



# Cock's Crow

House of Gordon



Vol. 21 No. 4

Issued Quarterly by the  
Southwest Division of the U.S. Branch

Winter 2006

## Convener's Corner

Hello everyone –

We can look back on our House of Gordon Southwest activities during 2006 with a great deal of satisfaction. We are wrapping up one of our most successful years. We had a well attended and very productive Annual General Meeting in Fresno. With the election, this year, of Woody Gordon as Vice-Convener and Jodi Gordon as Secretary we have a full compliment of hard working, dedicated officers, and I want to thank all the officers and board members for their hard work this year. I am confident that they will all contribute greatly to the continued success of our organization in 2007.



Each issue of the Cock's Crow this year has listed new members joining the House of Gordon Southwest. We have also started contacting former members encouraging them to come back. I am pleased to report that our membership role is continuing to grow.

The House of Gordon Southwest is a volunteer organization. I want to thank each and every one of you who generously contributed your time and energy during 2006. I want to extend a special thank you to all that have attended and helped out at the Games throughout our region. In some cases you have willingly taken vacation days from work and have traveled great distances to help out! Without your help we would have missed several games this year and would have missed opportunities to meet new people and attract new members. I ask all our members to resolve to help out at Games in your respective areas during 2007.

On behalf of Arlene and me, I extend to all of you our very best wishes for the holidays.

We look forward to seeing you in 2007!

Bydand – Tom Adams,  
Convener House of Gordon Southwest

## Thank a Scot for Those Holiday Gifts

During the holiday season when you give and/or receive gifts there is a really good chance that you can also offer a silent thanks to a Scot. If perhaps you receive something as simple as a wonderful jar of orange marmalade, well then you owe a debt of thanks to Mrs. Keillor of Dundee who created marmalade. When you receive that really nice trench coat you have wanted, send a mental "thanks" to Charles MacIntosh of Glasgow. He figured out how to waterproof clothing. Your new mountain bike and your grandchild's first bicycle are possible thanks to the inventive spirit of a blacksmith from Dumfries named Kirkpatrick MacMillan. If you unwrap a small package and discover a cellular phone, you can thank Edinburgh born Alexander Graham Bell for inventing the telephone (or at least for being shrewd enough to register his patent mere hours before his chief rival showed up to register his patent!). The list goes on and on. Golf clubs are so obvious I almost decided to leave them out, but that new putter you've been wanting because **it will certainly improve your game** was first brandished by a Scot. Perhaps you are lucky enough to rip the wrapping off a really big gift – a big screen TV! Yes indeed you should say thanks to **John Logie Baird**, a Scottish engineer, best known as the inventor of the first working electromechanical television system. Your editor would relish the opportunity to utter quiet thanks to Mr. Baird! Perhaps you are serving a holiday dinner and you pull a dish out of the refrigerator, thanks to James Harrison, the inventor of commercial refrigeration, and then heat it in the microwave oven, a device that came about as a direct offshoot of the initial work with radar technology by Sir Robert Watson-Watt. Yes indeed, we Scots have had quite an impact around the world. So when you give or receive gifts during this holiday season, take

a moment to remember, and to thank, the inventive spirit of the Scots.

## Getting the Word Out

There is quite a lot happening on the advertising side of our cooperative efforts with House of Gordon Chapters Worldwide, as the proposed advertisement attests. We have already had an ad published in the Scottish Banner (November 2006 issue) detailing

**HOUSE OF GORDON**  
Australia, Canada, New Zealand, USA



Invites membership enquiries from Gordon and \*Sept families and descendants, those who served with the Gordon Highlanders Regiment, plus other Regiments attached to the Gordon Highlanders, and families;

