

IN THE HOUSE!

House of Gordon USA Newsletter, Annual Edition
Volume 2 Issue 2 May 2008



A Legacy Redeemed — Sir Cosmo Edmund Duff Gordon

A Sporting Legend's Good Name Restored!

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Please visit our website: houseofgordonusa.org for further information.

Articles and other materials appropriate for publication are encouraged. All matters submitted for printing are subject to the Editor's approval, who reserves the right to edit prior to publication.

MEMBERSHIP in the **House of Gordon USA** is available to all who bear the surname Gordon, an Associated Family name or to one who has a sincere interest in the Gordons and all things Scottish.

Annual Dues of \$25 are payable annually. Remit to **House of Gordon USA**, 9654 Kessler Avenue, Chatsworth, CA 91311 or remit using Paypal (details on houseofgordonusa.org/Membership.html).

In The House!

Lois Todd, Editor

A Message From the Chief!



Scotland has become a political football. We have the Edinburgh parliament which our new Scottish Nationalist leader has named 'The Scottish Parliament' where previously it was 'The Scottish Executive'. This might not seem significant – after all it is only terminology - but the underlying movement for independence is well underway. The

chief protagonist, Alex Salmond, First Minister, leader of the Scottish National Party is an accomplished operator and he is taking advantage of a weak and disunited Westminster government to press for changes in Scotland which are largely populist but relevant all the same.

Opinion polls suggest that he is enjoying a lot of support for what he is doing. The opinion polls also say that the people don't want independence but I wouldn't be surprised if we don't wake up one morning to discover we've got it!

The heavyweights produce intense and earnest arguments laden with economic formulae to tell us that an independent Scotland could never survive in this modern world. Others try a different tack claiming horror at the break up of the Union. Then there are the scaremongers who see the Russians parachuting into Princes Street. But none of these arguments seem to crystallize sufficiently to frighten the voter into abandoning the new political consensus – namely that the nationalists have articulated a fresh belief and pride in being Scottish.

Many partisan movements have fizzled and died in their infancy and modern nationalism was expected to do the same once the realities of government had weighed on their largely idealistic 'mission statement' but this has not happened. Where we go now I do not know but politics in Scotland is no longer boring.

As a clan chief I am pleased to see an awakening pride in being Scottish and I can't help believing that this will strengthen interest in clan and family matters within our borders. There has always been a strong following from the diaspora for all matters Scottish but it is heartening that similar sensitivities are being awakened here. It was only a few years ago that James Burnett of Leys, Chief of Clan Bur-

nett, sent a round robin to all Burnetts listed in the North East of Scotland telephone book to encourage them to join his Clan Society. He had one reply. This only goes to illustrate how little interest there has recently been in clan matters. I would hope he would get a better response today.

We have the big gathering in 2009 in Edinburgh. This is civil service led (the Scottish Tourist Board) with committees and office bearers and recruits and local committees and sub-committees and expense accounts and all the weird and wonderful structures, language and culture central to quasi-government activity. The budget is being carved up and the time will soon be upon us when we see what actually happens on the day. The House of Gordon will be represented, The Aboyne Highland Games are pitching for support and we are rushing headlong for the holy grail of cultural and nationalistic euphoria in July 2009. It will be tremendous if any the House of Gordon in America can make it though I know there is a very strong contingent planned for 2010.

Once the pandemonium has died down, the tourists have gone home, the season has passed and the Autumn is draining the colour from our hills and valleys; once the heady politicians have stood on their last soapbox and the final drifters have moved from earshot, once the egos of those with embroidered ambition have deflated and the cardboard cut-outs have blown over in the wet and windy squalls we will return to normality and the Gordons will still be standing as symbols of unity and cohesion, a manifestation of substance over froth, pillars of our military and cultural history where the shallow fashions of political and social whims have blown in and out of our collective conscious but left us unmoved.

The Gordons do not forsake their reputation and credibility with ill-advised displays of self-advertisement or hasty endorsement of political fashion they quietly ride the turbulence of every day life with dignity safe in the knowledge that there are no other clansmen with the complete package. OK - so the wrapping may be seductive but it's what's inside that counts.

Huntly
Aboyne Castle,
Aberdeenshire

President's Message



Hello Fellow Gordons,

It took many years for me to use those words "Fellow Gordons" without a twinge of self-doubt and hesitation, not being a Gordon myself. But, when you realize what it took for our ancestors—our forebears with non-Gordon names—to become part of the Gordons, it should make us each proud. Not unlike one adopted by a caring family, we must realize that the Clan family chose us, for whatever reason, and accepts us as equals. At least I'm holding that thought and expect you are, as well!

But there are many exciting things ahead in this newsletter you will want to read about so I won't keep you for long. Just to remind you that our **House of Gordon USA Annual Meeting (AGM)** is coming up in July and we hope you can join us. It will

once again be at the Games **on Grandfather Mountain July 10 through 13 with the AGM, itself, on Saturday, July 12.** Lucretia has requested the one o'clock hour in the Chief's Tent but please drop by the Gordon tent to confirm that time. Our HofG USA officers each serve two year terms so we won't need to deal with that again but a number of other important matters will be needing your voice and your vote. Try not to miss it.

One matter we will determine is the location of the 2009 AGM—to be located somewhere away from GMHG for the first time! Conveners are, no doubt, weighing their bids for this honor—something like hosting the Olympics, no doubt! Hey guys, we are simple folk with simple needs. Just say the word and we're there!

The 2010 AGM will very likely be in Scotland. SCOTLAND?? Absolutely. We are already working very hard with our travel agent on an itinerary for a ten or eleven-day summer **House of Gordon 2010 British Isles Tour** encompassing both **Scotland and Ireland** and fitting our annual meeting into the mix should be no problem. Quite a few of you were with us for the Y2K Tour and again for the Roslyn Chapel/Gordon Borders Tour in 2005. Carrying on the five-year interval seemed a good idea. Although we need to plan—and *YOU need to set your sights on joining this trip*—it is still early and any ideas or must-see places you wish to suggest are most welcome. **Just a few likely stops will be Huntly, of course, and Aboyne if the timing is right for the Chief's Games, Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow and the new Culloden Battlefield Memorial Centre where we recently purchased a stone in the Culloden Walk (ref.no.CCHS 1743 in case you get there before we do).** Much more will be added to enrich this visit to our ancient homeland, our beloved Scotland. And we don't even know where to begin in Ireland! We hope that our good Gordon friends from New Zealand and Australia will be joining us again, as well.

We will be pleased to chat with you at Grandfather about the trip, about a volunteer position for you in USA Clan operations—where we are always in need—and anything else current or ancient about the Gordons. As Michigan Convener Garth Gordon always says, **"It's grrreat to be a Gorrndon!"** We couldn't agree more!

Bydand,
John

What's Happening In The House! ... Reports from around the USA

North Carolina is being reinvigorated under the leadership of Tom & Sarah Gardenhire! This year is already off to a great start. At Mint Hill, Tom writes "We braved 30 degree temps and up to 30 mph wind, the threat of snow and even got rained on. All in 7 hours. An exciting day. Friday we had 80 degree weather...." Fortunately, Sarah was prepared with her famous (or infamous?) Haggis Chili to keep those on hand warm. Pictured Above Sarah & Tom Gardenhire & Lone Wolf at Mint Hill.



At the Loch Norman Games near Charlotte, NC, the Gordon Tent was thrumming with activity as 25 Gordons signed in and took applications! We are very excited to have the North Carolina Gordons on the move!

Virginia has started the year with two new events at Lexington, Virginia and Laurel Hill in Ararat, Virginia. Since these are small events, we did a small one tent set-up.

At Lexington, two of our members, Kiera & Keillie O'Neil (pictured right), had their public dance debut and performed with War Pipes. The twins' dad, Kevin O'Neil, is a piper with the band. (Yes we have talent just popping out all over in Virginia, and we love our Highland arts!)



Barbara Gordon Wray & Lois Todd headed to the southwestern corner of the state to JEB Stuart's home place, Laurel Hill in Ararat, Virginia, for the first festival ever held in that area on April 26th and hosted a very unusual guest ... Our tent mascot,

Gordy, got up to mischief again and did a bit of reiving snagging himself a Highland Cow! We also had three Gordon ladies visit the tent as well as several others who were excited to learn about their Highland heritage.



We are looking forward to another busy year traveling across Virginia, to Maryland, Pennsylvania and of course to the AGM at Grandfather!

California began the season at the Queen Mary Festival Long Beach, CA. The first of our South-west region 2008 calendar year Scottish games was held at the Queen Mary Feb 16-17 in Long Beach, CA. Al & Jan Vasquez, Ty & Chelsea Holifield (Al & Jan's daughter), John & Nellie Lowry, and Arlene & I were there to meet and greet everyone who stopped by the House of Gordon table (no clan tents on the ship). The Gordon Highlanders stopped by the table for a wee dram and a hearty toast to the Gordons and the tradition of the Gordon Highlanders. This year we broke with tradition and went our separate ways on Saturday evening for dinner. A great time was had by all.

Arizona Highland Games, Phoenix, AZ —We had an awesome weekend! Traffic at the House of Gordon tent was good all weekend. In fact we signed up some new members, sold merchandise and got a nice donation from Jim & Sandy Ledy II for the Gordon Highlander Museum. Thank you Jim & Sandy! Speaking of the Museum, we had a visitor who fought with the Gordon Highlanders for 2 years. As it was Patrick's birthday he felt as if the visit was his personal birthday gift.

Another gentleman visited the tent carrying an old suitcase that had been found among his grandfa-

ther's effects. Inside the suitcase was a Gordon modern dress kilt that was quite old and had been partially ravaged by moths. Our tent visitors could not figure out their connection with the Gordons other than the kilt. They had come to the games hoping to find a match for the kilt and came to our tent when they realized that grandpa's kilt matched Patrick's kilt. The good news – by the time they left the tent they announced their intention to begin research to discover the history of their connection to the Gordons. We also had a family stop by whose teenage son is going to Scotland on a class trip! The son was wearing a Gordon kilt. They spent some time pouring over the maps and books at the tent.

Georgia has a new Convener! After many years of service as Convener for the Georgia Chapter, House of Gordon, Mike Gordon has passed the dirk to Turpin Ballard. Turpin comes to the clan through his maternal great-grandmother, Mary Gordon, of Culpepper and Orange Counties in Virginia, tracing back through County Down in Northern Ireland to Aberdeenshire in Scotland.

