

The first part of this record was lost and was filled in by Edward E. W. Hunter according to the best information he was able to obtain.

I, Edward Hunter, was born June 22, 1793 in Newton Township, Delaware County, Pennsylvania.

My parents, Edward and Hannah Maris Humber, were of English or Scotch descent. (Maris family descended from England. E.E.W.H.)

My great grandfather, John Hunter, was in King William's army at the battle of the Boyne against King James. He got wounded in the hip which caused a slight lameness. (The Hunter family originally supposed to have come from Normandy with William the Conqueror.) After the war was over, he was sent with the Earl of Marlborough to Ireland to sustain the rights of the Protestant Religion. During his stay in Ireland, my grandfather, William Hunter, was born.

My grandfather William was not satisfied with the manner in which the Protestants treated the Catholics. They sold the bed and cow of the Catholics to assist their church. He left for America; crossed the ocean with General Anthony Wayne's grandfather, in the year 1722. (I have often heard father say that his grandfather crossed the ocean in the same ship that Wayne's grandfather did. E.E.W.H.) Bought land in Chester County, Pennsylvania. Married a Miss Woodward of Delaware County, Pennsylvania, a respectable farmer's daughter. They had five children.

AliceBorn November 14, 1742
Edward (my father).....Born September 16, 1747
WilliamBorn February 2, 1750
AlbinBorn November 13, 1753
HannahBorn November 9, 1755
(Hannah died 15th of August 1803. this is
according to an old account on paper I got
from father. E. E. W. H.)

My mother's father's relatives came from North Wales. My second-great-grandfather, Robert Owens was not pleased with King Charles. (I think Charles the 2nd. E.E.W.H.) Would not take the oath of allegiance. This was after the time of Oliver Cromwell. Was put in prison for five years in sight of his possessions. He was wealthy and was taken out by those that imprisoned him.

WRITTEN BY EDWARD HUNTER
(ids of Lyman Hunter)

Afterwards, he came to Pennsylvania; bought property in Chester County, now called Delaware County.

His son John married my Great-grandmother whose maiden name was Hannah Maris (daughter of George Edward Maris and Jame Maddock Maris, granddaughter of George Maris and Alice Maris, who came to Pennsylvania in the year 1683. They were Quakers and left England on account of religious persecution. They were married August 22, 1719. They had four children:

JaneWho married Joseph West
George

ElizabethWho married James Rhoads
Rebecca, my grandmother, who married Jesse Maris,
my grandfather, son of George Maris and Hannah
Massey Maris, grandson of John Maris and Susanna
Lewis Maris, great-grandson of George Maris who
came from England.

They also had another girl, Susanna, who married
Josiah Hibbard.

My grandfather, Jesse Maris, was married twice, first to
Rebecca Owens, his second cousin (my grandmother) they to Jane
Ashbridge. He was High Sheriff of Chester County from October
1769 to October 1771.

My grandmother, Rebecca O. Maris, had three children:

Hannah MarisBorn November 9, 1755 (my mother)
Owen MarisBorn May 6, 1756 .. married 1807,
Elizabeth Hoops Way, widow of Robert Way
George MarisBorn March 29, 1761..Died unmarried.

My mother was a good woman. Lived fully up to the light
and knowledge given her. When she died, which was on the 15th
of August 1803, there was a smile on her countenance.

My father and mother had eight children:

Rebecca ...Born May 1776 ...Married Peter Pechin
AliceBorn November 2, 1778..married James Cornog
Margaret ..Born July 14, 1781...Died unmarried
William ...Born May 27, 1784....Married Sarah Davis
AliceBorn April 27, 1787 (I believe this was the

Alice who married James Cornog. E.E.W.H.)
Hannah.....Born September 8, 1790 Died unmarried
EdwardBorn June 22, 1793
Elizabeth...Born June 8, 1796...Married Job Bishop

(End of E.E.W.H. account. The following was taken from Edward Hunter's diary.)

