



# hunters' halloo

Newsletter of the Clan Hunter Association, Canada

July 1997

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Member of Clan Hunter

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My how time flies. It seems like no time at all since I was writing the last news letter. It has been a pretty busy time since the last newsletter what with the Hunterston Gathering coming up. This year our annual gathering/meeting is planned for September and will be held in Toronto. It will be interesting to see how many people attend. More information on this will be included with this newsletter. My thanks to Elizabeth Wall of Brandon, Manitoba for her article on a "Health Tree" and to Catherine Elder for the continuation of her story, "My Search". Both of these stories appear in this issue and both of these ladies pledged to send more. I certainly look forward to that. Our little sub- committee has been looking at the formation and content of our "Constitution and By Laws" and you will find a copy of this document with your newsletter. Please feel free to comment and make suggestions for change. I would like to just issue a gentle reminder that association fees are now due. The association year runs from July 1st - June 30th. We will be including a self addressed envelope with this issue in the hopes that those who have not yet paid will snap to it.

Tom

## Why - A "Family Health Tree"?

-by Elizabeth M. (Hunter) Wall

More and more as I scan the newsletters and journals coming in from Genealogical Societies, I find articles on creating a Family Health Tree. I am sure many of you must ask **WHY?** Well perhaps my experience might help you to understand **WHY!**

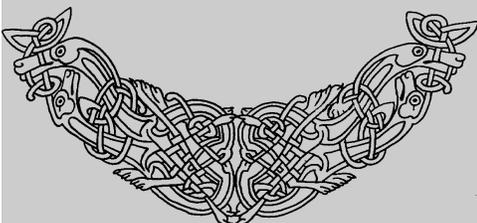
Ten years ago, I remember very little about the period between June 20 and August 14. Although unaware of it, I had developed a brain cyst which was putting pressure on the spinal cord at the base of the brain.

Visits to the doctor determined

that I was suffering from a **lack of Vitamin B12.** So a course of shots was begun to correct this problem.

It didn't help at all and my husband and family became more and more convinced as they read all they could lay their hands on that I had either a brain tumor or was in the early stages of Alzheimer's. Neither was very pleasant to think about. Finally after consulting with a friend who also happens to be a doctor, I was sent to see the local neurologist. He immediately sent me to a neurological surgeon in Winnipeg whose diagnosis was death in a very short time.

However, he decided to operate and did. As you can tell I am back to what could be called normal if anyone



knows exactly what that word means.

But the end of the story is not there. A few years later while researching my family history, I was surprised to learn that my paternal grandfather had died of the exact same problem at the very same age. However, since it was at the turn of the century, there was not much that could be done for him.

My father had not been affected by the ailment, but I now wonder about my grandchildren. The one good thing about all of this is the fact that at least the family will know in the future what happened in Granddad Hunter's generation and in my generation. Hopefully it won't occur to either of the grandchildren. But then they will have a record of the symptoms to pass on to future family members.

**A FAMILY HEALTH TREE** might have helped the Doctors discover what my problem was a little more quickly and perhaps would have given my family a few less anxious days.

## *My Search For My Hunter Ancestors*

*- by Catherine Elder*

In the April Issue of the Newsletter. I referred to the need for proving dates obtained from newspaper articles etc. To illustrate this, I had been gathering items about my grandfather, Robert Hunter Sr. and also had the details on his tombstone (which I had recently had recut).

These all showed Robert Hunter was **born** in 1850.

When my family heard that I was gathering information on our Ancestors, several gave me bits of pieces of paper that they had in their possession. I believe that my grandfather had obtained these items when he was planning to come to Canada. One stated the following "AT KIRKCONNEL THE 24TH DAY OF MAY 1875. IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED THAT ROBERT HUNTER AND AGNES BODDAN BOTH RESIDING IN THE PARISH OF KIRKCONNEL HAVE BEEN PROCLAIMED THREE SEVERAL TIMES IN ORDER TO MARRIAGE IN THE PARISH CHURCH OF KIRKCONNEL AND THAT NO OBJECTIONS HAVE BEEN OFFERED, signed WILLIAM KIRKLAND, Session Clerk.

Oh! I thought. They were married in Kirkconnel. Not so.

Another slip of paper came from my oldest brother who had received it from our Aunt Margaret, our father's youngest sister. It stated - "I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT ROBERT HUNTER HAS BEEN MARRIED TO AGNES BODDAN, AT CATTER BOG, KILMARONOCK THIS 27TH DAY OF MAY 1875, BY ME signed W.MACKINTOSH, PAR. MIN'R OF BUCHANAN." On this slip of paper there was a large ink spot over the placename, blotting out the middle section.

Since I already knew that my

grandmother AGNES BODDAN came from Ayrshire. I decided it must be KILMARONOCK, which is in Ayrshire. I started writing to New Register House in Scotland. After many letters, in 1986 I received their marriage certificate. They were indeed married at CATTER BOG, KILMARONOCK. Robert was 23, Agnes was 20. Their parents were, William Hunter and Margaret Hunter, maiden name Kellock. James Boddan and Janet Boddan, maiden name Allan. Another puzzle. Grandfather was 23 in 1875. His birthdate must be 1852.

National Registration started in Scotland in 1855 so in order to find his birth record I had to search the Old Parish (or Parochial) Records. I now knew his parents so I ordered in Microfilms at the L.D.S. Library and after many weeks located his birth record - 5th September 1852.

My next step was obtaining Census Records in Scotland to trace his life back to this time, and to also identify his sisters and brothers. The 1861, 1871, showed his age as 9 and 19. Could there be Passenger records when they came to Canada? Yes! They sailed on the S.S. Grecian from Glasgow May 9, 1882. His age was listed as 30. More secondary proofs that he was born in 1852.

