

IN THE HOUSE!

House of Gordon USA Newsletter Annual Edition

Volume 11 Issue 2

May 2017



**What's Happening
In The House**

**AGM Weekend
Events & Agenda**

**The Gordons of the
Carolinas—
a genealogy puzzle**

**Yummm... Girl
Scout Cookies!**

***Look Out Grandfather,
The Gordons Are Coming!***

AGM2017

***House of Gordon Honored
Clan @ Grandfather Mountain
& the Chief is Coming!***

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Articles and other materials appropriate for publication are encouraged. All matters submitted for printing are subject to the Editor's approval, who reserves the right to edit prior to publication.

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

Annual Dues of \$25 are payable annually. Remit to **House of Gordon USA**, 7 Ladbrooke Rd. Greenville, SC 29615 or remit using Paypal Please visit our website: houseofgordonusa.org for further information.

Chief's Message



This will be my fourth visit to Grandfather Mountain and it is huge privilege to be returning. When I first came to Linville I stayed as a guest of Nestor MacDonald in his beautiful home on the golf course. I remember being offered grits for breakfast - a first for me! But what I remember more than the grits was the row upon row of clan tents. I returned to Scotland to suggest to the Aboyne Games Committee that we did something similar. We now have a collection of clans who come every year and encourage their supporters to get together and meet other clans. We are still a long way behind Grandfather but we are getting there.

I spent my childhood and education in Scotland. I was at Gordonstoun School for four years and later studied at the Institute of Commercial Management before going into business. Somewhere in the middle of all this I restored my ancestral home, Aboyne Castle, which had over forty bedrooms and returned it to the seventeenth century tower house that it used to be.

Architecture has been my passion since I was a small boy. I used to sit and paint people's houses when ever I was asked and always try and have a small travelling paint set somewhere not far away. Restoring the castle took seven years. It had been added to enormously over the years and since 1925 had been allowed to deteriorate to such an extent that new floors and staircases together with a new roof was needed. It gave us the chance of adding vaulted rooms, panelling and ornamental plaster - all characteristics of sixteenth and seventeenth century domestic architecture in Aberdeenshire. It is now a comfortable family home with an elevator (six floors is too many for us old folk) and I have brought up my family there. My son Alistair is about to take over from me.

Being a clan chief is a great honour. The Gordons have always been a very active clan - especially in America where Charles O Gordon, very well known here at Grandfather, did so much to get the clan society, which we call House of Gordon, well represented in America. I remember him fondly. I look forward to some great entertainment and to meeting many old friends.

Aye,

Huntly

President's Message



We have had a great year adding new conveners and expanding the House's presence in areas we had not been in before and welcoming back conveners to areas where we were gone for a while! The House is alive and thriving!

Our new convener for Kentucky and Tennessee, Mark Dodd, delivered our donation to the Gordon Highlander Museum while he was in Scotland visiting his daughter and grandbabies. It is always a pleasure to be able to support the endeavors of the GHM. I have distant cousins who served as Gordon Highlanders, and during WWI, my grandmother's brother served overseas and became close friends with one of our cousins who was in the Regiment. I grew up hearing stories of them in the family, and how even with generations apart and they still shared the love and talent of piping! So for me the museum is a link to those men of my family.

This year is a stellar year in the making with membership growing and the Chief coming to visit with us at Grandfather! We will have all our usual fun on the mountain, and we are adding a Meet & Greet with the Chief—see page 44 for more information on the AGM Weekend Events, and the order form for the Meet & Greet is included in the mailing package.

The proxy is also included in the mailing package— please fill it out and return it. Even if you are planning on attending the AGM in person, send your proxy just in case. That way if something comes up your vote will still be counted, and don't worry if you are at the meeting in person, your presence supersedes your proxy.

I am hoping to find some people who are interested in helping with the newsletter and website going forward. I would like more people involved in creating and maintaining our communication mediums. These are the threads that connect us and without them we would have a much harder time getting together, sharing our rich cultural heritage, and enjoying each other as a huge extended family group. I thought being an empty nester would give me more time to do all the things I love doing for the House... little did I know I was going to change jobs and jump into new projects that take up a large part of my time and energy! Nor did I know that my physical abilities would become so much more challenged this quickly. A few volunteers would be greatly appreciated!

What's Happening In The House!

New North Florida Convener, Jen Mills Martin, has hit the trifecta straight out of the starting gate, her 1st 3 festivals in 3 consecutive weekends garnering 3 awards!



The 1st for our new convener was a success at the Northeast Florida Scottish Games and Festival, she welcomed 4 new members to the House!



The 2nd was a first for the House. It was the 1st time in the 25 years the Panama City Scottish Highland Games and Festival has been celebrating that the House was represented! There she welcomed one very excited member and place 2nd in the Best Clan Tent competition! Last, but certainly not least, was

the 7th Annual St Augustine Celtic Heritage and Music Festival, again, a first for the House as we've never been represented at this fine fest! Here she welcomed 5 new members and walked away with 2 awards, 1 for Best Tent and the other (thanks to a total of 18 Gordons coming out to enjoy the day with her and her family) for Most Members Attending! BYDAND!



Hello to all from sunny South Texas!! Last year seemed a virtual whirlwind of events for the House of Gordon in Texas. Started the year in Midland-Odessa at the Midland Scottish-Irish Faire and Highland Games in March, then on to the San Antonio Highland Games, which is my home event, in April. Next, in May I went to my first Texas Scottish Festival in Arlington. It was quite eventful, as I made friends with a small fledgling bird that hung out at the Gordon tent gathering many visitors.

After Arlington we took a summer break in Texas. The first event after the summer was the Celtic weekend at the Sherwood Forest Faire in September. It was a small event as far as clan participation was concerned, but was well attended. After that was the 2nd Annual Kerr County Highland Games, which had gratefully been moved from August the previous year, to October. It was much cooler and better attended than its inaugural year. House of Gordon received a lovely certificate for surviving the first year and showing up for the second!

The next stop on the Highland Games trail was the Salado Highland Games. It was in November and was our final event for the year. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend Midland this spring, and the North Texas Irish Festival in Dallas, due to schedule conflicts. But I started the games circuit again April 1st here in San Antonio. Next will be Arlington. Will keep you posted on the events to come! Bydand!

Katy Richards, Convener, Texas

Two of our members, SFC Tony Williams and Sgt Jon Akin, are deployed to Korea. So... the House sent them a little Tartan Week/Easter love in care packages designed to bring back some fond childhood memories of home.

Tony's Gordon connection is through his grandmother, Dorothy Gardner of Louisiana. And Akin speaks for itself as one of our sept names!



ulous enthusiastic ladies will be working together with the Mid-Atlantic Conveners to ensure that we have more events for our North Carolina members . Both are excited to get started and will be hosting the Gordon tent at Laurinburg on October 7th!



Tony sent a thank you on April 4th via our House of Gordon USA Facebook Group:

“A thanks to the House on behalf of [Jon Akin](#) & I

It was very awesome receiving such heart felt packages today all the way in Korea!



Bydand!!!”

Thank you for your service and may you always feel the blessings of God with you and your families!

We are very excited to announce that we have a new convener for Oklahoma!

Melinda Gordon Proctor will be taking on the role and we are looking forward to her hosting the Gordon Tent this fall at the Tulsa ScotsFest!

We met Melinda last year (left) at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, and we are confident she will be a fabulous representative of the House!

We also are very happy to announce two new Games Conveners for North Carolina, Megan Todd Faulkner, and Marianne Mills Knapp. These two fab-



WELCOME HOME TO THE HOUSE WEE GORDON BABIES!

Welcome Wee One

**By Scotland's Poet Laureate,
Jackie Kay**

O ma darlin wee one
At last you are here in the wurld
And wi' aa your wisdom
Your een bricht as the stars,
You've filled this hoose with licht,
Yer trusty wee haun, your globe o' a heid,
My cherished yin, my hert's ain!
O my darlin wee one
The hale wurld welcomes ye:
The mune glowes; the hearth wairms.
Let your life hae luck, health, charm,
Ye are my bonny blessed bairn,
My small miraculous gift.
I never kent luve like this.



Gwen Isla Sullivan was born on August 6, 2016 at 2:15 PM. She weighed 7 lbs and was 20.5 inches long. Parents are Joshua and Stephanie (Gordon) Sullivan of Morrisonville, IL. Grandfather is Lord John Gordon, Convener for Illinois. Gwen is the 6th generation from Scotland. Her name derives from Islay, Scotland (Queen of the Hebrides).

Gwen had already attended her first Highland games in St. Louis in September 2016. She will also travel to Chicago, Iowa and to meet the Chief at the AGM this year.

Our belated Christmas gift arrived! Lydia Rae Rose was born in Oakland on Monday, December 26th, at 12:19 p.m., weighing 8 lb 6 oz. Lydia



Rae is named in honor of Kendra's aunt Barb (middle name Lydia) and Evan's mother Karen (middle name Rae).

We're back home, and Kendra and Lydia are doing great. Louis has been a sweet and helpful big brother to "my baby," as he calls her. Love, Evan, Kendra, Louis & Lydia

Jenn Mills Martin, convener for the North Florida area, announced the birth of their newest granddaughter, Laurel Noel Read, born January 2, 2017.

Laurel is pictured with her sister, (and Jenn's eldest granddaughter), Sally Leighanna.

Joseph Brian Rogers born March 24th, grandson of new member, Jani Swadley.



Proud Grandparents Ronald & Mary Borders welcome their wee Gordon Goddess in Training to the House! Elowen Jean Noll born to Janie McKinnie Noll and Chet Noll III on December 13, 2016.



