



Crest Badge of a  
Member of Clan Hunter

# Hunters' Halloo

Newsletter of the Clan Hunter Association, Canada

Jan 2012 Vol 6,11

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Dear Clansfolk,

As we celebrate the winter festivities and enter the New Year it is a time to relax and reflect. I was reading an article about Genghis Khan who was born in the year of the Black Rat 1162?. He was a true warrior and statesman who ruled over half the known world. It is said that 1:200 men today can trace a genetic link to his race. It made me think that the Hunters had already arrived at Hunterston two generations before his birth. What a pause for thought that is.

Our clan was already well established in Scotland by the time of the birth of Genghis Khan.

2011 has been a year of turmoil for most people with geological upheavals and economic instability. But our Clan is still here and not only that survives and grows into 2012 as we celebrate our International Gathering on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> July. And for those that are interested there is the Diamond Jubilee of our Queen, Elizabeth II and the Olympics.

Thank you all for your varied and interesting news over 2011. We were all pleased to hear that Hugh, Clan Officer New Zealand, and his wife Gill were safe after the earthquakes. However their house will need a lot of work and this is going to take some considerable time. They are suffering aftershocks still according to their daughter, Sarra. I am sure that you all send best wishes to them both.

Richard, Clan Officer Australia, with his wife, Lindy travelled to Canada this year where they visited with Tom, Clan Officer Canada, and his family. Thank you for the photos. I heard that they had a very enjoyable visit and cemented Clan Hunter Association relations further.

Tom Hunter and his family came over to Scotland to visit family and joined up with the UK Clan Association.

Peter, the webmaster for the UK and the Clan website has recently made contact with Ramon Santamarina Hunter, Clan Officer Argentina and I am hoping that they will become active again. The Argentinean Hunters came from Australia.

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Mel, Clan President United States, with Pat, his wife, have made tremendous progress with getting old members to activate their memberships and gaining new members. I have had a busy year sending membership certificates out to the Membership secretaries.

Well done everyone and thank you all.

The UK Hunters met up several times this year the last time for the Open Day at the Castle in early September. Ian, Clan Officer, has been very supportive and visible at all events. We had an unexpected event in October. We had a request from a television programme to film Reg D Hunter, the comedian. He is originally from Georgia but now works in the UK. Bill, Janet, Robert, Ellen, Eoin were all present. Reg was delighted to meet everyone and was most courteous. There is disc of the programme if anyone wants a copy let me know. Reg was amazed by the Castle and the heritage that we have here and had been completely unaware of its existence. He was delighted to have visited and received such a warm welcome from the Clan. Thank you to everyone who came for the day to welcome him.

We are anticipating a great Gathering this year and a very warm welcome is extended to everyone who is planning on coming.

All my best to you for 2012.

Madam Pauline

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Well, another year is upon us and plans are afoot for another Hunterston Gathering. The wonderful news just received from Madam Pauline is that this year the **registration fee has been waived**. A most generous move on Madam Pauline's part I must say. Have you made your plans yet? You need to get moving and to help you start we have included a registration form towards the rear of this newsletter. **(Yes you still need to register so that we might know what meals you will be having)** There will also be a bus trip to the island of Arran offered on the Monday which also needs you to register. I must say again at a very reasonable price. Please give this event your most serious consideration and then fill out the form.



I received a bucket full of information from Andrew John Hunter of Victoria, BC on "Hunters Corner" (Sorry I couldn't use all of it Andrew) founded by his ancestors. You will find that on pages 3 & 4. Thank you for that Andrew and thank you to Lizz for putting it together in her Column. There's something fascinating about old family pictures and stories isn't there? If you have a story to tell why don't you send it to me and we can all share it. We also have an article on **Weights and Measures in 14<sup>th</sup> century Scotland** written by a young friend of mine Ryan Thorpe. Ryan is not a "Hunter" but he kindly allowed me to include his project in our newsletter. It's been a while now but I can still remember my mum sending me for a "forpet o' tatties" and in Scotland our weight was measured in stones and pounds. Before I get cheekie responses I will state categorically that I was not alive in 14th century Scotland. But many of these measures were still being used when I was a lad in the 40s and 50s. I remember I was always about 11 1/2 stones in weight. I must confess to being considerably heavier now. Thanks also to Christine for her membership report and reminder of our dues. If you have anything on your mind drop us a line or make a call we always love to hear from you.

