



In The House!

National Newsletter of the House of Gordon USA

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message 2

AGM Report 3

SW Gordons 4

Thank You! 5

PA Gordons 5

Mid-Atlantic 6

ALEXANDER GORDON FAMILY REUNION PLANS ANNOUNCED



We will have the next Alexander Gordon family reunion in Exeter, New Hampshire on July 9th, 2011 which is the second Saturday in July.

Plan ahead! I know we are all having a rough time with the economy, at the same rate we are not getting any younger. The last reunion was aw-

some, (pictured above) and I send my love to you all for it. Please pass the word on to your family members, as there are many I do not have e-mails for.

Looking forward,

Merle Gordon
merril515@yahoo.com

WELCOME NEW YORK DIVISION!

Welcome to our newest division and to Holly Warren as our **New York Convener!** Holly is an upbeat enthusiastic fun person who we are sure will inject some life into the House in New York where we have sadly lacked representation for so long.

We know that there are some fellow Gordon's already lined up to give her a boost and help out. **John Meldrum, David Gordon, and Michael Adams** (as long as he is in the area) we are sure will be stalwart supports for the clan.

Holly also comes with her own BIG support group in her family! We are looking forward to seeing great things from New York!

Pictured left above: House of Gordon VP Geof Baker and New York Convener Holly Warren!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings to the House!

It is with great anticipation that we welcome the 2011 festival season!

Your elected House of Gordon team has been busy working on a number of initiatives that are designed to support membership and Conveners.

We have invested in a supply of Gordon materials that will be made available (some as support, some for purchase) within the next month. We fully recognize that membership growth is our primary mission – and we are diligently working on campaigns to grow the House across many demographic and geographic areas. We will work hard to assure that no age group, no location is left unattended. It's time to grow. And grow fast and grow large. The House of Gordon deserves to be the envy of any clan or House organization in the world, and only with your help, can we will get there.

Our intent is to assist each House organization in this endeavor to the fullest of our ability. You will find additional information about our projects on the web site (www.HouseOfGordonUSA.org) over the next couple of months, but in the meantime, we need to hear from you. We need your help, your ideas, your comments (and yes, your critique), and lastly, your hard work to assist in growing the House.

And, please, if you would specifically like to volunteer to support any of these mission critical items, contact me right away.

- New sletter Production – InDesign or Publisher experience would be superb

- Database Architecture and Management – any DBA's out there?
- Open Source software experts
- Content Management System (Drupal or Joomla).

I wish everyone of you a great season of success, health and happiness. For - "DO WELL AND LET THEM SAY: GORDON".

Please contact me at anytime.

Regards,

Kim William Gordon

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"We need your help, your ideas, your comments and lastly, your hard work to assist in growing the House."

Editor's apology

My apologies for the late delivery of this newsletter. Unfortunately I had an electrical fire in December which claimed my computer, and the back-up discs/CDs.) Without the resources to re-purchase the programs, I had a lot of work to restore my programs and recover the information. Thanks to Geof Baker who kindly donated a working computer with operating system on which I was able to restore my systems. The lateness of this issue was unfortunate, but unavoidable in the circumstances.

I need volunteers to assist in the creation and production of the new sletter and annual. I cannot continue to do this as a one person production unit. I need people to submit information and photos on what is happening in your area, as well as articles of interest and help in distribution of the final product.

Lois Todd

AGM 2010 Report

The 2010 AGM was held at Grandfather Mountain and was highlighted by a BIG CHECK presentation to Zoe Shell, a young highland drummer with the Grandfather Mountain Highlanders, and one of this year's Charles O. Gordon Scholarship recipients; the presentation of the first annual Charles O. Gordon Memorial Grade 4 Junior Piper of the Day at Grandfather; and the annual picnic this time held on the mountain at the Gordon encampment!

