



# RSCDS HAMILTON RANT

## APRIL 2019 EDITION

**Canongate Tolbooth** was built in 1591 outside the Edinburgh town walls. It served as the centre of administration and justice and is now an historical landmark of Old Town Edinburgh.

## A *DARK* BIT OF SCOTTISH HISTORY

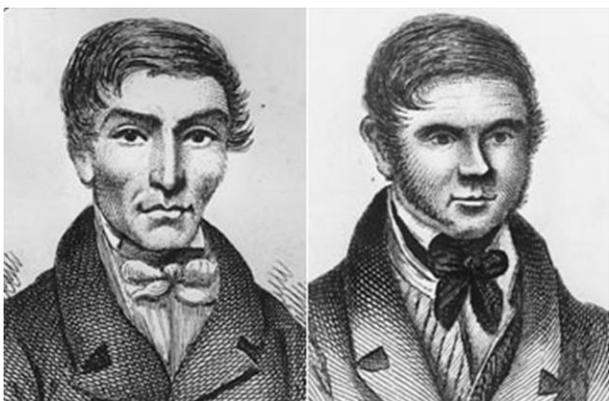
Edinburgh is very proud of having a medical training college that is one of the finest in the world and has held this distinction for many years. As the prestige of medical procedures in Edinburgh grew in popularity in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the lawful supply of corpses failed to keep pace with the demand and the anatomical department encountered a dilemma when there was a shortage of bodies to train doctors in surgical practices. Scottish law at that time required that the only bodies that could be used for medical research were that of prisoners, suicide victims, foundlings and orphans. Grave robbing was severely frowned on, leaving a shortage of cadavers.

Enter two Irish labourers, **William Burke** and **William Hare** – who came to the rescue of the medical training profession. The year was 1827.

Mr. Hare was concerned when a lodger in his house died of dropsy. After the body had been placed in a coffin, supplied by the local parish, he and his friend Mr. Burke stole it and sold it to one Dr. Knox for a sum of £7 – amounting to two months wages. Realizing a good source of income when they saw it, the evil pair decided to go into business together – murdering unfortunate members of the Edinburgh citizenry, thus providing Dr. Knox's Anatomy School with cadavers.

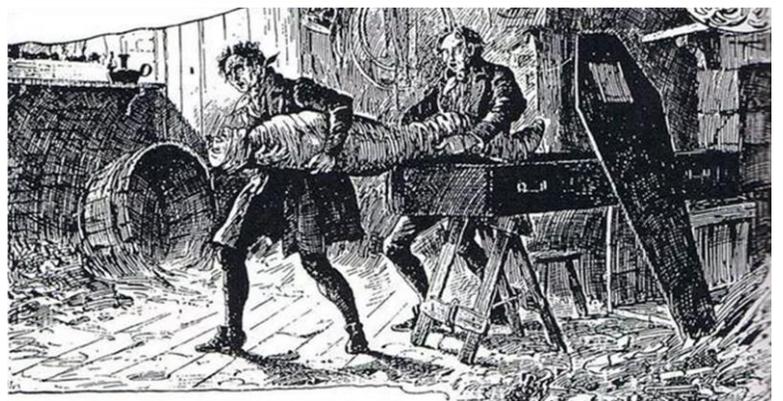
After about 10 months of murderous activity, their sixteenth victim was recognized and questions started to be asked. Eventually William Hare turned police informer leading to the arrest, conviction and hanging of Burke on January 28, 1829. William Burke, who so willingly supplied the Edinburgh medical establishment with specimens for dissection, ended up, after his death, on the same table that his victims had occupied earlier furthering medical science right up to his very end.

William Hare, on the other hand, disappeared and was not heard of again.



