

# *IN THE HOUSE!*

House of Gordon USA Newsletter Annual Edition

Volume 9 Issue 2

**May 2015**



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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.

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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**, 7 Ladbrooke Rd. Greenville, SC 29615 or remit using Paypal Please visit our website: [houseofgordonusa.org](http://houseofgordonusa.org) for further information.

# Message From The Chief!



Dear Gordons and Friends,

I am always honored to sit down and write a few lines to my wider Gordon family - if I may be allowed to use such a description. Of course you are not family in the literal sense but the word 'wider' forgives the misnomer.

I do not know whether African tribes communicate from great distances or have mediums with which to do so. Our Clan Societies may be unique. We're not, after all, simply keeping in touch with others sharing national, religious or racial backgrounds - we are more territorial than that and yet may come from different parts of our mother country. All very confusing it would prove to be to a visitor from Mars.

Talking of which I learn there is to be a one way expedition over there. An eight month cruise in a spacecraft with no return ticket. The volunteers are brave indeed. A number of young people are considering establishing a society on the planet. Fancy looking out through the glass bubble on your helmet and seeing mother earth many millions of miles away. I cannot think of a greater torture especially when I think of the magnificence of Yosemite or the beauty of the Scottish highlands. Not to mention life's most basic of pleasures - fresh air, water from a mountain stream, good cooking, the company of friends.

Yes - this word 'wider' is important. It encompasses those of us with a common calling. The clans of Scotland have only goodwill for each other - our quarrels behind us - perhaps we are all part now of a wider family with respect and friendship at the heart of our relationship. Might we teach this to the Sunnis and the Shia, to the Russians and the Ukrainians, to the North Koreans and the rest of the world?

I do hope so or we might be better catching that rocket to Mars. Let's hope whatever differences they may have that they leave them behind at the launch site. Just as the clans of Scotland have done. Are you listening Kim Jong-Il?

A final word of thanks to Lois for her huge contribution to our Gordon family in America. We are so lucky to have her - and all those who are supporting her. What a star.

Aye,

Huntly

## President's Message



As I sit here writing this I have to admit that I find myself rushing around to get things done a bit more than I would like. Time seems to fly by me far too quickly, and finding myself with an empty house for the first time ever I seem to have less time than when it was constantly full and the front and back doors seemed to be revolving doors! Maybe it is just the perception of less time, but at any rate gearing up to get things done usually starts with giving

myself a bit of a pep talk.

Onward to the House of Gordon pep talk! We have had a wonderful year adding new conveners in New Hampshire/Rhode Island, Georgia, South Carolina, Louisiana/Arkansas, Arizona/New Mexico, and Michigan. We have surpassed 1000 members on our Facebook Group and the membership in the House is growing steadily. As I mentioned in December, we remembered Lu at Grandfather, and while it was hard to say goodbye to such a good and long-time friend we were happy to finally bring home the Best Clan Tent Award that she had so wanted to win, and we knew in our hearts that she was dancing in celebration along with us on the other side of the veil! We sent John Lowry to the GH Museum to hand over our donation in person, and also saw wonderful results of the historic restoration of the Gordon Camel statue we donated toward.

We sent a well appreciated Christmas to the 101st Airborne and are already planning on sending Christmas to one of our Gordon member's unit which will be deploying this fall. With that in mind we are looking forward to CHRISTMAS IN JULY AT THE GORDON TENT ON GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN this year and hope that our members attending the AGM will bring a small gift for one of the Marines we will be sending Christmas in a Box to, or make a donation toward the project and lend a little bit of home and Christmas Cheer to our warriors!

At this year's AGM we will be voting on officers for the next two years, and also on a few more revisions to the Bylaws as the Bylaws committee tweaks the language just a tad more to make it more straightforward and clear in its intent. Therefore, it is extremely important that every voting member return their proxy so that your vote will be counted! We will have a new t-shirt available with the proceeds going to benefit the scholarship fund! We will also be having a LOT of FUN with lunch being served Saturday and Sunday in the hospitality tent and all the fun and mayhem that a goodly sized group of Gordons usually brings, hoping to find enough young burly Gordon Men to field a tug-of-war team and at least four fleet of foot to represent us in the kilted relay! COME JOIN US IN THE GORDON TENT! *Bydand.— Lois*

# What's Happening In The House!

## **A MERRY CHRISTMAS IN LIBERIA THANKS TO HoGUSA!**

Jim Drouillard, who headed up our 101st Airborne Christmas in a Box project received the following thank you for our Christmas offerings:

***“I guess these 4 HUGE X-Mas care packages I received today were you and your friends doing. Thank you very much. It was well welcome. I divided the stuff between the TF Eagle Med HQ, DFAC, our MTTs and saved some to take to those that will be on mission during Christmas Day. The Soldiers are already putting stuff up. Thank you once again. A great morale booster for everyone here in the National Police Academy Liberia. God Bless, and Happy Holidays.”***



101st Airborne Christmas Tree  
courtesy of House of Gordon USA!



Kaine & Christa Aitken

## **MIGHIGAN GETS A NEW CONVENER IN KAINE AITKEN!**

Greetings to all my fellow Gordons! I hope this newsletter finds you all well and in good spirits. I am honored to have a chance to help out our clan in whatever way I can, and plan to do my best to put the Michigordons back on the map! My wife, Christa, and I are very excited to become more involved in the Scottish community here in Michigan and can't wait to get started with our first games here in

May! That being said, I would like to offer my thanks to Lois and the board for giving us this opportunity to help out. And a big thanks to my predecessor Garth Gordon for all his advice and help in preparing us for this endeavor. Hopefully we'll see some of you at the tent in one of our games!

Bydand! - Kaine Aitken

***KENN GORDON TAKES ON THE CONVENERSHIP IN LOUISIANA AND ARKANSAS!***

Hello fellow Gordons! My name is Kenneth Gordon, better known as Kenn. I am a 41-year-old who has been married for 16 years, and have been interested in my Scottish heritage since I was a teenager. I have 3 sons, Liam (14), Kieran Rhyse (12) and Silas (3-months) who we are in the process of

adopting.

I am a social worker and take a more holistic approach with families and at risk youth. I am also a Reformed Baptist minister.

I love all things Scottish but really am interested in the Covenanter and Presbyterian history of Scotland and especially in how the House of Gordon played out in the great scheme of things.

My family and I are excited to represent the House of Gordon and we are looking forward to getting to know many of you better. The photo below is of myself and more of my family at a recent Mardi Gras Outing for the "Krewe of Sgian Dubh" for a social event.

***THE NEW FACE OF HoGSC IS A FAMILIAR ONE!***



Welcome back Barbara Gordon Wray to the House of Gordon Tent! We are really excited for our SC members because we know they have a GEM in Barbara, so get ready for fun at Greenville May 23-24th! She stepped in to help out last fall at the Charleston Games and had this to say:

Who would have ever thought the Charleston Scottish Games and Highland Gathering held at Boone Hall Plantation on Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, would remind them of a typical day in Scotland! Weather was unusually cool (about 69) and it was cloudy with a few sprinkles here and there. Our normal temperatures are in the 80's and hot and humid this time of year! It was a very nice day and perfect for all the athletes and pipe

bands.

The Gordon tent was in its usual spot across from the Scottish Society of Charleston, Inc. tent. It's always the perfect location for watching the games. The Massed bands as well as the Marine Corp Band from Paris Island were there. Our friends, Mark & Martha Ferguson were also there with The Scottish Cottage feeding the masses. They always take good care of me as well. My favorite is their Scottish Meat Pie. Yummy!! It's always good to see them at the games. David Nichols, our South Carolina convener, was competing in bag piping so I manned the tent. I missed seeing Earl and Kitsy Gordon this year. The weather may have kept them at home.

We were lucky to sign up four new



families to join the House of Gordon. All of our new members live in the Charleston area. All our new members were either active duty or retired military, to be added to our Wall of Honor. I gave out several membership application forms to others as well as former members for renewal. It was great to see one of our former Va. members, Heather Gardner Pastva. She lives in the Charleston area and is in the Charleston Police Pipes and Drums band. It's always great to see our former friends.

