

IN THE HOUSE!

House of Gordon USA Newsletter, Annual Edition
Volume 3 Issue 2 May 2009



Robert Burns, the Gordon Connection. *On & Away Willie... Kenmure's sae gen'rous — the Duchess of Gordon hae a' the world in her drawing room, and the Duke is writing songs at*

- > **AGM Agenda Proxy and Voting Information**
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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, 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**, 9654 Kessler Avenue, Chatsworth, CA 91311 or remit using Paypal (details on houseofgordonusa.org/Membership.html).

A Message From the Chief!



It is with a very heavy heart that I write to tell you that I cannot be with you this Autumn for the Richmond Highland Games and Festival. The reason is simple and none too happy. My wife Catheryn is not well and I cannot plan any activity which will take me away from Scotland until I

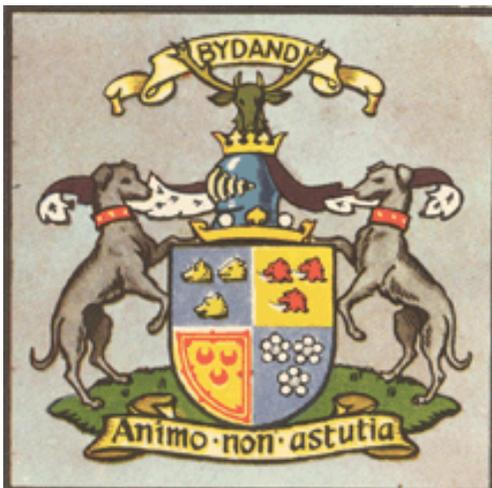
know that she is sufficiently recovered.

I would be grateful if you would keep this strictly confidential although I fully understand that those within House of Gordon in America will want to know why their chief has cancelled at such a late stage.

It goes without saying that I apologise most sincerely for this even though it is perhaps out of my control and if, in the future, you would like me to come on another year there would be nothing I would love more.

With kind regards,

Granville



House of Gordon USA AGM 2009

The Virginia Division of the House will be hosting our Annual General Meeting this year at the Meadow Highland Games & Celtic Festival, formerly called the Richmond Highland Games. We have been designated as Honored Clan and it was our hope to have our chief in attendance as our VIP Guest. Regrettably, Granville will not be able to attend, as you may see from his brief note. We ask that all members keep Lady Catheryn and Granville, and indeed their entire family, in your thoughts and prayers at this time.

Since we, as the Virginia Board, felt it would be inappropriate to expect Alastair to leave home when his father needs him, we decided not to ask him to represent his father as our future chief. Nor did we wish to ask any of the chieftains of the cadet branches in his stead.

Rather we felt that as Honored Clan at the AGM in Richmond, Virginia, we wish to honor our military men and women as our VIP Guests. It is our hope that many of you will come this year and march with us. We would like to give our military men and women place of honor in the parade of tartans, with the eldest present with military service taking place of honor at the head of the clan!

We will hold the AGM on Saturday at the Virginia Campsite at Meadow Event Park where the Games are being held. This way we will have an uninterrupted meeting with the most genial atmosphere we can provide! Our lunch spread from the Gordon Grill is unrivalled! So come prepared to feast on Ceilidh Corner. COME JOIN US FOR A GREAT TIME!

“We would like to give our military men and women place of honor in the parade of tartans, with the eldest present with military service taking place of honor at the head of the clan!”

President's Message



Dear House of Gordon Family,

It has been an honor to serve you as your president over these past several years and I am eagerly looking ahead to other avenues of service to "the House," our Clan Society, as we watch it grow and flourish in the days ahead. In a time of great need when the House was about to collapse like so many cards, we were fortunate to tap some very good and talented people to help turn things around. Without them and the splendid structuring they did, we might very well be calling ourselves Forbeses or Chattans, some other Clan name today instead of Gordons! With them, though, the treasury is secure, the membership is strong and the reins of our future are confidently in the hands of our House members. And, we are established as a proper non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation (in case anyone wants to bequeath us a million bucks.

Or pounds.)! I know that the best years for our Society are yet to come!

The ironic thing is that most of us could as easily be attached to another Clan. We have other lines we could have followed. But we chose to be a Gordon. I know I chose to be a Gordon – a long time ago when there wasn't much of a Gordon presence in California, we visited the Grandfather Mountain Games and struck up with Charles O and Evelyn and Lu and, before we knew it, we were House of Gordon members. Bringing that story back to California, we approached Lynn Gordon (no, not Woody's Lynn)--the first Convener the Clan ever had in California--at the old Cali Club Games in Santa Rosa and he didn't care whether we became a member of his Clan or not! We almost didn't, but here we are...and we *hope* our Conveners have learned a bit about tent etiquette since those rough and tumble days!

The slate of officers you will be electing (and I will not tip my hand here) are also some excellent people. They know that their job will be a little different from the foundation building that we did. By strengthening and expanding the network of Conveners and volunteer clan tent workers, the number of contacts is increased and a growth in membership follows. It is not a mysterious formula to be followed! If we fell down in one area – and don't look too hard or you'll find many – it was an inability to organize and maintain a solid network of Conveners across the country. Many areas and even whole states are without the representation they should have.

Finally, our new leaders will come face to face with today's difficult economic climate. Any number of good Games and Festivals have been lost or delayed due to the money crunch. All we can do is hold on and wait it out – still keeping close ties to our friends in those blighted areas.

And finally, finally, my Gordon pride is too strong to be denied. I am writing this from Indianapolis, Indiana where I traveled for business but had an opportunity to see the Time Trials today for this year's "Indy 500" auto race and when the "Indianapolis 500" Gordon Pipers <http://www.500gordonpipers.com/history.htm> came marching by in their Dress Gordon kilts and it gave me goose bumps and made me glad to once again be a Gordon. Next Saturday I will stand up with House of Gordon Member Richard Jackson at his wedding back in California. So you see, being part of the HofG is more than just something skin deep – it's a commitment. Or maybe a disease....

Thanks and I hope to see you *all* on the Games Trail somewhere, somehow.

Bydand,
John

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



WELCOME HOME MIKE GORDON!

Rawnie Gordon writes that her son Mike is home from Iraq safe and sound and has retired from the Navy. Mike, a submariner, was

imbedded in an Army unit while in the sand box., which must have been of his most unusual deployment! He has moved his family to Catoosa, Oklahoma and is working in Tulsa.

Mike's oldest son, Robert, is finishing his training with the Marine Corps at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. Rawnie says she has been designated "official cookie-maker" for Robert and his Marine buddies, and it reminds her of WWII. Ooh Rah Robert! God Bless You as you begin your first tour.

Greetings from South Carolina!

The Gordon's of South Carolina started the year with a visit to Clover SC. A small gathering celebrating the heritage of Clover and it's Celtic roots. As can be seen in the town's name it was founded by our brothers across the forth from Ireland. Next we convened a tent at the Greenville Games on the campus of Furman University. A very beautiful campus that sends you back to the highlands. The weather however was just what you expect here in the south, hot. But that did not stop the hardened Scots from showing their skills whether on the athletic field, the band field, the dancing stage or the great hospitality at the Clan tents. These games start on Friday with a parade through downtown Greenville where the crowd screams greetings and welcomes every group in the parade, a site to take your

breath. The parade ends at the concert hall for an evening of food, drink and entertainment.

The Gordon's then moved to Charleston SC for Charleston Scottish Society's games at Boone Hall Plantation. Starting with a reception on Friday meeting friends made over the years. Saturday begins with a drive down a Low Country road set between moss covered Oak trees that are hundreds of years old. Set on the banks of a tidal river the field is surrounded with the colorful tents of the Clans as athletes and bands entertain all day long. There is never a shortage of food that takes you back to the neighborhood pubs of "home". The day ends with a visit to a local Irish pub where we relax discussing the day and listening to impromptu performances by whomever can still squeeze out a tune.

The Clan from South Carolina, joined by a group from the St. Andrew's Society of Aiken, traveled to visit our fellow Gordon's at the Loch Norman Games in NC, and the Stone Mountain Games and Loch Hartwell Games in Georgia.

Bydand,
David Nichols
South Carolina Gordons

House of Gordon Florida (and a sneak into Georgia)

Last year Dustin Marr (Web Master www.tribeofmar.org) and I hosted the combined Tribe of Mar - House of Gordon Tents at the Sarasota Highland Games, the Dunedin Highland Games, Savannah Highland Games (with permission of the Georgia House of Gordon and John Lowry) and Stone Mountain Highland Games as well as attending the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. We were active with St. Andrew's Society of Tampa Bay and St. Andrews Society of Sara-

sota. We helped organize the Robert Burns Night at The St. Petersburg Yacht Club for last year as well as this year. We have a local Scottish Heritage Society of St. Petersburg.

