



Crest Badge of a Member of Clan Hunter

hunters' halloo

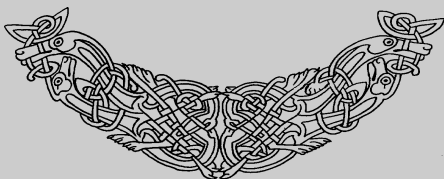
Newsletter of the Clan Hunter Association, Canada

July 1999

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Hello everyone. Summer is well and truly upon us, as is the Highland Games season. My wife, Christine, and I, will be attending The Chatham Games on 10th July, The Maxville Games 31st July, The Montreal Games 1st August, and The Fergus Games 13-15 August. Should any of these Games be in your area we would be delighted if you would drop in and say hello. I still struggle with the fact that most members of the clan are just names on a list to me and have no face to go with them. Our membership is growing, slowly, but unfortunately we seem to be losing folks by way of the "no longer at this address" syndrome. Please remember to inform us of a change of address as, obviously, we have no way to find you once you have been declared "missing". In this issue of the newsletter we are fortunate to have picked up on an article submitted to "The Bulletin", a publication of the Ontario Genealogical Society, written by Jeanette Inch. I'm sure you will enjoy it. Also we have another poem by Ruth Percival on retirement. Thank you Ruth. Can I throw out another invitation to all you other folks out there to submit something for the newsletter. It is always a challenge to fill the blank paper with interesting information. I know that there are things happening out there but I can't include them if I don't know about them. I love getting letters so please write.

Tom

A Word From the Chief

Dear Clansfolk,

The Clan Hunter Association U.K. held their first Annual General Meeting in Hunterston Castle on the 23rd April. An excellent lunch which was held at Hunterston House with catering by Vera Hunter, the Clan Officer's wife. The meeting was very well attended and we only just managed to fit everyone into the Great Hall. Stuart Hunter, the Clan Officer for the UK Clan Hunter Association, opened the meeting and the Rev. Alastair Hunter, our newly appointed Clan Chaplain, blessed the proceedings. The attendance of my mother, Sonia, Madam Hunter of Hunterston was very well received. The meeting went smoothly with the constitution and resolutions being passed by the Clan members and Council.



A joyous occasion is about to happen in the Castle. I have received a request from a young Australian couple who have recently joined Clan Hunter, who have asked to be married at Hunterston Castle. I have given them permission to be wed in the Castle. Through the internet they have found a Presbyterian minister who is very willing to unite them. Our Clan Chaplain had offered his services but is on study leave in the USA during October which is when the wedding is to take place.

The Hunterston Castle Restoration Fund has recently been boosted by a very generous donation from our Clan Officer in Australia, Bert Hunter and his wife Claire, who have personally donated £500. A further sum of £280 from the Australian Clan members was also included. The Fund now stands at £5630.00. This is greatly appreciated as we need to reach a target of £18,000 for the refurbishment and restoration of the building.

In the fall I will be visiting California to be participating at the Pleasanton Highland Games. I am looking forward to meeting fellow Clan members who will be attending, those of you whom I have not met before and renewing friendships.

Yours,

Pauline



Little Christina Ball of London On. (daughter of Lynn Hunter Ball) dressed in Hunterston tartan, enjoying a happy moment with her Hunterston Bunny

Once Upon a Time

by Jeanette Inch, OGS #19539

Once upon a time, there lived a young couple called Lauchlin and Nancy Hunter. They worked on a farm called

“Balleneil”, on a bleak little island in the Hebrides, off the southwest coast of Scotland, growing flax and potatoes. Nancy helped with the farm work and also some sheaving of flax. They burned peat for fuel and fish oil for lighting. Their diet was mainly potatoes and fish, with oats, bannocks, milk and cheese if they were lucky.

Soon a little daughter was born, whom they called “Mary”. Then Duncan, Elizabeth and Ronald arrived and the little family tended their chores as they grew up. Mary, her sister and brothers played in the many caves along the high, rocky shore. Sometimes, they even found caves hiding illegal whisky distilleries!

The south shore of their island called “Islay”, was only 28 miles away by boat from Ireland where many of the island’s residents had originally lived. The early inhabitants of the Scottish island were called “Scots” and Ireland’s early inhabitants were called “Celts”. There was much more communication back

and forth to Northern Ireland than with the mainland Argyll. Their cultures and Gaelic language intermingled, oblivious and unsympathetic to events on the mainland (Scotland and England) where the working language of the Anglos and Saxons was English.

As the island became very prosperous under the ownership of the Campbell landlord, the population grew quickly, and people immigrated from Ireland and mainland Scotland to the island to find work on the farms and quarries. With the building of roads and bridges, Mary with her sister and brothers were able to attend one of the 3 schools on the island to learn how to read and write in Gaelic. Since Gaelic had been mostly an oral language previous to this, there were very few historical records kept—instead, stories were handed down through the generations. The church they attended was called “Kildalton” parish of the Established Church of Scotland.

At about the same time, there was a little boy, William Campbell,

living on a nearby farmland, called “Tighcargaman”, where his father was one of the farm workers. William had 2 brothers and a sister. He was a strong boy, big for his age, and began to work in a slate quarry near his home. He went to school as well and attended the Kildalton parish church.

