

IN THE HOUSE!

House of Gordon USA Newsletter Annual Edition

Volume 6 Issue 2

May 2012



Aberdeen Honors the "Finest Regiment In The World"

- > **Gordon Influence on Russian History**
- > **Gordon DNA Project Update**

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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.

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

Annual Dues of \$25 are payable annually. Remit to **House of Gordon USA**, 9654 Kessler Avenue, Chatsworth, CA 91311 or remit using Paypal Please visit our website: houseofgordonusa.org for further information.

Message From The Chief!



Dear Clan and friends,

What a pleasure it was to be in America. Of course you would expect me to be polite and to tell you that I had enjoyed myself but it was more than this. I really did appreciate being with you all. The Seaside Games were great.

I have been fortunate to have been asked for many years now to write a few lines of greeting from Scotland and sometimes I wonder what I can say in a few words without being repetitious. There are plenty of big issues facing Scotland and its populations but somehow these things appear inappropriate for mention in a brief article such as this. So, I repeat, what should I say?

I think my message should be that I was reminded at Seaside how important it is to communicate. If we don't talk to each other we get the wrong ideas. By keeping in touch we understand each other even if we don't always agree. I think American people are very good at this.

The world is so full of strife that many of my friends and family have given up reading a daily newspaper. It is all too depressing and what can one do anyway. Well I suppose that is a point but I favour keeping in touch. In this way, through making allowances for each other and accommodating our differences, we may be able to make the world that little bit better.

If the Arabs and the Jews could develop a better dialogue perhaps things would improve. If the North Koreans could be weaned off isolationism and communicate more with their neighbours surely that fraught country would be the better for it.

I confess I am somewhat in awe of America. Perhaps that is the way it should be - after all you are the most powerful nation in the world - but it is not your military might or your huge influence that I refer to. It is the positive way in which you interact amongst yourselves and on the wider stage. You are good communicators and it has served you handsomely.

So my time at Seaside was not just a pleasure it was an education as well.

Yours aye,

Huntly



President's Message



My personal *Salutations* to the Membership of the House of Gordon as an unusually warm springtime engulfed most of the country east of the Mississippi! Our

Florida and Southwest organizations have already been hard at work and in full swing of the "Games Season". The rest of us are gearing up and ready for another season of "friendship, camaraderie and fellowship!" Personally, I've got most of my applications finalized BUT (as I write this *Greetings*) I'm taking a week to test the waters of Santa Rosa Island ... my Naval service started about 18 miles east of where I'm sitting at NAS Pensacola Florida.

Your Board and the Council (elected officers, directors, committee chairs and commissioners) have met by phone conference monthly doing the business of the House USA. Lois Todd's tireless work promoting, shepherding and sorting through the many applications for Scholarships under the Charles O. Gordon Memorial Foundation was finalized at the last meeting. Work is underway to make the "ABC's of Gordon" video available in DVD format! And, we are coordinating our Division's assets (sellable items), making products available to Conveners for sale at their local Highland Games as part of their Tent display. CONVENERS interested in this program may contact yours truly or John Lowry, Chair of Commissioner

& Convener Activities or Quartermaster John Gordon for more information.

John Lowry passed on an e-mail to me from Jim Nethery, President Elect, Clan Graham, part of which I'd like to share with you ... not so much as a *Flowers of the Forest* commentary but as an inspiration (and insight) as to why people say the Scots "invented the western world"... and providing another *GORDON connection!*

Titled "*Scotland's oldest woman, much loved matriarch of the Glenfiddich whisky family, dies at 110*". That person, Janet Sheed Roberts, was born just months after the death of Queen Victoria, and was the last surviving grand-daughter of William Grant, the founder of Glenfiddich Distillery. Born in Cabrach, she descended on her mother's side from Alexander Grant, who fought at the Battle of Culloden in 1746 and lived himself to the age of 103! She studied at both Glasgow and Edinburgh universities and practiced law for many years. Her stated secret to her longevity? She said she learned much from her grandfather William Grant, who taught her the value of *self-belief, hard work and determination*.

Today, Mrs. Roberts' nephew Charles serves as Life President to the company and her great-nephew Peter Grant Gordon is the current Chairman, and several other family members play a significant role in running one of the last family owned independent distilleries.

Please join me in an eventful and fun-filled year making **BYDAND** a HOUSE-hold exclamation!

What's Happening In The House!



Friday storms and the threat of rain kept the crowds down on Saturday but Sunday was a glorious day and well attended. So much happens away from the field in Las Vegas (as you probably well know) but the SAAA Scottish Athletes pulled off a Guinness Book of World Records event with a massive caber toss right on the "Fremont Street Experience" in downtown Vegas--33 cabers all in the air

The House of Gordon was in fine fettle at one time! It was a sight to see! in Las Vegas recently. Above: getting ready to step off in the Clan March at Las Vegas — the boys didn't trust John to carry the big trophy!

John Lowry writes: The Las Vegas Celtic Society, in which Southwest Convener Woody Gordon and S/W Treasurer wife Lynne Gordon are very much involved, held their Las Vegas Scottish Festival over the weekend of April 14 & 15.



On the field, the LA Scots Grade I Bagpipe Band entertained together with the 3rd Marine Band for some fantastic sounds. Scott Graham and I got to attend a great Scotch pairings dinner at The Queen Victoria Pub at the Riviera Hotel which finished with a healthy pouring of the Glenfiddich "Cask of Dreams" single malt whisky--a once-in-a-lifetime experience! Thank you Lynne and Woody!

