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Convener's Corner



Hello everyone –

Attendance at Scottish festivals is additive. It must be because the more I attend the more I want to attend. I always want to learn more about my Scottish heritage and there is always more to learn about Scottish history and culture. I truly enjoy representing the House of Gordon at the various games I attend during the year. Thankfully there are a number of our members out there that have caught the same 'bug' and are willing to represent the House of Gordon at several games across the southwest region that I am not able to attend.

John and Nellie Lowry represented us at the House of Gordon National AGM held during the Grandfather Mountain Scottish Games in July. In addition to representing the House of Gordon Southwest, John was elected National President for the House of Gordon. Please join me in extending our most sincere congratulations to John! The initial letter sent from National after the AGM and John's message appearing in this issue of the Cock's Crow describe some exciting changes that are coming!

It is with regret that I have to announce that Anita Geleyne, who served as Vice-Convener and Northern California Regional Director, recently stepped down. Please join with me in extending a thank you to Anita for all her help and support. We all wish her well in the future.

I am issuing an appeal to our members in Northern California. Please consider stepping forward to

volunteer to help out with the House of Gordon tent at games in your area. It is important that we continue to represent the House of Gordon at as many games as possible both for our current members and to attract new members. It does not demand a great deal of time and it is a rewarding experience. Lastly, thank you to the members who replied to the survey forms sent out with the AGM announcement.

Bydand – Tom Adams,

Quimhnich air na daoine o'n
d'thainig thu!

Meet the National President of the House of Gordon USA Clan Society

It is a great pleasure to introduce to our members the newly elected National President House of Gordon USA. Most of you know him, or of him, as the Convener Emeritus of the House of Gordon Southwest. That aside it is appropriate to offer a few words recognizing John Lowry for all his good works. John, with the able assistance and infinite patience of his delightful wife Nellie, has given of himself generously on behalf of the House of Gordon Southwest and the House of Gordon USA. He and Nellie have tirelessly worked for many years with dedication and zeal to foster the cause of the House of Gordon and Scottish Heritage in general. There could be no better choice to steer the House of Gordon ship and we look forward to the many good things John has in mind for our organization. **Congratulations John!**



A Message from our New House of Gordon USA President

When Woody asked me for a few words to go in this issue regarding the *new* House of Gordon USA, my reaction was, how can I limit it to a few words?! First, I want you all to know how humbled I am to be asked to serve as President of the new House of Gordon USA Clan Society. Secondly, the answer to a question that some of you may be asking yourselves; "What happened to the **OLD** House of Gordon Clan Society?" The answer is '*nothing*'. This **IS** the old H of G just dressed up in a newer, more modern setting. The House of Gordon operation we have all loved through the years is preparing to go charging into the future with new tools and an enthusiastic crew. The tools (as you know from other letters you have received) are a new, interactive website where you can check Games information and find out if a H of G crew will be representing the H of G at a specific Games venue. We will have 501(c) (3) nonprofit status at the National level soon which means your contributions to the H of G and H of G charities will be tax deductible.

The most important work we are doing right now is reaching out to our fractured membership. We say '*Fractured*' because an air of dissolution settled over the H of G. We heard nothing from Scotland for several years and our own workers began to wonder whether we should continue to spin our wheels. Well, we are no longer just wheel-spinning. The Chief still sits in Scotland at Aboyne Castle and we will always honor his position but we are going forward with an H of G organization that is not beholden to the old ways. Of course, we revere our Scottish heritage and, as for me, I yearn to walk across that ground at every opportunity. We will support Scottish charities, the current one being the Gordon Highlanders Museum in Aberdeen, but the Chief of our Clan is not a charity and no portion of our dues goes to the running of his household. Others around the world feel the same way and are prepared to join in our efforts to cobble a Gordon Confederation in the near future.



For now, welcome and continue to support your House of Gordon Clan Society with your dollars, your time and your good thoughts. Please know that we have your Clan Family uppermost on our agenda. Your comments and questions are always welcome.

