

# The Jacob Hunter Trust Newsletter

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Volume 18, No. 1      Richard H. Hunter, Editor      January 2009

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## Jacob Hunter's Family Origins in America, Part III

From Pauline White Mason's Lee-Hunter Family Genealogy and Stories.  
Belva Hunter Hall copied Pauline White Mason's notes on 6/26/1972. These notes, titled "Lee-Hunter Family Genealogy and Stories" are now located in the files of The Jacob Hunter Trust, 10202 Briggs Road, Marion, IL 62959

Barbara Pauline White Mason (b. 12-25-1911, d. 4-2-2003) was a great-granddaughter of Jacob Hunter (2) and his wife Mary Moore Duncan Hunter. In a letter to Belva Hunter Hall, dated Oct. 5, 1970, Pauline wrote, "Much that I have come from Earl Weaver, one of Grandma Lucina Newton's nephews" [Earl Weaver b. 2-29-1888, d. 6-23-1974; also a great grandson of Jacob Hunter (2) and Mary Moore Duncan Hunter]. "He is old and frail now but he sent me so many funny stories of the older kinfolks. He said that he was a nosy, big-eared little boy that would always manage to find a dark corner to sit in when the old folks would visit, so he managed to hear many a tale that the rest of the children didn't hear."

A page in Pauline Mason's notes is titled, "Hunter Family in America."

## Hunter Family in America

There has always been the knowledge, handed down from the earliest Hunters on down the generations that the Hunters belonged to the ancient clan of Hunters in Scotland. Two of the Hunter brothers left Scotland, and went into England and there both of them became famous doctors, and it was of their branch of the family from which we all have descended. It has never been officially verified, for it has [been] over 250 years ago or more, but the older ones passed it on as truth. I [Pauline White Mason, presumably] can remember my grandmother, who was of the Hunter line telling me that I had a right to be proud of the good blood lines I had, "for the Hunters were lawyers, artists, and doctors back in Scotland and England," so she would tell me. Whether or not it is true, the names of the two brothers who came by way of Scotland to England and then to this country have been forgotten.

It is probably based on fact, for there were two Hunter brothers who did go from Scotland to England and there they actually did become famous. The books on medical history tell of the two brothers, William Hunter, the older brother in a family of eleven children, and his youngest brother, John Hunter. William came to England first to study anatomy; later started

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the Windmill Street School of Anatomy, for many years the center of anatomical instruction in London. He also became the leading obstetrician in London, and it is quite possible that he was Knighted by the King of England, as our tradition says, for medical history says of him, "He never married; he had no country house; he looks in his portraits a fastidious, fine gentleman; but he worked till he dropped and he lectured when he was dying."

John Hunter, who was ten years younger came later to England, also, and although he loved the study of all forms of nature best and was a brilliant naturalist, he proved to be a better surgeon than William and introduced a new ligature operation for the serious condition of aneurism. He experimented and studied all forms of life and is credited with being the force and the help that caused Jenner to continue with experiments until he discovered a smallpox vaccine.

It is not known whether the two brothers who came here were children of John, or whether it was two more of his brothers who had also come to England from Scotland. This seems more likely if there is any basis of truth in the story, for John Hunter lived from 1729-1793.

In 1752, there was a Col. John Hunter who lived near Hampton, Virginia, on the Southeast outlet of the James River. Exact relationship is not known, but he might possibly have been father of Jacob, since the lands of Virginia, Kentucky, South Carolina and Tennessee were later made from what, in the earlier days of the country, were mostly one vast area of land belonging to the colony of Virginia.

