

HUNTER FAMILY RESEARCH CONDUCTED FOR STILL HUNTER, JR, OF BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

By Still Hunter, Jr.

January 5, 2012

Beginning in the early 1980's, the noted genealogist, Elizabeth Shown Mills CG, CGL, FASG, researched the family of Still Hunter, Jr. of Birmingham. Over ten separate reports were done beginning with research into the family origins of Hardy Hunter who died in 1856 in Arkansas and who was known to have been born in North Carolina in 1777. Hardy Hunter was the proven great-great-grandfather of Still Hunter, Jr.

Ms. Mills eventually proved that Hardy Hunter was descended from the well-researched William Hunter of Nansemond County, Virginia. Many inventive techniques were used by Ms. Mills, including proving relationships by studying the migration of related families over several generations. This research was summarized in two reports entitled *Backtracking Hardy Hunter*. These reports were published in the Spring and Summer, 1986, editions of *The APG Quarterly*, the official publication of the Association of Professional Genealogists. These studies have been used in several college courses of genealogy as an example of ways to prove family relationships when facts are scarce.

After the basic work of tracing Still Hunter's family line was done, Hunter engaged Ms. Mills to attempt to trace the origins of William Hunter of Nansemond County who arrived in Virginia prior to 1685. Although there had been extensive research of William of Nansemond, it was unknown where he lived before Virginia.

Working with other well-regarded Southern genealogists, Ms. Mills found many similarities between William of Nansemond and a William Hunter who lived in Barnstable, Massachusetts, prior to 1685. The theory was proposed that these two Hunters *might* be the same person.

Many similarities of family names, ages and association with others, primarily Quakers, were found between the two men and their families. William Hunter of Barnstable was a Quaker. The children of William of Nansemond were known to be closely associated with Quakers in North Carolina. For example, in Onslow County, NC, where Nicholas 2, son of William of Nansemond, moved had no less than 22 families from the Barnstable/Plymouth area who settled near the Hunters. Nicholas 2 and several of his family members were witnesses at a Quaker wedding of the Wilson family. The naming patterns of both the Massachusetts and Virginia/North Carolina families were quite similar. The dates for the two families were compatible and there were no conflicts in time for the assumption that the two William Hunters were the same man.

The last study done by Ms. Mills in 1989 recommended strongly that a Boston area researcher be engaged to prove or disprove the theory that William Hunter of Nansemond County, Virginia, was the same person as William Hunter of Sandwich, Massachusetts.

In 2011, Still Hunter, Jr. employed Ms. Mills to find a researcher and attempt to verify the William Hunter theory. She engaged Melinde Lutz Byrne, FASG, to follow up on the research.

Within a few weeks, Ms. Byrne conclusively proved that William Hunter of Barnstable, Massachusetts, did NOT leave the Massachusetts Colony therefore proving that he was not the same person as William Hunter of Nansemond County, Virginia.

The Byrne report, along with her research notes, will be published on the Jacob Hunter Trust web site. It will also be submitted to Ancestry.com in order to put to rest as incorrect the earlier theory about William of Nansemond's origins.

A group of the descendants of William of Nansemond intends to continue research as to where William Hunter lived before coming to Nansemond County Virginia prior to 1685. It will not be an easy task!

Still Hunter, Jr. (1)
Birmingham, Alabama

(1) My line is William¹; Nicholas² of Onslow, NC; Job³ of Onslow & Duplin, NC; Nicholas⁴ of Duplin, NC; Hardy⁵ of Duplin, NC, Wilson Co, TN, & Sevier Co. Arkansas; William Edward⁶ of Sevier Co., Ark.; Still⁷ of Ark. and Jasper, AL; and Still Jr.⁸ of Jasper & Birmingham, AL.

Statement of results

William and Rebecca (Besse) Hunter did not leave Massachusetts/Plymouth to settle in Virginia.

Hypothesis to be proven or disproven – *Were the William and Rebecca Hunter (m. 1679) of Sandwich, Massachusetts, identical with the William and Rebecca Hunter (seen 1685) of Nansemond County, Virginia?*

The statement of previous work demonstrated no timeline conflicts in either location that indicated the couples could not be identical.

The most noticeable inconsistency was the presence of some children's names in the north that did not appear in the south, and vice versa. A lack of exact or accurately calculated birthdates for the southern children and about half of the northern children made it difficult to match or eliminate any of them.

Traditional accounts of arrivals in both Virginia and Massachusetts were disregarded.

The marriage year of William Hunter and Rebecca Besse as reported in a transcription of the Sandwich vital records was also disregarded, given the evidence in "The Fines of March Court, 1679/80" where "William Hunter and Rebeckah, his wife, of Sandwich for fornication before marriage" were fined the princely sum of five pounds for having a child born six months or less after their marriage. If this marriage occurred on 17 February 1678/9 and their son Elisha was born on 10 August 1679, this would match the custom and law of the day. The couple could not have been married in 1670/1 and have suffered this fine at the independently confirmed occasion of Elisha's birth just days too soon.

It is noted in the provided information that the fine was the same for all five couples whose cases were heard at that term of court. Usually high fines were reserved for couples who did not marry or where deception was suspected. The fine's substantial amount probably reflected William's status as a stranger without property and perhaps of little skill. Perhaps the other grooms were of similar status. The community would not treat a weaver like this (William of Nansemond was a weaver). Likely he was a mariner, who would be expected to be gone for extended periods, with no guarantee he would return. The town and Rebecca's family were probably quite unhappy with the union.

The records of the selectmen of Plymouth, warning "William Hunter and his family" out of town 13 August 1706 and 3 September 1706, the constable's report that he had gone to "the residence of William Hunter and his family and warned them to depart from the town," are reassessed as being very likely pertaining to the subject family.

To the reliable provided records of the Massachusetts family were added the following:

Grant of land by the town of Sandwich to William Hunter [unfortunately undated – further examination might generate a bracketed date]. ***p. 5 of Sandwich Town Records, vol. 1.***

The Town hath freely given Unto William Hunter
2 acres of land that lyes beyond John Gibbs his house
provided noe cart way be infringed and that the sd hunter

shall not dispose of it but keep it for himself and his heirs
for ever or if he remove the sd hunter is to return the Land
to the towne

This very rare form of grant implies several things. First, it was probably done about 1679, near the time of the couple's marriage. The town was actually providing for Rebecca, not William, but they could not grant her land, so they gave it to her husband with the provision that he could not sell it or alienate it from his heirs except if he moved away, in which case he had to return it to the town. Two acres was a minimal amount and may mean that William was not a husbandman but more likely a fisherman or mariner. It may have been a size his wife could work while he was absent – or a clever way for the town to avoid having to support the Hunters by letting them grow their own food and cut their own wood.

[Tracing the land of John Gibbs might indicate what became of this two acre parcel. There is no record of William passing it to his heirs. Town records were not searched for a return of the land.]

Plymouth General Sessions

September Term 1703 6:211-12 (taken from ad literatum abstracts, not original documents)

Job Randal (Scituate) [permitted to] sell liquor as a retailer

Plymouth General Sessions

June Term 1704, 6:215

Alice Hunter (Plymouth) was ordered to pay a fine of £4 to her Majesty or to be whipped 10 stripes, to pay fees, and to stand committed for having a bastard child. Hunter accused Adam Jones (Plymouth) of being the father.

Court ordered Adam Jones to pay maintenance of Alice Hunter's bastard child: 1s 6d per week until two years old and 1s per week until six years old, payments to be made quarterly. Jones became bound.

