

THE GORDON TARTAN

Fall 2006



NEWSLETTER FOR THE HOUSE OF GORDON, VIRGINIA DIVISION

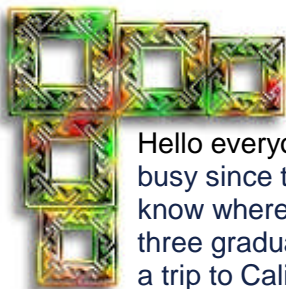
Mottoes: Bydand (Abiding); Animo Non Astutia (By courage not craft)

WAR CRY: A Gordon! A Gordon!

MORRIS GORDON, Convener

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

JAMES GORDON, Editor



Convener's Corner

Hello everyone. We have been so very busy since the last newsletter I do not know where to begin. We have attended three graduations for the family and made a trip to California and back.

I want to thank the House of Gordon members that attended the games and supported the tent site while I was away. We attended Leesburg, Fredrick Maryland, and Alexander games. I was able to attend Grandfather Mountain and Williamsburg events. We had a very good turn out at each of the games and gained some new members. Also many of the members have renewed their membership this year. Thank you for your support.

At the Grandfather Mountain games the House of Gordon USA had a meeting and made some very important decisions about our future as a Gordon Scottish Family. I am very pleased with the new direction that House of Gordon USA has taken. I know that we will benefit from the new direction and I am looking forward to being a part of this effort. More about the meeting and new direction will be provided by an article in this news letter.

I have some news about the "Highlander Hut" RV. The RV had a small mechanical problem while we were at the Grandfather Mountain Games. With great luck Aaron Todd saved the day and trip by his quick actions. We had an "overflow" of the toilet and had to shut it down for the trip. This trip was a "Mans Only" trip so we could adjust and managed to survive the rest of the days on the mountain. My sister, Barbara was smart and decided to pitch her tent on the mountain and not stay with the "four bachelors" in the RV.

After I got the RV home more trouble developed. The fuel line broke and I could not drive it to get it fixed. **Continued on page 3.**

HOUSE OF GORDON USA REORGANIZES!



At the Annual General Membership Meeting held at Grandfather Mountain on July 8th the members voted to reorganize as a separate entity from the Scottish Corporation of House of Gordon and incorporate as a 501c3 non-profit organization! This decision was made to protect the House's interests in the USA and enable our members to make tax-deductible donations to the House. We will still be making reports to the Chief on the standing of the House on a regular basis. John Lowry of California was elected President. Windy Gordon of North Carolina was elected VP. Other officers elected were Lu Gordon of Virginia and Tennessee as Treasurer, Roger Mills of Illinois as Convener Chair, and **our own Barbara Gordon Wray as Secretary.**

A Communications Committee was formed to create a website, national newsletter, annual publication and more. Chad Hord and Lee Atkinson of North Carolina were named to the committee and **Lois Todd of Virginia as Chairman.** A new National Website is online at www.houseofgordonusa.org where temporary pages are available as the website is in the development stage. You may recognize a few faces on the USA banner!

Lois Todd has also been named as the USA Genealogist, and the clan is looking for members who specialize in research of the sept names to form a Genealogy committee.

New Display for Potomac Festival

The Potomac Celtic Festival in Leesburg featured a new display, and more open inviting layout in the House of Gordon tent and this new look was rewarded with compliments from all who visited.



The makeover includes a Time-Line Wall featuring 953 and counting years of continuous military service tradition of the Gordon Clan. Also highlighted is the Wall of Honor featuring our continuing tradition of military service including our 5 active duty members plus a small collection of swords and Gordon Highlander memorabilia. If you have not sent your military service information for the wall of honor please send your name, branch of service, rank, dates of service awards & ribbons authorized and any other information you want to include as well as a picture (optional) to Lois Todd.



We also hosted a send-off cookout for Pfc. Daniel Todd before he shipped out to Okinawa for a 2-year tour of duty as a combat correspondent. The MacMillan Pipe band, which Aaron Todd is a member, surprised Daniel honoring him by playing the Marine Corps Hymn as part of the send-off. Ooh-Rah Daniel, we're thinking of you!

