

# Dr. Henry Holmes Hunter Civil War Battles

By Richard H. Hunter



Mr. Terry Reimer, Director of Research at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, referenced a manuscript by Hambrecht and Koste (Hambrecht, F.T. & Koste, J.L. (2011). Biographical register of physicians who served the Confederacy in a medical capacity. Unpublished database) that provided the following information on Dr. Henry Holmes Hunter:

## HUNTER, Henry Holmes

03/17/1830 - Born, Sunbury, Gates Co, NC  
1858 - M.D. degree, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. Thesis:  
Acute peritonitis (from NC before medical school)  
02/16/1858 - Married Mary Hinton Cheek, Warren Co, NC  
06/06/1862 - Appointed Asst. Surgeon by the state of NC  
07/31/1862 - Appointed Asst. Surgeon to rank from 07/01/62 by Confederate States of America  
10/00/1862 - Asst. Surgeon, 54th NC Infantry  
11/30/1862 - Asst. Surgeon, 61st VA Infantry  
12/00/1862 - Asst. Surgeon, 61st VA Infantry, Fredericksburg, VA  
01/06/1863 - Patient, Robertson Hospital, Richmond, VA (typhoid pneumonia)  
02/03/1863 - Furloughed for 30 days  
02/28/1863 - Asst. Surgeon, 61st VA Infantry  
04/27/1863 - Appointed Surgeon  
05/25/1863 - Surgeon, 1st NC Cavalry (9th NC State Troops)  
07/09/1863 - Appointed Surgeon to rank from 04/27/1863  
07/22/1863 - Sick in Gen. Hospital #4, Richmond, VA (chronic diarrhea)  
09/22/1863 - Sick in Gen. Hospital, Charlottesville, VA (stricture of urethra)  
09/22/1863 - Relieved as Surgeon, 1st NC Cavalry (9th NC State Troops)  
11/22/1863 - Returned to duty from Gen. Hospital, Charlottesville, VA  
12/14/1863 - Surgeon, Way Hospital No. 1, Weldon, NC  
01/30/1864 - Confirmed as Surgeon by the Confederate States Senate  
06/01/1864 - Surgeon, Weldon, NC  
07/26/1864 - Surgeon, Weldon, NC  
09/25/1864 - Stationed at Kittrells Springs, NC  
10/06/1864 - Surgeon, Way Hospital No. 2, Greensboro, NC  
01/10/1865 - Medical Officer, Way Hospital No. 1, Weldon, NC  
02/08/1865 - Surgeon, Way Hospital No. 2, Greensboro, NC  
04/00/1865 - Paroled, Greensboro, NC  
1870 - Practiced medicine, Holly Grove, Gates Co, NC  
1874, 1886 - Practiced medicine, Sunbury, Gates Co, NC  
09/04/1888 - Died, near Sunbury, Gates Co, NC

During his service Dr. Hunter joined the 54<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Infantry and was soon transferred to the 61<sup>st</sup> Virginia Infantry. While in the 61<sup>st</sup> Virginia Infantry, he was involved in the battle of **Fredericksburg** from December 11-15, 1862. Then, after suffering from “typhoid pneumonia” rejoined the 61<sup>st</sup> Virginia for the battle at **Chancellorsville** from April 30 to May 6, 1863. Although there are no surviving records, Dr. Hunter may have been involved in the treatment of Lt. General Thomas J. ‘Stonewall’ Jackson who was wounded by friendly fire on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1863, during the battle of Chancellorsville. General Jackson’s left arm was amputated, and he died of pneumonia eight days later May 10, 1863. During his injury and illness, General Jackson was attended by multiple doctors serving in Confederate units involved at Chancellorsville. (see Note below)



Battle of Chancellorsville by Kurz & Allison, 1889

Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville were two decisive Confederate victories that propelled General Robert E. Lee to invade northern territory leading to the historic battle at Gettysburg in Pennsylvania July 1-3, 1863.