Plymouth General Sessions

June Term 1713 6:224-25

Susanna Hunter, "wife of Elisha Hunter," was fined 20s, fees, and charges for "furnishing Tom Felix Indian with two jills of rumm some time in the month of March last past."

Elisha Hunter (Aggawam in Plymouth) was licensed as an Innholder until the next court, and posted bond with surety.

Plymouth General Sessions

September Term 1713 6:226-28

Elisha Hunter licensed as innholder

Plymouth Common Pleas

September Term 1721 1:275-77

Thomas Howland sues Elisha Hunter "late of Plymouth . . . innholder now resident at Cape Cod" for debt

Plymouth Common Pleas

March Term, 1726/7 2:177-81

Jonathan Hunter of Rochester, Blacksmith, sued for trespass and ejectment

Plymouth General Sessions

March Term 1726/7 8:65-66

Jonathan Hunter chosen as a juror

Plymouth Common Pleas**8:54-56**

Jonathan Hunter of Wareham, yeoman, loses major case and possession of land, being 47 acres, dwelling house, saw and grist mill, all in Wareham. He said he had it by deed of Huson Hughes, who could not be found.

Plymouth County Probate, copybook 4, pages 214-15, will, probate, and inventory of William Hunter of Scituate, mariner, 14 July 1715; Massachusetts Judicial Archives, Columbia Point. The docket book does not indicate any additional papers that might have been in the original file.

In the Name of God amen. The fourteenth day of July in the year of Our Lord God
 [interlined] In the County of Plymouth in New England, Marriner
 one Thousand seven hundred and fifteen I William Hunter of Scituate ^ being bound
 on a Voyage to Sea, and being of perfect mind and memory thanks be given unto God
 therefore, Calling unto mind the mortality of my body, and knowing that it is appoin=
 ted for all men once to dye do make and Ordain this my Last Will and Testament
 That is to Say principally and first of all I give and recommend my soul into the
 hands of God that gave it and for my body I Commend it to the earth to be buried in a
 Christianlike and decent manner at the discretion of my executors nothing doubting
 but at the generall Resurrection I shall recieve the Same again by the mighty power
 of God. and as Touching with such worldly estate wherewith it hath pleased God to Bless
 me in this life I give, demise & dispose of the same in the following manner & form -
 Imprimis, I give and bequeath to my honoured father William Hunter, whome I
 make & Ordain my Sole Executor to this my Last Will & Testament, provided he is Liv=
 -ing after my decease; and if it so fall Out that he is not Living after my decease that
 then my Brothers Thomas and Jonathan Hunter to be my Executors. I give to
 my father as aforesd the one half part of all my Estate both real & personall, that
 is to Say if he is Living after my decease, and if he is not then that one half of my
 Estate to be to Rebeckah my Honoured mother, and at her dispose.
 Item I give to my well beloved Brothers Thomas and Jonathan Hunter and my
 sister Rebeckah Hunter the Other half of all my estate both real and personal to be
 equally divid amongst them and I do hereby utterly disallow revoak & disanull
 all and every Other former Wills and Testaments Ratifying and Confirming this and
 no Other to be my Last Will and Testament In Witness whereof I due hereunto set
 my hand & Seal the day and year above written.

Signed Sealed & Delivered published & declared
 The marke of
 William O Hunter

In presence of
 John Holmes Susanah Holmes Elisabeth Wright

Memorandum On the 26th day of May 1719 the within named Susanah Holmes
 made Oath the She saw the within named William Hunter Signe seale publish & declare
 the with in written Instrument to be his last Will & Testament, and that he was of
 perfect mind and memory to the best of her Judgment; and that she saw the within nam=
 =ed John Holmes, and Elisabeth Wright Signe as Witnesses also Before me
 Joshua Cushing Justice of peace

May the 27th 1719. John Holmes made Oath that he Saw the within named William Hun=

=ter Signe Seale & heard him declare the within written Instrument to be his last Will & Testament, and that according to his best Observation he was of sound & disposing mind and memory, and also that at the Same time Susanah Holmes & Elisabeth Wright set to their hands as Witnesses. Before me
Isaac Winslow Judge of probate

Plym. Ss Isaac Winslow Esqr Judge of the probate of Wills &c in the County of Plymouth within his majesties Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England To all to whome these presents shall Come Greeting Know thee that ON the 27th day of May, anno Dom[ni] 1719 Before me at Marshfield in the County aforesd, the Will of William Hunter Late of Scittuate in the County aforesd deceased to these presents annexed was proved approved and allowed who having while he Lived and at the time of his death goods Chattells rights or Credits in the County aforesd and the probate of the said Will and power of Committing administration of all and singular the goods Chattells right and Credits of the said deceased, and also the hearing examining and allowing the accounts of Such administration appertaining unto me, The administration of all and Singuler the goods Chattells rights and Credits of the said deceased and his Will in any manner Concerning is hereby Committed unto, Thomas Hunter & Jonathan Hunter Executors therein named well and faithfully to execute the said Will, and to administer the estate of the said deceased according thereunto, [xed out text] and to make a true and perfect Inventory of all and Singuler the goods Chattells rights and Credits of the said decd and to Exhibit the same into the registry of the Court of probates for the County aforesd on or before the 20th day of September next ensuing; and to render a Plain and true accompt of their said administration Upon Oath. In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and the seale of the sd Court of probates the day and year first abovewritten
Isaac Winslow

As reported previously (August 18), this will is significant and demonstrates several things.

1. William is an unlettered, unmarried, childless mariner of full age (b. before 1694), likely with property only in Plymouth County in 1715.
2. His father William is living in 1715 but believed dead in 1719.
3. His father William is living in Massachusetts and is expected to die there (otherwise testator would specify William's location).
3. His parents are living together in 1715 (because he leaves half to his father if living, but only if father is dead does anything go to his mother; in either event the second half goes to siblings).
4. His mother's name is Rebeckah and she is living in 1715. She may be unwell, as testator skips her in her rightful position in consideration of potential executors should his father be dead.
5. William the testator is surely the son of William and Rebeckah Hunter of Sandwich.
6. He is in regular touch with his Massachusetts-based siblings.
7. His sister Alice (Hunter) Randall (who in 1715 has six children [including one out of wedlock] and a hearty husband) is probably already provided for and receives no further legacy.

8. His siblings Thomas, Jonathan, and Rebeckah, are not otherwise provided for, i.e., all probably unmarried (Rebeckah certainly is unmarried).

9. His brother Elisha Hunter is either dead without children or out of the colony and/or well provided for. Plymouth court records show that Elisha is an innholder in Cape Cod in the 1720s and is likely flourishing.

10. Thomas is probably older than Jonathan.

11. Thomas and Jonathan are probably both of age in 1715.

12. William is older than Thomas or Jonathan, otherwise he would normally select the elder of the two remaining brothers to be sole executor.

Searches were made with no findings or negative findings in the following:

Suffolk Files Index (Court records from the beginning to 1700 – Mass. Bay Colony [not Plymouth Colony]) The name William Hunter did appear, however it was the man from Salem (#3665, William Hunter, land formerly his mentioned [in Salem]).

Plymouth General Sessions, 1719-1749 – no Hunters in indexes

Massachusetts Archives – card index, Columbia Point, no new William Hunter entries

Essex Quarterly Court Index – compiled WPA index to original papers, no mention of this William Hunter

Hypothesis proven

William and Rebecca (Besse) Hunter did not leave Massachusetts/Plymouth and were not the contemporary settlers of Nansemond County, Virginia. Their known children did not include a Nicholas, Isaac, Robert, Sarah, or Jane. The implications of William and Rebecca's son William's will are that William and Rebecca were living together in Massachusetts in 1715.

