



Clan GORDON

ARMS	Azure, three boars' heads coupé Or
CREST	Issuant from a crest coronet Or a stag's head (affrontée) Proper attired with 10 tines Or
MOTTO	Bydand (Remaining)
On Compartment	'Animo non astutia (By courage not by stratagem)
SUPPORTERS	(on a compartment embellished with rock ivy). Two deerhounds Argent, collared Gules, the collars charged with three buckles Or
STANDARD	Azure, a St Andrew's Cross Argent in the hoist and of two tracts Azure and Or, upon which is depicted the Badge in the first compartment and five leaves of rock ivy Proper, one in the (bottom right corner of the) first compartment and two each in the second and third compartments along with the Mottoes 'An Gordonach' and 'Bydand' in letters Or upon two transversed bands Gules
BADGE	A stag's head (affrontée) issuant from a crest coronet Or as in the Crest, all within a chaplet of rock ivy Proper ensigned with the coronet of a Marquess
PLANT BADGE	Rock ivy

The Gordons are one of the great families of the northeast of Scotland, and their surname has many suggested meanings, although the family originally were almost certainly of Anglo-Norman descent. There is also a tale which makes the first of the family the savior of a Scottish king, in this case from a wild boar. This is said to explain the boar's heads which appear on the Gordon arms.

The first certain record of the name places the family in the Borders during the reigns of Malcolm IV and William the Lion. Richard de Gordon appears in numerous charters, and probably died around 1200. Sir Adam de Gordon was one of the wardens of the marches in 1300, and in 1305 was appointed one of the commissioners to negotiate with Edward I seeking settlement to the competition for the crown of Scotland. He became a staunch supporter of Robert the Bruce, and was one of the ambassadors sent to Rome to petition the pope to remove the excommunication which had been placed on Bruce after his murder of John Comyn. For his services the king granted to Gordon the lands of Strathbogie, which had been confiscated from the Earl of Atholl for treason.

The Castle of Strathbogie was to be renamed Huntly after a portion of the Gordon lands in Berwickshire. In 1436 Sir Alexander Gordon was created Lord Gordon, and his son was raised to the title of Earl of Huntly. The family became embroiled in the deadly battle for power between the king and the Douglases. Huntly was for the king, but when he moved his forces south, the Earl of Moray, kinsman and ally of the Douglases, devastated the Gordon lands and burned Huntly Castle. The Gordons were recalled and soon defeated their enemies. After the fall of the Douglases, the power of the Gordons grew unchallenged. Their control over their lands was almost regal, and the chiefs are to this day fondly referred to as 'Cock o' the North'. A grand new castle at Huntly rose from the ruins of the old, and soon rivaled any of the great houses of the realm. In 1496 Huntly Castle hosted the marriage of the pretender, Perkin Warbeck, believed at the time to be one of the missing sons of Edward IV (the 'princes in the tower'), to Lady Catherine Gordon. James IV honored the couple with his presence, although he as a frequent visitor to Strathbogie in any event.

George, fourth Earl of Huntly became Chancellor of Scotland in 1547 and was a close confidant of the regent, Mary of Guise, the mother of Mary, Queen of Scots. The Gordons paid scant attention to the Reformation, remaining firmly Catholic. However, they disagreed with the young queen; Huntly died at Corrichie, leading his men against the royal army, and his son, Sir John Gordon, was later beheaded before Queen Mary at Aberdeen. The Gordons eventually made peace with the Crown, and in 1599 the chief was created Marquess of Huntly. The second Marquess was a fierce supporter of the royalist cause in the civil war, and his followers have passed into history as the Gordon Horse, which figured so prominently in the campaigns of the great Marquess of Montrose. Huntly's

pride was such that he found it impossible to co-operate with Montrose, and some historians have suggested that had he done so wholeheartedly, the whole course of the war in Scotland might have been very different. Huntly was captured in Strathdon in December 1647 and was taken to Edinburgh, where he languished until March 1649, when he was beheaded. Lord Louis Gordon was restored to the family estates and titles in 1651, and was raised to the highest rank of the peerage as Duke of Gordon in 1684.

