

## Castles and Manor Houses of the Clan Grant



**Castle Grant, Grantown on Spey, Morayshire**, is the former principal residence of the Chiefs of Grant. A castle or manor house, part of the Barony of Freuchie, existed on the site as early as 1489. 'Freuchie' is derived from the Gaelic *fraoch* meaning heather. The barony was held in the mid-15<sup>th</sup> century by *Sir Duncan le Graunte of Fruychy*, an early chieftain of the Clan Grant. Succeeding Lairds of Freuchie referred to the manor as *Balachastell* (the town of the castle).

In 1694, Ludovick Grant, 8<sup>th</sup> Laird of Freuchie, obtained a Crown Charter combining all his lands into the Regality of Grant. From that time forth, he became known as Ludovick Grant of Grant and his residence was called Castle Grant.

Castle Grant was used as an occasional residence by the Earls of Seafield throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Unfortunately, the castle had to be abandoned in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century due to dry-rot infestation. The building eventually fell into disrepair and ruin. During the last two decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the building was restored by several entrepreneurial owners not related to the Chiefs or the Clan Grant.



**View of Castle Grant from the North**





**Cullen House, Cullen, Morayshire**, formerly Banffshire, was the former principal residence of the Earls of Findlater and Seafield. The Earls of Seafield were Chiefs of the Clan Grant from 1811 until 1915, when the 11<sup>th</sup> Earl, Sir James Ogilvie-Grant, Baronet, was killed in Belgium during World War I. After his death, the Earldom of Seafield and the vast Grant and Ogilvie estates were inherited by his daughter, Nina Caroline, Countess of Seafield.

The Earl's younger brother, the Hon. Trevor Ogilvie-Grant, became 4<sup>th</sup> Lord Strathspey, Baronet of Nova Scotia, and Chief of the Clan Grant. He was the grandfather of our present Chief, the 6<sup>th</sup> Lord Strathspey, Sir James Patrick Trevor Grant of Grant, Baronet.

In the last quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Cullen House was apportioned into luxury apartments and sold to private investors. The present Earl of Seafield, Ian Derek Francis Ogilvie-Grant, and Lady Seafield reside at Old Cullen, a comfortable villa nearby.



**Cullen House**





**Grant Lodge, Elgin, Morayshire**, was the residence of Sir Lewis Alexander Grant-Ogilvy, 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Seafield (1767-1840), and three of his sisters, Anne, Margaret and Penuel Grant. During the heated election campaign of 1820, some of the local townspeople who favored a rival faction essentially blockaded the mansion in an attempt to intimidate the Chief and his sisters.

Lady Anne managed to send a message by a trusted servant to Captain John Grant of Congash, the family's factor in Strathspey, informing him that his Chief was being harassed and mistreated. This prompted the famous Raid on Elgin in which six hundred men of the Clan Grant were raised by the fiery cross, mustered at various locations in Strathspey, and marched all night to Elgin. When the clan arrived early in the morning, the townspeople fled to their homes and the local leaders assured the clan that their Chief and his sisters would not be bothered further. Although the raid ended peacefully, it was the last time a clan was raised for battle in the annals of the Scottish highlands.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the building housed the Elgin Public Library until it was badly damaged by fire in 2003. A movement of civic-minded local residents is currently attempting to have the building restored.



**Balmacaan, Lewiston, Glenurquhart**, was part of the original Barony of Urquhart bestowed in 1509 by King James IV to John Grant, 2<sup>nd</sup> Laird of Freuchie. Portions of Balmacaan House dated to the 16<sup>th</sup> century, but the manor was added to at intervals over the course of several hundred years. In more modern times, Balmacaan House appeared as in the old photograph above. Balmacaan was near Lewiston, a planned community founded in 1803 by Sir James Grant of Grant, Baronet, and named for his eldest son, Lewis Alexander.

Balmacaan House was used occasionally by the Chiefs of Grant and Earls of Seafield, but in the late Victorian era and the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it was leased to sporting tenants – some of whom were Americans. In 1945, the Grant properties in Glenurquhart, including the manor house of Balmacaan, were subdivided into 192 lots and sold by Seafield Estates. Regrettably, Balmacaan fell into a horrific state of disrepair and had to be demolished in 1972.





**Kinveachy Lodge, near Boat of Garten, Strathspey,** is a Victorian era sporting lodge built by John Charles, 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Seafield. The lodge is situated on a secluded estate with magnificent views of the Cairngorm Mountains.

The lands of Kinveachy are of great antiquity. The estate was part of the Lordship of Glencarnie, the first barony held by the chieftains of the Clan Grant in Strathspey in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

One of Kinveachy's most interesting features is the 'lodge room' which is paneled in rustic pine timbers and carpeted in the Grant hunting tartan. The large dining room is more elegantly furnished with an Edwardian banquet table, Chippendale-styled chairs, and life-sized portraits of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Earls of Seafield.

Kinveachy Lodge was the home base for the American members of the Clan Grant Society who attended the International Gathering of the Clans in June 1981.



**Pine-paneled Lodge Room at Kinveachy**



**The Dining Room at Kinveachy Lodge**



**Tulchan Lodge, near Advie, Strathspey** – The original manor built in 1789 was a shooting and fishing lodge known as Dalchroy House. The lodge was used primarily by the 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Seafiel and Sir Phillip Sassoon, a friend and financial adviser of King Edward VII. The present lodge was built in 1906 by George McCorquodale, chairman of a large printing and publishing group, following the loss of the older house to fire. After McCorquodale's death in 1938, the rights to the property reverted to Seafiel Estates and it was renamed *Tulchan*. Guests at the lodge have included King Edward VII, King George V and King George VI, as well as Theodore Roosevelt, banker J.P. Morgan, William Vanderbilt, the Grand Duke of Luxembourg and King Leopold of Belgium. After the death of the Countess of Seafiel in 1969, the estate was sold to private investors.





