



# In The House!

National Newsletter of the House of Gordon USA

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Lois Todd, Editor

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## Culloden Visitor Center

On April 16, 1746 at Culloden the site of the last pitched battle on British soil saw the culmination of Bonnie Prince Charlie's famous Jacobite uprising.

This year the National Trust for Scotland will open a stunning new visitor center at Culloden, complete with a large exhibition offering in-depth analysis of the events surrounding the battle and the aftermath.

Culloden is the largest project undertaken by the Trust and reflects the huge impact the Battle of Culloden had on the course of world history. The project involves restor-

ing the Battlefield to how it looked in 1746 and constructing a state-of-the-art visitor center with interactive exhibition.

The building has been named as a project of 'international significance' by the Scottish Executive and has received £3,750,000 in support from them along with The European Regional Development Fund - £2,300,000, HIE Inverness & East Highland - £350,000 and Bòrd na Gàidhlig - £220,000. Together with £800,000 pledged by The National Trust for Scotland and an international fundraising campaign of £1,950,000, the total project cost is £9,370,000.



The House of Gordon USA is participating in the building of the center by sponsoring a Stone in the Culloden Walk.



**Continued on Page 3.**

## Lifetime Service Award

Evelyn Gordon was given the Lifetime Service Award at the AGM held at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games on July 14, 2007.

Evelyn has given of her time graciously for a lifetime, and her service has blessed us all. She had this to say about the honor:

"You were so sweet and thoughtful to present me the tribute of service at the Gordon picnic here in July. I didn't do any more than many others and merely

basked in the glory of Charley and Lu, and enjoyed every minute of it! I was both pleased and surprised but more pleased! So thank you for a very special recognition.

"I am so happy to see the House of Gordon pass on to your capable leadership. And do thank you for all the support you gave Lu. Charley would be pleased with the bright future you promise. Thank you personally and for all the Gordons for all you do."



## President's Corner



### Holiday Greetings, Gordons!

No, I am not shying away from wishing you a most blessed and holy Christmas season but there are so many more holidays I want to include in my brief remarks to you. Samhain (the Gaelic New Year) was just celebrated and we hope your

Thanksgiving was a warm and wonderful family time together. St. Andrew's Day—a day when we remember the Patron Saint of Scotland—is only a few days away as we write this; Christmas on the 25<sup>th</sup> and New Year's Eve and Day coincide with the very popular Scottish holiday—Hogmanay. In times past, and even today, Hogmanay is the holiday of choice for many Scots. They tell us that Edinburgh's Hogmanay celebration may be the biggest ever with hundreds of thousands of revelers attending. Don't you wish you could be there?!

If you can hold off for a while, we will be organizing another Gordon Tour of Scotland for the summer of 2010. That sounds like a long way off but remember—it is almost 2008! We plan to incorporate some days in Ireland with that tour since many of us—like it or not—have very important Irish connections. Many displaced Scots spent years or even generations in Ireland before eventually heading off for Australia, New Zealand or the New World in North America. Inter-marriage with the beautiful people of Ireland was inevitable (my own dear grandmother, Mattie Hodges, among them)!

**Some of the best news I have to report to you concerns my recent exchanges with our Chief, the Marquis of Huntly, Granville Gordon.** He had intended to send greetings to you all to be shared at Grandfather Mountain and wants you to know he is pleased with the progress we have made in arranging House of Gordon USA into a working Clan Society (take a bow all you who have slaved to make this happen)! We discussed our memories of Charles O. Gordon and the impact this man had upon our lives and Granville is happy to hear that we have named our Scholarship fund in Charley O's memory. On that note, I am pleased to report that a special Scholarship to honor the memory of past FL Convener Tom Gordon has been granted to Adriel Yaryan of the City of Charleston Police Pipes and Drums. Adriel's mom is of the proud Mills sept of Gordon. Congratulations, Adriel!

