

Clansman's Badge

From a crest cornet bucks head, proper with ten pointed gold antlers, encircled in a silver strap and buckle

THE GORDON TARTAN NEWSLETTER - FALL 2002

HOUSE OF GORDON, MID-ATLANTIC REGION

G. E. Vandenberg, Convener

Mottoes

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

WAR CRY A Gordon! A Gordon



Arms

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

Tartans Modern, Modern Dress, Ancient, Ancient Dress, Old Ancient, Red Gordon, Huntly, Weathered and muted of all of the previous.

Badge, Crest, What's Proper

As many of you know I do over 20 games, fairs, and festivals a year. Several of them are rather small having only a few clans or Scottish societies in attendance. Because of this I often get asked questions that do not directly relate to the Gordons. Recently I attended an event where one of the vendors referred a lady to me to help her figure out why the badge she remembered her father wearing didn't look like the clansman's badge that the vendor was selling

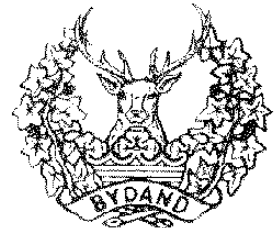
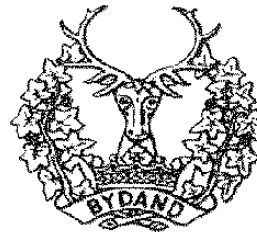
From my files I was able to determine that what her father had was the chief's crest and not the clansman's badge. In thinking on this I remembered seeing some of our Gordons at Williamsburg wearing badges other than the clansman's badge. I figured this would be a good time to put out a bit of the "official" word of the different badges and crests that you might see at different events.

There are many misunderstandings on the "Clan" items that are available and what is proper.

It is correct for a clansman to wear his Chief's crest but only encircled within a strap and buckle bearing the motto or slogan. The strap and buckle is the sign of the clansman, and demonstrates their membership of the Chief's clan by wearing his Chief's crest within it.

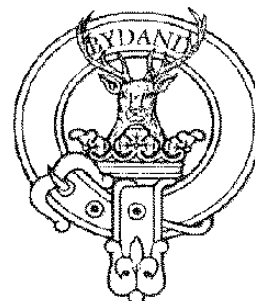
Unless you are the chief, or his designate, wearing of the chief's crest or Crest-badge is improper.

Some confusion comes in how is how the crest-badge differs from the Gordon Highlanders cap.



The Regimental badge and Chief's badge are derived directly from the Duke of Gordon's personal crest as it was registered in 1794. The Regiment Badge (first used in 1872) differs from the chief's in that it has two additional points on the antlers (12). The other differences in the examples above are just in the artist's rendition.

As the Regiment is a part of the House of Gordon, it is not improper to wear it but don't be confused as to what it represents. It is the Regiment that is honored when someone wears the Regimental Badge. There are members of several different clans that can wear the Regimental Badge as well as the Gordons, based on their personal family lineage.



The proper badge for a Gordon clansman to wear is the crest cornet, a buck's head proper with ten pointed gold antlers arising out of a crown, encircled in a silver strap and buckle.

Bad Weather Takes Its Toll

We have had some problems as a result of weather at several of the events this year. At Hanover (VA) tornado strength winds and torrential rain came through and crumpled both of our tents. (I was so distracted that I didn't get around to putting my shoes on until that evening. I received extra applause for doing the parade of tartans in bare feet.)

Parts were "acquired and recycled" from other damaged tents with which I was able to rebuild our tents, three times.

At the McHenry Festival again wind and rain hit. The repaired tents again took a beating but with the assistance of some of the reenactors I was able to continue the fair.

At over 2/3rds of the events this year we have had rain. This has caused damage to the paper work portion of the display. I've had to remake a display board three times as rain got to it. Even when the rain didn't get to the books and paper, the humidity did. Several of our books now need to be replaced.

We also have a problem with our large Gordon banner. It has been acting as sail, catching the wind and putting a lot of strain on the supports. It has been a major factor in the damage to the tents. If anyone has an idea of how we can rework the banner I'm all ears.

Despite the adversity at many of the events we have had a good turn out and have set up a socializing area that was well received. Some locations let us do this free others (like Richmond) require us to pay for a second space. Come out and hang out with us. It can be a lot of fun.

I have personally purchased a different type of tent to use at special events. I am modifying it for use at Gordon events as well. It takes a bit more to set up but did assist in our winning acclaim at the Maryland Renaissance Fair and the best clan presentation at the Virginia Highland Game.