To our new members are Brent and Betsy Gordon, Guy and Susan Gordon, Catherine Avery Hallett and Jamey Litchfield, welcome and we look forward to seeing you at the future games.

Bydand, Barbara Gordon Wray

**FLORIDA HAS SET THE PACE FOR 2015!**

This year has been a great year for Florida Gordons. We kicked off the year with the Central Florida Highland Games in Winter Springs. The attendance at the games this year was unbelievable. We have never seen such a big crowd and we were really busy.

The next games were the Sarasota Games, which were quite a bit more relaxed, due to lower attendance. We did see a few new faces, a couple of which walked with us. A bagpiper with The Indianapolis 500 Gordon Pipers stopped by and joined us in the Parade of Tartans at the Opening ceremonies. Randy, who's grandmother was a Gordon,



stopped by the tent in his kilt.

The following games were the Northeast Florida Scottish Games in Green Cove Springs. The sky was grey and the weather was drizzly and

quite chilly for us Floridians. When visiting one of the shops, the Scottish owners said "This was balmy weather and makes us feel at home" while they were in short sleeves and we were bundled up in layers of jackets and sweaters. We had a few new visitors and a couple new members. Robin and her son Noah, hung out at the tent with us most of the afternoon and walked in the Parade of Tartans, along with regulars Richard Gordon and Fyvie the Gordon Setter. Another regular attendee, Michael Adkins won third place in the Athletics competition! Despite the weather it was a great day!

The Southeast Florida Scottish



Games was very hot and sunny and the attendance was extremely low. We had only 5 visitors that day. Quite a bummer but that's the way the cookie crumbles.

A week later, was a fantastic day at the Dunedin Highland Games, where the attendance was high! Kevin Rogers, a regular attendee from the Winter Springs games, hung out quite a bit and helped chat up newcomers when we were busy talking to other visitors. We had a new member sign up and gave out a couple applications to some enthusiastic visitors. One of the highlights of the day was being able to give scholarship recipient, Gemma Briggs, her scholarship check from House of Gordon USA. It was a great honor and later in the day she came by and played her pipes with one of her band mates. She got quite a crowd and it was very exciting. At the closing ceremonies, Gemma won Best Piper in Grade 3 and Piper of the Day and our House of Gordon tent won Clan of the Day, where we will be the honored Clan next year! It was a very exciting day for the Gordons!

Next up is the Ormond Beach two



day Celtic Festival and Highland Games and in the fall will be the Mt. Dora Highland Games.

Cynthia Gordon Patrick



**A TEXAS GORDON GETS INTO THE SWING FOR CARE PACKAGES FOR THE TROOPS**

headed to our U.S. military troops in the Mideast and Africa.

Jim represented the Gordons well in his kilt and double Gordon connection this year... Girl Scout Cookies were a big part of the packages! Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains donated over 12,000 boxes of cookies, and we're



sure Daisy Gordon (aka Juliette Gordon Low founder of the Girl Scout of America) is beaming up in heaven!

**RHODE ISLAND GETS CONVENER**

**Jim Droulliard** was hard at work with the Airborne Angel Cadets of Texas in March with the troop care package packing party. Jim has been involved in these projects for several years and headed up our Christmas in a Box this past fall for the 101st Airborne.

Rob and Kathy Gordon took on the job of convening New Hampshire last year, and this year are taking on Rhode Island as well! So New England get ready to come out and enjoy the games in Richmond, Rhode Island June 13th at the Washington County Fairgrounds. Rob & Kathy did a fabulous job at the New Hampshire Games last fall and we are sure this June will find them with a good group showing up at the Gordon tent as well!

The packing parties pack over 100 care packages for our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines deployed overseas and will be

**CALIFORNIA KICKS OFF THE**

**YEAR AT QUEEN MARY**



Susan Gordon Rose sent this photo of her son Mark and his girlfriend Alexa at the Queen Mary Games this over the Valentine's Day weekend. Susan is a kilt maker of some renown and made the kilt and dress!

**CHEERS FROM NY!**



Holly Warren hosted the Gordon tent at Dundee and Olcott and what

fun they had! The bands definitely enjoy hanging at the Gordon tent and Holly's welcoming personality is always a the force that draws folks to join in the fun.

**WALL OF HONOR NEWS**

Congratulations to **Jim Droulliard** on his retirement from the US Navy Reserve!

Congratulations to **Captain Randy Todd** on his retirement from the US Air Force!

**Sgt. Aaron Todd, USMC** recently re-enlisted for an additional 2 years. Thank you for your service!

**WELCOME WEE GORDONS!**

Welcome to the Gordon



Clan, Cash Lawson Huntley!  
Welcome Alexa Rose Gordon



and congrats to her proud grandfather, John Gordon of Arizona!

**THANK YOU TO GARTH GORDON & MARCIA GORDON MCLAURIN FOR MANY YEARS OF SERVICE!**

After many years as convener in Michigan and Northern Indiana, Garth Gordon has stepped down and is now going to enjoy being a spectator instead of a participant when he comes to the highland games! Garth has been a shining example of how to convene a tent

Marcia has stepped down as our Gulf States Convener after many years of spirited fun in the sun. Marcia also was an award winning convener with a trophy or two to her name for Best Clan Tent. Her winning smile fun loving personality was always a draw to the Gordon tent! Marcia too has graciously donated many of her items to the House for Kenn to use in Louisiana. Thanks Marcia for all you have done to help build the House.

**TEXAS NEEDS A CONVENER**



winning the Best Clan Tent Award many times and winning over many with his famous (infamous?) ice breaker "Would you like a kiss?" greeting. Of course he meant a chocolate kiss, but it never failed to catch a person's attention. Garth has graciously donated many of his display items to the House for Kaine to carry on in Michigan as well as give him a helping hand on his first time or two out as the new convener. Thanks Garth for all you have done for the House!

We are now in the process of trying to locate a convener for Texas. Anyone interested should contact either Geof Baker at:

[geof@houseofgordonusa.org](mailto:geof@houseofgordonusa.org)

Or contact Lois Todd at:  
[president@houseofgordonusa.org](mailto:president@houseofgordonusa.org)