With limited activity in the Scotland House of Gordon, Granville still hopes to have a Clan tent at The Gathering <http://www.clangathering.org/> in 2009. Of course, he

would appreciate as many as can come over to assist. Weighing one against the other, we are still leaning toward a 2010 Tour but wish we could attend ALL such functions! The Chief says he will be pleased to greet us again whenever we can travel to the Aboyne Games and visit at his nearby Aboyne Castle home. Having been a member of the House of Lords for so long, the Chief's thoughts are still very closely tied to his feelings for a stronger Scotland and we applaud him for that! Hail to the Chief and we hope to see you soon!

In other parts of the world, the House of Gordon is doing extremely well. Glenyss O'Halloran and her New Zealand House set a high mark for the rest of us to follow. She and Jim stay incredibly busy with Clan activities as they move toward their busy Games season there in the Southern Hemisphere. Glenyss wonders if they are a little "touched in the attic" for continuing to stay so busy to which we say absolutely not. The NZ Gordons are fortunate to have such dynamic leadership among them! Ken Gordon in Australia is, likewise, gearing up while Canada, like ourselves, is settling down for a little peace and quiet in these winter weeks ahead.

But not ALL Clan activities have come to a screeching halt. If your state or local Gordon group or your nearby Scottish Society has a function coming up that you feel would be well for us to attend, I will be happy to consider a little travel in these fallow winter days. We want to support you in the ways we can. Give me a call and we can discuss the possibilities!

Otherwise, Newsletter Editor Lois Todd has a whole array of subjects to entertain and inform in this edition so be sure and take them all in. And, while Lois is on our minds, please take some time to look over the amazing things she has included in the House of Gordon National website. Just go to <http://www.houseofgordonusa.org/> and start clicking boxes!

The Wall of Honor is especially poignant. Please take a look and consider the sacrifice our troops—our Clansmen—have made and are making. Makes me proud to be an American alongside these brave patriots. If you haven't sent in your information for the Wall, please consider doing so. Thanks and take care.

Bydand,  
John

*"The Wall of Honor is especially poignant. Please take a look and consider the sacrifice our troops—our Clansmen—have made and are making."*

## Our Website Rocks!

**The House of Gordon USA AGM page is now online!** We have included a brief overview of the Annual General Membership Meeting at Grandfather Mountain by our esteemed president, John Lowry, Roger Mills' Convener's Chair Report, and Lois Todd's Communications Chair Report. We also have some pictures and a link to Virginia's gallery where you can check out the fun on the mountain. **The Bylaws are also now online with their own button on the navigation bar.**

**Our website has a fantastic Calendar of Events with one of the most comprehensive listings online.** We have them listed on the Events page Geographically as well as by date. The events where the House of Gordon will be hosting a tent is highlighted in yellow and bold-face type. All events with a website are linked. Just click on the event name in the listing and the event's website opens up!

**Even better — the Division page has a map of the USA with links to each Division's page!** Just click on the state you live in and you will be taken to a page with your convener's contact information, event listings, and the latest news in your area! For those divisions with their own website, links are also provided on the division

page to them!

**Virginia has kindly allowed the USA site to reproduce their history, insignia and tartan pages.** The history links are still linked back to Virginia's articles. **Check out the new and improved tartans page!** Did you know that Clan Gordon was the FIRST clan to enforce uniformity of tartan throughout an entire clan?

**There is a new mailing list for our Gordon Members to subscribe to — news@houseofgordonusa.org!** Go to the membership page to subscribe as a member of the list and get all of the latest news, including electronic transmission of the newsletter in future!

**The Wall of Honor has generated much positive comments.** If you haven't sent in your name to be included, please do. And, I will be making this information available to conveners to create a Wall of Honor tent display!

### COMING SOON

A coloring book for the kids!

A Highland Games 101 on the Division Page

A Cartoon book version of Highland Games for the kids!

*"Our website has a fantastic Calendar of Events with one of the most comprehensive listings online"*

## Culloden Visitor Center, Continued

The purchase of the stones for the walk have raised £1,950,000 (\$3.6 M) toward funding the visitor center project.

"We are very conscious that Culloden is a memorial site and we have made every effort to make sure that the stone sponsorship remains in keeping with the new center and battlefield," explained Karen Reid, Head of Fund Raising at the National Trust for Scotland.

