



Crest Badge of a
Member of Clan Hunter

Hunters' Halloo

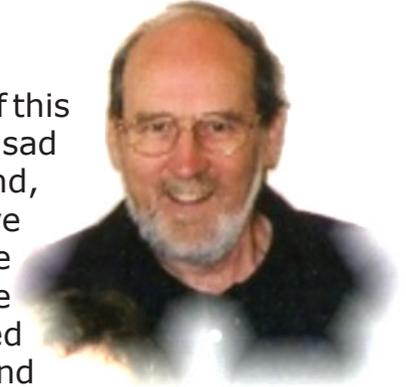
Newsletter of the Clan Hunter Association, Canada

Jan 2015

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Dear Friends,

I was just finalizing the publishing of this newsletter when I received the sad news of the death of a dear old friend, Dave Elder of Chatham, Ontario. Dave and his wife Catherine were there for Christine and I as I took over the reigns as Clan Officer. They helped us navigate through (for us) the brand new route to the various Highland Games throughout Ontario and they were always there to guide us and give us a few tips. We spent many happy Games together. Sadly circumstances prevented me seeing Dave very often lately and for that I will be eternally sorry, but he was always quick to offer encouragement by email whether it be about the Clan newsletter or the business of the Clan in general. Fate plays some cruel tricks sometimes and yet again I wasn't able to be at his funeral. He will be sadly missed by his many friends.



This publication contains an interesting article published by Ardrossan & Saltcoats Herald and used with their permission. The article tells of some interesting discoveries on the coastline just below Hunterston Castle. Who knows it might have been the early Hunterston settlement complete with Wooden Tower. But hey! I'll let you read it for yourself and let you make your own observations. Thanks again to Lizz for her Connections Corner. Rather unusual direction you have taken this time Lizz. No doubt influenced by your recent family trip to Disney World and Universal Studios. (Please someone, find something for Lizz to investigate soon) Thanks also to Christine for her membership report. Please take note of Christine's plea for delinquent membership dues. And one last note from me. Gathering information for the newsletter is always a challenge and many times in talking to people I discover that they have something that they want to write but they never get around to it. PLEASE GET AROUND TO IT.

Tom



Connections Corner



Lizz Thibodeau

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Sometimes genealogy pops up in the strangest places! Many people question the purpose of genealogy, but if you keep your eyes open, you can see that it influences our society in more ways than you can imagine. Here's a strange example:

My family has just recently visited Harry Potter World at Universal Studios, so I have been re-reading the series of books. Last night as I was contemplating what I would write about in this genealogy column when I haven't done any genealogy research in a while, I came across a passage near the end of the fifth book in which genealogy was discussed! No kidding! In Harry Potter! I shall try

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

not to give away too much of the plot for those of you still getting around to reading this series, but Harry Potter comes face to face with the evil villain, Voldemort, in a graveyard. The setting in itself relates to genealogy, but the plot highlights it even better. Voldemort was born to a magical mother and a non-magical father. His mother died in childbirth and his father abandoned him because he had his mother's magic. Later, Voldemort returns and kills his father. Voldemort tried to kill Harry Potter when he was a baby, but Harry's mother died protecting him. Voldemort reveals at this point in the story that he has been unable to kill Harry since because as long as he is in the custody of his mother's sister (Harry's Aunt Petunia), Voldemort can't harm him. You see, by dying protecting Harry, his mother has cast a spell of protection over him that remains intact as long as the family connection is

maintained (see the genealogy there!)

At the point in the story that I had reached last night, Voldemort was preparing to return to his former strength and in order to do this he needed to brew a special potion. It needed three special ingredients, one of which was a bone from his father. Even though his father was non-magical and had abandoned him, he could not return to power without a piece of his father. That's why this scene took place in a graveyard, at his father's grave. His family history gave him some of his power!

Both the spell of protection that Harry's mother inadvertently put on Harry when she died, and the history of Voldemort family (which becomes even more important in books six and seven) are integral to the entire plot of this series. And this is not unique to the Harry Potter series. Think of the importance of genealogy in Star Wars and other popular series. It seems while some people may not always see the purpose of looking at genealogy in their own life, it has a real place of importance in the lives of our fictional works.

Interesting find in Hunterston Sands

Published: 18 Nov 2014 Ardrossan & Saltcoats Herald (used by permission)

Ancient timbers thought to be from 800-year-old tower

ARCHAEOLOGISTS have unearthed a fascinating and unusual find at Hunterston Sands.



