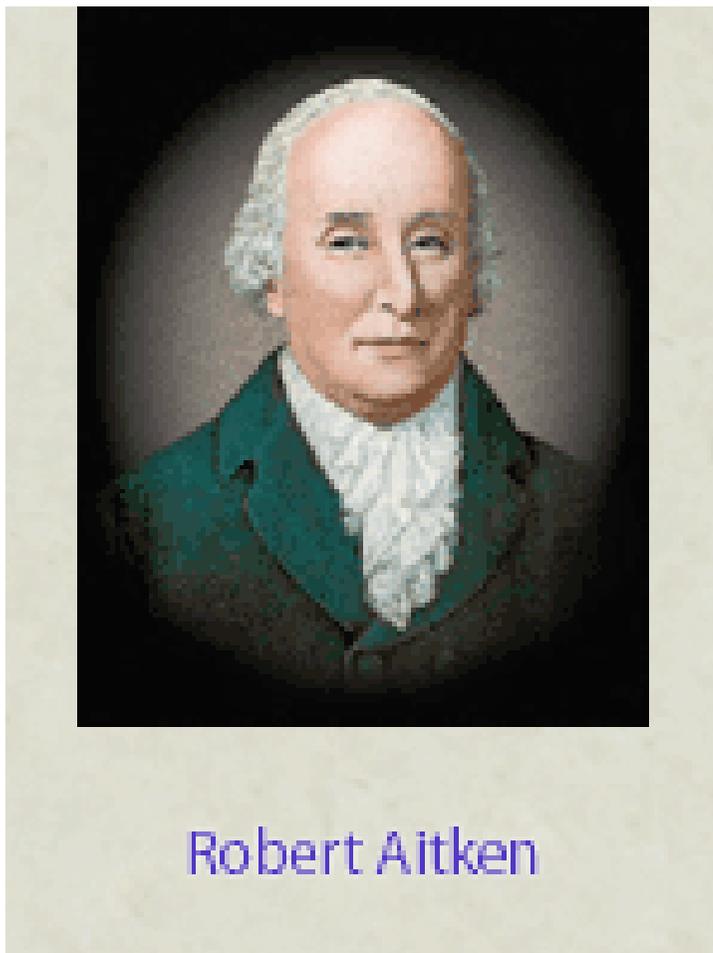


IN THE HOUSE!

House of Gordon USA Newsletter, Annual Edition

Volume 4 Issue 2

May 2010



Robert Aitken

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Please visit our website: houseofgordonusa.org for further information.

Articles and other materials appropriate for publication are encouraged. All matters submitted for printing are subject to the Editor's approval, w ho reserves the right to edit prior to publication.

MEMBERSHIP in the **House of Gordon USA** is available to all w ho bear the surname Gordon, an Associated Family name, or to one w ho has a sincere interest in the Gordons and all things Scottish.

Dues of \$25 are payable annually. Remit to **House of Gordon USA**, 10562 Odell Road, San Diego, CA 92126-3012 or remit using Paypal (details on houseofgordonusa.org/Membership.html).

In The House!

Lois Todd, Editor

A Message From the Chief!



Dear Members and Friends,

I understand that if one visits Cuba one is refused entry by your Customs and Immigration Department into the United States. In which case I did not just come back from there earlier this week. I did not discover what an extraordinary country it is nor did I learn how charming the Cubans happen to be. What I really missed out on was not hearing the music which, I am told, is in every corner bar, spilling from every first floor window and filling the streets with some of the most wonderful sounds I never heard.

The Spanish architecture of Old Havana must be wonderful to behold, the old American cars, proudly held together, thronging every square, cannot be found in such numbers anywhere else in the world. And at night, when the city warms up and all the young are out on the town it is safe, so I am told, to walk where you please, stop and talk to who you wish and enjoy the warmest of welcome everywhere you go. No drugs, no drunks and no obesity.

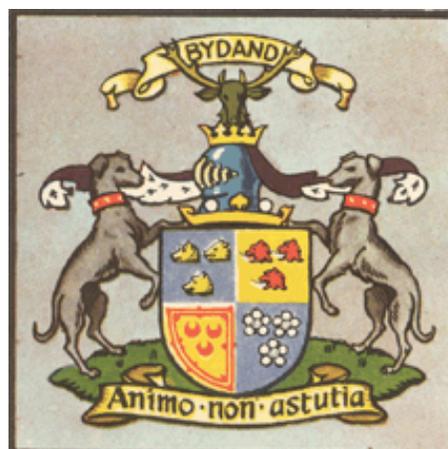
There are no MacDonald's or Irish Pubs or KFCs on the street corners, no Coca-Cola

hoardings and no litter beneath your feet. If I had visited Cuba I would have looked in the telephone book in my hotel bedroom to discover whether any Gordons had managed to settle in such an unusual place. Guess what I would have found? Fifteen of them proudly listed. If only I had been there I might have been able to start a House of Gordon branch. Just what our Scottish music would have sounded like on the bongos, maracas and penny flute I have no idea!

Best wishes to you all in 2010 and hope to see as many of you as possible at the Aboyne Games in August.

Huntly

“Best wishes to you all in 2010 and hope to see as many of you as possible at the Aboyne Games in August.”



President's Message

Greetings from the House!

I trust all is well with the Gordons and our fellow Septs!

We have had a busy first quarter and are anxious for the festival and games season to commence. We have been diligently working on a number of activities specifically focused on increasing membership, providing a solid support foundation for new and existing Conveners and Regional Commissioners, as well as escalating conversations with the House of Gordon organizations around the world.

Here are some of the highlights:

- ⇒ Development of a "Conveners Kit" to assist Conveners and Commissioners in establishing a easily recognized House of Gordon presence at Festivals and Highland Games
- ⇒ Establish a "House of Gordon Store" on line, with a variety of aggressively priced Gordon materials, such as Gordon pins, Tartan, Banners, flags, and similar items.
- ⇒ Establish ongoing support conference calls for Conveners and Commissioners
- ⇒ Establish an electronic "Town Hall" for membership to voice ideas and opinions
- ⇒ Increase cooperation and communications with the international House of Gordon organizations

It is our goal to triple membership within the next eighteen months. This is an aggressive goal; however, with a lot of effort and support, I believe this to be very achievable. Our team is eager to hear your ideas and suggestions as to how we can achieve this goal. It is our hope to grow the House of Gordon into the "gold standard" of Scottish family clans. With your help, this can be a certainty.

As a note about the House worldwide, it is very interesting to note that in addition to the House in Scotland and the USA, there are now very active organizations in New Zealand, Australia, Canada and the newest organization, the House Of Gordon – Russia. Astonishingly enough, I have just been contacted by a group of Gordon's in Singapore. It seems as the Gordon's traveled the world we left our mark wherever we found a new home. We have just escalated communications between these international organizations to assist each branch in growing and sharing information. We are truly an International House to be proud of, of that, there is no doubt.

Please contact me if I can help in any way, I am honored to serve as your President.

With warm regards,

Kim William Gordon
314-378-1112

"BYDAND"

What's Happening *In The House!* ... News & Reports from around the USA



ANNOUNCING OPERATION THANK-YOU!

We are happy to announce that we will be putting together a video montage thanking our troops for their service. We are asking all our members to send along a photo or short video clip with your thank-you to the troops. We will be shooting video and taking group shots at Grandfather,

and will be featuring our Wall of Honor! We have asked our conveners to also take group shots at their events whenever possible.

Get creative, make your sign or banner and let's show our men and women that we really DO CARE about them!

CHARLES O. GORDON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

We are pleased to announce that we are expanding our scholarship efforts and have become the sponsor of the **Grandfather Mountain Highland Games Grade 4 Junior Piper of the Day Award!** We will be awarding the overall winner of the Grade 4 Junior piping competition a special trophy and a scholarship for one week's tuition at the recipient's piping summer school of choice for the following summer! We felt that as Charley was our founding president and also a founding member and past president of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games that this was the perfect fit for us to continue his legacy of promoting the Scottish Arts among the youth.

We are also expanding our program so that we may continue to award individual scholar-

ships to applicants who show a serious commitment to their art and need a boost along the way. The board voted to allot \$1500.00 for the 2010 Fiscal Year toward our scholarship program to be awarded as three \$500.00 individual cash grants. To that end we are proud to announce that **we have awarded the first \$500.00 scholarship to Miss Jean Stein, a fourteen year-old highland dancer from El-**



gin, Illinois. Jean has been dancing for eight years now and has been an active competitor. In the United States Inter-Regional Highland Dance Championship, she was the 1st runner-up in the Midwest Regional Championship in 2005 and the champion from 2006-2009. She was the United States Inter-Regional Champion in her age range in 2008 and 2009, and last year competed in the Cowal World Highland Dancing Championship in Dunoon, Scotland and was 4th runner-up in her age group. We are excited to be sponsoring this fine young lady in perfecting her art!



Our second scholarship has been awarded to Miss Zoe Shell of Elizabethton, Tennessee. Zoe is a fifteen year-old Scottish Tenor Drummer with the Grandfather

Mountain Highlanders Pipe Band and will be going with them to compete in the World Pipe Band Championships in Scotland in the Grade 4 Pipe band category. She will be using her scholarship to attend the North American

Academy of Piping and Drumming this summer, and we will have the opportunity to see her at our AGM at Grandfather Mountain this year!

March 5-7, 2010, marked our first annual trip to the North Texas Irish Festival in Dallas, TX, at Fair Park. We arrived Friday afternoon amidst swarms of people setting up for the festival including food vendors, bands, clans, volunteers, and merchant vendors. We were set up by 6 pm alongside our Clan Keith friends from Waco, TX, in the "Scottish Village" area of the Centennial Building. The clan tents weren't open for Friday night, so we all were able to enjoy the festivities from 6 pm until 11 pm. The festival opened free from 6 pm to 7 pm to encourage Friday night attendance. On Saturday the festival was open from 10:30 am to 11:30 pm and on Sunday from 11:30 am to 7:30 pm.

We arrived bright and early on Saturday and enjoyed beautiful weather and a very large crowd of an estimated 60,000 to 70,000 people. It was reported that some of the beer vendors ran out of beer! Approximately 50 Performers were on 8 stages. One stage was right at the Scottish Village, so we were able to enjoy music all day long! There were three general areas of vendors including the Centennial Building where we were, the Automobile Building, and outside between and around the buildings with approximately 150 vendors in attendance. It took about 3 hours to look at every vendor - believe me - I did it myself!

We welcomed many Gordon's to the tent throughout the weekend and handed out numerous membership applications and pamphlets. David Gardner, a former Georgia Convener, was there to welcome Gordon visitors to the tent on Saturday as well. **We are excited to welcome new members Leigh Gordon-Riley from McKinney, TX; Carol Anne Gordon from Plano, TX; and Teresa Peters from Richardson, TX, and hope to see them soon at an upcoming festival!**

Sunday it rained, but surprisingly, we still had a great Gordon turnout at the tent. We are looking forward to attending this festival next year and for many more years to come. It should definitely be on the top of everyone's list of "must go to" festivals! Come fellowship with us next year!

Bydand,
Marcia Gordon McLaurin
Convener, House of Gordon



Louisiana,
Mississippi,
and Texas

Mid-Atlantic's own BEAD-MAN, John Ruplenas of West Virginia, was out in his Gordon tartan for the NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade and was featured on RTÉ News in

Ireland! HOW FUN!

Congratulations to Thomas Gordon, son of Morris Gordon of Virginia, on being accepted to NYU study for his Masters in Theater Education and Directing. Thomas will also be attending a summer theater workshop in Dublin, Ireland this summer. Thomas is currently appearing in "Elizabeth Rex" at Center Stage in Richmond.

