

IN THE HOUSE!

House of Gordon USA Newsletter

Volume 13 Issue 1

December 2018



Now accepting nominations for officers in the upcoming elections. See the President's Message.



We Remember 100 Years Later...

The distinguished service of some of our fellow Gordons during The Great War.

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*You can't stay in your corner of the forest waiting for others to come to you.
You have to go to them sometimes."*

In the House is the Official Newsletter of the **House of Gordon USA** and is published biannually. Newsletters are sent in December by e-mail, and in May by USPS to its members. The **House of Gordon USA** is a 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation organized to promote the history, heritage and traditions of Scotland and the Gordon Clan. Donations of funds, books and other property made to House of Gordon USA are deductible contributions for the purpose of Federal Income Tax Returns.

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

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

Annual Dues of \$25 are payable annually. Remit to **House of Gordon USA**, 368 Dale Circle Midland City, AL 36350 or remit using Paypal Please visit our website: houseofgordonusa.org for further information.

In The House!

Lois Todd, Editor ©House of Gordon USA 2018

President's Message



Hello Fellow Gordons!

This AGM is an election year, and Cynthia Gordon Patrick of Florida is heading up the nomination committee. We are looking for people with the skill, time and desire to serve on the Board of Directors or to take on the responsibility of being an officer of the corporation. If you are interested, please contact

Cindy via email at cpat468@yahoo.com, or message her through Facebook. You may also email me at president@houseofgordonusa.org or John Gorden at vp@houseofgordonusa.org.

I haven't included the usual Games reports and new babies, this will be in the May issue catching us up on all that occurred since May 2018. This way more fun news is in the printed issue that can be looked back at over the years. I hope you all agree this was a good decision.

We have had a fabulous year! Our conveners hosted tents at more than 56 Highland Games this year, given away four scholarships through the Charles O. Gordon Memorial Scholarship, helped to support the Epic Project, Donated money to replant several trees in the camping area on Grandfather Mountain, and I have sent ten care packages out this year. If you have family deployed overseas, let me know so I can send a care package.

Susan Gordon Rose has done a spectacular job in building the Epic Project which has been recognized by the British Embassy! KUDOS TO SUSAN!!! Read more about it on page 9. his year we are the primary sponsor for the Epic Project. We are responsible for the tartan, so please consider sending in an extra donation for this worthy project.

This year we will be the Honored Clan at the Southeast Alabama Highland Games in Dothan, AL on March 16th, and also at the Capital District Highland Games in Altamont, NY next Labor Day weekend. If you are close to either of these locations, come out and support Jen and Holly and join in the fun at the Gordon Tent! I hope to have our VP, John Gorden at the Games in Alabama to represent the Board, and I am hoping to get someone from the Board to the Capital District Games for Holly!

The big event as always will be Grandfather Mountain with the elections. We are also planning a surprise tent display that we hope will be fun for all ages and engage more people than ever. I can't wait to see you all at the Games! HAPPY HOGMANAY, AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

Flowers of the Forest



We learned on July 18th the sad news that we have added a gold star to our Wall of Honor. Glen Gordon, Jr. wrote:

On October 22nd 2017 we lost one of our own, my son HM1 Chris Gordon US Navy. I'm sorry I haven't posted this earlier but we have been dealing with some legal stuff on his and our grandchildren's behalf.

Hospital Corpsman First Class (HM1) Christopher Troy Gordon, 31, of Huntington, WV, died on Sunday, October 22, 2017.

Born in Greenville, SC, Christopher was the son of Glenn R. Gordon Jr. and Ellen M. Gordon. He served our country in the United States Navy.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his two children, Abigail R. Gordon and Nathaniel Elijah Gordon; one sister, Candice Sanchez and her husband, Freddie Jr., and their children, Alexandra, Joshua and Olivia Sanchez; his paternal grandparents, Glenn R. and Patricia Gordon Sr.; his aunts and uncles, Kim and Jeff Van Deusen, and Tim Gordon; and many cousins.



Welcome to our new Oregon Convener!

The Board is very excited to announce that we have a new convener for Oregon where we have sadly lacked representation for many years. We expect to see some great fellowship developing under his leadership as he is already well plugged in to the Scottish Community in the state. He sent this brief introduction to himself:



I have been involved with our Celtic society for roughly 15 years. Douglas County Celtic Society.

I have been the society event convener for a bit over 2 years and am also the logistics coordinator for our own Highland games and clan gathering as well as the parade coordinator.

Accompanied by my lovely bride, we enjoy bringing knowledge of the Scottish culture to people at games and other festivals in Oregon. While taking on a Clan tent is a somewhat new venture, we are both excited and cannot wait for April to begin our season.

Our Scottish background: I have Muir as well as Gordon predominately through many years of research and my wife is a Donald and Boyd. Of course, the research continues as we both have a passion for learning and sharing with others. The clans here are excited for the return of House of Gordon as we discussed at our games this year and have a great support system within the community.

Our personal interests involve lots of outdoor activities, and our passion is on the Oregon Dunes, both as riders and working to preserve our dunes and keep areas open for OHV and all users of our beautiful coastal area. We are both active board members with Save The Riders Dunes. We work with USFS to keep and re open riding areas to preserve and restore the dunes.

Thank you to all for the very warm welcome I have received and looking forward to representing the House of Gordon.

Slàinte mhath and Bydand!

Tim and DJ Moyer

Mid-Year Review by the VP—John Gordon



Kenn Gordon talking to visitors to the tent

While at the AGM in July, a discussion arose with the idea of rallying the efforts of this office to facilitate orientation with conveners who didn't make the 2017 AGM or could be new to the process. Addressing concerns that everyone has what they needed to set up and represent, hopefully, some benefit could arise. Trends and topics of interest could be reviewed. Enthusiasm while the last days of economic quantitative expansion remains, made last fall particularly timely.

So John, what good came from this effort?