Katharine Scott from Ardrossan was one of the local volunteers on the project.

A group of large oak timbers thought to be from an 800-year-old dismantled timber tower has been discovered buried in the sand.

The site was discovered during a research survey involving members of the local community including Friends of Portencross Castle and professional archaeologists from Wessex Archaeology Coastal and Marine in collaboration with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCHMS). Known as the 'COALIE' project – Coastal Archaeological Landscapes: Inter-tidal and Estuarine – work is focused on the coastal and marine heritage of the North Ayrshire coast between Ardrossan and Largs, investigating sites such as abandoned harbours, beacons, shipwrecks and fishtraps. The timbers found at Hunterston have been dated using tree rings in the oak which suggest at least one of the timbers is around 800 years old, making this a very unusual find. Time team boffins say the timbers have the potential to reveal much about the nature of the building they were part of, about the woodland they were cut from and

about historic carpentry from a lost age.

The site – a strategic coastal position during the reign of Alexander II in the early 13th century AD – is located on the estate of one of Scotland's oldest families, the Hunters, adding to the mystery and potential importance of the remains.

The COALIE project team has been working at the site near the power station since the destructive winter storms of early 2014 and has made some remarkable discoveries. Although it has long been known that there were archaeological sites here, they were not well-understood.

A detailed GPS and field-walking survey was conducted last year, revealing that the long series of boulder banks criss-crossing Hunterston Sands are not fish traps as previously thought, but may instead be part of substantial land reclamation schemes during the last few hundred years linked to the Hunterston Estate.

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Clearly visible from the air, the boulder banks cover an area of at least 500 square metres and archaeologists believe they previously marked the edge of the coast, when the vegetated saltmarsh on Hunterston Sands was much more extensive.

The wet coastal environment has preserved the timbers in excellent condition despite some evidence of attack by marine boring organisms and surface weathering.

Each massive timber is a naturally-grown oak which has been halved lengthways with a complex series of angled joints and carpentry worked into the end of the timbers.

They are all at least 2m long and around 0.5m wide; the close similarity of the carpentry suggests they are from the same original structure, later dismantled or reused.

In addition, a large, mysterious hexagonal, stone-built harbour on the very tip of Brigurd Point, was surveyed and dived on during a very low-tide.

The harbour is around 60m wide and could have accommodated a number of boats but bizarrely only at low-tide.

No diagnostic features were found within the structure to provide clues on the age or specific function of the harbour; it is believed to pre-date available historic documents so may be at least of medieval age.

Dr Andy Bicket, Senior Archaeologist and Geoarchaeologist for Wessex Archaeology, Coastal and Marine said: "This represents an incredibly rare and exciting find.

"The Firth of Clyde has long been an important maritime route from early prehistory to the present day and we have rare and fascinating pieces of the historic seascape preserved in Hunterston Sands.

"The early 13th century was a key period for defining Scotland and the west coast seaways were instrumental in the strategies of the various factions vying for control.

"The structures on Hunterston Sands also highlight that managing coastal change has long been an important issue for people".

Membership Report, January 2015

New Members

Adam and Erin Hunter joined the Association just after the October newsletter was 'in the works', so we would now like to officially welcome them to our ranks. Adam and Erin hail from Louisdale in Nova Scotia.

We also have a brand new member, **Dawn-Maire Kristia Blanchette**, who has just joined our Clan Hunter Association this week. Dawn Maire joins us from The Pas, Manitoba and claims her Hunter heritage through her father.

We welcome these new members and hope that they enjoy being a part of the Clan Hunter Canada Association.

Just a little housekeeping information:

Included with your newsletter (or sent separately if you receive your newsletter by e-mail) will be an overdue note for those members who are in arrears. Please take the time to see that either by cheque or paypal, you make this \$30.00 payment before we start sending out notices of payment due for the coming year 2015-2016.

Christine Hunter
Membership Secretary



An Examination of the surname Hunter.

(an excerpt from the book of this name
by TF Hunter)

Around the year 2000, the surname Hunter had a frequency of occurrence in Scotland which placed it as the 37th most common name. In England and Wales it was 148th (this represents some 40,000 people), and in the USA it was at 130th (in 1990). For the name Hunt: it was not placed in Scotland, was 83rd in England, and 148th in the USA.