Additional records of this family may be found in the unindexed town records of Rochester, Wareham, Cape Cod towns, Plymouth, Scituate, and Sandwich. Records of son Jonathan may be found in Sharon, Connecticut, town records.

HUNTER
OF
SANDWICH

WILLIAM HUNTER

b. say 1653
d. after 14 July 1715

m. 27 February 1678/9
Sandwich, Plymouth

REBECCA BESSE

b. September 1657
Sandwich
d. 30 September 1746
Wareham, Mass.

Daughter of Anthony Besse
and Jane his wife

ELISHA HUNTER

b. 10 August 1679 Sandwich
Living and of Cape Cod September 1721
m. by June 1713

SUSANNA _____

WILLIAM HUNTER

b. 21 March 1681/2 Sandwich
d. between 14 July 1715 making of his will
and 26 May 1719 its proving

ALLSE HUNTER

b. 25 February 1682/3 Sandwich
Living at Rochester 15 June 1726
Liaison by June 1704 with Adam Jones
m. 11 March 1706/7 Rochester

JOB RANDALL

THOMAS HUNTER

Living 27 May 1720, reported his brother's inventory

JONATHAN HUNTER

Living 27 May 1719, ordered to execute brother's will
Dismissed to Sharon, Conn., church, 1749
m. 27 November 1729 Rochester

HOPESTILL HAMBLING

REBECKAH HUNTER

b. say 1692
d. ?
m. 20 June 1723 Rochester

JOHN BUMPASS

Research Notes: William Hunter of Nansemond County, Virginia

SEPTEMBER 2011

SYNOPSIS:

William Hunter, weaver of Nansemond County, Virginia (later Chowan County, North Carolina), was *possibly* the William Hunter who married **Elizabeth Cahoun in Alnwick, Northumberland, 1677**. William arrived in Virginia prior to 1685 with a son **Nicholas**, possibly a son **William**, and two females named **Rebecca** and **Joane Hunter**, either of whom could have been his wife or daughter. In 1695 William took out his first land in Nansemond and soon became a county justice and clerk of court. He died there between 1714 and 1726. No further record has been found in Nansemond or Chowan for Rebecca, Joane, or a subsequent daughter Alice cited by William in 1701. No known colonial record names his wife.

Of the eight children proved or proposed for William, all four sons became Nansemond planters like their father and left many offspring. An alleged daughter Sarah supposedly married a neighboring planter, by whom she left a prolific family. No further record has been found in Nansemond or Chowan for Rebecca, Joane, or the daughter Alice whom William named in a 1701 headright claim.

Children (proved, putative, and possible) of William Hunter of Nansemond & his unknown wife or wives:

1. **Nicolas**, b. ca. 1677; d. 1749, Carteret Co., N.C.
2. **Rebecca, possible daughter**, b. before 1685 [nothing further found]
3. **Joane, possible daughter**, b. before 1685 [nothing further found]
4. **Sarah, alleged daughter**, said to be b. 1684 and to marry William Battle
5. **Isaac**, b. ca. 1686–93; d. 1752–53, Chowan Co., N.C.
6. **Robert**, b. ca. 1686–93; died ca. 1753, Bertie Co., N.C.
7. **William**, b. ca. 1686–93; d. after 1714 receipt of a grant of land in Isle of Wight
8. **Alice**, born ca. 1686–1701 [nothing further found]¹

COMMENT:

Researchers of the late twentieth century have speculatively combined this Hunter family with two entirely different and widely scattered men of the same name who also had wives named Rebecca:

1. **William Hunter of Sandwich, Massachusetts**, married Rebecca Besse in 1679, by whom he had children **Elisha, William, Allis** (married Job Randall), **Rebecca** (married John Bumpus), and **Jonathan**. The family remained in Massachusetts where, in 1704, Alice was fined for bearing a child out of wedlock (Plymouth General Sessions, June Term 1704, 6:215) and where, in 1706, the family was warned out of Plymouth (*Records of the Town of Plymouth* [Plymouth: Avery & Doten, 1889–1903], 2:151). William, Rebecca, and children were still residing in Massachusetts in 1715, when William Jr., mariner of Scituate, died leaving a will that named his father, mother, and siblings. (Plymouth County Probate, Copybook 4:214–15, will, probate, and inventory). The widowed Rebecca Hunter's death on 30 September 1746 is recorded in the minutes of the First Church of Wareham, Massachusetts, to which her children Alice and Jonathan also belonged.

¹ Analysis and compilation by Elizabeth Shown Mills, CG, CGL, FASG, from research conducted by Mills; Helen F. M. Leary, CG; Mary McCampbell Bell, CALS; and Melinde Lutz Sanborn Byrne, CG, FASG. All statements in this synopsis are developed and documented in the research notes that follow. For abstracts and transcripts of records not included in this summary, the most reliable and accessible source is Hunter "Mack" Cole, *Hunters of Nansemond: The Family of James A. Hunter and Martha Harris Hunter* (<http://www.huntersofnansemond.info/>), particularly the sections "Land Records," "Hunter of Nansemond," and "Biographies." The suggestion that William of Nansemond may be William of Alnwick is proposed by Cole; the identity has not yet been proved but it represents, at this point, the likeliest direction for research to take in the effort to pursue William's origins.

Research Notes: William Hunter of Nansemond County, Virginia

2. **William Hunter, planter of Prince George County, Maryland**, died in 1728 leaving a will naming his wife **Rebecca**, a son **William**, and a daughter **Mary Ann**, wife of John Piles. (This William's will supposedly appears in Maryland Colonial Will Book 19:425.)

CIRCA 1650

ENGLAND?

Birth Period Estimated for William²

COMMENT:

No known document indicates an age or birth period for William of Nansemond. Birth is estimated here at ca. 1650, based on subsequent evidence for his activities and children.

CIRCA 1674

NANSEMOND CO., VA

Traditional Account of Arrival in Virginia:

(p. 4) "John Battle, wife, and children fled Yorkshire, England, after 'the passage of some ecclesiastical edicts' (ca. 1654), allegedly in company with **Hunters**, then two years later emigrated to Norfolk, Virginia. Settled on South Branch of the Nansemond. 'Battle obtained the King's Patent ... for one thousand acres ... *while he yet lived, his son married Wm. Hunter's daughter* whose name was Sarah."

(p. 199) "John Battle ... emigrated to America with his family and a number of relatives and neighbors, among whom were Sumners, **Hunters**, and Bakers.

"William Battle was *born* in North Carolina on Paspetank River *in 1682. After the death of his father about 1690*, he returned under care of guardians to his former home on Nansemond River in Virginia, where he ... married Sarah Hunter (b. 1684; d. 1769; d. of **William Hunter**).³

COMMENT:

John Battle (Battell)'s first land patent is dated 14 December 1654, granting him 200 acres on "West branch of Nansimum River," adjoining land of Thomas Babb, for transportation of 4 persons: John Battle, Elizabeth Battle, Thomas Nowell, and Robert Wolfe. (Patent Book 3: 216)

Yet *The Battle Book* asserts that this John and wife Elizabeth, who arrived as a couple before December 1654, had only two children: "Alsey" who "d. young" and William (b. 1682) who married Sarah Hunter. **The improbability of this reconstruction calls into question the reliability of the "tradition" reported by the author (who was several generations removed) that the wife of William Battle was William Hunter's daughter.**

² See subsequent research notes.

