



Crest Badge of a Member of Clan Hunter

Hunters' Halloo

Newsletter of the Clan Hunter Association, Canada

April 2005 Vol 4,6

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Hello everyone, I'm afraid we're late again with the newsletter. I must be slowing down in my old age. Well the big event this year is the visit of Madam Pauline Hunter of Hunterston our clan chief and we really want to have a wonderful turnout at Fergus. If you haven't yet committed to being there why don't you do that right now and fill in the tearaway sheet on page 8. It is going to be a great weekend with a lovely banquet at a very reasonable price. While you are at it you will also find your Clan membership renewal slip in this issue why don't you fill that in and send it off too.

We had some fun on the genealogy circuit last month with a request for help from the Chief Herald of Canada. Robert (Watt) very kindly wrote an article found in this newsletter on his successful search for Jeanie Marie Hunter. We hope this might encourage others on a similar quest. I would love to hear from others about their own successes, why don't you drop me a line.

Tom

A Tale of Three Jeanies

Sherlock Holmes would have felt right in the midst of this story, a tale of three women whose first name was Jeanie, all lost to those looking for them and how they were found. The internet plays a key role at the start of the search but as we near the present, selfless, interested and generous people take over. Along the way, your editor, and his wife and daughter were able to provide vital assistance that ultimately solved the riddle of the origins and eventual fate of these three women.

The searcher was Robert Watt, a family historian, who in his professional life is Chief Herald of Canada. In the course of working on a large history of his father's family he got stuck trying to locate the whereabouts of a niece of his paternal great grandfather, a woman named Jane Brand Page, born in the Glasgow suburb of Govan Church in 1870. Jane was the daughter of George Page (1838-1921), a Glasgow metalworker and Isabella Cant Watt (1837-1882). Jane Page married William Henderson Gunn in 1895 in Glasgow. He was a native of the Parish of Latheron, Caithness, born in 1866, the son of a crofter and fisherman Neil Gunn and Rebecca Henderson. In illustration 1 (page 2) we see Jane Brand Page as a young woman before her marriage. In the Scottish census for 1901 they have been located on north of Glasgow on a farm with William working as a farm labourer.





Jeanie Brand Page

By that time the couple have adopted a little boy, John Graves who sadly, dies a few years later in 1904. Until very recently, this was the last sight of this family. Robert Watt had two clues only. One was the recollection by one of Jane Page's nephews that she and her husband emigrated to Nova Scotia around 1911 and that they had no children. The other turned up about 14 months ago when Robert visited distant cousins in the north of Scotland. They had the snapshot of a pretty young girl, also named Jeanie, that no one in the family could identify. Could these two Jeanies be connected somehow? Further searching in records in Scotland and in Canada produced nothing and Robert was about to give up when he decided to try an internet site www.grl.com created several years ago by a man in Toronto and constantly upgraded. To Robert's amazement he found the Gunns after about ten minutes searching, not in Nova Scotia, but in Ingersoll Ontario. Through this same

site he was able to get a copy of Jeanie (Page) Gunn's death record for 1930, which proved conclusively that he had found the eventual home of the first Jeanie. He then turned to the equally fine internet index created by the Oxford County Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society and through their volunteer researcher, and an extremely helpful librarian at the Woodstock Public Library, he was able to locate the death record for William Gunn, who died suddenly of a heart attack in the summer of 1922, the burial site for the Gunns- Ingersoll Rural cemetery- and most surprising of all, the discovery of a second Jeanie, daughter of the Gunns. Both the death records indicated that the Gunns had emigrated to Canada and directly to Ontario in 1911. From the Oxford County OGS site Robert was also able to establish that the daughter, Jeanie, had married Elmer Hunter in Woodstock, just a few months after her mother's death in 1930 and that in 1931 this couple had their first child Jeanie Marie Hunter. So now there were three Jeanies in a row. But how to find the third Jeanie and some more information about her mother and grandmother? Robert decided to try Canada 411 on the internet and phone all the Hunters listed in Woodstock. Everyone was very understanding and sympathetic but none were related to Elmer and Jeanie. However, one of those called suggested that he contact Tom Hunter in London, the Clan Officer for the Canadian branch of Clan Hunter Associations world wide. Robert found Tom Hunter very quickly, again using the net and Mr. Hunter proved very eager to assist. He took down the known details and within a day was emailing back explaining that his daughter, Lizz, had used an internet index to Ontario cemeteries and had found a likely match, Elmer and Jeanie Hunter, buried in Dorchester Union Cemetery, near