"We have opted to use Caithness stone and have ensured that the Culloden Walk will be situated in the approach to the visitor center rather than any where near the graves of the fallen."

Through recent archaeological and historical research the National Trust for Scotland has discovered that the existing center sits on the third Government line. With the Trust's resolve to return the battlefield to as close as we know it on April 16th 1746 the new center is being built 200 meters south of the current center, and once the new center is fully operational the current center will be dismantled.

The new center will immerse visitors in the '45 from the time Prince Charlie arrived in Britain to Culloden. But the largest exhibition space will house the most sensitive material — the battle aftermath.

## Andrew Carnegie Visits Seaside?

As you all know by now our own esteemed president is also the president of The Seaside Highland Games. This year the Seaside Games brought back to life one of America's most famous Scots and were honored to have famed Scottish American Andrew Carnegie pay a visit. John sends this report on the games!



Pictured left, Mr. Carnegie brought to life courtesy of my good friend, Jack Dawson, poses with J. Howard Standing, Esq., President of the Saint Andrew's Society of Los Angeles in front of the Society tent where Carnegie held audience and answered a multitude of questions. One

of a number of cultural enrichment experiences at Seaside, the Games also hosted classes in Gàidhlig (Gaelic language), a Gaelic choir, Scotch whisky history and appreciation and performances by the Ventura's own British Brass Band.

The Games, held every second weekend in October, hosted over twenty-thousand happy guests this year at its Seaside Park home

along California's Central Coast. Over a hundred Scottish Highland Dancers vied for an impressive array of medals and scholarships. Scottish Heavy Athletes and Bagpipers and Drummers also competed for a rich cache of trophies while the pros vied for more monetary prizes.

Special Guest, Malcolm Sinclair, Chief of Clan Sinclair, was on hand to declare the Games open in Saturday's Grand Parade. Seaside hosted both the Sinclairs and the Elliots with their AGMs this year. More, including Clan Graham Society will be on hand at the 2008 outing.

A new Drum Major Contest boasting the best array of talent ever in a West Coast competition, an excellent piping contest--the P/M Angus Macdonald Championships--was staged. Professional talent ranging from Scottish Fiddler Extraordinaire Alasdair Fraser and Alex Beaton to Celtic Spring and the Wicked Tinkers and Beth Gay herself was on hand! With the Highlander Warriors and a huge portable pub serving real ale, what else could a body need? You may always inquire about the Seaside Highland games at 818-886-4968 or email [SeasideChief@aol.com](mailto:SeasideChief@aol.com). Make your plans to attend October 10 - 12, 2008! ~jel

John are you trying to entice us to hold our AGM at your Seaside Games? Keep it up it just may work! If you live in California or nearby and missed out on these games, it sounds like you missed a lot of fun.

## Wall Of Honor

The Wall of Honor made an appearance at the AGM and was well received. It is our hope to honor the service of all of our members who are or have served our nation in the military.

At this time we have four active duty members who's names have been submitted to the wall of honor. **If you, or your family member is actively serving, please let us know so they can be**

**added to the wall and honored with a blue star.**

Also please send us your information if you are inactive duty or retired, so that we can honor your service.

**While we pray that we never have occasion to put up a gold star, if there are any who have given their life in the war, please let us know so that we may properly honor them.**



## Looking for a way to participate?

We are looking for persons that would like to be games conveners or to assist conveners. It is the Society's goal to make the materials available and to provide "expert" assistance to those interested in participating. Being a convener is not only painless ... it's a lot of fun! ***If you're a story teller at heart and want to help people find their roots and educate the public about the House of Gordon, convening at one of the Games is a rewarding experience. Join us!***

The House of Gordon USA Clan Society has initiated a reorganization of its "state convener" function. The convener's committee is in the process of dividing the USA into districts headed by commissioners and assigning

"convener duties" to individuals within these districts covering more localized areas based on Highland Games sites instead of "state territories". The hope is to keep our trusted volunteers from having to travel great distances for games. As the process continues we will add commissioners to support the conveners in their area.

