

HUNTER'S TAVERN

Spout Spring, Va.

Appomattox County

by

Harriett A. Chilton

July 15, 1988

HUNTER'S TAVERN

Spout Spring, Va.

Hunter's Tavern was a landmark in the neighborhood in the 1700s and 1800s. It was located about two miles west of Spout Spring on the road to Lynchburg. John Hunter received a license to operate a tavern in his home while the Spout Spring area was still in Bedford County (it became Campbell County in 1782 and Appomattox County in 1845). The license reads as follows: "June 28, 1773. On the motion of John Hunter, leave is granted him to keep ordinary at his house in this county, who gave bond and security according to law." (Bedford County Court Order Book 5A Page 127.)

John Hunter was a Justice of the Peace of Bedford County at that time, and became one of the first Justices of the Peace in Campbell County when it was cut off from Bedford in 1782. His Tavern is shown on a 1782 map (copy enclosed) which indicates the places where the French General Chastellux stopped on his journey through Virginia after the Battle of Yorktown in 1781, before he returned to France (the General was second in command of the French army at the Siege of Yorktown). Also enclosed is a map of 1807 showing the location of the Tavern.

John Hunter's son, Robert Hunter, Senior, took over the Tavern after his father's death in 1796. On October 4, 1805 Robert Hunter took out fire insurance on the Tavern and his nearby residence with the Mutual Assurance Company, the first insurance company in the state which had begun business in 1790. The Tavern was insured for \$600 and the dwelling house for \$260. A drawing of the Tavern and dwelling are enclosed. The description says, "Tavern of wood and covered with wood, one storey high. This main body is 36 by 16 feet. The porch is also of wood and is 36 by 10 feet. The resi-

dence is at a distance of 12 feet and is described as a wooden dwelling house, one story high 18x20 feet." (Va. State Library, Richmond, Va.)

In 1811 a petition to the Virginia General Assembly for the building of the Great Western Turnpike Road from Hunter's (Tavern) on the main Richmond road through Lynchburg, the Peakes of Otter, Fincastle, the Sweet Springs to Lewisburg or Greenbrier Court House was submitted. On February 13, 1812 the General Assembly approved the petition in these words: "Making a turnpike from the Buckingham Road near Robert Hunter's to Lewisburg."

Enclosed is an 1845 map of Appomattox County, prepared by the surveyors when the county was first established, showing Glover's Tavern, formerly Hunter's Tavern as one of the corner points on the dividing line from Campbell County.

In July 1976 my sister, Eleanor Chilton of Lynchburg called George Shirey who lived near the location of the old Tavern and he told her the following:

"The Ollie Thomas house was built on the foundation of Hunter's Tavern. When the highway (Route 460) was made into a four lane road, the house was moved back to its present location. Mrs. Ollie Thomas Cross, a daughter of Ollie Thomas was living in the Tavern when it burned, and the family moved into an old log cabin in the woods behind the Shirey place. She was eight years old at the time." She was born in 1884, therefore the Tavern must have burned in 1892. This house was known as the Wharton place when I was growing up in the 1920s and was owned by Ernest Smith in the 1960s. Today, the office of the chiropractor, Dr. R. A. Parent is located next door to the house.

Harriett A. Chilton
3108 Annandale Road
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July 15, 1988

HUNTER FAMILY INFORMATION

John Hunter (d. 1795) married Rachel McFarland (d. 1784) and lived at Hunter's Tavern. They are buried one half mile south of the Tavern at the Second Location of Old Concord Presbyterian Church. The church was moved but the cemetery remains, deep in the woods. A few tombstones remain but I was unable to find one for John Hunter or his wife.