³ William Sumner Battle (1761-1828), "Historical Sketch of the Battle Family to 1820: A Few Traditional Sketches," in Herbert Bemerton Battle, *The Battle Book: A Genealogy of the Battle Family in America* (Montgomery, Ala.: Paragon Press, 1930), 4-9.

Research Notes: William Hunter of Nansemond County, Virginia

CIRCA 1674 NANSEMOND CO., VA Traditional Account of Arrival in Virginia

"Hunter of Nansemond County"

"The first of this family was **William Hunter**. It is not known when he first appeared in Virginia. The first public record pertaining to him is a patent dated 4/21/1695 for 200a. 'on the east side of the main cypress swamp that leads out of Bennett's Creek' in the Upper Parish of Nansemond Co., for the importation of 4 Negro slaves into the colony. (P.B. 8-431). On 4/25/1702, he was granted 240a. in the Upper Parish on the s.e. side of Meherrin Swamp adjoining his earlier patent for the transportation of himself, his **wife**, his **daughter Alice**, his son **Nicholas**, and **Mary Cahoon**. When the dividing line between NC and VA was re-surveyed in 1729, the land covered by these patents fell in N.C. In 1704 William Hunter appeared on the Nansemond Rent Roll with 800a. He was styled in the rent roll as 'Capt.' which indicates that he was probably captain in the county militia at that time. As the Nansemond records have been destroyed there is no record of the division of his estate. Issue of whom there is any record:

- I. **Alice Hunter**, mentioned in the land patent, no record.
- II. **Nicholas Hunter** of whom later
- III. **Robert Hunter** of whom later
- IV. **Isaac Hunter** of whom later
- V. **Sarah Hunter**, probable. According to *The Battle Book*, Sarah Hunter (1684-1769), dau. Wm. Hunter of Nansemond, m William Battle (1682-1749). Their son Elisha was the founder of the family in N.C."⁴

CIRCA 1674-77 VIRGINIA OR GREAT BRITAIN? Theoretical Origins & a Pre-Virginia Marriage:

"In 1685, during the reign of James II, **William Hunter**, the immigrant ancestor in this line of American Hunters, arrived in the upper parish of Nansemond Co., Va., possibly from **Alnwick, Northumberland**."⁵

COMMENT:

The website that proposes this origin, a site created by Hunter Cole, has proved to be unusually reliable. It does not, however, seem to provide evidence for this particular assertion. Another Hunter website provides the apparent basis for this proposal:

"e-mail from Hunter Cole - Brian Hunter in England... posted the Hunter entries from the registry of the Alnwick, Northumberland, parish church. In the listings there is a striking revelation: In 1677 William Hunter of Alnwick married Elizabeth Cahoun. The Cahoun name is significant. In the

⁴ John Bennett Boddie, *Historical Southern Families*, 23 (Redwood City, Cal.: Pacific Coast Publishers, 1957), 130-31.

⁵ Hunter "Mack" Cole, "Land Records," article, *Hunters of Nansemond: The Family of James A. Hunter and Martha Harris Hunter* (www.huntersofnansemond.info/?page_id=10: accessed 1 April 2011), "Biographies of Six Generations of Nansemond Hunters: William Hunter".

Research Notes: William Hunter of Nansemond County, Virginia

Virginia land patent of William Hunter of Nansemond (25 April 1701) these persons are mentioned: William, his wife (unidentified), daughter Alice, son Nicholas, and MARY COHONE. **So I surmise that William of Nansemond was married to Elizabeth Cahoun** and that he brought her sister Mary to Virginia and named her in his patent. (Virginia Patent Book 9, p. 309)." --Sally Moore Koestler, *Sally's Family Place - Maple Lawn* (<http://www.sallysfamilyplace.com/MapleLawn/hunterw.htm> : accessed 17 June 2011).

Brian Hunter's posting is a list of IGI entries for Hunters of Alnwick. See <http://boards.ancestry.co.uk/topics.ethnic.celtic.scottish.hunter/14.2.1.2/mb.ashx>. **Note that the six male names used by Hunters in this parish include Nicholas.** There were, in fact, two of that name in Alnwick contemporaneously with the William who married Elizabeth Cahoun: a Nicholas who married in 1681; and a son of John Hunter, baptized in 1668.

21 SEPTEMBER 1674

VIRGINIA

Patent Book 6:523

Virginia Land Patents & Grants

[partially illegible document]

3,000 acres are patented to **Geo. Gill** for transportation rights on ca. 60 people, including ... "Hen. Wilde, Wm. Robosson [?], **Wm. Hunter**, Izabell Webster, Wm. Ball, Edwd. Brisle, Tho. Scott, Margy. Graves, Margt. Breele [Freele?], Hen. Longman, Geo. Long, Walter Peirce, Jno. Criton, **Jno. Cohon**, David Logon, Richd. Hodkin, Tom Boyer, Mary Remaller, Jone Elles, Elenor Dogin, Jno. Hasell."⁶

COMMENT:

In 1701, William Hunter of Nansemond cashed in transportation rights on self, wife, daughter, son, and one **Mary Cohone**. That name (or that spelling) is not common in colonial Virginia records.

BEFORE 1782

ENGLAND?

Estimated birth period of **Nicholas Hunter**.⁷

COMMENT:

The first record created for Nicholas as an adult is a land patent issued to him in April 1703. (Nugent, *Cavaliers & Pioneers*, 3:68) To receive a patent in his own name, he should have been of legal age.

BEFORE 1684

⁶ Virginia, "Virginia Land Office Patents & Grants," digital image, *The Library of Virginia* (<http://image.lva.virginia.gov/LONN> : accessed 3 July 2011), Geo. Gill patent, 300 acres.

⁷ Nell Marion Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers: Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants*, 7 vols. (Richmond, Va.: Dietz Print Co., 1934---), 3: 68.

Research Notes: William Hunter of Nansemond County, Virginia

ENGLAND?

Possible birth of William Jr., presuming he is the transportation right cited in 1685 by Charles "Rowntree" of Nansemond.⁸

FEBRUARY 1682–APRIL 1685

Apparent period of Hunter family migration to Nansemond.⁹

COMMENT:

Colonial Virginia patents, 1685–1701, offer several documents that grant land on the basis of transportation, slave, or family rights for individuals named William Hunter. The dates shown below are the dates on which the rights were cashed in by the party who had provided the transportation or bought the right—not the date of arrival. (For documentation, see each abstract under the cited date.)

The four most relevant entries are these:

William [Sr.?) 21 September 1674, with **William Cohon**, 2 of 60 rights held by Geo. Gill.

Rebecca 04 November 1685, one of 7 rights held by Charles Roundtree

Nicholas 04 November 1685, one of 7 rights held by Roundree

William [Jr.?) 04 November 1685, one of 7 rights held by Roundtree

Joane 04 November 1685, one of 7 rights held by Roundtree

Slave: Alis 21 April 1695, one of 4 rights held by William Hunter

William [Sr.?) 25 April 1701, one of 5 rights held by William Hunter

"his wife" 25 April 1701, one of 5 rights held by William Hunter

"dau. Alice" 25 April 1701, one of 5 rights held by William Hunter

"son Nich." 25 April 1701, one of 5 rights held by William Hunter

Mary Cohone 25 April 1701, one of 5 rights held by William Hunter

This accounting suggests that William claimed rights twice on himself and Nicholas, something he *might* have done legally if he came twice to the colony, with a residence elsewhere in the interim. In the same vein, the apparent double-claim for a wife *might* reflect the fact that he married twice.

