

HUNTER FAMILY HISTORY

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Hunter family history by Nathaniel C. Hunter

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NATHANIEL C. HUNTER

**HUNTER FAMILY
HISTORY**

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N. C. HUNTER, URBANA, O
BORN NOVEMBER 1, 1825, BEING THE OLDEST
LIVING DESCENDENT OF NATHANIEL HUNTER.

The descendants of Nathaniel Hunter met at the residence of N. C. Hunter, Urbana, Ohio, July 7th, 1905, for the purpose of effecting an organization. The following officers were elected to serve one year, or until their successors are elected:

PRESIDENT N. C. HUNTER
Urbana, Ohio

VICE PRESIDENT T. E. HUNTER
Mingo, Ohio

SECRETARY S. M. HUNTER
Saint Paris, Ohio

TREASURER MRS. ANNA RUSSELL
North Lewisburg, Ohio

The officers were instructed to have a short genealogical history of the family published. We the present descendants dedicate to future descendants the following history:

HISTORY OF NATHANIEL HUNTER, SR.'S FAMILY, OR HIS BRANCH OF IT

He was born in the Kingdom of Ireland, County of Down, and Parish of Saintfield, about twelve miles south of Belfast, Ireland, December, 14th, 1768.

Ann Porter was born in the same county and Parish May 15th, 1772, and married Nathaniel Hunter February 2nd, 1790. They were both of Scotch descent, their ancestors emigrating from Scotland to Ireland in 1607, at the time King James 1st, after subduing Ireland, confiscated the lands of the chiefs of O'Niel and O'Donnell of the Ulster tribes, (they having fled to Spain,) consisting of eight hundred thousand acres of land.

This land was divided out to Scotch Colonists who settled it, and this was the beginning of the Scotch Irish race, whose descendants have emigrated to, and become the best citizens of most of the states of the United States.

Their history in Ireland has been one of religious warfare from their settlement until the present.

These settlers being of the Protestant religion and (the native Irish Roman Catholic) so a continual strife was kept up between the factions.

In 1641 the English Parliament advocated repress-

ive measures against the Catholics with threats to oust more of the Irish and introduce English settlers in their stead, when the native Irish turned savagely on the Protestant Colonies of Ulster and murder and atrocities of all kinds were committed in North Ireland at Portadown about twenty miles west of Saintfield Parish, hundreds of the victims were driven into the river and drowned. We have it handed down from Alexander Sinclair Hunter, that many of the relatives of our ancestors were victims at this place.

The total victims of this insurrection was estimated at thirty thousand.

Another family of this Scotch Irish colony were the Sinclairs who became related to the Hunters. We find they were an old and highly honored family of Scotland and at one time held the Earldom of Rosslyn and Janet Sinclair had the training of Maryr Queen of Scots in her youth.

Nathaniel Hunter in the year of 1808 while in Virginia inherited property from the estate of John Sinclair of Saintfield Parish, Ireland. S. M. Hunter has a copy of the power of Attorney, sent by Nathaniel Hunter to Francis Breeze, Attorney in County Down, authorizing said Attorney to receipt for Nath-

aniel Hunter for his part of said estate. Nathaniel Hunter also named his oldest son after Alexander Sinclair.

This Scotch Irish colony continues to live and thrive in the north of Ireland until this day; sending out energetic men and women.

After the American Revolution was over and the United States had thrown off the yoke of English oppression; emigration from Ireland to America set in with renewed interest.

In the year of 1793 while the Irish rebellion was brewing (which broke out in full force in 1798) the prospects for peaceful and successful life growing dimmer in Ireland, and America holding out bright prospects, not only for success in worldly affairs, but in the Liberty of conscience of freedom of manhood and speech; Nathaniel Hunter with his young wife, he being twenty-five and she twenty-one, with one daughter, Mary Ann, two year old, set sail for America.

We have no record of this voyage but find them in Greenbriar County, Virginia, in 1794.

That they had many friends and relatives that came with them to this country we have evidence. We have records that show business relations between

Alexander Sinclair and Nathaniel Hunter in Virginia on June 22nd, 1794, also many Scotch names of parties transacting business with him the same year in Virginia, among them Robt. McCullough and Alexander Buckhannum.

In reference to the Scotch Irish, Theodore Roosevelt in his "Winning of the West" has this to say of them: "Among those who thus went south west were the Scotch Irish, a people to whom historians are now beginning to render justice.

In great numbers these people, English in speech, Scotch in blood, Irish by adoption, Presbyterian and Methodist in faith, came to America. Philadelphia and the Pennsylvania low lands were full of them. Princeton University is their memorial in New Jersey.

They entered the Appalachian Valley, largely populated West Virginia, and were the backbone of the young commonwealth that sprang up on the Tennessee and Cumberland.

They formed the kernel of the distinctively and intensely American stock, who were the pioneers of our people in their March Westward, the Vanguard of the army of fighting settlers who with ax and rifle

won their way from the Alleghanies to the Rio Grand and Pacific Coast.

In 1810 emigration from the Central Atlantic States set in to the North West territory with such magnitude that the historian McMasters says: "A Pennsylvania village witnessed the passage in one month, of 1811, of two hundred and thirty six wagons with two thousand people all bound for Ohio."

That Point Pleasant at the crossing on the West Virginia side grew from a few huts in 1810 to five hundred inhabitants in a short space of time.

Our ancestors lived in Virginia fifteen years, and in 1809 they became enthused with the idea of moving west. This enthusiasm prevailed the whole family, so much so that they went to work to prepare for their journey.

They built two large wagons, which would in these days look more like small steamboats, they did the most of the work within themselves.

They procured ten large horses for that day, they also had one for mother to ride.

Thus in the year of 1810 we were about ready to start on our journey west. When the time came the horses, with their new harness were hitched, five to