



Crest Badge of a Member of Clan Hunter

Hunters' Halloo

Newsletter of the Clan Hunter Association, Canada

July 2006 Vol 4, 11

Inside this Issue

- 1** *Note from the Clan Officer*
- 2** *The Gaels sing for the Ross Clan*
- 3** *A taste of Scottish Folklore*
- 4** *Flags Fly High*
- 5** *Cranachan*
- 6** *The Wedding o' Lachie McGraw*
- 7** *Fergus and the AGM*
- 8** *The Selkirk Grace*
- 8** *Clan Gathering July 2007*
- 8** *Membership report*



Hello everyone, my goodness we are half way through the summer already. Well.... maybe not quite but boy is it ever flying past. However we still have a bunch of Highland Games to attend and as I said in the last newsletter, Christine and I along with my daughter Lizz and 1yr old granddaughter Torry will be heading for Fredericton, NB and then wending our way back to Montreal and Maxville and then finally

Fergus before heading home. Joining us in Fredericton will be Bob and Aldene Hunter currently from Port Rowan. Bob and Aldene are flying out to join us before continuing on their vacation to Newfoundland. We can't tell you how much this commitment means to us. We are also delighted to say that Francis Knowles and Erma Gibson of NB will also be joining us once more at Fredericton. We are looking forward to a great time. We do hope that those of you within reach of Fredericton will make an extra effort to come out and meet us.

We have quite a variance of subjects in this months newsletter including something on Scottish folklore and a poem from the pen of Danny Hunter. Sadly Danny is no longer with us but he was quite a bard and I thought I would share one of his poems with you. Danny was a great Burns fan and wrote in the broad Scots used by Scotland's bard. Look out for "The Wedding o' Lachie McGraw".

And then.... for those of you who like to do a wee bit in the kitchen and throw a bit of flour around, we have a very traditional Scottish recipe. Cranachan may be a bit rich for some but on the other hand it might be just to your liking.

The world cup sparked a bit of a notion what with all the flags flying from all those cars and Lizz was inspired to give us a bit on flags. Maybe you'll discover something you didn't know about Scotland's national flags.

Don't forget our AGM at Fergus and join us for dinner why don't you? Let us know you are coming and we'll set a place for you.

Lastly I have included the piece on the possible bus tour at the 2007 gathering in Scotland. If your interested then you need to let me know soon. This is the sort of thing that needs a lot of time so last minute decisions are not on, as they say.

Tom



The Gaels sing for the Ross

Clan by Christine Hunter

The Gaels, our family singing group, were invited to sing at a Ross, North American, Clan Gathering in June. We were really thrilled to sing for them and we enjoyed taking part in their annual get together. Spearheaded by our own Andrew Ross Thibodeau, husband of Lizz (Hunter) Thibodeau, Clan Ross chose to honour Dr Alexander Milton Ross for his part in the operation of the Underground Railroad in the mid eighteenth hundreds. In choosing to honour Dr Ross, the clan did some research and discovered that two of Doctor Ross's granddaughters, Janet Montague Jones and Gillian Blair, were living in England and after learning of the Clan's intention to honour their grandfather, the two ladies agreed to come to the gathering and be the guests of honour. Also at the gathering was author Steven Duff who has written the book "Hunter of Dreams" which tells some of the tales of this special man. Alexander Ross traveled in the Deep South, using his background in ornithology (the study of birds) as a

pretense at doing research. In reality, he was alerting slaves to the existence of the Underground Railroad and in the process, faced a number of dangerous situations. His work brought him to the

was not an actual railroad, but in fact a series of 'safe houses' where slaves would be taken in and hidden until they could be put on a ship or helped in some other way to make their way



The Gaels: Tom Hunter, Lizz (Hunter) Thibodeau, Lynn (Hunter) Ball, Christine Hunter, and Paul Hunter, singing for the Clan Ross gathering

attention of Abraham Lincoln who commissioned him as a special agent to monitor the Confederate activities in Canada during the Civil War. Ross's work, declared Lincoln, shortened the Civil War by the better part of a year. The Underground Railroad was a system set up to help slaves escape their lives of hardship, drudgery and often danger. It

north (following the north star) to freedom. If they were caught, the punishment would be extreme and would often result in the death of that slave. Anyone helping one of these runaways would also be in serious danger. It was a bad time when the lives of slaves counted for nothing.

