



In The House!

House of Gordon USA

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1

DECEMBER 2008

Next Year's AGM Set For Richmond, VA!

Lois Todd, Editor

Inside this issue

Chief's Message	2
President's Message	3
Gordon Horse(shoe)	4
Membership	5
Traveling the Highland Path	5
AGM 2007 Minutes	6
Scholarship	7
AGM 2008 Minutes	8
News	10
Flowers of the Forest	11
Pics!	12

This year at the Annual General Membership meeting held at Grandfather Mountain the membership voted to hold the next AGM at the Richmond Highland Games & Celtic Festival 24-25 October 2009.

The Richmond Highland Games and Celtic Festival is an exciting event hosting the North American Scottish Heavy Athletic Championships each year. There are also Highland Dance, Piping, Drumming, Pipe Band, Irish & Scottish Fiddle, and Harp competitions. The Clans compete in Pumpkin Chunkin' and Bonnie Knees competitions. The kids can have fun in their own version of the highland athletics and there is also "Scottish Darts," Sheepdog demonstrations, living history displays, ferret legging, and whisky tasting. With a wide variety of vendors (usually around 80) to choose from and three stages of non-stop entertainment, there is plenty to do and see. The Virginia House of Gordon has become known as Ceilidh Corner at the games, so you can bet that you will have fun.

We are pleased to announce that, in addition to Virginia hosting the Gordon's 2009 AGM and being one of the Honored Clans at the Richmond Highland Games & Celtic Festival, the Virginia Board of Directors will also be hosting a visit from our Chief, Granville Gordon, Marquis of Huntly, during the same period as the Richmond Games 24 - 25 October 2009. The Chief looks forward to attending the Games and to meeting as many members as possible.

Please put the AGM on your calendar & make plans to attend. The games will be moving to the new State Fair Grounds at Meadow Farm, the former home of race horse great, Secretariat! Located just north of Richmond and next door to the King's Dominion Theme Park off of I-95.

We will be sending out more information as plans develop for the event. We are looking into getting a group rate at one of the local hotels for those who wish to attend. We are also in the planning stages for a fantastic group picnic at the event with Granville. In Virginia the Gordon Grill is fired up at each event for lunch. We guarantee that you will have good food, good fellowship, good spirits and good fun!

The Virginia Board of Directors will also be hosting a visit from our Chief, Granville Gordon, Marquis of Huntly.



Left: It's a ceilidh in the Gordon tent at Richmond 2008 when Matt Klein, of Oregon, and fellow fiddlers take up bows to entertain. Matt was in Richmond for the National Scottish Fiddle Championships.

Chief's Corner



Dear Clansmen,

It is always flattering to be asked to send a note to be included in the House of Gordon Newsletter and I am particularly pleased to be doing so on this occasion as I am coming to Richmond in October and hugely looking forward to it.

“Let's have some sort of celebration to acknowledge that we are the top clan and always will be.”

Scotland is feeling a bit introspective at the moment. National pride has taken a bit of a knock with the partial nationalization of our two major financial institutions The Royal Bank of Scotland and HBOS. Things in England and in America are no better but there is a difference with the perception of failings such as these when they occur in Scotland. The example none of us likes to be reminded of is a little country not very far from here, called Iceland. They were doing things not very differently from us but, sadly for them, they did not have the benefit of the English treasury to bail them out and a culture of greed and over-borrowing led to their downfall. I think Iceland is still there - it hasn't floated off to the arctic icecap - but it will have been a very painful lesson for them to learn.

We had a by-election in Southern Scotland only a short time ago and the Prime Minister won. He only won for one reason and that was because he turned to the voters and asked them whether they really thought they could have survived without the strength of the British parliament. Only a few Scotsmen who might have been wearing their balaclavas the wrong way round thought they could and voted nationalist. The rest took a deep breath and voted for safety even though the labour party has a dismal record of mismanagement in Scotland.

The cry of "We can go it alone" has never sounded so hollow and yet it isn't the fault of the nationalist

movement that the country is in financial peril. It is the culture of greed and the absence of fiscal discipline that checked the nationalist bandwagon. So are we sad or what? Nationalism is a double-edged sword but one day we will have independence - of that I am sure - but the boards of RBS and HBOS, inadvertently perhaps, have acted to prolong that day.