The committee is developing convener guidelines and consolidating materials different conveners now use at their tent displays. A new set of clan banners has been developed for conveners at a reasonable cost and President John Lowry reported at the AGM that the Society will also have tartan flags available. — Roger

## Gordon Highlander Museum

Our sponsorship of the Museum has helped spread the word internationally and placed the Museum prominently on the tourist map. We have, along with the other Friends of the Museum, funded several purchases of artifacts, medals, books and other items of historical significance to the Museum. More are in the pipeline. We also support the development of the educational aspect - one of the vital functions at St Luke's. Hundreds of schoolchildren visit the Museum every year.

### Spectacular & Interactive

From the Napoleonic wars to the modern day, you can re-live the compelling and dramatic story of The Gordon Highlanders through our spectacular and interactive display.

Following in the footsteps of serving soldiers, our newly refurbished museum takes you on an eye-

opening journey through the history of one of the most famous regiments in the British Army. It is a story spanning 200 years of world history and 19 Victoria Crosses, and is packed with tales of courage and tenacity on the battlefield.

### Through The Eyes of Heroes

Real life experiences are at the heart of exciting new displays which bring to life the courage and determination of the men of the North East of Scotland and beyond.

Personal testimonies reach back through time to reveal the powerful and poignant story of the Regiment. A collection of interactive maps, original film footage, scale reproductions, life-size models, touch screens, regimental colours, uniforms, medals and weapons are featured in a constantly evolving and deeply moving experience.

*"Real life experiences are at the heart of exciting new displays"*

## Membership Report

The membership of the House of Gordon USA have been very active. We received positive response to the dues notices with members paying their dues and donating to the Charles O. Gordon Scholarship Fund and to the Gordon Highlander Museum in Aberdeen. Our members have been most generous. We presently have 548 members located in 43 states.

We encourage all of our members to actively seek new members for the House of Gordon. There is a membership form online at <http://www.houseofgordonusa.org> for

those receiving this via post, we have included a membership application.)

An effort has been made to collect e-mail address of our membership so that the newsletter in December can be sent to the majority of members. This will save much for the Society in printing and postal expenses. We will still send the printed newsletter by USPS to those that do not have e-mail or do not wish to receive their newsletter by e-mail.

*"We presently have 548 members in 43 States!"*

# *Ceud Mile Failte New Members!*

**Arizona:** Sharon S Phelps  
 Ron & Patti Gordon  
 John Pressley Todd

**California:** Henrietta Haines  
 Lorianne Joy Mellis  
 Robert L Gordon  
 Diane Stegmeir  
 Lee Ann Swingle  
 Tracy N Gordon  
 Ruth Ann Gardner  
 Andrew & Heather Gordon  
 Ryan Moore  
 Edward Gordon  
 Sherry Mitchell  
 William Mark Gardner  
 Gary Sconce  
 David & Diane Gordon LeFevre  
 Mark & Terri Jenkins

**Colorado:** Fred A Andersen

**Florida:** Andrew A Hunter  
 Dustin & Kristin Marr  
 John & Aimee Gordon  
 Dexter D Eustis

**Georgia:** Joseph Adams  
 R Clark Adams  
 Jack Steele  
 Bobbi Ann Pike  
 Kay Nagel Shaffer

**Illinois:** James Rankin Gordon III  
 Kevin M Gordon

**Indiana:** Brian & Therese Gordon  
 Andrew D Gordon

**Louisiana:** Marcia Gordon McLaurin  
 Stewart & Rebecca Riggan  
 Harriet Bergeron  
 Donald M Gordon

**Maryland:** David Goldsmith  
 Jason Atkins  
 Thoric Cederstrom  
 James H. Gordon, Jr.  
 Dr. Jill Savage Scharff

**Michigan:** Robert & Loretta Hudson  
 Margaret "Peg" Klungle  
 Delayne Gordon Morgan  
 Kevin & Sandy Phelps  
 Lauren Kirsch  
 Steven Smith

