

## The Family of Lieutenant William Grant

Notes by Rod Giddens  
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*William GRANT married Catherine GRANT, daughter of Lewis GRANT of Wester Elchies and Ann OGILVIE, in Nov 1769 at Greenburn, Scotland. He was Lieutenant in the 1st Royal Carron Regiment, Carron Parish, Aberlour, Scotland. He fought under General Wolfe at the Battle of the Plains of Abraham in 1759 during the Seven Years War. As a soldier he earned the right to draw land and settle in Canada but he chose to return to Scotland under half-pay. William gave his eldest son Lewis "Power of Attorney" to draw the land to which he, William, was entitled and never claimed. Two of William's sons went to the USA about the same time that Lewis came to Canada. He left a will recorded on 11 May 1804. He died on 13 Jun 1810 at Gladhill, Urquhart, Elgin (will dated 18 May 1803; proved 17 July 1811). He was buried in Scotland.*

The following excerpt from an obituary in "[Gentleman's Magazine](#)" July 1824 may shed some light on the name of William Grant's father and sister "[Mrs Major Grant](#)":

Feb. ... At Paddington, aged 80, Penuel, relict of the deceased James Grant, esq. of Linchurn (clan Duncan), Major in the king's American Regiment, daughter to the late Alexander Grant, esq. of Auchterblair (clan Allen), and grand daughter to Grant of Ling-all of Strathspey, N.B. ... July 1782, after an honourable and distinguished service on the continents of Europe and America, while campaigning at the Savannah, Major Grant lost his life, leaving a beloved widow and eight orphans;... On the peace of 1782, the two eldest sons, Lieutenants Alexander and Joseph, from the reduction of their regiment, were placed on half-pay, and ultimately they proceeded to the island of Antigua, where, under the auspices of a maternal uncle, Lauchlan Grant, esq. they settled as planters till 1792; ...

This obituary for Penuel Grant also appears in "The New Monthly Magazine", 1824, Vol XII, p 329, and in "The Annual Register of the Year 1824", p 214. Her son Lt. Alexander Grant is also mentioned in his uncle Lachlan's will of 3 Dec 1787:

To my nephew Lieut Alexr Grant L200 s. All residue to my nephew Lachlan Grant, son of my brother Wm Grant, who resides at Eletries in the parish of Aberlour, co. Banff ...

[Lachlan's will](#) is shown in Vere Langford Oliver's "History of the Island of Antigua", Vol II, p 28.

I have been doing some research on William Grant's father lately - a difficult line. In Vol II, p 29, Oliver gives some chart fragments entitled '[Pedigree of Grant](#)' and showing William Grant and his children including Lewis Grant of Upper Canada. He suggests 'Robert Grant of Cour' as William's grandfather and possibly Sir John Grant of Frenchies, Bart., as his great-grandfather, but I have not seen any primary evidence to support this. Along with Lachlan's will, Oliver also [provides the wills](#) of Dr. Patrick Grant and William Grant in Vol II, p 28. Oliver used names and relationships obtained from these documents in his assembled pedigree, and was very careful to do this. This leads me to believe he also had the information on Robert of Cour, and Sir John Grant bart, and I have somehow overlooked it, since these appear to be fragments of information he has at hand.

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In Vol III, Oliver gives a [Pedigree of the family of Grant of Carron](#)'. Here he describes Capt James Grant as "of Carron & Wester Elchies". I have seen no evidence that connects James Grant of Carron with James Grant of Wester Elchies. The dates given for the two James do not match. Fraser's [Pedigree of the Second Grants of Wester Elchies](#)' establishes that James Grant of Wester Elchies is brother of Katherine Grant (wife of Lt. William Grant), and Oliver establishes that James Grant of Carron is closely related to William, as brother or cousin. Oliver in Vol III also lists a "[Bond for L500](#)", dated 1771 at Edinburgh, by James Grant of Carron and Lieut. William Grant, late of the 1st or Scotch Royal Regiment of Foot, and Mrs Catherine Grant his spouse", thus establishing the wife of William as listed in Fraser's pedigree of Grants.

