



Crest Badge of a
Member of Clan Hunter

hunters' halloo

Newsletter of the Clan Hunter Association, Canada

Jan 2010 Vol 6,2

- 1 From the Clan Chief
- 2 Editor's Report
- 2 Congratulations 60th Wedding
- 3 Connections Corner
- 3 Fergus 2010
- 4 Congratulations 100yrs
- 5 Membership News
- 6 Linlithgow Palace
- 7 Hunterston Castle
- 8 Stone of Destiny



Dear Clansfolk,

Looking back over the last year, we the Hunter Clan, can be very proud of our achievements. Despite the difficult times that many of us are finding ourselves in, the Hunter Clan has continued to grow and to participate in Scottish events everywhere. My thanks go out to all of you who have gone out and attended events. Your efforts show in the new members that continue to join the Hunters. Thank you so much all of you for your support.

We have been especially successful this year in our excellent attendance at the Gathering in Edinburgh in July. Thank you to all of you for coming to this historic event. It was the first time that Scotland had celebrated her heritage and links to the world at large. Many Clans were present and Scots from many nations had come to celebrate their history and heritage. For me the most memorable part was not the eleven interviews, nor meeting Prince Charles or having my photograph taken with the First Minister, Alex Salmond but being part of the Parade of Clans that marched the whole length of the Royal Mile with all the other Clans.

It was also the proudest moment of my Chiefship to be able to lead our contingent of Clansmen and Clanswomen with our Friends the Chief Elect Raymond Muirhead and the Morehead Clan. Our Banner holders and Standard bearers led us up the Royal Mile with pride and dignity. As we marched we all marched for everyone of the Hunter Clan and we knew that you were with us all in spirit. When we reached the halfway point we all looked back and all we could see were Clans and kinsmen and women lining the whole of the Royal Mile from Holyroodhouse Palace to the Castle.

Thank you to all of you who go to the Highland and Scottish Games and events in your area. It is an enriching experience to be able to meet with kin, find new relatives and make new friends.

I wish you all a Good New Year.

Our next International Gathering at Hunterston will be held in 2012.

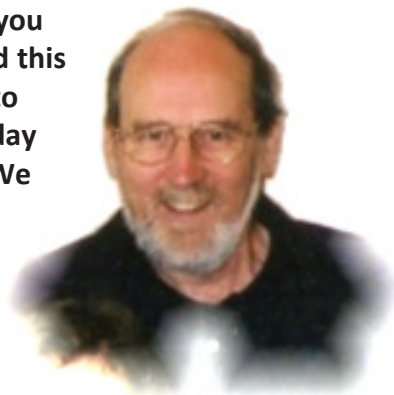
Pauline

Madam Pauline Hunter of Hunterston, 30th Laird



Dear Friends,

Happy New Year to all. Christine and I wish all the best to you and your family in 2010. Even though the snow is still thick upon the ground this is the time we begin to think of the summer Highland Games that we wish to attend. And so I thought you would be interested to know that we have today booked our flights to Vancouver (to attend the Victoria Highland Games). We will be flying directly from London airport to Vancouver. We fly out of London on Tuesday, May 18th, we will probably spend a week in or around Victoria - including the highland games on May 22/23 - then we have another week to do some sightseeing around B.C. before we fly back (again right to London) on Wednesday 2nd June. We don't have a lot of detail yet but we are at least committed to going. We are very pleased indeed to be supported in this venture by Lianne and John Hunter of Victoria who will be co-hosting the Clan Tent with us and will in fact be doing most of the on-site arrangements ('cos they live there). This year, after 4 years in a row, Christine and I will NOT be travelling to Scotland and so hopefully we can get back on track with our own Highland Games schedule. Unfortunately one of our favourites, The Chatham Highland Games, will not be continuing. We are especially disappointed with this as our dear friends, Dave and Catherine Elder, have been part of the organization of this event since forever and we always looked forward to joining them for that day. At this present time we have not laid out our exact plan with regards to which Games we will be attending but I will let everyone know as soon as we have. Of course our main event at Fergus on 13-15 August 2010 is a definite. Please make plans to be there.



Tom



Congratulations on 60 wonderful years

Congratulations to Dave and Catherine Elder of Chatham on their 60th Wedding Anniversary celebrated in October 2009. What a marvelous achievement for a wonderful couple.

