

# THE SIGN OF THE COW

The matching fates of two men who had remarkably similar military adventures, but a century apart.

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## **Introduction & Acknowledgements**

I began researching this Scottish Grant family after catching up with Nick, the husband of one of my cousins, on a recent trip back to Australia in the southern winter of 2023. Nick's family is an interesting one with quite a bit of movement back and forth between Australia and the UK. Something I'd not come across in my own family. Though more recently a handful of my cousins have found themselves domiciled at various times in England and I myself have spent more than half my life in London (and yet I still fail the Tebbit test!).

His family proved a rich vein of interesting characters including the subject of this paper Major Peter Grant who fought in the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars. I was lucky enough to uncover many stories about him with the invaluable assistance of the volunteer research team at the Gordon Highlanders Museum<sup>1</sup>. I owe them enormous thanks.

But what really piqued my interest in this branch of Nick's tree was discovering that history in many ways repeated itself a century later through one of Peter Grant's great grandsons, Sergeant Patrick Grant Margetts, a veteran of the First World War.

The following recounts the parallels in the service of the two men. Nick is a descendant of Major Grant while Sergeant Margetts was a cousin of his grandmother.

Last century is often thought of as ushering in the era of global conflict. However, I discovered in researching this family that the 'world wars' of the early and mid-1900's were not the first examples of fighting that involved multiple nations conducted in numerous theatres spanning several continents.

But before I recount the battles that these two soldiers were involved in and what became of them afterwards, there is the small matter of what evidence there is that the Major is in fact one of Nick's ancestors. And, some unpicking is needed with the life of Sgt Margetts' wife, who, at a count of 4, engaged in the most bigamist marriages by a single person that I have encountered in all my family history research. To help in following the various genealogies I have annexed 2 pedigree charts to this paper.

When quoting I use the spellings given for people and place names by the source, which may vary from the spelling otherwise used throughout the paper. I will often refer to the ancient shire of Banffshire though today the relevant town or village is likely to fall within the local government area of Moray.

My gratitude goes out to all those who share their research and findings via the numerous genealogical sites that occupy the world wide web and I would also like to acknowledge the work of Moray Council's Local Heritage Services and the online resources available through the Australian War Memorial at [www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au).

I would also like to thank those who have helped in 'unblocking' whenever I found myself at a brick wall in the research, in particular, Irene, a Grant descendant, my distant cousin Ross and the FBers at the Australian Ancestors – Family History Research Group. Any errors in the following are of course mine, and they are expected given that I have speculated somewhat in this account. As ever please email me at [gatp63@hotmail.com](mailto:gatp63@hotmail.com) if you have any further information or corrections to suggest.

Finally special thanks go to the late John Anderson Reid<sup>2</sup> 1897-1923, Private in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion and without whose war diary half of this story couldn't be told.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.gordonhighlanders.com](http://www.gordonhighlanders.com)

<sup>2</sup> [www.awm.gov.au/collection/P11013331](http://www.awm.gov.au/collection/P11013331)

*Dedicated to the memory of Kerry.  
A keen family historian, my 'cuz' and Nick's wife.*

## **The Sign of the Cow**

Official records can be a bit hit and miss in what they reveal when tracing a family's history. However, without doubt I would not even know of Major Grant if it wasn't for the excellent record of births, deaths and marriages that the Scottish authorities have maintained since 1855. In the 1891 records of Scottish deaths there is an entry for Anne Hay née Grant, my cousin-in-law's great great grandmother. In it her parents are recorded as Peter Grant, Major, 92nd Gordon Highlanders (deceased) and Isabella Cameron<sup>ii</sup>. It is rare to get such precise details of a parent in a death record. But of course, nothing is ever that simple.

### **The Grants in Auchnarrow, Glenlivat**

When I wrote "*But of course, nothing is ever that simple*" it was meant as a segue into a detailed account of the various supporting and contrary evidence for Anne's paternity. Firstly, I didn't have a baptism record for Anne or a marriage record for her parents and I knew that the Major's gravestone read - *Peter Grant a dutiful son and affectionate brother, a steady friend and a brave soldier*<sup>iii</sup>. The conspicuous absence of references to his being a husband or a father strongly suggested he had been neither and in any event Anne's age at death implied she was born after her father had died.

On the other hand, I was also aware that buried next to Peter were four Grant women, Heneretta, Charlotte, Elizabeth and Grace for which there was good evidence to suggest they were Peter's sisters, with one whose death was reported to the registrar by her niece, our Mrs Anne Hay!

In short, I had evidence that supported Anne's parents being the two recorded in her death record alongside other evidence that undermined it but, either way, no *smoking-gun*. That was, at least, until a last-minute check of my newspaper sources turned up the smoking-gun, or at least helped me locate it. As a result, you have been spared the convoluted analysis I had drafted of who was related to whom and what could be reasonably extrapolated from that. And, I have learnt much about making assumptions regarding which (if any?) records are not worth looking at.

My first error was in assuming that because many newspaper death notices are copied from notices published earlier and in other publications (true) that in reading one death notice I had effectively read all of them (not true). The newspaper notice I hadn't bothered to read was published in the Elgin Courier on 7 November 1862 and stated;

DEATH OF A MISS GRANT. -- In our obituary appears the name of Miss Grace Grant, of Knockandhu she was the only surviving descendant of the ancient family of Tullochgoram in Strathspey. She was in declining health for a considerable time, and she endured her lingering sufferings with pious resignation. Miss Grant was remark-able for her quiet and retired

habits. Her immediate relatives were highly respectable -- her brother, the late Major Grant having been a distinguished officer in His Majesty's service. Her remains were interred in the old consecrated ground in the churchyard of Kirkmichael according to the forms of the Roman catholic church

And with that I had proof that the 73-year-old Grace Grant buried next to Peter was his sister. Since it was Grace's death that her niece, 'Ann G Hay', had reported to the Registrar of Births and Deaths it strengthened the evidence that Peter was Anne's father. Additionally, given the information that the family were members of the Church of Rome, not the Church of Scotland as I had presumed, I was now sign posted to where I might find the baptism record that had thus far eluded me.

Many of you will know that when searching baptism records through the online portal at [scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://scotlandspeople.gov.uk) you are required to select only one of 'Church of Scotland', 'Roman Catholic Church', or 'Other churches'. There was nothing in all I've read of Peter that suggested he was Roman Catholic and so I simply didn't bother looking for a baptism under that denomination.

Had I done so I would have discovered that Anna Grant was baptised by Father Donald Carmichael at Tomintoul, Banffshire on 11 February 1818 the daughter of an unmarried couple, Major Peter Grant of Auchnarow, Glenlivet and Isabel Cameron of Abernethy, Strathspey. I had my smoking-gun. The verdict was out and any lingering doubts that Major Peter Grant was Anne Hay née Grant's father were eradicated.



*Kirkmichael, Moray, Scotland*

Major Peter Grant died the following month on 17 March 1818. Peter and his sisters are buried at the Kirkmichael churchyard<sup>iv</sup>.

There were at least two other siblings – a brother named John, a Captain of the 10th Inverness, Banff, Elgin & Nairn Militia. Cpt. John Grant died in Edinburgh in 1848 and is buried at Warriston Cemetery.

The 7<sup>th</sup> sibling, another sister was named Ann. At plot number 235 in Kirkmichael churchyard there is a gravestone with the following inscription –

*In memory of ROBERT GRANT of the family of Aldich in the Parish of Inveraven late Farmer their (sic) and latterly in Bogg of Advie in the Parish of Cromdale who departed this life on the 3rd day of December 1831 aged 63 years And of his beloved spouse ANN GRANT of the family of Achnarow Glenlivet, who departed this life at Achnarow, on the 9th day of September 1834 aged 59 years. This stone is erected as a testimony of sincere regard by Capt JOHN GRANT Achnarow<sup>v</sup>.*

The family was recorded in the 1814 Catholic Parish book for Tomintoul, Banffshire which included their widowed mother, Margaret Gordon. Of the siblings listed here in 1814 only John was married, and next to John's name is written (wife Prot[estant]). The family was resident at Auchnarrow.

