

Historical Notes on Some Surnames and Patronymics Associated with the Clan Grant

Introduction

In 1953, a little book entitled *Scots Kith & Kin* was first published in Scotland. The primary purpose of the book was to assign hundreds less well-known Scottish surnames and patronymics as ‘septs’ to the larger, more prominent highland clans and lowland families. Although the book has apparently been a commercial success for over half a century, it has probably disseminated more spurious information and hoodwinked more unsuspecting purchasers than any publication since Mao Tse Tung’s *Little Red Book*.

One clue to the book’s lack of intellectual integrity is that no author, editor, or research authority is cited on the title page. Moreover, the 1989 revised edition states in a disclaimer that “...the publishers regret that they cannot enter into correspondence regarding personal family histories” – thereby washing their hands of having to defend, substantiate or otherwise explain what they have published.

Anyone who has attended highland games or Scottish festivals in the United States has surely seen the impressive lists of so-called ‘sept’ names posted at the various clan tents. These names have also been imprinted on clan society brochures and newsletters, and more recently, posted on their websites. The purpose of the lists, of course, is to entice unsuspecting inquirers to join their clan society.

These lists of ‘associated clan names’ have been compiled over the years, largely from the pages of *Scots Kith & Kin* and several other equally misleading compilations of more recent vintage.

When I first joined the Clan Grant Society in 1977, I asked about the alleged ‘sept’ names and why they were assigned to our clan. No one seemed to know anything about them. Consequently, when I was appointed historian of the society, I decided to do some research on the names to see how they were related to the clan. The following report is the result of that research.

During the span of about thirty years, I compiled another list of surnames and patronymics that actually have an historical connection to the clan and its lands during the 16th through the 18th centuries.



The lands of the clan are generally considered to be those held by the Chief and chieftains of the Clan Grant in the Strathspey parishes of Duthil and Rothiemurchus; Abernethy and Kincardine; Cromdale, Inverallan, and Advie; Knockando; and Aberlour; the parish of Inveravon, in Strathavon; the parish of Kirkmichael, in Glenlivet; and the parishes of Urquhart and Glenmoriston, northwest of Loch Ness. Monymusk, in Aberdeenshire, was also held by an important branch of the clan. The names on the list that follows were gleaned mostly from the public and parochial records of these districts.

The surname *Grant* first appeared in the annals of the highlands in the mid-13th century. Although the surname was used by the Chief and his vassals, it was probably not until the 18th century that the name *Grant* was widely embraced by the rank and file members of the clan, and even then it was sporadic. Before that time, the patronymic was the principal name form used in the country of the Grants. A patronymic is a name form derived from the name of a father or other paternal ancestor. (For example, Ian MacDonald means John, son of Donald). Most patronymics were formed with the prefix *Mac*, *Mc*, *M’* or *Mack* (i.e. *MacDonald*, *McInnes*, *M’Conquhy* and *Mackintosh*). In this report, *Mc* is used almost exclusively, unless the original source was spelled otherwise. Some patronymics were formed with the suffix *-son*, (i.e. *Donaldson*, *Paterson*, *Finlayson*). Many early documents of the Roman Catholic Church, which wielded considerable political power in the north, were written in Latin. Consequently, some patronymics included in church documents were rendered in the Latin genitive case, i.e., *Willelmo Roberti*, *Patricio Fergusii*, *Alexandro filii Laurencii*, etc.

In some districts, patronymics prevailed into the 19th century. With the passage of time, however, most eventually became the surnames we know and use today.

In other instances, people were given names based on their occupation (Smith, Miller, Tailor, Clark), or for a particular physical characteristic (*Roy* or *Dearg* for red, *Ciar* for dark, dusky or gloomy, *Dubh* for black, *Mor* for large, *Beg* for small), or for their place of origin (Meldrum, Nairn, Calder, Fife).

Even after surnames supplanted other name forms, not all the inhabitants of Strathspey and the other districts held by the Grants adopted the surname *Grant*. In fact, close studies of parish records reveal that the name

Grant was actually in the minority in its own clan lands – particularly in Glenurquhart and Glenmoriston, where there were always more MacDonalDs and Macdonnells than Grants.

There were many *McKenzies, McGregors, McAllisters, McPhersons*, as well as *Camerons, Cummings, Frasers, Gordons, Robertsons*, and *Stuarts* who lived in the country of the Grants in Strathspey. Although bearing the names of other well-known clans, these families lived among the Grants, worked and socialized with the Grants, attended kirk with the Grants, married Grants, and were generally loyal tenants and followers of the Chiefs and chieftains of the Clan Grant. Most of these well-known clan names will not be addressed in this report.

