



Crest Badge of a
Member of Clan Hunter

hunters' halloo

Newsletter of the Clan Hunter Association, Canada

October 1997 Vo 1,11

Editor's Note

1

The Chief

1

Further Searching (part 3)

2

Hunterston Gathering

3

Hunterston photos

4-6

What a wonderful summer. The Hunterston Gathering was definitely a highlight. The organisation was excellent, the food was outstanding and the fellowship unmatched. I sincerely wish you all could have been there. In this issue of the newsletter I have tried to include as much of the Gathering as possible, including an extra double page of photographs. Also in this issue is a letter from our chief who has accepted our invitation to visit the Clan Hunter - Canada next summer. Watch out for more details on when and how you can meet her, but for the moment put aside some time to attend the Fergus Highland Games 7-9 August 1998. On a personal note, Pauline has also accepted an invitation to attend my daughter, Elizabeth's wedding in late July 1998. It promises to be a very Scottish wedding and of course Elizabeth is delighted that Pauline and Madam Sonia will be able to attend. Our WEB page continues to receive accolades as more and more Hunters from all over the world check it out and share their histories or just ask questions and such. If you haven't yet had a look see, you owe it to yourself to find out what's happening in the world of the internet. You can find us at www3.sympatico.ca/tom.hunter

Tom

A Word From The Chief

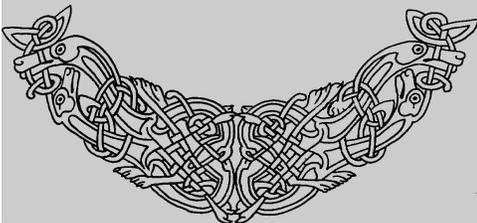
Dear Clansfolk,

A big thank you to all those who attended the recent Gathering at Hunterston. I was delighted to have made so many new friends and see again those I had met last year and at the 1992 Gathering. We had a truly international attendance with members visiting from Australia, Britain, Canada and the USA.

I am sure that you will all be delighted to hear that I shall be moving to Hunterston next year and will be living opposite the Castle, in what is currently known as North Cottage.

As well as the various events that were arranged it gave me great pleasure to present the publication of a video, whose inspiration and creation was mostly the work of my late husband Russ. The video is called "The Heritage of The Hunters" and contains some early history of the Hunters at Hunterston, a Castle tour by myself and some current history of Hunterston. The video is currently for sale at £12.95 through mail order. Also for sale is Russ's last article at £2.50. We are selling them jointly for the special price of £15. The videos are available in a format suitable for USA and Canadian VCRs.

A request has been made by the USA Clan Directors that we as a Clan have a special international annual award for a Clan member who has



contributed outstandingly to the Hunter Clan. Those chosen will have their picture and their name placed on a plaque and displayed permanently in the Castle. In order that the award maintains its special distinction it shall not be given unless there is a Clan member worthy of receiving the honour and title.

The Clan Officers all requested that the Clan Gatherings be closer as it was felt that five years was too long. This decision was approved at the General Meeting. So the next Clan Gathering will be held over the last weekend in June 2001 and every third year thereafter. We all decided that there will be too much going on during 2000.

The Canadian and USA Clan members have both kindly invited me to attend their Clan Gatherings next year and I shall be visiting both Fergus and Detroit in 1998. I am honoured to accept their invitations and look forward to meeting more Clan members. The one country that has not as yet got an organized Clan Association is Britain. David Hunter of Coleshill, Worcestershire and his brothers have offered to start one. As a result in order to facilitate communication links between myself and the Clan Officers and other members I will shortly be on-line with an E-mail address.

A request was made for the medium and lightweight Hunter Tartan so I am arranging to have a bale of each woven for sale through the mail order. They should be available by late autumn.

As well as the new video we have at the very reasonable price of £20 UK signed prints of the Castle in Spring. These make excellent Christmas, Thanksgiving, Birthday or other presents. A few have my fathers and the artist's signature.

Your's Pauline

Further Searching

By Catherine Elder.

I ended my article in the July issue with the question "Where is CATTERBOG"? Fortunately about this time we became acquainted with Vince Gillen of CASSOC and discovered that he was born and had lived for some time in Balloch, north of Glasgow. He was able to give me a lot of information about the area and advised us to take the road to "Gartochran". We were confident that we could find the elusive "Catter Bog" and perhaps something about Kilmarnoch.

Gas station (or should I say "Filling Station" ??) attendants are

very helpful. She pointed the way to the Parish Church and the cemetery of Kilmarnock. After wandering around the cemetery and taking a picture of the Church, we continued down the road a short distance. As it turned out CATTERBOG was a row of small cottages, not a church as believed by my aunt. We were given a great welcome by Mrs. Gordon and her daughter-in law, who gave us a tour of the cottages and the "out-buildings". We were assured that these cottages had been named that for many many years. They took their name from a large farm named Catterbog Farm and an impressive home called CATTER HOUSE.

We had found the answer to

two more of our questions.

I asked Mrs. Gordon if she could tell me why the Minister of Buchanan had performed the marriage of my grandparents. She told me that when there wasn't a minister on the Kilmarnock Charge that the Buchanan Minister often performed the marriages etc. Another question answered.

I began to obtain more Parish Records through the L.D.S. Library. Many hours were spent in studying them and finally picking out bits of information. I was able in this way to locate my grandfather's brothers **and** sisters. I had obtained my great-grandparents names from my Grandfather's marriage certificate as William Hunter and Margaret Kellock which identified the children. On our first trip to Scotland and while visiting in Sanquhar in Dumfriesshire, I enquired from a shopkeeper if there were any KELLOGGS in that area. She said "My dear there has never been anyone with that name. Are you sure you don't mean KELLOCK?" This was some years before I had obtained my Grandfather's wedding certificate.

