

IN THE HOUSE!

House of Gordon USA Newsletter, Annual Edition

Volume 1 Issue 2

May 2007



Who Is Daisy Gordon & Why Is She So Important?

**You May Not Recognize Her, But I'll Bet Daisy Gordon
Has Had An Influence On Your Life!**

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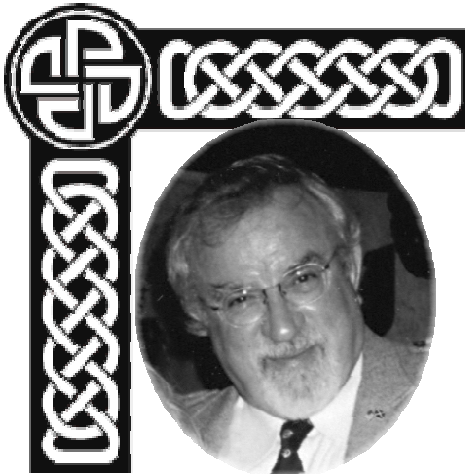
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In The House!

Lois Todd, Editor

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President's Message



Dear Members and Friends,

This is a very special newsletter for a number of reasons. It will recap and bring you up to date on progress being made toward the goals we set for the Society last July. It will give you information about the 2007 House of Gordon USA AGM (Annual General Meeting) to be held on Saturday, July 14th, at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. It will list Agenda items to be discussed and decided at that AGM and so much other news. But, most importantly, it will give YOU as a Member the opportunity to VOTE on Clan matters whether you can attend the AGM or not! This is a first for House of Gordon Members and one more way of making you a partner in managing the Clan.

To us, putting the Clan in the hands of the Members means just that. The Members must decide on matters most important to them. The Members must declare how their dues dollars are spent. The Members must participate in the voting process to have their voices heard. And, the Members must step forward to give of their time and resources to represent the Clan—locally, regionally and nationally. We have worked hard to present a slate of nominees for this year's national election and are proud of the quality of the Members who are allowing their names to be entered into nomination. That does not mean you cannot nominate others now and, most certainly, in years to come.

A critical reason for reorganization was the filing of corporate nonprofit status. That paperwork is now in the hands of the Secretary of State of California and we expect clear sailing toward government approval in the months to come. At the AGM, YOU will be approving the House of Gordon USA Bylaws in their final form.

Since reorganization, we have had the unique opportunity to review the inner workings of so many other clans and societies and to select the processes that work well and reject those that don't. You can make your own evaluation as we give you live reports at the AGM.

Also at the AGM, Lois Todd will describe the work she has accomplished on the web site <http://houseofgordonusa.com/> over these past several trying months but you have an opportunity to view it from your home computer NOW and marvel at the progress shown there. Lois will be happier when she has all the pages and links she wants on the site but we are very pleased with her single-minded effort in so many areas. We ALL owe Lois Todd a great debt of gratitude for her contributions and that goes for Genealogy and this very Newsletter, as well!

Please consider traveling up to Grandfather Mountain and joining us for a little business and a lot of fun in this most beautiful setting for a Festival in all of North America! We might be able to direct you to some lodgings at this late date. At least we will try!

See you on the Mountain!

Bydand,
John

Gordon DNA Project – Just How Does It Work?

By Tei Gordon Co-Administrator
tagordon@hotmail.com

Most of us recall a time, when the only genealogical research means available meant sifting endlessly through mounds of books and microfiche films at your local library in hopes of finding mention of an elusive ancestor or writing a letter to some far off archive to look up information and receive a reply several weeks later.

More recently, technology has given us new tools and has progressed genealogical research to previously unimaginable levels even only a decade ago. It all started when the Internet really took off in the mid-90s to help researchers sift through digital archives and find each other in forums to compare family histories. Then in 1999, Family Tree DNA - in cooperation with the University of Arizona - started offering DNA-testing. IBM and National Geographic took notice early on and in cooperation with Family Tree DNA invested US \$50 million this year to map human migrations.

Today, when the networking power of the Internet is combined with the genetic match-making of DNA-testing, genealogical research is catapulted into the 21st century, enabling researchers to confirm family ties and to recreate links in family histories where they were long forgotten. Perhaps most importantly, the links are made with a scientifically-sound backing that is actually kind of fun.

Even the novice with no research experience can benefit by submitting DNA. With an abundance of researchers out there, participants in the project are often more than willing to help untangle your family history, since it often means they can unravel theirs at the same time.

The Gordon DNA Project

The volunteer-run Gordon DNA Project started in 2001 and was one of the first surnames to take advantage of DNA-testing. Today, we have grown to 145 participating Gordon families and over 1000 families when we include our Gordon septs. The results of our project affect tens of thousands of Gordons, Gordon researchers and Gordon septs throughout the world.

Project Goals

The goals of the project fall into two categories. On a more personal level, we are:

- 1) Connecting individual Gordons to one of the many families that emigrated overseas and even to which of the 150 different Gordon branches in Scotland they descend.
- 2) Untangling the confusing relationships between various Gordons and their migration patterns.
- 3) Determining approximately when two individuals may have shared a common ancestor.
- 4) Discovering any genetic links with Gordon septs, such as the Adams and Todd families.
- 5) Providing a platform for both conventional researchers and DNA-participants to exchange information.

On a broader level, our goals include trying to answer such overwhelming questions as the origin of the Gordon surname. For example, where did the main line of Gordons originate? Was it Macedonia or Gaul (Normandy), as suggested by 18th century historian George Chalmers? Or maybe even Spain or Flanders as suggested by other Gordon aficionados? What about the origin of boars heads on the Gordon arms? Is there a connection to other families displaying the boars on their arms?

The Seton-Gordons may also wonder whether they descend from the Seatons in France or is it possible that theories presented by JM Bulloch that the grandfather of Alexander Seton changed his name from Swinton to Seton when he married into the Seton family. The results so far are fascinating.

The Testing Process

Actual testing takes only 10-minutes and involves a simple swab of saliva from inside your cheek in the privacy of your own home. It is as easy as brushing your teeth. The only difference is you are brushing your cheek.

Once the results of the tests are returned to you by

email in about six weeks, then they are automatically included in an internet-accessible database, where our DNA is matched to others sharing a similar DNA sequence. You are identifiable only by kit number and an email address. No other private information to identify you is given, unless you elect to have others contact you.

Who Is Eligible For Testing?

Any male still using a Gordon surname can take the test (septs too). The Y-Chromosome is the only chromosome that passes unchanged father to son, and therefore indicates the line of paternal descent. All males in an unbroken patriarchal line have the same Y-Chromosome. The Y-Chromosome is not present in females.

Which Test To Take?

Although a variety of DNA testing are available for us, it is recommended that you take either the 25-marker or 37-marker Y-DNA test, which are US \$148 and \$189, respectively, with our Gordon group discount. Gordon septs may also take advantage of our group discount.

How Do We Analyze Results?

When grouping results, since they change relatively slower, generally - it is best to think of the first twelve markers (1-12) as the Tree; the next 13-markers (13-25) as the Branch; and the remaining markers (26-67) as the Twig. Therefore, the more markers tested, the better we can focus in on a timeframe for a shared common ancestor. Since markers rarely mutate, the more markers you match somebody on, the closer you are related.

What If I Do Not Have A Living Male Gordon In My Line To Test?

By including detailed family histories, we are building an extensive library of family histories and other resources that are intended to help the conventional researcher, as well as those who have submitted DNA. Updated almost daily, you will also find many free tools, links and a host of other researchers to help in your Gordon research quest. Therefore, you can still benefit from our project, even without submitting your DNA. Also if you can identify a distant cousin through conventional research who is a direct male line descendant, he can be tested as your representative.

The Gordon Fund

Sometimes we do receive inquiries from researchers who have a Gordon cousin that they would like to have tested, but the prospective tester might be on a fixed income or maybe needs a little incentive. It would be an unfortunate missed opportunity to advance our project, due simply to a lack of funds. Created just for such circumstances, we have established a General Fund for our Gordon surname.