Aaron Todd of Virginia as Drum Captain of the Hermitage Marching Panthers led his Drum line to the BEST PERCUSSION award at the Gator Bowl this past New Years.

He also helped to lead his MCJROTC Unit to 4th place in the Marine Corps Region One Championship held March 19-20, 2009 in Gloucester, Massachusetts. Aaron turned in the top individual performance in the physical

fitness competition and shot at expert level in the marksmanship competition. The Hermitage team was a young team with two thirds of the team being LE1 (freshmen). Major kudos



to Aaron and the rest of the leadership team for mentoring them so well!

Aaron also scored a perfect 500 in PFT and is the top ranking cadet in Region One in Physical Fitness.

Only one other cadet in Region Three scored as high, and Aaron is considered the top cadet in the USA for PFT,

having scored 500 for 3 years in a row. **He will be taking his Raider team to the Relay for Life June 5–6 where they will again volunteer their time and act as the support team for the event and raise money for cancer research. The Virginia Gordon board members, tents, and Gordon Grill will also be there again to volunteer as the Raider's support in this most important community event. Aaron is heading to Parris Island at the end of June to begin his Marine Corps career.**



Congratulations to Allison "Cat" Baker, of Virginia, daughter of Geof and Beverly Baker, on being accepted to the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Arts. We wish Cat the best as she joins this prestigious school!

VCUarts is ranked the #1 public university school of arts and design in the country by U.S. News & World Report and has received

some of the most prestigious awards including three McArthur Genius Awards, three American Academy of Arts & Letters Awards, three simultaneous \$120,000 US Dept. of Education Jacob Javits Fellowships, and also boasts multiple showings in New York, Los Angeles and Europe. We wish Cat the best as she joins this prestigious school!

Congratulations to Lois Todd of Virginia on being recognized for the sixth year in a row with the James Cash Penney Award for Community Service. A \$500.00 donation was made in her name to the Hermitage High School MCJROTC Unit.

Congratulations to Marilyn Newman of Virginia on completing her very first Celtic Harp competition at the Southern Maryland Celtic Festival April 24, 2010. This is a major step for her in her learning process and we wish you the best as you go forward.

House of Gordon Southwest has already been active this year attending two games in February. First was the **Queen Mary Games in Long Beach, CA** — the Games were under new management, so we found some changes when we arrived. The clans were assigned spaces instead of picking our own, although we were able to have the same area as last year. We were lucky to have a good turn-out. Tom marched alone in Saturday's opening ceremonies but on Sunday there were some members and BYDAND walking with us. We had a great time Friday and Saturday nights after the Games with fellow members.

Second were the **Phoenix Games** — At a new venue, Steele Indian School Park, it is a great site with lots of parking and everything close together. Saturday started out cloudy but by afternoon the clouds were gone and the sky was a beautiful blue. We had many guests stop by the tent with interesting questions and comments. There still wasn't a cloud in the sky when we left Saturday but when we arrived Sunday the games had been cancelled! A huge storm came in overnight causing a lot of dam-

age. One third to one half of the tents were damaged or destroyed. Most of the venue was flooded. It was disappointing, but we're looking forward to trying again next year at the park.

— Tom Adams, Commissioner Southwest.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership is up and running, so far we have 206 members who have paid their dues for this year and over thirty-five new members since January! What a great start with 34% having renewed before the festival season is in full swing!

Please get your dues in to help support the national organization in our effort to build the House and your local division to fund the fun at the Games and so much more.

— Arlene Adams, Membership Secretary.

International News In The House!

Our Northern Neighbors, House of Gordon Canada, have a new convener in Alan Lawrie! Joe Gordon writes that he has returned to his former duties as membership chair and sadly reports that their membership is slowly slipping with little interest in working at the Highland Games. Good luck to Canada in their efforts to build their membership.

Ken Gordon, President of House of Gordon Australia reports the House there is growing at a steady pace and has launched their new website at houseofgordon.net ! He writes: "Bundanoon 2010 was a great day all round, the weather was magnificent which brought a huge crowd, the largest for years and we had plenty of people through the Clan area. As usual we had a great display and lots of Gordon Clansmen stopping by to say hello or buying some clan items. We had a raffle of a Giant kilted teddy we affectionately called "Craig Gordon" and a magic Gordon knitted piper made especially for us by Narelle Bergquist who does the most exquisite work.



The day was special as we sponsored the inaugural appearance of the 92nd Gordon Highlanders re-enactment group who worked out of our tent this year. We have been actively recruiting for over twelve months and this was the culmination of that work. Unfortunately due to the many hours required to sew the uniforms we only managed two soldiers (*pictured above with Ken, photo by Andrew Bergquist*) but we have many waiting in the wings and by next year there will be a much larger contingent. We recruited another possible eight recruits on the day. If your interested check out their section under "92nd Re-enactors". Rob and Chris Whittaker have a fabulous knowledge and are a lot of fun. We enjoyed our time together and hope it will be the beginning of many more happy get togethers. Well done Clansmen!" Congratulations Ken in your success with building membership and launching your website!

House of Gordon New Zealand is going strong, and Glenyss O'Halloran reports that they have added new members and are seeing an increase in the number coming out and helping at the Gordon Tent at the Highland Games! Four of their members will be joining our House of Gordon USA Tour to Ireland and Scotland this summer.

Many of you may remember the communications report at last year's AGM showed our website was getting a lot of attention in Russia, and we are happy to report that Valeria Morris has started The House of

Gordon Russia! She writes: "Sad enough, there are actually only two of us Russian Gordon on the list now - my Dad and me - for the House has only been "formally" founded recently, but I hope soon that will change, for it is known that there was a vast immigration of our Gordon clansmen in Russia in 17 and 18 centuries; therefore, there must be a number of descendants of these people, and the descendants of those who arrived later. I think in May I will have a chance to talk to Mr. Fedosov, a well-known historian of Scottish-Russian connections, who wrote a lot on the life of General Patrick Gordon, and I hope he will be so kind to direct me in my search. I know for sure there is a lot of Russian Gordons, so the first thing I have to do is to find them and tell them of the House.

My Dad and I are ourselves most probably descendants of a Highland soldier, who arrived at Russian service in 1630s and later was granted a small pitch of land on the Western border of the European part of the country. I've felt deep passion for Scottish Gaelic history and culture from my earliest childhood, long before I've learned about the story; and when I took up genealogy and found out the facts, that did pretty much explain a lot in my interests and personality. :) My main historical interest, nevertheless, is the Jacobite Rebellions period, although my ancestor could have taken no part in them for obvious reasons. :) I'm also an aspiring illustrator and graphic novel artist, and I try to promote Scottish Celtic history and culture here in Russia by all means possible, from Scotland-inspired illustrations to seminars on Scottish history here at our university; of course that would be impossible without my friends from The Gaelic Society of Moscow! There is quite a number of ethnic Scots like myself in Russia, namely of Clan Stewart (of Atholl and of Bute), Clan Learmonth, Clan Donald, Clan Maxwell and Clan MacDougall/MacDowell; hope soon I will be no more the only lonely Gordon. :) " We wish Valeria the best in her efforts to build the House in Russia!

Flowers of the Forest



Lady June Gordon, Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair (1913 - 2009) passed from this life on 22 June 2009 at Haddo House. She was 95. Our condolences to her children.

Martin (Marty) Laurie 1936 - 2009 Martin (Marty) Laurie, 73, passed away on September 26, 2009 from C.O.P.D. Born February 8, 1936 in Glasgow, Scotland, he served in the U.S. Army from 1958 to 1962. He retired in 1998 as a set painter after 38 years at Universal Studios. Moving to Bakersfield in 2002 he grew to love the town and its residents. Marty was preceded in death by his parents, George and Annie Laurie, and daughter Heather. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Carol Laurie; daughter, Dori Walker (Mike); and 9 grandchildren.

Marty was a military historian and was fiercely proud of his Scottish heritage that was equaled only by his love of being an American citizen. He was a friend of Bill's for 30 years. He will be missed for his gentle spirit and his wicked wit and humor. — Reprinted from the Bakersfield Californian on October 1, 2009

Our condolences to Lynne and Woody Gordon of Las Vegas, NV and their family on the passing of Lynne's father, George Haibloom. George died on February 28, 2009 and is survived by his son, Cory, and daughter-in-law Stephanie, his grandchildren: Eric Gordon and his wife Jen; Sean Gordon and his wife, Marnie; and great grandchildren, Victoria, Jeremy, Mariah, Shania, and Shane.

Our condolences to Roger Mills on the passing of his mother, Frances Carolyn Mills.

Our condolences to Marilyn & Mike Newman of Virginia on the passing of her father.

Lady June, Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair (1913-2009)



As the daughter of a headmaster of Harrow, the wife of a Scottish laird and the conductor of her own chorus, orchestra and opera company, June Gordon, Marchioness of Aberdeen, led what must have seemed to many people a charmed life. If music was her *métier*, it was in that peculiarly British way whereby high-level amateurism and sound professionalism could intermingle to sometimes startling effect. That her repertoire included works as large and testing as Bach's Mass in

B minor, Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* and Rossini's heroic final opera *William Tell* showed that her achievements were not so much the product of wealth and rank as of determined effort and total commitment.

June Gordon, the simple name by which she always preferred to be professionally known, founded the Haddo House Choral Society in 1945, two years before the creation of the Edinburgh Festival, at a time when music in Scotland was at its lowest ebb. Recruiting her singers mostly from the villages and farms by which her husband's family seat (20 miles north of Aberdeen) was surrounded, she shaped them into an entity capable of mastering most of the monuments of the English choral tradition. No challenge seemed too great for her, not even, at the peak of her career, a rare Elgar weekend incorporating his diptych of oratorios, *The Kingdom* and *The Apostles*.

Though she graduated as a doctor of laws, married the Earl of Haddo (later the 4th Mar-

quess of Aberdeen and Temair) in 1939, presided with him over a grand Nordic estate at Ellon, adopted two sons and two daughters, was appointed Deputy Lieutenant for Aberdeenshire, was a Commander of the Order of St John of Jerusalem and held a variety of advisory and educational appointments, there was always space for creative musicmaking in her life. Her choral society, sprouting from the intimacy of carol services in the Haddo House chapel, was soon tackling *Messiah* (with Elsie Suddaby singing *I Know that My Redeemer Liveth* in 1947), the *St Matthew Passion* and *The Dream of Gerontius*.

Born on the Isle of Wight, Beatrice Mary June Boissier, the daughter of A. P. Boissier, was educated at Southlands, Harrow-on-the-Hill. She studied at the Royal College of Music in London (of which she later became a Fellow) and built up a network of friends and colleagues from all parts of Britain who rallied, whenever necessary, to form her orchestra and provide other support. String players from the Midlands and North of England, brass players from the South, and Leon Goossens as principal oboe (especially in Bach) mingled each year with Scottish or Scottish-based musicians, among them members of the Scottish National Orchestra (SNO) and BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and a young cellist — Prince Charles no less — from Gordonstoun, not far away. After one performance it was discovered that the novice player had left his royal toothbrush behind in the bathroom. It was presumably dispatched to him in the same way as a visiting critic received, in an anonymous brown envelope, a pair of dirty socks he had left in his bedroom.

