

**Provenance of Jacob Hunter's  
Chest of Drawers  
April 11, 2023**

Jacob Hunter (18 Jan 1809 - 21 Dec 1874) constructed the chest of drawers at his home near White Ash, IL sometime between 1840 and 1860. Jacob was the son of Emanuel Hunter (17 Sep 1787 - 7 Jan 1874) and Judith Lee (6 Jan 1792 - 8 Aug 1852). The following is a biography of Jacob Hunter written by Ernest E. Hunt, IV on April 2, 2018.



**Jacob Hunter** was born on 18 Jan 1809 in Davidson County, Tennessee. He appeared on the census in 1840 in Williamson County, Illinois. He appeared on the census on 15 Oct 1850 in Williamson County, Illinois. He appeared on the census on 2 Jul 1860 in Township #8S, Range #3E,

Williamson County, Illinois. He appeared on the census on 14 Jun 1870 in Township #8S, Range #3E, Williamson County, Illinois.

He died on 21 Dec 1874 in Williamson County, Illinois. He was buried in Jacob Hunter Cemetery, Williamson County, Illinois.

From "The Hunters of Williamson County, Illinois", by Lettie and Lawrence Hunter: JACOB HUNTER, II, AND WIFE, MARY MOORE DUNCAN HUNTER (AUNT POP)

Jacob Hunter, II; son of Emmanuel and grandson of Jacob I (Revolutionary War soldier) was born July 18, 1809; first child of Emmanuel and Judith Lee. Either because of her youth, or through a careless midwife, Jacob was born with an injured right arm that never fully developed. It grew normally, but there was little use in the arm, except for the ends of his fingers. It

was said by his daughter Lucina, my grandmother, that he could do anything that any other man could do and could dress himself as easily as anyone else. Emmanuel's large family of thirteen children produced several Primitive Baptist preachers, but Jacob was a farmer and storekeeper. Jacob was a short, heavy-set man with the vivid "Hunter eyes", a gentle and sweet-dispositioned man. In an age of strictness toward children, he was noted for his leniency and gentleness toward his. At age 23, he married a neighbor girl, Mary Moore



Duncan, lovingly called "Aunt Pop" in her later years. Jacob had a home ready for his bride, already well stocked with cattle and with furniture made. It was a log cabin, one room, near what is now White Ash, Illinois. Great-grandmother Mary was of Scottish descent and used many of the old Scottish words learned from her Duncan ancestors. It was an age of modesty, even between husband and wife. The newlyweds came directly to their new home from their wedding and Mary undertook to feed the hogs while Jacob cared for the cows and horses. In her shyness at being alone with her new husband, she was a bit awkward and leaned too far over the fence around the hog pen, lost her balance, and just hung there, head down, over the fence. Just then, a vagrant breeze lifted high her long skirt and deposited it over her head, leaving her long white drawers exposed, and her back end pointing in the direction of the barn where Grandpa was. She told this story often to her little granddaughters, and when they would ask her what she did then, just to hear her Scottish accent, she would say, "Well, chillen, I just shot my eyes and shot my eyes;" "shot" being the Scottish way of pronouncing "shut." She and Jacob ran a small store near their home, and twice a year, he would make the long wagon trip to Shawneetown for supplies. It would take him six weeks to make the round trip. Both Jacob and Mary were "faith healers"; Jacob having the gift of blowing out the heat of a burn, and Mary had the gift of stopping the flow of blood from any injury. These gifts were used often in the family.

Jacob was the son of Emmanuel and Judith (Lee) Hunter. He was born in Robertson Co., Tenn., Jan. 18, 1809; died in Williamson Co., Ill. Both he and his wife, Mary, lie at rest in the old Hunter cemetery near White Ash. He married Mary Moore Duncan, daughter of John and Lydia (Spiller) Duncan, and they were parents of eight children. Mary Moore Duncan Hunter, lovingly called "Aunt Pop" by everyone, including her grandchildren, was born May 1, 1814, in Tenn., died Aug. 21, 1896. After their marriage in Williamson Co., Ill., on Dec. 19, 1833, they bought 160 acres of farmland near White Ash and all their children were born there. He was married to Mary Moore Duncan (daughter of John Pekin Duncan Jr. and Lydia Spiller) on 19 Dec 1833 in Franklin County, Illinois. **Mary Moore Duncan** was born on 1 May 1814 in Robertson County, Tennessee. She appeared on the census on 16 Jun 1880 in Lake Creek Township, Williamson County, Illinois. She died on 21 Aug 1896 in Williamson County, Illinois. She was buried in Jacob Hunter Cemetery, Williamson County, Illinois.