William was adventurous and proud of his Campbell clan, who had brought such prosperity to the island. When he was about 15 years old he jumped at the opportunity to join a newly re-organized Highland Regiment, called the 91st Argyllshire Highlanders, under the command of Col. Duncan Campbell from Lochnell in the mainland Argyll. As the kilt was temporarily banned at the time, they wore instead tartan trousers, called “trews”. The tartan was similar to the Black Watch. This Regiment along with the 74th Regiment of Foot (another Highland Regiment under a Col. Archibald Campbell) was stationed in Ireland for a period of time to maintain order for the British Crown. Later, the 91st Regiment became known as the “Princess Louise’s Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders”.

Now Mary frequently went on excursions to Ireland by boat with her friends. During some of these trips she met up with William (whom she had known at the parish church), much to the displeasure of her father, Lauchlin. In fact, when Mary married William, just before her 27th birthday, her father disowned her for marrying a roving soldier.

After their marriage, William stayed in the army for the next 5 years or so, then retired on a pension to the island to work as a stonemason. At this time, he helped to found a new village, “Port Ellen”, built near Tighcargaman, the estate where he was born. Among the founders were James Calder, Peter Gilchrist and Neil MacMillan. Who would have thought that in the next

generation there would be Calder, Gilchrist and MacMillan marriages with this Campbell family!

William and Mary then had 5 children Betsy, Ann, Archibald, Duncan and William and lived in the new village of Port Ellen. Mary and her father, Lauchlin, were now reconciled. Baby William did not live long, but the rest of the family lived next door to Mary’s father, Lauchlin and brother, Duncan, who was a merchant in Port Ellen. They went to school with children of the Calder, Gilchrist and MacMillan families who lived in Port Ellen. The MacMillan children’s grandfather, Colin, lived in Lagavulin, further up the coast, where he was a miller at the distillery for 38 years—an occupation of considerable responsibility and prestige now that distilleries were legalized. The new Kildalton parish church built near Port Ellen was for the Presbyterian Free Church of Scotland.

The prosperity in the island came to an end with the potato famine, over population and decreased exports of resources. The island’s owners (the Campbells of Shawfield) became bankrupt and could no longer pay the farm workers. So at age 56, William and his wife and family set out for Canada, arriving in Beaverton first. The children ranged in age from 20 to 14.

Many of their island friends emigrated about the same time, settling in Eldon Township. William purchased his 100 acres on the west half of lot 9 concession 10 in Eldon with an Out-Pension from the army and together with his family, built a home and planted the farm. To avoid confusion with several other Scottish Campbell families living in Eldon at that time, William and Mary added the second name of Hunter and became known as the Hunter Campbells for succeeding generations.

William was able to enjoy life on his farm for only 2 ½ years before he

died. Mary and her children stayed on at the farm until one by one they married and left. Betsy, Anne and Archibald married childhood friends from the island. Duncan went on to New Zealand, intent on becoming a teacher.

Archibald stayed on at the farm with his family of 9 children and widowed mother, Mary. Then, one by one, Archibald’s children married and left home. Most of them settled on farms in Eldon. One son, Archibald Hunter the 2nd, moved to Toronto with his family where he became a shopkeeper. The youngest son, Colin, a widower, had become blind, but stayed on the farm for many years. He was known as a popular fiddler and guitarist at parties and gatherings in the Eldon community.

The original farmhouse, built almost 150 years ago on lot 9 concession 10 in Eldon, is no longer owned by the Campbell family. However, it is still in use, with additions built on and well maintained. In Port Ellen, Isle of Islay, Scotland, the Tighcargaman estate has had several new buildings added, and is now a “Bed & Breakfast” establishment. The “Old Cottage” building, where William was born 200 years ago has been renovated and is still in use as a self-contained cottage unit.

And now the many descendants of William Campbell and Mary Hunter, although spread far and wide, are still able to meet together and live happily ever after!

Editor's note:

Although the author has chosen to write this charming piece with little reference to actual dates it would seem that William Campbell of the story was born around 1799

E-Mail Addresses

In an effort to promote better and more convenient communications, our US cousins have started to list e-mail addresses in their newsletters. We think this is a great idea and will do likewise. To all of our membership I extend the invitation to send me your e-mail address so we can maintain a clan e-mail address book and we too will publish it in the newsletter for all to share.

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Doris Hunter of Cambridge with Clan Chief, Pauline Mullen Hunter of Hunterston. Fergus Games 1998

Wedding Anniversary

It has come to our attention that Bob and Aldine Hunter of Toronto will be celebrating their 45th wedding anniversary on August 7th 1999. Our warmest congratulations go out to the happy couple and we wish them a wonderful day and many more anniversaries.

Birthday Greetings

To John Hunter of London who celebrated his 75 birthday recently. John is Clan Hunter Canada's Clan Officer - retired.

Special Welcome

We offer a special welcome to two new members who have recently joined us here in Ontario.

Carol Hunter London
On.

Gordon Hunter Cobourg

My Retirement

It is an interesting thought, in detachment serene
Viewing where I am going, against where I have been!
But now that I've passed through the prime of my life
I no longer feel in command of my life!
And from this remoteness where in I now stand
All the things in my life, I have strived for and planned
No longer have meaning as part of me

Castle Restoration Fund

A decision has been made to restore the front of the castle to its original state. This would involve removing the carriage doors and rebuilding in the original stone. The various branches of the Clan Hunter