After the Friday night gathering some thirty two Ross Clan members, some adherents and visitors boarded a bus and travelled to Uncle Tom's Cabin at Dresden and later visited the Museum at Buxton. At one time over 2000 blacks lived in the area around Buxton. Now, out of the 100 people living here, 80 are the descendents of former slaves. The picture was taken on the steps of the school house built in the 1850's that is the center-piece of this National Historical Site. www.buxtonmuseum.com

Dresden and Buxton are two of the areas that welcomed the freed slaves and gave them homes, work and hope. A very interesting weekend that we were pleased to be a part of.



Shannon Prince, Curator of the Buxton Historical Site, Janet Montague Jones, Gillian Blair, Spencer Alexander, Assistant Curator, and Patrick Blair. Shannon and Spencer are direct descendents of slaves who escaped to this area via the Underground Railroad in the 1850s

A taste of Scottish Folklore

Birth:

Among Scottish beliefs concerning birth, the best known is one that appears to be peculiarly our own-the conviction that the seventh child of a seventh child will always grow up to be 'fay,' or, at least, to turn out to be 'no canny.'

A child born at midnight is, also, regarded as being one who will live to be 'different' -either for good or for ill. Usually, the child born at midnight, or in the 'wee sma' oors,' is expected to manifest in later life some peculiar brilliance of intellect, even though such brilliance could be allied to a little wildness. Our National Poet's birth gives an excellent example of this particular belief's coming true on at least one occasion: was not Burns born in the early hours?

When a child is first taken from the room in which it was born, it must be taken upwards, and never down. If the child is born in a ground-floor room it must be carried up-stairs; if born upstairs, it must be taken still higher-to an attic, or even to the roof; but if neither of these movements is possible, there is a subterfuge that will suffice: a chair or a box, or some other raised obstacle must be placed in the doorway of the room, and whoever carries the child on its first short journey must make the necessary ascent.

The newly-born child, in the first few days of its life, is exposed to the great danger of being stolen by the fairies, who are for ever on the look out for innocent babies, that they may take them in exchange for some of their evil ones. Something of this belief in the Changeling, is known all over Scotland, and, in an oblique fashion even to those modern mothers who may never have heard of the actual superstition itself. How often do we hear a mother saying of a wayward son or daughter: 'That ane's nane o' mine'? meaning, though she may not recognise the significance of what she says, that the youngster though of her body is not of her spirit.

Certain fathers, of course, may make use of the expression, with a much more practical implication behind it! But we are not concerned with such 'beliefs' as that!

To avoid the possibility of the child being stolen by the fairies, there are, fortunately, a number of simple precautions that can be taken-any one of which is a sure safeguard: a barrier may be erected round the house, which the fairies are powerless to pass: someone, preferably the father, must walk seven times round the building sunwise, or *deiseil*. Obviously, this cannot be done to safeguard a child born in a tenement flat, high up and surrounded by hundreds of other flats; but, no doubt, in such cases no precaution is necessary: I cannot see fairies in Gorgie, or in the Gorbals; nor even in certain parts of, say, Dundee, or Aberdeen!

However, there are other means of

light out of the house until the child is at least a week old. And the newly-born child must on no account be placed in anything but a borrowed cradle at first. After its first sleep in the borrowed cradle a new one may be got.

To ensure that a child will never know poverty, its right hand must be left severely alone at its first washing. And all visitors, seeing the child for the first time, should place a silver coin in its hand. If the child loses the coin it will grow up to be open-handed and generous, but if it grabs tightly it will be a 'grippy', man or woman. It is unlucky to weigh or measure an infant newly-born. And a cat, being an emissary of the Powers of Evil, must never be left alone in a room with the child. Nor should the cradle ever be rocked empty-either before or after the child is born.

