



Crest Badge of a  
Member of Clan Hunter

# Hunters' Halloo

Newsletter of the Clan Hunter Association, Canada

Feb 2009 Vol 5,10

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Dear Clansfolk,

To celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns the UK Clan Association organized a weekend at the Gretna Hall Hotel which was very well attended, there being 10 of us in all. We were especially pleased to see Gordon (O.R.H.) with his wife Eleanor, Robert (O.R.H.) and his wife Ellen, Ian and Elsie from Preston and myself and Graham. The weather was lovely being dry and sunny. Gretna Hall Hotel



arranges an excellent Burns weekend we were all very well fed and both evenings there was entertainment. On Saturday the group entertaining us was Something Scottish, the same group that comes to Clan Gatherings at Hunterston, there was singing and dancing finishing with Auld Lang Syne.

This Year, heralds another great event, Homecoming Scotland, celebrating Scotland's great contributions to the world. Robert Burns, Golf, Whiskey, Scottish Innovations and Minds, and our Scottish Ancestry and Heritage.

The main event of the year will be the International Gathering held in Edinburgh over the weekend of 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> July, 'A Celebration of the contribution made by the Clans to the culture and history of Scotland'. The main event for the Clans is the parade and pageant on Saturday, it would be truly wonderful for a good turnout from the Hunters. I am really looking forward to this event and will be very happy to have you join me at this historic event. We do need some banner carriers as well. In honour of the Homecoming Scotland Gathering I have commissioned a Hunter Clan Standard. This was made possible by a very generous donation from Patsy Lawrence of Texas in the USA. The standard will be

hanging in the Clan tent at the Gathering and afterwards will be placed in the Clan Members room in Hunterston Castle. The banner has been hand painted by Mr Karl Banholzer for the Hunter Clan especially for the Homecoming Scotland Gathering.

Our Clan Dinner will be at the Royal Scots Club on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July, the last date for bookings is the 14<sup>th</sup> July. The Royal Scots Club is in the centre of Edinburgh in Abercrombie Place. We have enough room to seat 40 people for the Dinner. The menu is as follows:



30 Abercrombie Place,  
Edinburgh EH3 6QE

**Clan Hunter Dinner Menu**  
**7.00 pm to sit down for 7.45pm**

**Starter**

Scottish smoked salmon served simply with brown bread and a lemon wedge.

**Main Courses**

Roast leg of lamb, studded with rosemary and served with a wild garlic infused gravy.

**Vegetarian Option**

Isle of Mull pancake - Seasonal vegetables in a mature cheddar and mustard sauce

**Vegetable accompaniment**

Selection of mixed vegetables  
Buttered baby new potatoes

**Dessert**

Brandy snap basket filled with summer berries and Drambuie cream.

**Freshly brewed filter coffee & tea with ...**

All butter tablet & fudge

**Cost per person £35.00**

Payment in advance to 'Clan Hunter Association' and sent to:  
Madam Pauline Hunter of Hunterston, Plover's Ridge, Lon Crecrist, Trearddur Bay,  
Anglesey LL65 2AZ.

As part of the events Clan Chiefs have been invited to the Scottish Parliament and asked to bring a guest, Tom Hunter, Clan Officer of the Hunter Clan Association of Canada has agreed to join me. Further information about the event will be in the next newsletter.

I am very honoured that I have been invited to the Royal Garden Party at the Palace of Holyrood on June 30th. This is wonderful news for the Clan to be so honoured and recognised.

I do hope that many of you will join us in July and make our parade up the Royal Mile a truly great one for the Hunters.

See you soon in Edinburgh,

Yours aye

Madam Pauline

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### *From the Clan Officer*

Greetings to all,

Christmas is long gone but the snow still lingers on. All you ski and snowmobile enthusiasts must stop wishing for snow at once and give the rest of us a chance to warm up. Thank you to all who sent nice comments about our Clan

Christmas card this year. Those of you with e-mail received an animated version complete with music while the others received a hard copy version of the same thing (minus the music). And to those who wanted to know... yes I wrote the short poem inside. We are now looking forward to Spring and Summer and we were delighted to receive a letter for the Clan Members from Madam

Pauline our Chief with an update on the plans for the Gathering in Edinburgh in July. The menu looks lovely and my mouth is watering already. **Please note that space is limited to 40 people** at the banquet and so you really must let Madam Pauline know ASAP if you intend to attend or you may find yourself dining alone that evening.