Most of the Haddo events, which grew into an annual musical weekend, took place in springtime, when the sun had at last begun to shine and you could sit on the grass outside the timbered concert hall, originally designed for indoor sports, and listen to rehearsals — the

Gloria from the Missa Solemnis sticks in the memory of those present — resounding within. These were festive occasions at which critics, soloists, choristers and instrumentalists intermingled. Large bedrooms, some with greatly welcome log fires, were made available in the house, with nearby cottages and other buildings serving as annexes. There were copious buffet lunches and, after the performances, deep analytical discussions about how things had gone, when everybody was expected to express opinions over cups of tea and tumblers of malt whisky. For critics, who before the age of computers had to file copy from the phone beneath the stairs, this could sometimes be awkward, especially if they thought they were being eavesdropped upon. But, by breakfast next day, things were generally amicable, so long as guests placed their plates on the table with the Haddo coat of arms in the 12 o'clock position (if they forgot to do so, the laird soon reprimanded them).

When Haddo later became a National Trust property, the performances continued but the hospitality was reduced. The death in 1974 of the laird, who had been one of his wife's choristers and had acted in the plays which formed another part of the Haddo cultural scene, was cruelly felt. But in her heyday Gordon could take pride in performances ranging from Mozart's Requiem to Verdi's, with detours into such British byways as Herbert Howells's Hymnus Paradisi and Parry's Blest Pair of Sirens. Under Haddo auspices, Sir Alexander Gibson and the SNO joined forces with the Haddo chorus to give one of the earliest performances of Britten's War Requiem, in Aberdeen Cathedral in the 1960s. Delius's Nietzschean Mass of Life was similarly championed.

Sir Michael Tippett and Sir Charles Groves appeared as guest conductors, Janet Baker was frequently a soloist, and Andrew Davis, in the process of establishing himself as one of Britain's leading Elgar conductors, learnt The Kingdom and The Apostles by singing in the chorus. Peter Pears and Benjamin Britten performed Schumann's Dichterliebe, finding at

Haddo the fulfilment of Britten's dictum that music should involve a journey to a special place. For a day, while they were there, the timbered hall suddenly seemed to have become part of the Aldeburgh Festival.

Yet it was always Gordon herself who was the binding factor, particularly when she added opera — as a separate venture — to her chorus's activities. Her first choice, Bizet's Carmen, won an encouraging review from William Mann, the chief music critic of The Times, who travelled from London to sample it. But it was with Verdi's Macbeth, Puccini's Turandot, Britten's Gloriana and Peter Grimes, and the immensity of Rossini's William Tell that she really showed her mettle. Performances mixed good amateur and student singers, with professional strengthening where necessary (Judith Pierce sang Queen Elizabeth in Gloriana). Productions were true to composers' stage directions. Where Verdi asked for a singer to enter on horseback, a horse was duly supplied.

To her duties as Scottish Opera's Aberdeen adviser Gordon brought the same exactitude, boldly insisting that the company had gone badly off the rails in its iconoclastic productions of Don Giovanni, Turandot and Oberon in the 1980s and demanding that common sense be restored. Though Scottish Opera accused her of retrogression, her views won the publicity she intended. As an octogenarian she remained forthright, even when infirmity prevented her from conducting as before. In November 2003 the chorus, with James Loughran as conductor, sang The Dream of Gerontius for her in tribute to her 90th birthday.

Gordon was appointed MBE in 1971, which was advanced to CBE in 1989.

She is survived by her four children.

June Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, CBE, musician and conductor, was born on December 29, 1913. She died on June 22, 2009, aged 95

Reprinted with kind permission from *The Times* 25 June 2009

Charlie Aldrich – A Gordon to Remember!



What do Charlie Aldrich, Fibber McGee, Tarzan, a futuristic sci-fi intergalactic traveler, Fu Manchu, Eve Arden's principal, and Lucy's banker have in common? Gordon, Gale Gordon that is. Charles Thomas Aldrich, Jr was born on 20 February 1906 in New York City to Charles T. Aldrich, a vaudeville comic and quick change artist, and Gloria Gordon, a British actress. He had one younger sister, Judy. Born while his family was on tour, he made his stage debut at age eight days when his very proud father insisted on introducing him to the audience!

When he was fifteen months old his mother discovered he had a cleft palate, fearing he would be left speechless, she took him back to England three months later to see a renowned surgeon, and Charlie underwent two painful surgeries to repair his palate and as he later said:

"My voice, I have to say, is kind of miraculous because I was born with a cleft palate. As a matter of fact, my first trip to England was when I was 18 months old. My mother knew of a doctor in London who specialized in repairing cleft palates to a great extent with children. It was a very, very serious thing in those days. So my mother, being English, took me back to England for the operation to repair the split roof of my mouth which almost developed into a hair lip but was prevented by this operation. The fact that I can talk at all is a miracle. I don't have anything in the back of my throat, there's no uvula. The doctors look at it and they get dizzy. It's a bottomless hole. It's only by the grace of God that I can talk at all."

He spent the next eight years in England and then came back to New York, where he found to his dismay on his first day in a New York City school that proper English short pants were not de rigueur, and in fact made him the butt of the other school children's jokes. He HATED school from then on, until he returned to England at 17 to complete his education at Woodbridge School in Suffolk. Later he used his experiences in NYC Schools to fuel his imagination when playing Principal Osgoode T. Conklin on *Our Miss Brooks*.

He began his theatrical career at 17 with a summer job working for Richard Bennett in a Canadian production of *The Dancers* as an extra. To earn extra money he doubled as Bennett's dresser who taught him about make-up and acting, and who detected a slight speech impediment and taught him how to overcome it.

"I had forgotten all about my voice handicap by then but evidently Bennett, whose ear was as sharp as his mind, saw possibilities for improvement. One day he placed me in the center of the stage and stalked off to a distant spot in the empty theatre's second balcony. 'Whisper so I can hear you,' he trumpeted. I whispered. I whispered for days and found vocal muscles most people don't know they have."

His mother also appeared in *The Dancers* and at this time chose to relinquish her earlier stage name of Jewel St. Ledger preferring her real name, and she suggested that her son take the stage name of Gale Gordon. She thought it would be propitious as the name in numerology adds to eight, which is the sign for money! Surprisingly though Gordon did not think of acting as his first choice of careers, or even at all initially. Laughingly he said:

"Actually, I wanted to be a toe dancer. My mother did an act in London. She had two girls who

did a little ballet number while she changed gowns between the songs she was performing. And when the ballet slippers wore out, she brought them home to me. I put them on and could walk all over the house on my toes, up and down stairs and everything else. The toe dancer phase lasted only for a short time, as long as my mother was doing the act with the ballet dancers.

"The last thing in the world I should have done was go into the theater because as inordinately shy as a young man. I couldn't open my mouth. At a party, I was the one stuck up against the wall. I was embarrassed about talking. I felt that I couldn't talk well," I started out at the bottom, by the way. I didn't have a speaking part and made just \$15 per week in a play off-Broadway. And then as I got into it, and began to learn lines and get parts, I found that when I knew what I had to say, I had absolute confidence. Everybody I knew as a young man used to say, 'This man has no nerves!' Well, I was as nervous as anyone else but I had the confidence of knowing what I was going to say. That confidence helped me through a great many trials and tribulations, and finally made the nervousness worthwhile."



He went on to become in the 1930's the highest paid radio actor in Hollywood doing such varied parts as the voice of the first incarnation of Flash Gordon in 1935 in *The Amazing Interplanetary Adventures of Flash Gordon*; Cecil Clayton on the *Tarzan* radio series; Dr. James Petrie on the *Fu Manchu Radio Show*; Sherlock Holmes' Cockney accented Inspector Lestrade; Fibber Magee and Molly's blustering tongue tied Mayor LaTrivia (his first real comedy role); even many of Shakespeare's characters (though to Gordon's regret never any of the bard's clowns). His range as an actor was immense with his booming voice and noted diction, once described by John Barrymore as having the most perfect diction of any actor on stage, screen or radio, period. He was on just about every major radio show from *Lux Radio Theater* to *Stories from the Black Chamber*. Gordon downplayed his importance as a highly paid radio

actor, saying it was no big deal to command \$15.00 a show when others were getting \$2.50, but in 1935 he landed the lead part opposite Mary Pickford commanding a whopping \$100.00 a show!

In 1942 he followed in the Gordon military tradition and patriotically served in the Coast Guard spending four years defending our coastal waters during World War II. He ended his service in 1946 and rejoined civilian life.

"My wife, while I was gone, had decided that since I had missed out on so much during the years I was in the service that I ought to establish a fee, a salary, and not do any show for less than that certain fee. As it happened, I had left in the middle of doing Fibber McGee and Molly, and had come back to that show. They paid me \$150 a show, and that was a lot of money in those days. I was grateful that my job was waiting for me when I came back from the service. So I went to work for them and got my \$150 a week. And then other people would call and offer me \$50 or \$25 a show, which as a salary was very small even in those days. I turned them down. When I'd tell people that I wanted \$150 they almost fainted, they thought I was an upstart and an egomaniacal idiot. Months went by, and I was terribly depressed. Finally, a man called from CBS. He said, 'We're doing a summer replacement show with Eve Arden, and there's a part we'd like you to do.' I said, 'That's very nice.' And they said, 'How much do you want?' I replied, '\$150 a show.' He shouted, '\$150 a show!' and almost fainted. I'm sure he had a mild stroke. He said, 'CBS cannot pay that amount of money.' So that was that.



Our Miss Brooks. The only episode I didn't do was the first one."

"My wife and I went on a brief vacation at Santa Ysidro Ranch near Santa Barbara, California. While we were there, we heard the first radio show of *Our Miss Brooks*. We both looked at each other when the show was over and Virginia said, 'Thank God they didn't pay you the \$150 because that's the worst show I've ever heard.' They had a high school principal on there who was barking like a dog, and speaking in improper English, which is one thing that just drives me crazy. We were just congratulating ourselves when the producer called the next day and said, 'Alright, we'll pay you the \$150. We want you to do the part.' They hadn't liked the man who played the role. And that was how I got the role on



make two cameo appearances as Alvin Littlefield, Ricky's boss.

Gordon played Lucille Ball's banker on a variety of shows beginning with "My Favorite Husband" where he played bank president Rudolph Atterbury, the boss to Lucy's husband, bank VP George Cooper. Gordon played this role at the same time as the role of Osgoode Conklin, and when both shows were asked to make the transition to TV, much to Lucy's chagrin, he was already on the Burns and Allen Show and was still under contract to *Our Miss Brooks*. He couldn't commit to the demanding production schedule she and Desi Arnaz had laid out for "I Love Lucy" so the show was retooled with Vivian Vance and William Frawley as the foil characters to Lucy and her husband, although he did

He is best known for his roles of Lucy's cantankerous overbearing banker boss, Theodore J. Mooney, on *The Lucy Show* and her brother-in-law banker boss, Harrison Otis Carter, on *Here's Lucy*. His comedic timing, distinguished bearing, willingness to do physical comedy, and ability to play the straight man made him the perfect partner and they were an unbeatable team. His memories of his eleven years partnering with Lucy were filled with a sense of excitement to go to work each day where he felt the thrill of having fun doing something he loved, and the added thrill of working with many of the actors he most admired.

"I always had a wonderful feeling of anticipation going to work every week, which is very, very rare, I don't care what business you are in. But to really look forward to getting into the nitty-gritty and working hard for four days -- which is all the time we had to do the show -- is really unique. To look forward to it for eleven years, that's doubly unique.

"I've had high regard for a great many actors. I started out as a serious actor. I didn't start out as a comic actor at all. "That just developed because I happened to be louder than anyone else. If they wanted a blow hard character, they called on me. I've had innumerable people that I've respected and venerated. As a matter of fact, in later life, 'got to play with some of them which delighted me.

"I remember a Here's Lucy we did an episode with Richard Burton. Lucy and I were both thrilled to work with someone of his caliber. He was utterly charming and delightful and so was Liz Taylor. I had admired Richard Burton for years and years before I had ever worked with him. He was a great, great actor. It was a joy to get to know him as a person.