\* Sept names listed below also have variations in the spellings:  
*Adam, Adamson, Adie, Addison, Atken, Aitken, Atkinson, Connon, Cromb, Crombie, Cullen, Culane, Darg, Darge, Edison, Eddie, Gardiner, Huntly, Jessiman, Jopp, Jupp, Lawrie, Mallett, Mill, Mills, Milne, Milner, Moir, Morrice, Macadam, Steel, Teall, Todd.*

- House of Gordon International Contacts -  
Australian President: Ken Gordon  
Ph: 0-2-43335900 Email: coke@cci.net.au  
Canadian President: Don Aitchison  
Email: houseofgordon@sympatico.ca  
New Zealand President: Glenyss O'Halloran  
Ph: 0-7-878 7582 Email: glenseamas@xtra.co.nz  
USA President: John Lowry  
Ph: 818-886-4968 Email: GordonCEO@aol.com  
Motto: BYDAND - Remaining or Abiding

contacts for the various Houses of Gordon in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA.

We felt that combining of our international efforts was important to demonstrate to our Membership, and the Scottish Community at large, that the House of Gordon is alive, strong, and united in its mission to move forward with improving and expanding our Clan Society all over the world.

## Preserving and Embracing the Mother Language

Scotland is pressing forward with a National Plan to preserve Gaelic and develop ways of promoting and

using the language. Right now it is estimated that less than 2% of the population of Scotland can speak Gaelic. The Gaelic Language Act 2005 (Scotland) went into effect in February 2006. Since then, various government and civil agencies have and will be meeting to develop Gaelic plans. Hats off to the Royal Mail! They are putting new signage, using both English and Gaelic, on several dozen of their vehicles. The Gaelic will read 'Bus a Phuist' which translates as 'postal bus'. The vehicles will be introduced in areas of the western highlands where Gaelic is most frequently used. The very first are supposed to be at Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis.

## Meef Bonnie, the Hielan' Cool!

He was the mascot for the 2005 Games in Tokyo, Japan! The winning name, 'Bonnie', was chosen by eight year old Ayako Sato.

The Japan Scottish Highland Games have adopted a real live Hielan' Coo (properly called a 'Highland') named Bonnie, who lives at Mugdock Country Park, near Glasgow, in Scotland. Bonnie is now seven years old and lives with two other Highlands, grazing in the field in front of the ruins of Craigend Castle.

Mugdock Country Park is a 400 acre estate that was donated to the general public by the late Sir Hugh Fraser. It contains two ruined castles, one of which is now being restored as Mugdock Castle, the former home of the Graham Clan.

The cattle are not fed during the summer, as the grass is plentiful, but from early October through to April, they are given a daily helping of draff, from the local whisky distillery at Glengoyne.

Draff is a barley grain by-product from the whisky making process. It has a whisky aroma, and Bonnie loves it! Fortunately, the draff is nonalcoholic. Along with his feed, Bonnie has a daily supplement of hay, which he really loves during the winter months.

Bonnie and his two friends belong to Alistair Bain and his busy farming family, who run Ballagan Farm, a 2800 acre hill farm in the Campsie Fells.



## Holiday Recipe

### Edinburgh Fog \*

Edinburgh used to be known as "Auld Reekie" (Old Smokie) in the days of coal fires - Robert Louis Stevenson, who was a sickly child, used to complain about it in the 19th century. Here is a recipe for a rich, sweet dessert which recalls those days. The original recipe used almond flavored "ratafia" biscuits/cookies but as these are not easily available, almond flavored cookies or macaroon biscuits or similar can be used.

#### **Recipe Ingredients:**

Half pint double cream

One ounce castor (fine granulated) sugar

Two ounces small macaroon biscuits

Almond essence (extract is fine)

Drambuie\*\* liqueur to taste

One ounce flaked almonds

#### **Preparation Method:**

The cream should be whipped until it is stiff and the sugar added to your own preference. Crush the macaroon biscuits and mix well with the cream. Add a few drops of almond essence and Drambuie liqueur (or rum, whisky or brandy) to taste. Serve well chilled as a luxury dessert.