**COME JOIN US AT THE GORDON TENT! HERE'S WHERE**

**WE'LL BE!**

DATE	Event	Location
May-09	Frederick Celtic Festival	Mt Airy, MD
May-16	Springfield Highland Games	Chatham, IL
May-16	Fair Hill Colonial Highland Gathering	Fair Hill, MD
May-23 May-24	Gallabrae (Greenville Scottish Games)	Greenville, SC
May-23 May-24	USS of Southern California Scottish Festival	Costa Mesa, CA
May-23 May-24	Alma Highland Festival and Games	Alma, MI
Jun-12 Jun-13	Utah Scottish Festival & Highland Games	Lehi, UT
Jun-13	Rhode Island Highland Scottish Festival	Richmond, RI
Jun-19 Jun-21	Pikes Peak Celtic Festival	CO Springs, CO
Jun-26 Jun-27	Ohio Scottish Games	Lorain Co, OH
Jun-26 Jun-27	Tacoma Highland Games	Tacoma, WA
Jun-27 Jun-28	San Diego Scottish Highland Games	Vista, CA
Jul-09 Jul-12	Grandfather Mountain Highland Games	Linville, NC
Jul-10 Jul-11	Saline Celtic Festival	Saline, MI
Jul-18 Jul-19	Elizabeth Celtic Festival	Elizabeth, CO
Jul-18	Minnesota Scottish Country Fair	Eagan, MN
Jul-24 Jul-26	New Brunswick Games & Scottish Festival	Canada/Maine
Jul-25 Jul-26	Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games	Enumclaw, WA
Aug-01 Aug-02	Monterey Scottish Games	Monterey, CA
Aug-01	St Andrew's Society of Detroit Games	Livonia, MI
Aug-08 Aug-09	CO Scottish Festival & Rocky Mtn. Highland Games	Denver, CO
Aug-08	Central New York Scottish Games	Syracuse, NY
Aug-15	Maine Highland Games	Brunswick, ME
Aug-22	Kalamazoo Scottish Festival	Kalamazoo, MI
Aug-22	Jamestown Regional Celtic Festival	Mayville, NY
Sep-05 Sep-06	Pleasanton Scottish Highland Gathering	Pleasanton, CA
Sep-05 Sep-06	Capital District Scottish Games	Altamont, NY
Sep-05 Sep-06	Virginia Scottish Games and Gathering	The Plains, VA
Sep-10 Sep-13	Long's Peak Scottish/Irish Highland Festival	Estes Park, CO
Sep-12	Dundee Scottish Festival of the Finger Lakes	Dundee, NY
Sep-18 Sep-20	New Hampshire Highland Games	Lincoln, NH
Sep-19	Fresno Scottish Festival & Games	Madera, CA
Sep-19 Sep-20	Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival & Highland Games	Olcott Beach, NY
Sep-19	Charleston Scottish Games & Highland Games	Mt Pleasant, SC
Sep-25 Sep-26	St, Louis Scottish Games	St. Louis, MO
Sep-25 Sep-27	Celtic Classic Highland Games & Festival	Bethlehem, PA
Oct-03	The Northeast Louisiana Celtic Festival	Monroe, LA
Oct-03 Oct-04	Aztec Highland Games & Festival	Aztec, NM
Oct-09 Oct-11	Seaside Highland Games	Ventura, CA
Oct-16 Oct-18	Stone Mountain Highland Games	Atlanta, GA
Oct-24 Oct-25	Central VA Celtic Festival and Highland Games	Richmond, VA
Nov-07 Nov-08	Mount Dora Scottish Highland Festival	Mount Dora, FL

## Flowers of the Forest



Condolences to Marcia Gordon McLaurin and family on the passing of her uncle, **Clifford McVey Gordon** of Hendersonville, NC on August 27, 2014 at the age

of 86. Born in Liberty, MS he served in the Army as a clerk and was discharged in 1948 with the rank of Sergeant, and then went on to earn his degree at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, PA in 1951. He taught English literature and language for 44 years



in Pennsylvania and New Jersey before retiring and moving to Hendersonville, NC. After retirement he wrote and self-published a book of poetry and two memoirs.

**Melvin Gordon, CEO of Tootsie Roll, Inc.** died at the age of 95 following a brief illness on January 30, 2015. He was the oldest CEO of a company trading on a major American stock exchange at the



time of his death. Born in 1919, he received his BA at Harvard and his MBA at Harvard Business School. Following college he taught at the Military Training School at Ft. Lee in Virginia where he became the editor of the Quartermaster Journal. Following his time with the Army, he became the CEO of a women's hosiery company and through his innovation his company became the first to sell hosiery in the groceries stores.

He joined Sweets Company of America and served as Director from 1952 –1962 when he was named Chairman of the Board. He changed the name to Tootsie Roll Inc in 1966 and he and Ruth guided the company's growth and expansion through the next several decades. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Ellen, and their four daughters, Virginia L. Gordon, Wendy J. Gordon, Lisa J. Gordon and Karen Gordon Mills. (Karen served as the 23rd Administrator of the Small Business Administration from April 6, 2009 through September 1, 2013.)

# Charles O. Gordon Scholarship

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2015 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!



**Gemma Briggs** of Clearwater, Florida is a 16-year-old high school junior in the International Baccalaureate program and Grade 3 piper with the Tampa Bay Pipe Band. Last fall she came away as the Grade 3 Piper of the Day at Stone Mountain, but her favorite accomplishment to date was winning the Open Musical Composition at the Northeast Florida Highland Games when she was 15 and having her composition published in the Eastern United States Pipe Band Association magazine, *The*

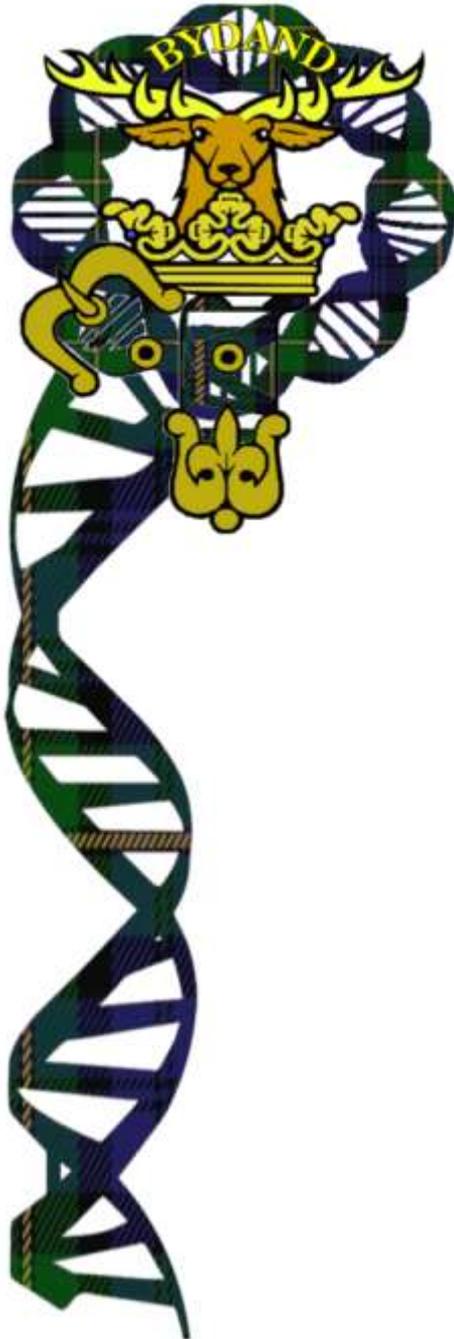
*Voice*. (Her mother still has six copies of the issue, and we don't blame her!) Her goal is to attend a college with a top piping program and eventually to earn a doctoral degree in the field of study she chooses. This is a girl with lofty goals and the drive and ability to go forth and achieve them. We are happy to be able to give her a little help along the way and award Gemma \$450.00 toward her expenses to attend the North American Academy of Piping and Drumming at Valle Crusis, NC (near Grandfather Mountain!) this year. Good luck Gemma and we look forward to seeing great things from you in the future.



**Megan Watson** of Thousand Oaks, California is a 15-year-old Highland Dancer who has been a consistent winner in her age group bringing home the National Championships in 2012 & 2013. She has also qualified and competed in the World Championships in 2012-2014 and will again be competing in Scotland this year. She applied for the scholarship because she needs a new dance jacket and we are happy to be able to award her \$300.00 toward that need. We send our best wishes for a successful competition year for Megan and hope to hear of her accomplishments as she moves forward this year!

# Gordon DNA Project

**Jim Gordon Co-Administrator**



It's been a busy year for Tei and me. We are now up to 644 members in the Project. This includes not only those in the three major branches of the Gordons – The Jock & Tams, The Seton-Gordons and The Sir William Gordons – but also sept members, those not belonging to one of the three major branches, newly discovered Gordon branches and the yet to be classified Gordons. This last group includes small groups of Gordons with documented lineages whose Y-DNA results do not match those of the other Gordon branches.

I have been working with a member who has a family tradition of being descended from a John George Gordon, one of the Gordons discussed in Armistead C. Gordon's book *Gordons in Virginia* on the Colonial Virginia family. The Y-DNA results of her proxy tester have been inconclusive, so we are still seeking documentation on the ancestry to prove or disprove the family's descent.

Tei is working on the Se(a)ton/Winton/Gordon dilemma with members of a Se(a)ton family. This dilemma arises mainly in the Middle Ages, when there were one or more marriages of female Se(a)tons and Wintons wherein the husband assumed the wife's surname after marriage. However, there are sufficient documented descendant matches to confirm the Seton-

Gordon genetic sequence. Several families do match the Seton-Gordons and efforts are centered on filling in the documentation gaps.