## Emmanuel Hunter's 1855 Land Warrant Application

[Land Warrant application of Manuel Hunter for his service in the War of 1812 and the Black Hawk War, transcribed from a handwritten document from Belva Hunter Hall's records]

State of Illinois  
County of Williamson

On this 21 day of March AD 1855 personally appeared before me, Clerk of the County Court within and for the county and State aforesaid, Manuel Hunter, a resident of the County of Williamson and the State of Illinois, aged sixty seven years who being duly sworn according to law, declares that he is the identical Manuel Hunter who was a private in the company commanded by Captain Allen in the Regiment Commanded by Col. Naper in the War with Great Brittain declared by the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of June 1812, that he was drafted at the county of Montgomery and State of Tennessee, in the year 1813 or 14 for the term of six months and that he entered into actual service in said war for the time of six months and was honorably discharged at Fayetteville as will appear by his original Certificate of Discharge now on file in the office of the Office of Commissioner of Pensions at Washington City that he secured for the above service a Land Warrant for Eighty-acres, and that he is also the identical Manuel Hunter who has a corporal in the Company Commanded by Captain Armstad Holman in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of Illinois

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Mounted Volunteer gun men Commanded by Col. Ensing in the Black Hawk War that he volunteered at the County of Franklin and State of Illinois on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of May 1832 for the term of three months and that he enlisted in actual service for the said term of three months and was honorably discharged at Frankfort, Illinois on the 17 day of Oct 1832 as will appear by his original certificate of discharge now on file in the office of the Commissioner of Pensions at Washington City for which service he received a land warrant for Forty Acres, both of which warrants was obtained under the Act of Sept. 1830 he makes this declaration for the purpose of obtaining the bounty land to which he may be entitled under the Act granting Bounty land to certain officers and soldiers who may have been engaged in the military service of the United States before Feb 1833. Never having secured any bounty land with the exception of the two warrants above referenced to or made previous application therefore.

[signed] Manuel Hunter

Subscribed and sworn to before me the day and date first above mentioned  
In testimony whereof I have hereunto let my hand and affixed the Seal of the Said County Court at office in Marion John W. White C.C.

State of Illinois  
County of Williamson

On this 21st day of March AD 1833 personally appeared before me Clerk of the County Court within and for the County and State aforesaid Isaac Prather aged fifty five yeas and William Reese aged Fifty nine years residents of the County of Williamson and State of Illinois whom I certify to be persons entitled to credit who being duly sworn according to law deposes and says that personally acquainted with Manuel Hunter whose signature appears in the foregoing did \_\_\_\_\_ and that they were present and saw him sign said declaration and heard him sworn to the same and that from his \_\_\_ and the stipulation that he has among his neighbors that they verily believe him to be the identical person who served as stated in the said declaration and further the deponents saith not,

Isaac Prather  
William Reese

Subscribe and sworn to before me day and date first above mentioned.  
In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affix the Seal of Said County Court at office in Marion John W. White C.C.

# Trust Publishes Family Notes of Belva Armetta Hunter Hall

Throughout her life, Belva Hunter Hall was dedicated to preserving Hunter family history. She kept several small notebooks where she would record events, meetings with relatives, and listings of children and grandchildren. Belva was a granddaughter of the esteemed Reverend Allen Hunter and his wife Elizabeth Lee. Many of her notebooks and family records are preserved in the files of the Jacob Hunter Trust.

Recently, the Trust published a 151-page book, *Hunter-Lee Family Notes of Belva Armetta Hunter Hall*, containing copies of nine of her handwritten notebooks. Contained in this record are notes on early Hunter and Lee family history, listings of Rev. Allen & Elizabeth Lee Hunter's children and grandchildren, visits with relatives and notes about related families including, Lee, Hatcher, Sanders, Duncan, Chamness, Felts, Spiller, Moore, Dial, etc.

There are several pages discussing Jacob Hunter, Braxton Lee, Manuel Hunter, citing historical dates and family memories. Of special interest are notes Belva's father, Marion Jacob Hunter, wrote to her on June 14, 1922 and notes from her mother Sarah Florence Dial Hunter dated May 2, 1942. This book of Belva's handwritten notes is a valuable record, especially for descendants of the Reverend Allen Hunter and Elizabeth Lee and their 15 children.

The Trust has a limited number of these books available. We will send a copy to anyone making a contribution to the Jacob Hunter Trust of at least \$ 150.00. If you would like a copy, please contact the Trust with your request.

