

Note: The following was sent to me by Myra David together with other information which will be published later. --B.P.

The immigrant, Captain John Hunter, was said to have been born about 1664, in Medomsley, Durham County, England. This town was one of four Chaoelries in the ancient parish and union of Lanchester the others being Esh, Sately, and Ebchester. They are now entirely distinct and independent parishes, and comprise fifteen parishes formed since 1834. Medomsley is in the west division of Chester ward, and north division of Durham County. It existed as early as 1185 A.D.

The Hunter estate, comprising two thousand acres, was granted to them for special service to the king. The manor house, known as Medomsley Hall, was still standing in 1902 and in good condition. It was kept as a country seat.

The chapel at Medomsley, built in 1280, is dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene. It may be attributed to the owner of the estate living at the time of Bolden Book, or his immediate successor. None but Hunters are buried there. It resembles the Chruch at Lancaster. It seems to have suffered much from inroads of the Scots. Medomsley is about ten miles by water from Gateshead, and about twenty five miles west of Newcastle, a sea-port at the mouth of the Tyne River.

Captain John Hunter's father was a prominent member of the established Church of England. They lived in a time of bitter conflict between the members of the Catholic Church which had held supreme power in Europe for several centuries, and those who wished to purify the doctrines and practices of the Catholic faith, who were call Protestants.

Upon the accession of King James II to the throne, he moved to Rathdrum, Wicklow County, Ireland, to escape observation. John was then about twenty four years of age. Another account states that he left Medomsley before 1690 and settled at Middletown, near Lima. He became an extensive grager.

Mary then became Queen of England, ruling jointly with her husband, the former William of Orange. Their armies followed the fugitive, Charles II into Ireland. John Hunter joined the Protestant Army. He served as a Cornet Lieut. to an additional troop of cavalry in the same regiment. He fought at the battle of the Boyne Water, in Ireland. The Earl of Marlborough led the forces of William and Mary. With John Hunter in this battle was his life-long friend, Anthony Wayne. They both became captains of cavalry

OF CAPTAIN JOHN HUNTER

and were together throughout the war. Anthony became the grandfather of General Anthony Wayne, one of the seven generals of the Revolutionary War. Descendants of both of them were destined to serve their country in a military capacity. John's sons, James and Peter, fought in the French and Indian War. James was a Captain in Colonel William Moore's regiment, Chester Co, Penna. Troops, while his grandsons, John and James, sons of the above James, served in the Revolution. John was a captain of the 4th Co. sixth battalion, Chester County Associators and Militia. Sarah, great granddaughter of the emigrant, John Hunter, married William R. Van Leer. He was a great grandson of the emigrant, Captain Anthony Wayne. Their grandson, Isaac Wayne Van Leer was mortally wounded in the Battle of Seven Pines in the Civil War.

A further record of Captain John Hunter's military activities follows: Feb. 2, 1694, fought at Malplagret in France; 1695, Quartermaster in the Royal Regiment of Irish Dragoons; Nov. 1, 1702, Commissioned Coronet. This regiment served at Blenheim and throughout the Earl of Marlborough campaign. (1690 old style calendar). John was wounded at Blenheim which caused a slight lameness the rest of his life. The great battle of Blenheim, a town on the River Danube, was fought Aug 13, 1704, Marlborough commanding the English Army, allied with the Germans against the French and Bavarians. It was a famous victory, but 37,000 lives were lost.

John and Anthony Wayne were married about the same time, the latter marrying a native of Holland while Margaret Albin, John's wife, was said to have been of French descent. John's wedding ring, bearing this inscription, "Keep this in remembrance of me, 1693" and a pistol and holster which he used in the Battle of Boyne were brought to America by him. The two former articles are preserved among his descendants.

After the war the two friends were sent to Ireland with the Earl of Marlborough to sustain the rights of the Protestant Army. Later, as they would not submit to Catholic rule, they emigrated to America with their families from Londonderry, Ireland. They crossed the ocean in the same ship to Philadelphia. Both Anthony and John settled in Chester Co, Pa. Anthony located in what is now Paoli and John in Downingtown, which is about twenty five west of Philadelphia. John's wife was unwilling to remain there, as at that time it was so far from settled parts. John placed the land in charge of his oldest son, John. This property was divided at the death of the elder John between John Jr and his brother William. Capt. John Hunter bought a large part of the Daniel William estate, a thousand acre tract in Newton Square, Chester Co, Pa. This is

about twelve miles west of Philadelphia He took title 17 Mar 1723. He erected a mansion house considered very pretentious in those days. He brought with him from the old country materials and tools for building. He also brought a number of redemptionists who worked for him as mechanics and servants until they had paid back their passage over the ocean. This house is still standing, a short distance from Newton Square, and a short distance back from the Westchester Turnpike. Anthony's mansion is still in a fair state of preservation. It is owned by William Anthony Wayne, a member of the fifth generation to bear the Wayne name.

John Hunter and Anthony Wayne were vestrymen of the St. David's Episcopal Church at Radnor, Delaware Co. Pa in the year 1725. It is said that they helped to build this church, it is one of the oldest in Penna. and the east. It has been rebuilt, preserving the original pleasing lines and style of architecture, and is still being used. It is constructed of stone, and is beautifully landscaped with large trees shrubs, vines, etc. It is a shrine which is visited each year by many tourists. Within the building the family pew, which was shared by the Wayne family, may still be seen, marked with their names.

John Hunter died in April 1734. He was buried in the graveyard of the church. Close to John's grave is that of his son James and James' wife, Hannah. The burial plot is near that of the Wayne family. About two score of John's descendents are buried in this graveyard.