The possibility of intentional "double-dipping" should also be considered. It was not uncommon in his society; and his position as county clerk and justice would have made it easy for him to submit a new headright claim with whatever "evidence" was required.

20 APRIL 1685

⁸ Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers*, 2:293.

⁹ Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers*, 2: 287, 294; 3:42.

Research Notes: William Hunter of Nansemond County, Virginia

VIRGINIA

The following document for a William Hunter offers no known or perceivable connection to William of Nansemond or William of Sandwich.

"Mr. **Robert Ruffin**, 2250 acs., **Surry Co.**, in Lawnes Cr. Par., 20 Apr. 1685, [Patent Book 7:] p. 439. About 1/4 mi. S. of road from Augustine Hunnicutt's to Sunken Marsh Mill, cor. of Joseph Rogers' 500 acs: by Mr. William Newsome; to sd. Rogers' *Pokatinck* land, by Bowling Green Sw; & Holly Bush Sw; to 917 ac. patt. of Mr. Georg Watkins, dated 1 Mar. 1666, now in possession of sd. Ruffin; &c. Trans. of 55 perss: Jno. Waddy, Tho. Carrill, Jane Bell, Wm. Butler, Walter Handam, Ellin Jones, Ed. Millington, Wm. Davis, Isabell Jones, Ed. Moss, James Collier, Owe Evans, Jno. Murry, Xpher. Anderson, Joseph Kelley, Jno. Treby (?), Terry Carter, Ed Fen (?), Ed. Dyer, James Tayler, Charles Dyas, jeremy Jones, John Debue, Wm. Frost, Adam Caster (or Carter), John Bush, Robt. Minor, Abraham Willis, Ellin Adams, Robt. Elliot, Ed. Fen, Joseph Jones, **Wm. Hunter**, Gesper Kelly. Fra. Ellis, Paul Peters, Wm. Evans, Ellin Carter, Edwin kerby, Geo. Foster, Fra. Collins, Eliza. Jenkins, Edwd. Baptist; 1 Negro."¹⁰

27 OCTOBER 1685 NANSEMOND CO., VA

William Hunter is not among the 222 signers of the Nansemond "Petition for Religious Freedom."¹¹

BEFORE 4 NOVEMBER 1685 NANSEMOND COUNTY

"Detail text:

"CHARLES ROWNTREE (Rountree), 350 acs., in the Up. Par. of Nanzamund, 4 Nov. 1685, [Patent Book 7], p. 487. Beg. at Michael Brinckly, by the Scypresse Sw. Trans. of 7 pers: **Willm. Hunter**, **Nicho. Hunter**, **Joane Hunter**, **Rebecka Hunter**, Charles Rountree, Robert Rountree, John Sayer."¹²

COMMENT:

When William Hunter, weaver, located his first land patent, he chose the Roundtree neighborhood. The families continued to be close for decades to come. See, for example, this report's record transcripts for 25 March 1729.

BEFORE 1685 NANSEMOND CO., VA

¹⁰ Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers*, 2: 287.

¹¹ "Petition for Religious Freedom, October 27, 1785 [Nansemond]," image, David Boyette, *Boyette Family Documents* (<http://www.pbase.com/daveb/image/87945273>: accessed 30 June 2011), 5 pages, 222 signatures; citing no source for the original petition.

¹² Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers*, 2: 293.

Research Notes: William Hunter of Nansemond County, Virginia

Possible birth of a daughter Rebecca before 1685.¹³

COMMENT:

This suggestion is based on the November 1685 cluster of Hunter transportation rights that includes one "Rebecca Hunter" with William, Nicholas, and Joane.

BEFORE 1685

Possible birth of a daughter Joane before 1685.¹⁴

COMMENT:

This suggestion is based on the November 1685 cluster of Hunter transportation rights that includes one "Joane Hunter" with William, Rebecca, and Nicholas.

CIRCA 1684-85 NANSEMOND CO., VA

William Hunter's alleged daughter Sarah, said to have married William Battle, was supposedly born 1684 and died 1769.¹⁵

COMMENT:

No evidence was offered by this source (nor has any been found) to support either this birth year or Sarah's alleged parentage. If she were, indeed, a daughter of William Hunter, then the fact that she is not named as a transportation right--as is Nicholas, William, Rebecca, and Joane Hunter--suggests that she was born in Virginia.

1686-93

NANSEMOND CO., VA

Robert, son of William, was allegedly of age in 1714 (i.e., born before 1793).

Boddie presents details from a 2/4/1745 deed in which Robert Hunter of Bertie Co., N.C., sells two tracts to his daughter and son-in-law, identifying them as (a) part of 200 acres granted to Robert's father William on 21 April 1695 and (b) part of a patent granted to Robert and his brother Isaac Hunter for 400 acres in North Carolina on 30 August 1714. Boddie does not provide a citation to the 1745 deed to support his statements.¹⁶

COMMENT:

Cole, in *Hunters of Nansemond*, cites the deed as Chowan County Book A: 257, but abstracts the

¹³ Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers*, 2:293.

¹⁴ Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers*, 2: 294.

¹⁵ Battle, "Historical Sketch of the Battle Family," *The Battle Book*, 4-9, Chapter 2, particularly p. 199; and HBB's Chapter 2, p. 4.

¹⁶ Boddie, *Historical Southern Families*, 7: 130-31.

Research Notes: William Hunter of Nansemond County, Virginia

document differently:

"On 16 February 1743, Isaac Hunter purchased land from his brother Robert, 'part of a patent to William Hunter late of Nansemond County . . . being the **father of the said Robert and Isaac Hunter**' (Chowan County Book A , p. 257)."

Cole's abstract does not mention a second tract of land that was part of a patent issued jointly to Robert and Isaac in 1714. It does provide two other relevant abstracts or transcripts, as follows:

(1)

"On 21 July 1743 'A deed of sale for lands from Robert Hunter to Isaac Hunter Senr. was proved by the oath of Elisha Hunter & on motion is ordered to be registered' (Chowan Co., N. C., County Court Minutes, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions 1730 thru 1745, Book I, p. 149)."

(2)

"THIS Indenture made this [9 October 1747] between **Isaac Hunter** & Elizabeth his wife of Chowan County in the Province of North Carolina of the one Part & **Jacob Hunter** son of the sd Isaac Hunter & Elizabeth his wife of the County & Province aforesaid of the other Part. Witnesseth that the said Isaac Hunter & Elizabeth & in consideration of the natural love & affection which they have & bear unto the sd Jacob Hunter their Son ...Doth give ... unto the sd Jacob Hunter one Messuage or Tenement of Land Situate Lying & being in the County & Province aforesd on the Eastward Side of the Meherin Swamp beginning at at Black gum standing in the Line of a Tract or parcell of Land now in the Tenour or Occupation of Samuel Harrell from Thence to other thereabout along the several courses of a **patent granted [no date] to Isaac Hunter & Robert Hunter** . . . (Chowan Deed Book E 1, pp. 336-337)}

The proposal that Isaac and Robert are **sons of William I** is also supported indirectly by the will of William II, drawn 4 January 1732/3 and proved 18 January 1732/3. According to the abstract provided by Grimes (p. 178), witnesses were Spencer Cole, **Isaac Hunter** and **Robert Hunter**. (Grimes, however, is a highly unreliable source; and I have not yet viewed the actual will.)