Place of Residence	Number	Name	Surname	Age	Confession	Profession	Married	Converts
Auchnarrow	720	Margaret	Gordon			Widow		
	721	Peter	Grant			Major of the		
	722	Harriet	Grant			Quaker		
	723	Elizabeth						
	724	Charlotte						
	725	Grace						
	726	John	Grant			Capt. Ann		

*Status Animarum (State of Souls), Tomintoul, Banffshire, Scotland 1814*

Only Charlotte, Elizabeth and Grace, all unmarried, died when statutory death registration was in operation. In their respective records the informant reported their parents as follows –

- Charlotte (1782-1855) f-John Grant, m-Elizabeth Gordon (Inf- Wm Grant, nephw)<sup>vi</sup>
- Elizabeth (1780-1856) f-John Grant, m-Margaret Gordon (Inf- Grace, sister)<sup>vii</sup>
- Grace (1789-1862) f- [blank] Grant, m-Elizabeth Gordon (Inf- Ann G Hay, niece)<sup>viii</sup>

It is interesting that the two Grant grandchildren reported their grandmother's name as Elizabeth while Grace gave her mother's name as Margaret which concurs with the 1814 record of the family and an 1820 burial record. Whilst I can't explain it I don't believe it fundamentally brings into question who the mother was.

Peter's sister Ann Grant b.1775 married Robert Grant at Inveravon in 1813. I can find no evidence of them having children but they are good candidates for being the parents of the nephew William Grant who reported Chatlotte's death to the Registrar in 1855. It is of course possible he was the illegitimate son of any of Charlotte's other siblings.

### Clann Phadruig

When Major Peter Grant died in 1818 several of the newspaper reports of his death noted he was 'of the family of Tullochgorum in Strathspey'. In 1862 when Grace Grant died aged 73 the newspapers of the day proclaimed her to be last in the line of the Ancient Grants of Tullochgorum. I doubt that those reporting said this believing there were no living descendants but were rather referencing that Grace was the last of that generation that had a direct relationship to their ancestral home of Tullochgorum.

According to the Clan Grant Society USA<sup>ix</sup> - *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 Tullochgorm is unknown, but they held the estate from the early 16th century until it was redeemed by Sir James Grant of Grant in 1777.*

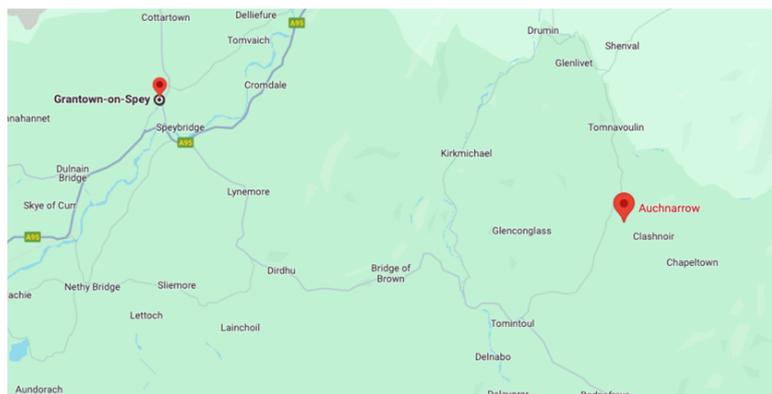
In 1883 the 27<sup>th</sup> Chief of Clan Grant, Ian Ogilvy-Grant 1851-1884 published a book he had commissioned from William Fraser detailing the history of the Grant Clan and all its subsidiary branches including the Grants of Tullochgorum<sup>x</sup>. However, there is no account given of the husbandman and tenant farmer John and his wife Margaret Gordon<sup>xi</sup>. Perhaps this particular family was too humble to rate a mention.

The Tullochgorum Grants that do feature in the book we're all members of the senior military and government. Despite this it seems to me that with references spanning 50 years there must be some merit in the notion that this family came from the Tullochgorum Grants. The last Tullochgorum 'heir' identified by Fraser was Alexander Grant 1731-1828. He states that Alexander married twice but makes no mention of him having children<sup>xii</sup>. In any event Alexander could only have been a brother or cousin of our farmer John.

And if that feels too insufficiently evidential to demonstrate our Grants came from this branch it's worth noting that the link was credited by the spirit world. Meg Mulloch a 2-foot-tall brownie or fairy who had '*haunted the Castle of Tullochgorm belonging to the Grants of Strathspey*' and who would '*stand invisibly behind the laird's chair and direct his play at chess*' in earlier centuries<sup>xiii</sup> was to be found at Auchnarrow in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The lands of Tullochgorum had been wadset or mortgaged in 1614 from John Grant of Frenchie though it seems Grants in/of Tullochgorum had occupied the land up to a century earlier. The loss of control of their land in 1777 meant they returned to being tenants to the Lairds of Grant<sup>xiv</sup>. If our John and Margaret were originally 'of Tullochgorum' its not known when they made their way to Auchnarrow 10 miles away as the crow flies. Though in all probability Grace, the 'last of Grants of Tullochgorum' was at least born before they relocated.

By the time of Cpt John's death in 1848 the Grant sisters were all in or near their sixties. It would be more than likely that they were being helped with the day to



day running of the farm. Was the nephew William who reported Charlotte's death one such person<sup>xv</sup>? In 1852 there was a report of a horse falling into a sink hole in the stables at Auchnarrow<sup>xvi</sup>. The farmer was named as James Grant. Perchance another nephew?

Their growing age did not diminish the sisters' zest for life if the reports of a Ball at Auchnarrow in 1851 are anything to go by. The occasion was a communal celebration of the marriage of Lady Augusta Catherine Gordon-Lennox and Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar and while the main festivities were held at the Duke of Richmond's Hall on the Gordon Estate there were a number of smaller gatherings across the shire with one such being described; thus, '*.... An excellent ball was held at Achnarrow in the braes of Glenlivet. The commodious premises prepared for the occasion, were filled*

*in the course of the evening by a numerous assemblage of "bonny lads and buxom lasses" who clearly showed that this district is rapidly progressing, at least in the art of tripping the light fantastic toe. The greatest mirth and hilarity prevailed in the meeting. The toast of the evening was pledged in an overflowing bumper of double-strong Glenlivet which even the wives and lasses did not hesitate to quaff<sup>xvii</sup>.'*

Achnarrow seems to have been given up by the Grants for a neighbouring property at Knockandhu, in a farm swap in November 1853, but the new tenant didn't have the easiest of beginnings. Meg or Maggie Mulloch had apparently taken up with the Grants following the demise of Tullochgorum and was less than impressed by the change at Achnarrow as the Banffshire Journal reported on 10 January 1854<sup>xviii</sup>

MAGGIE MULLOCH'S SOJOURN IN, OR RETURN TO GLENLIVAT - A correspondent writes: — "An account of a horse sinking in a stable at Achnarrow. in this district, given by your Tomintoul correspondent in the course of last winter, will yet be fresh in the memory of your readers. This rather singular fact was attributed at the time, by most parties whose notice it caught, to a concealment existing under the causewaying of the stable. It has not been so accounted for, however, by several parties in the district, nor the tenant of the farm, who, for this or some similar reasons, has been induced to exchange possessions with a neighbouring farmer. Achnarrow having long been recognised a favourite haunt of the celebrated fairy, the sinking of the horse and some other incidents have been attributed by several parties to her supernatural influence. The exchange of farms, which took place at Martinmas, has had the desired effect in respect to the former tenant of Achnarrow, but not with regard to the present tenant. "Maggie" it seems not so well satisfied with her present landlord as she was with her former one. She has always manifested a peculiar favour for the name Grant, which was the former tenant's name, but the name of the present tenant being different, he has failed in securing her favour. Popular report has it that whenever he ventures out at night he is sure of a good pelting with stones, accompanied by declarations from her fairy majesty, that she will have none but Grants in Achnarrow."

### **The Hay Generation**

The Major's daughter Anne Grant married Thomas Hay on 21 December 1853<sup>xix</sup> at Kirkmichael in the shire of Banff, Scotland. The same church where Major Grant and his sisters are buried. The Hays had five children, only two of whom married and had

children themselves. Their eldest, James Grant Hay, born 1844 emigrated to Australia and married the widow Catherine Stuart née Cox<sup>xx</sup>.

The youngest, Mary Ann Hay, born 1852 married James Margetts 1846-1907 at Ellon, Aberdeenshire<sup>xxi</sup> and had three children, only one of whom had her own children and, so far as I can tell, this line of the family ceased with that subsequent generation.

Anne and Thomas Hay's three middle children lived to ripe old ages but never married and it seems never had children. The only living descendants then of the Major and Isabella stem from his 'Australian' grandson James Grant Hay (1844-1904).

