



hunters' halloo

Newsletter of the Clan Hunter Association, Canada

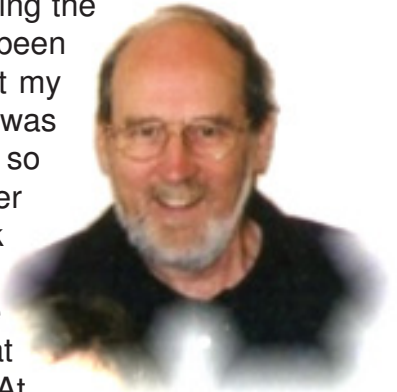
Apr2014

Crest Badge of a
Member of Clan Hunter

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Hello everyone, I hope you are all enjoying the "slightly" warmer weather of Spring. It has been such a long hard winter and I know that my area of the country in Southern Ontario was not hit as hard as some of you other folks so my sympathies go out to you. However after this long hibernation it is good to look forward to the coming summer and Clan Events. Of course top of the list is the **International Clan Hunter Gathering** at Hunterston Castle in June of this year. At one point I was not, due to a family committment, planning to attend the gathering but happilly I now find that I will be able to attend after all and so I am looking forward to meeting up with my old friends and hopefully some new ones also.



For some time now we have been considering installing a PayPal option on our website to permit membership renewal on line. Our Clan Cousins in the UK, USA and Australia have already initiated such a process and find it most beneficial. So I am happy to announce that in addition to a redesigned website (check it out) we are now able to accept payment for both new memberships and renewal memberships on line. Memberships become due in June so perhaps you will want to try it out. Please, Please, Please use your clan membership number as it really helps us to uniquely identify you. (you wouldn't believe how many Thomas, Davids, Roberts and James there are in the data base.)

Christine and I will be back in Canada in July after the Clan Gathering and we will try and include as many Highland Games as we can but they will certainly include Maxville, Montreal and of course Fergus. A sign-up sheet is available for the Anual Banquet and AGM at Fergus within this newsletter so I encourage you to fill it in and let us know that you will be attending.

Nova Scotia, Canada will again host the **International Gathering of the Clans in 2015**. Although details are sketchy at the moment Christine and I hope to participate in some form or another and perhaps include the Fredericton Highland Games.

My thanks to Mike Hunter, Lizz & Andrew Thibodeau and Christine Hunter for their excellent contribution to this newsletter.

Tom



Lizz Thibodeau

lizzt@rogers.com

When working in genealogy, one has to realize that one is working with the dead. That's the bottom line – all of the research has to do with those who have gone before. So it is interesting, and sometimes helpful, to understand some of the rituals, customs and superstitions that go along with that. One of our Clan Hunter Canada members, Andrew Hunter, has provided us with some of the burial customs from 19th century Scotland.

It was important, they believed, to help the spirit of the deceased to leave the body quickly and not come back. Now although this spirit was able to leave the body and travel to the world of spirits (which we as living humans are incapable of), people worried that they may have trouble getting out of the house, so they flung open the windows as soon as a person died and then immediately closed them again, trusting that they had ushered out the invisible spirit and by closing the window quickly, it would not be able to come back in. They also covered over all of the mirrors and clocks in the house to



We are Family, I've got all my cousins with me!

avoid having a confused spirit that couldn't find its way out!

Women seemed to play an important role when someone died. Firstly it was the women's job to wash and prepare the body for burial. The body would first be washed – symbolizing the purification of the soul – and then dressed in “dead clothes” or winding sheets. The women then laid the body in the coffin, which was to “kistan” the body. After that, there were several days where the body was “waked” – watched around the clock by 2-10 members of the family, usually the young and unmarried. The watching was to ensure that the spirit didn't fall to the Devil. All curtains and blinds



would be drawn until after the funeral. Then there was the seven course feast provided by the family of the deceased on the day of the funeral. If the family could not afford this feast, they would sell off the deceased assets after the funeral to pay for it. After the feast and funeral, everyone, even children, would file past the corpse and touch it on the forehead or the chest. This was how they paid their

last respects and it ensured that the spirit wouldn't haunt them later. Then the women relatives would take the “first lift”. They would lift up the coffin (the chairs underneath would be turned upside-down in case the ghost was sitting on one of them) and the women would carry the coffin through the house to the men waiting outside. The casket must be taken feet first through the door of the house, so that the spirit cannot find its way back in.