Bydand,
John

House of Gordon Southwest AGM Report

The Annual General Meeting for the House of Gordon Southwest was held at the Fresno Games September 16, 2006 at the House of Gordon tent and was well attended. A quorum was in attendance and the meeting moved evenly through a lengthy agenda which included review and approval of last year's meeting minutes, the Convener's report, the treasurer's report, and committee reports. Woody Gordon discussed the need to reduce newsletter costs by emailing the newsletter and putting the newsletter on our website. All present agreed that this should be implemented immediately.

During an earlier Board meeting Convener Tom Adams appointed a merchandise committee comprised of the Regional Directors with Margie Lamper (AZ) designated as committee chair. The charge to the committee is to review current merchandising procedures and inventory sales, and explore potential new and more cost effective merchandise that the House of Gordon Southwest could offer in order to increase sales revenues.

Tom discussed the need to improve our efforts to bring in new members and encourage our previous members to come back during his report at the AGM. He also stressed the critical need to enlist members willing to help with H of G representation at area games. Without additional help we will need to eliminate representation at some of the games usually attended by H of G.

The amendments and corrections to the by-laws (mailed out with the AGM announcement) were passed with little discussion from the floor. The Good of the Order, according to Robert's Rules for Dummies, "... is a time set aside for members to offer comments or observations (without formal motions) about the society and its work. During this portion of the AGM the group was entertained by

Neil O'Neill who played guitar and sang two Scottish folksongs. Our Sennachie, Steve Melcher, stepped up following Neil's wonderful performance with an impassioned reading of the poem "My Heart is in the Highlands" by Sir Walter Scott.

Immediately following the Good of the Order Tom Adams called for nominations for election of officers. Patrick Gordon (AZ) served as nominating committee chair and presented the slate of nominees sent out with the AGM announcement. Tom called for additional nominations from the floor. None were given and the slate of nominees was elected by unanimous vote. The newly elected and reelected officers are: Sherwood (Woody) Gordon (NV) as Vice-Convener, Jodi Gordon (AZ) as Secretary, Arlene Adams (CA) as Membership Director, and Steve Melcher (CA) as Sennachie. John Lowry swore in the elected officers and the meeting was adjourned.

Gordon Highlander Museum

The following is partial text from the press release issued by the museum and was kindly provided by Sarah Malone, Curator of the museum.

THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS MUSEUM RE-OPENS AFTER £1.2 MILLION REFURBISHMENT PROGRAMME

"Tuesday, April 4th at 10am marks the beginning of a new chapter in the Museum's history, as it opens its doors for the first time since its major building and refurbishment programme.

Following a successful £501,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and more than two years of fundraising, the £1.2 Million project fund has enabled the Museum to employ new staff, build an education facility and overhaul its main display areas.

Working with leading museum designers, Studio SP, the museum has renovated its previously static permanent gallery into a multi-flexible, interactive exhibition space that encourages the visitor to explore the history of the Regiment through a variety of media. Dramatic changes to the gallery layout have resulted in a sequence of intimate space, designed to engage the visitor on a variety of levels.

Under the direction of museum designer Tim Pethick of Studio SP, numerous bespoke features have been commissioned, including near life-size sculptural relief's (3-D paintings); interactive maps, a WWI bunker showing real footage of life in the trenches and a series of 'interactive spines' (panels with pull-out text labels, multimedia sound points and cupboards with handling objects).

The new learning facility has been built to compliment the style of St Luke's and will provide the much needed space the museum requires to offer high quality educational and recreational activities for all ages. The facility is a flexible space that will allow the museum to provide greater formal education workshops for schools, as well as extra-curricular activities for children and a new range of events for families and adult learners.

This major refurbishment project was undertaken to secure The Gordon Highlanders status as one of the leading 5 star visitor attractions in the north east of Scotland by improving its services and 'visitor experience' and to help make the history of the Regiment meaningful and accessible to as wide an audience as possible.

The museum is open April – October, Tuesday – Saturday 10.30am to 4.30pm, Sunday 12.30pm to 4.30pm. Admission to Tea Room and Gardens is Free. Museum entrance, £3.50 Adult, £2.50 Senior Citizens & Students, £1.50 Child."

footnote: On Friday April 21st HRH The Duke of Rothesay (as The Prince of Wales is known in Scotland) officially launched the museum re-opening.



