



The Jacob Hunter Trust Newsletter



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The Hunters' Seventeenth-century Origins in Yorkshire, England

By Hunter McKelva Cole

Seeking the seventeenth-century English origin of their ancestor William Hunter, members of the Hunter Research Group and the *Jacob Hunter Trust* have concluded that he is the William Hunter who was born in 1653 in Ingleby Greenhow, a village in the North Riding of Yorkshire. [Editor's Note: Hunter Cole provides further evidence in his article *Virginia Immigrants Who Migrated Together from Three Linked Yorkshire Villages*, this issue].

Thirty-two years later, in 1685, the governor of Virginia awarded one Charles Rountree 350 acres for transporting himself and six other immigrants into Nansemond County, including William Hunter, Joan Hunter, Nicholas Hunter, Rebekah Hunter, Robert Rountree, and John Sayer. William was a weaver, whose prized skills, like those of others in the working class, were essential to the prosperity of Virginia. Before 1700 William would rise in status, becoming a Clerk of the Court and thereafter a judge (Justice of the Quorum) until his death, ca. 1728.

Research of the English origins of these seven individuals that Rountree brought to Virginia indicates that the Hunters, the Rountrees, and the Sayers were not strangers to one another. Evidently, they arrived in Virginia together, and all came out of established families recorded in the Cleveland District of North Riding (Ingleby Greenhow, Battersby, and Hutton Rudby). These sites are clustered fewer than five miles apart around the market town of Stokesley. The pinpointed home site of these seven linked immigrants is convincing documentation that one of them, the weaver/judge of Nansemond, had been the child baptized in the parish church of Ingleby Greenhow.

The cluster of Hunters mentioned in the land patent implies that they are a family. William's parents, Nicholas Hunter of Battersby and Ellen Wood, had been married in 1637 at Ingleby Greenhow. Birthdates of their children appear in the Ingleby church register. Four miles west of Stokesley is Hutton Rudby, birthplace, in 1652, of Charles Sayer, another of the headrights. The Rountree family also has ties to Stokesley and can be dated there as early as 1593. One Robert Rountree, a name mentioned in the patent, was residing in Marske-in-Cleveland, Yorkshire, in 1654. His

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daughter Mary's birth is recorded in the parish register there on 10 April. Since Marske is situated close to the North Sea, it can be speculated that Rountree's residence might be near to the port where the Hunters, the Rountrees, and Sayer began their sea voyage to Virginia.

In the 1600s Sir David Foulis was Lord of the Manor of Ingleby Greenhow, and Foulis's manorial and court papers of both Ingleby Greenhow and Battersby are held by Lord De L'Isle of Penshurst Place in Maidstone, Kent.

At the behest of the *Jacob Hunter Trust* Julia Henderson, a professional genealogist of Acorn Family History Services in the United Kingdom, gained permission to research the Foulis papers for clues about William Hunter and his family. The manorial rolls proved inconclusive, but from the manorial court records Henderson cites a tidbit about Nicholas: From 1647 to 1651 Nicholas Hunter (presumed to be the Nicholas Hunter of Battersby whose son William was baptized in 1653 at Ingleby Greenhow) was fined, along with a number of others, for selling ale illegally (Hunter, Richard (2024). UK Research on William Hunter Family, *Jacob Hunter Trust Newsletter*, Vol. 33(1): 1-2).

A note from Hunter Cole on 9-11-2024 described our Yorkshire Hunter family as cotters. *Do you recall reading Robert Burns' poem titled "A Cotter's Saturday Night"? In the early hours of this morning, I thought about this old poem, and later I reread it. A cotter (or cottager) was a tenant farmer or rustic laborer. A toil-worn cotter (in Scotland or in England) rented land and a cottage from a county squire or man of the gentry. Although Robert Burns (1759-1796) and William Hunter of Ingleby Greenhow (1653-1728) lived a century apart, their hard-bitten home lives must have been similar. Burns wished to migrate to Jamaica, but his sudden fame as a plowman poet caused him to change his mind. Nicholas Hunter of Ingleby Greenhow and his son William had similar lives as cotters, although in Yorkshire in the 1600s. The Hunters of Ingleby Greenhow were poor farmers renting a home and farmland from Lord de Lisle, who ruled over many rustic tenants. What I am saying is this: William Hunter's father was a cotter, and his son, a weaver, chose not to be one and to emigrate.*

Virginia Immigrants Who Migrated Together from Three Linked Yorkshire Villages

By Hunter McKelva Cole

On 4 November 1685 an immigrant named Charles Rountree was granted a tract in Nansemond County, Virginia, for having transported seven persons into the colony. These were Charles himself, Robert Rountree, William Hunter, Nicholas Hunter, Joane Hunter, Rebekah Hunter, and John Sayer (pronounced Sawyer). The governor thereafter issued Rountree a patent (a deed) that described the size and location of the allotment with the affixed names of these seven individuals who were termed his "headrights." Rountree received 350 acres, that is, fifty acres per

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headright (Virginia Patent Book Seven, p. 487). The headrights were indentured to him for five or for seven years.

Descendants of the said William Hunter have sought to identify who he was and where he came from. This much is known: He was a weaver, and he brought his skills to the New World, where a “mechanic,” as his profession was generically classified in seventeenth-century America, was highly respected and essential to the burgeoning economy. Unlike mechanics, the landed gentry had few specialized occupational skills. There was high demand for weavers and other makers of essential goods such as locks, hinges, nails, firearms, and kettles, which, like clothing, were formerly imported from England at great cost. An accomplished weaver or a skilled blacksmith, though a poor man in England, could rise socially in Virginia. However, life in the colony was not easy. Restive aboriginal tribes, driven westward, occasionally attacked English settlements that were ever advancing from the coast. Skirmishes, burnings, and massacres occurred, but immigration was unceasing and common men were rising in rank. Within a decade of arriving in Virginia, William Hunter the weaver had become a clerk of the Nansemond court and soon afterward rose to prominence as a justice of the quorum, a judge.

