



# The Hunters' Tryst

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Dear Hunter Clan Members

Thank you to all those who came to Hunterston to celebrate our 900th anniversary this year, it was an excellent weekend. This being such an auspicious year for us I made the decision to have a special presentation of the 'Order of the Royal Huntsman' to three Clan Members.

The presentation was marked by special wording on the plaques that were given with the silver horn brooches. Those given the award were Beverly Sheirer of Pennsylvania, USA, Tom Hunter, of Ontario, Canada and Clan Officer of the Canadian Clan Association, and Gordon Hunter of Gosforth, England. Following this I gave a commemorative candle to each family present. These Candles were globe shaped and made locally in West Kilbride, in the Clan colours, green, red and yellow and each candle had '900 years' in lettering

We were fortunate with the weather but the midges feasted on us all Friday evening all during the storytelling. The storytellers ensured we were well entertained and several clan members were involved in the stories. Saturday saw the encampment and displays again involving clan members. All ages were able to have a try at the archery and try their hand at being in a shiltron. On Sunday we had a local Scottish dance group give a display and the Isle of Cumbrae Royal British Legion Pipe Band who have won many competitions. Once again we were privileged to use the Masonic Hall in West Kilbride for our Clan Dinner. This hall has associations with the Hunters of Hunterston from its beginnings. We were also delighted to once again welcome members from Clan Muirhead who came to join our celebrations and to re-cement our Link of Friendship.

We had Clan members from all over, from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, USA Holland and the UK. It was really good to see everyone mixing and getting on so well. This is a great opportunity for clan members to make new friends and swap genealogies. I really enjoyed meeting with so many of you. It is always such a pleasure to be able to welcome Hunters to Hunterston.

Usually we have our Clan Gathering every three years. However, in 2009 there is a special event, in Edinburgh on the 25th and 26th July, which is called Home Coming Scotland and is a celebration of our Scottish Culture. So I have decided that we shall have our Gathering in 2009. To find out more about the event please go to [www.clangathering.com](http://www.clangathering.com). The Hunters have booked our clan tent and I shall have more for you next year. If you are interested in coming please note that Edinburgh gets booked up at this time of the year and decisions will need to be made sooner rather than leaving it to the last minute. I shall be organizing a venue for a Clan get together/dinner and will let you know what has been arranged

Yours aye

*Madam Pauline*

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## VISITS TO HUNTERSTON CASTLE

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

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## Clan Hunter A history of a hunting dynasty

First named Venator "Latinized" –m- huntsman and in the Gaelic Clann an T-Sealgair is a Scottish Family of Norman decent which has held its court at Hunters`toun Ayrshire since ancient times: "nine hundred years to be exact". The Hunters arrived in Scotland at the close of the 11<sup>th</sup> century and only at the behest of David 1<sup>st</sup>; at this time many Norman / Flemish families sought leave of the Sovereign to enter our country. Successful claimants were allocated frontier postings; from such places of dominance territorial policing by martial men assured the security of the realm and the guardianship of the indigenous people named by Rome, "Caledonians". These problems solved: were of concern, and primary, in the thoughts of David. The Normans` enjoyed an elevated social status which gave them land and wealth they became our feudal Lords, and eventually, rulers of the Kingdom.

### The Western Isles

Lands once held by charter, and granted by the Monarchs of Scotland to the expatrie de Normandie included the Isles of Arran, Bute, and the Cumbraes. In such untamed locations where wild game was abundant, an accomplished Bowman could mark his craft. The early Hunters` earned, and fully lived the roll, of "Royal Foresters" and "Kings Gamekeepers".