Gordon Highlanders Museum

History of the Sennachaidh

The Sennachie (modern spelling) has a rich and longstanding history that has existed for more than a thousand years. The general duties of the Sennachie were and are to serve as Clan historian and bard. It appears that this role was extremely important in past centuries since much of Clan history and lore was not written down. The American Heritage Dictionary defines Sennachie as: "A skilled teller of tales and legends, especially Gaelic ones." The Sennachie of Clan Urquhart describes the role as follows; "...to facilitate greater understanding and preservation of our rich Celtic and clan ethos, customs, traditions, and history (oral and written), thereby extending the collective knowledge of the clan."

The One O'clock Gun

The One O'clock Gun is a military institution at Edinburgh Castle. Anyone that has visited the castle knows that at precisely one o'clock the gun is fired every day of the year. Sadly, last November, Staff Sergeant Thomas McKay (known as "Tam the Gun") passed away. He had fired the gun for more than 25 years. The 105 Regiment Royal Artillery began rotating the one o'clock gun duties. In March a permanent replacement was selected. **She** is Bombardier Allison Jones, the first woman to fire the gun in its entire 145 year history. When asked, she was not sure if "Tam" would be entirely happy about her selection but she is proud to honor his legacy.



"Tam the Gun"



Slains Castle

It is not one of the Gordon castles but worth a visit. Any trip to Scotland might include this stop if you are into moderately eerie and creepy. You do have to be willing to let your imagination run amok for a brief time. The castle sits directly at the top edge of high vertical cliffs dropping to the North Sea. The setting is windy and desolate with the sound of crashing waves and the cry of seagulls. The ruins are what are left of a castle that was built by the Earl of Erroll beginning at the end of the 16th century. Over time the castle grew in size and grandeur. The ruins tell a story of what was once a very large and impressive structure.

The hike from the Cruden Bay (just north of Aberdeen) car park along the path to Slains Castle can be unsettling. It goes through a dark wooded area and then winds along the very edge of the cliffs (reminiscent of those dark scary novel settings). Then the ruins are visible in the distance, sitting on a flat plain devoid of trees or even large bushes, and are dark and foreboding as you approach. At times you feel the vacant openings are actually watching. When you arrive at the ruins and begin exploring you quickly get the sense that you are wandering through a maze. You can easily lose sight of your companions if they wander only a short distance while you look away for a moment.

Slains Castle has had some interesting guests. Johnson and Boswell stayed at the castle in 1773. Another visitor of note was Bram Stoker. If you doubt the overall unsettling atmosphere of Slains Castle, Bram Stoker used the castle as the inspiration for a story you may be familiar with – Dracula!

A footnote to Slains Castle: There has been talk of restoring Slains and turning it into holiday apartments. It would be a shame if this were to happen.



Slains Castle

Nellie's Genealogy Corner

Nellie sent along some helpful information on sources you might want to consult if you are researching your own family history.

1841 Scotland census is available online.

The original handwritten records, which have never before been seen online, were recently published by www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk. The 1841 census was the first to record information on individuals and it has helped to paint a unique picture of life in Scotland at that time. There is a charge for searching on this website. At ScotlandsPeople you buy Credits - 30 credits for £6 (about \$11. US). These credits are used to view search results (1 credit) and to view images (5 credits). The website is the result of a partnership between the General Register Office for Scotland, the National Archives of Scotland and the Court of the Lord Lyon enabled by IT Company Scotland Online. Scotland's People contains the most comprehensive online set of family history information for any country in the world and is currently one of the largest single information resources on the web. Later this year, they intend to add to the website images of the Old Parish Records of Scotland.

Where was your family living in the USA in 1914?

Now you can see, online, a map of all of the counties of the USA in 1914. It is interesting; there are many more towns listed in my county than I knew existed. Located at: http://freepages.genealogy.rootweb.com/~shastaca/maps_index.html

In an email to Nellie Sabra Pittenger wrote: "It was heartwarming to receive your greeting this morning. In general I am getting along fairly well. This morning's e-mail brought some exciting news. The results of the first 12 DNA markers have been posted on the Gordon sample submitted by my nephew. Perhaps in the foreseeable future I may really know more of my ancestry line--maybe even find out who my David Gordon was. Thank you so much Nellie for directing me into this area of the research. One of these days we might touch bases again regarding our individual lines.