**Revack Lodge**

The sporting estates of **Revack Lodge** (above) and **Dorback** (below) in Abernethy Parish were built during the Victorian era as shooting lodges by John Charles, 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Seafield. Upon the death of Nina Caroline, 12<sup>th</sup> Countess of Seafield in 1969, both estates were bequeathed to her only daughter, Lady Pauline Ogilvie-Grant.

Lady Pauline was an avid sportswoman, a competent golfer, and a prolific grower of orchids. She was very popular in the Grantown-Nethy Bridge communities. Due to declining health, she sold both estates to private investors in 1999.



**Abandoned Lodge at Dorback Estate**





**Old Cullen, Cullen, Morayshire**, formerly Banffshire, is a handsome neo-classically styled villa situated near Cullen House and Cullen Auld Kirk. When Cullen House was subdivided into luxury apartments during the last quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Old Cullen was renovated and beautifully appointed as the residence of the Right Honorable 13<sup>th</sup> Earl of Seafield, Ian Derek Francis Ogilvie-Grant, and Lady Seafield.



**Ruins of Dunphail Castle, Morayshire** – Dunphail is a property of great antiquity. It was held by the Comyns (Cummings) and the Dunbar Earls of Moray, but at least two Grant chieftains were peripherally connected to Dunphail as early as the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The castle ruin (above) was probably from that period.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Dunphail was held by Colonel Lewis Grant, a younger son of the Chief of Grant. When he died in Jamaica in 1742, ownership of estate reverted to his nephew, Sir Ludovick Grant, Chief of the Clan Grant.

The next Grant to hold the estate was Lt. General Francis Grant, a brother of the Chief of Grant. He joined the Black Watch as an ensign in 1739 and eventually earned the rank of lieutenant colonel in 1755. Colonel Grant commanded the Black Watch regiment at the famed Battle of Fort Ticonderoga in New York in 1758. He was later promoted to lieutenant general and retired to Dunphail. He served as Member of Parliament for the county of Elgin during the years 1768-1774 and died in 1781.





**Inverallan House, near Grantown-on-Spey**, was constructed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century in a private park near the River Spey. It was the former residence of the Earl of Seafield's factor in Strathspey. Today, it is leased as a luxury accommodation for sporting clients and as a holiday retreat.



**The Doune, Rothiemurchus, Strathspey**, is the ancestral home of the Lairds of Rothiemurchus. The manor house stands near the original hill fort or *dun*, for which the house is named. Portions of the mansion were built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, but it has been frequently enlarged and renovated since that time – most recently during the last two decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century by the present laird, the Right Honorable John Peter 'Johnnie' Grant of Rothiemurchus, 13<sup>th</sup> Earl of Dysart, and Philippa Lady Dysart. The Grants of Rothiemurchus are descended from Patrick Grant of Muckrach, a younger son of John Grant of Freuchie, and Lady Margaret Stewart in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Lairds of Rothiemurchus have distinguished themselves as military officers, members of Parliament, advocates and judges, colonial administrators, and most importantly as effective guardians and conservators of their beautiful estate.







**Drumintoul Lodge, Rothiemurchus**, was built in 1877. It is situated in the ancient pine forests of Rothiemurchus in the foothills of the Cairngorm Mountains. During World War II, the lodge was used by Norwegian commandos as a training base. The King of Norway reportedly stayed at Drumintoul during his visits to the troops.

The lodge was also the home of the former Laird of Rothiemurchus, Lt. Col. J.P. “Iain” Grant of Rothiemurchus until his death in 1987. Today, Drumintoul is available for corporate events, executive meetings, weddings, and fine dining.



**Muckrach Castle, near Dulnain Bridge, Strathspey** – In 1583, John Grant, 4<sup>th</sup> Laird of Freuchie, bestowed the lands of Muckrach on his second son, Patrick. A castle was constructed there, but shortly thereafter, Patrick Grant moved up the Spey to Rothiemurchus and became the progenitor of the Grants of Rothiemurchus. Patrick Grant was later knighted by James VI and lived at Rothiemurchus until 1626. Muckrach eventually fell into ruin and remained so for centuries before being restored in the 1980’s. A lintel stone removed from the original castle with the initials of Patrick Grant, his wife Jean Gordon, the date 1598, and the family’s motto ‘*In God is all my trest*’ was taken to Rothiemurchus. In the 1990’s the stone was returned to its rightful place by the present Laird of Rothiemurchus.





**Inverdrue House, Rothiemurchus**, was the home of Katherine Grant, 12<sup>th</sup> Countess of Dysart (1918-2011). She was the mother of the present laird of Rothiemurchus, John Peter “Johnnie” Grant, 13<sup>th</sup> Earl of Dysart. Lady Dysart was a staunch conservationist and well-respected by her friends and tenants at Rothiemurchus.



**Tullochgorum, near Grantown on Spey**, was held by the ancient branch of the Clan Grant known as the *Clann Phadruig*. The precise origin of the Grants of Tullochgorum is unknown, but they held the estate from the early 16<sup>th</sup> century until it was redeemed by Sir James Grant of Grant in 1777. Many of Grants of Tullochgorum distinguished themselves as military officers and served in the far reaches of the British Empire. Field Marshal Sir Patrick Grant GCB, GCMG, was a descendant of this family. As a very young man, he participated in the famous march on Elgin in 1820. His granddaughter was the noted historian, author and antiquarian, Isabel Frances Grant, MBE, LLD.





**Abandoned Farmhouse at Lurg, parish of Abernethy** – The Grants of Lurg descended directly from Robert Grant, a son of Duncan Grant, younger of Freuchie, in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. Another descendant, also named Robert, served in the Grant Independent Company raised by Col. William Grant of Ballindalloch in 1725. This Robert Grant of Lurg was the subject of a now-famous portrait by an unknown artist *circa* 1769. In the original portrait from the collection at Castle Grant, Robert Grant was wearing a tartan similar to the sett of the Black Watch. Consequently, the Black Watch tartan is worn today as the Grant hunting tartan.



**Birchfield, Abernethy Parish**, is an 18<sup>th</sup> century granite farmhouse situated between the River Nethy and the Duack Burn. The house was constructed after 1772. The estate and farm has a long association with the Clan Grant. It was held by Captain John Grant of Birchfield in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, and later by his wife who was a descendant of the Grants of Clan Allan. Captain Grant led the Western Company of the Abernethy Volunteers in 1798 and died at Birchfield in 1848.





