

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT 2007 AGM

Good Afternoon fellow Gordons! I am sorry that I wasn't able to be present this weekend for our Annual General Membership Meeting. Unfortunately the timing at work was such that I have to be in Richmond.

We have had an exciting year with some ups and downs on the communication front. The logistics of getting the content management software to remain stable and work the way we wanted it to work have presented the greatest challenge for our proposed web portal. I have designed and created a traditional website for us that has some great features and custom graphics, and which has received very positive remarks. We are still looking into the possibilities of including the content management software on our site to make it possible to have greater interactive capabilities, and are hoping to be able to find a template that we can customize to suit our needs and maintain the look that we have created.

I have created a map with our districts and regions which directly link to each district's page. Each district or region has contact and schedule information as well as space for their latest news. For those regions with their own websites, I have provided links directly to their websites on their USA page as well. In addition we have an events page which allows visitors to the website to pull an extensive and fairly comprehensive listing by geographic area or by date. So if you are planning a trip and want to know where and when Celtic events are going to be it is all there, including at which venues we will be hosting a Gordon tent! Each event is also linked to the official website for that event on our events calendars both on the district pages and the events page making it easy for you to get all of the pertinent information. We have also incorporated PayPal which gives you the opportunity to securely pay your dues or make donations to the House of Gordon USA with your credit card from a link on the website!

We have begun a Wall of Honor – carrying what we began in Virginia to a national level and honoring our men and women at arms past and present. This Wall of Honor has generated more positive comment than any other single feature. Likewise in Virginia where we have the Wall of Honor as part of our tent display, it has generated more traffic at the tent. It draws people in and gets them to asking questions about us as a clan. Military service has always been an integral part of the Gordon Clan, always faithful to our Chief, we have transferred that loyalty to our homeland wherever we have gone in the world, and have significantly helped to shape the world as we know it today. In Russia, it was General Patrick Gordon of Auchleuchries who put Peter the Great on the throne and kept him there. It was then Captain James Gordon of Wardhouse who inspired our national anthem with his bombardment of Fort McHenry. He went on to attain the highest rank in the British Navy with a 76 year long career, and was in large part the inspiration for C.S. Forester's Horatio Hornblower. General Charles Gordon led the EVA in China protecting Britain's and Europe's interests earning him the nickname Chinese Gordon. He later discovered the Garden Tomb while serving in Jerusalem. Finally becoming the Governor of the Sudan, he performed one of the greatest military feats in history by defending Khartoum for almost a year within a weak Egyptian garrison without staff or confidants. He and his troops were massacred just two days before relief arrived. His death created such public furor that Gladstone's government fell. General Joseph M. Gordon was the primary organizer of the Australian Army prior to 1914. He descended from the Spanish branch of the Wardhouse Gordons. Today, Major General Ian Campbell Gordon of Australia is Chief of Staff of the

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United Nations Truce Supervision Organization. And General John A. Gordon, USAF Retired, has served our nation in many capacities including work in improving the Minuteman ICBM and in developing and acquiring the Peacekeeper ICBM, oversight and completion of the START II negotiations, deputy director of the CIA, and the President's Homeland Security Advisor. As Gordons we have a 954+ year tradition of continuous military service and boast as part of that history what Winston Churchill proclaimed to be the "Finest Regiment that ever was," the Gordon Highlanders. I would like to encourage all of our members who are serving, have served, or who have family members serving to submit their names to our wall.

We are also building a genealogy help section with links to various resources for the clan's surnames, and are looking for experienced researchers in the various surnames to help with this project. Ideally we would like to have a group of people that we can forward our genealogical inquiries to for general pointers and assistance. We also want to begin building a database of information already compiled by our members so that we can begin to make this available to other researchers.

We have successfully launched a newsletter called "In the House!" Since I have basically been responsible for its entire production I haven't been able to produce as many newsletters as I would like. If any of you are interested in contributing to the newsletter I would be thrilled! Please send me your tidbits of news – what is happening in your family, and with the other members in your area. We want to celebrate the births and accomplishments of the clan as well as honor those who have passed on. If you would like to write an article on anything related to the Gordons current or historical we would be happy to have you contribute! Finally if we could get someone to head up getting sponsors for the larger annual edition of "In the House!" by soliciting advertising to offset the publication cost, we can ensure a quality publication of the annual edition with more content than this year's!

The establishment of the House of Gordon USA as a non-profit 501C entity puts us in a better position to protect our membership's assets and build upon the foundation which had previously been started. This firmer foundation is only as good as the membership behind it, and I hope that you will all stand with us proudly to build our family organization and uphold and spread those traditions which have made the Gordons strong and will keep us strong in the future. In this time of trouble we need to stand together as Gordons and as Americans in supporting the ideals of freedom, loyalty, service and most of all family which have been key in the clan's existence and success and in America's existence and success.

BYDAND and May God Bless you all

Lois Todd