

## House of Gordon DNA Project & Fund Report

Our DNA Project currently has 314 participants and has found the haplogroups of the three major Clan branches differ: The Jock and Tam branch are Haplogroup I1, the Seton-Gordons are R1b and the Sir William Gordon (Kenmure) branch is I1d, as well as I1. The haplogroup identifies one's ancestry thousands of years back. Those with Haplogroup I are generally descended from Scandinavians (read Viking raiders and settlers of the mid- and late Middle Ages). Haplogroup R1b is the most prominent haplogroup in Western Europe. Haplogroup I1d is a subgroup of Haplogroup I and identifies specifically Danish Viking ancestors. From this we are finding that those with direct male ancestry back to the progenitor of the clan are I1 or I1d indicating that they were Viking or more specifically Danish Viking, not Norman as has long been held. This is a very exciting revelation! Had the Gordon family been in England longer than we thought at the Dano-Saxon court or did they come with Edward the Confessor when he returned to England from Normandy as has long been thought? It may be that the Norman connection comes from the Seton line, not the Gordon! Food for thought in Scotland indeed.

The House of Gordon USA generously donated \$1,000 to the Project to help finance testing for applicants. To date we have assisted four applicants at 67-marker tests using a total of \$956.00:

1. A 67-marker test for a Gordon who had been unable to trace her ancestry beyond the late 19<sup>th</sup> century put her male representative among the J&T Gordons, matching 65 of 67 markers and represents a new Jock & Tam line. The test results now allow her to find her link by focusing her research on Gordons descending from the J&T lines.
2. A descendant of the Gordons of Abergeldie gave us a great surprise as we expected his results to match the Seton-Gordons; however, his results came back matching the Jock & Tam Gordons. It is likely that there was intermarriage with the nearby Glenbuchat Gordons who descend from Jock of Scurdargue. This should give researchers in Scotland something to dig through the family archives, and could represent some exciting new understanding in history.
3. The kit for a descendent of Peter Laing Gordon of Craigmyle was just received and is awaiting results.
4. A descendent of Gordons of NC with family lore indicating a possible link to the William Gordon family of Wymore, Clyde Sutherland that immigrated to America aboard the Bachelor of Leith in 1774 shows results are closely matching the Seton-Gordons DNA sequence. Being from Sutherland he may well be descended from the chiefs of Clan Sutherland who were also Seton-Gordons from the marriage of Elizabeth, Countess of Sutherland to Adam Gordon of Aboyne in 1500.

More members of Gordon septs have joined the Project: 29 participants represent 10 septs. Sept surnames to date are: Adams, Atkinson, Atkisson, Craig, Crombie, Edison, Geddes, Huntl(e)y, Jessmon, Lawry, Marrs, Mills, Milne, Stele, Todd and Troup.

There is much interest among researchers in the relation of Septs and Gordons, and the project has revealed there are some genetic links. This is proving that many of our septs are literally branches of the Gordon Clan/family and not just allied families adopted into the clan for protection. We have two Sept member families, a Craig and an Adams, matching one of the Sir William Gordon branches. In both cases, the common ancestor is possible within 14-generations and increasingly likely within 24-generations. A member of the Todd family is matching the Jock & Tam Gordons with increasing probability between 16 and 24-generations ago. A surprise is that we are also seeing a genetic link between two Septs as yet another Todd and a Lawrie are likely descendants of a common ancestor between 18 and 26 generations back. Testers representing the Crombie, Troup, Crouch, Cullen, Huntl(e)y and Jess(i)mon Septs are likely related to several Gordon branches, but closer to 40-generations ago. As the number of Sept testers increase in our project, we should see if patterns continue or new links emerge.

Tei Gordon has been working with an astrophysicist (Harvard PhD) who has been creating new algorithms for analyzing different families, based on a complex statistical formula he has been spending the last 4 years

creating. As we have one of the largest and unusually well-documented DNA groups, he is keen on co-authoring a paper with the House of Gordon DNA Project on his new method for publication in the Journal of Genetic Genealogy ([www.jogg.info](http://www.jogg.info)) where he has already published a couple papers. This could really give us a credibility boost in the scientific and genealogical communities!

The information we have garnered through our DNA Project and with the donation we made is significant in understanding our Clan history and origins. We have carefully considered the cases for funding to ensure that the dollars spent are ones that will be representing true Gordon or Gordon sept lineage and will be of real value to the tester and to the House of Gordon DNA study. We hope that the House of Gordon USA will make another donation to the DNA Project fund to assist others in their family search and with the continued study of our Clan's genetic origins and history.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Gordon, Tei Gordon & Lois Todd