



Hunter Research Report (23rd May 2025)

Initial Research Scope

Via an email communication of 7th December 2024, you had asked for the following:

We are seeking the assistance of a genealogist in Ireland to research our ancestor, William Hunter (b. 14 Nov 1653, d. ca. 1728). We believe our William Hunter and his family may have immigrated to Ireland sometime between 1653 and 1685, perhaps in the area of Armagh. Attached is a prospectus providing initial information for this search. We have additional information on our website and will work collaboratively as the research progresses.

We had advised the following:

Although I'd be happy to take a look, it is a very early period records-wise and I'd be doubtful about a positive search. Also, passenger records for emigration between Ireland and mainland UK weren't really kept as they were in close proximity and movement back and forth was so common. Also, overall, there are very few surviving passenger records at all for that time period.

However, it was agreed that we would take a look at early resources for County Armagh that we could identify, including church records.

Salient points from the provided prospectus to help us narrow our search included:

- William Hunter appeared to have migrated to Ulster with his family sometime after 1653. The next record of him is from 1685 when he appears on a land patent in Virginia, USA, as a headright of Charles Rountree along with Robert Rountree, John Sayer, Nicholas Hunter (his son), Joane Hunter (his wife), and Rebekah Hunter. It was believed that these individuals originally lived in proximity in Yorkshire and immigrated to Northern Ireland prior to immigrating to America around 1685.
- Charles Rountree and Francis Rountree are documented in Armagh Ireland in the 1600s and later in Nansemond County, Virginia.
- Charles Rountree brought the Hunters to Virginia circa 1685.
- William Hunter was born in 1653 at Ingleby Greenhow, Yorkshire. His parents were Nicholas Hunter and Ellen Wood. His siblings included Ann, Mary, Elizabeth, Henry, Sara, Rebecca, and Dinah. It is likely that some of these would have migrated to Ireland with their parents.

We were also asked to keep a look out for Joan Rountree/Rontry or Rebecca Rountree/Rontry, c.1660-1675.

You had the following questions in mind in particular:

- Can we document that the Hunters and Charles Rountree migrated from Ireland to Virginia?
- Had Rountree transported the Hunters to Ireland?
- Can we find out if and why the Hunters had relocated from Yorkshire to Ireland and when they arrived there?
- In the mid-1600s, from what port did the English customarily immigrate to Ulster?
- Where in Ireland were the Hunters based? Armagh? Antrim? Is there documentation?
- On what ship did the Hunters travel from Ireland to Virginia?
- On what date did they arrive in America?

The research which we have carried out thus far has been outlined below.

Church Records

The records outlined further below indicate Hunters or Rountrees connected with the below parishes in County Armagh:

Kilmore
 Drumcree
 Creggan
 Lisnadill
 Seagoe
 Mullaghbrack
 Loughgall
 Kilclooney

Only three of these parishes have early records (Kilmore, Loughgall, and Seagoe). Kilmore has Quaker records from c.1680. Loughgall has Church of Ireland records that include baptisms from 1706-29, marriages from 1706-29, and burials from 1706-29. There is then a gap in the records until late in the eighteenth century. Seagoe Church of Ireland has records for baptisms, marriages, and burials from 1672 onwards.

Early church records for County Armagh as a whole include:

- Derrynoose Church of Ireland. Includes baptisms (1710-46), marriages (1712-43), and vestry minutes (1709-12, 1720-50, etc.). Transcriptions of the baptismal and marriage records are held on the Roots Ireland database. A search of this database only uncovered one early baptism (dated 8 April 1711) of a John Hunter whose father was Gilbert Hunter. There were no Hunter marriage entries coming up.
- Killyman Church of Ireland. Their records may be a little too late to be of interest. They include baptisms and burials from 1745 onwards and marriages from 1741 onwards as well as vestry minutes from 1756 onwards.
- Kilmore Church of Ireland has vestry minutes from 1732 onwards. Their baptismal records only begin in 1789 and marriage records in 1799.
- Loughgall Church of Ireland (PRONI Ref: MIC1/59C/1). Their earliest records include baptisms, marriages, and burials from 1706-1729. These were searched but there were no relevant Hunter findings (the only Hunter findings were for two children – William and Mary – baptised to a William and Margaret Hunter). NB: These records were difficult to read in some places due to the quality of the microfilm.
- Shankill Church of Ireland has baptismal records beginning in 1681, marriage records in 1676, and burial records in 1675. Vestry minutes begin in 1672. We searched baptismal, marriage, and burial records to 1700. The records were difficult to read in places due to the quality of the microfilm, but there were no Hunter findings.
- Tynan Church of Ireland has baptismal records that begin in 1686, and marriages and burials that begin in 1683. Baptismal, marriage, and burial