London. On a snowy day in early March this year, Tom Hunter, his wife Christine, and his daughter Lizz, found the gravestone and announced their discovery to Robert in an email titled " We Found Them" which came complete with colour photo of the beautiful granite stone (illus 3). As you see, it showed that Jeanie, had died young at 43 in 1951 and Elmer not until 1991, having been born in 1902. Tom Hunter and his daughter followed up this piece of generosity with another. Two days later they visited the London Public Library and found Elmer Hunter's



Jeanie Gunn

obituary, which revealed that the Hunters had two daughters, Jeanie Marie, who had married David Gwalchmai and Shirlye, who had married a Mr. Clarke. With the scan of the obituary Tom Hunter sent Robert a listing of the Gwalchmais in the London directory. Robert phoned Mrs. David Gwalchmai on 13 March. He explained the search and her reply answered all his major questions She was indeed Jeanie III. Her mother had been born in Scotland

in 1908 and was adopted by the Gunns at a very young age. She had several photos of her mother, which together with one of herself and her sister completed the photo portrait record of the three Jeanies beginning in the 1880s. One more surprise remained. Several weeks later Robert was contacted by the librarian in Woodstock who had helped locate the death record for William Gunn. She explained that a lady had come into the library looking for information on Mr. Gunn. Robert was able to contact this researcher by email, who turned out to be a descendant of William Gunn's mother's sister. Among her treasures was the landing certificate for her arrival in Quebec with her Uncle William, aboard the White Star Line SS



Teutonic. When Robert checked the ship's manifest it was clear that Jane Brand Page Gunn and little Jeanie were not on that vessel. He later discovered through research in the National Archives in Ottawa that Jeanie I and Jeanie II came to Canada on the S.S. Ionian, which sailed from Glasgow on 7 October 1911 and arrived in Quebec 8 days later on the 15th. They took the CPR inland to Ingersoll and were reunited there with William. There are potentially many many immigrant stories such as this one for families in every part of Canada but it is rare to be able to use the internet and receive such wonderful help from people, professionals and volunteers in unravelling a seemingly intractable mystery.

Robert D. Watt, MA, FRHSC, FHS, AIH

The other side of the story

by Lizz Thibodeau

So, I was innocently eating my breakfast on Thursday, March 9th when I decided to check my email. What I found was a request from my father, asking for some help with genealogy research that had led to Woodstock. My immediate response? "I'm in!" Conveniently, I teach in Woodstock and can easily access the local library's genealogy files and old school yearbooks. Before I even got to school, I had already found a possible grave site link that could be the right people, but the only way to find out would be to find the headstones in person. Again, conveniently, the possible location was less than half an hour's drive from our house.

After a day's searching records in between classes and at lunch, I really hadn't found out much else to help our research other than the possible grave site. More searching on Friday revealed nothing.

On Saturday, my family always has lunch together so nothing could be done on the grave search until the afternoon. When we found the right graveyard (the directions we had were based on an aerial photograph of the area), we parked the car and started systematically scouring sections one and two of the four sections. While the day started out sunny but cold, as we started working on the second section, the snow started flying and we were suddenly in the midst of a full-fledged blizzard. After managing to make our way through the rest of the second section, we took refuge in the car, hoping to wait out the storm. Suddenly, we realised that right next to the graveyard was ... a Tim Horton's! It seemed an appropriate place to wait out a Canadian winter storm.

Once the storm had blown itself out, we headed back to the graveyard for section three. After a few minutes,

the cry went out: "I've found them!" While dad and I can get a little obsessed about our genealogy research, mum, the casual participant, was the one who found the stone we were all looking for. Photographs were taken, the writing copied, and we were off home, out of the wild weather.