We have Scottish Homecoming in Edinburgh this summer. This is a Scottish Tourist Board initiative and I very much hope that they can make a huge success of it. It is no fault of theirs that it falls at a time when the financial crisis is hitting us all so hard and so I hope that even though the Gordons are planning on a big rally in Scotland in 2010 there will still be many of you who will consider coming over in 2009. From what I can make out, they are making a cracking good job of it and I know that the Aboyne Highland Games management team under our very able chairman Ian Scott is working to bring many visitors to Aboyne once they have seen enough of Edinburgh. Five minutes should do the trick. I believe Edinburgh is in Scotland - they are very good at waving flags and playing the pipes down there - but you need to come to Aberdeenshire to find out what Scotland really looks like and to learn what Highland hospitality is all about.

Anyway, before I make too many enemies - not something my ancestors worried about that much - I'll sign off but not without saying thank you again for your wonderful invitation to Richmond next year. Let's have some sort of celebration to acknowledge that we are the top clan and always will be. The MacThises and MacThats are all very fine but we know we're the best. It's a nice smug feeling but don't tell anyone.

Yours aye,

Huntly



President's Corner

Hello My Fellow Gordons & Friends,

How's things in your neck of the woods? I come to you from here in California where it feels like we have been hit by the seven plagues—and we're not done yet! The fires have been devastating, as you may have heard, and now they tell us the coming rains can bring flash-flooding and mudslides which are as devastating as the fires. We know you have challenges, too, but hope you are all high and dry, safe and happy. It has been a very good year for the **House of Gordon USA** with many advances and good growth in membership which reflects the hard work being accomplished by our Clan Crews at dozens of Games and Festivals across the country. **Thank you for being steadfast Gordons!**

We have tried to be with you, at least in spirit, and in fact where we could. **Grandfather Mountain was a lively place as usual for the Gordons** and our AGM was a great time of sharing and planning. Secretary Barbara Gordon Wray's Minutes will give a full report on our afternoon and evening business sessions. One of the very exciting decisions was to relocate our **2009 AGM to the Richmond Highland Games** in Richmond, VA in late October. The Virginia Gordons are already hard at work making those plans and have some very exciting news they want to share elsewhere in this issue. Trust me, you will not want to miss this special annual gathering!

Scotland travel is likewise on our minds and the **House of Gordon 2010 British Isles Tour** moves ever closer to becoming a reality. **Travel Agent Kate Graham of Caledonian Travel** reported to us at GMHG on the likely Ireland arm of our Tour and we will blend that with some special Gordon-specific Scotland stops for a wonderful overview of what our ancient homeland has to offer. That, plus a visit to our **Chief's Games at Aboyne** (and our own AGM thrown in), it will be the trip of a lifetime. I am already excited just thinking about it. But, that is not all. You know that the Scottish government

would like for us to visit in 2009 at what they call The Gathering (www.thegathering2009.com) and a number of you have expressed interest. I was not so tempted. And then they sprung something on us called **The Northeast Clan Fortnight**. And THAT blew me away! (www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/visit/TheClanFortnight.asp) It seems to be a portion of the overall "Gathering" but planned IN the Gordon lands of Aberdeenshire, BY Gordons and FOR Gordons! At this point, and if arrangements can be made, Nellie and I just might make a jaunt over to see what it's about. There will not be a tour as such. If you are interested, talk to your travel agent and make your plans to be there.

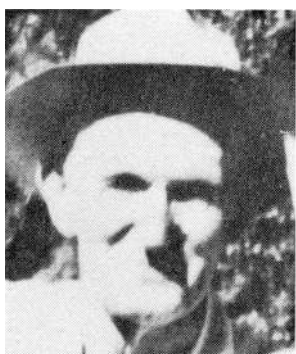
Next year, 2009, will be an important year as we've already stated. It is doubly important to us as Americans of Scottish descent, however. January 25, 2009 will mark the 250th anniversary of the birth of our **Scottish Bard Robert Burns** and just seventeen days later, February 22, 2009, we will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of **Abraham Lincoln**. No, they were not contemporaries and could not have known one another (Lincoln was born 13 years after Burns died) but their stories were remarkably similar with humble beginnings and a mutual reverence for language. Remember this in the weeks ahead and don't be surprised when you find liberal sprinklings of Burnsiana among Abe's writings and speeches. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote a verse to honor Burns at the 100th anniversary of his death here:

*"I see, amid the fields of Ayr A ploughman,
who, in foul or fair Sings at his task So clear,
we know not if it is The laverocks song we
hear, or his ... Nor care to ask."*

Bydand,
John

The Gordon Horse(shoe) by Jerry Vandenberg

The history of the Gordon's use of horse is a long and noble one. Many of you have heard of the 2nd Marquis' cavalry, but in the 1920's one Gordon took another look at the use of the horse and decided that you should throw the horse instead of just riding them. Well at least throw their shoes.