Hare

Burke



The theft of the deceased lodger

# Tartan Tales

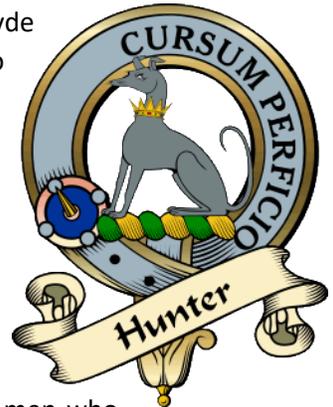


## CLAN HUNTER

**Clan Hunter** has its seat at Hunterston in Ayrshire in South-west Scotland. It has historical connections with both the 'Highlands' and 'Lowlands' of Scotland due to several centuries of operation in some of the formerly Gaelic speaking Scottish Islands including Arran, Bute and the Cumbraes where the Hunters also long held land. The first Hunters arrived in Ayrshire in the last years of the 11th Century and were experts in hunting as depicted in their crest.

Their ancestral home for over 800 years is Hunterston Castle located on the Firth of Clyde about 40 miles south of Glasgow. In the mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century the 'powers-that-be' decided to build a nuclear power station on the Clyde close to the Castle.

The chief of the Clan, and the 30<sup>th</sup> Laird, is Pauline Natalie Mullen Hunter, who lives in the Castle with her husband.



The clan are excellent farmers and they have managed their extensive clan holdings well. They have produced many prominent military men who have fought gallantly throughout the world in the British Army. In postwar years Neil Hunter, a Clan Chief, won a silver medal in the sailing category in the Melbourne Olympics.

Branch member, Lynn Taplay's mother was Clan Hunter.

The Rant Committee would like to acknowledge other Clans within our membership. If we have not yet included your family Clan in a Rant edition, please let us know.



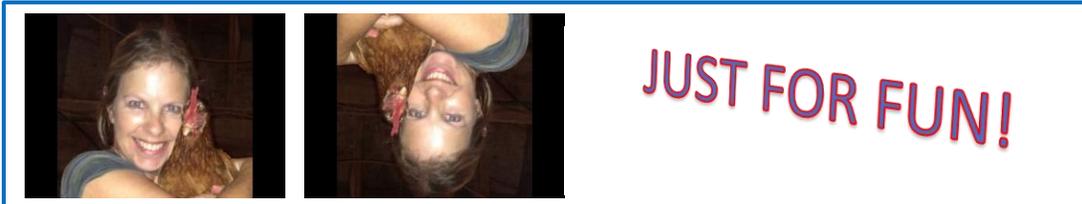
**GOOD LUCK TO TARA BOLKER!**

Who is taking her Scottish Country Dance teacher exam in Toronto in early May.



... And our **Razzie Award** goes to!

Does anyone stuck here in the frozen north remember fellow dancers, the Arnolds? Pierre and Maureen? Months ago, Pierre said he was going to send an article for the April Rant and asked what the deadline was to submit. On March 11 I received an email from Pierre, **from sunny Florida**, saying he hasn't "had time" to complete the article! But he sent this picture – taken while out on a boat with a friend...in March. ...Obviously the reason why he hasn't had time. We're just envious, Pierre. See you soon!



Angus and Hector were hunting in the Highlands when they came upon a huge hole in the ground. Looking in, they were astounded at its size and said they couldn't even see the bottom! They looked around and found a heavy gearbox lying nearby and decided to throw it in to see how deep it was.

After throwing it in, they were looking into the hole when a Billy goat came crashing through the undergrowth and without any hesitation ran up and jumped in!

As the two men were standing in amazement at the edge of the hole an old farmer strolled up and asked them if they had seen his goat. Angus said 'Aye, we have. A goat came running very fast from the undergrowth and jumped head first into the hole!'

The old farmer said, 'Och no, that's impossible. I had him tied to a gearbox.'



Scottish Quiz

1. On which Scottish Island is Sleat?
2. What was the name of the ship that brought the first Scottish immigrants to Nova Scotia?
3. What is a capercaillie?
4. Where do capercaillies live?
5. Which Scot invented television?



## The Roving Reporter conducts a personal interview with our Branch Chair, Ian Manson

**R.R.** Mr. Manson...

**Ian:** Please can call me "Ian".

**R.R.** Thank you, Ian. Since last August, I've been reporting on Hamilton members who travelled outside the Hamilton area to dance. Can you tell the readers why this topic was chosen as my focus?