On 25 April 1695 he was granted a patent comprising 200 acres in Nansemond County for having transported four African slaves into the colony (Virginia Patent Book Eight, p. 431). In ten years after immigrating, he had become a freeholder of a small plantation and master of a toiling workforce. In 1701 he was granted a second patent, 250 acres for transporting a kinsman, also named William Hunter (see note below), William’s wife Ann, their daughter Alice, their son Nicholas, and a woman named Mary Cahone (*Virginia Patent Book Nine*, p. 309). [Editor’s note: Hunter Cole posits the William Hunter in the 1701 patent, may have been our immigrant William’s nephew, the son of his older brother Henry. This 1701 William settled in Orapeake in the Dismal Swamp. When he signed his will in 1732, Isaac Hunter and Robert Hunter, our immigrant William’s sons, and the 1701 William’s first cousins, were witnesses.] Thus, with this 1701 patent, Judge William Hunter’s land holdings were increased to 450 acres. In his late forties or early fifties, he had become a person of standing in Virginia.

But what English site was this noteworthy William Hunter’s original home? Where did he come from? The years-long search for his origins had focused on three northern English counties: Northumberland, Durham, and Yorkshire, but after scouring these shires, Hunter genealogists reached no conclusions. In the seventeenth century and earlier, all three counties were teeming with Hunters whose forebears had drifted southward from Scotland, many of whom were named William and Nicholas, which are names of Hunter men in the Virginia family.

Among so many Hunters, how does one pinpoint the actual ancestor? A lengthy search of records in Northumberland and Durham proved inconclusive, but in Yorkshire, England’s largest county, one William Hunter looked especially promising.

The parish register of Ingleby Greenhow (The Register Book of Inglebye justa Grenhow as much as is extant in the old booke for Christenings, Weddings and Burials since the year of our Lord 1539 by me John Blackburne, Curate, Canterbury: Cross &

Jackman, 'The Canterbury Press,' 1889, p. 20), seemed to provide an answer. It reveals that Nicholas Hunter of Battersby and Ellen Wood of Ingleby Greenhow were parents of eight children—Ann (b. 1637), Mary (b. 1639), Elizabeth (b. 1642), Henry (b. 1644), Sara (b. 1646), Rebecca (b. 1648), Dinah (b. 1651), and the youngest, William (b. 1653). But how does a researcher prove that this last-born child in the humble home of Nicholas and Ellen became William Hunter of Nansemond? If he is the immigrant ancestor, he arrived in Virginia when he was about thirty-two. Moreover, was Nicholas and Ellen's daughter Rebecca the Rebekah Hunter who is listed as one of Rountree's headrights? If so, she would have been a spinster aged thirty-seven upon arrival in Virginia and likely an accomplished spinner. And how significant is it that the name Nicholas recurs in the next generation of the Virginia Hunter family? The vital question must be asked: Is William Hunter of Ingleby Greenhow the immigrant ancestor?



A half-circle of linked towns mapped in the Cleveland district of Yorkshire offers the answer. They are Stokesley, Ingleby Greenhow, Battersby, and Hutton Rudby. In North Riding they are shown close together near the present-day A-172 road. The

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Hunters' home in Ingleby Greenhow, where Nicholas and Ellen were married in the parish church, is adjacent to Battersby and four and a half miles southeast of Stokesley, the market town. Battersby, the father Nicholas's home, had no church register and thus no birth records, but the register of the church in Stokesley, near Ingleby Greenhow, lists numerous Rountrees and a few Hunters. Rountrees hailed from three towns: Stokesley, Ingleby Greenhow, and Hutton Rudby and can be documented continuously in Stokesley back to the 1400s.

The last headright mentioned on Charles Rountree's land patent clinches the search. John Sayer, the singular name among the seven names on the patent, is recorded in the parish register of Hutton Rudby, a village four miles west of Stokesley. Many Hunters also are documented in Hutton Rudby. Thus, in these three close-knit Yorkshire communities is the beginning trail of the seven individuals mentioned on the Rountree patent of 1685. In time and place they can be connected as Yorkshire neighbors and fellow travelers. It's natural therefore to conclude that they arrived in Virginia together, thanks to their sponsor Charles Rountree, and that William Hunter is the Nansemond Hunter family's immigrant ancestor.

Summary Research of Hunter McKelva Cole as of October 2024

Hunter McKelva Cole

My research is showing that the Hunter generations were more numerous in Hutton Rudby than in Ingleby Greenhow, which was Ellen Wood's residence. Her father there was Christopher Wood. He too is mentioned in the Ingleby Greenhow register.

The records I find are showing that although Nicholas Hunter is stated as being "of Battersbye," his family in the previous generation was in Hutton Rudby. Residing there, also, were the Rountrees and the Sayers. John Sayer, a name on the 1685 patent, is shown in Hutton Rudby to be a son of Lenard Sayer. The register lists another John Sayer as father of an infant John Sayer who died within a year of birth. The immigrant John Sayer therefore must be the one mentioned as the son of Lenard.

For us the parish register of Ingleby Greenhow documents two essentials for the genealogy: the marriage of Nicholas Hunter and Ellen (Ellinor) Wood, daughter of Christopher Wood, and the births and/or baptisms of the Hunter children. For Nicholas, Ellen, and their daughters and sons there are no later records of marriages or deaths in the Ingleby Greenhow register. The two sons Henry and William may have been apprenticed and moved elsewhere. I find a Henry Hunter in York city at a later date and various Williams proliferating in a number of places. One thing is certain: The Hunters did not remain in Ingleby Greenhow, since there is no trace of them in the register other than their births and their parents' marriage.