The surname Hunt is more common in south and mid England, but in the north and in Scotland, Hunter dominates. That distribution is clearly confirmed by several types of overall information. Thus, for example, summarising recorded births (or at least christenings / baptisms) in Scotland in the period 1553 to 1901 gives 42,240 for Hunter and only 810 for Hunt (because of larger recorded numbers there will be some statistical weighting towards the later dates). For marriages the comparable data tell the same story: 24,260 for Hunter and 450 for Hunt. As late as the 1901 Census data, the figures are 17,210 and 490, obviously showing only slight influence from mobility in the island at this date.

(The Scottish frequency figure is put in overall perspective by the birth figures, 1553-1901, for Smith [the most common Scottish name] and Brown: these are 163,800 and 121,200,)

Taking the 1990 USA Census figures, the rank was 130th as indicated above: this corresponded to a Hunter frequency of 0.069 of 10/0. Thus, 011 average in the United States, there are Hunters at just less than 1 in 1,000 of the population. An examination of this occurrence rate across all mainland States shows it to be remarkably constant, with no

indication that early Scottish migration into eastern and southern parts sustained any later distribution imbalances.

Has this USA frequency changed much with time? Data are available for the 1850 Census in the USA. In fact in 1850 the rank for Hunter was 139th, surprisingly close to that of 130th mentioned above for 1990,

For the USA, how would data on Hunt compare with that for Hunter? One might expect that the very much larger English population relative to that of Scotland, would mean that in the USA the surname Hunt would predominate. This expectation is backed up by the extra fact that it is generally thought that, of all the lands of British emigration, the USA was more favoured by the English rather than the Scots (relative, that is, to Canada, Australia, New Zealand, etc).

In fact, in the 1850 Census (USA), there were more Hunts, but only just: they showed a frequency of 0.12 of 1. This is much closer to parity with the Hunter figure than might have been expected. (At that date Hunt was ranked 76th in the USA) Much greater relative Hunter migration must have subsequently taken place, since by the above quoted 1990 Census the frequency figures were 0.063 of 1 for Hunt, as compared to 0.069 of 1 for Hunter. (Rank, in fact, had been reversed, with Hunter at 130th and Hunt at 148th.)

Given the overall predominance of Hunt in the total British population, these figures, for both dates of Census in the USA, suggest strongly that migration to the USA was considerably stronger from Scotland and the far north of England than from the south of England,

[For comparison, other Scottish name frequencies and ranks in the USA 1990 Census are Brown (0.62 of 1% , 5th), Henderson (0.095, 81st) Reid (0.046, 232nd), and MacDonald

(0.015, 821st)]. Transportation to Australia naturally involved individuals with surnames Hunt and Hunter. Interestingly, the earliest ships had many more Hunts: e.g. in one year prior to 1800, the arrivals at Port Jackson (New South Wales) were 28 Hunts and 5 Hunters.

In that period this reflected a greater number being sent from southern regions of Britain: this was certainly true of the locations of the Courts in which the convicts had been tried.

The various lengths of incarceration in England before transportation, and the long time in subsequent transit, meant a gap of some years between the trial and the arrival in Australia. Thus, giving a few examples,

John Hunter /sentenced to life in 1786 in Middlesex / Arrived 1790 on the "Glatton"

William Hunter / sentenced to 7 years in 1787 in Westmoreland / arrived 1790 on the "Canada"

John Hunter/sentenced to life in 1800 in Surrey / arrived 1802 on the "Scarborough"

Hannah Hunter / sentenced to 7 years in 1801 in Surrey / arrived 1803 on the "Almorah"

Margaret Hunter / sentenced to 7 years in 1809 in Northumberland / arrived on the "Coromandel".

Systematic surveys of Australian populations started early with the "musters" of Governor John Hunter. Later Censuses, from 1828, showed no particularly high level of the name Hunter, it showing up at around 1 in 1,000 of the total population. Interestingly this is very similar to that recorded in the USA

The ratio of the occurrence of the name relative to more common ones is also instructive.

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Thus, for example, in modern times the Death Notices in the Sydney Morning Herald for the period 1986-2001 yield ratios of Hunter to Smith and Hunter to Brown which are very much of the same order as those observed in Scotland.

Modern ratios of Hunt/Hunter in the USA give about 1, and this is also observed to hold in Australia, again suggesting a somewhat higher rate of migration per head for Hunter relative to Hunt. This, of course, indicates a higher migration rate for people in Scotland and the North of England relative to the South of England. These later, more modern migration data are thus quite different from the early transportation information which suggested a

preponderance of Hunts.