"The secret of comedy, if I may be so bold as to make a statement like this, is that for comedy to be good it has to be played straight. And again, the greatest example of this is Lucy Ball. No matter how wild the shows were that we did, no matter how bizarre the situations were, they were never played as if they were funny," continues Gordon. "They were played like serious incidents of ordinary everyday life. And that's why they are terribly funny and are still considered classic comedies. What's wrong with most of the comedies nowadays is that actors know they're funny or think they are. That takes away from the comedy right away. The ones who play comedy straight are the great ones-the ones people love to watch."

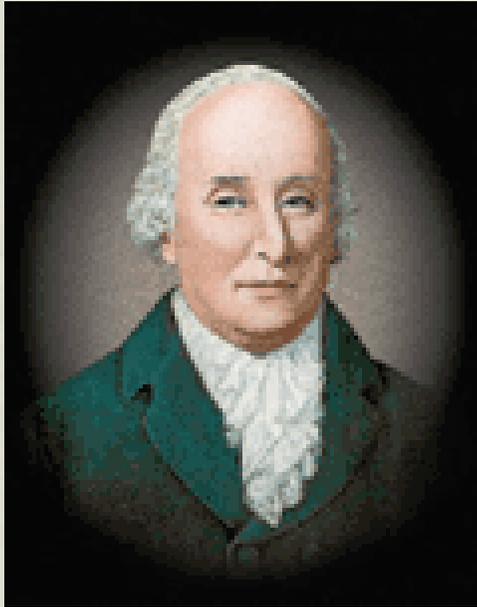
"Lucille would never allow anyone to double for her. If she had to learn how to ice skate, she'd ice skate. If she had to go down a staircase on skis then that's what she'd do," elaborates Gordon with admiration. "She wouldn't allow a double to do it because the cameras were very close. She thought it would be ridiculous to use a double. None of us ever had doubles do stunts for us. If I fell in the mud or got stuck in a hunk of cement or fell down a trap door then that's what I did.

"Lucille didn't care about messing herself up. A lot of stars of her stature wouldn't do physical comedy because they were afraid they'd get their hair messed up or they'd look bad. I remember once she fell into a vat of green dye. She came out with not only her hair green but everything was green! It was tremendously funny to see her come out all green, but it took hours to get her cleaned up and her make-up put on to do the rest of the show. But things like that were important because they looked real. And this is very, very important when you're doing comedy. You've got to believe that it is happening and it has to be real."

Gordon was interested in so much more than acting, and was talented in many areas. He wrote two books, [Nursery Rhymes for Babies](#), and [Leaves from the Story Trees](#). He was an accomplished and critically acclaimed painter with numerous showings of his work to his credit. He built a ranch on 150 acres in Borrego Springs and planted carob trees becoming a successful commercial producer of carob beans, one of only a few in the United States. He was president of the Borrego Springs Chamber of Commerce in the 1950's and was later appointed their honorary mayor. In short he lived a full engaged and active life. He died after a long battle with cancer just two months after Virginia, his beloved wife of fifty-eight years on 30 June 1995 in Escondido, California. Fortunately for us he lives on in re-runs where we can still enjoy his lively wit, wonderful facial expressions, voice, and talent for many years to come.

SOURCES:

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- *Master of the Slow Burn* – TV Guide, August 4, 1961 Vol. 10. No. 31 Pgs: 22-25
- *Who's Who in Radio* – TV Radio - TV Mirror, September 1952 Page 67.
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Robert & Jane Aitken: Historic Father-Daughter Printing Duo!

Robert Aitken

Born in Dalkeith, Midlothian, Scotland on 22 January 1734/5, to James and Anne Hall Aitken, Robert Aitken the second of four children, he had an older brother, James, and two younger sisters, Margaret and Anne. He served an apprenticeship in Edinburgh where he familiarized himself on all aspects of the printing and binding trade. He married Janet Skeoch daughter of Robert and Jean Wilson Skeoch on 11 July 1763 in Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland. They settled down and began a family, and he established himself in business with a stationers store and lending library in Paisley. The first four children were all born in Paisley, first Jane on July 11 1764, then Ann on January 9, 1766, followed by Robert on June 7, 1767 and a second son, Euphan, on January 19, 1769. All wasn't sun and roses though as little Ann died on July 4, 1767, and Euphan died just nine months after his birth in September 1769. Seeking better economic opportunities for himself and his little family, Robert immigrated to Philadelphia in 1769 and soon advertised for sale , for ready money only, a long list of "the very best books" and ordered printed two books -- a *Shorter Catechism* and *A Dialogue between Jockey*

and *Maggy, or How to Court a Country Girl*. These appeared with his imprint (but without printer identification) in 1770. Having satisfied himself on the possibilities and establishing himself as a book seller he returned to Scotland in November 1770 to bring his family to America. Arriving back in Philadelphia on May 10, 1771 with his wife Janet, and their two surviving children, Robert age four and Jane age six, and a good supply of books he went about firmly establishing his family in Philadelphia. He joined the Scottish Presbyterian community in Philadelphia eventually becoming an Elder in the Associate Presbyterian Church. A new daughter was born on July 2, 1772 she was named Marion (or Mary Ann as she is called in her father's will.) She was followed by Margaret on February 15, 1774 and Ann on September 26, 1775. Again sadness came in the passing of little Ann October 13, 1777. In all they appeared to be a happy little family and all helped out in the family business at some point.

He started his business as a book seller in a shop opposite the London Coffee Shop on Front Street, and established himself as a printer and book binder by 1774. By 1781 he had moved to larger accommodations at the third door above the Coffee-house, Market-Street (now 110 Market Street.) The London Coffee Shop or House was opened and sponsored by subscriptions of the local merchants. Located on the corner of Front and High (now Market) Streets it was a social and political center of activity, and the beginning of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange until 1778 when it was closed during the city's occupation. The merchant's relocated to larger quarters and changed the name to the Merchant's Coffee House. Aitken's business was in a prime location near the heart of Philadelphia's business and social hub as well as the

heart of the colonies' revolutionary activity, and he has been noted for his staunch patriotism and anti-English sentiments. These sentiments no doubt had their basis in childhood experiences following the 1745 Jacobite Rebellion.

Many people know of The Pennsylvania Magazine (or American Monthly Museum) which while short-lived was one of the most influential publications of the Revolutionary period in America. Many of the most important and influential articles and authors of the time came together in this publication which has been credited with re-writing the style and form of the American magazine, bringing American journalism out of its provincialism and giving birth to a unique American identity. John Paine, John Trumbull, Benjamin Rush, John Witherspoon and William Smith contributed regularly, Washington sent many letters to be published, war reports and the first engravings depicting the war were in its pages as well as one of the first publications of the Declaration of Independence. But what many don't realize is that it was the brains of publisher Robert Aitken who brought it all together and who directed the path this publication took in blazing a trail for the fledgling patriot movement. The first edition was published in January 1775, and had before its first edition even went to print a subscription of over six hundred, quite a huge success for a debut edition! Far too often Thomas Paine is attributed by historians the position of editor of the magazine and given credit for the tenor and tone of the subject matter, many have stated that he was held back by the "timid publisher who did not wish to offend any of his wealthy subscribers." In fact Aitken had already laid out the magazine to be a true miscellany of information including essays on science, religion, politics, and current events, prices, vital and physical statistics, poetry, and such. Each edition was 48 pages with illustration printed in octavo. Paine was contracted by Aitken to provide regular articles on a monthly basis and to assist in editorial duties, in other words he was a junior editor to Aitken as senior editor and publisher, in his new publication based on letters of introduction from Benjamin Franklin. Paine's duties began with the second issue in February 1775. Paine being such a humble man took full credit for the popularity of the publication and wrote in a thank-you letter to Franklin dated March 4, 1775: "a printer and bookseller here, a man of reputation and property, Robert Aitken, has applied to me for assistance. He had not above six hundred subscribers when I first assisted him. We now have upwards of fifteen hundred and daily increasing." It seems to have escaped Paine's attention that the feat of obtaining six hundred subscribers for a debut edition was a major triumph not easily matched, or that there had been many sold above the subscriptions in January as word spread and by the time the February issue went to press (Paine's first collaboration) the subscriptions had already far surpassed the initial subscriptions. As Paine was new to the colony with no reputation as yet, surely this surge of popularity was due more to the fine reputation of Aitken and the men he was able to get as correspondents than to any contribution by Paine himself.

The tenor of the magazine was a mix of straightforward reporting and essays full of allegory alluding to ways the English were engaging in tyranny and ways that patriots could resist, while not overt there was a definite anti-English undertone. One such edition in July 1775 includes an article entitled "Observations on the Military Character of Ants," comparing the actions and interactions of a colony of brown ants and a colony of red ants. The red ants are seeking to deprive the brown ants of their natural rights and thus drive the brown ants to war. The essay ends with the moral: "A nation without defence is like a handsome woman without virtue, the easiness of the approach invites the ravager. And for the same reason that we ought not to tempt a thief by leaving our doors unlocked, we ought not to tempt an army of them by leaving a country or a coast unguarded." Another article in the same edition purportedly on pest control entitled "An

Easy Method to Prevent the Increase of Bugs," (specifically bed bugs) states that by cutting the progress of the bugs or the "lines of communication" of the bugs from the floor and wainscot to the bed the bugs could be starved out. The analogy to cutting the lines of communication for General Gate's army is apparent.

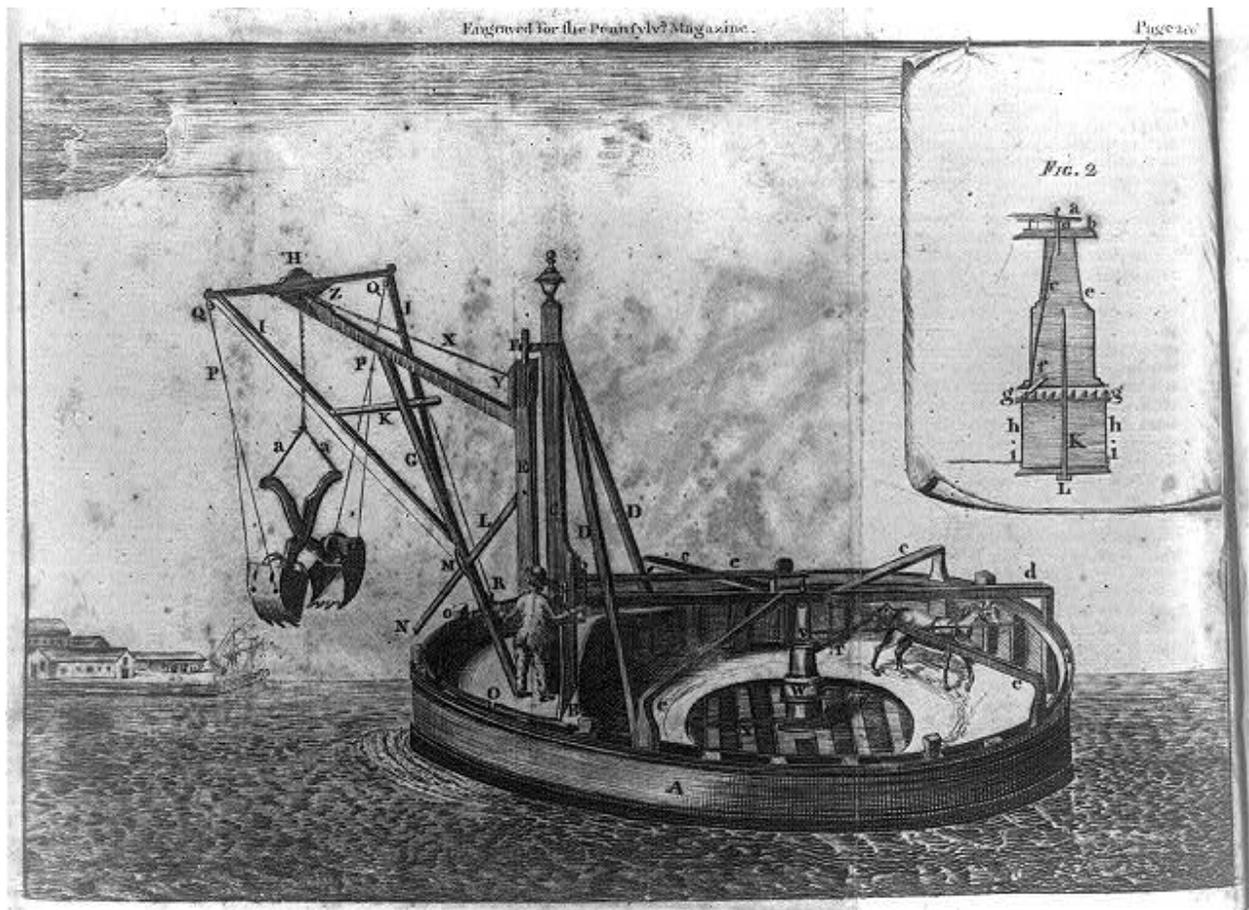
Aitken courageously published news articles of battles and included his own engravings, some of which undoubtedly raised the ire of the English, such as his engraving entitled "A Correct View of the Late Battle at Charlestown June 17th, 1775" This battle later known as the Battle of Bunker Hill involved an American earthen fort on top of Breed's Hill overlooking the town, the English bombarded the position from their ships, then landed 2,200 soldiers, and burned the town of Charlestown, attacking and finally taking the hill when the Americans ran out of ammunition. Aitken's engraving (pictured below), although crude, accurately depicts all these events, and it is the earliest known depiction of the battle. While the battle was an American defeat, the cost of the win for the English was disproportionately high with 1034 casualties (including many officers) compared to the 400 American casualties out of 1200 holding the hill. It was a painful lesson and Aitken's report and engraving must have been a bitter pill to swallow.



