



Crest Badge of a
Member of Clan Hunter

hunters' halloo

Newsletter of the Clan Hunter Association, Canada

July 2003

Vol 3,11

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Dear Canadian Clansfolk,
 This year I was expecting to be visiting you for your Annual meeting and to attend the Fergus Games. Sadly I shall not be able to see you this year which is a great disappointment for me as I have very happy memories of my last visit to Canada. The reason for my canceling is due to the second outbreak of the SARS virus. Tom Hunter, Clan Officer, telephoned me and we came to a joint decision that a visit at this time was not advisable.



It gives me great pleasure to inform you all that the Clan Hunter special award for exceptional services to our Clan, "The Order of the Royal Huntsman" is to be awarded to a Canadian Clan Hunter member. I have asked Tom to make the presentation on my behalf at your Annual Gathering.

This year I have sent some of the photos of Hunterston and the walled garden so that you can see all the improvements that have been carried out. The daffodils were especially good this year and so were the bluebells. I hope you enjoy the photos. The lawn in front of the Castle is improving with the regular lawn mowing, as you can see from the photos, and the moss is greatly reduced. Thank you all for your contributions that have made the improvements possible. This spring Mary Ross and myself cleared all round the knight, William Hunter 13th Laird, and planted two white climbing roses. The whole of the walled garden is now accessible and the lawns are being maintained.



The Walled Garden, Hunterston Castle

Next year is once again our International Clan Gathering at Hunterston Castle which will be held on the 6th, 7th and 8th of August. The dates were chosen to



Hunterston Castle in Springtime

coincide with the Edinburgh Festival. This Gathering will also celebrate another anniversary, as it will be 10 years since I became your Clan Chief. It has been a very interesting time, I have made many friends amongst those of you whom I have met. We have jointly restored and repaired Hunterston Castle our Clan seat and the spiritual home of all Hunter members. We have a lot to congratulate ourselves on, with the number of Associations growing from three to six, and membership doubling in the same period. I am pleased to see that our Clan continues to attract new members and is also attracting younger members. From the first web site created by Tom for the Canadian Clan Association to the six we have now including the central web site we have come a long way in raising awareness of our presence around the world. Thanks to Lizz, Tom's daughter we now have a bi-lingual Canadian site as well. I am delighted to

see that the Clan Hunter web site continues to develop and grow.

May I wish you all an excellent Gathering at Fergus and I send you all my sincerest greetings. I am looking forward to meeting up with some of you at Hunterston next year.

Yours aye,

Pauline

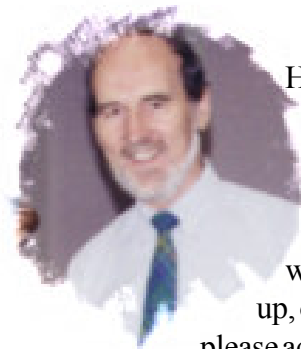
*Madam Pauline Hunter of Hunterston and of that ilk,
Clan Chief and 30th Laird*



Above: Daffodils on the Castle grounds



Left: Proudly standing, daffodils, castle and Chief



Hello Clansfolk,

Earlier this month I sent a letter to everyone announcing that the visit of our chief, Madam Pauline Hunter of Hunterston had been cancelled. I attempted to contact as many folks as I could by e-mail and to those without e-mail I communicated by regular mail. I do hope that those to whom I sent an e-mail did indeed receive it. Unfortunately I have no way of knowing (unless you tell me), that your e-mail address has changed, your server is acting up, or your computer is just playing hookey. If you did not receive such an intimation from me please accept my appologies.

As Madam Pauline says in her letter to the clan folk, she and I spoke by phone and after some discussion on the SARS situation and coupled with the fact that she had been unwell we mutually decided that now was not the time for her to visit us here in Canada. It was most regrettable but probably the wisest thing to do. We will extend the invitation again just as soon as her schedule allows. In the meantime our gathering at Fergus continues with some changes. Firstly without our Chief in attendance, we will not be a featured Clan as previously indicated. I have also cancelled the banquet at the Ramada Inn and re-arranged to have a family style meal at the Countryside Family Restaurant in Fergus, on Saturday at 6.00p.m. Those of you who were in attendance at the Games last year will remember that this was where we dined then. It is a nice little restaurant with reasonable prices. The annual meeting will be held at 4.00p.m in the small community room at the Games as it was last year. Not the best of locations but since everything had to be re-arranged suddenly it was the best I could do. To those of you who were looking forward to Madam Pauline's visit, (all of us I'm sure), and to those who had made special plans to be there, I offer my sincere apologies and regrets, however it just wasn't meant to be this time. Hopefully it will make her next visit all the sweeter.