**Mississippi:** Kenneth & Flora Nell Gordon  
 Marie Catherine Gordon Jones

**Missouri:** Nancy Ann Gordon George  
 William C Salamone

**North Carolina:** Lewis "Tom" Troop Jr  
 Calvin Douglas Gordon  
 Frederick Keith Bouton  
 Tom & Sarah Gardenhire  
 Janet Rhoton  
 Scott & Amanda Gordon  
 Frank & Diane Gordon  
 Daniel Mills  
 Cheryl Etchison-Lossiah  
 Kyle Patchin  
 Kyle & Clayton Todd  
 Albert Jeffery Todd  
 Nona Jennell Gordon Lingard  
 David G Gordon  
 Matthew Gordon  
 Joshua G Gordon  
 Colin King Lasch

**New England:** Betty J Rocha of RI  
 Robert Mardin of NH  
 Channing M Huntington II of CT  
 Harley Gordon of MA

**New York:** Paul & Nicole Gordon

**Ohio:** Keith Atkins

**Oregon:** Judith Keyes Kenny

**Pennsylvania:** Douglas Alan Gardiner

Jessie Gordon

Glen W. Gordon, Jr.

Richard C Gordon

Todd Pryor

Christopher L Stine

**South Carolina:** Jean C Abbott

Robert B Eaddy

Mary Eaddy

Kenneth Craig

Tonya N Morris

**Tennessee:** Michael Gordon

David & Brenda Gordon

D Jack Smith

**Texas:** Gwendolyn Pearson

**Virginia:**

Audrey D Ellison

Christina Adkison

Craig Monday Ashbrook

Frederick & Barbara Davies

Greg Gordon

Reginald E. Gordon

Ronald Gordon

Ronald Hampton Gordon, Jr.

Wendell & Eileen Johnson

Ernest Malcolm, Jr.

Jim & Cecilia Todd

Laurence M Gordon

Tammie Hundley Fulcher

John R. Wallace

Lorry Yoder

**Wisconsin:**

Robin Hirschfeld

Dawn Nehrbass

Bonnie M. S Kovach

## Charles O. Gordon Memorial Scholarship

The House of Gordon USA offers the Charles O. Gordon Memorial Scholarship to those who wish to further their tutelage in the Scottish Arts.

All House of Gordon USA Members and their descendants of at least ten years of age are eligible to apply for the Charles O. Gordon Memorial Scholarship for the Scottish Arts.

The scholarship will be given as a cash grant in an amount at the discretion of the Board of Directors but not to exceed \$500.00.

As a recipient of the scholarship in the past, I was able to attend the National Piping Centre's USA Summer School in Winchester, Virginia. While there I received tutelage from piping masters Roddy MacLeod, Major Gavin Stoddart, Chris Armstrong, Finlay MacDonald and Bruce Gandy. I was also able to get lessons from Bruce Gandy online last year. This

helped me to achieve 1st place in the 2/4 March and Strathspey/Reel competitions in Grade 2 solo at the North American Championships in Maxville, Canada in 2006. It is a wonderful feeling to know that your clan is behind you. Having this big extended family is something that is unheard of to the majority of the world. Fortunately for those of us who want to study one of the Scottish arts, our Gordon family is here to support us in many ways.

If you are a piper, drummer, dancer, fiddler, or if you are a student of some other Scottish art, then you may wish to apply for this scholarship. The application is online at the House of Gordon USA site, and it can help you achieve your goal!

— Aaron Todd, Piper for the Virginia Division



*“Fortunately for those of us who want to study one of the Scottish arts, our Gordon family is here to support us in many ways.”*

## 2007 Alexander Gordon Reunion



Above: Group Photo taken at the Alexander Gordon Family Reunion held this past July!

*“This was a day for family to reach outside their smaller group to make a larger family and tie. Isn’t that where the House of Gordon comes into play! “*

On July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007 the Alexander Gordon family reunion took it’s foothold into the memory book. This was the first such reunion that I know of for this Gordon line. Everything started at 8 a.m. and name tags and family information was set in place for a gathering of family. The House of Gordon was represented by both Sherwood (Woody) Gordon from the Southwest House of Gordon, and by me Merle Gordon III covering the Maine House of Gordon.

