



THE HUNTER'S HORN

CLAN NEWSLETTER • ISSUE #6 • JANUARY 2013



Sonia Madam Hunter of Hunterston



In Memory of Madam Sonia

Sonia Isabel Jane (Nee Furlong) Hunter, wife of the late Neil Hunter, 29th Laird of Hunterston, and mother of our Clan Chief, Madam Pauline Hunter of Hunterston, passed away peacefully in a hospital in Paris on November 20, 2012, at the age of 82. She is survived by seven children: Pauline, Charles, Robert, Nigel, John, Angus and Richard and eleven grandchildren.

Cremation services were held in Paris on December 12, and memorial services will be held in London, Scotland and Andorra in the spring of 2013.

MEL'S MESSAGE

Pat and I were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Sonia Madam Hunter of Hunterston. We have known her for many years. She always greeted us with a warm welcome during our

visits to Hunterston. When we were in Scotland for Homecoming 2009, she invited Pat and me and my sister, Janice, and her husband, Larry, to join her at Hunterston House for lunch. She was a gracious hostess, and her grandchildren and other family members who joined us made us feel welcome. After lunch she gave us a tour of the house and invited us to her living quarters. She showed us many family pictures and told us stories about her very interesting life.

During the 2012 Hunterston Gathering she was not feeling well but took time to visit. Pat and I were privileged to spend a few minutes with her, not realizing we were experiencing our last opportunity to do so. Please keep Madam Pauline and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

-Mel Hunter

HUNTERSTON ATTACK THWARTED!

Clan Hunter USA members join the battle to defend historic clan lands from desolation

Since the dawn of recorded history, what came to be known as the Hunterston Peninsula and the ancestral seat of Clan Hunter was prized for its proximity to the deep-water channel characterizing this stretch of the Firth of Clyde. Even today, remains of what are believed to be a Roman pier juts out into the firth. When Hunters of the Norman Court were invited to join King David I of Scotland to help establish the feudal system in Scotland, they were awarded a real plum when granted the land at Hunterston.

But as is so often the case in life, those advantages that made Hunterston such a blessing have also at times proven to be a curse where preserving clan lands are concerned. Just as our medieval forebears rose to the challenge to withstand the Viking invasion in 1263, modern-day Hunters, notably Eleanora Hunter of Hunterston, 28th Clan Chief and Laird, and her successor, the late Neil Hunter of Hunterston and of that ilk, 29th Clan Chief and Laird, fought tirelessly to stem the tide of industrialization. A steel-rolling mill proposed in the mid-20th century would have steamrolled Hunterston Castle and House. Compulsory purchase for the nuclear power station succeeded in devouring a significant portion of the Hunterston estate. Yet the family has remarkably held on.

One would think that today's heightened awareness of the importance of historical preservation and land conservation would help protect a special place such as Hunterston, but recently a new industrial proposal threatened to permanently alter Hunterston in a profoundly shocking way. Despite resolving to reduce Scotland's future carbon footprint, Scottish National Parliament (SNP) came frighteningly close to authorizing a consortium of public/private investors, driven by major player Ayrshire Power, to build a massive coal-burning power station literally at the front doorstep of Hunterston House. Had the scheme, which was marked by closed-door deals and backroom political maneuvering, succeeded, it would have irrevocably converted a panoramic pastoral landscape into a hellish wasteland punctuated by a 600-foot-tall pollution-belching smokestack. In short, it would have ruined the rural and domestic character that has defined Hunterston, and the Hunter stewardship of this land would have ceased, ending a family legacy that stretches back more than 900 years into the Middle Ages.

Fortunately, a group of alarmed North Ayrshire citizens, adopting the acronym CONCH (Communities



Opposed to New Coal at Hunterston), organized the charge against this effort. This David-and-Goliath battle pitched courageous local citizens against the ruthless machinations of well-funded and politically connected multinational investors who had no connection to or interest in Hunterston other than an opportunity to milk it for every cent they could potentially wring out of it. This consortium could afford to reap the profits of the coal plant without having to live with the horrible environmental and cultural consequences.

