

THE GORDON TARTAN

JUNE 2004

NEWSLETTER FOR THE HOUSE OF GORDON, VIRGINIA DIVISION



CLANSMAN'S BADGE

From a crest cometh a buck's head,
proper with ten pointed gold antlers,
encircled in a silver strap and buckle

MOTTOES

Bydand (Abiding)
Animo non asturia (By courage not craft)

ANCIENT ARMS

Azure, 3 boar's heads couped
Or, armed Proper langued Bules
(3 gold boar's heads facing right on
a field of deep blue)

WAR CRY: A Gordon! A Gordon!

Tartans: Modern, Modern Dress, Ancient, Ancient Dress, Old Ancient, Red Gordon, Huntly, Weathered and muted of all of the prev

CONVENER'S CORNER

Events

The year has gotten off to a great start. We have attended three festivals. The first was A one day event in Ettrick, Va., located in Chesterfield county, Va. in March called the Ettrick Heritage Festival. We took pictures of Aaron Todd, our very own clan piper and Anna and Larry Edwards, members wearing their Indian costumes. The next event was to be in April, also in Chesterfield County. That event was called off due to funding difficulties.

With the news that the Maryland Convener had passed away, the Virginia HofG Board voted to attend some of Maryland's festivals. The board voted to contact some of the Maryland festivals and signed up to attend. It is hoped that we can find someone to take over as convener for Maryland.

We attended two events in Maryland. They were the Southern Maryland Celtic Festival, April 24 and the 5th Annual Frederic Celtic Festival, May 8. We were able to get a few new members and several renewals.

Our next event will be in Leesburg Virginia, June 12. This is a two-day event. We are planning to attend the Grandfather Mountain event all four days and attend the H of G-USA annual meeting and annual picnic, July 8 thru 11.

We will also attend the Virginia Scottish Games in Alexandria, July 24 thru 25, Williamsburg, Sept. 25, Radford, Oct. 9, and the Richmond Highland Games, Oct 23 and 24. We plan to march in the Alexandria Christmas Walk, Dec. 4.

Purchase RV

I had to pay for motel rooms to stay over night at some the festivals. This was getting to be a

lot of "out of pocket money". Plus, I needed to make sure that our tent items were secured at the overnight festivals.



The Highlander Hut

It would be great to be able to stay at the site over night to keep a look out on our tent items. I had tried to camp out in a tent in the past, but was either rained on or I got cold. This did not work to well. What I needed was a RV with a generator and "all the comforts of home". I could park it at the site near the tent and stay in the RV for the weekend. It also could be used to carry all of the tent items to the festivals. So there would be no need to buy a cargo trailer or even rent one.

Well, I bought a used, low mileage, drivable RV in April. It is 29 feet long and can sleep (5) five -- possible (6) people. I can carry (5) passengers plus myself. It has plenty of room for all of the tent items plus storage. Barbara and I have taken it to two festivals in Maryland and plan to take it to the Leesburg Festival, June 11-13th. David and Lois Todd and Aaron will stay with Sara, Winnie and I at the Leesburg festival that weekend.

The RV has answered all my needs and I am looking forward to having it at Grandfather Mountain, the Virginia Scottish Games and Williamsburg. A picture of the RV is on the web site and in this newsletter. I think I will call it the "Highlander Hut"!!

(Convener's Corner continued on page 2)

(Convenor's Corner Continued)

Cargo Trailer

Having a need to carry all of the H of G tent items to each site has been somewhat a challenge. My truck was not large enough to pack all of the items and have room for passengers. The thought was to use a Cargo trailer. I did rent a U-Haul trailer to take the items to the Radford festival in Radford, Va. last year and this proved to be a great idea. so the board of directors suggested that we should be looking for a used trailer. I thought that one could be bought for about \$1,000. Wrong!

Research indicated that the cost would be around \$2,000 to \$2,500. Larry Edwards donated a used pop-up trailer, but upon closer inspection it was determined the pop-up trailer would not serve our purpose. So it was back to "square one". We are still looking for a "great deal" on a Cargo trailer. If someone has a lead on one, please let us know about it.