Woody instantly went about spreading cheer along with his wife, Lynn. The excitement built through the morning as newly met cousins arrived. By 10:00 a.m. bagpipes filled the morning air with the sound of Scotland, there was no mistake this was a Scottish family coming together. Jeff Herbster from Scottish melodies played on for an hour catching the attention of both family and passersby. People took the time to not only get to know one another, but to share their history with one another.

By 11:00 a.m. Barbara Rimkunas from the Exeter Historical Society shared information about the town’s history, and the roll Alexander Gordon took in the time he was there. The icing to the event was yet to unfold. As the morning went on there were two Gordon Family Bibles presented by John Wesley Gordon, who is the internet intelligence behind the Gordon’s of Maine internet site. He’s looking to find the Gordon family line to which the Bibles belong. The sad finding was that it belongs, we believe to another Gordon family line.

People with interest can contact me, at which time I will get more information from John Wesley Gordon.

Yet to come, the icing to the event, roughly after lunch Marion (Gordon) Otis arrived. Marion is the author to the

book Alexander Gordon and his Descendants. She surprised all with her charm, and many of us were lucky enough to attain her signing of our copies of the family book.

The Gordon family reunion also had Jim Gordon from the Gordon DNA project present to help answer questions. Over all it was a day of family meeting family for the very first time. People reaching out to say hello, this is who I am, this is where my history and yours locked together in the past and makes a fresh start today. This was a day for family to reach outside their smaller group to make a larger family and tie. Isn’t that where the House of Gordon comes into play!

Are there future such events, it was shared that this was a general wish. Hopefully the House of Gordon can start the message that we are as a whole, a family, and that sharing time can only bring us closer to that point, through unity in family.

On July 14<sup>th</sup> 2007 the following states came together: Washington, Nevada, Colorado, Maryland, Vermont, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, Massachusetts and Maine. It was inspiring, heart felt, and just plain fun.

Merle H Gordon III  
Maine House of Gordon

Visit <http://www.gordonsofmaine.com/> for more on this line!



# AGM 2007 Report

Our very successful 2007 AGM was held on July 14 in the Chief's Tent at the Grandfather Mt. Highland Games. It was well attended by officers and members and a quorum was very obviously present. As is our style, we had completed considerable groundwork before the meeting so that reports were concise and did not waste everyone's time. Even with that, however, we had a small amount of business that needed to be concluded at the Valle Cruces picnic Saturday evening.

We led off with the reading of the 2006 Minutes which were easily adopted. In my President's report which followed, I acknowledged that not everything we planned to carry out following that 2006 Organizational AGM went as smoothly as we had hoped. Due to a variety of glitches, it took several months for Webmaster Lois Todd to post the National website you see online today. The resignation of Board Member and right hand man Windy Gordon was a blow. We are indebted to Windy and his leadership through some difficult transitional times and we wish he and Heather success and God-speed as they navigate the difficult waters of new business and higher education. The filing of our 501(c)(3) and Bylaws was a challenge eventually taken up by ourselves and Ken Hendrix of Fresno, CA--and Ken was then named Treasurer (with much thanks to Lucretia Gordon who handled those chores single-handedly for years). Ken is an accountant and tax professional who eased the paperwork through to where we have our IRS EIN number. Contributions to HofG USA are now tax deductible as permitted by law.

The Treasurer's Report was presented physically by Ken Hendrix while Ken, himself, was back home in California. The House is in very good financial shape and Ken is exploring ways of making some of our funds work for us in a very safe environment. The newsletter is currently our greatest expense but will be less so as we have your approval to deliver it via email. Also, the last newsletter will always be a larger, more informative edition as we planned for it to replace the Gordon Gazette formerly published in Scotland. I should tell you that we contacted Chief Granville Gordon and asked for some greeting we could deliver to the AGM. We have no reply as of today.

Lois Todd's Communications Committee report was read by her husband, David Todd, as she was slaving away at her "real" job. An excellent report that I hope will be available online or will certainly be attached to the Official Minutes.

Membership Chair Nellie Lowry's contribution was a glowing report on just how far we've come in one year.