They were the parents of six children:

- 1) John who enlisted in the Revolutionary War at age 16 and moved to North Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky after the war ended. He returned to Campbell Co. in 1830 and applied for a pension.
- 2) Elizabeth m. John May and moved to North Carolina.
- 3) Alexander, lived in Campbell County.
- 4) Robert Hunter m. Nancy Ellis and lived at Hunter's Tavern.
- 5) James m. Elizabeth Howlett and moved to Kentucky.
- 6) Benjamin m. Betsy Fields and lived on Falling River near the mouth of Reedy Creek. Hunter-Marshall Cem. is on his estate.

Benjamin Hunter and his wife had thirteen children, one of whom, Adeline Virginia Hunter married John Poindexter Chilton. I have a sampler she made in 1820 which I inherited as I was named for her. She and her husband had a son, Chapman Hunter Chilton, who was Superintendent of Appomattox County Schools from 1870 until 1895.

Chapman Hunter Chilton married Mary Elizabeth Elliott and lived on part of the estate of her father, William Alexander Elliott about two miles south of Spout Spring, Virginia. Their youngest son, William Chapman Chilton, was my father.

Harriett A. Chilton
August 1, 1989

County of Campbell Per Decree No 2270

I the underwritten Robert Hunter residing at my plantation in the county of Campbell do hereby declare for Assurance in the Mutual Assurance Society against Fire on Buildings of the State of Virginia.

Building on my plantation now occupied by myself situated between The Land of Archibald Bairston and that of Charles Stuart in the county of Campbell dimensions

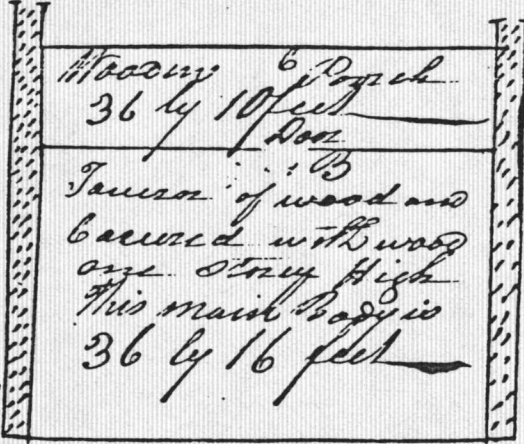
situation and contiguity to other Buildings or Wharves, what the walls are built of, and what the Buildings are covered with, are specified in the herunto annexed description of the said Building on the plat, signed by me and the appraisers, and are valued by them, as appears by their certificate hereunder, to wit:

The <u>Tavern</u>	marked A at	<u>600</u>	Say <u>Six Hundred</u>	Dolls
The <u>Dwelling House</u>	B at	<u>260</u>	<u>two Hundred & Sixty</u>	do
The _____	C at	_____	_____	do
The _____	D at	_____	_____	do
The _____	E at	_____	_____	do
The _____	F at	_____	_____	do
The _____	G at	_____	_____	do
The _____	H at	_____	_____	do

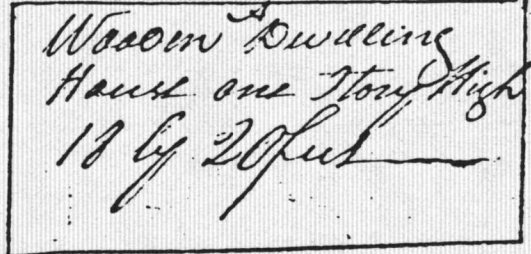
Say Eight Hundred Dollars in all do hereby declare, and affirm, that I hold the above-mentioned Building with the land on which they stand in fee-simple, and that they are not, nor shall be insured elsewhere, and that I will abide by, observe and adhere to the Constitution, Rules and Regulations, which are already established, or may hereafter be established by a majority of the Insured, present in person, or by representatives, or by the majority of the property Insured, represented either by the persons themselves, or their proxy duly authorized, or their Deputy, as established by law, at any General Meeting to be held by the said Assurance Society; or which are or hereafter may be established by the President and Directors of the Society. Witness, my hand and seal at my plantation this 11th day of October 1855
Tells Robert H. Holman Special Agent. Robert Hunter Esq