The Ballard family has been a fixture at Stone Mountain for the last 4 years and present at all Georgia games since Hartwell in 2006. Turpin lives in Roswell with his wife, Cindy, and two of his four kids, Haley and Willie. Haley (pictured right with her dad, Turpin) enjoys celebrating her Celtic roots (Irish on mom's side), so look for her at all the Gordon tents. She is polite, enthusiastic, imaginative, and a delight to talk to if you can get her to stand still. Willie has finally gotten over being embarrassed because his dad wears a kilt nearly every day, but he has a ways to go before he'll do one himself. Not so Turpin's older son James, who started wearing his Gordon colors even before his father, as a junior in high school. Turpin is also an accomplished sporrán maker, so those of you who need pockets for your kilts need look no further and check out his website at www.thorfinnsporrans.com!



Marcia McLaurin, Convener for the **Gulf States of Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas**, pictured below with her husband, writes 2008 has started out to be a busy year. We have attended two small

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festivals in April already, the first being in Minden on April 5th and the second in Baton Rouge/Gonzales on April 12th. The Minden festival is held at a quaint, privately owned location called Scot-



land Farms that houses a large herd of Scottish cattle. One of the highlights of the festival is a hayride around the farm. These are both small festivals with about 7-10 clan tents, but are growing with each passing year.

Kenny Prather covered the San Antonio Games held during the weekend of April 5-6. He writes, the House of Gordon was represented and participated in the Parade of Clans with a large group that included four kids and carrying banners and flags along with two Gordon setters. The two day event attracted approximately 25 clans in its 10th year and was a great success. Clan Gordon tent signed up several guests and it is expected that some of these will join the House of Gordon for the new year beginning in July.

New York has had no representation in the House and we are working to rectify that. Paul Gordon will be convening at least one game to be named, and William R. Aitchison sent us this report of Tartan Day in New York City!

The parade was a good, if somewhat short, with many talented pipers including the Clan Gordon Highlanders Pipe Band from Long Island, NY.

As I'm sure you are aware, the Grand Marshal was NY Giants kicker Lawrence Tynes. Originally from Greenock, Scotland, he was in full kilted splendor including a sporrán made from one of the NFL Championship game balls.

Sadly the House of Gordon was only represented

by the above mentioned pipe band and a few straggling marchers, plus my family watching from the sidewalk. There was a small bit of amusement as the Tartan Army (super fans of the Scottish National Football Team) came marching by. One member presented my son (age 3 and fully kilted in Clan Gordon tartan) with a Scottish flag shortly before their standard shout and charge.

Florida is in full swing and Norval Marr has been busy,! He writes: The Clan tent was at the Sarasota Highland Games on March 29th and hosted a fair number of Visits to the tent, but nothing like the Dunedin Games on April 12th. For the Parade of Clans we had the largest number I have had since beginning to host the tent. A gentleman by the name of Huntley carried the Gordon Shield Banner and his 10 year old daughter carried the Gordon-Tartan.

The **Idaho** Division will be hosting a tent at the Treasure Valley Celtic Festival and Highland Games on Saturday, September 27, 2008 at Expo Idaho (formerly the Western Idaho Fairgrounds). Contact Joel Mills at convener@idahogordons.org if you wish to help out at the tent!

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

House of Gordon Southwest Tent will be raised at twenty games this year because of the tireless dedication and commitment of folks like Ken & Heather Gardner (Northern CA), Patrick & Jodi Gordon (Arizona), Woody & Lynne Gordon (Nevada), David & Debra Melcher (New Mexico) and Al & Jan Vasquez (Southern CA). These members have selflessly stepped forward and done a great job representing our organization. John, Nellie, Arlene and I attend as many games as possible to help out.

So far we have attended Queen Mary Scottish Games, Arizona Scottish Games, Verde Valley Highland Games, Kern County Scottish Gathering, Las Vegas Celtic Highland Games, Sacramento Valley Scottish Games. Coming up are Prescott Highland Games, Livermore Scottish Games, Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival, and USS Highland Games and this gets us through May.

Thank you for remaining steadfast.

Bydand - Tom Adams
Regional Commissioner,
House of Gordon Southwest

After serving as Convener for Virginia and the Mid-Atlantic for five years, last year I was selected to be the House of Gordon Commissioner for the Northeastern states, covering the following: Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont and Maine.

Since we are just beginning the task of building up the House in the Northeast, I need your help. We need people who are willing to become conveners for areas or games as well as people to help man tents in established areas. Help is always needed with set up and take down of the House of Gordon tent/Display. We have established a tradition in Virginia and Maryland of providing a party area for our members with refreshments and can always use your donations to the pot luck at any event you may attend. If you are interested in helping, please contact me. It is not a tough responsibility, and it is a FUN. The House of Gordon USA is set to provide our newly establishing areas with some great support in the form of organization, paperwork, equipment needs, and tent/display ideas. We are in the process of developing a hand book that will help the Convener and "tent sitters" to better understand the duties of a Convener as well as some basic clan facts and history to make it easier to share our Gordon heritage. We have made great progress in the past year with Merle Gordon taking on Maine and David C. Gordon taking on the New England States! We also have Paul Gordon planning on making it to one or two New York events. David Todd of Virginia and I will be at Ligonier in Pennsylvania again and are hoping to find someone willing to take on more events there.

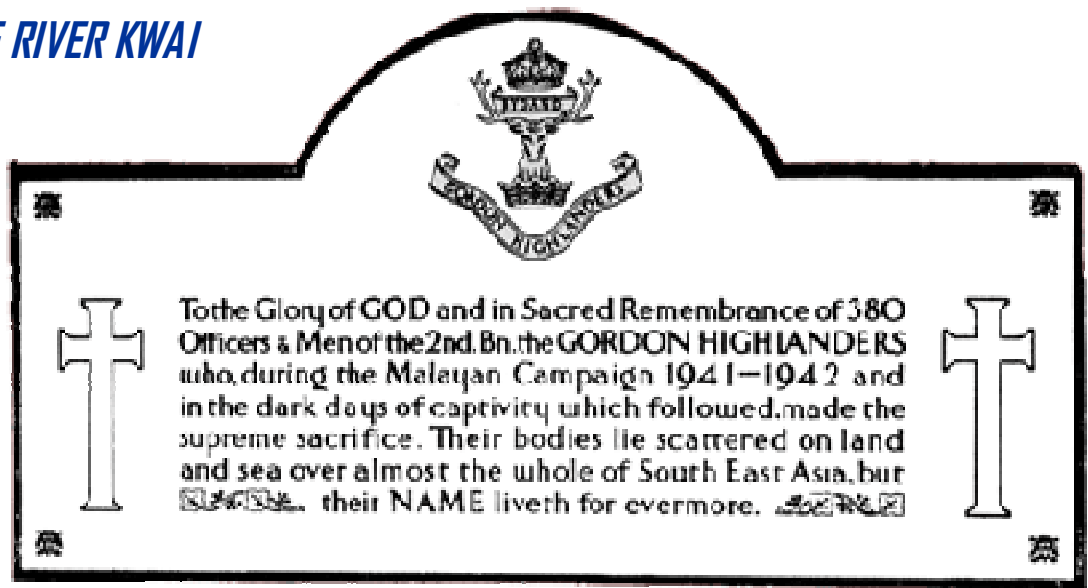
For a list of the various games that take place each month, one can find this list online at our House of Gordon USA website which is home to one of the most comprehensive listings by date and location to be found anywhere. The events listings can be accessed either through the Divisions page by clicking on the state on the map in which you live or through the events page!

Again, thank you and please contact me if you are interested in becoming involved in running our House of Gordon in your State.

Bydand – Morris A. Gordon
Regional Commissioner
House of Gordon Northeast
Sirknightmg@hotmail.com

GORDONS ON THE RIVER KWAI

"I was recently on a trip through Thailand and happened across a small town known as Kanchanaburi. It is the resting place of Soldiers who died around the Bridge over Kwai. I happened across a few tomb stones that may or may not have been distant relatives of our families. - Scott Forbes"



This plaque in the Singapore Presbyterian Church is in Memory of 380 members of the 2nd Battalion, Gordon Highlanders who died in the area and have no known grave.



The Bridge on the River Kwai (above) – The round top spans are original, the angular top spans were replaced by Japan as part of their war reparations. The Bridge spans the River Mae Klong, which the Thai government re-named Khwae Yai (Big Kwai) in the 1960's to appease the tourists after the movie became a big hit. This is one of two bridges built, the other was wooden.

Construction of the Thailand-Burma Railway began on September 16, 1942 at two existing railroad terminals, one in Thanbyuzayat in Burma and the other in Nong Pladuk, Thailand, about 25 miles west of Bangkok, in the Ratchburi province. As early as 1939, the Japanese had drawn up plans to build the railway, which was to provide a supply line capable of transporting 3,000 tons of supplies per day to support their frontline troops in Burma. At that time, Japanese engineers estimated that the 257-mile line would take five years to build because of the harsh conditions and treacherous terrain. Much of the railway, particularly the roughly 175 miles of track that ran through Thailand, required high bridges (more than 600 along the entire line) and deep mountain cuttings. The railway was completed in just 16 months when the two separate lines joined 23 miles south of the Three Pagoda's Pass. But the cost was incredibly high.

In 1942 the 2nd Gordons had been stationed in Singapore Fortress for four years. The battalion fought a heroic rearguard action during The Battle of Singapore as the Japanese ad-

vanced down the Malayan peninsula to Changi until the final surrender on 15th February 1942. Like their comrades of the 1st Battalion who fought a similar action from Belgium to the French coast in June 1940 they now became Prisoners of War. They left Changi on 27th October 1942 as part of Lt Colonel Stitt's 'V' Party and spent five dreadful days on a train which brought them to the Chungkai Base Camp in Thailand. From here they were put to work on the Burma-Siam railway.



Although records are sketchy, approximately 61,000 Allied prisoners of war are believed to have labored on the railway, including 30,000 British, 18,000 Dutch, 13,000 Australian, and 700 American soldiers. An estimated 16,000 of those troops died, many of them from diseases like cholera, beri beri, malaria, and typhoid, most during an intensified period of construction known as "speedo" that commenced in January 1943. Another 200,000 Asian laborers, mostly Thai, were forced to work on the railway. More than 80,000 lost their lives.