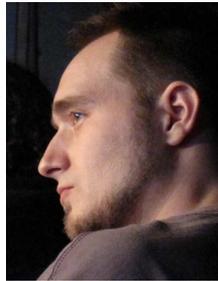
Stuart and Nancy Craig of Blythe, California write in with their impressions of the Seaside Games where we held our AGM this past year:

“This year was our second visit to the Seaside Games, attending with our brother, Clint Waugh and, as always, we were treated to a wonderful time. We started our visit this year with the Friday night Whiskey Tasting and a sumptuous dinner. This is something that we look forward to, and as always, it was a wonderful opportunity to meet and visit with new people. This year was made even more special by a visit from our Chief, Lord Granville Huntly, who was so warm and engaging. We were only able to visit the games on Saturday, but the combination of the massed bands, clan tents, Celtic Spirit and a visit to the vendor tents made our visit well worth the 600 miles round trip!

“Visits to the various clan tents as always, were an adventure; having met so many great people who were eager to give us information about their heritage. The highlight of our weekend was the opportunity to attend a dinner with our Gordon family for a “meet and greet” with Lord Huntly; an evening of good food, great music and good fun. A special thank you to John and Nellie Lowry for their hard work and hospitality to ensure everyone had a wonderful time at the Games. We are looking forward to the 2012 Games with much anticipation! Bydand.”

Congratulations to Lois Todd of Virginia for being named a James Cash Penney Award for Community Service Recipient in 2011. Lois’ mentorship of JROTC Cadets at her local high school has made a BIG

impact on these young men and women, and given them the opportunity to participate in turn in many community service projects including for the past 6 years as the operations support team for their local Relay for Life! CWO4 Michael Robinson, head instructor of the unit, writes “in the 14 years I have been instructing, I have never had a parent who has done as much as Lois. As an alumni parent, she is even more valued, giving of her time when she no longer has a son in the program; her leadership and example are priceless.”



Thomas Gordon, son of Morris and Sara Gordon of Virginia, has had an exciting year of success and writes:

Hello to all of you in the Gordon Clan! I have been asked to share a little bit about my busy year. I will begin with the news that I recently received a Masters in Educational Theatre from NYU. This was a very hard earned honor of mine and I am quite glad to have received this honor.

However, this is not actually the biggest news for me! Recently I have had the opportunity to begin my own theatre company up here in Manhattan, The Onomatopoeia Theatre Company. The Onomatopoeia Theatre Company was formed to serve as a safe space for anyone who works in the arts, and considers themselves and to be an underdog, a misfit or just misunderstood. Our goal is to promote ideas and performances that otherwise might not have been done for one reason or another or that have seemed

just out of reach. From doing a classic piece of theatre to experimenting with new possibilities in performance art, nothing is too big or too small for The Onomatopoeia Theatre Company!

Since officially forming in September last year we have produced two full productions along with some other projects. Our inaugural show was a



politically charged modernization of the classic Greek comedy, "Lysistrata". In our adaptation, the Democratic and Republican women of America, lead by Lysistrata, (pictured above) all agree to go on a sex strike until the men on both sides of the aisle in congress agree to stop fighting and work together. Needless to say, after some comic hijinks, the women succeed.

Our second production was a modern adaptation of William Shakespeare's classic play about music, magic, and love, "The Tempest" (pictured left). Using computers, technology, and music as magical tools, and featuring



live performances by concert pianist Tania Stavreva, our adaptation told the story of a sorceress named Prospera living on a floating island near Manhattan with her daughter Miranda. Through the use of her technology and magic, our sorceress was able to command magical spirits, find a suitable husband for her daughter, and clear her wronged name with the King of Manhattan.

We are still a growing company here in the city and our plans are only looking bigger in the future. Our next full production is set to begin rehearsals in July. We will be adapting Anton Chehov's play, "The Three Sisters". The plan is to set the show in modern times with the sisters living in the countryside

of Virginia. We are still getting things together for this show and if you would like to help us out we will be holding a fundraiser through Kickstarter this upcoming June. For more information about this, The Onomatopoeia Theatre Company and our other projects, please check us out on the internet!

Website: www.theonomatopoeiatheatrecompany.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Onomatopoeia-Theatre-Company/188156501244450>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/#!/TheOnomatopoeia>

Thanks again to everyone in the Gordon Clan!

men and women at arms and giving them a taste of Scotland and of course sharing our fantastic WALL OF HONOR with them. Last year (see picture below) was the first year Fort

Dallas, TX, on the weekend of March 2-4, 2012. The weather was absolutely beautiful bringing out large numbers of festival goers. Featured musical performers at the 30th Annual North



Texas Irish Festival included: Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy - Two Fiddles Two Pianos; Máire Ní Chathasaigh & Chris Newman, Nollaig Casey & Arty McGlynn – Heartstrings; Eileen Ivers; Celtic Fiddle Festival; Goitse; Seamus Kennedy; Patrick Ball; and Ed Miller with Scooter Muse & Jill Chambless, plus John Taylor. Urchin Street – an area dedicated to kids at NTIF – featured performers such as: Hailey Sandoz and Reelin', Lady Amber and Micheal

Lee (US Army QM Corps and Transportation Corps HQ) held this event and the Gordon tent was the hit of the festival. We were most popular with the Marines imbedded at Ft. Lee— maybe the Todds being a Marine Mom and Dad was the reason, but everyone hung out at the Gordon tent and we anticipate a large group this year as well! We also won the bonnie knee contest— but of course we all know that the Gordon men are the best looking! Rounding out May we will be at the Colonial Gathering in Fairhill, MD hosted by the Dover, DE St. Andrew's Society.

Harrison, Heirloom, Arabesque, Don Gabbert, Killavil, John Burleson, Jane McDaniel, and Rickey Pittman. This festival features hundreds of vendors

**HOUSE OF GORDON
ARKANSAS, LOUISIANA,
MISSISSIPPI AND TEXAS –
SPRING FESTIVALS 2012**



We began the festival season this year with a bang at the 30th Annual North Texas Irish Festival at Fair Park in

Marcia Gordon McLaurin at Minden

including both food and wares --- probably almost anything you can imagine! There were approximately 30 clan tents in attendance. The House of Gordon tent had numerous visitors, including both new and current members. We were excited to see everyone! This is a wonderful festival that should not be missed! It is worth the trip!