Now that we had the dates, we decided that our next stop should be the London library to look for the corresponding obituaries which should give us more information. Of course, as luck would have it, we didn't get back to London until after the library had closed so our search was again put on hold until the next afternoon.

Sunday dawned. Dad and I grabbed a bite to eat after church and rushed off downtown, expectations high. Disappointment was severe when we realised that the obituaries are not all indexed and that the years that we were looking for would require us to browse through each edition individually. We each took three months' worth of microfilm and started searching, aware that this was now a "needle in the haystack" search. I eventually had to throw in the towel because the constant high-speed screening was making me ill. Dad was having the same problem but persevered a little longer. Hallelujah, it was worth it! There was Elmer's obituary! We had struck the goldmine – the obituary included the names of his family whom we were then able to find, still living in the London area and listed in the phone book.

Four days, start to finish and we had completed our mission! While dad and I have both done our fair share of genealogy research, this was the first time that it had included searching for someone still living. Not only did it pose new challenges because of limited access to information, it also granted new rewards as we were able to give Robert a connection to undiscovered relatives.

How Do I Wear This Thing?

By Lizz Hunter Thibodeau

With summer fast approaching, many Canadians and Americans will take to the Games for the annual Scottish festivities. What a marvellous opportunity we have to watch telephone poles be thrown, hear music beaten out of a dying cat, and taste delicacies better left as a mystery! Thank goodness all we have to do is throw on a bit of tartan – the more the better, some would say – and cheer enthusiastically with a few “achs” thrown in for good measure. Ah, but here’s the rub: just as there are long-standing traditions and rules for scoring the caber toss, making beautiful music on the bagpipes and cooking up some haggis, so too are there rules and traditions for wearing Scotland’s national dress. As with so many things in life, once we know the rules, we can bend them to our own individuality without causing unintentional offence. Before outlining the “rules”, however, let me first clarify that these do not apply to dancers, pipers, competitors and the like, who must conform to the rules as set out by their organisation. These “rules” apply only to us common folk.

Let’s start with the ladies:

For once, dressing for women is easier than for men. Whereas in most societies, there are many more rules for women to adhere to than men (no white shoes after Labour Day, don’t wear black to a wedding, never wear runners with a dress, etc.), the Scots have focussed most of their energy on the men’s national dress, hoping that women

can dress themselves appropriately with only a few guidelines. That being said, these few guidelines must be explained.

SKIRTS:

Traditionally, ladies do not wear kilts. The kilt is for men. However, that does not exclude us from wearing a tartan skirt. There are no rules about the length of this skirt, nor the style. It may even be pleated in the back to look similar to the man’s kilt; however, a “kilted” skirt should open in the opposite direction from a man’s kilt (i.e.. the top flap should open on the left-hand side). Also, the weight of the woman’s skirt is normally less than that of the man’s kilt. None of the kilt accessories (sporrán, belt, socks, garters, etc.) are worn with the lady’s skirt.

SASH:

The only other article of clothing that requires comment for women is the sash. The tartan sash gives women a fantastic opportunity to turn any outfit Scottish; however, the sash does have one hard and fast rule along with a few important traditions. Only the Chief, the wife of a Chief, or the wife of a Colonel of the Regiment of Scottish regiments may wear her sash on the left shoulder. Everyone else should don the sash on the right. While this may seem insignificant, think of how you would have felt if someone else had worn a wedding dress to your wedding. When you’re the honoured one, it’s nice that everyone else follows the rules. Out of respect for our Chief, we too should follow the rules to let her be the special one. As for the traditions, different ways of wearing the sash indicate different marital status. A woman who is either born into the clan or who marries into the clan may wear her sash with the middle on her left hip and the two ends hanging over her right shoulder. A woman who has married out of the clan but still wishes to wear her maiden clan’s tartan may wear the

sash with the middle on her right shoulder and the ends tied on her left hip. There are many other ways that the sash can be worn, allowing women to express individuality, as long as the left shoulder is avoided.

Now on to the men:

First a note: while casual attire (i.e.. what’s worn to the Games) is considered day wear, and more formal attire is considered evening wear, evening wear should be worn to any formal event (i.e.. a wedding) even if it takes place during the day.