Tom

*Connections Corner*



**Lizz Thibodeau**

lizzt@rogers.com

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

Recently my father shared some photographs and notes that he had received from a member of Clan Hunter about an intersection near Hamilton called **Hunters' Corners**. Andrew John Hunter's great-great-grandfather, Andrew William Hunter emigrated from Hawick, Roxboroughshire, Scotland in 1842 and settled in Beverly Township, Wentworth County, Ontario in 1850. Andrew is fortunate enough to have some pictures of his family from the late 1800s after they emigrated to Canada. Sad to say, Andrew William Hunter (1810-1860) died tragically at Hunter's Corners on January 13, 1860 in a sawmill accident.



Arabella Edith Hunter with her daughter Edna.



Thomas & Effie Hunter

*Hunters Corners*

Front row left Arabella Edith (Miller) Hunter right Arabella Gore Hunter (1882-1981)  
 2nd row left to right Harold Hunter, Victor Hunter, Willie Hunter  
 3rd row woman with baby unknown, Edna Hunter (1879-1979)  
 4th row Arabella Gore (Simons) Miller (1815-1902)



This family were among the pioneers of this area, settling and helping to build the necessary establishments: church, stores, mill and school. Here's a recent map of Ontario highlighting Hunter Road in Beverly Township (the red marker) and showing it's proximity to Hamilton (right side). Andrew Hunter also supplied us with an old map of Beverly Township, showing three Hunter settlements and the Hunters Corners School in the bottom right-hand corner of the Patterson settlement.



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In 1959, the school which had been built at Hunters Corners was closed and a new school was built in Beverly Township for all of the children of the area. Five schools (Hunters Corners, Union A, Westover, Rockton and Kirkwall) were amalgamated into one called Beverly Central School. The new school seemed like it would be a huge improvement over the one-room school houses with its eight rooms, but with 200 students coming together, there wasn't room for everyone. They immediately had to make plans to build another room. The library and gymnasium were also later additions. Beverly Central is still an elementary school in the Hamilton-Wentworth school district (1346 4th Concession road West, Troy, Ontario, L0R 2B0) and in front of the school you can see a bell cairn which holds the bell from the Hunters Corners school and a beautiful memorial highlighting those who served from Hunters Corners.



*When the school (Hunters Corners) closed in 1959, the students attended Beverly Central School. The Bell from the Hunter's School was mounted on a stone cairn in front of the new Beverly Central School*



*Hunters Falls near Troy in Wentworth County, Ontario.*



*Hunters Corners cairn at Beverly Central School.... near Troy, Ontario, Southern Beverly township, Wentworth County.*

**Hunters Corners original founders and family descendants**

West Flamborough  
Presbyterian Cemetery West  
Flamborough Township,  
Wentworth County, Ontario



**\*\*\* Hunter, Andrew William,** founded Hunters Corners. in about 1842..  
d. 13 Jan 1860, 49 y, 10 m, h/o Elizabeth Hunter McLean)\*\*\*

- Hunter, Bessie, d. 20 Sep 1889, 1 y, 7 m, 23 d, dau/o Andrew & Annie Hunter
- Hunter, Elizabeth (McLean), d. 4 May 1895, 85 y, 1 m, w/o Andrew Hunter, native/o Roxborough Shire, Scotland
- Nisbet, Jessie (Hunter), d. 3 Oct 1926, 71 y, w/o Stephen Nisbet
- Nisbet, Margaret, d. 28 Dec 1869, 26 y, dau/o Stephen & Isabella Nisbet
- Nisbet, Robert, d. 22 Aug 1929, 78 yrs
- Nisbet, Stephen, d. 1 Mar 1911, 62 y, h/o Jessie Nisbet (Hunter)
- Nisbet, Stephen, d. 3 Feb 1873, 72 y, 11 m, native/o Ayrshire, Scotland
- Nisbet, Willie, d. 15 Jan 1894, 18 y, son/o Stephen & Jessie Nisbet
- Stenhouse, Agnes E., b. 1873, d. 1929, dau/o Andrew & Margaret Stenhouse (Hunter)
- Stenhouse, Andrew, b. 1836, d. 1911, h/o Margaret Stenhouse (Hunter)
- Stenhouse, Margaret (Hunter), b. 1834, d. 1906, w/o Andrew Stenhouse
- Stenhouse, Margaret, b. 1878, d. 1960

## Weights and Measures in 14<sup>th</sup> century Scotland

Imagine you are in the marketplace selling fruits and nuts that you had collected from your land. Maybe you would be able to get a fair price in your hometown, where people know you. But what if you went to another market to sell your produce? How much is a pound? How could you be sure you weren't being cheated? Making sure everyone used the same units was quite complicated in the middle ages. Whenever a new king acceded to the throne, his representatives had to meet to compare their weighing and measuring devices. Eventually, in the 17<sup>th</sup> century it was standardized. But even then, there were still some local variations.