\*Served at the Tucson Celtic Festival Games, the recipe can be found on the Glasgow Guide website: [http://www.glasgowguide.co.uk/scottish\\_recipes\\_Edinburgh\\_Fog\\_.htm](http://www.glasgowguide.co.uk/scottish_recipes_Edinburgh_Fog_.htm)

\*\* Drambuie was originally made on the Isle of Skye by Captain John Mackinnon.

## A Russian Tattoo?

Yes indeed. You will be able to see the Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Moscow next September (if you happen to be in Moscow). They expect to have as many as 10 Scottish Pipe and Drum bands. It is estimated that around 100 million TV viewers in Russia and the former Soviet republics will get to see the spectacle. The upcoming Tattoo has received the support of Russian President Vladimir Putin. If you are wondering why the Russian people would be so excited about a Scottish Military Tattoo in Russia, do a little digging into Russian history and you'll find the links to Scotland. In fact there is a Gordon who played a major role in Russian history. Look for more about the Gordon connection in Russia in a future issue.

## 2006 Games Report

**The Tucson Celtic Festival and Highland Games** were held in Tucson, AZ on Nov. 4, 2006 and were presided over by the Chief of the Games, James McBain of Clan McBain.

The Festival was kicked off on the Friday evening with a gourmet meal consisting of Irish Pub Salad, Welsh rarebit, a Veggie Haggis Tartlet with Rosemary Sauce, Welsh Stew, Irish Soda Rolls, Irish Colcannon (a potato, cabbage, and onion side dish) and Scottish Edinburgh Fog Dessert\*. Entertainment provided by "The Muses" a fantastic group from Colorado and a Torch lighting Ceremony.

Besides the clan representatives on the field Saturday, there were six pipe bands from around Arizona and New Mexico. Entertainment on Saturday was provided by "Round The House", "The Muses", "Oceans Apart", "4 Schillings Short", "Hank Kramer" and several dancers.

The athletics competition was well represented by athletes from around the Southwest US with the following taking the first place prizes in various events:

Amateur A, Mike Susmark

Amateur B, Jeff McCotter

Amateur C, Richard Wells

Master, Age 40+, Tom Watts

Pro, Ryan Vierra

Summer Pierson broke 5 field records in the Women's Open

In total we had 29 visitors to the House of Gordon tent during the one day event and signed up a new member, David M. Gordon.

**The Seaside Highland Games** were held in Ventura, CA on Oct. 13-15, 2006. More than 60 Clans and Societies were represented and the visitors poured through the gate both Saturday and Sunday. The Friday night Ceilidh was sold out weeks before the event. The House of Gordon tent was busy both days with visitors, six new members who signed up, and several members who stopped by to pay their renewals. House of Gordon merchandise was popular and sales were excellent. We were joined at the tent by Ian Fellowes-Gordon, who was featured in the last Cock's Crow as a recent graduate now seeking employment. He felt visiting 'family' in America would help pass the time until the job offers come rolling in.

The guest of honor at the Games was Alistair Henderson, Chief of Clan Henderson. He lives in Australia and the Seaside Games was his first stop during his first visit to America.

**“Something Scottish”**, the St. Andrew’s Society of Southern Nevada’s seventh annual day long event was held on Nov. 4, 2006 in Las Vegas. Along with performances by the Desert Skye Pipe Band, attendees and visitors were treated to two performances by a group of our local dancers, a solo violinist, and a lively poetry reading. Woody Gordon presided over the event as Master of Ceremonies.

The House of Gordon shared a tent with the Las Vegas Celtic Society and between the two groups the tent was very busy all day. Merchandise was sold and we gained a new H of G member.