The booklet on the family history of the Hunters published in 1929 by Montgomery Seaver gives a variety of American data (it, in fact mainly consists of paragraph biographies of modern American Hunters taken from "Who's Who").

Perhaps the most intriguing information is the listing of the names of Hunters who participated and served in the various militia of the American Revolution. Most of the colonies (now States) considered were in the north. The number of Hunters was very high in the militia from Pennsylvania, some 372 men of the surname fighting on the American side. The only other colonies with significant numbers were Massachusetts (51) and New York (47). In the

south, Georgia (6) and Virginia (16) had a few Hunters, as did all the other northern States.

Overall, these are high values. The impact of the name at early times in the USA can also be seen from noting the names of locations in various parts of the Country.

Thus, as labels for County Sub Divisions, the name "Hunter" occurs in Tennessee, New York, West Virginia, twice in North Dakota. and several in other States.

As villages, "Hunter" is in Kansas, New York, Arkansas and North Dakota, and occurs in similar names such as Huntersville, Hunters Hollow, Hunters Creek, Hometown, Hunter Township, Hunterdown, etc (some of these, of course, will not be associated in any way with the surname, but rather with locations used by local hunters).

In Memorium Mr. David Elder



Dear friends



Lively conversations

At Chatham-Kent Health Alliance on Tuesday February 17th, 2015, Mr. David Elder of Chatham in his 90th year. Cherished son of the late Robert and Laura Elder. Beloved husband of Catherine (Hunter). Loving father of Brian and his wife Mary Elder of Simcoe, Bruce Elder and his partner Irene Charbonneau of Chatham, and Gord Elder and his partner Monette Boyce of Chatham. He will be lovingly remembered by his grandchildren Robert (Stephanie), Philip (Linda), and Janet (Byron) and his great granddaughter Sara. Dear brother of Marion Elder. Predeceased by his son Raymond (1988), and sisters Hazel Kennedy and Alice Simonds.



Happy moments



Celebrations

Interesting Facts of History & Heritage

Skara Brae, on the island of Orkney, is the most complete Neolithic village in Europe. It is also the oldest building in Britain, dating from 3100 BCE.

Aberdeen Harbour Board is Britain's oldest recorded business, founded in 1136.

The University of St Andrews, founded in 1413, is the third oldest university in the UK after Oxford and Cambridge. It welcomed Britain's first female student in 1862. It is also here that the world's first students' union came into existence in 1882, while the world's oldest students' union building was the purpose-built Teviot Row at Edinburgh University, built in 1889.

Established in 1498, the Shores Porters Society in Aberdeen is the world's oldest transport company.

Scotland was an independent country until 1603. Then the king of Scotland became king of England (not the other way round), but the two countries didn't merge their governments until 1707, to form the Kingdom of Great Britain.

The Bank of Scotland, founded in 1695, is the oldest surviving bank in the UK. It was also the first bank in Europe to print its own banknotes, a function it still performs today.

A Scot, William Paterson (1658-1719), was the instigator and a co-founder of the Bank of England. He later attempted, unsuccessfully, to establish Scotland's first colony, called 'New Caledonia', on the Isthmus of Panama to facilitate trade with the Far East.

The post office at Sanquhar, established in 1712, claims to be the oldest working post office in the world. The town also has the world's oldest curling society, formed in 1774 with sixty members.

The Encyclopædia Britannica, the world's oldest surviving encyclopedia and one of the most scholarly of encyclopaedias, was first published between 1768 and 1771 in Edinburgh. The first nine editions (out of fifteen so far) were all edited in Scotland. From 1901 it was edited jointly in New York City and London.

In 1794 Scottish engineer William Murdoch built the first-ever house to be lit by gas.

Henry Duncan founded the world's first commercial savings bank at Ruthwell, near Dumfries, in 1810. It effectively founded what would become the Trustee Savings Bank (TSB), now part of Lloyds TSB Bank.

The world's first infant school was opened by philosopher and pedagogue Robert Owen in New Lanark in 1816.

Edinburgh was the first city in the world with its own fire brigade, in 1824. The Open Championship, the oldest of the four major golf championships, was first played in 1860 at Prestwick Golf Club, in Ayrshire, and was staged there annually for the first 12 years of its existence. The only two other golf courses that have hosted the Open Championship, Royal Troon and Turnberry, are also located in Ayrshire.

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