



In The House!

National Newsletter of the House of Gordon USA

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DECEMBER 2014

House of Gordon USA Sends Christmas To 101st Airborne!

At the holiday season, it's important to remember the uniformed men and women who are far from home, protecting our families by being away from their own. The Gordons have always maintained strong support for the military in all countries, and, in an effort to bring a little holiday cheer to some of them, the Clan joined in an "adopt a troop" project this year. The project involved creating a "Christmas in a Box" for the 101st Airborne. The 101st is currently deployed to Liberia to combat the Ebola epidemic. One soldier described their accommodations there as "somewhat less luxurious" than those they had in Afghanistan.



Christmas in a Box was originally intended to be a small gift of an artificial tree and some decorations to dress up the camp during the holidays. Thanks to generous donations from the Clan and other groups, one box grew into three heavy boxes.

A tree, plenty of ornaments and holiday decor, Santa hats, lights, holiday DVDs and CDs and board games were all included in the packages.

Holiday greeting cards and four large banners, signed with good wishes and messages of support, were also sent. One banner was signed by employees of AT&T, where I work, and by personnel at my Navy Reserve base. I took a second banner on a recent cruise vacation and had it signed by cast members of the Disney Wonder, including Mickey Mouse and various Disney princesses.

The third and fourth banners traveled to the East Coast. The third went to Lois Todd in Virginia where the project was highlighted at the Richmond Games, but the banner arrived too late so it went to the annual Hermitage JROTC Veteran's Day Breakfast where fellow Gordon Sgt Aaron Todd was one of the guest speakers and it was signed by Veterans, teachers and students! The fourth one went to Cynthia Gordon Patrick in Florida where it was the centerpiece of the Gordon Tent at the Mount Dora

Games! - Jim Drouillard.

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President's Message



WOW! 2014 has run away with us and I cannot believe how quickly it has passed us by. It seems like it barely gets started and it is gone. Then again, that may be due to the fact that for me it only seems to have truly begun when my son came

home from Afghanistan. Up until he landed back on American soil at the end of October I felt like I was waiting forever for life to begin again, and did not even realize that was how I was feeling!

It has been a great year for the Gordons on the whole. We have seen gains in membership, increased participation at the events, increased participation online, and a strengthening of our clan family across the nation. Our Facebook Group is quickly closing in on 1000 members. We can be particularly proud of the results from our AGM at Grandfather this year! We had a very busy tent and WON BEST CLAN TENT AWARD!!!



This was a real cause for celebration on clan row as we had several members in the tent at the time of the presentation. We were literally dancing and hopping and jumping up and down in clan row and the mountain reverberated with shouts of "A Gordon! A Gordon!" I know that Lu was on the other side dancing a jig and cheering along with us. Thursday we paid tribute to Lu at the torchlight ceremony, and David Gauthier gave a very poignant speech as the Gordons were called and symbolically passed the torch to the new generation.



We handed out the final trophy and scholarship of 2014 to the Grade 4 Junior Piper of the Day to Tyler Destremps of Pennsylvania. Sally Warburton brought him and his family over to the clan tent for the presentation. The tent was crowded as it was just after noon and lunch had just been brought up from the encampment! His mother and grandparents were with him and this was a very excited group. They

couldn't believe the Gordon hospitality (of course they were escorted to the hospitality tent for lunch!) and said that this not only made their day, but their whole week.

We far surpassed the number needed for a quorum at the AGM and the Bylaws Changes were passed. One update you all need to be mindful of is that ***the deadline for dues to be paid for active membership each year is Dec. 31st. You will not receive the May In the House and proxy mailing if you have not paid your dues prior to the mailing going out.*** This coming AGM will be elections, so if you have nominations or are interested in being on the national board contact [John Gordon](#).

I had the opportunity to get to know Rodger and Amanda Moffet of Scottish Clans and Families. They were the keynote speakers for the COSCA Conference. We had a very nice conversation at the ceilidh in our encampment and they were both very excited about the work we are doing here in the House of Gordon USA with our scholarship program, our support of the Gordon Camel Statue restoration, our continuing patronage of the Gordon Highlander Museum, our care packages to our deployed members and their units and our other charitable works, as well as the work we are doing in our Gordon DNA Project and our Facebook communities. They were excited so much that on Sunday evening they came to the clan tent and told me that they had been holding us up as a beacon to the other clans on what they should be doing! So, **Well Done Gordons!**

Learning Gaelic on the Isle of Skye

Hello! My name is Rachel Noorda. You may remember that earlier this year I received a scholarship from the House of Gordon to advance my Gaelic studies. I am from Highland, Utah but am currently a PhD student at the University of Stirling in Scotland. I have always had an interest in learning Scottish Gaelic and it was particularly useful and relevant to my PhD studies so I am grateful for the opportunities this scholarship has granted me! I want to tell you a little bit about the fantastic week-long course I was able to participate in at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on the Isle of Skye.