After a grueling three-year chess match of moves and counter moves, with the issue often in doubt, CONCH finally achieved checkmate and defied the odds when SNP eventually sided against the new coal-fired plant and the proposed developers abandoned the plan. This happy result would never have possible had it not been for CONCH's tireless efforts to amass signatures on a petition to Scottish National Parliament protesting the plant. While the preponderance of signatures (more than 22 thousand all totaled!) appropriately represented local families, members of Clan Hunter from around the world, including the U.S., should take immense pride in the fact they lent their support in droves by adding their names to the petition. Some even wrote separate letters to the SNP.

After the dust had settled and the heat of battle faded, the 2012 Scottish Green Awards recognized the "Say No To Hunterston Coal" campaign by honoring it with the Outstanding Contribution to the Scottish Environment prize. Many thanks to all Clan Hunter USA members who lent their voices in this effort to preserve our historic clan lands, helping preserve them so that they can be appreciated and stewarded by future Hunters for generations to come.

- By Bryan Keith Hunter

STEVE AND SARA WILES

Many of our Clan Hunter USA members have made important contributions, and Steve and Sara Wiles are no exception. Pat and I had the pleasure of meeting them at the 2012 Hunterston Gathering and learning of their experiences with the Arapaho people of Wyoming. I thought this family's story would be of interest to many of our members, so I asked Sara to write an article for *The Hunter's Horn*. The Wiles family is to be commended for their dedication to the Arapaho people. They have made a difference! The following article is a brief summary of their experiences.

HELLO FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE HUNTER CLAN!

My name is Sara Hunter Wiles, and I was lucky enough to attend the 2012 Hunter Clan Gathering at Hunterston in Scotland. It was a wonderful experience, and I was delighted to meet so many Hunters from around the world. I highly encourage anyone interested in Hunter family history to attend a future gathering.

Mel Hunter asked me to tell you a little about my own experiences of living and working on the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming. I moved to Wind River in 1973 after studying anthropology at Indiana University and obtaining a job as a social worker working with members of the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes. I held the job for only four years, but it allowed me to get to know the Indian people, the history and culture of the tribes, and the beautiful area of Wyoming in which I still live.

For the past 40 years, my husband, Steve, and I have lived in the town of Lander, Wyoming, just off the reservation. We have been adopted into an Arapaho family, and participate daily in reservation life: attending family and community events, working for the tribe as a consultant, and volunteering for community service.

In summer, the Arapaho tribe hosts several powwows, rodeos, and traditional religious ceremonies, and we often "camp" in our van for several days at these events. Powwows are both a community-centered event and a performance for the public, and visitors are welcome. They are not only colorful, but also full of music and dance. So, if you have never been to a powwow, you might want to check one out.

We spend a lot of time with our Arapaho family – the family of Alonzo Moss, Sr. of Ethete, Wyoming. Alonzo's wife, Gladys, who died in 2009, brought

us into the family in the 1970's. Our children and grandchildren were all raised together. We have Thanksgiving, Christmas, birthday dinners, and wedding celebrations together.



*Celebrating Christmas with Arapaho Family
Jessica Wiles, Gladys & Alonzo Moss,
Sara & Steve Wiles*

The Northern Arapaho people were one of many Indian tribes of the Great Plains who made their living as nomadic buffalo hunters and traders, traveling through areas that later became Colorado and surrounding states. They have always considered their spiritual homeland to be the mountains of central Colorado in what is now Rocky Mountain National Park. After being driven out of Colorado following the Sand Creek Massacre in 1864, they moved further north. In 1878 they were placed on the Shoshone Reservation with their old enemies, the Eastern Shoshone. The name was later changed to the Wind River Reservation.

Today there are 10,000 enrolled members of the Northern Arapaho Tribe, and they are still slowly adjusting to life in a different world, and carrying traditions from their past into the future.

- Sara Hunter Wiles

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

Many of you have gifted your loved ones with Clan Hunter USA memberships. That is a lovely way to interest them in their rich heritage! If you are interested in gifting someone, just go to www.clanhunterusa.org, fill out a membership form for them, and pay the membership fee using PayPal.