From a mere handful of paid members in July 2006 to over 400 (and probably nearer 450) this July speaks so eloquently of the good work you have all done in talking up at Games and representing the Gordons at a variety of functions--and we thank you!

Likewise, Roger Mill's Convener's Chair report recounted the several new and newly reactivated chapters across the country. When the three new Commissioners (a new designation of Convener but responsible for an area usually larger than a single state) met with Roger before the AGM, there were very large areas of the country not actively represented by a Gordon. Those areas have been consistently shrinking since then. Woody Gordon was in New England working with the Gordons there as we met, with some fine results, and as late as today September 13 we have been in discussions with a Convener candidate in the state of New York--a nut that has always been hard for us Gordons to crack (and I hope no one takes offense at my imagery)! Roger took pleasure in naming and introducing our new LAVMS Convener Marcia Gordon McLaurin to the crowd. We are very pleased to have the enthusiastic Marcia on board!

Stick with me--we are coming to a conclusion here! There are several committees that are in need of appointments and don't be surprised if you get a call to assist with some of these. Nellie Lowry reported on the Gordon DNA Project for Lois Todd. We decided that there would be dual Scottish charities this year--continuing to support the very fine Gordon Highlanders Museum and to add some support for the new Culloden Battlefield Visitor's Center. We have followed through on that and have purchased a commemorative stone to be placed in the walk which will have our name (House of Gordon USA) and our motto, Bydand, carved into it. It will be a beautiful and lasting link to this tragic battle where so many Gordons lost their lives.

There was discussion regarding taking this AGM on the road, at least every other year, from GMHG. While there is much interest in this, we agreed that no venue was quite ready for the responsibility and voted to remain at Grandfather for the 2008 AGM. We hope several of you will be ready with suggestions--and concrete plans--to host this august body in years to come. We thank those who made suggestions including David Nichols of SC in suggesting the Greenville, SC Games in '08.

*"Roger Mill's Convener's Chair report recounted the several new and newly reactivated chapters across the country."*

*Continued on page 10*

**AGM Report Continued**

The idea of offering a Life Membership was tossed about and a committee will be doing a feasibility study and offering suggestions at the next AGM.

We discussed what is being marketed as "The Gathering Edinburgh 2009" by Lord Jamie Sempill and concluded that, while certain of our members will wish to attend this event, we should stick to our "usual" every five year rotation and plan another Great Gordon Tour in 2010.

The slate of officers elected to serve for the next two year term are:

- President - John E. Lowry
- Vice President - Roger J. Mills
- Secretary - Barbara Gordon Wray
- Treasurer - Ken Hendrix

- Director - Kim Gordon
- Director - Lucretia Gordon

This slate was elected unanimously and was sworn in at Valle Cruces by our friend and HofG Member Judge Alec Lyerly. The Judge and his lovely wife Brenda Kate made the arrangements for a wonderful picnic supper that was enjoyed by all. One final and meaningful presentation made that evening was a Lifetime of Service Award to Evelyn Gordon, the most steadfast of the steadfast.

Respectfully submitted  
Bydand,  
John E. Lowry, President

## News From The Mid-Atlantic!

The Virginia Division was named as the **Best Clan Tent** at the Potomac Celtic Festival in June held at Leesburg and also at the Williamsburg Highland Games in September. In addition the Virginia Gordons received the **Celtic Spirit Award** at the Richmond Highland Games in October where we are now known as Ceilidh Corner!

With **Morris Gordon** being named as Commissioner for the North East, **David Todd** agreed to take over as convener in Virginia.

**Aaron Todd** attended the Marine Corps

JROTC Leadership School at MCB Hawaii in July and came home with the **Honor Cadet** designation!

The Gordon Grill was fired up at every event this year and was a huge hit. At Richmond, we had insane amounts of food and our famous Virginia Gordon hospitality extended to just about everyone! **Geof Baker was passing around the Chief's brew**, everyone had Lois Todd's barbecue, Aaron piped for us, and we had the best looking girls to carry our banner hands down!