**Ian:** Did you know you can find RSCDS branches all around the world? People love to dance Scottish! It's social, physically and mentally enjoyable and ever-evolving. RSCDS HQ continues to promote and standardize SC dances to make it easier for members from any branch to join in and share the experience anywhere in the world.

But branches around the world are worried about a general decline in membership. The days of soaring SCD popularity of yore, which resulted from a steady flow of immigrants, are long gone. We must rely on the merits of our Branch in attracting new dancers to the fold. As we enter 2019, other forms of social activities compete for the attention and limited time of both members and potential members – we all have busy lives. So we must all work together to make the Hamilton Branch a vibrant society full of fun and friendship and ensure a future for SCD.

One way to enlarge our outreach is by attending other local and not-so-local dancing events arranged by other Branches and groups. With your colourful reporting help, we have been encouraging Hamilton members to consider a dance, a weekend or a workshop outside Hamilton – in another province or even another country! There a large number of dances and other events throughout the year, many of which are listed in the [Rant's Upcoming Events](#). We want to encourage other branches to come to our functions but can hardly expect other groups and visitors to attend our functions if we do not attend theirs.

### **Some benefits of getting a few dance friends together and attending dances outside Hamilton:**

- ❖ **Support other Branches**
- ❖ **Encourages other Branches to come to a Hamilton event**
- ❖ **Support the future of SCD in general**
- ❖ **Make new friends, meet up with old friends**
- ❖ **Experience other teachers**
- ❖ **Learn new dances and formations**
- ❖ **Get out of town for a day or weekend – a mini vacation**
- ❖ **Get to know the people you go with better**
- ❖ **Have fun!**

## Fun facts about our fair city

### Did you know...

The post card was not invented in Hamilton. But Hamilton, like many other cities, used post cards throughout the years to promote and advertise their city.

The first known postcard was hand painted and sent in 1840 by the writer Theodore Hook to himself from himself in Fulham in London, England. The postcard bore the image of a caricature of workers in the post office and was thought to have been a practical joke on the post office.

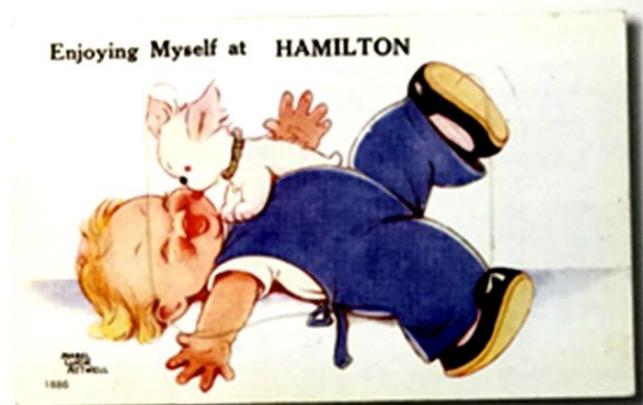
In 1871 Canada issued a pre-stamped, pictureless post card called a "*postal stationary card*" which restricted use of the front of the card to an address and stamp only – communication was only allowed on the "back" of the card. At this time, post cards were thought to be used for business purposes – to make appointments, arrange deliveries, etc. The cards were sold for one cent, including the card and delivery within Canada.

At the end of 1897, the Canadian Post Office announced that designs, illustrations, sketches and forms of advertisement would be allowed on the "address" side of the post card. It wasn't until December 1903 however, that the Official Postal Guide announced the redesigned post card as we know it today – allowing the space on the "back" to be divided by a vertical line with address on the right of the line and communication on the left.

There are approximately 1500 postcards of Hamilton in collection, depicting the history of Hamilton through architecture and technology during that 120-year period. Here are a very few, that don't depict either architecture or technology, but that we thought were entertaining. Note the dates.



02-23 - 1912 - Just A Few Lines From Hamilton, Ont.  
- Robin.