Before the advent of modern air-conditioning we lived outdoors more and horseshoe pitching was a very common and celebrated activity. Into this world came John Gordon (pictured left), a horseshoe entrepreneur and pitching champion.

Not only could he pitch well, in 1934 he became the only individual to personally sponsor the World Horseshoe Tournament.

John was not happy with the horseshoes used at that time and in 1930 developed and patented the Gordon "Spin-On" Horseshoe. In 1931, he commissioned the Queen City Forging Company in Cincinnati, Ohio to make his specialty item and introduced it to the

public the next year. The design of Gordon's horseshoe allowed it to have a reliable consistency in pitching and was durable enough

to withstand the impact of ringer after ringer. It quickly became one of the most popular horseshoe designs when horseshoe-pitching legend Ted Allen won his first world championship and set a new world ringer record in 1933 with the Gordon horseshoe. Legendary horseshoe pitching champion Fernando Isais won eight World Championships and finished in the top five for 18 years using the Gordon horseshoe.

John Gordon continued to tweak his design over the next three decades using the suggestions for enhancement by the very champions who were using it. The Queen City Forging Company discontinued making the Gordon horseshoe in 2005 due to a drop in demand. Dennis Ohms, son of the famous pitcher Ray Ohms, understanding the import of the loss of this shoe to the sport, bought up the rights to produce the Gordon Horseshoe.

He founded Omega Horseshoe Co., and is still making the Gordon horseshoe, and the Legend, Gordon's original design. Other companies have mimicked the Gordon Horseshoe design trying to capture a measure of its success and popularity.

So the next time you see someone pitching shoes, don't be surprised if it is a Gordon, or at least the Gordon design they're throwing.



Membership Report — Nellie Lowry

The House of Gordon USA is still on the upward sweep! We have received 42 new members since the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in July for a total of 518 members! This is fantastic and is a wonderful response to our newly organized Society. Retention of members is something that we always want. This has been greatly aided by better communications, especially with our two informative newsletters each year. **At the moment we have an additional 70 "in arrears" members who have not paid dues in two years. They are receiving this next newsletter with a final request to pay their dues and become members in good standing.**

Each of you can help further our heritage by asking

others to join House of Gordon USA. Or, you might even consider at this Christmas time gifting others with a membership. Each new member receives a Certificate of Membership and a membership card as well as all the other benefits of promoting the culture of the House of Gordon and Scotland.

One can pay for membership by visiting the website: www.houseofgordonusa.org and going to the Membership page and clicking the Paypal icon or by sending a check in the amount of \$25 to: House of Gordon USA, 9654 Kessler Ave., Chatsworth CA 91311 (OR to your state representative.) The \$25 provides membership at national and state/regional level as well as a donation to our Clan charity in Scotland.

Traveling the Highland Path — Dee Gordon Morgan

During the months of May and early June this year while traveling on a genealogy quest of the British Isles, I arrived in the charming village of Huntly in the Scottish Highlands. My father's clan, the Gordons, came to that area in 1312.

It was exciting to spend four days in this quaint village where our ancestors lived, worked, and perhaps even fought so many years ago. The Huntly Castle where they lived is nestled in a wooded park like setting. It was an important 12th century stronghold in Scotland's northeast corner. This area was known as "Gordon Country" in the middle ages, and it mirrors the rise and decline of our noble family.

The approach to the Castle is through a double avenue of lime trees, and that day, the sun was casting a shadowy spell over its smooth stone facade. One of the most striking features of the entire castle is a hand engraved in the stone that reads, "Look out for the Hand of God." The largest or great inscription on the south front proclaims the rise of the Gordons from earl to marquis. There is a truly magnificent frontispiece over the door, with the first panel containing the coat of arms of the first marquis and marchioness of Huntly. It is the visual focus of the courtyard.