Happily, there is a great deal of synergies already in place! I had pulled into W Monroe, La., the Friday before the Saturday NE La Celtic Festival @ Kiroli Park and ventured to get oriented. Setup was underway when I arrived! The place was "under construction" and carts of items from the weekend vendors getting displayed. I found someone in a golf cart to introduce myself to and describe why I was there, whereupon, his executive decision was made to move the Clan tents forward into the staging area for music and dance. Our open air Gordon tent got on the very end closest to the pedestrian walk-in access and (naturally) right across from the suds garden [cause someone thinks we're a thirsty clan (why else did he arrive early!) and we wouldn't mind sobering folks up for the drive home] such that attendees were more immediately within our grasp !!! As a precursor to Saturday, I drove out with an escort van from the local Gordon HVAC establishment exiting simultaneously (serendipity abounds)!

Then the next day, our La. Convenor Kenn Gordon had arrived as the perfect front man for this cause. Once setup, we had families with young lads & lassies lining up for pictures with a Claymore or Pooh Bear in front of our Septs sign ! Justin Gordon (of the aforementioned HVAC business) & son John arrived to join. A family of Milnes and Lauries got their children involved, as well as, folks who just wanted to inquire more

about their Scottish/Celtic heritage signed up.

Props are given in recognition of the members of the Lafayette LA Scottish Society who represented to assist Kenn & myself. These men (one of whom was to be deployed by month's end) were all dressed in their regimental Gordon plaid and got the attention of a local press photog for a group pic!

Kenn asks that we add his name to the list for St Kilda's weathered (green) Gordon plaid, and, confirmed he's looking forward to the Gulfport Ms. Gathering in Nov 2018. Kenn's got a lot going on in the near term. The Lafayette Scottish Society hosts a St Andrew's Dinner in early December and a Burns night in late January. Kenn is a former President of this organization and serves in a chaplaincy role to the service families associated therewith. Kenn's efforts are applauded as he herein is recognized for the scope he entails in his service to the House & to others! We got acquainted with many local families and others interested in the House's activities, and, I was delighted that the day turned into such a success!!

Staying with the theme of supporting our newer conveners, I had flipped a coin between the Washington DC & Charleston SC., Tartan Balls. There are no Highland games in DC the first weekend of Nov, so 'Heads or Tails' - my decision was made! Arriving on the grounds the day before made all the difference. Again, our tent was near the suds tent (like that was unexpected) and across from the Charleston Scottish Society tent hosting the event. Greetings were exchanged and I was on my way to the evening's affair - lost in a city of bridges & peninsulas - I managed to stay on course and on time. The next day (Saturday) Barbara Gordon Wray was celebrating her birthday, and with husband in tow, made the trip up to Charleston.

And, there I was! Celebrating a birthday, celebrating a perfect, fall day in SC, and, celebrating the McRowdy clan's arrival in the next tent cheering the participants' efforts all the while as they enjoyed their proximity to the suds!

A perfect Trifecta!!!

Someone mentioned that the Mega-Millions billionaire ticket drawn recently was lost on the premises, and, the search was on!!! Could not have had a better day looking for billions and cheering with the McRowdy's as Mrs. Wray was complemented all day for her milestone; and our neighboring tent of Mac'donald'ehs awarded her the Canadian order of merit as the hardest working convener of the games (like I was any help (hahaha) Not!) !!!

Billions lost and tears were shed, but I can attest to no finer day nor, place

to be than in Charleston SC., for their Highland games was the order of the weekend!

Hopefully my date's sister's baby was birthed successfully; but, I could not have been more entertained from the hospitality afforded me throughout that Weekend!!! Congratulations Mrs. Wray for all your efforts, and, to your husband Richard for "getting it done" against the odds!!!

Closer to home, the 57th Highland Games of Salado, Texas, competed Veterans Day weekend. This event has a major House of Gordon presence as two of our three scholarship winners and their parents were in attendance, as well as, Epic Project & C O Gordon Scholarship winners made the event! Our Texas Convener, Katy Richards and her husband Jodi Ginger made the trip into town, where one might also have found as well the largest display of the Gordon Blue plaid for any weekend.



Katie and Judge Ed Bests

Epic Project and Highland Drumming judge Mr. Ed Bests from California arrived for the competition sans vest but otherwise displaying the Gordon tartan on the field. In addition, this year's Epic Project winner Filemon Tan; Piper Scholarship winner, Kevin Darmadi; and, one of the Charles O. Gordon Scholarship winner, drummer Sebastian Arguelles were all present and in excellent form.

Complements to these winners and their families occurred, and, pictures were taken to highlight the occasion. These lucky young adults are continuing their competitive roles; Sebastian Arguelles competed in Scotland last summer. Congratulations to our winners & your families. The House remains vested in all your future endeavors and hope to hear of your continued successes!!!

While rained out miserably last September from the Sherwood Celtic Festival where she & Jodi also made their nuptial vows, Katy has managed to recover as we'd expected from any newlyweds! Our congratulations to the Gingers on their exciting venture! Katy efforts

are commended for the breadth of territory covered and her relationships with others associated to the House. She heads the Sherwood Forest Celtic clans gathering scheduled for Sept 2019; and, along with her acquaintance with Judge Ed Bests, has the House on track to make the Houston Highland games returning in April 2019! While I try to keep up, I greatly appreciate that Katy has always looked out for the House in ways that reflect her dedication and service as I've learned much from her.

Plans are in the works for the Burns Dinner in south Texas next January. Also, as part of an effort to grow some participation for the House, I/we want to invite everyone to join us in attendance at the 37th North Texas Irish Festival - <http://ntif.org/schedule/index.html> as the " ...*North Texas Irish Festival is produced and sponsored by the Southwest Celtic Music Association, Inc.; dedicated to the study, performance, promotion and preservation of Celtic music and dance in the Southwest. ...the NTIF has become one of the largest festivals in the United States, hosting multiple stages ...* ". This event has host venues and shuttles to & from the Fair Grounds. As the weather can be dynamic in the spring, this indoors event with evening Ceilidh at the host hotels brings a number of folks together and is well received.

