

# ***IN THE HOUSE!***

House of Gordon USA Newsletter Annual Edition

Volume 8 Issue 2

May 2014



## **Gordon of Khartoum**

*“A world with no room for the Gordons, is a world that will return to the sands.”*

- > **Gordons of Kilrea, Ireland**
- > **Bylaws Revisions**

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Articles and other materials appropriate for publication are encouraged. All matter 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 1 July.  
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 Please visit our website: [houseofgordonusa.org](http://houseofgordonusa.org) for further information.

# Message From The Chief!



Perhaps we may be forgiven, on listening to daily news bulletins, if we reflect on how fortunate we are to live here in Scotland in 2014. Of course we would love to see a resolution to the fighting and unrest in the wider world and help other people learn to live in harmony. Learn to develop respect for their differences and find a formula for co-existence. It may happen one day but one senses it is an awfully long way off.

I must be careful not to be controversial and not to be political. It is difficult sometimes if one wants to say something meaningful not to tread on someone's toes but highland chief's used to rule with a strong arm and feared no one. No longer! So how can I say to you today that we should be grateful for living in the Scotland we know and love? Be grateful for peace in our society. It wasn't always like this - Scotland had its fair share of battles; the people their fair share of differences but we put these things aside as civilisation taught us to know better.

If we take the trouble to teach our children anything, particularly at this time, surely it is the need to look at the wider world, not with contempt, but with sympathy and resolve that we will respect each other for all our differences and live together in harmony. I often think the clan system does that today. Scotsmen all over the world welcome each other regardless of their tartan, their religion or their political differences. What an incredible example for anyone who cares to notice.

I just want to add how excited I am to learn of all the progress within House of Gordon USA. Membership is rising again and office bearers are coming forward to support us all. It would be so good to come back perhaps next year and meet many new faces and have the opportunity to say thank you to so many of you. Lois is doing such a tremendous job as our president - I couldn't be more grateful.

Yours,

BYDAND

Huntly



## President's Message



Spring has been slow in coming this year. We have had a bit of a weather roller-coaster ride with snow and well

below freezing temperatures one day and a few days later 70 degree sunshine, only to repeat the pattern over again and again. I am so looking forward to getting out to the highland games and the Gordon tent and celebrating spring with my friends and family. I wish I could say I am as ready to jump into the festival season as I feel, but I am getting a slower start than usual thanks to my truck engine dying. Getting the needed repairs has been slower than I would have liked, but soon that will be all in the past and in the meantime I have to say we are blessed to have many willing hands to jump in and help out. Thanks to Jerry Vandenberg, Jackie Gordon, Frank & Diane Gordon, and Geof Baker for agreeing to help cover the games this spring.

This winter the board has been at work to get things moving. Our very capable VP, Evan Rose of Oakland, CA., has been hard at work with his Bylaws revision committee. Evan, John Lowry, Bonnie and Keith Linse have done a lot of work to ensure that our Bylaws will work for us as originally intended. The majority of the changes are strictly ones to clarify the meaning and to streamline topics so that there would not be seemingly conflicting information caused by redundancy or information on the same topic being split into two or more sections causing

confusion. There are a few new items, such as the appendix regulating conflict of interest which was included to keep us within the guidelines set forth by the IRS. The revised Bylaws are published here beginning on page 39.

Due to the Bylaws revision being the main item of business at the AGM it is very important that we have as many of our members in good standing as possible return the proxy. We have included the proxy ballot as a separate sheet printed on yellow and we have included a return envelope. Please take a few minutes to fill out the proxy and return it even if you think you will be at the AGM. The proxy is voided by your attendance at the AGM, but if for some reason you cannot make the AGM your vote will still count.

Membership is again growing. I am happy to see some old time members that had left the House are returning and renewing their memberships. We are seeing new members coming to the House as well including some who have found us through our House of Gordon USA Facebook Group and the Gordon DNA Project! Florida just finished up their festival season... unlike the rest of us they begin in January and end in April. Cynthia Gordon Patrick took on the convener position this year and has done a fabulous job with her daughters and granddaughter helping out! Florida membership is growing and with this dynamic group of ladies I am sure the Florida Gordons are in good hands for many years to come!

I have been busy too and you can read more on that in the DNA Project Update on page 14!

# What's Happening In The House!

## Welcome to the Clan to our newest Wee Gordons!



Congratulations to Shane and Jennifer Koehn Gordon on the birth of their very handsome twin boys **Easton Trace Gordon and Jase Austin Gordon** born on the 29th of November 2013 in McPherson, KS. This is the first set of twins in Shane's direct line of Gordons!

Congratulations to Ben & Bridget Gordon on the birth of their son, **Kolton Alexander Gordon** born Dec 12, 2013 in Maine! Proud Grandpa Merle reports we have another Gordon ready to report for duty! (pictured right.)



Congratulations to Charlie & Ashley Todd on the birth of their daughter **Sophia Jane Todd** on March 20, 2014 in Mississippi. (pictured left)

Congratulations to Ryan & Katie Todd on the birth of their son, **Greyson Kaneku'oko'a Todd**, born March 26, 2014 in Utah! (pictured right.)



Charlie and Ryan are brothers. Their older brother Randy just returned from his second tour of duty in Afghanistan with the USAF.

## FLORIDA KICKS OFF THE FESTIVAL SEASON AND SETS THE BAR HIGH FOR ALL OF US!

Our 2014 season started off on the third weekend in January with the Central Florida Scottish Highland Games in Winter Springs just outside of Orlando. It's a big 2-day event that always gets a lot of traffic and this year was no exception. Joshua Catron and his wife Ursula were there with the Medieval



Camp and stopped by to spend some time with us. Welcome to them as new members!



We had a WWI Gordon Highlander reenactor join us looking nicely turned out in his Gordon tartan and khaki blouse...and the Gordon Musketeers joined us too!

Here I am with my sister, Bethany Gordon and my brother, Heath Gordon (below) who came from Colorado to go to the games with us this year.



We always have a lot of people marching with us in the Parade of Tartans, Amanda Gordon from Sanford and her brother Matt (below left) joined us this year.

Two weeks later we were at the Sarasota Highland Games. We met Robert Miccoly, (below center) a Drum Major with the Braden River Pipers. Welcome to Robert as a new member too! After not having a House of Gordon tent the past few years in Sarasota we got a very warm reception and it was great to meet new Gordons!





On February 22<sup>nd</sup> we got up at 3:30 AM to get to the NE Florida Scottish Games and Festival in Green Cove Springs just outside of Jacksonville. The morning was kind of slow. We met Richard Gordon and his Gordon Setter, Fyvie (below right) and they both walked with us in the Parade of Tartans, then they walked again in the Scottish Dog Parade along with Kate Gordon and her Westie, Torin.

After the Parade of Tartans it got really busy - the House of Gordon tent was crowded. I didn't even get to greet a lot of people, thank goodness my girls were there to help out! We heard a lot of "I've been coming here for years and this is the first time the House of Gordon has been here!" A lot of Gordons were proudly showing their tartans! We also had two competitors at these games and new House of Gordon members - Michael Adkins and Randall Adkison.

The next weekend on March 1<sup>st</sup> we were down in Ft. Lauderdale for the SE Florida Scottish Festival and Highland Games. We met Mary Jo and Jack McQuestion and their daughters, and some wandering Virginia Gordons, Heather & David Gauthier, and Geof & Beverly Baker. Geof is our Convener Coordinator and helped out at the tent.

We had a good size crowd of Gordons in the Parade of Tartans and a lot stopped by the tent afterwards, including new member Brett Gordon of Arboye (right) who also marched with us in the Parade of Tartans. We grabbed him (figuratively speaking of course) as he walked by in his Ancient Red Gordon kilt!



Our final game before the long, hot summer was Dunedin on April 5<sup>th</sup>!

~ Cynthia Gordon Patrick



## **ARIZONA GORDONS ARE ALIVE AND WELL!**

The House of Gordon Arizona members came on like gang busters for the 50<sup>th</sup> Arizona Scottish Gathering and Highland Game in Phoenix, AZ. We had 39 Clan members sign in on our register and lots more family members were along to see their heritage tent and get acquainted with myself and faithful dog Rocky the Brittany.

I want to thank each of our Clansmen for the great fellowship and help at the tent. **We now have a Clan Piper; Jim Hartman** has graciously offered to Pipe at the Clan Tent during the games and maybe at a Ceilidh after a day at the games.

Hope to see all at the Prescott, Flagstaff and Tucson games...Fun will be had by all. ~ Tom Gardenhire

Many thanks to Tom who has recently taken on the duties of AZ Convener and SW Newsletter editor. He sent along the following news from the Southwest Division!

### SW NEWS

**Senior Mackenzie Lowry**, daughter of Bill and Shannan Lowry and Granddaughter of John and Nellie Lowry was considerably excited when she learned that she had won the Ventura County Farm to School Logo Contest. Mackenzie's design will be used as the logo for Ventura County Farm to School, a program that brings farmers and school district officials together to help provide students with local produce. The group motivates children to make healthier decisions and buy local produce whenever possible. The design was unveiled at

the Ventura Unified School District

Board Meeting on Jan. 28. She was presented with a \$250 check and her design will be used as the company's logo on an array of products such as Ventura County Farm To School menus, newsletters, and aprons. "Her design was simple, easy to read, it could be blown up and shrunk down [...] and it reflected on the goals of the schools," Nutrition Educator Kay Clark said.

**CONGRATULATIONS Mackenzie!**

### FUN IN THE SUN HAWAIIAN STYLE!

Donald Barnes is our convener in Hawaii and is always set to have a good time, and this year's tartan day was fun in the sun at McCoy Pavilion at Ala Moana Beach Park, Honolulu.



Don Barnes at the Hawaiian Scottish Festival



Photo courtesy of Bill Lowry.

## TEXAS HAVING FUN!

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual North Texas Irish Festival was held from Friday, February 28, 2014 to Sunday, March 30, 2014 at Fair Park in Dallas, Texas. The theme this year was Irish Dogs – “Erin Go Bark”. There was an entire building dedicated to more than 25 animal rescue groups and it was a big hit, there was even a giant Schnauzer dressed in a Gordon tartan kilt!

Headline performers were on 9 Stages! There were too many to name! Then there were the storytellers, workshops, dancers, and chefs demonstrations. Spirit of the Celtic Horse, Highland Horses School of Riding, Dallas Mounted Police and Hunt County Sheriff's Posse were featured.

There were over 170 vendors and 30 clans. We were set-up with a village atmosphere. I had many clan members and friends stop by the tent to help and to renew their membership. No new members this year but had several people interested. A great time was had on Saturday with 70 degree weather. However on Sunday morning we awoke to sleet, freezing rain and snow. Unfortunately we had to pack up

and leave without setting up the tent. We made it home in the sleet right before the interstate was closed to traffic! Whew!

## WALL OF HONOR NEWS

**Welcome home from deployment to Afghanistan Capt Randy Todd, USAF of California!** Below: Randy enjoying time with his son, Luke, back in the USA!



**Welcome back LT Col Jimmey Todd, USAR, of Virginia!**



With their arrival home we have to report the deployment of **Corporal Aaron Todd, USMC of Virginia to Afghanistan.** Aaron will be overseas until

late this year. He says life is eat, sleep, work, work-out; he has started to receive our letters, and is looking forward to the care packages because he is getting skinnier!

Mid-Atlantic gathered some items and sent several care packages overseas this past fall to support our men, and will continue this spring to support Aaron and his unit on their deployment.



Jim & Amy Drouillard with Marcia

Thanks to Stewart Riggat who also sent packages overseas with some of his realtor colleagues. These care packages are greatly appreciated by those who received them.

We also have military appreciation cards available. If anyone is willing to have a card at the Gordon tent to be signed and sent to Aaron's unit, please contact Lois for the APO address and the file to print the card.



# Flowers of the Forest



**Mauricio González-Gordon, Marquis of Bonanza died 27 September 2013, aged 89** just short of his

90th birthday.

Descended from lairds of the Clan Gordon, and one of Spain's oldest noble families, best-known in recent times for producing González Byass sherry, including the popular Tío Pepe. He spent his life at the historic family firm, making, tasting and marketing sherry and also brandies and white, red and rosé wines, and created Spain's first centre for vine and wine research.