The Isle of Skye is an ideal place to have a Gaelic course. Not only did I learn a lot in class, but I would be passing someone on the street and they would greet me with, “Feasgar Math!” Gaelic class took place from 9am to 5pm every day from Monday to Friday with special musical events, excursions and conversation groups available in the evenings. Because I had been able to take an introductory Gaelic course in Stirling before I came to Skye (thanks again House of Gordon!), I was in the Gaelic 2 course, taught by Eilidh Robinson who is a native Gaelic speaker from the Isle of Skye. There were seven students in the class including myself, most of them Scottish although there was another American student who came all the way from Pennsylvania to attend the course! We learned more about grammar in Gaelic with possessions, like a car, being “at” you and things like names being “on” you and occupations being “in” you.

Although I wouldn't go as far as to say that I am fluent, I can confidently say, ***“Tha beagan Gàidhlig agam!”***

AGM 2014 Minutes

House of Gordon USA Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in Linville, NC

July 12, 2014

Federal IRS EIN # 26-0285250

Call to Order: 2:19 PM The meeting start was delayed to allow members gathered at the House of Gordon booth in McRae Meadows time for transportation to the meeting location in the campground.

Appointment of Parliamentarian: Lois Todd motioned to appoint Keith Linse Parliamentarian for the session. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

Membership and Quorum: Bonnie Linse reported the membership at 373 members, with 20% (75 votes) required to achieve a quorum to conduct official House of Gordon business. A quorum was met by the 12 voting members present and 165 proxy votes received from absentee members.

Reading of the Chief's Greeting: Omitted due to non-receipt

Reading of the 2013 AGM Minutes: Mark Ballard motioned this be omitted due to everyone in attendance having a copy in their hand. Keith Linse seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

President's Report (Lois Todd):

Board Changes: Sadly, we lost our past president and board member Lu Gordon in November after a short illness, and we have accepted the resignation of Nikki Gordon Middleton as Secretary, House of Gordon USA. Geof Baker, who had already agreed to take on the position of Convener Chair was appointed by the board to take over Lu's Member-at-Large position on the board and David Gauthier has been appointed by the board to the secretary position.

Charitable Works:

Gordon Highlander Museum: John & Nellie Lowry are in Scotland this month with their whole family. He was in Aberdeen on July 2nd and hand delivered a \$2000 check to the Gordon Highlander Museum as we continue our support of their wonderful organization and work. I told him to be sure to get some good photos for the newsletter!

Gordon Camel Statue: We were contacted last summer by Annie Hughes at Gordon's School in Working, Surrey, England, asking for our support in their restoration efforts of the Gordon Camel Statue. This school is the National Memorial to Major-General Charles George Gordon, C.B., founded in 1885 by Queen Victoria, and this statue has significant historic value having been commissioned by the Royal Corps of Engineers to commemorate General Gordon and having stood in Khartoum where he died. The statue was returned to England in 1958 shortly after the Sudan became independent and since early in 1959 has made its home at the school. We were pleased to be able to contribute to this worthy project that honors our kinsman. It was kismet that I had already been doing research on General Gordon and working on an article for our May 2014 issue of In the House when Annie reached out

to us. Being part of the restoration effort of this statue and other charitable efforts that help promote and keep our Gordon heritage alive is, in my opinion, one of the best parts of being a member of the House of Gordon USA Clan Society!

Graphics/Advertisements: I have created a new version of the belted crest, and Geof & I have come up with some new banner designs which we have used in our display in the Gordon tent on clan row! The overhead, sept and belted crest banners will make up the standard banner set going to new conveners. We will order Wall of Honor and parade banners for those divisions who wish to buy them out of their operating budgets.

Scholarship Donations: Many thanks for our members' donations to our scholarship fund. Your contributions enable us to support our heritage and some wonderful young talents. We do need to replenish this fund annually so that we can continue this important work. We are looking to bring online a shopping page that will allow us to sell a shirt with the proceeds dedicated to supporting the scholarship fund, and we are looking for ways to raise more funds for this worthy cause. Anyone with ideas for this project, please contact me.

