

UK Research on William Hunter by Martha Rester

In the January 2013 issue of the *Jacob Hunter Trust Newsletter* (p 4) Hunter McKelva Cole wrote an article titled, "The Known History of William Hunter, Weaver of Nansemond." In this article he described research by his sister, Martha Rester, finding the birth registry of William Hunter on 14 November 1653 in the town of Battersby. The following is an excerpt from Hunter Cole's 2013 article.

Another William Hunter, a very promising candidate discovered by Martha Rester, is recorded in *The Register Book of Ingleby iuxta Grenhow . . . since the Yeare of Our Lord 1539*, compiled by John Blackburne from the original registry of births, christenings, and weddings (*Cambridge: Cross & Jackson, 1889*). Ingleby Greenhow is in North Riding of Yorkshire and west of Northumbria. A child named William Hunter was born there in the town of Battersby. The registry, which also includes several entries for Rountree, a family closely associated with the Hunters of Nansemond, reports that Nicholas Hunter and Ellen Wood were married in 1637. On 26 November 1639 daughter Mary ("Maria") was born to "Nicholai Hunter de Battersbye." On 23 May, Elizabeth, daughter of "Nicholai Hunter de Battersby," was born. On 21 June 1643, "Elizabeth 'infans vel ab ubere pendens,' " ("an infant, or still nursing ['hanging from the breast']," daughter of Nicholas Hunter, was buried. On 9 May 1644, Henry "fil of Nicholai Hunter," was born. On 12 April 1646, Sara "fil of Nicholai Hunter," was born. On 12 September 1648, Rebecca, "fil of Nicholai Hunter," was born. In 1651 (no month or date is given) Dinah, "fil of Nicholai Hunter," was born. On 14 November 1653, William, "son of Nicholas Hunter," was born. If this is William of Nansemond, he would have been thirty-two in 1685, the year his name appeared on Charles Rountree's Virginia patent. Since the son of William of Nansemond also was named Nicholas and was included as a headright on Rountree's patent, evidently the name Nicholas was continuing the tradition prevalent in British and Colonial families of naming the first-born in honor of his paternal grandfather.