The railway operated for just 21 months before it was crippled by Allied weapons, including the revolutionary radio-controlled AZON bomb. Most of the railway was dismantled soon after the war's end with the rest lost to the Thai and Burmese jungles. An 80-mile stretch in Thailand from Nong Pladuk to Tha Sao still operates daily.

After the war those POWs who had been buried in the numerous camps alongside the railway were transferred to three new cemeteries at Thanbyuzayat in Burma and Chungkai and Kanchanaburi in Thailand. The dead from camp burial grounds on the southern section of the railway between Bangkok and Nikki (Nieke) were moved to Kanchanaburi and Chungkai.

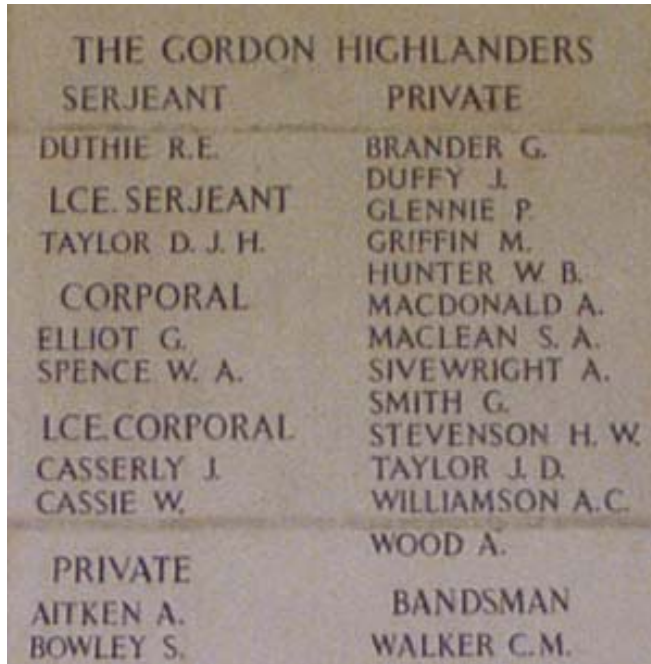


This included the ashes of 300 prisoners who were cremated at Nikki Camp to try to halt a serious Cholera epidemic in May / June 1943. Their ashes were buried in a box in the Camp Cemetery at Nikki but were later moved into two adjoining graves at Kanchanaburi War Cemetery. Among their number were 22 Gordon Highlanders

Photos courtesy of Scott Forbes

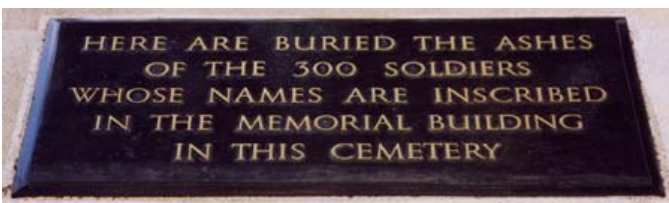


On the River Kwai, Cont.



The 22 Gordon Highlanders whose ashes are buried at Kanchanaburi War Memorial are listed on the monument along with the rest of the 300 who were cremated at Nikki.

Below is the actual grave site of the 300 buried together in two graves in Plot IX.



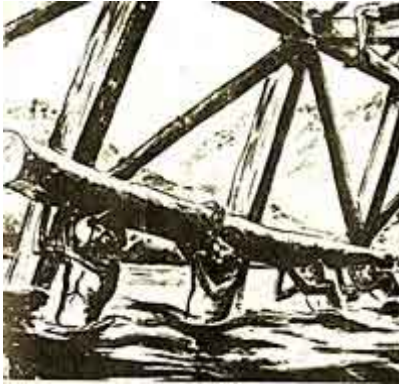
Captain Ernest Gordon of the Argyll and Sutherland (pictured right) was also a POW on the Death Railroad, and survived to write of his experiences and the transformation from hopelessness to a spiritual resurrection.



A fit 6 foot 3 inches when captured, starvation rations of one ball of rice a day soon reduced him to little more than "a rack of ribs." Ernest survived dysentery, diphtheria, malaria, malnutrition and incomprehensible brutality, and worst of all, hopelessness. Conditions were so horrific that on average 30 men died each day. Skeptical of religion, his turning point came when a fellow soldier died and willed his Bible to him. The more horror he saw around him, the more bodies he was forced to unload from barges in sweltering heat, the



more men he saw hanged from trees by their thumbs, or shot in the back of the head, or stamped to death, "the more I thought there must be another way. I really began to take



God seriously. Christianity makes an awful lot of sense if you take the time to read the New Testament." Within weeks he became the camp's unofficial chaplain, and it was his Christian faith which gave him the will to live, "There was nothing else; we had nothing."

"Death was still with us," he wrote. "But we were slowly being freed from its destructive grip. We were seeing for ourselves the sharp contrast between the forces that made for life and those that made for death. Selfishness, hatred, envy, jealousy, greed, self-indulgence, laziness and pride were all anti-life. Love, heroism, self-sacrifice, sympathy, mercy, integrity and creative faith, on the other hand, were the essence of life, turning mere existence into living in its truest sense. These were the gifts of God to men. True, there was hatred. But there was also love. There was death. But there was also life. God had not left us. He was with us, calling us to live the divine life in fellowship."(1) In the valley of the shadow of death, Christ had risen.

God had reconciled their lifeless estates to Himself, such that they found themselves unable to respond to others without a similar inexplicable grace. So complete was the transformation of the men, so real the presence of Christ among them that they were able to reach out even to their captors with the love that had taken hold of them.

While still in the hands of their enemies, a train carrying Gordon and several others came alongside another boxcar at a stop in Burma.

The entire car was filled with gravely wounded Japanese soldiers. They were left alone, without medical attention or company, as if abandoned refuse of war. "They were in a shocking state," Gordon recalls. "The wounded looked at us forlornly as they sat with their heads resting against the carriages waiting fatalistically for death.... These were our enemy."(2)

Without a word, many of the officers unbuckled their packs, took out part of their rations and a few rags, and with their canteens went over to the Japanese train. The guards tried to prevent them, but they pressed through, kneeling by the side of the injured men with food and water, cleaning their wounds. Eighteen months earlier the same men of the river Kwai prison camp would have celebrated the humiliation and destruction of any on the side of their violent captors. Yet Gordon explains, "We had experienced a moment of grace, there in the bloodstained railway cars. God had broken through the barriers of our prejudice and had given us the will to obey his command, 'Thou shalt love.'"(3)

Ernest Gordon left his three years of brutal imprisonment with an unexpected turn in his own story. Among suffering and enemies, God had spoken. Now Gordon could not remain silent. He returned to Scotland to attend seminary, eventually becoming the Presbyterian Dean of the Chapel at Princeton University where he remained until his death in 2002.

(1) As quoted by Philip Yancey in *Rumors of Another World* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003), 175.

(2) Ernest Gordon, *Miracle on the River Kwai* (London: Wm. Collins Sons & Co., Ltd., 1963), 162, 163.

(3) *Ibid.*, 164.

Other Sources: http://www.pbs.org/wnet/secrets/case_kwai/
http://www.kinnethmont.co.uk/1939-1945_files/alex_macdonald.htm

<http://www.pauladams.org/Stories/ErnestGordon.htm>

<http://www.thefamily.org/endtime/feature.php3?cid=1&id=369>

To learn more about the real story of the Bridge Over the River Kwai we recommend reading Capt. Ernest Gordon's "Through the Valley of the Kwai", aka "Miracle on the River Kwai," which inspired the 2002 movie *To End All Wars*.

WHY DNA?

BY JIM GORDON, GORDON DNA PROJECT CO-ADMINISTRATOR

I asked the question “Why DNA?” The answer is “Y-DNA,” Pardon the bad pun; but that IS the answer. We use the male Y-DNA to trace our Gordon heritage.

To fully explain, we need to revisit basic biology. We inherit our DNA equally from our parents. Very basically, X and Y chromosomes are part of our DNA. Women’s DNA has two X chromosomes and men have one X chromosome and one Y chromosome in their DNA. Both men’s and women’s X chromosome come from their mothers; men’s Y-chromosomes are inherited from their fathers.

“Why do I want to have my DNA tested?” For one thing, the House of Gordon is a heritage society. By joining, you expressed an interest in your Gordon heritage.

This Y-chromosome remains relatively unchanged for as many as 500 generations. The Y-chromosome of a present-day Gordon man is essentially the same as that of his remote male Gordon ancestor. That’s how we trace a man’s ancestry -- by analyzing elements of the Y chromosome of his DNA.

The elements of the DNA which are analyzed by the laboratory are termed by some “junk DNA” because these elements cannot identify an individual; determine any genetic tendencies such as heritable diseases or handicaps. As far as is known,

these elements serve no known function in DNA other than being useful for tracing a man’s male ancestors.

Now, having disposed of the biology, the next step is the process. When you apply to be a tester for the Gordon Surname DNA Project, you will receive a packet with two sterile swabs and two sterile containers. You use the swabs to rub two different areas on the inside of your cheek for 30 to 45 seconds each. Then put each swab in its respective container and mail them in the enclosed return ad-

ressed envelope to the laboratory. In about 6 to 8 weeks, you will receive an email message from the laboratory with your results. If you don’t have email services, you may receive your results by standard surface mail, or you may use a friend’s or relative’s email address to receive your results.

Having come this far, you may say “Why do I want to have my DNA tested?” For one thing, the House of Gordon is a heritage society. By joining, you expressed an interest in your Gordon heritage.

Some of us have pursued this interest through genealogical research. Quite often when research reaches back to the 18th or 17th centuries, we encounter “brick walls,” usually because of lack of extant records. DNA can help break through these “brick walls,” giving evidence of ancestors’ origins.

Since most of our Gordon ancestors were very mobile, they were also very elusive: avoiding census takers, probate courts, vital records recorders, undertakers, even tax collectors! DNA can help us connect to cousins who are interested in sharing information on *their* Gordons. DNA, while not a substitute for conventional genealogical research, does enhance it:

- 1) Further your research by identifying your ancestors’ origins and perhaps allowing you to start working forward from the past to connect with the present somewhere in the middle.
- 2) Put you in contact with other Project testers who share your DNA results and who may have been more successful than you in building the bridge to your ancient ancestors.
- 3) Provide some surprises – some of our testers’ DNA matches that of members of the Douglas family. Occurrences of this sort are termed “non-paternity events.” A number of things may have occurred resulting in the non-paternity event – a Douglas man married a Gordon heiress and agreed to change his surname (See the Gordon-Seton line for instance); a Douglas orphan was adopted or raised as a Gordon; or, as sometimes happened, a Gordon lass was infatuated by a Douglas lad and to cover up

the possible scandal, the child was raised as a younger brother to the lass.