**Coulnakyle, parish of Abernethy**, was a residence of Duncan Grant of Freuchie as early as the 16<sup>th</sup> century. In the next century, Coulnakyle was used as a temporary military headquarters by the Marquis of Montrose and Generals Mackay and Livingstone. The present house of Coulnakyle was designed by John Adam and constructed *circa* 1765. It was later used as a summer residence by the Chiefs of Grant and as a hunting lodge by various sporting and holiday tenants.



**Ballifurth Farm, parish of Abernethy**, was the site of the ferry across the Spey, where tenants and clansmen of the Chiefs of Grant crossed the river to convene at their trysting place of Ballintomb. George Grant of Balliefurth, who lived there in 1817, was said to be a descendant of the Grants of *Clann Chiaran*.





**Auchernach, parish of Abernethy** – The original estate and house was held by the chieftains of Clan Allan in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. James Grant McAllan of Auchernach was one of the principal members of the Clan Grant and curator to the Laird of Freuchie. One of his descendants, also named James Grant, was the Laird of Freuchie's Chamberlain in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In an unusual proceeding before the Court of the Lord Lyon in Edinburgh in 1777, the chiefship of the Clan Allan was transferred from the family of Auchernach to Dr. Gregory Grant, a representative of a junior branch of the family, the Grants of Burnside.



**Delnabo, Strathavon** – It is said that there has been a house on this site since medieval times. The present Delnabo House is situated near the confluence of Ailnack Water and the River Avon (pronounced A'en). According to tradition, Delnabo was held in the 17<sup>th</sup> century by a branch of the Grants of Clan Allan. Delnabo Lodge is an 18<sup>th</sup> century house with 19<sup>th</sup> century additions in the Scottish baronial style. The house remained in the hands of the Grants until 1891, when it passed to Colonel John George Smith, proprietor of the Glenlivet Distillery.





**Ruins of Inverlaidnan House, near Carrbridge, Duthil Parish** – Inverlaidnan was held in the 17<sup>th</sup> century by Sueton Grant, son of Duncan M'Condaht Grant of Gartinbeg, chieftain of the Grants of Clan Donnachie. It has been said that Prince Charles Edward Stuart spent the night at Inverlaidnan before the battle of Culloden Moor in April 1746. After selling Inverlaidnan to the Laird of Grant, Patrick Grant, another descendant of the Clan Donnachie, purchased the estate of Dalvey from his brother in law. He later became Sir Patrick Grant, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baronet of Dalvey, in 1752.



**Congash, near Grantown on Spey**, was the residence of Capt. John Grant (1774-1867), the Earl of Seafield's factor in Strathspey during much of the Victorian era. Capt. Grant was one of the leaders of the Clan Grant during famous March on Elgin during the heated election campaign of 1820. His portrait, which hangs today in the Grantown Museum, was painted in 1847 by the Scottish artist, Colvin Smith.





**Ballindalloch Castle, parish of Inveravon, Morayshire, formerly Banffshire,** dates to the early 16<sup>th</sup> century. The exact year of its origin is not known, but the date '1546' is inscribed on a lintel stone. The castle was originally held by Patrick Grant, said to be the brother, perhaps a twin, of the Laird of Freuchie. After a few generations, the family became so financially encumbered that the estate was turned over to creditors. Ballindalloch was purchased by Colonel William Grant, a younger son of the family of Rothiemurchus.

His son, General James Grant of Ballindalloch, was a noted British Army officer who served many years in America. He fought in the French and Indian War, served as Governor of East Florida, and fought in the American War of Independence. Later in life, he served in the British Parliament. For his life-time of service to the Crown, General Grant was given full-sized portraits of King George III and his wife, Charlotte, which still adorn the walls of the great hall at Ballindalloch.

The present owner of Ballindalloch is Mrs. Clare Nancy Macpherson-Grant Russell of Ballindalloch, Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire. She and her husband, Mr. Oliver Russell, preside over a large enterprise which includes one of the oldest herds of black Aberdeen-Angus cattle in the world, a distillery, a golf course, self-catering and sporting properties, and of course, one of the most beautiful castles in Scotland.



**The Dining Room at Ballindalloch**





**The Arms of Macpherson-Grant of Ballindalloch  
Inscribed on a Plaque over the Door:**

*“Touch Not the Cat Bot a Glove”  
“Y<sup>e</sup> Lord Shall Preserve Thy Going Out & Thy Coming In”  
“Erected 1546 • Restored 1850”*



**Pitchroy Lodge, Ballindalloch**, is a Victorian era self-catering property for sporting clients. In the early 1980's it was the home of Sir Ewan Macpherson-Grant of Ballindalloch, Baronet, and Lady Macpherson-Grant, after they turned Ballindalloch over to their daughter, Mrs. Clare Macpherson-Grant Russell.







**The ruin of Kilmaichlie House, Strathavon** – The *barony of Kilmylie* was one of the early baronies held by the Bishop of Moray. It was later possessed by the Stewarts in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, and still later sold to the Gordons by a grandson of Alexander Stewart, Earl of Buchan, the Wolf of Badenoch. The present house of Kilmaichlie dates to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The Laird of Grant purchased the estate in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and it later became part of Ballindalloch Estates. A portrait of Colonel Alexander Grant of Kilmaichlie was in the large collection of family portraits formerly held at Castle Grant.



**Dunlugas, parish of Alvah, Aberdeenshire** – The Grants of Dunlugas descended from the original Grants of Ballindalloch, through their cadet, the Grants of Dalvey. (This early family of Dalvey was not related to the present Sir Patrick Grant of Dalvey, Baronet.)

Robert Grant of Dalvey received a charter to the estate of Dunlugas, in Aberdeenshire, in 1687. His next three successors were all named Patrick, the last of which died unmarried in 1759. Dunlugas was subsequently inherited by his nephew, John Grant of Dunlugas, in 1766. John Grant was a Major General in the service of the King of Prussia and frequently returned to Britain to represent the state of Prussia at the court of the King in London. Later in life, he served as Commissioner of Supply for Elgin and Forres and held Tillydown in the parish of Marnoch, Aberdeenshire, until 1777.