records were searched to 1720. The records were difficult to read in places due to the quality of the microfilm, but there were no Hunter findings.

- The Seagoe Church of Ireland records are included on the Roots Ireland database. The earliest Hunter baptism is in 1815. The earliest Hunter marriage record is dated 7 November 1723 and is between a David Hunter of Tullylish parish and an Anne Bullock of Seagoe parish. No fathers' names are provided. The earliest burial record is for 25 December 1779 and relates to a Dinah Hunter.
- 1st Armagh Presbyterian Church holds baptismal and marriage records from 1707-28. These records are available via the Roots Ireland database. A Henry Hunter had a son, John, baptised in Armagh Presbyterian Church on 9 January 1708. Other early Hunter entries include:
 - Children baptised to Robert Hunter including Jane (15 September 1707), Sarah (18 June 1710), and Elizabeth (24 August 1712).
 - Children baptised to John Hunter including Robert (2 March 1712), David (7 March 1714), and William (5 August 1716).
 - Other children baptised to a Henry Hunter including John (7 March 1714), Joseph (8 July 1716), and Margaret (25 May 1718),
 - Children born to Samuel Hunter including Thomas (22 September 1717).
 - Early marriages include:
 - John Mcmechan to Sarah Hunter on 23 June 1709. No further details are provided.
 - Malcolm Anderson to Isabel Hunter on 15 October 1711. No further details are provided.
 - George Middleton to Mary Hunter on 1 January 1711. No further details are provided.
 - James Hunter to Agnes Mccanne on 25 November 1720. No further details are provided.
- 1st Lurgan Presbyterian Church: Their records may be a little too late to be of interest. They include baptisms from 1746 onwards and some marriages for 1746, 1754, and 1759.
- Ballyhagen Society of Friends (Quakers): Their records include family lists with details of births and burials, c.1680-1814. There were no Hunter findings.
- Lurgan Society of Friends (Quakers): Their records include births, marriages, and burials from 1632 onwards. The Roots Ireland database includes births from 1607, marriages from 1634, and burials from 1697 onwards. There were no entries on the database for births or burials for Hunter. There was one early marriage entry dated 24 October 1701 (between John Hunter of Ballymagaraghan, Maheralin parish and Elizabeth Mathews of Lurgan).

Transcripts of memorials of deeds, conveyances and wills

The transcripts of memorials of deeds, conveyances, and wills for Ireland begin in 1708. They are split into land indexes and grantor indexes and cover various time periods. We searched the grantor indexes for Hunter and Roundtree from 1708-1745 and located the below. Not knowing the exact area that they may have resided, we could not look at the land indexes.

There were a large number of Hunter entries so we only looked for known family names (e.g., Henry and Nicholas Hunter). We then looked at these entries in full. NB: The first part is the person(s) selling the property and the second part the person(s) who gain it.

BOOK NO.	PAGE NO.	TRANSCRIPTION NO.	INFORMATION PROVIDED
15	221	7293	This is a deed poll dated 6 February 1715. It is between William Fitzherbert of Shircock, Killham parish, County Cavan and Anne his wife of the first part, and William Rowntree (formerly of Mulladry, Kilmore parish, County Armagh and now of Shircock) of the second part. William Rowntree was taking on land adjoining Shircock town or village called the Pole of Shiman, otherwise called Drumskea, parish of Killam. William Rowntree had a son named within the deed (William Rowntree of Sharcock, a Merchant) as well as a daughter, Lettice Rowntree.
15	317	7617	This is an indenture dated 9 March 1715. It is between William Rowntree (of Sharcock, County Cavan), who also has a son named William, of the first part, and Charles Rowntree (of Lattuan, County Monaghan), and Ann Rowntree, wife of William, of the second part. The lands in question were demised to William Rowntree by William Richardson of Legacorry, Kilmore parish, County Armagh, on 29 October 1693, and are in Mulladry, Kilmore parish.
52	281	34577	This is a memorial of deed of mortgage dated 1 November 1726 between William Rowntree of Sharcock, County Cavan (whose father was also William) of the one part, and John Scot of Corronarry, County Cavan, of the second part. It relates to lands called the Pole of Shinan adjoining the town of Sharcock, otherwise called Drumskee, in Killan parish, County Cavan.

