



# hunters' halloo

Newsletter of the Clan Hunter Association, Canada

January 1999

Vo 2,5

Crest Badge of a  
Member of Clan Hunter

Editor's Note  
1

A Word from the Chief  
1

Congratulations to the UK  
2

And to New Zealand  
2

French Bay, Lake Huron  
2

Synopsis  
Murmures de la côte-du-sud  
3

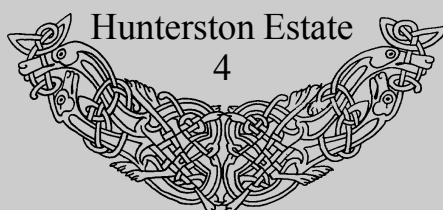
Abbot Andrew Hunter and  
Melrose Abbey  
3

Kith and Kin  
3

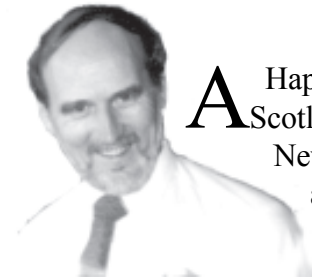
New Genealogy Tools  
4

Now, would you believe that?  
4

The Kilt Pin  
4



Hunterston Estate  
4



**A** Happy New Year to all. I have just returned from Scotland where my wife and I shared Christmas and the New Year celebrations with our brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews etc. etc. It was a delightful time of catching up with families and lots of comments like "look at the size of him/her"

Although we have returned to our homeland often since we immigrated to Canada, this was our first Christmas in Scotland in 27 years. We saw with our own eyes 200,000 people jammed into Edinburgh's Princes and George streets for Edinburgh's 2 mile New Year party. However we choose to watch the set up of all the sound systems and street barricades first hand but the actual New Year event via the television screen and not first hand. I'm afraid that is too big a crowd for me. The lights on Edinburgh Castle were very effective and the fireworks display at midnight was a sight to behold.

In this issue of our newsletter you will find an article by Chantal Hunter of Hull, Quebec who sent me a write up on a new book by her uncle, and our newest member, Charles-Albert Hunter. The book, which is written in French, is a semi fictionalised story of his ancestor's arrival in Canada from Scotland. Thank you also to Ruth Percival for her poem, "French Bay, Lake Huron" and to Amy Pierce for the information on Abbot Andrew Hunter and Melrose Abbey.

*Tom*

## *A Word From the Chief*

May I wish everyone all good wishes for a really Happy Christmas and enjoyable New Year. Although we do not celebrate Thanksgiving in the UK as you do I hope you all had a good time.

On my last visit to Hunterston I was able to put an album with the photographs that several of you had sent me of my visit to you this summer in the Castle. A big thank you to those of you who have sent pictures. If any one else has any photographs of my visit to you please send them and I will add them to the album. We now have two photograph albums in the Castle for visitors and Clan members to look at

There are several items of news from Hunterston. A new shepherd has been employed and Danny has gone part-time Nigel was very busy clearing the Big Wood. This is the wood between the Castle and the House, and it is a great improvement with all rhododendrons removed. During my visit in



## The Chief

Continued from page 1

October I watched a film company preparing to film for a television series called The Young Persons Guide to Being a Rock Star. The front porch had been re-constructed in board and painted to look like old stone round the back of Hunterston House. It was very impressive and looked as if it had been there always. Several of the props builders and actors asked if they could have a tour of the Castle, which I was happy to do. They were very impressed with Hunterston Castle and no one had seen a Castle in such a good state of preservation in its original form.

We now have an active UK Clan Association (which will include European Clan Hunter members) with its own newsletter, which is called The Hunters Tryst. According to The Concise Scots Dictionary, a tryst is an appointed meeting place, but it is also a conspicuous object chosen as a rendezvous, e.g. for Huntsmen etc. The Hunters Tryst then shall become the meeting place of the UK Clan members and I am sure you will all join with me in wishing them every success for the future. They are to have their Annual General Meeting at Hunterston at the end of April next year and it will be a great satisfaction to me to know that in each of the countries that there are Hunters we now have active Clan Associations.

This Autumn I went to a market with a difference, this one was for period re-enactors. At this market I bought several items for the Great Hall in the Castle. Two medieval design drinking flagons and two speckled glazed cups and a large pouring flagon also a large wicker open basket for holding fruit or bread. They all fit very well in the Castle and add a feel of the times to the Great Hall.