If you would rather do it by mail, contact us at melandpat@gulftel.com or call us at 251-971-2881. We'll take it from there!

CEUD MILE FAILTE (100,000 WELCOMES!)

Carol Reeser Courtenay
Columbia, SC

Daniel & Deana O'Connell
Anza, CA

Randall & Melissa Hunter
Calhoun, GA

Darin & Laura Hunter
Centerton, AR

Roland Hunter
Sparta, NC

Heather Hunter
Belmont, NC

John Marion Hunter
Forks, WA

Charles & Cheryl Hunter
Keokuk, IA

Courtney Van Wagner
Zionsville, IN

Margaret A. Hunter
Huntington, NY

Joseph V. Hunter
E. Brunswick, NJ

Evelyn Bennett
Townsend, MA

Nathan Hunter
Portland, OR

Dr. Nichols Grimes, PHD
Boerne, TX

Daniel & Nicole Hunter
Austin, TX

Sherrill Woody
Round Pond, ME

William & Leslea Russey
Talbott, TN



FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

Bill Smith reports that **Elsie Hunter Smith** died on Monday, Dec. 10, 2012. She was the daughter of Conley & Oma Hunter and the granddaughter of John Anderson Hunter & Millie Sandlin Hunter. We extend our sincere sympathy to her brother, Jim, and to her other family members.

Ruth Hunter Eng passed away on Nov. 10, 2010, at her winter home in Tucson, AZ. She is survived by 3 sons and daughters-in-law: Hunter & Christine, Michael & Monica, and Tony & Ellen as well as 11 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. We send our condolences to all of them as well as her host of friends. We know they all miss her!

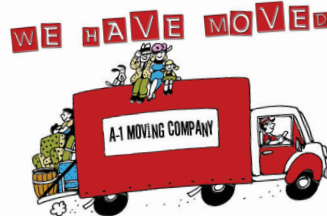
Bill Millin, who served as a bagpiper in WWII died at the age of 88 in Dawlish, England. His heroic piping reminded many Scottish soldiers of the reasons they were risking their lives in that war. The German shooters didn't aim for him because they deemed him, "Mad and on a suicide mission!"

When asked why he was piping in WWII after the British had banned it from war-front services, he replied, "Ah, but that's the English War Office! You and I are both Scottish, and that doesn't apply!" Only his bagpipes suffered a wound, but it thankfully wasn't mortal.

After the war ended, he went on to work at Lord Lovat's estate, then joined a traveling theater troupe as a piper, and finally became a nurse for mental patients in Glasgow.

ADDRESS CHANGES!

If your mailing address changes, be sure to add us to your "notify" list! Just email melandpat@gulftel.com with old and new mailing addresses.



THE KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN

Mel and I attended a beautiful service at The Westminster Presbyterian Church in Mobile, AL, called The Kirkin' O' the Tartan. This service is held each Sunday before Memorial Day. Our first visit was an exciting experience as we were warmly greeted by church members. There were more than a few clans represented, and many clan members were wearing their kilts. A pipe band from Pensacola, FL, piped us into the service.

We thought we were the only Hunters there until the clan names were called for recognition. To our surprise, there were other Hunters there, and some were actually church members. They welcomed us and invited us to remain for the dinner following the service.

The Rev. David C. Mauldin's message was both inspirational and informative. We learned that the Kirkin' O' the Tartan stemmed from the days when the English had banned the wearing of the tartan. In a silent protest, at a given moment in Scottish church services, a Gaelic blessing was pronounced at which time the protesters would grasp a bit of tartan hidden under their clothing. All this was done under the watchful eyes of the English spies!

Of particular interest to me was the pastor's explanation of how The Book of Common Prayer came to be introduced and accepted in Scottish churches. This book, still used in Presbyterian churches, is a collection of readings drawn from Scripture, but there was actually protest over using it! Jenny Geddes stood up in St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh, Scotland, in favor of it. Then the riot began!