Along one side of the castle are the remains of

the foundations of various outbuildings including a bake house and a brewery. A number of modernizations or changes were made during the 15th, 16th, and 17th centuries. The castle's motte survives as modest grassy mounds.

The interior of this still beautiful structure depicts the floor plan as having had a number of divided cellars. The cellar of the round tower was a prison. The ground floor housed the kitchens and steward's rooms, with the first and second floors being the marquis' and marchioness' respective apartments. The attic floor contained bedrooms.

During my visit to the castle, a gentleman dressed in full medieval costume narrated the clan history to a group of students from the Gordon school. The school was located on or at, the edge of the Huntly property. This fine narration truly bought the clan history to life.

As I left the castle and checked out the sizable gift shop, my mind was thrilled over what I had just seen. I walked back along the wooded path to my rental car thinking only of the power and prestige our family must have held in this beautiful land. Mostly, I thought of the pride we can have in being a Gordon.

*... a hand
engraved
in the
stone that
reads,
"Look out
for the
Hand of
God."*

AGM 2007 Minutes

Call to Order: The annual House of Gordon meeting (AGM) was called to order at 1:05pm, by John Lowry, President. There were 29 members present.

Reports:

Secretary's Minutes. Barbara Wray read the minutes from the July 8th, 2006 AGM held in the Chief's Tent at 2:00-3:00pm. A motion was made by Roger Mills to accept the minutes as read and Tom Adams second it. It was unanimously voted to accept the minutes as read by the membership. A copy of the minutes will be filed for audit.

President's Report. John Lowry opened up his report with discussion on developing the website. We had some setbacks as a result of Windy Gordon stepping down from the Board. It was mentioned that we hope he will come back as the need for NC to build back up again and be strong may be a challenge for NC members and their officers. John mentioned that we were now a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Ken Hendrix was brought in to help with the 501(c)(3) because there are legal documents to be filed and, as an accountant, we needed his expertise. This has brought us to where we are today. John appointed Ken as our new Treasurer and we thanked Lu Gordon for the years she carried out these duties. Marcia Gordon McLaurin has agreed to be our new convener in LA and MS. John has contacted our Chief in Scotland, Granville Huntly, but has not received a response as yet. John also wanted to thank everyone for all the hard work as we move forward. John placed a call into Ken Hendrix so that he could give us his Treasurer's report. Ken will call us back later in the meeting.

Communication Chair Report: David Todd presented and read Lois Todd's communication chair report. Lois was unable to attend this year. She touched on topics to include status of the National website, The Wall of Honor, a genealogy help section available on the web and our new "In the House" National newsletter. John calls Lois one of our most valuable players.

Membership Report: Nellie Lowry gave us an update on the membership. She mentioned that the Gordons were very generous and she was very proud. Prior to the AGM we had 421 members. As of this weekend, we were up to 450 members. Nellie communicates frequently with Barbara Gordon Wray, Sec/Treasurer in VA and Arlene Adams, Southwest Membership Chair to keep all records current.

Convener Coordinator Report: Roger Mills presented his Convener Coordinator report and said we have taken three steps forward and two steps back. Garth Gordon has ½ of one state and ½ of another (Michigan & Indiana). The Southwest Territory covers five states. Roger is Convener for Illinois and temporarily for Iowa. Roger men-

tioned the need for regional commissioners to help promote and make sure that states have a presence at the Games. We need someone to represent North and South Dakota. Roger also introduced Marcia as the newly appointed Convener for LA and MS. He provided her with new vinyl banners to take back with her. We will order more. He mentioned that there were a few conveners who were holding down more than one state. Morris Gordon in the mid Atlantic, Tom Adams in the Southwest and Kenny Prather in the Texas area. Roger proposed that we make these our new Commissioners.

Old Business: Nothing to report on a Convener's Manual.

New Business: The By-Laws were presented and voted on for acceptance by the membership.

Treasurer's Report: Ken called back. He said its 120 degrees in Fresno, CA!! He reported that we were a 501(c)(3) organization effective 30 June 2007. He reported that we had an ending balance of \$17,967.79 and that we were a corporation starting on June 1st. Current balance is now \$19,065.32. We have a set of various funds that have been earmarked for charities and scholarships. Roger Mills made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented and Tom Troop seconded it. More discussion followed and it was mentioned that honorary members do not have voting rights. Tom's motion to accept the report with clarification was seconded by Geof Baker. The new motion was proposed by Tom Troop and seconded by Tom Gardenhire. It was voted on and accepted by the membership. The membership decided to continue to support the Gordon Highlanders Museum and to add support for the Culloden Walk at the new Culloden Battlefield Visitor's Center.