Finally, after an absence of several years, the Houston Highland Games looks to be coming back on schedule [<https://houstonhighlandgames.com/>] with a tentative date of April 13th, 2019.

With much appreciation to everyone, I am most grateful for your warmth towards allowing me to contribute my efforts, and, hope I've raised some awareness to our efforts promoting fellowship & good cheer!!!

To this end, permit me to recommend some book titles for everyone's Holiday reading pleasure. First, the audaciously titled Daughter of a Daughter of a Queen by Sarah Bird [<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/sarah-bird/daughter-of-a-daughter-of-a-queen/>] totally makes sense in a kind of fictional Boudica epic of a woman making good in a predominantly male environ. I'll be so looking forward to this ladies discussion group @ our next book club meeting as we explore the heroine Clara Williams (as a daughter of royalty) success in a time and age that 'Me Too' & cross-dressing are an exception. Bravery knows no gender!

My mensch for the holiday's heraldry might be found in the bio-epic titled The Greatest Knight by Thomas Asbridge exploring the ideals of 'mesnie' & 'preudhomme' [<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/thomas-asbridge/the-greatest-knight/>] while this pretense for the Game of Thrones may lead many to the Netflix hit the Outlaw King; cinematically re-depicting the conflict between Robert the Bruce & Edward I (and permitting me to draw us back to a more scotched reference).

We are excited to announce that the Epic Project has been recognized by the Scottish Branch of the British Embassy in Washington DC for its contributions to the interconnectivity between Scottish Businesses and the Scottish Diaspora in the United States. Following is the report she was asked to provide the Embassy.

THE EPIC PROJECT A DETAILED REPORT 2015-2018



WHAT IS THE EPIC PROJECT?

The Epic Project is a testament to the collaboration and passion of the Scottish Diaspora in America.

Our Mission is to encourage and uplift the Youth engaged with the promotion of Scottish Arts and Culture via the scholarship gifting of Uniforms, Instruments, and Accessories necessary to be competitive in their chosen field. The recipients can be Bagpipers, Drummers, Highland Dancers, and Drum Majors. They can only be nominated by their own instructors or adjudicators who believe they are exceptional in their chosen field of Scottish Arts. The gifts are made possible by the donations and networking between Scottish and American businesses, and the extensive Scottish



American Clan System.

We found there is a Financial Ceiling for most youth in Scottish competitions. Where many have great talent but lack the means to acquiring expensive uniforms and instruments that are far out of their reach. In these competitive fields, uniform and appearance are weighed as part of the performance. Meaning the best competitor on the field can place lower on a technical uniform fault that is beyond their financial means to afford.

HOW THE EPIC PROJECT IS FUNDED:

The Epic Project thrives by physical donations from vendors as well as financial donations from the Clans. The Tartan worn by each year's recipient is chosen by the first Clan to make a sizable donation (Over \$100) also known as the "First Money In." Several other Clans make donations each year. This has created a source of pride for the Clans and has garnered the attention and participation of the Clan's Chiefs in Scotland. For instance, the Marquis of Huntley and the Duke of Argyll, have given their approval and international attention to the charity as it is their family tartan being worn by the recipient.

The Recipients become an adoptive representative of their new clan and have gone on to have great success in their competitions. In turn bringing pride and engagement to the represented clan. As these are 501c3 organizations, there is no requirement to be a descendant of the Clan whose tartan they are wearing. Race, gender, orientation, have no bearing on the selection of the Recipient. Only talent, dedication, and passion.



The Scottish American Clan and Highland Game System is a highly organized network. Each Highland Games Organization is acting as a meeting grounds of the Scottish Clans and Scottish Competitions. Most Pipe Band or Clan Organization are a U.S. Federal Corporation 501c3 Charity, with a fiduciary mandate to teach and celebrate Scotland's History and Culture. Many Americans through competition, business, or simple love of Scottish culture travel to many Highland Games per year in both the USA and Scotland. Many Scottish Organizations have a very active social media presence, proving this is a very engaged and active culture. The Epic Project itself is a Scholarship under the umbrella of the House of Gordon USA, who are engaged Nationwide. <http://houseofgordonusa.org/EpicProject.html>



FOUNDERS OF THE EPIC PROJECT:

Susan Rose, Chairman of The Epic Project, responsible for Organization of Donors and Uniforms, owner of MyKiltmaker.com is the founder of The Epic Project. She identified the actual need for the investment in



Uniforms and Instruments for the American Youth involved in the Scottish Culture.

She noticed a direct line correlation between Top of the Line Scottish Uniforms and Success in the Scottish competition events being judged. She noted that Pride in Self had affected the outcome of her adult customer's competitions. So, her thought, if the effect of Pride in Self changed a Scottish Competition's outcome in adults would it

have the same effect on young Scottish Music and Heritage participants? She found that it did but with a much larger degree of higher successes than in adults. She organized The Epic Project and has encouraged others to assist her in the "Lifting Up" of the American Youth who love Scottish culture.

Richard King Co-Chairman, in Charge of Selection of The Epic Project

Recipients. Richard King started playing the bagpipes at the age of 13. His first teacher was Mark Bowers. Richard quickly picked up the pipes and started playing with the North Texas Caledonian Pipes and Drums. He played with the North Texas band for 8 years. At this time, he moved to San Diego and began playing with the Grade One Los Angeles Scots, Los Angeles, Calif. He traveled with the LA Scots to Scotland several times to compete at the World Pipe Band Championships. The band place in the top 12 in the world a couple of times while Richard was with them. He played with the LA Scots for approximately 15 years. He is currently the Pipe Major of the Cameron Highlanders Grade 2 Pipe Band out of San Diego, Calif. and he plays with the Grade One 78th Highlanders Halifax Citadel Pipe Band out of Halifax Nova Scotia, Canada. In his spare time, Richard likes to do woodworking. He makes bagpipes, sgian dubhs, and other wood turned items.