This year Ardith Rutland and I went to the Central Florida (Orlando) Highland Games at the invitation of Jean Gordon. We carried all of our banners etc and were there for Saturday only. Orlando was very busy and we got two new members for House of Gordon. Next Saturday March 21 will be the Sarasota Highland Games, the following day our local Scottish Heritage Society of St. Petersburg will be having our Taste of Scotland Dinner as well as hosting the Christmas Party last December. The first Saturday in April will be the Dunedin Highland Games. We (Dustin and Christin Marr and Ardith Rutland and I) will not be making the GFMHG as Ardith and I are planning (?) to attend The Gathering 2009 in Edinburgh and the following week will attend the Clan Cameron International Meeting at Achnecary near Spean Bridge.. Stone Mountain will depend on the economic situation.

BYDAND
Norval Marr

The Louisiana State Fire Marshall Honor

Guard Pipes & Drums made their debut in Baton Rouge on March 14 by participating in the St. Patrick's Day Parade (pictured right.) The band is led on the march by Drum Major Dave Goldsmith, member of the House of Gordon. Carol Goldsmith, also a member, can be found in the ranks of tenor drummers. (Dave & Carol flank the front row.)

Dave Goldsmith
Baton Rouge, LA

Marcia Gordon McLaurin reports that she is all set for another GREAT year in the Gulf States! She and her husband will be host-

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ing combined tents at seven events this year and started off with a bang April 4th at the San Antonio Highland Games in Texas. Games to follow are: Houston May 16-17th, Texas Scottish in Arlington June 5-7th, Celtic Fest in Jackson, MS Sept. 4-6th, North East Louisiana in West Monroe October 25-25th, Salado TX November 13-14th, and Jackson LA, November 20-22nd.

Mark Seaman, pictured below at the McPherson KS games last September, is gearing up for this year as well. He is hoping to be at the Kansas City, MO Highland Games June 12-13th!

Tom & Sarah Gardenhire at the Triad





Games in 2008 (pictured above) have been busy revving up North Carolina's contingent of Gordons with a very successful year in 2008 and looking forward to 2009! In 2008 Tom & Sarah convened at seven North Carolina events and also visited with Georgia at the Stone Mountain Games. In 2009 they have an aggressive schedule with eight games on the agenda if all the Games stay active. Check out the schedule online at the House of Gordon USA website!



The Gordon tent at the Stone Mountain Games in Georgia was colorful and well attended by an enthusiastic group! Convener Turpin Ballard is working hard to keep the Georgia contingent at the forefront of the clans in Georgia — not an easy task!

Southwest has been busy hosting ten events over a four state area in 2008. With a similar schedule this year the Southwest will be hopping! Tom Adams has a great group of folks on his board, and at their last AGM a new secretary was elected. Welcome to the board Chelsea Holifield! Chelsea is the daughter of Jan & Al Vasquez. Al passed over on 1 October 2008 as mentioned in the December newsletter, he will be greatly missed.

Also of interest, Southwest member Matt Sconce created a magical illusion that will soon be marketed! See the trailer for his illusion at <http://www.vimeo.com/1754533> You may have to use the password "illusion" to view this really impressive video!

Mid-Atlantic is happy to announce that Micah Wentzel and his father Robert Gordon Wentzel have volunteered to convene at a couple of events in Pennsylvania! Welcome to the Wentzel men!

Congratulations to Aaron Todd for being recognized by the Sons of the American Revolution with their ROTC Bronze Medal. Aaron has also been promoted to Cadet 1st Lieutenant in his MCJROTC Unit and remains as OIC of the Raiders Team. Aaron's team has participated at several events this past year ranking as one of the top PT Competition Teams in Virginia. He is also leading them in community service. **The team will be participating for the second year under his leadership in the Relay for Life to raise money and awareness for the American Cancer Society in the fight against cancer.** Aaron will be piping for us at the AGM. Aaron has been a very successful competitor in piping and in 2006 won the March and Strathspey Reel Competitions in the Grade 2 North American Championships in Canada.

Congratulations also to Lois Todd whose has been recognized for the fifth year in a row for her volunteer work with the James Cash Penney Award for Community Service. The Hermitage MCJROTC Unit received a \$500.00 cash award in her name.

Do You Know Me? — Gordon Genealogy Corner

We receive many inquiries each month asking for help in identifying ancestors and genealogical lines. Following are some of the recent inquiries that you may be able to help with. If you recognize any of these families, please contact the person making the inquiry. Email addresses have had the @ sign substituted with AT so please keep that in mind.

- My great grandfather was Daniel T. Gordon (I think the middle name was Thomas, but I'm not sure). He was born in 1841 in Nelson, Kentucky. He married Artimissa Hamilton, but I'm not sure what date. He died on April 15, 1894 in Independence, Montgomery County, Kansas. I'm interested in finding out more about his parents, Christopher Gordon and Mary Polly Tichenor. Since I'm trying to trace back through the Gordon name, any info about his father would be wonderful. Gayle Gordon email: [gayle22864 AT gmail.com](mailto:gayle22864@gmail.com)
- I'm very new at this, but would love to know more about my grandfather's family. I found a 2003 "House of Gordon" newsletter in my mom's papers so am investigating on your web site. This is the only information I have: Leo O. Gordon came to America when he was a teenager. Married Ruth Moore (she died about 1925). Homesteaded in Oregon, then moved to Washington State. They had one daughter, Doreen Ellen Gordon, born 3-22-1919 (died 2006). He had one brother, but I don't know his name. His parents never left Scotland. He owned a leather & shoe store in Colville, WA & invented some kind of shoe oil. His daughter, Doreen, was my mother. Any help on how to proceed will be appreciated! Jayne Sanchez email: jayne AT majrspecialties.com
- Hi, Gordon's! My grandfather was Granville Gordon born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania around 1870. His father Capt. John Gordon came to this country and settled in Pittsburgh around 1860 from Scotland. Capt. John owned two riverboats and died at the wheel of one of them at age 55 est. 1892. Any info will be appreciated. Gordon Claxton email: [gmclaxton2008 at comcast.net](mailto:gmclaxton2008@comcast.net)
- I am searching for information on my great-great-grandmother, Sarah Gordon and her ancestry. She told her grandchildren about Lochinvar Plantation, where she was born, outside of Aberdeen, MS. I know about James and Robert Gordon, but not Sarah's relation to them—apparently she was a cousin because she did not indicate that she was the daughter of either. She married a Scott or a Bilbo, I believe (my records were lost to Katrina). N. Scott Catledge email: scat AT cfl.rr.com
- Hello, I am looking for any information available for a Barnett F. Gordon, born in Scotland in June of 1844 and immigrated to the US in 1860. Rick Vesperman email: [RikVesp at Yahoo.com](mailto:RikVesp@yahoo.com)
- My name is Gary James Gordon, I am trying to trace my aunty on my fathers side (Gordon) who emigrated to the USA from England in the early 1960's, My aunty's name was Everlyn, all I know is that she owned a drug store(s) in New York, she had a son but I can not remember his name. My fathers name was Robert Gordon. Email: gjg AT multimodal-logistics.co.uk
- My work has consisted of searching almost daily for four years. Thorough my own efforts, I now know that my Gordon line goes back to the Irish Immigrant brothers, John and James Gordon and the Nathaniel Gordon line of Virginia. Captain John Gordon was the first "Powhatan Gordon" of three. Few seem to know of the Cherokee-Powhatan-Algonquin connection of four

hundred years. The Gordon's very early on, merged with the Native Americans. I would love to hear from anyone in my James, John, and Nathaniel line. My grandfather was ROBERT LEE GORDON BORN AT GORDONSVILLE VA 1887. Barbara Gordon-Lantto email: earthfeather99 AT yahoo.com

- I am seeking the ancestry of my Gordon line. All I know is Alexander Gordon, I think from Essex County, VA, had a daughter Elizabeth who married Hundly Moody. Any help and sources would be appreciated. Bradley Moody email: madisonman4you AT yahoo.com
- My great-grandfather, Robert Gordon, was born June 12th, 1884 in Oldenburg, Germany, but left for Omaha Nebraska at the age of six or seven. His father was born in Scotland, and while tutoring a Jewish girl in English, Esther Montefiore, he fell in love with her. They eloped to Germany, I am to assume, where she was cast out of the Montefiore family for marrying a gentile. The name of Robert Gordon's father is unknown, but his records state briefly that he fell from a ladder and broke his neck while painting. Not very romantic, but these things happen.

From Omaha, though his records are under-detailed, Robert Gordon ended up joining the US Army at the age of 16, where he then was shipped to Peking, China to do guard duty. He ended up joining the Philippine Scouts as an officer, and after a number of years made it to the prestigious rank of Lieutenant Colonel in another field. He retired his military career to strike oil, and apparently became quite successful. And this is where the story ends.

I am currently enlisted in the Air Force, working as a Cryptological Linguist. I have been intensely interested in both my Montefiore and Gordon roots, especially military relations, and any information you might discover would be immensely appreciated.

Chandler Gordon email: themoviegoer AT gmail.com

Hello : My name is Tony Gordon and I am from Australia. Using DNA testing at the FTDNA testing service I have found a number of Gordon relatives in Ontario Canada but have so far found none from the USA. Those Gordon's from the USA who have tested are mostly from the Jock and Tam descendants and I am looking for others who have not tested their DNA but may be connected to us.