Bryan, our son, and myself completed a request made by my late husband Russ Mullen that he should have a memorial plaque placed on the outside of the walled garden looking towards the Castle. It was a very sad moment for both of us but also a very satisfying one as he had such a strong feeling for Hunterston Castle and wanted like myself to see it preserved for posterity for future Clan members.

Best Wishes for the Holidays  
Pauline

### ***Congratulations to the UK***

Congratulations to Stuart Hunter on his appointment as Clan Officer for the UK. and welcome to the new UK clan newsletter "Hunters' Tryst". The UK team so far as we know it is...

**Clan Officer** - Stuart Hunter originally from Dunfermline, Fife, Scotland, now living in Winchester, England

**Membership Secretary** - Bill Hunter  
**Newsletter Editor** - Tom Hunter from Milton Keynes, Bucks.

### ***...And to New Zealand***

Congratulations also to Richard Kearney Clan Officer - New Zealand on issue of their first newsletter, "The Hunterston Connection".

Well done and we wish you every

success folks and look forward to sharing ideas, enthusiasm and newsletters with you

## ***French Bay, Lake Huron***

by Ruth Percival

Break on the beach, then ripples,  
recedes  
Drag at the sand, pull at the weeds,  
Break on the rocks that stand in  
the bay,  
Break, for the rocks will never  
give way

Swish with a soft and sibilant  
sound,  
You are quiet today and gentle and  
calm  
Swish on the sand, be happy and  
gay  
Swish and the children can come  
out to play

Now you are still, have an oily  
sheen  
You are gunmetal blue, a  
frightening hue,  
The sky where it meets you  
matches in colour,  
This day will bring storms before  
we have another

Whatever your moods, I love  
every one,  
Whatever you bring me, storm  
clouds or sun,  
Forever changing, forever you are  
new,  
My small bit of heaven, I will  
always love you.

**Synopsis**  
**Murmures de la côte-du-sud**  
**(Murmurs from the South Shore)**

*by: Charles-Albert Hunter*

---

*Note: The author, Charles-Albert Hunter has traced his ancestry in Canada back to his legendary forefather Matthew, who immigrated from Scotland in the 1820s and settled in the Quebec City region. His son, also Matthew, and subsequent descendants, would later make their homes in Saint-Cyrille de Lessard - a tiny village on the south shore of the Saint Lawrence River.*

---

As a boy, Charles-Albert was a light sleeper who spent many hours perched at the top of the staircase in his parents' home in St-Cyrille de Lessard, listening as the "jaseux" (story tellers), unaware of his presence, shared their confidences, secrets and past indiscretions around the blazing wood stove.

The impressionable boy was fascinated by these tales of family intrigue. In "Murmures de la Côte-du-sud" (Murmurs from the South Shore), Charles-Albert, now all grown-up, shares with his readers a fictionalised chronicle of a very real family drama.

The year is 1910 and sensational events are about to rock Saint-Cyrille de Lessard when the course of a handsome young man's promising future is forever altered one fateful night. Because honour and pride are at stake, those who know the truth are sworn to secrecy.

"Murmures de la côte-du-sud" is also a vivid account of the life of the "habitants" (farm folk) in rural Quebec at the turn of the century. The author recounts the everyday joys and challenges faced by these brave people as seen through the eyes of his Aunt Diana and her sisters and brothers.

"Murmures de la côte-du-sud" is a captivating tale of deception, unspeakable horror, and family pride. For Charles-Albert Hunter, a first-time author, it represents the culmination of a life-long dream to share with others the stories that have intrigued him throughout his life.

For more information, or to order copies of "Murmures de la côte-du-sud", please contact the author's niece, Chantal Hunter at (819) 778-8799.

## **Abbot Andrew Hunter and Melrose Abbey**

*The following information was passed to me by Clan Member Amy Pierce. It sound like an interesting piece to check up on. Perhaps we can find out more about this fellow.*

The Arms of Abbot Andrew Hunter, Lord High Treasurer of Scotland, 1440-53, found in Melrose Abbey, carved at the base of a niche on the fifth buttress from the south transept of Melrose Abbey. Described as follows.

The abbots croziers in saltire between a rose in chief and three bugle horns - 2 in fess, that in base resting on a mell - a device for Melrose. Two remaining characters on the shield have been identified as A.H.