He was the driving force behind preserving a massive area of woodland and wildlife on his family's estate which the dictator Francisco Franco had earmarked for building development. He dissuaded Franco, at some danger to his person, and the area is now the highly popular, 540 square kilometer Doñana National Park, north-west of Jerez, a Unesco World Heritage

Centre with a biodiversity unique in Europe.

He founded the Spanish Ornithological Society (SEO in Spanish) in 1954, now known as SEO/Birdlife and a branch of Cambridge-based BirdLife International.

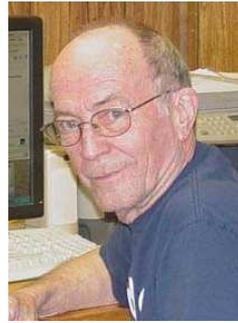
Although he was very much Spanish, he was proud of his Scottish connections in the Huntly area of Aberdeenshire, where he was considered one of the "Spanish Gordons".



**Charles Grant Gordon, Life President of William Grant & Sons, died in New York on December 21, 2013, aged 86,** surrounded by his family after

a short illness. Affectionately called Charlie, he was known throughout the distillery business for his innovative contributions to the industry over his six decade long tenure on the board of directors for his family's company. He

and his brother Sandy oversaw the expansion of the company and the introduction to the world of Grants, Balvenie, & Glenfiddich the number one single malt whisky in the world. He was the first to keep coppersmiths and coopers on hand to see to the care and maintenance of the stills and barrels that are so vital. Memorial services were held in February in New York and Glasgow. The House of Gordon USA extends our deepest condolences to his family, friends and co-workers.



top 40 hits as a disc jockey at KXOL, KLIF, KFJZ and other radio stations. He spent more than a decade in graphics departments at local exhibit houses before

retiring from a career in t-shirt silk screening.



Our condolences to David Todd of Virginia on the passing of his aunt, **Alice Todd Braithwaite**, aged 97, on January 1, 2014, in Cedar City,

Utah. Alice was born on October 13, 1916 in Talmage, Utah to Douglas and Margaret Todd, in a two-room log cabin built by her father, a homesteader in the Uintah Basin. Alice was an accomplished educator, a person with wide interests, and had a persevering energy faithful to her pioneer roots. She taught first grade for twenty-two years at North Elementary in Cedar City, touching the lives of more than 600 students. She served in many civic callings, including as the president of the Valley View Hospital Board, and as a member of the BYU Alumni Board, Cedar City Library Board, Cedar City Music Arts, and the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers.



The House of Gordon USA sent this spray of all yellow and blue flowers with ivy and other greens in remembrance of our past president, Lucretia Gordon. (We thought you would like to see it...we didn't have the photo in time for the Dec. Newsletter.)

Our condolences to Mary Joe Gordon McQuestion on the passing of her nephew, **Howard Wayne "Skeeter" Gordon** on March 12, 2014 in Fort Worth, TX. For 29 years, Skeeter spun

*"O fickle fortune!  
Why this cruel sportin?  
Oh! Why thus perplex  
Us poor sons of a day?  
Thy frown canna fear me,  
Thy smile canno cheer me,  
Since the flowers o' the forest  
Are a' wede away."*

# Charles O. Gordon Memorial Scholarship



Congratulations to our Charles O. Gordon Scholarship recipients for 2014, Miss Emma Schiff of Oak Park, CA, and Mr. Nicholas Shropshire of Rockville, MD. We also would like to congratulate Ms. Rachel Noorda of Utah who is the recipient of a special Scholarship Award given in memory of our past president, Lucretia Gordon.

Emma Schiff is a fourteen year-old highland dancer who has demonstrated incredible drive, determination and commitment to developing and honing her talent. She has achieved several US Championship titles and has qualified for and competed at the World Championships in Cowal, Scotland where she achieved individual rankings. Her goal this year is earn a designation in the Top Five Overall Juvenile World Ranking. We are happy to award Emma with a \$400.00 Scholarship .



Nicholas Shropshire is a fourteen year-old drummer with the Rockville High School Pipe Band where he serves as the Drum Sergeant. He currently is writing new drum scores for their medley, and hopes to earn a spot with the City of Washington Pipes and Drums. He has attended several workshops to improve his skills and this year wishes to attend the National Piping Centre's (of Glasgow) Winchester, VA Summer School (that our own Dr. Jim Gordon was instrumental in organizing.) We were particularly impressed that his goal is not only to improve his own drumming, but to take the knowledge he gains back to his drum corps in Rockville and pass it along to benefit the whole group.

We are happy to award Nicholas with a \$300.00 scholarship .



Rachel Chase Noorda is a young member of the House of Gordon USA from Highland, Utah who is currently studying abroad in Scotland working on her PhD and will use this scholarship award toward her studies in the Gaelic language. We are happy to award her \$500.00 toward her goals and we are particularly pleased to have someone who is working to further her studies of Scottish history and culture be the recipient of this special memorial to Lu Gordon who was always the first to step up and support our youth and members in furthering their knowledge and studies of the Celtic Arts.

We also have the standing scholarship of \$250.00 and a trophy to the Grade IV Jr. Piper of the Day at Grandfather Mountain that will be awarded in July.



Dear Clan Gordon,

Thank you very much for your support of my Highland Dance. It is very much appreciated. This year was one of change for me, as my dance teacher of 10 years, Sylvia Calder, moved to California in September. I am now taking Skype lessons from Shendl Russell, who is the President of the Scottish Official Board of Highland Dance, and I am also taking lessons from Karen Mahoney in Boston. Although this has been a big change, I am settling in and it is going very well.

Another big change in my life is that I started High School this year. I was homeschooled for seven years, so the switch to public school has been a very new experience. I am really enjoying school, and I love my teachers, classes, and classmates. Aside from all of these big changes, this year has been a very successful one.

This past May, I attended the Eastern Region Highland Dance Championship, which I placed first. This qualified me to represent the East at the United States Inter-Regional Championships (USIR) as Champion for my age group. At USIR, which was held in Scottsdale AZ, I competed in three competitions. In the national dance competition, I came in third overall and received a 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Jig. In the US Championship, I placed 5<sup>th</sup> runner-up, which was very exciting for me. In the Desert Classic Open Championship, I placed 4<sup>th</sup> runner-up. Overall, I am very happy with the way I danced, and I hope to qualify again next year.

Another highlight of my year was placing 2<sup>nd</sup> runner-up at the Northeastern U.S. Open Championships, which were held in Altamont, NY. In September I attended the Loon Mountain Highland Games. I placed 3<sup>rd</sup> runner-up and had an amazing time! I also danced in various other competitions, and placed very well in all of them. I placed 1<sup>st</sup> in Scotland, Connecticut; Quechee, Vermont; Loon in June and the NH School of Scottish Arts Indoor' Competition. I travelled out to Los Angeles for the Queen Mary Championship, which was very exciting!

In April, I took my Scottish Dance Teacher's Alliance (SDTA) Exams, and received the top grade of Highly Commended in all of them. I will earn my Associate Teacher's Certificate when I am 16. I was also nominated by my examiner to compete at the scholarship event at the SDTA Conference in Toronto. However, I was unable to attend because of school exams, which were the same week.

I am excited for the upcoming competition season. My family is planning a trip to Scotland next August. My sister and I will be competing at competitions at Butte, Commonwealth, and the World Highland Dance Championships at Cowal. I am looking forward to it and that challenge that it brings. Thank you again for your generous support. ~ **Maren Seul** (2013 recipient.)



## House of Gordon DNA Project

### DNA PROJECT UPDATE

**Jim Gordon,**

**Project Co-Administrator**

[www.houseofgordonusa.org](http://www.houseofgordonusa.org)

It's been a busy year for the DNA Project. We are closing in on 600 members, most of whom have submitted their Y-DNA for testing. The majority of our Y-DNA members fall into the Jock and Tam Branch. The second largest number is in the Seton-Gordon Branch with the Sir William Branch as the third most populated of our main branches.

There is breaking news – A Facebook Group for the DNA Project has been established. The URL is: [www.facebook.com/groups/HouseofGordonDNAProject/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/HouseofGordonDNAProject/). It is a private forum for discussing the genealogy of the House of Gordon and specifically the results of our DNA Project and what we are learning about the make-up of our clan. Everyone is invited to join. As it is a closed group it can be found on Facebook, but only members can see and post comments. I encourage all HoG members to join and post

your comments or questions. On the first day, 75 people joined! Extremely good sign! Another new development: A House of Gordon DNA Project pamphlet has just been worked up by Lois Todd with Tei & me for the conveners to hand out at the games. She also devised a new logo with a Gordon tartan DNA helix. Lois has updated the Genealogy pages on the website with new logos, new pages and information and with even more to come soon!

That takes care of the breaking news, now for DNA developments. Last year, a fellow researcher showed me a new analytic tool, the World Haplogroup & Haplo-I Subclade Predictor. This new tool, when used against those with Haplogroup I Y-DNA results (including, but not limited to the Jock & Tam and Sir William Branch members) provided some interesting information. Until now it has been held that the Gordon progenitor was from Normandy in France; and by extension, as the Normans were generally held to be descendants of Viking raiders who settled in that area, of Scandinavian origin. This new tool indicated that 65 of 78 of those in the Jock & Tam Branch are categorized as Anglo-

Saxon. Whether the Gordon progenitor arrived with William the Conqueror in 1066 or, as has been claimed by some, earlier has never been accurately determined; but it certainly indicates, that while he was probably among a group of knights from Normandy, he was not of Scandinavian origin, but rather an Anglo-Saxon.

The new tool also shows that there are a number of different categories for the Gordons. I use the term “category” rather than “origin” because these identifiers only indicate the geographic area where the particular DNA sequence was first identified which may not be the actual origin of that particular DNA sequence. In addition to at least four varieties of Anglo-Saxon categories, others are characterized as at least two varieties of Norse (Scandinavian), some Continental (mainland Europe), and at least three different Isles (the off-shore island groups such as the Orkneys, Shetlands and Hebrides) categories. In addition to these, there are a number of other small groupings.

Another Anglo-Saxon variety of members is currently carried among the “Small Groups of Newly Discovered Gordon Branches.” The majority of those in this category are from one group of the Newly Discovered, but it also includes individuals who are currently in other Gordon Branches.

The Norse category contains only seven members, all from various current Gordon Branches and one member each from two septs – a Todd

and a Troup. Additionally there are three Ultra-Norse categories. The first has only one member. The second has 5 members who are descendants of Alexander Gordon of Exeter, NH, the progenitor of many Gordons in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. The third, consisting of ten members, is mainly those whose progenitor(s) were from the Townland of Kilrea, County Londonderry in Northern Ireland. One individual is from one Newly Discovered Branches.

There are three Isles categories – Isles-Scot, Isles-Central and Isles-East. The ten members in the Isles-Scot category are mostly shown as Fitzgerald-Gordons. One member is identified as being from the Adams sept. This individual could very well be the result of a non-paternal event indicating that somewhere in the past this person’s ancestor became part of the Adams family and took the Adams surname for an undetermined reason. The Isles-East category has only two people, one from the Teal sept and the other is unclassified. The Isles-Central category has only one member, a Todd.

The Huntley-Gordon small group is in a category called P37.2\*West. This group also includes an unclassified individual.

The remaining members of the Project are ones and twos from various current groups.

Genetic genealogy is constantly changing with new research and discoveries on an almost daily basis. Tei and I need to do further analysis on these results and correlate it with

other information contained in the 2011 paper by Tei and Dr. Bill Howard. Tei is in the process of reorganizing the Results page to reflect the new categorizations and to correlate it to the information derived in the RCC study he co-authored with Dr. Bill Howard in 2011. As we find new information, we'll post it to the Facebook page.

I encourage all Project members to forward their family trees to Tei ([tagordon@hotmail.com](mailto:tagordon@hotmail.com)) for posting on your personal page on the Project. Many members have only posted an email address for further contact. This does not help someone who is researching their family and matches another person. We need family trees posted for ALL Project members. If you use genealogical software, generate a gedcom or an Outline Descendant Tree. If you don't use genealogical software and have built your family tree with a word processor, forward that. In addition to aiding other members, you help us in answering queries from Project members and those outside the Project. If you are concerned about information being used by others, be advised that any living members on a family tree are entered only as "Living" by Tei, even if they are included in your submission.



