



In The House

National Newsletter of the House of Gordon USA

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	2
Rick Neidert Passes	3
AGM Nominations Process	3
Wall of Honor Cont.	4
Gordon Genealogy	4
Membership Report	4
Website Not Just A Site!	5
Volunteering	5
Gordons of Cariness	5

USA HOUSE GETS NEW START!

At the Annual General Membership Meeting held at Grandfather Mountain on July 8th the members voted to reorganize as a separate entity from the Scottish Corporation of House of Gordon and incorporate as a 501c3 non-profit organization!

This decision was made to protect the House's interests in the USA and enable our members to make tax-deductible donations to the House. We will still be making reports to the Chief on the standing of the House on a regular basis. John Lowry of California was elected President. Windy Gordon of North Carolina was elected VP. Other officers elected were Lu Gordon of Virginia and Tennessee as Treasurer, Roger Mills of Illinois as Convener Chair, and Barbara Gordon Wray of Virginia as Secretary. A Communications Committee was formed to create a website, national newsletter, and annual publication. Chad Hord and Lee



New Officers: President John Lowry, VP Windy Gordon, Secretary Barbara Wray, Treasurer Lu Gordon, Convener Chair Roger Mills

Atkinson of North Carolina were named to the committee and Lois Todd of Virginia as Chairman.

The \$5.00 portion of the dues which formerly went to Scotland now goes to a Scottish Charity or concern of our choice, with the permission of the Chief. This year's charity is the Gordon Highlanders Museum. We also voted on the formation of a Scholarship fund to promote the Highland Arts to be named the Charles O. Gordon Memorial Scholarship.

The paperwork is in the works to file for our 501 non-profit status in North Carolina. A new national website is in the works, and although things are moving slower than we had hoped, progress is being made. Anyone who has time and talent to donate toward the work of the new house is welcomed. **See Volunteering on page 5 if you are interested in helping to host tents or write articles for the annual or anything else!**

ANNOUNCING THE WALL OF HONOR!

One tradition that defines the Gordon Clan is our tradition of military service. Too often we forget that it is the selfless service of our men and women of the military who pay for our freedom. With this in mind the Virginia Division began a Gordon Wall of Honor in 2005 to honor the Service of our Active Duty and Retired/Inactive Duty Military Members. Expanding on this in 2006, Virginia introduced a new tent display featuring a timeline wall outlining over 950 years of continuous military service from the time of Malcolm III when Adam de Gordon came into Scotland in 1053 to the present. The highlight is the WALL OF HONOR which honors

the service of our members, with a Service Flag honoring our 5 Active Duty Members. We also have an on-line version on the Virginia website.

It is our pleasure to announce that we will be launching a HOUSE OF GORDON USA WALL OF HONOR! In order to do this we will need our members with military service, or family members who are currently active duty to send us some information. This will be an online version only, but conveners in each Division will have the option of putting up a wall in their tent. So what do we need? .

Continued on page 4.



Lance Cpl. Stephen Todd, USMC exemplifies the selfless service of our young Gordons today!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear House of Gordon USA Members and Friends,

It feels good to say that because each of you have had—or *will* have—a part in the success of our reorganized Clan Society. We have only been *re*-organized since the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in July and yet we have seen some dramatic developments taking place. Some, admittedly, not as fast as we would like, but progressing nonetheless. Working with a skeleton crew of five Board Members and a few dedicated volunteers, the work has been intense but very satisfying. As Nellie's Membership Report says, over three hundred of you have paid 2006 dues and you are spread over thirty-eight states! We want to think of you as our "core group" which will swell to a thousand or many thousands as the word gets out about the vital organization the Gordons are building.

We recognize that the operation of the Clan **MUST** be in the hands of the membership. The Board is made up of members of House of Gordon USA just like you. All volunteer with no motives for self-gain; only a real desire to see our Clan Society thrive and grow. Here are some of the things we are expecting to accomplish:

- ◆ File the organization as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation. This is a must in order for you or anyone wishing to contribute funds to or through HofG to some Scottish charity to take tax deductions properly and legally. It will also clarify our purpose as being solely to advance Scottish culture and lore to and through our members and the general public. The exact wording will be contained in our Bylaws currently on the drawing board. Nonprofit status has been a sticking point for many years and must be accomplished as soon as possible.
- ◆ We live in an ever-evolving electronic age. Most of us now communicate via email and instant messaging. In order to spread the latest word of Clan and Scotland news, we must have an up-to-date, state-of-the-art website. The great face page you see by clicking on <http://houseofgordonusa.com> is merely the "book cover" to the treasures Communications Committee Chair Lois Todd has planned for the entire Clan web presence. We are looking to have interactive pages highlighting *your* region with news inserted by *your* Convener as well as all the latest news from across the USA and beyond. You will be able to track House of Gordon Games activity to know when you can catch up with your local crew—and possibly lend them a hand! Not such a novel idea, is it?!
- ◆ Conveners are in short supply at present and we are recruiting to fill several vacancies across the USA. We have some exceptional Conveners and Tent Crews but we need more. With members in 38 of the 50 states, you would think that our volunteers must be out beating the bushes. No, those fine folks have either found us independently or have maintained a connection and hung in through our rough period. We need more field generals, more Conveners, more "Clan Tent Cavaliers" as our buddies Men of

"We want to think of you as our "core group" which will swell to a thousand or many thousands as the word gets out about the vital organization the Gordons are building."

Worth extol them in song! They are the true heroes getting up early on Games weekends, lugging tents and equipment to a field and then stand, smiling all weekend explaining our history, what HofG is, and, as the song goes, try to get folks to join *their* side of the table! If you have a few weekends a year you could contribute, we would be pleased to talk to you—or Roger would.

This Board has done great work and deserves our thanks... BUT we all recognize that we were NOT elected by the full membership of the Society. Most of you were not at Grandfather Mountain in July 2006. We were elected by a precious few who DID attend and then proceeded to divvy up the duties to be accomplished amongst ourselves. **THE TRUE LEADERSHIP OF THIS HOUSE OF GORDON USA WILL BE ELECTED THROUGH BALLOTS CAST BY EACH MEMBER AT OR IN THE WEEKS LEADING UP TO OUR NEXT AGM IN JULY 2007.** We are merely the crew preparing the way for the true visionaries you will elect at the next AGM to lead and guide us all.

I haven't mentioned Scotland, and the reason we cannot speak of the Scotland Branch of House of Gordon is because one does not exist. Our Chief, Granville Gordon, the Marquis of Huntly, still lives in Aboyne Castle with his wife and family. Sadly, he is currently without crew to run the Branch and has communicated his blessing to us to do what we deem necessary and to merely advise him of our actions, which is exactly what we intend to do. For the time being, we are not sending any dues dollars collected to Scotland. The Chief stated quite clearly in a meeting with several of us last August that he would be quite content if we were to use those funds to advance the USA agenda and to support other Scottish organizations. At present, we contribute funds to the wonderful Gordon Highlanders Museum in Aberdeen. When you visit there—as I hope you all will—be sure to identify yourself as a HofG Member and you will receive "almost" royal treatment. As Prince Charles is their Honorary Commandant, that treatment must be reserved for him!

The movement we have begun has had worldwide implications. Seriously. House of Gordon Chapters in Australia, Canada and New Zealand are all moving in the same direction we are and you may already have noticed our combined ad in the Scottish Banner indicating the unity we feel and the bond we all have to reaching similar goals.

So, these have not been idle months. And, the tasks we have yet to complete predict a very busy year ahead. But, right now as we reach out to you, we wish you the very best of these Holidays—a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy Hogmany/New Year, as any proud Scot would welcome, a year filled with challenges and opportunities, profits and pleasures as befitting your efforts to achieve all this...and more. God bless us all!

Bydand,

John

Ohio Convener Rick Neidert Passes



Rick Neidert, long time convener for the House of Gordon in Ohio, died of an apparent heart attack on Friday, October 6, 2006. He is survived by his wife, Lori and daughter, Bridget.

He was to have been at the Ligonier Highland Games in Ligonier, PA the previous weekend, where he has co-convended with Morris Gordon of Virginia for the past several years, but was unable to attend.

Rick had been a member of the House since 1979, and was an active advocate for our Scottish Heritage.

He was a mainstay in the Ohio Scottish Games and the Ohio Scottish Arts School for many years which promotes the Highland arts of dance, harp, fiddle, drum and pipes.

He has been posthumously nominated for the Scottish American Community Rose & Thistle Award in Ohio.

Rick will be well remembered for his sense of humor, and as a knowledgeable source of information on Scottish history, culture, and genealogy.