Bylaws Revision: Evan Rose and the other members of the Bylaws committee worked hard this past fall and winter to revise the bylaws as you will have read in the May newsletter. This was a long and laborious task. After our publication of the proposed revisions, we had a new member in Georgia, Jason M. Shepherd, who is an attorney, send instructions with his proxy regarding the Bylaws changes. He had some very good points that we had missed. A few are minor amendments that under Robert's Rules of Order may be included under the motion to the proposed changes published and we will make that motion on his behalf later in the meeting. Other items he saw as potential problem areas will require further changes next year after publication of proposed changes can be made. His points were exactly on target catching items that had been missed in areas that could become points of misunderstanding and contention. Our whole purpose in this endeavor is to avoid future divisiveness, and so Evan and I have asked him to join the Bylaws Revision Committee and he has accepted.

Things are looking up for the House in the USA. The board is working well together and we are seeing some very encouraging results. I have high hopes for this coming year to see more growth.

Treasurer's Report (Bonnie Linse): Our finances are in order. The numbers look skewed initially, but the apparent discrepancy is due to inconsistency in the members' payment timeframes. Many members paid their 2015 membership fees early this spring. Also the Convener's fund is higher than the membership fund because some members make direct contributions to support Convener activities. The important things are that our books balance and the PayPal mechanism we've established to support our financial activities is working splendidly. Additionally, our status as a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Corporation remains in good standing with over 30% of our income going toward charitable endeavors versus the 5% legal requirement. See addendum 1 for the detailed complete Treasurer's Report.

Convener's Chair Report (Geof Baker): There have been a number of changes within the Convener's ranks and an exciting new invitation to formally participate in the New Hampshire Highland Games:

Arizona: Tom Gardenhire, our former North Carolina Convener until his relocation out west, has become the Arizona Convener and has also stepped up to produce the Southwest Newsletter.

Georgia: Amy Edwards has accepted the Convener position in Georgia and is moving forward to get the House reorganized down there following the untimely loss of Turpin Ballard last year.

She hosted the Gordon tent at Stone Mountain last fall and is already in possession of the House's properties down there. With her leadership, we look forward to Georgia House of Gordon USA membership growth and strength.

Massachusetts: After not hearing from David Gordon, our former New England area Convener from Massachusetts, we have had some tentative contact with him, fostered through Donald Gordon up in Connecticut. We hope that we may be able to bring David back into the House and begin growing the House throughout the New England area. Donald has offered to host a tent in Rhode Island and Connecticut until we can find another convener for those areas, but at 85 he, understandably, does not want to take it on himself. We appreciate Donald's help, and House of Gordon USA will continue to work with him to get the House of Gordon tent items from David or to get David back into the House and hosting the tents.

Michigan: There is an active search under way for a new Convener in the wake of the resignation of Garth Gordon.

New Hampshire: After several years of trying to get accepted to have a clan tent at the New Hampshire Highland Games we have received the invitation and will be hosting a tent there! We have a new convener for NH in Robert Gordon, and Rob and Kathy are very excited. Merle Gordon, our Maine Convener, Jim Gordon, one of the administrators for the DNA Project, and Bonnie & Keith Linse (Bonnie as our treasurer and membership secretary will head up the efforts) will all be giving Rob a hand on his first time out as Convener so he will be in good hands! Bonnie will be stopping off in Virginia to pick up our extra tent and some of our display items to supplement his new Convener's kit. With a huge number of Gordons in the area, we anticipate a big turnout. There has been a lot of interest in the event among the Gordons on our Facebook Group who are in the area!

Communications Chair Report (Lois Todd):

Lois relayed that over the last several months she designed a new logo for the House of Gordon DNA pages and updated them and designed and put out an informational pamphlet on our House of Gordon DNA Project. She also created and launched a House of Gordon DNA Project Facebook Group. This is a private group where people of Gordon heritage can come together specifically to talk about genealogy and the DNA Project results. The House of Gordon DNA Project Group now has over 100 members and continues to grow.

