



Crest Badge of a Member of Clan Hunter

hunters' halloo

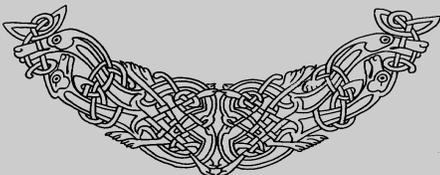
Newsletter of the Clan Hunter Association, Canada

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Dear Clansfolk,



Since I last wrote to you all there has been a lot happening with our Clan and the Castle. We have finally had permission to carry out the first stage of the Castle restoration, the filling in of the front of the Castle in stone with an arrow slit. However, Scottish Heritage has required that the present stone arch be left in place. We also have sufficient funds to replace the gutters and sort the drainage round the Castle. The work will be finished in time for the Gathering next year when there will be an unveiling. I hope that many of you will be present for this great occasion.

Next year is of course our Clan Gathering at Hunterston. It will be held on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th June. I am looking forward to welcoming you all. Our programme will commence with the unveiling of the Castle restoration on Friday evening. The programme is enclosed. Over the whole weekend Gaddgedlar, the re-enactment group, will create a living History display with participation encouraged. The Gathering will last from Friday to Sunday, menus will be sent with the December Newsletter.

Sadly I had to cancel my trip to Australia and New Zealand as I caught shingles. This was a great disappointment as Bert, Clan Officer Australia, had been planning my visit for some time and I was to be the Guest of Honour of the Scottish Australian Heritage Council at their Scottish Week. Our Clan Officer Richard Kearney also had organized a gathering for the New Zealand Hunters. Bert represented me at the Scottish Week, which went very well and the Gathering in New Zealand was successful too.

I have created a new post, that of Clan Hunter Events Co-ordinator. I asked Stuart, Clan Officer UK, if he would be willing to give up the Clan Officers post and take on the new job. He has agreed and will be working with me directly to organize all Clan events, including the Gatherings, held at Hunterston. I am proposing that we shall have at least one event every year for the Clan. These will not be the same as the Gatherings, which we shall hold every three years. Many thanks to Robert Hunter who has agreed to take over as Clan Officer for the remainder of Stuarts' term of Office.

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Hello everyone. I hope you all had a wonderful summer. As I write this note at my computer in London, I look out my window to see the sun shining, the leaves turning and everything looking so beautiful. It is Fall but it feels like summer. Christine and I, as usual, attended as many Highland Games as we could and this year they included Chatham, where we met up with the Elders again.

Happy to say David is recovering quite nicely from his fall on the ice last winter. The following week we were in Kincardine (their first Games) Then on to Maxville and Montreal, held on the same weekend, where we won first place for best tent (loud cheering in the background) and then our own Fergus Games where we held our annual Clan Gathering.

I must say we made a very presentable group as we marched on to the parade field, unfortunately the Macleods were having an International gathering in Fergus and they had over 300 people on parade, which rather overshadowed everyone else. However it was great fun. We had a lovely location for our tent with lots of space for visitors, of whom we had lots. Finally we moved on to Sarnia where we met up with a delightful family, from the US, whom we had met the year before. Linda and Bob Biscup were there to see their daughter, Jessica, dance in the highland dancing competitions. Jessica was very proud of her Hunterston Tartan Aboyne outfit which she promised to show me when she was ready to dance. (See photograph later in this issue.) We have also had an excellent year with regards to new members with 11 people joining the Association. (look for the new member list elsewhere in this issue). Our cousins and friends in the USA Association are making their plans for the next International gathering at Hunterston in June 2001 and have very kindly offered to allow any one who wishes to join in with their arrangements for flights, hotels and touring. Please take note of their offer if you are contemplating attending the Clan Gathering.