Flowers of the Forest



Ken Gordon, President of House of Gordon Australia writes: It is with a very sad heart that I have to announce the passing of our dear friend Peter Lupinski. Peter passed away quietly at home this morning after a battle with cancer. Peter has always been a great ambassador for the House of Gordon always performing his duties as deputy Commissioner of NSW and media liaison officer far above anything expected. I was talking to him on Friday and for the first time told me he wouldn't be going to Bundanoon still making fun telling me his kilt wouldn't fit as he had lost weight but was still planning

what we could do for the rest of the . He had such pleasure in surprising me and presenting me with the Clan claymore which will be named after him. He had an effervescent sense of fun and put everything into anything he did and always excelled in doing it. We will greatly miss his smiling face and charm and our chats about all things Scottish. Peter was not just a colleague but our friend, he will be missed but always remembered.



It is with great sadness that we mark the passing of Jim O'Halloran, husband of Glenyss O'Halloran, Commissioner of House of Gordon New Zealand.

O'Halloran, John James (Jim), RNZA 42 Battery Service No.461265 On 7th March 2017 at Te Kuiti Hospital after a long illness,. Born with strong and uncomplaining fortitude. Most dearly loved husband and best friend of Glenyss for 50 years. Dearly loved father and father in law of Mary and Conrad Simmons, Alison and David Davy and Ross and Susan O'Halloran. Loved grandfather of Jessica and Matt Mitchell, Emily Simmons, Amber Davy, Jimmy Davy, Glen, Sand and Tess O'Halloran. Ross writes of his father "A mighty oak has fallen, Saol Is gear, is é an chuimhne ar fad. (Life is short, the memory is long) I will truly miss my best friend.

Charles O Gordon Scholarship!



This year we are happy to announce that we have awarded three scholarships to three outstanding applicants. The Board had a very difficult time deciding on who to award our scholarship to this year as we had several wonderful young Highland Dancers applying for our scholarship. Each one had very real needs and each one showed an incredible amount of dedication and talent with clearly defined goals.

The Charles O. Gordon Memorial Scholarship was founded at the 2006 AGM at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games by vote of the membership and

we set out the goal of furthering the Scottish Arts and our rich cultural heritage by giving a helping hand to our youth who wish to hone their talents and accomplishments in the traditional arts of Scotland.



Emma Schiff, is a young Highland Dancer from Oak Park, CA and a former recipient of the C.O. Gordon Memorial Scholarship in 2014. We are happy to be able to sponsor her again this year in her quest to continue her Highland Dance career. In 2016 she achieved her first coaching level obtaining the Associates Diploma, with honors and she was the winner of the LA performance based Spotlight Awards where she will perform at the Walt Disney Hall in downtown Los Angeles in June, 2017. More importantly she achieved the goal she has been working toward of becoming World Champion! This year will see her moving up to the 18 and over level of competition where she will be competing with the

most established and accomplished Highland dancers and her goal is to further hone her abilities. She will also be continuing by working toward her next level of coaching degree (Members) and has the goal to not only one day become a Judge, but also an Examiner. We are excited to be able to in some small part help her along this path knowing that she will for decades to come be exciting, encouraging, teaching and mentoring many more young Highland Dancers. We have awarded her a \$500.00 cash grant.



Megan Ashworth of Simi Valley, CA is a Highland Dancer and teacher with a goal of becoming a Judge. In 2016 she was honored to be invited to Moscow, Russia to perform in the tattoo in Red Square, where she met Russian Highland Dancers and, she says, "although we did not speak the same language, we were all able to dance together!" She will be heading to Vancouver, Canada this fall to sit for the Scottish Official Board of Highland Dancing's Judging Exam. We know that Megan will also be a beacon to many young Highland Dancers for years to come and will be able to continue teaching and once she earns her Judging certificate, she will be able to give the constructive criticism that these dancers enter competition in search of to hone their skills and reach their potential. We are happy to be able to help her with a cash grant of \$250.00 toward her theory class preparation for her Judges' examination.



Autumn Giancchina is a young Highland Dancer from Clearwater, FL who has been dancing for the past 4 1/2 years and has just achieved Premiere level. She is active in her community as a volunteer and is the Junior Class President at Dunedin High School, and also works part time. She has been a guest dancer for Celtic Christmas at the Rialto Center for the Performing Arts in Atlanta, GA the past 3 years and last year was a guest dancer for the Red Hot Chili Pipers in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. This hard working, talented young lady would like to attend the Ohio Scottish Arts School to improve her dancing and we are very happy to award her a \$500.00 cash grant to help ensure she will be able to attend.

The final scholarship is our standing scholarship for the Grade 4 Junior Piper of the Day at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games where Charlie was president of the Games for many years. The Chief will be have the honor of handing out the trophy and a \$250.00 cash grant on our behalf.

The Epic Project!

Dana Leigh Smith, from the Searcy, Arkansas area, has been named the 2017 award recipient of the Epic Project. She is the first percussionist and the first Arkansan to receive the award.

Smith is a freshman at Lyon College pursuing a B.A. in mathematics. She is also the bass player for the Lyon College Pipe Band and a tuba player for the Lyon College Marching Band.

A highly motivated student, Smith hopes to one day pursue her graduate degree in bioengineering. Her goal is to eventually become a designer of advanced prosthetics.



Smith began playing the bass drum shortly after arriving at Lyon and has worked hard to learn the techniques unique to pipe band drumming. Known as “Li'l Red” in the pipe band, she is very popular among her colleagues due to her friendly disposition, ready smile, and surprise baked goods. She also does an outstanding job as the heartbeat of the band.

The Epic Project was founded in 2015 by Susan Gordon Rose, a kilt maker from Valley Center, California, with the support of Clan Gordon. The project's mission is to support and encourage young bagpipers, drummers, and Highland dancers by supplying them with uniforms and equipment. Pipe majors and instructors recommend promising candidates, and a committee of professionals then considers the nominees and selects one recipient per year.

Smith will receive complete handmade kilt outfits from My Kiltmaker as well as a new bass drum and accessories, and she will fly to Pleasanton, CA, for the gifting ceremony at the Pleasanton Highland Games this fall.

Two Milnes Who Pioneered Seismology

David Milne (1805-1890) later David Milne-Home, was the son of Admiral Sir David Milne, GCB and was at an early age interested in geology and attended the lectures of natural history professor Robert Jameson while attending law school at the University of Edinburgh. From 1826 to 1845 he worked as an advocate, but abandoned the practice of law to manage his estates in the country and focus on his scientific interests. In 1828 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh his proposer being Norwich Duff. At age 23 this made him one of the youngest ever members. He served as Secretary to the Society 1840 to 1848 and as Vice President for most of the period 1865 to 1888, serving more years in this role than any other person His most important scientific papers deal with the geology of Roxburghshire and the Mid-Lothian and East Lothian coal fields, the origin of parallel roads in Glen Roy, the distribution of boulders in Scotland and the study of earthquakes in Great Britain.

His interest in earthquakes was roused by the remarkable shocks which occurred at and near Comrie in 1839. In 1840, at his suggestion, the British Association appointed a committee for the study of earthquakes in Britain, Milne acted as secretary to the committee, and wrote the four reports which were presented in the years 1841-1844. The work of the committee was confined almost entirely to the Comrie earthquakes (there were few elsewhere in Britain to record) and as the aftershocks became slight and infrequent the committee disbanded after the meeting in 1844. During the years of the Committee, David Milne published a valuable series, *Notices of earthquake-shocks in Great Britain, and especially Scotland*. The first part consists of a list of 288 earthquakes felt in Britain from 1608-1839 compiled from historical data, and in large part from the diary kept by Samuel Gilfillan, Secession Minister at Comrie, who noted 68 earthquakes from 1792-1822. The second part deals with the Comrie earthquakes from 3 October 1839 through the end of 1844 and includes a full account of the principal shock of 23 October 1839 which was to the most detailed report to that time ever published on a British quake. His series of papers is credited with the founding of the study of British earthquakes. In the second paper published in 1841, he gives an exceptionally clear description of the transmission of the vibrations from the origin outwards in spherical waves, and shows that at the epicenter the movement would be vertical, becoming more nearly horizontal with increasing distance from the epicenter.

“If instruments could be invented which at different places would indicate, not merely the relative intensity of the shocks, but the direction in which they acted on bodies, means would be obtained of determining the point in the

earth's interior from which the shocks originated.”

This was the year Milne coined the work seismometer – the oldest seismological term- and put forward the idea for a machine that could measure earthquakes and the term was adopted by James David Forbes, also on the committee with David Milne, in his paper on “The Theory and Construction of a Seismometer, or Instrument for Measuring Earthquake Shocks, and other Concussions” that the committee contributed to and he read at the Royal Society of Edinburgh that year. The following year Forbes produced his Forbes Seismometer- directly influenced and inspired by the work of his colleague, David Milne. Milne also notes in his paper in 1841 that the places in Scotland most prone to earthquakes are characterized by certain geological features: “now, along these districts, it is well known that there are deep and extensive fissures and dislocations in the earth's crust.”

Although David Milne pioneered the study of earthquakes in Britain, his work is eclipsed by that of John “Earthquake” Milne who is widely regarded as the father of modern seismology. Sadly, his work is little known or appreciated in Britain.



John Milne was born 30 December 1850 and at seventeen began to study within the Department of Applied Sciences at Kings College. It was not long before he began to gain recognition for his work and receive many awards, the most significant of these an ‘A.K.C’ for Divinity. During his time at Kings Milne undertook a variety of courses including Geology, Mathematics, Mechanics and Mineralogy to name a few and as his education continued he became profoundly interested in Geology and Mineralogy. After receiving a Royal Exhibition Scholarship while at Kings, Milne continued his studies at the Royal School of Mines, London.

