

Abstract of North Carolina Wills:

William Hunter of Chowan (will) January 4, 1732-3, probated January 18, 1732-3. Wife Ann, Sons William, Ephraim, daughter Judith, Allise, Mary, Anne, Easter. Executors: Sons. Witnesses: Spencer Cole, Isaac Hunter, Robert Hunter. Clerk of Court: Robert Forster.

Nicholas Hunter of Carteret (will) January 3, 1749-50, probated March Court, 1749-50. Wife Rebecca. Sons Stephen, Ezekell, Lebbeus, William, Joab; Daughters E?, Zillah, Reachell, Kisiah Millchell, Elizabeth, Sarah, Ruth. Grandson George Millchell. Executors: wife, son Ezekell. Witnesses: John Willcocks, Moses Houston, John Gillett, Clerk of Court: George Read.

William Hunter of Chowan (will) March 21, 1749-50; probated April Court, 1750. Wife Sarah. Sons John, Nicholas, Hardy, William, Job, James, Timothy. Executors: Wife, son John. Witnesses: Elisha, Hunter, John Gourdon, John Norfleet. Clerk of Court: Will Mearns.

Ann Hunter of Chowan (will). May 24, 1749. Probated October Court, 1751. Son William; Daughters Judith Bland, Ann Winborn, Hester Knight, Alice Arnal. Son-in-law Edward Arnal. Executors: Son, Son-in-law. Witnesses: Gary Osborn, William Hunter, John Parker, Joseph Parker. Clerk of Court: James Craven.

Isaac Hunter of Chowan (will) April 11, 1752. Probated April Court, 1753. Sons Elisha, Jesse, Isaac, Daniel, Jacob. Daughters Hannah Riddick, Elizabeth Perry, Alice, Rachell Walton, Sarah. Grandchildren Jesse Perries, Philip Perries, Mary Perries, Sarah Field, Zilphea Parker. Executors Son Elisha. Witnesses: Moses Sumner, Samuel Sumner, John Sumner. Clerk of Court: James Craven (Impression of dragon seal).

Robert Hunter of Bertie (will) June 3, 1753. Probated August Court, 1753. Sons Henry, Moses. Daughters Sarah Docton, Mary Gordon, Judith Perry, Susannah Benton, Elizabeth Williams. Executors Son Moses, Thomas Whitmell. Witnesses: John Hill, John Slatter, Oen Slatter, Littleton Slatter, Reziah Slatter, William Apperson. Clerk of Court: Samuel Ormes.

Mary Best Bill – Colonial Bertie County

Volume I

Thomas Whitmell and wife Elizabeth to Richard Cuerton of Prince George, Co. VA. 200 acres on North side Morratuck River, on Double Bottom Branch, adjoining Richard Tukerville, granted to Arthur Cavanaugh. \$15. August 20, 1722.

Volume III

James Hutchesson to Isaac Hunter. 320 acres in Ahoskey Woods, adjoining Col. Maute; part of patent dated August 2, 1730. \$60. August 4, 1738.

Joseph Kimberley to Robert Hunter of Chowan. 300 acres at dividing line. James Williamson & Jonathan Taylor next to Lorquis Swamp; part of James Williamson's patent dated April 5, 1729, and part of James Smith's patent dated August 7, 1726. \$72. August 8, 1738.

John Perry and wife Sarah of Chowan to Isaac Hunter of Chowan. 640 acres in Rich Square, granted to Timothy Cuningham. March 9, 1717-82. "and became due Edward Holscott..." November 11, 1724. "Patent dated July 30, 1724" \$55. June 13, 1737. Witness: Henry and Elisha Hunter, et al.

Elisha Hunter, esq. to Son-in-Law James Sumner. March 2, 1765. Chowan.

William Simpson, gentleman, late of Pasquotank, and Rebecca Swann (daughter of Thomas Swann, gentleman, of Pasquotank). Thomas Swann, by will dated April 7, 1733, left property in Moyock to daughters Rebecca and Elizabeth. William Simpson is to marry Rebecca Swann. This deed secures her property to her without his power to dispose of it in anyway. [R. Hunter evidently R. Swann's mother] October 5, 1750. Pasquotank.