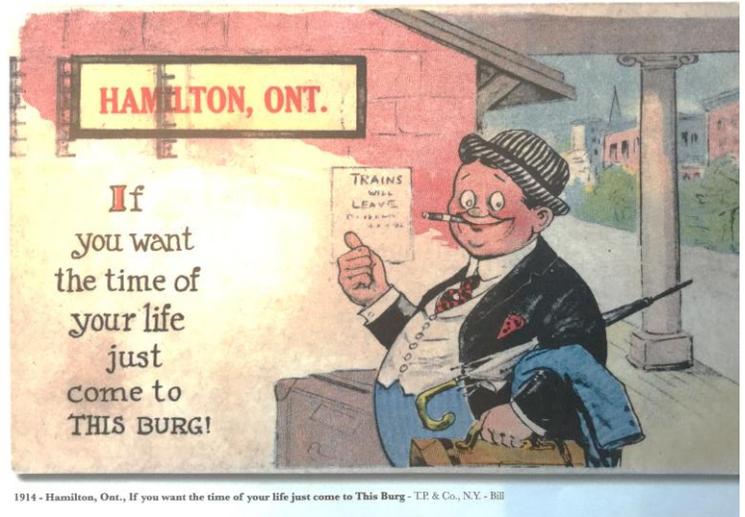
02-24 - Enjoying Myself at Hamilton  
- Valentine's 'Mail Novelty' Post Card. Copyright.  
- Bill.



02-25 - 1913 - Greetings From Hamilton  
- Published by Stedman Bros. Limited, Brantford and Winnipeg, Canada.  
- Will.



02-26 - 1921 - Sunshine or Rain in Hamilton, Ont. I love You the same.  
(Artist - Mabel Lucie Attwell)



1914

## *A Personal "Hamilton" Story...*

*From Diana McKenzie*

Shortly after I joined the Hamilton SCD branch, Maureen Isnor sent out a membership list. I was curious to see if I actually knew any other members and I looked down the list. I saw my street, then a house number and it was right next door! It was Margaret Leckie. Rick and I have lived beside Margaret since 1992 and I never realized she was a Scottish Country Dancer. Although Margaret hasn't always attended classes, she has always maintained her membership in the Hamilton Branch. In 2018 she joined me for some of J'ina's Thursday afternoon classes and we would drive together. I got to know Margaret better in 2018 than I had in the 25 years before.

### **Quiz Answers**

- 1. Skye**
- 2. The Hector**
- 3. A bird**
- 4. Pine forests**
- 5. John Logie Baird**

## 2019 *BETWIXT & BETWEEN* PHOTOS



### ***A note from the Rant Editor, John Walton***

*There have been quite a number of instances recently, where dance shoes have been left behind at various events and various locations. You don't want to lose your dance shoes. Please put your name in your shoe bag or better still, in magic marker inside your shoes so they can be returned to you.*

## Upcoming Events

For more information on all events listed below, please go to the Hamilton Branch website at: [www.rscdshamilton.org](http://www.rscdshamilton.org). **Events**  
Our branch website contains programs, information and registrations for all Hamilton events, as well as website links for other area branches and events.



### HAMILTON BRANCH

**Spring is springing...winter classes end week of April 22**

**Event: Gala Night**

When: **Wednesday, May 1, 2019**  
Time: 7:30 to 9:30 pm  
Where: MacNab Presbyterian Church, 116 MacNab Street South, Hamilton  
Cost: \$5.00 at the door

Gala Night is the opportunity for dancers in all class levels to show off what they learned this year. The evening is open to family and friends. Everyone worked hard to get to this event, and we encourage you to bring their own cheering section!

**Event: Hamilton Branch Annual General Meeting**

When: **Wednesday, May 8, 2019**  
Time: 7:30 to 9:30 pm  
Where: **NOTE change of venue** to: Erskine Presbyterian Church, 19 Pearl St. N., Hamilton  
Cost: No admission Fee

Everyone is invited to join this meeting. You will hear how the branch has done this past year and what the plans are for the upcoming year. It is your opportunity to contribute ideas, suggestions and comments – all input is helpful and appreciated. This is your club and your contributions will only make it better.

