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Abingdon, circa 1912. View facing east with the Potomac River at far left. Photo courtesy of Connie Pendleton Stuntz and Mayo Sturdevant Stuntz, from *This Was Virginia 1900-1927*, as shown by the glass negatives of J. Harry Shannon, *The Rambler*, 2596 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna, VA 22181. See the story beginning on page 43.

# *The Abingdon of Alexander Hunter, Et Al.*

BY *GEORGE DODGE*

Arlington House is popularly linked to General Robert E. Lee, although the land was inherited by his wife, Mary Custis. A lesser-known estate between Arlington and the City of Alexandria was the 500-acre Abingdon plantation. Abingdon is linked to, among others, Alexander Hunter, a private soldier in Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Until the home on the Abingdon estate burned in 1930, it was believed to have been the oldest house in Arlington. The oak beams and rafters dated back to at least 1746 when Gerard Alexander (grandson of John Alexander for whom Alexandria, Virginia is named) is recorded in a Fairfax County survey as having a house on the property.<sup>1</sup> Crops and livestock on Gerard Alexander's waterfront property were maintained by 24 slaves in 1760.<sup>2</sup>

John Parke Custis, George Washington's adopted stepson and the only son of Martha Washington's first marriage, in order to be close to Mt. Vernon, bought land from Gerard Alexander's son, Robert Alexander, in 1778 that consisted of more than 1,000 acres and extended from what is now Ronald Reagan National Airport to the boundary of what would be known as the Arlington estate. Prior to the sale, John Parke Custis wrote to Washington on July 15, 1778, seeking advice regarding the terms of the contract: 12 pounds sterling per acre, and after 24 years the principal with compound interest would be due. Custis' letter added that despite the "extravagance of price . . . [he had an] unconquerable desire to live in the neighborhood of Mt. Vernon and in the County of Fairfax."<sup>3</sup>

On August 3, 1778, from White Plains, New York, while commanding the Continental Army, George Washington found time to respond to his adopted stepson, "Jackie" Custis, "No Virginia estate (except a few under the best management) can stand simple interest. How then can they bear compound interest?"<sup>4</sup> John Custis did not heed Washington's advice and bought the land.<sup>5</sup>

In 1779, John and Eleanor Custis moved into the old mansion built by the Alexander family. Eleanor Parke "Nelly" Custis was born at Abingdon on March 21, 1779 and her brother, George Washington Parke Custis, was born on April 30, 1781 at Mount Airy, Maryland, the Calvert family home. However, John Parke Custis, while serving as a staff aide to his stepfather, General George Washington, became ill at the end of the

American Revolution. On November 5, 1781, he died of camp fever, with Washington at his bedside, after the British surrendered at Yorktown, Virginia. George Washington then adopted the infants of John and Eleanor Custis, Nelly Custis and George Custis. Eleanor remarried in 1783 and lived with her two oldest children, Elizabeth and Martha Custis, and her husband, Dr. David Stuart, at Abingdon. The girls received home schooling from the Dublin tutor, Thomas Tracy, until the family moved to Hope Park in Fairfax County, vacating Abingdon.<sup>6</sup>