Weights are all based on the pound (poon) or the stone (stane). There are four units used to measure weight:

- Drap (or drop)
- Ounce = 16 drap
- Pound = 16 ounces
- Stone = 14 pounds

"Drap" and "Stane" are words from the Scots language, and mean "drop" and "stone" respectively. The word pound comes from the Latin word *pondo* or *pondus*, meaning weight. It was about the same as the Roman unit of weight called the *libra*. This is why we still abbreviate the word pound as *lb*. The pound is made of 16 ounces. The word ounce is from the Latin *uncia*, meaning one twelfth, because there used to be twelve ounces in a pound.

At least since the time of David I of Scotland (1124 – 1153), kings have been trying to standardize weights and measures. Assemblies called "assizes of measure" were formed whenever a new king acceded. At these assemblies, judges representing the crown would compare their pounds, their pints (liquid), their firlots (dry measure) and their ells (length). They would then go across the land and make sure that merchants had scales and measurements that matched the official ones. But that didn't stop people from cheating! Using fake weights that had not been compared to the official ones was not uncommon.

Eventually, in 1661, the four types of measurements were each assigned to a specific city: the ell (about 37 inches) to Edinburgh, the pint (a little more than 1.5 Liters) to Stirling, the firlot (anywhere from 36 to 52 Liters, depending on what you were measuring) to Linlithgow and the stone (14 pounds) to Lanark. It took until the 17<sup>th</sup> century for Scotland to standardize! It was the Scottish parliament, combined with English rule that brought the system together.

For measuring volume, there are two different types: wet and dry. The firlot is a dry measurement based on the boll, and was monitored by Linlithgow. There are five units used to measure dry volume:

- Forpet/lippie =  $\frac{1}{4}$  peck
- Peck =  $\frac{1}{4}$  firlot
- Firlot =  $\frac{1}{4}$  boll
- Boll (Bowl)
- Chalder = 16 bolls

"Forpet" is derived from the words fourth peck. "Lippie" is from the

Anglo-Saxon word for basket. The word peck may be from the Latin *picotus*. So now, when you hear about Peter Piper picking a peck of pickled peppercorns, you'll know it's about two gallons or nine Litres! Firlot means a fourth lot (one fourth of a boll). A chalder or cauldron could be from 2,322 to 3,386 Litres! You know those 55 gallon plastic barrels some use for making armour? It takes 11 to 16 of those barrels to make one chalder!

Why the range of volumes? The Scots would measure things like peas, beans and wheat with a 145 Litre boll, and they would measure oats and barley with a 211 Litre boll. Some think the difference is the space in between the units being measured (ground meal vs. apples). Others have remarked that beer was measured in larger quantities, and beer is made from oats, barley and malt (all measured with the larger boll). Sounds good to me!

The pint or joug (about a modern quart) is a wet measurement, and was monitored by Stirling. There are five units used to measure wet volume:

- Gill
- Mutchkin = 4 gills
- Chopin = 2 mutchkins
- Pint/joug = 2 chopins
- Gallon = 8 pints

The gill derives its name from the old French word for a wine flask: *gelle*, and it is a little less than half a cup. I'd like to think that the mutchkin is the inspiration for the name munchkin, used by L. Frank Baum to describe very small people in his 1900 book *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. Alas; he does not divulge his inspiration. According to historians, it may be

the diminutive form of a kind of cap – a mutch. The word pint is derived from the Latin *pinctum*, meaning to paint. This can be seen in the Dutch *pinte* and the French *pint*. It comes from the line painted on a jug or bowl used for measuring. The gallon comes from French for jug or bowl. Consider this: in 14<sup>th</sup> century Scotland, a gallon is the equivalent of over three of our four-Litre bags of milk from the grocery store!

For measuring length and area, they are all based on the ell (37 inches), and it was monitored by Edinburgh. There are seven units used to measure distance:

Inch  
Foot = 12 inches  
Ell = 3 feet, 1 inch  
Fall = 6 ells  
Chain = 4 falls  
Furlong = 10 chains  
Mile = 8 furlongs

The word inch comes from the Latin *uncia*, meaning a twelfth part (just like the word ounce). It is one twelfth of a foot. Need I explain foot? It is that thing inside of your sock (if you have one)! The ell is named after the Latin word for forearm, *ulna*. It is the bone that goes from your elbow to the side of your hand that you would use for a karate chop. The distance of an ell, is more like the length from shoulder to finger tip. The word fall came from the Old Norse word *fale*, meaning pole. This would be a post stuck into the ground to mark boundaries, every six paces, or so. The distance that an ox could pull a plough before needing a rest is called a furlough (or furrow long). Lastly, the mile was from the Latin *mille*

*passus*, or a thousand paces. This is slightly less than two kilometres. There are five units used to measure area:

Square inch  
Square ell  
Square fall = 36 square ells  
Rood (rod) = 40 square falls  
Acre = 4 roods

The word acre comes from the Anglo-Saxon word meaning field. The medieval acre was about a quarter acre bigger than the current acre (about half a hectare for the younger ones).