Thomas Hunter, gentleman, to Samuel Swann, Jr. 50 acres willed February 29, 1719, by John Bullit to son-in-law James Bell and wife Mary and after their death to grandson Nevill Bell – sold September 7, 1738, by Nevill Bell to John Jones; and sold July 8, 1740 by John Jones to Thomas Hunter, father of Thomas. Pasquotank.

Elisha Hunter, Esq., guardian to Moses Blanchard and to Demsey Freeman, April 22, 1766.

Jacob Hunter, guardian to Mary and Judith Jones as of September 1769. March 20, 1770.

Thomas Hunter, guardian to Searsbrooke Hinton and to James, Noah and Priscilla Hinton, all as of June 1774. March 21, 1775. Chowan Orphan Court Book.

Thomas Hunter's will – 1760, Rebecca Hunter's will – 1762

Jacob Blount (died August 17, 1789), fourth son of Thomas Blount (died circa 1729) and wife Ann Elizabeth Reading, married in 1748. Barbara Gray (died April 8, 1763) of Bertie County. Barbara had a brother William. Jacob and Barbara Gray Blount had issue: William (born 3/26/1749), Ann (born 10/3/1750 and died 5/21/1805) and John Gray (born 9/21/1752), Louisa (born 1/17/1755), Reading (born 2/22/1757), Thomas (born 5/10/1759) and Jacob (born 11/5/1760 and died 1/22/1801). From The John Gray Blount Papers Vol. I, pp. XIII-XVIII, XXX, Raleigh, State Dept. of Archives and History, 1952.

Robert Hunter to daughter Mary Gordon and her husband John. Part of the land patented 8/30/1714 by Robert Hunter and his brother Isaac Hunter 2/4/1745. Chowan.

James Spivey and wife Mary of Upper Parish, Nansemond Co., VA, to Isaac Hunter, Jr. of same – for 2,000 barrels of tobacco. 50 acres near head of Meherrin Swamp, adjoining Nicholas Hunter; part of 139 acre patent granted Spivey 12/6/1720; houses, orchards. March 26, 1723. Chowan.

Nicholas Hunter and wife Rebecca of Carteret Precinct, Bath Co. to William Hunter of Chowan, son of Nicholas. \$14 VA currency. Two parcels on SE

side of Meherrin Swamp: 120 acres [either adjoining or including part of] plantation where Nicholas formerly lived, part of patent granted by Virginia 1/25/1701 to William Hunter, late of Upper Parish, Nansemond Co., VA, deceased, father of Nicholas, and by him willed to Nicholas; also 46 acres patented by Nicholas 4/24/1703, adjoining line of William Hunter deceased. March 25, 1729. Chowan.

Nicholas Hunter and wife Rebecca, of Carteret Precinct, Bath Co. to Isaac Hunter, son of Nicholas \$14 VA currency [first parcel apparently identical with first in deed above]; also 164 acres granted to Nicholas Hunter and Thomas Davis of Perquimans 3/9/1717-8, and sold by Davis to Hunter (adjoining James Spivey) March, 25, 1729. Chowan.

Isaac Hunter, Jr. (son of Nicholas Hunter) and wife, of Bertie, to Isaac Hunter, Sr. of Chowan. \$50. Three tracts totally 384 acres: (1) 100 acres, part of a patent dated 4/24/1701, to William Hunter, late of VA, deceased, and by him given to his son Nicholas, and by Nicholas sold to his son Isaac; (2) 164 acres, patent granted 3/9/1717 to Nicholas Hunter and Thomas Davies of Perquimans, Nicholas bought out Davis and sold the land 3/5/1729 to his son Isaac; (3) 100 acres bought from James Spivey. May 2, 1739. Chowan.