WE the underwritten, being each of us Freeholders, declare, and affirm, that we have examined the above-mentioned Building of Robert Hunter and that we are of opinion that they would cost in cash eight hundred and fifty Dollars, to build the same, and that now (after the deduction of not Dollars) is actually worth Eight Hundred Dollars in ready money, as above specified to the best of our knowledge and belief, and the said subscriber has acknowledged before us his above signature

I the undersigned do hereby certify that I truly believe the Building therein described is not over-valued.
Robert H. Holman } Residing in Campbell
James Carson } Grantsville



Distance 12 feet



Fire insurance policy with the Mutual Assurance Company, Oct. 4, 1805

TO the Honorable the Speaker and Members of both Houses of the General Assembly
of the Commonwealth of Virginia, The Petition of sundry Inhabitants of the
Counties of Campbell, Bedford, Bottetourt, Greenbrier and others, respect-
fully sheweth;

THAT, pursuant to a Resolution of the last Virginia Assembly, whereby Commissioners were appointed to view and mark out the nearest and best route for a TURNPIKE ROAD from HUNTER'S TAVERN on the main Richmond road, through LYNCHBURG, the Peakes of Otter, Fincastle, the Sweet Springs to Lewisburg, or Greenbrier Court House; and understanding that the Commissioners aforesaid have performed that service; and that their report will, in all respects, be favorable to the great object of their appointment—the establishment of this GREAT WESTERN TURNPIKE ROAD; so intimately connected with the immediate and permanent interests of all classes of the community;—Your Memorialists therefore humbly pray that, a law may be passed to incorporate THEM a company, to carry into effect, as speedily as may be; & under such regulations as may best comport with the public good, this important object, so essential and conducive to the advancement of agriculture and commerce; social intercourse, and public accommodation; and for which as in duty bound,
&c. &c.

SUBSCRIBERS.

Not Mining,
Bernard Rucker
Alexander Clement
John Bullock
Wm. H. Hunter
Chas. Hoyle
Wm. Hunter
Christ. Hunter
Gabriel Scott
Geo. D. Hunter
Robert Pierce
Sam. W. Bradley
Lawrence B. Hunter
Siddley Lee
John Cartwright
Henry Brown
Benjamin Morley
John Taylor
John H. Bell

SUBSCRIBERS.

Samuel Anderson Junr
Nicholas Hagen
John Schaffner
Geo. E. Hunter
John Thurmon
Will. R. Hunter
Christopher Lynch
John Gills
Thomas Stewart
James Graham

(The Petition was approved as follows:
Making A Turnpike from the Buckingham
Road near Robert Hunter's to Lewisburg.
See Acts of the Assembly Feb. 13, 1812.)

NOTATION ADDED IN 1989:

Last year a man came through Lynchburg seeking the location of Hunter's Tavern and Flood's Tavern. He said letters had been found from President Thomas Jefferson stating that he had stopped at these two taverns while on his way from Monticello in Albemarle County near Charlottesville, to his summer home Poplar Forest in Bedford County not too far from Lynchburg, Va. I was able to find the two taverns listed on the 1807 map of Virginia which I got from the Virginia State Library in Richmond, Va., a copy of which is attached here.

As a result of this quotation from a letter of Thomas Jefferson, I have been telling people that my great-great^{great} grandfather, John Hunter, who had a "bed and breakfast" place beside the road in what is now Appomattox County, no doubt furnished our third president "bed and breakfast."