## The Gordons of Kilrea- Ken Gordon Ottawa, CA Kit # N12530

Many of us began our search into family roots many decades ago. Personal computers either didn't exist or were in their infancy, there was no internet and genealogical software wasn't even on the horizon. In our first tentative steps, we often found ourselves immersed in a deluge of archival documentation and were amazed at the available information for ordinary, otherwise faceless people who as individuals, and as families, forged great nations such as Britain, Canada, the United States of America, Australia and New Zealand. As our familiarity with the existing historical documentation increased, it became clear that there would be significant limitations to how far into the past we would be able to push our research. Unless one was lucky enough to have a pedigree among the titled aristocracy of the old countries, our ability to identify ancestors was dependent upon sources that generally limited our research to the late 17<sup>th</sup> century or later. Censuses are among the most useful sources, but in Britain and former British colonies, censuses began only in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the United States, however, the first census was in 1790. Parish registers of births, baptisms, marriages and deaths and sometimes burials or funerals begin around the beginning the early part of the 19th century. A lucky few may find some church records (usually referred to "Old Parish

Records”); baptisms, christenings, marriages and sometimes deaths or burials exist as early as the late 16th century. Documentation earlier than this, often doesn't have the kinship information that is so critical to the study of genealogists

About 10 years ago the BBC presented a television program entitled “Blood of the Vikings” which tried to explore the presence of the Vikings in Britain through their genetic signature in present day populations. It was a fascinating show that raised the possibility of using the nascent science of genetics to further historical analysis. In time, organizations such as Family Tree DNA came into existence that allowed individual researchers to use this new science to further their own interests in study of genealogy. This organization, among others, opened the possibility for genealogists to explore their own personal genetic past in a new approach to genealogy sometimes called “deep (AKA genetic) ancestry”. The barrier posed by the limitations of documentary evidence was raised and a whole new set of possibilities became apparent. Referring to the “Blood of the Vikings” program, one of the things that came of our genetic studies and analysis is that the remote ancestors of the Kilrea Gordons WERE Vikings. We may be descended from the Vikings (Norsemen) who settled in that part of modern-day France known as Normandy, or the place of the Normans (aka Norsemen). Adam de Gordoun, the progenitor of the Scottish Gordons, reportedly was among the knights (some who Norman) hired by Edward the Confessor in the early 11<sup>th</sup> century (before the Norman Conquest) to help him (among other things) in his battles against Macbeth, usurper of the Scottish throne.

Research into the “Kilrea Gordons” began with the discovery of a reference, in Canadian archives, of my immigrant ancestor who had been born, about 1785, in the Parish of Kilrea, Co. Londonderry, in the Province of Ulster, Ireland. Subsequent extensive research into Irish archives proved futile in establishing any kinship links, between this individual and contemporary reference to the Gordons in Kilrea. Although it became clear that Kilrea, and in particular the Townland of Lislea, was a locus for Gordon settlement in Co. Londonderry.

The House of Gordon DNA Project developed to bring together people with a common “Gordon” heritage and who were pursuing their research using this new tool of “deep ancestry”. Under the aegis of FTDNA, three participants were found to share a genetic signature which strongly indicated the existence of a common ancestor in Kilrea, sometime in the late 17th century or early 18th century. They were Ken Gordon (myself), Jim Gordon and Roy Gordon. As neither Roy nor Jim had any evidence of their origins in the “old countries”, the evidence I brought to the project concerning Kilrea, and an Irish connection, was a revelation to them. We exchanged information and committed to cooperating in furthering the research into our common past.

The past few years has been fascinating, sometimes frustrating, but always a rewarding experience as we discussed and debated different avenues of research. Innumerable emails and letters were sent to people and organizations as we tried to explore and expand the Kilrea connection. Kilrea, being in Ulster, also strongly suggested an origin among the southern Gordons of Kirkcudbrightshire, the Gordons of

Lochinvar-Kenmure. The history of the Gordons in Ireland generally points to the southern Gordons. Our Presbyterian backgrounds added additional support to this assertion. Historically the southern Gordons converted to Presbyterianism, whereas the northern Gordons, with exceptions, remained Catholic. Looking to the southern Gordons, rather than the more widely known and better researched northern Gordons of Aberdeenshire, furthered our understanding of our likely origins.

Over time new participants to the project came along with a genetic signature that matched our own. Jim M. Gordon had documentary evidence of his ancestral family presence in Kilrea. This information further strengthened the Kilrea connection, a combination of both genetic and documentary evidence.

But what of the current residents of Kilrea? Could we find Gordons in Kilrea today who share our genetic signature? In an effort to resolve this, we sent out a blind mailing to current residents of Kilrea with a Gordon surname. One included a long-time contact that

had been helpful in the past. This person and another responded, agreeing to test with Family Tree DNA. Both individuals knew each other. They lived a short distance apart, but categorically denied being related to each other. The test results were really fascinating. Both individuals were indeed genetically related to each other, and more interestingly, they were related to the four of us here “on this side of the pond”. This was tremendously exciting, as it cemented our Kilrea connection with certainty! The two respondents believed there was no kinship connection and that they were unrelated, yet the test proved they shared a common ancestor in the 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century, an ancestor they shared with us. This suggested the distinct possibility that all the Gordons of Kilrea today may share a common ancestor in the distant past, although this knowledge may have been lost in the intervening years.

Most recently I got back in touch with someone with whom I had corresponded during those years when I had first begun my research into family history. She was from a Gordon family with a documented presence in Kilrea at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. We had compared notes but were unable find a kinship link between our respective families. Over the years we had lost touch and I thought I might try again to establish a kinship link using genetic analysis as a tool. A male Gordon descendant of that family was tested and again the results came back positive. They too shared the same genetic signature as the four of us in North America and the two respondents in Kilrea. Today we refer to this lineage



William David Gordon of Kilrea visiting the Gordon graves.

as the Findley Gordons after her married name. Sadly she had aged so much and was suffering from such a loss of memory, that she was unable to appreciate the success we had sought together decades ago.

Aside from the Irish connection, we also tried to establish a link to Scotland. This Irish connection pointed to Kirkcudbrightshire, in southwest Scotland as the likely origin of the Kilrea Gordons. The Gordons of Kirkcudbrightshire were only a short journey over the Irish Sea from Ulster and it is generally accepted that the Gordons in Ireland were from the southern Gordons of Scotland. The search here was even more difficult than it was for Ireland. A number of dead ends presented themselves. On a couple of occasions we thought we had a likely candidate from the southern Gordons who was willing to test, only to see the situation evaporate in front of our eyes. Eventually we found the perfect candidate. He had an established pedigree going all the back to the arrival of the original Gordons into Scotland in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. For us this was the "holy grail" as it allowed us to reach beyond the limitations of documentary evidence. The results of the test were a great disappointment. We didn't match! However his DNA signature did match the "Jock & Tams" of the northern Gordons, which confirms the genetic link between the southern and northern Gordons who split about 600 years ago. But he didn't match us, the Kilrea Gordons. We are still digesting and discussing the implications of this result and what it means in terms of our links with the historic Gordons.

Genetic genealogy, the use of DNA analysis, offers us the possibility of

finding answers that would be impossible with documentary evidence alone. It has dramatically widened our understanding of our genealogical background, yet in the end it has posed a many new questions as it has answered. Whereas documentary evidence offers precise answers, genetic evidence works on the level of probability. It points in directions rather than conclusions. It is essential that it be used in conjunction documentary evidence as the two forms of research are complementary and the value of genetic evidence is greatest when it confirms or denies existing documentary evidence.

Through DNA we have now established eight separate lineages whose genetic signature points to a single common ancestor in Kilrea, Co. Londonderry, sometime in the 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century. This is a remarkable situation and I suspect unique within the House of Gordon DNA Project. Referring to documentary evidence, a likely possibility for this common ancestor is Andrew Gordon, cited in a muster list for Kilrea from 1631. This is the earliest appearance of the surname Gordon in Kilrea. My Findley correspondent always cited family tradition that her people were Covenanters and came to Kilrea likely in the 1680's, during the religious strife in southern Scotland known as the "killing times". In truth, at present we can only speculate about the original common ancestor.

Our use of genetic genealogy, in conjunction with documentary evidence continues. We hope in the future to discover new lineages that share our genetic signature and further expand our understanding of the history and genealogy of the Kilrea Gordons.

## Gordon of Khartoum

British Major-General Charles George Gordon became a national hero for his exploits in China and his ill-fated defense of Khartoum against Sudanese rebels. The son of Lieut.-General Henry William Gordon, R.A, an artillery officer, Gordon was born in Woolwich in 1833, one of eleven children, 5 girls and six boys. A close knit military family said to descend from the Gordons of Park in Banffshire, Gordon gained much comfort from them. He was especially close to his sister Emily and her death at age sixteen, when he was ten, devastated him. His eldest sister, Augusta, later became his closest confidant. She was the first to point him in the direction of religion and it was to her he first wrote regarding his evangelical conversion.

In 1848 he entered the Royal Military Academy in Woolwich as a gentleman cadet intending to follow in his father's footsteps and join the Artillery. However due to a lack of self discipline (most likely from a lack of interest in Artillery) he was put back and he graduated in 1852 and as commissioned as



Gordon photo taken shortly after the Crimean War.

a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers. Gordon's first post was the Engineer's depot at Brompton near Gillingham and then to Pembroke Dock in Wales, then under construction by the Royal Engineers. It was here in 1853 that Gordon was converted to faith in Christ under the ministry of a fellow Engineer officer who became one of his closest friends.

His letters to Augusta show a concern for his soul and a desire to die "in the Lord" meaning not as some would say a death wish, but his developing realization that heaven is preferable to earth. He distinguished himself in the Crimean War (1853-56). After building winter quarters for the troops he was able to obtain a front

line position mapping the Russian trenches near Sevastopol. In order to do this he had to look over the parapet and then sketch out what he was able to see -- a duty requiring a fair amount of reckless bravery which had sent many engineers to their grave. Gordon seemed somewhat surprised (and maybe due to a case of classic survivor's guilt a bit disappointed) that he did not die as so many of his comrades had died. The siege of Sevastopol (1854-55) gave the military world a foretaste of trench warfare to come. As BritishBattles.com puts it, *"Daily, hundreds of cannon battered down fortifications that had to be re-dug before the next day's bombardment. Soldiers manned the trenches night after night through two harsh winters, in the first with almost no winter equipment. Sorties led to hand to hand fighting along the entrenchments. The Russians developed the art of sniping from the "rifle pits" dug in no man's land. The predominant experts were the engineers and the artillerymen; the flamboyant actions of the cavalry a world away."* Gordon was mentioned in dispatches for his bravery and decorated by the French and the lessons he learned at Sevastopol would come into play in China and later at the defense of Khartoum.



Gordon wearing the regalia of a Chinese Titu order of the Yellow Jacket.

In 1860 he volunteered for the 'Arrow' war against the Chinese (the second Opium War.) In May 1862 Gordon's corps of engineers was assigned to strengthen the European trading center of Shanghai, which was threatened by the insurgents of the Taiping Rebellion. A year later he became commander of the 3,500-man peasant force raised to defend the city, known as the Ever Victorious Army or EVA. During the next 18 months Gordon's troops played an important role in suppressing the Taiping uprising. Gordon infused discipline into his troops and led them into battle from the front carrying only a walking stick. When he refused to allow them to loot captured cities, they mutinied. His response to suppress the mutiny was to first shoot dead one of the ringleaders and then threaten to shoot one mutineer an hour until the mutiny was over. The mutiny was over inside the hour. Soochow was captured by

the EVA in 1864 after the Taipings surrendered to Gordon when he offered them safe conduct. Gordon was away on business when the Manchus had the Wangs, the leaders of the Taipings, executed. Gordon was furious and promptly resigned his command. He only returned after being implored to by the British and being promoted to the highest rank of Mandarin in the Chinese army, Titu Yellow Jacket Order (Field Marshall, Chamberlain of the Imperial Bodyguard). He refused an offer of 100,000 gold pieces by the emperor, which reinforced Gordon's reputation as being incorruptible. He returned to England in January 1865, where an enthusiastic public had already dubbed him 'Chinese Gordon'. The British rewarded him with a promotion to Lieutenant Colonel and he became a Companion of Honour.



Gravesend Mission House where  
Gordon taught Sunday School.