KILTS:

The kilt is the most well-known piece of the Scottish national dress for men. To wrap oneself properly, a man should start with the kilt as one long piece of material with the pleats behind him. Wrap the right-hand side across first (and buckle), then the left-hand side on top (and buckle). This should leave you with pleats at the back and a smooth front.

Once men have learned how to put on the kilt, the next most important lesson is how to sit in the kilt! Please, knees together or legs crossed at the knee. It’s not feminine – just polite!

To ensure that your kilt is the right length, kneel on the ground. The kilt should be one inch from touching the ground. Use your belt to adjust the kilt to the right height. The top of the kilt should be closer to your rib cage than to where your pants normally sit. Don’t be embarrassed that this will show your knees to the world – all Scottish knees are beautiful!

BELTS:

A belt is useful both in adding a decorative touch to the top of the kilt as well as for holding all that heavy material in the right spot; however, it is not a legal



requirement and the Scottish fashion police will not shake their bobby sticks at you for going without. If you are wearing a belt as part of evening attire, a black kilt belt should be worn (not to be confused with a Karate black belt). The design of the buckle is entirely up to you.

SOCKS:

Proper kilt socks should always be worn with the kilt. They come in a variety of colours and should complement the colour of the kilt. Pure white socks are generally kept for evening wear. The tops of the socks should be folded over the garters and should not come all the way up to the knee.

GARTERS & FLASHES:

Garters are needed to avoid droopy socks. The colour of the flashes should also complement the socks and the kilt. Only the flashes should show below the fold of the socks.

BROGUES:

Due to the influence of the military, it is generally expected that brogues (kilt shoes) should always be black leather, regardless of all other accessories. The colour of the belt & sporran do not make a difference to the shoe.

SGIAN DUBH (pronounced Ski an doo):

The sgian dubh is the small knife worn on the right-hand side of the right-hand sock (imagine the most accessible place for a right-handed person to grab it in an emergency, like not being able to open a package of crisps!). Always make sure that the sgian dubh is in its sheath before inserting it in your sock. Once there, only the top of the sheath should be showing. Your garters need to be tight enough to stop the sgian dubh from falling out. By the way, sgian dubh means black knife in Gaelic.

DIRKS:

Dirks are only worn as evening wear by us common folk (pipers can wear them in the day), and traditionally they hung immediately to the right of the sporran. Due to military custom, they are now worn on the side of the right buttock, in the position of a bayonet.

SPORRANS:

The sporran is the man's wallet, hung in the middle of the front of the kilt. Imagine the sporran, not only as a wallet, but also as a modesty piece for men and you'll have the placement correct. Sporrans come in many different styles and designs. In general, leather is worn in the day, fur in the evening. Black leather can also be worn for formal occasions. The leather of the sporran should always match the leather of the belt. The straps of the sporran should go through the belt loops along with the belt.

JACKETS:

There are many different styles of jackets. If you choose to wear a jacket, it must be a proper kilt jacket – suit jackets are too long and don't look good with the kilt. A general rule for jackets would be tweed for daytime, black for evening. In Canada, a jacket is unnecessary and downright uncomfortable for most people in July and August at the Games. Looking good is not worth it if the only people who get to see you are the ones dealing with your heat stroke in the back of the ambulance!

BONNETS:

If you choose to wear a bonnet, the ribbons and slit should go to the back with the badge by the left eye. The top is pulled to the right front. The bonnet should be further forward rather than back – no hair should be seen at the front. As with all hats, bonnets should be removed when entering a church or private home. Due to the difficulty of replacing the bonnet, and the mess it leaves your hair in when

removed, it is not required to remove a bonnet when entering a tent or when addressing a lady. A slight touch of the bonnet as salute will suffice for all well brought up ladies.

FEATHERS:

Common folk don't wear feathers! Three feathers indicate a chief, a chieftain wears two, and a gentleman who has the rights to heraldic arms wears one. If you're not sure where you fit, leave feathers to the birds.

One final rule for everyone:

When it comes to tartan, less is more. An attractive person should become more so when dressed in the Scottish national dress. The tartan should not overwhelm the eye. And while we are all proud of our ancestry, choose only one tartan to wear at a time. Wearing different tartans together is much like wearing a Bermuda shirt with polka dot shorts.