Donations

If you would like to make a donation to help cover the cost of a test kit for others, we have provided a link on the DNA Project Website. Credit card, PayPal and checks are accepted. **Please note that 100% of donated funds will go directly towards the purchase of DNA kits.**

We will apply donated funds to 25-marker kits (US \$148) as they become available.

Once a donation is made, please write a short note to me directly tagordon@hotmail.com so that I can follow up with our lab and insure your donation has been processed. Also, please let me know if you might have any special instructions. Unless otherwise stated, I will add your name and the amount of your donation to the website.

If you are a prospective tester that may need assistance with paying for a kit, please do not hesitate to write me.

How to order

Kits may be ordered with a Gordon Group Discount directly from the Gordon section of the Family Tree DNA web page or from The Gordon DNA Project web page.

If you have individual questions regarding your DNA results or would like to learn how you can participate, please contact one of the three administrators: Tei Gordon, Janice McGough or Tony Gordon.

Bydand,

Tei A. Gordon
The Gordon DNA Project

My Experience With High-Tech Genealogy – By Morris Gordon



I have been interested in my family tree and genealogy for some time. Growing up I was always told that I had Scotch-Irish ancestry, but really didn't know anything much about my Gordon heritage. Finding the House of Gordon and my subsequent involvement in the organization had

taught me about our rich and proud cultural and family legacy. One day I was visiting the House of Gordon Virginia website and saw a link to the Gordon DNA Project. I clicked on it and read the information concerning the project and what to do to get my DNA tested.

I chose the 25 marker DNA test and paid to have the kit mailed to me. Within a week the kit arrived. In it were three vials and three swabs with cotton on the ends of a stick. The directions told me to swab the inside of my mouth very hard and when finished, put the swab in one of the vials, and the samples should be taken in 30-45 minute intervals.

I took my first sample and wanting to make sure to get a good sample swabbed all around inside my mouth — hard. It felt like I was rubbing though the side of my mouth, I think I went a bit overboard and rubbed too hard. Then I put the stick into the vial, but I could not get the tip to come off and drop into the vial of liquid. So, I pulled it back out, cut the stick off and dropped it into the vial and hoped that anything on the kitchen shears didn't contaminate the sample. Maybe it was a good thing I had scrubbed so hard!

The next time I took a sample I wanted to make sure the cotton tip would come off the stick. So, after swabbing I loosened the tip before shoving it into the vial. Well, it came off all right and fell right onto the kitchen floor. Using the two second rule, I quickly grabbed it up and immediately shoved it into the second vial. I jokingly said that this sample would come up showing I have feline DNA since we have a cat and she walks around on the kitchen floor all the time. I really don't think this

sample was contaminated, but it is a good thing our cat is female and doesn't have a Y chromosome or I might have really gotten some weird results! After two tries, I finally got it done correctly with no mishaps on the third time. What a relief!

I got a notice via e-mail when the estimated results were to be sent to me. Within six weeks I got back my results, and was given a kit number and all the necessary codes to go online and check my results.

There is so much information provided, that it is really hard to understand all of the data. The information I received led me in such an unexpected direction that I thought my samples were contaminated — after all look what I went through to get them it seemed possible to me. I sent Tei Gordon at the DNA project an e-mail asking that he check to see if my DNA was "good" and the data was correct.

I found that my DNA sample was "good" and that I was placed in the group of Gordons that had connections to the Jock and Tam Gordon family in Scotland. I truly was a member of the oldest Gordon line! Also, I found I had some family members to go to Ireland near Belfast in County Down. This did confirm that I did have Scotch-Irish connections in my family tree. Previously I had done some research on my family and had gotten information from my father's oldest sister. She gave me the names of my great-grandparents, Hugh Nathaniel Gordon and Caroline Boyd. Hugh was born about 1859 (he was listed as being 21 in the 1880 census) and was born in North Carolina. Caroline was born about 1854 also in North Carolina. My grandfather, Frank Henry Gordon was born in 1878 in Oxford, Granville County, North Carolina. But I haven't been able to locate where Hugh or Caroline died and were buried. Nor have I been able to locate the names of my great-great-grandparents.

The DNA information provided me with names of other Gordons with matching or near matching genetic markers. I have communicated with several of them, but still haven't been able to locate my great-great-grandparents. I am hoping that as

more people contribute information to the genealogy data base and get tested I will be able to start piecing together my family history too.

I did learn that I have family that goes back to 1671 and Alexander Gordon, 3rd Laird in Aberdeen, Scotland. I also am in the line with Andrew Jackson Gordon. I have 37 exact genetic markers in common with Gregory Dale Gordon of Virginia. He is also a member of the House of Gordon here in Virginia and lives in the Shenandoah Valley area and his family traces back to North Carolina and Tennessee. We have communicated and will share more information about our family.

Some of the Gordons whose DNA matched mine that have returned my emails have provided facts that indicate I am also related to General John Brown Gordon of Georgia. I also find that the professional baseball player, Joe Gordon, is a distant cousin. He was one of my favorites as a kid. Wow! To find that I am related is really great. But, I still don't have concrete proof who my great-great grandparents were.

I have recently increased the number of markers to 67, which is the highest available. I was hoping this would open up some more leads, but it hasn't given me any new information yet. My experience with high-tech genealogy has been mixed. It has been wonderful because I have sure knowledge that I come from the oldest direct male Gordon line and that I am related to Jock and Tam Gordon. My line goes back almost a millennium! I could NEVER have been able to find out this information through conventional research. But I still am at the same brick wall in my paper trail, and that is frustrating.

The DNA Project will become a much more valuable tool as more people participate in the DNA testing and more people contribute their genealogical research to the Project's data base. I would encourage all members who can to participate. Even if your surname is a Sept name, you can get the Gordon group discount and your information will be part of the DNA project results. It will be truly ground-breaking for our clan to lead the way in comparing the DNA of our septs to our main clan surname! None of the others have done that yet and we have a real opportunity to help each other and possibly re-write history as we know it — or maybe just confirm our family legends!

Descendents of Alexander Gordon of Exeter, New Hampshire Plan Reunion

Submitted by Woody Gordon

One of the earliest Gordons in America and probably the earliest Gordon in New England was a 16 year old Scot named Alexander Gordon. He was captured at the Battle of Worcester and in 1651 was held as a prisoner of war at Tuthill Fields, London (near Parliament.) After a period of mistreatment, young Alexander was given the option of accepting indenture in America or execution. Thankfully he elected to go to America! He arrived in Charlestown, Massachusetts in late 1651. It took a number of years and two petitions to the Massachusetts General Court before he was successful in being released from indenture. He then moved to Exeter, NH where he became a businessman (he owned a sawmill) and he married.

A reunion for his descendents is planned for July 14, 2007 in Exeter, NH. Merle Gordon is organizing the all day event which is tentatively scheduled for Swasey Parkway in Exeter just down the street from the Gordon Cemetery that dates back to the 1600's. A bagpiper will perform in honor of Alexander and a speaker from the Exeter Historical Society will give a presentation on life in Exeter during Alexander's lifetime. For more information please contact Merle at merrill515@yahoo.com.

New Aberdeen Genealogy Center set to open in Peterhead in 2009!

The center is being established by the Peterhead Tourism Initiative (PTI) which has been working hard to secure funding for the project, and it will be hosted in a room at the Arbuthnot Museum at Peterhead's St Peter Street where a wealth of documentation can already be found.

The PTI hopes to use tax records dating back to the 1690s, burial records from 1841 and registrars' births, deaths and marriage records from 1855 onwards to build up clear family histories.

Anne Allan of the PTI said "We hope to get funding for computers because there is a lot of information on different websites. We will also use newspapers because as well as having public notices they also have interesting things like court cases and people are often fascinated to find out what their ancestors were up to.