Scientific contributions from Dr. Benjamin Rush who was the foremost physician of the time and the first American chemistry professor he added timely information for disease control and explained medical and scientific discoveries to the general public such as small pox inoculations, and he inquired into the effects of liquor and old age. Considered the father of American psychology his insights into behavior made for interesting reading in his contributions of social com-

mentary.

Technology and geographic information was an important aspect of the magazine and Aitken produced engravings to illustrate new machines and new maps. Below is his depiction of a machine used to dredge river beds and around docks. A floating contraption with pulleys and levers and a pair of scoops creating a dredging bucket driven by horse power was quite ingenious and the illustration made the underlying principles easily understood.



Aitken found to his chagrin that he often had trouble getting Paine to comply with his contractual obligations. Aitken later related one incident when Paine had neglected to supply the material required for publication, and so Aitken went to his lodgings and stringently complained of the failure to provide the articles and fulfill his contract. Paine listened quietly and then calmly stated "You shall have them in time." As the typesetters were already awaiting the material, Aitken expressed his doubts and insisted that Paine accompany him back to the print shop. Once at the shop, Paine was seated at a table with all the needed tools which included a decanter of brandy! Aitken observed, "He would *never* write without *that*." The first glass of brandy put Paine's thoughts in motion and the ideas began to flow. Aitken feared the second would impair him, or render him intractable; but it seemingly only focused his intellect. With the third glass, Paine wrote rapidly "with great intelligence and precision; and his ideas appeared to flow faster than he could commit them to paper. What he penned from the inspiration of the brandy was perfectly fit for the press without any alteration, or correction." They argued about the terms of em-

ployment often and Paine embarked on another project – a series of broadsides called Common Sense being published by a competitor. Aitken severed Paine's employment sometime around the same time in September 1775.

Aitken continued to publish the magazine with contributions from Francis Hopkinson, John Dickinson, John Hancock, Dr. John Witherspoon, and Charles Lee, George Washington; and, from the opposition, Generals Burgoyne and Gage. The quality of the magazine remained of the same high caliber as it had been with Paine contributing. Many historians claim that Paine was the force behind the magazine, but it is evident that is not so, as Aitken continued to attract contributions and letters of quality and pertinent up to the minute news. The tenor of the magazine remained the same and the popularity did not diminish. Clearly Aitken was the driving force behind the publication. The final edition was in July 1776 when he published the entire text of the Declaration of Independence. After this he began a new project as publisher of the Congressional Journal, having been appointed and hired by the Continental Congress to publish the journal of the daily activities and decisions of the Congress.

In January 1776 Congress contracted with Robert Aitken to publish the Journals of Congress, beginning with the records in 1774 and forward. He was ordered to obtain from the previous printer anything that had previously printed or prepared for print as he had not fulfilled his obligations. With the removal of Congress to Baltimore that year, Congress called for Aitken to also remove from Philadelphia as seen in the following undated resolves found in The Papers of the Continental Congress, No 36,IV, folios 147 and 239:

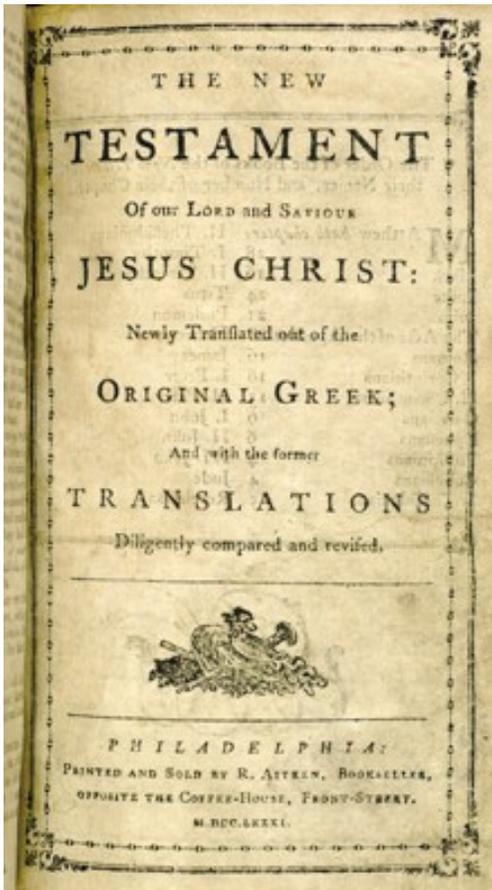
“Resolved, That the committee appointed to superintend the printing of the Journals of Congress, be empowered and directed to send an Express to enquire where Mr. Robert Aitken, who was employed in printing them, is or may be; and also to remove his press and Utensils to this place at the public expence provided the said Robert Aitken shall be willing to come with them, and perform his engagement with Congress.”

“Resolved, That the committee appointed to superintend the printing of the Journals write to Mr. Aitken of Philadelphia and request that he would immediately proceed hither with his press and every other matter necessary for compleating the printing of the Journals of the Congress, and that he also bring with him the several Copies of the Journal so far as he has advanced in printing them, and that he may rest assured that the Congress will reimburse him any extraordinary expence which may attend his removal in Addition to what they have already engaged to pay him had not circumstances rendered this additional trouble necessary.”

Congress returned to Philadelphia in 1777 only to have to abandon the city again upon General Howe's successful campaign to capture and occupy the city. They removed to Lancaster, and then York, Pennsylvania. As Robert Aitken and his printing operation were not captured one can only assume he had either not returned to Philadelphia or had successfully removed again with the Congress. He did complete the printing of the Congressional Journal from 1774-1775 and also the Journal from 1776-1777 and which he accomplished in monthly installments (with sometimes daily and weekly updates printed for the purpose of keeping the various colonies' committees and the army apprised of matters) as the Congress met. This was the most timely and most accurate publication of the Journals printed among the several printers engaged to do the job over the various years. Like the other printers, Aitken found it wasn't always easy to get

his money from Congress, and had to repeatedly petition them for recompense.

During this time a group of Presbyterian ministers headed by Reverend Alison petitioned Congress for a loan to bring about the printing of 30,000 copies of the Bible due to the scarcity and high cost of obtaining a Bible due to the war. At this time it was not legal for anyone to print a Bible in English outside of England or without a royal warrant due to the royal copyright on it. During the war the importation of Bibles from England had ceased and with supply down, price gouging was rampant. This was a major concern to the clergy in all colonies, and so the proposal was brought to Congress. A committee was appointed to study the request, and after obtaining quotes for the cost of importing the type and paper needed and for accomplishing the printing, it was determined that at the best quote of £10, 272.10 the project was cost prohibitive. The committee recommended that Congress should import 20,000 copies of the Bible from Holland, Scotland and elsewhere into the various ports of the colony and in that way could still control the price and recoup their investment. This proposal was approved, but died when Congress failed to pass an implementing resolution. The delegates were hard pressed to deal with the day to day dealings of the war, and much distracted by the approach of Howe's troops set to invade the city, their subsequent removal from Philadelphia ended of Congress's discussion of the matter.



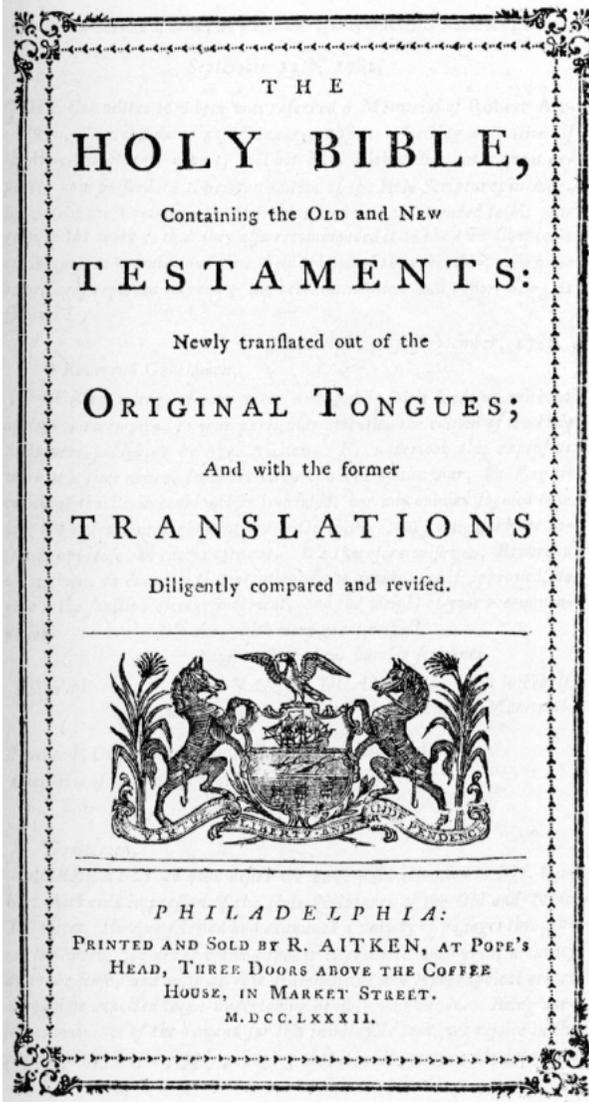
Robert Aitken saw an opportunity in this and set about publishing the New Testament which took far less type, paper and time to set. This was the first American publication of the New Testament in English, and was akin to the printer's own Declaration of Independence as it was illegal and he knew he would be facing large fines and prison if captured. His first publication came out in 1777 and was a huge success, so much so that he reprinted it in 1778, 1779, 1780 and 1781.