**Easter Elchies, near Craigellachie** – The Grants of Easter Elchies descended from Duncan Grant, a younger son of James Grant, 3<sup>rd</sup> Laird of Freuchie. Patrick Grant, 1st Lord Elchies, was an eminent Senator of the College of Justice in 1732. His son, John Grant of Easter Elchies, was Baron of the Exchequer of Scotland in 1755. Today, Easter Elchies is the corporate headquarters of the MacAllan Distillery.



**Wester Elchies House, Morayshire**, formerly Elginshire, was owned during the Victorian era by James William Grant, Esq., JP, DL, of Elchies. The original structure was built as a fortified house and held by other branches of the Clan Grant, but Wester Elchies was greatly altered in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The gardens were decorated with stones taken from an Indian temple. Mr. Grant built a large observatory to accommodate the huge telescope he purchased from London's Great Exhibition of 1851. The entrance to the observatory was inscribed "*And He made the stars also.*" The estate eventually passed to the Earls of Seafield. The house fell into a state of disrepair and had to be demolished in 1968.

The nearby town of Charlestown of Aberlour is the home of Walkers Shortbread Ltd. and the Aberlour-Glenlivet distillery.





**Knockando House, parish of Knockando** – The Grants of Knockando descended directly from the Grants of Freuchie, through the important cadet families of Kinchirdie and Gellovie. Ludovick Grant of Knockando obtained a charter for the estate in 1713 and built the manor house in 1732. His descendants held Knockando until it was purchased by Robert Grant of Elchies *circa* 1783.



**Carron House, parish of Knockando** – The original Grants of Carron were cadets of the Grants of Glenmoriston. John Roy Grant of Carron obtained a charter from the Bishop of Moray for the lands of Carron in 1541. The most notorious descendant of the family was James Grant, known as *Seumas an Tuim* (James of the Hill), an outlaw who terrorized the highlands in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Captain James Grant of Carron was perhaps best known as the husband of Elizabeth Grant, authoress of *Roy's Wife of Aldivalloch*, called by Robert Burns one of the finest songs in the annals of Scotland. The present House of Carron was built during the decade of the 1830's.





**House of Monymusk, Aberdeenshire** – The estate of Monymusk was purchased by Sir Francis Grant from Sir William Forbes of Monymusk in 1713. The castle has been the home of the Grant family, Baronets of Monymusk, since that time. Sir Francis Grant of Monymusk, Baronet, studied law at the University of Aberdeen and at Leyden in the Netherlands. He was admitted to the bar in 1691, created Baronet by Queen Anne in 1705, and elevated to the Court of Session as Lord Cullen in 1709. Lord Cullen was succeeded by his son, Sir Archibald Grant, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baronet of Monymusk, whose second son, William Grant, became Lord Prestongrange, an eminent Lord of Session,.

The present Laird of Monymusk is Sir Archibald Grant, 13<sup>th</sup> Baronet. His wife, Fiona Lady Grant, is the current Chairman of the British Clan Grant Society.



**The Great Hall** at Monymusk House features a massive fireplace with armorial bearings of the former owners, as well as those of the Grants of Monymusk. The great hall can be used as a large gathering room or dining room. It is furnished with tables and chairs upholstered in the Grant hunting tartan.





**Pitfichie Castle, near Monymusk, Aberdeenshire**, was held briefly by William Grant, a younger son of Sir Archibald Grant, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baronet of Monymusk. In 1751, William resigned the lands of Pitfichie in favor of his brother, Sir Archibald Grant, 3<sup>rd</sup> Baronet.



**Tillyfour, Aberdeenshire** – In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Tillyfour was the residence of Robert Grant of Tillyfour, father of Sir Archibald Grant, 7<sup>th</sup> Baronet of Monymusk. The farm was later held by William M'Combie, who was noted for his herd of Aberdeen Angus cattle.





**Arndilly House, near Craigellachie, Morayshire** – The Grants of Arndilly descended in the 17<sup>th</sup> century from William Grant, a younger son of the family of Monymusk. In 1779, the estate of Arndilly was inherited by Mary Eleanora, daughter of Col. Alexander Grant, 4<sup>th</sup> Laird of Arndilly. Mary Eleanora Grant married David M'Dowall, a scion of a prominent Renfrewshire family, who added the name Grant to his own. Their eldest son, William M'Dowall Grant of Arndilly, died in 1849, and the estate passed to his brother, Hay M'Dowall Grant, 7<sup>th</sup> of Arndilly (1806-1870). The last of the family to hold Arndilly was Marjory Alexandrina McDowall Grant, eldest daughter of William M'Dowall Grant.



**Prestongrange House, East Lothian**, was the estate of William Grant, Lord Prestongrange (1701-1764), an eminent Lord of Session. He was the son of Sir Francis Grant of Monymusk, Lord Cullen. Lord Prestongrange's daughter, Agnes Grant, married Sir George Suttie, 3<sup>rd</sup> Baronet of Balgone, MP. Their son succeeded to the baronetcy of Balgone, and eventually inherited the estate of Prestongrange from Suttie's aunt, Janet Grant, Countess of Hyndford. He became Sir James Grant-Suttie, 4<sup>th</sup> Baronet of Balgone (1759-1836). The manor house of Balgone is shown below.

Today, Prestongrange is the home of the Royal Musselburgh Golf Club. The club was founded in 1774, although its members originally played at several other venues east of Edinburgh. In 1876, His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught became the Honorary President of the club, a position he held until his death in 1941 – hence, the 'Royal' in the club's name. The club signed a long-term lease to the former Grant estate of Prestongrange in 1924, and moved there shortly thereafter. Royal Musselburgh is one of the oldest golf clubs in the world.