The funeral procession came next. It started at 3pm and was on foot. Eight men carried the coffin at a time, stopping periodically at “cairns” where they could rest the coffin and switch pall bearers (and have a wee dram). At each cairn, the men would throw a stone to the side of the road as a token. These piles of stones can still be seen by the roadside. The funeral

procession was not always a solemn walk. Due in part to the excessive drinking (and over-enthusiastic toasting) at the pre-funeral feast, there were often unexpected events on the way to the graveyard. Sometimes the procession even lost the coffin or got into a fight with another procession headed towards the same churchyard! Once they did

eventually make it to the churchyard, the women would wait outside or return to the house to prepare more food for the next feast, called the “Dredgy.”

It is indeed interesting to see where some of our current customs have come from – like the pall-bearers and the final respects, but I am certainly pleased to say that I have never been to a funeral where they lost the coffin!

Scotland County, NC

(Mike Hunter is Editor-in-Chief of Cape Breton University Press. He was recently in Laurinburg, NC, for a book launch and shares this account with CHAC.)

Laurinburg (twin-city: Oban) is the County Seat of Scotland County, NC. In the town and surrounding area there are as many geographic and historical references to Scotland as anywhere else. Pride in all things Scots is more than names, of course, and Scots descendants in the American South have that in spades.

The famous Argyll Colony (incl. Cape Fear, NC, in 1739) predates the mass migration post-Culloden and during the most active of the Clearances. The number 50,000 over the first 100 years or so is stated more than once. With pride it is pointed out that these early Scots were economic migrants, rather than refugees, and Scots were well-represented on both sides of the American Revolutionary War. We often hear of Loyalist migrations to Canada after the war, but most people mentally picture English Loyalists. Thousands of Scots were part of that migration, so it's an avenue to consider in genealogical research. Like most areas of the Highland Scots diaspora, the Gaelic was all but lost here.

I attended the annual Scottish Heritage Symposium (April 4-6, 2014) at St. Andrews University, formerly St. Andrews Presbyterian College (and prior to that, Flora MacDonald College – yes, that Flora MacDonald).

The university boasts a fine Scottish Heritage Centre on the campus with an extensive library in addition to exhibits, and which works closely with local historical and genealogy groups. St. Andrews even has an award-winning piping and drumming program is based at the Centre. It's a year-round facility, but I didn't get any specifics on its hours. It might be best to call ahead (<https://www.sapc.edu/shc/index.php>). Laurinburg has an annual Highland Games in early October. In just five years, it has grown to attract more than 5,000 people. The North Carolina Scottish Heritage Society is a very active and friendly group. There is also a large storytelling festival here in April.

The symposium was a modest affair; about 100 people attended during the two-day event featuring four key speakers on a variety of subjects. Dr. Michael Newton, whose two most recent books were the reason for me to attend, gave an interesting talk on "The Origins of Scottish Highland

Dance Traditions" that was very complete and informative. Newton was presented with the inaugural Saltire Award by the heritage centre for his outstanding contributions to the study and dissemination of knowledge of Scottish history, culture and traditions.

Dr. Bruce Durie made two presentations during the weekend. Durie is a genealogist, author and broadcaster, and among founding faculty of a genealogy degree at Strathclyde University (Glasgow). He gave engaging and entertaining presentations on the ins-and-outs of genealogical research in Scotland. I learned of a couple of new on-line services – scotlandspeople.gov.uk and scotlandspplaces.gov.uk – that I will definitely review. Durie offers professional services at: bruceduries.co.uk.

Dr. Douglas Kelly is the author of a couple of books on Carolina Scots and gave a talk on "The Presbyterian Customs and Traditions of Carolina Scots."



Laurinburg Presbyterian Church held a Kirkin' of the Tartans service on Tartan Day. Family tartans are paraded into the sanctuary and lined up along the front, accompanied by piper Bill Caudill.

Piping and drumming were front-and-centre of course, but champion fiddler Jamie Laval, based in Nashville, gave a very interesting talk titled “An Instrumentalist’s Approach to Scottish Dance.” Classically trained, Laval is a very, very good fiddler in the Scottish tradition and is a very engaging speaker on the subject as well.

Saturday evening entertainment was provided by Laval and by the St. Andrews University Pipe and Drum ensemble, who are very good. On Sunday, the community staged its annual Kirkin’ of the Tartans service at Laurinburg Presbyterian Church.



One of two large sculptures found on the St. Andrews University campus; this one of a knight clad in armour poised for engagement. The university’s varsity teams are called the Knights.