Conversely, not all people named Grant were members of the Clan Grant *per se*. There were significant numbers of Grants who lived in districts outside the lands held by the Clan. Large numbers of Grants lived as far north as Caithness and Sutherland. It must be assumed that their allegiance was not to the Chief of their own name, but to the local lairds and chieftains in their places of residence.

There were many other family names associated with the Clan Grant in the districts of Strathspey, Strathavon, Glenlivet, Glenmoriston, and Glenurquhart. Although most of these were related to the Grants only by marriage, they were inextricably linked to the clan and its lands and must be included among the ranks of loyal clansmen. Some of these families had, and continue to have, long and significant affiliations with the districts formerly held by the clan – particularly in Strathspey. Others had only a brief association in a very limited geographical area.

Some of the names on the list that follows might be considered septs. Within the context of this discussion, a sept is a family originally descended from a Grant, but with a different surname. Since much of the early history of the clan is “lost in the mists of antiquity,” it is difficult to identify the septs precisely, but certain families named McJockie, McConnachie, McFinlay, McRobie, McWilliam, More, Bain, Bowie, Lawson and Roy were almost certainly septs of Grant.

Some 18th century parish records include entries in the form John *Grant or Bain*, Alexander *Grant or Roy*, William *Grant or Miller*. These entries occurred when the minister listed a nominee for baptism by both his father’s surname and his mother’s maiden name. For example, John *Grant or Bain* was the son of James Grant and Isobel Bain, whereas John *Grant or Roy* was the son of another James Grant and his wife Elspet Roy. John Grant, James Grant, Alexander Grant, Patrick Grant and others were such common names in Strathspey that an impromptu system had to be devised to distinguish one person or family from another. As one might expect, the most common pair of names in this style was *Grant or Grant* indicating that both parents were named Grant before they were married.

Nota bene – The most frequently occurring male Christian names among the Grants in the 18th century were (1) John 26%, (2) James 16.5%, (3) Alexander 16%, (4) William 11.5%, (5) Donald 8%, (6) Peter 7%, (7) Robert 4.5%, (8) Patrick 3.5%, (9) Thomas 2.5%, and (10) Duncan 2.5%.

The most frequent female names were (1) Margaret 17%, (2) Elspet/Elizabeth 13.5%, (3) Ann/Anna 13%, (4) Janet 11.5%, (5) Isobel/Isabella 10.5%, (6) Jean/Jane 9.5%, (7) Mary 6.5%, (8) Helen 5%, (9) Christian/Kristin 4.5%, and (10) Katherine/Catherine 4%.

Another interesting naming convention noted among the Grants during the 18th and early 19th centuries was the use of an *alias* or “by-name” to designate a specific family descended from a common ancestor. These names occurred in Strathspey, but were particularly common in Strathavon and Glenlivet, as *Grant alias Bowie*, *Grant alias McRobie*, *Turner alias Grant*, etc. These aliases prevailed for a number of generations and distinguished one family of Grants from another. Presumably the *Grant alias Bowies* descended from an original Grant ancestor with blond hair; the *Grant alias McRobies* probably descended from a forebear named Robert Grant; and the *Turner alias Grant* line was established by a Grant who was apparently skilled in the use of a lathe.

As previously mentioned, names of large, easily identifiable clans were well represented in the country of the Grants. Most of these are not included in the list. The patronyms Robertson, McGregor, McAlister, McDonald, and the surname Stuart are exceptions. These names are included simply because their influence and attachment to the lands of the clan have been so significant that they simply could not be excluded. It is this reporter’s opinion that certain families with these well-known names were so closely aligned with the Clan Grant that they might not even be related to the clan bearing their own name. The Stuarts were deeply entrenched in Strathspey from a very early period, and of course, there is an ancient traditional bond between the Clan Gregor and the Clan Grant.

It is also this reporter’s opinion – and this is purely speculative – that some long-standing Strathspey names are patronymics derived from the feudal barons who held lands in the north before the Grants established their foothold in Strathspey. Unfortunately, the precise origins and identities of the progenitors of most of these names are also lost in those medieval mists.

What should the reader glean from this report? There are a number of general concepts and observations that might be drawn from the information that follows. Some of these can be summarized as follows:

- The most obvious single aspect should be that not all members of the Clan Grant were named Grant. There were literally hundreds of other names with a documented historical attachment to the clan and its lands.
- A person's clan affiliation cannot be determined by his name. It is much more important to know where the person's forebears lived and what chieftain they served.
- In the 17th and 18th centuries, names were entered into parish records by clerics who spelled the names at their own discretion or whim. There is great diversity in the way some names were spelled; consequently, it is much more important to know how a name sounded rather than how it was spelled.
- The precise origins and meanings of some names are unknown, or at least conjectural.
- The inclusion of a name on the list below does not imply that it was affiliated only with the Clan Grant. In fact, almost all the names were associated with other clans and districts.
- The list is only a partial accounting of the names associated with the clan. A thorough examination of parish records and Grant documents could yield many more names, particularly patronymics. Unfortunately, many of the old records relating to the clan's history were either lost or destroyed; some, no doubt, succumbed to the passage of time. Others are undoubtedly held in Scotland's national archives and have not been examined for decades or even centuries.
- Some lands held by the Chiefs of Grant were also held at various times by other proprietors. For example, certain lands in Glenlivet and Strathavon were once held by the Roman Catholic Bishops in the north, and later by the Stuart feudal barons of the King's extended family, and still later by the Earls and Marquises of Huntly, the Dukes of Gordon, and the Laird of Grant.