Something still to be researched and proved is this: Where was William Hunter after his years in Ingleby Greenhow? How did he and the Rountrees and Sayer

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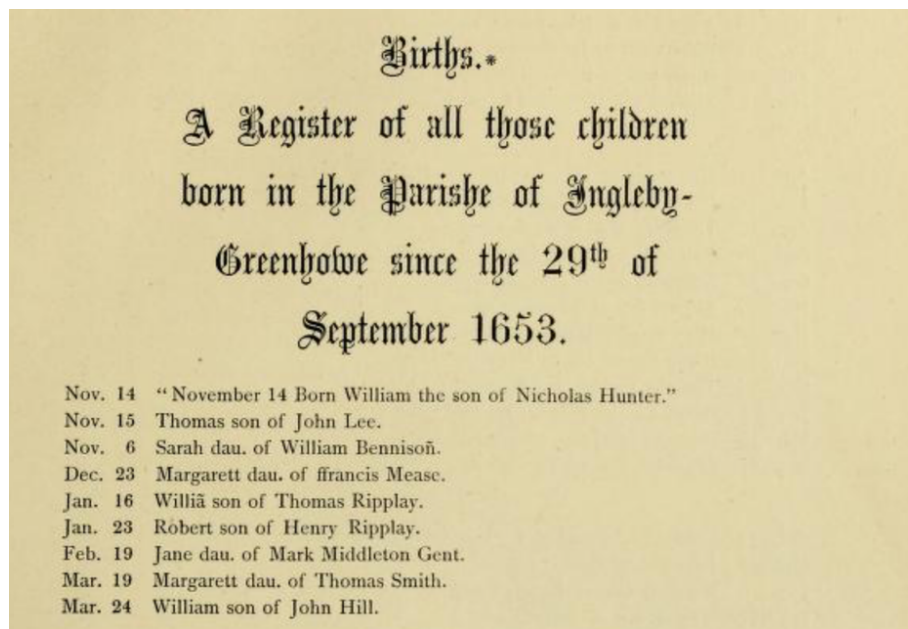
reunite? During the Civil War and the Interregnum after the execution of Charles I, a large flock of English people migrated to Ireland. The only Charles Rountree that I am finding during this period is in Dublin. Did the Rountrees, the Hunters, and Sayer migrate to Virginia from Ireland? Should we begin searching in Irish records?

I still am holding to my hypothesis that the immigrant William Hunter of the 1701 patent record of Nansemond was not a son of the weaver, but, more likely, a nephew, perhaps Henry's son.

The Hunter book claims that young William of 1701 was the weaver's son and that immigrant Alice (also mentioned in the patent) was the weaver's daughter. On the new marker for the Sunbury graveyard these children are assigned to the weaver. This has to be an error.

Here are facts: Alice later married Edward Arnel (Arnold) when she was in her thirties. He was mentioned in the will of Alice's mother Ann Hunter, widow of immigrant William of Orapeake. He died in 1732. Two of the weaver's sons (Robert and Isaac) were witnesses at the signing of the will. On the 1701 patent Ann's name is not stated. She is mentioned there only as "his wife." To me, this means "the 1701 immigrant's wife," not "the 1685 weaver's wife." How could she be the weaver's wife supposedly left in England (or Ireland) for seventeen years? Before 1701 in Virginia the weaver sired a daughter Sarah Battle (b. 1684) and two sons Robert and Isaac (b. 1690s). Likely their mother was the Joane Hunter mentioned on the 1685 patent. So, the history engraved on the Sunbury stone falsely makes William Hunter a bigamist.

The Hunter Research Group's 2013 book lists various English William Hunters who could be later the William Hunter of Nansemond. Among these possibles he lists is William Hunter of Ingleby Greenhow. As you know, I believe that William of Ingleby Greenhow definitely is our man. My proof is John Sayer, who was from nearby Hutton Rudby.



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Did the Hunter and Rountree Families migrate to Ireland before coming to America?

By Richard H. Hunter

Hunter McKelva Cole has uncovered new information about our immigrant William Hunter and his family as evidenced by the three previous articles. After 1653 (William's birth) there are no records of the Hunter and Sayer families to be found in Ingleby Greenhow, Stokesley, and Hutton Rudby. John Sayer is also listed in the Charles Rountree patent and lived close to the Hunters in England. Marriage records, birth records, death records, etc. of the Hunter and Sayer families stopped after 1653. The next record we have is in 1685 when William and his family and John Sayer appear on the Charles Rountree land patent in Virginia.

Further, Hunter Cole has found the Rountree family in Armagh Ireland in the mid 1600s. That raises the possibility that sometime after 1653 the Rountrees, Sayers, and Hunters migrated to Northern Ireland prior to their journey to America around 1685.

Cole shared this from Patrick Fitzgerald and Brian Lambkin. *Irish Migration, 1650-1700* p. 95 "About 190,000 migrants arrived in Ireland from Britain during these decades. As before, approximately two-thirds (100,000) were from England and Wales ... [p. 96]. A peak in the 1650s saw an average of 8,000 immigrants a year entering the island. . . . Calculations . . . suggest an inward movement of some 100,000 English and Welsh immigrants during the Cromwellian period 1649-60."

The Jacob Hunter Trust has decided to hire a genealogist in Northern Ireland to assist us to research the period between 1653 and 1685 and determine if our family immigrated to Ireland before coming to America. We hope to have a researcher selected and under contract before the end of the first quarter 2025.

If you are able to provide support to the Trust to assist in this research, it would be greatly appreciated.

Identifying the Hunters in the 1685 and 1701 Land Patents based on Hunter Cole's Research 2024

1685 Patent

A patent dated 1685 to Charles Rountree for 350 acres, in the upper parish of Nansemond County: "*for transportation of 7 persons Willm. Hunter [our immigrant], Nicho. Hunter [our immigrant William's son], Joane Hunter [our immigrant William's wife], Rebecca Hunter [our immigrant Williams sister], Charles Rountree, Robert Rountree, and John Sayer.*"

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1701 Patent

A patent in 1701 “for 240 acres, upper Parish of Nansemond Co., for transportation of 5 persons: Wm. Hunter [son of William Hunter’s older brother Henry, our immigrant William’s nephew], his wife [Ann], daughter Alice [Ann and William’s daughter], & son Nicho Hunter [son of Henry, our immigrant’s older brother and a nephew to our immigrant William], & Mary Cohone [Mary Cohone may have been Mary Hunter Cohone, wife of Samuel Cohone. She, most likely, was the daughter of William and Ann Hunter and granddaughter of Henry Hunter].”

The Hunters and the Occupation of Weaving in Early Virginia

By Hunter McKelva Cole

Having passed his sixtieth year, Isaac Hunter of Chowan County, North Carolina, died in 1752. In September 1753, from items that the deceased’s son and executor Elisha Hunter made available, an inventory of the large estate of chattels was compiled by Isaac’s neighbors Josiah Granbery, John Gordon, and Timothy Walton.