## THE HOUSE OF GORDON SOUTHWEST 2006/2007 OFFICERS

**Convener** **Tom Adams**  
858-578-4426  
taadams.scotland@sbcglobal.net  
10562 Odell Road,  
San Diego, CA 92126-3012

**Vice-Convener** **Sherwood Gordon**  
702-657-8168  
desertrunners@cox.net  
5324 Cool Dawn Court  
Las Vegas, NV 89130

**Secretary** **Jodi Gordon**  
520-560-5882  
jodi@desertwisper.com  
13765 W. Beeler Road  
Florence, AZ 85232

**Treasurer** **Lynne Gordon**  
702-657-8168  
desertrunners@cox.net  
5324 Cool Dawn Court  
Las Vegas, NV 89130

**Membership** **Arlene Adams**  
858-578-4426  
taadams.scotland@sbcglobal.net  
10562 Odell Road,

San Diego, CA 92126-3012

**Sennachie** **Steve Melcher**  
760-233-0311  
bydandcpl@yahoo.com

### REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Northern CA *volunteers needed*  
Southern CA *volunteers needed*

Arizona **Larry & Margaret Lamper**  
928-777-8311  
almlamper@yahoo.com

Nevada **Woody & Lynne Gordon**  
702-657-8168  
desertrunners@cox.net

New Mexico *volunteers needed*

### EXHAUSTED SUPPORT STAFF

Website *soon to be updated*

Cock’s Crow Editor **Woody Gordon**  
702-657-8168  
desertrunners@cox.net  
5324 Cool Dawn Court  
Las Vegas, NV 89130

## HOUSE OF GORDON INTERNATIONAL

**Australian President** **Ken Gordon**  
Ph: 0-2-43335900  
Email: coke@cci.net.au

**Canadian President** **Don Aitchison**  
Email: houseofgordon@sympatico.ca

**New Zealand President** **Glennys O’Halloran**  
Ph: 0-7-878 7582  
Email: glenseamas@xtra.co.nz

**USA President** **John Lowry**  
Ph: 818-886-4968  
Email: GordonCEO@aol.com

## Member News

We have a number of new House of Gordon members to acknowledge this quarter. First let us extend a big welcome to David Gordon of Tucson, AZ.

David has only recently discovered his Scottish roots; however, he made up for lost time by fully embracing his heritage. At the Tucson Games, David purchased a House of Gordon shirt, and then his first kilt. David proudly shows off his Gordon tattoo to all who wish to see it.



Those of you receiving the newsletter by email have the advantage of seeing the amazing full color artwork. (Send our Secretary your email address if you have not already done so to receive your color newsletter issues electronically.)

Next please welcome Gary & Debbie Abbott, Floyd (Scotty) Jack, and Michael Whitney, all residents of Las Vegas, NV. We look forward to seeing you at the Las Vegas Highland Games in April 2007.

Also welcome to J.C. Shea, of Fresno, CA who joined last September, but didn't make it into the last newsletter.

Lastly, please welcome the new members who joined the House of Gordon at the Seaside Games: Claire Hoffman, Norman Auslander, Joseph Gordon, Derian Aleander Gordon, and John S. Gordon. **Welcome one and all!**

## Wee Bairns Announcements



Our Secretary, Jodi Gordon shows off her new granddaughter, Brookland Jade Robinson, born to Abrial and his wife, Holly, at 11:29 p.m. on October 26, 2006.

Woody & Lynne Gordon proudly announce the birth of their grandson, Shane Miles Bryce Gordon, on November 25, 2006. Their son, Sean, showed him off to Grandma & Grandpa in a video conference the day they came home from the hospital! Lynne & Woody can't wait to spend Christmas with the wee lad.



## From the desk of Arlene Adams, Membership Director

Arlene reports that we still have many members who did not pay their 2006 dues. This is significant because we carry far more names on our membership roll. Not keeping your dues current means you get the benefits of membership (like receiving this newsletter) while asking our paid members to absorb the cost. Please check today and if you have not paid your dues please send your \$25.00 annual dues to Arlene Adams.