1686-93

NANSEMOND CO., VA

Isaac, son of William, was an adult by 1714 (therefore, born before 1793), according to the following:

"The earliest known record of William's son Isaac shows him to be a single man with one slave. 'Personally appeared **Mr. Isaac Hunter** and made oath that his family consisted of two persons, videlicet Isaac Hunter and one negro called London. Issued' (Chowan Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1714 - 1719, p. 104)."¹⁷

21 APRIL 1695

¹⁷ Cole, *Hunters of Nansemond: The Family of James A. Hunter and Martha Harris Hunter*, "Family History".

Research Notes: William Hunter of Nansemond County, Virginia

NANSEMOND CO., VA

"**Wm. Hunter, weaver**, 200 acs., Up. Par. of Nansemond Co.; E. side of the maine Cypruss Sw[amp] of Bennetts Crk; on S. side of the Further Br[anch] of Oysterlong Neck, &c; 21 Apr. 1695, [Patent Book 8], p. 431. Imp. of 4 pers: **Alla**, Harry, Shambo, Ned."¹⁸

COMMENT:

Nugent errs in her reading of the first slave's name. The original document renders it as **Allis**. See below.

21 APRIL 1695

NANSEMOND CO., VA

"To all and whomever and Now Know you that I, the said Sr. Edmond Andros, Gent., Governor, and with the advice and Consent of the Councill of State Accordingly give and grant unto **William Hunter** of Nansemond County, **weaver**, **two hundred Acres** of Land Scituate lying and being on the Eastward Side of the **Maine Cypruss Swamp** that runs out of Bennets Creek in the Upper parish of Nansemond County, beginning at a **Markt pine** on the South ward Side of a branch called the **further branch** of **Oysterlong Neck** and running thence Southwesterly five degrees one hundred Eighty pole to a **Markt red oak**, thence South Easterly twenty degrees three hundred forty Eight poles to a **Markt Chincopin oak**---in a branch then Along the Northward Side of the aforesaid branch to the **Maine Cyprus Swamp**, thence along the Maine Cypruss Swamp on Severall Courses and bounding thereon to the aforesaid furtherst branch of **Oysterlong Neck**, thence up the branch abounding thereon to the first Station, the said two hundred acres of Land being due unto the said William Hunter by and for the **Importation of four persons** into this Colony all whose Names are to be in the record Mentioned Under this Patent to have and to hold and to be held and Yielding paying and provided and Dated the 21st day of April Anno Dom. 1695. [Signed] E. Andros.
"Allis, Henry, Shambo, Ned?"¹⁹

COMMENT:

Note that William has given the name **Allis** to one of his imported slaves, the name of a daughter whom he cited in his 1701 claim for land based on importation rights. The daughter Allis has not been found thereafter in Virginia or North Carolina.

8 JUNE 1699

NANSEMOND CO., VA

"**William Hunter** was clerk of the Nansemond County, Virginia, court, June 8, 1699.(6) He was a justice of the peace in that county, from 1702 to 1714.(7) Also, he was listed in the 'Virginia Quit Rent Rolls' of 1704 for Nansemond County.(8) By his name was stated '800 acres'. His name appeared in the quit rent rolls for Isle of Wight County, Virginia, 1704.(9)

"Our ancestor was William Hunter of Nansemond County, Virginia. Whether he came to live in North Carolina we do not know. He purchased land in Chowan County, N.C. and very probably visited there but did not go there

¹⁸ Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers*, 2: 401.

¹⁹ Virginia, "Virginia Land Office Patents & Grants," digital image 200 acres to William Hunter, weaver, Nansemond County, citing Patent Book 8: 431.

Research Notes: William Hunter of Nansemond County, Virginia

to live. Long after he had died, his son Nicholas Hunter conveyed his interest in land, 120 acres, on S.E. side of Meherrin Swamp in Chowan County, to his **brothers William and Isaac Hunter**. (10) These lands were described in part as "--part of a patent to William Hunter of Nansemond County, Virginia, Father of said Nicolas."

"6. *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 6, page 187.

"7. *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 12, page 175.

"8. *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 12, page 197.

"9. *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 1, No. 3, page 232

"10. Abstracts of conveyances of which the originals are at the court house at Edenton, N.C. -- *N.C. Historical and Genealogical Register*, Vol. 2, page 445."²⁰

8 JUNE 1699

NANSEMOND CO., VA

(p. 8) 8 June 1699

"List of County Officers - Nansemond County: Quorum: Thomas Milner, Charles Drury, John Spier, **William Hunter**, William Wright."

(p. 15) [date?]

Nansemond Co. - Justices - **Wm. Hunter** ...²¹

7 NOVEMBER 1700

NANSEMOND CO., VA

"JOHN MOOR (Moore), 481 acs., Up. Par. of Nansemond Co.; on both sides of Holmes' Br. & the Oystertongs [Oysterlong] Br., 7 Nov. 1700, p. 281. **Adj. Wm. Hunter**; & Rice & Holmes' land. Trans. of 10 pers: Walter Williams, John Ligliah, Abra. Hawkins, Margt. Williams, Anne Skeate, John Guser, Hump. Lee, Hump. Rogers, James Beary, Eliza. Gragean."²²

25 APRIL 1701

NANSEMOND CO., VA

"William Hunter, 240 acs., Up. Par. of Nansemond Co; on SE side of Meherring Sw., 25 Apr. 1701, p. 309. Trans. of 5 pers: **Wm. Hunter, his wife, daughter Alice; & son Nicho. Hunter; & Mary Cohone**."²³

COMMENT:

The full document is transcribed below by ESM, from the original recorded copy.

²⁰ Primrose Watson "Robert" Fisher, *One Dozen Pre-Revolutionary War Families of Eastern North Carolina and Some of Their Descendants* (New Bern, N.C.: New Bern Historical Society Foundation, 1958), 303.

²¹ Louis des Cognets Jr., *English Duplicates of Lost Virginia Records* (Princeton, N.J.: N.P., circa 1958), 8, 15. /

²² Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers*, 3: 38, citing Patent Book 9: 281.

²³ Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers*, 3: 42.

Research Notes: William Hunter of Nansemond County, Virginia

See also the 21 September 1674 note for transportation rights of **William Hunter** and ca. 59 others, including one **Jno. Cohon**.

25 APRIL 1701
NANSEMOND CO., VA

"To all &c, Whereas &c, Now know you that I, the sd. Francis Nicholson Esqr. Governor, do with the advice & Consent of the Councill of state accordingly give and grant unto **William Hunter two hundred and forty acres** of Land scituate Lying & being in the Upper parish of Nansemond County on the SouthEastward side of the **Meherring swamp**, Beginning at a **white oake** standing on a small branch, a Corner tree of a **patent formerly granted the sd. Hunter** & running thence South Easterly twenty Seven degrees forty four pole to a **white Oake** thence South Easterly Seventy Seven degs. forty four pole to a **red oake**, thence South westerly twenty eight degrees Seventy eight pole to a **Dogwood**, thence Southwesterly fifty degrees Sixty Six pole to a **Gum**, thence Southwesterly fifty Six degrees Seventy poles to a **pine**, thence South westerly Sixty one degrees one hundred & twenty poles to a **hiccory**, thence South Easterly fifty nine degrees forty eight pole to a **red Oak**, thence Southwesterly thirty nine degrees twenty pole to a **markd tree** standing in the aforesaid swamp. thence running down the sd. swamp, its severall Courses and bounding thereon to the mouth of the sd. branch, thence running up the sd. branch its severll Courses & gounding thereon to the first mentioned station. The said Land being due unto the said William Hunter by and for the **transportion of five persons** into this Colony whose names are to be in the record mentioned under this patent. To have & to hold &c to be held &c, **yjelding[?]** & paying & c. provided &c. Given under my hand & the Seale of the Colony this 25th day of Aprill anno Dom. 1701. [Signed] Fr. Nicholson.