At probate the lengthy roster of Isaac’s assets was attached to his will. In this list Isaac’s household items and barnyard supplies are conventional, much like those of any other planter in the Albemarle, but among Isaac’s possessions something unconventional offers a surprise. In the inventory there is an abundant stock of textiles, a bountiful supply of cloth.

A close look at items in his estate reveals that Isaac was an acquisitive freeholder who had amassed productive land and implements for cultivation. The unusual presence of hundreds of yards of cloth in his estate links Isaac to his father’s trade and discloses that Isaac not only raised crops but also produced and stocked merchandise for sale. He was, as his estate discloses, a farmer and a businessman. Thus, he fits into the evolving picture of a social order that is both rural and urban. Isaac was rich in land holdings. He was loyal in his faith (the Church of England). His plantation home was teeming in children, servants, and livestock. His business was abounding in wares, and these useful dry goods serve to place him in the second generation of New World gentry that had progressed socially and economically by combining trade with farming.

In Nansemond County, Virginia, directly north of Chowan, Isaac’s father William Hunter, an indentured weaver, had been among those newcomers favorably classified as “mechanics,” that is, as especial immigrants with an occupation of great value to the social and economic order of the colony. Most who immigrated to Virginia were yeoman who lacked specialized skills that would advance the pace of progress. Weavers, ironmongers, carpenters, and others in the working-class trades, however, were equipped to supply the essentials that the mother country and the upper class could not. Within his generation William Hunter rose quickly to

prominence. Within twenty years, and before 1700, he was no longer a weaver. He had become a clerk of the court, then a judge (justice of the quorum). His family had standing and prominence in their community.

Philip Alexander Bruce's *Economic History of Virginia in the Seventeenth Century* (New York: Macmillan, 1896) portrays the colony as it existed before and after William Hunter arrived as a weaver indentured to one Charles Rountree. "In 1659," as Bruce reports, "a regulation was adapted prohibiting the exportation of wool, among other articles. Seven years later, the difficulty of obtaining clothing from England to supply the needs of the people became so great that the General Assembly determined to take more active steps for the encouragement of domestic woolen manufacturers" (p. 461).

Bruce says that because of the scarcity of cloth and clothing "it was the logical effect of these restrictive laws relating to navigation and the exportation of wool and woolen products that stimulated a manufacturing spirit in the Colonies At once, there arose a desire to make at home all the goods which were needed in the plantation household" (pp. 466-467). Rountree brought William Hunter and his family to Virginia at a time when the colony, short of essentials, was under economic stress. William Hunter and his ilk filled an urgent need.

"It will be seen," Bruce reports, "that the authorities of the Colony looked upon a general system of local manufactures as a condition precipitated by low prices or deficient supplies from abroad The Virginians, when they made clothing at all, made it not for shipment, but for their own use As early as 1700, it had grown to be the habit of the people to mix cotton, linen, and wool in the manufacture of coarse garments for the use of their negroes and white servants (p. 468).

Bruce summarizes what was happening to newcomers like William Hunter who had left Britain with hopes of escaping occupational barriers. "Virginia extended the prospect of an improved condition of life and they [the immigrants] readily assented to the proposal to try their fortunes there, first as handicraftsmen bound to service by indentures, and after the expiration of their terms, as planters and handicraftsmen combined" (p. 400).

William arrived in Virginia shortly before 1685, and traditionally an indentured person served the sponsor for a period of five to seven years. After this, the indenture was removed, and a small tract was given to the former servant. When William's indenture expired, he himself chose to become a sponsor, and in 1695 he brought four slaves into the colony and settled them on his small tract. For each he was granted the traditional fifty free acres, thus a total of two hundred acres in Nansemond (*Virginia Patent Book Eight*, p. 431). In this transaction William is identified as William Hunter of Nansemond County, weaver. As a weaver at work William would have been termed "a mechanic." Bruce says that "the class of free mechanics in Virginia was an important one in spite of its small number. As late as 1680, it is stated that a handicraftsman was regarded by the planters with the highest esteem and courted with their utmost art" (p. 410).

“All the early Governors received instruction to promote the welfare of those engaged in the various mechanical pursuits [such as weaving] and to restrain any disposition on their part to abandon these pursuits with a view to producing tobacco” (p 410). In plain words, the colony needed mechanics even more than it needed tobacco workers, and weavers would produce the cloth for making the clothing of the king’s subjects in Virginia. “As early as 1612,” Bruce continues, “it was anticipated that Virginia would become an important seat of linen manufacture, owing to the adaptability of the soil to the production of flax In 1682 at the instance of Lord Culpeper, a law for the encouragement of linen and woolen manufacture was passed The statute [that every tithable person be required to produce at least two pounds of flax or hemp annually] was to continue in force until 1685” (p. 456).

Thread was spun from raw flax, and linen was woven from thread. In making cloth, a weaver relied on both a wheel and a loom. In the colony the source of flax was not only seed from England but also the native wild flax that proliferated in Virginia swamps. A spinning wheel was a mainstay in many a Virginia home. In Isaac Hunter’s there were seven. In inventories of Virginia estates, Bruce notes that “linen wheels are frequently enumerated So numerous are the references to linen wheels . . . that it would be impossible to give a full list of them among the articles in use which appear to have been often made of this Virginia linen.” Bruce affirms that among the most prevalent items the weavers produced were napkins (p. 458).

William Hunter’s son Isaac (born in Nansemond ca. 1690s) became a freeholder, a merchant, and a vestryman of St. Paul’s Parish of Chowan. His position in the hierarchy of the local church boosted him in status. The vestry, elected annually, comprised a dozen leaders whose role was that of collecting tithes and making and enforcing local laws that were outside the scope of the governor and his council. Isaac served for twenty years. (See Raymond Parker Fouts, *Vestry Minutes of St. Paul’s Parish*, Chowan County, North Carolina, 1701-1776. Cocoa, Fla.: GenRec Books, 1983.) Since the deceased also owned expansive acreage in Chowan and Bertie Counties as well as numerous slaves, his wealth was considerable.