The weekend of March 31-April 1, 2012, presented the Gulf States House of Gordon with quite a difficult situation. In our four state region there were three different festivals being held. The San Antonio Texas Highland Games is always worth attending but presented a very difficult drive for me from Jackson, MS. The 2nd Annual Scottish Festival, Heritage Celebration, and Birthday Party Honoring General Patrick Cleburne was being held in Cleburne, TX. I have never been to this festival but I have heard that it is a very nice, small festival that most likely could benefit from a House of Gordon representative. The House of Gordon ultimately attended the quaint, small

town, 11th Annual Scottish Tartan Festival held on March 31st in Minden, LA. This festival is held annually on the farm of Alan Cameron, DVM, who raises Scottish cattle. Hay ride tours of the farm were given along with the usual vendors, food, and music. Many old friends and family were in attendance. Much fun was had by all!

For the first time, I attended the 33rd Arkansas Scottish Festival from April 13-15, 2012, on the grounds of Lyon College in Batesville, AR. Many of my friends from other clans attend this festival each year and have spoken highly of it. I now know why. This is one of the most wonderful festivals I have ever attended. First of all, Batesville, AR, is located in the foothills of the Ozark Mountains on the banks of the White River. The setting is beautiful! Lyon College is a very small, private, Presbyterian college with only about 600 students. The college has its own tartan and teaches bag piping! My parents drove to Arkansas with me and on Friday night we attended the

President's reception at the President of the college's residence. This reception was invitation only and included all clan tent hosts. When we arrived we were greeted by four bag pipe players on the front porch who announced our



Marcia Gordon McLaurin's Dad at Arkansas watching a pipe band compete — LOVE their TARTAN!

arrival by playing a tune. Then we were greeted by the President of the college (wearing his Lyon College tartan kilt) at the door. There were abundant hors d'oeuvres and an open bar. We visited with friends on the back deck of the residence. On Saturday the festival opened to the public at 8:00 am and was busy from the start! There were probably about 15 clans in attendance and there was a very competitive best clan tent award to be presented on Saturday afternoon. Next year I will be more prepared! There were at least five pipe bands in attendance and there is a very large individual piping contest at this festival. I took a picture of my father in front of the Wolf River Pipe Band from Memphis during competition as they were wearing Gordon tartan! Unfortunately on Sunday the weather turned for the worse with impending tornados, so everyone packed up and left without having the festival. I know without a doubt we would have had a wonderful second day! Many people were very excited to see a Gordon presence at the festival for the first time! We hope to keep this festival in the schedule for a long time to come!

The next festival will be the Texas Scottish Festival and Highland Games in Arlington, TX on May 4-6, 2012. This festival has been moved from its usual date of the first weekend in June so we are hoping it will be a successful move. After that, expect to see us at Grandfather Mountain for the AGM, Celtic Fest MS in Jackson, MS in September and in Gulfport, MS in November! Then we start all over again!

I need a representative to convene the games for me for the further

western areas of Texas such as Salado in November and San Antonio in March. There are other festivals in that area that I have not been privileged to attend, but I am willing to have someone set up at those festivals as well. Please let me know if you are interested. Marcia McLaurin 601-988-4077 or geemarcia@gmail.com.

NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND

Glenyss O'Halloran, President of the House of Gordon New Zealand writes: Our membership is strong but we have that eternal problem. Trying to get help from members to bolster our small team of usual helpers is really hard going. We are continually asking but as I say in my letter to members, obviously they are afraid to come forward least we are being overwhelmed by offers. Sadly this is not the case.

Wayne (Lawrence, VP HoGNZ,) is progressing following his stroke and making good headway even though it's not as fast as he would like and it is very hard work.

As winter approaches over here we have not got a lot of Clan events on the calendar. Many people head off over to the UK or somewhere warmer to visit family or friends or just take a break.

ANZAC day is 25 April, it is the day we commemorate all our members of the Armed Forces who have served and died over the many years our country has been involved in many crisis around the world. Highland Pipe Bands are an essential part of this day and so many of our House of Gordon members will be involved that way.

THE GORDON DNA PROJECT

WWW.THEGORDONDNAPROJECT.COM

Project Update May 2012
Jim Gordon, Co-Administrator
(Jimgordeo1@gmail.com)

Important Breakthrough in Separating Members in Jock & Tam and Sir William Groups

Most participants in the Project have a haplogroups of either I1* or R1*. Those having the R1* haplogroup generally belong to the Seton-Gordon branch, (although there are some in the smaller groups) while those with the I1* haplogroups were either associated with the Jock & Tam or Sir William groups. Until recently we had no way to distinguish between the two, so unless a member had documentation to the contrary, he was put into the Jock & Tam group. Within the past couple of months, Dr. Wayne Parrott, a Project member and a self-described "traveling genetics professor" told us about a discriminator program that might solve our problem. By recording the results a person with the I Haplogroup, this program would identify into which subgroup the individual belonged. At last, a way to sort out the Jock & Tams and Sir Williams!

When we first started applying this program, we noticed that the first few Jock & Tams fell into what we thought was the "Anglo-Saxon" subgroup and the Sir Williams were in the "Norse" subgroup. The thought occurred "OK, now we've got it knocked." Not so! As we progressed, we found there were at least five "Anglo-Saxon" subgroups and at least four "Norse" subgroups. And then, in addition to the Anglo-

Saxon and Norse subgroups, there is a "Continental," at least three "Isles" groups and at least five what we term "Assorted oddballs" that do not fit in any of the above subgroups, but are in distinct "other" subgroups.