Of the Major's two grandsons James Grant Hay farmed hops in Australia and additionally ran a successful shipping company, while Peter Grant Hay (1847-1908) read Medicine at the University of Aberdeen and worked as a General Practitioner in Forgue, Aberdeenshire. Their father, Thomas Hay (1819-1906) was a veterinary surgeon, so with a farmer and a doctor as his legacy the apple didn't fall too far from the tree in both cases.

While all of Anne Grant's children bore the surname 'Hay' all but one had 'Grant' as a middle name and the name 'Grant' was prominent in subsequent generations. Indeed, some descendants of their son, James Grant Hay, adopted the double-barrelled surname, *Grant Hay*. The name 'Peter' however seems to have mostly fallen out of favour over time.

Major Grant and Isabella, though they did not live to see them, had 10 great grandchildren. Seven Hays were born in Victoria, Australia; Thomas 1871-1873, Annie Grant 1873-1959, Stewart 1874-1893, Avon James 1876-1929, Katie 1878-1958, Peter Grant 1879-1961 and John Ronald 1890-1949, with three Margetts born in Aberdeen, Scotland; James Stronach 1881-1935, Patrick Grant 1884-1920 and Gladys Mary 1889-1963.

Of the Margetts children Gladys Mary was the only to have children. After marrying William Cantlay in Ellon, Aberdeenshire Gladys and her husband emigrated to Canada where they had 3 children, 2 girls and a boy, none of whom had any children.

The two Margetts sons, James S and Patrick G, both married but neither had children. At the outset of World War One, the eldest, James, joined the same regiment as his great grandfather. Sergeant James Stronach Margetts of the Gordon Highlanders survived the hostilities and died at the age of 54 in 1935.

However, it was Patrick Grant Margetts whose life most resembled that of his soldiering great grandfather. Patrick, unlike Major Peter Grant before him, was not a career soldier. His business was insurance, but in his 20's he did spend 4 years as a part-time soldier with the 9<sup>th</sup> Royal Scots Territorials which he seems to have given up pursuing his civilian career. On 16 November 1911, aged 27, Patrick boarded the SS Suevic at Liverpool bound for Melbourne, Victoria to work in his uncle's shipping company Coulson, Hay and Co<sup>xxii</sup>.

Patrick would serve with the Australian Army during WWI and his military career is detailed below but a few months after returning to Melbourne in 1919 Patrick married Emily May Dodwell, daughter of the music composer<sup>xxiii</sup> Samuel Dodwell 1861-1924 and Florence Kathleen Tilling 1859-1946.

Emily's nephew Samuel William Charles Dodwell<sup>xxiv</sup> 1909-1990, after a career in banking, became a painter, draughtsman, teacher and broadcaster. He exhibited at the Royal Academy and his pupils included Charles III.



Patrick and Emily married at Latrobe, Melbourne. Emily's address was given as Stanmore, Sydney and she was recorded as a spinster<sup>xxv</sup>, however she was in fact still married to a man named George Septimus Hall 1888-1954.

### Marriage Roundabout

Emily was born in London 2 October 1888<sup>xxvi</sup> and married the clerk George Hall there in late 1910. In the 1911 census taken on 2 April the newlyweds were living in a 3-bedroom house at 15 Oakleigh Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex<sup>xxvii</sup>. The 23-year-old George was a Clerk working for a Land Agents at Gresham House in the City of London. Emily was pregnant and everything appeared bright and promising however dark clouds were gathering and in August receivers were appointed by the Bankruptcy Court to liquidate George's assets and pay off his debts<sup>xxviii</sup>.

A few months later Emily delivered a baby girl they named Beryl Phelps and somehow, they managed to arrange for passage on the *Orama* bound for Sydney, Australia. They steamed out from London on 10 November 1911 arriving 6 weeks later on 21 December.

It's not clear when or how Melbournian Patrick, met the Sydneysider Emily. As far as I can tell Patrick had no ties to Sydney while Emily or Valerie as she became known, shared the city with her legal husband. Patrick relocated to Sydney and was living at Manly when he died in 1920 after just one year of marriage. His wife must've been quite confident that her bigamist marriage to Patrick would not be exposed. Or did Emily adopt the name Valerie to keep from being tracked down by her first husband?

I can't be sure but it's unlikely that Emily/Valerie resumed her relationship with George, the father of her daughter, after Patrick died in September 1920. In any event a warrant was issued in April 1921 by the Central Police Bench in Sydney for George's arrest for embezzling money from the Farmers and Dairymen's Milk Company<sup>xxix</sup>. He was described as a 'milk-carter'.

Twelve months after the death of her second husband and presumably while her first husband was on the run from the law Emily remarried. Again, she described herself as a spinster this time using the name 'Valorie' Dodwell rather than Emily May. When Emily placed a death notice in the newspaper for Patrick, she signed it as Val Margetts rather than Emily. That notice in 1920 is the first record I can find where she used the name Val[erie]

Her 1921 marriage was to John Thomas Kelloway a 49-year-old tobacconist who had lost his wife in October 1920. The widower John had 4 children aged 12-19. Emily's

daughter was by then 10 years old. Emily was 32 years of age though her marriage certificate says she was 27.

I think perhaps it is possible she used the name Valerie not just to hide herself in plain sight but to hide something from the government. Was she planning to continue to present herself as a widow to keep her war widow's pension? At that time, she would have ceased to receive the pension two years after remarrying.

I only speculate on this because two years later in December 1923 Emily goes through another marriage ceremony this time correctly-ish describing herself as Emily May Margetts, widow. What is even more curious about this marriage is that she seems to marry John Kelloway all over again, or does she?

The 1923 marriage is to a John Stephen Kelloway not John Thomas Kelloway and his age was 43 and not 51 as John Thomas had recently turned. Her groom had the same profession of tobacconist, but his parents were recorded as Stephen Kelloway and Prudence Dabinett.

Now, there was a John Stephen Kelloway of that age and with those parents, but he was a farmer still seemingly happily married and working and living at Dorrigo, 360 miles north of Sydney. And that farmer John Stephen was the cousin of tobacconist John Thomas, while the couple recorded as the groom's parents were John Thomas' uncle and aunt!

There are at least two possibilities to explain this. One is that Emily really did wed John Stephen Kelloway at the Presbyterian church manse at Manly on 5 December 1923 and this additional bigamous marriage established a 'second life' in Sydney for the cattle farmer. I've been in touch with descendants of John Stephen Kelloway and there is nothing in the family history that suggests he was living a double life or even spent any time in Sydney as an adult.

Another explanation is that the 1923 marriage was of the same two people who married in 1921. But for what reason did they need to marry yet again under slightly different names?

If Emily had been pretending that she was still the unmarried widow of Patrick Grant Margetts and collecting his pension then this 1923 marriage would certainly put an end to that in the official records, without the risk of disclosing that she had actually remarried in 1921. It's worth noting that an internal memo of the Australian Repatriation Commission dated 5 February 1925 confirming the date of Patrick's death, reports as follows - '*His widow, Emily Mary Margetts, remarried on 5.12.23, her remarried name being Kelloway*', leaving little doubt that news of the 1921 nuptials hadn't reached the Defence Ministry. The memo provides Mrs Kelloway's last known address and despite Patrick having been deceased for over 4 years and Emily remarried for nearly 3½, it ends –

*The pension, however, is payable on Certificate No.147416. at Manly Post Office.*

It's quite possible that the decision to use his cousin's identity in 1923 was a spur of the moment thing coming at the last minute when the reality sunk in and they were asked to provide their full names, parent's names, age etc and John Thomas decided, presumably in some panic that he couldn't give his correct details and

thinking on his feet, knowing he had the details of another John Kelloway - his cousin – he decided to use those.

Frankly, and in the cold light of day, it seems to me that it would have been more sensible to just simply make somebody up rather than expose a relative to the charge of bigamy. In the end, unless there are some family stories left behind that make sense of this charade, we will probably never know why Emily pretended to be a spinster when she married in 1921 and why she married John Thomas Kelloway a second time in 1923 and why he stole his cousin's identity to do so.

In the 1930-1933 Electoral Rolls John and Emily[Valerie] Kelloway are registered together at the same Manly addresses. John the tobacconist has a new occupation as a hairdresser. This was the same profession that Emily's daughter Beryl gave when she married at Manly in 1941. Beryl's name in the marriage register is Beryl Phelps Hall 'known as Kelloway'. Her father, George Hall was described as deceased and had apparently been a man of 'Independent Means'.