We are looking for volunteers to carry on in Ohio. Please contact John Lowry if interested.

AGM NOMINATION PROCESS OUTLINED.

The Annual General Membership Meeting (AGM) will be held this year at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games July 12-15 2007, near Linville, NC. We understand that we can't all make it to North Carolina for the AGM and so we must have a way for each of our members to have a voice in the major decisions of the House. Therefore, we are setting up a nomination process to have items of business placed on the agenda for the AGM as well as nominations for officers placed on the slate.

All paid members have the right to request items be put on the AGM agenda and also to nominate candidates for the National Board. We cannot have every request on the agenda each year, so the current board has the duty to set the agenda from the items most immediately necessary and then from those which have engendered the most interest or which will best put forward the stated goals of the House.

In order to make nominations you need only to send an email or letter with the following information to Lois Todd:

- Your Name and Membership Number
- Clear and concise statement of the item of business with goals and/or costs involved to

the best of your knowledge. If you only have an idea that you feel is noteworthy suggest it as well, if it is good we can look into the details.

- List of nominations for office include the specific office you are nominating each person for and also contact information for that person (there is more than one Jim Gordon, so we need to know which Jim Gordon you mean!)
- Mail to: Lois Todd

1811 Aeronca Ave.
Richmond, VA 23228
or email to

webmaster@houseofgordonva.com

Deadline to receive these nominations is March 1, 2007. This allows the Board time to go through the nominations and lock down an agenda for the AGM. It also allows them time to contact any nominations for office. We need to ensure that all parties on the ballot are willing to serve and have the time to give. In May we will be mailing out our Annual Publication which will include the AGM Agenda, Ballot, and Proxy Form. The details on the items of business up for vote, as well as the slate of candidates for office will be outlined as well. Each paid member will have the ability to either mail in their ballots or assign a proxy to vote for them at the AGM if they are not attending to cast their vote in person.

"All paid members have the right to request items be put on the AGM agenda and also to nominate candidates for the National Board."



Lt. Col. R. C. Todd, USA (ret.) is one of a long line of Gordon military men. He is followed in this tradition by his son, Lt. Randal Todd USAF, and nephews, Lance Corporals Stephen and Daniel Todd, USMC.

WALL OF HONOR Cont.

Information we need to honor you or your family member:

- NAME
- BRANCH OF SERVICE (Regular or Reserve)
- ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS — BEGINNING YEAR OF SERVICE
- INACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS — YEARS OF SERVICE (Example 1976-2000)
- PERSONAL AWARDS
- OTHER AWARDS/RIBBONS AUTHORIZED
- MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION YOU WISH TO SHARE.
- A PICTURE IF YOU HAVE ONE.

You may include as much or as little information as you wish. The point is to honor you with at least your name and branch of service. Please send the information to:

Lois Todd
1811 Aeronca Ave.
Richmond, VA 23228 or email
webmaster@houseofgordonva.com

SPECIAL NOTE:

Please let us know if there are any members who have died in active duty during the current conflict (The Long War) so that we may honor them with a GOLD STAR. All Active Duty Members will be honored with a blue star.

Gordon Genealogy

Genealogy is probably one of the most difficult and most rewarding hobbies a person can take up. For many of us finding the records we need is challenging at best, records have been burned, lost, stolen, or were never created! Because of the difficulties inherent and an increasing loss of the older generation's knowledge, it is increasingly important to put our records in many places for safe keeping and more importantly for sharing!

In the past we have had some members submit pedigrees. Unfortunately, those were not put into a database which is searchable. Our goal is to get that information into databases so our members can more easily use, search and share their information. We do not want only Gordon genealogies, but genealogies for ALL of the Gordon surnames (septs) as well.

We are working on a genealogy section of the Virginia website and hope to in the future have that move to the USA

website. These pages have information on Sept names and links to various resources.

We are looking for volunteers who can assist people researching the various Sept name lines as well as those researching the Gordon lines. Eventually we would like to have a help line section — the go to place for those researching their Clan Gordon genealogies.

In conjunction with these ongoing projects we will be running a genealogy inquiry section in the annual publication as well as on the website. AND we are working with the Gordon DNA Project to coordinate our research efforts! Finding that your DNA matches up with other lines gives you the ability to begin comparing the documentation on the lines. With this tool we can begin to piece together the missing links of our family!