Send your submissions
for the newsletter to
Tom Hunter
61 Downing Crecent
London, Ontario
N6C 3C7
Tel (519) 681-4101
e-mail thunter01@rogers.com
WEB
www.clanhuntercanada.com

Connections Corner



Lizz Thibodeau

lizzt@rogers.com

Genealogy is something that gets into your bones. I think I inherited my passion from my dad, although my mum has done her fair share as well, so I probably got a double dose. But if you don't love it, you can't understand people who do. I had someone say to me once, "Why do you care? These people are all dead." True enough, and how could I respond? Either you get it, or you don't. Genealogy teaches us about our roots, our history. For some it's about the hunt. The fun is in the search, trying to figure out the next step, trying to outwit the missing information. For others, it's the end result that's important, being able to trace their roots back 10 generations or knowing they're a descendant of so-and-so. I'm one of the first group. I enjoy the search, the strategy. I enjoy stewing over a puzzle for days and then suddenly thinking of something I haven't tried. That's why I enjoy working on other people's family trees. It doesn't matter that it's not my family I'm researching, it's just fun to have a problem to tackle. With that in mind, I thought it might be helpful to point out what information I need in order to get started looking for someone. The first thing worth noting is that I

We are Family, I've got all my cousins with me!

don't have access to any information on people from after 1911. In order for me to start a search, we need to get the first hundred years out of the way. Most of the time, that's not too hard. My grandmother was born in 1903 so that's where I would start. If you can't get back that far, then we would have to use graves and newspapers which is really best done locally. There are some areas that have their gravestones and their newspapers on-line but most transcriptions are kept in the local library.

So, if you're looking for help and you've got at least the first 100 years, what next? Well, give me as much information as you can. Obviously full names are important (middle names can really help), but also the names of siblings can be helpful (since many names are carried on from generation to generation). Locations are obviously important since they narrow down the search field! But here's the one that some people forget: dates! I laugh sometimes because I get requests like, "I'm looking for my great great great great grandfather John Hunter who came from Scotland." I wish I had a great great great great book that I could go look him up in, but it doesn't work that way. Exact dates are a bonus, but even a range is good enough. I can estimate that each generation is

between 20-25 years but the more generations back you go, the less accurate that becomes. In my family, my father's line progressed more slowly than my aunt's so that my daughter Isla is the same age as her second cousin once removed, Archie (in other words Isla's great grandmother Janet Lamb is Archie's great great grandmother). Within 100 years, we're off by one whole generation! Never think that any piece of information is irrelevant. If you're looking for John Hunter and you know his brother James was born in 1834, that can help me to find when John was born and who his parents were. If you don't know

anything except that John moved to Canada around 1900, that too can be a clue.

So if you're looking for help, start by jotting down absolutely everything you know about your line and don't forget to include dates.



Fergus Games 2010

Are you planning to attend the Fergus Highland Games 13 - 15 August? Do you usually stay over? Then you should know that the **Holiday Inn, 601 Scottsdale Drive, Guelph, Ontario N1G 3E7 (519) 836-0231**

is offering a special rate for Clan Hunter members. To ensure you receive the preferred group rate, please quote block code: **DJQ** As we have done for the last number of years, the annual meeting and dinner will take place at this location.

Congratulations to Josephine Spates on 100 years

(The following information was supplied by Gail Chase niece of Josephine)

Enclosed are two pictures of my Aunt. One with her husband's nephew, Donald Spates- his family is from Nova Scotia; the other is her son and wife Judy.

My aunt Josephine M. Hunter Spates was born July 21, 1908 in Hagersville, York County, New Brunswick, Canada. She was the daughter of Bessie (Maud) Hunter (dob 3/2/1869) (dod 11/17/1914) and Miles Hunter (dob 4/20/1864) (dod 9/7/53). Aunt Jo was the thirteenth with three more following. My Grandmother died of goitre and Grandfather of Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD)

Josephine immigrated here (USA) during her teens and obtained a job in retail, saving her money, then entered a program at the Wentworth – Douglas Hospital in Dover NH and became an RN.

She married Lewis A. Spates and moved to Danvers Mass., eventually purchasing a home and neighbourhood grocery store.

They always wanted children and when my aunt was in her late thirties along came Lewis Jr. who is her pride and joy. Lewis graduated from college becoming a teacher in school and at a community college.

My aunt Jo was an excellent cook, seamstress, kept her home immaculate, active in the community and at the Maple Street, Congregational Church and other organizations. She loves to have company and is a great hostess. Macular Degeneration has slowed her down a bit.



Membership News

I have had to do a mini purge on our membership this year – we had 12 folks in our database who had not paid in three years or more. This means that we took 12 names off that list – oh they still remain on our books as members, but no longer receive newsletters or any other correspondence. I hate to do this, but this is what it states in our constitution, and so it had to be done. With one new member since our last newsletter, and one reinstated member, our working total of active members now stands at 84. Of these 84 members, 72 have paid their membership dues for 2009/2010. This is just an FYI aside to my real report.