In the early 1870's he gained practical experience in the mines of Cornwall and Lancashire, and in Germany studying Mineralogy at the University of Freiberg. His urge to travel during his university years also took him to Iceland with his great friend William Lord Watts, to explore the Vatnajokull glacier. It was during this trip that Milne discovered his great dislike for travelling by boat as he suffered from chronic sea-sickness. Upon their return both men shared their findings in a series of lectures to the Engineering Society of the College. It was this expedition and the many to fol-

low which underpinned Milne's extensive geological understanding and knowledge.

Milne completed his studies at the age of twenty-three and with his education finished he searched for employment, and was quickly asked to travel to Newfoundland with Cyrus Field over the summers of 1873 and 1874 to investigate and locate coal fields. During this period, he was also recruited by the Royal Geographical Society as a geologist and under the guidance of Dr. Charles Tilstone Beke travelled to the Sinai Desert. On both expeditions, he made extensive geological notes and wrote several papers on his findings including *Notes on the Physical characters and Mineralogy of Newfoundland* (Journal of the Geological Society) and *Geological Notes from the Neighborhood of Cairo* (Geological Magazine), both published in 1874. As well as this, the work undertaken at Mount Sinai was published within Beke's book, containing many of his original sketches and his geological report in one of the appendices. Milne's name became well known in the scientific community and his reputation as a competent and qualified geologist began to grow.

In 1875 Milne left Britain for Japan, and was noted as a marked turning point in both his career and personal life. A new era was unfolding in Japan, known as the Meiji Restoration of 1868. Under the Meiji Government one of the five provisions was to widen the knowledge base to ultimately strengthen the foundations of the new rule. Thus, the Imperial College of Engineering was founded in Tokyo and at the age of twenty-five Milne was invited to become the first Professor of Mining and Geology at the Institution. For a short period, this was the largest technical college in the world, until 1886 when it became part of Tokyo University. His dislike of travelling via water led to Milne's well documented overland journey to Japan through Europe, and Russia. The expedition took almost a year and although it would have been significantly shorter by boat Milne saw this as a great opportunity to deepen his geological knowledge on a global scale. His complete set of notes was later published in the Transactions of Asiatic Society of Japan (Volume 7, pages 1-71) and partly because of his extraordinary expedition, Milne was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

Milne's experienced an earthquake on his first night in Japan in 1876. The College was still relatively small, with approximately twelve professors and six supporting lecturers. Many of Milne's colleagues, like himself, were exceptionally young although each was competent in their specialist subject areas, with Milne teaching Mining, Architecture, Chemistry and Metallurgy. He soon became known for his sheer thoroughness and on several occasions added to textbook notes or even created his own where he deemed them insufficient. One such set, *Notes of Crystallography and Crystallophysics* were published in 1879 with over five hundred copies printed.

John's interests outside the classroom environment led him to his enthusiasm and resultant career in Seismology. Milne took a keen interest in his new home and made several important contributions to the study of Japanese prehistory and to the description of Japan's aboriginal inhabitants, the Ainu. He traveled to Japan's northernmost island, Hokkaido, to make his ethnological observations, and many of his guesses about the movements of peoples in early Japan were proven correct by artifacts recovered later during anthropological expeditions.

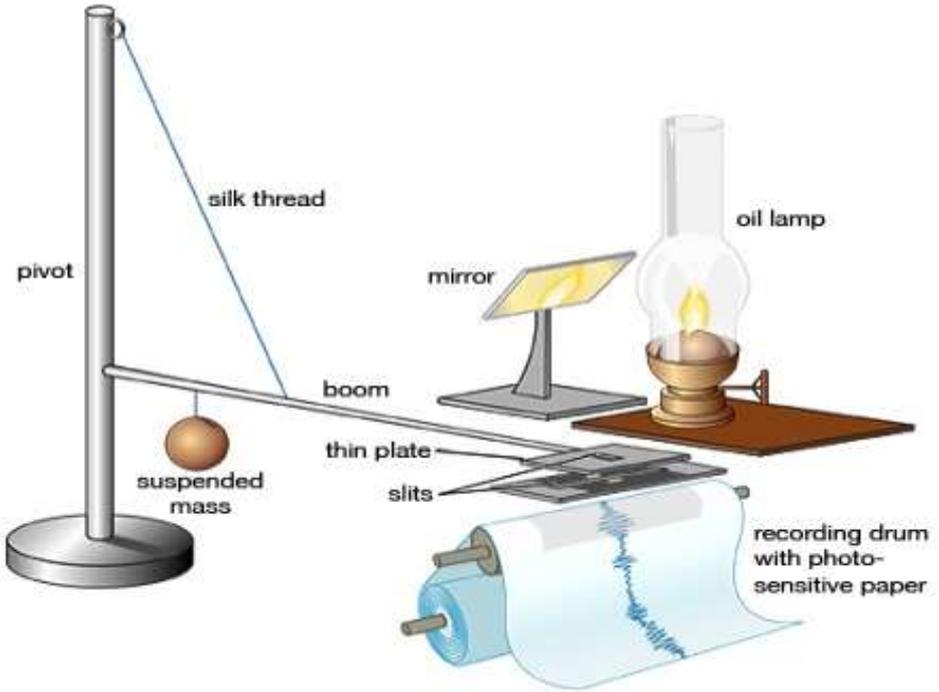
The interest of European scientists in earthquakes had been heightened by a group of major quakes that struck England and Portugal in the 1750s, and measurements of earthquake intensity had been made for more than a century, the most significant of these coming out of David Milne's work on the Comrie quakes, but few researchers had analyzed the collected data systematically, even David Milne's group had fallen short in many ways in their analysis of the data they collected. The scientific understanding of earthquakes was still in its infancy in the 1870s. Supernatural explanations had given way to the hypothesis that earthquakes were somehow connected to volcanic eruptions. John's first major extra-curricular interest was Volcanology, and from 1877 he took part in field investigations studying Japan's volcanoes. In the twenty years that Milne was resident in Japan, he climbed over fifty volcanoes and undertook what was considered pioneering exploration of the Kurile Islands, where a new volcano discovery was made by Milne himself. His extensive study led him to reject the belief and common theory that seismic activity was a direct result of volcanic activity. Milne was quoted as saying:

'the majority of earthquakes which we experience do not come from volcanoes nor do they seem to have any direct connection with them. In the centre of Japan there are mountain districts where active volcanoes are numerous, yet the area is singularly free from earthquakes.' (Kabrna, 2007)

During the same period, in Japan, earthquakes were beginning to be studied from the likes of Hattori and Nauman. With debates rife, from contributors such as James Alfred Ewing, Thomas Lomar Gray and William Edward Ayrton, Milne began to contribute his own geological knowledge and opinion to their discussions. However, the Tokyo-Yokohama earthquake of February 1880 was considered, and still is, the final transition of Milne to a seismologist. It was this event that triggered Milne, along with Ewing and Gray, to create the 'The Seismological Society of Japan', the first society dedicated to seismology. Although elected as president Milne turned this honor down, instead recommending Hattori, a prominent Japanese official.

Milne realized not only the importance of better instrumentation to make progress in the field of study, but also that the services of many others were needed. Milne, unlike others, focused on producing an instrument

that could record aspects of ground motion, and with time his colleagues acknowledged his views. This led to the invention of the Milne-Gray seismograph, taken to Britain in 1881 to be produced by James White in Glasgow. For the first time the results that were collected enabled ground motion to be interpreted as a function of time. From 1892 the work of the



Milne horizontal pendulum seismograph. On exhibit in the National Museum of Nature and Science, Tokyo, Japan.

committee spread from Japan to include more distant earthquakes. By the end of Milne's twenty-year period in Japan there were almost one thousand centers where earth movements could be registered and recorded, in Milne's seismograph network. Milne's work began to be recognized in Britain and the Geological Society of London awarded him the Lyell Medal, as well as providing financial support for his research which supplemented that provided by Japan.

In conjunction with his work for the Seismological Society of Japan, Milne became increasingly interested in earthquake mitigation. In the early 1880s he became involved in construction, particularly of bridges and buildings, designing innovative measures to withstand earthquake shocks. Consequently, he advised on building regulations, some of which were incorporated into Japanese building codes and in 1888 he was awarded with the Order of Merit with the Cordon of the Second Treasure, later being raised to the status of Chokunin (an imperial command civil servant of the 1st and 2nd ranks. In the Meiji Era.) He was one of very few foreigners ever to receive the Order of the Rising Sun award by the Japanese emperor.

The great Mino-Owari earthquake of 1891 also proved to be a marked point in Milne's career. The destruction caused led to the immediate



Embankment of the Biwajima River

formation of the Imperial Earthquake Investigations Committee, of which Milne was the only international member. Thus, the Seismological Society of Japan was abandoned in 1892 and the transactions previously produced were followed by the Seismological Journal of Japan which Milne edited until 1895. His observations of the Mino-Owari earthquake of 1891 led him to the correct hypothesis that earthquakes were caused by the release of energy along fault lines in the Earth's crust. He published several major works, exploring the relationship between seismic activity and terrestrial relief, including one that documented the effects of the 1891 quake in photographs before returning to Britain later that year.



Nagara Gawa Railway Bridge

He also influenced the BAAS, (The British Association for the Advancement of Science) to set up the Seismological Investigation Committee in 1891 to investigate earthquake tremors that occurred in the British Isles. The committee consisted of himself, A.C Ramsey and Charles Davison. His summaries of his Japanese earthquake observations were published in the books *Earthquakes and Other Earth Movements* (1898) and *Seismology*; these remained standard texts in the field of seismology for many years. For his efforts in search of an understanding of earthquakes in Japan, Milne married Toné Horikawa, a Japanese geologist. They solemnized their marriage in two separate ceremonies, one Japa-

nese and one recognized under British law. Milne established observations on a national scale while in Japan and on his departure, for the first time, the responsibility of seismic research was placed into Japanese hands.