He was posted to Gravesend in October 1865 as the Commandant of Engineers in charge of renovating the Lower Thames forts in Gravesend and Tilbury. It was shortly after his arrival that he received word his father was dying. He hurried to his side and nursed him until his death. A brother died shortly after this and because of these two deaths he resolved to stop being superficial about religion. In 1866 during his Gravesend assignment Gordon met with an evangelical couple, Frederick Freese and his wife, who were greatly impressed with his earnestness (they did not know he was 'Chinese Gordon upon their first meeting) who encouraged him to become involved with the evangelical works already in place, namely the soup kitchens, visiting the sick, teaching Sunday School and the running of the Ragged Schools. Gordon threw himself into social work, putting into practice the evangelical beliefs he had adopted earlier, with his great organizational energies. Ragged schools were run by committees of volunteers who employed the teachers and, occasionally, taught the children themselves. They were linked together on a national level in the Ragged School Union that was chaired by the Earl of Shaftsbury. The Union, which later became the Shaftsbury Society, survives as a children's charity to this day.

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Gordon did much work with the Ragged School, teaching the most needy children, those who others often had given up on — the roughest, dirtiest ones in the Ragged school. In 1867 he met William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army with whom he discussed Booth's work with boys. This influenced Gordon greatly. He organized the work in Gravesend taking it in new directions by adding the clothing and feeding of the children. He opened up his official residence, Fort House, to the poor. He opened up large tracts of army land for poor people to use as allotments. He also provided pensions for the poor, including personally supporting several poor people with pensions equaling 90% of his Colonel's pay of £3,000 a year. He continued to maintain these pensions in the years after he left Gravesend.

Gordon also supported Hudson Taylor's missionary efforts in China. Taylor founded the China Inland Mission (aka CIM now called the Overseas Missionary Fellowship International or OMF) which eventually was responsible for over 800 missionaries going to China and the start of over 125 schools. The CIM's campaign against the opium trade, Taylor's cultural sensitivity to the Chinese, and his stance on a non-denominational mission accepting volunteers from all Protestant groups, individuals from the working class, single women and multinational recruits made him one of the 19th century's most significant European in China along with Gordon. Taylor's message was one that Gordon identified personally with and therefore his support of it was a natural choice.

In 1869, Gordon put forward the founding of a Mendicant Society in Gravesend. Mendicants were itinerant workers who moved from town to town following after available work. Many were reduced to begging for assistance along the way, and many in society deemed them as undesirable, even going so far as to pass laws trying to regulate begging by outlawing it and placing those who were reduced to begging for assistance in jail. Mendicant societies aimed at a more humane solution by handing out tokens that could be exchanged for food and shelter. While Gordon was successful in getting this undertaking off the ground, it only lasted for 18 months, and the fact that he was due to be relocated in his Army assignment may have been the major factor in its demise.

Gordon considered his time in Gravesend as the most satisfying personally due to his ability to devote so much time and resources to his Christian ministry, and one of the least satisfying militarily due to lack of excitement and action which he seems to have had a strong predilection for and may be another reason he so heartily entered into such active and hands on ministry work. He maintained contact with his many friends and ministries in Gravesend throughout the rest of his 14 years of life, but was unable to keep up the scale of his Christian works due to his subsequent military duties. In 1871 he was appointed as the British Commissioner to the Danube Commission which satisfied his need to maintain a goodly salary in order to maintain those pensioners he had taken on while in Gravesend, but sadly

lacked the amount of action and challenge that he craved. The Danube Commission was established by the Treaty of Paris in 1856, and was the first international body with serious police and jurisdictional powers over private people and vessels. It had authority over the three mouths of the river — the Chilia in the north, the Sulina in the middle, and the St. George in the south, and had complete control and sovereignty over the waters of the Danube; there were no appeals to its edicts. Gordon, due to his engineering, administrative and jurisdictional background was a blessing to the Commission, even if he felt the Commission was a burden on him! His thoughts on the workings of the Commission were not complimentary. As the only resident European Commissioner, the bulk of the work landed on him. He felt hemmed in and consequently took every opportunity to travel into the surrounding countryside. In the summer of 1872 he was asked to assess the state of Britain's Crimean War cemeteries. While in Crimea he received an unexpected invitation to a dinner given by the British ambassador to Turkey, Sir Henry Elliot, at his estate in Constantinople. Here he met Nubar Pasha, an Armenian Christian, in the service of Isma'il Pasha, the Khedive of Egypt and the Sudan. Nubar was the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Egypt when he met Gordon and was looking for a successor to Sir Samuel Baker, the governor-general of Equatoria (southern Sudan.) The lively discussion that night on Equatoria led Nubar Pasha to believe he had found the right man in Gordon.

One area of what Gordon saw as an extension of his Christian ministry that he was able to enthusiastically support in his latter years was that of Native or Home Rule. He believed that a country or province was best ruled by those who were native to it, and not by its colonial rulers. Gordon was appointed governor of the province of Equatoria in the Sudan in 1873, following the expiration of Baker's contract with the Khedive. The state of affairs in the area was abysmal. The slave trade and despotic rulers in the area had subdued the population through starvation tactics. Seven-eighths of the people were slaves. The people were to the point of being afraid to even plant crops knowing that they would not be allowed to reap what they sowed. What little was grown was done in out of the way hidden locations. People were so desperate that they were willing to trade their own kin for food. Communications between the few outposts were so threatened that few would venture beyond the walls and then only in large parties of upward of 100 armed men. Gordon did the impossible setting out alone and working among the people first to establish their trust showing them ways to sow new crops and then working tirelessly to subdue the tyrants and slave traders in the Equatoria. His actions brought peace and prosperity to the people, but along the way he was severely hampered by Pasha Ismail who was the governor-general of the Sudan, and by many in authority in Egypt. Gordon however made the motto of his rule "Hurryat" (liberty) and he let it be known that this meant no man should be allowed to interfere with another: no kidnapping, no plundering, no more despotism, and those who opposed him

were at liberty to quit and leave the territory. The Khedive backed him against the many complaints from his pashas. Beginning in April 1874 he mapped the upper Nile and established a line of stations along the river as far south as present Uganda finishing these endeavors in December of 1876. He then, feeling he could accomplish no more good as things stood, resigned his post as governor of Equatoria.

At this time, the Khedive unwilling to lose Gordon, promoted him to governor-



general of the Sudan and gave him unprecedented power, where he asserted his authority crushing rebellions and suppressing the slave trade, one of his opponents at that time being the known slave trader, Zebehr. With Zebehr in prison in Cairo, the remnant band of some 6000 of his followers were led by his son. Gordon alone and unarmed was able to influence them to disarm, but as soon as Gordon's presence was required elsewhere they revolted. Gordon went to battle and defeated them and finally was able to eradicate the slave trade in the area with the execution of Zebehr's son Suleiman. The region was peaceful, and the people were given much relief from their previous state.

Gordon in his uniform as Governor-General of Sudan  
cir. 1879 original taken in Khartoum

The British government's focus in Egypt was protecting their own interests in the Suez Canal and the money through trade that it brought to the empire. Britain bought up the Khedive Isma'il's interests in the canal and Egypt was now being threatened with economic ruin. Gordon stated in 1878, "There is no doubt that if the Government of France and England pay more attention to the Soudan and see that Justice is done, the disruption of the Soudan from Cairo is only a matter of time. This disruption, moreover, will not end the troubles for the Sudanese, though their allies in Lower Egypt will carry on their efforts in Cairo itself." In 1879 the French and English jointly assumed

the task of controlling Egypt. The overthrow of Isma'il at Cairo by the British and French Comptrollers over Egypt at the time put Isma'il's son Tawfiq in control as Khedive. And in April 1879 Gordon said, "If the liberation of slavers takes place in 1884, and if the present system of government goes on, there cannot fail to be a revolt of the whole country." The dissolution of the Dual Control brought changes for the Sudan, and with Tawfiq as the new Khedive, the Egyptian government came under control of those whose interests lie in re-establishing the slave trade. Gordon stood against this incursion steadfastly however; ill health forced him to resign his position in the Sudan and return to England in 1880. The government then posted him to India as the Private Secretary to the Viceroy. His travels included China and South Africa. (So much for the government's care for his health, it seems.) Gordon's successor in the Sudan was Reouf Pasha a man exposed by Sir Samuel Baker as a murderer and whose acts of oppression had caused Gordon to expel him from Harrat. This was the very thing Gordon feared, and his cautionary words regarding unrest and rebellion were prophetic.

He had become a big proponent of home rule during his time in the Sudan which did not make him a very popular person with the government in Britain. In his words one should "accept government, only if by so doing you benefit the race you rule; to lead, not drive the people to a higher civilization; to establish only such reforms as represent the spontaneous desire of the mass; to abandon relations with your native land; to resist other governments, and keep intact the sovereignty of the Sate whose bread you eat; to represent the native when advising Amir, Sultan or Khedive, on any question which your own or any foreign government may wish solved and in this to have for prop and guide that which is universally right throughout the world, that which is best for the people of the State you serve." Gordon supported the initiative for Ireland's home rule, but his views went further to champion native rule in Botswana, South Africa, India and of course the Sudan where he ran afoul of Gladstone's policies. Ultimately it was Gladstone's refusal to support Gordon in the need to place a strong native, his one time opponent Zebehr, in control in the Sudan to equalize the tensions and restore enough order for him to accomplish the mission of evacuating the Egyptian and European populations from the Sudan that trapped him in Khartoum ending his life. And it was Gordon's death that killed Gladstone's government.

In February 1884 Gordon was returned to the Sudan to conduct an orderly evacuation of the European refugees, British and Egyptian forces from Khartoum, threatened by Sudanese rebels led by slave trader Muhammad Ahmad al-Mahdi (a self-styled designation, al-Mahdi means the messiah.) who had among other things made known his intentions to massacre Khartoum's 5000 Egyptian residents as an "example" to the rest of the Muslim world. The very state of affairs Gordon had fought to right and had predicted would return and force the region into a state of rebellion if the governments did not pay heed to the plight of the people and keep the slave trade and

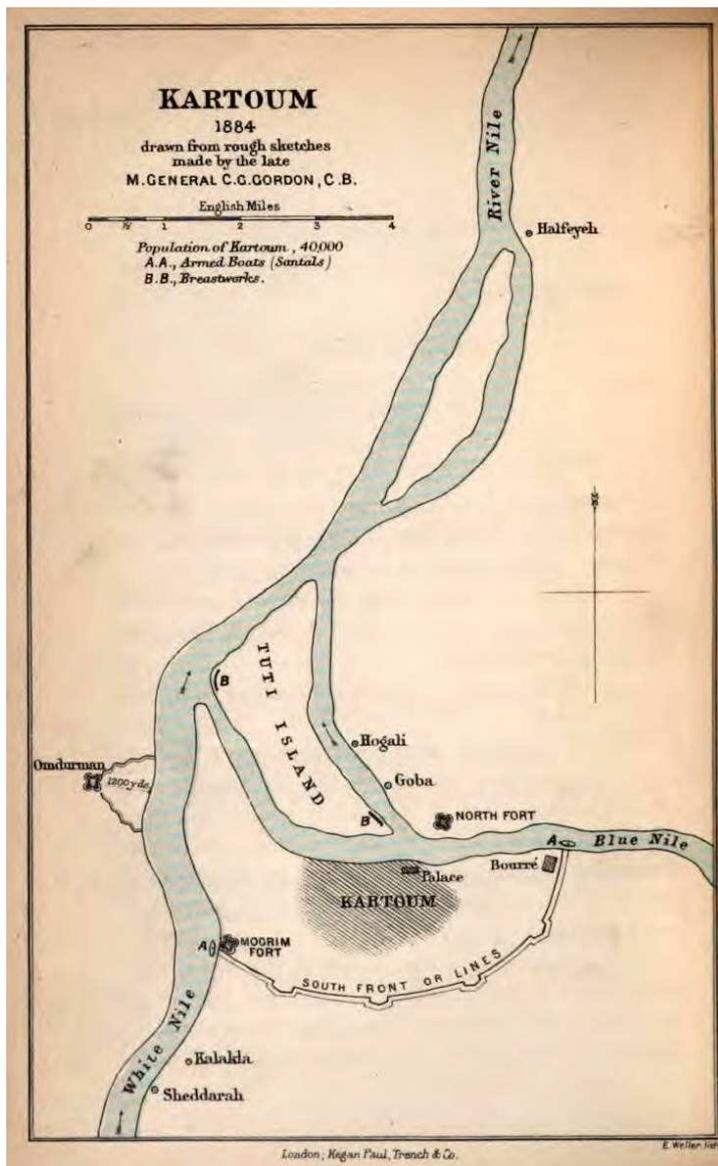


Muhammad Ahmad al-Mahdi

oppression from reasserting dominance in the region had come to pass and Egypt was faced with the full revolt of the whole of Sudan. It was not Muhammad Ahmed's greatness or leadership that was the instigator or cause of the revolt, but he was the usurper of the power that could be had from the civil unrest, taking advantage of the state of affairs to seize power for himself and declare himself the awaited Mahdi, the messianic deliverer who according to the Koran will fill the Earth with justice and equity, restore true religion, and usher in a short golden age lasting seven, eight, or nine years before the end of the world. (His fate proved that he was a false Mahdi.) This is evident in the reception that greeted Gordon's return to the Sudan where he was initially widely welcomed, and his peace initiatives were hailed, the sheiks and people being eager to show their loyalty to him. Without government protection, they would be forced to join the Mahdi out of sheer desperate self-defense. All of this had been previously recognized by Col. Stewart on his journey up the White Nile, and it was the reason Gordon understood the need to put a strong governing body in place.