My family descend from a Joseph Gordon (1792, Co Tyrone-1881, Maple, Ontario) and Anne Kirkpatrick in the townland of Ardstraw, between Strabane and Omagh in County Tyrone, Ireland.

One son (David) emigrated to Australia in 1849 with his wife Matilda Purvines (Purveyance) while his other siblings (Charles [1816-1863], Stewart[1811-1898], Alexander[1833-1915], Thomas [1821-?], Robert [1826-?], James [1828-?] and Mary Anne [1822-?] to name some we have found) and parents emigrated to Ontario in the early 1850's. While there are still Gordons living in the area around Ardstraw, DNA testing suggests they were not related to our lot but to many Gordons in USA.

Joseph's parents, John Gordon (1765-?) and Isabella Boyd, presumably died in County Tyrone.

If anyone is interested in doing the DNA test to check their connections in either Ireland, Australia or Canada please let me know. As a group we are feeling a little lonely and would like to find some more Gordon relatives, either by DNA testing or through a paper trail that may connect us. Please contact me at email: Tony.gordon AT Godolphin.net.au

Please email your genealogy success stories as well as questions to: webmaster@houseofgordonva.com subject genealogy.



The Gordon DNA Project — Update 2008.

Jim Gordon, Co-Administrator

Things have been happening on the Gordon DNA Project In 2008. We now have 245 testers in the Project, 55 of whom have joined since January 2008. Of course the largest number of participants are from the U.S; followed by Canada, England, Australia and New Zealand. Other countries include Japan, Moldova, Hong Kong and Wales.

“Your information might just be the missing link that puts the two of you together.”

The largest group is the Jock and Tam descendants. The Seton Gordons (the family of the Chief of Clan Gordon, the Marquis of Huntly) and the Sir William Gordon (including the Kenmore/Lochinvar line and a small group whose ancestors lived in Kilrea Townland and adjacent areas of County Londonderry, N. Ireland) lines have a smaller number of testers. All told, these three major groups represent about 150 of the 245 participants; 37 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 from Eastern Europe, including Russia, Belarus/Belorussia Ukraine, Lithuania, Moldova and Poland. These Eastern European ancestors may well be descendants of Scottish mercenary soldiers such as General Patrick Gordon (General of the Russian armies for Czar Peter I) who were employed by various Eastern European rulers in the 16th and 17th centuries. You may wonder why these men wandered so far from home. Because of the system of primogeniture, the eldest son inherited the title and properties of his father. Younger sons were left to marry the daughter

of another landholder, join the Church, the military or hire out as mercenaries.

We even have testers whose ancestors were from Spain and Afghanistan. There are 30 kits still in processing, whose origins are yet to be determined.

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 different brothers who lived in the mid- to late.18th century.

The House of Gordon USA generously donated \$1,000 to the Project to help finance testing for certain applicants. To date we have assisted one participant with a 67-marker test. The results put her among the Jock and Tam Gordons. She had been unable to trace her ancestry beyond the late 19th century. With these test results, she may now be able to connect with another Gordon line to further her research.

More members of Gordon septs have joined the Project. The 15 participants represent 10 septs. Sept surnames to date are: Adams, Atkinson, Crombie, Geddes, Hunt(l(e)y), Jessmon, Milne, Todd and Troup.

The known Gordon septs are: Adam(s)on), Ad (d)ie, Addison, Aiken, Aitchison, Atkin(s)on), Badenoch, Barrie, Connor, Connon, Craig, Cromb, Crombie, Cullen, Culane, Darg(e), Duff, Do/urward, Eadie, Ed(d)ie, Edison, Esslemont, Garden, Gard(i)ner, Garioch, Garr (o)ick, Geddes, Gerrie, Harrison, Hunt(l(e)y), Jessiman, Jo/upp, , La(i)ng, Law/urie, Le/ing, MacAdam, Mallett, Manteach, Marr, Maver, Meldrum, Mill(e)s), Miln(e), Steel, Teal, Tod (d).

We strongly encourage participants to submit

The Gordon DNA Project — cont.

their pedigrees to the Project. We are a nation of immigrants but realize that not all can trace their ancestry much further than their immigrant ancestor and often not even that far. In such cases, having even grandparents' names, locations and general dates of residence can be helpful. To date, we lack such information on 99 of our participants.

An individual may ask "What good will it do anyone to know my grandparents' names, locations and dates of residence?" The answer is that you may have a cousin out there who HAS researched their ancestry and HAS included your grandparents'; but has been unable to find their descendants. Your information might just be the missing link that puts the two of you together.

You may lose track of ancestors because they moved between censuses, or the way their name was reported to the enumerator was different from their birth names. There are at least two instances of the later case in my own ancestry. In one case, the person decided to be known by his middle name as an adult. In the other, the person switched his first and middle names as an adult. Contacting distant cousins who have published their pedigrees/lineages on the Project's web site stand a better chance of overcoming these difficulties than one who hasn't.

In summary, Tei, Janice, Tony and myself 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 Tei: tagordon@hotmail.com. If you don't know how to generate one, simply send what information you do know about your parents grandparents and great grandparents (Name, date and place of birth, date and place of death, residence(s), etc.) Remember. any information is better than no information.

Gordons of Virginia & Maryland

The Gordons of Virginia and Maryland trace their ancestry to the Gordons of Lochinvar and Kenmuir. The first of the family to immigrate to America were Samuel and Bazil Gordon, sons of Samuel Gordon of Lochdougan, and a nephew, Samuel Gordon, Jr., son of John Gordon Laird of Lochdougan. All three Gordon men married daughters of William Knox of Culpeper County, whose wife was Susannah Fitzhugh.

Bazil Gordon was born in 1768 at Lochdougan in Scotland and settled at Falmouth Virginia in 1783, and in 1786 opened a small store there. He married Anne Campbell Knox, and grew his business into a large importing and exporting concern. He made a considerable fortune by buying tobacco from the plantations along the Rappahannock and exporting it to England. Bazil made profits in excess of a million dollars and is thought to have been America's first millionaire! With the money he made in this business he purchased Wakefield Manor a beautiful estate in Rappahannock County, Virginia. He died in 1847 leaving two sons and one daughter. He is buried along with his wife in the Masonic Cemetery in Fredericksburg, Virginia. His tombstone reads:

To the memory of
Bazil Gordon
who was born near Kirkcudbright in
Scotland on the 16th May, 1768 and
died at Falmouth, Virginia on the
20th of April, 1847.

His brother, Samuel married Suzannah Fitzhugh Knox. He purchased an estate from John and Susan Thornton in 1819, which he re-named Kenmore, (sometimes spelled Kenmuir in older records.) Kenmore was originally built by George Washington's sister and her husband, Fielding and Betty Washington Lewis. The Samuel Gordon Cemetery is located just behind the Mary Ball Washington Monument, which marks her burial at Meditation Rock at Kenmore Estate. The Gordon Cemetery was deeded to the City of Fredericksburg in 1966 following title disputes.

Gordon's Dry London Gin — by Lois Todd

An all-natural, vegan friendly, botanical beverage? – It sounds ... well, nasty... and, not at all marketable. Gordon's Gin, however, is the number one selling gin in the world, selling well over



one million cases a year in the UK alone – that's 11 bottles per minute. It was also estimated in 1995 that more than two bottles of Gordon's were drunk every second of every day somewhere in the world, with more than 65 million bottles sold worldwide. It is the standard that all other gins are compared.

In 1951, it was the first Hollywood product placement, making a splash on the big screen in the *African Queen*. Gin-swilling riverboat captain Charlie Allnut (played by Humphrey Bogart) had a load of Gordon's Gin onboard. "A man takes a drop too much every now and then, it's only human nature," he says. She says, "Nature, Mr. Allnut, is what we are put on this world to rise above." Miss Rose Sayer (played by Katherine Hepburn), prim little missionary that she was, tossed it overboard. Such a waste, especially considering the only thing left to drink would be the disease tainted river water.



Gordon's is 007 James Bond's gin of choice. It made recent appearances in the movies *Casino Royale*, and *Quantum Solace*. In Fleming's 1953 book *Casino Royale*, we get the recipe for James Bond's favorite martini, the Vesper, a drink of his own creation he later named for his love du jour. "A dry martini," he said. "One. In a deep champagne goblet... Just a moment. Three measures of Gordon's, one of vodka, half a measure of Kina Lillet. Shake it very well until it's ice-cold, then add a large thin slice of lemon peel. Got it?"

Bond downs his one and only Negroni of the books in "Risico," a short story included in the movie *For Your Eyes Only*. Bond's version is made with 1-ounce Gordon's Gin, 1-ounce sweet vermouth, 1-ounce Campari, shaken with ice, strained into a chilled cocktail glass and served with an orange slice. Bond made Gordon's Gin cool.