"We have visited the family history center in Elgin which is now well established and they have given us a few hints and tips and if we can get something half as good as they have we will be quite pleased."

John MacLeod of MacLeod 29th chief of MacLeod

**Born: 10 August, 1935,
at Esslemont, Ellon, Aberdeenshire.**

Died: 12 February, 2007, in London, aged 71.

THE name of John MacLeod of MacLeod, 29th chief and holder of the arms and name of MacLeod, will be forever associated with his £10 million attempt in March 2000 to sell off the Black Cuillin range in order to repair historic Dunvegan Castle.

The resulting approbrium heaped on him took no account of a basic fact of life: that Dunvegan was his permanent home, and that without the castle, he would be homeless, his clan would have no heartland, and Skye would lose its major tourist attraction.

MacLeod - he was correctly addressed of the ilk rather than as "Mr MacLeod" - held claim to being a Renaissance man. A successful businessman and musicologist, he was a professionally trained singer who recorded a number of albums, clan leader and moderniser, scholar and tourism manager. Charisma he had in plenty, and moved readily among any whom he met.

MacLeod was not born to be clan chief. But it was his fate that he was chosen so. Born John Wolrige-Gordon, the second son and elder twin of Captain Robert Wolrige-Gordon of Esslemont, 20th laird of Hallhead and ninth baron of Esslemont in Aberdeenshire, he became the tanistair (nominated heir) as a 16-year-old in 1951 of 28th clan chief Dame Flora MacLeod of MacLeod - a move recognised by Lord Lyon Sir Thomas Innes of Learney - and took over from her as chief when she died, aged 99, in 1976.

Dame Flora married Hubert Walter in 1901, succeeded her father as chief in 1934 and reverted to her maiden name on the death of her husband. Her elder daughter, Alice, married the chief of MacNab, while Joan, the younger, wed Robert Wolrige-Gordon, heir to Esslemont in east Aberdeenshire.

Of Joan's three sons, the eldest, Robert, succeeded to Esslemont; the youngest, the late Patrick, became Conservative MP for East Aberdeenshire, with John, Patrick's elder twin, being nominated as heir to MacLeod and the barony of Dunvegan.

The talented MacLeod, educated at Eton and McGill University, Montreal, trained at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, initially working in cabaret in Canada and the United States before gaining an Equity card and returning to the UK in theatre management.

Keen to further a career in music, he left London's West End "with some reluctance" and went to Geneva to study voice.

He knew that Dunvegan was his destiny, and under the tutelage of his redoubtable grandmother, he became imbued in clan ways and learning. When he succeeded her at age 40, he renounced his career in show business because "the call of Dunvegan is too strong to resist".

His inheritance was a show of a very different kind. He was now full-time leader and ambassador for an active and worldwide following, as well as laird of the rambling Dunvegan. Work as clan chief took him on extensive (and usually self-funded) tours to North America, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Europe to visit clansfolk. Maintenance of the clan was an all-consuming passion, and he contrived to present himself almost everywhere he was asked.

Maintenance of Dunvegan proved another matter entirely. The castle occupies a site that has been in MacLeod hands for more than eight centuries, and had not been well maintained. It was MacLeod's inspiration that a business plan had been devised to make the place pay for itself. It was his aspiration that Dunvegan remain for all time a place of pilgrimage for both MacLeods and those interested in Skye and Scotland.

He redesigned and revamped the place, opening it in a fashion long before the term "user friendly" was invented. He'd turn up to lead tours himself, a tall figure in an increasingly battered MacLeod kilt, personally greeting his visitors, making those on the tour feel warmly welcome - as indeed they were. Here was a home that was evidently lived in, and MacLeod enjoyed showing it off.

He was custodian of the priceless Dunvegan Armorial, a handwritten and painted volume dating from 1582 containing the coats-of-arms of Scotland's powerbrokers of the time, and which entered his family in 1751. Keen to see the volume published for the wider world, he worked from 1979 with editors John and Eileen Malden in what proved to be a 27-year odyssey until successful funding gained publication last year.

With Skye such a focus for outdoor activities, a need for modern mountain rescue was self-evident, and in 2001 he donated land in Glenbrittle for a rescue base funded by the Order of St John. On the stormy day of the opening, he appeared in his MacLeod kilt as always. His words may have been somewhat drowned by the wind,

but there was no denying his personal pride of place in being part of new life in his beloved Cuillin.

MacLeod was a laird whose personal template just didn't fit the standard caricature of a landowner. A lifetime of travel gave him strong pro-European tendencies, and he saw it as business and international sense for the UK to join the euro. He was strongly anti-fascist, and marched in protest against the Iraq war.

When running repairs to Dunvegan proved simply impossible - "The cracks are crevasses, and no longer patchable" - he came to the heart-wrenching decision that a Cuillin sale would be the only exit from the financial impasse. Besides, the condition of the castle was impeding further plans to develop Dunvegan in terms of year-round tourism.

History may show him to have been harshly judged in his attempted mountain sale, for when he put a £10 million price-tag on Scotland's iconic mountaintops, he was savagely criticised from conservation and hill-users groups, even receiving the threat of a legal challenge on actual ownership from one outdoor group. But Crown Estate enquiries concluded that indeed MacLeod owned the mountains - some 23,000 acres of the peaks, rivers and 14 miles of coast.

Subsequent assessment of MacLeod's castle project now puts the likely bill at £19 million, and the matter is now the subject of a bid for lottery funding.

MacLeod's descent came from 13th century Norse sources, by tradition from Leod, eponymous ancestor of the MacLeods. Two of the quarters on his MacLeod coat-of-arms show the three legs of Man to recall a tradition of Manx blood going back to Ragnar Lothbrok in 854.

MacLeod was married three times; first to Drusilla Shaw, from Co Kildare in 1961 (divorced 1971); and secondly to Melita Kolin, from Sofia in 1973 (divorced 1993). He is survived by his third wife Ulrika, sons Hugh, who now becomes the 30th chief of MacLeod, Magnus and Stephan, and daughter Elena.

GORDON CASELY

This article: <http://news.scotsman.com/obituaries.cfm?id=245462007>

Last updated: 15-Feb-07 01:21 BST

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New Zealand Piper Passes.

Dear Chief and Clan folk,

Just a note to let you know of the death of a member of House of Gordon New Zealand. Keith was only 67, but gave in to the ravages of cancer. Below is an article we placed in the last Ivy Leaf and was also in the programme of the Waipu Highland Games as a tribute to a Clansman. You will be proud to know Chief that Keith proudly carried your piper's banner at every occasion - this honour will now be taken up by Colonel Fraser Sim. Keith has requested he be buried in his kilt - a Dress Gordon. Wayne Lawrence & Glenyss O'Hallaran

PIPE MAJOR KEITH AITKEN

Sadly passed away January 26 2007

The current strength, in terms of both numbers and quality of the pipers, of the Waipu Highland Pipe Band is due in no small measure to the efforts of its Pipe Major, Keith Aitken. Keith came to the band in 1996 when he moved to Ruakaka from Whangarei. He took over the tutoring of the pipers from Anne Picketts who had kept some youngsters on the practice chanter but lacked an experienced piper; Keith filled that role admirably, having recently been the Pipe Major of the Whangarei Number Two Pipe Band. He has a sound basis to his piping having been taught, as a youngster in Christchurch, by the famous Pipe Major William Boyle.

Keith has, over the past twenty years, taught many youngsters (and some not so youngsters) in Waipu and its neighbouring districts. Some of these pipers are on parade today with the band and others have moved on and are piping with higher grade bands. At this stage there are eight pupils at the Waipu Primary School and six at Bream Bay College receiving piping tuition during school hours thanks to the efforts of our Keith. Before becoming the Pipe Major of the Waipu Highland Pipe Band, Keith was a very successful tutor and Pipe Major in Whangarei.

Keith has, through his enthusiasm and expertise, and his love of the Great Highland Warpipe, over the years contributed a great deal to the Pipe Band movement in this country and to piping in the North in particular. We are lucky to have such a person in the band.