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH OUR MEMBERS!



Congratulations to Brandon Wray, son of Barbara Wray on making Eagle Scout!

Brandon's Eagle Project was an information board at Pocahontas State Park. The installation was completed with the help of his father, Richard, Uncle Morris Gordon, cousin, Thomas Gordon, and his troop.



Pfc. Daniel R. Todd, USMC, son of David & Lois Todd is currently serving as a combat correspondent in Okinawa, Japan. Daniel's **first article was published on Aug. 4th** and covered the 31st MEU BLT live fire mortar training. Daniel was able to capture a photo of a mortar leaving the tube (left) which accompanied the article in both print and online versions!

Congratulations to **Aaron Todd** for his **1st place in 2/4 March and 1st place in Strathspey/Reel in Grade 2 Solo Competition at the North American Championships** held at the Glengarry Highland Games in Maxville, Canada on August 4th! Aaron has done well in his light music competition this year.

Congratulations to **Barbara Wray** elected to the **National Board as Secretary** of the House of Gordon USA. Congratulation also to **Lois Todd** named **Chairman of the Communications Committee** and also **Genealogist for the House of Gordon USA**.

Congratulations to **Kristin Gordon of Winchester**, granddaughter of Dr. Jim & Abbye Gordon, for her accomplishments in VHSL Tennis! Kristin ranked #2 in Tennis Doubles and #4 in Singles in the VHSL 2005-06 Rankings!

Convener's Corner Continued from Page 1.

Well it is fixed now and I used it at the Williamsburg games. I hope that it will not give me any trouble so I can use it next year.

I have had my DNA tested and have received the results back. I am still trying to learn what the data means. There is more data coming and I should have more information to report. I did find out that I have 55 hits from Scotland and over 100 from United Kingdom. 12 people have the same DNA and I will be contacting them soon to ask about our family tree. I hope I will have more to report in our next newsletter. I am very excited about the GORDON DNA -Project.

The next games will be in Radford, Richmond and the Christmas Walk. Please check the dates listed in the schedule on our web site. During the Richmond games we will share a social space with Clan Donnachaidh. We have members in both societies.

I want to thank the Board Members for the work and support this year. Without them we would not be able to keep the HOUSE OF GORDON-VIRGINIA moving forward.

If you have any suggestions that can help improve HofG-VA, please let me or one the board members know your ideas. We are always looking to improve and move forward.

Again, thank you for your support. BYDAND.
Morris Gordon

Gordons at Williamsburg.

Most of us who try to attend several of the Scottish Festivals in the Commonwealth circle the Williamsburg Scottish Festival as one of the weekends we set aside to take a trip during late September to see one of the most historic towns in the country, often referred to as the birthplace of the colonies.

This year's one-day event was held on Saturday, Sept. 30th, our piper was present and performed well.

VIRGINIA GORDON ANNUAL GATHERING SET FOR RICHMOND HIGHLAND GAMES!

The annual Richmond Highland Games and Celtic Festival will again highlight this year's series of Scottish festivals in the Mid-Atlantic area and will soon be upon us at the Richmond Raceway Complex the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, Oct 28 and 29.

The House of Gordon will sport a tent at the athletic field where much of the competition will be held. We hope many of our 130+ Virginia Division

members will make every effort to attend the Games at least one of those two days, if not both... With the cost of a gallon of gas dropping almost every week this fall, you can't use that as an excuse not to make the trip anymore. We will be cooking out as usual at the tent, and all are encouraged to please bring a dish to share.

One of the highlights of the festival will be the North American Highland Games Championship, to be held on Saturday. The culmination of 35 sanctioned events in the U.S. and Canada each year, it features professional Heavy Scottish Athletes who have been competing for qualifying points throughout the past year. Only the best with the highest aggregate total reach the Championships at the Richmond Raceway Complex on Saturday, Oct. 28th!

Besides the Heavy Athletic competition, there will also be Highland Dance competition, Piping and Drumming competition, Harp competition, Irish Fiddle competition and Scottish Fiddle competition. Richmond also traditionally has the best assortment of vendors and some of the best entertainment of any festival on the east coast!