Web Site

I am so pleased that we have a web site. It is www.houseofgordonva.com. We have been trying to set up a site that did not cost Hof G, Va any money; however, H of G, VA needed a site that could provide our members with more features and links to other web sites of interest. A committee was set up to look into the development of a new site. Committee member Lois Todd, having a lot of experience and training in web site design, put together a plan and established a site "under construction" for us to look at.

They found that there were some extra costs to having the site up and running. The Todd's volunteered to donate the cost of having the site for the House of Gordon, Virginia. Lois Todd is the web master and has done a fantastic job in setting up the links and other features on the site. Please be sure to take advantage of our new and exciting web site. If you have any ideas for our web site, please let Lois Todd know about them.

Display of famous Gordons/ Septs

I would like to design a display board to put pictures and articles on that will tell the story about famous Gordon's / Septs. If you have a picture or item that can represent the famous Gordon or Sept, please send it to me or give it to me at the tent / festival. We have been collecting some items. We have Jeff Gordon, Joe Gordon, Winnie the Pooh, Alice in Wonderland, Girl Scouts stuff, light bulb (Edison), Gordon Highlanders, Flash Gordon, etc. If you have other items that you can share, please let us use them. We can have some things "on loan" for the display.



Scene from the picnic last year

House of Gordon Picnic Set

The 4th Annual Virginia House of Gordon Picnic will be held in Richmond this year at Deep Run Park, Shelter # 1, from noon until 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 22. Bring a covered dish of either a vegetable, salad or desert-enough for 9 to 10 servings.

Last year's picnic in Waynesboro was a lot of fun, so please make an effort to be there this time around. David Todd will provide his famous home-made barbeque and buns and other board members will bring the drinks, chips and other munchies. If you don't like barbeque, we will also bring some hot dogs if you let us know beforehand.

Morris will be glad to give you a tour of his new Highlader Hut if you kneel and kiss the ring of our benevolent Convenor. We may also have a brief chapter meeting if Morris feels there are some items which need bringing to your attention at that time.

Let one of your board members know if you are coming so we will know how much barbeque and drinks to prepare since we had so much left over last year. Directions to the park will be available on our web site.

Hope to see all of you there.

Name the Mascot.

Our tent mascot is wearing 100 + year old child's Gordon attire. We need a name for our little fellow, so give us your suggestions.



Upholding the honor of the clan- Gordons have a lot to crow about!

Several members of the House of Gordon, Virginia Division, have been doing interesting things and upholding the honor of the clan. Sarah Gordon and Aaron Todd were part of the opening act for Seven Nations on March 10 when they were in concert at Clover Hill in Chesterfield! It was an exciting evening. Aaron and George Albertine piped for the dancers of the Thistle and Shamrock Dance Academy where Sarah is a Premiere dancer and Accredited Teacher.

Aaron has been having a very successful competition season in Grade IV Jr. Piping Solo Competition so far this year. At the Tidewater Tartan Day on April 3rd., he placed 1st in Piobreachd and 1st in 2/4 March and was named Piper of the Day. At the Loch Norman Games in Lake Norman, NC, on April 17 he placed 3rd in Piobreachd. The Greater Richmond Pipes & Drums (GRPD) of which Aaron and David Todd belong, placed 2nd in Grade V Pipe Band Competition. The Drum Corps, of which David is a part, placed first!

Aaron placed 1st in 2/4 March and 4th in Piobreachd and was named Piper of the Day at the Southern Maryland Highland festival in St. Leonard's, Md. on April 24. GRPD placed first in Grade V competition and Lois Todd was chosen to carry the band trophies off the field with the band. Afterward David and Aaron played at the ClanTent in celebration.