I send all best wishes to John, you and all the Gordon crew who are the force for the Seaside Games. May it be highly successful and even top

the splendid one of 2005. I will be unable to attend this year but will be thinking of you."

2006 Games Reports

Campbell Highland Games, June 17, 2006

High gas prices combined with extremely high temperatures took its toll on attendance at the Campbell Games this year. The morning started out at 82° by 8am and continued to rise throughout the day, peaking at 91°+ by mid-afternoon. The folks that did make it out didn't stay very long. We only had 5 visitors at the Gordon tent all day, but I appreciate those folks for braving the heat to come and see us. Those of us in the tent did what we could to stay cool and hydrated throughout the day. Drank gallons of water and stayed out of the sun as much as possible.

San Diego Games, June 24-25, 2006

The San Diego Highland Games and Gathering continues to be a great gathering for the Gordons. We did not break any sales records but came away with a satisfied feeling of having served the membership well and received all visitors to the tent with a personal greeting. We were joined by members from Texas, Arizona, and of course California. We all braved the unbearable heat!

Vince Adams, a member from Los Angeles, came to compete in the athletics and took top honors in his class. Way to go Vince!

The House of Gordon tent was ably manned by John & Nellie Lowry, Al & Jan Vasquez (two of our newer members) and, your Convener Tom along with wife Arlene and daughter Christine.

Monterey Highland Games, August 5-6, 2006

The weather was close to perfect for the Monterey Games this year with warm temperatures and slight breezes on Saturday, and a bit gustier and cooler on Sunday, but nothing too extreme. The attendance was good, but I know I've seen better in past years. The most distinctive thing this year was the absence of the Gordon Highlanders; a disappointment to a few of our visitors. Earl and Nancy West were able to come down and help on Saturday, thanks guys.

Pleasanton Games Sept. 2-3, 2006

This year was the 141st Caledonian Club of San Francisco Gathering and Games. It is the

biggest games in the western USA and one of the biggest games in the world. The first Pleasanton games in 1866 had a crowd of 2,000. Now the games draw a crowd in excess of 25, 000!

When we got to the tents Saturday morning we were surrounded by 4 solo piper judges tables which made conversation in the tent a bit difficult. We could still hear bagpipes in our heads the day after the games were over! Nonetheless, good weather made for good attendance and the House of Gordon tent was busy all weekend. There were lots of people signing in and lots of shirts going out.

Earl, Nancy, and Melanie West came out on Saturday to lend a hand. We also had an unexpected visit from Molly Sue Dodson, who was up with David for his AGM. Don Kittmer, from Bydand Forever, spent the weekend with us. We were sad to hear about Don's wife Marty's passing, she'll be missed. Charlie Robb, also from Bydand Forever, stopped by to say hello. John Lowry, our new H of G National Convener and his wonderful wife Nellie helped out at the tent and we had a visit from our H of G Arizona Regional Directors, Larry and Margie Lamper.

Fresno Highland Games, Sept. 16, 2006

More than 25 clans and societies were represented at this year's Fresno Games. The House of Gordon tent had a steady stream of visitors throughout the day. Jodi & Patrick Gordon (AZ) set up their children's activity table that had been so successful at Flagstaff and it proved to be just as successful at Fresno with many parents participating with their children in making and decorating paper sun visors. With the AGM scheduled for Fresno we had a lot of members present and helping out in the tent during the day including our new President of House of Gordon USA – John Lowry and his charming wife Nellie who shared our tent space to promote the upcoming Seaside Games next month. Despite being wheelchair bound after surgery on her foot, Margie Lamper and her husband Larry (AZ) also pitched in to man the tent along with Tom and Arlene Adams, their daughter Stacey (and Robert), and Lynne & Woody Gordon (NV).

Throughout the day visitors enjoyed the entertainment and athletic events, lots of good food, and a variety of vendors. Bydand Forever put on a terrific demonstration that included a lengthy and crowd pleasing firing demonstration of that wonderful Gatling gun!

