating pairs of two and four narrow stripes, often referred to as “tram lines,” on the blue field. The “Black Watch A” has only the two while the “Black Watch B” has only the four “tramlines.” These three tartans, “Black Watch” and “A” or “B,” form the basis for many “clan” tartans.



The present Lord Strathspey, Chief of Clan Grant, often can be seen wearing the “Strathspey District” tartan. This design was recovered from the lining of an officer's waist coat of the late eighteenth century Strathspey Fencible Regiment\* raised by “The Good” Sir James Grant to repel Napoleonic invasion.

\* *Fencible Regiments were intended for the “defense” of Great Britain, not for overseas duty.*

It is at first glance by a layman similar to the “Black Watch” but distinctive in that it has a set of three “tram” lines in place of the two-four alternating combination of the “Government” sett. It is featured today in The House of Edgar's line of “District Tartans.” It is appropriate for all Grants and those who love Strathspey.

The current Chief, Sir James Grant, Lord Strathspey, wishes all clansmen to wear what he styles “The 1860 Sett.” It is woven by Lochcarron in “Ancient Colors” and is close to the 1886 illustrations of James Grant except for the red and green being equal. James Grant wrote the first book which had clan histories with tartan illustrations. He wrote that all tartans illustrated were as they were woven in his time (1886). His Grant illustration has the red twenty percent larger than the green. It is woven in Lochcarron's “Ancient Palette” with the red almost an orange color. The narrow black stripes on the red ground are still unequal.

However, the mills will continue to produce in quantity the “Red Grant” in “Modern” colors for that is what the public wants and buys. On the other hand, perhaps Ronald Grant had a point, why not a uniform tartan? Or, is it because we Scots all want to be unique.



I have even seen a kilt worn proudly in what tartan specialists used to jokingly call “The snuff box MacLeod.” This was due to its appearance on the small tartan snuff box in the hand of the portrait of Norman Macleod.



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Our Command Structure - Don't be afraid to reach out! We are constantly seeking talent.

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# The Old Man's Mine

A Scottish Christmas Story

## Chapter 2 of 2



Mines from WWII commonly wash up on Scottish Shores

The cat eventually came out and jumped up to the comfort of his lap. His shit-fire was warm and he smoked. He smoked and smoked. He drank and drank. The bread was wonderful. He calmed down with the toxins and eventually made it to bed.

The next morning he went back to his comfortable, unwavering routine: lit the peat and added the coal. The pipe was lit and the cat was practically attached to him. He felt good, and today he would fish. He made his way to Rodney and completely

forgot his permanent guest. Large and unavoidable. “You going to kill me today?” No reply. “Coward.”

He shoved off in a sea that was perfect for fishing. Nice and calm. He went out until the mine was a speck and cast a line. It wasn't long until he landed a whopper. With difficulty he pulled it over the side and clubbed it dead. What a catch! No more need to fish today. “Why kill yourself?” he said, “The mine will do that.” He laughed. When he landed, he kicked a spike real good and went in.

Then there was a knock. The cat looked up. This was a real knock. Wiping off the fish guts, he opened the door. It was the nosy girl and her mom.

“Hello. We are very sorry to bother you, but Claire left her gloves and hat yesterday.” It was the first time he really looked at the mom. She was fair. About ten years younger than the old man (who really wasn't *that* old). She had both mittened hands on the girl's tiny shoulders. Both were redheads, which didn't help either. He noticed the girl was gaping at the blood on his bib.

Just photo this code to read the rest of the story...



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