



Crest Badge of a Member of Clan Hunter

# Hunters' Halloo

Newsletter of the Clan Hunter Association, Canada

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Dear Hunter Clan members,

Thank you to all those who came to Hunterston to celebrate our 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, it was an excellent weekend. This year being such an auspicious year for us I made the decision to have a special presentation of the 'Order of the Royal Huntsman' to three Clan members. The presentation was marked by special wording on the plaques that were given with the silver horn brooches. Those given the award were Beverly Sheirer of Pennsylvania, USA, Tom Hunter, of Ontario, Canada and Clan Officer of the Canadian Clan Association, and Gordon Hunter of Gosforth, England.



Following this I gave a commemorative candle to each family present. These Candles were globe shaped and made locally in West Kilbride, in the Clan colours, green, red and yellow and each candle had '900 years' in lettering. We were fortunate with the weather but the midges feasted on us all on Friday evening all during the storytelling. The storytellers ensured we were well entertained and several clan members were involved in the stories. Saturday saw the encampment and displays again involving clan members. All ages were able to have a try at the archery and try their hand at being in a shiltron. On Sunday we had a local Scottish dance group give a display and the Isle of Cumbrae Royal British Legion Pipe band who have won many competitions. Once again we were privileged to use the Masonic Hall in West Kilbride for our Clan Dinner. This hall has associations with the Hunters of Hunterston from its beginnings. We were also delighted to once again welcome members from Clan Muirhead who came to join our celebrations and to re-cement our Link of Friendship.

We had Clan members from all over, from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, USA and the UK. It was really good to see everyone mixing and getting on so well. This is a great opportunity for clan members to make new friends and swap genealogies. I really enjoyed meeting with so many of you. It is always such a pleasure to be able to welcome Hunters to Hunterston.

Usually we have our Clan Gatherings every three years. However, in 2009 there is a special event, in Edinburgh on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> July, which is called Home Coming Scotland and is a celebration of our Scottish Culture. So I have decided that we shall have our Gathering in 2009. To find out more about the event please go to [www.clangathering.com](http://www.clangathering.com). The Hunters have booked our clan tent and I shall have more for you next year. If you are interested in coming please note that Edinburgh gets booked up and decisions will need to be made sooner rather than leaving it to the last minute. I shall be organizing a venue for a Clan get together/dinner and will let you know what has been arranged.

Yours aye,  
Madam Pauline





*Hello everyone,*

*What about this weather? I can't believe that I was driving around today with the car window down. The city wants to pick-up my leaves but I can't get them off the trees. I can't help but feel there is a big crunch coming. We had another successful day at the Fergus Highland Games this year. With 27 people on parade we certainly made our mark amongst the other clans. This enthusiasm was carried on into our dinner and meeting with 29 people attending. It is safe to say, "a good time was had by all".*

*The next major event for the Clan will be "The Gathering 2009" which is to be a major clan event in Edinburgh, Scotland. The Gathering 2009 is being held in Holyrood Park on 25th and 26th July 2009. It aims to be the largest international gathering of the clans ever held, and is one of the signature events of the Homecoming Scotland initiative. The Gathering will take the form of a classic highland games and will feature a clan parade up the Royal Mile followed by a unique commemorative clan pageant to be held on the Edinburgh Castle esplanade. For more information on the event go to their website:*

<http://www.clangathering.org/>

*In order to encourage more of our members to participate in this very unique event Madam Pauline has agreed to move the next Clan Hunter gathering to 2009 so that we might take part. Exactly what format this will all take is still being worked out but hopefully we will be able to have a day at our own castle as well as all the fun at Edinburgh Castle. But let me say right away if you are interested in this event you need to start making plans now. Get all the information you can from the web site listed above and watch out for further updates from us here in Canada.*

**Tom**

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### ***Lizz on the Loose – In the American Southwest.....*** Lizz Thibodeau

Lo and behold it's newsletter time again and I've just returned from another trip. This time, Torry & I took off for the American Southwest to meet up with Andrew for a week and a bit and do some touring around. If anyone is interested in seeing some of the most amazing scenery in the world, we've mapped out a great route based on two different trips we've taken. Fly into Las Vegas (and leave it immediately) and drive east to the North rim of the Grand Canyon. The North rim is much quieter than the touristy South rim but equally overwhelming in its grandeur. Once you've checked the Grand Canyon off your list of things to see, head north into Utah and visit Bryce and Zion Canyons. Bryce Canyon in particular is actually more impressive than the Grand Canyon. From there, head back south to Arizona again and go to a place called Antelope Canyon just east of the town of Page. Andrew discovered this canyon on our most recent trip and it was definitely one of the top ten places I've ever visited.