Zebehr, a Pasha of the Shaggyeh, a tribe wavering between loyalty and revolt and blockaded outside the city at Halfaya, had sources of information closed to the English. Zebehr, although known as a slave trader even having at one time been called the "Slave King" was descended from the Abbasids, a dynasty of Sunni caliphs, descended from the prophet Mohammed's youngest uncle, who ruled the Muslim world from 750 to 1258, and was a pedigree greater even than that of the Khedive. His influence and strength were the greatest in the Sudan. He would have proven stronger than the Mahdi, and could have smashed his following. Without a stable government under a strong local leader the successful evacuation would prove impossible and Egypt itself would be put in danger. Zebehr was the only man in the Sudan with enough prestige and strength to form a stable government and hold the country together, and the risk to Egypt of him in charge was minimal compared to the risk to Egypt should the Mahdi gain control; thus Gordon's demand for permission to put him in place, and his predictions of the impossible situation to come.

Gordon's hands were tied in large part by the way his orders were given. His was a mission of council without authority to act (or so Gladstone thought) as his orders were to *"report to Her Majesty's Government on the military situation in the Soudan and on the measures which it might be deemed*



advisable to take for the security of the Egyptian garrisons still holding position in that country, and for the safety of the European population in Khartoum; and, further upon the manner in which the safety and good administration of the Egyptian Government of the ports on the sea coast could best be secured." But there was the clause "You will consider yourself authorized and instructed to perform such other duties as the Egyptian Government may desire to entrust to you and as may be communicated to you by Sir E. Baring." Herein lay the problem for Gladstone's government as

Egypt desired one thing from Gordon appointing him governor-general of the Sudan with the authority to command the Egyptian forces in the Sudan to effect the stabilization of the area and effect the evacuation, while Britain desired another, and therefore unless Britain were to declare an outright annexation of Egypt Gordon could take action that Gladstone felt was in direct defiance of his orders. What Gladstone and his advisors failed to see was the impossibility of the situation Gordon was forced.

As the evacuation began and the Egyptian garrison was sent down, no form of government would be left and the area would be put into a state of chaos leaving the people nothing but to throw their lot in with the Mahdi for safety and thus jeopardizing the effective safety of the completion of any evacuation. Given that there were an estimated 15,000+ to be evacuated (which by Gordon's estimation was low as he felt all who wished to evacuate should be allowed) the fact that Gordon was able to only evacuate a little over 2600, mostly women and children before the Mahdi moved in to put Khartoum under siege says it all. In March we see that Sir Evelyn Baring backed Gordon in his request for Zebehr (aka Zubair) in his letter dated 9 March *"I believe that Zubair Pasha may be made a bulwark against the approach of the Mahdi. Of course there is a certain risk that he will constitute a danger to Egypt, but this risk is, I think, a small one; and it is in any case preferable to incur it rather than to face the certain disadvantages of withdrawing without making any provision for the future government of the country which would thus be sure to fall under the power of the Mahdi."* General Gordon's brother says that he was aware that a Cabinet Minister of high position was, from the first in favor of sending Zebehr up as was Lord Wolseley. This seems to throw the weight of the opposition to the proposal onto Gladstone. To put into perspective the position Gordon faced we read from Islamic History Sourcebook: Alfred Egmont Hake: The Death of General Gordon at Khartoum, 1885:

*"GENERAL GORDON arrived at Khartoum on February 18th, and spent his time between that date and the investment on March 12, in sending down women and children, two thousand of whom were sent safely through to Egypt, in addition to six hundred soldiers. It was stated by Sir Evelyn Baring (English consul-general to Egypt) that there were fifteen thousand persons in Khartoum who ought to be brought back to Egypt--Europeans, civil servants, widows and orphans, and a garrison of one thousand men, one third of whom were disaffected. To get these people out of Khartoum was General Gordon's first duty, and the first condition of evacuation was the establishment of a stable government in the Soudan. The only man who could establish that government was Zebehr. Gordon demanded Zebehr with ever-increasing emphasis, and his request was decisively refused. He had then two alternatives --either to surrender absolutely to the Mahdi, or to hold on to Khartoum at all hazards. While Gordon was strengthening his position the Mahdi settled the question by suddenly assuming the offensive. The first step in this memorable siege was the daring march of four thousand Arabs to the Nile, by which, on March 12, they cut off the eight hundred men at Halfaya, a village to the north of Khartoum, from the city. A steamer was sent down to reconnoiter, and the moment she reached the front of the Arab position a volley was fired into her, wounding an officer and a soldier. The steamer returned*

the fire, killing five.

"Thus hostilities began "Our only justification for assuming the offensive," wrote General Gordon on March 13, "is the extrication of the Halfaya garrison." The Arabs, however, did not give him the chance. They cut off three companies of his troops who had gone out to cut wood, capturing eight of their boats, and killing or dispersing one hundred to one hundred and fifty men. They entrenched themselves along the Nile, and kept up a heavy rifle-fire. Retreat for the garrison was obviously impossible when the Arab force covered the river, the only line of retreat, with their fire. Twelve hundred men were put on board two grain-barges, towed by three steamers defended with boiler plates, and carrying mountain-guns protected by wooden mantlets; and, with the loss of only two killed, they succeeded in extricating the five hundred men left of the garrison of Halfaya, and capturing seventy camels and eighteen horses, with which they returned to Khartoum.

"The Arabs, however, held Halfaya, and on March 16 Gordon tried to drive them away. Advancing from a stockaded position covering the north front of the town, two thousand troops advanced across the open in square, supported by the fire of the guns of two steamers. The Arabs were retreating, when Hassan and Seid Pashas, Gordon's black generals, rode into the wood and called back the enemy. The Egyptians, betrayed by their officers, broke and fled after firing a single volley, and were pursued to within a mile of the stockade, abandoning two mountain guns with their ammunition---"sixty horsemen defeated two thousand men"---and leaving two hundred of their number on the field. After this affair he was convinced that he could not take the offensive, but must remain quiet at Khartoum, and wait till the Nile rose. Six days later, the black pashas were tried by court-martial, found guilty, and shot.

"A very determined attack upon one of the steamers coming up from Berber, at the Salboka Pass, was beaten off with great slaughter, Gordon's men firing no fewer than fifteen thousand rounds of Remington ammunition. Meanwhile, his efforts to negotiate with the Mahdi failed. "I will make you Sultan of Kordofan," he had said on arrival to the Mahdi. "I am the Mahdi," replied Mahomet Ahmet, by emissaries who were "exceedingly cheeky," keeping their hands upon their swords, and laying a filthy, patched dervish's coat before him. "Will you become a Mussulman?" Gordon flung the bundle across the room, canceled the Mahdi's sultanship, and the war was renewed. From that day to the day of the betrayal no day passed without bullets dropping into Khartoum.

"Gordon now set to work in earnest to place Khartoum in a

defensible position. Ten thousand of the Madhi's sympathizers left Khartoum and joined the enemy. The steamers kept up a skirmishing fight on both Niles. All the houses on the north side of Khartoum were loopholed. A sixteen-pounder Krupp was mounted on a barge, and wire was stretched across the front of the stockade. The houses on the northern bank of the Blue Nile were fortified and garrisoned by Bashi-Bazouks. Omdurman was held and fortified on the west and Buri on the east. On March 25, Gordon had to disarm and disband two hundred and fifty Bashi-Bazouks who refused to occupy stockaded houses in a village on the south bank of the Blue Nile. The rebels advanced on Hadji Ali, a village to the north of the Nile, and fired into the palace. They were shelled out of their position, but constantly returned to harass the garrison. They seemed to Gordon mere rag-tag and bob-tail, but he dared not go out to meet them, for fear of the town. Five hundred brave men could have cleared out the lot, but he had not a hundred. The fighting was confined to artillery fire on one side, and desultory rifle-shooting on the other. This went on till the end of March. The Arabs clustered more closely round the town.

"On April 19, Gordon telegraphed that he had provisions for five months, and if he only had two thousand to three thousand Turkish troops he could soon settle the rebels. Unfortunately, he received not one fighting man. Shendy fell into the hands of the Mahdi. Berber followed, and then for months no word whatever reached this country from Khartoum.

"On September 29, Mr. Power's telegram, dated July 31, was received by the "Times." From that we gathered a tolerably clear notion of the way in which the war went on. Anything more utterly absurd than the accusation that Gordon forced fighting on the Mahdi cannot be conceived. He acted uniformly on the defensive, merely trying to clear his road of an attacking force, and failing because he had no fighting men to take the offensive. He found himself in a trap, out of which he could not cut his way. If he had possessed a single regiment, the front of Khartoum might have been cleared with ease; but his impotence encouraged the Arabs, and they clustered round in ever-increasing numbers, until at last they crushed his resistance. After the middle of April the rebels began to attack the palace in force, having apparently established themselves on the north bank.

"The loss of life was chiefly occasioned by the explosion of mines devised by General Gordon, and so placed as to explode when trodden on by the enemy. Of all his expedients these mines were the most successful and the least open to any accusation of offensive operations. The Arabs closed in all round towards the

*end of April, and General Gordon surrounded himself with a formidable triple barrier of land torpedoes, over which wire entanglement and a formidable chevaux-de-frise enabled the garrison to feel somewhat secure. On April 27, Valeh Bey surrendered at Mesalimeh, a disaster by which General Gordon lost one steamer, seventy shiploads of provisions, and two thousand rifles.*

*"General Gordon was now entirely cut off from the outside world, and compelled to rely entirely upon his own resources."*

A note handwritten by Gordon dated 22 June 1884 and most likely hidden in the hair of the runner Mahamed Ahmed who smuggled it past the surrounding enemy was recently auctioned off, and gives some insight to Gordon's circumstances seven months prior to the siege end. The size of a postage stamp and written in Arabic it reads: "Mudir of Dongola Khartoum and Senaar, in perfect security Mahamed Ahmed carries this to give you news. On his reaching you give him all the news as to the direction and position of the relieving force and their numbers. As for Khartoum there are in it 8,000 men and the Nile is rapidly rising. On arrival of the bearer give him 100 reals mejide'h from the States, C G Gordon."

The Government was implored by everyone, including the Queen, to send a relief mission. Outrage in the public press over the government's inaction to save General Gordon was rampant. Gladstone was irritated at Gordon's failure to ban slavery and furious with him for what he thought of as his apparent defiance of his agreed instructions and for disobeying his orders; criticized him for failing to carry out one of the few fully agreed instructions that he had taken to the Sudan, namely to supervise an evacuation without asking for British military assistance despite evidence that he worked hard to accomplish the task and we know from Gordon's journals that he did not feel that he could safely evacuate due to the lack of suitable boats. It was also plain that he (and/or the Cabinet) had expected Gordon somehow to establish a self-governing state in the North Sudan, even though he adamantly blocked his every attempt at doing so. Gladstone's government devolved into ineffectuality. There were no Cabinet minutes kept, and decisions vacillated widely or ended in complete indecision. This was an uneasy coalition government of conservative Whigs and mainstream liberals and radicals to begin with, and Gladstone apparently had a difficult time communicating effectively his views with clarity to his colleagues and resorted to summoning as few as possible and tried to conduct the Government's business via personal contact and intervention. This in turn contributed further to ministerial misunderstanding and divisions, and left the more independent spirits in the administration free to pursue their own policies. They refused to even consider it until August 1884, and it was not until September 25th, 1884, that Wolseley, its Commander, was given the formal orders to go ahead.