The House of Gordon USA Facebook Group gained its 700th member on New Year's Day and since then has added over 140 more members and is growing every day. The Facebook group's growth since it began in 2009 has been good. In its first year 2009-2010 the group grew to 315 members. In 2010-2011 the group increased by 162.86% to 513 members. From 2011-2012 the group showed a loss of members from December 2011-June 2012 and only posted an overall increase of 1.07% to 548 members. In 2012-2013 there was a small growth of 1% until February 2012 when the growth took off again and we ended the year with 638 members representing an increase of 116.43% for the year. This past year the growth rate has increased to 131.82% as of June 18th with membership currently at 841 members as well. Both of these groups are garnering interest in our Clan Society and sending new members our way. While we know we will not gain

every member of the group as a member of the society, it is an avenue that we use to further our main mission statement to educate people about our Gordon heritage and promote goodwill in our community. The Facebook Page is being used as another way to make official announcements. This page has sent new members to the Facebook Group and to the House.

Our main website is averaging 6400 visits per month with almost 10,000 page views per month; 78% of that traffic being direct traffic. That means our members know where we are and visit it fairly regularly. 17% of the traffic comes from referring domains – sites that link to us (like our Facebook group site and Wikipedia), and only 5% comes from search engines. Our PayPal integration is working great for membership applications. Our conveners may want to suggest to potential new members (and renewals) that they can pay online with PayPal and show them on their smart phone where it is! While we cannot take memberships with credit card in the tent due to liability and business licensing issues, members can pay with PayPal on their own phone. Now that we have PayPal working well in this regard, we are looking into having a few items online to sell that can support the Scholarship Fund and a Gordon Heritage Fund that will support the work of supporting conveners in our education efforts and other charitable works and deeds that support our Gordon heritage. Anyone with IT and merchandising experience is welcome to join a committee that will work on this project.

This year's *In The House!* publication was 56 pages and still came in at a reasonable printing cost of \$2.24/ea. Since we stuffed the envelopes with as much as possible to maximize our postal savings, we still came in with a total cost in line with the previous year's mailings even though the magazine was twice as large as before. We had more people sending information for the news section (YAY!) and a couple of article submissions. I encourage everyone to submit your news and articles for publication.

Scholarship Chair Report (Lois Todd): This year House of Gordon USA provided 4 scholarships to worthy individuals sustaining their heritage by various means. See Addendum 2 for complete details:

Gaelic Language studies: This year we gave a special one-time \$500.00 scholarship in honor and in memory of our past president, Lu Gordon. A House of Gordon USA member from Utah, Rachel Noorda, was chosen as the recipient of this award. Rachel is currently studying abroad in Edinburgh, Scotland working on her PhD, and is using the scholarship toward her Gaelic language studies.

Highland Dance: We were able to further the dreams of a young Highland Dancer from California, Emma Schiff, with a \$400.00 scholarship which allowed her to attend the Eastern Canadian Open Championships in Toronto in May where she was victorious and was awarded Champion of her age division, a unanimous vote among the panel of 3 judges. Her trip was made possible with our support. Emma is on her way to making her goal of competing in Cowal, Scotland in the World Championships where she hopes to place in the top 6 overall in her age group. I am sure you are all with me in sending good wishes her way!

Drum Corps: We awarded a talented young drummer from Rockville, MD, Nicholas Shropshire, a \$300.00 scholarship which he used to attend the Piping Centre's Winchester, VA Summer School. He plans on taking the skills that he learns back to his drum corps and passing them along.

Bagpipes: Today we awarded the Charles O. Gordon Memorial annual scholarship of \$250.00 and a trophy to Tyler Destremps from Bethlehem, PA, the young Grade 4 Junior Piper of the Day, at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.

DNA Project Report: There are presently 538 members (mostly Jock and Tam) in the DNA project. Of the original \$1000 dedicated to the fund, only \$17 remains. The DNA Project is discussed further in HoG USA Item of Business 3 below:

House of Gordon USA Items of Business:

Bylaws Revisions: Originally, the intent was to vote on the final modifications to the Bylaws at the AGM, however, astute recommended improvements were received from Jason Shepherd, a member from Georgia, during the final review. Some of these recommendations could not immediately be settled prior to the vote. Lois read the recommended changes to the AGM attendees and distributed hardcopies. All in attendance agreed that Jason's inputs were valuable and insightful (thank you, Jason).

The ensuing discussion led to a motion by Lois to continue the work of the Bylaws Review Committee to act on the significant recommended changes submitted by Jason. It was seconded and passed.