We both continue to answer member questions to resolve differences between family lore and Y-DNA results and other related DNA questions.

### **HOUSE OF GORDON DNA PROJECT FACE BOOK GROUP IS GROWING.**

Last April we launched the House of Gordon DNA Project Facebook Group dedicated to genealogy discussion. The intent of this forum was not only to give us a place to discuss the results of the DNA study, but more importantly to give us a place to come together and share our research into the paper trail of traditional genealogical research.

Currently we have 178 members and there has been a good amount of sharing and advice and even commiserating on the trials and tribulations that come with tracing our ancestry.

I have been able to answer many questions through this forum, and Lois also has helped, although her time is much more limited since she started back to a full time job! A big thank you to Sharon Marsalis who has given of her time and knowledge to answer questions and look up information for people!

I would encourage everyone who is

actively researching their Gordon genealogy to join us in this group. It is a closed group, so only other members of the group can read the posts, and the conversations stay on topic!

### **GENEALOGY HELP PAGES ONLINE UPDATED AND BOOK LINKS ADDED.**

Lois created the tartan DNA strand and belted crest to give the House of Gordon Genealogy Pages a new look and she reorganized and updated the information.

The home page gives some basic information on the Gordon Clan make-up , the DNA Project, and answers some of the most frequently asked questions. The families page gives more information on the branches of the Gordon family and Septs. The Books page give links to many online books that are valuable references to Gordon Clan genealogy research as well as a link to the full text of The Evolution of the Gordon Surname article Tei and Dr. Howard co-authored for JOGG, and a Chronological Summary of places and names that may relate to the Gordon Surname!



## **Tartan Museum Facing Challenges Head On Gordon Style!** - by *Jim Akins*

The Scottish Tartans Museum & Heritage Center located in downtown Franklin, NC is a very special place to me because this is where I discovered my Scottish heritage and my connection to Clan Gordon. It is also an unique place, being the only museum of it's kind outside of Scotland. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation funded only by gift shop sales, memberships and donations.

My wife Kathie and I moved to Franklin in 2004 after retiring and soon began volunteering at the museum with her eventually becoming a part time employee and me being appointed to the board of directors in 2011. Due to the economy, com-

petition against cheap kilts and merchandise being sold today and other factors the museum has been struggling for several years. Last year I was appointed president of the board of directors and as a cost saving effort I asked my wife and another part time employee to work as volunteers which they did. In July our only full time employee left after fourteen years, and the museum was facing closing. My wife and I stepped in and are running it full time as volunteers with assistance from 3 other part time volunteers.

Since July 2014 we have made a lot of progress and are now in the process of expanding the museum which will allow us to start at an





earlier time period and also put displays in the correct time line sequence. This expansion was made possible by a grant from the town of Franklin, local fund raisers and private donations. In January 2015 the board appointed a new Curator, Daniel Williamson, who has also started a living history group named Breacan (tartan) Clann. Daniel's knowledge of Scottish history and tartan make him an invaluable asset for the museum and its continuing efforts to educate and inform the public about tartans, highland dress, Scottish heritage and history. One of the other things being done is a redesign of our website which will make it more user friendly for smart phones and other electron-

ic devises.

I mentioned finding my heritage and connection to Clan Gordon at the museum which leads me to one of my favorite services we offer the public, researching visitor surnames and hopefully finding a Clan or district affiliation and if it's Clan Gordon that's even better! I don't know if any of the folks ever contact Clan Gordon or the other clans but they at least have a start in the right direction.

Thank you for your continuing support and with your help the museum will continue to improve and provide services to the general public and the Scottish community.



# Gordon Castle – The Spiritual Home of The House of Gordon

*History and Plans for the Future*

*~Angus Gordon Lennox*

## Gordon Castle

Gordon Castle, our home, was once described as the “most magnificent edifice north of the Forth” and in its heyday it was one of the grandest houses in Scotland. The Gordon family were first given the Forest of Enzie by King David II of Scotland. In 1479, George Gordon 2nd Earl of Huntly, began constructing the original Castle Gordon which was often known until the eighteenth century as Boggieth or Bog o’ Gicht (pronounced Gicht and meaning ‘Windy Bog’).



**Gordon Castle before 1770**

The 4th Earl of Huntly extended the castle, turning it into a magnificent Renaissance mansion, probably based on the Scottish Z-plan. In 1769, Alexander, 4th Duke of Gordon commissioned the architect, John Baxter, to rebuild the castle on a monumental scale. The 4th Duke and his wife, the celebrated beauty and society hostess, Jane Maxwell, entertained many important guests here including Robert Burns who wrote a poem ‘Castle Gordon’ by way of a thank you for the hospitality he had received.



**Gordon Castle after the 4th Duke’s rebuild**

Following the death of the 5th Duke of Gordon in 1836, the castle and the estate passed to his nephew, Charles Lennox, 5th Duke of Richmond, whose English seat was Goodwood, and it was under these Gordon Lennoxes that the castle enjoyed its heyday.

During the tenure of the 6th Duke of Richmond (from

1860 to 1903) and during that of his son, the 7th Duke (from 1903 to 1928), Gordon Castle became an important gathering place for society and the Prince of Wales (later King George V) was a regular visitor to the castle. The family would generally arrive in late July or early August, after the end of the horse racing at Goodwood and stay in Scotland through to the autumn, normally returning to London ahead of the parliamentary year recommencing in November. During the First World War, like the fictional Downton Abbey, the castle was used as a military hospital and many of the soldiers treated there were Gordon Highlanders.



**Wounded soldiers at Gordon Castle during WWI**

The First World War affected the 7th Duke of Richmond and Gordon's family profoundly. In the early weeks of the War, in November 1914, his youngest son, Lord Bernard Gordon Lennox, my great grandfather, was killed at Ypres. Then, in the final days of the Russian Campaign in 1919, his eldest grandson, Lord Settrington, was also killed in action.

Life at the castle was never quite the same although some traditional features continued. Most notable among these was the Gordon Castle Highland Games which was a fixture during the 7th Duke's time and would often attract between twenty and thirty thousand visitors. We revived the Highland Games in 2011 and they take place in May each year.

The 8th Duke had a relatively short tenure (1928 –1935) but he tried many innovations to make the estate successful. His early death, coming only seven years after his father's, resulted in double Death Duties. His son, Freddie, 9th Duke of Richmond and Gordon reluctantly took the decision to part with the castle and estate, handing it over to the Crown Estates in lieu of tax. It seemed like the end of the line.



**7th Duke of Richmond and Gordon**

During the Second World War, the castle was occupied by troops, save for designated parts of it in which the Archives and the Wine Cellar were located. The years of occupation by the military and successive harsh winters were not kind to the structure and by the late 1940s the enormous central block was in a poor condition with raising damp, wet rot and dry rot.

In the early 1950s, the Crown Estate decided to sell the castle and the immediate policies. They were purchased by my grandfather Sir George (Geordie) Gordon Lennox, the son of Lord Bernard who had been killed in action at Ypres. Geordie and his wife Nan took the difficult decision to demolish the central block. They converted the old east wing into a comfortable family home.

## **The Gordons and The Gordon Lennox Family**

The Gordon family took its name from the lands of Gordon near Kelso in the eastern Scottish Borders, where they originated in the middle of the twelfth century. In 1296, Sir Adam Gordon paid homage to Edward I at Elgin, in the English King's partially successful attempt to conquer Scotland; but raids on Sir Adam's home in Berwickshire subsequently caused him to support Robert the Bruce. King Robert granted him land in Aberdeenshire, Banffshire and Morayshire. These included the old Castle of Strathbogie at Huntly.