This concludes our look at 14<sup>th</sup> century Scottish weights and measures. We've seen the pound or poon for weight, the firloft, peck and boll for dry goods, the mutchkin and pint for wet goods, and ells and acres for distance and area.

*Slainte mhath!* (Good health!)

**Beathán MacFinnon,  
mka Ryan Thorpe.**

## Membership News

We have only had 1 new membership since I last reported in October.

Please welcome:

**Richard Morneau** who lives in Levis, Quebec. Richard met us at the Montreal Highland Games and later decided to join us.

I have no other new members to tell you about – so I guess that leaves me with only one other topic of conversation – yes the annual dues. Before you tune me out – let me just say that all in all we have a wonderful group of folks in our Association. Oh every once in a while one or two of us forget to

send in that cheque (truth to tell, I have forgotten it myself on an odd occasion), but when I send reminders please just take the time to send us a cheque to bring your membership up to date. Our new year starts at the beginning of July – so dues will be payable again at that time, so again – please take the time to keep your membership active before another payment is due.

There that wasn't so bad, was it? We have traditionally sent out the paid membership cards with the October Newsletter, but starting immediately we will be sending them out as soon as your dues are paid. Just a small change in the way we do things, but I think you will appreciate getting that membership card quicker.

Tom and I are looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible at your local Highland Games. Let us know which ones you attend and you never know – one of these years we may meet you there! Check the April Newsletter for the Games we will be attending this year. Will we be seeing any new faces at the Gathering at Hunterston in July?

Christine Hunter  
Membership Secretary

Send your submissions  
for the newsletter to  
Tom Hunter  
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London, Ontario  
N6C 3C7  
Tel (519) 681-4101  
e-mail [thunter01@rogers.com](mailto:thunter01@rogers.com)  
WEB [www.clanhuntercanada.com](http://www.clanhuntercanada.com)

# Registration Form for Clan Hunter International Gathering 2012

20<sup>th</sup> , 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> July

All payments to be made to 'The Hunter Clan' in Sterling (£UK) and sent to:

Madam Pauline Hunter of Hunterston  
Plovers Ridge  
Lon Crecrist  
Treaddur Bay  
Anglesey LL65 2AZ  
UK

## EVENTS

**Friday 20th July 2012**

Storytelling in the afternoon

**Saturday 21st July**

Re-enacting Group Mary Queen of Scots ALL DAY

**Saturday Evening**

Entertainment at the Masonic Hall

**Sunday 22nd July**

Isle of Cumbrae RBLS Pipe Band

	Price	Number	£ Total
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### Meals per person Friday, Saturday & Sunday

<b>Friday Evening Buffet</b>	£ 7.00	_____	_____
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<b>Saturday Lunch Buffet</b>	£ 6.00	_____	_____
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Optional extra-Baked Potato	£ 0.50	_____	_____
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<b>Saturday Evening Dinner</b>	£ 9.00	_____	_____
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At the Masonic Hall West Kilbride

<b>Sunday Lunch</b>	£11.50.	_____	_____
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### Monday 23rd July

Coach trip round Arran price per person £20.00

Meals not included		_____	_____
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Grand Total		_____	_____
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Clan Hunter Canada**

# Scottish Wit and Wisdom

**Put twa pennies in a  
purse and they will creep  
thigither.**

*A saying indicating how money soon  
accumulates if you save it*

**Dinna open yer mou tae  
fill ither fowks.**

*A warning not to gossip.*

**Ah dinna bile ma  
cabbages twice..**

*Said as a refusal to repeat what has  
just been said; literally "I don't boil  
my cabbages twice*

**Cast not a clout till May be oot.**

*Often taken to mean that people should not remove  
any of their winter clothing until the Month of May  
has passed. However, it is thought by some that  
May refers to the hawthorn, the advice being not to  
remove any winter clothes until the hawthorn is in  
bloom*

**Words are but wind, but  
dunts are the devil.**

*Physical blows are much worse than  
verbal abuse*

**Bees that hae honey in  
their mouths hae stings in  
their tails.**

*A warning to be wary of people who are  
particularly eloquent or flattering, as they  
may be up to no good*

**Craft maun hae claes, but  
truth gangs nakit.**

*Cunning may be disguised, but truth does  
not need any cover or embellishment.*