This is not a scholarly work. No attempt has been made to identify the source of each individual name, date, place or detail, although a bibliography is included at the end. The report that follows is simply an attempt to counter some of the misinformation that has been disseminated for many years and document some surnames and patronymics that have a legitimate historical association with the Clan Grant.



Some Surnames and Patronymics Associated with the Clan Grant

Bain, McBain, Bane, Bayne, Bayn, MacBane – (A descriptive name and patronymic from the Gaelic *ban* meaning 'fair' – presumably referring to someone with fair hair or fair complexion) – The name and patronymic can be found in most districts in Scotland, but it was particularly well-known in the Strathspey parishes of Cromdale and Duthil from at least the 15th century. *Johannes Bain McAyn Doy* and *Jacobus McOwne Bayne* were parishioners in Duthil (1537).

Buie, Bowie, Buy, Bouy, Buoy – (Descriptive name from the Gaelic *buidhe*, meaning yellow, blond or fair-haired) – This is another name found in most districts of Scotland. It was recorded in Strathspey from earliest times and frequently noted as a by-name in Glenlivet for over a century as '*Grant alias Bowie*' or '*Buoy alias Grant*'. The American frontiersman, Jim Bowie, is credited with developing the famous Bowie knife.

Cly, Clay, McClay, M'Clay, McLea, McKley, McLeay – (These names, whose precise origins are unknown, were pervasive in the lands held by the Clan Grant in the 17th and 18th centuries. The by-names *Cly alias Grant* and *Grant alias M'Clay* were noted frequently in Glenlivet in the 18th and early 19th centuries. Other similar names were recorded in Cromdale, Duthil, Abernethy, Kirkmichael and Invera'en.

Dow, Doue, Due, Doy, Dowie, McIndowie, McIndui – (Descriptive name from the Gaelic *dubh*, meaning black, but pronounced 'doo') – This is also a name associated with most districts in the highlands from earliest times and usually referred to someone with black hair or a dark complexion.

Glass, McGilleglas, Glas, MacGlassen, MacGlashan, M'Glaseen, MacDunachglashenach, Glassenach, Glashanach – (Descriptive name and patronymic from the Gaelic *glas*, meaning gray, which usually referred to someone with gray hair or an ashen complexion) – The name in its various forms was present in most parishes of Strathspey from earliest times, particularly a sept of the clan centered at Avielochan, in the parish of Duthil.

Gow, McGowan, Gove, MacAgowne, MacGown, MacAgow, MacGowin, MacGowen, MakGowyn, M'Cowane, Smith – (Occupational name from the Gaelic *gobha* or *Mac a' Ghobainn*, which referred to a 'smith' or 'son of the smith'. The local 'smithy' was an important occupation in most districts of Scotland. The Gaelic name was Anglicized to 'Smith' and became one of the most frequently used surnames in Scotland and most Western countries. William Smith was gunsmith to the Laird of Grant in the 17th century and made many of the weapons in the Castle Grant armory.

Grant-Suttie – The hyphenated surname 'Grant-Suttie' has been associated with the Baronets of Balgone in East Lothian since the 18th century. Sir James Grant-Suttie of Balgone, Baronet, is the most recent representative of this family. In the 18th century, Agnes Grant, a daughter of William Grant, Lord Prestongrange, married Lt. Col. Sir James Suttie, 3rd Baronet of Balgone. (Lord Prestongrange was a younger son of Sir Francis Grant of Monymusk, Lord Cullen, and an eminent Lord of Session in his own right.) In the next generation, the 4th Baronet of Balgone, also named James Suttie, inherited the estate of Prestongrange from his aunt, Janet Grant, Dowager Countess of Hyndford. As was the custom when a large estate was inherited, Sir James Suttie added the surname 'Grant' to his own and became Sir James Grant-Suttie of Balgone and Prestongrange, Baronet. Since that time, the baronets of Balgone have been known by the hyphenated surname 'Grant-Suttie'.