George was in fact still alive but is that what Emily believed, or did she just tell her daughter that? Or did Beryl keep the lie going to protect her mother? It is likely George was equally motivated to 'keep a low profile'. I can find no record that the 1921 warrant for his arrest was ever executed. He doesn't ever show up on the Electoral Roll. Had he simply faded into the ether?

George Septimus Hall died of senility at the mental hospital at Morisset on 23 July 1954<sup>xxx</sup>. He had been living at the Empire Hotel on Hunter Street, Newcastle 70 miles north of Sydney. I can find no other record for him between the notice all his warrant for arrest in 1921 and his death 23 years later.

I doubt he was a man of independent means. Whilst his father's probate in 1910 valued his estate at two and a half thousand pounds, whatever George's share was it didn't protect him from going bankrupt the following year. There is nothing to suggest his move to Australia did anything to improve his fortunes. Quite the contrary.

Meanwhile, back in Sydney in the 1934 Electoral Roll the hairdresser John Kelloway is now registered at his son's address, 95 Hay Street Ashbury, Sydney sans Emily who doesn't seem to be any where in the Electoral Roll for that year. John died the following year in Prince Henry Hospital, 15 July 1935. Emily's (or Valerie's) name does not appear in any of the newspaper notices of his death/funeral, nor is there any mention that he left behind a widow. All suggestive that their marriage had ended well before his death. Valerie does appear on John Thomas Kelloway's death certificate as his second wife whom he married 'when 50 years of age' which, as it happens, would have been in 1923<sup>xxxi</sup> not 1921, further supporting the proposition that the 1923 wedding ceremony involved John T and not his farmer cousin John S.

'Valerie's' name next appears in the Electoral Roll in 1936 this time with the surname Vaschetti at 60 Esplanade, Manly. Also registered at that address was a Michael Vaschetti. Four years later, on 12 June 1940, Valarie Kelloway married Michael Vaschetti in Townsville, north Queensland. With George S Hall still alive this was Emily/Valerie's fourth bigamist marriage. This has to be some sort of record.

The Vaschettis would go on to live in the Ingham District for over 25 years. Mrs Valerie May Vaschetti died 19 September 1967 at the General Hospital, Townsville. Her death certificate states she was 68 years old (she was in fact 2 weeks short of 79). Her parents were correctly reported as Samuel Dodwell and Florence Kathleen Tilling.

The particulars of her death were provided by her husband M. Vaschetti, and he reported she had had just one previous husband, a man named Kelloway (he was in fact her 3<sup>rd</sup> (and 4<sup>th</sup>!) husband) and that they had had just one child Beryl, aged 42. Beryl was the daughter of George Hall not John Kelloway and in 1967 she was 55 years old. Emily May Dodwell had lived in Australia 57 years (not 48 as Michael reported).

Emily's only child, Beryl Phelps Hall b.1911 married Francis Henry Long at Manly, New South Wales on 15 August 1941. She died in 1979.

### **New Forces Formed**

Patrick Grant Margetts was in Australia when war with Germany was declared in July 1914. On 15 March 1915 Patrick enlisted with the newly formed 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the 6<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the Australian Imperial Forces (known as the 23<sup>rd</sup> Battalion). The 23<sup>rd</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion formed part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Division.

Over a hundred years earlier it was the prospect of war with France that saw the formation in 1794 of a new British Regiment. Patrick's great grandfather Peter, already an Ensign in the British Army joined the newly formed 100<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot, brought about by the 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Gordon and which in time would be known as the Gordon Highlanders.

Patrick Margetts, with military training gained through his time in the Territorials would likely have been snapped up by the recruiting officers at Melbourne. His great grandfather however, already a junior British officer, was at first rejected by the fledgling 100<sup>th</sup> for reasons that would seem unfathomable to today's mind.

Peter Grant had contracted smallpox when younger and bore the scars of that disfiguring disease. For the Duke's son, the Marquis of Huntley, responsible for vetting new recruits Peter wasn't the right fit. Despite this Peter turned up for parade anyway and was subsequently spotted and called for by the Marquis.

In a series of lectures published in 1860<sup>xxxii</sup> their meeting was recounted thus -

"Well, Grant. Pray what have you come here for?"

"Just to be a soldier, my lord," *answered the volunteer.*

"Oh, don't you know that you are too ugly for a soldier," *said his lordship.*

"May be I am, my lord; but perhaps I may be of use in frightening the French."

"Well, well, poor fellow," *added the marquis*, "as you are determined to smell gunpowder, you must be humoured in your wish."

*the ready mother-wit displayed by the volunteer in his interview with the marquis so pleased his lordship, that he soon became a commissioned officer and favourite associate of his lordship, who found much amusement in his strong good sense and caustic vein of humour....*

Peter Grant was promoted to Lieutenant on joining the 100<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot under the command of Major Charles Erskine.

### **Revolution is in the Air**

One Hundred and Fifty years after the English had had their little experiment with Republicanism in the form of Cromwell's Commonwealth the French decided they too would have a go and in 1793 Louis XVI went the same way as his English counterpart Charles I had. Though the guillotine was likely a little cleaner than the axe.

The English and the French didn't get on at the best of times and a mass uprising culminating in regicide did little to ease the tensions. It was in this environment that Alexander Gordon, the 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Gordon was permitted by George III to raise a new Regiment in his native Aberdeenshire. It was not his first such venture having raised the since disbanded Gordon Fencibles to fight in the Anglo-French Wars of 1778-83.

The then Lt Peter Grant was with this new Regiment when it was stationed in Gibraltar and later in Corsica defending the short-lived Anglo-Corsican Kingdom from French Republican rule, only to leave the Corsicans to their fate in 1796 when the Spanish sided with the French.

The ill-fated Kingdom of Corsica, a vassal state of Britain, had been modelled on the Kingdom of Ireland and in 1798 Peter, newly promoted as a Captain, and the Regiment now renumbered as the 92<sup>nd</sup>, was sent to the 'Kingdom of Ireland' to put down the Irish Rebellion of that year. A rather grim task by all accounts as one would expect in a period of martial law.

As the saying goes *keep your friends close and your enemies closer* and in 1800 the Kingdom of Great Britain 'unified' with the Kingdom of Ireland to form the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

Meanwhile, the French Revolution rumbled on and much like the English Republic before it a dictator emerged from the green shoots of democracy. A young Corsican had been rising through the ranks, though it's unlikely he had been in Corsica when Peter Grant was as he was otherwise busy making a name for himself putting down insurrections in Paris.

At the same time that the English were consolidating power over the British Isles the Corsican General, Napoléon Bonaparte was consolidating power over the French Republic. In 1799 he was made First Consul but unlike Cromwell before him, who resisted being crowned 'King', Napoléon went one step further and in 1804 was crowned Emperor.

In 1799 Peter was promoted to the rank of Captain and the now 92<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of Foot went into battle against the French at Egmont-Op-Zee in Holland. According to a history of the Highlanders<sup>xxxiii</sup> *'The Regiment received its baptism of fire in Holland, losing heavily between Bergen and Egmont-op-Zee on October 2, 1799.'*

Reports at the time recorded that of the 746 men fit for duty on the morning of 1 October, 328 of them were killed, wounded or taken prisoner by the evening of the 2nd. Of those in Peter's Company 5 were confirmed dead and 16 injured with 3 reported missing. Their heroics did not go unnoticed, and the King bestowed upon the Regiment its first Battle Honours.