"I was kept to industry what I was able to do, when not at school. My father intended to make a scholar of me but for some cause I cannot tell I got a great dislike for going to school. I said I would rather work on the farm, My father said I must learn a trade. I agreed and was put to the trade of tanning and currying. I made great proficiency in currying, which encouraged me much, and I took the lead of older apprentices and was kept in the shop at currying the most of my time. My boss said, in the presence of some that Ned, (Edward) had made the greatest proficiency in currying he ever saw. That created great jealousy with others and I exerted myself more on account of his saying. At 20, I bossed the shop. The liquor of the bark closed the pores of my hands and occasioned an ailment in my hands that I had to quit the trade.

I then went to school to Joseph Crawford, a good young man. Learned surveying; practised everything pertaining to the same with the use of the compass and quadrant. Done everything pertaining to the same; heights, distances, inaccessible objects, intersections, variation and attraction. There being many other surveyors, I left off practice.

Afterwards visited the western country in 1816, the cold summer when there was a spot on the sun. Left Pennsylvania and went to Pittsburgh with a Mr. L. Davis. Bought a boat with two other persons; intended to go to St. Louis. Went to Louisville. was advised to go no farther on the river. There was no steamboats and dangerous crossing by land that early day.

I had a good recommendation and introduction to the best merchants in St. Louis ... Mr. Cromwell and Charles the druggist.. but could not go there.

Went south through Kentucky, Tennessee to Huntsville Mississippi Was offered low wages.

Returned by Mississippi, North and South Carolina, Virginia, Maryland to Philadelphia, There I was offered a store belonging to Mr. D. Beaumont Junior. Went in partnership with Mr. D. Beaumont Senior one year I went in business rather against my father's will but afterwards consent.

He gave me good council. I took it. The times got worse. It was the effects of the war of 1812-14.

One council was: "If you lose money or make it, keep it to yourself but never fail, that is, not become insolvent, which I have kept sacred through life and believe that in no place I have lived and done business that I owe and have not paid every dime that I was indebted.

Many good council my father gave me. One thing was: "We do not belong to any religious sect but keep sacred that all men have a right to worship God according to the dictates of their conscience." "That men shall raise by their own merit." "That private property shall not be taken for public use. Those things I have kept sacred. One thing I could not agree with my father at that time .. that was in respect of our government. Our Republic, his opinion was, that it was too good for a wicked world; that the liberty and blessings would not be appreciated and usurped.

I was in the mercantile about six years. Twelve miles from Philadelphia.

My father gave me good council which has been adhered to through life. I was very tenacious in sustaining the laws of my country; was a volunteer in a company of cavalry; served seven years and have a certificate for the same made free from services in military duty except insurrection, invasion or actual war.

Served as County Commissioner three years in Delaware County, Pennsylvania. Received a higher vote than any other officer on the list of candidates for different offices at that election. Afterwards followed farming in Delaware County four or five years, then bought a farm in Chester County, Pa. Succeeded in business. Made property. Had a farm of 500 acres of good land, well stocked and paid for. I occupied the whole of it.

Married Ann Standly, youngest child of Jacob and Martha Standly, an honest and respectable family.

I always had enquired of the Lord, "How can I worship Thee acceptably?"

i. I had several spells of sickness; once the typhoid fever, a severe attack. Would have left this world if it had not been for the faith I had in God and the works of my sister. When the fever left me, I was so weak that I could not sit up without fainting. Was fully in the knowledge and power of a superior being but did not know how to approach him. Afterwards, I was in a situation that no earthly power could assist me and by my faith in God, I was greatly benefited and blessed. Those events have always been

remembered and kept sacred.

I succeeded in business beyond my expectations. Attended different places of worship, sustained them all in the right of worshiping God according to the dictates of their conscience but could not connect with any sect.

There was an old school house on my land, called Wallace School House, built long before I went to Chester County; was burned down carelessness of putting away ashes in a barrel. It was in a beautiful shady place and had long been a place for schooling and holding meetings in, but no reserve. When I purchased the farm, I was called on and given the privilege to erect a house for education and holding meetings. I agreed to give the ground for 99 years and help built it if they would allow all persons or persuasions to meet and worship in it. This must be particularly in the articles of agreement in leasing the land. There was a good house built, called the West Nantmeal Seminary. Several travelling preachers called of different denominations. All were welcome to stop at this house.