There is a ton of Scots-related activity, monuments and historic sites in this area. I did get south a couple of days early to visit with a former colleague who lives midway between Savannah, GA, and Charleston, SC, so I got to see those spectacular cities. Savannah’s famed azaleas weren’t in full bloom yet, but still magnificent to this northerner’s eyes. Other than that, my explorations were limited to the symposium. I even missed out on Beer Month in Raleigh – who knew?

For a break from Canadian April – it would be worth exploring further. Back in Nova Scotia the weather forecast called for rain-snow mix; in NC it was 25-28C and the only thing falling from the sky was pollen.

MH

Membership Report

We have had a very quiet time recently with only one new member! Join me in welcoming Norman Robert Martin of Barrie, who traces his Hunter genealogy through his mother, Viola Hunter, back through three generations to Alexander Hunter who lived in Westruther in Scotland. Welcome to the Hunter Clan Association – and we all hope you enjoy being ‘one of us’.

I would like to encourage all our members to take a new look at our Clan Hunter website. Payment of annual dues (which are due in July of each year) can now be made through paypal. This has been an idea in the works for

quite some time, but it has finally been put into action and will hopefully make it easier for many to stay current with these dues.

Some of you have already paid your 2014 / 2015 dues and I will send out reminders of this payment with the current newsletter, so no duplication will be made.

We are approaching summer (hopefully), and Tom and I will be attending a couple of Highland Games. Please make yourselves known to us if you happen to be at Maxville or Montreal Games this year. If it is possible, please consider joining us at Fergus Games, walk with us in the parade

(tartan should be worn for this – even a tie), spend time at the tent getting to know other members, and consider joining us for the AGM and dinner at the Holiday Inn after the Games.

Christine Hunter
Membership Secretary

Send your submissions
for the newsletter to
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WEB www.clanhuntercanada.com

Nova Scotia (New Scotland), Canada will again host the **International Gathering of the Clans in 2015.**

The Gathering will run from July 1st beginning with a flag raising ceremony at the Pugwash Gathering of the Clans. The official opening will be held in Halifax on July 3rd at the Grand Parade (in Halifax). The Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo in Nova Scotia will be running during the first week with acts from all over the world and it is hoped that the IGC will be formally recognized by the Tattoo on July 3.

Events will be held in the Halifax area during the first weekend before moving to the Antigonish Highland Games the following week. From there, the IGC will head to Pictou County for the New Glasgow Festival of the Tartans. The third week of July will be the final week for IGC 2015 and will be packed with events leading to the formal closing ceremonies in Yarmouth.

Nova Scotia is known for its many musical entertainers, Celtic singers, and world-class fiddlers. Along with its scenic coastal villages, sandy beaches, lobster in all its delicious forms, and its historical settlements of not only

Scots but Irish, Germans, English, Ulster Scots, Acadian French, Aboriginal people and many other multi-cultural groups make this seaside province a place to experience the best of culture and cuisine is a compact and accessible package.

The Ship Hector brought some of the first Scottish Settlers to our shores and a replica rides the waves in the historical town of



Pictou inviting you to come aboard and reach back through time.

Historic villages are found throughout our province - the Highland Village at Iona, Sherbrook Village a working village and Ross Farm to name but a few of the many interesting places to visit.

Cead Mile Failte! One Hundred Thousand Welcomes!
The NEW Scotland, since 1621...

For 400 years, Scots have lived on Canada's east coast in Nova Scotia – New Scotland. Come experience the beauty and history of Canada's ocean playground.

Come celebrate with us our "Scottishness."

Spend your days uncovering your roots and meeting new friends and family for the very first time. Explore the Highlands of Cape Breton, the luscious and fertile Annapolis Valley, the miles of beaches along the Sunrise Trail, or the lovely fishing communities of the South Shore.

Nova Scotia has always been a world-class travel destination, with "must-see" festivals and community events. We have hidden gems for history buffs. A geological marvel, Nova Scotia possesses many wonders of the natural world. We have the world's largest scallop fleet and the world's highest tides. There are always activities for rainy days, hotspots for traditional as well as modern music and theatre.

And yes, we still have lighthouses and lobster, plus the the finest wineries in all of North America.

Experience our culture, heritage, history, music and lifestyle... in the context of an international celebration of "All Things Scottish." Come to Nova Scotia in 2015...