He is tasked with the job of locating talented youth in USA who would use and advance in their personal careers in whichever Scottish Heritage interest they participate in, be it Piping, Dancing, or

Drum Majoring.

BUSINESS DONORS OF THE EPIC PROJECT:

MyKiltmaker: A San Diego, California based company, owned by Susan Rose who makes kilts, vests, flashes and plaids for the Epic Project. She also donates jackets, tunics, vests and other stock items. A master kiltmaker for 27 years, Susan creates custom, high quality work, sewn by hand with extreme attention to detail. Susan only makes kilts from tartan woven in Scotland, and all labor is done in America. MyKiltmaker directly engages in the Pipeband world, with focus of creating work that meets and exceeds the requirements of the Rules and Regulations of the Competition Associations. Kiltmaking is a tremendous source of pride for Susan Rose, and she strives to bring Honor to Scottish culture through her work.



Lochcarron via New Hampshire: Donated by Joanne Montgomery, Manager Lochcarron USA, The Epic Project has used tartan woven by Lochcarron Mills in Scotland. With a heritage dating back to 1892, Lochcarron of Scotland is the world's leading manufacturer of tartan. Proudly Made in Scotland by skilled craftsmen and women who design, dye, warp, weave, mend and tailor our Scottish tartans and textiles. A truly global brand with timeless appeal, Lochcarron of Scotland offers a unique authenticity and showcases the very best of Scottish textiles.



Bruce Hitchings/Highland Reeds: Major Bruce Hitchings MBE BEM owns the Scotland based company Highland Reeds. He donated High Resonance Drone Reeds, Moisture Control System, Moisture Tube, Drone Valves as well as a

Canmore Cortex Pipe Bag. Bruce joined the Black Watch Territorial Army as a Piper in 1977. In 1978 he enlisted as a regular into the Queen's Own Highlanders.

In 1986 he became the Battalion Pipe Major, a position he held for six years and during this time was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM). The last eight years of his military career was spent in the post of WO1 Pipe Major, the Senior Pipe Major, British Army and Chief Instructor at The Army School of Piping, The Castle, Edinburgh.

Bruce set up the highly successful Highland Reeds company in 2000 and has developed new piping products with an aim to simplify the science of piping. His Balance Tone Drone Reeds and range of moisture systems are popular with pipers the world over for both their simplicity and effectiveness. He continues to work on innovative products to make the life of the piper easier.

Bruce Gandy/McCallum: Bruce Gandy designed a magnificent Blackwood Chanter known as the BG MacCallum Chanter made by MacCallum Bagpipe Supply which he has donated for the Epic Project. He played for the 78th Highlander Pipe Band. He is an instructor for the College of Piping and Celtic Performing Arts, and has been Pipe Major for the College of Piping Pipe Band. A performer for 40 years, and a teacher for 30+ years, Bruce has also written countless tunes and jigs for his bands and students.

Graham Millington Glen Esk/GM Belt: Based in Scotland, Graham Millington makes and donates beautiful custom sporrans to the Epic Project.

Glen Esk & it's parent company GM Belt Supplies Ltd supplies shops all over the world with a wide range of Scottish highland dress regalia, sporrans police belts, police ID wallets and also ceremonial and parade belts to both UK and overseas customers. GM Belt Supplies began trading in 1992 supplying trouser belts, jeans belts and braces to independent menswear shops in the UK. By 1994 it was also supplying Co-Op stores and department stores throughout the UK with belts & braces.



Austin 2015 Recipient:

Austin wears the Gordon Modern Tartan

for Clan Gordon. Austin won the Sheriff Invitational in Canada, Back to Back in 2015 and 2016. He has won the Nicol Brown Invitational as well in 2016. Was promoted from Grade 1 to Professional Level. Invited to play for the Scots Guards Pipe Majors at Edinburgh Castle in 2016. Multiple Piping wins throughout USA, Canada and Scotland.



Linda 2016 Recipient:



Linda wears the Campbell of Inveraray Tartan for Clan Campbell. Grade 2 Piper and has won multiple 1st Place Awards at local and Regional Events. Played bagpipes for the full run of the Edinburgh Tattoo 2018. Linda bagpipes at Garden of Innocence Unclaimed Baby Funerals, the Wounded Heroes Fund of Kern County, and The National Cemetery. Multiple Piping wins throughout USA, Canada and Scotland.

Dana 2017 Recipient:

Dana wears Moffat Tartan for Clan Moffat. Met and Performed for the Marquis of Huntly at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in North Carolina. Dana is involved in her University's Scottish heritage Program's community outreach program and teaches drumming to youngsters from the surrounding area who are interested in learning the Scottish arts.



Filemon 2018 Recipient:



Filemon wears the MacKay of Strathnaver Tartan for Clan Mackay. Filemon won Solo Winter Storm 2018. Placed at the Cowell Solo Invitational Scotland 2018. Won at Nicol Brown Invitational USA 2018. Invited to pipe at the Sheriff Invitational in Canada 2018. He is the Pipe Major to his High School's Grade 2 Band, they won 2nd Place Grade 2 at the World Piping Championships Glasgow Scotland in 2018. He has won multiple Piping Championships throughout the USA and Scotland.

Remembering 100 Years Later

One hundred years ago, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month the Armistice to end The Great War was signed.

