

The Gordon Plaid

Quarterly Newsletter of the Virginia House of Gordon

Summer 1998

Motto: Bydand (abiding)

Old Motto: Animo no astutia (by courage, not craft)

Virginia House of Gordon Activated with New Convener

Dr. James Gordon Jr., a dentist in Winchester, is the new Convener for the Virginia branch of the House of Gordon USA.

The purpose of the Virginia House of Gordon is to provide information for persons with Gordon heritage who would like to learn

more about resources for information, gather at numerous highland games throughout the state (and other states) and purchase various Gordon memorabilia from merchants around the state and elsewhere. We will pass on tidbits of history and tell you how to trace your Gordon family tree. We will, from time to time, also publish member's Gordon family trees. Maybe you will find your family in our newsletter!

We encourage you and your family members to join. Frankly, we are just getting started and need the support (financial and otherwise).

Convener's Corner

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the newsletter for the House of Gordon, Virginia Division. I apologize for the delay in getting the first issue out. I'm sure most of you are aware of the difficulties of setting up a volunteer organization and trying to quickly turn it into a functioning gaggle of people.

What can we accomplish with this newsletter? We want to keep you informed. We need to keep the membership knowledgeable about the various efforts that the Virginia House of Gordon is undertaking. We need to let the members know how we are spending their dues. A prime example is the cost of placing a tent at the various games. The average cost is \$150 for renting a tent, tables and chairs. There are eight games in Virginia, so you see it can get expensive.

My plan is to develop a board of directors, with different directors acting as chairperson of a specific game. We will be there to help, but the daily organization should be the responsibility of that director. Many have complained about the failure of the House of Gordon to attend these games. If you are interested, please get in touch with me (540-667-1952 e-mail: drjim@shentel.com) or Rick Pullen (540-899-9601 e-mail: rickpullen@erols.com) and let us know of your interest.

My wife and I will be leaving April 25 for Aberdeen to spend two weeks in Gordon country. As most of you know, I have just taken over as your convener and there have been many questions I cannot answer. We plan on visiting the Gordon Highlander Museum in Aberdeen, Haddo House and Huntly Castle. We also hope to visit Fyvie Castle and Lieth Hall. I hope to fill in many of the questions that have been raised.

The week before we leave we will attend Loch Norman Games

How To Join

The cost of annual dues to join the Virginia House of Gordon is \$25. This includes \$8 for the House of Gordon in Scotland, \$7 for the US branch, and \$10 for the Virginia House of Gordon.

To join, please send your check made out to the Virginia House of Gordon, and send it to:

The Virginia House of Gordon
c/o Dr. James Gordon
324 Orchard Lane
Winchester, VA 22802

continued on page 2

Convener's Corner

continued

in Charlotte, N.C. with Lucretia Gordon, our national convener. North Carolina and Georgia House of Gordons have made great strides this year and my desire is to grow with them.

To those of you who are genealogy buffs, the next newsletter will report on the Odom Library in Moultrie, Ga., now the home for Gordon genealogy.

Plan now to be at the Fredericksburg and Potomac (Leesburg) games.

Yours aye
Jim Gordon

Our Charter Members

Here is a list of our charter members.

We would like to include telephone numbers and addresses in future issues. If you object to having either published, please contact us. Our newsletter will be sent to members and prospective members but will not be released for any commercial purposes.

The membership list is provided as a service to you. We hope that if you have genealogical information or are seeking more information about the Gordon clan in Virginia, maybe one of our members might be able to help.

If you would like to make your family genealogy available to members, please let us know.

We will publish all member's names who are willing to share their information in our next newsletter.

Highland Games and Festival Schedule For Virginia and Nearby States

May 16	Fair Hill, Md.
June 12-14*	International Scottish Highland Games, Fredericksburg, Va. (540-373-8612)
June 20-21*	Potomac Celtic Festival, Leesburg, Va. (703-451-4492)
June 27-28	Hampton Roads Highland Games, Chesapeake, Va. (757-548-4516)
July 9-12	Grandfather Mountain, N.C. (National Gordon Clan gathering)
July 25-26*	Virginia Scottish Games, Alexandria, Va. (703-912-1943)
Sept. 5-6 7850)	Frontier Festival, Staunton, Va. (540-332-7850)
Sept. 19	Alexandria Scottish Heritage Fair (703-883-4686)
Sept. 26*	Williamsburg Scottish Festival (757-564-0103)
Oct. 2-4	Flora McDonald, Red Springs, N.C.
Oct. 10*	Radford Highlanders Festival, Radford, Va. (540-831-5324)
Oct. 17	Celtic Heritage Festival, Fairfax City, Va. (703-278-8352)
Oct. 23-25*	Richmond, Va. Highland Games (Va. House of Gordon gathering) (804-228-3200)
Oct. 31	Waxhaw, N.C.

**We hope to have a tent at these games and need your help!*

Charter Members

Rhonda R. Abello
Quantico, Va.

Ernest W. Adams III
Winchester

Shannon D. Atkins
Verona, Va.

Nancy Campbell
Winchester, Va.

Dr. James Gardiner
Winchester, Va.

Donald Ray Gardner
Chester, Va.

Thomas H.C. Gardner
Chester, Va.