Antelope Canyon is not accessible to the public; you must be escorted in by a guide. We had a Navajo guide named Delvin. He drove us and another couple down a dry river bed to the mouth of the canyon. We then got out and walked through it. This canyon is so narrow that in places you can reach out and touch both sides at once. The sun trickles in through crevices in the ceiling and the reflections on the red walls create the most amazingly rich colours. Halfway through, as we were exploring, Delvin sat down and pulled out his Navajo flute and began playing haunting melodies that echoed through the chambers. He shared some stories with us of his tribe, spirituality, and the sacredness of this canyon. It was truly a moving experience.

From Antelope Canyon, we drove east to Monument Valley. Few people know the name of this park, but everyone has seen the images at one time or another. It was the setting of many old Westerns. We thought the scenery was stunning as we were approaching the park but once we got there, it just kept getting better. We had rented a Jeep for our trip so doing the 17 mile (2.5 hour) drive through the park was easy. Some cars with a lower carriage would find the road a little difficult in places. Monument Valley is a relatively flat area with huge mesas and buttes jutting up all over the place. Torry's favourite rocks were the first ones we saw: The Mittens - Two huge hand-like mesas with very distinct thumbs sticking out the side. We spent two and a half hours driving between all the mesas. Many times, when we stopped the car, we were the only people around and the stillness was as stunning as the scenery.

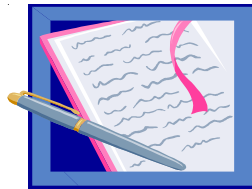
Although we actually visited these five places in two different trips, all of these places could be visited on a nice two-week trip. Although summer is a great time to travel, this trip is better done off season to avoid the crowds, the heat and the flooding! (Antelope Canyon is actually impassable if it rains but can be visited again just days after the rain stops.) Just make sure you have lots of space on your memory stick – you won't believe the photo opportunities around every corner!

## Battle of Flodden Commemoration Service

9-Sept-2007 at 1600hrs (4:00pm) UK time.



*Members of the UK council, Bill Hunter, Janet Hunter and Robert Hunter, lower the colours in honour of the fallen at the Battle of Flodden commemoration service at Hunterston*



Hi Tom:

Thank you for the e-mail re the Flodden Memorial Ceremony and for your “reminder” today.....

I WILL join you, on-line and in mind and spirit on September 9th at 11.00AM. (That also happens to be our 46th wedding anniversary, so I won't “forget to remember”!!) It's a really nice idea to honour a special Hunter that way! .....

When I received your e-mail about the Flodden Tribute it made me think of something my Dad once told me. When he was a young boy he participated in a Scottish History Pageant at Edinburgh Castle. His part, was to portray the Royal Standard Bearer at the Battle of Flodden!! Now when I hear of that battle... I somehow always see my Dad waving the flag proudly!!!

**Eleanor Lowe, Toronto**

Tom,

I thought you'd like to know that we did participate in the memorial of Flodden. Eleven o'clock here comes in the middle of our church service, so we asked our priest if we could do something then. He was excited at the idea and worked something into his sermon. During the passing of the Peace he told the congregation about the battle, said a special blessing of our 900 Year candle and dedicated it to the memory of all who have made the ultimate sacrifice for Freedom. It was quite impressive.

**Nadene Hunter, Danfield, USA**



*Photo by Laurie Hunter, Ottawa*

Tom,

Just to let you know that at least one decendent of a John Hunter observed your direction.

**Laurie Hunter, Ottawa**

## *The Story of the Hunter Settlement*

A Special 160th Anniversary Memorial Tribute

The first in the direct line of our branch of the Hunter race to set foot upon the shores of the New World was Andrew Hunter, a native of the Parish of Sorn and at the time of emigration a resident of the Parish of Old Cumnock, both in the County of Ayr on the West Lowland coast of Scotland. Descended on *his* father's side from the ancient and noble Ayrshire House and Family of Hunter of Hunterston. Andrew was christened according to the rites and ceremonies of the established Kirk of Scotland at Sorn on 26 February 1764; being the firstborn son and second child of John Hunter and Margaret Patrick who were married there on 6 May preceding and who at the time of his birth were residing at North Catrine in that Parish. In accordance with an old traditional Scots custom and practice staunchly observed and adhered to by the Hunters until 1880 even in Canada. Andrew bore his grandfather's name. At a date uncertain but well prior to 1781 the family removed to the nearby Parish of Old Cumnock where they occupied the property there known, then as now, as Little Auchengibbert. It was while dwelling in this place that young Andrew met and eventually married, on 21 September 1792, his wife of more than forty years, Janet Spiers, or Speirs. The couple in due course produced a family of eight children, all of whom survived to achieve adulthood