Alexander Gordon, a London Scot invented Gordon's Gin and opened a distillery in the Southwark area in 1769 where he began distilling and refining his recipe for Gordon's Dry London Gin in copper stills. He set the standard and laid the foundation for the distillation technique that the

English became famous for – of course, the Scots had been distilling the water of life (better known to the world as whisky) for centuries! His exact blend of botanicals has been a closely guarded secret ever since and today only 12 people in the world know the recipe. Gordon's is also the only gin with a Royal Warrant. All of the ingredients and the exact mix of them may not be known, but the company does publish this:

“Triple distillation ensures the purity of Gordon's gin. The strength of the juniper berry gives Gordon's the classic gin taste. As well as juniper berries our recipe includes coriander seeds, angelica root, liquorice, orris root, orange and lemon peel. Coriander gives the dry and citrus taste (rather than lemon or orange peel that gives a blunt and overpowering taste in many other gins). Angelica is the magic 'glue' that ties together the other botanicals to give a long and complex flavour.”

The British Navy and Merchant Navy began stocking Gordon's gin onboard ships, and soon people all over the empire were drinking it. The British army took Gordon's Gin to India with them to help fight malaria. Getting the troops to take the quinine was to say the least a chore. Indian tonic water was made with water, sugar and quinine. It still tasted foully bitter, and well... who wanted to stomach that? Mixing the tonic water with gin took the quinine taste away. Lime was added to fight rickets. The first cocktail, Gordon's Gin & Tonic, was born; and it is one of the most popular drinks ever created. Recipe for the classic drink from Gordon's Gin website is simple. Fill a highball glass with ice cubes, add 50 ml Gordon's top it off with tonic water (preferably Schweppes), squeeze a wedge of lime in and give a final stir.



Gordon's military connection extended to the USA, where since the 1930's the US Navy Red Rippers' Squadron has used the red boar's head from the Gordon's Gin bottle as their official insignia. In 1956, the president of Gordon's granted the squadron official permission for its use. (Nice PR move!)



The distillery operations moved from Southwark to Clerkenwell in 1786, and then to Goswell Road in 1898. In 1941, the Luftwaffe bombed Goswell Road and destroyed it. Fortunately, one of the original copper stills, “Old Tom,” survived. It was put back into use, and in 1984 moved to a new facility in Essex. After 240 years after Gordon started his distillery, “Old Tom” is still going strong!

In Britain, the gin is bottled in a distinctive green bottle. Everywhere else, it is sold in a clear bottle. A Sloe Gin is also produced, and you can find premixed Gordon's G&T in cans.

Want a truly Clan Gordon cocktail? Try a Gordon Cocktail. Stir in a glass with ice and then strain 2 ounces of Gordon's Gin with ½ ounce of Duff Gordon Amontillado Sherry and serve in a 4.5-ounce cocktail glass!

Move to shut mansion to public attacked

Earl of Aberdeen condemns trust's decision on Haddo House

By Alistair Beaton
Published: March 9, 2009

An Aberdeenshire earl said last night his family's 18th-century mansion would never have been handed over to the nation if its owners had known the National Trust for Scotland would virtually close its doors to tourists within 30 years.



A SENSE OF BETRAYAL: Lord Aberdeen, right, with his wife, Lady Joanna, and son, Lord Haddo, in front of

“If the family had visualised this happening, there would have been no question of Haddo House having been handed over,”

Haddo House and country park brought in 250,000 visitors last year, making it one of the most visited attractions in Scotland.

But under new plans unveiled by the trust on Friday, only the tearoom, shop and garden areas at Haddo will remain open to the public, while the mansion will be used for hosting functions and pre-booked tours. The move is part of cost-cutting which could result in the closure of another 10 properties and the loss of almost 100 jobs.

Lord Aberdeen, whose family has held lands in the area for six centuries, said: “The proposed closure of Haddo House to the public is an appalling decision, and the product of the trust’s neglect.

“Visitors will be amazed such a tourist attraction is being virtually shut in this way. It will be a tremendous blow to north-east tourism.”

The earl still owns the extensive Haddo estate. But its mansion was handed over to the trust by the 4th Marquess of Aberdeen and Temair, while 180 acres of landscaped grounds went to the then Grampian Regional Council to be used as a country park. Both opened to the public in 1979.

Lord Aberdeen said neither he nor his wife, Lady Joanna, had been consulted over the trust’s proposal. Nor had the 95-year-old Dowager Lady Aberdeen, June Gordon, who still lives in a wing of the mansion.

“If the family had visualised this happening, there would have been no question of Haddo House having been handed over,” the 54-year-old earl said. “My wife and I have been trying to persuade the National Trust to invest in the facilities at Haddo for 12 years, but the house reeks of a lack of investment. It is the only stately home of its stature open to the public north of the Forth and the whole complex should be buzzing. The current situation is indicative of years of neglect by the trust.

“This organisation has failed the area catastrophically. Haddo attracts four times the numbers that visit Crathes Castle, yet they have reduced Haddo to a rundown facility.”

A trust spokeswoman said last night : “Given our contacts with Lord Aberdeen and his family on these matters, it would be inappropriate to make any comment at this time.”

Meanwhile, a senior councillor and local historian spoke of his sadness at the weekend after the National Trust for Scotland said it may close a significant Highland landmark as part of the cost-cutting measures. The birthplace of Highland geologist Hugh Miller, at Cromarty on the Black Isle, could be among the casualties of the charity’s pruning exercise if alternative funding is not found.

Reduction

Black Isle Liberal Democrat councillor David Alston who, as the council’s budget leader had to find a £20million reduction in services involving 110 job losses to balance the authority’s books for 2009-10, is concerned about the future of Hugh Miller’s cottage.

He said: “It was handed over by the town to the National Trust in 1938 in order to secure its future. It would be a real tragedy if, after having looked after it for more than 70 years, that future was now threatened.”

He added: “One of the results of the recession might be more people holidaying at home and a better tourist season than we might have been expecting. One of the things we don’t know is how many visitors it might be reasonable to expect the cottage and Miller House, which is part of it, to attract this year and next year.”

Mr. Alston urged the trust to be open and discuss the issues with the local community, in particular any possible solutions.

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<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/112853?UserKey=>

EDITOR’S NOTES ON HADDO CLOSING

With this year being the Year of Homecoming, it seems precipitous on the part of the National Trust to be closing eleven properties without seeking alternative funding and/or cost-cutting measures. Blindly reacting to the economic down-turn the NTS seems oblivious to the economic boon that could be realized at Haddo House, a highly popular tourist attraction, from Brits deciding to vacation closer to home.

In an interview with the *Ellon Times*, Lord Aberdeen rightly points out that the NTS itself has been touting a 35% increase in visitors at Haddo over the previous year. He further points out that the gardeners, tearoom staff, Tina Low, and many local volunteers have worked hard to achieve that increase. He calls the NTS decision “a big kick in the teeth” for all those involved with Haddo House. Bob Holliman of Aberdeen posted a comment to the *Times* article online pointing out that the gardens need continual care or they would revert to a “desert of grassland.” He further points out that both the permanent gardeners and the hall handyman are in threat of being termed redundant — sacked. Though, to be fair the NTS has stated the gardens will remain open to the public, and thus should remain safe from deterioration.

If Haddo is not making money, it begs the question why? Certainly closing the gift shop for a year didn’t help. Not having guidebooks for purchase two years running wasn’t a smart decision on the part of NTS. Lack of marketing the property was short sighted. This lack of basic retailing and administration, is the answer. How will closing Haddo to the public and reducing maintenance staff make anything better? NTS doesn’t even own the contents of the house, the Secretary of State of Scotland does, which means in essence the people do, and their rights are being infringed. Allison McInnis MSP for North East gets it, “I will strongly urge the National Trust to reconsider their decision on what is one of our region’s major attractions.”

Robert Burns – The Gordon Connection!



This year we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Scotland's premiere poet, Robert Burns, and for many it is truly a celebration of their own Scottish Heritage. Robert's father William Burns (born William Burness) was from the Mearns near Stonehaven in Aberdeenshire. Although the poet did not live there, his ancestry was deep in Gordon country. He visited his family there in 1787 and on 17 September wrote about it to his brother Gilbert:

"I returned by the coast through Nairn, Fores, and so on, to Aberdeen, thence to Stonehive, where James Burness, from Montrose, met me by appointment. I spent two days among our relations, and found our aunts, Jean and Isabel, still alive, and hale old women. John Cairn, though born the same year with our father, walks as vigorously as I can: they have had several letters from his son in New York. William Brand is likewise a stout old fellow; but further particulars I delay till I see you, which will be in two or three weeks."

He remarked in his journal the day following his visit to Aberdeen on September 9, 1787:

"- meet with Mr Chalmers, Printer, a facetious fellow - Mr Ross, a fine fellow, like Professor Tytler - Mr Marshall, one of the poetae minores - Mr Sheriffs, author of 'Jamie and Bess', a little decrepit body, with some abilities - Bishop Skinner, a non-juror, son of the author of 'Tullochgorum', a man whose mild, venerable manner is the most marked of any in so young a man - Professor Gordon, a good-natured, jolly-looking professor - Aberdeen a lazy town."

