



Clan Badge of a Member of Clan Hunter

The Hunters' Tryst

Editor Bill Hunter
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www.clanhunter.org.uk

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Welcome to a bright New Year to members old and new. The 900th Gathering last July seems very distant now. However, the winter months are coming to a close and at Hunterston spring is in the air, with snowdrops in full bloom and the daffodils and bluebells are appearing already.

My thoughts are turning to the next Hunter Clan Event, which will be in 2009. We have to plan early as Edinburgh gets very booked up in the summer, so on your behalf I have agreed that the Hunter Clan will be taking part in the International Gathering of all the Clans in Edinburgh on July 25th and 26th 2009. I hope those of you who can, will get involved. We have reserved a tent and I would like for us to have a display from each Clan Association. I'm proud that the Hunter Clan is going to be involved in this wonderful celebration to cement ties with other Clans. It is important that these traditions are enjoyed and the Hunters are counted amongst those that value Scottish culture heritage and traditions. I hope that these celebrations will show younger generations that keeping up the tradition of being Scottish is important for our passing on what we value in being Scottish.

There are many events planned for this wonderful celebration of our culture and kinship. We will have the opportunity to march with other Clans up the Royal Mile and join in other events during the weekend. For complete information on the weekend please go to the website at www.clangathering.org.

I have booked The Royal Scots Club for our Clan Dinner, and it will be held on Thursday evening 24th July. Menus will be posted on the Clan web site and in your newsletter nearer the time.

I really hope that many of you will be able to come and show the strength of the Hunter Clan.

More information on pages 11/12

Yours aye
Madam Pauline



Hunter Origins

By Brian Hunter

There is a widely held theory that all Hunters are descended from William Venator (viz: a Norman French Hunter) who came to South West Scotland from Normandy, fifty or so years after the Norman conquest of England. A delightful story, which claims to have been passed down generation by generation, tells of a chance encounter, in the first, between William and David the first of Scotland and Northern England. It is said, the King was so impressed by William's hunting skills that he appointed him to be the Royal Hunter, charged with the task of providing meat and game for the Scottish court, in exchange for rights to the lands at Ardnell and the exclusive use of the Hunter surname for William and his heirs.

Whether this is historically correct is open for debate. Compelling evidence, in an ancient manuscript relating to the King's Inquisition in 1116 mention WILLIEMO VENATOR, who was the most likely progenitor of the ancestral line of Lairds of Hunterston? Very little documentary evidence has survived from these early years, but there is no doubt that over the decades, generations of the Hunter Clan, grew and prospered. Traditionally the eldest male son succeeds his father to the title of Laird of Hunterston, but there are some instances of daughters, occupying this role jointly with their husbands. Whilst younger members of the family migrated and raised their own cadet families. Initially these moves were just a short distance from Hunterston, into South Ayrshire and the Border counties. Over time the distances increased, as the number of families multiplied they moved inland into the expanding towns of the lowlands and the burgeoning cities of Glasgow and Edinburgh and on into the coastal ports of the East coast.

One of the most absorbing aspects of the study of Hunter genealogy is the areal distribution of the Hunter family name. Surnames started to be adopted by the growing population of Britain in the eleventh and twelfth century. Apart for some areas, like the Highlands and Islands, where it was several centuries afterwards. Before that only people of noble or high birth were privileged to use surnames. Early records show that the use of the surname "Hunter" was in use in Ayrshire in the twelfth century. By the

fifteenth century, the name had changed to “Hunter”, although many spelling variations occurred, due to widespread illiteracy and the confusion caused by the profusion of the many broad Scottish dialects.

In the early fifteenth century the recording of baptisms, marriages and burials performed by the clergy was made compulsory. A close examination of the Hunter names in parish records reveal some interesting patterns of migration had taken place in earlier centuries, especially on the sea route along the East coast of Scotland and England. Significantly these were, at many nodal points, close to ancient religious sites, such as Monasteries and Abbeys, where inter-related Hunter family groups have developed and settled into local community. The Hunter family name becomes more frequent in the population with their proximity to Scotland. The highest numbers being in Northumberland and Durham with a progressive reduction in numbers further south in Yorkshire Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. The density of these groups also decreases with the distance from the East coast except for those areas close to the Scottish Border. If any conclusion can be drawn from this data it is that the coastal sea route has been a main highway for the migration of populations, including many people with the Hunter surname, for several centuries. The significance of the close proximity of these Hunter nodal family groups to the religious centres, may be that they supported the Monks, as craftsmen and labourers in the spread of Celtic Christianity, by Monks from the island of Iona, throughout Southern Scotland and along the East coast, into England, in religious settlements like Lindesfarne, Whitby, Jarrow and inland at the historical Cathedral cities of York, Lincoln and Norwich.