The AGM Meeting was called to order at the Gordon Encampment at 3 PM and Kim Gordon began by reading the Chief's message, followed by his president's report. The goal for this year is to continue upgrading systems to support the growth of the clan. With an aggressive growth plan aiming at increasing membership then national organization is trying to revamp to make it easier to support our local chapters. Geof Baker expanded on this theme in his Vice-President/Convener Chair report. New convener kits are in the works with banners, material for table covers and display ideas and information to assist our conveners in making Gordon tents across the country stand out among the clan rows as the one to copy! National has already supported South Carolina by convening at the Greenville Games when SC Convener, David Nichols, had a conflict of timing due to the change in date of the Games to accommodate the schedule of the event's honored guest, Prince Edward. Thanks to Morris Gordon, Barbara Gordon Wray and Lois Todd for taking on that very important event. To further the growth of the clan, Geof Baker, and Lois and David Todd also were scheduled to convene for national at the Central New York Highland Games with the goal of finding and installing a new convener for New York!

The membership report shows that we currently had 765 members on the roster.

The treasurer's report showed that while we had more money go out than was brought in year to date, the added expenditure was due to an increase in the amount allocated to the Scholarship program and the Gordon Highlander Museum. The cost of the annual publication was mentioned as an opportunity to save money.

The Communications report also focused in on the cost of the annual publication and the need to explore different format and delivery options to bring the cost down from approximately \$7.00/per person to a more reasonable allocation of the national general funds which would allow more of the money from dues to go to help support the conveners on the local level with the convener's kits.

The DNA Project announced exciting news of a study on our DNA Project using new algorithms for analyzing different families, based on a complex statistical formula developed by an astrophysicist over the last four years. As we have one of the largest and unusually well-documented DNA groups, he is keen on coauthoring a paper with the House of Gordon DNA Project on his new method for publication in the Journal of Genetic Genealogy (www.jogg.info) where he has already published a couple papers. This could really give us a credibility boost in the scientific and genealogical communities! We also have found that the oldest Gordon DNA lines have Danish/Viking ancestry and only the Seton-Gordon lines have the Norman ancestry. This leaves us to speculate that the possible Norman connection is actually from the Seton lineage not the Gordon.

The main point of business was the vote on the proposed amendment to the bylaws prohibiting members of the same immediate family from serving on the executive board together. After much discussion this amendment was passed with no dissents.

New convener kits are in the works with banners, material for table covers and display ideas and information to assist our conveners in making Gordon tents across the country stand out among the clan rows as the one to copy!

Southwest Reports BIG News!

We were all very excited to hear that our Clan Chief, Granville Charles Gomer Gordon, 13th Marquess of Huntly, may possibly come over from Scotland to join us for the weekend's events.

The Pleasanton games were wonderful. The visitation to the tent was phenomenal compared to the other games we had for the past several years. Our tent was located near the East gate so we had a lot of Gordons stop by as they entered the venue and again when they left the games. On Saturday we had father and son Gary and Matt Sconce spend a few hours helping at the tent. They supplied fascinating historical education to our visitors. Noah Gordon showed off his pride with his tattoo of the badge and shield. He and his family were excited to visit the tent and stayed for a while to relax and chat. Although no one signed up for membership, many applications were handed out and more were directed to our websites for membership information.

The Reno games can be summed up in four words; entertainingly spirited and endurance test. Saturday dawned bright and sunny adding charm and warmth to the venue scenery and the day's festivities. There was tasty food, lively music, and a chance to renew friendships and make new ones. We enjoyed the chance to chat with a variety of folks who came by the tent.

Sunday, however, was an endurance test. The early morning was dark with ominous clouds, there was a damp chill in the air and soon the venue was deluged with rain. Clans crowded together inside dripping tents trying to keep warm and dry. Water cascading off the tents added to the muddy puddles making it difficult to walk around even during the few periods when the rain subsided. There were hardly any visitors, but being stalwart Scots, we were determined to stick it out for as long as possible. Like most of the clans, we had packed away our displays to protect them from the weather, which left us sitting in a virtually empty tent huddled together for warmth. By 3 p.m. the S.A.M.S tent began to pack it in and that mobilized a mass clan exodus.

Ventura, California, is beautiful in October and Seaside Park is the perfect setting for highland games. Although the busy venue offers so much to see and do, we all managed to take a little time to gather at the tent for the House of Gordon Southwest Annual General Meeting to review old business and to discuss new business for 2011, and to hold officer elections where Regional Commissioner Tom Adams made the startling announcement that he was stepping down as Convener. He wishes to focus his energies more directly on his role and duties as the Regional Commissioner for the House of Gordon USA. He then nominated Woody Gordon to take his place. The nomination was seconded, a quick vote was taken, and before he could blink, **Woody was elected our new H of G SW Convener.** Congratulations Woody!