The expedition had to be gathered, transported to Egypt, the men acclimated and the mission scouted and planned, the men making their way slowly up the Nile. It was not until January 24th that a small relief force under Colonel Sir Charles Wilson steamed up the Nile in two paddleboats reaching Khartoum on the 28th, to find no flag flying from the palace roof, and at the river's edge hundreds of Sudanese rebels crowded, exultant, beneath the banners of the Mahdi. The general was dead and they were two days too late to save him. Gordon died on the steps of a stairway in the northwestern corner of the palace where he and his personal bodyguard, Agha Khalil Orphali, had been firing at the enemy sometime before dawn after one of this Egyptian lieutenants, Faraz Pasha, betrayed him by opening the gates to the rebel forces. Orphali was knocked unconscious and did not see Gordon die. When he woke up again that afternoon, he found Gordon's body covered with flies and the head cut off. Subsequently Gordon's body was desecrated and thrown down a well according some accounts and other accounts relate it was thrown into the Nile. After the re-conquest of the Sudan, in 1898, several attempts were made to locate Gordon's remains, but in vain. In the hours following his death it is estimated that 10,000 in Khartoum were slaughtered, including the entire garrison and thousands of civilians before the Mahdi gave orders to have it stopped. Many others were carried off into slavery. Despite the Mahdi's apparent order that Gordon was not to be killed, it seems telling that he did not rebuke his three Khalifas for disobeying his order when presented with Gordon's head, but he ordered the head be transixed between the branches of a tree "...where all who passed it could look in disdain, children could throw stones at it and the hawks of the desert could sweep and circle above." The Mahdi gained complete control of the

region and established a strict religious rule of Sharia law. He only survived Gordon by six months and died in June 1885.

Gordon's fate horrified the British population, and fueled the outrage against Gladstone's government. Queen Victoria sent him a telegram of rebuke which somehow made it into the public press, and fired up the movement against Gladstone who many saw as having neglected military affairs and deliberately leaving Gordon to die at the hands of the Mahdi. Gladstone's moniker "G.O.M." for Grand ole Man became "M.O.G." for Murderer of Gordon. Consequently his government lost the confidence of the people and he resigned as prime minister and turned down the proffered earldom.

A memorial service, conducted by the Bishop of Newcastle, was held at St. Paul's Cathedral on 14 March. The Lord Mayor of London opened a public subscription to raise funds for a national memorial to Gordon with Queen Victoria standing as the royal patron; this eventually materialized as the Gordon Boys Home, now Gordon's School in West End, Woking where the Gordon Camel Statue which once stood in Khartoum in Gordon's memory and which we made a donation to help sponsor the restoration efforts for now resides.

A final footnote of the one contemporary who was most directly affected by Gordon's death I feel worthy of mention: Gladstone, in some kind of political epiphany converted to the proposals for Ireland's home rule in late 1885, possibly influenced upon reflection on Gordon's views on home rule. He then put it forward in Parliament resulting in the fall of Lord Salisbury's government and the return of his premiership in February 1886.

General Gordon's brother, Henry William Gordon, KCB, erected a tomb to his memory in St. Paul's Cathedral. The plaque reads:

"To

Major General Charles George Gordon, C.B.

Who at all times and everywhere, gave his strength to the weak, his substance to the poor, his sympathy to the suffering, his heart to God.

Born at Woolwich 28 January 1833.

Slain at Khartoum 26 January 1885.

He saved an empire by his warlike genius, he ruled vast provinces with justice, wisdom, and power.

And lastly obedient to his sovereign's command, he died in the heroic attempt to save men, women and children from imminent and deadly peril. "Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends." (St. John XV, 13.)

This monument is erected by his only surviving brother, whose eldest son also perished in the service of his country, as a midshipman in H.M.S. "Captain", and is commemorated with others in the adjoining recess."

The narrator from the film “Khartoum” (1966) has it right:...

*“...but there is this: A world with no room for the Gordons, is a world that will return to the sands.”*



*Tomb of General Gordon* by Frederick William Pomeroy (1857-1924). A.B. Burton, Founder. Bronze. St. Paul's Cathedral, London.

**SOURCES:**

The Journals of Major-Gen C. G. Gordon, C.B. At Kartoum Ed. by A. Egmont Hake; Kegan, Paul, Trench & Co., London 1885

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The Victorian Web: Charles Gordon's Charitable Works: An Appreciation; Paul Mersh, <http://www.victorianweb.org/history/empire/gordon/mersh2.html>

Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles\\_George\\_Gordon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_George_Gordon)

## Campfire Reflections – Kevin Gordon

I love campfires. Whether at a campground or in my own back yard: I love the sounds, smells and looks of a campfire. I love to feel the warmth on a cold Midwest star filled night. I love the crackle of the wood as it burns in the vibrant orange and yellow colors. I love the smoke that drifts upwards to the stars on a clear crisp evening. I like to sit out by my fire every evening I can. It's my time to think, reflect, and wonder, and the topic of most evenings is family.

I spent my life as a police officer. My father William was a maintenance worker at a chemical company. My grandfather George, was born in a little town in southern Illinois, moved to St. Louis and spent his life as a street car conductor.

My great grandfather Charles, was also born in Southern Illinois and was engaged in the mercantile business most of his life there. In the early years of the 1900s, he sold his business and moved to Corona, California where he opened another store. As an early resident of Corona he served on the Village Board for many years.

My 2nd great grandfather Henry was born in Pennsylvania in the early 1800s and when about 4, he came west with his parents to St. Louis. While in his teens, he moved to Southern Illinois. He lost his first child, had 4 more children, lost his wife, remarried and had 5 more children. When gold was found in California, he headed west in a wagon for a trip that took six months over the California Trail. He returned by boat to Panama, walked across the Isthmus and boarded another boat to New Orleans and then up river to Illinois, a month journey. He graduated from Shurtleff Theological College and spent six decades founding churches all over southern Illinois.

My 3rd great grandfather George was born in Pennsylvania and traveled with his family to St. Louis, which was not yet part of the United



Two generations of the Gordon Family in a photo from 1870.

States. His mother died when he was 14 and at 19, his father was murdered. He refused to commute the death sentence of the convicted killer, as was his right as oldest son. He returned to Pennsylvania, married, had three children and went back to St. Louis after Missouri became a state. He built and operated a gristmill for years. He later moved to Southern Illinois.

My 4th great grandfather, also named George, was born in Pennsylvania, the oldest of eight children. He was a patriot of the American Revolution having served five years. He married and with his family moved to St. Louis when it was still part of the Spanish controlled Territory of Louisiana. He was there when Lewis and Clark left and returned. He built a gristmill, his wife died and he later remarried. A stepson resented the marriage and loss of property to his stepfather and shot and killed him in an ambush. His

last words were "I did not expect that anybody would serve me so". His stepson was hung for the crime and is recorded as the first legal hanging in Missouri.

My 5th great grandfather Henry was born in Pennsylvania and served in the American Revolution. He married and his brother-in-law was on General Washington's staff. He was a farmer and an innkeeper. His inn was often used as a meeting place for fellow revolutionaries. He died just two months after learning his son was murdered.

My 6th great grandfather, another George, was born on board a ship on the Atlantic while his parents crossed the Atlantic from Ireland. He later moved to western Pennsylvania as one of the first of the new settlers. He married, had seven children and fought in the Revolutionary War.

My 7th great grandfather also George, was born in Scotland and moved to northern Ireland as colonists of the Ulster plantations. He married and had children then moved his family to the "British Colony" as part of the Scot Irish emigration and settled in the Cumberland Valley area of Pennsylvania.

My 8th great grandfather Alexander and the next 16 generations before him lived in Scotland and were



Kim & Kevin Gordon with their Dad and sons 1991.

important in the history of Scotland. They fought with Wallace at Stirling, helped in capturing the Castle of Wigton and fought with Bruce at Bannockburn. Bruce knighted one of them and the King of England beheaded another. Many died in battle including at Flodden, the siege of Alnwick Castle, the Battle of the Standard, the border wars, Dunbar, the Battle of Homildon and one died fighting in the Crusades.

Before that the family lived in France and it is believed they originally came from Macedonia and battled Caesar during the Roman's conquest of Gaul.

All these generations that came before me and certainly just as many to come after. I often wonder what we have in common, other than our DNA and I believe shared memories. Our experiences, our challenges and our lives were so different. But there is one thing, I believe, that is common to every one of my ancestors. At some time, probably many times, they all sat around a campfire. They all felt the warmth of the fire, listened to the crackle of the wood, enjoyed the oranges and yellows of the flames and watched the smoke as it drifted slowly up to the stars. I can't help but believe that they, like me, watched the fire and thought about those who came before. I imagine they wondered about those who would come after them. And that's one of the things I think about when I'm at my campfire. In my mind's eye, I see them sitting around the fire with me. It connects me to them all.

## AGM Agenda

- Call to Order
- Reading of the Chief's Greeting
- Reading and approval of the 2013 AGM Minutes
- Reports:
  - President's Report by Lois Todd
  - Treasurer's Report on the funds received, paid-out and financial state of the organization.
  - Membership Report
  - Convener's Chair Report by Geof Baker
  - Communications Chair Report
  - Scholarship Chair Report
  - DNA Project Liaison Report
- Items of Business:
  - Bylaws Revisions presented by Evan Rose followed by discussion and call for vote.
  - Discussion of Scottish Charity
  - Discussion of DNA Project Funding
  - 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.

## **Proposed Amendments to the Organization's Bylaws**

**By: Evan Rose, on behalf of the Bylaws Committee**

**Bylaws Committee: Evan Rose, Bonnie & Keith Linse, and John Lowry**

Last year, the Board of Directors appointed a committee to review the organization's bylaws. The goals of the committee were to conform the bylaws to the organization's actual practices, clarify ambiguities and inconsistencies in the text, and propose new language that would contribute to the smooth administration of the organization. What follows is a short description of the committee's proposed amendments. Questions about the amendments should be directed to Evan Rose at [vp@houseofgordonusa.org](mailto:vp@houseofgordonusa.org).

**Article 1 (Purposes):** No major substantive changes were proposed.

**Article 2 (Membership):** The different types of membership were clarified, and the bylaws were edited to conform to actual practice. Text related to voting rights was consolidated in the membership voting section (Art. 3 § 4).

**Article 3 (Meetings of Members):** The definition of quorum was clarified, as was the text concerning which members are eligible to vote. The committee also proposed that the bylaws formally include a grace period so that members who choose to renew their membership at an annual meeting held in July remain eligible to vote.

**Article 4 (Directors):** The composition of the organization's board of directors was clarified and conformed to actual practice. The board consists of the four elected officers and up to seven additional directors (including up to three elected directors at large).

A provision added in 2010 that prohibits directors from being directly related to each other was excluded from our proposal; the committee was concerned that it might interfere with the organization's efforts to fill the board with enthusiastic and committed members. In addition, there was concern that the amendment adding the provision had not been properly approved by the organization (thus the provision does not appear in the committee's redline).

Certain other changes were made to improve the functioning of the board, including the addition of a provision permitting the board to vote via email, so long as the vote is unanimous (§ 8). The amendments also include new provisions relating to **conflicts of interest and director liability that are common in non-profit corporation bylaws (§§ 9-10, Appendix A)**.

**Article 5 (Officers):** The titles and duties of the organization's officers were clarified and conformed to actual practice.

**Article 6 (Council):** The provision concerning meetings was made more flexible, in part to conform to actual practice.

**Articles 7 (Regional Representation), 8 (Finance), and 9 (Amendments to the Bylaws):** No major substantive changes were proposed.

I am grateful to the committee for their invaluable contributions. We hope you agree that the proposed amendments will improve the organization's ability to fulfill its mission.

