



No Picture Available

Born: 1678 NC

Married: Rebecca Boone

Died: 3 Jan 1749 NC

Parents: William Hunter & Ann Norseworthy

HUNTER FAMILY

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The family name Hunter has been known in Onslow since the time of the formation of the county in the early 1700's. One of the earliest Hunter names on record, Nicholas Hunter, presided as one of the justices in the Carteret County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions. The first session of the Onslow Court of Pleas and Quarter was held in January of 1734, the second session on February 1, 1734. The third session of the court was held on April 2nd of 1734, with Nicholas Hunter as one of the seven justices.

Evidently Nicholas Hunter originally came from Nansemond County, Virginia, in the very early 1700's, as his father, William Hunter, was Clerk of the Court in that county in 1699. Nicholas Hunter conveyed his interest in land in Chowan County, North Carolina, to his brothers, William and Isaac Hunter in 1729, and he purchased land in Carteret County, North Carolina, in that same year. When Onslow County was formed, the lands of Nicholas Hunter lay within the bounds of Onslow.

Records of Onslow show those early Hunters were affiliated with the Quakers. When Samuel Wilson and Sarah Oldfield were married according to Quaker rights of ceremony, among those signing the Marriage Bond were, Nicholas Hunter and his wife Rebecca Hunter, and their sons, Ezekiel and Joab Hunter, also Ann and Esther Hunter. The Bond is dated, September 1, 1744.

When Nicholas Hunter, father of 12 children, made his will in 1749, he named his sons, Stephen, Ezekiel, Lebbeus, William, and Joab, and his daughters, Esther, Zillah, Rachel, Keziah (Hunter) Mitchell, Elizabeth, Sarah and Ruth. In the will he named his grandson as George Mitchell, son of Keziah. His wife, Rebecca Hunter was named as executrix, and his son, Ezekiel Hunter as executor.

When the Quaker, Samuel Wilson, made his will in 1752, Lebbeus Hunter and his mother, Rebecca Hunter (widow) were witnesses, and signed the will before the Clerk of the Court, William Cray, in the courthouse located in Onslow's first town, Johnston, North Carolina.

William Hunter, son of Nicholas, received a

Land Grant of 400 acres, on Wallace Creek, on May 17, 1754. Lebbeus Hunter received a Grant of 150 acres on Nov. 6, 1784, and Ezekiel Hunter, Jr. received 125 acres on July 22, 1774, one year after his father's death.

When Ezekiel Hunter, Sr. made his will in 1773, he bequest to his wife, Rachel, a negro named Tony and a slave-girl named Hannah, he also left her a horse named Blaze, including the saddle and bridle. He left his four children: Sena, Mary, Ezekiel and Asa Hunter, two slaves named Bob and Filace, saying, if these slaves are sold, they must stay together, as "they are man and wife," and are not to be parted!

The grandson of Nicholas Hunter, George Mitchell, was the son of Abram Mitchell and Kesiah Hunter. He became a colonel in the Revolutionary War and made great contributions during the conflict, (See Col. George Mitchell's story in this book.)

The plantation of Theophilus Weeks was laid out in lots and sold and the area later became the town of Swansboro. The first lot sold was to Lebbeus Hunter, on June 13, 1771, for the sum of 28 pounds and 12 shillings. Hunter

built his home on the lot before the Revolution. Ezekiel Hunter bought lot #38 for 10 pounds on that same day. After the Revolutionary War, Hunter sold his lot for 200 pounds, indication a building had been built on the lot.

Many branches of the Hunter family remain in Onslow County. One branch was that of Wright William Hunter family. His lands lay in the area between Catherine Lake and the Duplin County line, near Fountaintown. Wright William Hunter was born June 11, 1811, and died August 28, 1867. He was married to Elda Batts (born 1823) and they had 12 children:

William Wright Nicholas Hunter, born 1842, and was clerk of the court in Lenoir County, at Kinston, for many years. His children were Thomas, Ada Wright, and Sudie Hunter.

Hugh A. J. Hunter, born in 1844, enlisted in Company A of the 35th North Carolina Regiment of the Confederate Army on Sept. 6, 1861, in Onslow County. Promoted to Sgt. while serving under Col. Simon B. Taylor. Hunter was killed at Petersburg, Virginia, in 1864, and Col Taylor received a wound in the head in the same battle.

Sarah E. J. Hunter born in 1846 died young.

Above information from the book, "The Heritage of Onslow County North Carolina" by the Onslow County Historical Society, 1983 pgs 248 & 249, story number 387 by Mrs Roscoe Taylor

From the Onslow County Court Minutes 1732-1743, Vol 1, pg 1, we find mention of Nicholas Hunter as a Justice of the Court for Onslow County.

At a Court held for Onslow Precinct July 4, 1732 at the house of John Williams, late of Bertie on New River.

Present his Majesties Justices = Edward Mashborne, James Murray, James Foyle, Thomas Johnston, Christopher Dudley, Richard Nixon, Abraham Mitchell, Nicholas Hunter, John Frederick, Esq. Justices.