The name that the child is to be given



Little Ian Nykamp, born earlier this year, sleeps peacefully on, completely uncaring of old Scottish stories of fairies and such

circumventing the *sithichean* than by building an invisible barrier. A knife placed in the cradle will do the trick; and care must be taken not to carry fire nor

must never be spoken aloud until the minister speaks it at the christening

Continued on page 5

Flags Fly High

What with the World Cup, Canada Day, the Fourth of July, and a multitude of summer festivals, it seems that July should be declared



the month of the flag. It is truly wonderful to see so many flags flying, such national pride flowing, but is it really just a case of running out and buying our favourite flag and doing with it as we please, or are there some “standards” that should be used when flying a national flag?

The London Free Press wrote an article on July 1st discussing how the Canadian Flag should be flown. Everyone knows that the maple leaf should point up. Most of us would probably have it point to the left if it had to be hung vertically just because

it looks more natural. But did you know that if a Canadian Flag is hung over a street, the leaf should face north on an east-west street and east on a north-south street! Many of the other rules about the Canadian flag (and one can assume that they would apply to any national flag) simply have to do with respect. A flag should never be used as a table cloth, seat cover, or curtain. No one should ever write on a flag, and if one wishes to collect signatures, a border should be attached around the flag. The Canadian flag should always be flown on its own mast, not shared with any other flag and if more than one flag is being flown, the Canadian flag should be on the centre mast.

The St. Andrew’s flag, commonly referred to as the “Saltire” (although, technically that only refers to the white cross, not the whole flag) is regarded as being one of the oldest national flags in existence. It represents the cross that the apostle Andrew was crucified on by the Romans. St. Andrew’s bones ended up in Scotland after being brought

there by St. Regulus to be buried in a “far-off land” as directed in a vision. This far-off land was a place called Muckros, later Kilrymont and finally named St. Andrew’s on the east coast of Scotland. St. Andrew was declared the patron saint of Scotland after the Northumbrians were



defeated in a battle at Athelstaneford (East Lothian) when the Pict/Scot army saw a formation of white clouds

Continued on page 5

Clan Hunter Association - Canada

Notice of Dues for July 1st 2006 to June 30th 2007

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 mail

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

Continued from page 3

ceremony. If anyone asks, they must not be told; nor must the minister be told by word of mouth-he must be handed a slip of paper with the name written on it when he asks for the name, or names, that the child is to have. If the minister objects to being made party to such a superstitious practice, there is not, apparently, any means of dodging him. Presumably, the risk must be taken.

When on the way to its christening, the child must be carried, at least some part of the way, by a young unmarried woman, who must have with her something to eat-usually a piece of bread and cheese-which she must present to the first man she meets, no matter who or what he may be.

The mother of a newly-born child must never leave the house after sunset until such time as she is 'kirkit.' If she does, she runs the risk of being carried off by the fairies to nurse one of their weaklings, for an ailing fairy child can only be restored to health by being fed on human milk.

Getting away a little from birth: when a child 'casts' its first tooth, the tooth must be put in salt, wrapped in paper or a 'bit clot,' and secreted in a mouse-hole.

Continued from page 4

against the blue sky in the shape of the cross of St. Andrew.

The other flag commonly associated with Scotland is the Rampant Lion. This is the red lion clawing at the sky on a yellow background. This is, in fact, the royal flag of Scotland. It was developed by King William I, "the Lion" in the 12th century. While, originally, this flag could only be flown by royalty to show their presence (Balmoral Castle only flies this flag when the queen is in residence there), a Royal Warrant has now been issued allowing it to be



displayed by all as a token of loyalty to the crown.

The final national flag for Scotland is the Union Jack. This flag was created in 1801 combining the

red cross of St. Patrick (Ireland), the white cross & blue background of St. Andrew (Scotland) and the red cross of St. George (England).

Interestingly, King James VI of Scotland had tried to introduce a flag combining the St. George & St. Andrew's crosses in 1603 but it was angrily rejected by the Scottish Parliament. All official buildings in Scotland are now required to fly the Union Jack.

Whatever flag is flown, all flags should be flown with respect and a sense of loyalty to their nation. When a flag has flown its last, it should be destroyed with dignity, by burning it privately.

Thank You

Thank you everyone who has paid their dues already and a special thank you to those who missed last year and saw fit to "catch up". To those who are still "a little behind" please be sure to put us on your to do list to do soon. Your Scottish Heritage will thank you for it..... and we will too.