What is a Pele Tower?

The Pele tower was a strongly built tower, less grand than a tower keep, used for a place of refuge and look-out. They were built between 1200-1700s or after, and sometimes are difficult to date.

Pele is cognate with "pale" and means enclosure and the tower usually had an attached walled yard or barmkin.

Sometimes, pele towers were referred to as a "poormans castle". The reason for this is that ordinary people built peles to protect their goods and cattle. Pele towers were especially common in the border country between Scotland and England.

Some pele towers were constructed quickly, and some were made of wood due to the lack of funding or wages. Most were small stone buildings with walls from 3 to 10 feet thick, square or



*Preston Grange Pele Tower,
Prestonpans.*

oblong in shape. Designed to withstand short sieges, they usually consisted of three storeys - a tunnel-vaulted ground floor which had no windows which was used as a storage area, and which could accommodate animals. The first floor contained a hall and kitchen, and the top floor was space for living and sleeping. The battlemented roof was normally flat for look-out purposes, and to allow arrows to be fired at raiders, and missiles hurled down on unwanted visitors.

Today many of these towers have had additions or modifications such as the Pele Tower at Hunterston. Some such as Yanwath Hall are part of a working farm. Others such as Muncaster, Dacre and Sizergh are now stately homes. Some have fallen and become ruins, others have been dismantled so the stone could be used to build other buildings. Some towers were built onto churches to act as both pele tower, and bell tower.

The Hunterston Pele Tower was probably built in the mid-thirteenth century, constructed in local sandstone it

replaced a timber fortress. A fine barrel-vaulted roof supports the foundation of the huge weight of stone above. In times of danger the ground floor room was used for storage for food and the animals, it also had a well.

The Old Hall served as the main living room until the Great Hall was added in the 16th. century by John Hunter, 14th Laird. It is complemented by a very fine set of staghorn furniture from Bavaria.

The Old Hall now opens into the Great Hall. The most notable feature of this room is the handsome fireplace with a fine carving of the Hunter Coat of Arms.

A spiral staircase leads from the Old Hall to the bedroom above, in which all the immediate Hunter family would have slept. In was in this room that Robert Caldwell Hunter was born in 1799. In that year his parents

commenced the building of Hunterston House.

At the top of the Pele tower is a garret and parapet, this is now reached by a spiral stone stairway. When the Castle was built there would have been a wooden ladder for access.

Hunterston Castle is unique in that it has its original roof beams with the carpenters marks clearly visible. The roof beams are an excellent example of medieval carpentry, constructed with mortice and tenon joints secured with pegs.

The parapet is narrow to assist with defence as the early Hunters used crossbows for defending the Castle. The south wall has a machicolation to make defending the front door easier. The front door was on the first floor at this time in common with other Castles of this time.

Clan Hunter Newsletters

I hope that you are enjoying your Clan Newsletter and that you find the articles interesting. We are always happy to receive articles for the newsletter or even just a comment on your likes or dislikes about our main form of communication.. The newsletter doesn't happen all by itself and indeed every issue is a challenge. Any help or suggestions would be most welcome.

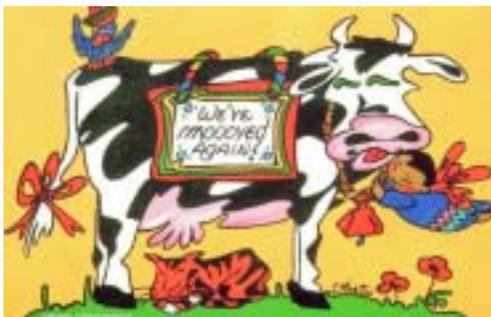
Are you receiving your newsletter by e-mail in "FULL COLOUR" or are you still receiving a "hard copy" in black and white by regular mail? If you have e-mail you should certainly try out this form of communication. Drop me a line at thunter01@rogers.com and tell me to change you over. You can always switch back if you wish later. Trust me, you won't want to switch back.



The Pele Tower of Hunterston Castle

Where have they Gone?