However, like other prosperous men during his time and in his place, Isaac was poor in coin. In the American colonies English coinage and currency did not flow in abundance. The inventory of this man of property shows that at the time of his death his purse contained £30, 13, 9, a pitiful reserve, but it was typical among his class, since the financial standard of the planter was not in coin but in tobacco, the cash crop. Because English money was scarce, each colony produced its own coinage, which varied in worth. In Isaac’s time the most envied was that of Virginia. Lord Culpeper had proclaimed and regulated its value. It was termed “Proclamation money of Virginia” and was favored in many of Carolina’s land sales and in other financial transactions.

By 1752 Isaac’s wife, née Elizabeth Parker, and one of their children, Jean Perry, were deceased. Accordingly, during probate of his father’s estate Elisha apportioned Isaac’s chattels equally among the living brothers and sisters. The siblings were Elisha, Jacob, Jesse, Isaac, Daniel, Sarah, Elizabeth Perry, Alee Perry,

Rachel Walton, and Hannah Riddick. Each of the ten received an inheritance of appraised items valued at £25, 0. 66. Some of these heirs also received parcels of land and a slave each. Elisha, presumed to be the eldest son, inherited the family home. Since these bequests were stated in Isaac's will, they were not itemized and parceled out from the inventory of goods. What became of the profusion of fabrics? In the distributing of Isaac's chattels, each heir received a bequest of cloth. One sizable bolt was as large as ninety-one yards. Another was sixty-four.

It is natural to surmise that Isaac owned a store as well as plantations. If so, the site has not come to light in his records. In the estate settlement there's no mention of a business structure near his dwelling or in a nearby town or community. Perhaps it was located in Edenton, the site of St. Paul's Church and the Chowan County courthouse. The town skirts Albemarle Sound and its port. It was a likely marketplace for commerce. Isaac, as a vestryman, traveled to Edenton frequently for meetings held at St. Paul's Church or at the courthouse. A main road extending from Virginia down to Edenton passed near Isaac's home situated in the north of Chowan County near the southern boundary of Virginia. Today this farmland setting is within the town of Sunbury, which since the 1770s has been in Gates County.

The inventory of Isaac's estate is astonishingly large in yards of various textiles, including fabrics ranging from coarse hand-loomed cloth to cultured silk, silk poplar, seersucker, and lace. This impressive stock of homespun and refined dry goods also includes needles, buttons, and thread, in addition to raw cotton and flax awaiting to be processed. This merchandise is not the inventory of a traditional landowner but of a merchant. It implies that Isaac, with masses of land in two counties, was both a freeholder and apparently also a linen draper. Imported fabrics and utilitarian yardages that likely were woven in Chowan or Virginia were on his shelves.

His granddaughter Sacharissa (Sacky) Hunter Nicholson Voorhies (1783-1873) of Maury County, Tennessee, would attest to his being a businessman. She would recall also that her great-grandfather William Hunter (of Nansemond County, Virginia) had been "in the weaving business" and that her grandfather (Isaac Hunter of Chowan) had been a merchant (*Historic Maury*, July-September 1972, p. 99).

The deceased's business profession had been based on buying and selling. It is likely that Isaac had attached a sales price per yard to each bolt on his shelves. The appraisers therefore could estimate the actual value of the yardage to be figured into the bequests. Included in the household inventory are the aforesaid "7 wheels," that is, 7 spinning wheels, but in the list of Isaac's possessions there is not even one loom. Thus, in his household seven spinners spun the raw flax, wool, and cotton into thread. Who were the spinners? The six daughters? The wife and the servants? Evidently the thread they created was loomed elsewhere, and prior to the spinning, some drudge must pick flecks of debris from the raw fibers. Afterwards, there would be the washing, dyeing, and drying of the thread. The home was filled with women who could perform these tedious tasks.

From Granbery, Gordon, and Walton's inventory the following is an itemized list of the various fabrics in this portion of the estate, amounting to some thirty bolts

of cloth. Also mentioned are “money scales.” Supposedly not all customers’ cash payments were made in the Proclamation money of Virginia, and thus those made in other coinage were subject to being weighed. As for the stock, there’s great variety, with cloth for both the upper and the lower classes. No doubt some female was assisting the male appraisers, for they were not likely to know a distinct classification as “fine Whitney,” “garlix,” “sagothy,” or “narrow broads.” At least one of the three men could somewhat write, but he was semiliterate and was no speller. Below, in the finished list the original misspellings have been retained, and the exotic, rather puzzling nomenclatures are left as recorded:

7 ½ yds of Broad Cloath	2 ¼ yds of Bear Skin	4 ½ yds of Blew Salene
91 yds of home spun linen	6 pr of knitting needels	7 yds of striped hollen
¾ of a yd of mulen	4 linnen handkirffs	3 yds of Blew famlet
4 yds of sesucker	7 ¾ yds of silk	¼ of a yd of Camlet
49 ¾ yds of 7/8 linnen	26 yds of Fresh linen	24 ½ yds of Fresh linen
64 yds of Hollon	1 yd of Kenten	14 yds of ¾ garlix
5 ¼ [yds] of slamt linnen	6 silk handkersifs	39 [yds] of ¾ chex
51 ½ yds of narrow broads	1 ¼ [yds] of Farmin Sarge	15 yds of silk poplar
3 ¾ yds of Carsey	5 ¼ yds of Camlinco	1 ¼ [yds] of bed ticking
3 ½ yds of corse linnen	9 hats	3 hanks of silk
5 sticks of hair	3 duzen buttens	33 yds of cloth
2 ¼ yds of cotton	1 ½ yds of Saloon	¾ of a yd of carser
1 ½ yds of sagothey	1 ½ yds of lase [lace]	1 yd of corse cloth
¼ of a yd of fine Whitney	3 ¼ yds of chex	7 wheals [spinning wheels]
9 ¾ Drest sk[ins]	37 lb of battled flax	15 lb of tear thread
19 lb of toe thread	10 lb of picked cotton	26 lb not picked
1 bed tick	7 ½ lb of toe thread	a persel of wool

At his death the dry-goods business was terminated, and Isaac’s flourishing lands in Chowan and Bertie were dispersed to four of his five sons. A study of the ten heirs’ individual bequests preserved in the estate papers reveals the monetary value of each item of cloth the son or daughter received in the settlement. The stated amount of each cloth appraisal can be studied for determining the grand total of their father’s worth in his inventory of cloth. It must be remembered, however, that Isaac Hunter was wealthy in land and that the cloth business was probably a sideline.