Keith Linse then motioned that the work done by the Bylaws Review Committee be voted on to be accepted as written to be the official governing document for House of Gordon USA. Geof seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Geof Baker then motioned that the minor recommended administrative and clarification changes submitted by Jason that could be integrated into the final version of the House of Gordon USA Bylaws by Robert's Rules guidance be accepted and published with the final document. Keith seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

A typo (extra word 'with') was identified at the AGM by Ginnie Gordon in Article 5, Section 3, paragraph 2, line 1). Motion that the word be deleted in final edit was seconded and unanimously approved.

Scottish Gordon Heritage Charities Fund

When House of Gordon USA was founded, the link to Scotland was maintained by an annual Publication produced by House of Gordon in Scotland. When House of Gordon in Scotland terminated the publication, members of House of Gordon USA voted to cease sending the \$5 from every membership to Scotland. This money instead was diverted to the Scottish Heritage Charities.

Another part of membership funds went toward the Gordon Quartermasters fund for charity.

In the absence of the House of Gordon publication it no longer made sense to separate these line items in the budget as it unnecessarily tied the hands of the Board regarding how they allocated charitable assets.

Bonnie Linse motioned to combine the charitable aspects of House of Gordon USA into a single account. Geof Baker seconded. The measure passed unanimously.

DNA Project Funding:

As mentioned in the President's Report, DNA funding was down to \$17. A discussion ensued whether to add money to the account. Using logic similar to that regarding the Scottish Charities fund, it made no sense to set a separate account for DNA project and the Board valued the flexibility to weigh DNA project funding against other charitable endeavors on a case by case basis.

Keith motioned to roll the DNA Project Fund into the Scottish Gordon Heritage Charities Fund established in 2 above. Mark Ballard seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

House of Gordon USA Goals:

Continue to grow membership

Expand House of Gordon USA throughout the US by recruiting Convener's in areas as yet untapped and retaining the present membership

Add capabilities to the web site to sell merchandise to supplement the charitable aspects of House of Gordon USA

Motion, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Adjournment: At 2:55 pm, the slate was clear and Bonnie motioned to adjourn, Geof seconded, unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

DAVID J GAUTHIER

Secretary

Thanks to Brandy Bartos, Mary Joe Gordon and Heather Gauthier who manned the Gordon Tents during the AGM and signed up 5 new members! Stellar job ladies!

Pictured right: Brandy and Mary Joe at the sign-in table in the Clan Tent on Clan Row at Grandfather during the AGM



News From Around The House!

Welcome to the Clan Wee Gordons!



Welcome **Seamus Geoffrey (Baker) Dougherty**, son of Vee Baker and Andrew Dougherty of Midlothian, Virginia born in April. Seamus has already started attending the games all decked out in his Gordon kilt and Gordon Tee

shirts!



Proud grandfather, Wally Gordon of Pennsylvania announced the birth of **Malachi Glenn Gordon**, 7 lbs 15 oz, 20 1/2 inches on October 28, 2014.

WASHINGTON

GORDONS AT TACOMA

We had a wet day at the Tacoma Highland Games. The Tacoma event is a one day event, although they had a concert on Friday night for the overnight campers and anyone else that wanted to attend. My wife, Janet, and I arrived to a light mist on Saturday morning at about 7:15 am. We pulled onto the field and quickly unburied the tent and set it up. We then emptied the vehicle and my wife took the car off the field to the parking area while I began to set up our displays. By then the light mist had subsided and my wife had a dry stroll back to the tent. We quickly discovered

that I had forgotten all my pointy things as my wife calls them and my cap, so off went Janet to retrieve those items since we live approx 25 minutes from the fairgrounds. Since she had a knitting club meeting (which she hosts the last Saturday of every month) at the church I didn't see her until after noon.

Meanwhile, I enjoyed a quiet morning visiting with a few visitors to the tent. About 11am Randy and Holly Aitken showed up with their two boys, they have been coming to events since they moved here from Virginia four years ago. I enjoy visiting with them and they helped with the tent. The opening ceremonies started a noon. The Aitkens and I lined up with the rest of the clans and paraded behind the massed bands. As we were finishing my wife showed up and we asked a bystander to take our picture (pictured below: the Aitkens to the left and my wife and I to the right as you look at the photo). Shortly after that Janet and I ate some lunch and walked the grounds while Randy and Holly manned the tent.