Where the Old World Meets the New!™

Jean MacKaracher Watson
Chairperson, 2015 International Gathering of the Clans Festival
jean.watson2@ns.sympatico.ca
<http://www.scotsns.ca/events/igc.asp>

Clan Hunter Association - Canada

Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games

Aug 8 - 10 2014

Preliminary plans include

- Fergus Tattoo & Lighting 6.45pm Friday 8Aug 2014 Fergus
- Fergus Highland games 7.00am Saturday 9Aug 2014 Fergus
- *Clan Hunter AGM* 5.00pm Saturday 9Aug 2014 Holiday Inn 601 Scottsdale Dr., Guelph
- *Supper* 6.00pm Saturday 9Aug 2014 Holiday Inn 601 Scottsdale Dr., Guelph

[\$26.00 Adult - \$24.00 Seniors - \$13.00 children (5-12) 4 and under free]

- Kirkin' o' the Tartan 10.00am Sunday 10Aug 2014 St Andrew's Presb. Fergus
- Fergus Highland games 12 noon Sunday 10Aug 2014 Fergus

Why not plan to attend this special gathering

Stay over in the Fergus area

Enjoy the Games - Hang out at the Clan Tent

Join in with other Hunters in the Clan Parade - 11.30 am on 10th

Enjoy the fabulous Celtic Music

Meet some old and new Clan friends

Attend the Kirkin' of the Tartan

in St Andrews Presbyterian Church, Fergus

10 am Sunday morning

Share your genealogy with other clan members

Check out the Fergus Highland Games website

for up to date information

<http://www.fergusscottishfestival.com>



Clan Hunter Association - Canada

Annual Clan Gathering 9-11th August 2013

- Yes I/we will be attending the Tattoo & Lighting on Friday 8th August Number in Party _____
- Yes I/we will be taking part in the parade on Saturday 9th August Number in Party _____
- Yes I/we will be attending the dinner on Saturday 9th August Number in Party _____
- Yes I/we will be attending the Kirkin' o' the Tartan on Sunday 10th August Number in Party _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

I Didn't Know That About Scotland

Andrew Ross Thibodeau

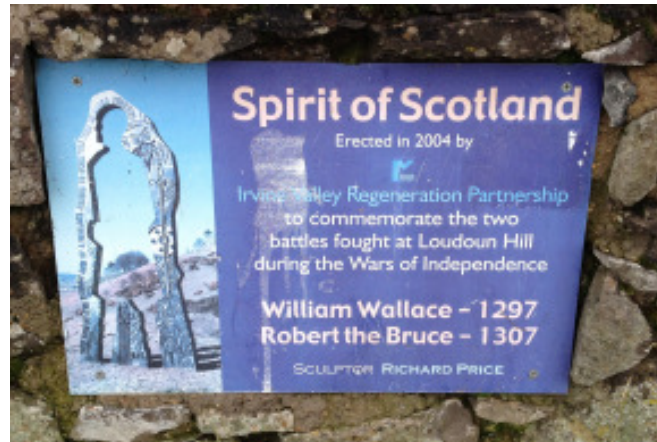
As a trivia and history fan, I so enjoy a book I picked up in Scotland a few years ago, entitled, "I Didn't Know that about Scotland". My family and I have loved so many excursions to see historical sites that we may have just driven by in the past. It is currently in the hands of good friends of ours as they explore Scotland for the first time.

In the past few years I have shared some of our adventures in this newsletter and here is my latest from my summer 2012 trip. Question: Name the only place that BOTH William Wallace AND Robert the Bruce fought a battle against the English. Answer: Loudoun Hill. Located south of Glasgow, off the A71 just east of Darvel. In the low rolling hills of farmland and small villages, Loudoun Hill appears as a surprisingly high thumb of rock sticking up on the landscape.

Located mid point between Kilmarnock and Strathaven, it was worth stopping for a hike around it in the quiet countryside. In 2004 the local council erected a sculpture by Richard Price to honour Scotland's two greatest heroes



who each fought and won a battle at this location. It is called the "Spirit of Scotland" and it is a unique and beautiful piece.



Quoting from the website of the late David R. Ross, and his website, www.thesonsofscotland.co.uk/drossloudonhill.htm "The Wallace" by the poet Blind Harry tells the story of Wallace's ambush of the English at Loudoun Hill. Wallace concealed his men behind the banks and ditches of the long abandoned Roman fort. The poem tells how the Scots

made the way even narrower with the construction of stone dykes, making more effective the attack on the tightly packed riders. Wallace had only 50 men against 200 enemy soldiers but still managed to,

kill over 100 English troops including Fenwick (the English general who had killed Wallace's father), the rest scattered and the baggage train, with all the supplies including a large amount of useful armour, weapons and horses intended to relieve the garrison at Ayr, now fell into Scottish hands. A point marked on maps as Wallace's Grave is traditionally believed to be the place where the English dead were buried. Wallace was declared an outlaw after the Battle of Loudoun Hill but pressed on to his

great victory at Stirling Bridge the following year. Robert the Bruce and the Second Battle, also quoting David R. Ross from Sons of Scotland. In 1307 on 10th May, eleven years after the first battle of Loudoun Hill, King Robert the Bruce adopted, almost exactly, the same site and tactics for another encounter with the English.