Christmas History of Scotland

Christmas has always been a more somber affair in Scotland than elsewhere in the world, especially here in America. This was largely due to the influence of the Protestant movement, which swept over Scotland in the 16th and 17th centuries. In Scotland it seemed that the new Protestants were much more violently opposed to anything considered "Catholic" than elsewhere and one of the things they rebelled against was the liturgy of the mass. And what is Christmas but Christ's Mass. During part of the 16th century it was effectively outlawed. In 1575 the Aberdeen Kirk session brought charges and disciplinary proceedings against people who were suspected of keeping the Yule. Similar cases were brought up in Glasgow in 1583. Christmas was a normal working day for most Scots until the 1960s. But because of the Victorian influence in Scotland, some Christmas celebrations returned. The Christmas card was even invented in Edinburgh in the mid-nineteenth century!

LET'S HAVE A LITTLE SINGING

<http://ingeb.org/songs/imgeorgi.html>

I'm Georgie McKay of the H.L.I.,
I'm fond o' the lassies and a drappie forbye
One day when out walking I chanced to see,
A bonnie wee lass wi' a glint in her ee',
Says I tae the lassie will you walk for a while,
I'll buy ye a bonnet and we'll do it in style,
My kilt is McKenzie o' the H.L.I.,
She looked at me shyly and said wi' a sigh:!

Chorus: A Gordon for me, a Gordon for me,
If you're no' a Gordon, you're nae use to me,
The Black Watch are brow, the Seaforths an' a',
But the cocky wee Gordon's the pride o' them a'.

I courted that lass on the banks of the Dee,
I made up my mind she was fashioned for me,
Soon I was a-thinking how nice it would be
If she would consent to get married to me.
The day we were wed, the grass was sae green,
The sun was as bright as the light in her 'een,
Now we've twa bonny lassies who sit on her knee
While she sings the song that she once sang to me:

Chorus:

And now a little dancing

The Marquis of Huntly's Fling · Also known as the "Ladies Ancient Fling" Highland from the Hill Manuscript, Aberdeen 1841

1st step:

Spring out into 2nd position, up behind and 2 shakes before. 3 times done, R. and L. alternately, Close. Spring out, up behind, before behind going round. Repeat

2nd step:

Round to L., point up twice before with R. 4 times done going round to L. and R. reciprocally (s.c).

3rd step:

Spring out up behind, then use toe & heel to the floor. 3 times done (R. L. R.). Close. Repeat (L. R. L.)

4th step:

Spring out up behind and before, cast up the L. 3 times done (R. L. R.). Close. Repeat (L. R. L.)

5th step:

Up behind with R. and L., up behind, before, behind with R. then behind L. and R., again. Close. Repeat.

6th step:

Point up before and 2 back steps. Hop. Spring out up behind, before, behind. All done with R. Close and repeat.

7th step:

Spring cut up behind, before, behind. 3 times done R. and L. and R Close and repeat.

Last step:

Up before with R. and L. - spring out up behind, before, behind and 4 steps back. Close and repeat.

Finish.

(Did you understand all of that? Can someone please explain it to me.)



A CELTIC HOUSE BLESSING

MAY THE SPRITE OF THIS
HOUSE BRING JOY TO ALL WHO
ENTER

2002

New



Members



Great Kilt!

Michael didn't realize when he came to his first Scottish games

(Richmond Highland Games) that he would learn a new way to dress himself. After adjusting the fit of the great kilt Michael wore it for

the rest of the day including in the parade of clans. He must have liked it, as I believe he ordered a kilt for himself.

As we are always looking at ways to improve our newsletter, we are adding a section listing our new members. If my information is good the following are just some of the folks who have joined our ranks this past year.

Roy W. Baley, Vivian & Don Borton, Ledra Gordon Brady, James Cummings, Janice Doyle, James Fulcher, Ted & Karen Gardner, Allan Geddes, Claude Gordon, Harry T Gordon, Paul Gordon, Scot Gordon, Robyn Hill, Ronald Huntley, Michael J Huntley, Teresa Matherly (Haunes), Sherri O'Neil, Dr. James H Ryan, Cynthia Watts.

For those of you we missed, and I know that you are out there, please let me know and we will recognize you next time.

Banners for Sale

For those of you who have seen our new banner and would like one, listed below are the styles that Sally Gordon does.

All orders must be paid upon order, but the check will not be deposited until work has begun on the item.