After Milne's home, observatory, loss and destruction of much of his work and instruments and books were destroyed in a fire, he decided to return to Britain. His wife and an assistant, Shinobu Hirota (known as Snowy), accompanied him to the Isle of Wight off England's southern coast in the summer of 1895. Although once back in Britain he could replace some items, he grieved the loss of those which were irreplaceable for years. Being virtually unheard of in his home country proved to be a blessing, allowing Milne to be left to his own devices and to continue with his work.

Milne settled with his wife Tone, his mother and stepfather, and trusted assistant Shinobu 'Snowy' Hirota at Shide Hill House



John and Tone Milne at Shide

near Newport, chosen due to the underlying geology which allowed for seismic studies to occur. He oversaw the pouring of a precision-specified concrete floor before installing his array of instrumentation. Shide Hill House attracted scientists and researchers from around the world for the rest of Milne's life. The location had an additional attraction for Milne: the nearby Carisbrooke Castle owned one of his seismographs, and by 1900 Milne had added several more of his own, creating in effect Britain's first major seismographic research center, (some say the world's first, but his center in Japan certainly pre-dates Shide.) In addition to this, Milne turned his focus back to writing, publishing 'Earthquakes and other earth movements' in 1886

and 'Seismology' in 1898. He also began producing earthquake maps, visually displaying where earthquakes were occurring on a global scale.

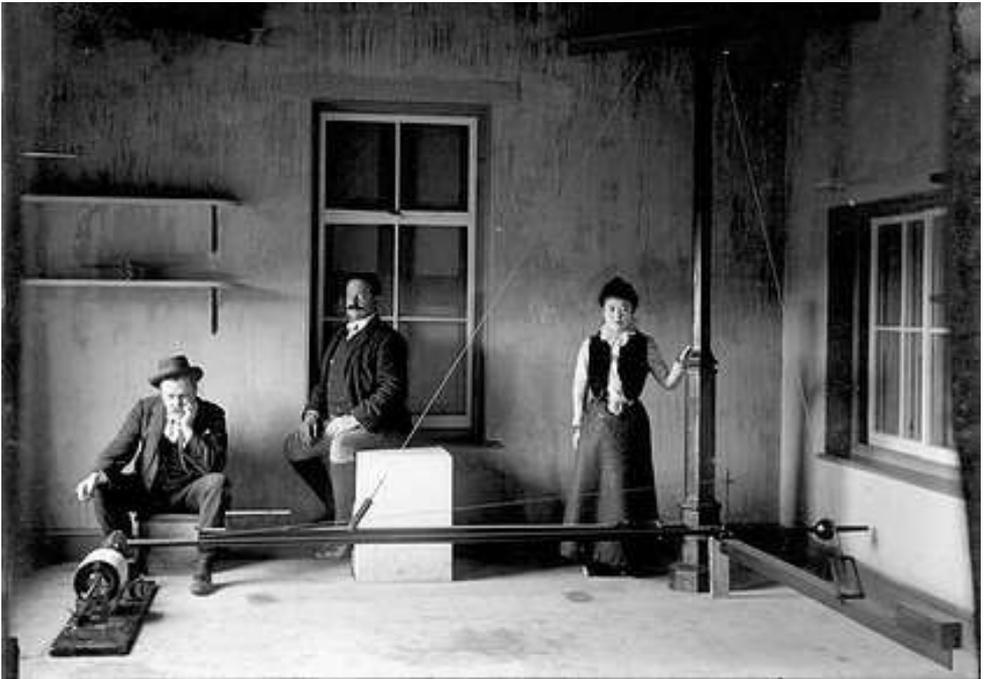
Milne was deeply interested in the earlier work of Ernst von Rebeur-Paschwitz and shared his 'dream' of an international community of earthquake observatories. However, due to Ernst's death in 1895, his opinions were never fully appreciated nor understood. Distant earthquakes were being recorded at Shide and this ultimately led to the creation of such a network. After an 1896 tsunami that hit Japan, Milne investigated the phenomena and wrote a lengthy report considering the positioning of oceanic faults and the consequences this had upon global communications and oceanic cabling. As a direct result, Milne secured funding from the Royal Society for a network of earthquake observatories around the world equipped with his seismographs. Positioned initially in twenty-two stations, mainly in commonwealth nations. Milne formed a new British Seismological Investigation Committee which communicated with other seismographic stations around the world to form his global network that in vastly refined and expanded form still exists today. Locations grew from 22 to 40 and included England, Russia, the United States, Canada, and Antarctica, adding to the extensive network he had created while in Japan. The worldwide nature of this network was critical for collecting data to provide global patterns for earthquake activity, which could then be evaluated at a central location. It also allowed for "remote sensing," or measuring earthquakes felt in one area of the earth in another region in a uniform fashion.



A partial mapping of some of Milne's seismograph stations in the network

Data was sent to Shide where it was catalogued and later distributed in a bulletin known as the Shide Circular. This remains the only continuous publication (on a global scale) of early station bulletins between 1899 and 1912.

In the eighteen years that Milne was resident at Shide Hill House, experts, amateurs and reporters travelled from across the world to discuss current developments. Colleagues would visit as often as possible and in many cases Milne inspired others to undertake work like himself. One such person was John Johnson Shaw, who first met Milne in 1896. Inspired by Milne, he returned home to turn his basement into a laboratory and a short period after had constructed his own seismograph. This friendship and interest resulted in the later development of the Milne-Shaw seismograph in 1913 which became the standard recording instrument for a considerable amount of time.



John Milne, Prince Boris Gallitzin and Tone Milne with Milne's seismograph.

Milne was host to other, more prestigious guests at Shide, such as Prince Boris Gallitzin. Prince Gallitzin was the key to advancements in Russian seismology, developing not only the first network in Russia but also the first electro-magnetic instrument. Captain R. F. Scott had also been a visitor to the observatory at Shide, as he later transported one of Milne's seismographs to the Antarctic with him. In his bid to escape from reporters Milne would often play golf, to return in a calmer state ready to an-

swer their seemingly endless enquiries and questions!

At this stage in his career, Milne was considered the 'Father of Seismology'. The extent of his services to the discipline and the research that he had undertaken gained him recognition in the form of a Royal Medal awarded by The Royal Society, an honorary D.Sc. from Oxford University and the University of Tokyo making him an Emeritus Professor. Milne's work had a global effect. However, the amount he contributed to the science of seismology and the level of his research would not have been possible without the assistance and dedication of his trusted companion Shinobu 'Snowy' Hirota, who on many occasions supported Milne in the development and care of instruments and the observatory. The pair were companions for seventeen years, until 'Snowy' was struck with illness and promptly returned to Japan in December 1912, where he died soon after. His death was noted to be deeply distressing for Milne, who later called upon Howard Burgess to take over 'Snowy's' role in the observatory.

Around this time, Milne was also suffering from illness, which was later diagnosed as Bright's disease (a kidney disease first described in 1827 by Richard Bright). Milne deteriorated rapidly; by the end of July 1913 he had slipped into a coma, passing away at the age of 62. The death of Milne was widely reported, both in Britain and internationally. In the academic community, it was received with widespread shock and many of his colleagues travelled vast distances to pay their respects. The work Milne produced over the past twenty-five years created many opportunities. His preliminary studies into seismology permitted a new generation of seismologists to explore new ideas and alternative fields of enquiry.

After Milne's death, many in the academic community believed the importance of continuing the work that Milne had begun. Prince Gallitzin and the geophysicists Professor J.W. Judd and Professor A. Geikie, in particular, highlighted this need, calling upon Professor Herbert Turner of Oxford University Chairman of the British Association Seismological Committee to oversee the running of the observatory. For some six years after Milne's death, two of his lifelong friends, Mr. Burgess and Mr. Pring ran the observatory under the guidance of the University. Professor Turner rarely travelled to the Isle of Wight due to other commitments and so for economic reasons and for convenience, the observatory was re-located in 1919 to Oxford, where Professor Turner continued to oversee its functioning. From this point the observatory produced the publication, the International Seismological Summary, which was the forerunner of the Bulletin of the International Seismological Centre.

The establishment of the observatory in Oxford prompted Tone's decision to leave the Isle of Wight and return to Japan. Her basic command and knowledge of the English language left her unable to cope with everyday

affairs and she herself was not in good health. Many of Milne's possessions, including his Royal Medal returned with her. However, this medal and other belongings have since been lost or destroyed. Thankfully, much of his work, including his books and instruments were donated to the British Association, in the hope that these could be used by the Seismological Investigation Committee. The few possessions that remained in Britain were auctioned off when Shide Hill House was sold.

John Milne left an astonishing legacy to the world, exploring and kindling the discipline of Seismology until it was established and received the international recognition that it deserved. Despite this huge feat, he is barely known in his home nation, perhaps this is partly due to a large portion of his career being spent in Japan. On returning to Britain he settled in an area that was mostly free of seismic activity and thus, there was little interest in the subject.

Aside from the display of his instruments in the Science Museum, London, few efforts or attempts have been made in Britain to bring Milne's work to the attention of the public. His birthplace has been redeveloped, Tunshill House demolished and his residences in London undetermined. Milne's childhood home, 147 Drake Street, Rochdale remains. However, there is no reference to its past inhabitant! Despite his lack of recognition in Britain, Milne is still widely remembered and commemorated in Japan.



In 1923 a memorial was erected in Hakodate cemetery in memory of him and Tone. In addition to this an information board displaying his achievements was also installed. Further, a commemorative exhibition was held in 1963 in honor of Milne, marking fifty years since his death.