Bruce might well have deployed his forces on the advice of veterans of Wallace's army. By digging a series of trenches on either side he succeeded in narrowing the passage, forcing the English onto the difficult terrain between the bog and the loch. This would prevent a full frontal attack by the main English force of 3000 men and give the 500 to 600 Scots the best possible chance of victory.

The commander of the English was an old foe, namely one Aymer de Valence, who Bruce was more than familiar with.

Valence's only approach was over the highway through the bog,

where the parallel ditches Bruce's men dug outwards from the marsh



restricted his room for deployment still further, effectively neutralising his advantage in numbers.

He was forced at attack along a narrowly constricted front upwards towards the waiting enemy spears. It was a battle reminiscent in some ways of Stirling Bridge, with the same 'filtering' effect at work.

As Bruce's spearmen pressed downhill on the disorganised English knights they fought with such vigour that the rear ranks began to flee in panic. A hundred or more were killed in the battle. Aymer de Valence managed to escape the carnage and fled to the safety of Bothwell Castle.

I highly recommend stopping for 30 minutes or more to walk this area and see for yourself this unique location in world history.

St Andrew's Society of Toronto

to commemorate the Battle of Bannockburn. June 21, 2014
In October 2012, Dr. Ruth J. E. Jones and her husband, Robert, submitted a proposal to the Executive Committee of the St. Andrew's Society of Toronto to celebrate the 700th Anniversary of The Battle of Bannockburn. Anne Moir, the President of the St. Andrew's Society of Toronto and other members of the Executive Committee have given their full support to the proposal. The theme will be "The Battle of Bannockburn: Scotland Then and Now." The commemorations will be held in Toronto on Saturday, 21 June 2014. There will be two events: an afternoon Symposium and a Ceilidh later in the day.

Equal weight will be given to each of these events. The Symposium will be held at the Muzzo Family Alumni Hall between 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, 21 June 2014. The Auditorium is part of St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto. The Symposium will provide insights into the importance of the past and present significance of the Battle of Bannockburn, June 1314. It promises to be a fascinating afternoon with contributions to the Symposium from those in Scottish Studies programmes at Canadian Universities, historians, and military experts. The Ceilidh will provide an opportunity to celebrate all things Scottish! The Ceilidh in the evening will also be a significant

event with the enthusiastic participation by a variety of Scottish performers. The location is yet to be determined.

These preliminary plans have been made well ahead of the date because of the need to inform key people about the commemoration and the need to book suitable venues in advance. In addition, the committee is anxious to avoid any overlap with other events on the same date. In view of this, Ruth is delighted to inform all of the Delegates of Clans affiliated with CASSOC about the St. Andrew's Society of Toronto's plans to commemorate "The Battle of Bannockburn."

Clan Hunter Gathering at Hunterston Castle 2014

The next Hunter Clan Gathering will be held at Hunterston on 27th to the 29th June 2014.

This date is hurtling towards us folks so if you have an interest in going you need to move quickly. You can register on the Clan Hunter UK site shown below.

This weekend will co-incide with the Re-enactment of the Battle of Bannockburn being held that same weekend. Busing is being provided from the Castle to the battle site but again you must register. **Please note** that tickets for the re-enactment need to be purchased separately from the Bannockburn site. Mark these UK websites for updates on these events

For Bannockburn tickets:
www.bannockburnlive.com/

For information on the Hunterston Gathering:
<http://clanhunter.org.uk>

Clan Hunter Association - Canada

Notice of Dues for July 1st 2014to June 30th 2015

This is a gentle reminder that a new season is upon us and now is the time to renew your membership in the association.

If you have already renewed your membership, we thank you sincerely and please kindly ignore this reminder. If not perhaps you would like to fill in this note, add a cheque for \$30 and pop it in the envelope provided.

Name: _____ Membership No. CHAC _____ \$ _____

Address: _____

Cheques should be made payable to Clan Hunter and mailed to the Clan Hunter Association treasurer:

Donald R Hunter

138 Sweeney Drive

Toronto, ON M4A 1T9

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