The next order of business was a discussion about next year's National AGM being held at the 2011 Seaside Games. We were all very excited to hear that our Clan Chief, Granville Charles Gomer Gordon, 13th Marquess of Huntly, may possibly come over from Scotland to join us for the weekend's events.

We hope to see many of you at the Seaside Games for our National AGM — the first ever held out west!

Thank You House Of Gordon!

Dear House of Gordon,

Thank you so much for making it possible for me to study further at the North American Academy of Piping and Drumming (NAAPD). You helped me prepare adequately for our band's trip to the World Pipe Band Championships.

It was an amazing trip; we stayed for about two weeks at Glasgow Caledonian university. It was awesome to go sightseeing and to walk about the city when we weren't practicing and preparing for the Worlds.

While I was at NAAPD, I studied drumming for one week, learning under some of the best instructors in the USA. I learned so much about tenor drumming. It was very helpful to hear amazing pipers everyday as well. While I was attending camp, I made one of my now best friends, Meghan Jones, who I now talk to everyday. She is a tenor drummer in the Loch Norman Pipe Band and she's my age.

Also, in Scotland, I made some other friends in the pipe bands from across the world, some from Canada, Scotland and even Australia! Being in Scotland helped me to be recognized by Tyler Fry, probably the best tenor drummer in the world!

Our band bonded closer as a band, and we learned a whole lot as well. We received first place in piping against 40 other bands in our qualifier. We did not end up winning the final, but we were so grateful that we even qualified.

All in all, my learning experience at camp helped me achieve my goal of getting more experience and practice in my Scottish tenor drumming art, and I thank you for giving me the help to do that.

Sincerely,

Zoe Shell

Pictured below: Zoe and the girls of the Grandfather Mountain Highlander's drum corps



PA Gordons reporting in!

Ron and Micah Wentzel in Pennsylvania are moving ahead in building the House of Gordon and have already been making waves among the other clans... waves of envy that is! "The Clans have openly stated that it is great to see young people getting involved, and they are still wondering how we do it!" reports Ron. He says history is a good teacher and he allows them to bring their battle toys and capture English wenchers!

At Oysterfest Micah overheard the leader of Clan Scott tell one of his new tent volunteers "I'm going to tell you something about the Clan Gordon boys. They are all generous, friendly, fun loving and BIG! Don't piss them off." At Celtic Fling, Ron overheard the Security Director tell one of his officers, "Don't worry about things getting out of hand at the Heritage Area, it has its own security force. Just look in the third tent on the right and you'll see what I mean." (Of course that was the Gordon tent position.)

House of Gordon tents were also hosted at Ligonier and the Celtic Classic. One of the promoters for the Celtic Classic is Neville Gardiner who spent some time last year boasting the HIS Clan finally made it!

Mid-Atlantic Celebrates a Good Year!

Mid-Atlantic had a very successful year hosting tents at several venues including for the first time in many years the Colonial Gathering hosted by the Scottish Games Association of Delaware where we had a great amount of interest and some new members! The Potomac Celtic Festival honored Aaron Todd with a farewell as he was leaving for Parris Island to become a Marine shortly following the event.

The Virginia Scottish Games were a mix of good and not so good. The clans position on the field did not get as much traffic as would have been liked, but we did have some good turnout and our famous Gordon hospitality did draw some traffic. We signed a couple of new members and had a fantastic time.



Aaron did us all proud at Parris Island and was designated as the Company Honor Graduate for India Company in September — top out of 458 graduating new Marines! (Pictured left with his JROTC instructor and his recruiter at his graduation.) He was able to join us at the Williamsburg Scottish Festival at the end of his boot leave and was honored there by the Games for his accomplishments and for his service as the Virginia Gordon Piper for many years.

The Richmond Highland Games was a fantastic event with great weather both days. The Gordon men again dominated the Bonnie Knees competition winning the first team competition, the wee lad's division, the men's division and taking second in the Senior division. David Gauthier (right) won the Clan Pumpkin Chunkin contest for the House! We had a huge turnout, signed up several new members and celebrated being Gordons!



The Scottish Christmas Walk was attended by a small group and fun was had by all as they paraded through Old Town Alexandria handing out candy to the kids along the route!