Peter was counted amongst the wounded, as was Lt Col George Gordon, the Marquis Huntley who had at first blocked Grant's joining the regiment, The two were billeted together in a hut sharing their digs with a cow. It seems Gordon had the more serious injuries and Grant, whose own injuries were unrecorded, nursed him back to health. We are fortunate that the words of W G Stewart<sup>xxxiv</sup> provide a window into that time and place -

.....wounded ..... among whom was "the Glenlivat beauty<sup>xxxv</sup>," Lieutenant Peter Grant<sup>xxxvi</sup>, who is privileged to share the quarters of the marquis, being a black hut near the field of battle, to which his lordship was taken for surgical examination ; and the wound, from its closeness to the bronchial arteries, requiring great rest and care, and cessation from locomotion and excitement, it became necessary for the marquis to occupy the said quarters for some time. The accommodation afforded by the lodging consisted of two apartments -- one end for the humans, as Grant would call them, and the other end for the cow -- much in the style of the domestic arrangements of the ancient Highlanders in the days of Baron Macaulay's grandfather, from whose notes it is presumed the historian has drawn his delineations of the social and domestic habits of his Highland ancestors. For the sake of light and air, a portion of the cow's quarters was fitted up as a couch and dormitory for the noble marquis, -- for being tenants-at-will themselves, the billeted party could not eject the cow, which, for good reasons urged by the proprietor, was left in undisturbed possession of her share of the accommodations. Here, on this bed of roses, for some days, lay the most elegant and accomplished young nobleman of his day ; the beloved of some of England's proudest damsels-- noble Nightingales, who, to administer to his wants and soothe his pains would gladly, for the time, have shared his pallet, which, but for the watchful tenderness and ceaseless solicitude of his kilted nurse, Peter Grant, would have been still more a bed of thorns. But this swarthy ministering angel and Glenlivat Monsieur Soyer, after a sort, acted the part of valet, nurse and cook to his noble patron, beguiling the hours of pain and privation, with tales and stories of tartan land, interspersed with philosophical commentary on the *ups and downs* of life and the fortunes of

war. But it was said he was still more amusing in communicating his wants and wishes to the inmates of the domicile, conveyed in a jargon half Dutch, half Gaelic (interlarded with English parentheses, intended for his lordship's private ear), taking great liberties with their red petticoats, wooden shoes, and eyes and limbs, which he all delivered over to one worse than Bonaparte himself. And not less, the musing, where he addresses to their four-footed companion, "Old Horney," who, in spite of his Irish injunctions on her "to mind her manners," had no respect to persons, attending solely to her sanitary evacuations without apology or reservation ; so that Grant, who knew the habits of horned cattle had to study the "sign of the cow," and when a curvature of the spine indicated a coming shower, he admonished his lordship of the coming event, in order that by contracting his dimensions, he might avoid contamination of his extremities. These sallies of humour on the part of the nurse and companion of the marquis in misfortune, were relished at the time, and we're too good to be forgotten in happier days. And we are told that his noble patron to the last loved to give vivid and laughable illustrations of Peter Grant's performances at "The Sign of the Cow." And, as might be expected, his devoted attentions to his noble-hearted patron would have met substantial rewards in the course of his military career ; but, unfortunately this was cut short.....

### **Criss crossing to Cairo**

The Marquis and the Lieutenant made full recoveries and after returning in late 1799 to England the 92<sup>nd</sup> set sail again at the end of May 1800, this time for the Mediterranean. But first they stopped at Quiberon Bay, Brittany where they dismantled some guns, camping off the coast on Houet Island. They set off again on 24 June and spent the next 6 months criss-crossing the Mediterranean Sea at times in North Africa and others Southern Europe. They spent time in Morocco, Minorca and Malta before arriving at Maramis Bay on the western edge of continental Asia. Here they bided their time in the safe territorial waters of the Ottoman Empire while plans were being made for the British and their Turkish allies to take on the French in Egypt.

Peter no doubt pondered many things while he and his comrades waited for battle in the damp and cramped conditions aboard the HMS Stately but he probably couldn't imagine that just over a century and a decade later his great grandson would find himself in the same region also being readied for war.

### **Baptism of a Nation**

In 1915 the Germans were the enemy and not the French and the Turks were now adversaries, not allies. I wonder if Patrick Grant Margetts carried any ancestral memories when he landed on the Turkish beaches of the Gallipoli Peninsular.

The Gallipoli Peninsular is in continental Europe and marks the western most point of Turkey. Patrick was 300 miles northwest and 3 generations away from where Peter had been waiting for his orders, but they must have experienced the same fears and anxieties.

Peter Grant and the 92<sup>nd</sup> had prepared in Turkey to fight Napoléon in Egypt while Patrick and the 23<sup>rd</sup> Australian Battalion undertook their advanced training in Egypt before sailing north for their first engagement in what would be called the Great War. So called not because there was anything 'great' about it but because it was optimistically thought it would be a 'war to end all wars'. In an ironic twist it is better known today as World War One, signally it as a beginning rather than an ending.

On 25 April 1915 the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) landed at an unnamed 2,000-foot-long strip of sand between the headlands of Ari Burnu and Little Ari Burnu on the western side of the Gallipoli Peninsular. To the east, on the other side of the Peninsular lay the Dardanelles Straights, a narrow and strategic shipping corridor between the Mediterranean and Black Seas.

If Egmont-Op-Zee was a baptism of fire and the making of the Gordon Highlanders then this stretch of Turkish coast proved no less so for an entire nation. The cove would be named after the Corps and the date would become a national day of remembrance for Aussies and Kiwis alike.

Private Patrick Grant Margetts arrived at Anzac Cove in early September just over 4 months after the initial landings. The 23<sup>rd</sup>, alternating each day with the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion would man the front line at Lone Pine for the next 3 months.

Lone Pine, so called because the Turkish army had securely roofed over their trenches using pine logs, was the site of a diversionary attack in early August 1915 launched by the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade. Early success within minutes of launching the attack only became a prelude to 4 days of brutal hand-to-hand combat that saw over 2,000 Australian casualties. Thereafter, defending this new frontline was so dangerous and exhausting the men were relieved every 24 hours.

On 28 September after barely a fortnight at the front Patrick received wounds to his scalp, nose and shoulder and spent 4 days in a field hospital before returning to duty. I expect this field hospital didn't double as a dairy.

The Gallipoli Campaign had not been a success and plans were made to retreat from the Peninsular. Troops began leaving on 8 December 1915. The last soldier left Anzac Cove before dawn on the 20<sup>th</sup>. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Battalion's Bandmaster Pvt John Anderson Reid recorded in his diary<sup>xxxvii</sup> *'I was with the last party to leave on the 19<sup>th</sup>. We got off scot free. We moved to Limnos arriving on the 20<sup>th</sup> and leaving on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Jan.'* Patrick may have been with him or had left the day before. His service record states he disembarked at Alexandria, Egypt 10 January 1916. Before the Battalion had left Gallipoli Patrick was promoted to Lance Corporal, and in the new year to acting Sergeant.

The evacuation was concluded in a fortnight without the Turks realising thanks in part to the Scurry self-firing rifles that had been set up in the now empty trenches.

## **Alexandria or bust**

Over a century earlier Patrick's great grandfather had his own journey by sea from Turkey to Egypt. On the 8 March 1801 the 92<sup>nd</sup> along with 15,000 other British troops landed at Abu Qir Bay, near Alexandria under heavy fire from the French. They moved east along the Mediterranean coast and then on to Rasheed (Rosetta) on the West bank of the Nile.

Napoléon had conquered Egypt a few years earlier in order to control the sea routes from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea via the Suez Canal, just as the British had tried at Gallipoli in 1915 to take control of the sea routes from the Mediterranean to the Black Sea via the Dardanelles.

Napoléon's forces capitulated at Cairo when the British and Turkish Troops arrived, after which the 92<sup>nd</sup> including Peter Grant's company headed back west where the last French stronghold of Alexandria was put under siege and blockaded. The French surrendered Alexandria in September 1801 and on 8 October, 6 months to the day that they had first landed, the 92<sup>nd</sup> Highlanders set sail from Abu Qir Bay.

One hundred and fifteen years later, now acting Sergeant Patrick Margetts would follow in his ancestor's footsteps. From Alexandria the 23<sup>rd</sup> travelled east and spent a fortnight camped at Tel el Kebir 65 miles northeast of Cairo before marching to Ismailia, a major centre on the Suez Canal. They appear not to have been involved in any engagements though Reid's diary records on more than one occasion 'Rumours of Turks about'. Unlike his great grandfather who fought alongside Turkish soldiers in Egypt, Patrick was fighting against them.

Patrick spent half the time his great grandfather did on his tour of Egypt and with significantly less action. When the 92<sup>nd</sup> Highlanders left Alexandria in 1801 they made their way back to the UK. No such luck for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Australian Battalion who boarded the SS Michigan on 19 March 1916 bound for France and the centre of the conflict.

## **The killing fields of France and Flanders**

Patrick disembarked at Marseilles on the 26 March 1916. The next day he and his regiment caught the train and were in Paris on the 28<sup>th</sup> from where the battalion travelled some 20 plus kilometres west along the Seine River before heading north towards Calais and the Belgian border.