Lawson, Lauson, Louson, Lowson, Lason – (Patronymic meaning 'son of Lawrence') – The family of Lawson has a long-standing association with the parish of Cromdale and the Clan Grant. One of the early heroes of the clan was Colin 'Mickle' Lawson, who held *Clash an Dunan*, near Castle Grant, in the 16th century. Capt. Robert Lawson, Belliemore, was an officer in the Strathspey Volunteer Company in 1798.

McAdam, Adam – (Patronymic from *MacAdaim* meaning 'son of Adam') – The name *McAdam alias Grant* was a significant by-name in Glenlivet in the 18th century. Families of McAdams were prominent in the parishes of Cromdale, Abernethy, Kirkmichael, Invera'on, Aberlour and Knockando from at least the 17th century. The name is said to be related to the patronymic *McAge, McAgie*.

McAge, McAgie, McCagie, McKagie, McKeggie, McAgy – (Archaic patronymic from ancient Irish Gaelic, perhaps also meaning 'son of Adam') – The patronymic was used frequently in Strathspey in the 16th century, particularly in Duthil and Cromdale, but appears to have diminished in the 18th century. The American author James Agee was probably a descendant of Scottish immigrants with this name.

McAllister, McAlister, McAlester, McCallister, McAllaster, M'alalestersoun, McAlasdair, Makulister, Makallaster – (Patronymic meaning 'son of Alexander') – This name was associated with the Clan Grant, from earliest times, particularly in the parish of Cromdale. *Donald Grant McAlister VicRobie* was the chieftain of the Grants of Glenlochry, Stratha'en, in the 17th century.

McAllan, Allanach, MacKallin, Macallane – (Patronymic and surname derived from the Old Gaelic *Ailene* meaning rock, or perhaps a name of Norman-French origin) – The name *Allanach* is found in Kirkmichael, Invera'on, Aberlour and Knockando. 'William McAllan in Achnaro' was chieftain of the *Clann Chiaran* Grants in the 16th century. *James Grant McAllan* was chieftain of the Grants of Auchernach, known as the Clan Allan, in the same century.

McAndrew, McAndy, McAndro, Macandra, McGillanders, M'Gillandres, McKandie, NindonachVicandy, Mackandische, M'Candy, Anderson – (Patronymic meaning 'son of Andrew' or 'servant of St. Andrew') – The patronymic was used frequently in most districts, particularly the parishes of Glenurquhart, Cromdale and Duthil. *Iain Beag Macandra in Dalnahaitmach* was a legendary archer in the mid-17th century. The name was Anglicized to Anderson in the 18th century.

McArcher, McKercher, McFerquhar, Farquharson, McErcher, McKerchamore alias Grant – (Patronymics from the Gaelic *MacFhearchair* meaning ‘son of Farquhar’) – The name was prominent in Duthil, Stratha’en and Glenurquhart in the early 16th century. It is possible that some were descendants of the ‘race of the trough’ – Farquharson orphans adopted into the Clan Grant by James Grant, 3rd Laird of Freuchie, in the 16th century.

McClerycht, Clerach, McCleryct, McClerich, McInclerich, MacInclerycht, Clerk (pronounced Clark), Cleric, Clark – (This occupational name is derived from the Gaelic patronymic *Mac-a’Chleirich*, meaning son of the cleric, clerk, notary public or writer) – The name was prevalent in most districts of Scotland and in many cases referred to a clergyman simply because the local priest might have been one of the few literate people in the district. *Adam moir McClerycht, Finlaius McCondil McClerycht, Patricius McConneil McClerycht*, and *Duncan MacInclerycht* were parishioners in Duthil in 1537.

McCoile, McDowell, McCoill, McCuil, McCowle, McDowll, McDowall, McDhoilduy, McDugald – (Patronymic from the Gaelic *MacDhughail* meaning son of Dugall) – This name dates to at least the 16th century in the parishes of Duthil, Abernethy, Kirkmichael and Glenmoriston.

McCollae, McOlly, Collie, McAlea, MOlea, Colly – (These patronymics and surnames, whose precise origins are unknown, were pervasive in the lands held by the Clan Grant in the 17th and 18th centuries. The names might be related to McAulay, which is derived from the old Irish Gaelic patronymic *MacAmhalghaidh*.) – McCollae was prevalent in Invera’en throughout the 17th and 18th centuries. Other variations were recorded in Cromdale, Duthil, Abernethy, Kirkmichael, Invera’en and Knockando.

McConnachie, McDonnachie, McCondochie, M’Conquhy, MacKonachie, Makonnaquhy, MacDunach, McIldonycht, MacKeondachie, M’Conachy voir alias Grant, Grant alias McLanVicDunnachie, Nign Donnachaidh (daughter of Duncan), McCondacht and many more – (Patronymic meaning ‘son of Duncan’ from the Gaelic *Donnchadh, Duncha*) – *John M’Conquhy in Gartinbeg*, also known as *John MakConachie Grant*, was the chieftain of the Grants of Clan Donnachie in the 16th century. He was the ancestor of the present chieftain of Clan Donnachie, Sir Patrick Grant of Dalvey, Baronet.