** Due to our time expiring in the Chief's Tent at 2:00, we temporarily adjourned our meeting until we could resume at our annual picnic that night.....

At the Picnic - Around 7:00pm

To start where we left off with our AGM, John presented Evelyn Gordon with a glass plaque as a "thank you" for many years of dedication and a lifetime of service. We will continue to have the Charles O. Gordon Memorial Scholarship fund. Discussion will continue via emails on the details of the application process for this award.

Next we talked about the DNA project. Discussion was to set aside monies to the DNA project. Tom Adams made a motion to determine the dollar amount to be designated. David Todd seconded it.

It was also discussed to make the Gordon Highland Museum our ongoing charity.

John presented the information he had on the Culloden Caithness stones. You can put your Clan name on stone. Cost is from \$125.00 to \$3000 for a stone depending on size and what is put on it. John likes the 16x16x4 limestone type with up to 14 characters per line. David Todd made a motion to allocate \$250 for the stone. Geof Baker seconded it. More discussion transpired and the motion was made to amend the original motion from \$250 to \$890 to allow for getting our Clan crest put on the stone. We voted to purchase the stone in honor of the House of Gordon USA.

Next on the agenda was discussing the location for the 2008 and 2009 AGM. David Nichols of SC suggested the Greenville, SC Games in 2008. It was decided to come back to GMHG again for 2008. Some other suggestions for 2009 were either in CA or VA since that is where a large volume of our active membership is.

John Crosby has a lifetime membership in the Georgia House of Gordon. Cost is 15 x dues structure. Clan MacLaren charges 10 x dues for life memberships. John Lowry is asking for someone to be on a committee to study this with John Crosby and to bring a report at the 2008 AGM. Also mentioned was the cost depending on one's age.

Next on the agenda was "The Gathering" at Edinburgh

2009. Roger Mills indicated that in an effort to promote tourism, they are having a Calling of the Clans in Edinburgh around July 25th through the first week of August 2009. The Aboyne Games are the first Saturday in August and also the "Military Tattoo" is during this time-frame.

Installation of newly elected Officers.

Those present stood and were sworn in. They are:

1. President – John E. Lowry - present
2. Vice President – Roger J. Mills - present
3. Secretary – Barbara Gordon Wray - present
4. Treasurer – Ken Hendrix
5. Director – Kim Gordon
6. Director – Lucretia Gordon - present
7. Communications Chair is Lois Todd.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 and we all ate a wonderful meal and made a toast with the Chief's brew, "Cock o' the North" in celebration of our new 501(c)(3) status and the adopting of our By-Laws.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Gordon Wray, Secretary
House of Gordon, USA

Charles O. Gordon Memorial Scholarship

We are pleased to announce that North Carolina brothers Jeremy and Nathaniel Atkinson were named as recipients of the Charles O. Gordon Memorial Scholarship at the 2008 AGM held at Grandfather Mountain in July.

Jeremy is a Grade 4 Junior piper in the EUSPBA who earned a spot in the top 20 in the Eastern United States for light music in his grade level. With 2 first place wins, 2 second place and 2 third place showings this year he added 2 Above Grade Level designations to his honors in competition. We are proud of his achievements and wish Jeremy well in his future piping endeavors!

Nathaniel is a Grade 5 entry level competitor having competed in practice chanter. He is now coming along well on the pipes and will begin Grade 4 Junior competition next year. We are looking forward to seeing him on the

boards and wish him luck.

The Charles O. Gordon Memorial Scholarship is open to those wishing to further their tuition in one of the Celtic arts. Applications are available online at: www.houseofgordonusa.org/scholarship.html.



The Charles O. Gordon Memorial Scholarship is open to those wishing to further their tuition in one of the Celtic arts.

2008 AGM Minutes

Call to Order: The annual House of Gordon meeting (AGM) was called to order at 1:18pm, by John Lowry, President. The meeting was delayed due to a scheduling conflict with another group who were also sharing the Chief's tent to conduct business. There were 31 members present who signed the roster.