William Hunter his patent for 240
acres of Land in Nansemond County.
E. Jenings

**Wm. Hunter &
his wife & daughter
Alice & son Nicho.
Hunter.
Mary Cohone²⁴**

COMMENT:

Considering that Hunter named his daughter and his son, it is perhaps meaningful that he did not affix a name to his wife.

25 MAY 1702
LOWER PARISH, NANSEMOND CO., VA.
Mary Williams of Nansemond Co. complained to the Board of **Wm. Hunter** of Lower Parish of Nansemond

²⁴ Virginia, "Virginia Land Office Patents & Grants," digital image Patent of William Hunter, 240 acres, Nansemond, 25 April 1701.

Research Notes: William Hunter of Nansemond County, Virginia

Co. did on ye 16th instant send a Constable to her house and take away her child and contrary to law bound him for 21 years.²⁵

COMMENT:

On 24 April 1703, William's son **Nicholas** patented 46 acres in the Upper parish of Nansemond, on NE side of Mahering Swamp, adjoining William. Land was granted on the transportation right of Hugh **Williams**. (Nugent 3: 68)

24 APRIL 1703
NANSEMOND CO., VA

"William LASSISTER. 100 acs., Up. Par. of Nansemond Co; on both sides of Lassister's Cr., a br. of Maherring Sw; **adj. William Hunter**; 24 Apr. 1703, p. 516. Trans. of 2 pers: Evan Hill, Anne Price."²⁶

24 APRIL 1703
NANSEMOND CO., VA

"Grant to **Nicholas Hunter**, 46 acs. Up. Par. of Nansemond Co; ne side of Mahering Swamp **adjoining William Hunter**; 24 Apr. 1703, p. 513, patent book 9. Transportation of **Hugh Williams**."²⁷

COMMENT:

Might Hugh be the son of Mary, who was taken away and bound out by William 11 months earlier? Known records do not identify the individual to whom Mary's son was bound out.

6 MARCH 1704
ISLE OF WIGHT CO., VA.

"Madison Street, planter, sells to **Wm. Hunter** 50 acres in U.P., part of a pat., granted Richard Maddison by escheat 16 Apl., 1670. James Meloin, Thomas Whitley, Richard Wilkinson, Jr., deed dated 6 Mar., 1704."²⁸

COMMENT:

Isle of Wight County adjoined Nansemond on the northwest. The east-west boundary between them was the Blackwater River. Bennett's Creek lay near the boundary line.

1704

²⁵ Virginia, *Executive Journals of the Council of Colonial Virginia*, 6 vols. (Richmond: D. Bottoms, Printer, 1925), 3: 42.

²⁶ Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers*, 3: 68; citing Patent Book 9: 318.

²⁷ Nell Nugent, *Cavaliers & Pioneers: Abstracts of Virginia Land Grants*, 3 vols. (Richmond: VA State Library, 1979), 3: 68.

²⁸ John Bennett Boddie, *Seventeenth Century Isle of Wight County, Virginia: A History . . . during the Seventeenth Century, including abstracts of the county records* (1938; reprint Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2003), 652.

Research Notes: William Hunter of Nansemond County, Virginia

ISLE OF WIGHT CO., VA.

"Quit Rents 1704 . . . Hunter, Wm. 150."²⁹

COMMENT:

No other Hunter appears on this roll, nor does any other individual known to be connected to William Hunter. The quit rent acreage exceeds the size of the tract that this William [identity unproved] bought in Isle of Wight in March 1704.

1704

ISLE OF WIGHT CO., VA.

"1704 Rent Rolls"

Isle of Wight Co. Wm. Hunter 150 acres
Princess Anne Co. Dr. Wm. Hunter 80 acres"³⁰

1704

ISLE OF WIGHT CO., VA.

Virginia Quit Rent Rolls, Isle of Wight & Nansemond Counties:

"Hunter Nicholas Nansemond County, 1704
Hunter William Capt Nansemond County, 1704
Hunter Wm Isle Wight County, 1704"³¹

13 NOVEMBER 1713

ISLE OF WIGHT CO., VA.

"BENJAMIN EVANS, of Pr. Geo. Co; 375 acs. (N.L.), in **Is. of W. Co**; on S. side the main Black Water Sw., 13 Nov. 1713, p. 120. Beg. on N. side of Nottaway Riv., at lower end of Black Walnut Tree field; & down Nottaway Sw. **Imp. of 8 pers:** John Goulson, Gen. Goulson, Geo. Davenport, John Kelly, Danl. Kerson, Wm. Sabree, Archibald Cambell, **Wm. Hunter**."³²

1714

NANSEMOND CO., VA

²⁹ John Bennett Boddie, *Seventeenth Century Isle of Wight County, Virginia* (Chicago: Chicago Law Printing Co., 1938), 699.

³⁰ Des Cognets, *English Duplicates of Lost Virginia Records*, p. ?.

³¹ Wright Electronic Genealogy Project, *Alphabetical Rent Roll of Virginia, 1704-05 [Nansemond & Isle of Wight Only]* (<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~boyett/1704QR.pdf> : access 9 July 2011), image copy posted by David Boyette.

³² Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers*, 3: 139, citing Patent Book 10: 120.

Research Notes: William Hunter of Nansemond County, Virginia

"**William Hunter** is mentioned as a clerk, or justice of the peace (*Virginia Magazine of History & Biography*, I, June 1894, p. 368)."³³

COMMENT:

The abstractor of this VMHB article does not indicate the nature (or reliability) of the derivative source in which this assertion was made.

16 JUNE 1714
ISLE OF WIGHT CO., VA.

Possibility:

"**WILLIAM HUNTER**, 225 acs. (Escheat L.), **Is. of Wight Co.**, in newport Par., beg. at mouth of Herings Br. on NE sided [sic] of Tellow's Mill Cr.; over a main road; by Joseph Bridger's land; over the Middle path, cor. of Robt Long, to Robt. Clarke's line; to **Thomas Wright's land**; 16 June 1714, p. 172. Escheated from Robt. Dunster (being part of 3200 acs. granted Capt. John Upton, 10 July 1643) by inquisition under Wm. Randolph, Esqr. Now granted, &c: 2 Lbs. Tobacco. Survey returned by John Allen, Surveyor."³⁴

COMMENT:

The identity of this William Hunter remains to be proved.

16 JUNE 1714
ISLE OF WIGHT CO., VA.

Possibility:

"Granted by Gov. Spottswood 1710-18
Isle of Wight Co. - **Wm Hunter** 6-16-1714 80 acres."³⁵

COMMENT:

Note the discrepancy in acreage said to have been patented to William Hunter on the same day. Nugent reports 225 acres. Des Cognets reports just 80 acres. **The original record should be examined.**

16 JUNE 1714
NANSEMOND CO., VA

"**WILLIAM SUMNER**, 68 acs. (N. L.), Up. Par. at Nansemond Co; at place called Gordan's Marsh at Orapeak; adj. his own land, by a great road; & **William Hunter**; 16 June 1714, p. 129. Imp. of 2 pers. Elizabeth Copeland,

³³ Cole, *Hunters of Nansemond: The Family of James A. Hunter and Martha Harris Hunter*, "Family History".

³⁴ Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers*, 3: 133; citing Patent Book 10: 172.

³⁵ Des Cognets, *English Duplicates of Lost Virginia Records*, p. 99.