Cranachan

Cranachan is a traditional Scottish dessert. Nowadays it is usually made from a mixture of whipped cream, whisky, honey, and fresh raspberries topped with toasted oatmeal. Earlier recipes for cranachan or cream-crowdie are more austere, omitting the whisky and treating the fruit as an optional extra. Modern recipes have a high double cream content, while originally this was replaced wholly or in part by crowdie cheese.

A traditional way to serve cranachan is to bring dishes of each ingredient to the table, so that each person can assemble

their dessert to taste. Tall glasses are also a typical presentation.

It was originally a summer dish and often consumed around harvest time, but is now more likely to be served all year round at weddings and on special occasions. A variant dish was ale-crowdie, consisting of ale, treacle and whisky with the oatmeal - served at a wedding with a ring in the mixture: whoever got the ring would be the next to marry.

Ingredients

- 1lb Raspberries
- 3TbIs Scotch Whisky
- 1/2 pt double cream
- 4TbIs Honey (runny)

2 oz Oatmeal

Method:

1. Reserve a few raspberries. Put the rest in a bowl with the whiskey
2. Whip cream until softly stiff. Stir in honey and oatmeal. Whip again until stiff
3. Spoon 1/2 rasps into bottom of dish. Spoon 1/2 cream, add remainder of rasps and top with remaining cream

Take remaining rasps and sieve and use as a sauce.

THE WEDDIN O' LACHIE MCGRAW

by Danny Hunter

'Way back in the winter O' year nineteen twa,
The kirk, it was crowded, wit folk dressed sae braw,
When Jeannie McDougall, the fairest of a'
Became the prood wife O' young Lachie McGraw.

The men were a' sober, the women a' smiles,
When the bridesmaid came traip-sy-in' doon the long aisle,
When the high heels she never wis used to at a'
Caught in the hem O' her gown, and she doonward did fa'.

The best man, in his hurry tae help the puir lass,
Tripped o'er the white carpet, an' fell on his face.
The Bride, wi' her Faither a few steps behind,
Wis sae shookup, she nearly went oot O' her mind.

Her Faither wis dressed up in Lord Mayor's attire,
Fae the best rental service that he could acquire,
He bent doon tae help the puir girl tae her feet,
When the seam O' his troosers gave way at the seat.

His face wis as red as his red flannel drawers,
But he kept his composure, 'mid subdued haw'haws;
The tails O' his coat covered up his dismay,
An' the weddin' went on without further delay.

The reception was held in the auld Burgh hall,
Wi' a right he'rty welcome tae yin an' tae all . .
For this wis a weddin' that fair tapped them a'
When Jeannie McDougall wed Lachie McGraw.

The tables had platters wi' fare heaped high,
And the main coorse traditional wis the steak pie.
There wis beer by the barrel an' stronger drink, too;
An' the weans a' got bloated wi' Barr's Iron Brew.

The Master O' Ceremonies, Angus McLeod,
Wi' a voice like a foghorn, an' near twice as loud,
Gave a toast tae the nuptials, responded by a',
When Jeannie McDougall wed Lachie McGraw.

When supper wis o'er, the tables were cleared,
The melodeon and dulcimer band then appeared.
Tam Blythe an' Jock Dunsmuir, the best O' them a',
Played, the night O:" the weddin' O' Lachie McGraw.

There wis waltzes, Scottishes, two-steps, an' Quadreels,
Tae hoochin, an' clappin', an' thumpin' O' heels. ".
Then someone wid shout "The best set in the hall!"
The night O' the weddin' O' Lachie McGraw.

Every noo an' again there wid be a wee lull,
Tae get catchin , your braith, or get intae the yill,
Then the M.C. wid call for a bit sang or twa,
The night O' the weddin' o'Lachie McGraw.

Hamish Dunbar volunteered wi a sang,
Halfway through Loch-na-gar, there was something went wrang,
Puir Hamish, weel known as a singer of note,
Had somehow developed a frog in this throat.

