

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

State Bounty-Land Application of George Hunter VAS153

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

[From [Revolutionary bounty-warrant records in the Library of Virginia](#):]

To the Executive of Virginia.

You petitioner John C Hunter [John Chapman Hunter] of the County of Fairfax, respectfully sheweth.

That Doctor George Hunter was a Surgeon on board the sloop of war called the Congress of Virginia Navy in the Revolution and died whilst Surgeon on board the said Sloop of War Congress in actual service. Which the accompanying Depositions fully testify. Your petitioner who is Brother & heir at Law of the said Doctor George Hunter deceased, has been informed, that he is entitled to Land bounty from Virginia, on account of his Brother's revolutionary services, in as much so, as if his Brother had have lived & served to the end of the War. He therefore prays, that you will allow the bounty usually allowed to a Surgeon, and feels in duty bound ever to pray &c Jno C Hunter

The deposition of John Adams of Fairfax County Virginia aged Eighty yrs. Taken this fourteenth day of October 1829.

The deponent being duly sworn, deposeth & saith, That he entered on bord the Congress Sloop of War, as a Corporal either in the month of February or March in the year one thousand sev. hundred & seventy six, & when the Vessel sailed, Doctor George Hunter of Alexandria Fairfax C'ty. Virginia act'd as Surgeon & Physician on board the said Sloop of War Cogress and continued the sole Surgeon & Physician until his death which took place some time in the fall 1776 The Congress Sloop of War carried fourteen double fortified six pounders and was commanded by Commodore John Boucher, Captain William Skinner [pension application R92], & John Thomas [R100] first mate. The Marines on board the Congress were commanded by Capt. John Allison of Alexandria, Windsor Brown [BLWt1816-300] first Lieutenant & James Moody second Lieutenant Commodore John Boucher sailed in the Congress, but had also under his command the Sloop Scorpion & Sloop Liberty, also two row Gallies the exact number of Guns which each of those last mentioned vessls carried is not recollected.

Doctor George Hunter above mentioned was the son of Doctor John Hunter of Alexandria Fairfax County Virginia, and Brother to General John Chapman Hunter of Fairfax County Virginia who is the next oldest son of their Father

Further this deponent saith not.

John Adams

Alexandria County District of Columbia to Wit [9 Aug 1830]

The Deposition of John Hughs [sic] aged seventy four years and upward. – the deponent being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, That in the year 1776 he was employed as a ship-carpenter in repairing & fitting on the Sloop of War called the Congress & another called the Scorpion [and] several Vessels, the names of which he does not recollect. he was at that time an apprentice to Thomas Mosley Ship carpenter in Alexandria which was then a part of Fairfax County in the State of Virginia. He further states, that he well knew Doctor George Hunter of said Town and that he entered on board the said Sloop of War Congress as Physician & Surgeon and that he died in his Country's Service as he the deponent was in the said town of Alexandria when the little fleet returned in deep mourning in consequence of the death of the said Doctor George Hunter, who was an elder brother of Gen'l. John C. Hunter now of Fairfax County Virginia. There is an impression in this deponents mind that the above mentioned Fleet was the property of the United States, but this he cannot positively say. Further the deponent saith not.

[signed] John Hughes

The deposition of Mrs. Hannah Hunter of Fairfax County aged seventy five[?] taken this 7th day of January 1831.

The deponent being duly sworn deposeth and saith, That previous to the revolutionary war, she lived in Alexandria then a par of Fairfax County as next-door neighbour to Mrs. Elizabeth Hunter the mother of Doctor George Hunter with whom he the said Doctor George Hunter lived, and therefore had an opportunity of knowing certainly the circumstance of Doctor George Hunter's entering on board the vessel of war called the Congress, very early in the revolutionary war, if not at its commencement as a Physician and surgeon which she well recollects, and also of the said vessel returning after a cruise in deep mourning in consequence of the death of the said Doctor George Hunter who died in his country's service. Moreover she [one or more lines missing from bottom of online image]

This deponent was intimately acquainted in the family of Doctor John Hunter of Alexandria, the father of Doctor George Hunter aforesaid and well knows that he was the eldest son of his father and that General John C. Hunter of Fairfax County Virginia is the second son of their father the said Doctor John Hunter and brother to the said Doctor George Hunter

Further this deponent saith not.