In 1780 he began to set type for the printing of the entire Bible. Hearing of this James McLene of Pennsylvania put forth a resolution that was seconded by John Hanson of

Maryland:

“Resolved, That it be recommended to such of the States who may think it convenient for them that they take proper measures to procure one or more new and correct editions of the old and new testament to be printed and that such states regulate their printers by law so as to secure effectually the said books from being misprinted.”

It would seem the concern was that with Aitken's Bible in progress, other less reputable printers might rust to print less accurate versions. It is significant that the resolution is addressed not to all states, but to those who may think it convenient, and this may be pointing out issue of protecting state's rights and the freedom of the press.



Printing the entire Bible was a huge undertaking committing to setting and proofing almost 2000 pages of text. Since resources were costly and limited he chose to print it on wood pulp paper rather than cloth paper as it would usually be done, and he printed it in a small pocket sized duodecimo (or twelvemo) format measuring approximately five and one-half inches by three and one-eighth inches, getting twenty-four pages of print from each full sheet of paper. To further cut expenses, margins are practically non-existent and the usual marginal notes in the King James Version are omitted. It was bound in simple brown calf skin in one or two volumes with simple gold tooled ornamentation. It was essentially a very utilitarian edition, but had some nice touches, the graceful title page carried the coat of arms of Pennsylvania and the New Testament showed Robert Aitken's initials, R.A., in script letters below the Order of Books on the back of the title page. It was printed in Brevier type and ended up being 1452 pages and with few divided words and pages "un-marred by rivers of space" it is considered to be an excellent piece of printing. Even with all the cost cutting measures, the cost of producing it was astronomical.

To offset the cost was going to take more than the usual practice of soliciting subscriptions for the project with a small up-front fee, the full payment being due upon receipt of the printed object. He secured a loan from the General Assembly of Pennsylvania

and on January 21, 1781 petitioned Congress for an endorsement, asking that they inspect and authorize his work hoping that Congress would agree to purchase some of the Bibles as well. His memorial (petition) to Congress follows:

"To the Honourable The Congress of the United States of America

"The Memorial of Robert Aitken of the City of Philadelphia, Printer

"Humbly Sheweth

"That in every well regulated Government in Christendom The Sacred Books of the Old and New Testament, commonly called the Holy Bible, are printed and published under the Authority of the Sovereign Powers, in order to prevent the fatal confusion that would arise, and the alarming Injuries the Christian Faith might suffer from the Spurious and erroneous Editions of Divine Revelation. That your Memorialist has no doubt but this work is an Object worthy the attention of the Congress of the United States of America, who will not neglect spiritual security, while they are virtuously contending for temporal blessings. Under this persuasion your Memorialist begs leave to inform your Honours That he both begun and made

considerable progress in a neat Edition of the Holy Scriptures for the use of schools, But being cautious of suffering his copy of the Bible to Issue forth without the sanction of Congress, Humbly prays that your Honours would take this important matter into serious consideration & would be pleased to appoint one Member or Members of your Honourable Body to inspect his work so that the same may be published under the Authority of Congress. And further, your Memorialist prays, that he may be commissioned or otherwise appointed & Authorized to print and vend Editions of the Sacred Scriptures, in such manner and form as may best suit the wants and demands of the good people of these States, provided the same be in all things perfectly consonant to the Scriptures as heretofore Established and received amongst us.”

Congress appointed a committee to investigate his petition on 26 January 1781. On September 1, 1782 having learned the project was completed the committee finally took action and asked the Chaplains of Congress, Rev. Dr. William White of Christ Church and the Rev. George Duffield of the Third Presbyterian Church, to examine his Bible for accuracy. While waiting a report from the committee, Robert Aitken wrote to the President of the Congress John Hanson:

“It need not be suggested to the Wisdom of that Honourable Body that the Monarchs of Europe have hitherto deemed the Sacred Scriptures peculiarly worthy of the Royal Patronage, nor that a Work of such magnitude must nearly crush an individual unless assisted by exterior Aid in supporting so great a weight; nor will I presume to prescribe the Mode in which Such Aid may be afforded; but I beg leave to intimate, that as I apprehend my greatest risque arises from the Near Approach of Peace, my utmost wishes would be accomplished if Congress will purchase a proportion of the edition on Acct of the United States. One Fourth of it will not Amount to 200 Bibles for each State; And as I am anxious merely to secure the sale of the Books, it will not be inconsistent with my views to allow a Moderate Credit.”

On September 10, 1782 the chaplains made this report to the committee:

“Gentlemen, Agreeably to your desire, we have paid attention to Mr. Robert Aitken’s impression of the holy scriptures, of the old and new testament. Having selected and examined a variety of passages throughout the work, we are of opinion, that it is executed with great accuracy as to the sense, and with as few grammatical and typographical errors as could be expected in an undertaking of such magnitude. Being ourselves witnesses of the demand for this invaluable book, we rejoice in the present prospect of a supply, hoping that it will prove as advantageous as it is honorable to the gentleman, who has exerted himself to furnish it at the evident risk of private fortune. We are, gentlemen, your very respectful and humble servants.”

The committee submitted the report of the chaplains and made its recommendation two days later, and Congress passed the following resolution:

“Resolved, That the United States in Congress assembled highly approve the pious and laudable undertaking of Mr. Aitkin as subservient to the interests of religion as well as an influence of the progress of arts in this country, and being satis-

fied from the above report, of his care and accuracy in the execution of the work, they recommend this edition of the bible to the inhabitants of the United States, and hereby authorise him to publish this recommendation in the manner he shall think proper.”

Aitken printed this recommendation on the inside cover of his Bible and set about trying to market it in the face of impending peace and the influx of cheaper more attractive publications coming into the market from England. On September 25th he placed an advertisement of his Bible, just below the full text of the action of the Congress and the Committee reports, in the *Freeman's Journal*, a periodical established in 1781 whose masthead claimed that it was "Open to all parties but influenced by none." He sold and traded his Bible to other book sellers to resell, and he sought patronage from various churches. His friends in the Presbytery tried to assist him by encouraging the exclusive use of his edition in the New York and Philadelphia Synods. Further Dr. John Rogers of the First Presbyterian in New York wrote to Washington in 1783 suggesting that Washington ask Congress to make a gift of one of these Bibles to each soldier as they were discharged. Unfortunately, the suggestion was made after Congress had begun disbanding the troops and over two-thirds had already been discharged. Washington's polite reply started with "Your proposition concerning Mr. Aikin's Bibles would have been particularly noted by me, had it been suggested in season" and, while he said it would have pleased him for Congress to have made this present to the men, it was just too late for that proposition.

In 1789, he applied to Congress for a patent for the exclusive rights to publish the Bible for fourteen years, but as a number of printers were already printing their own versions, his petition was denied. The following year he applied to Washington to appoint him as the official printer/stationer for Congress. As Washington did not personally know Aiken he had his secretary reply that he should apply to Congress if he desired that position.

Having grossly overestimated the demand based on the success of his New Testament publication and bad timing of completion of the project coming with the peace and opening of the ports to English trade, Aiken lost his financial security. He continued to be in demand as a printer and binder and continued to produce high quality work, but his financial situation never recovered. The extent of his financial woes can be seen in a note sent in 1791 to John Nicholson, at that time Receiver of general taxes for the state of Pennsylvania:

“I have calculated from my true loss by Continental money 3,000 and on the Edition of 10,000 Bibles 4000 -- owing to these you may readily figure my situation. My house is under mortgage for a considerable sum, a foreign debt, though not of its value. I have other debts to pay, not considerable--what I earn goes to pay them as soon as eamed...”

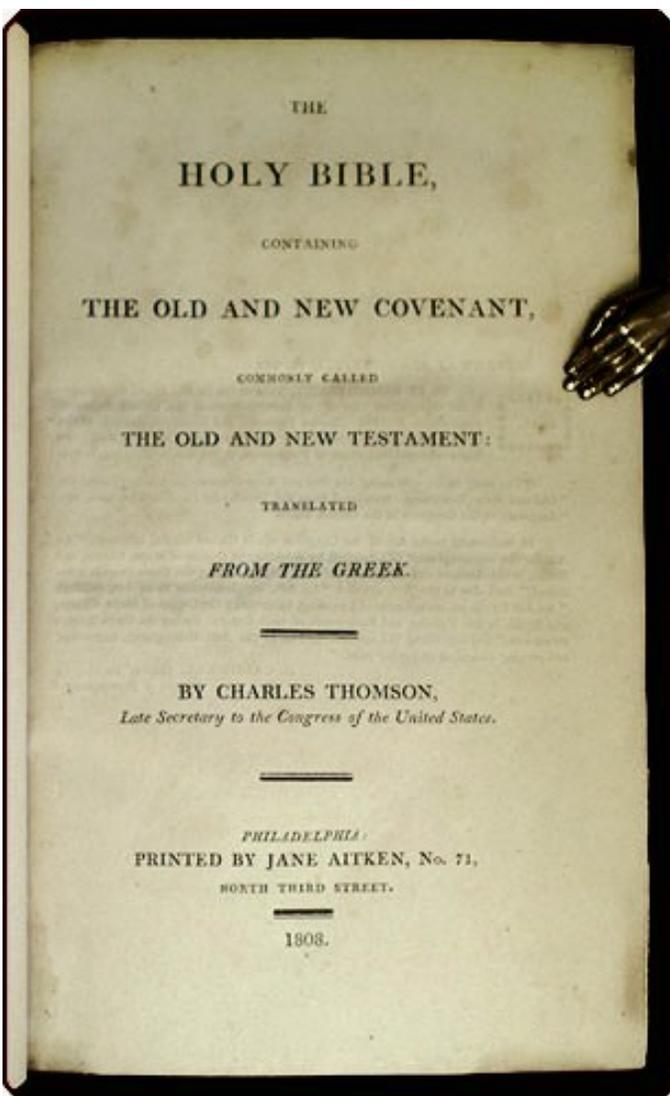
He had paid down the majority of these debts before his death, but still died with large debts looming for his daughter to shoulder. Documents in the Aitken-Vaughan papers show the actual bulk of his debt by the time of his death came from the debt incurred by his son-in-law, Charles Campbell husband of his daughter Mary Ann, a clock and watch maker for whom Robert had signed several notes and for whom he took full responsibility of all his debts. These debts overwhelmed his estate to disastrous proportions. (Leave it to a greedy Campbell.) His son had joined him in the printing business and for a time his face pages read R. Aitken and Son, Printer. His daughter Jane also had joined him in his printing business and supplanted her brother as senior printer. In Aitken's will written in 1796, he left his business to Jane favoring her over her

brother, who his father called an "idler tippler and little better than a vagrant, cut off without a sixpence."

Robert passed on July 14, 1802 and the Gazette of the United States simply said, "On the 14th in the 68th year of his age, Mr. Robert Aitken Sen. of this city, Printer: near 40 years a respectable inhabitant of this city; through the whole of an useful life regarded for his integrity and probity; and leaving behind him a family, carefully brought up in the paths of industry and virtue." His portrait by Charles Peale hangs in the Pennsylvania Historical Society.

His daughter Jane carried on in his place and became well known in her own right. Based on her own proficiency and the similarity and continuity of bookbinding and printing styles sustained long after her father's death, Aitken must have learned the bookbinding and printing trades at an early age, and may have been responsible for much of the binding design and work from his shop for many years prior to his death.

She was responsible for printing a number of publications after she took over her father's business Charles Wilson Peale's *An Epistle ... on the Means of Preserving Health* (1803); the constitution of the Philadelphia Female Association (1803); Part I of Volume VI of the *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society* (1804); Volumes I and II of the *Memoirs of the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture* (1808 and 1811); the *Philadelphia Census Directory* (1811); various catechisms and religious works; official records of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America; and a novel, *Kelroy*, by "A Lady of Pennsylvania" [Rebecca Rush] (1812).