Born Joseph Lowell Gordon 18 February 1915 to Benjamin Lowell Gordon and LuLu Pearl Evans in Los Angeles, California. Joe died in 1978 (see his obituary from the New York Times.) Joe played for the New York Yankees from 1938-1943, and 1946; for the Cleveland Indians from 1947-1950. He managed the Cleveland Indians from 1958-1960; the Detroit Tigers (1960); Kansas City A's in 1961; Kansas City Royals in 1969.

His playing career was impressive even with the interruption of military service in WWII from 1943-1945, Joe Gordon was considered to be the best second basemen of his time by his contemporaries. Even playing in parks which were "bad" for right handed hitters, he hit 20 or more HR in seven of the eleven years of his career, with 253 Career HR setting an AL Career Record for most HR by a 2nd baseman and, 975 RBIs in his career! His playing career included the MVP Award in 1942, nine time All-Star (1939-1943, 1946-1949), six pennants, five World Series Titles, in which he belted out 4 HR, hit .400 in the 1938 sweep of the Cubs, and an even more impressive .500 in the 1941 five-game win over the Dodgers! His teams were 5-1 in the Series;

winning 21 of 28 games.

Gordon played more than 1500 games at second base, and Yankee manager, Joe McCarthy, tried moving him to first base at the beginning of 1941 as a replacement for Lou Gehrig. A surprising move which didn't do justice to his skills as a second baseman, he was quickly moved back to his main position at second when his replacement, Jerry Priddy, was hovering at .220 and the Yankees were off to a poor start for the season. With Joe's return to 2nd, they were off and running to yet another pennant!

Joe Gordon made Baseball history when he was part of the ONLY and most unusual trade of managers in 1960 when the Indians and Tigers swapped managers with Jimmy Dykes trading places with Joe Gordon.

Joe Gordon was recognized during his career as the best 2nd baseman in ML baseball, he is considered by many today as the top 2nd baseman of his era! So why is it that this fine sportsman has been left out of the Baseball Hall of Fame? He was an outstanding defensive player who was in head-to-head votes for the All-Stars voted ahead of Bobby Doerr almost every year, and yet Doerr has been inducted into the Hall -- even though Gordon was a better hitter, and was, by their contemporaries, considered the better defensive player. On March 1, 1988 for the first time since 1956 the Special Veterans Committee did not elect anyone to the Hall of Fame. Phil Rizzuto, Leo Durocher, Joe Gordon, and Gil Hodges were among the candidates passed over.



Bill James, compiler and author of The Bill James Historical Baseball Abstract, thinks Gordon should be in the Hall of Fame and it is hard to argue with him. No matter how you measure it, Gordon was among the top second basemen of all time. Maybe the House of Gordon should consider starting a nationwide petition to get Joe his due recognition in the Hall of Fame.

Admiral Sir James Alexander Gordon, GCB

Born about 1782, the son of Charles Gordon of Wardhouse, Aberdeenshire, he enlisted in the navy at the age of 11 in 1793 and rose rapidly in the ranks. At an early age he was present in the 'Goliath', 74 guns, at the Battles of St Vincent in 1797 and the Nile, 1798. He served in the West Indies, the Mediterranean and the Adriatic. While commanding the frigate 'Active', 38 guns, in the Mediterranean, he played a distinguished part in Captain William Hoste's action off Lissa in 1811.



Capt. Sir James A. Gordon, RN

Hoste's three frigates and a 22-gun sixth-rate comprised the sole Royal Naval strength in the Adriatic. They fought an action against an attacking Franco-Venetian squadron off the island of Lissa, where the British were based and although outnumbered managed to defeat the invaders. All four British captains were awarded gold medals, and a pension of £300.00. In the same year Gordon lost a leg (carried off by a 36 pounder) while capturing the Franco-Venetian 'Pomone', 40 guns, near Corfu.

In 1814 he commanded a squadron against the Americans. In August 1814 he entered the Potomac with his squadron, reduced Fort Warburton (later called Ft. Washington) and other batteries and subsequently forced the City of Alexandria to capitulate. He seized twenty-one American merchant vessels, loaded as much of the goods from the town's warehouses as he could manage before making his way back down the river to rejoin the fleet. He was involved in the bombardment of Ft. McHenry in the action against Baltimore. It was his squadron's bombardment and rockets that led Francis Scott Key to write the Star Spangled Banner. He also took part in the operations against New Orleans in 1814-15.

In 1827 he was appointed governor of the royal hospital at Plymouth. In 1840 he became lieutenant governor of Greenwich hospital, and in 1853

was advanced to the post of governor of the same.



Rear Admiral James Alexander Gordon
Artist Andrew Morton
Date 1839

He died 8 January 1869 just before it closed. Exceptionally, he was buried (under a handsome granite tombstone) in the officers' enclosure of its old burial ground, adjacent to the National Maritime Museum, although other burials there had ceased in 1857. Altogether his naval service lasted nearly 76 years, and he was the last survivor of Lord Nelson's captains. He was created a K. C.B. in 1815; G.C.B. in 1854; his career culminated with his promotion to Admiral of the Fleet in 1868. (*note Admiral of the Fleet being the highest ranking of admiral.)

Naval historian Brian Perrett has put forward a theory that C.S. Forester based his character Horatio Hornblower on Admiral James Gordon's life in his book, *The Real Hornblower: The Life and Times of Admiral Sir James Gordon, GCB*. An interesting and compellingly presented theory, Perrett outlines the similarities in the career of the fictitious Hornblower to the real-life career of Admiral Sir Gordon.

WHO WAS DAISY GORDON & WHY IS SHE SO IMPORTANT?

Juliette Gordon Low 1887 by Edward Hughes
National Portrait Gallery at the Smithsonian

Daisy Gordon has arguably been the most significant influence on girls in the USA ever. The founder of the Girl Scouts of America, an organization which has grown from 18 girls to over 3.7 million today, Daisy and her organization has impacted more than 50 million girls, women (and even a few men) who have belonged to it.

Born Juliette Magill Kinzie Gordon on 31 October 1860, in Savannah, Georgia, she was the second of six children of William Washington Gordon and Eleanor Kinzie Gordon. Her paternal line is traced back as far as John Gordon & Janet Ogilvie of Pitlurg, Aberdeenshire, Scotland (about 1520.) Daisy's line descends from their son John and his wife Isabel Forbes. Isabel Forbes is a Gordon descendant, on her paternal line, of William Forbes (1452) and his wife Christine Gordon. Christine was the daughter of Alexander Seaton Gordon and Elizabeth Crichton, and thus through his mother back to the progenitor of the Clan Gordon, Adam de Gordon!

Her brother Arthur best summed up his "brilliant eccentric" sister, "...she was so many-sided and unexpected and incalculable. There was nothing conventional or tepid or neutral about her. She had an eager desire to realize life to its utmost, and she would try anything, particularly if she had never attempted it before.

What she enjoyed, she enjoyed to her very finger tips; and one reason why she was so eagerly sought after lay in the fact that she was not only very entertaining and amusing when she desired to be, but she was frequently killingly funny when she had no intention of being funny at all."

As a young girl, Daisy was fond of exotic birds, dogs, and the arts. She formed clubs, invented games, rode horses, played tennis, wrote poetry, wrote and acted in plays, and she created a children's magazine that lasted for five years. One of the clubs that she formed was called the "Helpful Hands," it was a sewing club with the purpose of making useful items for the poor. She was known for her sense of humor and loved a good practical joke. She was known for bringing home strays of all kinds. She showed her bent for the humane treatment of animals in her confession that "sometimes they weren't strays, but I felt that their owners were neglecting them." This enthusiasm was sometimes taken to extremes in her youth as she tells us in the Thanksgiving turkey incident!