Introduction of Directors, Officers & Distinguished Guests: John introduced the directors. Ken Hendrix was the only director who could not be at the AGM. Then John had long time friend, Travel Agent Kate Graham give a talk about putting together another "Gordon" trip to Scotland. This trip will be sometime in July of 2010. Kate has done four other tours with the Gordons in the past. This trip will start out in the Northern Ireland with us flying into Belfast. We will spend four nights then catch a ferry to Scotland and spend another six nights. We will leave from Edinburgh to come home. Currently she is looking at using either Continental or Aer Lingus. Since the trip is two years out, exact dates and airfare will be determined at a later date.

Reports:

Secretary's 2007 AGM Minutes –

Prior to Secretary Barbara Wray reading the minutes, Lois Todd made a motion to suspend the reading of the minutes due to the limited amount of time that we had for our meeting due to the late start. Kim Gordon seconded it. All voted in favor and a copy of the minutes will be published in the next newsletter.

President's Report – John Lowry – In John's President's Report, he wanted to thank everyone for coming and for all the hard work everyone has done during this first year as a 501 (c)(3). He especially wanted to thank Lois Todd for all the hard work she has put into our website and The "In the House" USA Newsletter. Due to our limited time at the meeting he wanted us to continue with the director's reports.

Treasurer's Report – Ken Hendrix sent copies of his financial reports. He provided an Income Statement for the year ending December 31, 2007 and a Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2007 and another Income Statement for the first 6 months ending June 30, 2008 and a Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2008. This finan-

cial report runs on a fiscal year basis. Copies were passed out to the membership and we looked them over. Kim Gordon made a motion that we accept the financial report as presented and Turpin Ballard seconded it. Vote was unanimous to accept the Treasurer's Financial Reports and a copy will be filed for audit. Also a copy will be filed on our National website.

Convener's Chair Report –

Roger Mills started by saying that we have lost our Colorado Convener, Dick Milne and our Ohio Convener, Rick Neidert. We are looking for someone to take over in Colorado as Diana Milne, Dick's daughter, indicates she needs help. Lori Neidert, Rick's wife, will continue to do as many games as she can in Ohio. Dr. Norval Marr is our Florida Convener, Tom and Sara Gardenhire are our new North Carolina Conveners and Turpin Ballard is Georgia Convener. Morris Gordon is our Northeast Commissioner and Tom Adams our Southwest Commissioner. We are sorry to say that Kenny Prather has stepped down as Commissioner of the Texas area. Marsha Gordon McLaurin was named our MS, LA and TX Commissioner and will oversee Arkansas and Oklahoma, as well.

Communications Chair Report –

Lois Todd reported that the website usage is up 335.27% over the same period last year and has already surpassed last year's usage! We have one of the most extensive listings of Scottish Events on the web and she is asking that we refer people to our listings rather than other sites like US Scots. The website has expanded to include a new Gordon Kid's Corner with coloring pages, puzzles, fun facts and such for our kids to learn about their heritage, and she is asking members to submit any recipes, craft projects, puzzles and fun facts that they feel would be kid friendly. The goal for this coming year is to expand the genealogy sections on the website.

The newsletter, "In The House", has been well received and any member who would like to submit articles for publication is welcome to do so. Lois is proposing that we sell

The website has expanded to include a new Gordon Kid's Corner

AGM 2008 Minutes, Cont.

advertising to offset the cost of publication so that the Annual can be printed in full color. Finally, in order to assist our new conveners build their tent resources, Lois has created a resource CD with the Wall of Honor, Kid's Corner items, Clan Documents, and a Tent booklet, pamphlet, and other informational resources. This will provide an inexpensive way for our conveners to create and build an open, inviting and exciting tent display.

Membership Report – Nellie Lowry provided a copy of the membership report. Since last July at our AGM we have added 137 new members. We currently have around 600 members with 469 in good standing. We have 133 renewals. Fifty-four were dropped who haven't paid in the last 4 years and 8 we've lost due to bad addresses. Southwest area has 150 paid members, Virginia area has 32 members paid, North Carolina with 42 members, LA, MS and TX with 17 members and New England has increased from 3 to 15 members.