On 4 April the battalion, stationed near Wittes in Pas-de-Calais were advised they would be moving to the frontline. That same day Patrick's rank of Sergeant was made permanent. The battalion spent the next 2 months fighting in the trenches in the Armentieres sector of Northern France before boarding trains near Blendecques in July for an undisclosed destination. (The battalion's bandmaster and stretcher bearer, Pte. Reid speculated in his diary on the train's final destination; '*heading towards Calais, Boulogne, Etaples, Amiens...?*')

Sgt Margetts (and Pte. Reid) would have been unaware but days earlier the Allies had begun the Somme Offensive, a battle intended to end the war but one that is remembered as one of the bloodiest and deadliest in human history involving 3 million men with a million casualties.

The 2nd Australian Division took over defence of Pozières, a commune of the French department Somme, which had been captured by the 1st Division on 23 July 1916. On 29 July the 23<sup>rd</sup> battalion mounted a costly attack on German positions on the town's outskirts. Pte Reid's diary at the time records -

**28. [Jul 1916]** Shelling not so heavy this morning expect to go in tonight. Moved in 10pm reach the spot we had to advance from in no man's land 12.00 advance.

**29.** 12.20 many casualties. I sent the other three bearers back with some wounded but they were unable to return. I must have bandaged over 50 men. By morning we had a new line dug. Through some mistake the 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade retired. We had to dig another line to link up with supports.

**30.** Sun. Relieved Sat. 29<sup>th</sup> at 8pm. The bearers had 7 casualties. The remainder of us are unable to work on account of our backs. We are now in reserves. The men have to go on ration fatigue and in the night they have to dig a new line for the next advance. The MD has seen the Brigadier and the 23<sup>rd</sup> have been put reserves as they had so many casualties<sup>xxxviii</sup>

It is very possible that Sergeant Patrick Grant Margetts was one of the 'over 50 men' that Pte Reid bandaged that weekend. Patrick was shot in the legs during the fighting and evacuated to Boulogne after Reid and his comrades rescued him from the battlefield.

On 2 August 1916 the 23<sup>rd</sup> would conduct a more successful attack on the Germans. The following day Patrick was stretchered on to the HS Cambria and shipped off to London where he would spend the next 2½ years in hospitals, never to see action again. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Division including the 23<sup>rd</sup> Battalion were relieved by the Australian 4<sup>th</sup> Division on 6 August 1916.

In just 10 days at Pozières the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division had suffered 6,848 casualties of which Patrick Grant Margetts was one. The Germans made one more counterattack involving heavy artillery bombardment on 7 August which the 4<sup>th</sup> Division defended, and the town was, from that point on, never again under serious threat.

### **London Calling**

Patrick was admitted to the Royal Herbert Hospital at Woolwich, South London on 3 August 1916. Just over a hundred and ten years earlier, in neighbouring Greenwich, Patrick's great grandfather readied with 92<sup>nd</sup> to take part in the funeral procession for Admiral Horatio Nelson. On 9 January 1806 London was brimming with British military and naval personnel, mourning the loss of a national hero but grateful for the decisive victory at Trafalgar he had brought.

In 1916 London was again bristling with men in uniform when Patrick was stretchered across the city to the Willesden Military Hospital on St Marys Road. His route is not recorded so we don't know if he passed Trafalgar Square with Nelson's column on his

way to the makeshift hospital staffed by St Johns Voluntary Aid Detachment. The Somme marked the midpoint in a war that lasted another 2 years.

While Patrick's war had ended at the Somme in 1916 in 1806 his great grandfather, the then Captain Peter Grant was a serving soldier with over 10 years active service, and Nelson's death would likewise mark a midpoint in a series of conflicts that spanned 2 decades.

In 1807 Peter and the 92<sup>nd</sup> again went into battle with the French Army. While Nelson's victory off Cape Trafalgar in southwest Spain put paid to Spanish and French plans to control the English Channel and even invade Britain it did not overly impact Napoléon's continental ambitions. A year after the British buried their hero Admiral attention was turned to the perilous state of the neutral Danish Kingdom and more worrying the resources of the Royal Dano-Norwegian Navy.

Denmark was at the mercy of Napoléon's growing power. That was plain to see and, come what may, the British were not going to lose Nelson's legacy so soon after his death. They tried to negotiate with Copenhagen the temporary surrender of its Navy to prevent it coming under French control. The Danes politely declined. The British took it anyway.

The British had amassed 25,000 troops for the task. Cpt. Peter Grant and his men amongst them. On the 29 August 1807 the 92<sup>nd</sup> took part in the Battle of Køge before joining the Bombardment of Copenhagen. The Danish government, hopelessly outnumbered, capitulated on 7 September and their fleet was seized.

The following year Peter was promoted to Major and in August 1808 the regiment sailed for Portugal. The previous year Napoléon had, with the support of his Spanish allies, annexed Portugal. The Spanish expected southern Portuguese territory in return but instead found they had lost Spanish territory to the French. Humiliated, Charles IV of Spain abdicated in favour of his son Ferdinand VII. Napoléon usurped them both and made his brother Joseph Bonaparte King of Spain in May 1808.

### **The Iberian Peninsular**

The 92<sup>nd</sup> landed at Maceira Bay on the 25 August 1808 under the overall command of Lieutenant General Sir John Moore in a brigade led by Major General Ronald Ferguson. At the forefront of British forces was General Sir Arthur Wellesley, later to become the 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Wellington. Wellesley enjoyed successes, in particular at Vimeiro, after which the French gave up Portugal but not before Wellesley had been overruled and the British allowed nearly 30,000 surrounded French troops safe passage out.

The British pressed on into Spain to support the now leaderless Spanish Army who suffered defeats while Napoléon reinforced his troops retaking Madrid. Meanwhile Wellesley was back in London along with the Generals who'd overruled him facing an inquiry into their *Convention of Cintra* which had allowed the evacuation of French troops, leaving Sir John Moore in charge of British troops on the Iberian Peninsula. In the face of overwhelming French numbers, the British began a 500-kilometre retreat to the Atlantic coast.

Maj Grant and his troops were amongst the retreating forces who made it to La Coruña on the Galician coast only to find their troop ships had yet to arrive. The chasing French arrived before the boats and General Moore took a stand to defend his forces. The 92<sup>nd</sup> formed part of Moore's 2<sup>nd</sup> Division in the Battle of Corunna which took place on 16 January 1809. Peter and tens of thousands of his fellow troops escaped back to Britain but not their leader. Lieutenant General Sir John Moore was one of many soldiers who were killed in action that day.

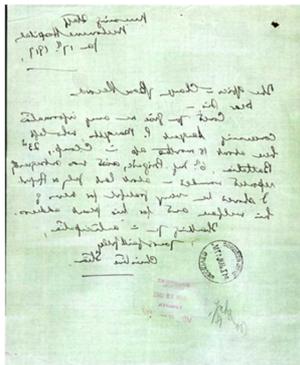
The Peninsular War continued on and by September 1810 the 92<sup>nd</sup> was back in Portugal. In May 1811 Wellesley was anxious to prevent Marshal André Masséna from relieving the besieged city of Almeida and marched men, including our Major Grant, south to face the oncoming French. The two sides met at Fuentes D'Onor, near the Portuguese border battling over control of the Spanish village.

After 3 days the French withdrew back to Ciudad Rodrigo. The French were unable to relieve Almeida and not long after abandoned it to the British. At Fuentes D'Onor of the 1,500 allied casualties the 92<sup>nd</sup> lost 7 killed in action with another 9 dying of their wounds. Another 47 were wounded including Maj. Peter Grant who had been hit by a cannon ball and had to have a leg amputated.

### Peace at Home and Abroad

It would be another 4 years before the Second Treaty of Paris in 1815 put an end to hostilities, but Major Peter Grant would play no more part in the Napoleonic Wars after making his way out of Portugal and back to Scotland in 1811.

His great grandson was still in hospital in London when the Treaty of Versailles ended war with Germany in 1918. He had been an in-patient for over two years. I don't know if he thought much about making the same trip as his great grandfather had back to Aberdeenshire but in April 1919, having been recently discharged from hospital, Sgt Patrick Grant Margetts left England for Melbourne.