56	177	37490	This is a memorial of deed of mortgage dated 1 November 1727 between William Rowntree of Shercock (whose father was also named William) of the first part, and John Scott of Corronary of the second part. It relates to the Pole of Shinan (also known as Drumskea) land as well as a tenement in Shercock town.
56	301	38050	This is a deed of mortgage dated 1 May 1728 between Willia, Rowntree of Shercock (whose father was also named William) of the first part, and John Scott of Coronary of the second part. It relates to the Pole of Shinnan (also known as Drumskea) land as well as a tenement in Shercock town.
18	63	8358	This is a memorial of a deed indented and is dated 16 November 1715. It is between Nicholas Hunter (of Ballyrogan, County Down), brother and heir of James Hunter (of the same place, deceased; James was the son and heir of Henry Hunter of Ballyrogan), Ann Hunter (Henry's widow), Robert Ross (of Rosstrevor [sic], County Down), William Stannus (of Carlingford, County Louth), James Valentine (of Newry, County Down), and Daniel Madden (of Tandragee, County Armagh) of the first part, and Meredyth Workman (of Mahan, County Armagh) and Edward Bond (of Armagh, County Armagh) of the second part. It concerned the town and lands of Magheradogherty, also known as Maherskinny, in the manor of Johnstown, Co. Armagh.
3	315	997	This is an indenture of lease and release. It is dated 30 September and 1 October 1708. It is between Henry Hunter (of Morn, County Down), Daniel Madden (of Tandragee, County Armagh), and others of the first part and Meredith Workman and Edward Bond of the second part. The lands being given over are Magheredoghty, Magheriskeny, and Lattry, all in the manor of Johnston, County Armagh. Two sons of Henry Hunter (Nicholas and James) are also mentioned.
76	4	52420	This is a memorial of a deed dated 4 January 1733 between Frances Buntin otherwise Handby, widow Jane Hanby otherwise Hunter, Henry Hunter (Dealer) of

			Bishopankin[?] in the Bishopprick of Derrom[?], Kingdom of Great Britain of the first part, and William Wilks of the city of Dublin of the second part. It relates to property in Dublin.
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Other Resources

We also looked at a number of other resources as outlined below.

Pre-1858 Wills and Admons

The vast majority of pre-1858 wills were destroyed in Dublin in 1922 but we do have indexed entries to most of them. We know that the following Rountree and Hunter wills were proved on these dates:

- Charles Roundtree/Rountree of Mulladry, Kilmore parish, County Armagh, 6 November 1781
- John Rountree of Derryhale, Kilmore parish, County Armagh, 2 February 1799
- Henry Hunter of Garvaghy (may be County Down; the index does not specify), 1715
- Henry Hunter of Tullynagin, Lisnadill parish, County Armagh, 3 May 1740

Copies of these wills do not appear to have survived and this is the only information that we have available regarding them.

c.1630 Muster Roll

The Ulster Muster Roll of c.1630 records a Nicholas Hunter as one of the Earl of Antrim's British tenants in Dunluce Barony, County Antrim.

1665 Hearth Rolls

These record a Thomas Rowntry and a Widow Rowntry of Mulladry, Kilmore parish, County Armagh, a Widow Hunter of the town of Charlemont, Loughgall parish, County Armagh, and a Widow Hunter of Cordrummond townland, Kilclooney parish, County Armagh.