Arthur Gordon
Annandale, Va

Carolyn Gordon
Fredericksburg, Va.

Charles Landon Gordon
Winchester, Va.

Dr. James C. Gordon, Jr.
Winchester, Va.

James C. Gordon III
Winchester, Va.

Lauren Gordon
Springfield, Va.

Mark Gordon
Richmond, Va. 23233

Michael D. Gordon
Winchester, Va.

Richard O. Gordon
Richmond, Va.

Richard W. Gordon
Winchester, Va.

Holcombe Adams Jones Hughes
Madison Heights, Va.

Raymond Gordon Hunt
Manakin Sabot, Va.

John Lowrie
Worcestershire, England

Steve Lowrie
Midlothian, Va.

Albert Lowry
Springfield, Va.

Carolyn Maassen
Springfield, Va.

Mollie Marr
Montpelier, Va.

William G. Moir
Falls Church, Va.

Elizabeth G. Mondoux
Sandston, Va.

Richard "Rick" Gordon Pullen
Fredericksburg, Va.

David Rathburn
Silver Spring, Md.

Joan Schumidt
Centreville, Va.

Joseph R. Serewa
Newport News, Va.

Dorothy Spofford
Liamsville, Md.

Anne Isabel Gordon Swift
Fredericksburg, Va.

Michael L. Teague
Alexandria, Va.

Sue Ann Teal
Stephens City, Va.

Ann S. Wade
Rockville, Va.

Moultrie Public Library, P.O. Box
2828, Moultrie, GA 31776-2828.
For more genealogy information,
try some of these sources:

Web Sites

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/5917/GORDON2.HTM>
<http://www.tartans.com/clans/Gordon/society/society.html>
http://www.ccn.cs.dal.ca/Heritage/FSCNS/Scots_NS/Clans/Gordon.html
<http://www.electricscotland.com/webclans/dtog/gordon/tml>

Books

Scottish Family History (1930) by
Margaret Stuart

*Scottish Family Histories held in
Scottish Libraries* (1986) by Joan
Ferguson

Surnames of Scotland (1946) by
G.F. Black

*Scottish Roots: A guide for ances-
tor hunters in Scotland and over-
seas* (1984) By Alwyn James.
(Available from publisher:
Macdonald Publishers (Edinburgh)
Limited, Edgefield Road.
Loanhead, Midlothian EH20 9SY.

*Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors:
A guide to research in the Scottish
Records Office.* (1990) by Cecil
Sinclair.

Genealogy Update

As Jim Gordon mentioned in his Convener's Corner, we will have more information on the Odum Genealogy Library in Moultrie, Georgia. In February, the Clan Gordon was formally presented and accepted at the library. If you wish to contact the library, you may reach it at 912-985-6540 or write:

Publications

The Scottish Genealogist (quarterly) published free for members of the Scottish Genealogy Society

If you know of more sources of information, please send them to us.

Gordon Clan Once Ruled Northeast Scotland

The name Gordon comes from the parish of Gordon, south of Edinburgh in Berwickshire, Scotland and from Sir Adam of Gordon, who was given Strathbogie castle.

Strathbogie was confiscated from the Earl of Atholl in Aberdeenshire by Robert the Bruce. Sir Adam Gordon was given the castle by Robert of Bruce for his help as Ambassador to Rome in getting Bruce's excommunication removed.

The Gordons wielded great power during the 16th and 17th centuries, so much so that their chief was known as "the Cock of the North."

Strathbogie Castle was renamed Huntly after a part of the Gordon lands in the Borders. In 1436,

Alexander Gordon was named Lord Gordon. His son was given the title, Earl of Huntly.

The Gordon clan grew in strength unchallenged after helping the king fight the Douglases.

The fourth Duke of Gordon (1743-1827) raised his own regiment, known as the 92nd (Gordon) Highlanders, for whom the Gordon tartan was created by adding a yellow stripe to Black Watch. The Gordon Highlanders gained immortality by their famous charge at Waterloo.

The dukedom became extinct in 1836. The Huntly marguessate and the chiefship of the clan passed to the Earls of Aboyne.

At the height of their power, the Gordons ruled virtually all of northeast Scotland. They were

famed for their championship of catholicism and their mastery of horse breeding.

The mother of Lord Byron was Catherine Gordon of Gight. She inherited Gight Castle and its lands. She was forced to sell everything in 1787 to pay off the gambling debts of her husband.

Advertising Accepted

The Virginia House of Gordon will accept advertising in its newsletter to help defray costs. For rate information, contact Rick Pullen at 540-899-9600 or send inquiries to P.O. Box 1896, Fredericksburg, Va. 22402.

Join the Virginia House of Gordon Today

Your \$25 annual dues will automatically make you a member of the House of Gordon in Scotland and the U.S. Branch of the House of Gordon. You will not only receive a quarterly newsletter from the Virginia House of Gordon, but an annual newsletter from Scotland and periodic newsletters from the House of Gordon, U.S. Branch.

Join us at different highland games and festivals throughout Virginia or use us as a resource to research your Gordon family genealogy.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Telephone: _____ FAX _____

e-mail: _____

Make checks payable to Virginia House of Gordon. Mail to Virginia House of Gordon c/o James Gordon, 324 Orchard Lane, Winchester, Va. 22602