Games Report – Australia

Bundanoon Highland Gathering April 2006

After the mists have risen at dawn, the town of Bundanoon becomes *Brigadoon* for a day (even the name on the station changes to Brigadoon!) The main street is closed and there is a bustle of activity as people prepare for the big parade. Visitors from all over Australia make their way to *Brigadoon* for this festive spectacle.

Hi Everyone - Just thought you may like to hear a bit about the Bundanoon Highland Gathering. We had a great day and spoke to a lot of people. There were about 25,000 through the gate so we were kept busy all day and didn't see much of the events, Colette got up for the Bands display. As usual I missed the Caber toss! It was a long day from 7.30am to 5pm. We had a very large number of people come to see our tent but many came just to look at our display which everyone thought was the best presented as we had lots to look at and lots of pictures which people loved to see. In the main most of the clan tents were fairly ordinary. At the end of the day I signed up about 28 members but we will soon see how many really want to be members.

The Clan Council president said "thank God you've come, we get enquiries every week for Clan Gordon and now you're back we know where to send them." He commended us for our efforts and display and said he wished all the others put as much into it. (He is David Campbell - but the Campbell display had nothing to speak about either in my opinion.)

Bydand – Ken Gordon

Dave Gordon-Goodall of Canberre with his dog, Lachlan, the Gordon Setter from Loch Tae Kennels, who marches with the band!



Games Report – New Zealand

Waipu Highland Games

Glenyss O'Halloran (New Zealand Commissioner) and her husband, Jim, maintain a very busy schedule. They always start their year with the Waipu Highland Games. Glenyss reports that they encountered an unexpected weather feature in the form of windy conditions that always makes putting up the tent a challenge and then they got to spend a great deal of time holding the tent displays down. Many clans folk visited the tent and Glenyss describes the day as "...a great social occasion."

Their travels then took them to the Turakina Highland Games where they encountered an extremely hot summer day. This always makes putting up the tent an adventure! Their youngest granddaughter, Amber, joined in for the Clan March. An additional treat for the march – the Gordon Setter Club members joined in with their beautiful black and tan dogs.

Just two weeks later, Glenyss and Jim were off to the Paeroa Highland Games. No report of adverse weather conditions. The opening clans march is to the Town Center and then back to the Games venue. Glenyss reports that they had a "...very pleasant social day with members from around Auckland and Paeora coming to chat with us."

Many thanks to Glenyss for keeping us informed about House of Gordon activities in New Zealand.

Games Report – Scotland

Aboyne Games August 5, 2006

I have several people to thank for the Aboyne Games report. Andrew & Lucy Gordon our House of Gordon Convener in Scotland, Judith Fellowes-Gordon (a dear friend and staunch supporter of the House of Gordon), and Judith's son Ian were all kind enough to provide reports. Thank you all!

The Aboyne Games were held on The Green in Aboyne. The games have been held on this site since 1867. Typical of Scottish weather, the 2005 Games were held under cloudy, rainy, and windy skies with the temperature unable to get out of the 60's. This year the skies were clear and the temperature reached 91! To say the least, the games reports we received reported the discomfort experienced by all!

The crowd was estimated at about 6,000 this year (compared to the estimated 5,000 last year). The Press and Journal newspaper characterized the visual impact of the games by stating that "The village green was transformed into a sea of tartan..." Emil and his wife Ellie came in from The Netherlands to attend the games. Gordons from Canada were also in attendance. Andrew and Lucy found that visitors to our tent were less interested in the delicious shortbread (we got to taste this repeatedly at the 2005 games) and that interest in a wee dram of the wonderful scotch was overtaken by a desire for *cold* water and soda.

Member News

Ian Abdy Franklin Fellowes-Gordon

Ian Fellowes-Gordon, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, has completed his studies at Kings College, University of Aberdeen, and was awarded a Master of Arts in History at the graduation ceremony. In an engaging email Ian wrote that, "... the Graduation has FINALLY taken place, 3pm Thursday 6th July on what was possibly the hottest day of the year - about 80 degrees in the town and nearer 90 in the Graduation Hall. What a day to be wearing a kilt jacket - not to mention the Batman Cape and Yarmulke... Anyhoo - It's done - much to Judith's joy." Currently, Ian is actively seeking employment and hoping to put his knowledge of history to use within a museum or armory environment. We wish him well.