1689 Fighters of Derry

A Henry Hunter is referenced on p.183 of William Robert Young's book *Fighters of Derry: their deeds and descendants, being a chronicle of events in Ireland during the revolutionary period, 1688-1691* (London: Eyre and Spottiswoode, 1932). A copy of this book would need to be accessed directly to find out what it states of this Henry Hunter.

Names in Seventeenth-Century Belfast

The Ulster Historical Foundation has a resource of this name which records a Henry Hunter as a Freeman in Belfast as recorded on the Freeman Roll on 6 August 1680. He was a Cooper.

Rental of Landgable Rents – Dublin 1665

This is another Ulster Historical Foundation resource. It records a Nicholas Hunter of New Row, Dublin.

1728 Hertford Estate Rent Roll

This resource lists an Ellen Hunter on the rent roll. She was renting property at Aghanliss. Ballinderry parish, County Antrim.

1740 Protestant Householders

We searched primarily for known family names (e.g., siblings of William's). We found a Henry Hunter of Kildress, County Tyrone. Similarly, we found a Henry Hunter of Knock, Armagh, recorded as a freeholder in 1753.

1766 Religious Census

This records an Edmund Roundtree of Cornoonaugh, Creggan parish, County Armagh. He was a Papist (i.e., a Catholic).

Ros Davies' Surname Site

Interestingly, Ros Davies' Surname Site records a Capt. Henry Hunter of Kilkeel, County Down. The entry states:

born in Armagh; an experienced soldier; started local Protestant militia group in Donaghadee in 1689; rallied other militia groups to fight the Protestant cause in east Ulster in 1689; governor of Carlingford in 1689 then granted lands in Mourne by Nicholas Bagenal; set up Mourne Presbyterian Church next to where he lived in Ballyrogan; two members of his family were Margaret & John **Hunter**; mentioned in Deeds dated 1709 with sons James & Nicholas¹

Gravestone Transcriptions

We found the below early gravestone transcriptions which we thought might be of interest:

- Knockbreda Church of Ireland, County Down: "Here lieth the body of Elizabeth Rowntree, wife to Daniel Rowntree, who died July 25th 1763 aged 38 years."
- St Aidan's Church of Ireland, Kilmore parish, County Armagh: G19 – Headstone 2: "Here lyeth the body of Anne Rountree who departed this life January ye 13th 1786 aged 70 years also William Rountree departed this life March ye 29 1775 aged 33 years, Charles Rountree departed this life Decr ye 20th 1782 aged 23 years."
- Drumcree Church of Ireland, County Armagh: "Here lyeth the body of William Hunter who departed this life 6 of April 1716 aged 72 years."

Genealogical Office, Dublin

We know from Virginia McAnlis' index that the Genealogical Office in Dublin (now part of the National Library of Ireland) holds the following Roundtree and Hunter

¹ See <https://www.rosdavies.com/SURNAMES/H/Hunter.htm>.

documents. We do not know any further information regarding these documents and, if interested in them further, a Dublin-based researcher would need to look at them.

ROUNDTREE

GO MS 223-54 Betham Will Abstracts 13/10

HUNTER

GO MS 526 Irish Coats of Arms (Fota) p. 89
 GO MS 125 Heraldic Sketches p. 76, 295
 GO MS 199 Ecclesiastical Visitations p. 208
 GO MS 103-111a-h Grants/Confirm.Arms Vol.103 p. 26 - alias Perry
 GO MS 223-54 Betham Will Abstracts 2/175, 5/114, 7/37, 8/61, 10/27, 11/253, 12/44, 13/97, 14/55, 22/347 or 367, 24/98, 31/139, 32/109

NB: We also found a reference that the University of Texas Library holds the following: "Papers of Joseph Gustave Rountree, including genealogical information on the families of Roundtree, Rountree and Rowntree in the U.S., Ireland and England, 1500-1958." We wondered if this might hold further information connecting the Hunters to the Rountrees.