*Charles-Albert Hunter, author of "Murmures de la côte-du-sud" with his editor at the publishing of his new book.*

---

### **Kith and Kin**

Jane Hunter Catterson is interested in tracing her Hunter connection before 1828.

These are the known details:

**Grandmother:**

Jane Hunter 1865-1930 – Lived in Barrhead

**Great Grandparents:**

Orr Hunter 1828(?) – 1911 – Lived in Renfrewshire

Eliza(beth) McKee(ie) 1836 – 1899

My mother thought that both her grandparents had been brought "back" to Scotland from Ireland as babies. The somewhat unusual name for Orr was derived, my mother believed, from a family connection with the Orrs.

A chance encounter with a person at

---

**Continued on page 4**

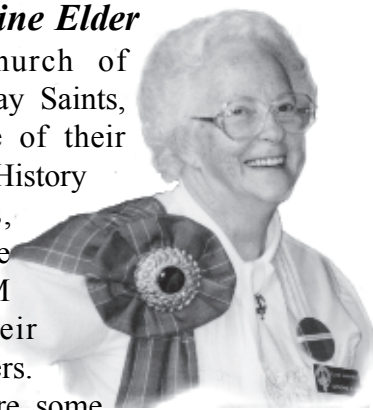
**Continued from page 3**

the British Isles Family History Society here last year gave me the information that 1) there was a Hunter presence in and around Kelso as early as the 13<sup>th</sup> century, farmers on lands of Kelso Abbey: and that there was at one time mediaeval peel tower called Hunter's Hall, in Galashiels. It belonged to the Douglass family and was demolished in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Anyone have any information?

***New Genealogy Tools***

***Catherine Elder***

The Church of Latter-day Saints, at some of their Family History Centers, now have CDROM on their computers. There are some new CD discs available.



1. VITAL RECORD INDEX - North America, which is an index of church, civil and other record collections for the U.S. and Canada covering from 1631 to 1888. Six discs contain Marriage information - the seventh contains birth & christening information.

2. A similar index for the BRITISH ISLES, England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland recorded between 1538 to 1888. These five discs contain records from parish registers, civil registration and other record collections. Not all counties are represented, and some are more complete than others.

Both of these sets run on Windows

95. These and other compact discs are available for purchase and can be ordered from Salt Lake. I understand that these indexes are in addition to the information now found on the International Genealogical Index (I.G.I.)

Members can contact me for further information. Catherine Elder.

***Now, would you Believe that?***

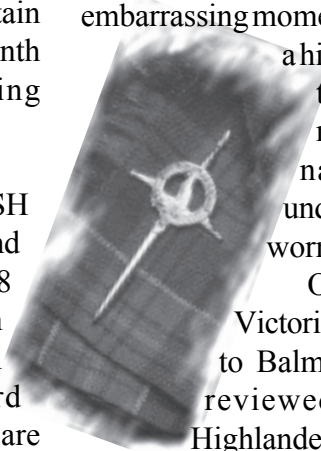
The editor of the UK, the US and the Canadian Newsletters are all named Tom Hunter. Must be in the blood, don't you think?

***The Kilt Pin***

***Borrowed from: The Echo, Great Lakes Clan Campbell Society***

Before the reign of Queen Victoria, the Scottish kilt was worn without the kilt pin, now used to secure the fold-over on the right hand side. As a result, there were many embarrassing moments, especially in a high wind, because the truth was that nothing in the nature of undergarments was worn with the kilt.

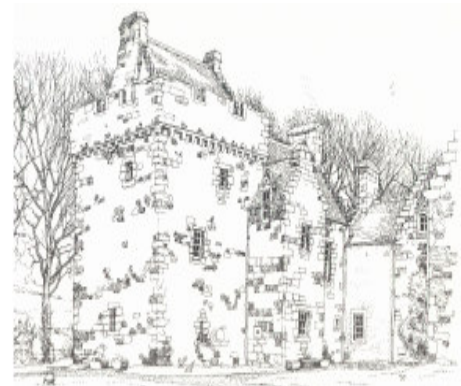
One day, Queen Victoria arrived on a visit to Balmoral Castle, and reviewed the Gordon Highlanders. A stiff wind was blowing and one young soldier, at rigid attention, was unable to control the flapping of his kilt, and to avoid exposure on this important



occasion. The Queen noticed his embarrassment and walked over to him. She removed a pin from her own dress and leaning over, pinned the overlap of his kilt. And that, believe it or not, is the origin of the kilt pin, without which no kilted Scot would be properly dressed today.