Ian's Graduation - Adrian, Ian & Judith

In October Ian will be attending the Seaside Games in Ventura, CA, so be sure to stop by the House of Gordon tent and say hello.

A news flash from Ken Gordon in Australia!

The House of Gordon – Australia is officially recognized and operational. Ken's tenacity paid off. He worked through the Court of Lord Lyon and received notice at the end of August from the Clan Council that his application has been accepted and they have endorsed the House of Gordon–Australia to operate independently. Ken also wanted everyone to know that his first newsletter, 'Bydand', went out recently.



Nevada's House of Gordon Members Compete in Championship...

by Betty Parker,
From the September St. Andrews Society newsletter.

The Los Angeles Scots Pipe Band played in the North American Championships on August 5, 2006 in Maxville Ontario, Canada. They played against 4 other Grade I bands. The LA Scots took third place overall but second place in drumming. Bryce Parker, played snare drum with the Scots and Dr. Ken Misch was with them as Drum Major. At the Pleasanton Games, Bryce won second place in grade I snare, I won second place in grade II tenor. It was a great weekend for the Parkers.

Bryce...a senior at Silverado High School not only plays Scottish snare in the LA Scots and Desert Skye, he also teaches Scottish snare drum lessons and instructs the Desert Skye drum corps. He actually teaches his mother on occasion!

It is funny to think that as a little boy Bryce saw an advertisement for a new pipe band in the St. Andrews newsletter. He answered the ad and that new band became Desert Skye!

Congratulations to Tom & Laura Hodges of Oakhurst, CA. They celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on Sept. 17th!

Legal Help! Do we have any members that are attorneys and might be willing to offer a bit of time to assist the House of Gordon Southwest when minor issues arise that require a legal opinion, information, or legal assistance? Please contact Tom or Woody if you can volunteer to make your services available.

Anita Geleynse – A Farewell Message

I guess this is the time to say 'goodbye'. I have resigned as the Assistant Convener for the House of Gordon and from running the tent in Northern California. I injured my left knee 2 ½ years ago and am in constant pain. This has made it necessary for me to step down. This was not an easy decision for me to make. I have spent a great deal of time over the last 10 years at the House of Gordon tent in Northern California. At first I was just visiting with Skip and Betty Gordin when Skip was the Convener. Later I found myself helping John and Nellie Lowry when they took over. Five years ago John asked me, along with Earl and Nancy West, to take over the tent in Northern California. We had a great time and I will miss it. As I tell people all the time, "Once a Gordon, Always a Gordon."

Bydand Forever News

Contributed by Steve Melcher

In March 1906 at the Citadel, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, the British Garrison turned over to Canadian forces control of the defense of Canada and the British marched down to the harbor, boarded ships and returned to Britain. This event was recreated at the Citadel from July 18-23, 2006, the one-hundred year anniversary and our own Bydand Forever was invited to participate.

Events included three appearances by Bydand Forever and its signature reenactment of the Battle of Tel-el-Kebir, three Victorian era battle reenactments including Brigade rifle volleys featuring the combined fire power of the Gordons, the 78th Highlanders, and the 57th Middlesex Regiment. The Sunset Ceremony was a wonderful sight and Colour-Sargent Harper stole the show with his Gatling gun. Bydand Forever also participated in the Changing of the Guard Ceremony, guard duty at the main entrance to the Citadel, and the Grand Departure March to the Harbor.

According to Cpl Steve Melcher (our own House of Gordon Southwest Sennachie) the experience was breathtaking. Bydand Forever was able to participate as part of a cohesive military force, something Bydand Forever had not been able to experience before. Steve said it was a lot of hard work but the result was extremely rewarding and the event was nothing shy of spectacular.





Bydand Forever with Fixed Bayonets

New Member Welcome

Please join together to welcome our new members!