Burn's poetry and songs captured the essence of Scotland and spawned the Romantic Movement. To call him merely a romantic though would be shameful to the memory of the bard whose radical, thought provoking, often humorous works showed a man with broad interests, a deep keen intellect, and insightful scrutiny of his fellow men. He was intrigued by the passion and plight of the Jacobites and became emotionally if not intellectually involved in the sentiments. He described his own feelings on the subject in a letter to John Moore, "the story of Wallace poured a Scottish prejudice in my veins which will boil along there till the flood-gates of life shut in eternal rest." He was visibly affected by the sight of the borestone where Bruce had planted his standard when he visited the field of Bannockburn during his Stirlingshire tour on 26 August 1787. His political views were quite radical covering class inequality, gender roles, the church and state debate (he fought against the hypocrisy within the church) and (gasp!) republicanism! He was ultimately a practical man and worked within the system as an excise man (tax collector), yet despite his popularity and the support of many of the elite in society his views kept him from the quick advancement he hoped for in his work. His political viewpoint seemingly changed as he grew older, switching from support of the Tory party to the Whig party, but his ideas stayed the same throughout his life.

His fierce national pride is best shown in two of the songs written with a Gordon connection, "Scots Wha Hae," written in 1793 during his visit to Galloway and Kenmure, and the 1791 "O, Kenmure's On And Awa, Willie." Kenmure's on and Awa is reportedly a reworking of an older

song or several songs and poems on William Gordon, 6th Viscount Kenmure's part in the 1715 uprising. However, no evidence of the lyrics or the tune prior to the 1792 publication has been found, so it is likely entirely his own original work. Captured at Preston where he fought with courage William was taken to London, tried for treason to which he plead guilty and begged the King's mercy. On 24 February 1716 on Tower hill William was beheaded. His last words expressed his regret that he had pleaded guilty and he prayed for 'King James.'

Kenmure's On and Awa'

March, Not too fast

Scottish 18th Century

♩ = 110

O, Kenmure's on and awa, Willie,
O, Kenmure's on and awa!
An' Kenmure's lord's the bravest lord
That ever Galloway saw!

Success to Kenmure's band, Willie,
Success to Kenmure's band!
There's no heart that fears a Whig
That rides by Kenmure's hand.

Here's Kenmure's health in wine, Willie,
Here's Kenmure's health in wine!
There ne'er was a coward o' Kenmure's blude,
Nor yet o' Gordon's line.

O, Kenmure's lads are men, Willie,
O, Kenmure's lads are men!
Their hearts and swords are metal true,
And that their faes shall ken.

They'll live or die wi' fame, Willie,
They'll live or die wi' fame!
But soon wi' sounding Victorie
May Kenmure's lord come hame!

Here's him that's far awa, Willie,
Here's him that's far awa!
And here's the flower that I lo'e best -
The rose that's like the snaw

In July 1793, Burns and his friend John Syme toured Galloway. As Burns did not have a horse at that time, Syme procured a grey highland pony for his use on the trip. Having a connection to

John Gordon of Kenmure (later restored the title of Viscount Kenmure) through the Free Masons, Burns had determined to stay the first night at Kenmure. Arriving in time for supper, the two stayed with the Gordons for three days. A letter by Syme written shortly after their visit gave this narrative:



Kenmure from Loch Ken looking north James Faed Jr..

“Here is a genuine baron's seat. The castle, an old building, stands on a large natural moat. In front, the river Ken winds for several miles through the most fertile and beautiful holm, till it expands into a lake twelve miles long the banks of which on the south present a fine and soft landscape of green knolls natural wood and here and there a grey rock. On the north, the aspect is great, wild, and I may

say tremendous. In short, I can scarcely conceive a scene more terribly romantic than the castle of Kenmure. Burns thinks so highly of it that he meditates a description of it in poetry. Indeed, I believe he has begun the work. We spent three days with Mr. Gordon whose polished hospitality is of an original and endearing kind. Mrs. Gordon's lap dog, Echo, was dead. She would have an epitaph for him. Several had been made, Burns was asked for one. This was setting Hercules to his distaff. He disliked the subject, but to please the lady he would try. Here is what he produced:

“In wood and wild, ye warbling throng
Your heavy loss deplore!
Now half extinct your powers of song,
Sweet Echo is no more.

“Ye jarring screeching things around,
Scream your discordant joys!
Now half your din of tuneless song,
With Echo silent lies.”



Before his departure, Burns presented John Gordon with the Masonic apron pictured left. It was decided that a party of the guests would accompany him part of the way and sail down Loch Ken in John Gordon's barge. A groom took horses on to Boat o' Rhone to meet the party.

Mr. Carson, who, with the parish minister John Gillespie was in the party at Kenmure Castle relates

that the boat ran aground before reaching the intended landing place. Mr. Gordon, with the assistance of an oar, vaulted from the prow of the little vessel onto the shore. Syme, then Carson, followed his lead leaving the parish minister, John Gillespie, in the boat with Burns. Since the minister was too feeble to jump ashore, the bard slipped into the water and coaxed him onto his shoulders. On seeing this, Syme raised his hands, laughed immoderately and exclaimed, "Well Burns, of all the men on earth, you are the last that I could have expected to see priest ridden!" "We laughed also," wrote Carson, "but Burns did not seem to enjoy the joke. He made no reply but carried his load silently through the reeds to land."

Syme does not mention this part of the journey from Kenmure to Gatehouse, maybe because Burns was a bit peeved that his kindness to an elderly gentleman rendered him the butt of Syme's joke. Syme does however relate the subsequent journey on horseback.

"I took him the moor road where savage and desolate regions extended wide around. The sky was sympathetic with the wretchedness of the soil it became lowering and dark. The hollow winds sighed, the lightnings gleamed the thunder rolled. The poet enjoyed the awful scene; he spoke not a word, but seemed rapt in meditation. In a little while, the rain began to fall; it poured in floods upon us. For three hours did the wild elements rumble their belly full upon our defenceless heads. Oh! Oh! 'twas foul. We got utterly wet; and to revenge ourselves, Burns insisted at Gatehouse on our getting utterly drunk.

"...I told you that, in the midst of the storm, on the wilds of Kenmure, Burns was wrapt in meditation. What do you think he was about? He was charging the English army, along with Bruce, at Bannockburn. He was engaged in the same manner on our ride home from St Mary's Isle, and I did not disturb him. Next day he produced me the following address of Bruce to his troops, and gave me a copy for Dalzell:"

Scots, wha hae wi' Wallace bled,
Scots, wham Bruce has aften led,
Welcome to your gory bed
Or to victorie!

Wha for Scotland's King and Law
Freedom's sword will strongly draw,
Freeman stand or freeman fa',
Let him follow me!

Now's the day, and now's the hour:
See the front o' battle lour,
See approach proud Edward's power –
Chains and slaverie!

By oppression's woes and pains,
By your sons in servile chains,
We will drain our dearest veins
But they shall be free!

Wha will be a traitor knave?
Wha will fill a coward's grave?
Wha sae base as be a slave? –
Let him turn, and flee!

Lay the proud usurpers low!
Tyrants fall in every foe!
Liberty's in every blow!
Let us do or dee!

Scots Wha Hae was written to a traditional Scottish tune called Hey Tuttie Tatie which tradition says was played by Bruce's army at the Battle of Bannockburn. The song was sent by Burns to his publisher George Thomson, at the end of August 1793, with the title Robert Bruce's March To Bannockburn, and a postscript saying that he had been inspired by Bruce's 'glorious struggle for Freedom, associated with the glowing ideas of some other struggles of the same nature, not quite so ancient.' Many south of the border took this as a criticism of the government crackdown

on the Radical movement, and cost him in his advancement at work.

Burns was very involved in the political scene and wrote several election ballads. The Gordon men the election ballads of 1795 are found on both sides of his pen. He campaigned against Thomas Gordon of Balmaghie who ran (with the financial backing of his uncle Murray of Broughton) against his friend Patrick Heron for the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright. In the first ballad for Heron, Burns called Thomas "A beardless boy comes o'er the hills, Wi's uncle's purse an' a' that..."

In the second ballad, he stated his doubt that Gordon could win, which of course he didn't. In the same ballad, he refers to John Gordon of Kenmure in the most favorable of terms saying:

And there will be Kenmure sae gen'rous,
Whose honour is proof to the storm,
To save them from stark reprobation,
He lent them his name in the Firm.