McCulloch, McCullie, McCully, McKullie, McUllie – (Patronymic derived from the Gaelic *MacCullaich*, ‘son of the boar’, usually pronounced MacCulloh) – In Glenlivet, MacCullie is said to be a diminutive of MacWilliam.

McDonald, Donalach, MacConnal, MacConald, MacCondill, MacKonneill, McOmill, Donald, Donaldson, Donaldsone – (Patronymics from the Gaelic *MacDhomhnuill*, meaning ‘son of Donald’) – The name MacDonald was pervasive in most parishes in Strathspey. The MacDonalds in Strathspey, Glenurquhart and Glenmoriston were not necessarily related to each other, or to the large association known as the Clan Donald.

McFinlay, Finlay, MacKinlay, MacInlay, MacKeondla, MacFinlaroy, M’Findlaw, MacFinlaymor, Finlayson, Finlausone – (From a Gaelic patronymic *MacFhionnlaigh*, meaning ‘son of Finlay,’ usually translated ‘son of the fair hero’) – According to tradition, *McFinlay Mor* in Muckrach of Abernethy was a descendant of the ancient Grant sept known as *Sliochd il Charrach* (the descendants of *Duncan Carrach*). The MacFinlay Roys were said to be the descendants of the “race of the trough” (Farquharson orphans adopted into the Clan Grant by James Grant, 3rd Laird of Freuchie, in the 16th century). The name was noted in most districts of Strathspey and Glenurquhart from earliest times.

McGibbon, MacGibbone, MacGibboun, Gibbonach, McGibbounache, Gibbonsone – (Patronymic meaning ‘son of Gibbon’ or Gilbert) – The earliest holders of the Lordship of Glencarnie in Strathspey were the Earls of Strathearn, some of whom were named Gilbert. One was known as *Gibbon mor*, ‘the great Gilbert’. Sir Duncan le Grant of Freuchie, one of the early chieftains of the Clan Grant in the 15th century, was the grandson of Gilbert of Glencarnie, and inherited the barony of Freuchie from him. A family of Grants named *MacGibbon* held property at Avielochan, in Duthil parish, for a number of generations.

McGillemichael, Makgillemichell, McGilmichael, Gilmichael, MacGillemitchell, Michaelach, Michelsoun, Mitchell, Michal, Michie, Carmichael – (An archaic patronymic meaning ‘son of Michael’ or ‘servant of St. Michael’) – The name was noted in Strathspey and Glenurquhart from at least the 16th century and survived in

various forms throughout the 18th century. Alexander Carmichael was a lieutenant in the Abernethy Volunteer Company in 1799.

McGregor, Gregorach, Grigorach, Grigor, MacGrigor, MacGregour – (Patronymics from the Gaelic *MacGriogair*, meaning ‘son of Gregor’) – This patronymic was prevalent in the country of the Grants from very early times. It is not known if the MacGregors of Clan Grant descended from an early indigenous ancestor named Gregor, or if they were remnants of the Clan Gregor who sought the aid of the Grants when their clan was outlawed in the early 17th century – perhaps both. The name *Gregorach* was used frequently in Cromdale parish. Gen. Sir James McGrigor, Baronet, FRSE, FRS, FRCPE, MWS (1771-1858), the noted military surgeon, was a descendant of the McGrigors of the parish of Cromdale.

McIan, MacIain, MacEan, MacKean, Mackeanroy, MacInroy, MacEanlaroy, MacIandui, M'Eanduy, MacAyn doy, McLanvig, MacInvig, MacIanriach, MacEanebuy, McAne, McYeanbain, Neinwikyn, Johnstone – (Patronymic from the Gaelic *MacIain*, meaning ‘son of Ian or John’) – Since Ian, and later John, were the most frequently used Christian names among the Grants, it is not surprising that *MacIan* was also one of the most common patronymic forms in Strathspey. *Iain Ruadh* (John Roy) was an early chieftain of the clan. Another prominent chieftain in the 16th century was *Iain Mor* of Glenmoriston.

McInnes, McAngus, Innes, de Innes, Makenis, McAngus, Angus, McInnes Veig, M'Innes, M'Innish, McKinnes, Inness – (Patronymic and surname derived from the Gaelic *MacAonghuis*, meaning son of Angus or Aeneas) – The name was noted in Glenurquhart and Duthil in the 16th century, and in Cromdale, Abernethy, Inverallan and Aberlour throughout the 18th century.