- Melinda Lamprey NV (Missed you in the last issue – apologies)
- David and Myrza Lamper AZ
- Elizabeth Harris AZ
- Phillip Norris AZ
- David Morefield AZ
- John Langan AZ
- Brian & Lisa Gordon CA
- Barbara Guzzetti AZ
- Donald Pierce AZ
- Rev. John Waterson CA
- Michael & Karinne Gordon CA
- Major Floyd Jack NV
- Chelsea Vasquez CA
- Rohan & Inge Lundegaard CA
- Heidi Wollesen-Teachout CA
- Matthew D. Teachout CA
- Matt Sconce CA
- C Richard Bugg



Flowers of the Forest



Marthann "Marty" Lowrie

Marty passed away on September 15, 2005 at age 68, having waged a valiant struggle against cancer. She was born in New York City, raised in Maine and resided in the Fairfield, CA area since 1977. She earned a BA from St. Mary's College in Moraga in 1992 and was a substance abuse counselor for Solano County. She worked nearly 30 years in the drug treatment field and was considered one of the most skilled counselors by her peers. A scholarship was established in her name at Solano Community College to assist women returning to school. Marty was never a

member of the House of Gordon but her son Don Lowrie was a member off and on for a number of years.

Don Pettenger

Regrettably the news of Don's passing reached the editor after the last issue of the Cock's Crow had gone to print. Don's wife Sabra sent an email notifying us that Don became suddenly and critically ill in March. Extensive testing revealed pancreatic cancer. Don waged a courageous and painful battle for three months and went to his peace on June 2, 2006.

For those of you who were part of the 2005 House of Gordon Scotland Tour, Sabra and Don were part of the group. Don enjoyed himself thoroughly and was enthusiastic about everything the group saw during that trip. Your editor's personal memory of Don was a gentle man with a wonderful smile. We all send our best wishes to Sabra. The House of Gordon will miss Don.

Marie Louise Kittmer

Marie Louise Kittmer, 65, died Sunday August 20, 2006. 'Marti' was born April 19, 1941 in Highland Park, Mich. and lived in Temecula for five years. She was a cake decorator and caterer. 'Marti' Kittmer is survived by her husband Don Kittmer (Don is a member of Bydand Forever); sons Donald and David, daughter Dana, Marti's sister Yvette, and seven grandchildren. A private internment was held at the Temecula Cemetery. The family suggests donations to the Marti Kittmer Memorial Fund c/o California Bank & Trust, 978 San Marcos Blvd., San Marcos, CA 92078 for those wishing to honor her memory.

The Bagpipes



The Scottish bagpipes are thought to date back to around 100 AD, and were traditionally a solo instrument, with each clan chieftain having his hereditary piper. The pipes themselves consist of a bag of sheepskin or elk hide, from which five pipes protrude. There is a mouthpiece for inflating the bag, a single octave chanter for creating the melody and three drones, one bass and two tenors, which sound a constant two-note chord that softens the overall sound. The bag is covered by the tartan of the piper's family or pipe band and the pipe major, or leader of the band, will often fit a banner to the base drone.

Book Review

By Patrick Gordon

How Scots Invented the Modern World. The True Story of How Western Europe's Poorest Nation Created Our World & Everything in it. By Arthur Herman.

As a new member to the House of Gordon, naturally I wanted to learn as much as I could about, not just the House, but about Scotland as well. This led me to start looking for anything I could find on Scotland and I found this book in a second hand book store in Phoenix and paid \$14.95 for it.

The book covers Scotland from it's earliest times, to modern times. In his book Arthur Herman discusses William Wallace, Robert the Bruce, John Knox in 1559, and the rolls they played in Scotland's rise to be the world leader in the literature of the times. The questions: "Who formed the first literate society? Who invented our modern ideas of democracy and free market trade?" are entwined in the little stories as the big story unfolds, and later in the course of the telling you realize that IF that hadn't happened, our world would be lot different.

I now look at our modern world in a very different light and I am awed at the number of great Scots that have helped to build this great country of ours. Not only this country, but almost every country in the world has been touched in some way by the Scottish. I enjoyed reading the book very much and highly recommend it to anyone looking to learn more about their Scottish heritage.