**BYLAWS  
OF  
HOUSE OF GORDON USA**  
A California Public Benefit Corporation

**ARTICLE 1  
PURPOSES**

**SECTION 1. OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSES**

The primary objectives and purposes of this corporation shall be:

- a. To encourage interest in the history, arts and traditions of Scotland in general, and in particular, of the House of Gordon;
- b. To represent the House of Gordon at Scottish Games and Festivals and any other events deemed appropriate by the President;
- c. To collect genealogies and family traditions of the members of the Society and to provide a permanent repository for records, relics and other materials associated with the Clan;
- d. To publish and circulate among Society members material concerning Scottish history and traditions and current Society news; [and](#)
- e. To administer money and property given or bequeathed to, or acquired by the Society, for general, specific or benevolent purposes.

**ARTICLE 2  
MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION 1. DETERMINATION AND RIGHTS OF MEMBERS**

The classes of membership in the corporation are:

**Regular:**

- a. ~~Persons aged eighteen (18) or older~~[\(a\) Individual membership: Eligible persons are those](#) who by birth, marriage or descent bear, or are connected

with, the name Gordon or any Clan sept name, regardless of spelling variations. ; or who have a particular interest in the Gordons, Scottish culture and history. An individual member will receive one copy of Society Literature and shall be eligible to cast one vote on Society matters.

~~b. Families,—defined~~ Family membership: Persons eligible for individual membership who live in a single household may instead elect to join the Society as husband and wife and children under 18 years of age living under one roof,a family membership. A family membership will receive one copy of Society Literature, and shall be eligible to cast one undivided vote on ~~society~~Society matters.

~~c. Persons who have a particular interest in the Gordons, Scottish culture and history.~~

Ex officio: The hereditary chief of the Gordon Clan and the chief's adult heir are deemed ex officio members of the Society. Ex officio members shall be eligible to cast one vote on Society matters but shall pay no dues.

**Honorary:** Persons who, for their influence on behalf of and goodwill toward the Society, are so elected by the Directors. Honorary memberships shall be non-voting and pay no dues.

Voting rights, privileges, and eligibility to stand for election to office shall be limited to ex officio members and regular members in good standing. Honorary members may attend and speak at all meetings, but shall not be eligible to vote or stand for election to office.

~~Members will be entitled to vote in person or by proxy. Proxies must be received by the Secretary no later than ten (10) days prior to the date of the stated election in order to be counted. A member's proxy will automatically be revoked, should that member be present at the meeting.~~

## **SECTION 2. ADMISSION OF MEMBERS**

~~Applicants~~Eligible applicants shall be admitted to membership on making application therefore in writing and upon payment of the annual dues.

## **SECTION 3. DUES**

Membership dues shall be in the amount approved from time to time by the Directors.

~~Annual membership~~A member shall pay the required dues ~~shall be due~~ no later than 30 June of each year. to remain in good standing. Membership is automatically ~~terminated~~changed to "inactive status" by failure to pay annual dues by ~~1 September~~31 December unless a written request for extension of time to pay is approved by the Directors. Inactive members are not entitled to Society Literature.

**ARTICLE 3  
MEETINGS OF MEMBERS**

**SECTION 1. PLACE OF MEETINGS**

Meetings of members shall be open to all members of the Society and shall be held at such place as may be designated from time to time by resolution of the Board ~~of Directors.~~ Representation at any meeting may be by presence or by proxy.

**SECTION 2. ANNUAL MEETINGS**

The members shall meet annually in each year for the purpose of electing officers and other directors and transacting other business as may come before the meeting. The candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected.

To the extent practicable, the annual meeting location will be rotated among major Highland Games and Gathering sites.

**SECTION 3. QUORUM FOR MEETINGS**

A quorum shall be constituted by twenty percent (20%) of ~~the active voting membership~~ members in good standing represented in person or by proxy.

**SECTION 4. PROXY VOTING & GRACE PERIOD**

~~Membership voting by proxy being allowed.~~ Ex officio members and regular members in good standing will be entitled to vote ~~shall have the right to vote either~~ in person or by a written proxy executed by such person or by his or her duly authorized agent. Provided, however, that a member who is not in good standing because of failure to pay the required dues by 30 June will be eligible to vote in a meeting of members if (a) the meeting is held within four (4) weeks of the 30 June deadline; (b) the member was in good standing for the prior membership year; and (c) the member pays the required dues before the meeting.

Proxies must be received by the Secretary no later than ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting in order to be counted. A member's proxy will automatically be revoked should that member be present at the meeting.

**SECTION 5. CONDUCT OF MEETINGS**

Meetings of members shall be presided over by the President of the corporation or, in his or her absence, by the Vice-President of the corporation. The Secretary of the corporation shall act as secretary of all meetings of members, provided that, in his or her absence, the presiding officer shall appoint another person to act as secretary of the meeting.

Meetings shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order, 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.

Minutes of all meetings, whether of the general membership or ~~Directors~~the Board, shall be kept and made available for inspection upon request by any member.

## ARTICLE 4 DIRECTORS

### SECTION 1. POWERS

The general management of the corporation shall be under the control, supervision, and direction of the board of Directors. ~~(the "Board")~~.

### SECTION 2. NUMBER AND TENURE

The Directors shall include the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Communications Chair, Quartermaster and Convener Coordinator, and at least one (1) but no more than three (3) Directors at Large, for a total of no more than eleven (11) Directors. The President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer together constitute the Executive Board, and no position on the Executive Board may be held concurrently with another position on the Executive Board. The Membership Secretary, Communications Chair, Quartermaster and Convener Coordinator are ex officio Directors, and such positions may be held concurrently with an Executive Board position, provided, however, that a Director holding concurrent positions will count as a single director and will have a single vote on Board matters.

~~The number of Directors constituting the Board of Directors~~ Director at Large positions available at election shall be fixed by resolution of the Board ~~of Directors, but shall not be less than four (4) nor more than eleven (11) and not more than four (4) will be officers of the corporation. These will include the President, the Vice-President, at least thirty (30) days prior to the Secretary and the Treasurer.~~ election. Each Director will hold office until his or her successor is elected and qualified.

### SECTION 3. ANNUAL MEETINGS

An Annual Meeting of the Board ~~of Directors~~ will be held at a date, time, and place to be determined each year by the President. The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to conduct such business as may come before the meeting.

Other regular meetings of the Board may be held at such time and place as the Board may fix from time to time by resolution.

Special meetings of the Board for any purpose may be called at any time by the President, Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer, or any two Directors.

#### **SECTION 4. QUORUM**

A majority of the ~~Board-of~~ Directors then in office will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the ~~Directors~~Board, but, if less than a majority of the Directors then in office is present, a majority of the Directors present may adjourn the meeting *sine die*.

#### **SECTION 5. VACANCIES**

Any vacancy caused by the death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or otherwise, of any Director shall be filled by the Board ~~of Directors~~.

#### **SECTION 6. COMPENSATION**

No Director will receive any salary or other compensation for services rendered in such capacity, but any Director may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses directly incurred in connection with performance of their duties on behalf of the Society, in reasonable amounts as approved by the Board.

#### **SECTION 7. MEETING BY TELEPHONE OR ONLINE**

One or more ~~Director~~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. All Directors so participating will, for the record, be deemed present at the meeting.

#### **SECTION 8. ACTION WITHOUT MEETING**

Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Board may be taken without a meeting if all members of the Board, individually or collectively, consent in writing to the action. For the purposes of this section only, "all members of the Board" shall not include any "interested Director" as defined in section 5233 of the California Nonprofit Corporation Law. Such written consent shall have the same force and effect as a unanimous vote of the Board taken at a meeting. Such written consent or consents shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Board.

Written consent may be transmitted by first-class mail, messenger, courier, facsimile, email or any other reasonable method satisfactory to the President.

#### **SECTION 9. NON-LIABILITY OF DIRECTORS**

The Directors shall not be personally liable for the debts, liabilities or other obligations of the corporation.

## SECTION 10. CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

The Society's conflict of interest policy is set out in Appendix A to these bylaws.

### **ARTICLE 5 OFFICERS**

#### **SECTION 1. NUMBER OF OFFICERS**

The officers of the corporation shall be a ~~president~~President, a ~~vice-president~~Vice-President, a ~~secretary~~Secretary and a ~~treasurer~~. ~~The corporation may also have, as determined by the Board of Directors, one or more vice presidents, assistant secretaries, assistant treasurers, or other officers~~Treasurer.

#### **SECTION 2. ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE**

Officers of the corporation shall be elected by the members at the annual meeting, and each officer shall hold office until he or she resigns, is removed, or is otherwise disqualified to serve, or until his or her successor shall be elected and qualified, whichever occurs first.

Each officer shall serve for a term of two years or until his or her successor is elected or appointed. There will be no limitation on the number of times an officer may be reelected.

Elected officers will assume office immediately at the close of the meeting at which they have been elected, and in all cases serve until their successors are elected and qualified, unless their term is sooner terminated by resignation or for other reasons.

#### **SECTION 3. ~~SUBORDINATE~~APPOINTED OFFICERS, AGENTS AND ASSISTANTS**

The Board shall appoint a Membership Secretary, a Communications Chair, a Quartermaster and a Convener Coordinator, and the President or the Board ~~of Directors~~ may appoint such other officers or agents as ~~it~~each may deem desirable, ~~and such~~. Appointed officers or agents shall serve such terms, have such authority, and perform such duties as may be prescribed from time to time, in writing, by the President or the Board ~~of Directors~~. Appointed officers or agents shall assume office immediately upon appointment.

Officers and Directors may appoint assistants to help with them with their duties. An officer or Director making such an appointment must, in timely fashion, inform the Board of the identity of, and duties to be performed by, the assistant.

## SECTION 4. DUTIES

The duties of the elected and appointed officers shall ~~be:~~ include:

**President:** The President shall be chief executive officer of the Society and shall have general supervision over its affairs, subject to the control of the ~~Directors.~~Board. The President shall preside at all meetings of the general membership and all meetings of the ~~Directors.~~Board. In general, the President shall perform all the duties incident to the office of the chief executive officer of a non-profit corporation and such other duties as are provided for in these bylaws and as from time to time may be assigned by the ~~Directors:~~ Board.

**Vice-President:** The Vice-President shall exercise all the duties and responsibilities herein required of the President at such times as the President is absent or unable to perform his or her duties, when the same would be required. Should the office of President become vacant for any reason, the Vice-President shall automatically become President until the next scheduled election. The Vice-President shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board.

**Secretary:** The Secretary shall ~~be responsible for insuring~~keep and maintain the minutes of all general membership meetings and meetings of the ~~Directors~~Board and ~~distributing~~distribute the same to all ~~Director Members~~Directors following each meeting. The Secretary shall attach the full roster of members in good standing, as well as the complete membership report, to the minutes of any general membership meeting. The Secretary shall see that the reports, statements, and other documents required by law are properly kept and filed timely. The Secretary shall be responsible for all Society correspondence. The Secretary shall perform such other duties as may from time to time be properly assigned to carry out the duties of the office. At the expiration of his or her office, the Secretary shall, within thirty (30) days, turn over to his or her successor in office all minutes and other official records.

**Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall collect and keep a record of all monies received and disbursed by the Society. The Treasurer shall deposit all sums received by the Society in accounts identified as belonging to the Society. The Treasurer shall make a report of the finances of the Society at least annually to the ~~Directors~~Board and when called upon by the President, and shall perform such duties as shall be assigned by the ~~Directors~~Board or President. The funds, books and other records in the custody of the Treasurer shall at all times be subject to the inspection, supervision and control of the ~~Directors~~Board and the President, and, at the expiration of his or her office, the Treasurer shall, within ~~20~~thirty (30) days, turn over to his or her successor in office all books, moneys and other properties in his or her possession, provided that the successor has opened a bank account on behalf of the Society. The Treasurer shall add the succeeding President and Treasurer as signatories to the current Society bank account.

**Membership Secretary: (Board-appointed):** The Membership Secretary shall maintain the official membership lists for the Society. The Membership Secretary shall be the primary recipient of all membership applications. The Membership Secretary shall forward, in a timely fashion, all funds collected as dues to the Treasurer with a statement of each transaction. The Membership Secretary will make available, upon request, lists and labels to the various officers for use in the performance of their duties.

**Communications Chair: ~~(Board-appointed):~~** The Communications Chair ~~will~~shall oversee all clan publications including the House of Gordon USA newsletter and the website. ~~The Chair will have the authority to appoint whatever assistance they feel is necessary to accomplish these duties.~~ The Chair will work with the editor and the webmaster to publicly promote House of Gordon USA.