Many of us have stories of our family members' service during WWI. The stories of the Regiment are legend. My grandmother's brother, Roy Reams (Corbett) Robertson was a US Soldier in the trenches and at the end of the war was privileged to meet one of his Scottish cousins who served as a piper in the Gordon Highlanders, then Pipe Sergeant James "Robbie" Robertson (later Pipe Major). Corbett had suffered being buried in a collapsed trench and bonded with Robbie over his experiences as a POW. Robbie's story from the Regiment's history:

On August 13th there were eighteen pipers in the Battalion, most of whom had been pupils of G. S., but by 27th August only two had escaped capture or death. Robbie was amongst the former being taken with the majority of the Battalion at Bertry on 27th August, and he was to spend virtually the whole War as a prisoner. He was sent to Sennelager near Paderborn in September 1914 and was court martialled by the Germans on three occasions during his time as a POW for 'refusing to carry out work of a military nature, i.e. building Zeppelin sheds and, as a Non-Commissioned Officer, inciting men to refuse similar work.' For years afterwards, Robbie, in his inimitable, amusing style, would recount his experiences as a prisoner in charge of liquidising human excrement prior to its application as a fertiliser on the surrounding German farmland. This typically efficient German approach was frequently sabotaged by the prisoner in charge, which leaves much to the imagination! Indeed, on 17th December, 1915, so difficult had he become to his captors that he was sentenced to one year's imprisonment. Actually, a large part of this period was spent in solitary confinement and the sentence took one year, ten months to complete. He would not give in. Indeed, such had been his example to others that in February 1920 he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in recognition of his valuable services as a prisoner of war.

We remember those who fought and those who died in the service of the USA, the UK, and the Commonwealth. We in particular as a clan remember those who carried the traditions of Clan Gordon where ever they were, the Gordon Highlanders. The regiment suffered casualties of 1000 officers and 28,000 men during the war, 9,000 of whom died. Truly these were among the flowers of Scotland. WE REMEMBER. BYDAND!

We honor those of the Clan and Regiment who received the Victoria Cross and Medal Of Honor for their valor in service during WWI.



Bernard Sidney Gordon was 27 years old, and acting as a lance corporal in the 41st Battalion, Australian Imperial Force when, during the Battle of Amiens, the following deeds leading to him being awarded the Military Medal occurred.

On the 8/8/18 during the attack east of Hamel Pte Gordon single-handedly attacked a machine gun crew which was holding up his section. He killed the crew and captured the gun. Later on in the day he stalked and killed an enemy sniper.

Throughout the operation he displayed much bravery and devotion to duty.

Brigadier General J.H. Cannan, 11th Brigade AIF

This action occurred on the "Black Day" of the German Army, in which the Australian Corps destroyed their opposition. As a result of this, on 9 August 1918 the Canadian Corps advance lead to a general retreat by the German troops. The Australian 3rd Division continued to advance toward the bend in the River Somme. During this period the following action, for which Gordon was awarded the Victoria Cross, took place:

During the operations of the 26/27th August 1918 East of Bray this N.C.O showed most conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in the face of the enemy.

He led his Section through heavy enemy shelling to the objective which he consolidated. Then single handed he attacked an enemy machine gun which was enfilading the Company on his right, killing the man on the gun and captured the post which contained one Officer (a Captain) and 10 men. After handing these over at Company Headquarters he returned alone to the old system of trenches, in which were many machine guns, entered a C.T. and proceeded to mop it up, returning with 15 prisoners in one squad and 14 in an other, together with two machine guns.

Again he returned to the system, this time with a T.M. gun and crew, and proceeded to mop up a further portion of the trench, bringing in 22 prison-

ers including one Officer and 3 Machine guns. This last capture enabled the British troops on our left to advance, which they had not been able to do owing to Machine Gun fire from these posts.

His total captures were thus 2 Officers and 61 other ranks, together with 6 machine guns, and with the exception of the Trench Mortar assistance it was absolutely an individual effort and done entirely on his own initiative.

Brigadier General J.H. Cannan, 11th Brigade AIF

Gordon was wounded on 1 September 1918 (Bouchavesnes Spur – Battle of Mont St Quentin). He was evacuated and sent to England on 4 September 1918, where he was awarded the Military Medal on 15 September 1918. He was not awarded the Victoria Cross until 20 December 1918 (after the Armistice), the citation for which states:

His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the Victoria Cross to the undermentioned Officers, N.C.O.'s and Men:-

No.23 L/Cpl. Bernard Sidney Gordon, M.M, 41st Bn., A.I.F.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on the 26/27th August, 1918, east of Bray.

He led his section through heavy shell fire to the objective, which he consolidated. Single-handed he attacked an enemy machine gun which was enfilading the company on his right, killed the man on and captured the post, which contained one officer and ten men. He then cleared up a trench, capturing twenty-nine prisoners and two machine guns. In clearing up further trenches he captured twenty-two prisoners, including one officer and three machine guns.

Practically unaided, he captured, in the course of these operations, two officers and sixty-one other ranks, together with six machine guns, and displayed throughout a wonderful example of fearless initiative.^[1]

Gordon's Victoria Cross was sold at auction in Sydney on 28 November 2006 for A\$478,000.^[2] The medal was sold by one of Gordon's daughters, who needed money to keep the family farm in operation. The VC was purchased by an agent of media tycoon Kerry Stokes, the same man who paid a world record price of A\$1 million in July 2006 for the VC awarded to Alfred Shout, A\$180,000 for the George Cross of Lieutenant Commander George Gosse, and in conjunction with the South Australian Government, the VC of Major Peter Badcoe. All four medals are on display at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.



William Johnstone Milne was a Canadian soldier in World War I who received the VC at the Battle of Vimy Ridge on 9 April 1917.

Milne was born on 21 December 1892, the son of David Milne of Cambusnethan, Lanarkshire, Scotland.

He emigrated to Canada in 1910 and farmed near Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan before enlisting in the Army in September 1915.

Milne was 24 years old and a private in the 16th (The Canadian Scottish) Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force on the 9 April 1917 near Thelus, France, during

the Battle of Vimy Ridge, where his actions led to the award of the Victoria Cross.

His citation reads:

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty in attack. On approaching the first objective, Pte. Milne observed an enemy machine gun firing on our advancing troops. Crawling on hands and knees, he succeeded in reaching the gun, killing the crew with bombs, and capturing the gun. On the line re-forming, he again located a machine gun in the support line, and stalking this second gun as he had done the first, he succeeded in putting the crew out of action and capturing the gun. His wonderful bravery and resource on these two occasions undoubtedly saved the lives of many of his comrades. Pte. Milne was killed shortly after capturing the second gun.