Welcome Gregory Francis Hunter, of Toronto, to the Clan Hunter Association as of last November. We hope to see Gregory at one of the many Highland Games we attend in Ontario – and to get to know him better through active participation. As with all clan members, it is so nice to be able to spend time chatting, find out who you really are, and to be able to put a “face” on that name. This month I would like to take a little time to ask if you can all check out your membership card – and on it you will find your “membership number”. This will appear as “CHAC___” – that is CHAC001, CHAC104, CHAC 157 – I’m sure you get what I mean. There will appear the letters CHAC (Clan Hunter Association Canada) then three numbers – that is your membership number. Can I ask that, whenever possible, you use this number when paying your dues, writing to one of your executive, or sending us information for the newsletter? In

fact, can you get into the habit of using this number whenever you contact us for any reason at all? Do you know how many David Hunters, Tom Hunters or Paul Hunters we have in our Association? Enough to make it a little bit of a chore to sort you all out sometimes!!! Oh, I am saying this very much tongue in cheek, but with a modicum of reality in it. At the moment we have to check addresses carefully to see that the right Edward Hunter is being credited with paying his dues and not the other one who lives on the other side of the country. We will also try to do the same thing – each piece of correspondence that you receive (including the newsletter) will have your membership number on it somewhere.

So take a look at your membership card – and use that number the next time you write. Can’t find your membership card? Well maybe you haven’t paid your dues for this year, so send us a cheque for \$30.00 and I’ll send you your card (with your number on it) and then you’ll know what your clan membership number is? Oh that was a little sneaky wasn’t it? I just couldn’t resist! After all 12 unpaid memberships is not too bad – but ZERO would be so much better!

Christine Hunter.

Membership Secretary

We're going to Victoria

It is an unfortunate fact that due to the size of Canada it is not easy for us to make everyone feel included. Most of our activities are centered around Ontario. We have managed to visit the East coast on two occasions to attend the Fredricton Highland Games which for us meant a

two day drive. But we can say without a doubt, it was worth it. We were able to meet up with a bunch of our East Coast members and have dinner together and get to know each other a bit better.

This May we are pleased to announce that we will be attending the Victoria Highland Games on 22-23 May 2010. We are extremely pleased to say that Lianne and John Hunter of Victoria BC will be working with us on a local level and handling some of the arrangements for us.

Do you live close enough to make the Victoria Highland Games something you would consider attending? That would be great. Maybe we could all have dinner together. Nothing too fancy just a local restaurant where we can eat and chat and get to know each other. Why don't you put it on your calendar and make a plan to be there?

Linlithgow

A Golden Palace

Christopher Winn

Even in ruin, LINLITHGOW PALACE, glowing golden on its hill above Linlithgow Loch, is impressive. There has been a royal manor here since the 12th century, but it was the Stuarts who really seemed to love the place, starting with James I who began building what was to become the loveliest of all Scotland's royal palaces. His great-grandson James IV made sumptuous additions and, in 1512, James V was born in Linlithgow. The following year James V's mother Margaret stood on the roof of the Queen's Bower, a small octagonal turret in the northwest corner of the palace, watching in vain for her husband James IV to return from Flodden Field. Almost 30 years later, in 1542, Mary, Queen of Scots was born in that same Queen's Bower. She was taken to Stirling Castle for safety when she was seven months old, and the Stuarts' love affair with Linlithgow was over. Mary stayed here briefly on her return from France, but her son James VI was indifferent and the last king to sleep in the crumbling palace was his son Charles I, in 1633. In 1746 the Duke of Cumberland's troops rested at Linlithgow on their way home from Culloden, and the Hanoverians' final insult was to burn down the Stuarts' once resplendent palace, by setting fire to the straw on which they had been sleeping. The elaborate King's Fountain in the courtyard, which survived the fire, was built in 1538 for James V, and is THE OLDEST FOUNTAIN IN

BRITAIN. On grand occasions this fountain was said to have flowed with wine, the last time being when Bonnie Prince Charlie stopped at Linlithgow on his way to Edinburgh in 1743.

(Editor's note)

When your editor visited this palace as a boy in 1959 the keeper of the palace was able to demonstrate what a fountain flowing with wine must

have been like by filling the fountain with rose coloured water.

Much of the fountain, damaged over time by the elements, has been restored. The restorations having been done in such a way as to allow the visitor to recognise the old from the new.