*"Virginia Gordons received the Celtic Spirit Award at Richmond where we are now known as Ceilidh Corner!"*

## News From the Southwest!

Hail as large as marbles sent games goes flooding into the Gordon Tent at the Flagstaff AZ Games. Despite the rain and hail the games went quite well. **The Gordon's honored the Flagstaff Games president, Chief James McBain of McBain with an honorary House of Gordon Membership.** Over seventy-five people signed in at the tent over the course of the event. There were many nice comments in the guest book and every-

one was thankful for the children's activity area in the tent.

**Ken Gardner** made his first time out as the North California director at the Pleasanton Games. He did a fantastic job and as Woody put it "did the clan proud," signing up five now members and selling \$525.00 in merchandise!



**Chief James McBain of McBain receives the Gordon plaque.**

## News From Texas!

The House of Gordon USA Texas Division attended several games and festivals this year after a hiatus of several years.

We just finished the season with the Salado Scottish Clan Gathering, November 9-11, sponsored by the Central Texas Area Museum in Salado, Texas. With the rekindling of memories with old friends and the meeting of several new ones, all there had a great time! The Salado Scottish Games are the oldest in Texas and this was the 46<sup>th</sup> annual festival. Approximately, 30 clans were represented on this open grassland field just west of the town of Salado.

In 2008, we plan on attending the following events:

- San Antonio Highland Games Apr 4- 6

- Houston Highland Games May 17-18
- Texas Scottish Festival Jun 6- 8  
(Dallas/Arlington)
- Clear Lake Celtic Festival Oct 18
- Salado Scottish Clan Gathering Nov 8- 9

Also, we currently plan on attending the Oklahoma, Iron Thistle Scottish Heritage Festival on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.

As a final note, we are always looking for members to be Game Conveners or Game Hosts for the Texas games in their area.



## Flowers of the Forest

### Thomas E. Gordon, Jr.

Thomas, a former convener for the House of Gordon, Florida, died on April 23, 2007 from pneumonia and Alzheimers. He is survived by his wife, Jean; two daughters, Tina G. Leslie, St. Andrews, Scotland and Karen Dallett, Park City, Utah and one son Thomas Gary Gordon, Kissimmee; and three grandchildren, Jacquelyn and Zev Rovine and Sheina Gordon. His ashes will be sent to Scotland to be scattered in Gordon Territory.

### Noel "Skip" Gordin

Former convener for California Skip Gordin passed over on July 2, 2007. Born in Walnut Creek California he was a long time active and much loved member of the House of Gordon. He was laid to rest at the California Veteran's Cemetery with full honors including Air Force pall bearers. Skip is survived by his wife Betty Gordin of Shasta Lake, California.

### Richard "Dick" Milne

Dick, convener for the House in Colorado & Wyoming, took the low road home Saturday, September 15, 2007. Dick had been ill for a few months and was attended by his family in hospital at his passing. Known by many as the best real bearded Santa, Dick was ever a jolly and selfless man. His service to the House has been long and faithful. He has been a great representative of the Gordon and will be greatly mourned. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy and daughter, Diana

### Cassandra Lee Hendrix



Cassandra was born on June 7, 1978, in Salinas, California to Ken and Nancy Hendrix. She moved to Fresno with her parents in 1986, where she attended Ft. Washington, Kasner Schools, and graduated from Clovis West High School. Cassandra never had any children of her own; however, she enjoyed helping others. Cassandra loved working with computers and earned a Microsoft Computer Systems Engineer credential. Cassandra passed away on Friday, October 12, 2007. She is survived by her mother and father; her brother, Tim Jones and his wife Julia; niece, Ava and her fiancé Brian Lovett.

### Helen Mills Prather (1908 – 2007)

Helen Mills, mother of Texas Commissioner Kenny Prather, was born in Sterling, Scotland on October 30, 1908. Her father preceded her and her mother (Mary Adams) to the United States, and in 1911 her and her mother moved to Pennsylvania. She later moved to the Pacific Northwest, where she lived out the remainder of her life. Always, a staunch supporter of Scotland and the highland ways of life, she instilled the respect and history for Scotland, it's way of life, and culture to her children. Her Scottish heritage will always be her legacy. On her last breath, she returned to Scotland, forever.



*"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!