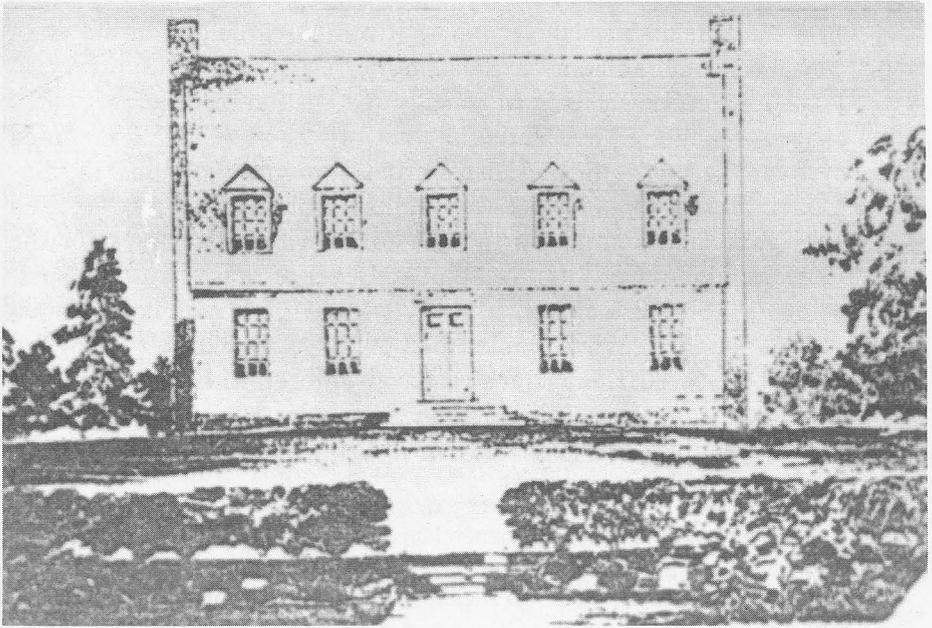
The Abingdon tract reverted to Robert Alexander III because the property sale terms financially strained the estate of John Custis, as Washington had predicted. Walter Alexander inherited the property in 1793.<sup>7</sup> Abingdon was listed for sale in the Alexandria Gazette on December 21, 1807, as follows:

One tract well known by the name of ABINGDON, being on the Potomac river between Alexandria and George Town, and nearly opposite the city of Washington, beautifully situated, containing about Four Hundred acres, now leased . . .<sup>8</sup>

The property was sold to Reuben Johnson for \$4,000.00 on October 10, 1808. Johnson conveyed the Abingdon estate to John Withers on December 21, 1829. Withers held the property until 1835 when it was sold to General Alexander Hunter. From 1808 to 1835 the property was leased to George Wise.<sup>9</sup>

George and Martha Washington visited Abingdon a number of times. The diaries of George Washington from 1785 to 1789 have a number of entries regarding Abingdon. On April 21, 1785, Washington records that he “went up in my barge to Abingdon” to survey his land.<sup>10</sup> Again on May 4, 1786, Washington was at Abingdon “to survey my 4 Mile Run Tract.”<sup>11</sup> A sampling of other entries include:

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| February 28, 1786         | Dined and lodged at Abingdon, to which place Mrs. Washington and all the children accompanied me. <sup>12</sup> |
| October 3, 1788           | Went with Mrs. Washington to Abingdon to visit Mrs. Stuart who was sick.  |
| Saturday, 4 <sup>th</sup> | At Abingdon still.  |
| Sunday, 5 <sup>th</sup>   | Returned home . . . <sup>13</sup>   |
| February 2, 1789          | [M]et George Calvert on way to Abingdon w/Hounds [named Vulcan and Venus, etc.] I had lent him. <sup>14</sup>   |



Arlington Central Library

1928 sketch of Abingdon by Delos Smith, showing the purported appearance of Abingdon in Colonial days.

During their visits to Abingdon, George and Martha Washington lodged in a room on the northeast side of the house. General Alexander Hunter called this northeast room “General Washington’s room” and is attributed as saying that a house that was good enough to shelter Washington was good enough for him.<sup>15</sup>

Abingdon was of two-story oak framework with brick chimneys on each end of the house. By the end of the 19th century the roof had a sharp peak at the front center under which was a large hall. General Alexander Hunter constructed front and back porches as well as additions on each end of the house which were used as porch chambers.<sup>16</sup> Two large fireplaces with marble mantels and large open hearths kept the home warm in winter months. A large kitchen/laundry structure was detached from the home.<sup>17</sup> By 1850, the Abingdon mansion consisted of upstairs bedrooms, a wash room, a storage or “stow” room, a kitchen, a dining room, and a breakfast room that included a walnut table, stove and copper tea kettle. Beneath the first floor was a large cellar.<sup>18</sup> The cellar stored barrels of salted herrings caught in the Potomac River. Other structures on the estate were a barn, five or six slave cabins south of the mansion near Four Mile