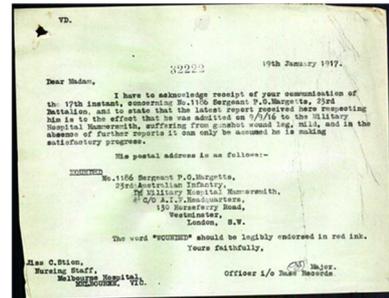
In Patrick's Military Records there is letter dated 17 January 1917 from a Miss Christine Ström a nurse at the Royal Melbourne Hospital seeking news of Patrick. She was aware he had been reported injured and wrote *'I should be very grateful for news of his welfare and for his present address. Thanking you in anticipation, Yours....'* How did they know each other and what was their relationship?

Four months after Christine wrote seeking Patrick's whereabouts, she enlisted with the Australian Army Nursing Service as a staff nurse and the following month she embarked from Melbourne aboard the RMS Mooltan, bound for Egypt and then the 66<sup>th</sup> British General Hospital at Thessaloniki, Greece<sup>xxxix</sup>. Like Pte Reid, Staff Nurse Strom kept a diary and by all accounts was a prolific letter writer.

Christine was transferred to the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford, Kent in January 1919 after hostilities had ceased and when Patrick was still an in-patient just 16 miles away at the Special Military Surgical Hospital, Duncan Road, Shepherds Bush. When Christine wasn't busy looking after wounded servicemen, she travelled to

meet up with family and friends but there are no diary entries indicating she ever met up with Patrick.

Christine's letter of 1917 had been responded to, but the Army had mis-read her signature and addressed the reply to Miss C Stion (not Ström), Nursing Staff, Melbourne Hospital. It provided details for the hospital Patrick had been admitted to in September 1916 and in which he would remain until 6 March 1919. Did Christine get the reply? Did she write to Patrick? Whatever the nature of their acquaintance it seems not to have lasted.



Patrick boarded the troopship Marathon at Portsmouth on 19 April 1919 and disembarked at the New Railway (Prince's) Pier, Port Melbourne on 7 June 1919. He was medically discharged from the Army two months later on 6 August and married Emily Dodwell the following week.

### The Ultimate Sacrifice

Sadly, neither Peter nor Patrick lived long after peace was declared in their respective eras. Peter had lost a leg in 1811 after a nearly 20-year career in the Army and on 17 March 1818 not yet 50 and only just become a father he died from a burst blood-vessel no doubt exacerbated by his war injuries. He is buried in the churchyard at Kirkmichael, Moray.

Peter's death was reported in The Scots Magazine on 1 April 1818

17 [March]. At Keith, Banffshire, from the bursting of blood-vessel, Major Peter Grant, late of the 92d regiment, or Gordon Highlanders. His zeal for the service induced him to join the army in Flanders in 1793, a volunteer. His services having been noticed by the Marquis of Huntly, his Lordship appointed him to his regiment upon its establishment in 1794. Major Grant was constantly present with, and shared in the many gallant exploits of this distinguished corps, in Holland, Egypt, and in the Peninsular, &c. In the course of these severe conflicts, he was repeatedly wounded, and was finally under the necessity of retiring from the service, in consequence of losing a leg by a cannon ball in Spain.

The day before in London the Sun published the following notice -

Suddenly, at Keith, Banffshire, on the 17th curt. from the bursting of a blood-vessel, Major Peter Grant, late the 92d regiment, or Gordon Highlanders. He was in his 49th year, and was of the family of Tullochgorum, in Strathspey.

Patrick Grant Margetts had been shot in the legs in 1916 and needed iron leg braces to walk. Despite numerous operations he suffered with a badly united fracture of his right tibia and weakness in his left knee and ankle which would give way. He was in pain when using his legs. On 4 September 1920 while an in-patient at the Manly

Cottage Hospital Patrick had a cerebral haemorrhage, again, like his great grandfather, probably aggravated by his war wounds. He is buried in Manly Cemetery, Sydney.

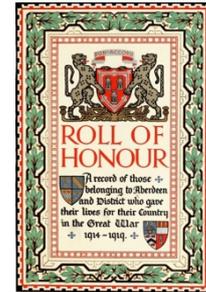
Patrick's wife had the following notice published in The Argus of Melbourne on 11 September 1920 -

MARGETTS. — On the 4th September, passed away at the Manly Cottage Hospital, Patrick Grant (Scotty) Margetts, aged 32 years. (Interred Sept. 6 in Manly Cemetery.)

"Trusting to meet you again, darling mine." — (Inserted by his ever-loving wife, Val. Margetts.)

Patrick is listed on Panel 99 in the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

He was not forgotten by the country of his birth and his name appears in the City of Aberdeen Roll of Honour '*MARGETTS, PATRICK G., Sergeant, Australian Imperial Force. Bank House, Alford. 4th September, 1920.*



As I sit at my desk in London pockets of conflict rage in Europe and the Middle East, and civil unrest is erupting in the Americas and continues unabated in the horn of Africa, while some Asian states whose role it is to protect their peoples single out some for oppression, and where resistance is met with death.

And yet most of the planet is getting on with life in relative peace. I am optimistic that we are unlikely to ever again see grand wars of conquest, and I am equally hopeful that we have learnt lessons from the 'one in, all in' response to individual national conflicts.

It is true that treaties such as NATO and the former WARSAW pact are predicated on nations joining in on conflicts, though I would argue this has been tempered by an understanding of the Mutually Assured Destruction that would prevail. It is this idea of MAD that probably empowered Vasili Arkhipov to defy orders and refuse to fire his nuclear weapon on that challenging day in 1962<sup>x1</sup>.

As a child I would attend ANZAC memorial services and I remember they always ended 'Lest We Forget'. We should never forget the terror that can be wrought by individuals with power but never underestimate the influence we can have when we keep our cool and read the sign of the cow.

## END NOTES

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- <sup>i</sup> UK Conservative politician Norman Tebbit (b.1931) bemoaned what he considered was a lack of loyalty to the English cricket team from immigrants and their (English) children. He got it spot on with me. Baggy Greens all the way! C'mon Aussie C'mon, C'mon.
- <sup>ii</sup> Statutory registers - Deaths 192/27 1891 GRANT, Anne. [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk)
- <sup>iii</sup> Baird, George W. Upper Banffshire Parish With A Glorious History. in the Elgin Courant and Courier, 19 May 1952.
- <sup>iv</sup> Kirkmichael parish is 8 miles south of Ballindalloch and 6 miles north-west of Tomintoul in the former county of Banffshire and within present day Moray Council.
- <sup>v</sup> Churches and Churchyards of Kirkmichael, Tomintoul Parish and St. Michael's, Tomintoul Public Cemetery and Tomintoul War Memorials. 2016. The Moray Burial Ground Research Group.
- <sup>vi</sup> Statutory registers - Deaths 157/4 1855 GRANT, Charlotte [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk)
- <sup>vii</sup> Statutory registers - Deaths 157/2 8 1856 GRANT, Elizabeth [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk)
- <sup>viii</sup> Statutory registers - Deaths 157/2 23 1862 GRANT, Grace [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk)
- <sup>ix</sup> [www.clangrant-us.org](http://www.clangrant-us.org) accessed 20 December 2023
- <sup>x</sup> Fraser, William, The Chiefs of Grant. 1883. Castle Grant, Grantown, Strathspey.
- <sup>xi</sup> There is another book that may provide more detail written by a descendant of the Tullochgorum Grants. Isabel Frances Grant's 'The clan Grant: the development of a clan' was published in 1955 by W. & A.K. Johnston & G.W. Bacon, Edinburgh.
- <sup>xii</sup> Fraser. The Chiefs of Grant. p.519
- <sup>xiii</sup> Briggs, Katharine Mary. An Encyclopedia of Fairies: Hobgoblins, Brownies, Bogies, and Other Supernatural Creatures. 1977 Pantheon Books, New York. pp.284-285
- <sup>xiv</sup> Fraser. The Chiefs of Grant. p.lxix
- <sup>xv</sup> In 1857 a William Grant won 2<sup>nd</sup> prize at the Duke of Richmond's Cattle show for 'Agricultural Labourer who shall have been the greatest years consecutively in the employment of one person or on the same farm' William had spent 16 years with "Misses Grant, Knockandhu". See Elgin Courier 4 Sept 1857 p.3. He tied for 1<sup>st</sup> prize in 1860 with 20 years. See Elgin Courier 14 Sept 1860 p.8.
- <sup>xvi</sup> Elgin Courant and Morayshire Advertiser 15 October 1852 p.3 col.4
- <sup>xvii</sup> Elgin Courant and Morayshire Advertiser 5 December 1851 p.3 col.3
- <sup>xviii</sup> Banffshire Journal, 10 January 1854 p.2 col.8
- <sup>xix</sup> Hay/Grant Old Parish Registers Marriages 160/ Kirkmichael and Tomintoul Page 135 of 168 [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk)
- <sup>xx</sup> Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages Victoria. Marriage Ref 1864/1871
- <sup>xxi</sup> Margets/Hay Statutory registers – Marriages 192/10 1880 at Ellon [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk)
- <sup>xxii</sup> Public Record Office Victoria; North Melbourne, Victoria; Inward Overseas Passenger Lists (British Ports) [Microfiche Copy of VPRS 947]; Series: VPRS 7666. Passenger list for arrival at Melbourne records 'Coulson Hay & Co. Flinders st' under column headed 'Port at which contracted to Land'
- <sup>xxiii</sup> Full sheet music for *La Comtesse* at <https://kb.osu.edu/server/api/core/bitstreams/e63d832c-dbb4-5691-995a-f7518a40c166/content> you can also listen to the composition *Burnham Beeches Schottische* by S.Dodwell at [https://www.sheetmusicdirect.com/se/ID\\_No/836219/Product.aspx](https://www.sheetmusicdirect.com/se/ID_No/836219/Product.aspx)
- <sup>xxiv</sup> Samuel Dodwell (1909-1990) at [www.panterandhall.com/collections/samuel-dodwell-1909-1990](http://www.panterandhall.com/collections/samuel-dodwell-1909-1990) accessed 10 February 2024.
- <sup>xxv</sup> Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages Victoria. Marriage Ref 8140/1919
- <sup>xxvi</sup> GRO Dodwell, Emily May 1888 1<sup>st</sup> qtr St George Hanover Sq vol-1a. p-425