Milne's studies serve as a foundation for our understanding of the earth as a dynamic system, helping to unravel the perplexities of its interior. Indeed, it was Milne's work which underpinned and ultimately led to the establishment of what is known today as the International Seismological Centre, where he is regarded as the founder of the profession and the initiator of the extensive network of seismic stations reporting to ISC from all around the world.

Century of Scrummy Scouting

By Jen Mills Martin

Who doesn't love a Girl Scout Cookie, one flavor or another, most everyone has enjoyed a box (or two) in their lifetime! These delectable treats have been a part of our history for a century! That's right, 100 years of confectionary goodness!

Most know that the founder of the Girl Scouts is one of our own, a Gordon! In 1912, Juliette Gordon Low (1860–1927) founded Girl Scouts of the USA, an organization that today serves millions of girl members and alumnae.

She saw the potential in all girls and she recognized the importance of fostering their individual growth, character, and self-sufficiency, "Daisy" (her childhood nickname) is credited with establishing and nurturing a global movement that has changed the world.

In 1917, just 5 years after Daisy's dream became a reality, the Mistletoe Troop in Muskogee, Oklahoma, sold their home-baked cookies to raise money to send gifts to soldiers in World War I. Other Girl Scout troops loved the idea and followed suit.

Though many recipes have been added, changed, introduced and retired, one thing has been a constant for a century; girls selling cookies to raise money for their communities, soldiers serving our country and to help those in need around them.

In selling these irresistible, milk beckoning delights, there's the fun and the friendships, but there's more to it than that. Girls also realize that setting and reaching their goals is both fulfilling and empowering. When coupled with the social interaction with friends, family, and customers, the cookie program becomes an essential part of the Girl Scout experience.

I, myself, was Cookie Champ in 1984 and still have such wonderful memories of my adventures and accomplishments as a Scout!

If it's just too long for you to wait between cookie selling seasons, why not try a fun "copycat" recipe to tide you over!!!!

One of my favorites is the peanut butter, chocolatey goodness that makes the long time familiar Tagalong cookie.... here's a nifty recipe we'll call "Leftbehinds!" It's super simple; a shortbread cookie, peanut butter filling covered in chocolate!

"Leftbehinds" Cookies

2 sticks (1 cup) unsalted butter, brought to room temperature
1/2 cup powdered sugar
1/2 teaspoon vanilla
1/8 teaspoon almond extract

2 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon salt

Filling

3/4 cup creamy peanut
butter
1/2 cup powdered sugar
1/4 teaspoon vanilla
Pinch salt

Coating

12 ounces milk chocolate
chips,
1 teaspoon vegetable oil

Prep

With an electric mixer, cream butter and powdered sugar until smooth. Add vanilla and almond extract and mix. In a separate bowl, sift together flour and salt. Slowly add sifted ingredients to butter mixture and mix until combined. Shape dough into a disc, cover in plastic wrap and chill for 30 minutes.

Preheat oven to 350°

Take chilled dough, and roll out on a lightly floured surface to 1/4 inch thick. Use small circle cookie cutter (also lightly floured), cut out cookies and place on parchment-lined baking sheet.

Bake for 12-15 minutes, or until edges just begin to turn golden. Let cool.

While cookies are cooling, use a mixer to combine peanut butter, powdered sugar, vanilla and a pinch of salt.

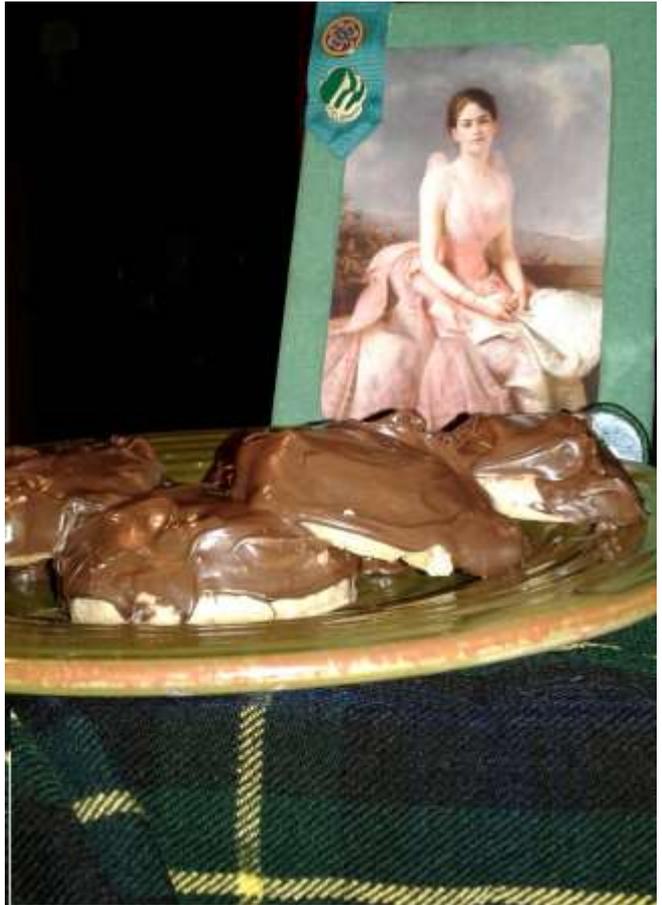
Once cookies have cooled, scoop approximately 1/2 teaspoon of filling on top of each cookie.

In a bowl, microwave melt all the chocolate. Stir every 30 seconds until it's fairly smooth. Add vegetable oil and stir until you have a glossy chocolate. Microwave more if needed.

Using a fork, dip cookie into chocolate. Place them on foil or parchment paper.

Let cookies cool at room temp and then peel off paper or foil.

Serve and enjoy!



Gordon DNA Project Update

Jim Gordon, Project Co-Administrator

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www.thegordondnaorject.com

This year's report is a mix of several subjects which will be of interest to members of the Project and the House of Gordon in general.

Project membership

We have welcomed 53 new members to the Project. In the past year. This brings our participation to over 850. This is a smaller increase from last year at this time. This includes not only those in the three major branches of the Gordons – The Jock & Tams, The Seton-Gordons and The Sir William Gordons, but also sept members; those not belonging to one of the three major branches; Newly Discovered Gordon branches and the Yet to be Classified Gordons. This last group includes small groups of Gordons with documented lineages whose Y-DNA results do not match those of the other Gordon branches.

Gordons of North Carolina via Virginia

I asked Sharon Marsalis of Raleigh, NC to write up something about her research on Gordons in North Carolina because she has been instrumental in helping Gordons research their roots in the Carolinas. A. C. Gordon's *Gordons in Virginia* documents how some of the Virginia Gordons emigrated further south. Sharon's submission follows this report.

Y-DNA testing for women

Ladies, are you interested in tracing your family lineage, but stymied by the concentration on Y-DNA results? If so, do not despair! If you are a Gordon by birth, you can use the Y-DNA of one of the men in your birth family. This can be a father, brother, uncle, cousin, grandfather, great uncle, etc. All you need do is ask him to participate. If the response is "not interested," tell him that all he need do is allow you to swab the inside of his cheek--20 seconds at most; and that will be the limit of his participation – the kit will be sent to you, you will send in the kit and pay for it and receive the results.

If you are not a Gordon by birth, but have cousins who are Gordon by birth (uncle, cousin, grandfather, great uncle, etc.), you can ask one of them to participate. Again, if the answer is "not interested," follow the advice in the paragraph above.

If you are a Gordon descendant but don't know of any Gordon relatives, the Family Finder Test is your next best bet. The Family Finder Test can identify cousins, often distant, up to 3d or 4th cousins reliably, who have tested with FTDNA. Once you have identified a Gordon cousin, you can ask if he has tested his Y-DNA with FTDNA and then begin to compare family trees with your paper trails.

Kilrea Gordons

Among the Sir William major group, there is a small group of nine, including me, who descend from individuals from the townland (a small geographical division of

land used in Ireland) of Kilrea in County Londonderry in Northern Ireland. Although all of us share a common ancestry in Kilrea, today we are in diverse locations:

Two members live in Kilrea. They knew each other before they had their DNA tested, but didn't know they were related.

Our Canadian member's ancestors emigrated to Canada in the 19th century.

My immigrant ancestors appear to have been on one of the ships from Ireland in 1718 which were turned away from Boston, Massachusetts and eventually settled in Maine.

One member's ancestors originally settled in Pennsylvania and later migrated to upstate New York.

Another member, whose ancestors settled in North Carolina may have been part of a contingent fleeing religious persecution and immigrated through Charleston, South Carolina.

A second member's ancestors immigrated through Charleston, South Carolina and the family eventually settled in the Washington, DC area.

The latest member to join our group hails from Connecticut.

The Kilrea group and the Alexander Gordon group (below) are two of the three known groups sharing descent from the Kenmure-Lochinvar line. We don't yet know the exact relationships among the three groups. Nor among the members of the individual members, but are working on it. The third group has a member who has a proven descent from Sir William Gordon of Stitchell (d. 1370).

Descendants of Alexander Gordon of Exeter, New Hampshire

Alexander Gordon of Exeter, NH was a boy soldier who became a prisoner of war after the Battle of Worcester, Worcestershire in 1651. He was sold into indentured servitude in what is now New Hampshire. He sued his master for breach of contract and won his freedom. He was subsequently employed by Nicholas Lissen, married the boss's daughter and went on to become a successful businessman in New Hampshire and Maine. He is the ancestor of most of the Gordons in the Northeast (except the Kilrea Gordons above). Thirteen of his descendants are members of our Project and, like the Kilrea Gordons, now come such varied locales as Minnesota, Las Vegas, California and New York in addition to the expected Maine and New Hampshire.