As is our custom, the April newsletter included a reminder that the annual fees are due. However what we didn't include was the usual addressed envelope. This was a complete oversight on our part, (the membership secretary and I) and for this we apologise. We know that it just makes it that much easier to pop the cheque into the supplied envelope. We'll remember next time. In the meantime, cheques should be made payable to **Clan Hunter** and should be sent to our treasurer **Don Hunter, 138 Sweeney Drive, Toronto, Ontario M4A 1T9**. Of course those of you who are enjoying the **full-colour** newsletter by e-mail will always have to supply your own envelope as I haven't yet figured out how to send you one by e-mail.

Tom

Revised Schedule of Events for Fergus

August 8, 9, 10, 2003

- Fergus Tattoo & Lighting 6.45 pm 8 Aug 2003 Fergus
- Fergus Highland Games 7.00 am 9 Aug 2003 Fergus
- Parade of the Clans 11.20 am 9 Aug 2003 Fergus
- (we need everyone possible to be in the parade to put on a good show for "The Hunters")*
- Clan Meeting 4.00 pm Community Hall Fergus Games
- Clan Hunter Reception 6.00 pm 9 Aug 2003 Countryside Family Restaurant
- (Please let us know if you will be there)* Fergus
- Kirkin' o' the Tartan 10.00am 10 Aug 2003 St Andrew's Presb.Fergus
- Fergus Highland Games 12.00 am 10 Aug 2003 Fergus

Major General Robert Hunter

Governor of Virginia and New York, 1710-19

BRIGADIER-GENERAL ROBERT HUNTER, from whom Hunterdon County takes its name, was one of the best-loved Royal Governors, a notable distinction not shared by his predecessors or successors.

Hunter inherited many problems from previous administrations and from the Governors who preceded him who were not notable for their success in dealing with the Colonial legislators of New York and New Jersey.

Governor Hunter's grandfather was the 20th Laird of Hunterston. The Hunter family and estate near West Kilbridge, in Ayrshire, Scotland, near the Firth of Clyde, still flourish despite the close proximity of a nuclear electric power regenerating plant recently erected nearby.

A communication received this year (c1963) by the Hunterdon County Historical Society from Eleanora Hunter, the 28th Laird of Hunter, states that Robert Hunter's descendants lived at Croyland Abbey, Lincoln. During World War I the Commander of the British 8th Army in France was General Sir Alfred Gould Hunter-Weston, one of the long line of Hunterston Lairds.

WIDE BACKGROUND

Robert Hunter arrived in New York in June, 1710 with an appointment from Queen Anne designating him Captain General and Governor in Chief of Her Majesty's Colonies of New York and New Jersey.

Hunter's wide acquaintances, his military service under Marlborough at Blenheim, his versatility in languages and literature and the influence of his wife Elizabeth daughter of Sir Thomas Orby and widow of Brigadier General Lord John Hay, probably lead to his appointment as Governor of American colonies.

He replaced John, Lord Lovelace, the Royal Governor, who had died the month previously.

Hunter brought with him personal qualities, which enabled him to solve conflicts, which were of concern not only to the Colonial governments but also to the Crown. In addition to his military qualities which were to prove useful on the French Canadian border, Hunter possessed intelligence, ability, perseverance, and high integrity; in short, qualities characterising the gentleman. His administration proved to be the most successful in the annals of American Colonial history.

"PLAIN ORATORY"

In New Jersey, Hunter found a power struggle going on between the Council and the Assembly. In his first speech to the Jersey Legislature he stated:

"I am little used to making speeches so you shall not be troubled with a long one: if honesty is the best policy, plainness must be the best oratory". He added



ONLY KNOWN previous portrait of Major-General Robert Hunter, first Governor from 1710 to 1719, was probably painted by Sir Gogfrey Kneller in London about 1720, soon after the Governor had returned there. Reproduction is by courtesy of the New York Historical Society.

that he had small hopes of a happy outcome of their meeting as long as the conflict among the Council and Assembly and the Governor continued.