Once again, in our newsletter, we have tried to bring you stories of Hunters past and present as well as little stories from Scottish folklore. In this issue you will find a couple of articles on traditional Hunting with hound dogs. These stories date back to the early 1500's but it must have been similar for the first Norman Hunters from Normandy. Lizz is again exploring the genealogy problems in Ireland in her "Connections Corner" and we have a story on Sir Robert Hunter who founded The National Trust in Scotland in 1895 and just to colour things up a bit we have a couple of Spring-like photos of the Hunterston grounds in bloom.

It was interesting to read in Madam Pauline's letter about the banners being created for "The Gathering" and in fact Clan Hunter Canada is also designing a banner to be used at the Gathering and then to be hung in the castle. We have been meaning to have this done for some time and so it would seem appropriate to have it done in time for the gathering this year.

One last word on families and such. I was watching my 3 yr old granddaughter, Torry, playing with some large playing cards and according to her, some were "upside down" while others were "upside right". Don't you just love the language of children?

*Tom*

## 🎵 Connections Corner



*Lizz Thibodeau*

lizzt@rogers.com

In the previous newsletter, I wrote about the “Great Fire” in Dublin that destroyed many of the Irish records, making genealogy research in Ireland a bit of a chore. I chose to start with that, thinking that the historical description would be the easy part and the summary of how to go about researching in Ireland would be the tougher part of my research. However, as it turns out, trying to get my head around what actually happened to the records was much more difficult than I anticipated, and John Grenham (an authority on Irish genealogy) has written a wonderfully

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

helpful article on what exactly was lost, what remains, and how to get around it. So in this article, I will simply highlight some of his points. If you are interested in finding out more, please visit his website at <http://www.gov.ie/en/essays/genealogy.html> or find a copy of his book *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors* (Gill & Macmillan, 3rd edition, 2006). His website goes into more detail and includes several helpful web links.

### So, what was lost?

The most significant loss in my mind is many of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Censuses. I have spent so many hours pouring over censuses in my research that I can't imagine trying to work without them. Many of the pre-1870 Church of Ireland parish records and wills probated in Ireland were also destroyed.

### So, what remains?

**Civil Records** – all births, deaths and marriages in Ireland have been registered since 1864. Non-Catholic marriages have been registered since 1845.

**Census Records** - 1901 & 1911 are available.

**Church Records** – Roman Catholic, Church of Ireland, and Presbyterian records are available in varying degrees. Some are available only through paid research.

**Property Records** – These include two very valuable sources: the Tithe Applotment Books of 1823-1838 and Griffith's Primary Valuation of 1847-1868. Both of these are surveys of property owners – in many ways a substitute for the lost censuses.

### Helpful links:

[www.census-nationalarchives.ie](http://www.census-nationalarchives.ie) – 1901 & 1911 Censuses

[www.proni.gov.uk](http://www.proni.gov.uk) – public record office of Northern Ireland

[www.irishtimes.com/ancestor/](http://www.irishtimes.com/ancestor/) - many resources for Irish genealogy

### *The Story of White Heather.*

Long, long ago in Scotland, the famous Celtic bard, Ossian, had a daughter called Malvina. She was beautiful and sweet natured. She won the heart of Oscar, a handsome warrior. They became betrothed, but Oscar left in search of fame and fortune. Malvina pined for him and sought solace by telling her father how much she loved her brave warrior, Oscar. On a beautiful autumn day, the two were sitting on a Highland hillside when a ragged messenger staggered towards them. He brought the terrible news that Oscar



had been killed in a mighty battle. The messenger held out a spray of

purple heather to Malvina- a last gift from Oscar- and told her that he had died whispering her name and pledging his love. In her grief, Malvina ran over the hillside, weeping bitterly. Where her tears fell, the purple heather turned pure white. When she saw this, she said May this white heather forever bring good fortune to all those who find it. And so, in Scotland, to this very day, white heather continues to be a token of good luck. Very often worn by the groom at a traditional Scottish Wedding, White Heather was a token of Good Luck for the marriage.



## Remedies of nature

Thomas Pennant in his 'Tour of Scotland' lists a number of remedies used in the Highlands of Perthshire as cures for the many ailments of the period.

For the macho or masochist there was the ultimate in cold cures. *"Plunging into the river, in the dead of winter; immediately going to bed under a load of clothes and sweating away their complaint."*

Rather more pleasant was the cough cure. *"Two parts milk and one of water, a little treacle and vinegar made into whey and drunk warm."* The chincough (whooping cough) was alleged to be cured by *"a decoction of apples and mountain ash sweetened with brown sugar."*

## ***"Stale urine and bran made very hot and applied to the part***

A somewhat foul smelling poultice was used for the relief of rheumatism. *"Stale urine and bran made very hot and applied to the part freed the rheumatic from his excruciating*

*pains."* Fluxes were cured by the use of *"meadowsweet or jelly of bilberry, or a poultice of flour and suet; or new churned butter or strong cream and fresh suet boiled and drunk plentifully morning and evening."* Various diseases and infections of the eye were said to be

cured by daisy flowers and narrow or broad leaved plantains. Scabious root or the burned bark of the ash tree was used as a cure for toothache.