Now that I've covered the whys and hows of DNA testing, a little about the Gordon Surname DNA Project itself: The Project began in the late 1990s

and grew slowly. The pace has picked up considerably in recent time. We now have over 195 participants and are growing almost daily. Family Tree DNA in Houston, Texas, USA is the company that interprets the results for us. They work in conjunction with the testing laboratory at the University of Arizona in Phoenix, Arizona.

There are four levels of test results: 12, 25, 37 and 67 markers. These four levels can be understood by comparing them to a tree:

- 1) Twelve markers. This is the basic test and can be alluded to as the main trunk of the tree. Testing to 12 markers will confirm that you are indeed a Gordon.
- 2) Twenty-five markers. This can be seen as the branch of the tree. When you test to 25 markers, this will place you in a particular major Gordon family – The Jock & Tam, the Seton-Gordon, the Sir William Gordon, one of the newly-discovered or yet-to-be-classified branches.
- 3) Thirty-seven markers. This can be likened to the twig of the branch. Testing to 37 markers, which we recommend from the first, will show the particular family of your ancestors. It will also more closely identify your relationship with other testers whose results closely match yours.
- 4) Sixty-seven markers. This takes to the leaf on the twig. This test will further define the number of generations that have elapsed since you and other testers on your branch shared a common ancestor.

By now you're saying, "This sounds like the real thing and I'm ready to take the leap into DNA testing, but what will it cost?" Family Tree DNA have given us a special pricing on the 37-marker test of US\$ 189 instead of the usual US\$ 260. There's an

order form elsewhere in this newsletter that you can fill out and email to Tei Gordon (tagordon@hotmail.com) or you may visit the Project website and click on the Kit Order button. The website may be found at:

<http://www.thegordondnaproject.com/index.html>.

After you complete the test, you send the kit back with your payment which may be personal check, international money order or your charge card. For international orders, we recommend using your charge card to take advantage of exchange rate fluctuations.

Now, just one final thing. I have talked about the Y-DNA and I'm certain there are Gordon ladies out there who, by this time, are saying: "Well, what about me? I'm a Gordon and I'd like to know about MY Gordon heritage." Ladies, do not despair! Yes, the Surname DNA Projects ARE male-oriented; but, you can participate by having a close male relative (brother, father, uncle) test in your stead. In such a case, you might say you are getting a "twof'er" or double value: You not only uncover YOUR Gordon heritage, but so does your male relative!

On the part of the House of Gordon and the Gordon DNA Project, I hope that I have fully explained the Y-DNA testing process, allayed any fears you might have about testing and convinced you to take part in our Project. If so, welcome to the Project, cousins.



FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

Beth Gordon, wife of Jim Gordon of Waynesboro, Virginia, passed on 9 January 2008. Beth had been ill for some time prior to her passing.

Mary Adams, aged 89, mother of balladeer Colin Grant-Adams passed away Tuesday, 15 April 2008 from complications of a stroke. The funeral was held in Great Britain.

W. Ann Kline passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday morning April 22. She was a member of Clan Gordon and a member of the Catawba Valley Scottish Society and a volunteer for Rural Hill and the Loch Norman Highland Games from 99 – 08.

Do You Know Me?— Gordon Genealogy Corner

We receive many inquiries each month asking for help in identifying ancestors and genealogical lines. Following are some of the recent inquiries that you may be able to help with. If you recognize any of these families, please contact the person making the inquiry. Email addresses have had the @ sign substituted with AT so please keep that in mind.

- I am researching the man **John Gordon, born 1770, S.C. He died in Giles Co. TN in 1834.** His wife's name is in question, either Elizabeth Littleton or Elizabeth Betti McCanless. Children were Elizabeth Gordon who married James Farmer McCanless, Hanna Gordon who married Elijah Alexander, Cassandra Gordon who married John Bunk McCanless, Mary Gordon who married David P. McCanless, Massey Gordon who married James Whyatt Parsons, Catherine H. Gordon who married John Alexander, John P. W. D. Gordon who married Margaret Anderson, Rebecca Gordon who married Elijah goodnight, James M. Gordon who married Mourning M. Rainy. All lived in Giles or Maury Co's. TN. I am descended from Catherine H. Gordon and John Alexander through their son Morgan Lafayette Alexander. Who was John Gordon and who was his father? I am presently searching in S.C. but to no avail. Help is appreciated. Thank you very much.

Christopher Barnes bchrisdebb AT msn.com

- I am seeking information on **John Gordon born about 1665 in Virginia** - married 17 June 1685 in Christ Church Parrish, Middlesex, Virginia to Mary (unknown). I believe his father to be John Gordon or Goding born about 1650 and died about 1678 in Accomack County, Virginia. Any help is appreciated.

James Rudy Gordon

Douglas, Georgia jrudygordon AT yahoo.com

- Looking for info on **Robert Gordon m Ann Shackelton (2nd wife) living in Powhatan Co VA.** He died abt 1803 and she after 1810. I descend from their son John m Eliz. Walthall Nunnally...moved to GA. There was another son Thomas...possibly m Nancy Hatcher. Some surnames of Robert's daughter's marriages are: Matthews, Trent, Shackelton, Dickson. Thomas' daughter's... Weisiger, Bruton, Stratton. Any info would be appreciated.

Hugh Gordon

Acworth, GA Hugh.Gordon AT pioneer-usa.com

- Can you provide any information on a **James Henry Gordon, b. 9/14/1824,** son of Henry Gordon and Mary Robinson Gordon, "probably living at County Chester, England when son came to America." James Henry Gordon was my great grandfather. According to some research done by a late family member, he fought in the Civil War "Corp 'I' 3rd Cavalry. (Third Mass. Volunteer Cavalry, formerly an infantry regiment), if this is any help. Thanks for any light you can shed on this family connection.

Maralyn Gordon Doyle

68 Sutton Road

Newbury, NH 03255

- I am looking for information on my G-G Grandfathers parents. His name was **James Lindsay Gordon B: 1844.** He had a son, **James Debracy Gordon, B: 1865** in Bells Hill. Also a **daughter named Janet.** Can anyone help me? He immigrated to America in 1869, settled in Maryland and then permanently to Western PA.

Tom Gordon jessej1847 AT yahoo.com

- I am still searching for any information of **Joseph and Harrison Gordon** before 1850 in Wayne Co., Ohio. Possibly from PA.? James H. Gordon Wadsworth, Ohio Medina County Thank you.

Jim Gordon GordonJamesHATAOL.com

- My name is

Carole Skeels, and I am a descendant of the Gordon family. I have in my possession, pages of family genealogy and also some stories. The story that baffles me is that, "Alfred Gordon" ran away from home in Scotland. His home was a large estate in Scotland. Remember, this is a family "story" and I don't know if it is true. He had a son, Hugh Gordon Sr, who had a son, Hugh Gordon Jr. I have a list of the children of Hugh Gordon Jr, their birthdates and some other information. I cannot seem to find any information on **Alfred Gordon or Hugh Gordon Sr. Hugh Gordon Jr was married to Sarah Owens**, d/o Nathaniel Owens. Any one have this info? Thanks for the consideration.

Carole Skeels bluegrasscarol AT cableone.net

- Hi, my name is Frank Fisher and am the genealogy researcher for the newly formed Clan MacQuarrie Society. I am looking for information on **Isabell(a) Gordon who married John MacQuarrie and went to New Zealand about 1852**. I need any information available on this couple, John's birth, parents etc., as well as information on Isabell. Isabella Gordon was christened about late 1700s-1816, of Cromdale, Inverallan, Advie, Inverness and was known as Lady Gordon of the House of Gordon. My understanding is that they had a son John McQuarrie married 1st Helen Garrow, 2nd Jane Paterson. John and Jane arrived in New Zealand in 1868. Thank You

Clan MacQuarrie fydf AT worldpath.net

AnTArmBreac Dearg

- My name is Glenn Gordon. I have been trying to piece together my family's Scottish heritage for a few years now. The only lead I had to start me off was a picture of the coat of arms and motto, which lead me to your site where it matched. I can give you the names of the three generations of Gordons above me. They all lived or moved to Iowa. The names: **David Gene Gordon (father), Glenn D. Gordon (grandfather), Lee Gordon (great-grandfather)**. Thank you for your time.

Glenn Gordon lonewolfkcc AT yahoo.com

- My Gordon family started in **Aberdeen, Scotland about 1735 /40 with Thomas R. Gordon and wife Isabel Porter**. They had two boys born in Aberdeen **Thomas Jr and John**. They moved to County Down, Ireland some time after 1766. **Samuel, William, Jane and James** were born County Down, all of the children came to America; William in 1789 or 1790, some before. They came to Washington Co, Pa. Any info on this family greatly appreciated

Paul Gordon Sr. paul.gordon AT mchsi.com

- I am searching for parents of **William Green Gordon, born about 1828 in Maury Co., TN**. His father was born in Virginia. Family stories are that his father or grandfather was overseer of an estate of some sort in VA before coming to Tennessee. William married Matilda Conner (or) and eventually resided in Hickman Co., TN. Their children were William S., John J., George W., Martha F., Charles Marion (my ancestor), Alfred, Ludy, Dimmy, and Nancy.

Barbara Tucker Reed, brjrhomes205 AT comcast.net.

- I have a letter written some time ago stating that my daughter (Katherine M. Dole) descends from **Cora Bell Gordon born February 2, 1885 in Groveland, Massachusetts**. I believe Cora Bell was the daughter of **Charles H. and Mary D. (nee: ?) Gordon**. Charles H. (born 1852 in Massachusetts) was the son of **James and Sarah (nee: Mills?) Gordon**. James Gordon was born about 1826 in England. That is as far back as I have researched so far. Cora Bell Gordon married James Arthur Dole and were my daughter's great-grandparents. Is my daughter any relation to the Clan Gordon in your list? If so, can we exchange more information? (Editor's note Katie will be reporting for training with the Army Reserves next month after graduation from high school! Hoo-Ah Katie for proudly following in the Gordon Tradition of Military Service!)