Milne's body was never found. He is commemorated on the Vimy Memorial along with over 11,000 other Canadians who were missing and presumed dead. The park around the memorial is planted in Canadian trees and shrubs to resemble the Canadian woods. Inscribed at the base:

TO THE VALOUR OF THEIR COUNTRYMEN IN THE GREAT WAR AND IN MEMORY OF THEIR SIXTY THOUSAND DEAD THIS MONUMENT IS RAISED BY THE PEOPLE OF CANADA



Thomas Steele (1891-1978) was born on 6th February 1891 at Claytons, Springhead, Saddleworth, Yorkshire, though he was originally from Scottish ancestry. He was the eldest of three sons of Elizabeth and Harry Steele, a motor constructor. The other sons were Samuel, born in 1893, and William, born in 1898. There was a daughter, Emily. Thomas was educated at Austerlands Day School, Yorkshire, and Shelderslow Sunday School. On leaving school Thomas began work as a bobbin carrier at the Rome Mill, close to his home at Springhead. Later, and tiring of working in a factory, he decided to enlist in the Army, which he did on 16th August 1911, becoming a Private in the 1st Seaforth Highlanders.

After initial training and a month's leave, he was sent to serve in India and was stationed there from 19th December 1912. On the outbreak of war, he was with his Battalion at Agra and left with the 7th (Meerut) Division on 20th September as a member of the Indian Expeditionary Force. They arrived at Marseilles on 12th October for service on the Western Front.

Steele took part in most of the Battalion's earlier engagements at Ypres, La Bassee, Neuve Chapelle and Loos, and was appointed Lance Corporal on 10th October 1915. He was then given about 24 hours leave before leaving France with the 7th (Meerut) Division for Mesopotamia on 26th November. The Seaforths, now part of 19th Indian Brigade, were sent there as part of the force which was endeavouring to relieve General Townsend's force at Kut-el-Amara. He was promoted to Sergeant on 7th January 1917, and suffered repeated bouts of malaria.

On 22nd February 1917 near Sanna-y-Yat, Mesopotamia, at a critical moment when a strong enemy counter-attack had temporarily regained some of the captured trenches, Sergeant Steele helped a comrade to carry a machine-gun into position. He kept this gun in action until relieved and was mainly instrumental in keeping the rest of the line intact. Some

hours later another counter-attack enabled the enemy to reoccupy a portion of the captured trenches and Sergeant Steele rallied the troops, encouraging them to remain in their trenches and leading a number of them forward, helped to re-establish our line. On this occasion he was severely wounded.

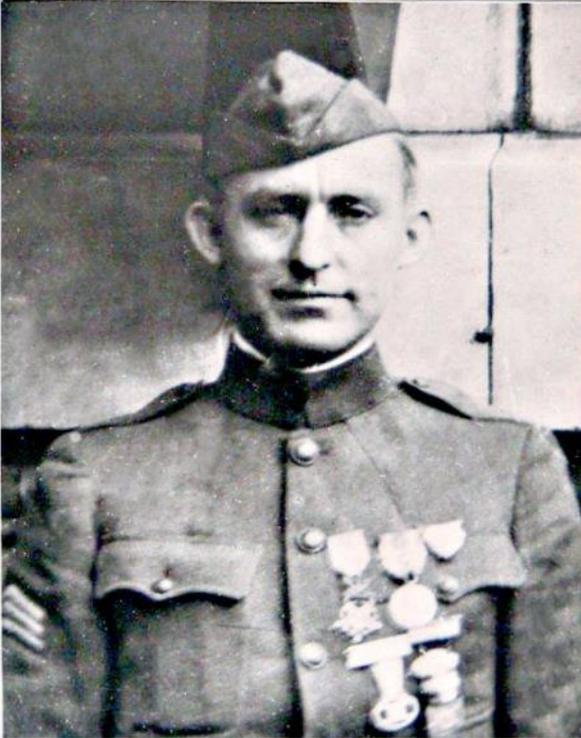
On 15th August 1917, he was Mentioned in Dispatches, and four months later, left the Persian Gulf in December 1917 and served in Egypt and Palestine from January 1918 to February 1919. On the 8th March 1918, he received his VC from King George V at Buckingham Palace. Though wounded in the war, he recovered enough to play professional rugby league with Broughton Rangers and various amateur teams for several seasons. He rejoined the Army in April 1921, and for some of the 1920s, his history is unclear.

In 1931, he married Bertha, and kept up his military links when enlisting in the Leicester Regiment on 29th March 1932 and was a sergeant in C Company. The Battalion became a Searchlight Battalion and in 1936, he transferred to the Royal Artillery. He was called up for service in 1939, and became a Sergeant Major with his Searchlight Unit in Lincoln. In 1941, he was posted to Leicester, and on account of his age, served with the Home Guard and ARP. He was discharged on 23rd April 1942, and took employment as a telephone clerk and then worked for a car sales firm until 1956. He then attended the VC Centenary Celebrations in Hyde Park, and in 1958, attended the first of four VC/GC dinners.

After the death of his wife, Bertha, he returned to Yorkshire to live with his sister in law in Saddleworth. Thomas died on 11th July 1978 at his home in Springhead, and was cremated on 17th at Hollinwood Crematorium, Oldham. His ashes were buried in the family grave at St Anne's Church, Oldham. In addition to his VC, he was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal 1914-20, Victory Medal 1914-19 with Mentioned in Despatches oakleaf, Defence Medal 1939-45, War Medal 1939-45, George VI Coronation Medal 1937, Elizabeth II Coronation Medal 1953 and Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal 1977. They were in private hands until 2009 when they were acquired by Michael Ashcroft and are now in the Ashcroft Gallery, Imperial War Museum.

Sergeant Joseph Bernard Adkison was born on Jan. 4, 1892 in Ato-ka, Tennessee, the son of Joseph Adkison and Adeline Delashmit, and he was the first man in Tennessee to earn the Medal of Honor during World War I.