The blessing of the tartans was as follows: "Almighty God, who has watched over the clans from generation to generation, bless these tokens of their heritage and grant them grace and wisdom to contribute full measure to the upholding of this nation, the creation of peace and justice in this world, and the furtherance of the gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen"

At the end of the service, the pipe band piped us out of the church and into the recreation hall where a lovely meal was laid out for us. We really enjoyed the fellowship with other Scots, and we learned that there is actually a Scottish Society of Mobile. We were even invited to attend a meeting and to consider becoming members of it!

All in all, it was a great experience, and we plan to attend again this year. There are many Presbyterian churches that hold this type of service once a year, so you could probably find one in your area. Call around and find out; you won't be disappointed! Just plan to wear and/or take a bit of Hunter tartan

with you for the blessing. It will be returned to you, and you will definitely be blessed for making the effort to attend!

- Pat Hunter

CLAN HUNTER USA WEBSITE www.clanhunterusa.org



THANK YOU DAVID

Our members owe David Hunter a debt of gratitude for developing our website in 2010, after years of not having one, and for maintaining it. Due to starting a family and a new job as a commercial pilot, David no longer has time for maintaining the website. Thank you, David, for your service!

NEW WEBSITE

When David was Webmaster, one of his objectives was to upgrade our website. Malory Atchison, daughter of our Treasurer, Brad Hunter, agreed to donate her time and effort to this project. Thanks to Malory we now have an informative new website with a new look. **The address of the new website is the same as the old one. Go to www.clanhunterusa.org and check it out.**

NEW WEBMASTER

Greg Slaton, long-time member of Clan Hunter, has agreed to serve as webmaster. **If you have Clan Hunter news to share, please contact Greg by email at gregslaton01@gmail.com.** We only publish two newsletters annually, so our website is the best way to inform members of current news and upcoming events. It is also an excellent source of information for prospective members. Please stay informed by visiting our website often.

Thank you, Greg, for donating your time to the maintenance of our website!

www.clanhunterusa.org

COMING EVENTS!

National Tartan Day
April 6, 2013
Don't forget to
wear your tartan!

Ohio Scottish Games
Wellington, OH
June 20-22, 2013
Host: Dave Brest
www.ohioscottishgames.com

Utah Scottish Festival
Thanksgiving Point; Lehi, UT
June 7-8, 2013
Hosts: Jonathan & Karlie Aldredge
www.utahscots.org

Payson Scottish Festival
Payson, UT
Date: July 12-13, 2013
Hosts: Jonathan & Karlie Aldredge
www.paysonscottishfestival.org

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games
Linville, NC
July 11-14, 2013
Hosts: Brad Hunter & Greg Slaton
www.gmhg.org

Longs Peak Scottish/Irish Festival
Estes Park, CO
Sept. 5-8, 2013
Host: Dr. Denis Hunter
www.scotfest.com

Charleston Scottish Games
Boone Hall Plantation
Mt. Pleasant, SC (Charleston area)
Sept. 21, 2013
Hosts: Jill & Scott Powell & Carl Hunter
www.charlestonscots.org

Stone Mountain Highland Games
Stone Mtn., GA (Atlanta area)
October 18-20, 2013
Hosts: Brad Hunter & Greg Slaton
www.smhg.org



Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk

Alexandria, VA

www.scottishchristmaswalk.org

Dec. 6-7, 2013

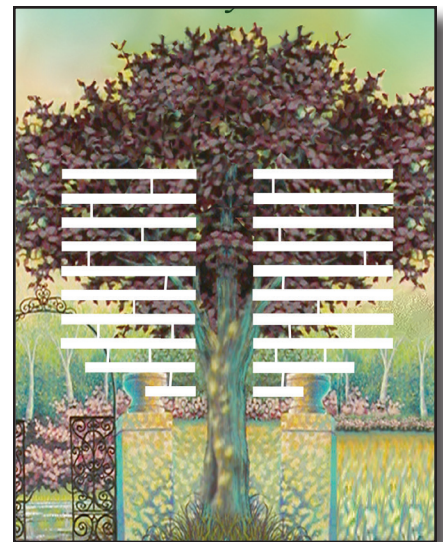
Host(s): NEEDED! If you live in the Alexandria area, we would appreciate your organizing a group of Hunters to take this annual walk. A William Hunter organized the St. Andrews Society of Alexandria, and was an early two-term mayor of the city! Contact us if you are interested at melandpat@gulftel.com

If you live in the area of any of these events, please plan to support your Clan Hunter members who are hosting tents at the above listed. You'll get a warm welcome and will meet some new friends!