McJames, Jamieson, McHamish, M'Hemish, McHamishoig, McChamish, McJamisdoy, McKemish, Jamisone, Jamessone – (Patronymics derived from *Seumas*, ‘son of James’) – Some MacJameses are said to be descendants of the ‘race of the trough’. The name is noted in the parishes of Abernethy, Cromdale, Duthil, Rothiemurchus and Invera'en, but appears to have declined during the latter stages of the 18th century.

McJockie, McKiokie, MacJackie, MacJokie, MacLockie, McYockye, McYock – (Patronymic form meaning ‘son of John, Jock or Jack’) – A family of MacKiokies resided in the parish of Invera'en throughout much of the 17th century. The MacJockies in Tulloch, in the parish of Kincardine, were mostly outlaws who harbored and abetted renegade MacGregors in the early 17th century.

McKennycht, Kynach, Kynoch, Kanich, McGellechoinich, Kennach, vic Kynich, MacKenzie – (Patronymic and surname derived from the Gaelic *MacCoinnich, Mac Gillechoinich*, meaning ‘son of Kenneth, son of the servant of Kenneth’) – The name *McKennycht* was recorded in Duthil in the 16th century. Other variants were noted in Cromdale, Abernethy and Knockando in the 18th century.

McKerron, McKeran, MacKerran, MacKiaran, MacErron, Mackiran, MacGillcheir, Keronach, Kier, Keir, Ciar – (Patronymic said to be derived from *MacGilleheran*, but more likely connected to the Grants of *Clann Chiaran* or *Clankeran*. The Gaelic *ciar* means dark, dusky or gloomy.) – *Clann Chiaran* is an ancient branch of the Clan Grant whose precise origin is unknown. The family held Auchnarrow, about a mile from Castle Grant, in the 16th century, and later moved to Dellachapple in Cromdale. The Grants of Glenbeg were important cadets of *Clann Chiaran*.

McPhail, McFail, McFaill, McPhaile, Makphaill, Paulach, Paul – (Patronymic from the Gaelic *Mac Phail*, meaning son of Paul) – *Johannes McFaill* was a parishioner in Duthil in 1537 and recorded as *Johanne McFail alias Graunt* in 1553. *Gillepatrik McFale* lived in Glenurquhart in 1545. *Duncan McFaill* was a “reader” at Cromdale in 1584. Other variants of the name were noted later in Invera'en, Cromdale, Abernethy and Aberlour.

McPhatrick, MacPhadrig, M'Gillepatrik, McPhadrick, MacPatrick, M'Gillepatrick, MacGilphatrick, M'Gillifadrik, Patriksoun, Patersone, Paterson – (Patronymics from *MacPhadruig*, meaning ‘son of Patrick’ or servant of St. Patrick) – The name was established in Strathspey from earliest times. The family of Tullochgorm was known as *Clann Phadruig*. There is evidence to suggest that *MacGillephatriks* inhabited Strathspey before the Grants arrived. The Grants of Glenmoriston were also called the *Clann 'ic Phadruig*. The name was ancient and prolific in most districts held by the Clan Grant for many generations. *Johanne Grant Paterson* was mentioned in a

charter in the 15th century. The name Paterson was prominent in the parishes of Cromdale and Aberlour throughout the 18th century, and down to the present day.

Macpherson-Grant – The Macpherson-Grants of Ballindalloch descend from the 2nd family of Grant of Ballindalloch and the Macphersons of Invereshie, known as the *Sliochd Gille-Iosa*. The family has held the estate and castle of Ballindalloch since the early 18th century. Sir Ewan George Macpherson-Grant of Ballindalloch (1907-1983) was the last Baronet of Ballindalloch. The present laird of Ballindalloch is Mrs. Clare Macpherson-Grant Russell, Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire.

McRobert, McRobie, Robertson, MacRobbie, MacKrobie, MacKrobert, McRobievoir, Robertsonsone – (Patronymics from *Mac Roibeirt*, meaning ‘son of Robert’) – These names are also of great antiquity in Strathspey. The Grants of Glenloch, in Stratha’*en*, were known as the *MacRobies*. *Donald Grant McAlister VicRobie* was the chieftain of the Grants of Glenloch in the 17th century. The Robertsons of Strathspey were not necessarily related to the Robertsons of Perthshire, known as *Clan Donnachiadh*. The name, in its various forms, has been prolific in the country of the Grants from earliest times.

McSwene, McQueen, MacSween, MacQuene, McQuhyn – (Patronymics from the Gaelic *MacSuibhne*, meaning ‘son of Sween or Suene’) – The name is probably of Scandinavian origin. It was a patronymic used by the Grants of Clan Donnachie at least as early as the 17th century.

McThomas, MacKomas, MacCommy, MacHomias, McHommie, MackHomy, MacOmish, Nichomasvig, Nichomas Oig, Thomson – (A patronymic from the Gaelic *MacTomais*, meaning ‘son of Thomas or Tom’) – The name is noted in a number of Strathspey districts, including Rothiemurchus, Cromdale, Abernethy, Invera’*en* and Aberlour.