***Hunterston Estate suffers from the Elements***

The Boxing Day Gales have devastated the Hunterston Estate in



Scotland. Fortunately the buildings did not suffer much damage, but we have lost a lot of trees, particularly the old beeches, which were broken in the middle. It seems that the clean up effort will be quite extensive

Send your submissions for the Newsletter to Tom Hunter  
61 Downing Crescent  
London, Ontario  
N6C 3C7  
Fax/Tel (519) 681-4101  
e-mail tom.hunter@sympatico.ca  
WEB Page :  
www3.sympatico.ca/tom.hunter/

Clan Hunter 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
Dalby House, Elora, Ontario  
August 9, 1998

*Present: Mistress Pauline Mullen Hunter of Hunterston, 30<sup>th</sup> Laird and Chief of Clan Hunter, Sonia Madam Hunter of Hunterston; Tom & Christine Hunter; Lizz & Andrew Thibodeau, Wallace Hunter; Nadene B. & Dr. Nadene Hunter; Mark & Julie NyKamp, John & Marion Hunter; Don & Marion Hunter; Bob & Aldene Hunter; Catherine & Dave Elder; Melville, Cynthia & Crystal Hunter; Paul & Jane Ann Hunter, Sharron & Al Chicoine, Beryl M. Hunter, guests Rilda Hunter and Lynn Morrison*

*The 13<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Clan Hunter Association, Canada was Held at the Dalby House in Elora, Ontario. Clan Officer, Tom Hunter opened the meeting with a hearty welcome to all and a special welcome for Mistress Pauline Mullen Hunter of Hunterston, Chief of Clan Hunter, and her mother Sonia, Madame Hunter of Hunterston (AKA Pauline and Sonia). Tom welcomed them officially by title. We had an excellent turnout for the meeting, 31 members.*

*Pauline thanked everyone for their presence and support. It was wonderful for her to be here. She has enjoyed all the events and the opportunity to get to know all of us. She looks forward to a long and close relationship with all of us. Pauline had a special thank you for all who were responsible for the hospitality given to her and Sonia, especially Don & Marion, Tom & Christine and Bob & Aldene and to Catherine and Dave Elder for bringing her from Detroit to London for the open house.*

*Pauline gave a brief history of Hunterston as the seat of Clan Hunter. She talked about the Hunterston Castle Restoration Fund and said that all dues will go to the fund for the preservation, maintenance and development of the castle as the Center for our clan. She said that since members had expressed a desire for more frequent Clan Gatherings, they will be held every 3 years after the next Gathering, which is scheduled for the end of June, beginning of July of 2001. She also talked of the Neil Hunter Memorial Trust Sailing Scholarship (sailing was a sport that Neil loved and excelled in) and she told something about the latest recipient, Debbie*

*Pauline had a very special presentation to make today. She has established a new, special award for excellent service to Clan Hunter, the Order of the Royal Huntsman, as suggested by Hunter Smith. This award will be open to all members, worldwide and there will be one awarded each year. This first year was exceptional, in that three members received the award, John M W Hunter (Canada), Burt Hunter (Australia) and Charles M Hunter (USA). John M W Hunter was the first recipient and the award was a total surprise to him. He was presented with an engraved plaque and a silver pin, a hunting horn.*

*There was another surprise presentation today. Don Hunter presented Pauline with a Membership in the Trans Canadian Trail Association. This is a new project in Canada and will be a continuous hiking trail across Canada. Pauline, an avid hiker, was given a certificate for one meter of the trail which was purchased in her honour. Her name will be engraved on a plaque in a kiosk on the trail in Ontario.*

*The minutes of the last meeting were approved, having been published for all members to read and correct in the Hunter's Halloo, on a motion by Don Hunter, seconded by Bob Hunter. There was no business arising from the minutes.*

*Don Hunter presented a treasurer's report for the year 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998. He explained something about CASSOC and its similarity to the Scottish Heritage Society and he gave the breakdown of the distribution of our dues, \$10.00 stays in our treasury and \$20.00 goes to Scotland. The Treasurer's report was accepted on a motion by Don, seconded by Dr. Nadene. There was a start up loan, divided among three members, made from our treasury for the notelettes. Melville Hunter moved that the balance of this loan be paid. The motion was seconded by Paul Hunter and passed.*

*Catherine Elder gave a report on genealogy. She had little to add to previous reports, having had some small updates and information from 1 member. She asked that members send her genealogical information if they have not already done so. It is important to provide Dates, Names and Places (of birth and death if possible), a time frame if exact dates are unknown. This information will be incorporated into the data base. She would really like to have all information on disc, in the same system and consolidated at Hunterston where it could be available for all members. She asked that all members re-submit information from membership applications to ensure that we have*

all of it. It isn't necessary to have the same program for genealogical information, compatible programs will work. Pauline suggested that sometime in the future all the data could be entered into the computer at Hunterston visitors could look up information or contribute to the data base when they are there.