Run, and a snake fence near the Potomac River. No structure on the plantation, however, could contain the small terrier Carlo.<sup>19</sup>

Alexander Hunter was U.S. Marshal of the District of Columbia when he purchased Abingdon. The duties of that office, until 1871, included authority over the courts in the District of Columbia, including the Supreme Court. Hunter already had various land holdings but his position as marshal generated significant income for him based on fees for the writs filed.<sup>20</sup> It also linked him to the upper level of Washingtonian society. Presidents Andrew Jackson, John Tyler, and James K. Polk visited Hunter at Abingdon.<sup>21</sup> When Hunter died in 1849, his will left Abingdon to his brother, Bushrod Hunter (a U.S. naval officer), to hold in trust for Bushrod Hunter's only son, also named Alexander Hunter. The will of Alexander Hunter was executed on April 17, 1847, and began as follows:

In the name of God. Amen. I, Alexander Hunter, of Abingdon, in the county of Alexandria, in the Commonwealth of Virginia . . . I give to my Brother Bushrod W. Hunter, until his son Alexander attain the age of twenty-one years, my Abingdon farm in the County of Alexandria, together with all the horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, farming implements, household and kitchen furniture, and all other articles used upon the said farm and about the mansion house thereon . . .<sup>22</sup>

Hunter's will also gave his wife a life estate to his real property at the corner of C and Third Streets in Washington, D.C.; slaves; and any "claim on the Alexandria and Georgetown Canal Company for damages done to the Abingdon and Summer Hill [the Arlington property of Hunter's wife, Louise Chapman Hunter, near Columbia Pike] farms by cutting the said canal through the same."<sup>23</sup>

According to the inventory of the estate of Alexander Hunter dated March 8, 1850, Abingdon was an operative plantation with cows identified as Becky, Mary, Rose, Suckey, and White; bulls named Nimrod, Billy, and Ben, and cows with calves named Slowly, Liz, Sal, Julia, Bet, Pretty, etc. There were carriage horses named Billy and Bob, and two sows, five pigs and twenty-seven hogs. The cattle and horses were listed as worth \$1,209.50. Farming implements included numerous ploughs (sic), a wagon, two carts, and a blacksmith iron with tools. The estate also included 159 barrels of corn, which appears to have been grown east of the mansion toward the Potomac River.

The plantation was maintained by twenty-two slaves ranging from 2 to 70 years of age, some with Biblical names such as Daniel, Dinah, Hannah,

James, Joseph, Martha, Mary, Michael, Peter, and Philip. The other slaves were Bushrod, Cecilia, Charles, Emily, Henry, Jackson, Lewis, Robinson, Sandy, Sandy Watts, Tobey, and Webster. The total inventory value of the slaves was \$5,035.00.

The value of the Abingdon furniture, implements and produce was placed at \$1,459.99. The inventory meticulously listed the number of pillowcases, candles, pots, kettles, ironware, pieces of china, tools, and "fire-dogs" (andirons). Other Abingdon household items of interest included a mahogany bookcase, spinning wheel, barometers, fishing rod, and waffle iron. The final entry on the inventory was Hunter's military officer's sash from the War of 1812. Family war relics were soon to pass to another generation.<sup>24</sup>

In the spring of 1861, Bushrod Hunter and his son, Alexander Hunter, like their neighbor Robert E. Lee and his sons, left northern Virginia to provide service for the Confederacy.<sup>25</sup> A New Jersey 3-month enlistment regiment, either the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd New Jersey,<sup>26</sup> promptly occupied Abingdon and called it "Camp Princeton."<sup>27</sup> Alexander Hunter enrolled in Company A (the Alexandria Riflemen) of the 17th Virginia Infantry on April 17, 1861, in Alexandria, Virginia at the age of seventeen. Although Hunter's enlistment was rejected by mustering officers, probably because he was not eighteen years old, Hunter's service record indicates that he was "permitted to be retained by Gen'l Lee."<sup>28</sup> His father, Bushrod W. Hunter, like Robert E. Lee, resigned his United States (Navy) commission. Bushrod Hunter was then commissioned as a major of Heavy Artillery of the Provisional Army of the Confederate States and was stationed in Virginia's Northern Neck area.<sup>29</sup> On May 1, 1862, Bushrod Hunter wrote a letter to Confederate Secretary of War, John W. Randolph, requesting a commission as second lieutenant of field artillery for his son:

[M]y only son . . . is in Co. A 17<sup>th</sup> Va Vols (Gen'l Longstreet's Brigade at Yorktown). His Captain (Marye) stated to me his gallantry at the battle of Bull Run [Blackburn's Ford]; he killed a man and took a prisoner. Few families have suffered more from the enemy than mine.<sup>30</sup>

Perhaps Bushrod Hunter was referring to the Union occupation of Abingdon and his Washington, D.C. property. Alexander Hunter, despite his father's request, was never granted a commission.<sup>31</sup>

The Civil War record of Private Alexander Hunter is both remarkable and daring. Shortly after Hunter's enlistment he and John Mills, also a member of Company A and son of sculptor Clark Mills, went on an unau-

thorized visit into Washington described by Hunter in his book *Johnny Reb and Billy Yank*:

We donned citizen's dress and went to a certain farm [Abingdon] three or four miles above Alexandria (of which I was the prospective owner), where a row boat was kept, and bribed the gardener, old Uncle Sandy, to row us to Washington . . . We wended our way to Willard's Hotel; the lobby was filled with an excited crowd; in the bar-room the discussions were fiery. "I'll tell you, gentlemen," said an officer to a group around him, "that in two months from the word go we will march from the Potomac to the Rio Grande and drown the last d\_\_n Rebel in the Gulf!" . . . So the talk drifted on, and proved that they had no higher opinion of their foes than said foe had of them. We bought some Northern newspapers and found the same tone pervading their columns; the same contempt for the easy task laid out; the same appeals to the passions of the hour as that which marked the Journals of the South . . . If the South had run mad, the North was demented.<sup>32</sup>

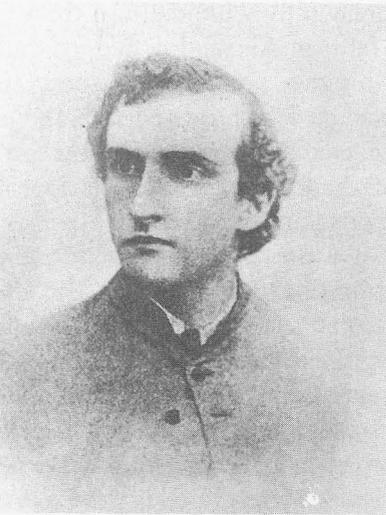
An 1870 regimental history of the 17th Virginia Infantry describes Alexander Hunter, and others, as "distinguished on the field for gallantry."<sup>33</sup> Hunter was in action at Blackburn's Ford of Bull Run on July 18, 1861 (three days before the major battle at First Bull Run); Williamsburg, Virginia on May 5, 1862; Seven Pines near Richmond on May 31, 1862; and he was captured during the Seven Days' Battle at Frazier's Farm, outside of Richmond, on June 30, 1862. He returned to Confederate lines on July 31, 1862 after a prisoner exchange and marched with his regiment to the ongoing battle at Second Manassas on August 29, 1862. Hunter was wounded in the arm during a Confederate assault near the Chinn House. Despite the wound, Hunter crossed the Potomac River into Maryland with Lee's army. He was captured at the Battle of Antietam, Maryland between Burnside's Bridge and the town of Sharpsburg on September 17, 1862, but was quickly paroled.<sup>34</sup> Hunter's privations of service as a Confederate infantryman and his expressed opinion that "the heros (sic) of all wars always wore spurs" prompted the adventurous 5' 10' Alexander to seek a transfer to the cavalry.<sup>35</sup> According to Hunter, he obtained the transfer himself after a meeting with General Robert E. Lee. Confederate service records corroborate that by May 13, 1863, Hunter had been "transferred to Black Horse Cavalry [the illustrious 4th Virginia Cavalry] by request of Genl. Lee."<sup>36</sup> It helps when your neighbor is friends with your family and is the commanding general of the army.