***Take a Hike
On
Montana Roja***

Well folks this is it. This is the ‘Big Easy’ Honestly, at only 194 m and given the terrific weather we had 23 degrees not bad for the 27th November, you could do this in your sleep. The mountain is best tackled from the eastern end; from here there are plenty of easy hiker’s trails to the top, also that’s the point nearest Africa. “Oh I should have told you that this hill is in Playa Blanca, Lanzarote

There are no such ‘soft’ hiker’s trails to the top, on the south face which is very rough. Considering that Montana Roja is an old Volcano.

and that you are walking on very sharp Lava, a slip could mean “skint shins”, and worse. However the views from the summit are something else. Looking south a few miles off, out over the “Faro de Pechiguera” Lighthouse, to the panoramic scenery of the hills and golden beaches of Fuerteventura makes you think of your next trip to the Canaries will surely be to that sun drenched Island Country.

A walk round the rim of this ancient and long burned out volcano is a very safe and pleasant stroll; it makes your effort of getting to the top a very gratifying experience. Remember the land is bone dry, make sure you take plenty of water with you.

Yours Aye
John E. Walker



Venator Robert Hunter orh.sb.
Councillor of the Hunter Clan assoc.UK.
25/01/2008

Dear Venators,

Weil, I am here at hame, this very wet, cauld and windy 25th January. Sad sober and weary; longing for the joyous company of my Clan Peers. I remember fine this time last year; we was a merry band o' drouthy cronies fu' ae guid cheer, wi' sangs an' stories.

The venue we had, "an Ayrshire Castle" nane less. The entertainment we had, "nuli secundus" oor ain Piper the Clan Officer "screwed the drones and made them skirl, tae roof an' rafters a' did dir!" * the broth, {hame made an' scotch}. The Haggis, "Weil wordy o' a grace as lang as ma airm"; * ale and uisge- beatha, a' by an ingle bleezin' finely. A visitation we had, frae the sanctimonious Wullie Fisher; alias "Haly Wullie," he'd bring tears tae a gless eye! But pleasures are like poppies spread, ye seize flow'r its bloom is shed. * Sae soon, it was time tae say guid nicht. Auld Lang-syne reverberated with great gusto in every nuke and crannie of that auld hoose .In ma lug, I heard a man's voice fae somewhere, say, that we had brought life back tae he's Castle. Ah dinnae turn roond, jist in case thair was naebuddy thair.

I remember "vaguely" gaun hame, "the lang scotch miles, the mosses, watters slaps an' styles", * ---following the "Star o' Rabbie Burns" well tae the bus onyway. In the bar at the hotel, we din very well and in there we had quite a few. Which reminds me of another Hotel, The Gretna Green? How many times did Clan Hunter celebrate the Bard, in the fine company of "Something Scottish"?

Well the truth is this year; the Band of our choosing was booked to play on the Friday the 25th. January at the Gretna Green Hotel in the style of a traditional Burns' supper. That being toasts and speeches etc. Not too every ones taste. We were told that a Ceilidh was arrange with another Band for the Saturday night .Not knowing anything about them and all the uncertainty surrounding this event , I thought best let it go for this year .

However this will not happen again, this event I would like to see on the agenda come the AGM in April.

Yours Aye
Robert Hunter

* Words by Robert Burns.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DATE

1st April 2008

Cheques should be made payable to
Clan Hunter Association U.K.
And posted to:-

**Membership Secretary
Janet Hunter
32 Overton Crescent
West Kilbride
KA23 9HG**

Email & Home Addresses

Have you changed your email or Home Address since you joined

If you have send an Email or write to the Membership Secretary to enable her to keep the records up to date.

If we do not have up-to-date addresses you will not receive your Newsletter and wonder why!!!

Visits to Hunterston Castle

Please note new Phone No. and email address to
arrange visits to Hunterston Castle

**Bill Hunter 01294 829851
Email whunter7@tiscali.co.uk**

Welcome to New Members

*Mr Grant Marshal Hunter (231) Islington, London
Mr John Gerrard Hunter (232) Strathavon, Motherwell
Mr Maurice Richard Hunt (233) Hatfield, Nr. Doncaster
Mr & Mrs Campbell George Hunter (234) Cardross, Dunbartonshire
Mr Stuart Campbell Hunter (235) Edinburgh*



Grant & Caroline Hunter Saturday 8th December 2007

When my son Grant Hunter announced his surprise engagement to his now beautiful wife Caroline in late summer 2007, my thoughts immediately ran to what wedding gift to buy them, Grant had become increasingly interested in his Scottish roots, his late father having been born in Tain and also being a Hunter. Many members of the family still live in and around Kilmarnock. Having already made a 'Life Book' when his sister married two years ago, I proceeded to do the same for him. One day I decided to search the internet for information about the Hunter Clan, with the intention of including it in the book. I was amazed at what I found and as a consequence, applied for Grant to become a member of the Hunter Clan. On the day that all the information arrived, a friend, who was a professional stained glass maker, happened to be visiting. She too was very interested in the post I had received. When she saw the Hunter Crest, she immediately suggested that it would make a fabulous piece of stained glass. There was my answer for a unique wedding present!