In doing a little surfing of various sites dealing with genetic genealogy, I found the results are not as obvious as they would appear at first glance, so I am enlisting the aid of others more conversant with the subject. In the meantime, we will be reorganizing the Haplogroup I presentations over the next several months.

Dr. Parrott has furnished the following comments:

At this point, the results are a good cross section of the southern Scottish population. I think the points to be made are:

1. Each type probably reflects one founding male. Thus, over the past millennium, several males have adopted the Gordon name.
2. The time to the most recent common ancestor, as per Ken Nordtved's numbers:

	AS1	AS3	AS4	AS10NOR	UN2
AS1	2000				
AS3	3700	2900			
AS4	4300	4200	1000		
AS10	2600	4000	4200	1500	
NOR					
SE	4200	4200	4200	4200	2900
UN2	4200	4200	4200	4200	3000
					1800

The point of these numbers is that the last common ancestor between groups happened long before surnames came

into use. Even within AS1, the last common ancestor could have been 2000 years ago, or more likely (because of historical records), 800 to 1000 years ago (about the time surnames were introduced).

Note that Ken's latest I1 tree no longer recognizes ultraNorse 1 or generics. New classification at <http://knordtvedt.home.bresnan.net/The%201modalities.xls>

As far as the Isles and continentals go, they are I2. I1 and I2 parted ways some 20,000 years ago.

I think at least one person in each group should get tested for a terminal snp:

AS1 - L338

AS3 - Z382

AS4 - none yet; should be DF29+, Z58-, Z63-

AS10 - none yet, should be positive for Z138

Norse - none yet, should be L22+

UN2 - L813

Those of you who fall in the above SNP subclades will be contacted and encouraged to test for the particular subclades as Dr. Parrott has suggested. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact one of us. Our email addresses are on the website.

 NATIONALGEOGRAPHIC.COM



WALL OF HONOR NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME HOME TO OUR MEN IN THE SERVICE!

Welcome Home from Afghanistan to Randy Todd of Louisiana, nephew of David Todd, who served overseas with the US Air Force.

Welcome Home from Iraq to Edward Todd of Texas, son of Stephen Todd, and **Charlie Todd of Mississippi**, nephew of David Todd, both served overseas with the US Army.

Congratulations to Aaron Todd of Virginia, son of David & Lois Todd, on his promotion to Corporal in the US Marine Corps.

Congratulations to Edward Todd of Texas, on his promotion to Corporal in the US Army.

Congratulations to Randy Todd of Louisiana, nephew of David Todd, on earning his Masters of Public Affairs with Honors from American Military University.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

House of Gordon Military Appreciation Cards are available in various styles to those who wish to get one to have signed at their tent and send to their family members serving. Contact Lois Todd at:

webmaster@houseofgordonva.com

Gordon Highlander Statue Dedicated

HRH The Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay, unveiled the new commemorative statue to the Gordon Highlanders on October 15, 2011. The statue stands in Castlegate in Aberdeen. Commissioned by the Aberdeen City Council it was sculpted by Mark Richards FRBS. It is over life size and features two Gordon Highlanders from different eras, the standing figure faces down Union Street where the regiment regularly paraded and the kneeling figure faces the site of the original barracks. Mark Richards writes of the commission:

“This enormously prestigious commission has been an honour to create. For the composition, I set out to visually convey an idea of the historical span of the Regiment. The two soldiers stand and kneel back to back on terrain and are portrayed as if from each end of the Regiment’s historical spectrum.

“They are neither specific people nor officers. Rather the two men are symbols of the spirit of the Regiment, defending us whilst protecting and looking out for each other – brotherhood over the centuries.

“In my treatment of the sculpture, I have explored rhythms of movement within the figures, kit and weaponry to create harmonious linkages that tie the composition together.”

Lieutenant General Sir Peter Graham KCB CBE said: “I would like to express my admiration for this very unique,



wonderful and imposing commemorative statue.

“Both figures are quite excellent and portray the healthy pride, steadfast courage, professionalism and comradeship of our great family Regiment.” At the unveiling he said:

“It is a huge honour to the regiment that the city should fund and erect this commemorative statue to the regiment. All Gordon Highlanders are hugely proud of this very unusual and unique honour in recognition of 200 years of service to the Crown whilst representing the North East of Scotland in the army and we are extremely grateful to Aberdeen City Council.

"It is particularly fitting therefore that the last Colonel-in-Chief of this great regiment should unveil the statue. We are grateful to him for giving up his precious private time to do so."

Below is the speech given by HRH The Duke of Rothesay on the occasion:

"Lord Provost, Gordon Highlanders, Ladies and Gentlemen.

"It means a great deal to me to have been invited to unveil this special statue, which commemorates my old local Regiment and which has been so dear to me over the years. When I was a child in the 1950's, some of my earliest memories were of old Gordon Highlanders who had fought their way through the last war, some of them suffering terribly in Japanese prisoner of war camps, and then found their way back to Balmoral – wonderful characters like Pipe Major Bob Brown, who had been with my Great Grandfather, King George V; Pipe Major Bob Nicol and the heavily be-medalled Robbie Anderson who later became the farm grieve.

"These men formed an important part of my upbringing and so you can perhaps imagine what an enormously proud moment it was when Her Majesty appointed me as Colonel-in-Chief of The Gordon High-

landers in 1977, not only because it was such a famous Highland regiment, with a magnificent reputation, but because it was, literally, a local family regiment in which so many people I knew and looked up to had served. I felt incredibly privileged to have been made part of that family, and still feel so today. As I said at that final, sad and poignant parade in Seaton Park in 1994:

'there will always be a very special place in my heart, which is forever a Gordon'.

"It is wonderful that this project has been supported so enthusiastically by the Lord Provost and the Council of the City of Aberdeen. You have done my old Regiment a great honour and your generous support will ensure that The Gordon Highlanders are kept very much alive in Aberdeen. The Regiment's history, values and unique North Eastern characteristics – indeed its total heritage – have so much to teach both young and old.