Hunter endured a series of hospitalizations in the spring, summer and fall of 1863. On January 8, 1864, while on a cavalry mission, he was

captured by members of the First Pennsylvania Cavalry at Warrenton, Virginia. He was confined at the Old Capitol Prison in Washington, D.C. On February 3, 1864, while being escorted with other prisoners to the Point Lookout, Maryland prison camp, Hunter slipped into a civilian overcoat that had been smuggled to him and removed himself from the line of prisoners. However, he was recaptured five days later attempting to cross the Potomac River near Point of Rocks. Hunter, while confined with a Union prisoner at Athenaeum Prison in Wheeling, West Virginia, purchased that soldier's long blue

overcoat and hat, and wore the coat under his clothes. On February 24, 1864, when the Confederate prisoners were en route to prison at Camp Chase, Ohio, Hunter and a cohort, Julius Robinson of the 43rd Virginia Cavalry (the command of Colonel John Mosby), daringly removed their outer clothes and, appearing to be Union soldiers, walked away. Both were soon recaptured, this time by a citizen. While detained in a house with wood burning in the fireplace, they escaped up the chimney and then dove into the cold Potomac River. This time Hunter made it back to Confederate lines only to receive a gunshot wound in his right leg during fighting near Spotsylvania Courthouse on May 7, 1864. He was furloughed for 60 days, returned for some cavalry expeditions, and then the war was over.<sup>37</sup>

As was the Arlington estate, Abingdon was confiscated by the federal government in 1864 pursuant to the August 7, 1862 congressional "act for the collection of taxes in the insurrectionary districts within the United States." Abingdon was purchased for \$8,000.00 at public auction on January 11, 1864, by Lucius E. Chittenden of Vermont, who leased it to Henry M. Bennett. After the Civil War, President Andrew Johnson issued a pardon to Alexander Hunter on September 4, 1865. This pardon was necessary for Hunter to proceed with his legal strategy. Hunter filed and won a suit in the Circuit Court of the United States for the District of Virginia against the United States tax commissioners for a tax certificate of redemption. On October 26, 1866, Hunter brought suit against Henry Bennett in the Circuit Court for the County of Alexandria for

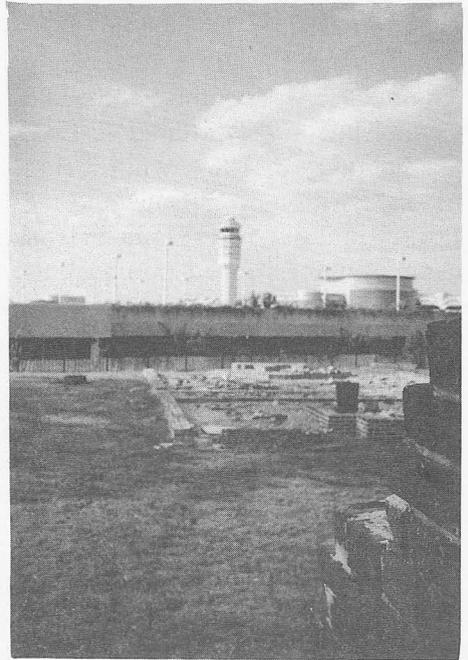


George Dodge Collection  
Alexander Hunter (1843-1914)

“unlawfully withhold[ing] from him a farm in Alexandria county, called ‘Abingdon,’ containing about four hundred and thirty acres.”<sup>38</sup> The jury rendered a special verdict in favor of Alexander Hunter. Bennett appealed to the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia in 1867 and Hunter’s triumph was affirmed. On February 18, 1868, Bennett’s attorney, W. Willoughby, appealed to the United States Supreme Court. Alexander Hunter’s co-counsel were Jeremiah S. Black, a former judge, and James A. Garfield, a Union General during the Civil War who was later inaugurated as the twentieth President of the United States in 1881.<sup>39</sup> Black and Garfield were each deeded land from the Abingdon estate as compensation for their legal work.<sup>40</sup> A final order was entered on March 21, 1870, affirming the judgment of the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia, which had awarded Hunter with a writ of possession.<sup>41</sup>