"When I was little, people fattened and then slaughtered their own Thanksgiving turkeys. Just before they cut off our turkey's head, I convinced my family that brutal decapitation was inhuman. I argued that he could be chloroformed first, and then wouldn't feel anything. They finally gave in and agreed to do just that. Then they plucked the turkey and put him in the icebox. When they opened the icebox the next day, the bird was wide awake and bolted out of his frozen "cage." The cook, thinking the bird had been dead, became hysterical and jumped up on top of the stove!"

She loved the arts and studied poetry, learned to sketch, and eventually became an accomplished sculptor and painter.

As a young girl she attended the school of Miss Lucille Blois in Savannah, just around the corner from home. She struggled in arithmetic and spelling, but was overall an able student. In 1873 she and her sister, Eleanor, were sent to boarding school at Virginia Female Institute in Staunton, Virginia. She spent three years at VFI (now known as Stuart Hall) before attending Edge Hill in Albemarle run by Misses

Sarah and Carrie Randolph, and finally attending Mesdemoiselles Charbonnier's, a French Finishing School in New York City. According to the Stuart Hall website the courses were divided into separate schools in what is known as the "University of Virginia plan." A diploma and a medal were given for each subject exam passed. The rules of conduct at VFI were strictly enforced, and even though it was against the rules to read novels, Daisy seems to have found pleasure in doing just that, much to her mother's chagrin. Nellie Gordon wrote her daughter "How *came* you to ever *begin* such a book as Hester Morely's *Promise! No! You cannot* finish it and I am very vexed that you ever got hold of it. You may read *Lorna Doone* if you like, but I don't think you will enjoy it. *Kate Coventry* and *Jessie Trim* I know nothing about and you can't read them until I do..." Nellie did approve of the great English poets and novelists and did give Daisy permission to read from Shakespeare, Scott, Thackeray and Dickens as she pleased.



Pictured above Virginia Female Institute circa 1875,
courtesy of Stuart Hall (formerly VFI) Lynchburg, Virginia

In one letter home from VFI, Daisy tells of a funeral that the girls held for a poor frozen robin they had found. Daisy made a coffin out of an old pasteboard box with pin heads as decoration on the lid to simulate nail heads, and she made a shroud and cap for it and laid it out on her doll bed. The service, with Daisy as the parson, was held in the schoolroom complete with six girls acting as pall bearers, and another girl, Sally, as chief mourner, who "wept and tore her hair and acted just like a chief mourner." The Death of Cock Robin was recited, and the girls sang "The North Wind Doth Blow and We Shall Have Snow," Daisy goes on to tell how the girls all stood in two rows "teachers included and went two by two to the grave." Miss Kate had even given them permission to have an English Service in honor of Cock Robin, and a real marble stone for the marker upon which they wrote "Here lies Cock Robin Snug as a Bug in a Rug." It is easy to see Daisy's love of animals and flair for the dramatic. The fact that she was able to involve the whole school, teachers as well, shows how persuasive she could be, a trait that stood her in good stead throughout her life.

She did well academically earning medals in English, French, piano, elocution and drawing. Apparently she had wanted the medals engraved with her nickname Daisy, (she was never called anything but Daisy by all who knew her) but the school refused. To add insult to injury her first name was misspelled and her name was engraved as Juliette Magill Gordon!

At sixteen, Daisy was at Edge Hill School in Albemarle, Virginia run by the Misses Sarah and Carrie Randolph, great-granddaughters of Thomas Jefferson. Being a typical teenager, she seems to have been testing the waters of independence a bit when she wrote home reminding her mother that even she

had been a bit of a handful. She writes, "Mama, I can't keep all the rules, I'm too much like you. Imagine yourself when at school, on being asked to do something against the rules in order to have some fun, clasping your hands across your bosom and saying, 'How wrong!' I'll keep the rule about studying after the light bell rings, about getting up in the morning too soon and I'll keep clear of the big scrapes but little ones I can't avoid." (Of course her mother had met her father when on a visit to Yale she slid down the banister and landed right on top of Willie Gordon! So Daisy was sure her mother would understand, and her father would chuckle.) On her graduation she was crushed when she didn't get the scholastic medal she had worked so hard for and expected. She wrote home to her mother that it was "against the principals of this school to give two medals to one girl (an unheard of thing) so as the drawing medal was a higher honor I suppose Miss Sarah thought I would rather have it. But I would *not*. For Papa told me in his first letter to work hard on everything but drawing and now he won't think I did!"

At Charbonnier's the girls were immersed in French, not being allowed to speak anything else. She seemed to be proud of her academic prowess in the language, especially in spelling and grammar having received top scores. Since spelling had always been a problem for her, she proudly wrote home that "this explains it all – my faculty of spelling being singularly small, has been absorbed in French Dictées!" Her pride in her accomplishments only lasted until her next letter from home when her then seven year old brother, Arthur (whose governess was French) advised Daisy not to write home in French as she could not spell in French either. Daisy added the skill of painting in oils to her artistic training, and attended dancing classes at Dodsworth's Dancing School. Charbonnier's was strict and she poked fun at the excessive formality as well as at the dancing classes, but still managed somehow to not even get into "little scrapes."

Following her debut in Savannah Society, she traveled extensively throughout the United States and Europe. In 1884, she made her second trip to Europe, and this time visited Scotland with the Carters, friends from Charbonnier's. She was quite taken with the beauty of Scotland and wrote "The Mountain pass of Trossachs is enough to make one thank God for being alive and that there are such beautiful things on earth. Strange to say, I had a patriotic feeling as if I was a Scot myself in some distant way, and I don't care if Papa does chaff and say we were probably servants and yeomen of the Gordon clan when our ancestors were in Scotland." The irony of this statement, given her pedigree back to the progenitor of the clan, is exquisite and yet her feeling of patriotism for Scotland is an all too recognizable one which many a Scotsman has experienced.

Daisy suffered from chronic ear infections as she grew up. Always one who stressed personal responsibility, she wrote that "I had a series of ear infections and was losing patience with 'traditional' medicine. I had heard that silver nitrate was the 'newest' treatment, and I insisted that the doctor use it on me. Unfortunately, it was too powerful a mixture, and it caused me to go deaf in that ear." At her wedding in December 1886, to William Mackay Low (Billow to the family, Willy to everyone else), a piece of rice lodged in her ear. She called this a "truly freaky thing" and not wanting to postpone her honeymoon, did not take the time to see a doctor. The rice caused a major ear infection, and when she did seek medical attention the instrument used to remove the rice kernel pierced the ear drum and resulted in further infection which caused total loss of hearing in that ear.

Billow was a wealthy Englishman in the cotton trade with business offices and homes in both London and Savannah. The couple settled in the Low House on Lafayette Square in Savannah for the first year of their marriage and then relocated to London. As Billow was a close friend of the Prince of Wales, they were quickly received in London society, Daisy's brilliance as a hostess and infectious zest for life ensured they were well received. She was presented at court to Queen Victoria, an absolute must to secure her position in society, especially as she was American born. It took three hours to make their way through the various rooms at court to be presented to the Queen. Daisy got so tired of holding her bouquet that she placed it on the bustle of the lady in front of her leaving them there as they processed through the rooms, and the lady never noticed! She made great sport of poking fun of the British court's smothering formality, and the Brit's loved her for it, laughing along with her.

She easily made friends and was well liked, but she felt far too independent to truly fit into the mold of "fashionable boredom." During this time period she became a notable sculptor. She expanded into wood-carving and carved a mantelpiece for one of her homes. She also discovered working in wrought iron and had her own foundry built and created her own blacksmith tools! She even created wrought iron gates for her home. The downside of her iron working was that her arms became so muscular, that she no longer could fit her Paris evening gowns!