Other PRONI Resources

We also looked at other early resources for County Armagh that are held in PRONI as outlined in the table below:

PRONI REFERENCE	DESCRIPTION	RELEVANT FINDINGS (IF ANY)
T604/1	Hearth Money Roll, Co. Armagh. Date: 1664.	This was an index to hearth money rolls. It mentions a Widow Hunter, Thomas Rowntry, and Widow Rowntry. We have not yet located further information regarding Widow Hunter.
T808/14950	Poll tax returns giving names for parishes of Shankill, Sego. Date: 1660.	There were no Hunter findings.
T3839/1	Copy hearth money roll of Shankill Parish, Oneilland Barony, Co. Armagh. The townlands include: Lurgan; Legaghory; Tullygally; Monbrief; Toberhewny; Clanrolla; Tannaghmore; Killaghy; Knocknashane; Ballyblagh; Tullydagan; Lurgantarry, etc. Dates: 1664-1665.	There were no Hunter findings.
D1928/F/1A	Bound manuscript volume, listing freeholders in Co.	There were no Hunter findings.

	Armagh, and giving details re place of abode, and individual lessees. Also includes information re late 17th century leases. Date: c.1700.	
D2394/3/5	List of Freeholders, District of Portadown. This list covers a period from 1747-1802 and was copied from the Dublin Record Office by Canon Leslie. Printed.	There were no Hunter findings.
T281/5	List of freeholders of the district of Portadown, Co. Armagh. Date: 1747-1802.	There were no Hunter findings.
T647/1	Grand Jury Lists for Co. Armagh. Date: 1735-1797.	There were no Hunter findings.

1659 Census of Ireland

We searched Seamus Pender (ed.) *A Census of Ireland, Circa 1659, With Supplementary Material from the Poll Money Ordinances (1660-1661)* (Dublin: The Stationery Office, 1939). This is not strictly speaking a census in the ordinary sense of the word but rather just mentions major landowners.² There were no Hunter findings.

Civil Survey 1654-6

We also searched Robert C. Simington, *The Civil Survey 1654-6 Vol. X. Miscellanea* (Dublin: Dublin Stationery Office for the Irish Manuscripts Commission, 1961).³ This volume states of the Survey:

THE immediate circumstances leading to the taking of the Civil Survey (1654-6) were the statutory commitments of successive Parliaments, in England, in respect of advances of money, by way of adventure, and of the arrears of pay due by the Commonwealth Government to its own officers and soldiers. These obligations were to be satisfied in allotments of Irish land and, as a preliminary measure of enquiry, a survey of the country, founded upon the authentic information of the old inhabitants was directed to be made. The barony was selected as the territorial basis of the survey, as it was to be the ultimate area in which the allotments to the interests concerned were to lie. The extensive information required was of a geographical, proprietorial and economic nature and, for this purpose, the most able of the residents were to be constituted juries. These were to be empanelled by local commissioners appointed under commission.

² See

<https://www.irishmanuscripts.ie/digital/censusofireland1659/Census%20Of%20Ireland%201659.pdf>.

³ See <https://www.irishmanuscripts.ie/digital/civilx2/The%20Civil%20Survey%20AD%201654-56%20Vol%20X.pdf>.

In more than one of the commissions authorizing the survey, and directing the procedure to be followed, the survey to be made was distinctly named the Civil Survey. It was to be made under the jurisdiction of special courts called Courts of Survey. These Courts were to determine and record the possessions of the proprietors of lands and the tenures and titles of their respective estates. For this purpose, power was given to summon, and examine upon oath, such persons as might be considered competent to assist in the discovery of the facts; and further, to demand the production of such evidence of title as was considered necessary. Here, an analogy may be found to those courts which take cognizance of questions of fact only arising between man and man in his civil capacity. Allowing that the Survey was made under the Civil Authorities and, also, that it was made by the people, or their most knowledgeable men, it is suggested that the Civil Survey was so called because it would be essentially a testified record of the facts concerning the possessions of the subjects, the citizens, and declared to on oath before courts appointed to ascertain such facts.

The Civil Survey was begun in June, 1654, and commissions continued to be issued during 1655 and 1656.

Information on County Armagh was included in this volume, but there were no Hunter findings.