**Coat of Arms of Sir James Grant-Suttie,  
4<sup>th</sup> Baronet of Balgone & Prestongrange (1830)**



**Balgone House, near North Berwick, East Lothian, was the ancestral home of the Grant-Suttie family,  
Baronets of Balgone and Prestongrange.**





**Beldorney Castle, near Huntly, Aberdeenshire,** was held by Ogilvies in the 15<sup>th</sup> century and later by the Gordons. The Right Honorable Sir William Grant, MP, Master of the Rolls (1801-1817) purchased the estate from Thomas Buchan of Auchmacoy in the late 1790's. After the Grant male line failed in 1919, the estate was sold to Sir Thomas Birkett.



**Hillersdon House, Cullompton, Devon, England,** was owned by William Charles Grant, Esq., JP (1817-1877), a nephew of Sir William Grant of Beldorney, MP, Master of the Rolls. The family descended from James Grant of Elchies, Collector of Customs for the Isle of Man. Hillersdon was designed in the Georgian style by Samuel Beazley and built *circa* 1850. In the 1890's, Hillersdon was owned by the Arctic explorer and photographer, William John Alexander "Billy" Grant (1850-1935), who was known for his lavish lifestyle and frequent parties. He was a Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society and his Arctic photographs were exhibited by the society on a number of occasions.

Hillersdon featured a museum room for Grant's collections, reception rooms, an enormous banquet hall and twelve bedrooms. The Grant family coat of arms was emblazoned upon stone, plaster work and stained glass windows throughout the house. Upon the death of Billy Grant, the estate was inherited by Sir Mark Beresford Russell Sturgis, KCB, who took the additional name of Grant. Grant-Sturgis died in 1949. Hillersdon was owned by other members of the family until it was sold in 1982.







**Druminnor Castle, Rhynie, Aberdeenshire** – In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, Capt. John Forbes of Newe sold the estate of Druminnor to John Grant of Rothmaise, whose son Robert married Newe’s daughter Henrietta. In 1840, Robert Grant left Druminnor to his daughter Elizabeth Foulerton, and in 1843, extensive alterations were made to the older parts of the building. The manor was in bad repair in the 1960’s, when it was purchased by the Hon. Peggy Forbes-Sempill, daughter of the 18<sup>th</sup> Lord Sempill, a descendant of the 1<sup>st</sup> Lord Forbes. Miss Forbes-Sempill had many of the Victorian embellishments demolished and restored the castle to its original state.



**Inverquhar Castle, Kinnordy, near Kirriemuir, Angus**, was a 15<sup>th</sup> century Ogilvy stronghold. Although the tower house has no particular association with the Clan Grant, the ruined castle was purchased in 1970 by Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Colquhoun Grant, a retired attorney who practiced law in West Africa, and his multi-talented wife, Alisoun. Mr. Grant is a descendant of the Grants of Clan Allan. The Grants restored and refurbished the castle during the years 1970-1973 and lived there for almost forty years.

The *yett*, a massive iron grillwork which protects the front door of the castle, was authorized by King James II in 1444. The property was held by the Ogilvies from the 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. As is the case with many old castles, it fell into a sad state of ruin – until it was lovingly restored by “Sandy” and Alisoun Grant.





**Urquhart Castle, Glenurquhart** – In 1509, the Barony of Urquhart was bestowed upon John Grant, 2<sup>nd</sup> Laird of Freuchie, by King James IV of Scotland. In 1911, upon the death of the Dowager Countess of Seafieid, and in accordance with her wishes, the castle and the surrounding promontory passed into the hands of the government.

The MacDonalds captured the castle briefly in 1545 and it was taken over temporarily by Covenanters in 1644, but with those brief exceptions, the Lairds of Freuchie, the Chiefs of Grant, and the Earls of Seafieid held Urquhart Castle for over four centuries.

To keep the fortress from falling into the hands of the Jacobites, government troops destroyed the castle in 1692. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, it was in an advanced state of ruin.

In 1912, the castle was turned over by Seafieid Estates to His Majesty's Works and Public Buildings. Today, the castle ruin is maintained by Historic Scotland, an agency of the government. It is one of Scotland's leading tourist attractions.



**Urquhart Castle, Glenurquhart, viewed from the Inverness-Fort William highway, with Loch Ness in the background**





**Invermoriston House, Glenmoriston**, was the former residence of the chieftains of the Grants of Glenmoriston. The original castle, said to have been on the same site, was burned to the ground by government troops during the Jacobite uprising of 1715 and the lands were forfeited to the Crown. The lands were eventually bought back and another castle was built, but it was also destroyed in the aftermath of the battle of Culloden Moor in 1746. Fortunately, some of the government troops who happened to be related to the Grants of Glenmoriston took pity on the elderly Lady of Glenmoriston and much of the furniture and portraiture was removed from the house before it was put to the torch.

The ruins were restored in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but that mansion house (above) also burned in 1930 – this time by accident. The castle was never rebuilt, but a smaller, comfortable modern house was built on the site. It was the residence of James Ewen Grant of Glenmoristone and Ian F.H. Grant of Glenmoriston, the last two lairds to live in the glen.



**Invermoriston House, Glenmoriston,**  
*Circa 1930, viewed from Loch Ness*





**New Invermoriston House, Glenmoriston**, built on the site of three previous structures which were destroyed by fire, was the residence of two chieftains of the Grants of Glenmoriston, James Ewen Grant and Ian F.H. Grant of Glenmoriston. The present laird of Glenmoriston is John Grant of Glenmoriston, an investment broker who lives in London.



**Corrimony House, Glenurquhart** – The lands of Corrimony were bestowed in 1509 by James IV of Scotland on John Grant, a younger son of the Laird of Freuchie. A descendant of the family, Alexander Grant of Corrimony, was wounded at Culloden Moor during the 1745 Rebellion and hid from government troops in a cave on his estate. The last laird to hold the estate was James Grant of Corrimony, a noted advocate and author in Edinburgh. He died in 1935 and was buried in the small cemetery at Corrimony. Other distinguished descendants of the family were James Grant (1822-1887), the well-known Victorian era novelist and military historian, and Sir Francis James Grant (1863-1953), KCVO, LLD, WS, Lord Lyon King of Arms.