Tom had some feedback on the newsletter. It continues to do well and comments indicate that people enjoy it. We still need NEWS from members, photos, recipes, births, weddings etc. There was a suggestion that we consider collecting recipes from members worldwide and compile a cookbook. This could be used as a fund raiser for the Hunterston Castle Restoration Fund. The last newsletter had an article by Elizabeth Walls from Manitoba which was quite good. Tom is open to other such material for the newsletter.

Tom said there had been questions about possibly mailing the newsletter without envelopes, just folded and stapled. Unlike the US Post Office, the Canadian Post Office doesn't allow this. The newsletter must be sent in envelopes.

There was an update on the Web Site. It is going well as far as increasing communication is concerned, There have been requests for genealogical information but not much response to the forms sent out for application for membership. Ours is a very nice site, complete with a Hunter Tartan background. The US group doesn't have its own site yet and they are using the one that Tom developed. There are Hunters all over the world and now we can communicate through the web site. We have had a couple of members join through email, the form being available online. One new member in Austria has bought a kilt and all the accouterments. Another new member lives in Japan.

We can access the Scottish Vital Statistics (Edinburgh Register House) on the Web as well as Clan Hunter. This could be a valuable source of genealogical information.

Last year we voted to make several changes in our constitution and bylaws. These changes have been made and at this meeting they were ratified as published in the minutes of the 1997 meeting on a motion by Catherine Elder and seconded by Marian Hunter.

Once again, life membership was brought up for discussion. A member is a life member by birth but "life membership" in the association cannot be maintained just on the initial membership fee. We must have the annual assessment to support the organization, newsletters, notices of events and that sort of thing require that we maintain a small treasury. Also, we need to send money to Scotland to support the maintenance and restoration of the castle.

It was suggested that we could give a "membership card" for each year to serve as evidence of membership as well as a reminder when annual fees come due. We need to stress what the money is used for in the way of support of both local and Scottish parts of the association. We need to point out that the money that goes to Scotland is used for restoration, not administration. Our castle is in remarkably good condition. It is intact and habitable, not just a heap of stones as so many are. It still has the original roof beam and a very well preserved vaulted ceiling in the lowest level among other interesting attributes. Hunterston is not only livable but it still Belongs to us and has not been given over to the National Trust.

There was some discussion of publicity for the association. Catherine suggested that it would be beneficial to have an ad in the Scottish Banner again. She moved that we investigate the cost of such an ad and, if reasonable, we should do it. Christine amended the motion to read that we put the ad in for this year and decide next year to continue or not, depending on the cost. The amended motion was seconded by Melville Hunter and it passed.

Tom and Christine reported that they went to the Lancaster and Chatham games. The Hunter tent won 3<sup>rd</sup> prize, \$100.00, which was just enough to purchase a new 10 X 10 tent. They bought this tent on an executive decision. A motion was made by Dr. Nadene, seconded by Cynthia Hunter to approve this decision and purchase. Carried.

Dave and Catherine Elder have extended their McIntosh tent to help promote Clan Hunter when Tom cannot be at games.

There was a unanimous vote of thanks to Bob and Aldene for arranging the clan dinner on August 8<sup>th</sup>. The dinner was very well attended. Bob and Aldene were also thanked for their work in arranging facilities at the hotel for Pauline and Sonia. Tom said that it was a wonderful weekend. A lot of hard work went into making it such a success, starting with the September 1997 meeting. The committees worked hard, and even with a few minor "glitches" it all worked out to be "neat and tidy and working well". He thanked all who did various parts of setting up for the weekend to make it the success it was (awards, accommodations etc.) Paul and Jane Ann were recognized for their great choice of a place for our meeting today.

All in all it was a wonderful weekend and it has felt like the Family event it is meant to be with Pauline and Sonia.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Bob Hunter, seconded by Don Hunter.