GENEALOGY REQUESTS

Valerie Vogler is asking for some genealogy help. She says, "My great-great-great grandfather on my mother's side was William Peter Hunter, born in Craigie, Ayrshire, Scotland, Feb. 20, 1831. He came to the US sometime between the 1851 Scotland

census and Feb. 11, 1857, when he married Elizabeth Jane Beaty. If you have additional information, I would be most appreciative." Her contact information is Valerie.Vogler@cnb.com



Sara Hunter Wiles is looking for help with her Hunters of Ripley County, Indiana. John Hunter (1762-1845) of Bath (Berkeley Springs, WV) came to this country from Londonderry Co., Northern Ireland, in 1782. His oldest son, John Hunter (1792-1866) as well as his two other male children were among the first settlers of Ripley Co., IN. The John Hunter who came to Ripley Co. was my great-great grandfather. If there is anyone who is descended from the Hunters of Ripley Co. or interested in sharing information, please contact me at s.wiles@bresnan.net

STONE MOUNTAIN HIGHLAND GAMES REPORT

The Hunter Clan was a sponsor again at the 2012 Stone Mtn. 40th annual Highland Games on Oct. 20-21. It was a beautiful weekend, and we had 18 visitors sign in at our clan tent. Through friends in high places, we were able to get great field position for our tent. We were on a flat area next to the music tent with electricity, so we had nice hot coffee every morning with a little Scottish music in the background. Gael Warning was one of the bands playing whose drummer is Jeff Chester who is going to join Clan Hunter. Thank you for all of the great music!

Please welcome Randy & Melissa Hunter from Calhoun, GA, who joined our clan during the games. William Slaton representing the Hunter Clan from Atlanta, GA, came in fifth in the kilted mile. Will is a recent Citadel graduate and said that he is going to try again next year. He is the son of Greg & Margaret Slaton who helped with the games this year. Greg is also our new webmaster, and his first test will be posting the Stone Mountain pictures on the website.

There were 3 people marching behind the Hunter banner in the Parade of Tartans on Sunday. I hope to see you this year on the third weekend in October at the 2013 Stone Mountain Games. Come and celebrate our family heritage!

- Brad Hunter

CLAN HUNTER USA BEGINNING

In the late 70's, I visited Scotland and met Neil Hunter, the chief of Clan Hunter at Hunterston Castle. I had read about Hunterston Castle in a book on the Hunters by Keith Hunter, which inspired me to visit. We had a delightful time touring the castle and the manor house with Neil as our guide. Neil was very interested to learn that my father was the chairman of our annual Hunter reunion at Mountain Lake, VA, as he was looking to expand the Hunter Clan organization into the USA. He contacted my father, Charles M. Hunter, soon after, and my father agreed to be the first clan officer for the USA.

My father worked closely with Neil's son, Charles, to set up the US organization. They both attended the Stone Mountain Games in Atlanta, GA, for many years. My father spent those early years corresponding with and signing up Hunters across the United States. I remember him saying that we were extremely lucky to have a Scottish Clan Chief, our own Hunterston Castle in good shape, and a clan recognized by the Lord Lyon. Very few clans have all three!

Dad was the only US clan officer until the mid 90's when he retired from the position. He was very proud of his Hunter heritage, and it was an honor for him to be the first president of Clan Hunter USA. My Dad passed away in February of 2009 at age 94.

- Brad Hunter

CLAN HUNTER USA TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance 7/1/2012	\$20,091
Cash Receipts	1,435
Cash Disbursements:	
Hunterston Castle Preservation	(0)
Newsletters	(1, 541)
Highland Games	(104)
Website & Other	(267)
Ending Balance 12/31/2012	\$19,614

* For those representing Clan Hunter at Highland Games, you can deduct all of your out-of-pocket expenses on your tax return such as meals, lodging, travel, and sponsorship fees as a charitable contribution since Clan Hunter USA is a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization.

