

**Surgeon's Mate Robert Barron Hunter**  
(War of 1812 Veteran Candidate for St. Paul's Episcopal Church Recognition)  
**St. Paul's Churchyard Inscription No. 236<sup>(1)</sup>**

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF  
ROBERT BARRON [BAUM] HUNTER  
WHO WAS BORN IN NORFOLK  
DECEMBER 11TH, 1793[XX], AND [(AND WHO)] DIED THERE  
IN THE SERVICE OF HIS COUNTRY  
APRIL, 1814  
IN THE 21ST YEAR OF HIS AGE

Early in life he was ardent in the pursuit of learning, with a fine genius and vigorous understanding. He - - science with unceasing attention at the University of William and Mary, at Williamsburg.

His heart and manners were as pure and uncorrupt, his conduct [*was*] open and liberal. Possessed of all the feeling of a Soldier and Patriot, when the Standard of his Country was displayed at Norfolk he quitted his Med --- and joined the Patriotic Band of volunteers in her defence.

**Subject Name:** Robert Barron Hunter<sup>(2)</sup>

[Disambiguation: "Corporal Robert B. Hunter,"<sup>(3)</sup> "Robert Baum Hunter"<sup>(1)</sup> and "Surgeon's Mate Robert B. Hunter"<sup>(3,4)</sup>]

**Subject Date of Birth:** Wednesday, December 11, 1793<sup>(1,2)</sup>

**Subject Place of Birth:** Norfolk, Virginia<sup>(1,2)</sup>

**Subject Date of Death:** Saturday morning, April 2, 1814<sup>(4)</sup>

**Subject Place of Death:** Norfolk, Virginia<sup>(1,2,4)</sup>

**Subject Cause of Death:** Ukn

**Subject Burial:** Borough Churchyard, Inscription No. 236. (S.W. between Cove St. Gate and Western Wall.)

**Subject Date of Marriage:** Ukn

**Spouse Name:** Ukn

**Spouse Date of Birth:** Ukn

**Spouse Date of Death:** Ukn

**Spouse Place of Death:** Ukn

**Spouse Cause of Death:** Ukn

**Spouse Burial:** Ukn

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<sup>1</sup> *St. Paul's Inscriptions*, C. W. Tazewell, Tazewell Papers, Library of Virginia Accession No. 24194, No. 80: (Inscription dissimilarities noted in italics and brackets.)

<sup>2</sup> Tombstone Inscription No. 236.

<sup>3</sup> *Compiled Military Service Records for the Soldiers Who Served During the War of 1812*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration.

<sup>4</sup> Obituary, *Norfolk Gazette & Public Ledger*, April 6, 1814

**Subject War of 1812 Service:**

**Stuart Lee Butler's "A Guide to Virginia Militia Units in the War of 1812."** (See below, pgs 229-230.)

**Selected War of 1812 Compiled Military Service Records.**<sup>(3)</sup> (Appended at bottom.)

**Notes:** Robert Barron Hunter was born December 11, 1793 and was educated at the College of William and Mary. He quit his medical practice and commenced active duty on March 9, 1813 as a Corporal. He was promoted to Surgeon's Mate on June 28, 1813 and served at the General Hospital in Norfolk. He died in service in April 1814.

**Disposition:** Approved. Plaque recommendation: "SURGEON'S MATE ROBERT B. HUNTER"

**"The Norfolk Gazette" & "The Publick Ledger"  
Wednesday Evening, April 6, 1814  
"Mr. Robert B. Hunter, Surgeon's Mate."**

COMMUNICATION.

Dear— On Saturday morning, the 2d instant, at Mr. Thomas Galtwood's, in the 21st year of his age, Mr. Robert B. Hunter, Surgeon's Mate of the General Hospital of this place.

When the youthful son of genius and worth sinks into the tomb, science and virtue mingle over him emotions of sorrow. Fast flow the drops of early friendship, and agony wrings the bosom of parental affection. Science and virtue in their wide families find other sons to assuage their woe; but where shall the afflicted mother look for consolation? To Heaven, and to that character in which nature had clothed her cherished offspring.

When the first torrent of grief has subsided, when pious resignation has calmed her sufferings, a melancholy but delicious pride will beam through her tears, that Heaven had given her such a son to lose. She will draw his character and say, he was a soldier, bold and strict to discipline, a private, and encountered all its hardships, and gained the affections of his officers and fellow soldiers. She will mark the ardor with which, after serving his country, he prosecuted the profession he meant to exercise. She will kindle at the eagerness he promised to reach, and bless that goodness of heart which procured him the prayers of those whose sufferings he endeavored to alleviate. She will hear the still voice of domestic poverty breathe its gratitude to his memory for the timely aid received at his hands. But above all, she will thank Heaven for that magnanimity which conscious virtue inspired. It will comfort her in the loss of a son blessed with these qualities, to reflect, that they taught him to anticipate his end with no other apprehensions as it severed him from her. Firm in his own integrity and in the vigor of his mind, he viewed death in the midst of terrors with dignity and resignation. He seems to sleep in his chilling embrace with an impressive serenity, which seemed to say to you as you gazed on him "Behold the triumph of virtue over death!"

— In Petersburg, on Wednesday last, James Campbell, formerly many years a respectable merchant of that place.

— In Washington, on Thursday last, THE HON. JOHN DANFORD, representative of this state.

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*Magnien at Fort Nelson. They were also stationed at Fort Barbour under Brig. Gen. Taylor's brigade and also at Plum Creek and Swann's Creek in September 1814.*

**COMPANIES:**  
 Capt. Henry W. Applewhite (Isle of Wight)  
 Capt. Thomas Cocke (Surry)  
 Capt. William H. Harrison (Prince George)  
 Capt. Robert Jordan (Isle of Wight)  
 Capt. Littleton Lanier (Sussex)  
 Capt. Nicholas Massenburg (Sussex)  
 Capt. Isaac Mitchell (Sussex)  
 Lt. Smith Parham (Sussex)  
 Capt. Rice B. Pierce (Southampton)

2nd Virginia Regiment  
 February 9 - August 14, 1813

Lt. Col. William Sharp (Norfolk Borough)

*Called out by General Orders issued by the Virginia Adjutant General on February 6, 1813, the regiment served at Norfolk in June and at Craney Island in August. Brigade orders dated February 11, 1813, assigned the unit to the Militia Brigade under General Taylor.*

**COMPANIES:**  
 Capt. John C. Cohoon, Jr. (Nansemond)  
 Capt. Robert Courtney (King & Queen)  
 Capt. Blackwell Foster (King William)  
 Capt. Richard Graves (New Kent/Charles City)  
 Capt. Spencer Gunn (Dinwiddie)  
 Capt. Edward James (Princess Anne)  
 Capt. Julian Magagnos (Norfolk Borough)  
 Capt. Samuel Marshall (Isle of Wight)

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Capt. Andrew McConnico/Lt. George W. Camp (Norfolk Borough)  
 Capt. Ezekiel Powell/Lt. Thomas C. Sumner (Nansemond)  
 Capt. Alexander Taylor (Petersburg Light Infantry)  
 Capt. Edmund Taylor Riflemen (Richmond City)  
 Capt. John Thompson (Norfolk)