"If I may, I would also like to



congratulate you on the location; you have chosen a splendidly appropriate site. Castlehill Barracks stood just behind the nearby Citadel and was the Depot of the Gordon Highlanders from 1872 until 1935, when it moved down King Street to Gordon Barracks, Bridge of Don. Union Street is a street the Regiment marched down many times, with bayonets fixed, Colours flying and Pipes and Drums playing, to exercise their Freedom of the City.

“Statues are not simply decorative. The remind us of a city’s history, heritage and its greatest citizens. Today we have ensured a permanent memorial to all those who served in The Gordon Highlanders between 1794 and 1994, while at the same time commemorating the gallant deeds and famous reputation of the Regiment. This statue, which I now take so much pride in unveiling, stands in the heart of the North East – the very area the Regiment came from and represented magnificently for two hundred years.”

The Regimental cap badge is shown within the inscription on the front

panel of the statue’s base.

On one long side is the crest of the 75th Stirling Regiment with whom the Gordons were amalgamated in the 1880’s.

On the other long side is the crest of the original Gordon Highlanders, the 92nd. This badge features Egypt, one of the Gordon’s earliest campaigns.

Beneath the Churchill quotation is the Regimental crossbelt badge which features imagery from the Regimental

cap badge, 92nd crest and India campaign.

Smart technology is built in with a smartcode you can



scan with your smart phone to view a webpage with information on the statue and regiment!



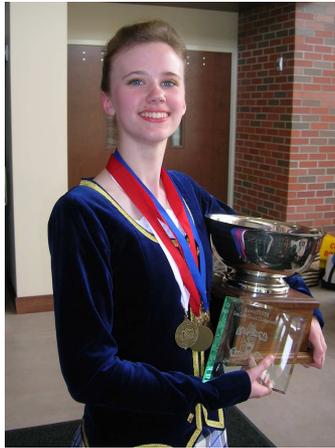
Charles O. Gordon Scholarship

I would like to express my sincerest gratitude for the 2011 Charles O. Gordon Memorial Scholarship. With your generous assistance, I was able to attend the Ohio Scottish Arts School (OSAS), a week-long dance workshop in June, where I studied Highland dance technique under master instructors and pursued an intensive Highland theory course in preparation for my Fellows exam. At the end of the week, I was thrilled to be awarded the Betty Lawrence scholarship for student leadership and dedication to teaching Highland dancing. This is a coveted honor because Mrs. Lawrence, a staunch advocate of dancers continuing their education to become teachers and judges, is one of the country's most respected and revered proponents of Highland dance.

In August, I flew to Spokane, Washington to represent the Midwest region in the US Highland Dance Championship. My lessons from OSAS served me well, for I took my Fellows exam while in Washington and passed Highly Commended. I was also honored to receive the Eunice Baird Whittlesey Memorial Scholarship, which is awarded to a college-age Highland dancer who has devoted years of her life to the pursuit of the art form.

In April 2012, I will graduate from Alma College, a small Scottish liberal-arts school where I am completing an

English major and French minor. Throughout college, I have remained involved in Highland dance in numerous ways, including regular dance classes at the Mid-Michigan Highland Dance Academy, competitions, Highland dance independent studies taken through the college, and frequent performances with the Kiltie Dancers, Alma's Highland dance troupe. Recently we were thrilled to perform original choreography with the world-famous Celtic musician Alasdair Fraser. Last semester, I co-founded the Alma College Scottish Arts Society, of which I am honored to be Vice-President. Our goal is to spread awareness of Alma's Scottish heritage among both the student community and the general public. After graduation, I intend to remain highly involved in Highland dance. In addition to actively competing, I plan to take my Judges exam this fall and eventually form a



dance studio of my own to pass on my love of the Scottish traditions to another generation of dancers.

Last summer was definitely an outstanding season in my Highland dancing career, and it is due to your help that I was able to achieve all I could. Thank you for your assistance in my Highland endeavors. Your support is truly appreciated.

Regards,

Maria E Taylor



Jonathan & Hannah Wolff of Huntersville, NC are the joint recipients of the first Charles O. Gordon Memorial Scholarship for 2012.

Jonathan and Hannah, 16 and 18 year-old siblings, are dancers with the Charlotte Scottish Country Dance Society and members of the Royal Scottish Dance Society. Both are dedicated to their Scottish heritage and to the preservation of the Scottish Country Dance art form. They have been integral in bringing young people and their families into the Charlotte program. They have grown in their knowledge of their heritage as well as the dance, and Hannah will be working on earning her teacher's Certificate this summer. It is our pleasure to assist these two in their quest to better their art and attend the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society summer school in St. Andrews this summer.



Isabelle Young of Waxhaw, NC is the recipient of the second Charles O. Gordon Memorial Scholarship for 2012.

Isabelle, a 17 year-old Scottish and Irish Fiddler with the Ceilidh Players, started violin lessons at age eleven and has applied her classical training to her studies of Celtic music, and likewise finds that the techniques she employs in Celtic music help enormously in her classical music with the Union Symphony Youth Orchestra. We wish her all the best in her studies at Berklee College of Music in Boston.

Azure Davis of Richmond, VA is the recipient of a \$250.00 Charles O. Gordon Scholarship in 2012.

She is an academically gifted student and exhibits the drive to be successful in all she does. Her love of the dance is evident in her hard work and dedication as she strives to perfect the movements of each dance to make her performance crisper. She is always willing to help other dancers master a difficult technique, and it is this combination of hard work, dedication and esprit de corps which has made her a winning competitor.

We will also award \$250.00 and a trophy to the Grade 4 Junior Piper of the Day at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in July.