After lunch the Aitkens went off with the boys to the childrens' activity area, while Janet went to check out the vendors and I manned the tent. I had given my pastor Molly Fraser tickets for her family to attend the event and she texted me saying that they were waiting for a dry window to come to the fair-

grounds. Here is a unique thing about the Pacific Northwest, my pastor lives just 10 miles from the fairgrounds and they had been experiencing downpours every 20 minutes or so all morning. I texted back and said that it had been dry all morning, although we had seen many dark clouds rolling north, their direction, no rain had fallen. Just after lunch our pastor and her two daughters arrived and we chatted a while, they had never attended an event and were a bit wide eyed at all the activities. So I sent them off to explore. About ten minutes later it began to drizzle...then it began to rain...then it poured and the wind picked up. I had to pull all of my displays in because they were getting wet. We have books and maps that we keep out to facilitate discussions with visitors. I also printed up the House of Gordon pamphlet, the DNA Project pamphlet and the Daisy Gordon Pamphlet. The rain curtailed the visitors, I offered shelter to the few that came by but they seemed unaware that it was raining (we have a saying in the Pacific Northwest, 'If you don't like the weather...give it a minute.') The wind chilled me a bit and so I grabbed a wool Gordon tartan blanket and threw it over my shoulders and sat down to wait out the rain. I find a cozy blanket, the rhythm of the rain on the tent and a cool breeze on my face a recipe for dozing. But someone happened by with a question, so I threw off the blanket and answered the question, which lead to more and I dug out the HoG pamphlet and the DNA project pamphlet passing them out with a membership form.

The rest of the afternoon was fairly quiet although we handed out membership forms and talked up the DNA project every chance we got. My goal was to add ten new members at the Tacoma Games, given the weather and the turn out I will be pleased with four new members. A lady in her 80's came by the tent to visit, her name is Molly. She and her daughter are from Scotland, they immigrated when the daughter was young. Molly is a member of the Daughters of Scotia and her local group helped fund the start up of the Gordon Highland Band (very well known and popular in the Tacoma/Seattle area) with bake sales. We got another downpour in the mid afternoon. Despite the rain the quartet band competition was held on the main stage. We got to listen and the Gordon Highland Band group A won the competition. During the heaviest rain Molly from Scotland returned to our tent for cover, then headed off to get a closer view of the band competition when the rain let up. When the sun came back out the Aitkens packed up and headed home.

SOUTHWEST GAMES REPORT

In a nutshell, House of Gordon Southwest had a good year. Starting with the Queen Mary Festival in February and on through to Ventura Seaside Game in October, the clan tent was a busy place. We had a Gordon tent presence at ten games from California to Hawaii and Arizona. Next year we are planning to return to some Festivals we missed including back to the Las Vegas Games.

We always love to see fellow House of Gordon members and friends at Seaside and elsewhere. The Melchers—Steve and Cindi--came down from Colorado to be with us and Kenny Prather rode his motorcycle over from his home in Arizona. We had a good turnout at our Southwest AGM meeting.

If you can make it next year please join us at the **Pleasanton Highland Games over Labor Day weekend. This will be a grand occasion as they celebrate their 150th anniversary and are hoping to have as many as FIFTY Scottish Chiefs in attendance as well as bands from around the world.** Make your plans today!

Tom Adams

NEW HAMPSHIRE GETS NEW CONVENER!

For the first time in too many years to remember, the House of Gordon USA hosted a tent at the 39th annual New Hampshire Highland Games and Festival on September 19th, 20th and 21st at Loon Mountain in Lincoln. This is one of the largest most diversified games in the country. I got to serve as the NH Convener and with the help of others, and by all accounts, our tent was a great success.

We had many visitors, with nearly a hundred individuals signing our guest book. Most were from the New England states. We had some from as far as New York, Maryland, Ohio and Ottawa Canada. Along with many Gordon's, the most common sept names for our guests were: Craig, Marr and Gardiner. We had a half dozen individuals sign up on the spot and others interested in signing up online.

The most common phrases we heard from our guests was "Where have you been?" and "Are we glad you are here!" I enjoyed the reaction of individuals when they discovered for the first time that their name was a sept of Gordon, and they learned the

different Gordon tartans they were now entitled to wear.



My favorite memory from the Games was the opening ceremonies. We were led by a pipe and drum corps on to the parade square. I got goose bumps from, not only the cold, but also the camaraderie and the spirit of the moment. During the roll call when our name was called we shouted "A GORDON, A GORDON, THE GORDONS ARE HERE!" which got a cheer from the stadium crowd.