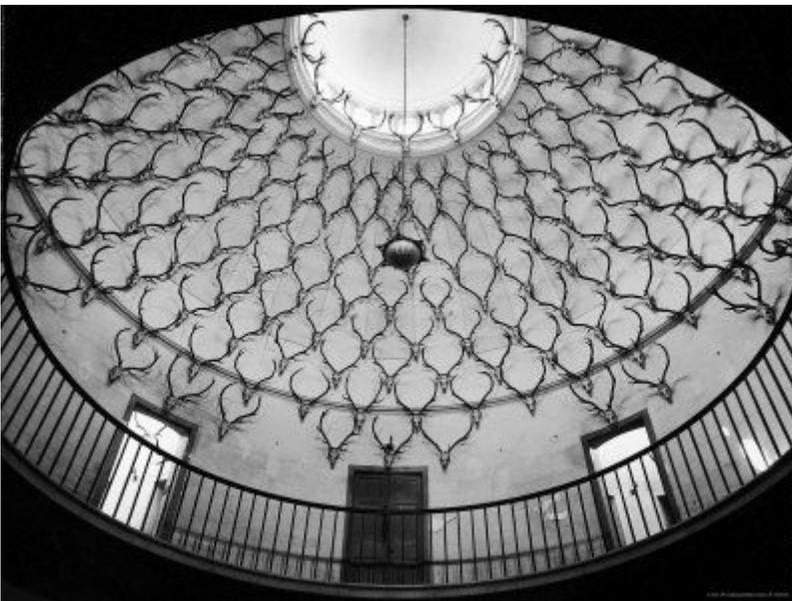
Burn's life in Scotland was not always so full of promise or connections. He started life as the son of a poor tenant farmer, who taught him to read, write, do arithmetic and encouraged him in his reading and studies of the works of Ramsay, Hailes, Herd, Pope, Locke and Shakespeare among others. In 1786, his poems were first published in Kilmarnock by one of his fellow free-masons with 350 subscriptions from the masons of St. John's Lodge. He had been set to migrate to Jamaica, but with the success of his poems, he was convinced instead to go to Edin-



Burns depicted at the Duchess of Gordon's Edinburgh drawing room 1787 painting by C M Hardie

burgh where the patronage of the Earl of Glencairn gave him entry to society. His fortunes changed with his introduction to Jane, Duchess of Gordon, by Henry Erskine.

Jane was an avowed beauty, outspoken, quick witted, she never hid her Scottish brogue and proudly wore her tartan, in London no less, even though it was outlawed. King George was said to be a big fan of hers and so she got away with promoting her Scottish heritage! In London, her house in the Mall was the social centre of the Tory party. She was a patroness of Pitt and ardently involved in politics, going so far as to kidnap a man in 1780 and lock him in her cellar in order to secure a seat for a friend. In Edinburgh, she was the arbiter of fashion. Writing to John Ballantine on 13 December 1786, Burns listed her as one of his “avowed Patrons and Patronesses”. Jane invited Burns to several of her drawing-room parties, and on one occasion told Scott that Burns was the only man whose conversation carried off her feet.



Deer Antlers in the Dome of Gordon Castle . Life Magazine 1948

The following fall he visited Gordon Castle during his Highland tour, and wrote of it to Mrs. Rose, junior: “Friday [Sep 7] Forres – famous stone – at Forres Mr. Brodie tells me that the muir where Shakspeare lays Macbeth’s witch is still haunted – that the country folks wont pass it by.

Venerable ruins of Elgin Abbey [Cathedral] a grander effect first glance than Melrose, but not near so beautiful. Cross Spey Fochabers – fine palace [Gordon Castle, the seat of the Duke Gordon] –

worthy of the generous proprietor – dine. Company – Duke and Duchess, Ladies Charlotte and Magdeline, Abercrombie and Lady, Mr. Gordon, and Mr. _____, a clergy man, venerable aged figure – the duke makes me happier ever great man did – noble, princely, yet mild condescending, affable; gay and kind – the duchess witty and sensible. God bless them!”

His stay was unfortunately shortened by the unhappy circumstance of his travel companion’s foul temper and demeanor. Particulars of the visit were conveyed to Dr Currie by Dr Couper of Fochabers. Upon his arrival in Fochabers, Burns:

“...proceeded to Gordon Castle leaving Mr. Nicol at the inn in the village. At the castle, our poet was received with the utmost hospitality and kindness, and the family being about to sit down to dinner he was invited to take his place at table as a matter of course. This invitation he accepted, and after drinking a few glasses of wine, he rose up and proposed to withdraw. On being pressed to stay, he mentioned for the first time his engagement with his fellow traveler; and his noble host offering to send a servant to conduct Mr. Nicol to the castle, Burns insisted on undertaking that office himself. He was however, accompa-

nied by a gentleman, a particular acquaintance of the duke, by whom the invitation was delivered in all the forms of politeness. The invitation came too late; the pride of Nicol was inflamed into a high degree of passion by the neglect, which he had already suffered. He had ordered the horses to be put to the carriage being determined to proceed on his journey alone; and they found him parading the streets of Fochabers, before the door of the inn, venting his anger on the postilion for the slowness with which he obeyed his commands. As no explanation nor entreaty could change the purpose of his fellow traveler, our poet was reduced to the necessity of separating from him entirely, or of instantly proceeding with him on their journey. He chose the last of these alternatives; and seating himself beside Nicol in the post chaise, with mortification and regret, he turned his back on Gordon Castle where he had promised himself some happy days. Sensible, however, of the great kindness of the noble family, he made the best return in his power by the following poem:"

CASTLE GORDON

Streams that glide in orient plains,
Never bound by Winter's chains;
Glowing here on golden sands,
There immix'd with foulest stains
From Tyranny's empurpled hands;
These, their richly gleaming waves,
I leave to tyrants and their slaves;
Give me the stream that sweetly laves
The banks by Castle Gordon.

Spicy forests, ever gray,
Shading from the burning ray
Hapless wretches sold to toil;
Or the ruthless native's way,
Bent on slaughter, blood, and spoil:

Woods that ever verdant wave,
I leave the tyrant and the slave;
Give me the groves that lofty brave
The storms by Castle Gordon.

Wildly here, without control,
Nature reigns and rules the whole;
In that sober pensive mood,
Dearest to the feeling soul,
She plants the forest, pours the flood:
Life's poor day I'll musing rave
And find at night a sheltering cave,
Where waters flow and wild woods
wave,
By bonnie Castle Gordon.

Also inspired by his visit to Castle Gordon was the song "Young Highland Rover." It may be that this second effort was made to please Jane. When she first heard Castle Gordon quoted she commented that it was too bad he had written it in English and she had rather it been in Scots. There has been great debate as to whom the song refers. Some suppose it to be the Chevalier Bonnie Prince Charlie. Others suppose it to be a Gordon, probably the Duke's uncle, Lord Lewis Gordon a Jacobite who died in exile in 1754. It is possible, given Burn's unhappy and precipitous departure from his planned stay at the castle that he is in part also referring to himself.

YOUNG HIGHLAND ROVER

Loud blaw the frosty breezes,
The snaws the mountains cover;
Like winter on me seizes,
Since my young Highland rover
Far wanders nations over.
Where 'er he go, where 'er he stray
May Heaven be his warden:
Return him safe to fair Strathspey,
And bonnie Castle Gordon!

The trees, now naked groaning,
Shall soon wi' leaves be hinging,
The birdies, dowie moaning,
Shall a' be blythely singing,
And every flower be springing:
Sae I'll rejoice the lee-lang day,
When (by his mighty Warden)
My youth's returned to fair Strathspey,
And bonnie Castle Gordon.

A few nights later on 9 September, Burns stayed with George Gordon, 3rd Earl of Aberdeen and his wife, Lady Catherine at Ellon Castle.

Burns had formed an admiration for the Duke's turn of phrase and song writing abilities. His song *Cauld Kail* in Aberdeen had become quite popular and wishing to obtain a copy wrote to the Duke's companion and librarian, Mr. James Hoy.

EDINBURGH 20th October 1787

SIR – I will defend my conduct in giving you this trouble, on the best of Christian principles – ‘Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you do ye even so unto them.’ I shall certainly, among my legacies, leave my latest curse to that unlucky predicament which hurried – tore me away from Castle Gordon. May that obstinate son of Latin prose [Nicol] be curst to Scotch-mile periods, and damned to seven league paragraphs; while Declension and Conjugation, Gender, Number, and Tense, under the ragged banners of Dissonance and Disarrangement, eternally rank against him in hostile array!

Allow me, sir, to strengthen the small claim I have to your acquaintance, by the following request. An engraver, James Johnson, in Edinburgh, has, not from mercenary views but from an honest Scotch enthusiasm, set about collecting all our native songs, and setting them to music; particularly those that have never been set before. Clarke, the well-known musician, presides over the musical arrangement, and Drs Beattie and Blacklock, Mr. Tytler of Woodhouselee, and your humble servant, to the utmost of his small power, assist in collecting the old poetry or sometimes for a fine air make a stanza when it has no words. The brats (too tedious to mention), which claim a parental pang from my bardship, I suppose will appear in Johnson's second number – the first was published before my acquaintance with him. My request is – “*Cauld Kail* in Aberdeen” is one intended for this number, and I beg a copy of his Grace of Gordon's words to it, which you were so kind as to repeat to me. You may be sure we won't prefix the author's name, except you like, though I look on it as no small merit to this work that the names of many of the authors of our old Scotch songs, names almost forgotten, will be inserted. ...Johnson's terms are: -- each number a handsome pocket volume to consist of a hundred Scotch songs with basses for the harpsichord &c. The price to subscribers 5s; to non-subscribers 6s. He will have three numbers, I conjecture.

My direction for two or three weeks will be at Mr. William Cruikshank's, St. James's Square, New Town Edinburgh. I am sir yours to command.

