

THE GORDON TARTAN

Spring 2007



NEWSLETTER FOR THE HOUSE OF GORDON, VIRGINIA DIVISION

Mottoes: Bydand (Abiding); Animo Non Astutia (By courage not craft)

WAR CRY: A Gordon! A Gordon!

MORRIS GORDON, Convener

WEBSITE: <http://www.houseofgordonva.com>

JAMES GORDON, Editor



Convener's Corner

Hello to all of our House of Gordon members. I want to welcome ALL of our new members to the House of Gordon-Virginia Division and thank you for joining our society. I also want to thank those members who have renewed their membership with us.

This year is going to be a very special year for the House of Gordon-USA. We have reorganized and have established some new features for our members. I hope you have received your certificate and new membership number along with your membership card. You should have also received our first newsletter from HOG-USA.

If you have not paid your dues for this year, please send your renewal form and \$25.00 to Barbara Gordon Wray, our treasurer. Her address is listed in this newsletter. Great news!! Our treasury is in the "BLACK". That means that we can pay for all the sites at the festivals we attend and provide some refreshments at the games. However, it is always a treat to have you bring your "special food item" to share with us at the tent. Thank you to all who have brought a dish to share. As always, the food is GREAT!!

Each year we have tried to have a picnic for our members on a special day during the year. It has been in August most of the time. August is so very HOT and so our picnic has not been attended by a lot of the members. We tried to find a cooler month to hold the picnic. We picked last year to have it in April. Of course it rained on the day scheduled and we had to

cancel the picnic. We did have a cookout at the tent site during our first festival. But that only provided for the members that were able to come for that festival who lived close by. The Board elected to have at each festival / games that we attend this year a picnic style food event for our members. You can still bring your favorite dish to share. We will have the grill fired up for hotdogs and hamburgers for everyone. More details will be provided at a later date.

Please take a look at the schedule of events posted on our web site, www.houseofgordonva.com, you can check out the dates of the festivals we will be attending. I encourage that you go on line and check out our site. There have been some date and venue changes and a number of festivities are now only one day.

If you can make it, please attend the Grandfather Mountain Games in North Carolina, near Boone, North Carolina. There will be a very important meeting. At this meeting some very important topics will be voted on. Check your HOG-USA newsletter for more information or contact , Barbara Gordon Wray, for more help.

I encourage any Gordon male to have his DNA tested to be able to trace one's family tree back to Scotland. Please see my article about this subject in our national news-letter.

We need some articles of special interest on Scottish subjects to print in the news-letter. If you have something of special interest on Scottish or Celtic subject, please send it to us.

Hope to see you at the games. Till next time.
Bydand. Sir Morris Gordon, KCT



A Prayer from VT

The following prayer was printed on the Virginia Tech website and read at the Sunday service at Westminster Presbyterian Church recently in Waynesboro. We think it is beautiful and touching, so we are offering to share it with all our Virginia House of Gordon readers. Close your eyes and

recall all the bright and optimistic faces pictured on television that will not be able to fulfill their dreams on this earth, but rather were taken from their families at such a promising time in their lives.

Do not stand at my grave and weep. I am not there; I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow, I am the diamond which glints on snow.

I am the sun on ripened green, I am the gentle autumn rain.

When you awaken in the morning's hush, I am the swift uplifting rush of quiet birds in circled flight. I am the soft stars that shine at night.

Do not stand at my grave and cry. I am not there. I did not die.

By Mary Elizabeth Frye.

The verse above certainly exemplifies the spirit of all the students and faculty at Va. Tech. We salute them for their bravery in the face of tragedy, much as we do for our U.S. service men and women who are in harm's way in Iraq and neighboring countries in the troubled Middle East.

Potomac Celtic Festival opens season June 9th

The 14th annual Potomac Celtic Festival will be held on the Historical Green of Morven Park on the outskirts of Leesburg on Saturday, June 9th from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. Come by the House of Gordon tent for some hearty food, fellowship and a shady spot to rest your weary bones. We will be hosting an All American Cook-Out at our now famous Gordon Grill! You are welcome to add a dish to our food and drinks table to revive your spirits and give yourself a jolt of energy. If you have not paid your yearly membership dues, you may do so at this time.

For years the event has been more than just a cultural heritage festival, it has been a labor of love, run by a staff of volunteers, craftspeople, vendors, historians, performers and many others.

Unfortunately, over the last few years the festival has not been self-sustaining. Last September, it was announced that 2007 would be used as a rebuilding year, but many fans of the Festival would not accept that and suggested that a one-day event be presented this summer. The Potomac Celtic Alliance asks the Metropolitan Washington DC community- especially the people of Loudoun County where we have made our home for 13 years - to get involved. Donations are still badly needed. Please visit www.pcfest.org to donate, get information, make suggestions, or volunteer your time.

The festival will host approximately 20 clans and societies, along with over 30 vendors. Donating their time and talents for the good of the festival this year are such regional groups as Tinsmith, Maggie Sansone, Beggar's Circus, The Flying Cows of Ventry, Fyne Sound, piper Bob Mitchell, fiddler Andrew Dodd, harpist Sue Richards, and the Ocean Orchestra, an Irish band.