### The Royal Huntsman LE CHASSEUR ROYAL



This hereditary designation was first conferred on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Laird of Hunterston "Williemo Venator" William Hunter. Unfolding evidence presented at that Glasgow inquisition of the King in 1116 was witnessed by, and among others, Williemo Venator who was appointed by David 1<sup>st</sup> as his Royal Huntsman in Scotland. This title has temporally terminated in the present day successor of his line. Madam Pauline Hunter of Hunterston and of that ilk. Clan Chief and 30<sup>th</sup>. Laird "pictured left". The Order of the Royal Huntsman L`ORDRE DU CHASSEUR ROYAL was created in 1998 by the Lady Laird to reward members of her Clan, for services outstanding to the near-world wide association of "Clan Hunter".

### The Pele Tower

At sometime the during mid -13<sup>th</sup> Century rein, of King Alexander III {1249 1286} he warned his landed - liegemen against the construction of timber bailies, and instead advised the building of stone houses. This gave advent to the tall and usually four storied square Keeps which are a common enough sight in Scotland to-day. A fine example is of course Hunters`toun Castle.



Correct dates for the building of the Pele tower are impossible to know, although we do understand that it was in existence before 1263, and the Battle of Largs. Photograph supplied by Bill Hunter editor of the Hunters Tryst

# Open Day 2nd September 2007

The Doors Open Day just gets larger and larger This year there were over 600 visitors of which around 400 toured the Castle .This was due to the fact that we have to restrict the tours to 10 visitors at a time and the queues were constant from 11am until 4pm.

The Craft people from West Kilbride and other displays kept all the visitors attention with the main attraction being “The Hunterston Dress Collection” organized and displayed by Ruaraidh (Rory) Hunter. I have had many local visitors say how much they enjoyed seeing the collection.

We also held a commemorative service for Flodden during the afternoon



# Clan Hunter world-wide 900 years Remembers *Flodden*



Madam Pauline leads the colour party to lay her wreath at the Cenotaph .  
2nd. September 2007



Clans folk and ae` yin a Hunter ; left to right are ;Robert Hunter ORH.SB. Ellen Hunter ,  
Madam Pauline Hunter ,and councillor Ian Hunter , also Janet Hunter Secretary and Bill Hunter editor of  
the Hunters` Tryst . Photograph by Graham Wright .

We had two dates this year ,in which to commemorate the Battle of Flodden, firstly was the 2nd. September and that coincided very well with the Castle open day. Was that a success ? How about four hundred and forty-three visitors entry tickets issued .And a further reported two hundred who just gave up all hope of even reaching the front door. So, what did they do? Well these lucky folks just enjoyed a luxurious sunny Sunday afternoon; strolling in the walled garden ,or browsing the shops which were set up under tents on the front lawns of the Castle. If ye fancied a cup of tea , then there was the "Burger Van" serving the multitude . It was a great day .And another thing, to the clan membership was added

five new families .When these new members seen what was on offer ;the entertainment being supplied by the Millport RBLs Pipe band ,and highland dancing by the Rose Arnott school of dance ,they signed up on the spot .

The Ninth o` the Ninth . For those of us who are thankfully too young to remember , World War II and that dreaded message from the War Office which was usually delivered , by the "wee telegram Boy". With words which read "missing presumed dead" 1514 and Flodden was a different war ,in another time ; the message remains the same , and the words, they never change. This year for the first time ever Clan Hunter-world-wide ,remembered the men



The messenger approaches

of Hunterston 1514.  
Clan Hunter "Canada"  
Clan Hunter "USA" .and  
Clan Hunter "UK". In a  
synchronised effort ,held  
service at 1600 hrs GMT.  
My grateful thanks to all ,  
who participated . R. Hunter



Crest Badge of a Member of Clan Hunter

I believe that many of our members are unaware of two important web sites "Rootsweb, Internet - Clan Hunter Mailing List and Message Board" administered by Brian Hunter, the addresses are:-

**Clan Hunter Message Board**

<http://boards.rootsweb.com/topics.ethnic.celtic.Scottish.hunter/mb.ashx>

**Clan Hunter Mailing List**

<http://lists.rootsweb.com/index/surname/h/hunter.html>

Have a look at them and see what you have been missing - lots of information and help if you want it.

Bill Hunter - Editor