You probably already know all of this, however I noticed some confusion on [all the 'Uncle James'](#). It was difficult to sort out without knowing who William's father was. James Grant of Wester Elchies sold Wester Elchies to Robert Grant shortly before he died. The proceeds of this sale went to his son Lewis who was effectively heir to the estate. I don't know what happened to the money owed to Lewis on his death, however it seems to have left grandmother Ann destitute. As shown by Fraser, the estate having passed to her son James then proceeds to her grandson Lewis ... and then?

The reference to Peggy Grant in Oliver, Vol III, p 426, is probably of more importance than we at first realize. At this point in time (as I understand it) the name 'Peggy' was used interchangeably with the name 'Margaret' when there was a conflict with the name of the mother (ie.both named Margaret). Given the naming conventions of the day it seems likely that Alexander's wife's name may have been 'Margaret.'

Here is some information taken from Oliver, Vol III:

1. St. Philip's Parish, p 355: "6. BODY PONDS, 210 acres. Thomas Oliver, 1788. Lieut. William Grant sold this in 1803 to John William Dow..."
2. St. Philip's Parish, p 390: "31. WALRONS, UPPER, 222 acres; LOWER, 154 acres. MAINSWETE WALRON, 1788. Lieut. William Grant sold this in 1803 to John William Dow..."
3. St. Paul's Parish, p 384: "16, MATTHEW'S or CONSTITUTION HILL, 880 acres, 315 of these in St. John's Parish. In 1752 Ashton Warner owned this plantation, called Staughtons, or Burgess's, or Mathews. Mathews', heirs of Lachlan Grant, 1788. William Grant sold this 1803 to John William Dow..."

It's no wonder Lauchlan thought his father had money!

In review: Alexander of Auchterblair appears to be the father of Lt. William Grant of Carron. According to Oliver, Alexander of Auchterblair, Dr. Patrick Grant, Capt. Lewis Grant of Auchterblair and Lt. Joseph Grant are brothers. In Lt. William Grant's [letter of 16 Aug 1798](#) he mentions his sister "Penuel Mrs. Major Grant." In other letters he calls her Mrs. Major Daniel Grant. From [Mrs. Grant's obituary](#) we know her husband was Major James Grant of Linchurn. This leaves two possibilities. (1) Mrs. Grant married after the death of her husband James, or (2) James middle name was Daniel. With all the Uncle James's, I believe Lt. William Grant used 'Mrs. Major Grant' or 'Mrs. Major Daniel Grant' to avoid confusion (James was Lt. William's brother-in-law) or perhaps out of respect for the late Major Grant. At any rate there is no evidence as yet of another spouse for Mrs. Grant, and her obituary would certainly have mentioned one. [The attached file](#) shows the relationships of most of these people. Dr. Patrick Grant leaves his estate to his nephews among others. Since he does not specify a maternal link with them, we can assume they were sons of his brothers, instead of sons of his wife's brothers.

Oliver is quite careful in not linking individuals without primary evidence, so it seems likely that the 'Robert of Cour' is indeed Lt. William's grandfather. He does not seem sure about Robert's father who he lists as 'Sir John of Frenchies.' You are quite right in saying that the lairds of Grant were referred to as 'of Freuchie.' However the 5th Laird Sir John was often styled as 'of Frenchie.' Perhaps it is 'Sir John of Frenchie' he is referring to. This would make sense, as Sir John had a son Robert and the timeline fits nicely. On the other hand, I have been in touch with another researcher who believes that Robert was the illegitimate son of Sir James Grant Alias Colquhoun of Grant & Luss, 6th Bart. I have not been able to make this timeline work, so I need to see his evidence for this. He cites:

1. Vere Langford Oliver, The History of the Island of Antigua, 3v. (London, 1894-1899), II: 28-32 (Grant)
2. Archibald Kennedy. Earl of Cassilis. The Rulers of Strathsneve (Inverness. 1911). 197-198 (Grant)

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3. Peter Townend (ed.), Burke's Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Peerage, Baronetage, and Knightage, 105th Edition (London, 1970), 1563 (Grant)
4. George E. Cokayne, et al., The Complete Peerage of England, Scotland, Ireland, Great Britain and the United Kingdom, Extant, Extinct or Dormant, 13v. in 14 (London, 1910-1969), IX: 182-187 (Moray).

