



hunters' halloo

Newsletter of the Clan Hunter Association, Canada

January 2000 Vo 2,9

Crest Badge of a
Member of Clan Hunter

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Dear Clansfolk,

The festive season is upon us, and I am sure that you have all been busy getting ready. I hope everyone had a Joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We now have a central CLAN HUNTER web site at www.clanhunter.com. I have links to all our CLAN HUNTER web sites, so you will be able to link up with the Canadian and UK sites.

In October, a very special event was held in the castle: Vicky and Craig Hunter of Australia were married in the Great Hall. The ceremony was very moving and insured a special start to their life together. It was a wonderful wedding, especially since Vicky wore a medieval dress in ivory and maroon brocade. She looked absolutely wonderful! Craig, of course, was wearing his Hunter tartan kilt. They made a very handsome couple, and I'm sure you will send them your good wishes for a long and happy marriage.

I hope that all of you who ordered Calendars and Christmas Cards received them in good time for your purposes. If anyone wishes to view the Mail Order items, you will find pictures of them on our Clan Hunter web site.

Father Rodger Hunter Hall recently represented the Hunter Clan at a very special event: the 250th Anniversary of the inauguration of the City of Alexandria VAA. What made this event special for our Clan was the fact that the city was founded by a William Hunter! Appropriately, there was a wreath-laying ceremony at the grave of William Hunter. Father Rodger very kindly laid a wreath on behalf of Clan Hunter. We should take pride in knowing that our Clan has such ancestors!

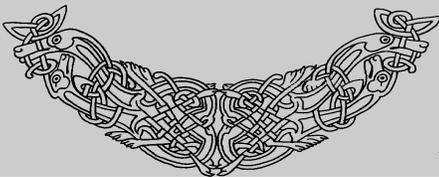
Yours, Pauline

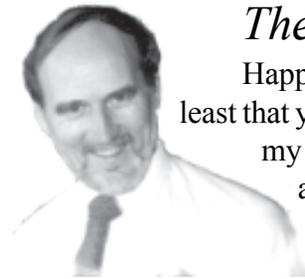


Scotland 2001

It is now a mere 18 months until the planned Clan Gathering at Hunterston on the last weekend of June - 2001. Have you begun to make your plans to attend yet? The last gathering was in 1997 and traditionally the gatherings were every 5 yrs but it was agreed at the '97 gathering that these should be every 3 yrs however

it was also agreed to reach that goal in two stages. Hence the next gathering is in 2001 and the gathering after that will be 2004. The last gathering in 1997 was such a wonderful success that I would encourage all members to make a special effort to be there in 2001.





The Editor:

Happy New Year to all . I hope you have managed to stay clear of the flu bug, or if not I hope at least that you didn't have a really serious dose. Unfortunately this was not the case in my household and my poor wife, Christine, succumbed rather badly. However things are pretty much back to normal and now I am attempting to get back into harness. Earlier this month I had the sad duty of attending the funeral of young Adam Foss who finally succumbed to his illness after suffering with leukemia for over 4yrs. The service was held in St Johns Anglican Church, Preston Ontario. Adam was only 16yrs old when he died but he was already a great influence in the lives of all who met him. You may remember that we featured an article by Adam, about his grandfather, with a photograph, in our May 1996 issue. Our sincere condolences go out to his family and friends. He will be dearly missed. Our Fund Raising Campaign to restore Hunterston Castle is not going very well but I must confess that the timing (just before Christmas) was not very good. My fault I'm afraid. Perhaps now that the holiday season is past we may have a better response. Remember folks that this is one of the main reasons for the Association's existence. No contribution is too small.

Tom

The Selkirk Grace

The following article was taken from a book on Scottish Toasts and Graces by Charles MacLean

Some hae meat, and canna eat,
And some wad eat that want it,
But we hae meat, and we can eat -
And sae the Lord be thankit.

Robert Burns

This grace takes its name from a person, Dunbar Douglas, 4th Earl of Selkirk, rather than the town in the Scottish Borders.

In fact, Robert Burns only visited Selkirk once. He was touring with a companion, and arrived at Selkirk on Sunday 13th May 1787. It was raining hard, so they took shelter in Veitch's Inn, where the local doctor and two friends were sitting by the fire.

The innkeeper asked if the strangers could join them, but the doctor refused, on the grounds that 'they did not look like gentlemen'.

Three days later, Dr Clarkson learned who the stranger was: a contemporary, James Hogg, wrote that "his refusal [to allow them to join him] hangs about the doctor's heart like a dead weight to this day, and will do 'til the day of his death, for the bard had no more enthusiastic an admirer."