and all of whom finally reached Canada to settle, like their parents, in Edwardsburgh Township in what was then still part of the old Municipal District of Johnstown. These eight were Jane or Jean, born at Cumnock, 29 March 1793; John, christened at Auchencleck 23 November 1794; and, all born at Cumnock, Andrew, 25 April 1797; Allan, 22 April 1799; Margaret, 25 November 1801; Mary, 11 May 1804; Thomas, 1 September 1806; and Christian, 22 January 1810. Of these, all save Thomas yet have living descendants today scattered across the length and breadth of the North American continent, and some have even returned beyond the seas. Upon the 18th day of April in the year 1818 Andrew and Janet, together with five of their eight children, set sail from the Port of Edinburgh, whither they had previously resorted in order to obtain and secure passage, bound for a new home in British North America. Jane, who had already married at Cumnock on 2 July 1813 another native of the same place, Robert McLatchie, at this time remained behind with her husband and young family, as also did her two younger brothers John and Allan, both as yet unmarried. The family travelled aboard an old sailing vessel and the voyage was a most turbulent and hazardous one, beset as it was with high winds, violent storms and rough heaving seas, so much so in fact that the passengers more than once had great cause to fear for their very lives: but at long last the little party finally reached the Gulf of St. Lawrence, entered the mouth

of the mighty river bearing the same name, and, awestruck at its magnificence, progressed upriver to Montreal where they boarded the smaller barges or "bateaux", the craft necessary to carry them on the final stages of the arduous ordeal. The remainder of the journey proved comparatively calm and uneventful, and at length the party made the final docking and stepped ashore onto the soil of Upper Canada just below the present Forwarders' Museum at Prescott one day sometime late in the month of July 1818. During the entire three months time the crossing occupied while making their way to this new land, twenty-one-year-old Andrew Jr., with an eye to the future and a sense of historic mission, had meticulously recorded a journal of the proceedings and experiences for posterity, and at one point even noted his surprise at sighting a starling unusually far out at sea.

The family soon relocated from Prescott to Edwardsburgh Township, where, within the space of the next two or three years, they were shortly joined by the eldest daughter Jane, her husband Robert, and the four McLatchie children then born, five more being duly added after emigration. Here it was, also, after a brief time, that the second daughter Margaret met another young neighbouring settler, Adam Linnen by name, whom she subsequently married on 1 December 1820 across the river at Oswegatchie.

History ~as made on 24 March 1821 when Andrew Hunter Sr. obtained by purchase from James Jackson and Samuel Hunter the

tract of 100 acres comprising the East half of Lot 21 in the 5th Concession of Edwardsburgh, which had originally been granted by Letters Patent from the Crown in May 1802 to Jackson and to Samuel's father David. This land was destined therefore to become the nucleus of what would one day come to be known as The Hunter Settlement, or, popularly, as Huntertown, Hunterville or similar designations at various periods. In the many years and generations which followed, the hugely expanding family spread outward from this place to acquire other adjacent properties until for a considerable radius the surrounding area was populated primarily by Andrew's own descendants under a variety of names including, among others, Hunter, McLatchie, Linnen, Smail, Gladstone, on lands each bearing their own distinct place-names in the old Scots tradition. Within the next five years after settling here, the third daughter Mary married William Smail, Sr., whose fascinating life and kinsfolk will also be chronicled further in a separate article, and soon after that, Christian, the youngest of the Hunters, also married a neighbour. Charles Lewis, of United Empire Loyalist stock, and went on thereafter to rear a large family as well.

About this time The Hunter Settlement began to overflow from the 5th Concession northward and southward into the adjoining Concessions as well as eastward and westward along its own line. One of the principal acquisitions took place when, on 7 December 1829, Lot 22 in the 6th Concession of

Edwardsburgh, some 200 acres in all, was purchased from the executors of the estate of Captain Peter Drummond, the West half being deeded to ~Andrew Hunter Jr,' and the East half to his brother Thomas. Upon settling of this property Andrew Jr. named the road running by it Park Street, it is said, for the street upon which his new wife, Isabella Ramage, and her family had lived in their native Glasgow about 1849/50 this Andrew, an accomplished artisan and craftsman and a skilled stonemason by trade, erected the fine stone residence which he called "Edinburgh Castle" and which, despite modernization to a degree, still stands there today in much the same essential form, being yet in the Hunter name and now presently occupied by his great-grandson Dean and family. This old family home has seen many changes and witnessed many dramas, particularly in times of crises and epidemics, such as the tragic diphtheria outbreaks of 1882 and 1885 which claimed a total of three Hunter babies in this house. Having thus helped his two sons in Canada become established, Andrew Hunter Sr, now naturally wished to ensure that his other two sons, John and Allan, still in Scotland, would also share in his inheritance. No doubt, growing older and in failing health, Andrew also desired once more to see the two lads he had left so many years before, as well as the wives they had married and the children he had never seen who had been born in the old land across the ocean, Thus it was, then, that on the last day of December in the