Sir Adam's great-grand-daughter, Elizabeth became the heiress of the Gordon Lands and when she married, Sir Alexander Seton, he became Lord Gordon, a Lord of Parliament in Scotland. Their son, Alexander Seton changed his name to Gordon and in 1449 was created Earl of Huntly. He also rebuilt Huntly Castle. His son, the 2nd Earl, built the first tower house at Gordon Castle in the Forest of the Enzie, lands which the family traditionally held. George Gordon, the 6th Earl of Huntly was much involved in the political and military intrigues of Scotland at the end of the sixteenth century. He became a great favourite of King James VI and was, in 1599, created Marquess of Huntly, Earl of Enzie and Lord Gordon of Badenoch.

The Gordon family was one of the few Scottish families to have remained Roman Catholic at the time of the Reformation and their protection meant Catholicism thrived in the surrounding district. George Gordon, the 4th Marquess of Huntly (1649 – 1716) was extremely loyal to the House of Stuart and became 1st Duke of Gordon. As a Catholic, educated in a seminary in France and gave steadfast support to the Jacobite cause after the overthrow of King James VII and II in 1688.

The family were still Jacobites at the time of the 1715 Uprising. However, under the influence of Lady Henrietta Mordaunt, wife of Alexander, 2nd Duke of Gordon (himself a Jacobite) the family gradually became Protestant with the Duchess taking the children, very publicly to the Protestant Parish Church the Sunday after her (Catholic) husband died. The family thereafter professing their loyalty to the Crown at the time of the 1745 Uprising.

By this time, the early eighteenth century, Fochabers and Gordon Castle was the family's principal seat. The Dukes were often referred to as Gudeman o' the Bog or more grandly the Cock o' the North and that latter title was perhaps most



**Alexander, 4th Duke of Gordon**

raising the Regiment which would later become the Gordon Highlanders and with his father is believed responsible for the legalising of whisky production for his tenant George Smith at Glenlivet. They also built the kennels at Gordon Castle, responsible for the original breeding of the iconic and eponymous Gordon setter.

George and his wife, Elizabeth Brodie, had no children and on his death in 1836, the Dukedom became extinct. The title of Marquess of Huntly went to a distant cousin along with the chieftainship of the Clan. Gordon Castle, however, passed to the late Duke's nephew, his sister's son, Charles Lennox, 5th Duke of Richmond whose principal seat was Goodwood in Sussex in England. He added the ancient name of Gordon to his own.

In 1876, Charles Gordon Lennox, 6th Duke of Richmond petitioned Queen Victoria to create him Duke of Gordon. So, in 1876, the Gordon Dukedom was revived. His son, Charles, 7th Duke (1845 – 1928), was very highly-regarded locally. It was he, together with William Baxter, who measured out the land across the River Spey which was to become the site of the famous Baxters of Speyside fac-

closely associated with Alexander, 4th Duke of Gordon (1743 – 1827) who was Duke for 75 years. It was he who rebuilt Gordon Castle, planned out the new village of Fochabers, had the Walled Garden built and made many other improvements.

The Cock o' the North was also noted for his tempestuous marriage to Jane Maxwell which ended in a bitter and acrimonious estrangement after his mistress (and subsequently his second wife), Jean Christie gave birth to a child. Alexander's son George became the 5th and last Duke of Gordon. He was responsible for



tory. It was the 7th Duke's grandson, my grandfather, Lieutenant General Sir George Gordon Lennox who re-purchased the Castle and part of the land from the Crown Estates and thus re-established the old link between castle and family which continues today with me and my family.

## Plans for the future

The running of the much reduced Gordon Castle and Estate fell to me and my wife Zara in 2008 and we have set about modernising and improving the business that is Gordon Castle today. Turning it into a dynamic and forward looking



*Lieutenant General Sir George Gordon Lennox brought Gordon Castle back into the family and lovingly worked to preserve and make it a warm family home; today his grandson and wife, Angus and Zara, continue the work to make the estate a thriving and vibrant part of the community and once again a part of the cultural and spiritual heart of the House of Gordon.*

enterprise once again puts it at the centre of the Gordon and local community and will hopefully set it up to thrive and prosper well into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and beyond.

We begun by investing in the traditional estate businesses of salmon fishing on the world famous river Spey, holiday cottage accommodation and farming, but the upkeep of Gordon Castle requires a lot more income than those alone can generate so we have also embarked on three other projects:

Firstly we have modernised the Castle to a luxury, but still homely, standard and make it available for exclusive use hire for all occasions, by the day, week or even longer. Next we put in the infrastructure to enable the Castle to host major events in the grounds. One of these is our own Highland Games and Country

Fair, held each year on the third Sunday in May.

However, perhaps the most ambitious project we have undertaken is to create a global “Gordon Castle Scotland” brand and to launch a series of beautiful and high quality products all of which are unique to Gordon Castle and all of which contain something from the enormous Walled Kitchen Garden, are from the Estate, or have unique designs inspired by the Castle and its characters. All the products have the Duke of Gordon’s “G” on them, taken from a prayer book dated 1744 which we found recently in the Castle. The products currently comprise four different categories:

- Delicious Food and Drink which includes gin made with botanicals from the Walled Garden, currently the “gin of the month” at both Harrods and Fortnum and Mason. Cider made with the Castle’s own apples and pears, salad dressings, preserves, chutneys, herbal teas are all also part of the range.
- Beautiful Bath and Beauty products made with essential oils distilled by us at the Castle from herbs and flowers grown in the garden. These include hand and body washes and creams, bathing products, smelly candles and more.
- Striking home wares and trinkets all to our design, some of which are produced under licence by multi Royal warrant holder Halcyon Days. The famous Halcyon Days Easter Egg, an annual collectable in the UK, is modelled this year on the stained glass windows in the Gordon Chapel in Fochabers.
- Fabulous products from the Estate and garden including delightful leather bags made with the Estate tweed, wooden items made with wood from the Estate and wonderful garden products.



**Holiday accommodation cottage.**



Alongside the launch of the products, Zara and I have created a visitor attraction, restaurant and shop at the Walled Garden at Gordon Castle, itself an ambitious project. In fact, sometimes I feel we have bitten off rather more than we can chew! The enormous garden, probably the largest productive walled kitchen garden in the country, had fallen into disrepair. However, it had been kept weed free and the two hundred and forty nine espaliered apple, plum, pear, peach, apricot, nectarine and fig trees around the walls had been well kept for many years by Willie Robertson, a true expert having worked in the garden since 1946.

The plums include the famous Gordon Castle plum, a hardy sweet desert plum, developed at the Castle over a century ago. Many of the fruit trees are hundreds



**Views of the Walled Garden as it was before the renovations began; the sweet pea garden and Arne Maynard's impression of the Walled Garden plan.**

of years old. The buildings however, are also ancient and had fallen into disrepair and so needed restoration.

The garden itself was an awkward size at 8 acres: Too big for the needs of the Castle, but not big enough to be commercially viable in a modern world. So we decided to turn it into a productive space of beauty, education and heritage capable of supplying the ingredients for all the products and for the restaurant. Designed with a modern twist on the traditional kitchen garden by multi award-winning garden designer Arne Maynard, a network of paths and beds have already been built, together with an outside performance stage and children's play area. It, together with the shop and restaurant, will hopefully become a draw for tourists and locals alike.



**The Garden Café outside and inside; an espaliered tree & the Orangery Collection**

Zara and I welcome visitors and enquiries from all around the world, not just from Gordons, and hope that even if people can't visit immediately they will want to buy some of our beautiful Gordon Castle products. As we say...."Provenance doesn't get any purer".

## 1914-1918 – Gordons in WWI

The Gordon Highlanders raised 21 battalions in the First World War and maintained 9 battalions on the Western Front, earning by the war's end 65 new battle honors. The regiment suffered casualties of 1000 officers and 28,000 men during the war 9000 of whom died.

Corporal William Milne, 6BN GH typifies the Gordon's military tradition in WWI. Born on the 13th July 1895 at Timberhall near Duncanstone in the parish of Leslie, the second son of George and Jane Milne, William had five brothers and three sisters.

On joining the Territorials a soldier agreed to be available for home service only and could not be posted overseas unless he volunteered to do so, even then could only serve in his own unit. When the threat of war came in

1914 most of the Territorial Soldiers of the Gordon Highlanders agreed to serve overseas and thus became available for Imperial Service. These men, including Willie Milne, were then entitled to wear the Imperial Service Badge.