**Arlene Adams, 10562 Odell Road,  
San Diego, CA 92126-3012**

## Treasurer's Message

Some members have asked about the distribution of their annual dues.

According to our National President, John Lowry, the National portion of our member's dues will be used in some new and creative ways from how things were previously handled. The House of Gordon, Southwest, currently keeps only \$10.00 of the annual \$25.00 dues that we collect from each member. Of the \$15.00 per member that goes to National, \$5.00 went to the Scotland House of Gordon to offset some of their expenses. Since there is currently no active Clan organization in Scotland, we have determined (with the Chief's knowledge and consent) to use that portion to support Scotland-based charities, currently the very fine Gordon Highlanders Museum in Aberdeen. The remaining \$10.00 is used to run the National operation and to pay for postage and printing expenses, including a new version of the Gordon Gazette, which was formerly published in Scotland.

Our House of Gordon Southwest Games registration fees come to approximately \$1300.00 a year. The benefit of membership to you is that you have a pleasant clan tent providing a place for you to meet with clan members, sit a while and chat, catch up with friends, and enjoy the atmosphere of the Games.

On behalf of the House of Gordon National and Southwest, thanks to each and every one who remains faithful with their Clan Membership dues. We are very aware and take seriously our obligation to be good stewards of that money.

### ATTENTION MEMBERS

**Several regions urgently need bighearted volunteers to transport materials and to set up our House of Gordon tent at the games. You only have to attend a few games a year in your area (and you get free tickets and VIP parking), its lots of fun and ITS EASY! Please volunteer and help keep the games alive and flourishing in your area. Look over the games calendar for 2007, and call Tom or Woody for details of how you can help your Clan.**



**Lennard Edmisten** - Ken Edmisten's father passed away this summer. He fell while working on some flowers in a friend's garden and fractured the C2 vertebra in his neck. His only hope for a quick recovery was to have a risky neck surgery. He was not able to fully recover from the surgery and his health failed while in the hospital trying to recover from the surgery.

**Charles Kipp 1915 – 2006** - Over the past couple of years, John and Nellie Lowry developed a telephone friendship with Mr. Kipp who lived up in Santa Barbara. Charles would call to discuss anything Scottish. He was a very proud member of the House of Gordon and wanted to share news or ask questions about the Clan or Scottish Games. Charles passed away on October 27 at the age of ninety-one.

He could not travel much due to his age and frailty but did travel to Bend, Oregon on October 18 to visit his daughter, Laurie Evans, and to receive some care that he so badly needed. It was to be his last trip as he died there about a week later.

Proud as he was, he did not want any sort of memorial service or obituary so we don't have his life story to share. Charles's ashes will be scattered in the Oregon mountains in the spring.

## **Greetings from the Editor**

### **Bliadhna Mhath Ur dhut!**

2006 has been a great year. The House of Gordon Southwest and House of Gordon National are on track to expand and improve the House of Gordon for all its members. With this issue of the Cock's Crow we see more fruit from this labor as we reach out to build stronger ties with House of Gordon Chapters around the world! Our efforts have paid off right here as our own House of Gordon Southwest membership is growing again.

I have had the good fortune to travel to new (for me) and diverse Games venues during 2006 and I have met and worked with groups of dynamic people who have truly helped me rejuvenate my own commitment to the House of Gordon.

I hope to have the opportunity to meet and talk with a lot more of our members at the various games I will be attending during 2007.

I urge all of you to make a renewed commitment to the House of Gordon Southwest during 2007. Make your New Year's resolution to come to the Games and stop by the House of Gordon tent. Spend a little time and talk with the visitors who stop by to find out more about their heritage. You may provide the spark they need to truly explore their Scottish heritage.



I extend my best wishes to you and yours this holiday season and my hope for a healthy and happy 2007 for all!