year 1831, with his son-in-law Adam Linnen, (signing his name "Linen"), as a witness, Andrew Hunter executed at Prescott a most curious document as his Last Will and Testament, (afterward proved by Allan Hunter at Prescott before the famed Robert Headlam on 5 January 1835 following the testator's death), in which he required that prior to the demise of Janet his wife, John or Allan or either of them must settle in Upper Canada in order to claim his property, failing which it would revert solely to the other two sons Andrew and Thomas instead. These provisions were then communicated to the two sons in Scotland who, being Scots, could scarcely resist and forfeit a share in their father's legacy. By the time notification was received and they had wound up their affairs it was too late to arrange passage in the year 1832, ,but early the next spring, 1833, the last of the Hunters, with their respective families, bade farewell to the old sod and their lifelong acquaintances, and departed for Canada and the kin they had not seen in fifteen years. Despite having done well in Scotland the newcomers took quickly to their new and more strenuous life-style in The Hunter Settlement. John shortly took up residence with his brother Thomas on the 6th Concession while Allan joined his parents on the 5th temporarily with a view to acquiring an adjoining tract of land in Lot 22 next door to his sister Margaret and her husband Adam Linnen. Allan's life and times were of particular interest and

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more will be said about him, his family and their adventures in another article.

Andrew Hunter Sr. as stated, died toward the close of the year 1834, having accomplished the final fulfillment of his desires in successfully regathering his entire family around him. He had presided over his flock in the style of an old-time Scottish branch Chieftain, and now, according to his wishes, his eldest son John continued to do the same. In accordance with Andrew's expressed oral instructions, arrangements were made for John to buy out Allan's share and interest in the original homestead so that John might therefore take over the clan seat, John then removed back to the old home, likewise leaving his own newly-married son Andrew in possession of the 6th Concession property which John had since inherited from his brother Thomas, It had been John's intention that his two surviving children, Andrew and Janet, should eventually succeed to the two pieces of land, with an exchange of locations so that Andrew might obtain the original seat and Janet the newer one; however when John died intestate on 14 , October 1860 at the age of 65 after a long decline, the children decided to remain where they were for the sake of convenience, and Janet, with her cousin-husband John Linnen, received the original property where they had already been living with her parents, So the old home at last passed out of the Hunter name and into the Linnen's, and the new family seat came to be Andrew's home on

the northern tract as the principal residence of the head of the whole family in Canada, as it remained until Andrew's own death on 26 June 1895 at the age of 74, at which time his eldest son and successor, John, who had a few years earlier left the Township over a disagreement, declined to return to the Settlement when he took up the representation of the family and name.

This Andrew, named in honour of his grandfather, and the last Chieftain to actually reside in The Hunter Settlement, had married his first cousin Janet McLatchie and produced quite a family, seven, in all, His obituary recalls him as a scholarly sort, generally well-informed on most topics, a civic-minded individual and a staunch Grit, He is described also as honest and upright in all his dealings" and his word was his bond. His widow survived to the age of 95 and remained in Edwardsburgh until her death on 19 November 1912 after some twenty years as a bedridden invalid; but with the refusal of her son John, his grandfather's namesake, to return home, and the fact that the other children already were settled on their own lands, a family council in 1898 resolved to, transfer the 6th Concession residence to junior cadets of the family who desired it, in particular to David Ramage Hunter, a grandson of Andrew Jr. Many Hunter descendants still to this day remain scattered about the district under a wide assortment or variety of names, but very few Hunters now continue in the area by the original name itself; and thus the once prominent Hunter

Settlement, although somewhat diminished in size and scope, still persists and exists in an era as remote in time from its beginnings as Edwardsburgh in distance is from Ayrshire.

***Editor's Note: Much thanks to Tom Hunter of Hagersville, Ontario who sent me this wonderful history of "The Hunter Settlement"***

***Thinking of visiting the castle?***

Make sure you plan ahead and contact:

Bill Hunter  
Email [whunter7@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:whunter7@tiscali.co.uk)  
Tel: 01294 829851  
Or write



Bill Hunter  
32 Overton  
Crescent  
West Kilbride  
KA23 9HG  
Scotland

Bill will be happy to help you with your plans and arrange a suitable time to tour the castle. If you go without contacting Bill you may have a nice walk around the grounds but you will not be able to enter the castle as the castle is not open to the general public except on special "open house days."