Robert Hunter to Isaac Hunter. \$37 VA currency. 130 acres east of Meherrin Swamp, adjoining Samuel Harrell [mentions "woolf pit" branch and "old house" branch] and tract formerly occupied by William Hunter, late of Upper Parish, Nansemond Co, VA, deceased, dated 4/21/1695, to said William to Robert, and the other for 400 acres dated 8/30/1714 to Robert and Isaac. February 16, 1742-3. Chowan

Isaac Hunter and wife Elizabeth to son Jacob Hunter. Messuage, 180 acres on east side of Meherrin Swamp, adjoining Samuel Harrell [mentions woolf pit branch and oystretong branch]; houses, outhouses, whole to revert to Isaac if Jacob dies without issue before Isaac does. October 9, 1747. Chowan.

Thomas Swann of Corrotuck was attached to answers William Hunter, gentleman, of Princess Anne, VA, for trying to seize a plantation in Currituck "devised" to Hunter by Walter Jones. May 20, 1714 (1715 at latest)

4/12/1716 – Nicholas Hunter witnessed deed of Nicholas Stallings and wife Anne of "upper parish of Nansemond in VA" to Joseph Wright of Lower Parish, Nansemond Co. VA

3/26/1723 – James Spivey and wife Margaret of Upper Parish, Nansemond Co, Va. To Isaac Hunter, Jr. of same. 2000 pounds of tobacco, 50 acres near head of Meherrin Swamp, joining Nicholas Hunter's Swamp; houses orchards, part of 139 acres patented to Spivey, 12/6/1720. Witness Thomas Rountree, Chrstr, Heidelberg, John Williams.

4/5/1720 – Robert Hunter, 100 acres on Horse Pool Percoson.

4/6/1722 – William Hunter, 335 acres on E Side Chowan River on head of Hell Pocoson joining Cabin branch, Jonathan Robinson, John Porter, John Winbourn, James Spears and pocoson.

## NORTHAMPTON

Isaac Hunter witnessed deed of Patrick Roche of Edgecombe to John Randall, 2/23/ 1741-2

Isaac Hunter to Daniel O'Quin, planter, 11/17/1742, \$21 proc. 167a in northerly woods of Morratoke river on S Side Poticassa Swamp, adj. Thomas Tully, Thomas Kerby, and Swamp. Test: John Brown, John Oliphant.

Isaac Hunter owned land on N. side Roan Oak River, near hontonky branch, 12/7/17- (reg. 8, 1748), (Reddick to Bridgers)

Reuben Hunter, planter, to David Rice, Jr. of Nansemond Co. VA, 4/16/1753, \$40 VA currency. 320 acres adj. John Duke (formerly Paule) and Thomas Daughtree; patented by James Hutcherson 8/2/1730 and by him sold to Isaac Hunter 8/4/1738 and by him bequeathed to son Reuben. Test: John Duke, Robert Peele, Jonas Wood. (Deed Book 2, p. 112) Also 4/12/1753 for \$20 VA currency, 100 acres woodland adj. Dempsey Hunter, William Buffin, Reuben Hunter and road; patented by Edward Howcott, 7/3/1724 and willed to Reuben, by his father Isaac, deceased. Test [same] (Deed Book 2, p 113.)

### NCGS Journal:

- I-15 Ephraim and John Hunter on inguest jury, Bertie Co. 8/9/1756
- H. Hunter on on inguest jury, Bertie Co. 7/2/1759
- Hardy on inguest jury, Bertie Co. 2/27/1758
- I-31 Thomas on inguest jury, Northampton Co. 10/7/1758
- II-176 Was Isaac Hunter of Wake Co. a 5<sup>th</sup> son of Isaac Hunter (son of Nicholas and Rebecca Hunter) who probably died in Northampton Co. 1741-50, leaving sons Theophilus, Reuben, Demcy, and Thomas?
- III-60 Elisha Hunter on road jury, Chatham Co. 8/10/1774
- III-431 Elisha Hunter to serve at next court of Oyer, etc, for District of Hillsborough, Chatham Co. 11/11/1774
- III-167 Henry Hunter's marriage bond to marry Frances Starke, Thomas Starke, Sr. (Died 1784) and wife Jane Williams, Bertie Co. 1769. Whole Starke family moved to South Carolina.
- V-226 Bertie County Tilhables, 1768, Henry Hunter, 1 free white, 1 white servant, 0 free mulattoes, 1 negro man over 16, 0 negro boys under 16, 2 negro women; Nicholas Hunter 1-0-0-0-0-0, Sarah Hunter 0-0-1-1-0-4, Thomas Hunter 1-1-0-3-0-2. Addendum, Hardy Hunter (patroller): 0 [white servants], 1 negro man, 1 negro woman, Job Hunter (patroller) 0-0-0.
- VI-140 What was ancestry of Hardy Hunter (born 1777, NC) Son of Nicholas Hunter (died 1791, Duplin Co.) or Hardy "Horse" Hunter or Cadon Hunter of Bertie Co? In Tennessee by 1812, Arkansas by 1818 where he died 1856.