Banners take 4-6 weeks for delivery. You can contact Sally at:

CELTIC GRANNY DESIGNS
celticgranny@earthlink.net

-**LB302**-Large Clan Banner- approx-40 1/2 x 43 -Tartan Fabric background with Crest Design in Satin, Lettering in Gold or Silver Lame'. \$250.00

-**LB302S**-Large Clan Banner-Solid Wool background with crest design and wording as above. Can be mounted on a shield of tartan then the solid background. Black, Green, Red or Brown solid wool depending on availability of fabric. \$200.00

-**SB702** Small Clan Banner-same as large only in more manageable size-approximate. 20 1/2 x 15 3/4 \$150.00.
Allow 4 - 6 weeks for delivery.

-**SSB702**-Small Clan Banner with solid background. Same as above, but with less tartan. \$100.00

-**MBPO900**-Miniature Bagpipe Ornament-Approx 3 1/2" x 6". Your choice of tartan. Has coordinating ribbon hanger. Allow 2 - 4 weeks for delivery. \$10.00 each or 3 or more for \$8.50 each.

-**MBW1002**-Miniature Bagpipe Paper weight. Same as above only has weights and no ribbon. Allow 2 - 4 weeks for delivery. \$10.00 each or 3 or more \$8.50 each.

Sally will also do non-clan banners if you get her the necessary drawing or picture.

Cotton and Poly Tartan Material Is Now Available

We have found a Scottish weaver who produces tartan material that is a bit more compatible to our climatic conditions in poly/viscose, POLY/WOOL and poly/cotton. They currently carry, and have in stock, Dress Gordon, Modern Gordon and Red Gordon in a 65/35 Poly/Viscose and in a 55/45 Poly/Wool. The viscose is a water-repellent material.

The cost, for the poly/viscose at current conversion rates, is \$6.75/yd for cut lengths, or \$5.85/yd for full pieces of approx 70 yards (\$413). This does not include the cost of shipping.

As my wife and I do a lot of work with fabric anyway, we are willing to act as a central location for orders. By pooling orders we can get lower costs on both material and shipping. My only provisions would be that 50% of the cost of the material would need to be sent to us up front, a \$10 fee for returned checks, and a \$10 or 10% of fabric cost (which ever is greater) for orders cancelled.

The mill will also weave a non-stock item. Their minimum order for a non-stock item is 200 meter (220 yards). In the Poly/Viscose the cost would be \$1880 and \$2445 for the poly/wool, plus shipping. Larger volumes ordered get us lower costs.

Tent Sitters/Membership Manual

The board of directors has asked that I put together an informational packet that can be used as a resource to answer questions asked at the tent. Along this same line they also recommended a membership booklet be created to be given out to new members.

I am working on it but, do to a nasty thing called a job, it will be a while before I get a final product out. Because I am the type of person I am, I have gathered a lot of tidbits but I need your input as to what you would like to see in such a production. What questions do you want answered? Would it be better to do a hand out that address a specific item similar to the current general flyer?

Good News Bad News

The House of Gordon has gone through many changes this past year. Some good, some not so good.

The good news is: we were voted Best Clan Presentation at 4 of the 8 events that have such an award

The bad news is: our membership is down again this year. As of the report given by the membership director, we ended the year with only 100 paid members.

The good news is: we now have a strong group in the Greater Richmond area to cover more of the tent activities and events in that area.

The bad news is: we don't have a strong group anywhere else. More tent workers are needed to assist at the other events and areas.

The good news is: we are finally getting a newsletter out.

The bad news is: it is with regrets that I have accepted the resignation of Nancy Atkins as our newsletter editor.

The good news is: Sally Gordon donated a new hand-made banner.

The bad news is: the banner is to replace the vinyl one that was stolen at Radford College.

The good news is that a member of the West Virginia contingent donated a trophy for the pipe band competition at the Richmond Games.

The bad news is: we have very few West Virginia members and none who admit to be from Delaware.

The good news is: as the Honored Clan at Williamsburg, we had the honor of the presence of our Chief at that event, a most remarkable man. (And I'd say that even if I weren't biased.) The Marquis made a point of wandering the festival and speaking to many of the other clans and participating in many different events. He was always willing to chat with any Gordon clan member. He informed me that our games had given him some ideas

for changes at the Aboyne Games to help revitalize his event.

The bad news is: he told us at the Saturday night dinner, that there is an effort afoot in Scotland to do away with a large portion of the hereditary titles, positions, and responsibilities. An attempt by the socialist to complete the cultural genocide started with the clearances.

