

HOUSE OF GORDON DNA FUND PROPOSAL

Many of us are intensely interested in our genealogy and wish to learn more about where we came from. At times the paper trail becomes difficult to follow or apparently non-existent. This is where DNA can help to break through the road blocks in our paper trails. By comparing the so called "junk DNA" on the Y chromosome handed down from father to son intact, we can find links in the family tree between people who otherwise would not be aware of the links. By comparing paperwork on these families we can begin to fill in the gaps, working both forward and backward through time.

The Gordon DNA Project was started with the idea of comparing DNA from Gordons around the world AND THEIR SEPTSMEN! From the beginning of the project the administrators have encouraged sept men to test under the Gordon DNA project. It is indeed the House of Gordon DNA Project and we currently have 203 families participating in the project, unfortunately many of our members do not realize that the Gordon DNA project is open to them, and so far only one Adams family and one Todd family have submitted their DNA. With approximately 90 sept names, the House of Gordon has one of the largest surname groups of any clan. Although there are DNA surname projects for sixteen of our septs, the majority of them are not represented elsewhere. Also, the information from one DNA submission can be submitted to several groups. For instance David Todd has had a 12 marker kit completed and the results have been submitted to the House of Gordon DNA Project, the Todd Surname DNA Project, as well as the British Isles, Scotland, Ireland Heritage and Scottish Clans DNA projects.

As a genealogist and your communications chair I have tried to ensure that our newsletter, annual and website give us tools to communicate with one another on our genealogical research. The Gordon DNA Project administrators and I have been very excited on the results of the project so far. Morris Gordon's participation is a good example of how the project can work. At a complete standstill in his research he decided to participate in the DNA project and since has found several 37 marker matches who turned out to be distant cousins. Barbara and Morris have been amazed and excited by the many family resemblances among them! Best of all many of the newly discovered cousins had more paperwork to help fill in some of the paper trail. Now this group of relations can focus their collective research more effectively.

The House of Gordon DNA Project's goals are:

1. Identify Gordons and Gordon Septs who are genetically-related
2. Prove or disprove theories proposed by leading Gordon researchers such as Dr. JM Bulloch and Dr. Edward Gordon of Cairnfield
3. Determine any genetic relationship between Gordons and their Septs.
4. Break down brick walls in our research.
5. Help us focus and give direction on a particular area for further research.
6. Verify existing facts or clear up Gordon family mysteries.
7. Promote and support the surname DNA projects of Gordon Septs.

These are very broad goals and should be very easy for us to achieve. More concrete and directly related goals that the administrators think we will be able to accomplish are:

1. Find the origins of the Gordon surname.
2. Categorically determine the DNA sequence for all House of Gordon branches.
3. Determine relationships between the various Gordon families and Gordon Septs.
4. Formulate a migration pattern for our Gordons based on family relationships and hopefully even tie into some collateral lines, including Septs.

5. Identify possible relationship between the various clans that bear the three boars' heads on their coat-of-arms, including the Nesbitts, Swintons, Setons and Allerdice clans.
6. Were the Gordons, Normans? Why were they in the lowlands before the Norman invasion?
7. Help each of us realize a personal goal in our research.

Ways that the House of Gordon DNA Project is supporting the Septs:

1. Promote Sept DNA surname projects by linking to them, which we are already doing. Please refer: <http://www.thegordondnaproject.com/Results-Sept.html>
2. Enable all Septs to take advantage of the Gordon group discount, which is already being done - in fact we have two Sept members (an Paul Adam and Tom Adams) that joined our project a couple years back, and we encourage all Gordon Septs to do so, but no other Septs have joined yet. Even Septs that have already tested can still join our project after logging in to the FTDNA web page and simply adding our project with several clicks of the mouse.

Joining our project is something that only the individual tester can decide to do, however, and we can only go far as to let people know they can join us, whether they are a Gordon or of a Gordon Sept. Unfortunately, administrators do not have authority to unilaterally go through the Family Tree DNA database and sign up individual testers to our project, whether they are Gordons or Gordon Septs. Hence, every once in awhile, we find some Gordons out that that have tested but are not in our project. It is entirely up to the individual, as whether they want to join us.

3. Increase the supportive syntax of the web page to make it more welcome to Gordon Septs to join. For example, the goals which are listed above.
4. Ensuring that Sept testers also may take advantage of the fund, and organize a committee to decide who is to be awarded the funds. Up until now, awards have been based upon need and funds have been offered to both Gordons and Septs and allocated by Jim and Tei. Tei writes:

Should the House of Gordon, USA (HoG) decide to support our fund, which I think would be terrific, I would like to suggest we have a representative of HoG help determine who is able to receive the funds and maybe set a monthly or quarterly review of applicants. To make such a committee balanced, I also suggest that one of the members of such a committee be a representative of a Gordon Sept.