Isaac’s occupation as a dealer in cloth had stemmed from his father’s profession, but there is little or no evidence that Isaac was trained to be a weaver. In 1713 he and his brother Robert, both young men and originally residents of Nansmond County, bought a tract in Chowan, settled there, and became North Carolina planters. Yet the adage “Like father, like son” can be applied to William’s and Isaac’s careers. Until Isaac’s death and the dispersal of his estate, he bore a familial vestige of weaving. *(The author thanks Thomas Hunter for tips on Philip Alexander Bruce’s source material)*

We Are The Chosen: The Story Tellers

[Source: <https://past-presence.com/2018/03/24/origin-of-the-genealogy-poem-the-storytellers/>]

THE STORY TELLERS

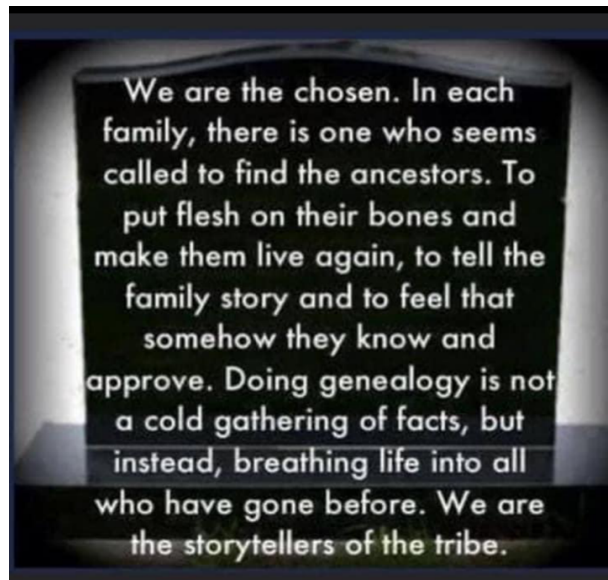
We are the chosen. In each family there is one who seems called to find the ancestors – to put flesh on their bones and make them live again, to tell the family story and to feel that somehow they know and approve.

To me, doing genealogy is not a cold gathering of facts but, instead, breathing life into all who have gone before.

We are the story tellers of the tribe. All tribes have one.

We have been called by our genes. Those who have gone before cry out to us: tell our story. So we do. In finding them, we somehow find ourselves. How many graves have I stood before now and cried? I have lost count. How many times have I told the ancestors you have a wonderful family you would be proud of us? How many times have I walked up to a grave and felt somehow there was love there for me?

I cannot say.



It goes beyond just documenting facts. It goes to who am I and why do I do the things I do. It goes to seeing a cemetery about to be lost forever to weeds and indifference and saying I can't let this happen. The bones here are bones of my bone and flesh of my flesh. It goes to doing something about it. It goes to pride in what our ancestors were able to accomplish. How they contributed to what we are today. It goes to respecting their hardships and losses, their never giving in or giving up, their resoluteness to go on and build a life for their family. It goes to deep pride that they fought to make and keep us a Nation.

It goes to a deep and immense understanding that they were doing it for us. That we might be born who we are. That we might remember them. So we do. With love and caring and scribing each fact of their existence, because we are them and they are us. So, as a scribe is called, I tell the story of my family. It is up to that one called in the next generation to answer the call and take their place in the long line of family storytellers.

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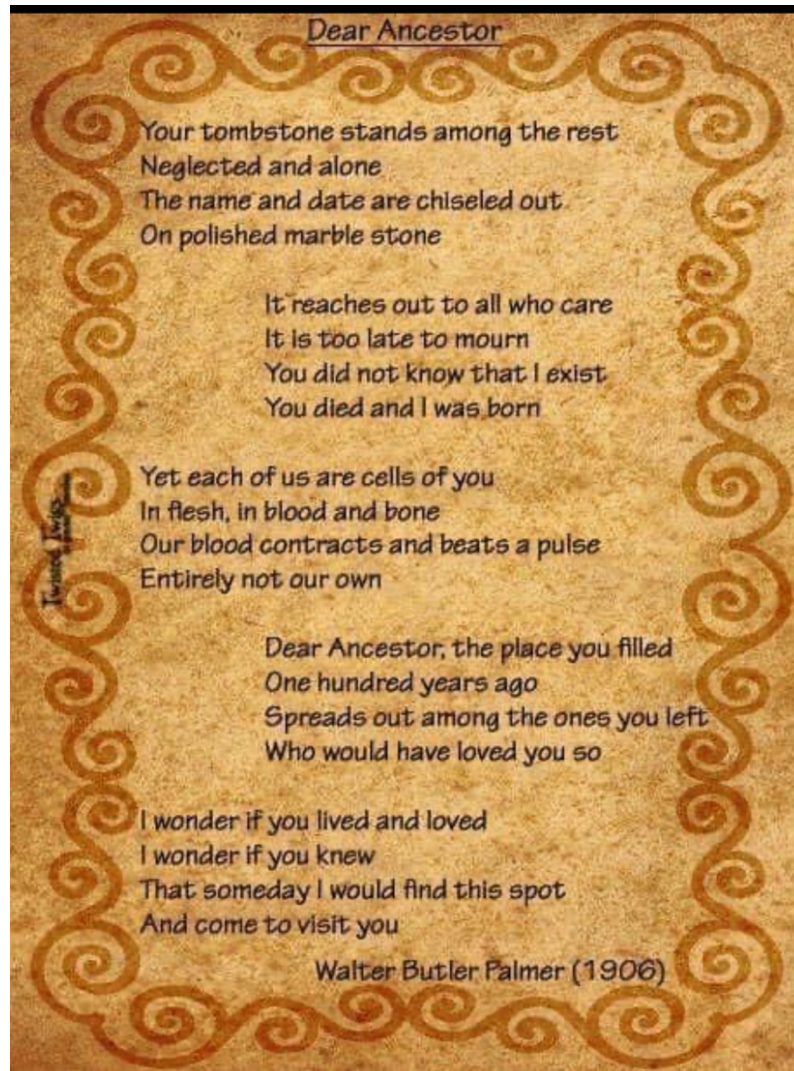
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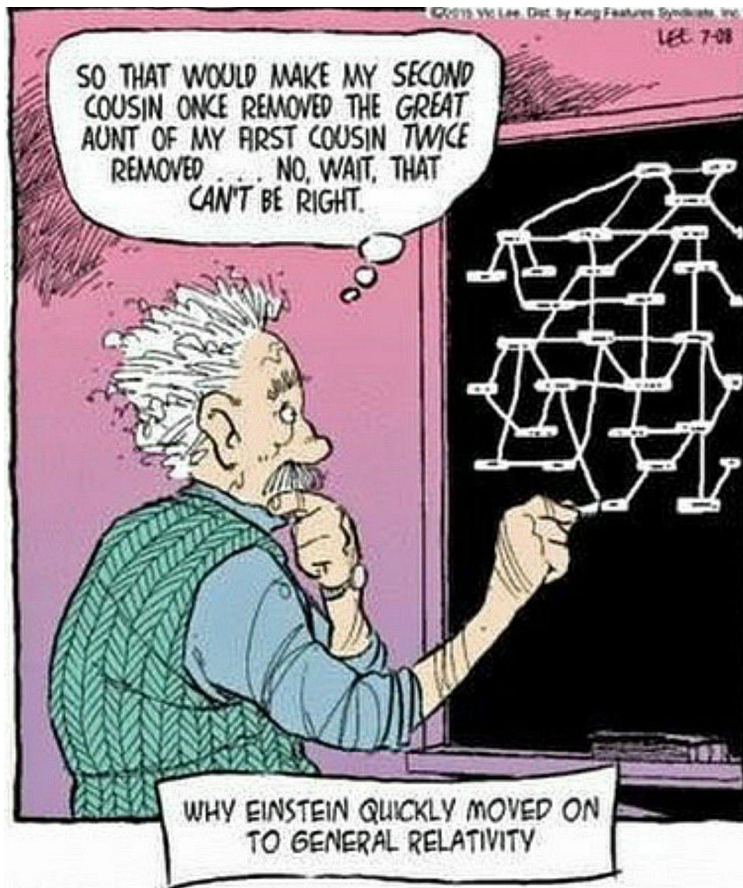
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That is why I do genealogy, and that is what calls those young and old to step up and put flesh on the bones.