Old Business:

Life Membership Feasibility Committee Report – Turpin Ballard of GA indicated that they have a "Georgia-only" life membership in place. Turpin and his committee have been unable to resolve complications of Life Membership with our current "two-tier" state and national membership. Kim Gordon made the motion to table discussion on life membership at this time. Tom Gardenhire seconded it.

Gordon & Septs DNA Project – Lois talked about the DNA Project and how we can trace our heritage. We have had several Gordons do the DNA Project. (Morris Gordon mentioned he had done the 37 marker level and as a result has found a direct match. This proved to find a distant cousin who shares the same great-grandfather.) Nellie Lowry asked if we could set aside some money toward the project. Lois said we could help defer some of the costs. Nellie made a motion to set aside \$1000 toward the DNA project. David Todd seconded it. Prior to a vote, Morris Gordon mentioned that we should only apply this money towards the first 25 marker tests. He made an amendment to the original motion. We voted unanimously. John recommended that we form a committee with Tei and Jim who are now currently doing DNA Projects to work on this.

Due to our time in the tent being up, Jim Gordon made a motion to adjourn the meeting and resume at our picnic later that evening. Morris Gordon seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 2:10.

At the picnic, around 7:15, we picked up on our

agenda at:

Conveners' Manual/Tent Guide – Lois Todd has worked very hard to put together a CD for new conveners to have to start up in their respective states. In this CD is everything needed to inexpensively create and build an exciting tent display including The Wall of Honor, Kid's Corner Resources, Clan Documents and Informational Pamphlets and a Tent Booklet/Conveners' Guide with the information most requested at the tent. Lois passed out several CD's at the meeting.

Old Business:

Choice of fiscal year 2009 Scottish Charity (ies) – The Gordon Highlanders were amalgamated into the Queen's Own in 2004 and now all of the Scottish Regiments have been combined into one super regiment, the role of the Gordon Highlander Museum is ever increasingly important to the mission of keeping our heritage alive. It is still the Scottish charity to which we donate annually. Kim Gordon moved that we continue to support the Gordon Highlander Museum with a \$1,000 donation. Dr. Marr seconded it. All voted unanimously in favor. There was further discussion in regard to Kenmore as to whether it is being preserved by the National Trust for Scotland or the other body known as Historic Scotland. Huntly Castle is under the Historic Scotland. Culloden, Haddo House and Fyvie Castle are all under the National Trust for Scotland. Kim Gordon will do some more investigating on this subject.

House of Gordon 2010 British Isles Tour - Most of us will be planning to go on the 2010 tour rather than go to "The Gathering" at Edinburgh 2009. Kim Gordon plans to go to "The Gathering" 2009 tour. Granville Gordon has indicated that he plans to have a great spot for the Gordons along the Royal Mile.

Charles O. Gordon Memorial Scholarship Awards – This year we honored two North Carolina boys, Jeremy and Nathaniel Atkinson with \$250.00 each for piping. (Lee Atkinson is their dad.) A group picture presenting them with the award was taken at the Clan tent on the field earlier that day.

Future AGM Locations (2009 and beyond) – Kim Gordon made a motion to have the next AGM meeting in 2009 at the Richmond Highland Games next October. Roger Mills seconded it. All voted unanimously. The 2010 AGM will be

Since last July at our AGM we have added 137 new members

AGM 2008 Minutes, Cont.

held in Scotland while we are on tour there. It was recommended that we come back to GMHG in 2011 and that maybe Tom Adams and the Southwest Gordons will host the AGM in 2012. Place to be determined later.

John will be selecting a nominating committee for the 2009 Election of Officers later.

As a thank you, John Lowry asked David and Lois Todd to stand up front while he presented them with a very nice Gordon plaque. He also had Tom and Sara Gardenhire come up to receive a pin and Barbara Wray was presented with a "Haggis Whistle". She plans to blow it at the Williams-

burg Games this year when the Clan ladies compete in the traditional "Haggis Hurl"! Maybe we can come in first instead of second, this year. Hopefully, the whistle will bring us good luck!

Norval Marr made a motion to adjourn the continuation meeting. Roger Mills seconded. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Gordon Wray, Secretary
House of Gordon, USA

News From The Mid-Atlantic!

Mid-Atlantic welcomes **Jerry Vandenberg** back as the West Virginia Convener! And speaking of Vandenberg, **congratulations to Dustin** on completing his qualification as an actor/combatant with the Society of American Fight Directors!