On pg 6 we find:

At a Court held for Onslow Precinct at the house of John Williams on New River on Oct. 3, 1732.

present his Majesties Justices=Edward Mashborne, James Murray, James Foyle, Thomas Johnston, Abraham Mitchell, Richard Nixon, Nicholas Hunter.

On pg 14 we find:

At a Court held for Onslow Precinct at the Courthouse on New River on July 3, 1732/33.

Present his Majesties Justices=Edward Mashborne, James Murray, James Foyle, Thomas Johnston, Abraham Mitchell, Nicholas Hunter, Richard Nixon, John Frederick, Esq's.

On pg 21 we find an example of one of the cases that came before Nicholas Hunter:

them away.

- 21) Ordered Joseph Perry, Edmond Lowell and Abigail his wife be compelled by the constable to appear before Nicholas Hunter, Esq. to give security for their good behavior toward Abraham Mitchell, Esq. & all his family & not to carry arms out of their plantation during the space of one year & one day they having threatened the life of the sd. Mitchell & destroying his creatures & upon their not giving security it is ordered they be committed to the county jail till they give such security as shall be required.

On pg 29 we find:

The Court held for Onslow Precinct April 2nd. 1734.

Present his Majesties Jusices=Ed. Mashborne, James Foyle, Thomas Johnston, Abraham Mitchell, Nicholas Hunter, Christopher Dudley.

* There is no further record of Nicholas Hunter serving as court justice after April 1, 1735. Nicholas would have been 56 years old at this time.

WILL OF NICHOLAS HUNTER
CARTERET COUNTY, NC
JAN. 3, 1749

"In the name of God, Amen, I, recomend my soul to God who gave it, my body to the earth, decently to be interd, I, Nicholas HUNTER, being sick and weak in body but of perfect mind and memory, Temperras ??, that all my lawfull debts should be paid.

Inpernor, I, bequeath to my well beloved son, STEPHEN, all the land I hold on the South side of Gales Branch, 1 mare, his cow and chalves, 1 feather bed and furniture, 2/3 quart Beasons, 2 small puttor dishes, 6 puttor plates an iron poot containing about 4 gallons.

ITEM-I, bequaith to my well beloved daughter, EASTER, that part of land begining at Gales Creek & with over half of said land between that and Fullfords Creek, a mare, 2 cows and chalves, 1 feather bed and furniture, 2/3 quart beasaness, 2 small putter dishes, 6 puttor plates, an iron pot containing about 4 gallons.

ITEM-I, bequaith to my well beloved grandson, GEORGE MITCHELL, all ye _____?? part of said land willed on the _____?? _____?? of Fullfords Creek after the decease of his mother, KISIAH MITCHELL, and if said GEORGE should die without a lawfull heir, ye said lands to ye said lawfull heirs of his mother's body and if the said, KESIAH, should die without heirs _____?? to ye highest in blood to my (bottom line of page impossible to read).

ITEM, I, Bequaith to my well beloved daughter, ZILLAH*, I, bequeath a mare, a negro wench called Jane, a feather bed and furniture, 2 cows and chalves, 6 puttor plates, 2 small putter bowles, 2 three quart beasons, an iron pot containing about 6 gallons.

I leave to my well beloved daughter, REACHELL, my negro man called Sam, when she comes of age.

*Zilar Hunter married Silas Weeks

Information from online research at Ancestry.com

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I have a Moare Shogwaith with me a Negroe Woman
 called June a feather Bed and furniture two
 and Calves six futton Plates two small futton
 two three quart Measurs an Iron Pot containing
 about foure Gallons I have to my well beloved
 my Son Zeckell my Negroe Man called
 when I die leave it to my well beloved
 and furniture six futton Plates an
 Pot containing about foure Gallons two
 quart Measurs and one Moare to my well beloved
 my Daughter Kessiah W. Mitchell that land till
 my Grand Son George for and during his life
 time to my well beloved Son Zeckell and
 daughter weathers two cows and Calves
 to my well beloved Son Lebbeus two cows and
 Calves six futton Plates two three quart Measurs
 an Iron Pot containing about foure Gallons
 Measurs and feather Bed and furniture to my
 well beloved Son William Hunter and during his
 to my well beloved Daughter Elizabeth and during
 to my well beloved Daughter Sarah and during
 to my well beloved Daughter Katharine and during
 pounds out Honor I have Shogwaith to my well
 beloved wife ^{Elizabeth} I command my whole
 and I am constituted Appoint my well beloved
 Son Zeckell Hunter my Executor

1831

This being my last will, and testament
I revokeing all others given under my hand
and seal, this 8th day Anno Domini 1749
Signed in presence of

Witness
In presence of
Signe in presence of
Witnesses without
their seals shall
return to the heirs of the
Mortgagee Body

John Wilkes
Moses Houston
John Wilkes

John Wilkes

County of
Beaufort

At a Court of Common Pleas begun & hold at
Beaufort Town on the first Tuesday in March 1749.

These are to certify that Moses Houston in Open Court made oath that
he saw Nicholas Hunter, sign seal, Publish & Declare the within
Instrument of Writing to be his last Will and Testament, and that John
Wilkes and John Wilkes were present at the signing of the said
Will, and were by him called by the name of Witnesses
therein appointed Qualified Promoters as the Law Direct

Testes J. Wilkes

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