The only surprise was that I was to make it, not my friend!!!

With a great deal of tuition, help and guidance, the next three months were totally absorbed in the process of planning the pattern, selecting and buying the glass, then learning how to cut and lead.

Finally, the completion of the whole thing being left to my friend.

The whole process and experience has been both fascinating and motivating.

The wedding took place on 8th December at Stationers' Hall, London, where I presented the glass panel in a beautiful handmade, vintage green, velvet box to the newly weds.

Co-incidentally, the window of this magnificent hall were all made in stained glass, the main one being of William Caxton and his printing press, my Father and Grandfather were both printers so both sides of the family seemed ironically to be represented.

By Margaret Hunter



ClanHunter Association U.K.
Annual General Meeting
Saturday 5th April 2008

The Annual General Meeting of the Clan Hunter Association UK will take place at Hunterston Castle, West Kilbride on Saturday 5th April 2008 2pm for 2.30pm

If you have any resolutions you wish to raise please send them to the Clan Secretary before 1st March 2008

Please complete and return the form below to Clan Secretary

*Janet Hunter
32 Overton Crescent
West Kilbride
KA23 9HG*

.....
Attendance

*I will/will not be attending
The A.G.M. 5th April 2008
At Hunterston Castle*

Name.....

Address.....

.....

2008 A.G.M.
Agenda
Saturday 2pm for 2.30pm

1. **Welcome by Clan Officer**
2. **Appologies**
3. **Minutes of 2007 A.G.M.**
4. **Matters Arising**
5. **A few words by Madam Pauline Hunter of Hunterston Clan Chief and 30th Laird of Hunterston**
6. **Clan Officer's Report**
7. **Secretary's Report**
8. **Treasurer's Report**
9. **Editor's Report**
10. **Election of Office Bearers**
11. **Open Day 2008**
12. **Highland Games 2008**
13. **Clan Gathering 2009**
14. **Any other Business**
15. **Date of next meeting**

The GATHERING Edinburgh 2009

25th & 26th July
Holyrood Park

Tickets

There are two types of ticket available for The Gathering 2009, Passports and Highland Games tickets:

Passports:

These are all-entry tickets for the weekend and include:

- Entry to both days of [Highland Games](#) in Holyrood Park
- A place in the [Clan Parade](#) up the Royal Mile
- A seat on the castle esplanade for the [Clan Pageant](#)

Passports will be available to purchase online from the end of March 2008, with a pre-booking form available on this page from 26th February 2008.

For more information on the passport please see [About the Passport](#) below.

Highland Games Tickets:

Highland Games tickets: Day passes can be purchased for the Highland Games to be held in Holyrood Park. These will be on sale from the end of 2008. (These tickets are not required if you have a passport)

About the Passport



All visitors are welcome to attend the highland games at The Gathering 2009, but there is a special opportunity for clan members and their families to represent the 45 million people of Scottish ancestry from around the world. By purchasing a passport to this remarkable event, you will take on the role of proud participant, an experience perhaps never to be repeated, and certainly never to be forgotten.

Each commemorative leather-bound passport entitles you to unlimited access to the weekend of highland games and secures you a guaranteed place in the clan march, a place at the clan pageant ...and, indeed a place in history. However, there are only 8,500 passports available, so make sure you buy as soon as they go on sale in March / April 2008 to avoid disappointment.

It is not possible to buy single tickets for the clan parade or clan pageant, these are only available as part of the passport.

Passports will be available to pre-order in early 2008 and will be available to buy online in March 2008.