To Hunter's everlasting credit he was able to solve many of the problems inherited from his predecessors. Furthermore, he made himself popular, a notable achievement in Colonial America where royal officials were often viewed with distrust and suspicion.

Despite setbacks in his administration, which sometimes lead to despair, Hunter had the satisfaction at the end, of receiving from the

Legislature a farewell address, which expressed genuine sorrow at his departure, an indication of the respect, which the Colonists held for him.

Perhaps one of the things that endeared him most to the people of New Jersey was the fact that he was the first Royal Governor of the Colony who regarded the province with sufficient favour to make a permanent home there. Previously the Governors lived in New York, visiting New Jersey only during sittings of the Legislature.

In 1710, Hunter established a home in Perth Amboy, on a knoll south of St. Peter's Church, a location commanding a fine view of the harbour, the bay and the ocean beyond. There was his official residence; here he sought recreation and respite from his cares of office in New York.

FIRST OF MANY

Perhaps Hunter might be considered one of the first of the long line of New Yorkers who found New Jersey, and especially Hunterdon County, the best place to live.

The Governor's wife shared his New Jersey home, together with their children. She came to New Jersey in 1711 and died in 1716 three years before the Governor's return to Edinburgh. She was buried in the chapel of Fort George, SL

Little is known of Hunter's youth and even his birthplace is unknown. Traditionally, he gave up an apprenticeship as apothecary to join the army. As early as 1689 he was commissioned aide-major in Lord Cardross' Scottish Dragoons. In 1694 he was in Flanders and in 1703 served at Blenheim where he was breveted Lieut. Colonel by Marlborough, with whom he appears to have been personally acquainted.

A man of learning and literary ability, he was a friend and

correspondent of the chief literary men of his day. Addison and Swift were his friends and correspondents. Addison in writing to the Dutch scientist Leibnitz in 1708 stated: "I drank your health yesterday with Colonel Hunter and Dr Swift".

Addison, while Secretary of State, in the Monarch's name sent an order to the Colonies stating that the King was very well pleased with Governor Hunter's management of affairs of state in the Colonies and that complaints against his administration sent by disaffected persons appeared to be without foundation.

ALSO A PLAYWRIGHT

Hunter's literary ability is evidenced by the play "Androborus" which he wrote while in New York. where it was republished by Andrew Bradford in 1714. It is a farce satirising the Senate and Lieut. Governor and is said to have put the people into a "laughing humor".

The only known copy of the play extant is in the Huntingdon Library in California. The New York Public Library Bulletin of March 1964 published an edited text of this rare play which indicates that the Governor expressed himself in the racy language common of that period.

Hunter brought to America with him a number of the 3,000 Palatinate refugees who had fled their warravaged homeland and who had become a problem for the British government as they were destitute and lacked housing.

Hunter conceived the idea of establishing the Palatinates on the banks of the Hudson where they were to undertake the production of Naval stores for the British Fleet. Though the British Government failed to supply funds for the venture, Hunter at his own expense carried on the project. When the project failed, some of the Germans left for Pennsylvania, while others went

to Schoharie and the Mohawk Valley on the western New York frontier.

WAS A FIRST

The defence of the French Canadian border was one of the first problems demanding the Governor's attention following his arrival. The British and French were still engaged in the War of the Spanish Succession. In 1711 Hunter attended the New London conference called to plan a joint defense of the American Colonies against the French invaders.

Hunter and the Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony established an express post service between Albany and Boston to co-ordinate defense measures which may have been the first postal service in English America. Peace came with the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713 but Hunter continued to establish forts on the Canadian frontier and in the Indian country.

Although Hunter's administration was ultimately successful in most respects. the Governor had moments of discouragement and depression brought on by the cares and responsibilities of government.

In March, 1713, in a letter to his friends Dean Swift, Hunter wrote: "I thought in coming to this government I should have hot meals, and cool drinks and recreate my body in Holland, sheets upon beds of down; whereas, I am doing penance as if I were a hermit;

"And as I cannot do that with a will believe in the long run, the devil will fly away with me ... The truth of the matter is this: "I am used like a dog, after having done all that is in the power of man, to deserve better treatment, so that I am now quite jaded".