Below: View of the Palace from across the Loch



Photos of the fountain by Tom Hunter

Hunterston Castle

It is reported that Hunterston Castle originally stood on a portion of raised ground and was surrounded by a moat. I have never seen any paintings depicting this but I was moved to wonder what changes the castle had seen over the ages. Here is a selection of Drawings/photographs that I have managed to gather showing some of the extensive changes.



1886



1906



1974



1970



1980



2007

The Stone of Destiny

Seton Gordon

Highways and Byways in the Central Highlands

The Celtic name of the stone now in the Coronation Chair in Westminster Abbey is Lia Fail, “the speaking stone,” which names the king who should be chosen. Cambray in his *Monuments Celtiques* claims to have seen the stone when it still bore the inscription: *Ni fallat fatum, Scoti quocumque locatum Invenient lapidem, regnasse tenenture ibidem: If Destiny prove true, then Scots are known to have been kings where'er men find this stone.*



A few miles up the river from Perth is the site of the historic Abbey of Scone, where the kings of Scotland were crowned. But the glory of Scone has long departed, for, even in the time of writing of the old *Statistical Account*, “on the spot where our ancient kings were crowned there now grows a clump of trees.” At Scone the Coronation Stone or Stone of Destiny was “reverently kept for the consecration of the kings of Alba” and, according to an old Chronicler, “no king was ever wont to reign in Scotland unless he had first, on receiving the royal name, sat upon this stone at Scone, which by the kings of old had been appointed the capital of Alba.” The Stone of Destiny, now in Westminster Abbey*, is an oblong block of red sandstone, some 26 inches long by 16 inches broad, and 10 ½ inches deep: on the flat top of the stone are the marks of chiselling. Tradition affirms that it is the same stone which Jacob used as a pillow at Bethel and then set up as a pillar and anointed with oil: late, according to Jewish tradition, it became the pedestal of the ark in the Temple. The stone was brought from Siria to Egypt by Gathelus, who in order to escape the plague, sailed, on the advice of Moses, from the Nile with his wife and the Stone of Destiny, and landed in Spain. Gathelus sent the stone to Eire when he had invaded that country, and it was later brought to Scotland where it remained in the Abbey of Scone until, in the year 1296, Edward I of England carried it off to Westminster Abbey.

An interesting tradition has been given me by the Earl of Mansfield, whose family have owned the lands of Scone for more than three hundred years. The tradition, which has been handed down through several generations, is that, somewhere around the dates 1795-1820, a farm lad had been wandering with a friend on Dunsinnan, the site of MacBeth's castle, soon after a violent storm. The torrential rain had caused a small landslide, and as the result of this a fissure, which seemed to penetrate deep into the hillside, was visible. The two men procured some form of light and explored the fissure. They came at last to the broken wall of a subterranean chamber. In one corner of the chamber was a stair which was blocked by debris, and in the centre of the chamber they saw a slab of stone covered with hieroglyphics and supported by four short stone “legs.” As there was no evidence of “treasure” in the subterranean apartment the two men did not realise the importance of their “find” and did not talk of what they had seen. Some years later one of the men first heard the local tradition, that on the approach of King Edward I the monks of Scone hurriedly removed the Stone of Destiny to a place of concealment and took from the Annety Burn a stone of similar size and shape, which the English king carried off in triumph. When he heard this legend, the man hurried back to Dunsinnan Hill, but whether his memory was at fault regarding the site of the landslide, or whether the passage of time, or a fresh slide of earth, had obliterated the cavity, the fact remains that he was unable to locate the opening in the hillside. It may be asked why the monks of Scone, after the English king had returned to London, did not bring back to the Abbey the original Stone of Destiny, but the tradition accounts for this by explaining that it was not considered safe at the time to allow the English to know that they had been tricked, and that when the days of possible retribution were past, the monks who had known the secret were dead. This tradition, it is held, explains why the Coronation Stone in Westminster Abbey resembles geologically the stone commonly found in the neighbourhood of Scone.

Note: The Stone of Scone - also known as the Stone of Destiny has an obscure history. Traditionally it is said to have been Jacob's pillow when he saw the angels of Bethel. The most likely explanation is that it was a royal stone brought from Antrim to Argyll and then to Scone by Kenneth MacAlpin, the 36th King of Dalriada. It was placed upon the Moot Hill and used in the coronations of the Kings of Scots until the end of the 13th century, when it was removed to Westminster Abbey

**In 1996, the Stone was finally restored to the people of Scotland when the British Government moved it to Edinburgh Castle. The Stone of Scone was last used at the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II - and so it still performs its ancient duty, and to far greater effect, making not only the monarch of the Scots but of Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.*