In 1893 she had met Rudyard Kipling, whose wife Carrie was the granddaughter of Nellie Kinzie Gordon's foster sister. Rudyard and Carrie became good friends of Daisy's and she sometimes led him into mischief. She wrote home about one party where he was the guest of honor, "I was bored at one of the parties I was attending, and so pulled Kipling away from his friends and took him fishing. He kept complaining that we weren't dressed for it (we were both in formal attire), but I never saw what difference our clothes made - it wasn't as if they were the bait we were using!" Kipling had a bit of a different take on it:

"...there is a brook at the foot of our garden so that if you like (and Daisy did) you can go out after dinner in evening dress and try your luck for a fish. Also there is a high black bridge, under which trout lie, facing a banked stone wall some eight feet high. It was here, naturally, that Daisy got a fairly big one, and equally naturally it was I, in dinner costume, who lay on a long handled net taking Daisy's commands while she maneuvered the fish into the net. We got him, between us, but it wasn't *my* fault for I was too weak with laughter to do more than dab and scoop feebly in the directions she pointed out. And she had her own ways of driving her Ford in Scotland that chilled my blood and even impressed our daughter. But her own good angels looked after her even when she was on one wheel over a precipice; and there was nobody like her."

During the Spanish American War, Daisy returned to the USA, and she and her mother established a convalescent hospital for soldiers returning from Cuba in Florida where her father was stationed. Her father, now commissioned as a general, served on the Puerto Rican Peace Commission. She returned to England at the end of the war, where she found that her already unhappy marriage was literally falling apart. Billow's life in the fast lane of London society had become an issue in that he was drinking far too much as well as other vices, least of which was not his selfishness, which had led Billow to take delight in teasing Daisy knowing that her love for him left her virtually defenseless. What had begun no doubt innocently as a joke, developed over time into a pleasurable (for him) past time, he seemed to enjoy getting her into a dither over his safety, his well-being, his comfort, and took delight in knowing he could hurt her at will. And hurt her he did. Her absolutely loyal heart would not allow her to even mention to her family how he deliberately hurt her or how unhappy she was in her marriage. Eventually he began an affair with a young widow named Anna Bateman and by the summer of 1901 it had become well known. He taunted Daisy, hoping to push her into a divorce, even inviting Mrs. Bateman to Mealmore while Daisy was in residence and hosting a house party. Worse Mrs. Bateman began giving orders to the servants in Daisy's presence as if she was hostess, and Billow was openly rude to her. Even then Daisy tried to protect him by refusing to leave until his sister Katy (whom she sent for) could come and take over as hostess to lend an air of propriety. She also sent for her sister Mabel who came and lent her moral support. Willy's family and friends rightly blamed him for the troubles in his marriage and embraced Daisy with their love and friendship. Willy sank deeper into his drinking. In 1902 Daisy agreed to the divorce she had wished to avoid, but the complicated requirements of English law, and Willy's unreasonable and erratic demands dragged out the negotiations and proceedings for years. Willy died in 1905 from complications of his excessive drinking before the divorce proceedings were complete, and Daisy found that he had left his entire estate to his mistress and her with only a small pension to be paid by the mistress. She wrote, "When my husband died, I found that he had willed his entire estate to another woman. No one was going to get away with that! Against the advice of my friends, I decided to contest the will, and eventually I won a \$500,000 settlement." This settlement also included all of her husband's property in Georgia including the Low House on Lafayette Square. She decided to travel, spending part

of the year in London and Scotland and the colder months in Savannah, as well as traveling across Europe and even to India. As her fiftieth birthday approached she became more dissatisfied with her life, and began looking for ever more ways to make her life feel useful.

It was during this time that she probably returned to doing home improvements and remodeled some of the furniture in her Georgia home. Jim Gannam wrote an article for Coastal Antiques and Art in July 2000 called "Daisy Made." He highlights a large dinning room table that Daisy is attributed with cutting down and remodeling into an expandable multi-leaf table and several other pieces which now are housed at her birthplace home in Savannah. Unlike her earlier works these seem to show more impatience and a hurried approach to them. One chest on chest has carvings that Gannam says "is so out of character with the design of the piece that an observer might be tempted to think she was having a bit of a joke on later generations of her family."

In 1911 she met the Boer War hero, Lieutenant General Sir Robert Baden-Powell (hero of the Siege of Mafeking.) Daisy and BP (as he was known to his friends) found they had many things in common including their love of sculpting. He introduced her to his growing scouting movement and his sister Agnes who was starting a companion Girl Guides movement. She soon founded a troop of Girl Guides near her estate in Glenlyon, Scotland. Wanting to find a way to better the lives of the girls, many of whom were unable to attend school and worked in unhealthy conditions in factories, she found a woman to teach her and the girls in her troop how to make cloth. The troop then sold the cloth in London and used the money to begin an egg business. The egg business became so successful that the girls no longer needed to work in the factories. Daisy subsequently started two more troops in London.

Several months later she returned to her native Savannah, and on March 12, 1912 called her cousin and said, "I've got something for the girls of Savannah, and all of America, and all the world, and we're going to start it tonight!" Eighteen girls gathered at her house that night and thus began the Girl Scouts of America.



At 51 Daisy formed the first two troops of Girl Guides in Savannah registering her niece and namesake, Daisy Gordon, as the first member. She dedicated the next 15 years to building the organization which she renamed in 1913 Girl Scouts of America. She wrote the first handbook "How Girls Can Help Their Country" in 1913, and funded most of the organization personally during the early years, even selling her magnificent pearls for \$8000.00 during WWI to ensure the organization could stay afloat financially. She made sure that girls of all backgrounds were given opportunities to develop self reliance and resourcefulness through outdoor activities. Physically challenged girls were encouraged to participate at a time when most organizations excluded them. She also emphasized preparation in the arts, sciences, business, citizenship as well as the traditional home roles. She got a special permit from Savannah to teach the girls basketball. She wouldn't take no for an answer and was known to use her hearing impairment and eccentricity to her advantage in getting her way when it

came to getting things done for her scouts!. "When I returned to the States and wanted to start the Girl Scouts, I knew I needed some help. The first woman I approached tried to tell me she wasn't interested. I pretended that my deafness prevented me from hearing her refusals. And told her, 'Then that's settled. I've told my girls you will take the meeting next Thursday.' I never heard a word of argument from her again!" She used her sense of humor to get and keep interest in her movement, wearing hats trimmed with carrots and parsley at a fashionable luncheon she would remark, "Oh, is my trimming sad?" referring to the drooping vegetables. "I can't afford to have this hat done over – I have to save all my money for my Girl Scouts. You know about the Scouts, don't you?" She also pulled what her family called "stunts" just to keep things lively at otherwise boring committee meetings once standing on her head to show off the new uniform shoes! Daisy spent the last 15 years of her life and most of her personal fortune working to build the Girl Scouts with an organizational genius few could have guessed she possessed. She even recruited the First Lady Edith Wilson and Lou Hoover who later became First Lady and who proudly re-

maintained a scout for life and led the first Girl Scout cookie campaign. She maintained ties with the Girl Guides organization in Britain throughout WWI and helped to lay the foundation for the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.