I was able to get Census Records for Dumfriesshire for 1881, 1871, and 1861. Fortunately in Scotland in that area at least, the Birthplaces were recorded. However, now there was a different problem - the older children were no longer with the parents. Obviously they were now working away from home. Back to the notes and my Aunt Margaret's writings to try and discover where they went to work. This proved to be another puzzle. ***MORE TO COME ANOTHER TIME!***



*Scottish Country
Dance Teacher,
Dr. William Nurse
holding 4 day old
Rebecca,
granddaughter of
Mida Lecocq.
Rebecca was born
on February 21st,
1997 and already
has her own little
dancing pumps.*

The Hunterston Gathering 1997

I think the thing I enjoyed most about the gathering was that I felt as if I was home. From the moment we arrived, to the moment we left there was such an enjoyable atmosphere. Eleven Canadians attended the Gathering.

The early part of Friday night was spent settling in, saying hello to some old friends and meeting some new ones. A very large marquee tent was set up on the lawn in front of Hunterston House, complete with chandelier, where the meals and most of the activities were held. Our American cousins held their Annual General Meeting in Hunterston House but we Canadians held off on our meeting until we returned to Canada so that we might give a report of the gathering to the membership. Part of the entertainment in the later part of the evening was a very lively talk on early mediaeval history of the Hunterston area by Professor Cowan, history professor at Glasgow University. He was both interesting and very funny.

10 o'clock Saturday morning saw us gathered on the lawn in front of the castle where a group of mediaeval knights had set up an encampment, complete with tents and campfires, and were laying siege to the castle. We have no direct evidence of any battles being fought at Hunterston but the re-enactment group, GADDGEDLAR, had researched the families in the area, where alliances lay and so forth, and had come up with a scenario that might have happened. Before the battle commenced, the Lord of the castle, Hunter of Hunterston, in full battle regalia, came forth to instruct his followers (that was us), on how we might behave during the upcoming fray. We were to shout loudly "HUNTER" at each and every opportunity to cheer the fighters on. He explained that although it might appear at some point that the Hunters were retreating into the castle, they would indeed return. When we saw the enthusiasm of the fighting we at once realized why they had to retreat now

and again. During these repasts in the fighting we were encouraged to visit the encampment (all-beit the enemy), to examine and try out the arms and armour. The group make all their own armour and chainmail and I can vouch for its authenticity. The only point they give way to is that the swords and axes are blunt. They are still capable, however of breaking bones. One of the knights in showing me his chainmail, which he had made, disclosed to me that it weighed 80lbs. Add to that a helmet, shield, a great sword and gauntlets and you can imagine how tiring this was. This we discovered was very much a young persons sport. I am pleased to report that after much slashing and bashing and taunting and cheering the HUNTERS did win out in the end and the castle was saved.

On Saturday afternoon there was a choice of activities including a visit to Vikingar, a display of Viking memorabilia in nearby Largs. Unfortunately, due to some family business I was not able to attend this function and so I cannot report on it, although our history professor of the previous evening made some questioning comments as to its authenticity.

On Saturday evening we dressed in our finest and were treated to a splendid meal in the marquee, followed by traditional scottish entertainment in the form of a Ceilidh (KAY-LEE) led by the Ian MacGregor Band. Lots of singing, piping and dancing made for a wonderful evening.

Sunday morning found us at St Andrew's Parish Church in West Kilbride for a special Hunter service I was delighted when asked by Pauline to take one of the readings along with
(Cont. page 4)



1. *Tom & Christine Hunter pose with Jane Hunter Catterson of Ottawa*



2. *Elizabeth Hunter tries her hand with a hawk*



3. *Julie Nykamp of Ontario makes friends with the barn owl*

The Gathering (Cont.)

Lew Hunter of Burbank California. The church was full and the Hunters were warmly received by the local congregation.

More excitement was to follow when on Sunday afternoon at the Castle we were delighted with a demonstration of Falconry by the National School of Falconry. Six birds were on display and as a special attraction a little barn owl. Everyone was invited to "fly" the hawks but as they were too big for the children, they were allowed to "fly" the barn owl.

Following the display there was a general meeting for all in

attendance. Some of the highlights included...

1. The next Hunterston Gathering will be in June 2001.
2. Future gatherings thereafter would be every three years.
3. Pauline is moving into the North Cottage at Hunterston.
4. Two brothers from Birmingham, David and Alan Hunter, agreed to take on the leadership roles for the UK Association.
5. Madam Sonia spoke on the Neil Aylmer Hunter Sailing Scholarship Fund. A new candidate will be sponsored in 1998.

Well, I'm running out of space here so suffice it to say that everyone had a great time. Lots of new

friendships were made and I have a date with Raymond Hunter of the US to take a trip by train across Canada. Start saving your pennies and book now for 2001.

Send your submissions for the Newsletter to
 Tom Hunter
 61 Downing Crescent
 London, Ontario
 N6C 3C7
 Fax/Tel (519) 681-4101
 e-mail tom.hunter.sympatico.ca
 WEB Page :
www3.sympatico.ca/tom.hunter



1. *Pauline in mediaeval dress*
2. *Pauline with the hawk*
3. *Tom, Christine, Pauline, Lizz and Andrew*
4. *Lizz explores the castle*
5. *Lizz, Tom and Christine Hunter. Ontario*
6. *Andrew tries his hand in a bit of swordplay*





1. *Andrew and Lizz hang out in the main hall*

2. *Lizz petting the barn owl*

3. *Tom & Christine Hunter all dressed up for dinner*

4. *Little Molly Hunter of Birmingham, England with the barn owl*

5. *The Hunters defend the castle*

6. *Chief Pauline Mullen Hunter of Hunterston, 30th Laird*