I have looked at the first 2 and have found nothing to support his statement, perhaps 3rd is the charm? Will contact him for further information.

In my research I have seen the relationship of Elizabeth Grant to her husband James -- 1st cousins -- many times. It seems rather well established.

AND it IS very challenging work, but that's what makes it so rewarding. It's amazing how much delight we take in the smallest scrap of information, considering how hard we work for it!

Here is my attempt to solve this puzzle.

1. If we accept the obit of Mrs. Major Grant, then Lt. William Grant (as her brother) is the son of Alexander Grant of Auchterblair.
2. If we accept Oliver's Pedigree of the family of Grant of Carron, then Capt. Lewis Grant of Auchterblair is brother of Alexander Grant of Auchterblair.

These brothers Alexander and Capt. Lewis are both of 'Auchterblair' not 'Carron.' Capt. Lewis purchased 'Carron' from Charles Grant of Ringorum the male heir of Carron (he was not a son of Colonel John Grant who died at Carthage 1741 without male heirs, so at the Colonel's death, this line of Carron i.e. Glenmoriston, becomes extinct). When Capt. Lewis Grant of Auchterblair died, he left this estate to his son James Grant who is then styled 'of Carron.' Lt. William Grant of Carron is 1st cousin to James Grant of Carron but only James (through his mother Elizabeth) is connected to the Grants of Glenmoriston or Carron. The confusion arises when we try to make Lt. William and James brothers. They are most likely not. Lt. William Grant only becomes styled as 'of Carron' when he purchased or leases the farm of Carron from his cousin James of Carron (See Oliver Vol III p 426 for [the bond](#) between James Grant of Carron and Lt. William Grant & wife Catherine. Can't be sure this bond is for the interest of the Carron farm, but it makes sense. Need to explore this bond further.) Lt. William's statement to his son Lewis that "[I stayed too long at Carron](#)" implies that this may not have been the original homestead. Indeed it probably was not if his father is from Auchterblair.

Now to muddy the water a little... more.

Oliver says in his pedigrees of Grant that Dr. Patrick, Alexander, Elizabeth, Joseph and Capt. Lewis are all siblings. And that they are the children of Robert Grant of Cour. Who is this Robert Grant of Cour? Oliver does not say for sure, only that he is descended from Sir John Grant of Frenchies, Bart. (I take this to mean the 6th Laird of Freuchie). The only connection I can find at present is tenuous at best. Well here goes... James Grant 7th Laird of Freuchie (son & heir of Sir John Grant 6th Laird), had a chamberlain by the name of James Grant. This James Grant was styled 'in Auchernach' (Clan Allan are the Grants of Auchernach and include Cadets of Burnside, Gartinmore, Auchterblair, Mollochard, and Lettoch). About 1670 Gillies Mackay was charged in killing James Grant the Chamberlain and some of his lands were forfeit and given to William Grant of Glenmoriston by Laird Grant. The Laird's illegitimate son demanded some restitution for the murder of his step-father. It seems this illegitimate son's mother was the mistress of the Laird, who later married the chamberlain James. This is an interesting story told by William Mackay in his book 'The Men from whom we have come' as recorded in chapter 11 of 'Urquhart and Glenmoriston.' I believe I have also seen this in Kennedy's 'The rulers of Strathspey.' I'll have to check to be sure. Robert Grant of Cour may be this illegitimate son of the Laird. Oliver gives us "Robert Grant of Cour, natural son" in his pedigree of Grant. The term 'natural' usually means an illegitimate child. Oliver gives us Robert's wife as 'widow of James Grant of Auchterblair', but I wonder if maybe this widow is not the mother of Robert instead of his spouse? The time line fits nicely. This would make Robert the grandson of Sir John of Frenchie, Bart, as Oliver suggests. From here the pedigree is well known. Needs more work, however it is something to explore in more detail.

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As for Lt. William Grant's brother James, we have not learned anything more from this. There is a family of James Grant in Albany, NY about this time, I wonder if this may be James family? We don't know from William's letters to his son Lewis who William's father is, however we may assume he died shortly before William's letter to Lewis in which he says about his brother James ['the reason he gives for taking our father's money to himself'](#). This would imply the father had not been dead long.

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