Following the war, Hunter was employed as a clerk in the federal General Land Office, a position he held for 40 years. In 1877 Hunter attempted to build a cattle stockyard on his Abingdon estate. Two years later he served a term in the Virginia General Assembly.<sup>42</sup> Hunter sold Abingdon in 1881 at an auction to the Alfred Richards Brick Company.<sup>43</sup> The following year, in Richmond, Virginia on June 22, Hunter wed Alice Swain, a prominent vocalist.<sup>44</sup> She died on December 5, 1898.<sup>45</sup> Hunter later married Filah Saunders.<sup>46</sup> He was also engaged in the magazine trade and authored several books including *The Ancient Iron Pot* and *The Old National*.<sup>47</sup> In 1904, the Neale Publishing Company released Hunter’s book *Johnny Reb and Billy Yank*.<sup>48</sup> Based on diary entries, Hunter’s book has become somewhat of a Civil War classic and was republished in 1998.<sup>49</sup> In 1908, Hunter released *The Huntsman of the South*. Early in this book, Hunter describes life at Abingdon:

My sporting days commenced many years ago, on a big plantation bordering the Potomac River. Game was plentiful . . .<sup>50</sup>



George Dodge  
The brick ruins of Abingdon with the control tower of Reagan National Airport in the background.

The Potomac was a wonderful game river then, and furnished an unending supply of succulent food to the dwellers on its banks. The number of fish that swam its clear waters would seem incredible in these times.<sup>51</sup>

[The Potomac] yielded a steady supply of catfish, eels, perch, sunfish, and fresh-water terrapin . . . the wild fowl [ducks] that haunted the river between Washington and Mount Vernon, it was simply astounding.<sup>52</sup>

Hunter's book *The Women of the Debatable Land* was released in 1912 in an attempt by Hunter to raise funds for a monument to be placed in Fauquier County to honor the women of the South.<sup>53</sup> That book realized little success and the plan for the monument perished when Hunter died on June 30, 1914. He was buried in July 1914 in Jackson Circle, at Arlington National Cemetery, at Section 16, grave 16-261A, within a few miles of his antebellum Abingdon home.<sup>54</sup>

A second brick company, the New Washington Brick Company, purchased Abingdon in 1900. The Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad bought Abingdon in 1924.<sup>55</sup> The property was leased for tenant farming and then vacated prior to the fire of March 5, 1930 that destroyed the mansion. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in 1938, authorized plans for an airport on the site of the former Abingdon estate.<sup>56</sup> Today, the ruins of Abingdon remain preserved on a hill in front of, but obscured from, the old terminal at Reagan National Airport. There are even signs at the airport to lead one to the parking area to visit Abingdon. At least seven U.S. Presidents, from George Washington to Franklin Roosevelt were, in some capacity, involved with Abingdon. An interpretative marker includes a picture of Alexander Hunter and mentions his book *Johnny Reb and Billy Yank*. This historical one-acre site, amidst a bustling airport, is a hidden reminder of a simpler, but harsher, era. That single acre, lodged between two concrete parking garages, leaves hardly a trace of its former vitality.

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George Dodge, a frequent contributor to the *Magazine*, would like to express his gratitude to all the persons who in some measure assisted in the preservation efforts of Abingdon. In addition, he would like to thank Don and Mary Strehle for their suggestions and reviews of this and many other articles. Thanks to Paul Sale for his photography work.

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### References

<sup>1</sup> Eleanor Lee Templeman, *Arlington Heritage* (The Author, 1959) and Fairfax County Record Surveys 1742-1856, pp. 11-12.

<sup>2</sup> Beth Mitchell, interpretive historical map of Fairfax County, Virginia 1760.

<sup>3</sup> Wesley E. Pippenger, *John Alexander* (Baltimore: Gateway Press, 1990), pp. 293-294.