On 6th December the 6th Gordons, in 7th Division- 20th Brigade became the first 51st HD battalion to arrive on the Western Front joining up with regulars of the 2nd Gordons, Scots and Grenadier Guards in the trenches in front of Sailly, near Armentieres. Willie's 'A' Company were the first into the trenches. Four days in the line and four resting in billets to the rear was the usual routine. The battalion were billeted south of the town and much time was spent cleaning up after a tour in the mud-swamped trenches.

On Christmas Day 1914 they wit-



*Members of the 6th GH Cleaning up after a tour in the trenches, the man shaving still wears the drab apron over his kilt. This was worn to camouflage the kilt and help keep it*

nessed a remarkable event amid the death and destruction – the unofficial Christmas Truce. The truce eventually extended to 3 January 1915, when normal hostilities resumed. Below is an account Of the truce in the Sailly-Armentiers Sector manned by William Milne and his comrades taken from *The Sixth Gordons in France and Flanders*, published in 1921.

“Colonel McLean ... (and) the Rev. J. Esslemont Adams, minister of the West United Free Church, Aberdeen had just competed a burial service over one of our men behind the line, when the Chaplain, looking up, observed the strange sight at the front trench, and drew the Colonel’s attention to it. Colonel McLean ran along the front line and ordered our men to come down, but they pointed out that more of our men further along were standing “on the top”, and that a number of the enemy were out on their side and gazing peacefully across. The Chaplain, who had followed the Colonel, said to him, “I’m off, sir, to speak to the Germans; maybe we could get a truce to bury the

each side set to work to dig graves for the fallen. The Padre had seized his opportunity and had urged both Commanding Officers to agree to a short religious service after the dead had been buried. This was arranged, and about four o’clock that afternoon took place what must remain one of the most memorable Christmas services of all time. On one side of the dividing ditch were British officers, with soldiers in rank behind them; on the other, German officers with men of their regiments about them; between them stood the Chaplain, and interpreter, and a German divinity student serving with the Saxons. The Padre read the 23rd Psalm in English, the German student reading it after him in German. Then a short prayer, which the interpreter had translated, was read sentence by sentence by the student after the English form had been recited. At the close the Chaplain stepped forward and saluted the German Commander, who shook hands with him and bade him farewell. It was an impressive sight – officers and men, bitter enemies as



***The 6th Battalion Gordon Highlanders and German troops bury their dead in No Man’s Land during the Christmas Truce 1914.***

dead in No Man’s Land.” ... Dotted all over the sixty yards separating the lines lay the bodies of the dead. Spades were brought out and soon

they were, uncovered, reverent, and for the moment united in offering to their dead the last offices of homage and honour.”

The spirit of friendship and goodwill did not end with Christmas Day. Both sides were only too glad to snatch a brief respite from the discomfort and misery of the mud-filled trenches. A friendly understanding was come to, by which they warned each other of the approach of any of the Brigade or Divisional Staff. On their approach the "truce" seemed to vanish, and trench routine was normal. A few rounds were fired into the air, lest by accident a front-line combatant might come by harm. As soon as the Staff left the line, the truce revived, and friend and foe again swarmed into No Man's Land. The informal character of the truce sometimes created embarrassing situations. During one such visit the Brigadier, passing along the front line, looked over the parapet and saw a German fully exposed. Turning to the nearest rifleman, he ordered him to shoot the German down. The man, wishing to give the enemy a sporting chance, fired high. The German took no notice. The Brigadier became annoyed and ordered the private to shoot again. This time the soldier fired wide, but near enough to cause the German to look up in pained surprise. "Shoot again" ordered the Brigadier. The soldier obeyed, and so near was the bullet that the incautious enemy dived headlong into his trench. A number of Germans were fluent speakers of English - one said he had been a waiter in the Hotel Cecil - and conversation was always possible. The greatest friendliness prevailed. All kinds of "souvenirs" were exchanged - coins, buttons and pipes ; while quite a busy trade went on in barter. Bully beef and jam were in great demand, and were exchanged for sausage and chocolate ; cigarettes and tobacco were the price of German cigars ; and British rum purchased wine or cognac. In these beverages they pledged each other's health, and to all appearance the War was at an

end. Strangest perhaps of all, and most abiding proof of truce, when it was discovered that there were barbers among the enemy, a number of our men were shaved by them in No Man's Land.

A few days of quiet revealed in their own way the national characteristics of the combatants. The 6th Battalion, descended from forefathers for whom thrift and foresight had been a hard necessity and not a virtue, could not conceal its "canny" nature. Knowing that this situation could not last, many of the men took advantage of the "armistice" to fetch from the ruined buildings and fields nearby, supplies of firewood and potatoes against the days when peace and goodwill would be no more. Most of the enemy, though glad to escape the mud and to stretch their limbs in the open, still retained the optimism and truculence of early days of the War, and were confident they would be "Nach London" in three weeks. The few cases of war-weariness only threw into bold relief the confidence of the many. One German, asked by an officer of the 6th whether he was tired of the War, looked up wistfully at his tall questioner and whispered in pathetic English " Home, Sweet, Home !"

The truce lasted from Christmas, 1914, to the 3rd of January 1915. Its end had more formality than its opening. On the afternoon of 3rd January a German officer approached our lines, accompanied by an orderly who acted as interpreter. They asked for an officer. Capt. Dawson of "D" Company, left the British trench and advanced over the open to meet them. The two officers gravely saluted, the German officer informing Capt. Dawson that instructions had been received that the ordinary conditions of warfare must be resumed. After some discussion of the time, watches were compared and were found to



*6th Gordon Highlanders in camp at suppertime Willie Milne standing center.*

differ by nearly two hours ; it was then agreed that the truce would lapse after the expiry of an hour. That day only a few shots were fired, but on the following day, in obedience of orders, volleys were fired all along the line. A "feu de joie" passed from the 2nd Gordons through the 6th to the Guards, rifles being in the proper position, muzzles well in the air. Immediately after, a message passed right along the front, " Pass it along - the Kaiser's dead." The truce was over. "In January 1915 The Huntly Express informs readers that "Mr. George Milne, with two sons (Willie & Fred) serving at the front in the B.E.F., has received intimation from the War Office that Pte. William Milne has been admitted to a hospital in France, the cause of his illness not yet diagnosed. It is not known when he returned to duty with his unit."

The 6th remained in the Saily area until 7th March 1915 when they moved to Estaires in readiness for their first action at the Battle of Neuve Chapelle (10th-15th March). The 6th went for-

ward to make an advance at 09:30 on the 13th. Although they gained some ground in the attack they were unable to advance further. The 2nd Gordons came up to assist them but after being pinned down by shell and machine gun fire in No Man's Land for most of the day, both units had to fall back under cover of darkness. The 6<sup>th</sup> suffered very heavy casualties in the initial stages of the action, losing in total 270 men including Lt. Col. Henry Uniacke, and their commanding officer, Lt. Col. Colin McLean.

Major-General Capper published the following special order:

"The Divisional General has now received the reports on the action at Neuve Chapelle during March 10th to 14th. He desires to express his admiration of the gallant conduct of the 6th Battalion Gordon Highlanders on the 13th March. The Battalion made repeated efforts to advance under very heavy fire, and gained a considerable amount of ground. Its conduct was characterized by splendid dash, and

was the admiration of the neighboring battalions. This is the first occasion in which this battalion has taken part in an attack, and it behaved with great spirit and steadiness."

In May and June they were again in action at Festubert and Givenchy, where George Milne's comrade, PTE George "Dod" Gordon (*pictured below*) was killed in action. George Gordon was born to Jeannie and James Adam Gordon on 25th September 1897 at Christkirk, Kennethmont and was the third oldest of a family of three brothers and four sisters. He was known to his family and friends as "Dod." He was wounded, probably at Neuve Chapelle, and spent some time in hospital and later rested for two weeks at No 2 Territorial Base in Rouen before returning to the Battalion at the front at the end of April having been moved to 'A' Coy's No 3 Platoon. Although not involved in an action at this time it is known that the battalion were in front line trenches at "Windycorner" in the Festubert -



Givenchy sector.