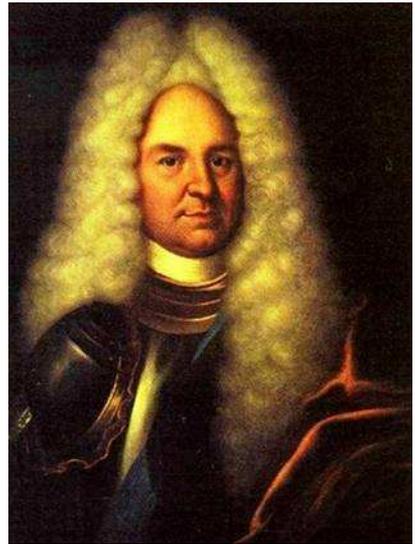
The Gordon Influence on Russian History

Many people know that Russia began her move into modern European spheres with Tsar Peter I (Peter the Great) and continued her journey of military modernization in the reign of his wife Tsarina Catherine I. What many do not know is how much influence the Gordon Clan had on that military modernization. The story actually begins earlier than Peter though with Alexis I, father of Peter, and continued through Peter's brother Fyodor III. Fyodor brought forward many reforms mainly for the benefit of the church and education, but one notable military reform was the abolishment of the system of *mestnichestvo*, or place priority which for generations had paralyzed the civil and military administrations. This allowed for advancement based on merit rather than inheriting positions of administration and military rank.

Scots were well known for their military prowess as mercenary soldiers, and Tsar Alexis I made use of them well. There were many Scotsmen in his army, including at least six Gordons early on who were recruited into service by Alexander Leslie of Auchintoul.

Alexander Gordon in 1632 was commissioned a Captain, regimental quartermaster and company commander under Alexander Leslie, and fought in the Smolensk war as colonel of dragoons 1633-4. His clansmen and comrades-in-arms were Capt. William Gordon, Ruitmaster Robert Gordon, Ensign Alexander Gordon, Sergeant James Gordon and Private Thomas Gordon. These were the six Gordon clansmen in Russian

service when Patrick Gordon of Auchleuchries who had just left the Polish service was convinced by the Russian ambassador to enter the Muscovite Army. He travelled to Moscow with Col. Crawford, who had been a prisoner of Colonel Lord Henry Gordon who released him with a pass for a captain of horse, and also with fellow Aberdonian, Captain Paul Menzies.



General Patrick Gordon

Patrick brought with him to Moscow in September of 1661 a rare library of books by ancient authors on the art of war, books that much later Tsar Peter would later devour in his quest to modernize the Russian military. On his arrival he was brought before Tsar Alexis who first thanked him for his kindness to Russian prisoners in Poland and then put him through a careful examination. All foreign officers applying for service in the Tsar's army were thoroughly questioned and examined before being

admitted to the ranks. The tsar's father-in-law, the boyar, Elia Danielovich Miloslavski, then took him to a field and ordered him to demonstrate his abilities with pike and gun, which Gordon did not feel was proper in an officer and said:

"that if I had known of this, I should have brought forth one of my boys, who perhaps could handle arms better as I myself; adding, that it was the least part of an officer to know how to handle arms, conduct being the most material. Whereat, he, taking me up short, told me, that the best colonel coming into this country must do so; to which I replied, Seeing it is the fashion, I am content. And so having handled the pike and musket, with all their postures, to his great satisfaction, I returned."

After Gordon was subjected to several tests including fencing, marksmanship, and combat strategy, the Tsar accepted him into his service and immediately gave the rank of Major and the Russian name and patronymic of Pyotr Ivanovich; this was an unexpected and unheard of gesture on behalf of the Tsar, as most foreigners entered the army as mere privates. Major Gordon worked his way through the ranks, becoming a colonel in 1664. In 1666-7 he was sent on a diplomatic mission from Moscow to London, went to Scotland 1669-70 (when made Freeman of Aberdeen), and was commanding his own garrison in the Ukraine from 1670 to 1677. He especially distinguished himself in the Russian-Turkish War of 1677-1678 and was promoted to Major-General for his bravery and victorious missions. Gordon was now the only

foreigner in the Russian army to hold the rank of General.

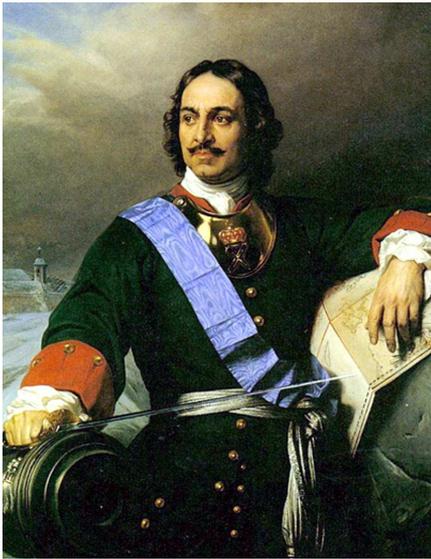
At this point, Patrick found himself in the unique position to influence Russian history like no other person could. Upon the death of Fyodor III in 1682, the physically weak and mentally unstable 16 year-old Ivan and 10 year-old Peter were left as co-heirs to the throne and were in fact made co-tsars. Sophia, elder sister of Ivan and half sister of Peter, engineered a bloody coup with the help of the Streltsy (an army unit) to install herself on the throne as regent of Russia until power could be passed to Ivan. Sofia's aim was to keep Peter from the throne at all costs, and several members of Peter's family were killed in front of the young prince at the hands of the Streltsy. She was fearful and mistrustful of all things European and went so far at one point as to relieve Gordon of his command, only to have to quickly reinstate him or risk an uprising within the army. It was in-between two unsuccessful Crimean campaigns that Gordon and Peter first met. On September 17, 1688, Peter visited Gordon's home in the German Quarter for the first time. Gordon was impressed with the young teen's ambition and thirst for learning as the young prince waited for his moment to take the crown from his half-sister. The Scotsman became Peter's mentor and tutor in artillery, fortification, and other military disciplines, and forged a lifelong friendship.