I would like to thank you, Lois, and David Todd for providing all the equipment, materials, and designing the layout of tent. (Virginia Mid-Atlantic donated a tent and lent other properties, national provided the new convener kit, other donations included tables and table coverings.) I would like to thank Bill Linse for his engraving services. I would like to thank Patti Condon of Maine for her support during



the three days. I would also like to thank Jim Gordon and

Gay Magruder of Maine for their support. Jim was a wealth of knowledge not only for our guests, but also for all of us who served.

I would like to give special thanks to Bonnie and Keith Linse who travelled from South Carolina, bringing all the equipment we needed. Keith worked tirelessly and kept all the necessary details straight. Bonnie "showed us the ropes," providing everything I needed to be a successful convener. Without them we could have never hosted a tent.

My wife Kathy and I made some great friends during this event. If anyone is on the fence about whether to serve as a convener at a game, I would encourage them to do it. We had a great time.

Thanks again, to everyone, for the invaluable support and assistance at the 39th New Hampshire Highland Games and Festival!

Robert S. Gordon, NH Convener

GEORGIA GET NEW CONVENER TOO!

Amy Edwards has taken on the convenership in Georgia and hosted the tent at Stone Mountain this fall. The Gordon tent was busy throughout the day with many Gordons and friends of Gordons turning out for the fun.

GORDONS ATTEND CAPITAL DISTRICT GAMES!

Holly Warren hosted a Gordon tent at the Capital District Games for the first time in many, many years and nobody was happier than Games President Gene Gordon! This is a BIG piping venue held over the Labor Day Weekend each year in Alta-



mont, NY. It was a good day of fun and fellowship and Holly was joined at the Gordon tent by one of our scholarship recipients, Tyler Destremps! Tyler was there to compete in piping and again came away as the Piper of the Day, scoring 1st in piobair-eachd and 5th in the 2/4 March earning him enough points to edge out his competition for the overall trophy. Well done Tyler we are happy to see you continue to progress!

VIRGINIA MID-ATLANTIC HAD GREAT YEAR!

Mid-Atlantic got a bit of a rough start when David & Lois' truck engine died, but many hands make light work and the Gordons do not disappoint! Jerry Vandenberg took on convening at the National Tartan Day in Old Town Alexandria, VA and Jackie Gordon along with Frank & Diane Gordon took on



convening at the Loch Norman Games at Historic Rural Hill just outside of Charlotte, NC.

Geof Baker, and Lois & David headed up to the Southern Maryland Games only to find the table covers were still at home! So we made do with what we had and still came out looking good! We hung out that evening and at breakfast the next morning before heading home with our Scottish Cottage friends Mark & Martha Ferguson, and fellow Gordons Rob & Shelly Todd!

At Frederick, MD we had a busy day with lots of visitors until the end of the afternoon when rain came



along. We had a few shelter with us. Some of our favorites came out including Kathleen Kennedy who joined the House and provided as always the most interesting of con-

versation! And Pooh Bear was the favorite of the children as always providing lots of photo-ops!

Next up was the Colonial Gathering sponsored by the Scottish Society of Dover, DE and held just over the state line in Fair Hill, MD. We stayed with Rob &



Shelly Todd and thanks for having us! This is a huge piping event being the EUSPBA pipe band championships! The EUSPBA represents 27 states from Maine

to Texas! The Gordon tent was busy as always and we had the BBQ to feast upon! (I think that there might be an uproar if I brought something else as several look forward to it all year long and start coming by at breakfast as we set-up asking when it will be ready!) This is one of the biggest gathering of Gordons each year with a large number of Gordons and Todds in the Delaware and Eastern Maryland area attending. Pooh Bear was enthusiastically embraced! He is ever popular with old and young and makes a great Gordon "ambassabear."

With five games behind us we focused on planning for the AGM in NC which was a fabulous event. Wednesday we were thrilled to celebrate the engagement (made at the top of Grandfather) of Cat Baker and Randy Rezurex, and toasted to their happiness by passing the Quaich of Cock of the North! We had lunch at the hospitality tent on Saturday and Sunday that we brought up from the campground each day at noon as well as snacks and drinks all day each day of the event. Thursday night we had a good group gathered in the hospitality tent for the

calling of the clans at the torchlight event complete with full moon pouring blessings down over the Gordon tent! We had a ceilidh

As you already know we won BEST CLAN TENT which is like winning the SUPER BOWL of the Highland Games Awards to us!

The entire week of Grandfather was great with a huge group of Gordons in attendance lots of cards signed sending love and support to Aaron Todd and his Marine Corps Unit 1/7 Co C (Suicide Charley) , lots of fun for everyone and one of the best Saturday night pot lucks ever!