I was blessed with means and turned none away empty. I had a desire to do justly, walk humbly and love mercy but join no particular sect.

My family was small. Had lost children.

Had good men in my tenant houses that worked for me. One man worked ten or twelve years for me, others four or five years; watched for my welfare, never a thought of exacting anything unjust or oppressive as they not earning their wages.

My farm was large and took too much time for me to attend to farming and I put my farming out to the shares to John Johnson, a farmer, and I occupied the pasture and hay land. I cultivated the grass land by top dressing with manure, lime and plaster--all that the land would bear. My farm or place was attended to without very much labour, only in hay time. My family not large or expensive, I increased in property more than I ever expected. From seven to ten years was spent in common occurrences of life. Markets for produce good and business encouraging.

There was considerable "Lo here" and "Lo there" in respect to what the people called religion, but myself and family could not connect with any of the parties. My sister, living with me, was a great reader of the scriptures and often said, "How is it that we cannot join any of their professions?" I used to say they were hugging out cisterns that would not hold any water. The whole of it had been a scene of bloodshed and murder but let them go on and see if they could make anything out of it.

In the spring of 1839 it was reported that there was a strange sect called Mormons in the southern part of the county. Heard of West Nantmeal Cemenary, a place where all and any sect could hold meetings. They sent word they would come there to worship. Immediately, the devil was raised and it was said it would not do, it would not do. "Why?" I enquired. "They are a terrible people." "Why are they terrible?" "They are great fighters. Dr Cavie says they are a dangerous people and it will not do to let them in to preach." "Well, if that be the way, the lease is out. I will have the cemenary. That was the way the lease was given-- to let all persuasions preach in the house."

If a few persons had not stood firm, they would have kept them out. A few families stood by them and the house was occupied by them. A few families stood by the Mormons on all occasions. My house was always open for the elders before I joined them and after the winter of 1839-1840, Joseph Smith came from Philadelphia to Chester County, held meetings at the cemenary, came to my house. I was pleased to receive him.

The first conversation I had with him was, "Mr. Smith, I know there is a God but how to approach Him, I do not know." He looked at me very earnestly. I thought questioned me or doubted my sincerity. I was not pleased and would have said something if it had not been in my house. Other conversations I asked him if he was acquainted with the Sweadenburgers. His answer I verily believe. "Emanuel Sweadenburg had a view of the world to come but for daily food he perished."

Mr. Smith talked free with me; held a conference at my house.

I took him and Mr. Barnes to Downingtown. I mentioned to him, "How is it that I am attracted to those back-woods boys? I believe I would risk my life for them." I was riding in a one horse sleigh, only for two persons and I had to sit on their laps. How he possibly burned round to look at me in the face I do not know but was the most friendly look I ever got from man.

We went to a Mr. Joshua Hunts, a senator of Pennsylvania for 9 years, in Downingtown, and an old acquaintance of mine. We were treated well. During the time we were eating, Mr. Hunt observed, "Mr. Smith, my opinion is this Sabbath of rest or malenium will not come without the Lord specially calling some person to make known the plan of salvation relative to the second coming of Christ." I was sitting by Joseph and observed he was very much impressed by Mr. Hunt's observation. He, Mr. Hunt, said, "Mr. Smith, what is

your opinion?" Joseph spoke in a very humble manner. "My mind was exercised as yours and I went in secrecy and asked the Lord, and He said, 'If thou lives to the age of 83 or 85, thou wilt be with me on the earth.' Mr. Hunt walked with him, arm in arm, to the river. He and Mr. Barnes went to Philadelphia. I returned to my place or seven miles from there.

My house was open for the Mormons to come and go when they pleased.

In October following, I was baptized by Brother Orson Hyde visited by Bro. Hyrum Smith and Dr. Gallon in Pennsylvania. Went to Philadelphia. Attended a conference. Gave Brother Hyrum \$200.00 dollars for the Temple and \$200.00 for Nauvoo House.