<sup>4</sup> Columbia Historical Society Records (Washington, DC: Columbia Historical Society, 1931), Vol. 31-33, pp. 72-73.

<sup>5</sup> Eleanor Lee Templeman, *Northern Virginia Sun*, March 28, 1957.

<sup>6</sup> Columbia Historical Society, Vol. 35-36 (1933), p. 173.

<sup>7</sup> Pippenger, *Alexander*, p.296.

<sup>8</sup> *Alexandria Gazette*, December 21, 1807, in Historic Buildings file, Folder 1, Abingdon file, Arlington Central Library, Virginia Room.

<sup>9</sup> Pippenger, *Alexander*, p. 296.

<sup>10</sup> John C. Fitzgerald, ed. *The Diaries of George Washington 1748-1799* (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin Company, 1925) Vol. II, p. 366.

<sup>11</sup> *Diaries of Washington*, Vol. III, p. 55.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 25.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 427.

<sup>14</sup> *Diaries of Washington*, Vol. IV, p. 6.

<sup>15</sup> Mary S. Lockwood, *Historic Homes in Washington* (New York: Belford Company, date unknown) p. 202, in Historic Buildings file, Folder 1, Abingdon file and Alexander Hunter file, Arlington Central Library, Virginia Room.

<sup>16</sup> Inventory of Estate of Alexander Hunter, Will Book No. 5, pages 226-231, Alexandria Circuit Court Clerk's Office archives, Alexandria, Virginia.

<sup>17</sup> Ruth L. Kaye "Early Homes That Have Disappeared From Northern Virginia," *Northern Virginia Heritage*, February 1987, p. 11, in Historic Buildings file, Folder 2, Abingdon file, Arlington Central Library, Virginia Room.

<sup>18</sup> Inventory of Estate of Alexander Hunter, Alexandria Clerk's Office.

<sup>19</sup> Alexander Hunter, *The Huntsman of the South* (Washington, DC: Neale Publishing Co., 1908) pp. 12,13,15, 26. *The Huntsman of the South* was intended to be a series but no other volumes were published. This volume included a discussion of specific hunting and fishing areas in Virginia and North Carolina. Interviews with Arlingtonian Donald Sheehan on July 10, 1999 and August 27, 1999. Maps of the Atlas of Official Records of Civil War indicate that in 1865 there was a cluster of six structures, probably slave cabins, south of the mansion near Four Mile Run.

<sup>20</sup> Supreme Court file, RG 267 U.S. Supreme Court, Appellate Case Files 5449 to 5159, Box 644, File 5150, Bennett v. Hunter, filed 02-18-1868, decided 03-21-1870, National Archives.

<sup>21</sup> Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, *The Ages of Abingdon*, 1998, p. 4 and Lockwood, *Historic Homes*, p. 202, in Historic Buildings file, Folder 2, Abingdon file, Arlington Central Library, Virginia Room.

<sup>22</sup> Will of Alexander Hunter, Alexandria Courthouse.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>24</sup> Inventory of Estate of Alexander Hunter.

<sup>25</sup> Military Service Record of Alexander Hunter, National Archives.

<sup>26</sup> These New Jersey regiments were known to have been encamped at Fort Runyon located on the Virginia side of the current Fourteenth Street Bridge, and named after Brigadier General Theodore Runyon of New Jersey. See Frederick H. Dyer, *Compendium of the War of the Rebellion* (Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Bookshop, 1978), pp. 1356-57 and Stewart Sifakis, *Who Was Who in the Union* (New York: Facts on File, 1988) p. 346.

<sup>27</sup> Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, *Age of Abingdon*, p. 4.

<sup>28</sup> Military Service Record of Alexander Hunter, National Archives.

<sup>29</sup> Military Service Record of Bushrod Hunter, National Archives. Bushrod Hunter served in the Navy during the Mexican War.