Corrimony House (above) was constructed *circa* 1840 as a sporting estate, approximately five years after the Grants of Corrimony sold the estate to the Ogilvy family. The house was destroyed by fire in 1951 and remained a ruin until the late 1970's when it was demolished. Unfortunately, no known painting or photographic image of the original Corrimony House exists today. The foundation of the manor house can be seen near the old cemetery.





**Shewglie House, Glenurquhart** – The Grants of Shewglie were cadets of the family of Corrimony. They were staunch Jacobites and the original house of Shewglie was razed by government troops during the 1745 rebellion. The present house was constructed in 1762 by James Grant of Shewglie.

James Grant (1713-1765) was the son of Alexander Grant of Shewglie. Both fought with Prince Charles at Culloden Moor in 1746. They surrendered to government forces and were transported to Tilbury Fort on the River Thames, near London. Old Shewglie died there. Eventually, James Grant of Shewglie and the local minister, who also fought at Culloden, returned home.

Descendants of the family of Shewglie distinguished themselves in other parts of the world. Charles Grant became the Chairman of the East India Company. His son, also named Charles, was created 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Glenelg. Glenelg's brother, Sir Robert Grant, was a Member of Parliament and Governor of Bombay. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, two other descendants of the family had distinguished military careers. Lt. General Sir Robert Grant, GCB, and his son, General Sir Charles John Cecil Grant, KCB, KCVO, DSO, lived at Pitchford Hall in Shropshire, England. The stone pediment over the door of Shewglie House is inscribed as follows:



17  62  
*Built by  
Jas Grant & Maj Fraser  
of Shewglie  
IG ♥ MF*



**Shewglie House, Glenurquhart**



**Pitchford Hall, near Shrewsbury, Shropshire, England** – The recorded history of *Pytchford* can be traced to the time of William the Conqueror, but it was not until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century that Lt. Gen. Sir Robert Grant, GCB (1837-1904), a descendant of the noted Glenurquhart family of Shewglie, held the estate. General Grant held various senior staff positions in Royal Engineers, including Inspector General of Fortifications.

Pitchford was inherited by his son, Gen. Sir Charles John Cecil Grant, KCB, KCVO, DSO (1877-1950). General Grant served during World War I as the principal liaison officer between the Chief of the British Imperial General Staff, and French Marshal Ferdinand Foch, Commander in Chief of the Allied Armies. Sir Charles Grant married Lady Sybil Primrose, daughter of the 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Rosebery, who became Prime Minister in 1894. In 1936, the Duke of York, the future King George VI, stayed at Pitchford Hall.





**Kilgraston House, Bridge of Earn, Perthshire**, was the residence of the John Grant of Kilgraston, eldest son of Patrick Grant of Glenlochry, an ancient branch of the Clan Grant in Strathavon. John Grant studied law and went to Jamaica, where he became the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in 1783. Toward the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, he purchased the contiguous estates of Kilgraston and Pitkeithley in Strathearn from the Murray and Craigie families. John Grant died without an heir in 1793. He was succeeded by his brother, Francis Grant, JP, DL, who built the mansion house of Kilgraston.

Francis Grant of Kilgraston had three sons: John Grant of Kilgraston, JP, who was succeeded by Charles Thomas Constantine Grant of Kilgraston, JP, DL; Sir Francis Grant, the eminent painter and President of the Royal Academy; and Gen. Sir James Hope Grant, CB, KCB, GCB, and Legion of Honour (France).

In 1856, Charles Thomas Constantine Grant of Kilgraston, JP, DL, married Janet Matilda Hay, daughter of William Hay of Duns Castle. Their son, Lt. Col. John Patrick Nisbet-Hamilton-Grant, DSO, JP, DL, of Kilgraston (1872-1950), inherited the additional estates of Biel, Archerfield and Dirleton in East Lothian, which had previously been held by his mother's family. Colonel Grant, who died in 1950, was the last of the Grants of Glenlochry and Kilgraston.



**Drummonie House, formerly Pitkeithley**, situated adjacent to Kilgraston House, was held by succeeding generations of the Grants of Kilgraston. The last laird to own Drummonie was Charles Thomas Constantine Grant, Esq., of Kilgraston and Pitkeithly, JP, DL (1831-1891).





**Biel House, near Dunbar, East Lothian** – Most architectural historians date the original structure of Biel House to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It is known that Biel was extended in 1769, and again in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries by the noted Scottish architects William Atkinson and Robert Rowand Anderson. The estate was inherited by Lt. Col. John Patrick Nisbet-Hamilton-Grant. Upon his death in 1950, Biel and Dirleton (below) passed to his cousin, the distinguished World War II naval officer, Vice Admiral Basil Charles Barrington-Brooke, CB, CBE.



**Dirleton, North Berwick, East Lothian**







**Archerfield, East Lothian**, is a 17<sup>th</sup> century mansion held by the Nisbets of Dirleton (above). The manor of Archerfield was redesigned and extended *circa* 1790 by the noted architect, Robert Adam. The estate was owned briefly by Mrs. Nisbet Hamilton Ogilvy, and after the Great War, Archerfield was sold in 1921 by her heir Lt. Col. John Patrick Nisbet-Hamilton-Grant. In more recent times, the estate has been restored as a hotel and golfing resort.



**Glen Grant House, Rothes, Morayshire**, was a Victorian era lodge built by Major James Grant (1847-1931), the flamboyant and eccentric managing director of the Glen Grant Distillery. Major Grant was the son of one of the distillery's founders and sole proprietor from 1872. He was an avid sportsman, angler and curler. Although Major Grant apparently earned his reputation as a *bon vivant*, who enjoyed the company of women – even when they were not his wife – he was a successful business man. Glen Grant was the first distillery in the highlands to be lit by electricity when a generator was installed in 1883. Major Grant was also responsible for a number of progressive innovations in the distilling process and one of the first owners of a motorcar in the highlands. He entertained often and decorated Glen Grant House in his own style, showcasing personal memorabilia and trophies collected during his hunting expeditions to India and Africa.