[signed] HHunter

The deposition of Capt. Charles Lewis Broadwater [pension application S8096] aged seventy eight years, taken this 7th day of January 1831.

The deponent being duly sworn deposeth and saith That in the month of April 1776 he was appointed a midshipman on board the sloop of war called "Congress" commanded by Commodore John Boucher, Captain William Skinner, and John Thomas first mate. In the said month of April 1776 he the deponent entered on board the aforesaid sloop of war Congress when and where he found Doctor George Hunter of Alexandria as only surgeon on board who performed the duties of Physician and Surgeon to the entire satisfaction of the crew, officers, sailors & marines, until his death which took place whilst in the service of his country, the precise time of the death of the said Doctor George Hunter is not recollected by this deponent, but he the deponent continued on board the Congress until the fall of the year 1777. The marines were commanded by Capt. John Allison and Lieuts. Windsor Brown and James Moody at that time, all of Fairfax County, Virginia; Commodore John Boucher was from the state of Maryland. Capt. William Skinner was from the state of Maryland and John Thomas was from Northumberland Court House in the state of Virginia, but he believes, by birth an Englishman

To the best of this deponent's recollection the sloop of war Congress carried eighteen [three illegible words] pounders and four swivels but of this he is not positive.

Commodore John Boucher commanded besides the Congress, a squadron consisting of fourteen sail (he thinks when he convoyed [or "conveyed"] Capt. Lawrence Sandford out of the Capes, as far as Cape Hatteras, when he saw fourteen sail he means vessels of every description; sloops of war, Row-gallies and Tenders. The deponent does not recollect whether this little fleet was the property of the United States or of the state of Virginia. Doctor George Hunter herein before mentioned was the oldest son of Doctor John Hunter of Alexandria, Fairfax County, who since deceased and brother to General John Chapman Hunter of Fairfax County Virginia who is the second son of their father. These facts he states with a perfect knowledge of the circumstances, having been intimate in the family from his infancy.

The deponent further saith that he is induced to believe beyond a doubt that the above mentioned fleet was the commonwealth of Virginia as is to be inferred from the journal of Doctor George Hunter deceased which is now before him and whose hand writing he is well acquainted with, [three lines are illegible in the online image] line in the year 1777, the precise month not recollected – then the Congress received orders to lay in a cargo of Tobacco at Petersburg in Virginia when the deponent received a commission as first lieutenant in the land services and as soon as he got home commenced recruiting. An additional proof to said deponent that the fleet aforesaid belonged to the state of Virginia is that both the warrant and Lieutenant's Commission before mentioned were obtained for him by Colonel George

Gibson and Capt. [illegible] West two very influential gentlemen both of the County of Fairfax and commonwealth of Virginia, and [illegible word] sent to him by them to pay the recruits.

Further this deponent saith not. Char's. L. Broadwater

NOTES:

Dr. Hunter is shown as surgeon in a list of officers aboard the *Congress* in the records of William Skinner (pension application R92).

In the pension application (R92) of William Skinner are the following extracts from the journal of George Hunter:

"11th Sep. 1776 – "The Congress with several others set off for Norfolk whither I should have accompanied him – but for the number of sick – About 5 in the evening being invited on board Sanford's Brig with Lieutenant Skinner by Lt. Thomas – the former & self proposed on our return to call at an elegant Brick house – that just offered to our view – imagining the best mode of introduction would be to enquire for fruit"

Sep. 24th 1776. "this morning Capt. Allison, Lt. Skinner & self at Cranleys point, where we saw Colonel Broadwater & John Hunter making salt."

The online file from the Library of Virginia includes the following fragment: "Miss Bridget Flemming made the colour called a pennant for the said vessel called the Congress."

Hunter's file includes a copy of a ledger for late 1777 with "Dr. William Holt" at the top, listing purchases of rum for the sloop *Congress* and cash transfers for the schooner *Mayflower* and to a Col. Wells.