He served in the United States Army during World War I as a sergeant in Company C, 119th Infantry Regiment, 60th Infantry Brigade, 30th Division, which was attached to the Second Army of the British



Expeditionary Force.

On Sept. 29, 1918, Sgt. Adkison's platoon, in cooperation with Australian and British forces, attacked the heavily fortified town of Bellicourt, France, with tank, aircraft and artillery support.

The area was known as the Hindenburg Line and ran several miles near the border of France and Belgium. Fortified with barbed wire and concrete machine gun emplacements, the line was estimated to be approximately 6,000 yards deep and highly impermeable. It was the last organized system of trenches built by the Germans to

stop the Allied advance. The trenches were lined with mining timbers to a depth of 30 feet with small rooms scattered throughout the line capable of holding four to six men.

This, along with the tunnels built into the trenches and connecting with nearby towns, provided a complete and safe subterranean means of travel, communication and re-enforcement for the German Army.

Considered to be the gem of the German defense, the line played a heavy role in boosting the morale of the German Army.

Sgt. Adkison and his fellow Allied soldiers, gathered in place at 4:30 a.m. on the morning of Sept. 29, 1918 and quietly waited the moment of zero hour. At exactly 5:50 a.m., they began the most historic barrage ever laid down on the Western Front.

Over a 56-hour period, the Allies participated in a joint attack along a 10,000-yard-long front of the line, using in excess of 1,600 guns and almost a million artillery shells, in a battle known as the Battle of St. Quentin Canal.

With visibility of less than five yards due to fog and smoke, Sgt. Adkison's platoon was soon pinned down by machine gun fire.

Acting alone and without regard for the hostile machine gun fire aimed at him, Adkison rushed 50 yards across open ground. Reaching the German emplacement, he kicked the gun off the parapet and captured the three gunners at bayonet point. His gallantry and quick action enabled the platoon to advance and was a major contribution toward the Allied breakthrough in the Hindenburg line.

+5

After four days of battle and heavy losses on both sides, the Germans were forced to retreat.

The 119th alone, suffered the loss of 261 men, 9,682 wounded, 433 men taken as prisoners and 12 missing in action.

The Allies, meanwhile, pressed their advantage on the Western Front throughout the following month, which turned out to be the final month of World War I.

Adkison was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1919 for his bravery. His citation reads:

“When murderous machine gun fire at a range of 50 yards had made it impossible for his platoon to advance, and had caused the platoon to take cover, Sergeant Adkison alone, with the greatest intrepidity, rushed across the 50 yards of open ground directly in the face of the hostile machine gun kicked the gun from the parapet into the enemy trench, and at the point of the bayonet captured the three men manning the gun. The gallantry and quick decision of this soldier enabled the platoon to resume its advance.”

Later that same day, Sergeant Adkison was severely wounded by an exploding artillery shell, receiving wounds to his left arm, left hip and left leg.

Invited to Washington, D.C. in March 1919 to receive the Medal of Honor from President Woodrow Wilson, Adkison declined due to his wounds not being fully healed. When he was feeling better. An Army major was sent from Washington, D.C. to make the presentation on the President's behalf, and he received his Medal of Honor surrounded by family and friends at Atoka Presbyterian Church.

Sgt. Joseph B. Adkison, affectionately called Bernard, by his family and friends, died at the age of 73 on May 23, 1964 in the city of his birth and is buried in Salem Associate Reformed Presbyterian Cemetery.

In 2015, the Atoka chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart was named for Adkison, and a park in the center of downtown is also named for him.

VICTORIA CROSS RECIPEINTS OF THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS



James Anson Otho Brooke was a 30-year-old lieutenant in the 2nd Battalion, Gordon Highlanders, British Army during the First World War when the following deed took place at the First Battle of Ypres for which he was awarded the VC.

On 29 October 1914 near Gheluvelt, Belgium, Lieutenant Brooke led two attacks on the German trenches under heavy rifle and machine-gun fire, regaining a lost trench at a very critical moment. By his marked coolness and promptitude on this occasion, Lieutenant Brooke prevented the enemy from breaking through the British line at a time when a general counter-attack

could not have been organized. Having regained the lost trench, he went back to bring up supports, and while doing so, was killed.

Lieutenant Brooke was posthumously promoted to captain, effective to September 1914.

Captain Brooke's remains were interred at Zantvoorde British Cemetery (CWGC), Zonnebeke, Belgium (near Ypres). His name also appears on the family grave at Springbank Cemetery, Aberdeen.

His name also appears on Aberdeen War Memorial, Colebrook War Memorial, St Ronan's Church Memorial, and Enniskillen War Memorial. A 21 cm mortar he captured is on display at Enniskillen Castle.

A Victoria Cross commemorate stone bearing his name was laid at Kingswells Hall near Aberdeen in October 2014 to mark the centenary of the award. The hall was built with the help of Brooke and the church war memorial sited opposite also bears his name. His Victoria Cross is on display at the Gordon Highlanders Museum in Aberdeen, Scotland.

William Kenny VC (24 August 1880 – 10 January 1936) was 34 years old, and a Drummer in the 2nd Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders, British Army during the First World War when the following deed took place for which he was awarded the VC.



On 23 October 1914 near Ypres, Belgium, Drummer Kenny rescued wounded men on five occasions under very heavy fire. Twice previously he had saved machine-guns by carrying them out of action, and on numerous occasions he conveyed urgent messages under very dangerous circumstances over fire-swept ground.^[1]

In addition to the Victoria Cross, Kenny earned the rank of Drum-Major and was also awarded the following medals: Queen's South Africa Medal with bars, King's South Africa Medal with bars, 1914 Star with bar, British War Medal, Victory Medal with oak-leaf, Delhi Durbar Medal, and the Cross of St George (Russia).