On one trip to Africa, he encountered an orphan boy on the side of the road and brought him back to Scotland. Biawa Makalaga attended the local school in Rothes and remained the Major's faithful manservant and butler until the Major's death in 1931. Biawa was well-known and respected in the local community and lived in a comfortable flat at Glen Grant House until his own death in 1972. Regrettably, Glen Grant House eventually succumbed to years of neglect and fell into ruin. The house was demolished in 1994.





**Viewfield House, Nairn**, built in 1803, is the former home of James Augustus Grant, and since 2003, the venue of the Nairn Museum. The house's first recorded owner was Colonel Ludovick Grant, who sold Viewfield in 1808. In 1812, James Augustus Grant bought the house in anticipation of his marriage to Miss Elizabeth Mackintosh of Millbank in 1813. The couple lived there for the rest of their lives. During World War II, Viewfield was requisitioned and occupied by Polish military officers. The statue in front of the house is of Dr. John Grigor (1814-1886), a local physician and benefactor to the city of Nairn.



**Househill, Nairn**, was the home of Lt. Col. James Augustus Grant, CB, CSI, LLD, FRS (1827-1892), the noted explorer of eastern equatorial Africa. He was the son of James Grant, minister at Nairn. Grant joined the Indian Army and was active in the Sikh war (1848), served during the Indian mutiny (1857), and was wounded at Lucknow. In 1860, he joined the expedition of John Hanning Speke, which found the source of the River Nile. In 1864, Grant published his seminal book about the expedition, *A Walk across Africa*. (The photograph above was taken before the house and steadings were restored at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.)





**Dalvey House, near Forres, Morayshire**, was purchased in 1749 by Sir Alexander Grant of Dalvey, Baronet. The Grants of Dalvey are chieftains of the Grants of Clan Donnachie. The estate of Dalvey, near Forres, was formerly known as Grangehill. It was renamed for Dalvey, a property in Strathspey previously held by the chieftains of Clan Donnachie. New Dalvey was sold by Sir Alexander Grant to the MacLeods of Greshornish *circa* 1800.



**Ruins of House of Moy, near Forres, Morayshire** – Moy House was acquired in 1733 by Major George Grant, a son of the Chief of Grant. It was redesigned and rebuilt by Sir Ludovick Grant of Grant in 1762-63. The famous Scottish architect, Robert Adam, submitted a design for the House of Moy in 1759; however, it was not until *circa* 1762 that a plan by Colin Williamson, in collaboration with John Adam, was actually implemented. The original drawings are still in the Seafeld Papers in the Scottish Records Office. Col. Hugh Grant of the family of Shewglie purchased the estate from Sir James Grant of Grant in 1775. Upon his death, the estate passed by entail to James Murray Grant of Glenmoriston, and later to his son, Capt. John Grant, younger of Glenmoriston. Consequently, the House of Moy was actually owned by three important families of the Clan Grant at various times in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.





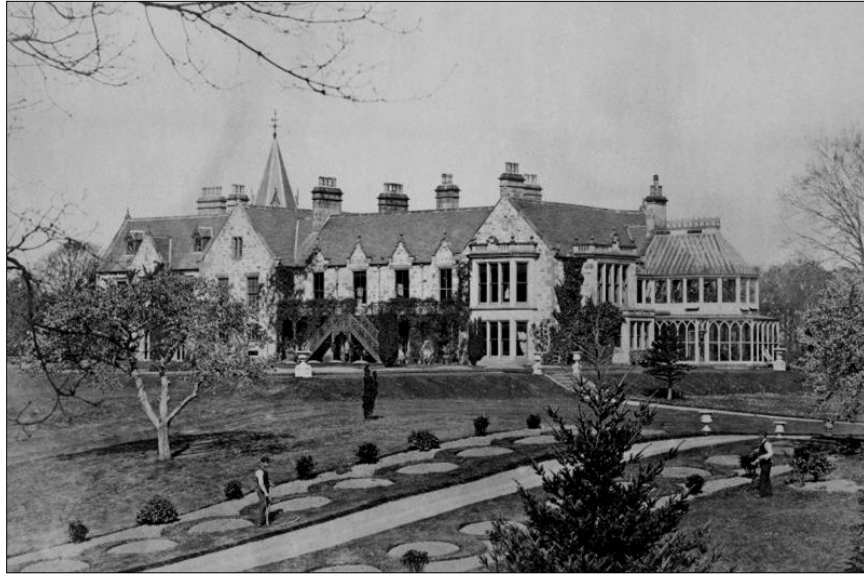
**Invererne House, Forres**, was the home of Lt. Col. the Hon. James Ogilvie-Grant of Main, Morayshire. Upon the death of his nephew, Ian Charles, 8<sup>th</sup> Earl of Seafield, he succeeded as 9<sup>th</sup> Earl, Chief of Grant. He was a younger son of the 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Seafield, Sir Francis William Ogilvie-Grant, Baronet. Lord Seafield was educated at Harrow and served in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of Foot, the famous Black Watch. He was a major in the Inverness Militia, a magistrate for the counties of Banff, Elgin and Inverness, and Member of Parliament for Elgin and Nairn.

The estate of Invererne was originally held by the family of Tulloch of Tannachy from the 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. In 1817, Invererne was sold to General William Grant, who built the mansion house (above). In 1832, the house and estate was sold to Colonel Peter Grant. He married Mary Anne Peterkin of Grange and assumed the additional surname of his wife. From that time forward, he was known as Colonel Peter Grant-Peterkin of Grange and Invererne. He died in 1878.



**Kincorth House, near Forres, Morayshire**, was once owned by Robert Grant of Kincorth, JP, DL, who made a considerable fortune in Canada before returning to Scotland. He was the son of David Grant of Lethendry, Cromdale, Strathspey, one of the principal families of the Grants of *Clann Chiaran*. Portions of the house date to 1797, but it was enlarged in 1867. The Grants of Kincorth were ancestors of the Forsyth-Grants of Ecclesgreig, near Montrose.