Her most important work, however, was the completion of the four-volume "Thomson Bible" of 1808, which firmly established Jane Aitken's reputation. This was her significant contribution to history, becoming the first to publish an American translation of the Bible and the first woman (possibly the only) to print the Bible in America. Charles Thomson the former secretary of the Continental Congress and a friend of her father translated the New Testament from the Greek and also translated the Septuagint (Greek translation of the Old Testament) into English. He chose Jane as his publisher and she published it in four octavo volumes.

Jane never married and she spent the bulk of her life living up to her father's legacy and struggling under the debt she inherited. Her brother Robert was no help and was considered a minor talent, struggling to get by him-

self. The responsibility of her two sisters, Margaret and Mary Ann fell to her, and Mary Ann was recently widowed with three children at the time of her father's death. Jane took on the responsibility of them all. Jane's only assistance for many years after her father's death came from John Vaughan, librarian at the American Philosophical Society, and their exact relationship is unknown. Described as a "tireless supporter," he gave her the commission for binding 400 of the books at the APS, loans and advice, but his generosity was limited and he couldn't prevent her equipment from being seized and sold at a Sheriff's sale in 1813. He bought most of her equipment and leased it back to her, and still could not prevent her from serving time for her debts in a Norristown, Pennsylvania prison the following year. Called sponging the debt it was, before bankruptcy, the only way to wipe clean overwhelming debts. The length of the prison term is uncertain, but she was back doing binding work in 1815, after that year the record of her activities becomes very sparse, and she must have retired from the trade shortly thereafter as the 1819 city directory lists her as "late printer." At some point she moved to Germantown, Pennsylvania where she died on September 5, 1832. Her obituary appeared in the Germantown Telegraph for Sept. 5: "In this village ... the 29th ult., after a long and painful illness, Miss Jane Aitken, in the 69th year of her age, for many years a printer and bookseller of Philadelphia." It is presumed that she was buried in the now destroyed cemetery of the Associate Reformed (Presbyterian) Church in Philadelphia, of which she had long been a member. Her brother, Robert had died in 1826. One nephew, James MacLaren Campbell, carried on the family tradition as a Philadelphia bookseller in the 1830's.

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Colonial Governor of Pennsylvania – Patrick Gordon



PATRICK GORDON, *Deputy Governor, July, 1726, to August, 1736.* — Patrick Gordon, who had served in the regular army, and who was recommended by Springett Penn for royal confirmation, was appointed to succeed Keith. He arrived in the Province with his family in the summer of 1726, and met the Assembly in August. In his first address, he alluded to the fact of his having been a soldier, that he consequently knew nothing of the crooked ways of professed politicians, and must rely upon a blunt, straightforward course in his communications with them and in his administration of the government. He did not dissemble in making this declaration, for his public career seems to have been characterized by frankness and integrity.

During the first two or three years of his government, his predecessor in office succeeded in fomenting difficulties in the Assembly, of which he was a member, and in the Province; but his utterances were so extravagant, and his plans for personal aggrandizement were so injudicious, that his influence over the party which he had at first led was soon lost, and the discreet and wise policy of Governor Gordon bore down

all opposition. George I. died in June, 1727, and was succeeded by his son, George H. At the meeting of the Assembly in October following, a congratulatory address was framed and presented to the new king upon his peaceful and happy accession to the throne.

In 1728, several disturbances occurred among the Indians, chiefly incited by strong drink, which were participated in by worthless bands who had strayed away from the tribes to

which they belonged. In these affrays several were killed and wounded. The Governor took prompt measures to apprehend and punish the offenders, and succeeded in averting hostilities. A treaty was concluded with the Five Nations which was ratified with presents in the usual formal manner. At a council held at Philadelphia, on the 26th of May, for the purpose of renewing treaties with the several Indian tribes there represented, Captain Civility spoke in behalf of the chieftains, and in referring to the Governor's address, previously delivered to them at Conestoga, said that "the Governor's words were all right and good; that they never had any such speech made to them since William Penn was here."

These conferences with the Indians were frequent, and were attended with much expense, being generally coupled with treaties for the transfer of land. The Assembly, at its meeting in 1729, drew a distinction between the expense of treaties for the preservation of peace in the Colony, and those for the acquisition of territory, claiming that the latter should be borne by the Proprietors, thus dividing the burden of the frequent visits of the chiefs and their followers, to polish the

chain of friendship with English blankets, broadcloths, and metals."

The prosperity of the Colony at this period was remarkable. Though not planted till 1680, more than half a century after the settlements of the other Colonies on the coast, it had the finest capital city in all British America, and the second in size, and a greater white population than Virginia, Maryland, and both the Carolinas. The causes of this prosperity were the peaceful policy adopted towards the savages,

"This reservation was but the beginning of a series of encroachments by the home government, not only upon the rights of this, but upon those of all the American Colonies."

the security of life and property guaranteed by its beneficent code of laws, free toleration of religious sentiment, and the equality of all men before the law, making them eligible to office, and competent to give testimony in court, not excluding even the Indian or the negro.

The entire amount of paper money which had been issued to the beginning of 1730, was seventy-five thousand pounds. Rumors being current of mismanagement in the loan office, Governor Gordon instituted an inquiry into the affairs of the treasurer, William Fishbome, when it was discovered that he was a defaulter to the amount of

eighteen hundred pounds. This was secured by the estate of the treasurer; but he was punished by being removed, and forever disqualified from holding office.

In 1732, it was discovered that the French from Canada were building and establishing trading-posts within the territory of Pennsylvania, on the Allegheny and Ohio rivers, and that representatives of the Indians dwelling upon these rivers had been invited to a conference with the French at Montreal. To counter-

act this influence, the Shawanese upon the Allegheny were summoned to Philadelphia, and at a council there held, they were urged to remove farther east. This they declined to do, but asserted that the French had not manifested an unfriendly spirit towards the English. A treaty was soon afterwards made with the Six Nations, in which the Indians promised continued friendship for the English, and resistance to the encroachments of the French.

By the death of Hannah Penn, in 1733, and the previous decease of Springett Penn, the Assembly decided that the power of Governor Gordon was at an end, and refused to act upon a message which he had communicated. But shortly afterward, the Governor received a new commission, executed by John, Thomas, and Richard Penn, to whom William Penn's estate and proprietary rights had descended. In the approval of this commission, the King expressly reserved the right to govern the Lower Counties on the Delaware, commonly known as the Territories.

This reservation was but the beginning of a series of encroachments by the home government, not only upon the rights of this, but upon those of all the American Colonies. The judiciary act of 1727 was soon after annulled, which threatened great inconvenience, but was fortunately averted by reviving the act of 1722. This was followed by an attempt to pass a resolution, recommended by the royal board of trade, requiring that all laws not only of Pennsylvania, but of all the Colonies, should be transmitted to the King, whose assent was necessary to their validity, and that a copy of all laws previously passed should be submitted to him, who might annul any or all of them at his pleasure. Through the influence of the agent of the Assembly, Mr. Ferdinando John Paris, who was kept at Court as the representative of the Province, joined with the agents and friends of the other Colonies, action upon this resolution was stayed. But the disposition manifested in this proposition, so hurtful in its tendency to the dearest and most cherished

rights of the Colony, was in character with those infringements of the Crown, which finally resulted in armed resistance, and their complete separation and independence.

In August of 1732, Thomas Penn, and two years later, John Penn, the Pennsylvania born, and the eldest of the surviving sons of William Penn, arrived in the Province. Their advent was hailed with demonstrations of joy and satisfaction on the part of the people, and furnished occasions of congratulatory addresses from the Assembly, framed in a spirit of unfeigned respect and gratification, by whom answers were returned pledging constant devotion to the interests of the Colony. To John Penn, the Assembly said: "Excited by affection and gratitude, we cheerfully embrace this opportunity of congratulating thee on thy safe arrival to the place of thy nativity. When we commemorate the many benefits bestowed on the inhabitants of this Colony, the religious and civil liberties we possess, and to whom these valuable privileges, under God and the King, are owing, we should be wanting to ourselves, and them that we represent, did we not do justice to the memory of thy worthy ancestor, a man of principles truly humane, an advocate of religion and liberty. What may we not hope for from the son of so great a man, educated under his care, and influenced by his example! May his descendants inherit his virtues as well as his estate, and long continue a blessing to Pennsylvania." To which he returned this answer: "I return you my hearty thanks for this affectionate address. The kind regard you express for the memory of my father is most agreeable to me; and, as it was always his desire, so it is strongly my inclination, to do everything in my power to promote the happiness and prosperity of this Province."

Not long after the arrival of the latter, Governor Gordon was advised from London, that Lord Baltimore had made application to the king to have the three Lower Counties transferred from the dominion of Pennsylvania to that of Maryland. Richard Penn, the only one of the

Proprietors remaining in England, and a deputation of Quakers, protested against this; but lest this opposition should fail, John Penn determined to return to England, to defend the Proprietary interests at Court, and soon after took his departure from the Colony, to which he never again returned, having died, unmarried, in October, 1746, leaving his share of the Colony to his brother Thomas.

In August, 1736, Governor Gordon died, equally lamented by the Proprietaries and the people, he having so judiciously administered the government, as not to set the interests of the one in antagonism to the other. During his term of office, general prosperity had prevailed, and the Colony had greatly increased in wealth and numbers. Its commerce likewise had grown to commanding proportions, and the number and tonnage of the colonial-built ships had been rapidly multiplied.

"During his term of office, general prosperity had prevailed, and the Colony had greatly increased in wealth and numbers."

Reprinted from: Governors of Pennsylvania with the Incidental History of the State for 1609-1872. By William C. Armour, published Philadelphia James K. Simon 1872. pp132-136

EDITOR'S NOTE: Patrick Gordon was descended from the Gordons of Cluny, and had served as a Major in the regular army prior to his appointment as Deputy-Governor of Pennsylvania.

His appointment was by the proprietors of William Penn's estate and subject to the King. As deputy to the proprietors who were in England he was in effect the Governor. The provisos on his re-appointment set in motion the acts which led to the revolution.

The Gordon DNA Project — Update 2009.

Jim Gordon, Co-Administrator



Things have been happening on the Gordon DNA Project in 2009. We have nearly 300 in the project, which was started in 2001 and 106 who have joined since January 2009, when collaboration between House of Gordon and The Gordon DNA project began. The largest number of participants is from the U.S; followed by Canada, Scotland, Ireland, England, Australia and New Zealand.

The House of Gordon USA generously donated \$1,000 to the Project to help finance testing for certain applicants. To date we have assisted four applicants;

1. A 67-marker test for a new Jock & Tam Gordon put her male representative among the J&T Gordons, matching 65 of 67 markers. She had been unable to trace her ancestry beyond the late 19th century. 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, 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. Nevertheless, his results were a surprise and should give researchers in Scotland something to dig through the family archives.
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 – from Wilmington 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. His 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.

The largest group is the Jock and Tam descendants. They are the direct and unbroken paternal line of descendants of Sir Adam Gordon, the earliest documented Gordon progenitor. The Seton-Gordons (the family of the Chief of Clan Gordon, the Marquess of Huntley and his son, the Earl of Aboyne) are the next largest group. They descend from Sir Adam Gordon, through the marriage of Elizabeth Gordon and her husband Sir Alexander Seton in 1408; thus the Seton-Gordons. The third group is the descendants of Sir William Gordon, 3rd great-uncle of Jock and Tam. This latter group includes the Kenmuir/Lochinvar line (the now-extinct Viscounty of Kenmuir); a small group whose ancestors lived in Kilrea Townland, and adjacent areas of County Londonderry, N. Ireland and the descendants of Alexander Gordon of Exeter, NH, who was the progenitor of many of the Gordons of New England. All told, these three major groups represent over 150 of the nearly 300 current participants; and 37 of these families trace their ancestry back to Scotland; 12 to Ireland.