Finally, there is an interesting note on the qualities of the cor meille (bitter vetch). *"Whole roots dried are the support of the Highlanders in long journeys amidst the barren hills, destitute of the supports of life; a small quantity will for a long time repel the attacks of hunger. Infused in liquor it is an agreeable beverage and exhilarates the mind."*

Seems worth a try.

## The Tinchel

In the Lowlands of Scotland, deer were hunted by the nobility on horseback accompanied by packs of

hounds who brought the deer to bay where they could be attacked by sword or dagger. The dogs were an essential part of the hunt and when firearms came into being there was great opposition to their use.

In 1551, a law was passed forbidding the use of half-hag (arquebuss), culvering and pistol to kill deer *"under pain of death and escheat of moveables,"* (confiscation of goods) though this proved useless. It was claimed that in many areas the deer had been *"clean exiled and banished"* but it was not so much the introduction of firearms that brought about this state of affairs as the expansion of farming and the pressures of population.

More and more, the survivors of the herds retreated to the Highlands in the north. Here the traditional methods of hunting could no longer be used, the ground was too steep and above all too boggy for riders on horseback to hope to catch the deer.

The answer to all this was the Tinchel. The word was used to describe both the men who drove the deer and the hunt itself.

John Taylor, the water poet, who visited Scotland in 1618 described one such hunt. *"Five or six hundred men do rise early in the morning, and they do disperse themselves divers ways, and seven or eight miles compass, they do bring or chase the deer in many herds (two, three or four hundred in a herd) to such or such a place as the*



*Noblemen shall appoint them; then when day is come, the Lords and Gentlemen of their companies do ride or go to the said places, sometimes wading up to their middle through burns or rivers, and then they being come to the place, do lie down on the ground till these foresaid scouts, which are called Tinchels, do bring down the deer. Then after we had stayed there three hours or thereabouts, we might perceive the*

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**then all the valley on each side being waylaid with two hundred of strong Irish greyhounds**

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*deer appear on the hills round about us which being followed close by the Tinchel are chased down into the valley where we lay; then all the valley on each side being waylaid with two hundred of strong Irish greyhounds, they are let loose as the occasion served upon the herd of deer so that with dogs, guns, arrows, dirks and daggers in the space of two hours fourscore fat deer were slain.”*

## **The Stag Hound Dog**

“The stag hound, was a large stately animal, equal or little less than the blood hound, and originally, like that race, slow, sure, cautious and steady.” “The modern hound is perhaps still handsomer, though somewhat smaller; and the



breed having been crossed with the fox hound is now much faster.” The stag hunt having declined in public favour they have ceased to be bred in packs for hunting purposes.

“Many years since,” says Captain Brown, “a very large stag was turned out of Whinfield Park in the county of Westmoreland, and was pursued by the hounds till, by accident or fatigue, the whole pack was thrown out with the exception of two dogs which continued the chase. Its length is uncertain, but the chase was seen at Red Kirk near Annan in Scotland, distant by the post road about forty six

miles. The stag returned to the park from which he had set out, so that considering the circuitous route which it pursued, it is supposed to have run over not less than one hundred and twenty miles. It was its greatest and last achievement, for it leapt the wall of the park and immediately expired; the hounds were also found dead at no great distance from the wall which they had been unable to leap. An inscription was placed on a tree in the park, in memory of the animals, and the horns of the stag, the largest ever seen in that part of the country, were placed over it.

It must have been a bloody sight but no doubt was enjoyed by all who took part.

Records preserved at Blair Castle show a little more of the organisation required to organise a Tinchel. In 1710 orders were sent out three weeks before the hunt. “*These are ordering you to advertise our Vassals and a fencible man out of every merk land belonging to us either on property or superiority to present themselves to their best arms and apparrell and to bring as many dogs as possibly they can get.*”

These men were required to bring rations with them to last up to eight days which gives some indication of the scope and duration of the operation. At the start of the Tinchel, men were assembled and orders were read out to them that:

1. None shall offer to fire a gun or pistol in the time of the deer hunting.
2. None shall offer to break up a deer or take out a gralloch except in his Grace’s presence.
3. That none shall be drunk or swear an oath.