Jade Passmore jpassmore AT stites.com

A Legacy Redeemed, Sir Cosmo Edmund Duff Gordon



Born July 22, 1862; died April 20, 1931, Sir Cosmo Edmund Duff Gordon was the son of the Honorable Cosmo Lewis Duff Gordon and the former Anna Maria Antrobus. He was the fifth Baronet of Halkin; a title inherited upon the death of his cousin, Sir Maurice Duff Gordon in May 1896. This title from a royal license conferred on his great uncle, Sir James Duff of Cadiz on 12 November 1813 in recognition of his aid to the Crown during the Peninsular War. Sir James having died without issue, the title passed to his nephew, William Gordon son of Anne Duff and her husband Alexander Gordon, Sheriff of Kirkcudbright (b 1739, d 1792,) Lord of Session as Lord Rockville.

Sir William upon inheriting his uncle's title changed his name from Gordon to Duff Gordon and the title passed from him to his son, Sir Alexander Cornewall Duff Gordon and thence to his grandsons in turn, Sir Maurice Duff Gordon (died without male heirs) and Sir Cosmo Edmund Duff Gordon. Sir William Duff

Gordon's father, Alexander Gordon, was the son of William Gordon, 2nd Earl of Aberdeen and his third wife, Anne Gordon, daughter of Alexander, 2nd Duke of Gordon. As is shown in the abbreviated chart of generations below :

- | |
|--|
| 1. William Gordon , 2nd Earl of Aberdeen (1679-1745) = m3. Anne Gordon (d 1791, dau of Alexander, 2nd Duke of Gordon) |
| 2. Alexander Gordon , Sheriff of Kirkcudbright (1739-1792) = Anne Duff (d.1811, dau of William Duff of Crombie) |
| 3. Sir William Gordon , later Duff Gordon, 2nd Bart (1772-1823) = Caroline Cornwall (dau of Sir George Cornwall of Moccas Court) |
| 4. Cosmo Lewis Duff Gordon . (1812-1876) = Anna Maria Antrobus (died 1898) |

Thus Sir Cosmo's lineage goes back on the paternal line through the cadet branch of Haddo to James Gordon (known as of Methlic), third son of John of Scurdargue. And on his maternal line his lineage traces to Elizabeth Gordon of Gordon, wife of Sir Alexander de Seton and daughter of Sir Adam Gordon 1st Chief of the Gordons. So, Sir Cosmo is descended from the progenitors of the Clan Gordon on both of the major lineages. And since his paternal lineage is that of John of Scurdargue his would be identified as the "Jock and Tam" lineage on the Gordon DNA project.

In 1772 his great-uncles, James Duff and William Gordon, founded the Duff Gordon Sherry Bodega in Spain. This sherry is still produced today by the Osborne Group who bought out the Duff Gordon family share of the business at the end of the nineteenth century.

He was sheriff and magistrate in his native Kincardineshire, near Aberdeen, where his country estate Maryculter is located. Maryculter, *pictured right*, is now a hotel, Sir Cosmo being the last Gordon laird, and has a history dating back to the Knights Templar! It was bought in 1811 by William Gordon of Fyvie from John Menzies of Blair, and was the last remaining part of the larger Fyvie Estate which was sold by his cousin Maurice Duff Gordon in 1889 due to financial difficulties forcing him into bankruptcy.





Educated at Radley, he rowed with the college eight and was considered a fine oarsman. He stood about 6'3" and according to his family had a relatively small foot with a high instep which is considered a good sign for an athlete. He had a beautiful singing voice and had been properly trained in Italy, making him a popular guest at many a house party! To his family "Uncle CoCo" was a larger than life character and a genial host. Sir Andrew Duff Gordon says that his father was extremely fond of him and talked constantly about the very happy, active, amusing times he and all the other nephews and nieces (there were a great many!) spent with Uncle Coco at Maryculter ... This country estate was all that was left of the major family estate of Fyvie Castle in Aberdeenshire. An avid fisherman, hunter, marksman, swordsman, and all around athlete, Cosmo was a true country gentleman who preferred by far being on his estate in Scotland than in town. He took great care to teach his nephews to shoot straight, catch a fly ball and also to sing so that they would be able to help entertain his guests at Maryculter. He was not known for his fine seat as an equestrian though and once explained his lack of skill in this area by saying "a Scotsman must leave something for the English to do."

Pictured above: Cosmo Duff Gordon at Maryculter with his nieces, Alex & Olivia Streatfield in August of 1909 by permission of Sir Andrew Duff Gordon.

He apparently enjoyed a sort of forerunner to today's paintball at Maryculter. Outfitting himself and his guests with fencing masks to protect their eyes, they would shoot at each other with wax bullets! They even hunted each other through the woods at Maryculter just as our youth today do in paintball battles! His wax bullet battles were ahead of their time.

Known in society as a prominent Scottish landowner and sportsman, he was a member of the Bath Club (a London Gentleman's Club est. 1894), the Royal Automobile Club (RAC), a board member and student of the Bartitsu Club, and was co-founder of the London Fencing League!

A man of high sporting interests, the RAC gave Sir Cosmo the opportunity to indulge speed, sport and social good all in one fell swoop! Started in 1897 as the Automobile Club of Great Britain and Ireland, King Edward VII's enthusiasm for motoring led to a royal command "that the Automobile Club of Great Britain and Ireland should henceforth be known as The Royal Automobile Club". The RAC organized the 1000 Miles Trial in 1900, and this event more than any other put motoring on the map as far as Britain was concerned. A large number of cars traveled the length and breadth of the country in a reliability trial, which brought home to ordinary people what a "horseless carriage" was and what it could do. In 1905, the Club organized the first Tourist Trophy (TT) race (to date the oldest regularly run race). The Club became the governing body for motor sport in Britain and as such has long had the interests of the private motorist at heart and campaigned vigorously for the 1903 Motor Act, which increased speed limits and removed other restrictive legislation. In 1905, it introduced driving certificates, a responsibility which was not to be taken over by the government for another thirty years.

The Bartitsu Club is particularly intriguing in its influence in modern life! This club taught self defense and physical fitness, and from the outset included classes for females on self defense! Sir Arthur Conan Doyle had his Sherlock Holmes defeat his nemesis Professor Moriarty through his knowledge of "baritsu, or Japanese wrestling" which although misspelled was a clear reference to the Bartitsu Club's form of self defense. It may very well have been the first commercial martial arts school in the Western world. Founded by E.W. Barton-Wright, from his own extensive studies of various forms of self defense, Bartitsu including boxing, wrestling, fencing, savate, the use of the stiletto, and the study of three different jujitsu

ryu (schools): the Shinden-Fudo Ryu under sensei Terajima Kuniichiro in Kobe, the Tenshin-Shinyo Ryu at a dojo in Yokohama, and Kodokan Jujitsu, possibly with Kano Jigoro, in Tokyo. Bartitsu was geared specifically towards the problems of self defense in an urban, industrialized society. Bartitsu was conceptually divided into a series of four ranges, those of the stick, the foot, the fist, and of close-combat. Practitioners were encouraged to become familiar with the four major martial arts taught at the Club, each of which corresponded with one of the four ranges, and to develop enough proficiency that they could use any one style against the other if need be. He brought in a high profile list of "champions" to teach: from Switzerland came Pierre Vigny, a highly experienced master-at-arms and innovator in self defense instruction, teaching the skills of la boxe Francaise (French kickboxing or savate) and his own idiosyncratic method of la canne (walking-stick fighting). Tani Yukio and Uyenishi Sadakazu introduced their students to the mysteries of jujitsu. A Swiss all-in wrestler named Armand Cherpillod ran classes in Svingen (traditional Swiss wrestling). In addition to these worthies, the Club was home to a cabal of fencer/historians led by Egerton Castle and Captain Alfred Hutton, who were devoted to re-constructing the ancient arts of fencing with the rapier and dagger and two-handed sword, and who also taught stage fencing classes to some of London's acting elite. An avid student of Cherpillod, Sir Cosmo was often to be found on the wrestling mats! But it was his skill at fencing that Sir Cosmo was most renowned.

A Co-founder of the London Fencing Club and a tournament coordinator for the International Fencing League, he was one of the most active amateur fencers in Great Britain. Sir Cosmo Duff Gordon was the most celebrated of the four member Silver Medal Epee Team in the 1906 Olympics in Athens, with the press referring to him as "the finest dueler" in England, and "England's most famous fencer." The 1906 British epee team of four consisted of Lord Desborough, Sir Cosmo Duff Gordon, Bart., Edgar Seligman and C. Newton-Robinson, with Lord Howard de Walden and Theodore Cook as reserves (the latter acting as captain of the team). According to the Encyclopaedia Britannica 1911 edition, the team first defeated the Germans "rather easily", then "opposed and worsted the Belgians." It goes on to say, the epee team, "found itself matched against the French in the final, the Greek team having been beaten by the French and the Dutch eliminated by the Belgians. After a very close fight the result was officially declared a tie. This was the first occasion upon which an English fencing team had encountered a French one of the first rank upon even terms. In fighting off the tie, however, the French were awarded the first prize and the Englishmen the second." Sir Andrew Duff Gordon, Cosmo's great-nephew, stated that "he had less hits scored against him than any other player. Moreover he only had one eye, having lost the other in a shooting accident. Incidentally he shot very well with a gun whose stock had been specially cast for him." (He lost an eye in a shooting accident from the gun of a careless neighbor.)

He was also a member of the 1908 Olympic Team and Cosmo's achievements are included in several old epee-play books. It seems that his idea for his version of paintball may have come from the 1908 London Olympics where apparently he participated in a shooting exhibition where they fired wax bullets at each other.

Randy Bryan Bigham, author of a soon to be published biography on Lady Lucy Duff Gordon, writes:

In 1908, Cosmo was made captain of the British team after its success in Athens in '06, being appointed by Lord Desborough who founded the group. Cosmo still held that position until just prior to the '08 games, at which time, following the lead of Desborough, who had since become head of the British Olympic Association, he removed himself from participation in individual and team competition, joining the reserve team as captain. A "Sporting and Dramatic News" article stated that the decision was "administrative," and another report said that it was to avoid a "conflict of interest, implying that Cosmo held some position within the Olympic Association. I haven't been able to verify that yet but it's clear that Cosmo remained an active member of the team for some time. He was still active in fencing circles for several years (at least as late as 1918). Except for the loss of his right eye, (*in a gun accident*) which really doesn't seem to have slowed him down any, he was in top physical shape until after 1912, when he started to put on a little weight. Cosmo was on

the reserves in 1908, so obviously he was prepared to compete, and he was still officially part of the team, despite his new "non-competition" duties.