**Burdsyards, later Sanquhar, Forres, Elginshire** – George Grant, Esq. of Burdsyards, later Sanquhar, in Forres, held the estate of Sanquhar in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. He was a nephew of the chieftain of the Grants of Tullochgorm and a son of Patrick Grant of Glenmore. George Grant went to Jamaica and apparently made a considerable fortune there. He married a daughter of Grant of Auchterblair, who died in Jamaica. George Grant died at Sanquhar in 1820. The estate of Burdsyards was bequeathed to his only daughter and heiress, Margaret Grant. She married William Fraser-Tytler of Balnain.



**Logie House, near Forres, Moray** – In ancient times, the lands of Logie were originally held by the Cummings. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the estate was owned by James Grant of Ardeidlie and Logie, a son of Duncan Grant of Freuchie. James Grant was the ancestor of the Grants of Moyness in the parish of Auldearn, and also sometimes designated “of Edinville”. James Grant died before 1623 and was succeeded by his son, John, who bought the lands of Moyness in 1663. John’s son, James, sold the estate of Logie to Sir Hugh Campbell of Cawdor.

The present Logie House was the residence of Sir Alexander Grant of Forres, Baronet (1864-1937). Sir Alexander was Chairman and Managing Director of McVitie & Price, which later became the United Biscuit Company. Sir Alexander was a self-made man and a dedicated philanthropist. He was a benefactor of the city of Forres, the University of Edinburgh, and the National Library of Scotland. He was also a close friend of Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald.

When Sir Alexander's son, Sir Robert McVitie Grant, died without an heir, the biscuit company was inherited by his daughter's son, Hector Laing, later Lord Laing of Dunphail (1923-2010). Lord Laing was Chairman of the United Biscuit Company, a Director of the Bank of England, and a personal friend and advisor to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.



**Logie House, near Forres, Morayshire**



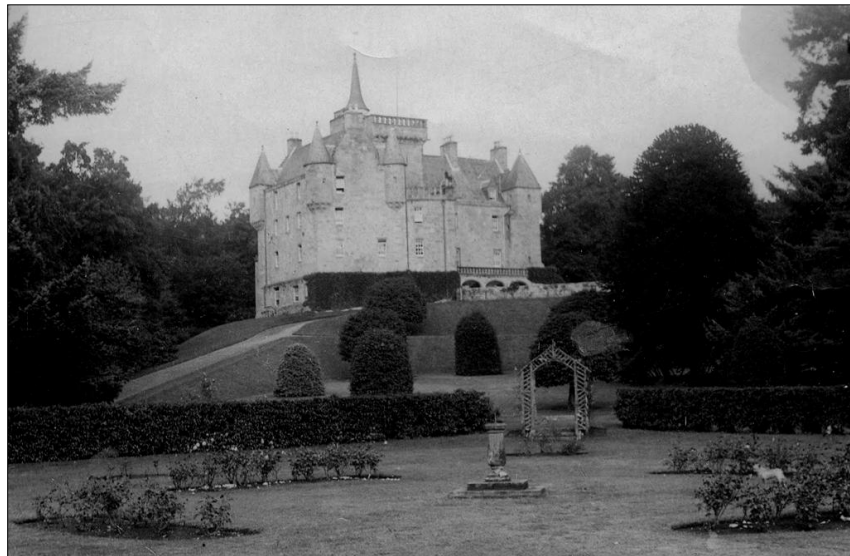
**Coat of Arms of Sir Alexander Grant of Forres,  
Baronet, at Logie House**





**Redcastle, Ross-shire**, was held for a brief time by Lt. Col. Alexander Grant, beginning in 1808. Colonel Grant was an officer in the Hon. East India Company's service and a descendant of the Grants of Shewglie, in Glenurquhart. His son, Patrick Grant, inherited Redcastle.

It was this Patrick Grant who ordered 200 yards of 'New Bruce' tartan from William Wilson & Sons in 1819, stating that it was the "... *tartan of his own Clan.*" The large order was almost certainly occasioned by Patrick Grant's imminent marriage to his distant cousin, Miss Catherine Sophia Grant.



**Redcastle, Ross-shire, circa 1920**





**Midmar Castle, formerly Grantsfield, also formerly Ballogie, Aberdeenshire** – Capt. Alexander Grant purchased the castle previously known as Ballogie in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. He was the son of James Grant of Gellovie, who was in turn a younger son of Mungo Grant of Kinchirdie. The Grants of Kinchirdie were an important cadet of the Clan Grant, being descended directly from Sir John Grant of Freuchie.

Unlike the Forbes family, the previous owners of the castle, Captain Grant made significant changes to the building and renamed his estate Grantsfield. He added two projecting wings to the front, or west-facing side, and built an elevated courtyard between the wings. Captain Grant served as *Sheriff Depute* of Aberdeenshire from 1741-1748. He almost certainly wanted to establish a dynasty in Aberdeenshire similar to the family of Monymusk, which was located a few miles to the northeast. Inexplicably, his family only held Grantsfield for a little more than half a century. Although Capt. Grant had three sons, the estate was sold before the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and its name was eventually changed to Midmar.



**Midmar Castle, formerly Grantsfield, Aberdeenshire**







**Ecclesgreig House, St. Cyrus, Aberdeenshire**, formerly Kincardineshire – John Forsyth married Margaret, daughter of John Grant of Quebec, Canada, in 1803. Margaret was the granddaughter of John Grant of Kincorth, a descendant of the Grants of *Clann Chiaran*. The family descended from David Grant of Lethindry, in the parish of Cromdale, Strathspey.

The eldest son of John and Margaret Forsyth, William Forsyth, married his cousin and succeeded to his maternal uncle's estate of Ecclesgreig. He subsequently changed his name to William Forsyth-Grant of Ecclesgreig. The estate was later inherited by Frederick Forsyth-Grant, JP, DL, and by his son Capt. Maurice Cecil Forsyth-Grant of Ecclesgreig, MC, JP, DL. The present representative of the family is Maurice Patrick James Forsyth-Grant, an artist, illustrator and avid sportsman, who still lives near the ruined castle on the Ecclesgreig estate.



**Ecclesgreig House, St. Cyrus, Montrose, Aberdeenshire**



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