After that, Brother Hyrum and Dr. Gallon visited my place in business. Were going further east to New York and Massachusetts. Brother Hyrum, Dr. Gallon and myself were talking on the banks of the river Brandwind. I was speaking to him respecting the losing children, especially about a good sensible boy very much attached to the Mormons. Brother Hyrum said, "It is pretty strong doctrine but I will tell it. He will act as an angel to you not your guardian angel but an auxiliary to assist you in extreme trials, which was plainly manifested to me about one year after, which I will mention further on. (Testimony to self and wife, her departed niece).

I visited Nauvoo in September 1841. Had much conversation with Joseph and Hyrum. Bought a farm and four good lots. The lots I gave two for \$1,000 each and for two - \$800.00 for one, amounting to \$3600.00. Had a pleasant visit.

Sent that fall by Brother Potter, 2,000 dollars of Dry Goods. Sold two farms. Came to Nauvoo June 1842 with my family. I took with me seven thousand dollars in goods of different kinds, about 4 or 5,000 dollars worth and let Joseph have them all.

I had ten or fifteen town lots and built on them. Had a good farm and rejoiced in Mormonism.

About one year after then, I, with several brethren were taken by an officer to Carthage, accused of treason against the United States. No person appeared against us. We returned home.

I employed many hands to work at different work. Paid out thousands of dollars in improvements on my farm; building, edge pole business, and on my farm.

Brother Joseph was hid up at my house from his enemies from Missouri. During that time, Joseph revealed the last part of the baptism for the dead. I was present with William Clayton.

as
d
th
cars.
six

. Was
ent
00

on
,
of
, my
ied
ie

, I
ied

with
:

ids.

it

d

Brother Joseph sent Brother Porter Rockwell to me, requesting me to come to him. I went. He said to me, "I wish to do me the pleasure of saying to you that I have inquired of the Lord concerning you and you are favourable in His sight." I said I hoped it was so. He said, "It is so," and rejoiced with me. Joseph was often at my house. He was tormented with law-suits, made purchase of land. I took pleasure in assisting him. One year he said I had assisted him 15,000 dollars. He said to me that "you can have of me what no other man could have of him. That was his words to me.

Another time he came to me and said, "Have you another farm in Pennsylvania?" I said, "Yes." "Keep it. Do not sell it. We can do without it." I said to him that Pennsylvania was in debt to Great Brittan. He said it was an industrious and enterprising state and would pay the debts and property would raise in value. Said to me, "You are more posted in political matters than I am, but the Spirit says to me as I have said. I was called to the work of the Lord when I was young and had not the advantages of that as some have."

My wife and myself had made up our minds to let Joseph have all of our means until Joseph came to me and said, "Keep it."

Brother Joseph said to me, when we were together, "I prophesy you shall bring in all your father's house to this kingdom if you desire it." Said "This is said by the Spirit of the Lord." Said at another time, "I know your genealogy. You a near a kin to me. I know what brought you into this Church. It was to do good to your fellow man and you can do much good."

My attention was taken up in farming. One year I raised or had raised on my farms, about seven thousand bushels of grain. East of Nauvoo.

The two years I was in Nauvoo with Joseph, it was one stream of revelations. Often said, "I will rest. I will put the duty on the Twelve." He was hunted and persued by his enemies. I was one of the City Council when the Nauvoo Expositor was stoped. That stired up our enemies. Mass meetings were gotten up answering them. Brother A. Butterfield got from one of a party held east of Carthage a determination to oppose us and do Joseph all the injury they could. I said to him, "Let Brother Joseph see it." He said, "I promised to return it immediately." I said, "Never let it out of your hands until he sees it." He showed it to Brother Joseph. When he saw it, he knew their intention. Sent brethren to different places to lay the desperate spirit. He sent P. Rockwell to

me to call with me. Said to me, "You have always wished to have been with the Church from the beginning. If you go to Springfield to the Governor, it shall be with you as if you had been with the Church from the beginning." I got ready to go. He said to me, "You have known me for several years. Say to the Governor, under oath, everything good and bad you know of me." I went. J. Balls and P. Lewis was sent with me. We was followed miles with officers to take us. They could not. We had the promise of Brother Joseph "You shall return safe." We went to Springfield. Governor was gone to Carthage. We met with the governor's lady. When she looked at the letter, she knew me and said, "This is Mr. Hunter. I see you at Mr. Smith's trial." I said, "I recollect you with Judge Pope's daughter." She said that the Governor would not act until he see Mr. Smith.