House of Gordon UK Members

For House of Gordon members in the UK who are interested in testing their DNA: Test kits can now be ordered in £Sterling at discounted project prices and mailed from the United Kingdom. Email aldasair@familytreedna.com for more information.

Project questions

Questions on the Project may be addressed to me or to Tei Gordon, the other Co-Administrator (tagordon@hotmail.com). Also visit the Project website:

www.thegordondnaproject.com).

Gordons in the Carolinas



Sharon Marsalis, Raleigh, NC
sharonmarsalis@hotmail.com
 Kit # [367734](#)

A few weeks ago, Jim Gordon, one of the House of Gordon DNA Project administrators, asked if I would be willing to help someone find his father in law's Gordon roots that go back to Davidson County, NC. Of course I said yes. I live in Raleigh and have access to the North Carolina Archives.

In the case of this Gordon, I was trying to find the father of a John W. Gordon born 1815 in Davidson County, NC. From examining early census records the line of a William Gordon born 1748 and living in Rowan County, NC emerged. This same William is listed on the H O G DNA Project in several other pedigrees but in different neighboring Counties in Western NC.

Most amazing though was the realization that this particular Gordon family in Davidson County was relating back in the 1700s to another Gordon descendant with whom I have done Marsalis/Gordon genealogy research for over 10 years. Since I have her working tree I quickly scanned it and my excitement grew.



The person I was helping has also accumulated much data and next tells me that his wife comes from two Gordon lines. (His father-in-law is the Gordon who has the ancestor born in Davidson County, NC). It then became apparent that one of his wife's lines probably goes back to the same line in Virginia as House of Gordon USA co-founder and past president, Charles O. Gordon.

The Polly Thomas Gordon line.

I am not a professional genealogist but simply someone with a passion for helping others find their families. My passion for genealogy began in 2000 when I began a search to find the origin of "Marsalis." This search led me to a book titled *A Search For Polly* and the acquaintance of some exceptional researchers who had been digging away since the 1950s. I

quickly learned that “Polly” referred to Mary Magdalene Gordon who married Peter Hutchins Marsalis between 1800 and 1804 in Georgia. (Marsalis, and its 20+ variant spellings, is Dutch). Until that time I had only known that my husband’s mother’s maiden name was Gordon. I have found that particular line from its current residence in Texas since reconstruction days back to Arkansas and before that to a George Gordon born in Mississippi about 1816.

The line of Mary Magdalene (Polly) Gordon Marsalis has become the major cause of my constant Gordon fixation. She is the paternal 3rd great grandmother of my husband. Mary Magdalene (Polly) Gordon and her assumed brother Thomas were born in NC according to censuses but their early beginnings and parentage remain unconfirmed and our earliest mentions are in Georgia.

A direct descendant of her assumed brother Thomas Gordon has been tested at FTDNA and is now part of the Gordon Project. He is part of the huge Jock and Tam Group So far, he has no close matches and carries some unique mutations

In 1971 a genealogist hired to find the father and/or confirm that Mary (Polly) and Thomas Gordon were brother and sister wrote that she had done a “pretty thorough search of all Georgia records, and identified just about everybody named Gordon in this State” (Georgia). She also believed that “all” of the Wilkes County, NC Gordons ended up in the State of Mississippi.

The genealogist had decided that Polly was the daughter of Moses Gordon. He had left a will in 1799 in Wilkes County, Georgia in which he lists a daughter Polly. She wrote, “Many of these people were Scots who migrated from North Carolina.” She was also led to this conclusion by Moses Gordon being **listed in error** on a Wilkes County, NC tax list when he was actually in Wilkes County, GA.



Are you a descendant of either (or both) of the Generals (CSA) Gordon?

It seems that if you ask about any Southerner over the age of 50 if his family is part of the Wilkes County, NC line that came from Virginia and then produced General James Byron Gordon (November 2, 1822 – May 18, 1864) of the Confederate States Army and his “distant” cousin General John Brown Gordon (February 6, 1832 – January 9, 1904) of Georgia fame, you will get a resounding yes or that family lore pointed to that

being the case. If you are from NC, you will also accurately claim this same family as the ones who fought at King's Mountain in Revolutionary days and many of who received land grants afterward in Georgia and Tennessee.

The problem is there were many other Gordon families in early NC besides the Wilkes County one. In one sense, all Gordons relate back but how close and which branch in this Country?

Other Gordon lines

If you are from the Thomas Gordon, Surry County, NC line you might have heard how your ancestor was Alexander who never really lived here but left a wife and son who did live there while he returned to Scotland. If you are from a line that seems to have originated in the port of Wilmington, you might tell the story of shipwreck and death and have an earliest known ancestor named William. If so, read on:

By 1790 and the first census there were Gordon families all over NC from the seaports to the mountains and the piedmont in between. Families began arriving in the 1750s. They came by seaports in coastal areas of North Carolina, Georgia and South Carolina as well as Virginia and Maryland and came from places like New Jersey and New York and Pennsylvania as well as Scotland and Ireland. They came by river barges and down rugged dangerous trails. They received passports to pass through "Indian territory". By 1790 at least 272 Gordon "Heads of Families" were counted in NC alone. Now with the advent of the Internet and genealogy sites we are learning more and more about these lines and how they do or do not relate.



Wilkes County, NC Gordons

Many of the Wilkes County, NC Gordons did end up in Georgia, mostly due to land grants. I have found several in Jones County, Georgia alone but no link so far to our Mary/Polly though we know Mary (Polly) Gordon and Peter Marsalis lived in Capt. Thomas Gordon's district of Baldwin/Jones County, GA before settling in Mississippi just before it became a state. Thomas Gordon and family were in Franklin County, Georgia before their move through "Indian territory" into Mississippi and Louisiana.

On a Baldwin County, Georgia tax list for 1807 Peter Marsalis is listed

next to a Henry Gordon. (Jones County was formed out of part of Baldwin County in 1803) I have found nothing else on "Henry" until I found a William Henry Gordon, Jones County who is listed on the 1850 Census. He is THOUGHT to be from the Wilkes County, NC Gordon line and related to Gen. John B. Gordon whose father Zachariah had moved to Upson County, Georgia.

John Gordon of Fairfax/Loudon, and Prince William, VA, later the Carolinas

This brings up another Gordon line with NC roots and possibility to be "family" to several members of the Gordon Project. This is the Gordon family found in *Gordons Of the Deep South* by Erminie Northcutt Marshall

John Gordon (died 1756, Anson County, NC)) and Ruth Gordon were said to first be found in Fairfax, VA (now Loudon, VA) and Prince William County, VA. At the time of Mrs. Marshall's writings nothing earlier had been located on their origins. By 1749 land was being given in the Carolinas under a Royal grant. John Gordon and family moved from Fairfax Co, VA to the Carolinas. John Gordon had petitioned for land on the Collins/Enoree River. From deed dates (1753 – 1754) his many acres were in Anson County, NC. with adjoining land in SC. That part of Anson Co, NC became mostly Newberry/Berkeley, SC.

I have located some sons and grandsons of John and Ruth in early Georgia. However, names of all are not known. I have found Thomas, Sr and I suspect Thomas, Jr in Jones County, GA. I believe their son or grandson Thomas was the Captain Thomas Gordon of Jones County District and that Georgia militia General John W. Gordon was a descendant. Other descendants of Ruth and John Gordon have been found in Texas, Mississippi and the Midwest.

Gordons in South Carolina

In researching various Gordon lines in NC one must mention South Carolina.

From: *The Story of Washington-Wilkes* (Georgia) - part I – Settlement:

"When the commissioners opened the land court at Dartmouth on September 27, 1773, a rush for possession began. Court records show that settlers seeking new land came from North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. One application came from a distant country, for on November 16, 1773, JAMES GORDON, of Scotland, was given permission to bring from his country within a year "a sufficient number of emigrants to settle five thousand acres near the junction of the Broad and South Broad Rivers." According to tradition in Wilkes County, GORDON brought with him sixty or seventy families of Scotch (sic) Highlanders who had agreed to serve a five-year apprenticeship to pay for their passage. But this venture was not

successful. GORDON, soon frightened by threats of the oncoming revolution, carried his people into South Carolina and sold their indentures. An upper portion of Wilkes County where some of the Scots lived has been called Scotchtown by succeeding generations.

An unsubstantiated story has long attributed the settlement to the efforts of LORD GEORGE GORDON, third son of the 3rd Duke of Gordon, Member of Parliament for Ludgershall. The same who later headed the anti-Catholic riots in London, known as the Gordon Riots of 1780, later converted to Judaism and eventually died in Newgate Prison having been convicted of defaming Marie Antoinette and sentenced to five years with some additional harsh conditions added to the sentence for "good measure."



Williamsburg, SC

The History of Williamsburg states that between 1737 and 1775 many settlers came to Williamsburg Co, SC. Nearly all were Scots- Irish from the settlements in Pennsylvania and some came directly from Ireland. Others mentioned in the history by name were Charles F. Gordon, William Gordon and David Gordon.

I have included all of this history and all those Gordon names to stress the monumental problems we all face in trying to find accurate, verified information on our ancestors from colonial days. It is no simple matter but takes hours of tedious, often fruitless digging

With the tests results still waiting for confirmation we suspect that the Most Recent Common Ancestor was one John Gordon born about 1690 and who died June 1742 in Murderkill Hundred, Kent County, Delaware (Will dated 1 June, Probate dated 11 June, Archives A 19, pp. 161-162, Dover, Delaware). John Gordon had emigrated from Scotland to Delaware. His wife was Elizabeth Caldwell born about 1701, Somerset County, Monie Hundred, Maryland and died after 1750 Murderkill Hundred, Kent County, Delaware (shown by quit claim to her son, Robert [Vol. 0, 55, Dover, Del. Court House]). Her father Andrew Caldwell gave her and her husband (John Gordon) two hundred acres of a two-thousand-acre tract.