Other small Gordon groups are the Fitzgerald and Stewart-Gordons. There are quite a few members who do not fall into any of the known Gordon groups. Five of these have ancestors

THE GORDON DNA PROJECT

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from Eastern Europe, including Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Lithuania, Moldova and Poland. These Eastern European ancestors may well be descendants of Scottish mercenary soldiers such as General Patrick Gordon and Admiral Thomas Gordon, both of Russia, who were employed by various European rulers in the 16th thru 18th centuries. Some of these mercenary officers may have also been veterans of various failed Jacobite or other rebellions and uprisings.

We even have testers whose ancestors were from Spain and Afghanistan. They may be descendants of soldiers who participated in British campaigns in these countries. These ancestors may have been captured by enemy and never repatriated, or their ancestors just never returned home to Scotland after their term of service ended, electing instead to stay in what became their new homeland. In one instance there was a Scot who partnered in a British firm exporting sherry and port from Portugal to the UK and had a son who married into Portuguese nobility, becoming a Count of Portugal.

We are fortunate to have a branch of Gordon known as the Spanish Gordons, whom descend from the Gordons of Wardhouse, which are of the Seton-Gordon line; while a Portuguese branch descends from the Gordons of Kenmuir/Lochinvar.

There are 33 kits still processing, whose origins are yet to be determined. And there are 47 families whose Gordon roots are yet to be determined and 40 newly-discovered Gordon branches.

An interesting result we have found is Douglas lines matching the Jock & Tam branch, suggesting an unrecorded Gordon becoming a Douglas. This may have occurred through

adoption or, as in the case of the Seton-Gordons, a Gordon marrying a Douglas heiress, adopting her Douglas surname along with land and titles.

Some of the most interesting new information we are getting involves the haplogroups. We recently had a match for a tester who has been with the Project since the early days. He had an unusual haplogroup: I2b1a. He matched a recent tester. In comparing their pedigrees, it was determined that they were descended from two brothers who lived in the mid- to late 18th century Pennsylvania, USA.

If you visit the Project's homepage, you will notice that the haplogroups of the three major branches differ: The Jock and Tam branch are Haplogroup I1, the Seton-Gordons are R1b and the Sir William Gordon 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?

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. Now, the project has revealed that there may very well be some genetic links.

We have our first Sept member matching one of the Sir William Gordon branches. In fact there are two matches from two different Septs – the Craig and Adams families. In both cases, the common ancestor is possible within 14-generations and increasingly likely within 24-generations.

“There is much interest among researchers in the relation of Septs and Gordons. Now, the project has revealed that there may very well be some genetic links.”

A member of the Todd family is also 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. Yet another Todd and 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.

We strongly encourage participants to submit their pedigrees to the Project. Having even grandparents' names, locations and general dates of residence can be helpful, as others who have been researching the same line may have identified your ancestor without finding

their descendants. To date, we lack such information on 99 of our participants. We also suggest that testers contact others whose results are close to theirs. Clicking on a kit number on the Results Page will take you to another page containing information about that tester, including an email address.

The administrators look forward to more House of Gordon members joining the House of Gordon DNA Project and for those members who haven't done so, to submit their lineages to the Project. To do so, simply generate a gedcom and send it to: tagordon@hotmail.com. If you're unsure what a gedcom is, or don't know how to generate one, simply email the information you do know, including names, dates and places of birth, death, marriage and residence(s.) If you don't have a computer, you can type or write the information and send it to me c/o the magazine. Remember...any information is better than no information! In closing, please publicize the Project to any Gordons that you meet and don't forget to visit the Gordon Tent when attending any of the Highland Games or



FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

We have launched a Facebook group site and linked it into our main website with the icon shown above. This is a great place for Gordons to come and discuss everyday life, exchange recipes, photos and discuss our common heritage and current events.

Many are taking advantage of the group to post their genealogy enquiries, like Dixie Gordon Lee who writes: “My Gggrandfather, James E. Gordon, was born in Virginia around 1825. His son, Andrew Millard Gordon was born in Illinois in 1859. James' father we believe was Francisco Gordon. We're unsure of where he was bom or ancestors before him. Hopefully someone on here might be related.”

Come join us on Facebook and lets get to know each other better!

House of Gordon 2010 UK

As the days tick off toward this summer's **House of Gordon 2010 UK Tour**, the excitement builds in direct proportion—or even more so! Those initial days spent in Northern Ireland will be an opportunity like we have never had or maybe will ever have again. **St. Patrick's Cathedral** has all the history and legend attached to it that the great man himself possessed. Seeing where many of our Ulster ancestors departed Ireland for the “New World” will be both entertaining and educational. We will walk along the famous **Walls of Derry** and view the amazing natural rock formations, the **Giant's Causeway**.

Then, yes, off we ferry to the Scottish mainland and to **Ayrshire and Robert Burns' Country**. The new and the old awaits us there. Do you know about **Hill House**? Designed and built by **Charles Rennie Mackintosh**, Scotland's answer to our Frank Lloyd Wright. Beautiful **Stirling Castle**, **Bannockburn** and on over to **Arbroath**, home of the Declaration of Arbroath on our way up to Aberdeen—ALL very important Gordon-specific stops.

Talk about Gordon-specific, now comes **The Gordon Highlanders Museum** and on to the town of **Huntly**, home to our own **Huntly Castle**! You will fall in love with this little wee town! But you get the picture—**Aboyne** and the **Aboyne Highland Games with our Chief, the Cock o' the North** himself, **Haddo House**, home of the Haddo Gordons, a distillery stop at **Aberlour** and the awesome **Culloden Battlefield and Visitors Centre** where we have a House of Gordon stone set in the walkway. **Edinburgh and the incredible Military Tattoo** there.

BUT...the most important thing you should know is that **IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN THE TOUR!!** **Travel Agent Kate Graham can still accept travelers** who contact her in these next few days! If you thought you missed the cutoff, you did NOT. Contact Kate today and join us for a Tour not to be missed!

Kate Graham @ Caledonian Travel Inc. 770-979-1010
or email Caledonians@mindspring.com

AGM Agenda

- Call to Order
- Reading of the Chief's Greeting
- Reading and approval of the 2009 AGM Minutes
- Reports:
 - President's Report by Kim Gordon on the progress made since last October regarding goals set out at the AGM in 2009.
 - Treasurer's Report on the funds received, paid-out and financial state of the organization.
 - Membership Report
 - Convener's Chair Report by Geof Baker
 - Communications Chair Report by Lois Todd
- Items of Business:
 - Discussion & vote on proposed amendment to Article 4 Section 2 of the By-laws.
 - Discussion of Scottish Charity
 - Discussion of DNA Project Fund
 - Discussion of AGM Venue 2011
 - Discussion of selection of Nominating Committee for the 2011 election.
 - Discussion of Goals for 2011
 - Call for any other new business to be discussed and motions to their disposition as it may pertain.
- Meeting Adjourned.

Proxy Ballot
House of Gordon USA Annual General Meeting
Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, Linville, NC July 10, 2010

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. To Select a Nominating Committee for the 2011 Elections
2. Scottish Charity, Gordon DNA Fund, 2011 & 2012 AGM Venues
3. To discuss the Charles O. Gordon Scholarship Program
4. Discuss and vote on the following Proposed Bylaws Amendment:

Summary of proposed change to restrict the board and officers to non family affiliated members. To read (change in italics):

Article 4 – Directors

Section 2. Number and Tenure

The number of Directors constituting the Board of Directors shall be fixed by resolution of the Board of Directors, but shall not be less than four (4) nor more than eleven (11) and not more than four (4) will be officers of the corporation. These will include the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary and the Treasurer. Each Director will hold office until his or her successor is elected and qualified. *Members of the Board of Directors may not be directly related nor marital partners (i.e. Fathers and sons, man and wife).*

5. To discuss such other business as may properly come before the meeting

VOTING BY PROXY Please submit the Proxy as soon as possible so that your opinions may be voiced at the meeting in accordance with your instructions. The Proxy must be received by July 1, 2008 at the address shown below. You may submit your Proxy (1) by mail, or (2) over the internet (by attaching a signed pdf Proxy to secretary@houseofgordonusa.org).

I, _____ being a member in good standing of the **House of Gordon USA**, do hereby waive my right to appear in person at the AGM, scheduled for July 10, 2010, and further grant a proxy to _____ (If no individual named, I grant my proxy to the executive board) to vote on my behalf on such matters as may be required.

1. I instruct my Proxy to vote _____ to the proposed amendment to the Bylaws.
2. I instruct my Proxy to use their best judgment on all matters which properly come before the membership at the AGM.
3. I instruct my proxy to bring forward the following business before the membership for consideration:

This Proxy must be signed and received by July 1, 2010.

Date _____ **Signature** _____

Membership Number (if known) _____

Mail to: House of Gordon USA 1811 Aeronca Ave. Henrico, VA 23228

Officers & Divisions

House of Gordon USA

President -	Kim Gordon, Missouri	president@houseofgordonusa.org
Vice President-	Geof Baker, Virginia	vp@houseofgordonusa.org
Secretary-	Barbara Gordon Wray, SC	secretary@houseofgordonusa.org
Treasurer-	Nellie Lowry, California	treasurer@houseofgordonusa.org
Directors at Large-	Lucretia Gordon	Lucretia@houseofgordonusa.org
	John Low ry	john@houseofgordonusa.org
Membership Secretary-	Arlene Adams, California	membership@houseofgordonusa.org
Communications Chair-	Lois Todd, Virginia	webmaster@houseofgordonusa.org

Commissioners:

Gulf States	Marcia Gordon McLaurin	mgordonm@hotmail.com
Northeast	Morris Gordon	sirknightmg@hotmail.com
Southw est	Tom Adams	taadams.scotland@sbcglobal.net

State Conveners:

No. California	Ken & Heather Gardner	soshoran@hotmail.com
So. California	Jan Gordon Vasquez	mrsjaneez@aol.com
Colorado	Sean Gordon	sgordon42@comcast.net
Georgia	Turpin Ballard	turp4846@gmail.com
Florida	Norval Marr	arutland@tampabay.rr.com
Haw aii	Donald G. Barnes	dgbhi@msn.com
Idaho	Joel Mills	convener@idahogordons.org
No. Illinois/low a	David Whiteside	davidlw hiteside@hotmail.com
So. Illinois/Missouri	John Gordon	john.gordon@steaknshake.com
Maine	Merle Gordon	merril515@yahoo.com
Michigan/ N. Indiana	Garth Gordon	garthmgordon@aol.com
Minnesota	Julie Bow man	MythJulie@aol.com
Nevada	Woody & Lynne Gordon	sfgscotland@hotmail.com
New England	David Gordon	dgordon1949@yahoo.com
New Mexico	David & Debra Melcher	dndmelcher@msn.com
North Carolina	Tom & Sarah Gardenhire	ncgordons@hotmail.com
Ohio	Lori Neidert	neidertgordonoh@yahoo.com
Pennsylvania	Micah Wentzel	mw entzel@mail.com
South Carolina	David Nichols	nichols_d@bellsouth.net
Virginia/Maryland	David Todd	drummerdavid@comcast.net
West Virginia	Jerry Vandenberg	vandege@live.com
Wisconsin	Laurence Whitten	LorcantheCelt@aol.com

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House of Gordon USA
181 Aeronca Ave.
Richmond, VA 23228-1328
Website: <http://www.houseofgordonusa.org>



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