“We are looking for volunteers who can assist people researching the various Sept names.”

Membership Report

“We now have members in 38 states.”

Thanks to our membership, the House of Gordon USA has over 300 members in the short time from July to December. The state organizations of California and Virginia have many members and North Carolina is creeping ever closer to them. We now have members in 38 states. A membership certificate was designed by Kim Gordon and sent to all those who have paid their 2006 dues. It has been well received. If you

have not received yours and have a question about membership, please e-mail Nellie at LowryLines@aol.com. Most of the 300 members have been renewals but there have been a few new members as well. Each of you are the best recruiters for new members. This could be a nice Christmas gift! There is a membership form available on the web site and also on the back of this newsletter.

USA Website not just a site!

The House of Gordon USA website is now online at <http://www.houseofgordonusa.org> Currently there are only a few temporary pages online. However, we do have a site being built that is running underneath what is visible. Lee Atkinson has been working on ironing out the security issues and bugs in his Content Management System (CMS) so that our new website won't be just a website, but a full fledged WEBPORTAL!

We will have some static content that doesn't change, but most of the information will be continually changing and not just by one or two people! We will be able to give our conveners and officers the ability to update their sections right from the webpage!

Have you ever been to Wikipedia? If you have then you know that you can add information to their website right from the webpage you are browsing by simply clicking on a button and typing your information and saving it. Well, that is the same idea behind our new web portal. Only we will only give our specified members access to add information. We are hoping to be able to launch the new site in a few months!



Volunteering

Volunteering is KEY to keeping any good organization strong and viable. As a FAMILY organization we have a bond that most non-profit organizations lack — a shared heritage. Not only are we here to promote our Scottish and Celtic Culture, but our very unique heritage as Clan Gordon. So now the going is tough and the family MUST pull together.

What do we need? Tent volunteers, conveners, people to write articles for the website, newsletters, and annual, and so much more!

Who do you contact if you want to help grow our House? You start with the Board and Committee Chairs. Any of the following people will be happy to find a way for you to help!

- President — John Lowry GordonCEO@aol.com
- Vice President — Windy Gordon windygordon@yahoo.com
- Treasurer — Lucretia Gordon gpepperpot@charter.net
- Secretary — Barbara Wray Tkdwray@aol.com
- Convener Chair — Roger Mills rogermills@ilchiro.org
- Membership Secretary — Nellie Lowry LowryLines@aol.com
- Communications Chair & Genealogist— Lois Todd webmaster@houseofgordonva.com

“As a FAMILY organization we have a bond that most non-profit organizations lack — a shared heritage.”

Gordons of Cairness

I came across your website by chance and I see from it that you feature Haddo House, and various other Scottish seats related to the clan Gordon.

I thought you might be interested to learn about Cairness, which is also a Gordon house. The Gordons of Cairness left the house in 1937, and after years of dereliction it is now being restored and opened to the public.

The Gordons of Cairness were related to the Barclays (a branch of the Berkeleys of Berkeley Castle in Gloucestershire), and it was through his Barclay aunts that Charles Gordon inherited Cairness and extensive plantations in Jamaica in 1790s, which funded the building of the present house.

Cairness is very unusual in that it combines a castle-like structure at the back with a Georgian neo-classical mansion at the front. Unlike

many other great houses that might have evolved into a similar shape through time Cairness was designed as such in one piece.



The famous reel “Mrs. Gordon of Cairness” was inspired by one of the chatelaines here. Another famous Gordon of Cairness was Major-General Thomas Gordon, who in 1832 wrote a celebrated history of the Greek wars of independence.

Although the Gordons are long gone we are very happy to welcome any members of the clan at the house. To learn more please visit www.cairnesshouse.com. Yours faithfully, J.J. Soriano-Ruiz, Cairness

House of Gordon USA

House of Gordon USA

C/O Lois Todd

1811 Aeronca Ave

Richmond, VA 23228

Website: <http://www.houseofgordonusa.org>

E-mail: webmaster@houseofgordonva.com



House of Gordon USA Membership Application

Member status: New Renewal

Make check payable to and remit to :

House of Gordon USA
9654 Kessler Avenue
Chatsworth CA 91311

USA dues	\$ 10.00
State/local dues	10.00
<u>Scotland Charity</u>	<u>5.00</u>
Total Annual Dues	\$ 25.00

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____ Phone # _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____