Research Notes: William Hunter of Nansemond County, Virginia

usannah Duffield."³⁶

COMMENT:

It cannot be assumed from this reference to William Hunter's land that the original William is still alive. Such patents often referenced the individual to whom the adjacent grant was made, whether that person was still alive or not.

**BEFORE CIRCA 1726
NANSEMOND CO., VA**

Leary's analysis for the probable death period of William Hunter:

"Prior to the survey of the North Carolina–Virginia border in 1728, northern Chowan and Perquimans Counties (the area now Gates County) as far south as the mouth of Bennett's Creek was considered to be in Nansemond County.

"William Hunter's will was probated in Nansemond and consequently has not survived . . . but the estate had been closed with final accounts and land divisions completed prior to 1728—open estates that included land in Chowan were re-probated in Chowan after the border was drawn.

"Since an estate usually took from two to three years to settle, William Hunter died prior to ca. 1726."³⁷

**BEFORE 28 AUGUST 1728
NANSEMOND CO., VA**

William Hunter left a will at his death, according to a power of attorney given on 28 August 1728 by his son Nicholas, authorizing the sale of land inherited from his father. The document does not say where or when William died.³⁸

COMMENT:

No copy of this will is known to survive.

**25 MARCH 1729
CHOWAN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**
Deed Book C-1:599-600
Chowan County, N.C.

³⁶ Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers*, 3: 141; citing Patent book 10: 129.

³⁶ Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers*, 3: 141; citing Patent book 10: 129.

³⁷ Helen F. M. Leary CG, "Hunter Report #2," pp. 7-8; research report to Still Hunter Jr., [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE], Birmingham, AL, February 1989; photocopy held by Elizabeth Shown Mills, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE].

³⁸ Chowan Co., N.C., Deeds, Book C-1: 599, Nicholas Hunter, Power of attorney, 28 August 1728; Register of Deeds, Edenton, N.C.

Research Notes: William Hunter of Nansemond County, Virginia

[Land formerly patented by Virginia]

"This indenture made 25 Mar. 1729, **Nics. Hunter** of Carteret Precinct in Bath County and **Rebecca** {ESM: allegedly née Hardy} his wife to **Wm. Hunter** son of the sd. Nicholas Hunter ...: **Thos. Rountree** of Albemarle County by virtue of a power of attorney to him from the said Nicholas and Rebecca Hunter made 28 Aug. 1728, empowering sd. Thomas to sell 'all the Lands belonging to the sd Nics. Hunter in Albemarle County' ; for £14 current Silver money of Virginia, two tracts of land on southeastward side of **Meherrin Swamp** in Chowan Pct., beginning at a *red oak sapling on Meherrin Swamp, thence southward by a line of marked trees and across the plantation whereon the sd. Nicholas did formerly live. . . . to a live oak in the head of a small branch, thence south by a line of marked trees to the line of the patent hereafter mentioned* & then along the several courses of the patent to the aforesaid meherrin Swamp and then down the several courses of the swamp and bounded thereon to the first station, being **120 acres** more or less [deed originally said 'one hundred acres' and the 'twenty' was inserted above the line, **being part of a patent formerly granted to Wm. Hunter late of the Upper Parish of Nansemond deceased, father of the aforesaid Nicholas Hunter** party to these presents, as by a patent from the Authority of Virginia dated **25 April 1701** . . . and by the **last will of said Wm. Hunter deceased** descended to Nicholas Hunter party to these presents; the other part being a patent granted to the said Nicholas Hunter for 46 acres dated 24 Apr. 1703, beginning at a gum in Meherrin Swamp running thence and **bounding on the land of Wm. Hunter deceased** northeastwardly . . . [course and distances given in the deed] adjoining the said Hunter's line . . . across a small branch to a pine in the aforesaid swamp, then down the swamp rto the first station, containing 40 acres [sic]. Signed by 'Thos. Rountree for Nicks. Hunter & Rebecca his wife have hereunto sett the names & seals in their behalf.' Witness: Isac Hunter, Chas. C. Rountree [there is no indication that the C was a signature mark, but it may have been]. Deed proved 25 [27] March 1729 by acknowledgement of Thos. Rountree atty. . . etc. before C[hristopher] Gale C.J."³⁹

COMMENT:

In the above extract, all passages in square editorial brackets were placed there by Leary. My own one annotation is placed in curly brackets to differentiate it from Leary's comments.

Regarding the asterisks placed by Leary in the above document, see the deed below from Nicholas to son Isaac.

25 MARCH 1729 CHOWAN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

"Chowan Co. NC DB C-1: 600-601

Abstract:

25 March 1729, **Nicholas Hunter** of Carteret and **Rebecca** his wife to **Isaac Hunter** son of the said Nicholas of Albemarle Co.; by power of attorney to **Thomas Rountree** . . . [same as above deed]; for £14 current silver money of Virginia; two parcels of land on southeastward side of Maherrin Swamp in Chowan: beginning at a red oak sapling by **Meherrin Swamp** [the first part of the land description in this deed ... is the same as in the deed to William, the part between the two *'s] and from the red oak sapling in the patent line then the several courses of the patent to a white oak in a small branch a corner tree the beginning tree of the patent and then down the said branch its several courses and bounded thereon [to] the aforesaid Meherrin Swamp and then up the sd swamp its several courses and bounded thereon to the first station, being one hundred acres more or less [sic], being part of a patent . . . [same as above deed to William]; and another tract being a patent **granted to Nicholas Hunter**

³⁹ Leary, "Hunter Report #2," pp. 5-6.

Research Notes: William Hunter of Nansemond County, Virginia

aforesaid and **Thomas Davis** of Perquimans Precinct for 164 acres dated 9 Mar. 1717/18 and by the sd. Thos Davis sold to Nicholas Hunter aforesaid by a deed [date of the deed not given], beginning at a red oak **James Spivey's** corner tree then the several courses along his line to a pine . . . to the center of a gum and white oak in Nicholas Hunters line and along it to the first station containing 164 acres more or less. Signed by Thomas Rountree for Nicholas and Rebecca Hunter. Witness: Wm. Hunter, Chas. C Rountree. Proved by acknowledgment of Thomas Rountree."⁴⁰

28 SEPTEMBER 1730 NANSEMOND CO., VA

"John Lassiter, 351 acs. (N.L.), Up. Parish of Nansemond; adj. James Boyce; Aaron Blanchard; Joshua Spivie; Nathan Newby; **William Hunter**; Joseph Booth; & his own land; 28 Sept. 1730, p. 131. 35 Shill."⁴¹

COMMENT:

The adjacent owner would, on the surface, appear to be William Hunter *Jr.*, given that William *Sr.* was dead by this time. However, it is also possible that the "neighbor" cited in the patent is the individual to whom the adjacent land was patented, not the person who held its title in 1730.

2 MAY 1739 NANSEMOND CO., VA

An undated manuscript by one Claiborne Smith, titled "Hunter of Nansemond County," provides the following abstract for which **the original record has not yet been consulted**:

"On May 2, 1739 Isaac Hunter Jr. sold to Isaac Hunter Sr. 384 acres part of a patent to William Hunter, late of Virginia, and given by him to his son Nicholas and sold to him to his son Isaac, on Meherrin Swamp issuing out of Bennett's Creek. Teste-William Hunter Elisha Hunter. (N.C. H.&G.R.3-133)."⁴²

⁴⁰ Leary, "Hunter Report #2," 6-7.

⁴¹ Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers*, 3: 393, citing Patent Book 14, 131.

⁴² Claiborne Smith, "Hunter of Nansemond," 1; manuscript 33180, folder 117, Norfleet Papers, 1722-1929; Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.