Presumed authors: Della Maxine Cummings Wright 1922-2001; edited and reworded by Tom Dunn, 1943; rewritten by Della Cummings Wright's granddaughter, Della Joann McGinnis Johnson.



The Trust thanks Judith Hunter Mathews for sharing these items.



Credit Freda Spell, Jackson, MS

A Tribute to our past: The words of Milo Erwin in 1876

(from the introduction to his book: *The History of Williamson County, Illinois*, 1876)

“We have lived in the shadow of the gray hairs of our fathers. They have battled long and well to give us a country to live in, and we are the rich inheritors of all the glorious results of their self-denial and patriotic devotion. Let us prove ourselves worthy of the high destiny for which they offered themselves a sacrifice to common dangers and privations, by living honorable lives, and showing to the world that with affection we cherish their acts and hallow their memories.”

Cemetery News

We are happy to report that Mr. Kelly Godfrey has beautifully maintained our historic William Hunter Cemetery again this year. Kelly hosted Dr. Surry Roberts and Bruce Lantrip on a visit in April. Many thanks to Kelly and his wife, Helen.

On April 14th Dr. Roberts and Bruce Lantrip visited the Dr. Henry Holmes Hunter Cemetery north of Sunbury to investigate the potential for replacing the iron fence that had been severely damaged over the years. Subsequent bids placed the project out of reach. Good news is that, despite having difficulty finding local labor to help maintain the cemetery, the landowner, Al Byrum, has promised to have the cemetery cleared once per year at his expense. We are very thankful for Mr. Byrum's support.

Belle Long is in the process of updating her extensive research on the people buried at the Theophilus Hunter Cemetery in Raleigh. We hope to have her updated listing available on our website soon. Many thanks to Belle for her continuing work documenting this historic cemetery and the families buried there.

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Trust 2024 Income and Expense Detail

The Jacob Hunter Trust Account for 2024

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>DEBIT</u>	<u>CREDIT</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
1/1/24	Balance Forward			\$2,894.68
1/1/24	Ray Edward Smith		\$1,000.00	\$3,894.68
1/1/24	PayPal expense	\$29.39		\$3,865.29
1/2/24	Richard H. Hunter		\$1,000.00	\$4,865.29
1/2/24	Phillip Lane-website	\$25.00		\$4,840.29
1/8/24	John & Laura Hunter-Johnson		\$200.00	\$5,040.29
1/10/24	Judith A. Mathews		\$300.00	\$5,340.29
1/10/24	Jennifer Pessa		\$200.00	\$5,540.29
1/10/24	PayPal expense	\$6.27		\$5,534.02
1/11/24	Hunter Harris		\$100.00	\$5,634.02
1/11/24	PayPal expense	\$3.38		\$5,630.64
1/11/24	Carol Hunter-Sullivan		\$25.00	\$5,655.64
1/11/24	PayPal expense	\$1.21		\$5,654.43
1/17/24	Michael M. Norman		\$100.00	\$5,754.43
1/17/24	Isabella P. Long		\$100.00	\$5,854.43
1/18/24	Interest on checking account		\$0.71	\$5,855.14
1/25/24	Ethel Sue & Doc Holladay		\$100.00	\$5,955.14
2/4/24	Phillip Lane-website updates	\$70.00		\$5,885.14
2/16/24	Interest on checking account		\$0.94	\$5,886.08
3/13/24	LLAR Website Security 1-yr	\$49.99		\$5,836.09
3/18/24	Interest on checking account		\$1.00	\$5,837.09
3/24/24	Todd Grounds (AHC X 1)	\$50.00		\$5,787.09
3/24/24	Kelly Godfrey (WHC)	\$150.00		\$5,637.09
3/26/24	Surry P. Roberts, M.D.		\$1,000.00	\$6,637.09
12/17/23	Phillip Lane-website (late recording)	\$50.00		\$6,587.09
4/18/24	Interest on checking account		\$1.10	\$6,588.19
4/21/24	Todd Grounds (AHC X 2)	\$100.00		\$6,488.19
5/17/24	Interest on checking account		\$1.04	\$6,489.23
5/19/24	Todd Grounds (AHC X 2)	\$100.00		\$6,389.23
5/22/24	Mark Smith		\$50.00	\$6,439.23
5/22/24	PayPal expense	\$1.94		\$6,437.29
5/31/24	Phillip Lane-website updates	\$70.00		\$6,367.29
6/13/24	Judge Carolyn Quinn		\$400.00	\$6,767.29
6/13/24	PayPal expense	\$12.05		\$6,755.24
6/16/24	John & Laura Hunter-Johnson		\$200.00	\$6,955.24
6/19/24	Interest on checking account		\$1.14	\$6,956.38
6/29/24	Todd Grounds (AHC X 2)	\$ 100.00		\$6,856.38
7/12/24	Kelly Godfrey (WHC)	\$ 150.00		\$6,706.38
7/18/24	Interest on checking account		\$ 1.14	\$6,707.52
7/25/24	Interest on checking account		\$ 0.26	\$6,707.78
7/30/24	Todd Grounds (AHC X 2)	\$ 100.00		\$6,607.78