McWilliam, Williamson, Willelmi, MacWillie, McWillievoir, McWilliamvig, MacKwilliam, MacKullie, M’Quhilzeame, McWilliambuy, Williamson, Williamsone, Williamsoun – (Patronymic from the Gaelic *MacUilleim*, meaning son of William, frequently in the diminutive form, MacWillie) – According to tradition, the Grants of Blairfindy, in Glenlivet, were founded by a younger son of the Chief, William Grant, in the 16th century. The names *MacWillie*, *MacVillie* and *M’Quhilzeame* were noted in Glenlivet throughout the 17th century. Perhaps some MacWilliams were remnants of the *MeicUilleim*, descendants of the kings of the Scots who instigated raids in the north in the 12th and 13th centuries. Variations of the name are on record in most Strathspey districts.

Miller, Millar, Millart, Millwart, Milne, Miln, Milnort – (Occupational name for an employee at a mill or *miln*) – This name can be found in almost every district in Scotland. There were many in Strathspey.

More, Mor, Mohr, Moir, Muir, Vor – (Descriptive name derived from the Gaelic *mor*, meaning great, big or large) – This name was frequently used in conjunction with a patronymic. A large portrait by Richard Waitt of *Alister Mohr* Grant, the Laird’s Champion (1714), adorned the main staircase at Castle Grant for several centuries. The progenitor of the Grants of Glenmoriston was known as *Iain Mor* in the 16th century.

Mugach, Muggach, Muggoch, Maggach, Margach, Margack – (Descriptive name derived from the Gaelic *mugach*, meaning ‘surlly’) – The name was noted in Invera’*en* parish throughout the 17th century and later in Cromdale, Duthil, Aberlour and Knockando.

Nairn, Nairne, Narin, Narne – (Geographical name of great antiquity almost certainly derived from the burgh of the name near Inverness) – The family of Nairn held the *domino de Cromdale* in 1445, although they were not Grants. Later families of the name lived almost exclusively in the parish of Cromdale for many generations, and in Abernethy toward the end of the 18th century.

Nicholson, Nicolson, McNicol, Nicol, Niccelsone – (Patronymic derived from the Gaelic *MacNeacail*, meaning ‘son of Nicholas or Nicol’ or servant of St. Nicholas) – The name was recorded in Invera’*en* in the 17th century and later in Cromdale, Kirkmichael and Aberlour. A stonemason named *John Niccelsone* built the well-known packhorse bridge over the River Dulnain in Carrbridge in 1717.

Prontach – (A name whose precise origin is unknown – perhaps derived from the Gaelic verb *pronn* ‘to pound or maul’, or the noun meaning ‘someone who shouts loudly and offensively’) – The name was used as an *alias* by Grants in Sutherland. It was recorded in Golspie and Dornoch, in the 18th century, and documented by Miss Margaret Grant in ‘The Grants in Sutherland’, published in the *Northern Times*, date unknown.

Riach, Reoch, Reach, Rioch, MacIanriach, McInriach, Macjanriochis, MacGilliriach – (Descriptive name derived from the Gaelic *riabhach*, meaning brindled or grizzled, which implies variation of color, perhaps hair streaked with gray – or perhaps even a person with freckles) – *Riach* was used as a descriptive name or in patronymic form in Strathspey from earliest recorded times. Families named *Riach* were in most districts of the country of the Grants for many generations, down to the present day. *Am Fear Reabhaich* (the singed one) was a Gaelic euphemism for ‘the Devil’.

Roy, MacRoy, MacIanroy, MacInroy, MacEanroy, MacKeanroy, Gilroy, MacGilroy, Makgilroy, MacIlroy, M’Gillecrooy – (Descriptive name derived from the Gaelic *ruadh*, meaning red, usually used to describe a person with rusty-red hair.) The name was used in most Strathspey districts from earliest times. Iain, ‘*am Bard Ruadh*’, was an early chieftain of the Clan Grant in the 15th century. John Roy Grant was laird of Carron in the 16th century. Another John Roy Grant was laird of Ballindalloch in the 17th century. The infamous 17th century outlaw, *Gilderoy*, has mistakenly been called a Grant; he was in fact a MacGregor.

Stewart, Stuart, Steuart – (The name is derived from the occupation of steward, a person who managed or provided for the welfare of a household.) – Robert II was the son of Robert the Bruce and the first Stewart King of Scotland in the 14th century. Walter Stewart, son of the Earl of Buchan, was the baron of Kincardine, in Strathspey, from at least the 15th century. *Johannem Stewart de Kincardin* witnessed the return of John Grant of Mulben as heir to James Grant of Freuchie in the lands of Glencarnie and Ballindalloch in 1553. The name was recorded in most Strathspey parishes for many generations, particularly Cromdale, Abernethy, Invera’en, Stratha’en and Glenlivet. At least ten Stuarts from the country of the Grants served in Sir James Grant’s 1st Strathspey Fencible Regiment in the last decade of the 18th century.