Had sons Nicholas, Edward. First wife possibly daughter of Benjamin Clark; last wife Jane (born 1794, NC), part Indian.

VIII-21 Moses Blanchard [orphan of Aaron Blanchard and wife Zilpah] releases His guardian Elisha Hunter from all claims, 10/19/1767 (Chowan Miscellaneous Papers, Vol. XIV p. 19)

VII-86 Division of estate of John Hunter by Elisha Hunter, John Gordon, and Jacob Hunter to the widow and William and Mary Hunter, n.d. (Chowan Misc. Papers, Vol. XX no. 519)

Rebecca Hunter, administratrix of Thomas Hunter, Esq, Jan. 1747 [complaint against her] (same Vol. IV p. 72)

Division of estate of James Hunter "agreeable to the last will of William Hunter": Sarah Hunter (mother of James), John, Nicholas, Hardy, Job, Timothy, Charity and Sarah Hunter, and Priscilla Walton. (1770). (same Vol. XIV p. 120)

VII-206 Elisha Hunter married Anne (daughter of Thomas Walton [who left will proved July 5, 1751]) Petitions for share of Walton's estate, n.d. (same Vol XVIII p. 63)

IX-32 Bertie County, State census, 1787, William Hunter, 1 white male, 21-60, 2 white males under 16 or over 60, 2 white females, 1 black 12-50, 1 black under 12 or over 50.

-128 Who was William Hunter whose daughter Sarah married William Battle circa 1705 and had son John?

#### NC Historical and Genealogical Register

Lewis Bryan and wife Elizabeth Hunter had issues: Simon Edward, and Elizabeth Hunter. Simon married first \_\_\_\_\_ and he issue: Simon, he married second Mrs. Elizabeth Bailey Armour (daughter of David Bailey of Pasquotank and widow of John Armour) and had issue: David, Joseph, and Winnefred: he married third Mrs. Anne West Jacocks (widow of Charles Worth Jacocks of Bertie). Edward (died 1762) married Martha West (daughter of Thomas West and wife Martha Blount) and had issue: Mary, Martha, Elizabeth, Ann, Sarah, Thomas, Janet, Edward, and Winnefred. Elizabeth Hunter married Thomas Whitmell and had issue: Mary (Vol. I p 28, Notes)

Lewis Bryan and wife Elizabeth Hunter, who came in 1713 from Surry County, VA to Bertie County, NC, had issue: Ann (born 1697) who married John Gray of Bertie. (Vol. I. p 577)

Lewis Bryan and wife Elizabeth Hunter had issue: Elizabeth Hunter (born 1670) who married Thomas Whitmell (born 1688 and died 1735) son of Thomas Whitmell and wife Mary. Thomas Whitmell (like the Bryans) came from Surry Co. VA to Bertie Co. NC in 1713. He and his wife Elizabeth Hunter Bryan had issue. (Col.) Thomas, Mary (1713-1728), Elizabeth (born 1717), Sarah, Martha, Annie (1724-1727), Janet (1724-1730), Winifred (born 1729), Lewis (1732- died young) Mary and William (1735 - died young). Mrs. Elizabeth Hunter Bryan Whitmell married second Robert Hunter of Bertie, no issue. (Vol. I p.81, Notes)