House of Gordon - National

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5324 Cool Dawn Court

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Membership

Arlene Adams

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10562 Odell Road,

San Diego, CA 92126-3012

Sennachie

Steve Melcher

760-233-0311

bydandcpl@yahoo.com

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Northern CA

Southern CA

volunteers needed

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

volunteer webmaster needed

Cock's Crow Editor
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desertrunners@cox.net
5324 Cool Dawn Court
Las Vegas, NV 89130

Woody Gordon

Beginning with the December 2006 issue, the Cock's Crow newsletter will be emailed to those members with an email address, and only mailed to those who do not have access to a computer, in an effort to greatly reduce our expenses. We also plan to have future newsletters available on the website. Please help us expedite this changeover by promptly sending your email address to our Secretary, Jodi Gordon, at jodi@desertwisper.com to receive the next newsletter online.

ATTENTION MEMBERS

Several regions urgently need bighearted volunteers to transport materials to and from the games in your area and to set up our House of Gordon tent. Please volunteer and help keep the games alive and flourishing in your area. Contact our Convener, Tom Adams, to volunteer a little of your time.

Greetings from the Editor

This last year I have had the chance to try my hand as editor for the Cock's Crow while enjoying the opportunity to communicate and work with dedicated and enthusiastic folks who have boosted my spirits regarding my involvement with the House of Gordon. I have come to understand over the past year that passion is a key ingredient in the growth and success of the House of Gordon both in the southwest and across the country.

We need more of the infectious spirit that I have witnessed and we need to expand this infectious spirit across our entire region. Enthusiasm is *contagious* and this is a good thing.

John Lowry gave us food for thought with his National President's Message. Between the lines of his message is a call to those of us who have been involved with the House of Gordon and those who have yet to become involved.

We need to welcome our newer members who have come to the House of Gordon without the 'history' and hindrance that some of us have experienced. We need to welcome these new members and take in their enthusiasm and make it our own. I am confident that together we can rejuvenate the House of Gordon here in the southwest and all across the country.

This issue of the Cock's Crow is the fifth that I have put together (with supportive help from Lynne) and I truly hope that my efforts over the past year have met your expectations. I have received kind words from several of you but I have need of more input, good or bad, from more members. I can't work to improve this publication without your comments and suggestions to help me understand what our members are looking for and expecting from their newsletter. I do wish to thank those of you who have contributed to this issue.



Rejuvenate the spirit and pride of your own Scottish Heritage and the Scottish Heritage we share as part of the House of Gordon. Celebrate it at every opportunity!

Slangeva,
Woody Gordon

**Air Son Gradh Na H-Albann
A Wee Bit of Scottish Fact**

The year 2006 marks the 700th anniversary of the crowning of Robert the Bruce as King of Scotland. In addition, 2006 marks the 260th anniversary of the Battle of Culloden.



War Memorial at Culloden

2006 Games Calendar

Sept 23	Dixon Scottish Games	Dixon Fairgrounds, Dixon, CA
Oct 7	Loch Lomond Highland Games	Highlands Park, Ben Lomond, CA
Oct 13-15	Seaside Scottish Highland Games	Seaside Park, Ventura County Fairgrounds, CA
Oct 14-15	Rio Rancho Highland Games CANCELLED	Rio Rancho Sports Complex, Rio Rancho, NM
Nov 4	Tucson Celtic Festival & Scottish Highland Games	Rillito Park Raceway, Tucson, AZ
Nov. 4	"Something Scottish"	Rainbow Library Grounds Las Vegas, NV
Nov 18	Orange County Celtic Festival	Irvine Meadows Fair Grounds, Irvine, CA
Feb 17-18 2007	Queen Mary Scottish Festival & Games	Long Beach, CA

House of Gordon Southwest will be represented at the Games in Bold Face

This list is compiled through information from a variety of sources including www.usscots.com/events/dates/geographical.html Please contact the editor with additions, corrections, and changes for inclusion in upcoming issues of the Cock's Crow.

2007 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

House of Gordon dues are payable **January 1** of each year. Paying your dues will provide funding to enable us to represent the Clan at Southwestern US Games & Festivals, including those in your area**. Regional and National newsletters will continue to keep members informed.

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, and to receive the newsletter by email.**

**** Yes I would like to volunteer to help with the Clan tent at games in my area.**

Please make checks payable to "House of Gordon" write "2007 membership" on the check.

Clip this notice and return it with your payment to:

Arlene Adams, Membership Director
10562 Odell Rd.
San Diego, CA 92126-3012

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Thank you for your support of Scottish culture!
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