The event will not be held at the Equestrian Center off Route 15 this year, but will be held near the mansion on the other side of Morven Park.

Note from the Editor: Send Us Your Family News!



If you are a Virginia House of Gordon Division member, we welcome you to send us some items for The Gordon Tartan newsletter. Send us birth or death announcements, wedding

announcements, honors you or your family members have earned in the past year, graduation announcements, a promotion, or anything that is a big deal in your family clan, short of a raise or the amount of your bonus.

This is the place to do a little bragging about some of the positive things that come our way from time to time. So please help us out a little by sending a note to your Gordon Tartan editor, Jim Gordon, at 1132 Jefferson Ave. Waynesboro, Va. 22980, or E-mailing me at jagordon@ntelos.net or sending such news to Lois Todd at lmthood@comcast.net since Lois is now putting the newsletter together on her computer equipment.

We get embarrassed talking about the members of the Board all the time, and I'm sure some of you get tired of hearing about us on a regular basis. We would much rather fill it with news from your families.

Thanks in advance, Scotland Forever. JAG

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

We have fifteen new members since April 2006.

- Anthony and Anita Adee, Mitchellville MD
- Lisa Moyer Farnace, Grafton WV
- Glenn W. Gordon, Jr., Millersburg PA
- Greg Gordon, Orange VA
- SMSgt James H. Gordon, Jr. (ret), Laurel MD
- Ronald Gordon, Arlington VA
- Paul Kossler, Williamsburg VA
- Andrew and Laura Marr, Richmond VA
- Amanda Mills, Arlington VA
- Todd Pryor, Blue Ridge Summit PA
- Dr. Jull Savege Scharff, Chevy Chase MD
- Steven Smith, Sterling Heights MI
- Mildred F. Steele-Hollenbeck, Richmond VA
- Kimberley E. Thiers, Pittsburgh PA
- Joyce Whitlock, Richmond PA

We are so pleased to have you all with us and hope to see you at the Gordon Tent at one of the Games this year!

HOUSE OF GORDON USA GETS REVAMP!

As you all have heard we voted last July to re-incorporate as a 501C non-profit organization here in the USA at the Annual General Membership Meeting at Grandfather Mountain. Filing has been completed and all of the various state divisions fall under the umbrella of the national organization! We are looking for ways to make this work to our advantage here in Virginia and nationwide – any ideas you may have can be forwarded to any of the Virginia or National Board members. For instance, many local grocery store chains have fund raisers tied into their Valued Customer Cards for non-profit organizations. If you have a chain that you shop at regularly, send us the information so we can sign up our organization! This will enable us to help fund our scholarship efforts.

The new House of Gordon USA website is up and running. See www.houseofgordonusa.org and find out how we are moving forward to re-

organize so that we can better serve our members. We are planning more changes to the national website's functionality as well. Check back every now and then to keep up with the changes and the latest national news.

The AGM is coming up in July; you should have received the latest ***In the House*** with all of the AGM information. This edition was put out in booklet format and has some really interesting articles on the Gordon DNA project as well as other subjects. Let us know if you didn't receive yours so we can check into it for you.

Daniel Says Hello From OKI and Ooh Rah!

With almost one year of a two year tour of duty under his belt in Okinawa, Lance Corporal Daniel R. Todd has seen a bit more than just a Marine Corps Base in Japan! As a combat correspondent Daniel has had the opportunity to report on several exciting events and meet some of the most interesting people to be found anywhere.

He has reported on relief efforts in the Philippines Starting with a collection effort that resulted in over 10,000 pounds of in donations of clothing, schoolbooks and toys Daniel had the opportunity to follow the Marines efforts culminating with the opportunity to go there and help rebuild a high school that was devastated during a typhoon last fall and report on a medical mission as well. The people there



really won his heart and were so thankful for everything that our men were able to give them. One young teenage boy especially won him over with his enthusiasm and desire to learn photography.

Daniel got the opportunity to go to Iwo Jima and walk on the black sands and see the

bunkers and learn first hand a little of what it was like for our Marines landing there in WWII.



He was able to tie his experiences there with an op-ed on the book *Flag of Our Fathers* by James Bradley. A book that he highly recommends to everyone – after all, the movie (as good as it was) only covers a little over one chapter of the book!

He also had the opportunity to interview the honored guest at this year's Marine Corps Ball in Okinawa, Staff Sgt. Jesse Harper – a WWII Veteran who was part of the battle for Okinawa with 4th Provisional Rocket Platoon, 1st Marine Division, 11th Marine Regiment. He also got



to do an article on Okinawa Battle Sites Tour and get a peek into the island's history.

Not every article is momentous. He has covered sports events (his favorite of course), a beach clean-up and even the Kubasaki High School Cheerleaders. Everything is important though, the point is to lift the moral of the men and women on Oki and seeing your name or picture in the flag football tournament can be more important to morale than a cool article on the sites to be seen or the history to learn!