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7/31/24	Interest on checking account		\$	0.23	\$6,608.01
8/13/24	Joe's Lawn Serv. JHC X 2	\$	70.00		\$6,538.01
8/22/24	GoDaddy Website 2-yrs	\$	167.76		\$6,370.25
8/28/24	Williamson Co Treasurer (tax)	\$	9.96		\$6,360.29
8/30/24	Interest on checking account		\$	1.08	\$6,361.37
8/31/24	Todd Grounds (AHC X 2)	\$	100.00		\$6,261.37
9/4/24	Hunter McKelva Cole (UK res)		\$	1,000.00	\$7,261.37
9/7/24	Fred E. Hunter		\$	100.00	\$7,361.37
9/22/24	Linda & Ron Hermann		\$	250.00	\$7,611.37
9/22/24	Todd Grounds (AHC X 1)	\$	50.00		\$7,561.37
9/30/24	First Southern Bank Interest		\$	1.24	\$7,562.61
10/4/24	Kelly Godfrey (WHC)	\$	150.00		\$7,412.61
10/30/24	Todd Grounds (AHC X 2)	\$	100.00		\$7,312.61
10/31/24	Interest on checking account		\$	1.27	\$7,313.88
11/3/24	JHT email GoDaddy 3-yrs	\$	294.48		\$7,019.40
11/4/24	GoDaddy Website 10-yrs	\$	1,398.79		\$5,620.61
11/29/24	Interest on checking account		\$	0.93	\$5,621.54
12/5/24	Transfer to Trust Savings Acct	\$	3,000.00		\$2,621.54
12/23/24	Kenneth Pankey		\$	100.00	\$2,721.54
12/24/24	Kaye Barker		\$	100.00	\$2,821.54
12/24/24	Belle Long		\$	100.00	\$2,921.54
12/24/24	Kelly Godfrey (WHC)	\$	150.00		\$2,771.54
12/27/24	Tom & Amy Hunter Harmon		\$	200.00	\$2,971.54
12/27/24	PayPal expense	\$	6.27		\$2,965.27
12/31/24	Interest on checking account		\$	0.56	\$2,965.83
	TOTALS		\$6,566.49		\$6,637.64

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING AN ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE JACOB HUNTER TRUST

In addition to publishing family history through the Jacob Hunter Trust website and the JHT Newsletters, the Trust maintains or oversees historic family cemeteries. Costs associated with maintaining these cemeteries in a manner that respects our ancestors are substantial and will increase over time.

We are asking all interested individuals to donate every year so the income can exceed the annual costs of cemetery maintenance and build a balance to the level required to provide perpetual care based on annual earnings.

We also need people who are interested in providing support via Gifts and Bequests to the Jacob Hunter Trust. Judge Robert S. Hunter (1919-2012) has written instructions (see article below) for leaving money through one's will, or "payable on death" (POD) accounts that include investments, savings accounts, certificates of deposits, etc. to the Jacob Hunter Trust. The Jacob Hunter Trust is registered with the IRS as a tax-exempt 501 (c) 13 charitable organization. Donating to the Jacob Hunter Trust may provide substantial tax benefits.

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Gifts and Bequests to the Jacob Hunter Trust

by Judge Robert S. Hunter (1919-2012)

Your gift or bequest can help to assure that the Jacob Hunter Trust can support research, provide cemetery maintenance, and cemetery restoration for eternity. The easiest way to accomplish this is to make gifts from time to time. You can do so by making checks payable to “Jacob Hunter Trust” where funds will be strictly controlled and used only for purposes that are consistent with the trust objectives.

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

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

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

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

Notice to Readers:

Special Request:

As can be seen in this newsletter and the newsletters the Trust has published since 2013, our family information has expanded significantly since our Hunter Family Research Group book was published in 2013. We are anticipating our current research projects will add even more to this wealth of knowledge. The Trust is getting requests to publish another book with updates and new information that will augment the 2013 issue of *William Hunter of Nansemond Co. and His Early Descendants*. The Trust is seeking assistance from researchers or other writers to help us consolidate and prepare another book for distribution. We have a generous donor who will underwrite the project. If you are supportive of us working on an updated book and have writing skills or other experiences in publishing, please contact the Trust.

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Trust recruiting assistance

The Trust wishes to recruit new members to assume leadership roles and ensure the work of the Trust continues for many years into the future. Please consider volunteering your skills and join in our many projects. We need people who will continue to correspond with family researchers, edit our newsletter, manage our website, pay the bills of the trust, hire people to mow and maintain our cemeteries, and improve our fundraising efforts. Please share the value of what we have accomplished with your children and grandchildren. We need “next generation” folks that appreciate and value our family history and have a genuine respect for what their ancestors meant to the development of our country and our family.

If you, a child, or grandchild, have skills in website development, and have skills in WordPress, and are willing to volunteer a few of hours a year, we need your help. The Jacob Hunter Trust’s website is programmed in WordPress, and we need someone to assist us to upload newsletters and make minor updates and adjustments during the year. If you can help, please contact rich@jacobhuntertrust.org. Your expertise would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your support of the Jacob Hunter Trust.