## Descendants of col. Theophilus Hunter

"Hunters Lodge", four miles south of Raleigh on the old Fayetteville ----- was his original house and the site still is still owned by some of his descendants. Royal gov. Tryon came on his march against the Regulators in 1768. Col. Hunter's services as legislator, officer in the American Army, Chairman of the ----- Co. Court, donor with James Bloodworth of the site for the present county courthouse and as a Mason are familiar to all acquainted with local history. By the census of 1790 he owned 47 slaves, the largest slave owner in the county. Hunters Lodge was burned probably before 1790, he built his Spring Hill home, situated on what is now property of the State Hospital. The house is still in perfect condition and occupied as a residence. There his son Theophilus Hunter Jr., familiarly called Orphey, lived and was famous for his hospitality. The family burial ground is near his home. Col. Hunter's grave has been marked by the D.A.D. and at the Hunter's Lodge site a tablet erected by the Colonial Dames. Col. Hunter died 1792 and his will dated July 15, 1793 and inventory shows an immense estate in land and personal property. The will names 6 children, namely:

- I. Delilah, the eldest daughter, married James Hinton. She predeceased her father leaving 6 children: Patsey, Temperance, Henry, Theophilus, Ransom, and James.
- II. Edith married Britain Sanders, patriot in the Revolution, high sheriff, member of the Provincial Congress and of the Convention at Fayetteville where he voted with the minority against ratification of the United States Constitution. He was chairman of the county court when he died in 1798. His grave marked by a stone is on the plantation of Sheriff N.F. Turner. His will names his wife Edith and their 5 infant children Alsey, Britain, David, Theophilus, and Elizabeth and his brother John. His executors were Reuben Sanders, Alex Sanders, Theophilus Hunter and Osborne Hunter; namely 2 brothers and 2 brothers in law. They served as guardians for David and Britain Sanders. After the children became of age about 1820 the plantation was sold.
- III. Theophilus Hunter, Jr., married Martha Maria Green. He died 1840. Their 7 children were:
  1. Mary married Capt. Thomas V. Scott and she predeceased her father leaving 4 children a) Theophilus H., b) Rebecca c) Thomas d) William Scott.
  2. Dr. William H. Hunter, prominent as a Raleigh physician until his death in 1830 survived by his wife and two daughters, Mary and Martha.
  3. Mrs. Sarah J. McCauley
- IV. Irene married James Lane. Sarah Lane married Joseph Williams of Cumberland County and their son Isaac Williams named his son Theophilus Hunter Williams.

- V. Osborne Hunter (1772-1810) married Nov. 27 1800 Elizabeth Hunter. He lived and died on his 10,000 acre plantation in Johnston Co.
- VI. Henry Hunter
- VII. Mary (Polly) was the wife of Gabriel Homes (1769-1828) of Sampson Co., governor of the state 1821-1824. She died 1838 and left descendants.

Edward Riddick Hunter

Born August 29, 1788  
Died 1857



Elizabeth Hunter

Married Lewis Bryan

Children:

1. Anne m. John Gray
2. Joanah
3. Sarah
4. Elizabeth Hunter m. Thomas Whitonell and then m. Robert Hunter
5. Lewis
6. Janette
7. Edward m. Martha West
8. William m. Catherine
9. Simon m. ?, then m. Elizabeth Bailey Armour and then m. Anne West  
Jacocks

Hannah Hunter  
Married [Joseph Riddick Sr.](#)

Daughter of [Isaac Hunter](#) of Hunter's Tavern in Wake County  
He is the 3<sup>rd</sup> son of [William Hunter of Nansemond County](#)

Henry Holmes Hunter

b. March 17, 1830

d. September 4, 1888

married February 16, 1858 to Mary Cheek of Warren County (?)

Isaac Hunter.

Married to Sophia Riddick June 8, 1785.