Original Questions

- Can we document that the Hunters and Charles Rountree migrated from Ireland to Virginia?
- On what ship did the Hunters travel from Ireland to Virginia?]
- On what date did they arrive in America?
 - There are very few passenger/emigration records surviving from this period (see, for example, Harold Lancour and Richard J. Wolfe, *A Bibliography of Ship Passenger Lists, 1538-1825; Being a Guide to Published Lists of Early Immigrants to North America* (New York: New York Public Library, 1963)).
- Had Rountree transported the Hunters to Ireland?
 - We have not been able to find direct evidence of this in the records that we have examined.
- Can we find out if and why the Hunters had relocated from Yorkshire to Ireland and when they arrived there?
 - At its narrowest point, there is only 12 miles between Ireland and the UK mainland (Scotland). There was much back and forth over the centuries between these countries and passenger lists did not tend to be kept.
 - The mid-1600s were a time of much upheaval in England and, specifically, in Yorkshire. Civil war broke out in 1642 between the parliament and the king. As Tim Lambert has described: "Yorkshire was divided by the civil war. In April 1642 the king attempted to enter Hull but the gates of the city were shut against him. Actual fighting began in August 1642. The royalists used York as their base. At the end of 1642, they captured Leeds and Wakefield. They besieged Bradford and Halifax but failed to capture them. In late January 1643, the parliamentarians counterattacked. They recaptured Leeds and Wakefield. However, in June 1643 the Royalists won the battle of Adwalton. As a result, they captured all of Yorkshire except Hull. The pendulum then swung the other way In October 1643 the parliamentarians in Hull drove back the royalists and lifted the siege. In March 1644 the parliamentarians took Bradford and in April 1644 they took Leeds. In July 1644 the royalists were routed at the battle of Marston Moor. As a result, the royalists lost all of northern England" (see [A Brief History of Yorkshire - Local Histories](#)). King Charles I was executed in 1649. The monarchy was eventually restored in 1660. Such upheaval could be a possible reason why the family left England.
- In the mid-1600s, from what port did the English customarily immigrate to Ulster?

- It would most likely have been Liverpool and probably to a port like Belfast.
- Where in Ireland were the Hunters based? Armagh? Antrim? Is there documentation?
 - See rest of report.

Dr Jennifer Martin
 23rd May 2025

Richard H. Hunter wrote an article for the January 2026 *Jacob Hunter Trust Newsletter*, Vol. 35, No. 1 summarizing his and Hunter McKelva Cole's interpretation of Dr. Martin's study and report. It will be copied here for readers convenience.

Hunters Migration to Ireland before Their Travel to America?

By Richard H. Hunter

Recent research by Hunter McKelva Cole found that after William Hunter's birth to Nicholas and Ellen Wood Hunter in 1653 in Ingleby Greenhow, a village in the North Riding of Yorkshire, UK, records of that family in the UK vanished. No marriages, births, or deaths were found in extant records. This absence of official records also was noted for the Rountree and Sayer families. However, records appeared for Rountrees in County Armagh, Ulster, Ireland. See *The Jacob Hunter Trust Newsletter*, Vol. 34, No. 1, 2025, pp. 1-8.

The Jacob Hunter Trust contracted with Irish genealogist Dr. Jennifer Martin to search for records of the Hunters, Rountrees, and Sayers in Ireland from the period 1653 to 1685 when these families were recorded as arriving in Virginia. Dr. Martin experienced many of the problems faced by early American researchers in that several official records in Northern Ireland were destroyed during the many wars and uprisings like the courthouse burnings in the South during the Civil War.

Jennifer Martin's report, *Hunter Research Report (23rd May 2025)*, is available on the JHT website under the tab, "Research Reports and Records." It finds Hunters and Rountrees in County Antrim and County Armagh, but we do not have definitive records to link them directly to our American immigrants.

The Martin Report states: *[notes in brackets and italics were added by author]*

c.1630 Muster Roll

The Ulster Muster Roll of c.1630 records a Nicholas Hunter as one of the Earl of Antrim's British tenants in Dunluce Barony, County Antrim. *[This record in 1630 was before we suspect the Hunter family migrated to Ireland since we have a record of William's birth in Ingleby Greenhowe, UK on 14 November 1653.]*

1665 Hearth Rolls

These record a Thomas Rowntry and a Widow Rowntry of Mulladry, Kilmore Parish, County Armagh, a Widow Hunter of the town of Charlemont, Loughgall parish, County Armagh, and a Widow Hunter of Cordrummond townland, Kilclooney parish, County Armagh.