Congratulations to **Aaron Todd** on being awarded the American Legion Military Excellence Medal as Outstanding Cadet 2007-2008 for the Hermitage MCJROTC. Aaron was also promoted to cadet 2nd Lieutenant and OIC for the Raiders team, and also named Drum Captain for the Hermitage Marching Panthers.

Congratulations to **Lois Todd** for receiving the James Cash Penney Award for Community Service for the fourth year running.

Congratulations to **David Gauthier** on completing

the BEAR CHALLENGE at Grandfather Mountain. David ran five miles up the mountain (1541 foot rise in elevation) and came in 260 out of 819 putting him in the top third of this premier run!

Congratulations to **Tory Baker**, daughter of Geof & Beverly Baker, on winning Punk Your Chucks, a design contest for Converse Chuck Taylors. Her design called Child's Play will be on shoes soon!

Congratulations to the GORDON MEN who swept the Bonnie Knees competition at Richmond! **Morris Gordon, David Gauthier and Mac Adams** — we always knew you were sexy!



News From the Southwest!

Southwest has had a full calendar of events this year hosting tents at several games. Pictured right Lynne & Woody Gordon at the Reno, NV Highland Games.

Lynne & Woody's son, Sean, has agreed to take over as convener for Colo-



rado and will be assisted by the Southwest organization. We wish Sean all the best in his endeavors to build Colorado.

Pictured left, Ty Holi-field wears the Gordon tartan in competition at the Vista Highland Games.



News From Texas!

The House of Gordon was in attendance this year at the Texas Scottish Festival & Highland Games. To say that it was hot would be putting it mildly to say the least. If it hadn't been for our electric fans and a constant wind, we would have lost so much weight our kilts would have fallen off. Not a pretty sight. On Saturday, our tent stayed very busy, as we entertained many newcomers and many old friends. Between sets, the band Smithfield Fair came in and cooled off with a cold Guinness or two. We were lucky in that our tent was very close to the Glencoe Tent where Alex Beaton, Smithfield Fair and many others performed. Members of Clan Keith joined us Saturday afternoon while checking out the games for next year. They are convinced that they

want to set up their own tent for next year and enjoy the music and festivities that we have for the last eight years. This year we have added a trailer to transport all of our Scottish paraphernalia from festival to festival. We have the MacLaren Crest on the back, the Montgomery Crest on one side and The House of Gordon Crest on the other side. We have received rave reviews on how wonderful the trailer looks. We look forward to attending this festival next year.



News from Around the USA!

Mark Seaman had a booth set up at the McPherson, KS Scottish Festival on 27-28 September. This was their 15th annual celebration and it was great, as usual. The theme was "The year of the Children" and they had a ton of activities for the wee lads and lassies. The kids had a sheet to fill with clan stamps for which they got a special prize. There was a children's version of the Highland Athletics along with dancing

competition and rides for the kids. The weather was fantastic and everyone had a great time.

Joel Mills, Idaho Division, hosted a tent at the Treasure Valley Highland Games and Celtic Festival at the Idaho Fairgrounds in Boise on September 27. The event was a success and several thousand people were in attendance.



Flowers of the Forest

Kenneth Marr, Sr.

Mr. Marr went to Scotland with us on the Y2K Tour and had a fine time. He was a true gentleman.



Our condolences to Dana Reynolds whose mother passed away this year. Details were not available.

Illa Smith

Illa was a very long-time member of the House of Gordon since at least 1985. She was a very sweet lady.

Alice Cashmore

We were saddened to hear of Alice's passing. She had been a member for over ten years since we brought Arizona back under the Southwest banner.

Nathan Green Gordon

A WWII Naval aviator whose under fire rescue of 15 downed airmen earned him the Congressional Medal of Honor died 10 September 2008. He was also awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service in the South Pacific. Nathan was Lt. Governor of Arkansas from 1947-1967. He was 92.



Al Vasquez

In mid September Al Vasquez, our Southern California Regional Director was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Al passed away on October 1, 2008 at 11:00 am. His wife, Jan, wrote, "He truly was my knight in white armor".

*"Than dream
ni dochas ann
an Dia mar
shilabh Shioin
a ghnath,
Nach ferdar
fos a
charuchadh,
ach mhaireas
ann gu brath."
Psalm 125:1*

Join In The Fun At The Gordon Tent!



BYDAND!