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<sup>xxvii</sup> TNA RG14 195/ 2/ 5/ 284

<sup>xxviii</sup> Morning Leader 5 August 1911 p.2 col.5

<sup>xxix</sup> New South Wales Police Gazette, Museums of History, NSW NRS-10958 published 20 April 1921 p.228

<sup>xxx</sup> Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages NSW. Deaths Ref: 25491/1954 HALL, George Septimus, Wyong.

<sup>xxxi</sup> John turned 51 on 1 September 1923 2½ months before the Dec 1923 marriage ceremony.

<sup>xxxii</sup> Stewart, William Grant. Lectures on the mountains; or, The Highlands and Highlanders as they were and as they are. 1860 Saunders, Otley, and Co., London. p.66.

<sup>xxxiii</sup> Gardyne, Charles Greenhill. The life of a regiment: the history of the Gordon Highlanders, 1929 Medici Society, London.

<sup>xxxiv</sup> Stewart. Lectures on a mountain. pp.67-69

<sup>xxxv</sup> The ironic nick name given to Peter Grant most likely by George Duncan Gordon then the Marquis Huntley.

<sup>xxxvi</sup> The Army List of 1804-1806 dates Peter's promotion to Captain as 16 Aug 1799, 6 weeks before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Bergen where he was wounded alongside Lt-Col Gordon.

<sup>xxxvii</sup> John Anderson Reid, teenager, soldier and Private in A Company of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion (Patrick Margetts was in C Company). John was a stretcher bearer and the Battalion's Band Master. Service No. 226. He kept a diary of his time in WWI and a transcript is at [www.awm.gov.au/collection/C2134709](http://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C2134709)

<sup>xxxviii</sup> *ibid*

<sup>xxxix</sup> [www.awm.gov.au/collection/P11013417](http://www.awm.gov.au/collection/P11013417) accessed 2 March 2024

<sup>xl</sup> Wilson, Edward. Thank you Vasili Arkhipov, the man who stopped nuclear war. Published in the Guardian 27 October 2012 [www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2012/oct/27/vasili-arkhipov-stopped-nuclear-war](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2012/oct/27/vasili-arkhipov-stopped-nuclear-war) accessed 20 March 2024.

### Military Service - other Grant descendants

Patrick Grant Margetts was not the only Grant descendant to participate in military conflict. The following persons also served.

#### Major Peter Grant's brother.

- John GRANT 1785-1848  
Captain, 10th Inverness, Banff, Elgin & Nairn Militia

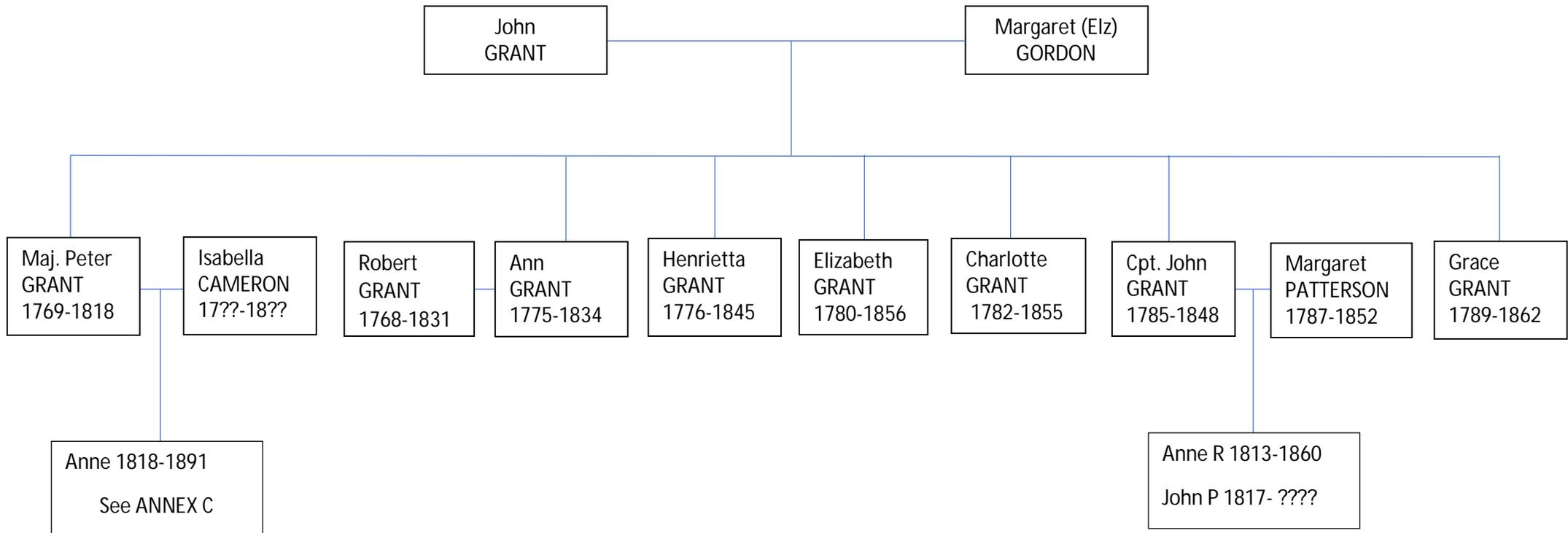
#### Peter's great grandchildren -

- James Stronach MARGETTS 1881-1935  
Sergeant, Gordon Highlander, Regimental No. 240017
- Patrick Grant MARGRETT 1884-1920  
Sergeant, 23<sup>rd</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. Service No. 1186

#### Peter's great great grandchildren

- Thomas Henry Grant HARRIS 1918-1943  
Lieutenant, 2/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment (W. Surrey), Regimental No. 233204  
Killed in action at Salerno, Italy in WWII. He is buried at Salerno War Cemetery, Salerno, Provincia di Salerno, Campania.
- William Grant CANTLAY 1919-1944  
Flying Officer, Royal Canadian Airforce, Service No. J22530  
A navigator he was killed 3 June 1944 whilst flying in Sudan in WWII. His plane had a forced landing 10 miles east of Khartoum due to an engine fire while on a ferry flight. Buried at Khartoum War Cemetery.
- Peter Robert GRANT HAY 1919-1984  
Able Seaman, Royal Australian Navy, Service No. P/M3938  
Served aboard the HMAS Nepal in WWII.
- Mary Audrey Catherine HAY 1922-2009  
3<sup>rd</sup> Officer, Women's Royal Australian Navy Service, No. WR/1681  
Served WWII at the naval base HMAS Lonsdale, Port Melbourne.

# GRANTS of TULLOCHGORUM



# HAY GRANT Family