Son of Jacob Hunter and Sarah Hill

## Isaac Hunter

The 3<sup>rd</sup> son of [William Hunter of Nansemond County](#) was Isaac Hunter. I have been unable to determine if he and his brother, Robert Hunter, were brought to the colonies some time after 1700, or if they were born after their father arrived in Virginia in 1685. In the deed of Ref. 15, Robert refers to a patent of land granted to the two of them on 30 Aug 1714.

Isaac became very well-to-do, owning several thousand acres of land, mostly in Chowan County. He also operated a travelers' inn, called Hunter's Tavern. In Ref. 30 is a notation that in 1778 the State Convention of North Carolina gave instructions to the General Assembly to fix permanently the capital "... provided it should be within ten miles of Isaac Hunter's plantation in Wake County..." In the DAR Magazine of 1932 is an article describing some of the famous North Carolina homes; it includes a description of the Isaac Hunter Tavern.

ISAAC HUNTER, born about 1680-1690 (?), died april 1753 in Chowan County, North Carolina. Married [ELIZABETH PARKER](#), born about 1680 in ??, died before 1752 in Chowan County. Had 5 sons and 5 daughters:

1. Isaac Hunter, Jr. born about 1725 in Chowan County. Died in 1815 in Warren Co.
2. Ezekiel Hunter, born about 1720, died 1804
3. Jesse Hunter, born about 1730, died 1786, married Ann Alston
4. Jacob Hunter
5. Daniel Hunter, born about 1730
6. Alice Hunter, married \_\_\_\_\_ Perry
7. [Hannah Hunter](#), married [Joseph Riddick](#)
8. Elizabeth Hunter, married \_\_\_\_\_ Perry
9. Rachel Hunter, married \_\_\_\_\_ Perry
10. Joan Hunter, married \_\_\_\_\_ Phillip
11. Sarah Hunter

Isaac Hunter

1733, 1738 – Vestryman of St. Paul's Church, Edenton, NC.

Deeds for Churches:

June 13<sup>th</sup> 1813 Thomas Parker to Isaac Hunter, Thomas Parker, Humphrey Parker, David Parker, John Given, John Powell, and Johnathan Williams – Methodist – to build church building on.

Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> 1815 Isaac Hunter to John Walton, William Carter, Edward R. Hunter, Noah Harrell, James Lassitter, Henry Lassiter, William Brothers : Land to build church – Philadelphia.

Married Elizabeth Parker:

Children:

1. Elisha m. Ann Walton
2. Jacob
3. Jesse
4. Isaac
5. Daniel
6. Jane m. Philip Perry
7. Alice - Perry
8. Hannah m. Joseph Riddick
9. Elizabeth - Perry
10. Rachel m. William Walton
11. Sarah m. Charles Moore

*Note:*

Elisha's wife Ann Walton and Rachel's husband William Walton were brother and sister, children of Thomas Walton

Philip Perry married first Jane ( daughter of Isaac) and second Judith Hunter(daughter of Isaac's brother Robert)

Jacob Hunter

b. 1737

Married Sarah Hill, son Issac

Signed the "TEST" (resolution proclaiming against the English King)  
June 19, 1776 and passed by vestry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Edenton, NC

James Hunter  
(ca. 1735-ca. 1783)

Leader of the Regulator Movement, was born of Scotch-Irish ancestry probably in Pennsylvania. Tradition has him the son of James, Sr. but his mother was the former "Widow Ann Hunter" who in 1755 purchased land of her son-in-law, Gilbert Strayhorn, in Orange County. Strayhorn family records pertaining to New Hope Presbyterian Church note that James Hunter moved to the county as a young man, possibly some years before his mother bought her land there.



James Hunter  
(16 May 1767 – 5 Dec. 1831)

Pioneer Methodist Minister and leader in the establishment of the Methodist Protestant church in North Carolina in the 1820s. Was born in Virginia. As a young man, he moved to Halifax County, where he was received into the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1792. On 14 Dec. 1797 he married Martha Elizabeth Crowell, and in 1810 he was "located" as a Methodist minister

During some forty years as a Methodist Minister, Hunter served as a traveling preacher, presiding elder, and a member of the General Conference.

