

**HOUND AND HORN; OR, THE  
LIFE AND RECOLLECTIONS  
OF GEORGE CARTER, THE  
GREAT HUNTSMAN**

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Hound and Horn; Or, The Life and Recollections of George Carter, the Great Huntsman by I. H. G.

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**I. H. G.**

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GEORGE CARTER.

ÆTAT 79.

FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY BULL OF PETERSBOROUGH.

# HOUND AND HORN;

OR,

*THE LIFE AND RECOLLECTIONS*

OF

**George Carter,**

THE GREAT HUNTERMAN.

By I. H. G.

LONDON  
SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, & CO.,  
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1885

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## PREFACE.

THE preface is of no value beyond giving the author an opportunity of button-holing the reader before starting, just to warn him that this is *not* a "sporting book" in the common sense of the word, and that he is not and does not aspire to be a "sporting (?) writer," one of those who claim to be experts in describing a run, in the story whereof there is little or no clue about the weather, the wind, the scent, the line of country, and the finding and hunting and death of the fox—the only details which interest the real sportsman—though there is a great deal about "that prince of sportsmen," the master, the writer's joy at seeing Lord and Lady So-and-so in the saddle, and Miss Dinah on her pony, Daisy charming as ever, &c., &c. This class of writer aggravates real sportsmen, who look

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to time, during very many years, and of little events of which I can speak from personal experience.

In alluding to the dead I have kept before me the old golden rule, "De mortuis," &c.; in alluding to the living, if I have said a word which may occasion to any one a moment's pain, I trust I may have the benefit of its being attributed to inadvertence, and that the person or persons who may be aggrieved will consider that my apology has been tendered before demanded. So now let us leave the Preface, and get on with

THE LIFE AND RECOLLECTIONS OF  
GEORGE CARTER,  
THE GREAT HUNTSMAN.



## HOUND AND HORN;

OR, THE

79

*LIFE AND RECOLLECTIONS OF GEORGE CARTER.*

GEORGE CARTER was born of respectable parents in the village of Bromfield, near Ludlow, Salop, on November 29th, 1792, and at an early age showed a true love for the noble science with which his whole after-life was so closely associated.

According to his own account he used, while quite a boy, to "mouch" from school, to run with a pack of harriers in the neighbourhood whenever the opportunity offered. These repeated acts of truancy, coming to the ears of the home-rulers, and not meeting with their approval, caused such a disruption in the family circles, that young George left his father's house, and took service with Mr. Forrester of Elmley, to look after horses, make himself generally useful about the stables, with the chance of an occasional mount as whip to the harriers; and after some time

he looked after the pack altogether. This was his first entry.

We find him next at Mickletown, about the age of twenty, where he had the management of a pack of harriers, kept by the Rev. Mr. Graves, and after about two years' service with this gentleman he laid by the horn for a time, and took to farming. But his heart was still in hunting, and, finding his new occupation not so profitable as he supposed, he again found service in the saddle, donning the red coat and cap in preference to the green, and became whip to the Warwickshire, with Mr. Shirley as "master," and Jack Wood as "huntsman." This was about the year 1823. What may have been his reason for leaving this service is of little consequence, but about 1825 he again returned to harriers kept by Mr. West; and in 1827 he entered the service of his Grace the Duke of Grafton, as whip, under Ned Rose. Here he continued till 1831, when he got his promotion by going to the Honourable Grantley Berkeley, who at that time hunted the Oakley. This was his first appearance as huntsman. In 1833 he once more returned to the Duke of Grafton, and here he carried the horn in his Grace's country.

A continued service of twelve years with such a pack and in such a country soon established his

reputation, and on his Grace's hounds being sold in 1842 the Squire of Tedworth secured the lot, with the understanding that George Carter was to come with them, or, as it is said he expressed it, "He bought the hounds and George Carter." As Mr. Assheton Smith hunted his own hounds four days a week, the remaining two were assigned to George Carter with a third pack, and every Wednesday throughout the season found him in Wherwell Wood, which he rented of the Vine, and on Saturday he was at the extreme southern side, or rather a part which Mr. Smith secured from the New Forest Hunt. This country extended from Speerywell to Clarendon Park, or beyond it.

It was said of Mr. Assheton Smith, that his great ambition was to have it recorded of him that he had hunted hounds at eighty years of age, but this he never accomplished. About two years before his death, finding himself no longer able to do so much in the saddle, he presented one pack to the Craven, cut his own hunting days with the Tedworth down to four in the week, and left the entire management to George Carter. On the death of Mr. Assheton Smith, the hounds were left in the country, and a committee of management was formed, with the Marquis of Ailesbury as master, and in 1865, when the old