Today the Duff Gordon family still has some of his games' score sheets as well as his medal, according to one relative, and I know from my own interviews with his great nephew that the family took much pride in his accomplishments as an athlete. He was an expert fly fisherman and hunter.



London 1908

(From left to right) Captain MacDonnell, W. Bean, and Sir Cosmo Duff Gordon attend the 1908 London Olympics armed with dueling pistols. Not a shot was fired in sport or anger, though the event was included in the Stockholm Games of 1912.

Photo Reproduced by kind permission of Sir Andrew Duff Gordon.

A rather obscure French source notes that Sir Cosmo was with the Olympic Games of London in 1908 as part of the "committee of official for the tests of fencing." Whether it was meant that he tested the athletes or the epees themselves or both was not clear in this reference. What is clear by all accounts of the time, Cosmo Duff Gordon was the darling of British Sporting Society, and well respected in political and business circles as well.

His fine reputation in business put him in the way of Lucy Sutherland Wallace who had started the couture shop, "Maison Lucile," in London 1894. She had been left nearly penniless after divorcing an abusive husband in 1888. In order to support herself and her daughter Esme, she set up shop in London. The business was a success but feeling she was not skilled in financial matters, Lucy took on Sir Cosmo Duff Gordon as a partner in a shrewd business move. In 1900 they were married.

By 1900 the firm had become one of the great couture houses of London under the name 'The Maison Lucile.' Her clientele included Margot Asquith and the Duchess of York (later Queen Mary). In 1907 she costumed the London production of Franz Lehár "The Merry Widow," Her fashion house was the first to use fashion models (at that time called mannequins) and have runway shows. She introduced the slit skirt to ease walking and she coined the word "chic." In 1910 she opened a branch of Lucile Ltd. in New York. A further salon was established in Paris in 1912. That spring, urgent business forced her to take passage on the first available ship to New York, and as Sir Cosmo would be traveling with her (something he rarely did) and wanting to avoid publicity she booked passage for them under the name Mr. & Mrs. Morgan (and maid) on the Titanic. They boarded at Cherbourg, Sir Cosmo occupying cabin A-16 and Lady Duff Gordon and her secretary Laura Francatelli, known as Franks, occupying cabin A-20. The aftermath of the sinking of the Titanic left the couple with damaged reputations as newsmen, politicians, lawyers and the public looked to point blaming fingers.

In her autobiography *Discretions and Indiscretions* Lady Duff Gordon recalled the voyage.

"The first days of the crossing were uneventful. Like everyone else I was entranced by the beauty of the liner. I had never dreamed of sailing in such luxury ... my pretty little cabin, with its electric heater and pink curtains, delighted me, so that it was a pleasure to go to bed. Everything about this lovely ship reassured me."

"I remember that last meal on Titanic very well. We had a big vase of beautiful daffodils on the table, which were as fresh as if they had just been picked. Everyone was very gay, and at a neighbouring table people were making bets on the probable time of this record breaking run. Various opinions were put forward, but none dreamed that Titanic would make her harbour that night ... "

"I had been in bed for about an hour and the lights were all out, when I was awakened by a funny, rumbling noise. It was like nothing I had ever heard before. It seemed as if some giant hand had been playing bowls, rolling the great balls along. Then the boat stopped."

Lucy woke Cosmo and sent him to find out what had happened. After going topside and inquiring, he came back and told her and her secretary, Miss Francatelli, to dress warmly and put on their life jackets, and after dressing himself he met them on deck. At that point life boat 7 had just finished being filled and was lowered almost immediately upon their arrival. The ladies refused several invitations to get into boats 7, 5 & 3 without Sir Cosmo. Some men then tried to pull Lady Gordon away and put her and Miss Francatelli into lifeboat 3. However the ladies clung to Sir Cosmo and refused to leave him.

Emergency Boat 1 was now being prepared for launching. Finding themselves the only passengers now at the station, Sir Cosmo approached 1st Officer Murdoch and asked if they might get into the boat. Murdoch replied that he would be pleased if they would and the three of them were then tossed up into the boat by crew. Two other passengers, Mr. Stengle and Mr. Solomon, were put in as the boat was being lowered. With only five passengers and seven crew men the boat was put off with only 12 people aboard. Oars, masts, sail, boat hooks and other emergency equipment were littering the thwarts in the small boat leaving little room for the passengers, and Lucy had to sit behind Cosmo as there wasn't room for her with him on the seat. As soon as the boat was in the water the crew rowed quickly away from the ship. Lucy became violently ill and Sir Cosmo was kept busy caring for her. At some point after the ship went down, one of the seamen commented to Sir Cosmo that they had lost everything and would not be able to replace it as their wages stopped the moment the ship went down. The thought so appalled Sir Cosmo that he offered to help them replace their kit. After they had been rescued by the *Carpathia*, he instructed Miss Francatelli to draw up seven checks in the amount of £5.00, the amount of one month's wage, for each of the seamen in their boat. His kind generosity came back to haunt him.

Emergency Boat 1 designated with a capacity of 40 was sensationalized as "The Millionaire's Boat." One highly publicized story from the *New York Times* quotes Titanic Fireman Harry Senior "I saw the first boat lowered. Thirteen people were on board, eleven men and two women. Three were millionaires and one was Ismay." Another account by two seamen claimed:

"Ismay, with his two daughters and a millionaire, Sir Cosmo Duff Gordon and the latter's family got into the first accident or emergency boats, which are about twenty-eight feet long and were always ready for lowering under the bridge. The boat in which Ismay and Sir Cosmo left was manned by seven seamen. There were seventeen persons in the boat.

"This boat pulled away from the ship a half hour before any of the lifeboats were put into the water.

"There were thirteen first-class passengers and five sailors in the emergency boat.

Both boats were away from the ship within ten or fifteen minutes of the ship's crashing into the berg."

When it was pointed out the two men were in separate boats, the story now involved both emergency boats. When questioned how the two boats could be put over without being rushed by passengers the seamen stated:

"Ismay and those who left in the two emergency boats occupied cabins de luxe. The two boats were swinging from davits ready for lowering. We have no idea who notified Mr. Ismay and his friends to make ready to leave the ship, but we do know that the boats in which they were got away first."

In fact Cosmo and Mr. Ismay did not know each other and had never had conversation. Both boats the two men were in were among the last launched. Despite the fact that 192 male crew men, 75 third class male passengers, 14 second class male passengers and 55 other first class male passengers survived the sinking of the Titanic, only J. Bruce Ismay and Sir Cosmo Duff Gordon were vilified in the press as cowards for surviving. Only the "Millionaire Boat" and Sir Cosmo were demonized for not going back to help those in the water, despite the fact that only two of the 20 boats did. Only 14 people were pulled from the water and only 7 of those lived. Of those seven, Rosa Abbott (3rd class) was the only passenger, the other six were crew.



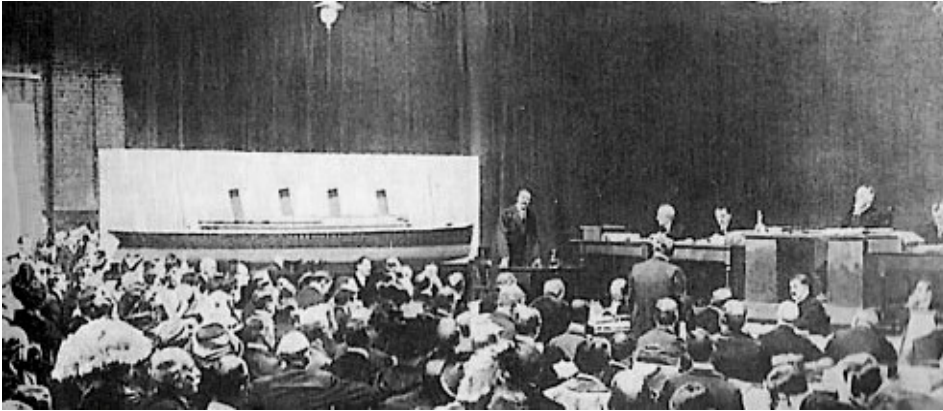
Pictured Left: Survivors of Titanic's Emergency Boat 1 taken on the Carpathia.

Back row: George Symmons, Henry Stengel, Sir Cosmo holding Lucy Duff Gordon, Laura Francatelli, Abraham Salomon, Charles Hendrickson

Seated: Robert Pusey, A.E.J. Horswell, Samuel Collins, Frederick Sheath (order not sure)

To make matters worse, a "friend" of Lady Duff Gordon printed a highly inventive narrative of the night of the sinking purported to be written and signed by her. This article which was picked up on the news wire and reprinted all over the world claimed that the Titanic had sailed among the ice fields for some time and that a number of bergs were spotted early that evening. Another claim in the bogus article was that the last thing heard as the shrieks died down after the sinking was a man calling loudly "My God! My God!" Further, rumors that she had protested the idea of going back to look for survivors for fear of being swamped or capsized, and that Sir Cosmo had bribed the seamen to appease her painted a damning picture. A group photo taken of the survivors of boat one on the deck of the Carpathia was played up as Sir Cosmo's private crew by the press further damaging his reputation. During the inquiries conducted in England, Sir Cosmo and Lady Duff Gordon were the only passengers called to the witness stand.

Cosmo appeared dressed in a black frock coat and striped trousers, Lucy wore a black dress with a white jabot and a black veiled hat. Several of Cosmo's friends came to lend the couple their support including Prince Leopold of Battenburg, Prince Albert of Schleswig-Holstein, Count Bendkendorff, the Russian Ambassador and Lord Clarendon.