<sup>30</sup> Military Service Record of Alexander Hunter, National Archives. Hunter's autobiographical *Johnny Reb and Billy Yank* (Washington, DC: Neale Publishing Co. 1905), p. 60 states that he captured two soldiers, but does not mention, as his father's letter does, that he killed a Union soldier in the skirmish at Blackburn's Ford on July 18, 1861.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>32</sup> Hunter, *Johnny Reb and Billy Yank* (New York: Konecky & Konecky, 1998), pp. 34-35. The

1850 Inventory of Alexander Hunter, the marshal, lists a slave named "Sandy Watts over 50" who would have been over 61 years old in 1861. Sandy Watts is probably the person referred to by Hunter as "old Uncle Sandy" who rowed him across the Potomac River during the first month of the war. See also William M. Glasgow, Jr., *Northern Virginia's Own* (Alexandria, VA: Gobill Press 1989), pp. 37-38, 400.

<sup>33</sup> George Wise, *History of the Seventeenth Virginia Infantry* (Baltimore: Kelly, Piet & Company, 1870), pp. 257, 262.

<sup>34</sup> Military Service Record of Alexander Hunter, National Archives, and Hunter, *Johnny Reb and Billy Yank*, pp. 135, 191, 248-252, 292-94. According to Hunter, his father, Bushrod Hunter, was one of the pallbearers for George Washington Parke Custis' burial at Arlington.

<sup>35</sup> Alexander Hunter, *The Women of the Debatable Land* (Washington, DC: Corden Publishing Co., 1912), pp. 24-25.

<sup>36</sup> Hunter, *Johnny Reb and Billy Yank*, p. 378, 1998 edition, and Military Service Record of Alexander Hunter. Hunter's enlistment date into the Fourth Virginia Cavalry is May 27, 1863 but the transfer from the infantry, ordered by General Lee, occurred prior to that date.

<sup>37</sup> Military Service Record of Alexander Hunter, and Hunter, *Johnny Reb and Billy Yank*, pp. 450-53, 461-62, 477-78, 466-89, 503-05, 510-12, 545.

<sup>38</sup> Supreme Court file, *Bennett v. Hunter*, National Archives.

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>40</sup> Dorothea Abbott, "The Hunter Family and Its Connection with Arlington County," *Arlington Historical Magazine* Vol. 7, No. 2, October 1982, p. 40.

<sup>41</sup> Supreme Court file, *Bennett v. Hunter*, National Archives.

<sup>42</sup> Boyd's Directory, National Archives, and Sidney M. Culbertson, *The Hunter Family* (Denver, CO: Publisher unknown, 1934) in the Alexander Hunter file, Arlington Central Library, Virginia Room.

<sup>43</sup> Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, *Ages of Abingdon*, p. 5.

<sup>44</sup> *The State*, June 22, 1882, p. 1. Col. 4.

<sup>45</sup> *Richmond Times Dispatch*, December 6, 1898 p. 8, col. 1.

<sup>46</sup> Abbott, "The Hunter Family," *Arlington Historical Magazine*, (1982) p. 45.

<sup>47</sup> S. A. Cunningham, ed. *Confederate Veteran Magazine*, Reprint (Wilmington, NC: Broadfoot Publishing Company, 1988) 1914 Vol. XXII, p. 468. The magazine contained Hunter's obituary and analyzed how Hunter's burial, in the Confederate section at Arlington National Cemetery, with full U.S. military honors, was one of a series of acts of reconciliation between the North and South.

<sup>48</sup> Cunningham, ed. *Confederate Veteran Magazine*, 1905 Vol. XIII, p. 240 vi.

<sup>49</sup> Hunter, *Johnny Reb and Bill Yank*, 1998 edition. The 1998 edition does not include the pictures or the last 81 pages of the 1905 edition.

<sup>50</sup> Hunter, *The Huntsman of the South*, p. 11.

<sup>51</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 26.

<sup>52</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 27.

<sup>53</sup> Hunter, *The Women of the Debatable Land*, preface.

<sup>54</sup> Cunningham, ed. *Confederate Veteran Magazine*, 1914, Vol. XXII, p. 468.

<sup>55</sup> Metropolitan Washington Airports, Authority, *Ages of Abingdon*, p. 5.

<sup>56</sup> *Ibid.*