- Brad Hunter

A SCOTTISH BLESSING

(author unknown)

If there is righteousness in the heart,
there will be beauty in the character.

If there is beauty in the character,
there will be harmony in the home.

If there is harmony in the home,
there will be order in the nation.

If there is order in the nation,
there will be peace in the world.
So be it!





Hunterston Brooch

In 1830 a chance discovery by a workman digging a ditch on his estate put into the hands of Robert Hunter, the 25th Laird of Hunterston, the finest example of Dark Age jewelry. The Hunterston Brooch, as it was soon called, is a five-inch circle of solid silver with a large hinged pin, decorated by whorls of delicate gold filigree depicting stylized Celtic animals and studded with amber. No description can really do it justice. Its craftsmanship is so fine it has been called, "The work of angels." In fact, it left the hands of its human creator probably in the 7th century and became, no doubt, the prize possession of some royal Celt. Later in its history it was acquired, either as loot or by trade (although it is difficult to imagine its owner parting with it other than at sword point), by people of Scandinavian origin, possibly from the Isle of Man. We know this from the Norse runes later inscribed in the reverse, which read: "Malbridga owns this brooch", and, "This brooch belongs to Olfriti (a woman's name)."

Almost as soon as it was unearthed, legends began to be woven around it. The Norse runes naturally suggested a connection to the Battle of Largs, fought in 1263 on the foreshore before a town five miles north of Hunterston between the forces of the warlike King Haakon of Norway and the knights and bowmen of Scottish King Alexander III. Plundered, so the speculation ran, from the corpse of a Norwegian chief after the battle, it fell along with its new owner from Hawking Crag, a sheer cliff overlooking the site of its discovery, as he lost his footing in the darkness. The fact that some human remains were found nearby seemed to validate this supposition. The theory can't be discounted, though the story seems to have been

invented to explain the distance between the lost brooch and the presumed site of the battle. Actually, if the loss of the jewel is connected with the abortive invasion of the Norsemen, there is no need of such an explanation. The Battle of Largs was not a set piece engagement fought in one spot, but a series of skirmishes fought up and down the coast after the dispersal of the invading fleet by a storm. One such encounter is believed to have occurred on Goldenberry Hill, which on one side overlooks the coastal plain of Hunterston, and on the other falls away suddenly to form the very cliff under which the brooch was found. There, Sir Robert Boyd of Kilmarnock, assisted no doubt by his Hunter allies under the 7th Laird of Hunterston, Norman le Huntere, massacred a contingent of the Norse army. The victors were uncompromising men in a very dark mood at this disruption of their peace, and the invaders were probably either butchered on the spot or driven or thrown over the cliffs. It is not difficult to imagine one of their victims, mortally wounded or with bones broken by his fall, crawling away to die in undergrowth which hid his body from despoilers. A cairn of stones once stood on the foreshore near Goldenberry, believed to have been a memorial to this ferocious episode in Hunterston's history.

Others, arguing that it was unlikely that a Norse chieftain would have carried such a rich ornament into battle, suggested that the brooch was lost in a shipwreck, its owner staggering ashore to die. This remains a valid theory. It will never be known for sure why the Brooch lay where it did on the day of its discovery. Robert Hunter cherished it and wished it to be a family heirloom, but after his death, his wife sold it to the Scottish nation. While an exact replica is kept at Hunterston Castle, the original is now on display at The Royal Museum of Scotland where visitors can gaze on its beauty and dream up their own legends!

- Russ Mullen

*If you are planning a visit to Edinburgh, a stop at The Royal Museum of Scotland to see this brooch will be well worth your time. It is in a stand-alone display case which enables one to view both sides of the brooch. It is incredibly beautiful, larger than expected, and very finely wrought.

ALBA gu BRATH

(Pronounce: AHL-u-puh-goo-brah)

This is Gaelic for "**Scotland Forever!**"