Convener's schedule for 2003

Listed below are the events that I am attending in 2003. I will need someone to ramrod the Potomac Games on Saturday, as I will be at Steppingstone. The reason I am looking at doing it this way is that Potomac is a large event but I have some issues with the coordinators.

date	Name	state
7-9 Mar	Wheeling Celtic Celebration	WV
5-12 Apr	National Tartan Day Celebration	DC
12-Apr	Chesterfield Celtic Heritage Festi	VA
25-26 Apr	Sedalia Celtic Festival	VA
26-Apr	Southern Maryland	MD
2-4 May	WV Scottish Festival	WV
10-May	Frederick	MD
16-18 May	Hanover Celtic	VA
17-May	Colonial (Fair Hill)	MD
07-Jun	Garrett County (McHenry)	MD
14-15 Jun	Potomac	VA
15-Jun	Steppingstone	MD
28-29 Jun	Penn Renaissance Faire	PA
10-13 Jul	Grandfather Mtn.	NC
25-27 Jul	Virginia Scottish Games	VA
15-17 Aug	Beckley	WV
5-6 Sep	Ligonier	PA
20-21 Sep	Md Renaissance Fair	MD
27-Sep	Williamsburg	VA
	Alexandria Fair	VA
4-5 Oct	Chesapeake (Snow Hill) Del event	MD
11-Oct	Anne Arundel	MD
17-Oct	Kilmarnock	VA
25-Oct	Richmond	VA
06-Dec	Alexandria Scottish Walk	VA
29-Dec	Portsmouth Scottish Walk	VA

Morris has said he will coordinate Williamsburg Games while I take the Alexandria Fair. I am doing Ligonier as favor and will cover the cost from my own pocket. If I get good response, we can consider adding it on a regular basis.

Conveners Comments

This edition of the newsletter is very heavy on my comments and concerns. The reason for this is I have been advised that there are members who are concerned about the way I am handling some aspects of the House. I have only gotten these comments second or third hand so I can't talk to these people directly, therefore, I am using this forum to let you know what I am doing and more importantly, why.

An expansion in name and locations

Do we want to expand or not. This is a question that every organization must ask itself at some point. And if the answer is yes, the next questions are how much, in what way, how do we cover the additional costs, and who is going to do the work.

My answer to the question was yes, we need to expand, expand our membership, expand the number of events we are at, and expand our exposure. To do this I requested and received permission to include West Virginia, Delaware, and DC under Virginia and to take on the new name of Mid-Atlantic Region. These areas have never had independent organizations in the House of Gordon USA. By incorporating them into the Mid-Atlantic Region, we broaden our potential membership base and greatly expand our exposure.

The state of Maryland is another matter. The major concern raised about moving into and/or incorporating Maryland, is that it already officially has a convener. Although it is my understanding that the Maryland convener is now in the process of moving out west.

Why then did I do it? For almost the entire time that I have been associated with the House of Gordon, (over 10 years now), I have heard requests by members to have a tent at more Maryland events. Before I became convener, I was already doing some of the smaller Maryland events that weren't too far from my home in Northern Virginia. When I took over as Virginia convener, I said I would do what I could to increase our presence not only in Virginia but also in the surrounding areas. I took the entire burden of doing this on myself. While I used the Virginia tent and display materials, I covered the costs of site fees by either trading the services of my fight group, the Rogues and Wenches or from my own pocket.

Further, in the time that I have been convener, a significant number of our Virginia membership has

been Maryland residents and these people were the only ones National lists as Maryland members.

In the last three years, the coordinators of all eight Maryland events have contacted me to have a Gordon tent at their events. When I referred them to the Maryland convener, they reported that he did not respond.

For at least the last two years the Maryland convener has done no events nor when I offered to do them for him he did not acknowledge my offer of assistance. This situation was addressed to the National Convener without resolution.

There was also concern voiced that we shouldn't spend our limited Virginia funds in a state that officially has another convener. By having the membership dues directed to the Mid-Atlantic Region, the funds from the entire area now become available to who ever hosts the tent.

This past year I did all but two of the events in Maryland; date conflicts prevented my being at those two. It has paid off because I have gotten new members at every Maryland event I have been at except one.

The expansion does create the situation of what to do when there are two events on the same weekend. This occurs in Virginia already (Williamsburg vs. Alexandria Fair). If I have someone willing to cover the tent, I will make arrangements to set up at both events. If I don't have someone, I have to decide which event to attend based on a formula of my own devising.

As in any effort of this nature you have to think of it like the supports of a big wheel. Each spoke supports the next. Only by getting all of the spokes going in the same direction can something come of the effort. The more events we do, the more people will learn about us. The more people who learn about us, the more members we can get. The more members we get, the more money we have to do more at each event. The more we can do at an event, the more people will want to join. The more people join, the more events we can do. And so goes the circle. Also as we grow, I want to host our own gatherings and social events but this requires participation from the general membership.