Left: Sir Cosmo Duff Gordon gives testimony at the British Court of Inquiry 20 May 1912

There were no legal grounds upon which to attack Sir Cosmo. Questioning of Sir Cosmo was contentious and brutal with the attorneys for the unions and the third class passengers attacking him on a moral level determined to play up the class issue and exploit the front against the aristocracy that the press had put forward. Although George Symmons, the ranking crew man in the boat, had taken responsibility for the actions of the men in the boat, Sir Cosmo was implicated by innuendo. He had failed to live up to the public's expectation of noblesse oblige, and was damned simply for being aristocratic and alive when so many of "lesser station" had perished. Ironically he was equally damned for doing what he felt was his aristocratic duty by helping out the crew men who were less fortunate than he. Headlines screamed against him, and painted him as a blackguard who bought his way onto the lifeboat and then prevented the crew from rowing back to save those in the water. The New York Times severely criticized London's fashionable for attending the inquiry and described his appearance as "looking remarkably like the Kaiser in appearance," and went on to describe his body language as guilty and anxious. He was harshly questioned and criticized for taking space in the emergency boat when so many women died. His testimony and that of the passengers (in affidavits and press interviews) was that there were no other women at the station to be put into boats and that other boats were loaded with men when all women in the area had been boarded. In fact, the boats which the Gordons witnessed being loaded bear this out. Life boat 7 which was the first the Gordons saw being lowered held 11 female passengers, 12 male passengers and 3 crew men. Boat 5 held 15 female passengers, 1 male child, 14 male passengers and 3 male crew men. And boat 3 held 10 female passengers, 1 male child, 12 male passengers and 5 male crew men. In each instance the male occupants outnumber the women and children. In the end Lord Mercy had to correct the attorneys for the union and 3rd class passengers in their quotes and questioning of Sir Cosmo and rebuke them for assuming facts that had not been proved, putting a negative "gloss" on his recollections of prior statements of the witnesses, and asking questions which were not "fair" to the witness. He further rebuked the attorney for the third class passengers saying:

"Your duty is to assist me. Not to try to make out a case for this class or that class or another class, but to assist me in arriving at the truth; and you do not do it by trying to make out a case against one person or another; it does not help me a bit."

The final report of the commission as issued by Lord Mercy included this statement:

"An attack was made in the course of the Enquiry on the moral conduct of two of the passengers, namely, Sir Cosmo Duff Gordon and Mr. Bruce Ismay. It is no part of the business of the Court to enquire into such matters, and I should pass them by in silence if I did not fear that my silence might be misunderstood. The very gross charge against Sir Cosmo Duff Gordon that, having got into No. 1 boat he bribed the men in it to row away from the drowning people is unfounded. (Duff Gordon, 12586 et seq.) I have said that the members of the crew in that boat might have made some attempt to save the people in the water, and that such an attempt would probably have been successful; but I do not believe that the men were de-

tered from making the attempt by any act of Sir Cosmo Duff Gordon's. At the same time I think that if he had encouraged to the men to return to the position where the "Titanic" had foundered they would probably have made an effort to do so and could have saved some lives."



Left: Sir Cosmo Duff Gordon, Miss Laura Francatelli, and Lady Lucy Duff Gordon exiting a rear door at Scottish Hall following their testimony at the Inquiry on May 20, 1912.

This final sentence of censure perpetuated the rumors and blame attached to Sir Cosmo and until recently history has unjustly branded him the greatest coward and blackguard of the pre-WWI era. He was subsequently blackballed from his clubs in London, and lived a reclusive life until his death in 1931 socializing with a small circle of family and friends.

Although Sir Cosmo and Lady Duff Gordon did take legal action to clear their names, he never recovered from the tragedy, and as Sir Andrew says, "spent more and more time in Scotland or abroad and became a rather sad and lonely figure - having been such a great extrovert."

With the finding of the Titanic in 1985 and subsequent dives on the boat our understanding of the events of the night she sank has greatly changed. The analysis of data obtained after the 2005 expedition put forward a fairly conclusive theory on the break-up of the Titanic. It was shown that the Titanic broke in two stages from the top down and then catastrophically from the bottom up. This failure of the double bottom hull meant that the ship broke at a much shallower angle and much faster than thought before. It would account for the apparent attitudes of the crew on board with regards to loading and launching the boats under capacity, and of the passengers thinking it was safer onboard than on the life boats. They

would have thought that the ship would float for several more hours. Understanding of the challenges that night has improved as well, and it is estimated that the average person would not have survived more than 15-20 minutes in the water. Given the darkness of the night and distance the boats had rowed from the ship, it would have been hard to find and rescue many in that short time. The davit from which Emergency Boat 1 was launched has been located and photographed still swung out, and even the Celtic designed etched glass privacy screen that Sir Cosmo Duff Gordon looked at every night in his cabin.



Lifeboat davit 1 is still swung out as if ready to lower another boat.

More import to Sir Cosmo's reputation was the May 2007 auction of Miss Francatelli's life jacket along with the letter she wrote to her family upon her arrival in New York and a copy of her affidavit submitted to Lord Mercy. Headlines worldwide proclaimed the redemption of his legacy, and widely quoted her:

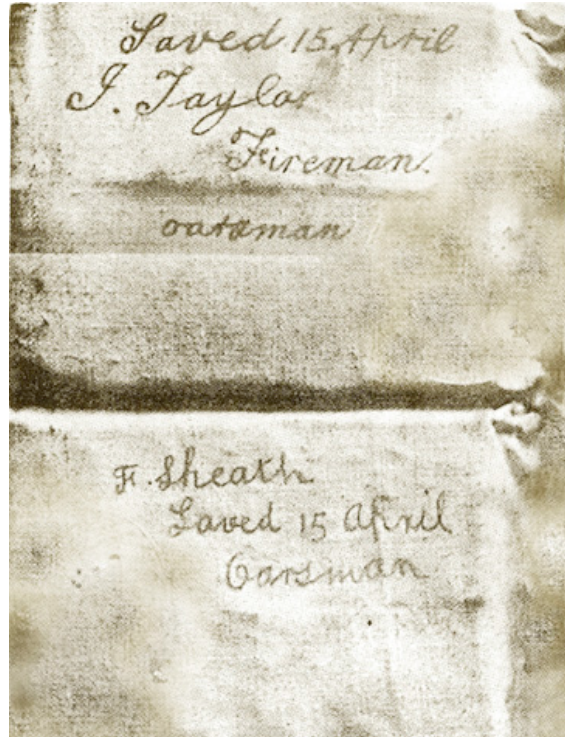
"We walked to the end of the boat and they were letting down the last lifeboat on our side and calling for anymore (sic) women, and pulled at us, but we clung on to Sir Cosmo and said we would not go without him, so they lowered the boat.

Presently there was a little boat at the end, what they called the emergency boat, the officers standing there told some stokers to man the boat and no other women were there, so Sir Cosmo asked if we could get in, and we said we would if he could come.

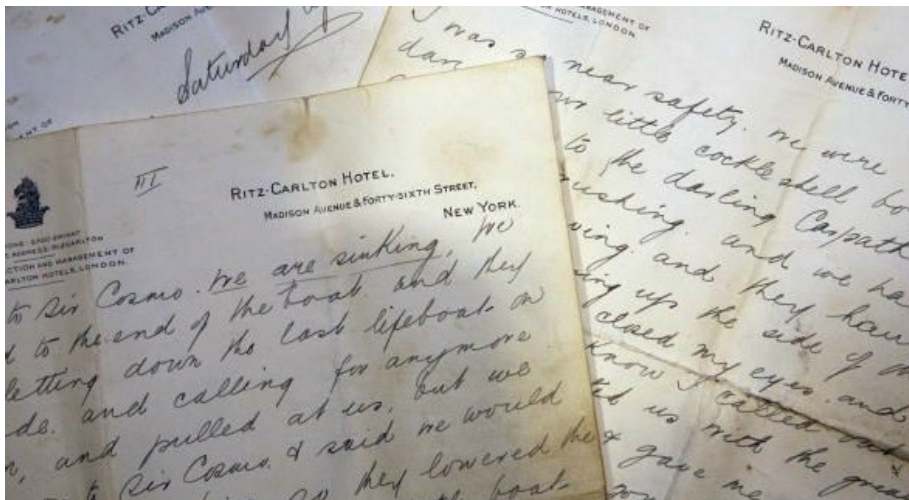
"The dear officers let us, and we were dropped into this boat, then they let it down to the water. That sensation I cannot describe, and what was worse, it got caught up at one side and nearly hurled us all into the water."

"...we went down into the blackness of the water. Which never shall I forget. There wasn't a light, or a lamp in the boat...We rowed away from the ship, which was sinking fast so to get away from the swell or suksion (sic). Then all the rest is too terrible for me to write. The screams of the hundreds of dear women, children and

the bravest of men fighting in the icy cold waves, I still hear."



"Oh, you cannot imagine anything more terrible, than a ship wreck at the dead of night that most beautiful and wonderful boat like a floating town sinking so quickly. I watched the whole of it from our little boat and saw all the lights go out, and the very last of her, then the terrible explosion of rumbling, followed by the cries and screams of the hundreds all in the water..."



Above right: Laura Francatelli's Life Jacket.

Above: detail from Lucy Duff Gordon's life jacket (now lost)

Below: Letter from Miss Francatelli to her then future husband, Max Haering.

"And as far as returning back to the ship, it would have been extremely dangerous for them to have gone back. The boat could have easily turned over. The survival time in the water was less than 15 minutes. It was so cold that, if it were fresh water, the water would have fully frozen."

"We prayed all night, and at daybreak we saw a boat in sight, about 5 miles away. They rowed like mad, and we [were] picked up at 6 o'clock in the morning. Our lit-

the cockle shell boat coming up to the darling Carpathia the water was rushing and we had to sit on a rope swing and they hauled me up... I just closed my eyes and clung tight.

In her affidavit she disproves the accusations against Sir Cosmo regarding his supposed bribing of the men to row away from the screams. She stated that going back for survivors was never discussed and that Duff Gordon had given the men money because he felt they had not received their full dues for the rescue mission, and did not instruct her to do so until 16 April, the day after they were rescued by the Carpathia.

His family has always remembered him as "a courageous, honourable, generous, witty example of a fine Scot," and his wife wrote of him, "I loved him very dearly and although we disagreed as all lovers do sometimes, he never once failed me in all the years of our marriage. His was the rare gift of understanding which pardons everything." Thanks to this highly publicized auction at Christie's, Sir Cosmo's reputation has finally been restored and his legacy as a great sportsman, businessman, kind and generous gentleman, and loving family man can be again fully appreciated.

Sources:

Sir Andrew Duff Gordon

British Olympic Association

Randy Bryan Bigham

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http://dsc.discovery.com/news/2007/04/05/titanic_his_02.html?category=history&quid=20070405123030

The Sinking of the Titanic: Eyewitness Accounts by Jay Henry Mowbray

Titanic: Women And Children First by Judith Geller



Gravesite of Cosmo and Lucy Duff Gordon

Tartan Day & Beltane... A Gordon's Perspective (Kevin Gordon that is!)

Originally printed in the St. Louis St. Andrews Society newsletter, Thistle Times.