On our return, when we crossed Thomas River, all was commotion. J. Bills thought it best to separate to avoid suspicion. We met hundred rejoice. Drunk. "We have Joe and Hyrum in jail." I met one crowd and spoke to them, why this great rejoicing was. They said, "Jo and Hyrum Smith safe." "What are you going to do with them?" "Kill them, I expect." We got along without being known as Mormons. Traveled without food for ourselves and animals.

Arrived in Nauvoo 24th June, about the time Joseph and Hyrum were martyred. Next day, their boddies were brot from Carthage to Nauvoo. We formed two lines to receive them. I was placed at the extream right to wheal in after the corpses. To the mansion passing the Temple, crowd of mourners were there, lamenting the great loss of our Prophet and Patriarch, almost to melt the soul of man. Mr. Brewer, myself and others took Brother Joseph's boddy into the Mansion Hous. When we went to the waggon for Joseph's boddy, Colonel Brewer, U. S. Officer, said, "Mr. Hunter, look here." Jurking up the coat and hat of Brother Joseph mingled with blood and dirt, "Vengence and death awate the perpetrators of this deed."

At midnight, Brother D. Huntington, his brother William, Gilbert Goldsmith and myself carried the boddy of Joseph from the Mansion Hous to the Nauvoo Hous and put him and Hyrum in one grave.

Their death was hard to bear. Our hope was almost gone, not knowing that Joseph had prepared for the kingdom to go on.

On our way home from the Governor, we heard Joseph and Hyrum had given up all the arms. My minde was immediately reverted to t attact Bonaparte made on the Polenders. They were armed with sythes on a pole and withstood his army for a long time. We

stopped at Holton settlement. I immediately enquired what arms they had. Mr. Holton said, "We have four guns in the wool roles." I said, "Gather all your sythes and have them put on a pole." When we went to Nauvoo, I had a blacksmith shop and all night we were at work fastning sythes on poles, preparing for an attack. The council of Willard Richards (who presided) "Leave the event to the Lord," which we submitted to, but great sorrow prevailed with the people--many in despair. Brigham Young and many of the Twelve were away.

Soon after Joseph's death, I was ordained a High Priest. Soon after that, was set apart and ordained a Bishop to take charge of the Fifth Ward, Nauvoo, by President Brigham Young, H. E. Kimball and Bishop Newel K. Whitney all filled with the spirit of the Lord. President Young spoke. Among the many blessings conferred on me, one I was much impressed--that was that you shall have power to raise up the drooping spirit. When these words were spoken, a remarkable sensation from President Young's fingers into my head, confirming his saying. I continued Bishop three years until we went away. During my labours in 5th Ward, brethren were liberal in their offerings to the poor. Poor were looked after and made comfortable.

The Temple was forwarded and men worked with a small remuneration and others assisted with a liberal hand. Many got their endowments but the world said, "Go away, you must."

A committee of three was sent from Zuinsey, Illinois. One said he knew me. It was a Mr. Pearson of Delaware County, Pa., my birthplace. I see him in the Temple. I said, "How is this that I cannot share the laws of my country." He was confused. Said, "I know you better than you know me. You were a Commissioner and your office was in the same hous as my father's office. If this people was like you." I said, "You know none but me. There are better men than I am." Said, "Your people are not popular or lawful and cannot stay with the consent of the people."

The Twelve and some other bretheren left in the winter of 1845-1846. I was counceled to remain. Left in the spring or summer. Let part of my property go for a fitout for one-tenth of the worth. Other property I made over to the Trustee in Trust and some is there without conveying to any person, at a loss of more than 30,000 dollars.

Moved to Iowa. Was taken sick. Remained for one month or six weeks. Recovered of sickness and went to Winter Quarters. Suffered with sickness, and family, seven at a time. Spent the