**Quartermaster (Board-appointed):** The Quartermaster shall hold, inventory, track and ship the supplies and properties of the Society and the Society store, and reports to the Treasurer and President or the President's designee.

**Convener Coordinator (Board-appointed):** The Convener Coordinator shall, under the direction of the President, act as the point of contact between the conveners and commissioners, and the Board; locate, interview and assess potential representatives of the various regions, divisions and games; put in place new conveners in areas without representation with the consent and at the pleasure of the President; in conjunction with the Quartermaster, ensure that new conveners are supplied with a starter kit, which may include, among other things, a banner set; in conjunction with the President and the Communications Chair, educate and provide resources to the conveners to ensure the positive promotion of the organization to the public; and perform other duties in accordance with Article 7 of these bylaws.

## **SECTION 5. SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

The Society newsletter shall be considered the official Society organ. The Newsletter ~~editor~~Editor(s) shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the ~~Communication~~Communications Chair.

Any notices required to be made to the membership shall be considered timely made if published in a newsletter mailed to the membership in time to satisfy any notification requirements.

## **SECTION 6. COMMITTEES**

The President ~~of the Society~~ may appoint committees ~~and persons to special positions~~ as needed. Unless otherwise entitled, such committee persons are not considered members of the Council.

All committee chairs shall prepare a written report of the activities of their committee to be presented to the President ~~of the Society~~.

## SECTION 7. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The President shall appoint, no less than six (6) months prior to an annual meeting at which an election is to be held, a nominating committee, consisting of three Society members in good standing, who will serve until the close of the meeting at which elections are held. The committee will be responsible for soliciting input from the membership and preparing a slate of nominations. This slate will be presented to the general membership in writing at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the elections. All persons nominated must give their prior consent to serve if elected.

## SECTION 8. REMOVAL AND RESIGNATION

Any officer may be removed, either with or without cause, by the Board ~~of Directors~~, at any time. Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Board ~~of Directors~~ or to the President ~~of the corporation~~.

## SECTION 9. VACANCIES

Any vacancy caused by the death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or otherwise, of any officer shall be filled by the Board ~~of Directors~~.

# ARTICLE 6 COUNCIL

## SECTION 1. OFFICERS & MEMBERS

~~All elected~~The Directors, ~~appointed~~ officers and Commissioners shall constitute the Council of the House of Gordon USA. Games Conveners shall be invited to participate on the Council.

The President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be the Officers of the Council.

## SECTION 2. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Council is to tap into the greater perspective of these collected ~~Clan~~Society representatives and to bring to the Board ~~of Directors~~ the opinions and feelings of their respective ~~House of Gordon USA Members~~,Society members, and to discuss openly situations and concerns vital to every Clan gathering in every part of the country. Suggestions on subjects from protocol to merchandise may be freely exchanged and put before the Board for final disposition. Every member should know that his or her voice will be heard through their representation at Council meetings.

## SECTION 3. MEETINGS

The Council shall meet periodically, at ~~least annually~~. ~~Special meetings may be called by the discretion of~~ the President. ~~These Special meetings~~ Meetings may be conducted electronically ~~conducted~~, including by "round robin" email.

## ARTICLE 7 REGIONAL REPRESENTATION

The United States shall be divided into geographical regions, whose boundaries shall be determined from time to time by the President and ~~Director~~ the Convener Coordinator.

Representation shall be either by State Division or Games Convener or by Regional Commissioner. The Convener, being the first line of representation to the membership and public at large, shall make all arrangements with specific Games and Festival organizers to have a ~~House of Gordon USA Society~~ presence at selected events and to see to that presence for the duration of the event. A Regional Commissioner's responsibility shall extend to the several contiguous states in his ~~or~~ her region. Such Commissioners, shall automatically serve as members of the Council. The duties of these Commissioners will be to coordinate Society activities in their region. They will have the authority to appoint whatever ~~assistance~~ assistants they feel necessary to accomplish these duties. Copies of all correspondence of a general nature and any newsletters shall be sent to the President and Communications Chair. They may establish an operating fund for the use of their region. Established funds of this nature shall be considered as part of the funds of the Society as a whole.

Should a region not have ~~an elected~~ a representative, the President in consultation with the ~~Director~~ Convener Coordinator may appoint an individual to serve at the pleasure of the President ~~or until an election is held~~. State and individual Games Conveners shall report to the Commissioner in their region or, if no Commissioner has been appointed, directly to the ~~Director~~ Convener Coordinator.

~~A Director, as one of his or her duties, shall serve as Director Coordinator of the Commissioners and other Conveners.~~

## ARTICLE 8 FINANCE

The Society shall operate on a fiscal year beginning 1 July ~~4~~ and ending 30 June of the following year.

The purpose for which the Society is organized is exclusively educational within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986

or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, this Society shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.

In the event of dissolution, the residual assets of the Society will be turned over to one or more organizations which themselves are exempt as organizations described in Section 501(c)(3) and 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or corresponding sections of any prior or future Internal Revenue Code, or to the Federal, State, or local government for exclusive public purposes.

## **ARTICLE 9 AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS**

These ~~By-Laws~~bylaws may be amended at any general membership meeting of the Society, a quorum being present, provided, however, that written notice of the proposed amendments shall have been given to the members at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

No amendment shall provide authorization to conduct the affairs of this Society in any manner or for any purpose contrary to the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 ~~as now in force or afterwards amended.~~or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.

## **Appendix A: Conflict of Interest Policy**

### **Article I Purpose**

The purpose of the conflict of interest policy is to protect this tax-exempt organization's (Organization) interest when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of an officer or director of the Organization or might result in a possible excess benefit transaction. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state and federal laws governing conflict of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable organizations.

**Article II**  
**Definitions**

**1. Interested Person**

Any director, principal officer, or member of a committee with governing board delegated powers, who has a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined below, is an interested person.

**2. Financial Interest**

A person has a financial interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, or family:

- a. An ownership or investment interest in any entity with which the Organization has a transaction or arrangement,
- b. A compensation arrangement with the Organization or with any entity or individual with which the Organization has a transaction or arrangement, or
- c. A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which the Organization is negotiating a transaction or arrangement.

Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are not insubstantial.

A financial interest is not necessarily a conflict of interest. Under Article III, Section 2, a person who has a financial interest may have a conflict of interest only if the appropriate governing board or committee decides that a conflict of interest exists.

**Article III**  
**Procedures**

**1. Duty to Disclose**

In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an interested person must disclose the existence of the financial interest and be given the opportunity to disclose all material facts to the directors and members of committees with governing board delegated powers considering the proposed transaction or arrangement.

**2. Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists**

After disclosure of the financial interest and all material facts, and after any discussion with the interested person, he/she shall leave the governing board or committee meeting while the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining board or committee members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists.

**3. Procedures for Addressing the Conflict of Interest**

- a. An interested person may make a presentation at the governing board or committee meeting, but after the presentation, he/she shall leave the meeting during the discussion of, and the vote on, the transaction or arrangement involving the possible conflict of interest.
- b. The chairperson of the governing board or committee shall, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement.
- c. After exercising due diligence, the governing board or committee shall determine whether the Organization can obtain with reasonable efforts a more advantageous transaction or arrangement from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest.
- d. If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably possible under circumstances not producing a conflict of interest, the governing board or committee shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested directors whether the transaction or arrangement is in the Organization's best interest, for its own benefit, and whether it is fair and reasonable. In conformity with the above determination it shall make its decision as to whether to enter into the transaction or arrangement.

#### **4. Violations of the Conflicts of Interest Policy**

- a. If the governing board or committee has reasonable cause to believe a member has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform the member of the basis for such belief and afford the member an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose.
- b. If, after hearing the member's response and after making further investigation as warranted by the circumstances, the governing board or committee determines the member has failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate disciplinary and corrective action.

### **Article IV** **Records of Proceedings**

The minutes of the governing board and all committees with board delegated powers shall contain:

- a. The names of the persons who disclosed or otherwise were found to have a financial interest in connection with an actual or possible conflict of interest, the nature of the financial interest, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present, and the governing board's or committee's decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed.
- b. The names of the persons who were present for discussions and votes relating to the transaction or arrangement, the content of the discussion, including any alternatives to the proposed transaction or

arrangement, and a record of any votes taken in connection with the proceedings.

**Article V**  
**Compensation**

- a. A voting member of the governing board who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Organization for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.
- b. A voting member of any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Organization for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.
- c. No voting member of the governing board or any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Organization, either individually or collectively, is prohibited from providing information to any committee regarding compensation.

**Article VI**  
**Annual Statements**

Each director, principal officer and member of a committee with governing board delegated powers shall annually sign a statement which affirms such person:

- a. Has received a copy of the conflicts of interest policy,
- b. Has read and understands the policy,
- c. Has agreed to comply with the policy, and
- d. Understands the Organization is charitable and in order to maintain its federal tax exemption it must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes.

**Article VII**  
**Periodic Reviews**

To ensure the Organization operates in a manner consistent with charitable purposes and does not engage in activities that could jeopardize its tax-exempt status, periodic reviews shall be conducted. The periodic reviews shall, at a minimum, include the following subjects:

- a. Whether compensation arrangements and benefits are reasonable, based on competent survey information, and the result of arm's length bargaining.
- b. Whether partnerships, joint ventures, and arrangements with

management organizations conform to the Organization's written policies, are properly recorded, reflect reasonable investment or payments for goods and services, further charitable purposes and do not result in inurement, impermissible private benefit or in an excess benefit transaction.

**Article VIII**  
**Use of Outside Experts**

When conducting the periodic reviews as provided for in Article VII, the Organization may, but need not, use outside advisors. If outside experts are used, their use shall not relieve the governing board of its responsibility for ensuring periodic reviews are conducted.

## AGM To Be Held @ Grandfather July 12<sup>th</sup>

The House of Gordon USA AGM will be held at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games July 10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> with the AGM Meeting being held on Saturday, July 12, 2014.

We will be holding the meeting in the Gordon encampment on the mountain. This gets us away from the noise of the festival in a casual and comfortable setting where we can hear and be heard. As we will be discussing and voting on the proposed Bylaws changes, it is extremely important that EVERY MEMBER in good standing vote, either in person or by proxy! Please fill out and return your proxy whether you plan on attending or not; this way if something unexpected prevents you from making it to the meeting, your vote will still count!

We will have lunch in the Gordon Hospitality Tent on Clan Row on Saturday and Sunday. If you can, please plan to bring a dish to share...a little something you picked up at the store at the bottom of the mountain before you come up will go along way toward making our time together more fun! We will be smoking some BBQ and other delicacies in our rock oven in the campground to bring to the feast! If you don't have a dish to share, no worries! Bring your smiling face and be prepared to have fun!

Sunday is clan competition day. Anyone wishing to get together to form a relay team or tug of war team? How about competing individually in the kilted mile? We hope some of you will wish to compete for the House of Gordon in our usual glorious fashion!



Our Winning Relay Team

# Officers of The House of Gordon USA

## Board of Directors:

President -	Lois M. Todd	<a href="mailto:president@houseofgordonusa.org">president@houseofgordonusa.org</a>
Vice President-	Evan Rose	<a href="mailto:vp@houseofgordonusa.org">vp@houseofgordonusa.org</a>
Secretary-	Nikki Gordon Middleton	<a href="mailto:secretary@houseofgordonusa.org">secretary@houseofgordonusa.org</a>
Treasurer-	Bonnie G. Linse	<a href="mailto:treasurer@houseofgordonusa.org">treasurer@houseofgordonusa.org</a>
Directors at Large-		
	John Lowry	<a href="mailto:john@houseofgordonusa.org">john@houseofgordonusa.org</a>
	Geof Baker	<a href="mailto:geof@houseofgordonusa.org">geof@houseofgordonusa.org</a>

## Commissioners:

East Coast	David Todd	<a href="mailto:info@houseofgordonva,.com">info@houseofgordonva,.com</a>
Gulf States	Marcia Gordon McLaurin	<a href="mailto:geemarcia@gmail.com">geemarcia@gmail.com</a>
Southwest	Tom Adams	<a href="mailto:taadams.scotland@sbcglobal.net">taadams.scotland@sbcglobal.net</a>

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

***Join Us on Facebook!*** [facebook.com/groups/houseofgordonusa/](https://facebook.com/groups/houseofgordonusa/)  
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# House of Gordon USA Newsletter Annual Edition

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