The 6th of April was designated National Tartan Day by House Resolution 41 in March of 2005. This followed a similar Senate resolution (155) which passed in 1998. While purists may consider the 2005 date as the founding of Tartan Day, many consider the Senate resolution in 1998 the actual founding of Tartan Day. In any case, many Tartan Day events across the country were held between 1998 and 2005.

The purpose of the day is to recognize the contributions Americans of Scottish ancestry have made to this country. The date of April 6 was chosen to commemorate the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath. This document declaring Scottish independence was signed on the 6th of April in 1320. Over three centuries later, America's Declaration of Independence would be modeled in part, from the Scottish document.

The Missouri Tartan Day was first proclaimed for 2000 in April 2000. In 2001 Governor Holden made it permanent by proclaiming that year and all future April 6s as Missouri Tartan Day. The MO Day Celebration is held at Frontier Park in St. Charles on the weekend prior to April 6th. This year's event will be April 4, 5 and 6.

While those of us of Scottish heritage in the US are familiar with Tartan Day, many others are still unaware and it is time to fight the ignorance and educate the masses! Wear your kilt, a tartan button, a tartan scarf, or just a piece of tartan ribbon. Pass out copies of the Declaration of Arbroath to all your fellow employees. Bring shortbread to work (not to pass out of course, it's too good for that)! Remind all of the countless contributions to America made by those of Scottish descent. Point out that St. Patrick, who they all seem to know and claim kinship with, was born in Scotland. Show them on the map where the Island of Scotland is and remember to point out the largest city in Southern Scotland, London. Remind them that Sherlock Holmes, the

Bank of England, the telephone, the fax, the television, whisky (not whiskey), Peter Pan, the thermos and even the decimal point are all Scottish. Even King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table are Scottish (while some dispute this, they are just simply wrong!).

And when they ask why you act the way you do, stand on your desk and proudly proclaim "as long as but a hundred of us remain alive, never will we on any conditions be brought under English rule. It is in truth not for glory, nor riches, nor honors that we are fighting, but for freedom -- for that alone, which no honest man gives up but with life itself." Then invite your co-workers to treat you to a single malt after work. After all, they owe it to you, it's your day.

Speaking of it being your day, on a more personal note there is Beltane. According to what I read the Celtic year was based on both solar and lunar cycle. The holiday was most likely celebrated on the full moon "nearest the midpoint between the vernal equinox and the summer solstice. The astronomical date for this midpoint is closer to May 5 or May 7. Since the 5th is my birthday, I'll go with that. After all I already claim all that food and drink consumed on Cinco de Mayo is in celebration of my birth. Hey, it works for me.

Beltane is known by many names, May Day, May Eve, Walpurgis Night (that's a mouth full). According to wikipedia, the word is Irish and is pronounced [ˈbɑːlˌtʃɪn]. I can't say that pronunciation key really helps me much! Of course I'm a Midwesterner who puts an "r" in wash so what do I know. I'm going with Beltane, as in "belt" that I wear around my waist and "ane" as in "pane". Beltane is a festival that was historically celebrated in the Isle of Man, Ireland and Scotland. It was the beginning of the summer season when livestock herds were driven out to grazing lands.

The meaning of the word is generally accepted to be "bright fire" because generally a fire was involved in the celebration. In addition to a central fire, tradition involved the hanging of May boughs on doors and windows of houses. People would throw juniper on the fire for purification and bless-

ing and folks would pass between 2 fires as an element of purification.

Edward Dwelly, who lived from 1864-1939 was a Scottish Gaelic lexicographer. For those not familiar, a lexicographer is a person who compiles a dictionary. I'm not providing that tidbit of information because you are uneducated and needed my assistance in achieving a new level of enlightenment. No, I had to look it up and figured I might as well share it with all!

According to Dwelly in 1911, and I quote, "In many parts of the highlands, the young folks of the district would meet on the moors on May. They cut a table in the green sod, of a round figure, by cutting a trench in the ground of sufficient circumferences to hold the whole company. They then kindled a fire, dressed a repast of eggs and milk of the constituency of custard. They kneaded a cake of oatmeal, which was toasted at the embers against a stone. After the custard was eaten, they divided the cake into, as many portions as there were people in the company, as much alike as possible in size and shape. They daubed one of the pieces with charcoal, till it was black all over, and they were then all put into a bonnet together, and each one blindfolded took out a portion. The bonnet holder was entitled to the last bit, and whoever drew the black bit was the person who was compelled to leap three times over the flames. Some people say this was originally to appease a god, whose favor they tried to implore by making the year productive."

So on May 1, light a fire in your fireplace or in a fire pit in the back yard. Raise your single malt and hail Beltane. And on May 5, don't forget to raise you glass and wish me another happy birthday. After all, in the great words of the Scots, "They talk of my drinking but never my thirst."

Kevin lives in southwest IL and retired in 2005 after 25 years in law enforcement, holding the position of Chief of Police and the rank of Colonel. He presently teaches law enforcement classes for both high school and universities. Since 1995, Kevin and his brother Kim have ensured the Gordon's had a presence on the web at www.houseofgordon.com Kevin can be contacted at kevin@houseofgordon.com or kevin@kgordon.com

In The House!

Haggis Chili Anyone?

Submitted by Sarah Gardenhire, North Carolina

To start with you need to make Haggis:

Now I was born and raised on home fed beef and have never hurt a little wooly sheep. When God made those critters, he never made enough mint jelly to drown the flavor of lamb.

Being that as it is, lamb has never graced my table. So I make haggis out of Beef. I have tried pork.... Best to stay with Beef.

INGREDIENTS

3 lb of Ground Round or Sirloin (Sirloin has a richer flavor)
1 medium Onion finely chopped
1cup Scottish Oatmeal
16 oz of beef stock
1/2 tsp each of salt and pepper
1/2 to 1 teaspoon of nutmeg (to taste)
Edible Collagen Casings for Fresh or Smoked Sausage (32mm (1-1/8") soaked in water

Mix in a bowl.

Put in a Sausage Stuffer and fill the casings with the mixture. Tie off ends and you have a sort of haggis. You can boil or bake the sausages for about 30 to 40 minutes. Take out and let stand till cool.

Now for the chili

2 16 oz cans of red kidney beans
2 16 oz cans of small red beads
1 medium onion chopped
2 8oz cans of tomato sauce
1 8oz of water

Seasonings, 1 tsp each of salt pepper, Lawry's, Onion Powder, Garlic Powder

Brown onions and haggis (chopped and cubed) together, then add chili ingredients and bring to boil then reduce to a simmer for 2 hours. Season more to taste if needed.

Serve with Cheese and crackers

This is always a hit at the games!

Sausage Stuffer and Casings can be bought from Bass Pro Outfitters.

AGM Agenda

- Call to Order
- Reports:
 - President's Report by John Lowry on the progress made since last July regarding the filing as a 501c3 non-profit organization and other goals set out at the AGM in 2007.
 - Treasurer's Report on the funds received, paid-out and financial state of the organization.
 - Membership Report by Nellie Lowry
 - Convener's Chair Report by Roger Mills
 - Communications Chair Report by Lois Todd
- Items of Business:
 - Choice of Fiscal Year 2009 Scottish Charity(ies) presented for discussion and vote.
 - Gordon 2010 Trip to Scotland
 - Choice of 2009 and 2010 AGM Venue discussed and voted upon.
 - Question of a House of Gordon Life Membership being researched for presentation on 2008 AGM Agenda being presented for discussion and vote.
 - Selection of a Nominating Committee for selection of slate of officers for 2009 AGM elections.
 - Conclude old business on support of Gordon DNA Project
 - Accept Charles O. Gordon Scholarship Applications and grant one or more scholarships at AGM.
 - Call for any other new business to be discussed and motions to their disposition as it may pertain.
- Meeting Adjourned

Membership Report

The House of Gordon USA now has over 566 members!

Since reorganizing in 2006 our membership has been growing by leaps and bounds! This time last year we had grown to a membership of 365 and have added over 200 new members this past year! **That represents a 155% increase in membership in 2007 and still growing!** Our family is alive and kicking and with your help ready to move onto the forefront of the clan organizations.

A number of members renewed at the beginning of this year and the rest are receiving a dues reminder with this newsletter.

Dues must be received before July 1 to be able to vote in the AGM at Grandfather Mountain.

Thanks to all for their prompt attention.

***Fàilte!* To Our New Members !**

Arizona has been very actively adding new members including: Stuart B. Hollingshead, Valerie Randall, Phillip B. Todd II, Christina M. Glover, Don & Elaine Crizer, Crystal Cook, Sandra Medcalf, Sarah Medcalf, Moira DeVault, Bill Waterworth, and Michelle Laurie

Others include:

AL - William L. Gordon

CA- Stephen Mallett, Clint Waugh, John E Ficken, Larry Wertman

GA - Turpin Ballard

ME - Jean Swan

MI - Donna Addison

MO - David W. Gordon, Moir B Stevens

PA - Nancy Etchison Newcomer

SC - Charlotte Riddle

TN - Timothy B. Morgan

UT - Matthew Nielsen

VA - James Rudy Gordon

WA - David Lee & Mary Ann Gordon

Proxy Ballot
House of Gordon USA Annual General Meeting
Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, Linville, NC July 12, 2008

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

- (1) To Vote on whether or not to adopt a life membership
- (2) To Select a Nominating Committee for the 2009 Elections
- (3) Scottish Charity, Gordon DNA Fund, 2009 & 2010 AGM Venues
- (4) To accept applications for and grant the (one or more) Charles O. Gordon Scholarship(s)
- (5) To discuss such other business as may properly come before the meeting

VOTING BY PROXY Please submit the Proxy as soon as possible so that your opinions may be voiced at the meeting in accordance with your instructions. The Proxy must be received by July 1, 2008 at the address shown below. You may submit your Proxy (1) by mail, or (2) over the internet (by attaching a signed pdf Proxy to GordonCEO@aol.com).

I, _____ being a member in good standing of the **House of Gordon USA**, do hereby waive my right to appear in person at the AGM, scheduled for July 12, 2008, and further grant a proxy to _____ to vote on my behalf on such matters as may be required.

- 1. I instruct my Proxy to use their best judgment on all matters which properly come before the membership at the AGM.
- 2. I instruct my proxy to bring forward the following business before the membership for consideration:

This Proxy must be signed and received by July 1, 2008.

Date _____ **Signature** _____

Membership Number (if known) _____

Mail to: House of Gordon USA 9654 Kessler Avenue, Chatsworth CA 91311

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Gordon's In The House!