Diagnosed with breast cancer in 1923, she kept the information to herself and continued to work non-stop at a feverish pace for her girls. That she managed to keep her condition and pain a secret stands as a testament to the strength of her will and character. Daisy died in Savannah on 17 January 1927, and she was buried in full Girl Scout Uniform with a telegram from the Girls Scout Council Executives tucked into the pocket that read, "You are not only the first Girl Scout, you are the best Girl Scout of them all." Despite the hardships and disappointments that she faced, Daisy never lost her generous heart, her sense of humor, her courage or her determination. She has influenced us all in some fashion with her vision for girls, by the work and examples of the many outstanding former Girl Scouts who have shaped our nation, and through our mother's, our sister's and our own involvement in Girl Scouts. Many have realized dreams because being a scout gave them self confidence to reach for them. Today you will find women of all walks of life who are former Girl Scouts from astronauts like

Sally Ride, to Lois Juliber President of Colgate-Palmolive, to athletes like Jackie Joyner-Kersey, to fashion designer Vera Wang and even former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

The Girl Scout organization lists the following notable facts:

- On July 3, 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed a bill authorizing a stamp in honor of Juliette Gordon Low. The stamp was one of the few dedicated to women.
- During World War II, she had a "Liberty Ship" named in her honor. The S.S. Juliette Low built by the Southeastern Shipbuilding Corporation EC2-S-C1 Type Hull Number 51 MC# 2446, launched on 12 May 1944, she was scrapped in 1972.
- In 1954, in Georgia, the city of Savannah honored her by naming a school for her. A Juliette Low School also exists in Anaheim, California.
- On October 28, 1979, Juliette Low was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, New York.
- On December 2, 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed a bill naming a new federal building in Savannah in honor of Juliette Low. It was the second federal building in history to be named after a woman.
- In 1992, a Georgia non-profit honored Juliette Low as one of the first Georgia Women of Achievement. A bust of Juliette Low is displayed in the State Capitol.
- In 2000, The Deaf World in Wax, a traveling exhibit, featured her as a famous deaf American.
- On October 14, 2005, Juliette Low's life work was immortalized in a commemorative, bronze-and-granite medallion as part of a new national monument in Washington, D.C. The Extra Mile Points of Light Volunteer Pathway pays tribute to great Americans who built their dreams into movements that have created enduring change in America. The monument's medallions, laid into sidewalks adjacent to the White House, form a one-mile walking path.

Sources:

Choate, Anne Hyde. Juliette Low and the Girl Scouts: the story of an American Woman, 1860-1927. Published for Girls Scouts Inc. Garden City, New York: Doubleday, Doran & Co., 1928.

Pace, Mildred Mastin and Danny L. Miller, editors. Juliette Low. Jesse Stuart. Foundation, 1997.

Schultz, Gladys Denny and Daisy Gordon Lawrence. Lady from Savannah: The Life of Juliette Low. Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1958.

Gordon Family Papers 1814-1936, Addition 1844-1849, 1853-1916, 635 b. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Library, Manuscripts Department & Southern Historical Collection. Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Low's Papers in this collection: 1814-1936.

Girl Scouts of the USA www.girlscouts.org

Stuart Hall School Lynchburg, Virginia www.stuart-hall.org

Sherry Huggins, Spreading Like Kudzu <http://wc.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=:2531483&id=I531691900>

Member News!

Southwest News

A heartfelt thank you to **Linda Hilton**, who recently stepped down as long time Arizona Regional Director.

A big welcome to **Larry and Margaret Lamper** and **Floyd Adams Castle, Jr.** who have graciously agreed to accept the roles of House of Gordon Southwest Regional Directors of Arizona and New Mexico respectively.

Congratulations to **Bryce Parker** of Las Vegas, Nevada who competed in Highland Drumming at the Queen Mary Scottish Festival and won! Bryce also was awarded a \$500.00 scholarship from the St. Andrew's Society of Southern Nevada at their 2007 Burn's Night Supper. He will be attending St. Andrew's University in North Carolina on a Pipe Band Scholarship!

Congratulations to **Larry and Margaret Lamper** who recently celebrated the opening of their new pub, The Celtic Crossings, in Prescott, Arizona. You can check out their pub at its website: www.celticcrossingspub.com and if you're in Prescott, stop in and give them your patronage.

Jodi and Patrick Gordon set up a children's activity corner at the Gordon Tent during the Fresno, CA and Mesa, AZ games and it was a huge draw for visitors as it always is in Flagstaff! Jodi also has drawn considerable crowds with her hand crafted House of Gordon gourds.

Vince Adams competed in Heavy Athletics at the San Diego Games in June and came away with top honors in his class! Way to go Vince!

Virginia News

Welcome to the Virginia Board **Geoff and Beverly Baker** of Stafford, Virginia! Geoff is a Gordon through his Todd lineage.

The Virginia Gordons unveiled their new tent display at the Potomac Celtic Festival last June. The make-over included a new tent layout a time-line wall featuring 953+ years of continuous military tradition and highlighting the Wall of Honor begun in 2005 and our five active duty service members. Saturday Aaron Todd was the lone piper who

pipled the clans onto the field for the opening ceremonies. He honored his Gordon Clan by piping the clans off the field to Cock o' the North! We also hosted a farewell BBQ on Sunday for PFC Daniel Todd before he left for Okinawa. The MacMillan Grade 3 Pipe Band, which Aaron Todd is a member, honored Daniel by playing the Marine Corps Hymn in his honor.

Congratulations to **Karen Gardner** of Clifton, Virginia who walked across the Lawn for her Doctoral Degree in Education at UVA in May.

Congratulations to **Brandon Wray**, of Chesterfield, Virginia who made Eagle Scout. His Eagle project was building an information board at Pocahontas State Park. Brandon is the Son of Richard and Barbara Gordon Wray. Congratulations also to Brandon on being accepted to University of Colorado where he is studying meteorology.

Congratulations to **Kristen Gordon** of Winchester, Virginia, granddaughter of **Dr. Jim and Abbye Gordon**, for her accomplishments in VHSL Tennis. Kristen ranked #2 in Tennis Doubles and #4 in Singles in the 2005-2006 school year!

Congratulations to **Stephen Todd** of Richmond, Virginia on being distinguished honor grad in his classes on aviation mechanics for the USMC, and also on his promotion in March 2006 to Lance Corporal. Stephen is currently serving at MCAS New River in North Carolina. Ooh Rah Stephen!

Congratulations to **Daniel Todd** of Richmond, Virginia on his graduation from DINFOS and appointment as a combat correspondent for the USMC at MCB DS Butler in Okinawa, Japan in June. Congratulations also to him on his first published article in August and his promotion to Lance Corporal in October. Ooh-Rah Daniel!

Congratulations to **Aaron Todd** on his first place in 2/4 March and 1st place in Strathspey/Reel in Grade 2 Solo Competition at the North American Championships held at the Glengarry Highland Games in Maxville, Canada on August 4th! Aaron earned several first place awards last year in his piping competitions. We are proud to have him as our official piper in Virginia! Congratulations to Aaron also for making the drum line in his fresh-

Member News!

man year at Hermitage High School (a rare feat!) and for being nominated by his JROTC instructors for LeadAmerica and also advanced JROTC leadership training.

National News

It is with regret that we say good-bye for now to **Windy and Heather Gordon**. Thank you for all of your hard work as North Carolina Conveners and as Vice-President of the House of Gordon USA and Chairman of the Board before that. Your efforts have been appreciated and your company will be missed. We hope that you won't be long from the Gordon Tent!

Our best wishes are with **Art Gordon** who suffered a stroke in September. Art is making a good recovery, and we hope to be seeing him again soon!

Steve Eckoff has stepped down as convener for Idaho, and we heartily thank him for all of his work in the past. We are looking for a replacement for Steve, so if anyone is interested please contact John Lowry.

Thank you also to **Drake Adams** who served as convener in Oklahoma. Drake has moved to another state and will be very much welcomed there!

Thank you to **Stacey Gehrman** who has stepped down as convener in Oregon for her efforts and time given to the House.

We are sad that it has become necessary for **Earl D. Gordon, Jr.** to step down from the convener position in New England due to health issues and thank him for his years of service. We are working with two eager young men, **David Gordon and Merle Gordon** to represent us in New England. Thank you guys!

The position of Ohio Convener has been left vacant with the death of **Rick Neidert** which we announced in the last newsletter. We are still looking for a replacement.

We would like to welcome the following people who have graciously volunteered to take on convener duties:

Mark Seaman in Kansas
David & Amanda Cottam in Oregon
Rawnie Gordon in Oklahoma

We would also like to thank **Kenny Prather** for volunteering to take on the daunting task as Commissioner of Texas. Kenny is looking for people to assist him as Games Conveners in Texas!

Flowers of the Forest

Our condolences to **Ken Edmisten** on the passing of his father, **Lennard Edmisten**.

Charles Kipp, 1915-2006 died while visiting his daughter **Laurie Evans** in Portland Oregon. We will miss his enthusiasm of all things Scottish.