Send your submissions  
for the Newsletter to  
Tom Hunter  
61 Downing Crescent  
London, Ontario  
N6C 3C7  
Tel (519) 681-4101  
e-mail [thunter01@rogers.com](mailto:thunter01@rogers.com)

# *Clan Hunter Canada, Minutes of the AGM*

*August 11, 2007 Guelph, Ontario, CA*

We met this evening after a great day at the Fergus Scottish Festival. We had 27 of us in the Festival Parade and 29 at the dinner (2 infants) for a terrific evening.

Our meeting was opened with a warm Welcome from our Clan Officer, Tom Hunter at 5:45. With out of country travel, including the Gathering at Hunterston mid-July, Tom and Christine found that attending other Highland Games just wasn't possible this year.

Unfortunately Tom was the only Clan Officer present at the Clan Officers' meeting at Hunterston, although Dennis Hunter and Beverly Sheirer of the USA and Bill Hunter, newsletter Editor of the UK were able to join the meeting and represent their country. The various Clan Associations seem to be in a state of flux world wide with no officers in New Zealand, Australia, or Argentina. The United States Association also seems to be experiencing some problems.

We have been experiencing problems regarding our membership "packages" from Scotland being delinquent... The problem seemed to lie with the fact that the Clan Hunter booklet on the history of the Clan was quite out of date and efforts to produce a new one were stalled in some way. Pauline promised to expedite them with appropriate haste.

Pauline suggested that a non-heraldic logo might be designed for use by the various Clan Officers. Tom agreed to work on this.

We had story tellers Hugh and Dennis (Fire & Sword) who held all of us spellbound at Hunterston, in spite of the midges and, at Fergus (just as spellbinding but without midges). Each family present at Hunterston was presented with a tri-colored candle with 900 years written in gold on it and Tom was presented with the Order of the Royal Huntsman for his dedication to Clan Hunter Canada. Christine was also recognized for all of her work and support of Tom and Clan. She was given a very pretty bouquet of flowers by Pauline.

The banquet on Saturday was very nice; 22 of our Canadian group were there (20% of our membership).

We missed Don and Marian at Fergus. Marian just got out of the hospital this week and has been quite ill. Don, of course, was home with her. Our thoughts and prayers are with you both.

The minutes of our last meeting were accepted as presented in the newsletter, on a motion by Nadene B, seconded by Andrew Thibodeau. Tom presented the treasurer's report, sent by Don. This was accepted on a motion by Christine and seconded by Dr. Nadene. Christine reported that we have 93 active members with 3 new members since last summer. Her report was accepted on a motion by Dr. Nadene and seconded by Tom. There was no genealogy report tonight.

Tom reported that he has had excellent feedback on the newsletter and website from the Netherlands and from Pauline. USA members thanked Tom for photos both in the newsletter and on website. Tom still wants to get genealogy on the website which will be valuable for Clan members worldwide. Sixty eight of our members receive the newsletter by regular mail and the rest get it on-line (in color). If you get your letter on-line, Tom reminds you to be sure to let him know if your email address changes. Otherwise it gets returned to him. He does send copies of the newsletter to some non-members and some households report that they get duplicates. Lizz has a new column in the letter. . . . . "Lizz on the Loose" and she has been helping with genealogy as well. Tom is always appreciative of news from our members.

It was announced that there is going to be an International Gathering of the Clans in 2009 in Edinburgh. This is to be a 2-day event with a Parade down the Royal Mile. Clan Hunter was scheduled to gather at Hunterston in 2010 but Pauline is going to change it to 2009 so that we can make one trip do it and have a better presence for both gatherings.

Bob Hunter, member of the UK council, asked Tom if we might be interested in participating in a service to commemorate Flodden at Hunterston. This would be a simultaneous service all over the world, taking into consideration time differences, on September 9<sup>th</sup>. On this date the English attacked the French and, since the Scots were allied to the French, they attacked the English and were soundly defeated. The "cream of Scotland" died in this battle, including James the 4<sup>th</sup> and our own John Hunter of Hunterston (or Hunterstoune as it was spelled in those days). Andrew moved and Dr. Nadene seconded that we try an email "Blast" a week before and another the day before to remind people of the event if they want to participate.

Tom thanked all for their participation today.

We adjourned for dinner at 6:20 on a motion by Dr. Nadene and seconded by Lizz.

Respectfully submitted,

Nadene B. Hunter

*Folks at Fergus 2007  
are you in here somewhere?*