He got rid O' the trouble an' started again,
For his worth as a singer, he had to maintain.
But the key he got started on wasn't quite right,
For Loch-na-gar's valley went clean oat O' sight.

Big Maggie McLean wis the next yin tae sing,
Tae McGregor's Halloo the auld rafters did ring;
When she hit the high notes her big bosom did swell,
An' she near scairt the devil right oot O' his hell.

A wee cleek in a corner, no faur fae the bar,
Were houdin debate on the way that things were- ,
Yin wid-na agree that the ither wis right,
An' McLure an' McTavish got intae a fight.

Then Iza McLure, wi' a wean on her knee,
Started singin' the beautiful "Oh, Promise Me".
She tried tae bring class from events sae uncouth,
When the wean stuck its dummy right into her mooth.

But the weddin' O' Jeannie tae Lachie McGraw,
Winded up wi' guid wishes fae great an' fae sma'.
There's jest a wee point that I'd like here tae make,
That life's humorous side is the best side tae take.

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

Clan Hunter Association - Canada

Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games

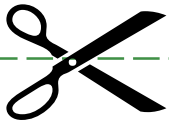
August 11,12,13 2006

Preliminary plans include...

- Fergus Tattoo & Lighting 6.45 pm Frid 11 Aug 2006 Fergus
 - Fergus Highland Games 7.00 am Sat 12 Aug 2006 Fergus
 - Clan Hunter A.G.M 5.30 pm " " Holiday Inn 601 Scottsdale Dr., Guelph
 - Buffet dinner 6.30pm " " " " "
 - Kirkin' o' the Tartan 10.00am Sun 13 Aug 2006 St Andrew's Presb.Fergus
- Tea and scones after the service

Why not plan to attend this special gathering

- Stay over in the Fergus area
- Enjoy the Games - Hang out at the Clan Tent
- Join in with the other Hunters in the Clan Parade -11.30am on 12th
- 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 Highland Games web site
for up to date information
<http://www.fergusscottishfestival.com>



Clan Hunter Association - Canada

Annual Clan Gathering 12-14th August 2006

- 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 dinner on Saturday 13th Aug Adults in Party _____
 - \$20.00/adult
 - \$18.00/senior
 - \$10.00/child (under12)
- Yes I/we will be attending the Kirkin' o' the Tartan on Sunday 14th Aug Children in Party _____
 - Number in Party _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Cheques for the dinner 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

Where have they Gone?



1. If you are moving – please let us know.
2. If you change your e-mail address (even if you don't get

The Selkirk Grace

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

Clan Gathering July 2007 possible bus tour

It has been suggested that we might organise a 1 week bus tour of Scotland following the Clan Gathering at Hunterston in 2007. If enough people were interested we would be willing to investigate the possibility. There are ready made tours readily available which seem to be based on a 6 day-4 nights cycle. If you are interested in this possibility please contact Tom immediately at the address below. You may use e-mail or regular mail. Please note that this is not a commitment in any way just a statement of interest. If we get enough people we will make further investigations regarding prices and then allow everyone to decide then if they are still interested.



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.

Clan Hunter Tent

There will be a Clan Hunter presence at the following Highland Games.

Fredericton, New Brunswick
Frid July 28th, 2006
Sat July 29th, 2006
Sun July 30th, 2006

Maxville, Ontario
Sat Aug 5th, 2006

Montreal, Quebec
Sun Aug 6th, 2006

Fergus, Ontario Frid 11th, 2006
Sat 12th, 2006
Sun 13th, 2006

Membership Report

We have had five new members this year, three early in the year and two just within the past few days.

We welcome to our Clan Hunter Association of Canada:

Catherine Mary Wall joins us from the town of Barrie.

Graham Elliot Voysey lives in Mt Kisco, New York and is the grandson of our Dr Nadene Hunter.

Paul James Hunter hails from Kitchener and sent us his genealogy with his membership form.

Albert Martin Jeror from Ottawa, whose mother was a Hunter

Tracy Lynn Jeror, also from Ottawa, daughter of Albert.

I hope they enjoy being part of our Clan Association, that they get involved and meet lots of other Hunters and that they learn more about their Scottish heritage because of their association with our group.

Christine Hunter
Membership Secretary