Where is CATTER BOG? My Aunt Margaret said it was a CHURCH which was not standing when she was in Scotland in 1928 A number of years were to pass before I found my answer.



*Hunter Reunion. Local descendants of the Hunter clan attended the 50th anniversary of the family reunion in Hornings Mills on Sunday. Decendant Rev. Bain Milroy, top, conducted the church service and the crowd was later entertained by The Gaels, from the top Tom, Christine, Lynn, Paul and Elizabeth Hunter.*

## ***Hunter Anniversary***

***reunion*** (from the Free Press and Economist June 4, 1997)

The 50th Family Reunion of the Hunter Clan of this area began by the piping into Knox Presbyterian Church, Horning Mills of Tom Hunter, clan officer for Canada, the Gaels and Rev. Bain Milroy, who conducted the service.

His text was taken from Joshua 4, where he likened the clans or families to the twelve tribes of Israel. Twelve rocks taken from the river Jordan.

Mary Lynn Armstrong was the organist.

Bain & Mary Lynn are great

grandson and daughter respectively of William & Margaret Hunter, early settlers of the area.

A delicious salad luncheon was served by the ladies of Knox Church.

The 50th Hunter Reunion cake was cut by Christine, Tom Hunter's wife.

In the afternoon at the community hall, Tom Hunter traced our family history back to 1116A.D. through the Lairds of Hunterston.

He explained how our surnames were derived, such as Johns - son or Robert - son.

In time this method became too cumbersome, thus surnames originated.

The Hunter Clan have a new tartan of their own which is not connected with any other clan.

It may be purchased in Scotland or through agencies

"The Gaels", the Hunter family's very talented musical group who performed on TV rendered many Celtic songs in harmony. They accompanied themselves with guitar, violin, flute, keyboard.

A bus trip to visit Honeywood and Horning Mills cemeteries where our ancestors were buried and driving past the former Hunter homestead completed the eventful day.

Flowers were given to anyone wishing to place them on graves by Mrs. Margaret Rawbottom.

A tribute in the form of a plaque was given to John Johnston in appreciation for his work on the Family History Book.

Mrs. Margaret Rawbottom read a poem written by her daughter to commemorate the occasion. Myrna Donner is recognized as a poet of some note.

## ***The Hunter***

I always loved  
walking in the rain  
plaid scarves  
and the haunting music of  
bagpipes

I never bothered  
to question why  
this was so

I was young  
and felt no need of  
ancestors or legends past  
But as I grow older  
I question more  
My childhood spins  
clearly into focus  
in unguarded moments.

My own childhood  
Is now the past  
So as an adult

I dream more  
I dance more  
I cherish other people more

I understand  
that God's love is a  
pure circle  
of beginning and ending  
and beginning again

A daisy chain  
of rainy nights  
plaid scarves  
and somewhere  
walking, hunting  
on the hill

The one who plays  
the bagpipes for  
us all

Myrna Donner April 30-97

## ***Engagements Weddings & Births***

Congratulations to Beth and Jim Wall of Brandon Manitoba who celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on June 8th '97. Beth is the Branch coordinator for the South West Branch Manitoba Genealogical Society Inc. and says she would love to have any of the Hunter Clan visit if they are in the area. She says she might just be able to give them some help in searching for their ancestral roots

Congratulations also to Lizz Hunter of London who recently said yes to the big question "Will you marry me". Lizz and her fiance, Andrew Thibodeau, plan to marry next July. Lizz is the daughter of Tom Hunter (your Clan Officer)

## ***Hunterian Museum and Art Gallery***

Anyone going to Scotland and in particular, Glasgow might be interested in this museum. The Hunterian Museum and Art Gallery takes its name from William Hunter (1718-83), a student at Glasgow University in the 1730s, who later acquired fame and fortune as a physician and medical teacher in London. Hunter bequeathed to the University his substantial collections which included coins, paintings and prints, books and manuscripts, South Seas curiosities, zoological specimens, fossils and minerals, together with anatomical and pathological specimens relating to his medical work.



*Dr. William Hunter (1717-83)*

The Hunterian Museum, opened in 1807, was Scotland's first public museum. There have been many additions since Hunter's time, with an emphasis now on geology, archaeology, coins and art. Since 1980 the University's art collections have been housed in a separate building, The Hunterian Art Gallery

## ***The Annual Gathering in Scarborough (Toronto)***

Our annual gathering this year will not be at the Fergus games as in previous years as the Clan Gathering at Hunterston Scotland will be taking some of us away at that same time. This year our meeting will be hosted by Bob and Aldene Hunter and will be held at

**2:00p.m.**

**on**

**Saturday 20th September 1997**

**Suite 1107**

**20 Guildwood Parkway  
Scarborough, Ontario**

This is an ideal opportunity to meet other Hunters, renew old friendships, exchange genealogy, visit Toronto or just sit and chat. We hope to have lots of news, photos and video of the happenings at the Hunterston Clan Gathering in August. Come and make the Clan Hunter Association a vibrant, active group. Why not come up for the weekend and "do a show". For information on Accomodations in the area (motels, campgrounds etc) call Bob Hunter Tel (416) 269-7464

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## ***In Memorium***

I was saddened today to discover that Jim Hunter of Cambridge passed away on the 7th June 1997. Jim took ill early this year and after a valiant struggle succumbed to the disease. Jim was a long time member and some of you may remember that Jim wrote an article for the newsletter about his family and their involvement in highland dancing. Jim was always interested in the affairs of his clan and he will be missed. Our sincere condolences go out to his wife Heather and to the children.

Send your submissions  
for the Newsletter

to

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