I don't expect anyone to be as conversant as I am. I don't expect anyone to make all of the events. I don't expect anyone to put in the time and effort I do. But everyone has something that they can contribute, even if it is only to say come on in out of the sun and share a drink, clansman.

On The Rogues and Wenches

The second major point of contention deals with use of the Rogues and Wenches Sword Demonstration Troupe. Two concerns about this group were brought to my attention at the directors meeting in Richmond. The concerns were described as the attire of the female members and the fact that because of my personal participation with them I was neglecting my duties as convener, that I wasn't readily available to do something, meet someone or answer a question because I was doing something non-clan related.

A bit of history on the Rogues & Wenches

The R&W answers solely to me. It is wholly owned, financed, and directed by me. I am the head Rogue and the dictator of the group. To be a member of the group you have to accept that basis of operation. The purpose of creating the group was to continue and expand on my one-man demonstrations of the sword. This group started working with the House well before my predecessor took on and then left the convener's position.

The R&W have not only supported the Gordons at no cost, but it has paid its own way in the form of exchanging its shows for free clan space. It has helped to draw attention to the Gordons. As a result of having the R&W as a part of the House, the House received recognition on two national and one international TV shows, as well as being on several news spots. The Voice of America has done a special segment of its 'Hometown USA' series on the R&W group with a portion of that show being dedicated to the House and why it exists.

This group has been a part of the House for longer than many members but it was not until this year at the Richmond Games that I was told that someone objected to the attire that the female members were wearing. Further, that objection appears to have been voiced over three years ago to my predecessor and this was the first time I was advised.

The R&W are a medieval/renaissance period sword demonstrational troupe. The outfits are designed to reflect that period. We use a single design that was generic to a large number of years in order that we don't have to buy or make several different ones. The outfit is also designed to allow for free movement of the fighter for the purpose of safety.

As to the point that at times I am involved in the demos and therefore am not behind the table to

greet people and to answer questions. I answer it this way. When I overheard it said that I was spending too much time with the swords and was ignoring the new members. I was talking about swords to a new member who would not have come to the tent had it not been for the swords.

I asked the person making the comment why they never offered to work behind the table, why they didn't read the material that was on display to become more knowledgeable about the House, and more importantly, why hadn't they invited the new person into the social area and introduce them to the other members present. They didn't answer.

No, it was not a politically correct way to handle the situation and it most likely cost us a member, but it brings up an important point. Anyone can see if something isn't working, but can they see an answer, and more importantly what are they willing to do about fixing it.

Does this mean that nothing is going to change with the R & W? No, I am currently working on a redesign of my female fighters outfits, am working up demos and training so that my presence isn't mandatory, am working on a reference booklet to answer questions on sword and the House, and thanks to several new members volunteering, I am training a group to answer most questions asked in regards to the House, thereby relieving me of having to do it all of the time.

I saw that the House was in need of help over 10 years ago. I offered to give of my time, efforts, and money to help. When I started with the House, the Gordons attended only three events in our current area, Williamsburg and Richmond, in Virginia, and some of the time Anna Arundel, in Maryland. Now there are 24; 11 in Virginia, 8 in Maryland, 3 in West Virginia, 1 for Delaware, and 1 in DC. At most the R & W perform. I'm willing to listen and if change is needed I'll change.

How can you help? Come to the events that you can, even if all they feel comfortable doing is sitting in the social area talking to people or keeping an eye on the table so I can get out to the privy or get a bit to eat. If you want to be more active, volunteer to host an event, I'll tell you how. But one thing we all need is to learn more. The more knowledge we have or know where to get, the more we can assist others.

But the most important factor is if you see or here of a problem come to me right away. Together we can resolve most things.

Jerry Vandenberg

House of Gordon Mid-Atlantic Region

(Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and Washington, D.C.)

2003 Dues Notice

Dues for the House of Gordon are based on a fiscal year, as opposed to a calendar year. Our year commences with the date of the Richmond Highland Games. This date was chosen as Richmond has traditionally been the last event of the year, where we have had the largest attendance, and we held the annual meeting.

Member status _____ New _____ Renewal _____

Dues Break down	
House of Gordon, Scotland	\$ 8.00
House of Gordon, USA	\$ 7.00
House of Gordon Mid-Atlantic	\$10.00

Remit to: House of Gordon
13339 Feldman Place
Herndon, VA 20170-4312

Please Check if address is different from mailing label

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

House of Gordon
Mid-Atlantic Region
13339 Feldman Place
Herndon, VA 20170-4312