The CWGC record gives Dod's death as 4th June 1915. In a letter to his father Lt. D. McKenzie, commanding "A" Coy, states that he knew George well as he was his observer. He also states clearly that he was killed during the afternoon of June 3. At 17 years of age Dod was the victim of a high explosive shell which also killed Sgt John Fraser of Aberlour and wounded two other men. The Imperial War Graves Commission later advised the family that he was buried near Givenchy - West of La Basee and that the precise location of the grave was known. In December 1919 they advised that a careful search had been made but all trace of it was lost as a consequence of military operations in that area. Having 'No Known Grave' George Gordon's name is recorded on the Memorial to the missing at Le Touret Cemetery. Two weeks later, Dod's brother, Pat with the 4th Gordon, was hit in the head and killed instantly by a fragment of a shell which fell right into the trench at Ypres. *Their memorial card is pictured above.*

At the end of September 6BN was attacking in front of Hulluch at the Battle of Loos when the British used Gas for the first time. Both were fierce actions which lasted three days with very heavy loss of life. At Loos the 6th were practically cut off and had to fight their way through the enemy lines in desperate hand to hand fighting.

By December 1915 Willie had been promoted to L Cpl and is with "D" company. This promotion and move were probably a result of the heavy casualties the battalion suffered at Loos. It took many months for the 6th to regain full strength and the four companies were away from the front in Lines



of Communication duties at several Base Camps during this period. In May 1916 they joined others of the 51st Highland Division at Vimy Ridge to the north of Arras.

Following a period out of the line near Abbeville, Willie and his comrades started the long march back to the battle lines on February 5th, 1917 and on the 17th moved into trenches at Roclincourt – a very quiet part of the front four miles north of Arras. The quiet was to last

for two months with the exception of a successful daylight raid on the German line on the 5th of March.

Having been promoted to Corporal during the previous fifteen months Cpl William Milne fell in action on the first day of the Battle of Arras. He had been on the Western Front for nearly two and a half years and was by now “an old hand.” Fought on a twelve-mile front of The Hindenburg Line from Lens to Arras, it started on 9th April at half-past five in the morning. The 6th Gordons in the 51st



Members of the 6th Battalion Gordon Highlanders resting in reserve trenches near Arras

Division, were in the Roclincourt trenches opposite Thélus and facing the outer spurs of Vimy Ridge, in front of which, to the Division's left, lay four Canadian divisions, while on its right was the 34th Division. A fierce enemy barrage preceded the attack; yet Gordons, Black Watch, Argylls, Seaforth, and Royal Scots swept through the first objective line of the German trenches as though they had been a triumphal arch.

The Gordons, with Willie's company in the first double wave, advanced over the same ground as they had covered during the 5th March raid and the three objectives they were set were all taken. The German defenses were so complete and well organized that a number of points of strong resistance were encountered. Fierce hand-to-hand fighting ensued but within half an hour all resistance had been overcome.

A good deal of hard fighting took place, but the men had been so thoroughly trained that they were prepared for all eventualities, and speedily got the better of all opposition, though not without heavy

loss. One disconcerting incident happened – a minenwerfer (literally mine launcher a minenwerfer was a short range trench mortar) ammunition dump was exploded. About 100 prisoners were captured, as well as three machine guns and a number of trench mortars of varying sizes.

It is unclear whether Willie was killed during the assault or if he was the victim of the Minenwerfer ammunition dump in a deep dugout near the enemy third line. It was never known if this was an accident or a deliberate act by the Germans, but the explosion formed a crater over 30 feet deep and killed or wounded 20 of the battalion as well as a number of the enemy. The 6th Battalion suffered 16 Officer and 260 other ranks casualties on the 9th April 1917, nearly half it's strength.

From records of inquiry to the Red Cross to 1st August 1917. L/Cpl Milne W 265117, D Coy 6th Gordons, BEF has been missing since 9th April 1917. Official Records merely record the following: SDGW - Wm Milne, Cpl, 6GH, b Leslie, e Insch, Killed in Action, F & F. 1914 Star, War & Victory Medals, France 10/11/1914, previously 960 CWGC records, previously buried at map ref : A30 A 05.05

At 21 years-old, Willie Milne was dead.

The Gordon Highlander Museum's ran a spe-



*Going over the top Vimy Ridge April 1917*

cial exhibit from February 2014 through November 2014. Titled "Shattered Hopes: The Gordon Highlanders in 1914" outlined the role of the Gordons in the first months of the war.

"Jesper Ericsson, the curator of the museum, said: Focusing purely on the first few months of the war for the exhibition was a deliberate decision, as the Gordons were among the first to travel to France and Flanders after the outbreak of hostilities in August 1914, and were involved in all the major actions that summer and autumn, culminating at the end of the year in the Christmas Truce."



*Gravestone in the Rolincourt Valley Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France of Corporal W. Milne Gordon Highlanders 9 April 1917*



*William Milne was awarded these medals for service to King and Country in the Great War; 1914 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal.*

# Proposed Changes to the Bylaws

## Proposed Amendments to the Organization's Bylaws

Bylaws Committee: Evan Rose, Bonnie & Keith Linse, and Jason Shepherd

Last year, the Bylaws Committee proposed extensive amendments to the organization's bylaws, which were adopted by a vote of the members. After the proposals were published, however, the organization's leadership received additional suggested changes from Jason Shepherd, a House of Gordon member with substantial experience in drafting non-profit bylaws, and a lawyer at King & Spalding LLP in Georgia. Some of Jason's edits were adopted at last summer's annual meeting. The Bylaws Committee was then reconvened to consider the remainder of his edits, and Jason graciously agreed to participate on the committee.

What follows is a short description of the committee's new proposals. They include a handful of important changes. Questions about the amendments should be directed to Evan Rose at [vp@houseofgordonusa.org](mailto:vp@houseofgordonusa.org).

Article 1 (Purposes): Added language describing the organization's legal status.

Article 3 (Meetings of Members): Proposed minor edits to the description of *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Article 5 (Officers): Clarified language to ensure that there is not a gap in leadership should there be a vacancy at President.

Article 6 (Removal, Resignation and Vacancies): Merged and updated language concerning removal, resignation and vacancies from Article 4 (Directors) and Article 5 (Officers), and placed the new language in a separate Article 6. The changes clarify the organization's procedures in the rare instance of a removal, resignation or other vacancy.

Article 7 (Council): Formerly Article 6. Proposed minor typographical edits.

Article 11 (Agreement to be bound by the bylaws): Added new article affirming that members, Directors and officers will act in conformance with the bylaws.

Article 12 (Severability): Added new article to ensure that the bylaws will remain in effect even if there is a deficiency in an individual provision.

I am once again grateful to the committee for their invaluable contributions, and in particular to Jason Shepherd for lending us his expertise.

Evan Rose  
Chair, Bylaws Committee

## **ARTICLE 1 PURPOSES SECTION 1. OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSES**

The Society is a California-based corporation governed under the laws and regulations of the California Corporate Code. The primary objectives and purposes of this corporation shall be:

**ARTICLE 3  
MEETINGS OF MEMBERS**

**SECTION 5. CONDUCT OF MEETINGS**

Meetings shall be governed by the rules contained in the most current and authorized edition of **Roberts***Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, **as such rules may be revised from time to time**, insofar as such rules are not inconsistent with or in conflict with these bylaws, with the articles of incorporation of this corporation, or with any provision of law.

**ARTICLE 4  
DIRECTORS**

**SECTION 5. VACANCIES** *is deleted from this Article and the language concerning removal, resignation and vacancies were merged with similar provisions for officers into a separate Article 6 (see next page), and subsequent sections of Article 4 were appropriately renumbered to reflect the deleted section.*

**SECTION 6. MEETING BY TELEPHONE OR ONLINE**

One or more Directors, if unable to be present at any meeting of the Board, may participate by means of telephone or online, if all the participants at the meeting can hear **or view** the communicator.