RB

Upon receipt of the requested material and subsequent printing of the collection, Burns wrote Mr. Hoy:

“The duke's song, independent totally of his dukeship, charms me. There is I know not what of wild happiness of thought and expression peculiarly beautiful in the old Scottish song style, of which his Grace, old venerable Skinner, the author of “*Tullochgorum*” &c., and the late Ross, at Lochlee, of true Scottish poetic memory are the only modern instances that I recollect, since Ramsay with his contemporaries, and poor Bob Fergusson, went to the world of deathless existence and truly immortal song. The mob of mankind, that many-headed beast, would laugh at so serious a speech about an old song; but as Job says, “0 that

mine adversary had written a book!" Those who think that composing a Scotch song is a trifling business – let them try.

"I wish my Lord Duke would pay a proper attention to the Christian admonition – "Hide not your candle under a bushel", but "let your light shine before men." I could name half a dozen dukes that I guess are a devilish deal worse employed: nay, I question if there are half a dozen better: perhaps there are not half that scanty number whom Heaven has favoured with the tuneful, happy, and I will say, glorious gift.

"I am dear Sir Your obliged humble servant,

"RB"

Many of William Marshall's (the Duke of Gordon's butler) tunes were included in this and subsequent collections as Mr. Burns highly admired his music and called him the "first composer of strathspeys of the age." His song, "Of a' the airts the wind can blow", was composed to Marshall's tune "Miss Admiral Gordon's Strathspey."

Robert Burns's association with the Duchess of Gordon took an ugly turn, at least publicly, in 1789 when an unfortunate sneering stanza was attributed to Burns and published first in the *Star* and then picked up by the *London Gazetteer*. Given the duchess' forthright and eccentric behavior, many stories had been circulating and her friendship with Burns engendered much speculation given his reputation with the women. Upon hearing of the stanza in the *Gazetteer*, Burns was appalled that something that could be construed as not only offensive to his patroness, but as an attack upon her should be attributed to himself. Coming at the time he was trying to obtain an excise appointment, he was dismayed at the damage this could do to his prospects. With a growing family, the money from such an appointment was very much needed. The verse was said to be lampooning Her Grace's very vigorous dancing at a ball given by the Earl of Findlater.

"She was the mucklest of them aw;
Like Saul she stood the tribes aboon;
Her gown was whiter than the snaw,
Her face was redder than the moon."

Burns wrote a vehement denial of the purported authorship to the editor of the *London Gazetteer*:

"SIR, – By accident I met with your paper of March the 28th, in which there are four disrespectful lines on the Duchess of Gordon, that you tell us are the composition of 'Mr. Burns, the ploughing (sic) poet,' who, as you at the same time remind the world, 'owes much of his good fortune to her Grace's patronage.' I am that Burns, Sir; and I affirm that the wretched stanza in question is not mine, nor do I know anything of the Author. It is indeed true that I have the honour to be deeply indebted to the Duchess of Gordon's goodness, and for that reason I now write to you; had you only forged dullness on me I should not have thought it worth while to reply, but to add ingratitude, too is what I cannot in silence bear. In justice to the private character of a man, which must suffer much by your injurious imputation, allow me, Sir, to insist on your retracting your assertion of my

being the Author of those verses [lines].

“I am, Sir, your injured, humble servant,

“ROBERT BURNS”

The editor printed his letter but appended a note stating that Mr. Burns should direct his anger toward the printer of the Star from which the stanza was copied. He further noted that the Duchess with considerable difficulty had discovered the verse to be the work of Mr. Dundas, Treasurer of the Navy, and that she bore no ill will toward Mr. Burns. (Though it is highly doubtful that she had confided anything to the editor of any newspaper.) A second letter with even more emphatic and vigorous language was addressed to Mr. Stuart at the Star, who printed the letter with a poor excuse for an explanation.

“Mr. Printer,

“I was much surprised last night on being told that some silly verses on the Duchess of Gordon, which had appeared in a late Paper of yours, were said to be my composition. As I am not a Reader of any London Newspaper, I have not yet been able to procure a sight of that paper. I know no more of the matter than what a friend of mine, from having slightly glanced over the paragraph, could recollect; but this I know, I am not the author of the verses in question. My friend told me that the Printer himself expressed a doubt whether the poem was mine: I thank you, Sir, for that doubt. A Conductor of another London paper was not so candid when he lately inserted a disrespectful stanza on the same highly respectable personage, which he, with unqualified assurance, asserted to be mine; though in fact, I never composed a line on the Duchess of Gordon in my life. I have such a sense of what I personally owe to her Graces's benevolent patronage, and such a respect for her exalted character, that I have never yet dared to mention her name in any composition of mine, from a despair of doing justice to my own feelings.

“I have been recollecting over the sins and trespasses, peccadilloes and backslidings of myself and my forefathers, to see if I can guess why I am visited and punished with this vile calamity. To be, at one time, falsely accused of the two most damning crimes, of which, as a man and as a poet, I could have been guilty — INGRATITUDE and STUPIDITY.

“I beg of you, Sir, that in your very first paper, you will do justice to my injured character with respect to those verses, falsely said to be mine; and please mention farther that in the Gazeteer and New Daily Advertiser, of March 28, another forgery of the like nature was committed on me, in publishing a disrespectful stanza on the Duchess of Gordon. I have written to the Conductor of that Paper, remonstrating on the injury he has done me; but lest from some motive or other, he should decline giving me that redress I crave, if you will undeceive the Public, by letting them know through the channel of your universally known paper, that I am guiltless of either the one or the other miserable pieces of rhyme, you will much oblige,

“Sir, Your very humble servant,...”

Subsequent verses purporting to be a continuation of this one were printed in the *Star* despite Burn's vehement objection. It appeared to be an elaborate hoax known to both editors. Whether Dundas was responsible is not known. Burns' sensitivity to his reputation as a poet and his character as a man was painfully exposed in his letters to the editors in question, and there was a history of rivalry between the two men, both who were connected with the Duchess of Gordon. Dundas, was in practical fact the ruler of Scotland, and it seems that the stanzas were aimed at harming the Duchess and her influence over Pitt and his government more so than at Burns. She was so entrenched in the running of the Tory party that she acted as the Tory "whipper-in." Her house in Pall Mall was the center at which Pitt's adherents met and consulted. She made no bones about calling an MP to her home to berate him for whatever offense may have occurred or to pull for whatever person or cause she championed. Dundas was certainly in a love-hate relationship where the Duchess and Pitt were concerned, and he was publicly vying with her for influence with Pitt. At one point, the Duchess intended to make a match between Pitt and her eldest daughter, Charlotte. When Dundas realized it, he inserted himself into the mix as a suitor. Pitt lost interest, and Dundas dropped his suit. Dundas was also known to be an ardent admirer of Jane's herself. He was jealous of her relationship with Burns, and used his position to hinder Burn's career.

Notwithstanding the trouble caused by these stanza Burns did receive the appointment to Excise Officer for Dumfries in September 1789 after having been on the excise roll for only one year. Jane and his other patrons stepped up to ensure his position and his hope for rapid advancement rose. But, he was never fully comfortable in his role as tax collector, and his well-known radical viewpoint hindered his advancement. Not all his connections among society's elite and the freemasons could overcome the bad taste and jealousy Dundas had for him.

The Gordon connection was indeed multifold and deep in Burn's life. Gordons stood as his ideals, his inspiration, his friends and patrons, as his fellow brothers in freemasonry, and on occasion as his opponent. Their political and social influence stood him in good stead and in large part their patronage helped to give us the great bard we love so well.

SOURCES:

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- Future Museum of South West Scotland, <http://futuremuseum.co.uk/>
- The poetry of Robert Burns, ed. by William Ernest Henley & Thomas F. Henderson pub. 1897 by TC & EC Jack Edinburgh.
- The works of Robert Burns, ed. by William Scott Douglas, pub. 1895 by James Thin, publisher to the University (original Harvard University.)
- The Heroines of Burns and Their Celebrating Songs, By Robert Ford Published by A. Gardner, 1906
- BBC Highlands & Islands, Robert Burns, http://www.bbc.co.uk/highlandsandislands/content/articles/2009/02/24/burns_highlands_feature.shtml
- *Burns Night, The Gordon Connection*, The Rt Hon Malcolm Bruce MP for Gordon District, Speech delivered to East Dunbartonshire Council on Fri 30th Jan 2004
- The Letters of Robert Burns Archive http://www.worldburnsclub.com/letters/letters_of_robert_burns_archive_.htm

Grand Master Mason – Charles Iain Robert Wolrige Gordon of Esslemont



Brother Charles Iain Robert Wolrige Gordon of Esslemont was installed as Grand Master Mason of the Grand Lodge of Scotland in Freemasons' Hall, 96 George Street, Edinburgh on Thursday, 27th November 2008. Brother Wolrige Gordon is the 110th Grand Master Mason to lead the Freemasons of Scotland at home and all over the world.