At the Colonial Heritage Festival in Fair Hill, Md. on 15 May, Aaron placed 1st in the 2/4 March 12 and under competition and was considered by the judge as the best overall piper in grade IV Jr. (17 & under). Aaron was given an Above Grade Level rating for his 2/4 March. This was a huge festival with over 30 pipe bands in competition. There was no Piobreachd competition offered as there would not be enough time to judge all of the pipers competing! The GRPD came in second in Grade V competition. David competed in his first competition ever as a Novice Tenor Drummer and placed third! David began drumming in January of this year.

Aaron and David have also piped for the Gordons at the Ettrick Heritage Fair on March 27. This was a small event, but was greatly enlivened with Aaron's piping and Larry dancing. The Gordons had the largest and most colorful representation at the fair. The Edwards family was there in native dress and had a very nice display telling of the native customs and heritage with story-telling and dancing. Following an old tradition, Aaron piped several songs to which Larry danced.



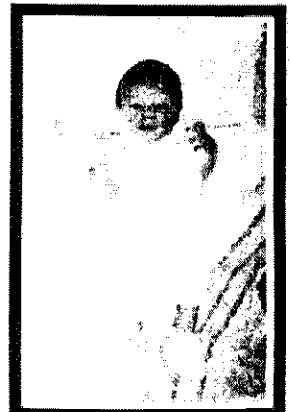
The
Edwards
Family
in Native
dress

Aaron and David Todd and 4 drummers from the Kilmarnock Pipe Band (the Kilmarnock Pipes & Drums were made honorary Gordons by the Chief in September 2002) joined Dr. Jim Gordon's band, the Winchester Pipes & Drums, at the Apple Blossom Festival Parade. Since Dr. Jim's band wears the Gordon Modern Tartan, these other Gordons came to fill out the band and have fun in the parade. Dr. Jim became ill during the parade and had to stop part way through. Fortunately, it was right at his doctor's home and he was able to get prompt assistance. We are happy to report that Dr. Jim is doing well after his brush with heat exhaustion and heart trouble. Dr Jim will be joining us at the clan tent in Leesburg in June!



Aaron
&
David
Todd

Ed & Sallie
Gordon's new
grand daughter
Abigail May
Gordon born
May 20, 2004 in
Florence,
Kentucky.



Grandfather Mountain National Gathering July 8 - 11

The annual national "Gathering" of Scottish clans will be held again this year from Thursday through Sunday, July 8-11 up on Grandfather Mountain near Boone, NC.

If you plan to go to this colorful event and meet other members of the Gordon clan from all over the country at the Gordon tent or at the picnic Saturday evening, you need to order your tickets for the days you will be there by June 15. You may pay by check or credit card by writing the Ticket Office at: Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, P.O. Box 1095, Linville, NC, 28646.

Advance adult 4-day passes are \$55. Each adult Thursday pass is \$10; Friday pass & Celtic Jam (9 a.m.) \$15; Saturday pass, which includes professional competition and Celtic Rock Concert, is \$25; Saturday night Celtic Rock Concert (6:30-11 pm.) is \$10; and Sunday pass is \$15. The activities Sunday run from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. The gates will be open until 11 p.m. on the first three days of the festival.

A child's ticket for youngsters between the ages of 5-&-12 will be \$25 for a 4-day pass and \$5 for each other day or night's activity mentioned above. Games programs will be available for \$8.50, which covers postage and handling. Checks should be made out to GMHG.

Hopefully, a large contingent of chapter members will make the trip and attend the House of Gordon picnic at Valle-Crucis Community Park at 6 p.m. Saturday. The cost is \$10 per person and maps with directions will be available at the Gordon tent up on the mountain. The maps are also on our web sight at www.houseofgordonva.com. There will be a Virginia chapter meeting at the end of the evening program.