Tickets go on sale Sept. 30 through Oct 27. Advance one-day tickets are \$14 and a weekend ticket costs \$26 each. At the gate, a one-day ticket will cost \$18 and a weekend pass is \$26. Children 10 and under will be admitted free of charge, but it will cost \$5 to bring your dog into the Games and a rabies tag is required. There will be no refunds or rain checks.

News from Around the World



Father **Don Aitchison**, an Anglican Minister, has been elected **President of the House of Gordon Canada**. **Gordon Rogers** Treasurer and **Myrna Fox**, Secretary.

Pictured Above: 2nd from left Col. Roger Mills, USA, Fr Don Aitchison, next to him Don Rogers, treasurer, and Myrna Fox, secretary.

Ken Gordon President House of Gordon Australia writes: "It is with great pleasure that I announce the House of Gordon, Australia is now officially accepted and fully operational.

"I used a contact who is with the Court of Lord Lyon who has advised they will endorse our organisation to operate independently of the main body. He has advised the Clan Council and they have accepted my application and advised me of my official status this evening. ...House of Gordon, Australia will operate independently of the main body but will advise the main body periodically of what we have accomplished."

Mrs. Glenyss O'Halloran, of New Zealand, reports the House of Gordon New Zealand has set up as a Registered Incorporated Charitable Trust. Trustees for the House of Gordon New Zealand Charitable Trust are Glenyss O'Halloran, Susan MacLean, Patricia Wighton and Wayne Laurence. With an Executive of President Glenyss O'Halloran; Vice Presidents; Wayne Laurence and Patricia Wighton, Secretary Treasurer Susan MacLean; Assistant to treasurer David Wighton; Committee; (South Island) Peter & Shirley Aitken; (Hawkes Bay) Michael Gordon; and Jim O'Halloran and Anthea Laurence.

A Garland for Edinburgh

(from an article produced in July 1951)

From the moment she stepped on to the stage, at the Edinburgh Empire the diminutive singer was eager to please and appeared genuinely moved to tears as the audience shouted, stamped and whistled their approval from the beginning and throughout the evening.

She's a bonny lass, this Judy Garland, with a well turned leg, and a fine Scottish complexion (is gift from her "Irish Grandmother" she says). A bit sturdier built than we are used to and with darker hair, she is very much the girl we fell in love with 12 years ago. **She was quick to tell the audience she felt at home in Scotland and that her Grandfather's people were called Milne originally from Aberdeen.** Between songs she told show business and family stories, saying she was "Scots and Irish and that her grandparents house was "filled with music from those countries" and she and her sister often danced kind of a "fling" with their Grandfather while their grandmother lilted the tune. Leaning over the apron, she chatted with children and women in the front rows. She invited several delighted girls who presented her with a posy up on to the stage for an impromptu Highland Fling and Irish jig. Kicking off her shoes, the American star was graceful, quick and clearly

proved a natural aptitude for our national dance. Unlike other American celebrities (who only come for out golf courses) she is well able to understand and hold her own with our humour, filling the hall often with an impish schoolgirl laugh as musical as her singing.

Make no mistake, Judy Garland was in control last evening. Her voice is rich, sweet and powerful. She shook the walls of the theatre with her raucous version of "It's A great Day for the Irish", telling us that it was written just for her. Some of the audience danced in the aisles while others kept time by clapping and stamping their feet. She told the audience that she had added a few "new things" just for Scotland and Ireland. The audience was whipped into a frenzy with "Loch Lomond", starting soft and sweet with no musical accompaniment then joined only by a lone bagpiper at the back of the house for the second chorus, gradually building into a jazzy swing number involving the entire orchestra with a lung bursting finale. With all the coyness and charm she shouted back to the audience over the applause "did you like that one?"

Songs from Hollywood to the deep American southlands her songs were happy, sad, patriotic, loud and gentle, songs of love lost and love found she effortlessly changes key several times in a single lyric. She mimics and pulls faces and did a wonderfully funny impression of Mickey Rooney doing an impression of Sir Harry Lauder.