All passports include:

- **Entry to both days of the Highland Games in Holyrood Park**
- **A place in the clan parade up the Royal Mile**
- **A seat at the Clan Pageant at the castle esplanade.**

Passport prices are graded bronze, silver and gold and vary in the seating position for the Clan Pageant on the castle esplanade:



£110 - seating in the East stands facing the castle

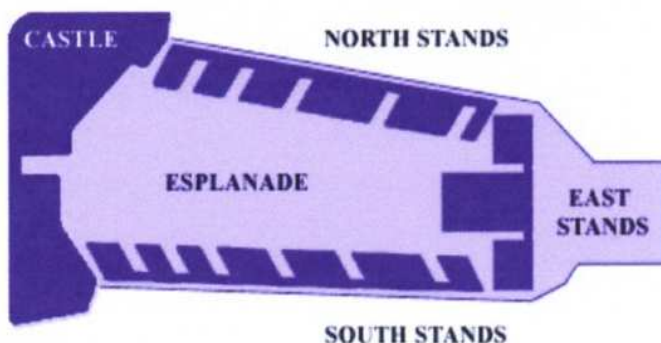


£95 - seating in the North & South stands



£88 - peripheral seats in North & South stands

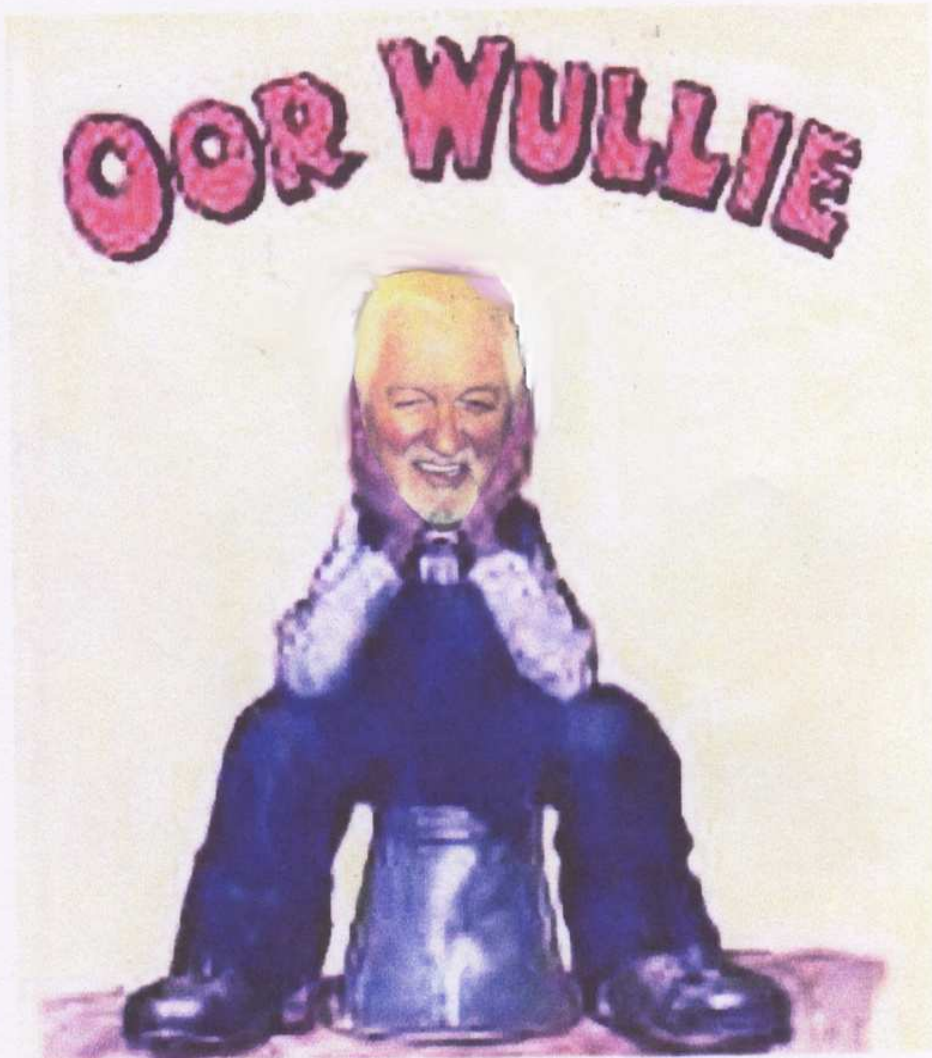
Seating Plan



It must be remembered that Edinburgh is a capital city and therefore as well as the 8,600 clans people who will be taking part in the events on Saturday night we are also expecting large crowds to be watching the parade. The length of the two performances also means that passport holders will not be leaving the castle esplanade until quite late on the Saturday evening

For these reasons we do not recommend that young children attend the pageant, However, the Highland Games in Holyrood Park is thoroughly recommended for families with children of all ages. Tickets for the Highland Games can be bought in advance on this website(available early 2009) or can be bought at the gate.

Please not there are no price concessions on the pass-



The Editor

Where will I get News for the next 'Tryst'?