The grace itself was probably

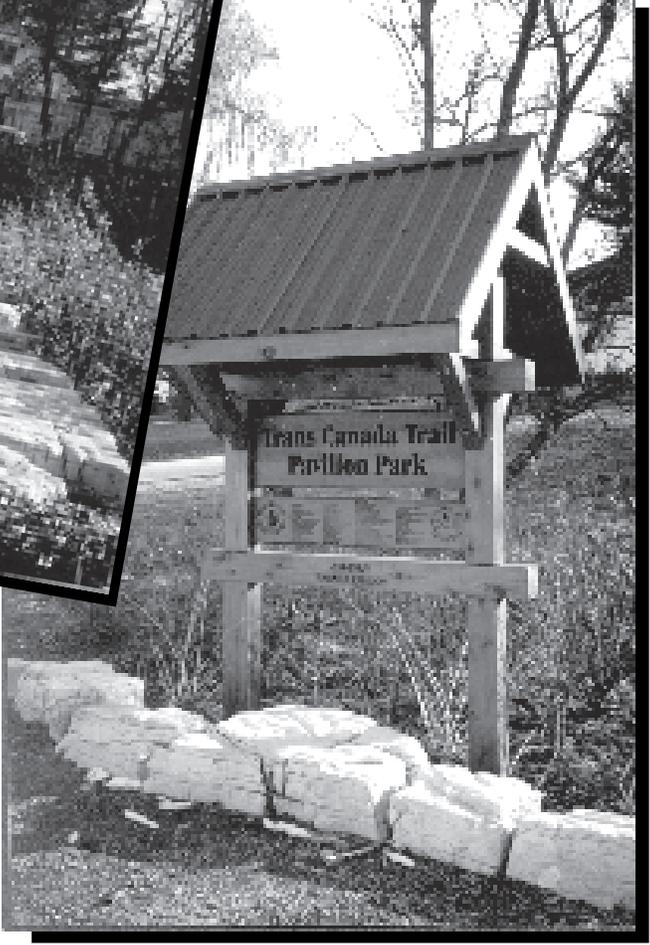
first delivered at the Heid Inn in Kirkcudbright High Street, in the presence of Lord Selkirk, in July 1794 (the inn is now named the Selkirk Arms). It is also possible that this, Burns' most famous toast, was traditional, and not in fact composed by him after all. He certainly never wrote it down.

Hunter History

The Chief Prevents a Murder
Robert Hunter of Hunterston, the 17th Chief of Clan Hunter, whom we nick-name "Queen Mary's Man", stepped in to save a local man from being murdered. In his day the Register of the Privy Council of Scotland recorded all legal actions of any consequence throughout the whole of Scotland, especially those involving nobles, lairds, prelates, and others of stature in society. This ancient record shows that a certain Andrew Sempill made an attempt in July 1577 to kill the Reverend Alexander Callendar, "minister of Goddis word" at the kirk of Largs, which is close by Hunterston, in Ayrshire. In fact he attempted "maist cruellie" to shoot him with a pistol upon the Green of Largs. On that

occasion, the first of three murderous attacks, David Boyle, one of his friends who was present, managed to prevent his "wickit purpois", and the Minister escaped with his life. However, the quarrelsome and violent Andrew Sempill continued to harass the Minister, and on 23 October he was reported to have been still in his "wickit and ungodlie mynd". He went to the Minister's dwelling place, "and withane drawin swerd wald have slayne him". However, Sempill did not succeed, and "be Goddis providence he wes stayed be Robert Hunter of Hunterstoun". The Hunter Chief was the second saviour of this persecuted clergyman. The attacks continued, and on the 5th of November the Minister had to be rescued yet again, this time by David Fairlie of that Ilk, and William Craufurd of Drumsey; the Privy Council became involved, and Sempill was denounced a rebel to His Majesty, being "put to the horn" with three blasts of a horn at the market cross of the local burgh. Such were the violent and quarrelsome times, in which the Chief of Clan Hunter played a Godly and a peaceful role.

COLIN D.I.G. FORRESTER



Trans Canada Trail Pavilion Park, Caledon East, Ontario

At last we are able to show photographs of the location of the Trail Pavilion which includes the name of our Clan Chief Madam Pauline Hunter of Hunterston. During her visit to Canada in 1998, the Clan Hunter Canada branch of the association presented her with a meter of the Trans Canada Trail. However it was just recently that we were able to identify exactly where the name had been displayed and to capture the location on film to show to our members.

Special Hunterston Fund

The Clan Hunter Association has decided that in order to return the castle to its more original form, the wooden garage doors on the north side of the Towerhouse must be removed and replaced with stonework to match the original.

So that the castle may look like this.....



Instead of this



**We
Need
Your
Help
Now!**

*Help restore a part of your Heritage by
sending donations to:*

*Mr Donald R Hunter
138 Sweeney Drive
Toronto, On
M4A 1T9*

*(cheques should be made payable to Clan Hunter
Please indicate the size of garment when making your donation)*

*Donations of \$500 will qualify for a matched pair of quality
Hunter green sweatshirts complete with embroidered castle motif.*

*Donations of \$300 will qualify for a quality Hunter green sweatshirt
complete with embroidered castle motif*

*Donations of \$200 will qualify for a quality Hunter green golf shirt
complete with embroidered castle motif*

*Donations of \$100 will qualify for a Hunter green quality T-shirt
complete with embroidered castle motif*

Donations of \$50 will qualify for a package of Castle motif notelets

*Donations of up to \$20 will qualify for a line drawing of the Castle
suitable for framing.*

*We must raise
£18,000
(\$47,000 cdn apprx)*



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for the Newsletter to
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