**OBITUARY of MRS. MARY HUNTER**

*Mrs. Mary Hunter ("Aunt Pop," as she was usually called,) was born May 1, 1814, departed this life August 21, 1896; aged 82 years, 3 months and 20 days. She and her husband, Jacob Hunter, were among the early settlers of Williamson County, Illinois, locating five miles north of Marion, the county seat. They built up their home and reared a large family - three boys and five girls - seven of whom survive them: Monroe, George, Mrs. Rachel Belcher, wife of Thos. Belcher; Mrs. Susan Powell, wife of J.R. Powell; Mrs. Cynthia Weaver-Odom, wife first, of*

*Jesse Weaver, now the wife of Arch Odom; Mrs. Sarah Aikman, wife of Jerome Aikman.*

*In her was found all the characteristics that go to make up a good mother, a true friend, a noble pattern and devoted Christian. She united with the Regular Baptist Church in the year 1861, and was baptized by Elder Wm. Googe, leading a humble and devoted Christian life for thirty-five years. She was widely known among the Baptist family by reason of her age and the kindness she untiringly bestowed upon those with whom she met. She was the oldest member of Pleasant Hill Church, and her seat that she so often filled is now vacant, never to be filled by a nobler Baptist.*

*Her sweet hope in Jesus was based upon God's mercy shown to poor, lost and ruined sinners. Salvation by grace was the theme of her life; and, while she often looked forward and spoke of the going down of life's sun with her, she was willing to risk her all in the hands of God and await the rising of the Sun of Righteousness, whose effulgent rays she hoped to have to lighten the dark vale of death.*

*Funeral services were conducted by Bro. J. C. Williams, after which all that was mortal of this dear old saint of God was laid to rest in the family cemetery, to await the resurrection morn.*

*Sleep on, thou blessed saint of God, 'Til Jesus bids you rise  
To walk the streets that angels trod Beyond this world of sighs.*

*Primitive Baptist, by request. C. M. Weaver*

Jacob Hunter and Mary Moore Duncan had the following children: 1. Thomas Riley Hunter, 2. Cynthia Ann Hunter, 3. Susan Elizabeth Hunter, 4. Rachel M. Hunter, 5. George Washington Hunter, 6. Mary Jane Hunter (born on 28 Aug 1849 in Williamson County, Illinois. She died on 31 Aug 1850 in Williamson County, Illinois, 7. James Monroe Hunter, 8. Lucinda Evaline Hunter, and 9. Sarah J. Hunter.

Jacob constructed the chest using wood available to him. The top-drawer section is made from beautiful Walnut, the side panels and bottom drawer are Cherry. The top and first three drawers in the bottom section may be some variant of Maple. The frame is made from Poplar. Jacob most likely used what wood he could cut from his farm.

The joints for the drawer facings are half-blind dove tails. They are called half-blind because the joint is not visible from the front of the drawer face. This required intricate detail using saws, chisels, and perhaps a pocketknife.

The glass knobs are thought to be original and the bolts holding the two drawers on the top section are believed original. The bolts holding the knobs on the bottom four drawers were probably replaced sometime before 1950. The threads on the bolts in the top section are of a thread no longer made. The bolts in the bottom four drawers

are typical 8/32, but the nuts are square. Square nuts have not been made for several years.

The chest remained in Jacob's home at his farm near White Ash, IL (location of the Jacob Hunter Cemetery). When Jacob died on 21 Dec 1874 his home and farm passed to his eldest living son George Washington Hunter (21 Nov 1846 - 3 Jan 1937). George Washington sold the farm in 1906 and moved to 1400 N. State Street, Marion, IL. The chest moved to this location. On May 1, 1930, the North State Street home was destroyed by a massive hailstorm. George Washington Hunter and his son Lloyd Palmer Hunter (10 May 1892 - 7 Dec 1976) took the lumber from the destroyed home and hauled it to a farm in rural Creal Springs, IL that was owned by George Washington Hunter. The chest was moved to that location where George Washington lived with his son Lloyd Palmer Hunter and his wife and daughter. In 1937 George Washington Hunter died and Lloyd sold the farm and moved to West Frankfort, Illinois where he worked on the railroad. The chest was moved to Lloyd's home and remained with him until October 1965 when he re-married Lucy B. Ingram (25 Aug 1902 - 19 Apr 1972) and moved to her home in Marion, IL. The chest was at Lloyd and Lucy's home in Marion until Lloyd's death in 1976. The chest was inherited by Lloyd's daughter, Emily Mae Hunter Franck (17 Oct 1925 - 13 Aug 2006). This chest remained with Emily while living in Marion and Carterville, Illinois. At Emily's death in 2006 the chest passed to her son, Shad Hunter Holland (b. 3 Aug 1948 - ). Shad had the chest in his homes in Carterville and Herrin, IL. During Shad's ownership he attempted to refinish the chest using a polyurethane varnish. At another time Shad left a candle burning on the top leaving a deep burn mark. In January 2023 Shad decided to leave his home in Herrin and move to a smaller home in rural Johnston City, IL. Prior to his move in January of 2023, Shad gave the chest to Richard H. Hunter (8 Jan 1944 - ) and the chest was moved to his home at 10202 Briggs Rd, Marion, IL.

In January 2023 Richard Hunter contracted with Justin Vancil of Carterville IL to strip the polyurethane finish from the chest and return it to its original finish and condition. At the time of this writing, April 2023, the chest resides at Richard Hunter's home at 10202 Briggs Rd, Marion, IL. The burn mark remains visible.





**Table built by Jacob Hunter  
On Display at the Williamson County Historical Society  
Marion, IL**

Jacob Hunter (1809-1874) built furniture for his family and others. His chest of drawers is now in the possession of Richard H. Hunter, Trustee, Jacob Hunter Trust.

Another piece of his furniture is on display at the Williamson County Historical Society in Marion, IL. The rest of his furniture has been lost to history.