The Gordon Grill



THE GORDON GRILL WILL BE OPEN AT ALL HOUSE OF GORDON VIRGINIA EVENTS THIS YEAR!

WE WILL BE HOSTING AN ALL AMERICAN COOKOUT AT THE POTOMAC GAMES IN LEESBURG ON JUNE 9TH! Bring your favorite dish to share! We will be cooking hamburgers and hot dogs.

The Grill will be different at each game, but we promise that we will have good food, a chair and a cold drink ready and waiting for you! Come on out and join us!

.Do you have a favorite picnic item? Let us know! We are always looking for great ideas to make the Gordon Grill more fun and tastier too.



Is it Scotland or Pictland? The Historians Join Battle

IAN JOHNSTON AND RAYMOND HAINEY

THEY were supposed to have disappeared after being vanquished by the Scots in battle. But the Picts may actually have been the "winners" of their encounter with the Scots, suggesting that the name of this country is a misnomer.

According to the traditional history, Kenneth MacAlpin, king of Scots, took over the kingdom of the Picts in 843 to form the country that grew into modern day Scotland. But a new interpretation of ancient texts suggests that in fact the Scots kingdom of Dalriada was absorbed by a more powerful Pictish state. This completes an about-turn in understanding of how Scotland - perhaps more accurately "Pictland" - first emerged.

Historians now believe Kenneth was a Pict and that a claim he led the Scots to victory over the Picts in a battle at Stirling in 843 is a much later fabrication. Dr Dauvit Broun, a Glasgow University historian, said: "According to the standard narrative, Kenneth I, king of the 'Scots', succeeded in taking over Pictland because the Picts had been weakened at the hands of the Vikings - suffering a notable defeat in 839 - and/or because the 'Scots' had been pushed out of Argyll.

"The significance of Kenneth's achievement in creating Scotland was, and is, institutionalised in

the custom of numbering kings as if he was the first."

However, Dr Broun said that "key elements" of this story were now being challenged. "There has been a deepening unease about the very idea that Kenneth founded Scotland," he said.

"It has been suggested that Kenneth was a Pict and, more confidently, that Alba was not created in the mid-ninth century as a 'union of Scots and Picts', but was simply a Gaelic word for 'Pictland.'"

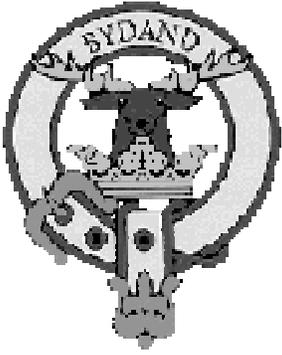
The traditional version of history is undermined by contemporary sources which make no mention of the dramatic news that Kenneth, King of Scots, has taken over Pictland in 843.

"The key point is everything that has a claim to offer a contemporary perspective presents Alba as Pictland," Dr Broun said.

Dr James Fraser, an expert in early Scottish history at Edinburgh University, said that early Scots historians relied on "literature-driven" sources and did not have the scientific resources available today.

In addition to historical evidence, recent work by geneticists suggests that about half the present day Scottish population is descended from the Picts, double the number whose ancestry can be traced back to the early Scots.

2007 Events	Date	Location
Potomac Celtic Festival	June 9 th	Historic Green at Morven Park 17263 Southern Planter Lane Leesburg, VA 20176
Grandfather Mountain HofG USA AGM	July 12-15 July 14 th	MacRae Meadows Grandfather Mountain Linville, NC 28646
Ligonier Highland Games	Sept. 8 th	Idlewild Park P.O. Box 884 Bethel Park, PA 15102
Virginia Scottish Games	Sept. 15 th	Sky Meadows State Park Delaplane, VA.
Williamsburg Scottish Festival	Sept. 28-30 th	Jamestown Beach Campsite P.O. Box 866 Williamsburg, VA 23187-0866
Alexandria Scottish Heritage Festival	October 7 th	Fort Ward Park Alexandria, VA
Radford Highland Festival	October 13 th	Moffett Field RU Campus off Tyler Radford, VA 24142
Anne Arundel Scottish Festival	October 13 th	Anne Arundel Fair Grounds Maryland Route 178 (near Annapolis) Crownsville, MD 21032
Richmond Highland Games & Celtic Festival	Oct. 27 - 28 th	Richmond Raceway P.O. Box 26805 Richmond, VA 23261-6805
Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk	Dec. 1 st	Old Towne Alexandria



HOUSE OF GORDON
 VIRGINIA DIVISION
 1811 AERONCA AVE
 RICHMOND, VA 23228

HOUSE OF GORDON MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ NEW _____

Email _____ RENEW _____



Please Mail To:	Annual Dues \$25.00
Barbara Gordon Wray	\$10.00 – Virginia (Mid-Atlantic)
7813 Hampton Forrest Ln.	\$10.00 – USA
Chesterfield, VA 23832	\$5.00 – Scottish Charity

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Years of Service _____ Misc. _____