In the summer of 1689, as Peter turned 17 and inherited his right to the throne, Sofia contrived another secret pact with the Streltsy to kill Peter, liquidate the German Quarter, exterminate foreigners in positions of power and

reorganize the army to be loyal only to Sofia. Peter got word of the bloody plans and fled to the Troitse-Sergiev Monastery for protection. In September of that year, Gordon mobilized his regulars and marched with them to the Monastery as well in support of Peter. Gordon's actions effectively left Sofia without any military support, and Sofia was forced to flee to the Novodevichy Monastery. Gordon's actions placed him in the circle of the Tsar's most trusted advisors; he supervised creation of Tsar's Life Guard regiments and initiated military reforms, and was instrumental in all of Peter's army reforms. In 1695-6 he was active in the siege and capture of Azov from the Turks, and his movable rampart was key in that victory.

planned to coincide with his absence in an attempt to restore Sofia to the throne.

On June 6th, while Peter was in Europe, the Streltsy garrisons stationed in Velikiye Luki (near what is now modern day Pskov) marched on Moscow. Gordon had been aware of the situation brewing for months, and chronicled the events and his correspondence with Peter right up to the defeat of the Streltsy outside Moscow on June 18th. Gordon made numerous attempts to convince the Streltsy to surrender, warning them of dire consequences. His efforts, however, were in vain:



Tsar Peter I — Peter the Great

Peter trusted Gordon so much that the Scotsman was essentially left in charge of Moscow during Peter's Grand Embassy to Europe. However, Peter's travels would be cut short by yet another Streltsy uprising, carefully

"When I told them that they would not be permitted to go to Moscow, and that they must not think of it, they replied that they would rather die than not get to Moscow...I then intimated that ...if they did not embrace the gracious offers of His Majesty now, they needed not expect such conditions again, when once we should be obliged to use compulsion to bring them to obedience...Finding no alteration of their mind, I took my departure with an indication of sorrow...I sent yet another [officer] to demand a categorical decision. But they rejected all proposals of compromise, and boasted that they were as ready to defend themselves by force as we were to attack. Seeing

that all hope of their submission was vain, I made a round of the cannon be fired..."

Gordon's troops routed the Streltsy in short order, and when the fighting was over, the remaining Streltsy were rounded up, questioned, and the leaders of the insurrection executed;

"Twenty-four individuals were found guilty, on their own confession, of the most shocking crimes, and of having designed, when they got to Moscow, to massacre certain Boyars, and to extort an increase of pay, and a new regulation of their services. On these we pronounced sentence of death, to consist in beheading. They were confined apart, and directed to confess, receive the Eucharist, and prepare for death."

Peter hastily returned to Russia, commended Gordon for his service and disbanded the Streltsy, but this was Gordon's last battle for the Tsar who he had kept on the throne through two uprisings. He continued in his service until he fell ill in November of 1699. Peter attended to him personally on his deathbed and held him as he died closing Patrick's eyes with his own hands. Peter made sure that Gordon was buried in accordance with his Catholic faith in the first Roman Catholic Church in Russia, built with the permission Gordon had obtained from Peter in 1694. Gordon's diaries are considered national treasures and are housed in the Kremlin. They give insight into Peter's reign and character from a personal and secular

perspective not found in official Russian contemporary histories that were written mainly from an ecclesiastical viewpoint. It's six volumes are considered one of the preeminent and most reliable sources of the time.

Several of Patrick Gordon's sons and kinsmen joined service in Russia under his sponsorship, some returned to Scotland and others remained in Russia for their lifetime. The following list outlines the influence of some of them.

His eldest son John (1666 or 7, Moscow- 1712, Scotland). Started as an ensign in the Russian army. He never finished his studies at Douai and Edinburgh and later managed the family estate of Auchleuchries near Ellon. He visited Moscow with his wife in 1698.

James, Patrick's second son, (1668-1722, Moscow) entered the Tsar's army as an ensign, and studied at Memel and Douai. In 1689 he was badly wounded at Killiekrankie. 1690 he came back to Moscow, and took up service as a Captain in his father's Butyrsky regiment which he later commanded. In 1700 James was captured by Swedes at Narva, but soon escaped and fought in many battles of the Great Northern War. He became a Brigadier General and Count of the Holy Roman Empire.

Patrick's third son, Theodore (1681, Kiev-1739) was a student with Jesuits in Eastern Prussia, and then an ensign in father's regiment. During the Great Northern War he was promoted to colonel. His son, an interpreter at the Admiralty College and Academy of Sciences, sold Patrick's diary to Count Stroganovin 1759.

William Gordon (+1692,Reval), Patrick's cousin, and nephew of fellow Aberdonian Paul Menzies, was in Russian service by 1685 and served as captain in Kiev. William fell ill and died en route to Scotland.

Harie (Harry) Gordon, another Jacobite relative of Patrick came to Moscow in 1691 on the Duke of Gordon's recommendation and joined Russian army as a captain.

In 1700 **Lt.-Col. Andrey Gordon** was taken by Swedes at Narva, but escaped with a party of Russian prisoners who captured the ship transporting them from Stockholm to Gothenburg in 1711. He married a sister of Patrick's second wife.

Alexander 0 Gordon, younger brother of Thomas Gordon, Captain of "Royal Mary", Aberdeen (later Russian admiral) came to Moscow in 1691 to stay with their cousin, Patrick. Later he became an ensign and moved up the ranks. In 1710 Thomas, son of Capt. Alexander Gordon was baptized in British Chapel, Moscow.