Belva A. Hunter Hall

b. 12-4-1899, d. 5-7-1987



French Studios,  
West Frankfort, IL

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# 2008 Income and Expense Record for the Jacob Hunter Trust

## The Jacob Hunter Trust Account for 2008

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>DEBIT</u>	<u>CREDIT</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
1/1/08	Balance Forward			\$14,572.14
1/7/08	Judith A. Mathews		\$200.00	\$14,772.14
1/7/08	Richard H. Hunter		\$200.00	\$14,972.14
1/14/08	John & Laura Hunter-Johnson		\$100.00	\$15,072.14
1/18/08	Interest on checking account Herrin News Lithographers (2008 Newsletter)		\$10.67	\$15,082.81
1/24/08	Postmaster (Newsletter)	\$239.50		\$14,843.31
1/24/08	Ella L. Abney	\$63.80		\$14,779.51
2/4/08	Interest on checking account		\$100.00	\$14,879.51
2/15/08	Ted & Delphine Peck		\$7.69	\$14,887.20
3/3/08	Davis Tree Service (AHC storm damaged trees)		\$100.00	\$14,987.20
3/18/08	Interest on checking account	\$300.00		\$14,687.20
3/18/08	Ralph David Fly		\$8.45	\$14,695.65
3/25/08	Herrin News Lithographers (Belva's Book)		\$150.00	\$14,845.65
4/15/08	Interest on checking account	\$375.00		\$14,470.65
4/18/08	Interest on Treasury Note HFO		\$6.32	\$14,476.97
4/30/08	Interest on Treasury Note HG8		\$90.63	\$14,567.60
4/30/08	Interest on checking account		\$96.88	\$14,664.48
5/16/08	Ferrell's Lawn Service (AHC X 4, JHC X 1)		\$5.61	\$14,670.09
5/19/08	Williamson County Treasurer	\$255.00		\$14,415.09
6/11/08	Interest on checking account	\$7.90		\$14,407.19
6/18/08	Ferrell's Lawn Service (AHC X 4, JHC X 1)		\$6.56	\$14,413.75
6/27/08	Interest on checking account	\$255.00		\$14,158.75
7/18/08	Sondra & Ted Lee		\$5.88	\$14,164.63
8/8/08	Ferrell's Lawn Service (AHC X 4, JHC X 1)		\$35.00	\$14,199.63
8/9/08	Interest on checking account	\$255.00		\$13,944.63
8/18/08	Interest on checking account		\$6.02	\$13,950.65
9/18/08	Ferrell's Lawn Service (AHC X 4, JHC X 2)		\$5.95	\$13,956.60
10/12/08	Interest on checking account	\$290.00		\$13,666.60
10/17/08	Interest on Treasury Note HFO		\$4.78	\$13,671.38
10/31/08	Interest on Treasury Note HG8		\$90.63	\$13,762.01
10/31/08	Interest on checking account		\$96.88	\$13,858.89
11/18/08	Lettie & Lawrence Lee Hunter		\$3.63	\$13,862.52
12/4/08	Ferrell's Lawn Service (AHC X 3)		\$50.00	\$13,912.52
12/8/08	Interest on checking account	\$165.00		\$13,747.52
12/18/08			\$3.31	\$13,750.83
	TOTAL	\$2,206.20	\$1,384.89	

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Expenses outpaced income during 2008 by over eight hundred dollars. The Trust is appreciative of all who made donations throughout the year.

## Gifts and Bequests to the Jacob Hunter Trust

By Judge Robert S. Hunter, Quincy, IL

Your gift or bequest can help to assure that the Jacob Hunter Cemetery and the Allen Hunter Cemetery can be restored and maintained for eternity. The easiest way to accomplish this is to make gifts from time to time. You can do so by making checks payable to "Jacob Hunter Trust" where funds will be strictly controlled and used only for purposes that are consistent with the trust objectives.

