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GORDON'S AS COVENANTERS – LUMSDEN'S REGIMENT

At York 2009, we unveiled our new Covenanting identity: Lord Gordon's foot, or as it became known sometime in 1644, and the celebrated Thirty Years War veteran Major General Sir James Lumsden took over: Lumsden's Regiment.

There is a nice synergy here. It was a Gordon regiment, raised amongst the Gordons, albeit as a Covenant unit. It first flew its colours in 1643 under the command of George, Lord Gordon, and transferred to Lumsden's command in 1644, under whom it continued to serve until disbandment in 1647.

Lord Gordon, who had served in French service in the 1630's, was known as 'brave, chivalrous and popular'. The Committee of War in Aberdeenshire assigned him 1,600 men from Aberdeenshire and Banff in January 1644, who were to rendezvous at Berwick on 10th March. They then marched into England (where again there is a nice synergy, given where we are going next weekend) where their only recorded pitched battle was at Marston Moor, at which they gained a reputation as being one of the three best units in the army. Lumsden himself was a very senior officer at Marston Moor, where he commanded the reserve line of Scots foot. The Royalists broke this line, nevertheless he and General Baillie managed to form reserves out of fleeing men with which they supported the Scots first infantry line, stabilized the army and went on to give Rupert his best shoeing to date. The Regiment then carried out various garrison and small action duties in the north east of England for the remainder of the war, before finally disbanding in February 1647.

Steve Langan commissioned (and paid for) a new colour. The actual Regimental colours are lost to history, but he recreated something that is consistent with the time, and also shows off our strong Gordon identity:





The wording is as for all Solemn League regiments, the boars head is the readily identifiable Gordon symbol. This flag would represent a Major's colour, and we will fly it in conjunction with our existing (white) Colonel's colour and the plain blue saltire (Lt. Cols).

Steve Langan