Research Problems

I began exploring the House of Gordon DNA Results and several brief “trees” or pedigrees turned in by various descendants list the same ancestor. However, the usual conundrum - some of the kits were haplogroup I1 and some were haplogroup R1b1. Haplogroups are distinct separations and thus separate families. Obviously, some lines of ancestry have been confused.

Even more amazing is that John Gordon, born in Powhatan, VA about whom there is published lineage is tightly related to these individuals. His descendants' test results all show a common ancestor with the same William Gordon I found as well as with several Gordons from Pennsylvania and Canada who relate to both William of Rowan, NC and John Gordon of MD. The major problem comes because one supposed descendant who has tested is haplogroup R1b1 while another supposed descendant is I1. Haplogroups I1 and R1b1 are separate and distinct haplogroups and not the same line.

Another “match” is a Canadian line (at least as far back the member knew) that relates in a genealogical time frame. Again, with these individuals there is the problem of differing haplogroups – the Tam and Jock Group (I1) versus the Seton Group (R1b). *[If the paper trail documentation is correct and both individuals ARE descendants of the same person, then there is probably a non-paternal event (adoption, legal or informal; out of wedlock birth with the child being brought into the family as a younger sibling of the mother) somewhere along the line. JG]*

Conclusions

The similarity of names on the Will of John Gordon to those children of a James and Anne (Nancy) Gordon of York County, SC is interesting. James' spouse Anne (Nancy) Gordon left a 1792 will in York Co, SC listing their children. Some researchers have linked this family with the same William Gordon family of Davidson/Guilford Counties.

One inquiry on behalf of an elderly father-in-law may be the key to linking hundreds of the 850 families represented in the Gordon DNA Project.

DNA will be invaluable for helping sort all this out. It will be beneficial to literally hundreds of Gordon family members who have tested as being in the Jock and Tam Group of I1. It will be valuable for those who have tested as R1b1 in the Seton/Seaton Group This includes the other administrator of the Gordon Project, Tei Gordon.

**House of Gordon USA Annual General Meeting
(AGM)
Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in Lin-
ville, NC
July 09, 2016**

Federal IRS EIN # 26-0285250

Call to Order: 2:02 PM

Attendees:

Lois Todd
Geof Baker
Bonnie Linse
Amy Lynn Edwards
Steve Helliard

David Todd
Keith Linse
David Gauthier
Bryan Gordon

Membership and Quorum: Bonnie Linse reported the membership at 434 members, with 20% (87 votes) required to achieve a quorum to conduct official House of Gordon business. A quorum was met by the 8 voting members present and 182 proxy votes received from absentee members.

Reading of the 2015 AGM Minutes: Geof motioned this be omitted due to everyone in attendance having a copy in their hand that had been distributed and reviewed prior to the meeting. Keith Linse seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The Minutes were approved as written.

Reading of the Chief's Greeting

Lois read the complete text of Granville, Marquis of Huntly's message which reflected upon the turbulent political landscapes both here and in Scotland with Brexit, Donald Trump, Prime Minister May, and Scottish Independence currents creating a great deal of change and uncertainty for us all. He tried to remain apolitical where we are concerned and is very much looking forward to visiting the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in 2017. For the full text of his words, go to <http://www.houseofgordonusa.org/AGM2016.html>

Report Summaries:

President's Report (Lois Todd): Over the past 3 years, we worked hard to get House of Gordon USA shipshape. The Bylaws revision is complete. The Social Networking efforts are paying dividends. Tax and legal issues are resolved. The convener and membership bases have fully recovered. Our soaring membership can be attributed to having a good

team on the Board, motivated conveners and a clear vision of our future. I'm very proud of the work done to get us to this point.

The increased membership allowed us to bring Susan Gordon Rose's Epic Project under the national umbrella to be part of our scholarship programs and we are excited to be able to help her provide deserving young Highland Pipers and Drummers with the kit needed to continue to compete on the boards and further their talent. Our youths' talent in the highland tradition of performing arts is one of the best ambassadors we have to showcase our Highland cultural and musical heritage. We are so proud of all our scholarship recipients in the Charles O. Gordon Memorial Scholarship Program and now also in The Epic Project Program. These efforts support our focus to make our success sustainable by engaging our youth and infusing their energy into our ranks.

In keeping with that youth focus, Our Christmas in July last year went well, and we had a lot of support for the USMC 1/7 who we adopted during their deployment. They made it home in April and greatly appreciated our efforts. If you have a member deploying, please let us know so we can support them with care packages. We have sent out many care packages over the years to members who deploy, but we can only do this when we know about it! We are also looking for a nomination for Christmas in a Box...if you know of a Company or Battalion- who will be deployed over the Holidays let one of the board members know and we will consider them for adoption. It was a huge morale boost for the 101st Airborne in 2014 and the USMC 1/7 in 2015, it would be nice to continue this project supporting our men and women at Arms who selflessly serve and protect us.

For the complete text of the President's Report and all reports from the board, refer to the online Reports at <http://www.houseofgordonusa.org/AGM2016.html>

Vice President's Report Summary (Bonnie Linse for Evan Rose): Quiet year...Bylaw updates complete and all of our legal requirements met. Celebrate!

CONVENER REPORT SUMMARY (GEOF BAKER):

We continue expanding our convener coverage and working hard to bring in new conveners and some younger conveners to position us for the next generation!

Sheila Mills Bedsole took on Alabama giving us coverage for the first time in that state. She had a very professional welcoming tent at the highland games in Dothan and did a fabulous job increasing Alabama's membership.

Mark Dodd took on Tennessee and Kentucky and was at the Glasgow,

KY games and did a great job. After many years without representation, it is great to have a Gordon Tent at that festival and in Kentucky again!

Jen Mills Martin has taken on co-convening Florida with Cynthia Gordon Patrick. Cynthia remains in the lead and will focus on South Florida while Jen will focus on North Florida. Together they are creating a dynamic team to really explode our presence in Florida.

We are working to get help for Rob Gordon in New England similar to what we established in Florida, and we are looking for Conveners to come onboard in the Mid-Atlantic area in the same way so we can better cover Pennsylvania and North Carolina.

We created a private Facebook Group for our conveners so that they can get to know each other, bond, and share ideas. We have had some exciting exchanges and many ideas are in development - a new kid's handout, a handout on some of our more famous Gordons, and some unexpected Gordons of fame that the average person wouldn't readily recognize were Gordons! We are all looking forward to the Chief's visit next year and the conveners are going to play a major part in the planning.

Katy Richards, our convener for Texas, created two new Facebook pages. One for HoG Texas as well as one for HoG Oklahoma/Kansas. We are still looking for someone to come forward and help us with Oklahoma and Kansas.

I applaud ALL of our conveners for their fantastic efforts in driving up our membership 373.3% from the low reported in 2012!! Keep it up and if you need any tools, items, handouts, or any other materials, let us know!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT SUMMARY (BONNIE LINSE):

Certified 2016 Voting Members: 435 **Votes needed
for Quorum: 87**

New members this year: 160

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT SUMMARY (LOIS TODD):

Our main website, HouseofGordonUSA.org, continues to serve our membership a forum for ideas and camaraderie, with peak months in April, June, August, October and December. This corresponds to key events, the beginning of the Festival season in April, the AGM, Fall Festival push with several BIG festivals, the December newsletter and beginning of Florida's season in January. The peaks run just ahead or concurrent of these events.

Our Facebook page and Twitter page are getting more notice and we are getting more followers and seeing re-tweets. I would like to have

someone work with me on the Twitter account. I find I have little time to really make this as effective as it could be. Our Facebook Group online community grew by 114.6% over last year and now has over 1200 members.

In The House! featured an article on Abergeldie Castle, which faced flood waters that eroded the riverbank and threatened to topple the historic home into the River Dee this past winter, and an article of A.A. Milne and Winnie the Pooh. Winnie is the official Gordon Tent Mascot at the House of Gordon USA tents, and is always a huge hit with young and old alike. Both received much interest and positive comments from the members. At the request of many members, we also had an article on the Battalion of Marines we adopted and the member who served as our piper for several years that many of you watched grow up. This Battalion, USMC 1/7 out of Twentynine Palms in California, is one with a long proud history of service and Company C, better known as Suicide Charley, won fame in WWII at Guadalcanal & Peleliu. The Battalion and Suicide Charley continue to do well and were written up in an article in Marine Times which we were allowed to reprint as part of our article to give our members an understanding of the importance of the support we give to these fine young Marines & Sailors. The fact that their routine training for their deployment enabled them to send the winning squad with no special preparation to the first Super Squad competition the 1st Division has held in 15 years shows the level of their commitment and skill. This is a well deserving group. Their letters of thanks say it all in telling of the morale boost given to them when they were away over the Holidays serving our nation and protecting our liberties.

6. SCHOLARSHIP REPORT SUMMARY (LOIS TODD):

We awarded two scholarships this spring to deserving young ladies of Gordon Heritage and this morning awarded the final scholarship of \$250.00 along with a trophy to the Grade IV Piper of the Day, **James Campbell**, here at Grandfather Mountain! We also had some dark green t-shirts printed with a color rendition of the Gordon Belted Crest that we are selling to support the scholarship fund.

The two Charles O. Gordon scholarships awarded by application this year went to:

Destiny Swainston of Dunedin, Florida: a 15-year-old Highland Dancer - \$500

Isabel Friedrichs of Escondido, California a 15-year-old Highland Dancer - \$400

The Epic Project scholarship program 2016 recipient is

Linda Snoddy of Bakersfield College in Bakersfield, CA.