The Gordons fought on both sides during the Jacobite risings of 1715 and 1745. The second Duke of Gordon followed the standard of the 'Old Pretender' as the Battle of Sheriffmuir in 1715. He later surrendered, but although he was imprisoned for a short period, no further proceedings were taken against him. The third Duke remained Loyal to the Hanoverians when Prince Charles Edward Stuart reasserted his father's claim in 1745, but his brother, Lord Louis Gordon, promptly raised a regiment of two battalions. After Culloden he escaped to France, where he died in 1754. George, fifth Duke of Gordon, was a general in the army and for a time governor of Edinburgh Castle. He died without issue, and the dukedom became extinct. The marquessette passed to a kinsman, from whom the present chief descend.

Another branch of the clan were created Earls of Aberdeen in 1682. The fourth Earl was a Prime Minister in the mid nineteenth century. This branch, too, were advanced to the dignity of Marquess, and established their seat at Haddo House near Aberdeen.

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Clan GORDON Septs

ACHESON	CULANE	JAPP	MAC GADIE,-Y
ACHINS	DARG(E)	JESSE(I)MAN	MAC GORNAHAN
AD(D)IE,-Y	DORWARD	JOPP	MAC HADDIE,-Y
ADAM(S)	DUFF	JUPP	MAC HEDDY,-IE
ADAMISTON(E)	DUFFES	KEDDIE,-Y	MAC KAD(D)IE,-Y
ADAMSON	DUFFUS	KIDDIE	MAC KEDDIE,-Y
ADDIE	DURWARD	LAING	MAC KIDDIE,-Y
ADDISON	EAD(D)IE,-Y	LANG	MAC UDDEN,-IN
ADIE	EAKIN(S)	LAURIE,-Y	MAHAD(D)IE,-Y
AIDIE,-Y	ED(D)IE,-Y	LAWIE	MALLET
AIDNIE,-Y	EDISON	LAWRIE(S)	MANTEACH
AIKEN(S)	ESS(H)LEMONT	LENG	MAR
AITCHISON	GAIRNER	LING	MARR
AITKENS,-INS	GAR(R)ICH	LOORIE,-Y	MAVER,-OR
ATCHESON	GARDER	LOURIE	MAWER
ATKINS	GARDEN	LOUTHRIE,-Y	MELDROM(E)
ATKINS(S)ON	GARDINER	LOWRIE,-Y	MELDRUM(E)
BARRIE -Y	GARDNER	MAC AD(D)EN,-IN	MILL(S)
BADENOCH	GARIOCH	MAC ADAM	MILLES
BARRIE	GARRICK	MAC ADDIE,-Y	MILN(E)(S)
CADDEN	GARRIOCK	MAC CAD(D)IE,-Y	MILNER
CADDIN	GEDDES	MAC CADDEN,-IN(S)	MOIR
CATTEN	GEDDIE(S),-Y(S)	MAC CATMONT	MOOR
CHREE	GERRAY	MAC CEDDY	MOORE
CONNON	GERRIE,-Y	MAC CHAD (D) IE,-Y	MORE
CONNOR	GERRY	MAC CHREE	MORRE
CRAIG	GORDON,-EN	MAC CHRUIE	MORRICE
CREA	GORDON,-EN	MAC CREE	MUIR
CREE	GORDON,-EN	MAC CRIE	MYLNE
CROMB	GOURDAN,-EN,-IN	MAC CUDDEN	STEEL
CROMBIE,-Y	GREE	MAC CUDDIN	TEALL
CROMIE,-Y	GURDEN	MAC CUMI SKY	TOD(D)
CROOM(E)	HUNLIE,-Y	MAC CUMISY	TROOP(E)
CULLEN	HUNTL(E)Y,-IE	MAC EDDIE,-Y	TROUP(E)

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