In the past year or so we have had five newsletters returned because the recipient is no longer at that address. We need your help.



Anna Katrine Hunter – Indian Road,
Pembroke
Daryl Jones – Clark Blvd., Brampton
Robert & Catherine Hunter – Main
Street South, Uxbridge
M. Elizabeth Hunter – Peel Street,
Montreal
William H. McKnight – Elliot
Street, Saskatoon
Please help us if you can – we hate
to lose touch with any of our
members.
Christine Hunter
Membership secretary

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
WEB www.clanhuntercanada.com

1. If you are moving – please let us know.
2. If you change your e-mail address (even if you don't get your newsletter by e-mail) – please let us know
3. If you know the updated address of any of the following people – please either contact them and ask them to contact us, or contact us directly with a new or updated address.

Fredericton and Antigonish

As I mentioned in the January newsletter, Christine and I (Clan Officer) are planning to visit the East Coast and attend the Antigonish (15-17 July) and New Brunswick (Fredericton) Highland Games (22-24 July) where we hope to meet as many of you "East Coasters" as possible. We would be especially pleased if we could go out to a local restaurant with any of our members able to attend one of these events. It would give us a wonderful chance to get to know you and put a face on what at the moment is just a name in a membership list. If you live within a reasonable travelling distance of Fredericton or Antigonish please consider at least coming to meet us and hopefully joining us for dinner.

Tom Hunter Clan Officer - Canada

Clan Hunter Association - Canada

Notice of Dues for July 1st 2005 to June 30th 2006

This is a gentle reminder that a new season is upon us and now is the time to renew your membership in the association. If you have already renewed your membership, we thank you sincerely and please kindly ignore this reminder. If not perhaps you would like to fill in this note, add a cheque for \$30 and pop it in the envelope provided.

Name: _____ \$ _____

Address: _____

Cheques should be made payable to Clan Hunter and mailed to the Clan Hunter Association treasurer at:
Donald R Hunter
138 Sweeney Drive
Toronto, ON M4A 1T9

Clan Hunter Association - Canada

Here are the proposed plans for the visit of our chief
Madam Pauline Hunter of Hunterston

August 11,12,13,14, 2005

Preliminary plans include ...

- Sponsors Reception 11 Aug 2005 Fergus
- Fergus Tattoo & Lighting 6.45 pm 12 Aug 2005 Fergus
- Fergus Highland Games 7.00 am 13 Aug 2005 Fergus
- Clan Hunter reception 6.00 pm 13 Aug 2005 Holiday Inn
601 Scottsdale Dr., Guelph
- Kirkin' o' the Tartan 10.00am 14 Aug 2005 St Andrew's Presb.Fergus

Madam Pauline will be staying at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Centre, Guelph. If you wish to join the group of Hunters there you should contact the Ramada directly at (519) 836-1240 as soon as possible. However there are lots of alternative accomodation at Fergus (please refer to the accomodations list provided with our January newsletter)

Why not plan to attend this special gathering

Stay over in the Fergus area

Enjoy the Games - Hang out at the Clan Tent with Madam Pauline

Join in with the other Hunters in the Clan Parade -11.30am on 13th

Enjoy the fabulous Celtic Music

Meet some new Clan friends

Attend the Kirkin' of the Tartan

in St Andrews Presbyterian Church, Fergus

10 am Sunday morning

Share your genealogy with other clan members

Check out the Fergus Hughland Games web site
 for up to date information

<http://www.fergusscottishfestival.com>



Clan Hunter Association - Canada

Annual Clan Gathering 12-14th August 2005

with Madam Pauline Hunter of Hunterston and of that Ilk, Clan Chief and 30th Laird

- Yes I/we will be attending the Tattoo & Lighting on Friday 12th Aug Number in Party _____
- Yes I/we will be taking part in the parade on Saturday 13th. Aug Number in Party _____
- Yes I/we will be attending the reception/dinner on Saturday 13th Aug \$20.00/adult Adults in Party _____
\$9.00/child (5-12) Children in Party _____
- Yes I/we will be attending the Kirkin' o' the Tartan on Sunday 14th Aug Number in Party _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

cheques for the reception should be made payable to Clan Hunter