In spite of these prohibitions, the Tinchel tended to be an occasion of celebration and hard drinking.

The numbers killed in 1710 were not recorded, but in the next year 57 deer were killed over three days and one stag was cut clean in half by a single blow from a broadsword.

## *Hunterston Castle in February*

I received the following photos from Bill Hunter, Newsletter editor of the UK Clan Hunter association. I'm sure Bill does this to tease me as he knows from the photos that I send him, that we here in Canada are still blanketed in snow in most areas.

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**Have you changed your e-mail address? Don't forget to let our Clan Officer or Membership Secretary know. You can reach Tom at [thunter01@rogers.com](mailto:thunter01@rogers.com) or Christine at [cbhhunter@rogers.com](mailto:cbhhunter@rogers.com)**

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A beautiful mass of snow drops reject the fact that winter is still with us and show off their style along the pathways of Hunterston Castle.

**Photo by William Hunter UK.**

Crocuses and snowdrops showing off their colours in the grounds of Hunterston Castle just outside the walled garden.

**Photo by William Hunter UK.**



## ***Sir Robert Hunter***

**(1844-1913)**

**Founder of The  
National Trust in  
1895**

Born in Addington Square, Camberwell, he was the first child of Robert Lachlan Hunter and Anne Hunter. He had one sister, Anne, 4 years younger. His mother came from a missionary family. His father had, as a child, run away to sea to join the whaling fleet and had become a master mariner by the time Robert was born. His sea-going career had been



profitable enough to allow him to establish his own mercantile business in London, and he then lived at home.

Social unrest at this time posed a threat to security, and Robert senior enrolled as a special constable to assist Peel's Metropolitan Police force in dealing with the riots. Chartist gangs roamed the streets and the residents of Addington Sq. hid their jewellery in the water butts. On one occasion in 1848, young Robert and his pregnant mother only just reached the relative safety of their home before a violent mob invaded Camberwell Road.

In 1847 Robert, then nearly three, was seriously ill. He slowly recovered but remained subdued and went on to suffer severe forms of every childish illness.

In 1850 he attended a day school for little boys run by a Miss Cribb. He had personal memories of the 1851 Great Exhibition and of the Duke of Wellington's funeral. In 1853, the family moved to Denmark Hill. Living in a tall, north-facing house overlooking fields, the view on a clear day was superb, right across London as far as Highgate. At the weekends he and his sister were taken to concerts, museums and book clubs, and on one memorable day to the Crystal Palace to see Blondin wheeling a barrow along the high wire

In 1861, Robert senior was sent on medical advice to Dorking, and thus young Robert became acquainted with the Surrey commons and hills which he held in great affection in later life. In the same year, he was awarded a place at University College, London, where he studied Logic and Moral Philosophy.

Here he also developed a love of walking and climbing. Encouraged by his father, he enrolled as an articled clerk with a firm of solicitors in Holborn, but he found the work totally uninteresting. To relieve the boredom he read for a Master's degree in his own time. In 1866, Sir Henry Peek offered prizes of £400 for essays on Commons and the best means of preserving them for the public. Hunter wrote one of the six best entries, and when a vacancy came up in 1868, the Commons Preservation Society made him their Honorary Solicitor.

Here he achieved many successes in saving common land from enclosure, most notably Epping Forest, which Queen Victoria declared open as a public park in 1882. In that same year, he was recommended for the position of Legal Adviser to the Post Office, where he stayed for the rest of his working life, though he still regularly assisted the Society in its work.

In 1877, five years after his

first wife had died in childbirth, he married Ellen (Nellie) Cann. They had three daughters, Dorothy, Winifred and Margaret.

In 1883, he and his family moved to Three Gates Lane in Haslemere, where he joined the growing band of rail commuters employed in London. The following year, Octavia Hill enlisted his help in trying to save Sayes Court in Deptford. The owner wanted to give the property to the nation, but no organisation existed to accept the gift. Hunter felt a new 'Company' should be established for such purposes, and so began his idea of a 'National Trust.'

The idea lay dormant for nearly 10 years until 1893, when Hardwicke Rawnsley sought help to buy some land in the Lake District which was under threat from speculators. This time the seed grew, and in January 1895 the National Trust was founded, with Hunter as its first chairman.

Knighthood the previous year for his services to the Post Office, he also became chairman of the first Haslemere Parish Council, formed in the same month as the Trust. This diligent, quiet man retired from the Post Office at the end of July 1913, but by early November had died of septicaemia.

Waggoners Wells, near Grayshott, was acquired by the trust in 1919 and dedicated to his memory.

Send your submissions  
for the newsletter to  
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