The 2004 national Gathering schedule of activities is as follows:

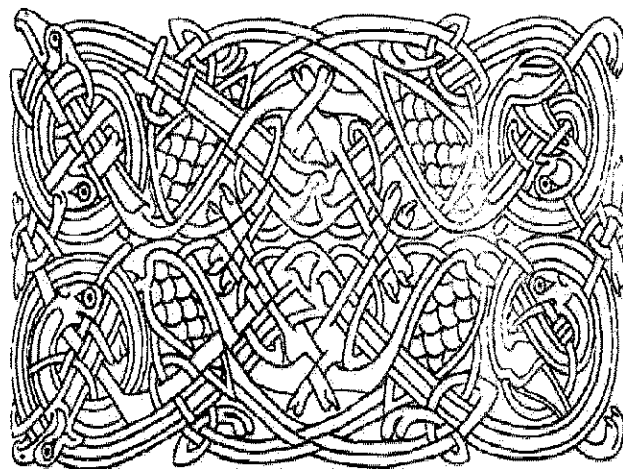
THURSDAY - 5 p.m. - picnic at MacRae Meadows; 5:30 p.m. - Scottish entertainment including traditional Celtic music and sheep herding by Border Collies; 7 p.m. - The five-mile footrace known as The Bear, an assault on Grandfather Mtn. from Linville to the summit of the mountain, an endurance contest including over 400 runners. A torchlight ceremony will take place at dusk, about 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY - 10 a.m. - Opening Ceremonies and harp workshops; 11 a.m. - Sheep herding and harp exhibitions; 11:30 a.m. - Highland wrestling clinic for children; 1-4 p.m. - Highland dance (individual and group) choreography competition; 2:30 p.m. Sheep herding; 6 p.m. - Sheep herding; 6:30 - Appalachian entertainment; 7 p.m. Celtic Music Jam concert tracing the evolution of Celtic music from ancient to contemporary at MacRae Meadows; 8 p.m. - a Ceilidh family

gathering of Scottish folk music, song and dance at the Hayes Auditorium at Lees-MacRae college. (Adults \$10, children 12 & under \$5) Tickets sold at the door only.

SATURDAY - 7 a.m. Mountain Marathon beginning in Boone; 7:30 a.m. - MacRae Meadows opens; 8 a.m. - Amateur heavy athletics qualifying begins; Competition begins for highland dancing, piping, drumming, Scottish athletic events, track & field events, Scottish country dancing, Scottish fiddling and harp, more sheep herding. 9:45 a.m. Massed Bands on the field for Opening Ceremonies at 10 a.m. 10:30 a.m. - Highland wrestling, 11 a.m. - harp competition; 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. - sheep herding; 3 p.m. - NC Provincial Gaelic Mod; Scottish fiddling workshop & jam session; 7 - 9 p.m. Piping Concert at the Broyhill Inn and Conference Center in Boone. Tickets (\$10 and \$5) sold at the door only. 9 p.m. - Alex Belton and Friends concert by Scotland's premier entertainer, in the Trillium Room at the Broyhill Inn and Conf. Center in Boone. Tickets (\$10 per person) sold at the door only.

SUNDAY - 8 a.m. - Scottish heavy athletics demonstration and clinic; 8:15 a.m. prelude music before worship service begins; 9 a.m. - Scottish Worship Service outside main gate including Kirking of the Tartans. Bring a folding chair. 10 a.m. - Children's Border Collie demonstration on main field. Celtic Grove Entertainment begins. 10:30 - Parade of Tartans. Guest of honor and distinguished guests are introduced as all members of the sponsoring clans are invited to march in the parade behind the massed pipe bands. 11 a.m. - Scottish fiddling competition, Atlantic International Highland Dance Championship Competition. 12 noon - Children's track and field events. Registration closes for amateur athletic events. 12:30 p.m. Competition for Highland dancing, Scottish athletic events, sheep herding, the kilted mile run, children's events, Scottish country dancing, Scottish harps, clan tug-of wars, and entertainment in the Celtic Groves. 2 p.m. - Loehaber Trump Competition. 2:30 p.m. - sheep herding demonstration; 4 p.m. Closing ceremonies.



2004 Virginia Highland Games & Celtic Festivals

Potomac Celtic Festival - June 12 & 13 at Morven Park Equestrian Center just north of Leesburg, Va. off U.S. Rt. 15.