1689 Fighters of Derry

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Names in Seventeenth-Century Belfast

The Ulster Historical Foundation has a resource of this name which records a Henry Hunter as a Freeman in Belfast as recorded on the Freeman Roll on 6 August 1680. He was a Cooper. *[Was this Henry our William's older brother? We don't know.]*

Rental of Landgable Rents – Dublin 1665

This is another Ulster Historical Foundation resource. It records a Nicholas Hunter of New Row, Dublin. *[Could this have been our William's father? Maybe.]*

1728 Hertford Estate Rent Roll

This resource lists an Ellen Hunter on the rent roll. She was renting property at Aghanliss, Ballinderry Parish, County Antrim. *[This Ellen Hunter would have been too old to be our William's mother. She was baptized 22 Mar 1611.]*

1740 Protestant Householders

We searched primarily for known family names (e.g., siblings of William's). We found a Henry Hunter of Kildress, County Tyrone. Similarly, we found a Henry Hunter of Knock, Armagh, recorded as a freeholder in 1753. *[Our William had an older brother named Henry.]*

Although inconclusive to our inquiry, the Martin Report establishes that Rountrees and Hunters were living in Northern Ireland in the 1600s and early 1700s both before and after the period our family migrated to America circa 1685.

Hunter McKelva Cole's Analysis

On June 2, 2025, Hunter McKelva Cole wrote to Richard Hunter sharing his analysis of his previous research and the Martin report.

Here's my (HMC's) hypothesis about the Hunter-Rountree connection: Charles Rountree of County Armagh, Ulster, assembled seven travelers for a migration to Virginia. We know neither the name of the vessel that brought them to America nor the port from which they set sail, but we do know their names. Included were Rountree and his son Robert, his daughter Joan and her husband William Hunter and the Hunter children (Nicholas and Rebekah), and a kinsman (John Sayer). The seven names appear on the Virginia land patent issued to Rountree in 1685. The adults were from old families of Yorkshire villages (Inglby Greenhow, Hutton Rudby, and Battersbye) and the market town of their vicinity (Stokesley). After 1653, during the political and religious turmoil that beset England in the 1660s, the Hunters and the Rountrees were among the horde of Yorkshire men and women who migrated to Ulster. After living for three or more decades in Ireland, they migrated to America. However, Charles Rountree did not settle permanently in Virginia. He returned to Ireland and died either in Armagh or in Dublin. His name does not appear in Nansemond records after 1685, but in the records of the next generation there is a Virginian named Charles Rountree. Likely he is a grandson of the immigrant and is a son or grandson of Robert Rountree. Anyway, such are my hypotheses at this moment.

Another fact: William and Joan Hunter's daughter Sarah was born in Nansemond, likely in 1684 not long after the Hunters arrived. William, by my hypothesis, had a nephew and a niece (children of William's older brother Henry), named William Hunter and Mary Cahoon, whom William Hunter, our immigrant and a justice of the quorum, brought to Nansemond in 1701. I think that Mary may have been a widow.

From Hunter McKelva Cole's correspondence on 5/28/2025:
But who is Mary Cahone?

In John Bennett Boddie's Historical *Southern Families*. Vol. V (Baltimore: Clearfield Company, 1993, 1994), Hugh Buckner Johnston's article "The Calhoun-Cohoon-Cahoon Family of Massachusetts, Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina" shows that in the 1690s a Samuel Cohoon was in Isle of Wight Co., Va. "It has been conjectured," Johnston writes, "that Samuel Cahoone married a daughter of William Hunter who used Mary Cohone as a headright for his 1701 land grant." It seems to me unlikely that William Hunter of Nansemond could be bringing his "daughter" into Nansemond from adjacent Isle of Wight County.

For me, it is more feasible that Mary is (1) a widow of a Cahoon of County Armagh, Ulster, and (2) a sister of William Hunter 2nd. William 2nd and Mary could be children of Judge Hunter's brother Henry.

If the Hunters and Rountrees indeed migrated to Ireland prior to their arrival in America, William and Joan's son Nicholas and daughter Rebekah were most likely born in Ireland, and perhaps never lived in Yorkshire, UK.