All of the applicants were worthy of consideration and we hope those that did

not get selected this year will reapply next year. For more information regarding these recipients, refer to the complete scholarship report at <http://www.houseofgordonusa.org/AGM2016.html>

House of Gordon USA Treasurer's Report Summary FY2016:

Beginning Balance: **\$15,188.47** Ending Balance: **\$17,761.25**

Motion to accept as written (Dave) seconded (Geof) and approved unanimously

See the complete report from the link off of <http://www.houseofgordonusa.org/AGM2016.html>

House of Gordon USA Items of New Business:

Scottish Gordon Heritage Charities Fund: Unanimously voted to continue to support

Gordon Highlanders Museum
Gordon Scottish Heritage
Charles O. Gordon Scholarship
Epic Project

House of Gordon USA Goals: Now that our House is in order, continue what we've been doing

Expand House of Gordon USA throughout the US by recruiting Con-
vener's in areas as yet untapped and supporting their member-
ship acquisition and retention efforts
Focus on building sustainability by encouraging youthful involvement
in House of Gordon USA and rewarding our youths' cultural her-
itage pursuits with scholarships and support
Support the preservation of House of Gordon's historical contribu-
tions by charity and education

Adjournment: At 3:23 pm, the slate was clear and motioned to adjourn (Lois), seconded (David), unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

DAVID J. GAUTHIER, Secretary

Meet the Slate of Officers



President — Lois Todd of Virginia

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



Vice President — John C. Gorden of Texas

John grew up in Houston, Texas, with a yearning to match solid ties to plaid shirts that resemble Gordon Plaid. Over time, he evolved to wear Gordon plaid ties with solid color shirts as more 'suitable' attire. While not often found in a suit, John works Front Line Technical support for Dell Technologies in Round Rock, Texas, having spent over forty years in real estate, food service & computer technology support.

What started out as Liberty Hall for Scots-Irish pioneers in Lexington, Va., eventually became John's alma mater, Washington & Lee University where he was awarded a BS degree in Business Administration. Later, additional degrees awarded by ITT Technical Institute & Bristol University in Indianapolis, In., led John to an FCC license in radio technologies spanning from dits-dots to eventually today's cellular standard. Someone named Ada Lovelace foresaw a similar evolution towards 'steam-powered Jacquard looms' as written by James Essinger's book entitled Ada's Algorithm, wherein the heir of Lord Byron Gordon initially used punch cards from the Jacquard loom to write a program for Chas Babbage mechanical number-cruncher! This book led to further studies of evolving rights starting from the Magna Carta, the Declaration of Arbroath and the Glorious Revolution as outlined by the lives of those in the book Trials & Triumphs by Anne L. Forbes. When not discovering the heritage of descendants from the British Isles, John enjoys playing golf with his caddie Heyzues. I'm humbled to be considered and enjoy learning of the contributions surrounding Clan Gordon – "by courage, not craft" !

Secretary — David Gauthier of Virginia



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

to step in as our secretary when Nikki resigned for personal reasons and his intelligent and thoughtful guidance in the board meetings has been a true asset to the smooth running of the House over the past year.

Treasurer — Bonnie G. Linse of South Carolina



Bonnie lives in Greenville with her husband Keith and for many years served as treasurer for the Del Norte Community where she helped write the bylaws and handled filing for their non-profit status. Over the past two years her organizational skills have been put to the task of realigning the accounting records for full accountability and she has given a personal touch to membership services and brought

our membership response time to a 24 hour turn-around from her receipt of the membership application and funds.

Director at Large — Evan Rose of California



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

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

Rae Rose. With a young growing family, Evan asked to step down as VP and take a position as a Director at Lager.



Director at Large — Geof Baker of Virginia

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

in North America., and of course the House of Gordon as a whole as the best and most dynamic clan in the world!



Director at Large — Lisa Gordon of California

Lisa Gordon is an avid explorer, adventurer, teacher, and learner. She grew up an USAF brat and sources that on her early curiosity of other peoples and cultures. Closer to home, she grew up familiar with her own Gordon roots through participating in Girl Scouts with her sister and made promises to her grandfather to visit Scotland one day, a promise that she fulfilled just last summer. Lisa holds a Bachelor in History from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and a Master of Science in Education

from Dominican University of California with a thesis on outdoor adventure education. She's worked as a photographer and editor. Lisa currently teaches History and English to 7th and 8th graders and spices the school year up with teaching photography, leading technical theatre, serving as a first responder, and aiding the school string ensemble. Lisa can easily be found hiking the hills of the San Francisco Bay Area, playing viola (or rocking out), backpacking with well loved copies of John Muir or J.R.R. Tolkien. She is eager to lend her skills and insights on the next generation and invites you to come along on the next adventure.

Our board will be rounded out with the appointed positions of Quarter Master, John Gordon of Illinois, and Convener Chair Robert Gordon of New Hampshire!

AGM Weekend Events

The AGM Weekend will begin Thursday evening with a Meet & Greet with the Chief in the Chief's tent on MacRae Meadow. This will be the only event we are asking you to purchase tickets to the entire weekend. We are limiting the number of tickets to 150 and these will be on a first come first served basis. You will find enclosed in the mailing envelope this year an order form for tickets to be returned with your proxy and membership dues. Tickets must be bought in advance. For those coming to the opening torchlight ceremony but not the Meet & Greet, be aware that the road closes for the Bear Run, a world class 5 mile run, at 6:50 PM.

THURSDAY, JULY 6th

Meet & Greet with the Chief—In the Chief's Tent on MacRae Meadow on the mountain. Dress casual and comfortable! Heavy hors d'oeuvres with a Scottish-American flair including mini salmon bridies, and herb crusted roast lamb. We will begin serving at 6:00 PM, but be on the mountain early to mix & mingle, check out some of the vendors beforehand too if you like. The Bear runners come through the campgrounds, around the track and past the Chief's tent beginning around 7 PM and we will be able to join in the fun of cheering them on! Afterwards, we will gather in the Gordon tents on Clan Row for the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games Opening Ceremony, the torchlight calling of the clans! To be sure the Gordons are already always to loudest every year, but this year they should be hearing "A GORDON, A GORDON" all the way down the mountain!

FRIDAY, JULY 7th

Friday is the day to hit the vendors before the big crowds come on Saturday. We will only have light snacks and drinks in the Gordon Hospitality tents on Clan Row this day. This gives you the chance to check out the festival food before it gets crazy lines too! There is lots happening on the field, in the music groves and all around. So enjoy this day hanging out. For those who bought Patron passes from the Games there is a formal Patrons' Reception at the Best Western in Banner Elk.

SATURDAY, July 8th

LUNCH 11:45—12:45 PM

We will be having lunch at the Gordon Hospitality Tents on Clan Row! A tradition at Grandfather, the men in the campground smoke meat in the Rock Oven that David Todd with help from David Gauthier and Geof Baker builds each year, affectionately known as Angus. Don't be late for

lunch though as we are having to move the AGM Meeting up one hour this year to accommodate the Chief's obligation to be at the COSCA meeting at 2:00 PM

AGM MEETING in GORDONVILLE in the campground 1:00 PM

In order to keep the meeting time to a minimum we will be publishing the reports online in advance so that people may review them in advance. We have published last year's AGM Minutes in this publication, and it is also online on the AGM 2016 page on the website. We will also be handing out printed packets of the reports to those attending the meeting. We will quickly call the meeting to order, establish the quorum and hold the election of officers. Then we will turn the time over to the Chief for his remarks, as we wish to give him as much time as he should wish and we realize that he may have to leave before the meeting adjourns to be at the COSCA Meeting as the Games Honored Guest.

If anyone has new business they would like to have on the meeting agenda, please email it to Lois Todd no later than June 26th , otherwise you may bring it up from the floor at the meeting.

POTLUCK in in GORDONVILLE in the campground after game close.

The Gordonville/Castle Seamus Saturday night potluck is an annual tradition, that has grown to a couple hundred attendees! This year we will be including any Clan Gordon members who wish to come and the House is putting in extra meat in Angus and sides on the tables to ensure you will eat well., and have a good time.

SUNDAY, July 9th

KIRKING of the TARTNAS 10:00 AM

PARADE OF TARTANS LINE UP 11:15 AM STEP OFF 11:30 AM

The **WHOLE CLAN MARCHES** and as the Honored Clan we will be leading the pack. James Naismith, Pipe Major for the Clan Gordon Pipe Band in Tacoma, WA will be leading the clan in the march and it will be nice to have a piper again! Wear your tartan with pride—and if you happen to have the Green t-shirt we are selling to benefit the scholarship—wear it! Show the Gordon belted crest off! We always have a big group marching and this year we hope to put the rest to shame by the size of our group.

LUNCH AT THE GORDON TENT following the Parade of Tartans!

Sunday Afternoon is the **CLAN CHALLENGE** with clans fielding teams for Tug-o-War (at 2:00 PM) kilned foot races including the relay race. We would love to field a team this year, let us know if you are interested!

AGM Agenda

- Call to Order
- Determination of a Quorum by the Secretary
- Election and installation of Officers
- The Chief's Greeting
- *Reading and approval of the 2016 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 Report
 - Epic Project Report
 - DNA Project Report
- Items of Business:
 - Call for any new business to be discussed and motions to their disposition as it may pertain.
- Meeting Adjourned.

****In order to keep the meeting to a tight timeline and allow the Chief more time to speak with the members we will be publishing online ahead of time the reports, as well as handing out packets at the meeting with printouts of the minutes, and all reports. It is our hope that we will be able to dispense with the reading of the minutes and reports and go directly to votes to accept the various reports as written.***

Officers

Board of Directors:

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

Commissioners:

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

FOR A LIST OF DIVISION AND GAMES CONVENERS PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT houseofgordonusa.org/divisions

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