Slangeva,

Woody Gordon,  
Vice Convener

### **Air Son Gradh Na H-Albann!**



## 2007 Games Calendar



<b>Feb 17-18</b>	<b>Queen Mary Scottish Festival</b>	<b>Long Beach, CA</b>
<b>Feb 24-25</b>	<b>Mesa Scottish Festival</b>	<b>Mesa, AZ</b>
March 10-11	Calaveras Celtic Faire	Angels Camp, CA
<b>March 31</b>	<b>Kern County Gathering &amp; Games</b>	<b>Stramler Park, Bakersfield, CA</b>
<b>April 21-22</b>	<b>Las Vegas Celtic Society Highland Games</b>	<b>Floyd Lamb Park, Las Vegas, NV</b>
<b>April 28-29</b>	<b>Sacramento Valley Scottish Games</b>	<b>Yolo City Fairgrounds, Woodlands, CA</b>
<b>May 19</b>	<b>Prescott Highland Games</b>	<b>Watson Lake Park, Prescott, AZ</b>
May 19-20	Livermore Scottish Games & Celtic Festival	Robertson Park, Livermore, CA
May 19-20	Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival & Games	Balloon Festival Park, Albq., NM
<b>May 26-27</b>	<b>USS Highland Games</b>	<b>LA Fairplex, Pomona, CA</b>
June 16	Campbell Highland Games & Gathering	Campbell Community Ctr, Campbell, CA
<b>June 23-24</b>	<b>San Diego Scottish Highland Games</b>	<b>Brengle Terrace Park, Vista, CA</b>
July 7-8	Monterey Scottish Games & Festival	Toro City Park, Salinas, CA
July 14-15	Dunsmuir Scottish Highland Games	Oakland, CA
<b>July 21-22</b>	<b>Arizona Highland Celtic Festival</b>	<b>Foxglenn Park, Flagstaff, AZ</b>
Oct 20-21	Rio Rancho Highland Games	Rio Rancho, NM

These are the 2007 dates posted so far. This list is compiled through information from a variety of sources including [www.usscots.com/events/dates/geographical.html](http://www.usscots.com/events/dates/geographical.html). Please contact the editor with additions, corrections, and changes for inclusion in upcoming issues.

House of Gordon Southwest will be attending events listed in **bold face**. Participation at other events will depend upon member availability and assistance with a House of Gordon tent.

Our Arizona members, Jodi and Patrick Gordon, have graciously volunteered to attend the Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival & Games and report back on the feasibility of having Clan tent participation at future Games in New Mexico.

Vice Convener, Woody Gordon, hopes to attend the **Reno Games** for some fact finding, as soon as the northern Nevada folks decide when they will be held.

Results from visiting the new Games venues will appear in future newsletter's Games reports.

## House of Gordon 2007 Dues Notice

House of Gordon dues are payable **January 1** of each year. Paying your dues promptly from this notice will enable us to represent the Clan at all Southwestern US Games & Festivals, including those in your area. Postcards email, and Regional and National newsletters will continue to keep members informed. **Please Print or affix your return address label below:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Basic Dues remitted: **\$25.00**

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Other Opportunities: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail\* \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gordon Highlander Museum: \_\_\_\_\_  
 H of G Scholarship Program: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Grand Total Remitted: \_\_\_\_\_

\*for updates about games and clan activities

Please makes checks payable to **“House of Gordon”**  
**Clip this notice and return it with your payment to:**  
**Arlene Adams, Membership Director**  
**10562 Odell Rd.**  
**San Diego, CA 92126-3012**

*Thank you for your support of Scottish culture!*



Mike and Scotty at “Something Scottish”  
November 4<sup>th</sup> Las Vegas, NV



**CLAN PRIDE**



2006 Seaside Games, Ventura, CA (left to right IL Convener Roger Mills, Ian Fellowes-Gordon, Judy Mills, unknown visitor, and Convener Tom Adams)



John Lowry at Seaside with the Clan Chief Alistair Henderson of the Clan Henderson and Audrey from Australia