You can remember the trust in your will. A simple bequest, as follows will suffice: "I give and bequeath to the Jacob Hunter Trust, a trust created to preserve the burial grounds of descendants of Jacob Hunter in Williamson County, Illinois, the sum of \$(amount)."

Another simple way to make a gift to the trust is known as the payable on death account (POD). You can open such an account at your bank or savings and loan. You open this kind of account by creating it in the name of "(Your name) Payable on Death to the Jacob Hunter Trust." The Trustee is Richard H. Hunter, 10202 Briggs Road, Marion, IL 62959-5844.

There are numerous advantages to such an account: 1. you retain full control over it as long as you live, 2. you can increase or decrease the amount or close it out without notifying anyone, 3. you are entitled to the income therefrom as long as you live, 4. it is entirely confidential. The only difference between it and any other account you own is that, upon your death, the balance that is in the account is paid to the Jacob Hunter Trust. The Jacob Hunter Trust is registered with the IRS as a tax-exempt 501 (c) (13) organization.

By contributing to the Trust, you will be strengthening our efforts to preserve family cemeteries, compile further historical information, and share information with interested relatives and selected public libraries.

## Events and Meetings of Interest During 2008

The previous edition of *The Jacob Hunter Trust Newsletter* [Vol 17, No. 1, 2008] reported on a visit Lawrence Lee Hunter, Thomas E. Hunter, and I made to Murry & Susie Hawkins home in Ashland City, TN. This home began as a double log home Braxton Lee built for his second wife Mary Polly Dancer Hunter Lee, widow of Jacob Hunter. On this visit we also mapped out graves in the Old Lee Cemetery, where Braxton Lee and Jacob Hunter are buried.

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In February, at the invitation of Cheatham County Historian, Lisa Walker, Rich Hunter made a presentation at the Cheatham County Historical and Genealogical Association meeting at the Cheatham County Public Library. Hunter spoke about early settlers to the Cheatham County area (Lees and Hunters), moving log cabins, The Jacob Hunter Trust, and locating unmarked graves. This presentation was partially in support of efforts by the Cheatham County Mayor Bill Orange, R.D. Huffines, President of the Cheatham County Historical Society, Lisa Walker, Cheatham County Historian, Murry & Susie Hawkins, James Fenton, Director of Economic and Community Development, Tommy Pardue, R. David Lee, Duane Elliott, Kempf and Roy Stark and others to preserve the old Leeland Station Meeting House and other historical landmarks in and around Ashland City. We are happy to report that the county disassembled the log structure and has numbered and stored the logs in a county building. Plans are underway to investigate funding options for reconstruction of this historic building.

On November 25, Thomas Hunter and I met with R. David Lee, Duane Elliott, Wallace & Ann Lee, Ted & Sondra Lee, Debbie Lee Buchanan, and Murry Hawkins near Ashland City to discuss the possible formation of a Lee Family Foundation or Trust to support the preservation of family historical sites and history. We learned that Sondra Lee was preparing a book on the Lee family. R. David Lee and Duane Elliott plan further discussions concerning how best to secure and protect historic family sites.

Murry and Susie Hawkins graciously hosted another tour of their historic home. Wallace Lee pointed out that the home was built with cedar logs. Several pictures were made during this visit.



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PLEASE CONTACT THE TRUST IF YOU WOULD LIKE A  
COPY OF BELVA HUNTER HALL'S BOOK

### Ernest E. Hunt, IV Hunter Family Websites

Ernest E. Hunt, IV graciously maintains websites of Hunter family history. He invites all interested in this research to visit the website at:

<http://www.mindspring.com/~hunter-family/index.htm>. He also maintains a website for The Jacob Hunter Trust Newsletter and has available on the web all previous issues of the Newsletter at <http://www.mindspring.com/~hunter-family/JHTNewsletter/index.htm>. If you have additional information to share with Mr. Hunt, you may contact him by e-mail at: [eehiv@mindspring.com](mailto:eehiv@mindspring.com), or by mail at 200 E. 66<sup>th</sup> Street, # D 1502, New York, NY 10021-6728.

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