For ticket info and reservations, call 1-800-752-6118 or E-mail, info@potomaccelticfest.org. Tickets are \$15 each day for adults and \$7 for children. The Sat. night Ceilidh is \$12 per person. Family passes are \$42, parking is free. Expected clans - 68, vendors - 75.

Events will include: pipe bands, piping, drumming, Highland dancing, Scottish country dancing, harp, fiddle, folk music, story-telling, spinning and weaving demonstrations, amateur men's heavy athletics, children's athletic games, ethnic food.

Virginia Scottish Games - July 23-25 at Episcopal High School in Alexandria. Located at 3901 West Braddock Rd at Quaker Lane. E-mail: info@vascottishgames.org or write to Va Scottish Games Assoc., P.O. Box 1338, Alexandria, Va, 22313.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, children are free, the Ceilidh is \$5. For tickets in advance, call 703-912-1943.

Events include pipe bands, piping, drumming, drum major, Highland dancing and Scottish country dancing, harp, fiddle, folk music, spinning, weaving and sheep dog demonstrations, Pro-Amateur competition in men's heavy athletics, track and field.

Special events include the pub tent, British car show, War Cry and dog show. Other features include traditional baked food, the Kirkin' of the tartans at the Virginia Episcopal School, and Scottish country dance Friday evening.

Williamsburg Scottish Festival and Celtic Celebration - Sat., Sept. 25

at the Jamestown Beach Campground on Jamestown road south of Williamsburg on Va., Route 31 South. For more info., E-mail topp@erols.com or write to Williamsburg Scottish Festival, c/o Howard Topp 207 Buford Rd., Williamsburg, Va. 23188, or call 757-565-2738 for general info.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children, \$8 for the Ceilidh Saturday evening. There will be a \$5 parking fee at the festival facility.

Events will include pipe bands, along with piping, drumming, drum major,

Scottish country dancing, spinning and weaving, sheep dog demonstrations; Highland dancing competition, a folk music performance, amateur competition in men's heavy athletics, and historical children's games. Special events include wine tasting and a Haggis Hurl. ethnic food will be available.

Alexandria Scottish Heritage Fair - Sat., Oct. 2 at Fort Ward Park, 4301 West Braddock Rd., in Alexandria. For info, call 703-683-5849, or write to Alexandria Scottish Heritage Fair Council Information, 8500 Wendell Dr., Alexandria, Va. 22308-2158 or E mail jwallace@ccq.com.

This is a free fair with no admission charge for the event.

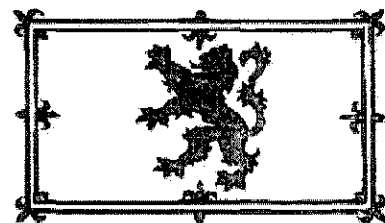
There will be pipe band, piping, drum major, Highland dancing, Scottish country dancing, harp and fiddle, spinning and weaving demonstrations, plus folk music, story-telling and sheep dog performances, a living history encampment, plus a pro demonstration in men's heavy athletics. The special events include a kilted golf tournament and children's games, as well as folks speaking in Gaelic, pony rides, a wagon ride, falconry and Scottish heritage activities.

Richmond Highland Games -Sat. & Sun., Oct 23 & 24 at the Strawberry Hill Raceway complex off Meadowbridge and Azalea Ave. For general information, write to RHGCF, P.O. Box 26805, Richmond, Va. 23261-6895, or E-mail the Festival at mwetton@AREevents.com, or call the office at 804-569-3200, ext. 221.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, no charge for children or parking. The Ceilidh Saturday night will cost \$5 per person.

The events include pipe bands, piping, drumming, Drum major, Highland dancing, harp and fiddle, and Pro-Am men's heavy athletics competition, Scottish country dancing, spinning and weaving and visual arts demonstrations, story-telling and a folk music performance.