**ARTICLE 5  
OFFICERS**

**Vice-President:**

Should the office of President become vacant for any reason, the Vice-President shall automatically become President **until the next scheduled election**, and serve out the unexpired remainder of his or her predecessor's term.

**ARTICLE 6  
REMOVAL, RESIGNATION AND VACANCIES**

**SECTION 1. REMOVAL AND RESIGNATION**

Any Director or officer may be removed from office for cause, which shall include, but is not limited to, malfeasance, misfeasance or continued failure to perform the duties of the office, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board (excluding the individual subject to removal if the individual is a Director) at any duly called meeting of the Board. However, any such individual must be given written notice of such meeting, sent at least twenty (20) days in advance thereof, setting forth the charges and grounds for removal. The individual shall have an opportunity to be heard at the meeting.

Any Director or officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Board or to the President. Such resignation is effective upon delivery and shall become irrevocable, unless rescinded within seven (7) days.

## **SECTION 2. VACANCIES**

Any vacancy caused by the death, resignation, removal, disqualification or otherwise, of any Director or officer shall be filled by majority vote of the Board within ninety (90) days of the vacancy.

## **ARTICLE 7 COUNCIL**

### **SECTION 3. MEETINGS**

The Council shall meet periodically, at the discretion of the President. Meetings may be conducted electronically, including by "round robin" email, being an email sent &and replied to by all members of the boardCouncil with their comments inserted to form a consensus and obtain any vote count needed.

## **ARTICLE 11 AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND BY THE BYLAWS**

All members, Directors, and officers agree by virtue of holding membership or serving as a Director or an officer to be bound by these bylaws.

## **ARTICLE 12 SEVERABILITY**

Any article or section of these bylaws found to be in conflict with any law or regulation shall be null and void. However, this shall in no way invalidate the remaining articles and sections of these bylaws.



**WE'RE CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS IN JULY  
AND KICKING OFF OUR CHRISTMAS IN A BOX PROJECT  
TO BENEFIT THE UNITED STATES MARINES!**

Come join us on the mountain at this year's AGM and be prepared for a little Christmas Fun in the Sun! We will have a Christmas Tree and ornaments that you can sign or decorate to go on the tree, Christmas Cards and a banner to sign. We will also be taking photos to make photo ornaments!

We invite you to bring a small gift or make a donation toward the Christmas In A Box. Items that are easy for us to ship include

- I-pod gift cards
- DVDs, CDs
- Phone Cards
- Soft refill packs of baby wipes (NOT hard plastic containers)
- Socks - plain white or black for men (no logos)
- Body wash, shampoo, soap, foot powder, baby powder
- Lotions
- Coffee - instant or ground (no decaf please)
- Lip balm
- Foiled tuna packs
- Peanut butter
- Razors, non-aerosol shaving cream
- Nuts, snack size cookies/crackers, trail mix, beef jerky
- Santa Hats, Stockings and Stocking stuffer items

# Meet the Slate of Officers



## President — Lois Todd of Virginia

Lois is a long-time active member of the House of Gordon having served as the Communications & Scholarship Chair and DNA Fund Liaison for many years, and is the current President. She created and maintains the website and social media, and produces the USA newsletter, *In the House!* David and Lois live in Richmond; they have three sons, Stephen, Daniel and Aaron, all who have served as US Marines.



## Vice President — Evan Rose of California

Evan traces his Gordon connection through his late grandfather Eddie Gordon, and joined the House of Gordon in high school when writing a research paper on the clan's history. He took on the task over the past two years to head up the Bylaws revision project and his leadership in this has given us a greatly improved document to guide our organization forward.

Evan is a graduate of U.C. Berkeley, and currently works as an attorney for the Federal Trade Commission, a consumer protection agency, in its San Francisco office. He lives in Oakland with his wife Kendra, a high school English teacher, and their son, Louis Gordon Rose.



## Secretary — David Gauthier of Virginia

David is an independent Defense and Space Professional and is a retired US Air Force Major. David and Heather have been very active members in the House of Gordon for many years, and he has represented the House of Gordon in many events over the years from tackling The Bear at Grandfather, one of the USA's premier runs, to being part of our winning Relay Team, and for the past few years the voice of the House of Gordon at the Grandfather Mountain

Torchlight Ceremony. We were fortunate enough to have him agree to step in as our secretary when Nikki resigned for personal reasons and his intelligent and thoughtful guidance in the board meetings has been a true asset to the smooth running of the House over the past year.

## Treasurer — Bonnie G. Linse of South Carolina

Bonnie lives in Greenville with her husband Keith and for many years served as treasurer for the Del Norte Community where she helped write the bylaws and handled filing for their non-profit status. Over the past two



years her organizational skills have been put to the task of realigning the accounting records for full accountability and she has given a personal touch to membership services and brought our membership response time to a 24 hour turn-around from her receipt of the membership application and funds.

**Director at Large — Geof Baker of Virginia**

Geof works as a Senior Project Manager for a large construction and engineering firm in the Richmond area, and former Vice-President of House of Gordon USA. Geof and Beverly are both Gordons (Geof, a Todd and Beverly, a Morris), and bring their positive influence, enthusiasm and energy to the clan. Geof has served as our Convener Chair for the past two years and is committed to the continued growth of our membership nationwide, to excellence in communication of who we are and promotion of our philanthropy, to preservation of our heritage and to working toward recognition as the best clan in North America.



**Director at Large — Lisa Gordon of California**

Lisa Gordon is an avid explorer, adventurer, teacher, and learner. She grew up an USAF brat and sources that on her early curiosity of other peoples and cultures. Closer to home, she grew up familiar with her own Gordon roots through participating in Girl Scouts with her sister and made promises to her grandfather to visit Scotland one day, a promise that she fulfilled just last summer. Lisa holds a Bachelor in History from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and a Master of Science in Education from Dominican University of California with a thesis on outdoor adventure education. She's worked as a photographer and editor. Lisa currently teaches History and English to 7th and 8th graders and spices the school year up with teaching photography, leading technical theatre, serving as a first responder, and aiding the school string ensemble. Lisa can easily be found hiking the hills of the San Francisco Bay Area, playing viola (or rocking out), backpacking with well loved copies of John Muir or J.R.R. Tolkien. She is eager to lend her skills and insights on the next generation and invites you to come along on the next adventure.

# AGM Agenda

- Call to Order
- Election of Officers
- Reading of the Chief's Greeting
- Reading and approval of the 2014 AGM Minutes
- Reports:
  - President's Report
  - Treasurer's Report on the funds received, paid-out and financial state of the organization.
  - Membership Report
  - Convener's Chair Report
  - Communications Chair Report
  - Scholarship Chair Report
  - DNA Project Report
- Items of Business:
  - Discussion and Vote on Bylaws Changes
  - Discussion of Scottish Charity
  - Discussion of Scholarship Funding Ideas
  - Discussion of Goals for 2015-2016 Fiscal Year
  - Call for any other new business to be discussed and motions to their disposition as it may pertain.
- Meeting Adjourned.

# Officers

## Board of Directors:

President -	Lois M. Todd	president@houseofgordonusa.org
Vice President-	Evan Rose	vp@houseofgordonusa.org
Secretary-	David Gauthier	secretary@houseofgordonusa.org
Treasurer-	Bonnie G. Linse	treasurer@houseofgordonusa.org
Directors at Large-		
	John Lowry	john@houseofgordonusa.org
	Geof Baker	geof@houseofgordonusa.org

## Commissioners:

East Coast	David Todd	info@houseofgordonva,.com
Southwest	Tom Adams	taadams.scotland@sbcglobal.net

**FOR A LIST OF DIVISION AND GAMES CONVENERS PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT** [houseofgordonusa.org/divisions](http://houseofgordonusa.org/divisions)

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# House of Gordon USA Newsletter Annual

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