Tom

We Won Again

It is with great pride that I announce the exciting news that the Clan Hunter tent won the prize for "Best Tent" at The Montreal Highland Games. This is the first year that Montreal has offered prizes to encourage the Clans to put on a good show and we are extremely pleased that they found our tent worthy of first place. This is the third award that Clan Hunter has won. The first being third prize at Ancaster in 1998, then first prize at Fergus in 1999 and now first prize at Montreal in 2000. Unfortunately we did not take a photograph of the tent at Montreal but we have photographs of the tent at other locations so you can see what the set up was like.



The award for Best tent at Montreal Highland Games 2000. The award is show before the Hunter name was added.

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A Word from the Chief

On September 3rd we held a very successful Open Day at the Castle. It went very well thanks to UK Clan Association members, who each supervised a room in the Castle. We had about 250 visitors and had two new Clan members join up on the day.

Robert Hunter, Clan Officer UK, suggested and organized a memorial service and commemoration of the Battle of Flodden, 9th September 1513. John Hunter, 14th Laird, and many other Scottish Nobles were killed at this battle. This was a very successful function, which the UK Clan Association is intending to turn into an annual event.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Gathering next year.

Yours Aye,

Pauline, Clan Chief

flodden memorial service

The following is a transcript of the speech made by Madam Pauline Hunter of Hunterston and of that Ilk, Clan Chief and 30th Laird, at the memorial service conducted on the field of Flodden, on the 9th September, 2000, to commemorate the death in that battle of John Hunter of Hunterston 14th Laird

On the afternoon of the 9th September of 1513 a politically motivated battle took place that lost Scotland one of its most able and eminent Kings. King James IV. Unlike other battles it was the nobility that suffered crippling losses. A whole generation was wiped out supporting their King.

Let us reflect for a moment upon the way this battle was fought. James had one of the best equipped armies in Europe and effective battle strategy. The numbers of men in each army were similar but like any



Madam Pauline Hunter of Hunterston with clan wreath



Clan Officer - UK - Robert Hunter carries the Clan Hunter Standard



Clan Chief with Robert Hunter - Clan Officer - UK

other battle there are always circumstances that can lead to success or failure. In this instance the circumstances were against James IV and Scotland. King James used small bands of men armed with long poles to walk down Branxton hill. These should have made an extremely effective weapon against the English troops. Unfortunately it had rained the night before and the ground underfoot was slippery. The

troops slid down the hill in an uncontrollable manner. King James, feeling invincible had decided to join the battle and took the lead in the ill-fated charge. This was the gravest mistake that a king of his stature could make. As all his nobility followed him into the

centre of the battle. The slaughter of the nobles combined with effects of disease and the lack of discipline of the Scottish army gave the English the edge on that fateful day.

We are gathered here today to remember one of my ancestors, the 14th Laird,

John Hunter of Hunterston and his clansmen, I am very proud that our Clan should be honouring the heroic sacrifice that he made for his King and Country on Flodden Field.



Clan Officer - UK - Robert Hunter with his wife, Ellen

Sarnia



16 yr old Jessica Biscup of Ohio visits with Tom at the Clan tent before competing



Jessica dancing in the middle



Jessica showing off her Hunter of Hunterston tartan Aboyne outfit.

Montreal



Andrew, working a visitor at the Clan Tent - Montreal.



New members, Raoul, Dennis and Thérèse Hunter make a return visit to the clan tent - Montreal

Maxville

Right: Andrew tries out the Wallace Sword at Maxville

Below: Christine and Lizz staff the table at Maxville.



Lizz Thibodeau shows off her medieval costume with husband Andrew - Maxville



The Clan Hunter setup in the barn at Maxville



Fergus



Above and to the right: Led by our Clan Piper Mel Hunter of Battle Creek, the Hunters march on the the parade ground at The Fergus Highland Games.



Mel and daughter Crystal help out at the Clan Tent with Tom and Christine.



The Clan Hunter Tent at Fergus.



Thomas Ball one of our young Clansman looking very at home in his "Hunter" regalia in the grounds of the Wellington County Museum

Elora



The Meeting



All eyes on the head table as Nadine Hunter reads the minutes of last year.