Special events include an honored clan, the Young McDonald's Farm, and the popular Parade of Dogs. There will also be a music workshop for those interested in improving their skills with a musical instrument.



Potomac Celtic Festival opens Saturday

By Jim Gordon.

The first big Scottish gathering of the summer season in the Mid-Atlantic area is scheduled for this weekend, June 12 & 13 in Leesburg, Va.

The Potomac Celtic Festival will be open from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Sunday at the Morven Park Equestrian Center, located off Route 15 on Tutt Lane just north of Leesburg. Turn left on Tutt Lane if you are driving north on Rt. 15.

There will also be a Ceilidh starting at 8:30 p.m. Saturday at the Main Pub Tent. Tickets (available at the festival) will cost \$10 each. The feature entertainment will be provided by the Prodigals, along with the Irish supergroup Lunasa, the progressive sounds of Cape Breton's Slaint Mhath, Northern Ireland's Tommy Sands, Scotland's Ed Miller, and Cornwall's Dalla.

Tickets to the festival at the gate are \$15 for adults and \$7 for children 6 through 12. Kids 5-and-under will be admitted free of charge. A family pass for two adults and up to four children can be purchased for \$42. A two-day pass is available for \$24 for adults and \$12 for children.

The festival will also include 40 bands and 15 dance groups on eight stages of continuous music. There will also be story-telling, poetry and various workshops concerning all facets of Celtic culture including many just for children. A total of 68 artisans of Celtic crafts will display their creations for sale to the public. Specialty vendors will offer everything from kilts to harps to all kinds of apparel.

Food and beverage will be available at the concession area, Celtic specialty tents, and at the Authentic Pub Tent where Guinness draft beer will be flowing, as well as the live music.

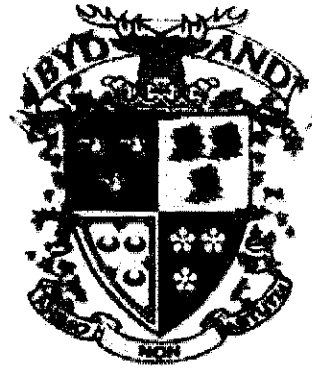
Activities for children will include entertainment, junior athletic competition, face-painting, and a hands-on craft area. Another feature will be nine camps including one from 50 BC and others through the 1900's.

Over 60 Scottish clans and Celtic societies will be represented at the clan tents staffed to help visitors find their roots and trace their family. Genealogy. I will bring the new genealogy.com book I recently purchased which traces those of us who moved to the U.S. from Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Various marching pipe bands will be performing on the Parade Field.

So come and join us for what promises to be a fun-filled weekend at the kick-off to the festival season.

If you kneel and kiss the ring of our benevolent Virginia Convener, Morris may even give you a tour of his new mobile meeting bus, "The Highlander Hut," where many "spirited" sessions are sure to take place in the future.



Help us serve you better!

Your humble editors, Jim Gordon and Sallie Gordon, would appreciate any articles or ideas for articles from any members of the Virginia House of Gordon.

Family accomplishments such as siblings or sons and daughters who have graduated from college, the degrees and majors, GPA, and what field they intend to peruse in the near future. We are also interested in any honors and awards which any member of the family has received in the past year, such as civic group honors or awards and career advancements.

How about some of your favorite Celtic recipes for either food or spirits!

Perhaps your experiences traveling to any of the British Isles or United Kingdom. Photos too are welcome.

Also any weddings or new additions to your family will be duly noted and shared.

If you know of any Gordon's or Septs who deserve special recognition for volunteer services or achievements. Please let us know who they are so we can follow up with a story which recognizes their accomplishments.

If you have moved please send us your new address so we can keep in contact.

Send any of the above information to the following addresses.

Jim Gordon : 1132 Jefferson Avenue, Waynesboro, VA 22980 or if you live in the Southern or Eastern part of the state, send your information to Sallie Gordon: 13342 Lodore Road, Amelia Court House, VA. 23002-4635

The more information you can provide us, the better we can serve you, the H of G members.