Nicholas Hunter

? Married Susannah Buchanan Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> 1776 – Chowan County

Patents signed April 1704, Nansemond – 46 acres

Patents signed October 1706 – Nicholas and wife, Elizabeth, for themselves and Francis Benton, infant, 148 acres, Nansemond and a second patent for the same on April 28, 1711

Nansemond County rent roll, 1704 – 190 acres – Nicholas Hunter

Sarah Hunter  
Born 1735

Married Charles Moore, Chowan County.  
February 1, 1755

Theophilus Hunter  
(before 1727-98)

Colonial Officer, Revolutionary leader, Justice, early Wake County planter, and member of the North Carolina Assembly, was born in Nansemond County, VA but settled in present Wake County, NC before 1752. His father, Isaac Hunter, was the son of Nicholas and the grandson of William Hunter of Nansemond County. His mother, Sarah Hill Hunter, was the daughter of Abraham and Sarah Pugh Hill. Nicholas Hunter moved to northeastern North Carolina and settled in Northhampton County.

Between 1752 and 1761 Theophilus Hunter obtained over 2,000 acres in grants in the Granville district of what was then Johnston County and by 1771 he had extensive holdings south of Crabtree Creek including Rocky Branch and Walnut Creek. His residence, Hunter's Lodge, was about 4 miles south of the present city of Raleigh on the Fayetteville stagecoach road and was one of the earliest homes in the area.

The US census of 1790 indicates that Hunter was the second largest slaveholder in the county. Sometime between 1771 and 1798 Hunter's Lodge burned, and Theophilus and his family moved to Spring Hill plantation. Here his land stretched from Walnut Creek in Raleigh almost to the site of Cary, and his home was situated on one of the most beautiful knolls in the county. The original part of Spring Hill built by Hunter has been demolished, but the larger part added by Theophilus Jr. still stands on the grounds of Dorothea Dix Hospital. In 1940 the Caswell-Nash Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution erected a monument to Hunter near the house.

The name of Hunters first wife is not known, but she was the mother of Delilah and Isaac. His second wife, Jane Smith Williams (widow of Joel Williams of Johnston County) was the mother of Edith, Irene, Mary (Polly), Theophilus Jr., Osborn, and Henry. Hunter's sons and daughters married into other prominent Wake County families. Theophilus Hunter Hill, who published volumes of poetry in 1861, 1869, and 1883, was a descendant.

Thomas Hunter  
(ca. 1735-84)

Revolutionary patriot, was the son of Isaac Hunter of Northampton County. He first appears in North Carolina record in 1761, when he purchased a tract of land in Northampton County called "the rich square."

About 1764 he married Priscilla Smith, the daughter of Drew Smith. In 1766 he sold his holdings in Northampton and began buying land in the Scotland Neck section of Halifax County. In 1770 he moved farther to what was then Edgecombe County and bought land on the north bank of Stoney Creek. This property was four miles west of the present city of Rocky Mount and is still known as Hunters Hill.

From the first, Hunter was active in the Revolutionary movement. He represented Edgecombe in the First Provincial Congress held at New Bern on 21 Aug. 1775, and when the brigade of militia for Edgecombe was reorganized on 22 May 1776 he was appointed second major. In 1777, when Nash County was formed from Western Edgecombe, Hunter was placed in charge of the militia of the new county with the rank of colonel. The following year he represented Nash in the North Carolina House of Commons. Little is known about Hunter's military service. The major duties of militia officers were to draft men and supplies for the Continental Army and to defend the home ground when under attack. In the state records are several letters from Colonel Hunter regarding military supplies, and in the Nashville Courthouse are records of several courts-martial at which he presided. No doubt he saw action in the spring of 1781, when Lord Cornwallis marched north from Wilmington on his way to Virginia and passed through Nash County. The militia tried unsuccessfully to impede the British advance in skirmishes at Swift and Fishing creeks. The arrival of the British gave impetus to a Tory uprising in the county. Colonel Seawell wrote: "Not a man of any distinction or scarcely any men of property has lain in his house since the British passed through Nash County."