Taylor, Tailyer, Tailzeor, McIntayler, Tailzeoroig, MacIntayeor, Nicintailzeour – (Occupational name for ‘tailor’ noted in most districts in Scotland) – *Tailzeor alias Grant* was a by-name frequently used in Glenlivet in the 18th century. The name was recorded in the parishes of Duthil, Cromdale, Aberlour and Knockando.

Turner, MacInturner, NeinTourney – (Occupational name for someone skilled in the use of a lathe or pottery wheel, from the Gaelic *Mac an Tuairmeir*) – The name was recorded in many districts in Scotland. *Turner alias Grant* was noted in records in both Glenlivet and Strathspey. There were others of the name in Glenurquhart, Invera’on, Duthil and Abernethy.

Watt, Watson, Watsonne – (Diminutive form of Walter. The patronymic form means ‘son of Walter’) – *Mr. Watstone* was the ‘parson of Duthil’ in 1553. The name was noted throughout the country of the Grants in the parishes of Duthil, Cromdale, Abernethy, Invera’en, Aberlour and Knockando.

Septs of the Clan Authorized by Chiefs of the Clan Grant

More of Drumcork – The John More Association is an extended family descended from John and Betty Taylor More, who immigrated to America in 1772 from Drumchork, a farm on the Grant estate of Rothiemurchus. The descendants of this family were welcomed into the Clan Grant by the Rt. Hon. 5th Lord Strathspey, Sir Donald Patrick Trevor Grant of Grant, Baronet, Chief of the Clan Grant, in 1979.

Allan of Rhynagairn – This family descends from George Allan, the first tenant to hold the farm of Rhynagairn, near Birnie, in the 19th century. Birnie is a village south of Elgin, in Morayshire. Rhynagairn was owned in the 19th century by the Rt. Hon. Earl of Seafield, Sir John Charles Ogilvie-Grant, Bart., KT, Chief of the Clan Grant. A later generation of the Allans moved to America and lived in Nebraska. Another descendant, Rand Allan, a past-

president of the Clan Grant Society, lives in Southern California. The family was officially recognized as a sept of the Clan Grant by the Rt. Hon. 6th Lord Strathspey, Sir James Patrick Trevor Grant of Grant, Baronet.

Siol Lewis – The American family known as *Siol Lewis* is descended from Ludovick Grant, a son of the Laird of Creichie, in the parish of Fyvie, Aberdeenshire. Ludovick was born in 1688 and supported the Jacobite cause at the battle of Preston in 1715. He was captured by government troops and eventually transported to Charleston, South Carolina, as an indentured servant. Ludovick served a seven-year indenture and later traveled to the Overhill Towns of the Cherokee Nation, where he earned a reputation as an honest trader among the merchants, as well as a trustworthy informant to South Carolina officials and Indian Agents. About 1725, he married *Eughioote*, a Cherokee woman, and had a daughter, Mary. Today, the many hundreds of descendants of Ludovick Grant are known as *Siol Lewis*. *Siol Lewis* was recognized as a sept of Clan Grant by our Chief, the Rt. Hon. 6th Lord Strathspey, Sir James Patrick Trevor Grant of Grant, Baronet. Ms. Patsy Edgar is the Steward of *Siol Lewis*.

Siol Cudbright – *Siol Cudbright* is an extended family of Canadians and Americans descended from Cuthbert Grant, a trader and partner in the North West Company in Quebec, Canada, in the 18th century. Cuthbert was a son of David and Margaret Grant of Easter Lethendry, in the parish of Cromdale, Strathspey. *Siol Cudbright* was recognized as a sept of Clan Grant by the Rt. Hon. 6th Lord Strathspey, Sir James Patrick Trevor Grant of Grant, Baronet, Chief of the Clan Grant.

The Grants of *Trois Rivières, Quebec* – The Grants of *Trois Rivières* descend from William Grant, a Scottish fur trader who came to Canada in the mid-18th century. William Grant was the son of John Grant and Jean Forbes, who lived at Inverlochry, in the parish of Kirkmichael, in Stratha'en. The Grants of *Trois Rivières* were recognized by the Chief of the Clan Grant, the Rt. Hon. 6th Lord Strathspey, Sir James Patrick Trevor Grant of Grant, Baronet, in 2012.



[This article is condensed from a much longer research report entitled *Historical Notes on Some Surnames and Patronymics Associated with the Clan Grant*. Unlike the editors of *Scots Kith & Kin*, the author will be more than happy to correspond with anyone regarding this article.]

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