Alexander Gordon (1669, Auchintoul-1752) after spending some time in the French army came to Russia in 1695 and was accepted as a major, and promoted in 1697 to colonel. In 1700 he was wounded and seized by the Swedes at Narva, but exchanged 1707. In 1708 he was promoted to Major-General, sent to Poland in command of Russian infantry corps which he thought "nothing inferior to the best disciplined troops in Europe". He was back in Scotland on his father's death in 1711. "Out" in 1715, he commanded the Jacobite center at Sheriffmuir. Married Katherine, daughter of Patrick Gordon and wrote



Admiral Thomas Gordon

"History of Peter the Great, Emperor of Russia", 2 vols., Aberdeen, 1755.

George Gordon was a lieutenant in the 1690's in Russia. And there was a Russian Major Gordon killed near Plotsk late in 1705.

Thomas Gordon (1662-1741, Kronshtadt) was a cousin of Patrick Gordon and Captain of merchant vessels in Aberdeen, then in Scottish Navy, he was considered a hero in Scotland for his capture of many privateers. In 1715 he took part in the Jacobite rising. In 1717 he entered Russian service as a commodore and captain of the *Katherine*, promoted in 1719 to Rear Admiral of the Red. He was a member of the Admiralty College and co-author of "Naval Statute of 1720" which remained the basic charter of the Imperial Russian Navy until technological advances in the nineteenth century rendered it

obsolete. In 1721 he was promoted to Vice-Admiral of the Red and took command of a squadron of about fourteen ships of the line in the Baltic. He commanded the port of Kronshtadt from 1724 until his death in 1741 and was made a knight of St. Alexander Nevsky. In 1727 he was made full admiral. In 1734 he led a Russian squadron in conquest of Danzig. His son William was a naval officer and daughter Ann married Sir Henry Stirling, Bart., and another daughter married William Elmsal of St. Petersburg. Kronshtadt owes everything to Thomas Gordon who is considered one of the founders of the Russian Navy along with Peter the Great who relied much on his expertise and advise.

Alexander Gordon (+ 1739), son of the Jacobite John Gordon of Glenbuchat joined the Russian Navy in 1737 as a midshipman. He was killed in the Russo-Turkish war

William Gordon (+1768, Russia) joined Russian Navy in 1768 as a lieutenant with S. Qirejg and other Scots.

Henry Gordon came to St. Petersburg in 1784 as C. Cameron's master stonemason, aged 45.

George Hamilton Gordon 4th Earl of Aberdeen (1784-1860) visited Russia in 1804 on return from Greece and Asia Minor. He was the British foreign minister and premier, and in 1844 met Emperor Nicholas I in London. He resigned after the outbreak of the Crimean War. He helped to publish part of his kinsman, Patrick Gordon's diary.

The House of Gordon Russia was established in 2010 to ensure the Gordon legacy won't be forgotten.

Flowers of the Forest



Frank Blair Moore of Knoxville, TN, formerly of Johnson City, passed away suddenly Monday afternoon, April 23, 2012 at his

home. Frank was a member of the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection in Loudon. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Joan Moore.

He formerly owned and operated the Hungarian Pavilion at the 1982 World's Fair, Lee Hi Grill and Sports and Sorts in Lenoir City. He catered many U T events, many events at the Episcopal Churches (one of Frank's favorites was the Paper Bag Pageant, for adults from local group homes), Grace Point Camp and Retreat Center, Boys and Girls Clubs and the 4-H Club. He was an avid gardener, loved children, animals and was known for his fun loving spirit. Frank was a loving husband, father and grandfather.

*We' ll hae nae mair liltinꝯ,
at the fowwe- miltinꝯ,*

*Women and bairns are
dowie and wae.*

*Sighinꝯ and moaninꝯ, on
ilka green loaninꝯ,*

*The flowers of the forest
are all weede awaꝯ.*

AGM Agenda

- Call to Order
- Reading of the Chief's Greeting
- Reading and approval of the 2011 AGM Minutes
- Reports:
 - President's Report by Roger Mills on the progress made since last October regarding goals set out at the AGM in 2011.
 - Treasurer's Report on the funds received, paid-out and financial state of the organization.
 - Membership Report
 - Convener's Chair Report by John Lowry
 - Communications Chair Report
- Items of Business:
 - Discussion of Scottish Charity
 - Discussion of DNA Project Funding
 - Discussion of AGM Venue 2013
 - Discussion of Goals for 2013
 - Call for any other new business to be discussed and motions to their disposition as it may pertain.

- Meeting Adjourned.

AGM PICNIC

The AGM Saturday Night Picnic will return to Valle Crucis Community Park.



Set in a community park pavilion, the AGM Picnic will get you off the mountain for a pleasant get-together.



AGM Proxy

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Scottish Charity, Gordon DNA Fund, 2013 AGM Venue
2. To discuss the Charles O. Gordon Scholarship Program
3. To discuss such other business as may properly come before the meeting

VOTING BY PROXY Please submit the Proxy as soon as possible so that your opinions may be voiced at the meeting in accordance with your instructions. The Proxy must be received by July 3, 2012 at the address shown below. You may submit your Proxy (1) by mail, or (2) over the internet (by attaching a signed pdf Proxy to secretary@houseofgordonusa.org).

I, _____ being a member in good standing of the **House of Gordon USA**, do hereby waive my right to appear in person at the AGM, scheduled for July 14, 2010, and further grant a proxy to _____ (If no individual named, I grant my proxy to the executive board) to vote on my behalf on such matters as may be required.

1. I instruct my Proxy to use their best judgment on all matters which properly come before the membership at the AGM.
2. I instruct my proxy to bring forward the following business before the membership for consideration:

This Proxy must be signed and received by July 3, 2012.

Date _____

Signature _____

Membership Number (if known) _____

Mail to: House of Gordon USA 1811 Aeronca Ave. Henrico, VA 23228

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FOR A LIST OF STATE AND AREA CONVENERS PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT houseofgordonusa.org/divisions.html





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