A joint effort by HoG and The DNA project would no doubt be the biggest advance to date in all Gordon and Sept research. It would be a tremendous show of support and unprecedented by any of the Highland Houses/Clans. Such a generous offer to support the DNA project would raise the bar for all others to follow.

With as many as 90 Septs, should they grow to 200 participants per Sept (as is the current count of Gordons), then it will certainly be a challenge to find and coordinate the necessary volunteers to help us administer all 18,000 participants, while providing the same level of analysis we do now. Of course, we will also continue to upload the results of any Septs that join the Gordon DNA project and highlight comparisons of results as matches occur.

Personally, I have tried researching how the Septs and Gordons connect in the past to boost the ties on our web page, but have found available historical information to be too fragmented with little supporting documentation. Balancing traditional genealogical research with science is not mutually exclusive and perhaps a representative of each Sept

that has more knowledge than I of how their respective Sept connects to the Gordons could provide content / analysis to us? I would be happy to upload any quality research to our web page.

In conclusion, any and all ideas that strengthen ties that we can help facilitate, linking the House of Gordon and its Septs, are welcome and encouraged, but maintain it should be in a supportive and promotional capacity, such as linking to the Sept project web pages, inviting Septs to join our project as well and by continuing to extend our group discount and access to funds from HoG or others.

If there is a way to work more closely with HoG, then let's find a way to make it happen. Together, I am sure we can exponentially increase The House of Gordon profile, while increasing knowledge of the origin of all Gordons and Gordon Septs and providing the tools to help others to reclaim their family histories.

Kindest regards and Bydand,

Tei Gordon

We all benefit from the research that is disproving old assumptions, dispelling myths and also proving early research. We are beginning to better understand our origins and family connections. There are many times when members who are on a fixed income or have young families with all of the attending costs that involves pass on participating due to the cost. A twelve marker profile costs \$99.00, and the more preferable 25 Marker profile costs \$148.00 with the Gordon group discount. To many of us this may seem to be an insignificant cost. To others it may mean the difference on getting a needed prescription or paying for a child's field trip at school this month. The House of Gordon DNA Project Fund assists those who would like to participate in the project, but cannot afford it at this time. I feel that this project is worthy of our charitable support, and I hope that you will favorably consider the House of Gordon USA making a donation to this fund with the stipulation mentioned by Tei Gordon of having a committee to administer the fund composed of Tei Gordon, Jim Gordon (who is a member of the House of Gordon USA) and a Sept representative appointed by the House of Gordon USA.

Respectfully Submitted for your consideration,

Lois Todd
Genealogist House of Gordon USA

Attached: Gordon DNA Project Demographics.

From: "Tei A. Gordon" <tagordon@hotmail.com>

To: "Lois Todd" <lmtodd@comcast.net>, "Jim Gordon" <Jimgordo1@aol.com>

Subject: RE: growth of the DNA project

Date: Sunday, July 06, 2008 4:17:26 AM

Lois,

A very quick scan of the membership and I have created the following breakdown of new memberships:

2001/2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
4	35	22	31	38	46	24 YTD (50 est.)	201

I am not sure when the HoG article came out (haven't seen it yet), but given the boost in membership in typical slow months of January and February 2008, I am guessing it must have come out as early as December 2007 or late as January 2008. Typically, December is a dead month for us as people are busy during the holidays. (Articles came out in December 2006, May 2007, December 2007 and May 2008 as well as email messages in July 2006 and July 2007.)

Below is a rough breakdown by month and date of kit being mailed back (so actually they ordered kits probably 2 weeks earlier than the date we received their kit back on average):

	2006	2007	2008
JANUARY		3	4
FEBRUARY		1	5
MARCH		3	4
APRIL		4	3
MAY		11	2
JUNE	2	3	5
JULY	0	9	1
AUGUST	7	5	
SEPTEMBER	0	1	
OCTOBER	1	2	
NOVEMBER	6	3	
DECEMBER	3	1	

In 2006, August was much busier than normal, implying something motivated new participants in July / August 2006.

In 2007, May and July were also bumper crops for new participants requesting kits, thus something must have piqued their interest in April/May and June/July 2007.

There was a rush of 9 new members in January and February 2008, which are usually our slowest months. Prior to 2006, March and November were our busiest months for new subscribers.

As for demographics of our participants for our 200+ members, I would like to offer the following break down:

USA	140 (70%)
Australia/NZ	25
Canada	15
Eastern Europe	6
Western Europe	12
Asia	3

For your information, many of the recent inquiries do mention finding us through the HoG VA and/or USA. It may be of further interest that often, genealogy enthusiasts do not have a male line that continues to this day and are ineligible for DNA tasting -or- do not have the discretionary funds to participate. Therefore, I am estimating that the current 200+ participants represent about 1/6th of the total inquiries from individual families that we have received since 2001.

I hope this information helps.

Kindest regards,

Tei