Her voice is a fine instrument and something that she seems to take for granted. I don't think this lady knows how talented she is, which contributes to her appeal.

Like a lost highland lassie alone in the spotlight, for one number, then in the next, arms waving, expressive hands coaxing their magic she is a sorceress weaving a spell, and we her willing victims. Her rebel-rousing version of "Flower of Scotland" (one of the additions just for Scotland) brought the audience to its feet in thunderous applause. Followed by the Trolley Song, every bit as fresh as the day we first saw and heard her in that colour masterpiece of Americana, Meet Me in St Louis, nearly 10 years ago.

Each time one thinks "She can't top that" the show's over she goes on to prove us wrong. Her final number for the evening was "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" sung from the very edge of the stage, no microphone, her lovely legs (which she shows plenty of) gracefully folded, her angelic wistful voice soared through the theatre with a reverence that one (only) feels in the presence of greatness. Childishly brushing her fringe away from her face

the final notes "oh, why, oh why can't I?" rang with the clarity of bells on a Sunday morning and faded into a hushed silence before the audience rose in unison to applaud this phenomenon who is nothing less than a human. (Well actually she is nothing less than a GORDON!)

Savannah Gordon's Home Haunted?

When Girl Scout founder Juliette Gordon Low's mother, Nellie Gordon, died February 22, 1917, the ghost of her husband, General William Gordon, was seen by one of the daughters-in-law waiting in a room next to the room where Nellie lay with her five living children. A servant reported seeing the man as well.

The Gordon children reported "that when she died, her face took on the radiance of a bride, going to meet her bridegroom.," according to her biography, *Lady From Savannah*, written by niece Daisy Gordon Lawrence with Gladys Denny Shultz. Mary Stewart Gordon Platt wrote that the servant who sighted the general said the general appeared well and happy. "I thought you lake to know de General come fetch her hisself, suh," the servant is reported to have commented.

However, according to reports, the general may not have actually taken Nellie Gordon completely away. There have been reports she is still walking the old Gordon home. Objects disappear and reappear in plain sight. *Savannah Spectres* quotes the home's maintenance man saying he frequently caught glimpses of a Nellie "wearing a long blue robe, with flowers all over it," sitting at the breakfast table when he would arrive early in the mornings. The faint sounds of a pianoforte, such as Mrs. Gordon loved and played, have been reported as well.



"To get it right, be born with luck or else make it. Never give up. Get the knack of getting people to help you and also pitch in yourself. A little money helps, but what really gets it right is to never -- I repeat -- never under any conditions face the facts." – Ruth Gordon 1896-1985 American Writer & Actress.

- Apple Scone

There are many different varieties of scone - this one uses finely chopped apple to supply its flavour.

Main Ingredients:

One medium cooking apple
8 oz (250g or two cups) self raising flour (all-purpose flour with baking powder)
½ teaspoon salt
Level teaspoon baking powder
2 oz (60g or ½ stick) butter
2 oz (60g or ¼ cup) castor (fine granulated) sugar
Up to ¼ pint (150ml or half cup) milk

Ingredients for glaze:

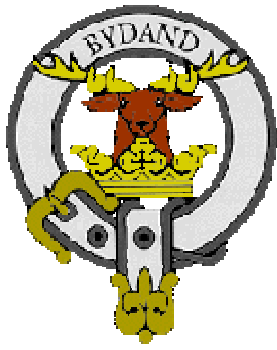
A little milk
1oz demerara (light brown) sugar

Method:

Pre-heat the oven to 200C (400F or Gas Mark 6). Peel and core the apple and then finely chop. Sift together the flour, salt and baking powder. Then rub in the butter followed by the sugar and chopped apple and mix. Add milk until you have a soft but not sticky dough.

Roll out on a floured surface to about ¼" thick and 8" round and mark into 8 wedges. Place on a greased baking sheet, brush the top with milk and sprinkle with the demerara (light brown) sugar. Bake in the pre-heated oven at 200C (400F or Gas Mark 6) for 20-25 minutes. Serve warm with butter.





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