On 20 March 1999 the grave of William Kenny received a new headstone in the Corps of Commissionaires plot at Brookwood Cemetery, arranged by The Gordon Highlanders London Association (Lt Col. M.H. Burge). Kenny was buried in 1936 but unfortunately the original marker was lost and until this stone was placed, Kenny was not otherwise commemorated.

His Victoria Cross and other medals are on display at the Gordon Highlanders Museum, Aberdeen, Scotland.

Lieutenant Allan Ebenezer Ker France, 1918

Allan Ebenezer Ker, He was born in Edinburgh on 5 March 1883 the son of Robert Darling Ker WS (1853-1940) and his wife Johanna Johnston. The family lived at 14 Findhorn Place in the Grange district.

He was educated at Edinburgh Academy. He then studied law at the University of Edinburgh. Before the First World War he had his own legal practice at 5 George Street in the New Town.



In 1908 he joined the Queen's Edinburgh Mounted Rifles. In 1914 he went to Aberdeen to settle the affairs of his cousin, Captain Arthur Milford Ker¹ who had been killed in the first weeks of the First World War. Allan was persuaded to join his cousin's regiment; the Gordon Highlanders.

He was 35 years old, and a Lieutenant, 3rd Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders attached 61st Battalion, Machine Gun Corps during the First World War when the following deed took place for which he was awarded the VC.

For conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty. On the 21st March 1918, near St. Quentin, after a heavy bombardment, the enemy penetrated our line, and the flank of the 61st Division became exposed. Lieutenant Ker, with one Vickers gun, succeeded in engaging the enemy's infantry, approaching under cover of dead ground, and held up the attack, inflicting many casualties. He then sent back word to his Battalion Headquarters that he had deter-

mined to stop with his Sergeant and several men who had been badly wounded, and fight until a counter-attack could be launched to relieve him. Just as ammunition failed his party were attacked from behind with bombs, machine guns and with the bayonet. Several bayonet attacks were delivered, but each time they were repulsed by Lieutenant Ker and his companions with their revolvers, the Vickers gun having by this time been destroyed. The wounded were collected into a small shelter, and it was decided to defend them to the last and to hold the enemy as long as possible. In one of the many hand-to-hand encounters a German rifle and bayonet and a small supply of ammunition was secured, and subsequently used with good effect against the enemy. Although Lieutenant Ker was very exhausted from want of food and gas poisoning, and from the supreme exertions he had made during ten hours of the most severe bombardment, fighting and attending to the wounded, he refused to surrender until all his ammunition was exhausted and his position was rushed by large numbers of the enemy. His behavior throughout the day was absolutely cool and fearless, and by his determination he was materially instrumental in engaging and holding up for three hours more than 500 of the enemy.

George Imlach McIntosh VC (24 April 1897 – 20 June 1968) was born in Buckie. He was 20 years old, and a private in the 1/6th Battalion, The



Gordon Highlanders, during the First World War when the following deed took place at the Battle of Passchendaele for which he was awarded the VC.

On 31 July 1917 at Ypres, Belgium, For most conspicuous bravery when, during the consolidation of a position, his company came under machine gun fire at close range. Private McIntosh immediately rushed forward under heavy fire, and reaching the emplacement, he threw a Mills grenade in to it, killing two of the enemy and wounding a third. Subsequently, entering the dug-out, he found two light machine guns, which he carried back with him. His quick grasp of the situation and the utter fearlessness and rapidity with which he acted un-

doubtedly saved many of his comrades, and enabled the consolidation to proceed unhindered by machine gun fire. Throughout the day the cheerfulness and courage of Private McIntosh was indomitable, and to his fine example in a great measure was due the success which attended his company.

McIntosh went on to join the Royal Air Force and served in World War II, and during 1942 was the senior NCO with No 1 squadron. He later achieved the rank of Flight Sergeant.



Welcome New Conveners!

The Board is happy to welcome two new conveners since last May for areas that have been in need of representation for some time, Ohio and Oregon. We also have new co-conveners for South Carolina.



Duane Mills and Rob Gordon.

Rob Gordon went to the Ohio Scottish Games this summer with the mission of finding us a new convener. He was happy to report that Duane Mills agreed to take on Ohio, and into southern Indiana.

He convened his first games at Columbus, IN on September 8th, but the event was rained out on the 9th. So sad to say that much work was put into an event that washed out. We are looking forward to great things happening in Ohio. There are many Gordons in the area, and now that we have a convener we can expect to see this area flourish.

We are especially excited to have Tim Moyer taking the convener position for Oregon. It has been several years since we have had anyone convening there. Tim sent the following self-introduction:

I have been involved with our Celtic society for roughly 15 years. Douglas County Celtic Society.

I have been the society event convener for a bit over 2 years and am also the logistics coordinator for our own Highland games and clan gathering as well as the parade coordinator.

Accompanied by my lovely bride, we enjoy bringing knowledge of the Scottish culture to people at games and other festivals in Oregon. While taking on a Clan tent is a somewhat new venture, we are both excited and cannot wait for April to begin our season.



Our Scottish background: I have Muir as well as Gordon predominately through many years of research and my wife is a Donald and Boyd. Of course, the research continues as we both have a passion for learning and sharing with others. The clans here are excited for the return of House of Gordon as we discussed at our games this year and have a great support system within the community.

Our personal interests involve lots of outdoor activities, and our passion is on the Oregon Dunes, both as riders and working to preserve our dunes and keep areas open for OHV and all users of our beautiful coastal

area. We are both active board members with Save The Riders Dunes. We work with USFS to keep and re open riding areas to preserve and restore the dunes.

Thank you to all for the very warm welcome I have received and looking forward to representing the House of Gordon.

Slàinte mhath and Bydand, Tim and DJ Moyer

Finally we are very happy to welcome Jeff and Kate Moore as co-conveners for South Carolina. They will be working with Barbara Gordon Wray and we hope will eventually take over.

I know Barbara is excited to have someone who can help her out. It isn't easy to do all the work at the tent alone.

Join Us at the Gordon Tent!

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