In 1719, the Governor's health failed. On June 6 he wrote to Secretary Poppel of the Board of Trade in London stating:

“I shall leave both Provinces to perfect peace to which both have long been strangers;

“I live in torture with a violent pain in my hip. I have no hope of cure on this side”.

BACK TO ENGLAND

Hunter sailed for England in 1719 where he exchanged offices with William Burnet, Hunter taking over Burnet’s office in the custom service in London.

The voyage home must have effected a quick cure of Hunter’s ill health for it is reported that he arrived in England in a much better state than when he left New York.

Hunter took with him his official papers which presumably included the original proclamation establishing Hunterdon as a County in 1714. Assemblyman Douglas Gimson, on March 24, presented a conjectural copy of this original founding act to the county Board of Freeholders. The original he stated, is neither in Trenton nor in London.

Perhaps a clue as to what may have been the fate of this precious Founding Act is to be found in a letter dated November, 1719, in which Hunter wrote to Secretary Popple of the Board of Trade in London that he despaired of recovering all of his official papers:

“By reason of ye unhappy accident which befell my scritoire coming up ye River being stav’d by ye anchor of ye bow of a ship and thrown into the River where it remained an hour before they could recover it”.

NEVER RETURNED

Hunter returned to New Jersey. In 1727 he was appointed Governor of Jamaica where he died in office in 1734. His interest in New Jersey was not lessened by his absence. Through an active correspondence he was well informed on political and personal events

in New Jersey. As late as 1730 he wrote to James Alexander inquiring about purchasing 600 acres of land at Indians Ferry (present day New Brunswick).

Age, however, had begun to wear on the Governor and in 1731 he wrote to a New Jersey friend that he was tired of public life, adding:

“I have lived for other...I would fain live to a little for myself before I die”.

Following his death at Spanish Town, Jamaica in 1734, the “New York Gazette” advertised the sale of real estate in the Provinces of New York and New Jersey “whereof Major General Hunter, deceased, dyed seized”. Listed were the dwelling house and several outhouses in Perth Amboy, Hunter’s home while Governor of New Jersey.

The people of Hunterdon on the 250th anniversary of the founding of their county can take pride in the name “Hunterdon” for it commemorates the name of the best loved and most able of the Royal Governors who laid the foundations for our present well being.

This article is reprinted from the Hunterdon Co. Historical Society Newsletter, Flemington, New Jersey U.S.A. (c. 1963).

Newsletter by e-mail

Have you considered changing to the new e-mail format newsletter and enjoying having the contents in colour? Just send me an e-mail and type "**sign me up**" in the content line. Don't forget to give me your regular address or membership number so that I can positively identify you. Remember that most of us are Hunters and so first names aren't always enough.

Life Membership

Every now and again the question of "Life Membership comes up and so I

thought it was time to address it again.

Some of our membership are what was previously known as “Lifetime Members” and although this designation was rescinded somewhere around 1992, (because we realised that this was not a reasonable expectation), it seems that some folks still feel a little confused. As I too was an original “Lifetime Member” I can certainly sympathise with this feeling, but the reality of the matter is that a mistake was made in offering a life time membership for such a small amount, and there was no way the Association could afford to continue in this manner. The funding simply dried up. And so the various associations began to regroup and become more independent from Scotland. It was pretty much a begin again process with each branch creating their own committee structure and newsletter. For a good few years those who had paid "Life Membership" continued to receive the new Canadian Newsletter, but eventually the costs proved such that a decision had to be made to ask "ALL" members to pay the yearly subscription or stop sending the newsletter to those who didn't. Even then we still allowed another two years grace period to pass before we reluctantly put this into motion. So this is why we remind you every year as to the need to renew your annual subscription.

Moving?