**Event: The Summer Solstice Strawberry Social & Dance**

When: **Saturday, June 22, 2019**  
Time: 2:30 to 5:30 pm  
Where: Lee Academy, 1978 2<sup>nd</sup> Concession West, Lynden ([www.leeacademy.com](http://www.leeacademy.com))  
Live Music by: Fred Moyes



This afternoon and dance welcomes dancers, non-dancers, friends and family.

For more information contact Diana McKenzie ([mrs.mck@hotmail.com](mailto:mrs.mck@hotmail.com)) or Fiona Stewart ([Fionastewart140@gmail.com](mailto:Fionastewart140@gmail.com))

**Event: Dancing on the Dock 2019**

When: **Wednesday evenings in August – August 7 to 28, 2019**  
Time: 6:30 to 8:30 pm (dusk)  
Where: The lovely gazebo behind William's Coffee Café at Hamilton's Pier 8  
Cost: Free

Bring a friend. Bring your lawn chairs. And enjoy sunsets over the Hamilton Harbor while tapping your toes to Scottish Country music.

## Upcoming Events

### HAMILTON BRANCH – Con't.

**Event:** **1<sup>st</sup> Annual Caledonia Celtic Festival**



**NEW**

When: **Saturday, June 22, 2019 from 9:00 to 2:00**

Where: Caledonia Fairgrounds

The RSCDSS Hamilton Branch is hosting a booth at the 1<sup>ST</sup> Annual Caledonia Celtic Festival. We will also have two dance demonstrations.

If you aren't at the Strawberry Social, we hope you will come to the Celtic Festival and show your support to both the branch and culture.

More Info: Diana McKenzie at [mrs.mck@hotmail.com](mailto:mrs.mck@hotmail.com)

SAVE THE DATES!

**Event:** **Hamilton Branch October Workshop**

When: **Saturday, October 5, 2019 from 8:30 am to 4:45 pm**

More Info: [www.rscdshamilton.org](http://www.rscdshamilton.org) Or J'ina Middleton at [jjceilidh@sympatico.ca](mailto:jjceilidh@sympatico.ca)

**Event:** **Grimsby Tea Dance**

When: **Thursday, November 7, 2019 from 2:00 to 5:00 pm**

Where: The popular afternoon tea dance will be held at a new location this year – at the St. Andrew's Church Hall in Grimsby. More info to follow.

More Info: John Walton at [jwalton15@cogeco.ca](mailto:jwalton15@cogeco.ca)

## Upcoming Events

### WHITE COCKADE SOCIAL DANCES

**Event:** **White Cockade Monthly Dances**

When: **Saturday, April 27, 2019**

- Note that the April dance/AGM will be on April 27, as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in April is on the Easter weekend.

Time: AGM 7:00 pm start

Dance: 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm

Where: MacNab Presbyterian Church, 116 MacNab Street, S. Hamilton

Cost: Free for members. \$10.00 for non-members at the door

Food Note: The usual snack table will be set out during the dance Intermission. Extra plates are always welcome.

<https://whitecockade.webs.com/>

## Upcoming Events

### IN THE SURROUNDING AREA

#### ST. CATHARINES

**Event: Spring Ball**

When: **Saturday, May 4, 2019**

Where: *Champagne Banquet Hall, 294 Vine Street, St. Catharines, ON*

Music By: Don Bartlett & the Scottish Heirs

More Info: <http://www.rscdsstcatharines.ca/upcoming-events>

**Event: Dancing in the Park**

When: **Tuesday June 25, 2019 - 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm**

Where: The pavilion in Montebello Park, St. Catharines

Cost: \$5.00. All are welcome to attend. Newcomers join in for free.