William T. Cross reports that at Fredericksburg “a fine old house known as ‘Kenmore,’ home of Fielding Lewis, was used as a hospital; and that he had amputated many arms and legs in its parlor.” (William T. Cross Report, p. 13).

[https://jacobhuntertrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/william\\_t\\_cross\\_hunter\\_family\\_1973.pdf](https://jacobhuntertrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/william_t_cross_hunter_family_1973.pdf)).

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, 1863, Dr. Hunter joined the 1<sup>st</sup> North Carolina Cavalry, also known as the 9<sup>th</sup> North Carolina State Troops, under Major General J.E.B. Stuart and was involved in the following battles:

Brandy Station, VA June 9, 1863  
Aldie, VA June 17, 1863  
Middleburg, VA June 17-19, 1863  
Upperville, VA June 21, 1863  
Fairfax Court House, VA June 27-29, 1863  
Hanover, PA June 30, 1863  
Gettysburg, PA July 1-3, 1863  
Carlisle, PA July 1, 1863  
Hunterstown, PA July 2, 1863  
1<sup>st</sup> Hagerstown, MD July 6-16, 1863  
Funkstown, MD July 10, 1863

On July 22, 1863, Dr. Hunter suffered a series of medical setbacks that required hospitalization and removed him from service until December of 1863. Thereafter, he served as a physician at Confederate hospitals in Weldon, Kittrell Springs, and Greensboro, North Carolina.

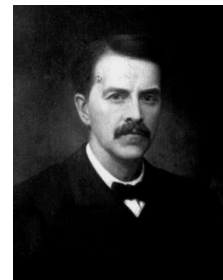
He was paroled from Civil War service on April 9, 1865, at Greensboro, North Carolina.

After the war Dr. Hunter declined a position at Bellevue Hospital in New York, choosing to remain in Gates County and serve his community. He built a home on Union Branch Road near Corapeake, NC. His home also served as a hospital. Dr. Hunter died on September 4, 1888, and was buried in a family plot behind his home. He left his wife, Mary Hinton Cheek Hunter, and three surviving of six children.

William T. Cross (Cross Report p. 14) states, “Outside of being a member of the Board of County Commissioners, Dr. Hunter never sought public office. He was a man of sterling character, although very strong in his likes and dislikes, and never becoming reconciled to the South’s defeat.”

#### NOTE

Dr. Hunter Holmes McGuire (Medical Director of Jackson’s Second Corps, age 27) was the primary physician throughout Jackson’s care. He was Jackson’s personal and corps-level surgeon, had previously treated him after earlier wounds (including at First Manassas), and performed the amputation himself. During the final days at Guinea Station, additional



doctors joined the team as Jackson's condition worsened with pleuropneumonia. Five different physicians examined Jackson overall, though McGuire was the constant attending surgeon and the one who performed the operation.

## FIELDING LEWIS



*Colonel Fielding Lewis*

**Fielding Lewis (1725-1781)** (Encyclopedia Virginia)  
Fielding Lewis was a merchant, justice of the peace for Spotsylvania County (1749-1781), and member of the [House of Burgesses](#) (1760-1769) who helped to found the Fredericksburg Gun Manufactory during the American Revolution (1775-1783). Born at Warner Hall, his family's Gloucester County estate, he moved to Fredericksburg in the 1740s, helping to manage his father's store there. Lewis married [George Washington's](#) cousin and, after her death, Washington's sister, serving in the General Assembly and as a justice of the peace. He was known, in particular, for his financial acumen

and sometimes advised his brother-in-law on investments. Early in the 1770s Lewis built for his family a large Georgian mansion (later named Kenmore) that was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1970. In 1775, the third Revolutionary Convention tasked Lewis and his fellow merchant Charles Dick with establishing a weapons factory in Fredericksburg; by May 1777 the Fredericksburg Gun Manufactory produced about twenty muskets per week. The enterprise cost Lewis £7,000 of his own money, which the state never repaid. He died on 7 Dec 1781.



Kenmore