Are you moving house? Don't forget to send your change of address to our membership secretary at cbhhunter@rogers.com so you can continue to receive your newsletter. If your mail is returned marked "Address Unknown", there is nothing we can do to find you. Don't forget this applies to your e-mail address too

Scottish Athletic Events

Tossing the caber

- A typical caber is a tree trunk weighing about 125-150 lbs. and is approximately 18 feet in length. The athlete rests the caber against his shoulder and clasps his hands around it, interlocking his fingers to get a good grip. He grips the caber and lifts it off the ground. Once the caber is balanced against the shoulder, he must run forward, stop, and toss the end he holds in his hands so the caber tumbles end over end away from him. Balance is crucial as more than 80 percent of the caber's weight is above the thrower's shoulder.

The caber is tossed for accuracy, not distance. The competition is judged with the aid of an imaginary clock face. A perfect throw is one that goes straight over and lands facing directly away from the athlete at 12 o'clock. The caber toss is one of the unique and most popular spectator events in the athletics competition.

Tossing the sheaf

- Tossing the sheaf has its roots in agricultural activities. The sheaf is a 16 lb. bag of straw (at times augmented by a lead weight inside the sheaf) which each contestant must toss over a cross bar with a pitch fork. Three attempts are allowed to clear the bar at each height. The bar is raised until all but the winner is eliminated.

Putting the stone

- The heavyweight events usually start with "putting the stone". The open stone is much like the shot put except, by tradition, a stone from a local river is used instead of a put. The athlete is



Putting the stone at Fergus

allowed a distance of seven feet, six inches from the trig (a straight board, 4' 6" in length) for an approach on putting the stone.

The braemar stone is thrown directly from behind the trig and the athlete is not allowed to move his feet until after the put is made. The braemar stone is significantly heavier than the open competition stone. The open stone is approximately 18 lbs, and the braemar, 22 lbs.

Weight for distance

- The weight is a ball and chain with a handle on the end. There are two standard weights, the 28 pound and the 56-pound.

The overall length of the chain, the ball, and the handle must not exceed 18 inches and only one hand may be used in throwing the weight. A nine foot approach is allowed. The thrower swings the weight to the side, then around him, letting the weight drag as far behind as possible, then turns once or twice before heaving the weight. Weight for distance often is described as the more graceful of the heavy events.

Hammer throw

- The Scot's hammer has a wooden or rattan shaft. The thrower, with the aid of two to six inch spikes protruding from the front of his shoes (optional), digs his feet firmly into the ground. He then swings the hammer around his head from three to five times and lets go.

Hammer throwing developed from throwing a blacksmith's hammer or farm hammer. Today's competition hammers have round heads and are made of lead. They come in two sizes: 16 lbs. and 22 lbs. The hammer is 50 inches in length.

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*Hunterston Castle
embroidered
Crest Shirts*



Check out these great new items from the Hunter store.

*Available only in Canada.
(all prices in Canadian \$)*

Sweatshirts \$35

Golf shirts \$30

T-shirts \$18

+ postage calculated on receipt of order

***The Ancient Scenting
Hounds of the Hunter
Chiefs***

We have already seen the ancient greyhounds that were used by the Chiefs of Clan Hunter in mediaeval hunts. Those dogs hunted by sight, and ran at great speed after their prey. In those times the term covered a greater range of breeds than just the modern greyhound. Besides using those swift and sharp-sighted dogs, hunters in the old days had another classification of hunting dogs, scenting hounds. Two of these are illustrated in the book by C. Gesner, *Icones Animalium*, which was

published in Zurich in 1560. The first was the "rauch", sometimes known as a "brachet". It was a small scenting hound, which hunted both on land and in the water. The public records show that King James IV obtained such a water dog in 1505. In Scotland these dogs might be trained as "stalking rauches", being kept on a leash and hunting silently, being taught not to bark. The second scenting hound the "sleuthhound", was spotted, red on black or black on red. They had the reputation for being clever and also cruel, pursuing thieves and reivers. Unfortunately, unlike the "rauch", they lost the scent in water, and in addition

the best of them were costly, since they were difficult to train. The fact that "sleuthhounds" lost the trail in burns is mentioned in fourteenth-century tales of Bruce and Wallace being hunted by these dogs, which were sometimes called "strecours". There were only two other scenting hounds. The first was the "kennet", which was low, broad, and able to widen and enter rabbit burrows, and the lairs of foxes, badgers and martens. Secondly, the historian Leslie has described a hairy dog from Germany, possibly a boarhound, or perhaps some type of alaunt. These were among the many types of hunting dog used in mediaeval Scotland.