#### LONDON

**Event: Annual Ball**

When: **Saturday, May 4, 2019**

Where: Polish Combatants Association Hall, 80 Ann St., London, ON

Music: Scotch Mist

More Info: <http://www.rscdslondoncanada.org/events/events.html>

#### TORONTO

**Event: West Toronto Ball**

When: **Saturday, May 11, 2019**

Where: Sala Caboto - COLUMBUS CENTRE, Lawrence Ave & Dufferin Street

Music by: Scotch Mist

More info: <http://www.dancescottish.ca/Events.html>

#### OAKVILLE

**Event: Spring Dance**

When: **Saturday, May 25, 2019**

Where: Bronte Legion, Jones Street, Oakville, ON

Music By: Don Bartlett & Jim Darge

More Info: Alicia Manason at [manson@globalserve.net](mailto:manson@globalserve.net) or Wendy Stirrat at 905-338-0711

#### KITCHENER/WATERLOO

**Event: Biennial Annual Ball**

When: **2020**

#### FERGUS, ONTARIO

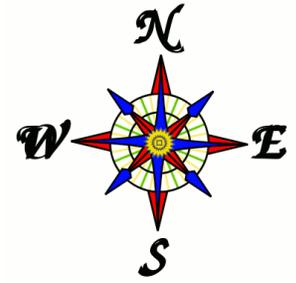
**Event: 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Scottish Highland Games**

When: **Friday, August 9 to Sunday August 11, 2019**

Where: The beautiful town of Fergus, Ontario

Music: Friday Night Tattoo *featuring* Ashley MacIsaac

More Info: <https://fergusscottishfestival.com>



### PICTON

**Event: Picton Workshop and Tartan Tea**

When: **Friday Evening May 17, 2019 & Saturday May 18, 2019**

Where: Prince Edward Yacht Club, Fairfax St. Picton, Ontario

More Info: [www.rscdskingston.org](http://www.rscdskingston.org), Sheila Keller at [skeller@sympatico.ca](mailto:skeller@sympatico.ca)

The Prince Edward Country Scottish Country Dancers spring workshop starts Friday night with a social dance at 7:30. There is a "mini" workshop Saturday morning and a tea dance Saturday afternoon.

### NEW YORK

**Event: Pawling's 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Weekend**

When: **Friday May 17 to Sunday May 19, 2019**

Where: Berkshire Hills, Copake, NY <http://www.bhecamp.org/group-rentals/>

More Info: <http://www.rscdsnewyork.org/events.html>

A favourite weekend – of classes, balls, and parties! Teachers are Jimmie Hill, Edinburgh, Scotland  
Rebecca Blackhall Peters, British Columbia, Canada.

### PETERBOROUGH

**Event: 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Stoney Lake Workshop**

When: **Friday May 24 to Sunday May 26, 2019**

Where: (Accommodations) Pine Vista Resort, Peterborough <http://www.pinevista.com/>

More info: <http://www.pscds-on.org/Stoney%20Lake%20Weekend%202018.html>

The Stoney Lake weekend is located in the beautiful Kawartha Lakes, just a 45 minute drive north of Peterborough. A relaxing, fun weekend of Scottish country dancing and socializing. All levels of dancing experience are welcome.

### SCD TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION (CANADA) – SUMMER SCHOOL

**Event: TAC Summer School 2019**

When: **July 28 - August 4, 2019**

Where: Mount Royal University in Calgary, Alberta, Canada

More Info: <https://rscdsvancouver.org/dance/tac-summer-school-2019/>

TAC Summer School is open to all Scottish Country Dancers from basic to advanced and from beginner to experienced. This week-long event consists of full-day dance lessons and classes, evening social dances and fun events plus a Ball.

### SAN FRANCISCO

**Event: Asilomar Weekend – Workshop & Ball**

When: **November 1 to 3, 2019**

Where: Pacific Grove in the beautiful Monterey Peninsula, 120 miles south of San Francisco.

More Info: <https://sfasilomardance.wixsite.com/asilomarweekend>

This would be an awesome adventure to attend as a group! Once you look at the website, it will be hard to resist. Understandably, this weekend sells out very quickly, so if you're interested, you need to think about booking now.