With a bit of a break, we sent the main items of our display including the Wall of Honor to NH on loan and donated our #3 tent to them to help give them a start on building their display. We also added a few pins and small items to the



in the campground at Gordonville that evening following the torchlight event and one Friday night as well. SO MUCH FUN! Friday at the Gordon tent was busy, much more than usual for the first full day of the festival and the newly expanded Wall of Honor with 104 entries on it rolled out!



new convener kit.

Then on to Virginia Scottish on Labor Day Weekend followed by Richmond at the end of October. Both events were busy and well attended. David & Heather Gauthier lent a hand at the Virginia Scottish Games coming up for the weekend and helping



IN THE HOUSE!

with everything. We had to cut the second day short when a storm front rolled in and we were all asked to quickly pack and evacuate the area. We were blessed to have many on hand to pack up the trailer in RECORD TIME! Before that, we had many of the Wounded Warriors visit with us to view our Wall of Honor on Saturday, and David & Heather were interviewed for a video on the event! VA Scots is always a good turnout of Gordons and this year was no exception. The Gordon Grill was going with brats on the menu, and everyone had fun celebrating Labor Day Weekend.



WELCOME HOME FROM AFGHANISTAN! David & Lois Todd and the Bakers were on hand to give Aaron a hearty welcome home at the train station & Uncle Aaron finally got to meet Seamus!

Richmond is the gathering for the Mid-Atlantic Gordons annually. We had PERFECT weather and a perfect weekend! What more can I say it was FAB!



WALL OF HONOR NEWS

Congratulations to Aaron Todd, of Virginia on his promotion to Sergeant in the USMC.



Flowers of the Forest

It is with great sadness that we mark the passing of long time member and friend **Art Wilson of Blowing Rock, NC**. Art passed peacefully in his sleep on Tuesday, June 24th in his sleep. Art was one of America's original Navy Seals and saw service in WWII, Korea and Vietnam. May God bless and keep his family as we keep his memory, near and dear to our hearts.

LTC Richard O. Gordon, Sr., Retired US Army, of Richmond, Virginia passed on September 12th at 100 years of age. Richard had 30 years of service with the Army Chemical Corps, and served in WWII in the US 6th Army 32nd Infantry under General MacArthur and also served in Korea. He received the Bronze Star Medal, Army Distinguished Service Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star for Service in Luzon (WWII), Philippine Liberation Medal, Army Occupation Medal - Japan, and the World War II Victory Medal. For his service in Korea he received the Republic of Korea, Presidential Unit Citation, Korean Service Medal with Bronze Service Stars for United Nations Defense, National Defense Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster and the United Nations Service Medal.

Our deepest heartfelt condolences to Kim Gordon and family on the passing of his son, **Vince Alexander Gordon of Illinois** on December 3, 2014, following a hard fought battle with cancer. Vince was a talented young playwright, director, actor and photographer.

Our love and prayers are with all three families. May God level the road for their souls and

Scholarship Benefits Whole Band!



Hi! I wanted to send you my write-up on the school I attended, and I still can't thank you enough for the experience!

...It's hard to pick where to start. I went to the workshop expecting a conventional experience, like other years. I expected a lot of impact on my playing

throughout the whole week, and a bit more development in my hands. Sadly, not enough people signed up, so John Fisher, the scheduled instructor, was not brought in, and the week was cut from Monday through Friday to Saturday through Monday, with Stevie Kilbride left to teach all three instruments. But honestly, I couldn't have asked for more. This workshop really took a different approach to drumming. Instead of focusing on playing the snare drum, learning music, and improving my solo performance, we learned to put together all the drums

and create a true drum corps. To sum up what we did that week, Stevie gave us a score to edit and add seconds to, and then write tenor and bass scores to go with the original score. This really helped everyone understand more about instruments and how they went together. During the weekend, I got to branch out and work on both the tenor and bass drum, giving me an experience of each instrument, feeling each one. In the end, we all left with a better understanding of each other's part of the drum corps. In my opinion, this camp made me a much better drummer than any other conventional camp I was hoping for ever could make me. However it didn't stop there. These lessons came at the right time, since I'm still working on writing drumming music not only for fun, but also for the band. Not only was I able to share what I learned with the snare section of my band, but I could also share what I learned with the tenor and bass drums. I would definitely say that I benefited far more than I would have ever expected from this school, and everyone in my band also benefited.

Sincerely,

Nick Shropshire