Hunter did not long survive the war. He resigned as justice of the county court in 1784, and died intestate the same year. The inventory of his estate was dated 5 May 1787, with Micajah Thomas as administrator. According to Nash County Registry, Hunter left sons Thomas Cordial Norfleet, and Drew, and daughters Elizabeth and Polly, who married Loderick F. Ellin.

Thomas Hunter

Married Mary Walton Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> 1771 - Chowan County

Timothy Hunter

Married Mary Sumner Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> 1774 – Chowan County

## POSSIBLE MIXUP OF SEVERAL WILLIAM HUNTERS

William Hunter:

Col. Records Vol XXII page 148

Oct. 17, 1832 James Martin Biography page 145-150

Telling of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. (Gen. Greene)

"He told me as the battle has begun and as I had not a complete regiment he wished me to go with Major Hunter to the Courthouse in case of a defeat, to rally the men which we did and collected about 500..."

OCT. 19<sup>th</sup>, 1780

1750 – William and Lemuel Hunter, members House of Burgess from Nansemond County. (from *Virginia Magazine*)

Will: William Hunter of Northampton County to Moses Riddick of Nansemond County, VA, 12 Oct. 1758 – 20 pounds VA money, 200 acres on the north side of Bridger's Creek, joining the meadow road and Cashy road part of a patent to Thomas Foxhall 1 May 1668 Wit: William Hunter, Henry Hunter, James Osbern I his mark Reg. Northampton Co. Jan Ct. 1759 J. Edwards C. Ct.

William Hunter and Anne, his wife, of Northampton County to John Duke of Northampton Co. 24 Feb 1755 40 pounds current money of VA. One negro woman named Judie and all her increase Wit: John Peeble, Richard Ruffin. Reg. Northampton Co. Feb Ct. 1755 J. Edwards C. Ct.

Thomas Foxhall of Northampton Co. to William Hunter of Nansemond Co., VA. 9 Oct 1745 22 pounds of current money of VA, 560 acres on the south side of Bridger's Creek Swamp, Joining George Stevens being the tract of land formerly granted to Thomas Foxhall, dec., for 560 acres 1 Apr 1723

Member of quorum, Nansemond, 8 June 1699

Justice of Nansemond 8 July 1702, and of Elizabeth City County, 1729

Signed patents, April 1701 for 240 acres in Nansemond County.

Signed patents, 225 acres, Isle of Wight, 16 June 1714

Princess Anne County rent roll, 1704, "Doctor" William Hunter 80 acres

Nansemond County rent roll 1704, Capt. William Hunter, 800 acres

Isle of Wight County rent roll 1704, 150 acres

6 April 1722, 335 acres on E. side Chowan River, on head of Hill Poce – son, joining Cabin ranch, Jonathan Robin – son John Porter, John Winbourne, James Spears, and pocoson. (Patent Book III p. 98)

Juryman with Ephraim Hunter for the Chowan Precinct, Feb 25, 1739-40



Along with Jacob Hunter and Luke Sumner – in Edenton District- was empowered to manufacture muskets and bayonets for NC troops April 24, 1776

William Hunter

Col. Richard

Oct. 17, 1776

Telling

The

with

the

## William of Nansemond

William and his brother [Nicholas](#) and their wives, Joane and Rebecca (we don't know which wife was whose) arrived in the colonies in 1685 – or at least Charles Rountree received the patent of land for paying for the Hunters' transportation of his sons William and Nicholas, William's wife (not named), and his daughter Alice. They must have thus been before William emigrated to the colonies, and at least William must have been over 20 at that time to have already been married, so we can place William's date of birth in about 1655-1660. We know from the deed from Nicholas to his sons [Isaac](#) and William (the younger, of chowan) in 1729 that William of Nansemond was dead by then. Unfortunately the total destruction of all records in Nansemond County eliminated the last will and testament of William of Nansemond and the inventory and distribution of his estate. We do not know when his wife (Joane or Rebecca) died, but she would not likely have lived much past the late 1720s as she would have been close to 70 by then.