Brother Wolrige Gordon's family has held land in Aberdeenshire, since the 14th century, the present country estate, Esslemont, having been in the family for two centuries. He is 47 years of age, has been married for 20 years with three children, two boys and a girl, ranging from 14 to 18 years of age. In addition to supervising the running of the estate he runs his own business. He enjoys various country pursuits, he has a keen interest in conservation and is involved in local community work, serving on many committees.

His great, great, uncle Brigadier Sir Robert

Gordon Gilmour of Liberton and Craigmillar was Grand Master Mason from 1916 to 1920 and his father Captain Robert Wolrige Gordon of Esslemont served as Grand Master Mason from 1974 to 1979.

Brother Charles Iain Robert Wolrige Gordon of Esslemont succeeds Sir Archibald D. Orr Ewing, Bart., M.A. who served as Grand Master Mason for a total of eight years. 'It will be difficult to follow someone who has shown such devotion to Scottish Freemasonry over such a long period' he said, 'but I look forward to the challenge.' The Freemasons of Scotland regularly donate considerable sums to a host of charities. 'I intend to maintain the impetus of my predecessor in this respect' he commented. Brother Wolrige Gordon of Esslemont also looks forward to the completion of the restoration of the Grand Lodge organ. 'It was a major project initiated by Brother Sir Orr Ewing and it will give me great pleasure to see it completed.'

“Brother Wolrige Gordon is the 110th Grand Master Mason to lead the Freemasons of Scotland at home and all over the world.”

Brother Wolrige Gordon was initiated into Lodge Ythan, No. 892 (Ellon, Aberdeenshire) in 1982 and was Master thereof from 2003 to 2005. He is also a member of Lodge, Sir Robert Moray, No. 1641, (Edinburgh) and is the representative of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand. The Grand Master Mason is presently the First Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland and is a member of several other Masonic Orders including the Supreme Council for Scotland.

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Scotland trip 2010

The proposed itinerary for the Scotland trip below is tentative and subject to change. We wanted to get some preliminary information out for you to begin planning!

Day One — Arrive in Belfast Airport and tour the city departing for dinner and overnight in Armagh.

Day Two — Armagh, American Folk Park & Derry. Highlights: St. Patrick Cathedral, Armagh County Museum, Enniskillen Castle and the Ulster American Folk Park.

Day Three — Derry - Giants Causeway - Antrim Glens. Highlights: A walking tour of the Walls of Derry; the Giants Causeway; Antrim glens; Ballycastle; Carrickfergus Castle where we will have dinner and overnight.

Day Four — Scotland. Highlights: two hour ferry journey to Scotland; Alloway Burns' Cottage & Museum; Helensburgh Hill House. Overnight in Stirling.

Day Five — Stirling - Aberdeen. Highlights: Stirling Castle; Bannockburn.; Arbroath.

Day Six — The Gordon Highlanders' Museum, Huntly Castle, Fyvie Castle then dinner & overnight in Aberdeen.

Day Seven — Aboyne Highland Games

Day Eight — Aberdeen - Inverness Highlights: Haddo House; Aberlour Distillery; Culloden

Day Nine — Inverness - Pitlochry - Edinburgh Highlights: Pitlochry; Scone Palace; Edinburgh Military Tattoo

Day Ten — Edinburgh Highlights: Edinburgh Castle; the Royal Mile. Optional Scottish Night The Jamie's Evening at the Thistle Hotel 4.

Day Eleven — Departure Edinburgh Airport for return flight home!

This proposes to be an exciting trip through the north of Ireland and through Scotland! More information is forthcoming as we move forward with planning.

Start saving up and make your plans to join us at the end of July 2010 for a great Gordon excursion in the homeland!

In The House!

Membership Report

The membership of the House of Gordon USA continues to be very active. We received positive response to the dues notices with members paying their dues

and many donating to the Charles O. Gordon Scholarship Fund and to the Gordon Highlander Museum in Aberdeen. Our members have been most generous.

We presently have 546 members located in 44 states, having dropped 76 for non-payment of dues since 2006.

We encourage all of our members to actively seek new members for the House of Gordon. There is a membership form included in this newsletter or you can always find the

“We encourage all of our members to actively seek new members for the House of Gordon.”

form on the website:

www.houseofgordonusa.com

We are still collecting current e-mail addresses of our membership so that the December newsletter can be sent electronically to the majority of members. This will save much for the Society in printing and postal expenses. We will still send the printed newsletter by USPS to those that do not have e-mail or do not wish to receive their newsletter by e-mail.

Membership dues must be paid by July 1st in order to be eligible to vote in the AGM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nellie Lowry

AGM Agenda

- Call to Order
- Reports:
 - President's Report by John Lowry on the progress made since last July regarding goals set out at the AGM in 2008.
 - Treasurer's Report on the funds received, paid-out and financial state of the organization.
 - Membership Report by Nellie Lowry
 - Convener's Chair Report by Roger Mills
 - Communications Chair Report by Lois Todd
- Items of Business:
 - Proposed Slate of Officers for 2009-2011 presented for discussion, additional nominations and vote.
 - Proposed Slate to be:
 - President — Kim Gordon
 - Vice President — Geof Baker
 - Treasurer — Nellie Lowry
 - Secretary — Barbara Gordon Wray
 - Directors at Large
 - Lucretia Gordon
 - John Lowry
 - Confirm appointment of two Officers
 - Gordon 2010 Trip to Scotland
 - Accept Charles O. Gordon Scholarship Applications and grant one or more scholarships at AGM.
 - Call for any other new business to be discussed and motions to their disposition as it may pertain.
 - Installation of newly elected officers.
 - Meeting Adjourned.

Meet the Proposed Slate of Officers

Kim Gordon is a multitasking professional with experience at IBM, AT&T, a dot-COM and in marketing, sales, advertising, technology and graphic arts. He holds an MA degree and is working on his Ph.D. Kim is a proud Gordon and pleased to be serving House of Gordon USA!

Geof Baker Geof works as a Senior Project Manager for a large construction and engineering firm in the Richmond area. Geof and Beverly are both Gordons (Geof, a Todd and Beverly, a Morris), and also board members for the Virginia Division bringing their positive influence, enthusiasm and energy to the clan. Geof is committed to continuing the growth in our membership nationwide, excellence in communication of who we are, promoting our philanthropy, preservation of our heritage and striving to be the best recognized clan in North America.

Barbara Gordon Wray has been active in the Virginia House of Gordon as Secretary/Treasurer and currently serves on the National Board as Secretary. Barbara is a Program Analyst for the US Department of Defense.

Nellie Graham Lowry is an educator whose interest in family history led her to become a professional genealogist. Nellie has been an active member of House of Gordon for well over twenty years and has served as Membership Chair since July 2006.

Lucretia Gordon received training as an archaeologist and was involved in a number of excavations at Williamsburg, VA, and has been involved in the House of Gordon "practically all my life" and ran things pretty much alone after the death of her father, Charles O. Gordon.

John E. Lowry, a retired insurance executive, has been involved in the California House of Gordon leadership for many years as Convener and more recently on the National Board of Directors, moving to the position of President in July 2006.

Proxy Ballot
House of Gordon USA Annual General Meeting
Meadow Highland Games, Richmond, VA October 24, 2009

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

- (1) To elect six new officers and directors and confirm the appointment of two officers.
- (2) To designate our Scottish charity(ies).
- (3) To accept applications for and grant the (one or more) Charles O. Gordon Scholarship(s).
- (4) 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 October 1, 2009 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 GordonCEO@aol.com).

. Election of Officers and Directors President: Kim Gordon Vice-President: Geof K. Baker Secretary: Barbara Gordon Wray Treasurer: Nellie Lowry Director: John E. Lowry Director: Lucretia Gordon Confirmation of Appointed Officers Membership Secretary: Arlene Adams Communications Chair: Lois M. Todd	_____ Vote FOR all nominees (except as marked) _____ Vote WITHHELD from all nominees
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Instructions:

1. To withhold authority to vote for any indicated nominee, write the name(s) of the nominee(s) on the line provided to the right. _____

2. I instruct my Proxy, _____, to use their best judgment on all matters which properly come before the membership at the AGM.

This Proxy must be signed and received by October 1, 2009.

Date _____ **Signature** _____

Membership Number (if known) _____

Officers & Divisions

House of Gordon USA

President -	John Lowry, California	GordonCEO@aol.com
Vice President-	Roger Mills, Illinois	colrmills@msn.com
Secretary-	Barbara Gordon Wray, Virginia	Barbara.Wray@dla.mil
Treasurer-	Ken Hendrix, California	Ken@HendrixTech.com
Directors at Large	Lucretia Gordon	GpepperPot@chartertn.net
	Kim Gordon	kimgordon@kimwilliamgordon.com
Membership Secretary-	Nellie Lowry, California	LowryLines@aol.com
Communications Chair-	Lois Todd, Virginia	lmtodd@comcast.net

Commissioners:

Gulf States	Marcia Gordon McLaurin	mgordonm@hotmail.com
Southwest	Tom Adams	taadams.scotland@sbcglobal.net

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President Canada-	Brian Aitken	joe@houseofgordoncanada.net
President New Zealand-	Glenyss O'Halloran	glenseamas@xtra.com.nz

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Gordon's In The House!