Rick Neidert d. 6 Oct. 2006. Rick was convener in Ohio.

Welcome to the new bairns!

Jodi Gordon (Southwest) announces the birth of a new granddaughter, **Brookland Jade Robinson** born October 26th!

Woody and Lynne Gordon (Southwest) announce the birth of their grandson, **Shane Miles Bryce Gordon**, born November 25th!

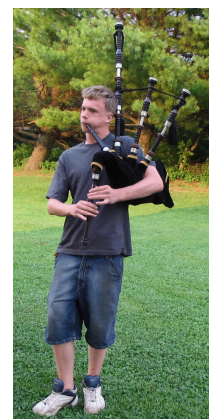
Morris & Sara Gordon of Chesterfield, Virginia announce the birth of their granddaughter, **Alyssa Michelle Faris** born November 27th!

A Letter of Thanks

Fellow Gordons,

I would like to express my thanks to you all for your support of my piping. Receiving a scholarship from the Gordons has meant a lot, and I used it toward my lessons with Bruce Gandy. Your kindness is very much appreciated. I have passed this kindness on by volunteering my piping services in several community events, including the Prayer Vigil for the Virginia Tech Students held at VCU.

Aaron Todd.



Aaron at the 2006 Annual picnic at Grandfather Mt.

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 2006.
 - 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:
 - Proposed Bylaws presented for discussion and vote of acceptance.
 - Proposed Slate of Officers for 2007-2009 presented for discussion, additional nominations and vote.
 - Formalization of the Charles O. Gordon Memorial Scholarship with an Application Process presented for discussion and vote of acceptance.
 - Support of the Gordon DNA Project Fund presented for discussion and vote of acceptance.
 - Choice of Fiscal Year 2007 Scottish Charity presented for discussion and vote.
 - Choice of 2008 and 2009 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.
 - Call for any other new business to

be discussed and motions to their disposition as it may pertain.

- Newly elected Officers installed.
- Meeting Adjourned

The proposed bylaws are published for your perusal online at the House of Gordon USA website. If you do not have access to the internet and would like a copy posted to you prior to the AGM in July, please send a letter to:

Lois Todd
1811 Aeronca Ave.
Richmond, VA 23228-1328.

Proposed Slate of Officers for 2007-2009

- President – John Lowry
- Vice President – Roger Mills
- Secretary – Barbara Gordon Wray
- Treasurer – Ken Hendrix
- Director — Kim Gordon
- Director — Lucretia Gordon

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

At this time we have 365 paid members, an increase of sixty-five since our last newsletter in December! We have grown considerably since reorganizing last July and look forward to continued growth and progress.

WALL OF HONOR

We currently have six family members serving as active duty service men. If you have family members serving, please let us know so that we can properly honor them.

We have also had thirteen members submit their names for the Wall of Honor as inactive/retired service. Please check out the online Wall of Honor.

Proxy Ballot
House of Gordon USA Annual General Meeting
Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, Linville, NC July 14, 2007

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

- (1) To elect six directors and officers
- (2) To adopt the Proposed Bylaws of the House of Gordon USA
- (3) To consider the Charles O. Gordon Memorial Scholarship application process,
Scottish Charity, Gordon DNA Fund, 2008 & 2009 AGM Venues
- (4) 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 3, 2007 at the address shown below. You may submit your Proxy (1) by mail, or (2) over the internet (by attached 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 14, 2007, and further grant a proxy to _____ to vote on my behalf on such matters as may be required.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|---|
| 1. Election of Officers and Directors | _____ | Vote FOR all nominees
(except as marked) |
| President: John E. Lowry | | |
| Vice-President: Roger J. Mills | | |
| Secretary: Barbara Gordon Wray | _____ | Vote WITHHELD
from all nominees |
| Treasurer: Ken Hendrix | | |
| Director: Kim Gordon | | |
| Director: Lucretia Gordon | | |

Instructions: To withhold authority to vote for any indicated nominee, write the name(s) of the nominee(s) on the line provided to the right. _____

2. I instruct my Proxy to use their best judgment on all matters which properly come before the membership at the AGM.

This Proxy must be signed and received by July 3, 2007.

Date _____ **Signature** _____

Membership Number (if known) _____

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

Meet the Proposed Slate of Officers

John E. Lowry, a retired insurance executive, has been involved in the California House of Gordon leadership for many years as Convener and more recently on the National Board of Directors, moving to the position of President in July 2006.

Col. Roger J. Mills has served as Illinois Convener for a number of years and on the National Board as Convener Coordinator since reorganization. Roger is currently Executive Director of the Illinois Chiropractic Association.

Barbara Gordon Wray has been active in the Virginia House of Gordon as Secretary/Treasurer and currently serves on the National Board as Secretary. Barbara is a Program Analyst for the US Department of Defense.

Ken Hendrix has been active in the West Coast House of Gordon leadership since the beginning and was recently named National Treasurer. Ken holds an MBA degree and has just retired from the accounting firm of Brandon & Tibbs (still maintaining a number of other business pursuits).

Kim Gordon is a multitalented professional with experience at IBM, AT&T, a dotCOM and in marketing, sales, advertising, technology and graphic arts. He holds an MA degree and is working on his Ph.D. Kim is a proud Gordon and pleased to be back serving House of Gordon USA in this way.

Lucretia Gordon says she has been involved in the House of Gordon "practically all my life" and ran things pretty much alone since the death of her father, Charles O. Gordon. Lu knows so many of you and maintains strong ties with the Gordons in Scotland. She received training as an archaeologist and was involved in a number of excavations at Williamsburg, VA.



Arms of the Marquis of Huntly,
Chief of the Gordons

Officers & Divisions

House of Gordon USA

President -	John Lowry, California	GordonCEO@aol.com
Vice President-	Roger Mills, Illinois	rogermills@ilchiro.org
Secretary-	Barbara Gordon Wray, Virginia	Barbara.Wray@dla.mil
Treasurer-	Ken Hendrix, California	Ken@HendrixTech.com
Membership Secretary-	Nellie Lowry, California	LowryLines@aol.com
Communications Chair-	Lois Todd, Virginia	lmtodd@comcast.net

Commissioners:

Mid-Atlantic	Morris Gordon	(VA, MD, DC, DE, NJ, PA) sirknighmtmg@hotmail.com
Southwest	Tom Adams	(CA, AZ, NM, NV) taadams.scotland@sbcglobal.net
Texas	Kenny Prather	csmkjp@satx.rr.com

State Conveners:

Arkansas	Barbara Brandon	BarbBrandon@aol.com
Colorado	Richard Milne	santa.milne@worldnet.att.net
Georgia	Mike Gordon	lrampant45@yahoo,cin
Florida	Norval Marr	arutland@tampabay.rr.com
Kansas	Mark Seaman	mss7780@aol.com
Kentucky & Indiana	Kevin Spencer	Intartan@aol.com
Illinois	Roger Mills	rogermills@ilchiro.org
Maine	Merle Gordon	merrill515@yahoo.com
Maryland	David E. Gordon	ddavidegordon@aol.com
Michigan & N. Indiana	Garth Gordon	garthmgordon@aol.com
Mississippi	Robert Gordon	Bydand@netdoor.com
New England	David Gordon	dgordon1949@yahoo.com
Oklahoma	Rawnie Gordon	<i>email not available</i>
Oregon	David & Amanda Cottam	Amanda.Cottam@providence.org
South Carolina	David Nichols	nichols_d@bellsouth.net
Utah	Loren Adams	<i>email not available</i>
Washington	Cindy Michaels	ciindu1940@msn.com
Wisconsin	Laurence Whitten	LorcantheCelt@aol.com

House of Gordon International

President Australia–	Ken Gordon	coke@cci.net.au
President Canada–	Don Aitchison	houseofgordon@sympatico.ca
President New Zealand–	Glenyss O'Halloran	glenseamas@xtra.com.nz



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