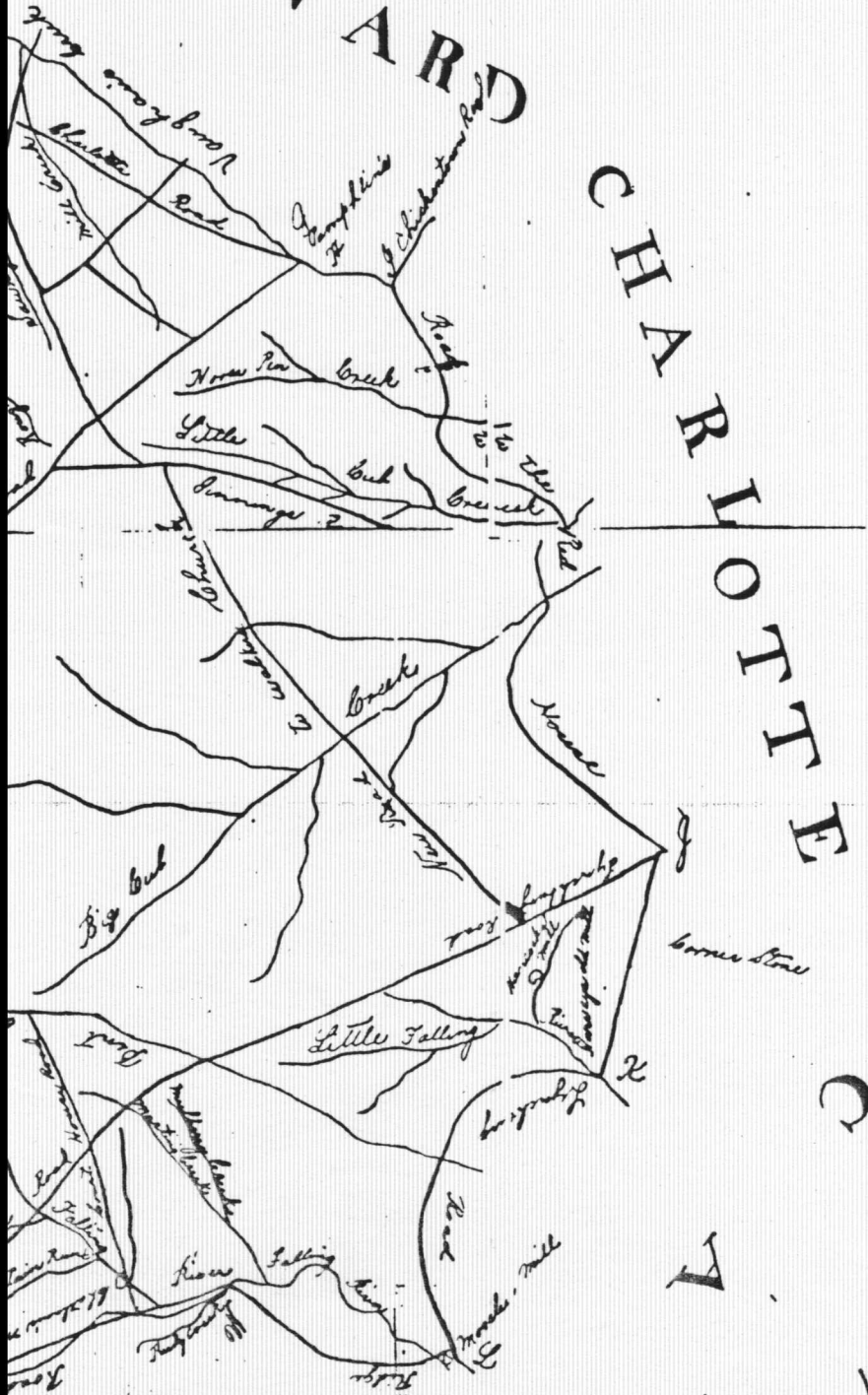
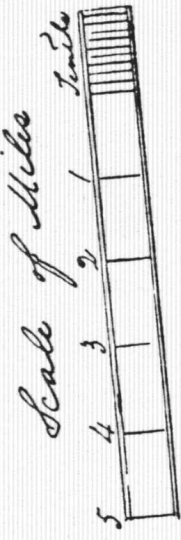
Harriett A. Chilton

Part of an 1807 Map of Virginia



E EDWARD

CHARLOTTE



1845

MAP

OF

APPOMATTOX

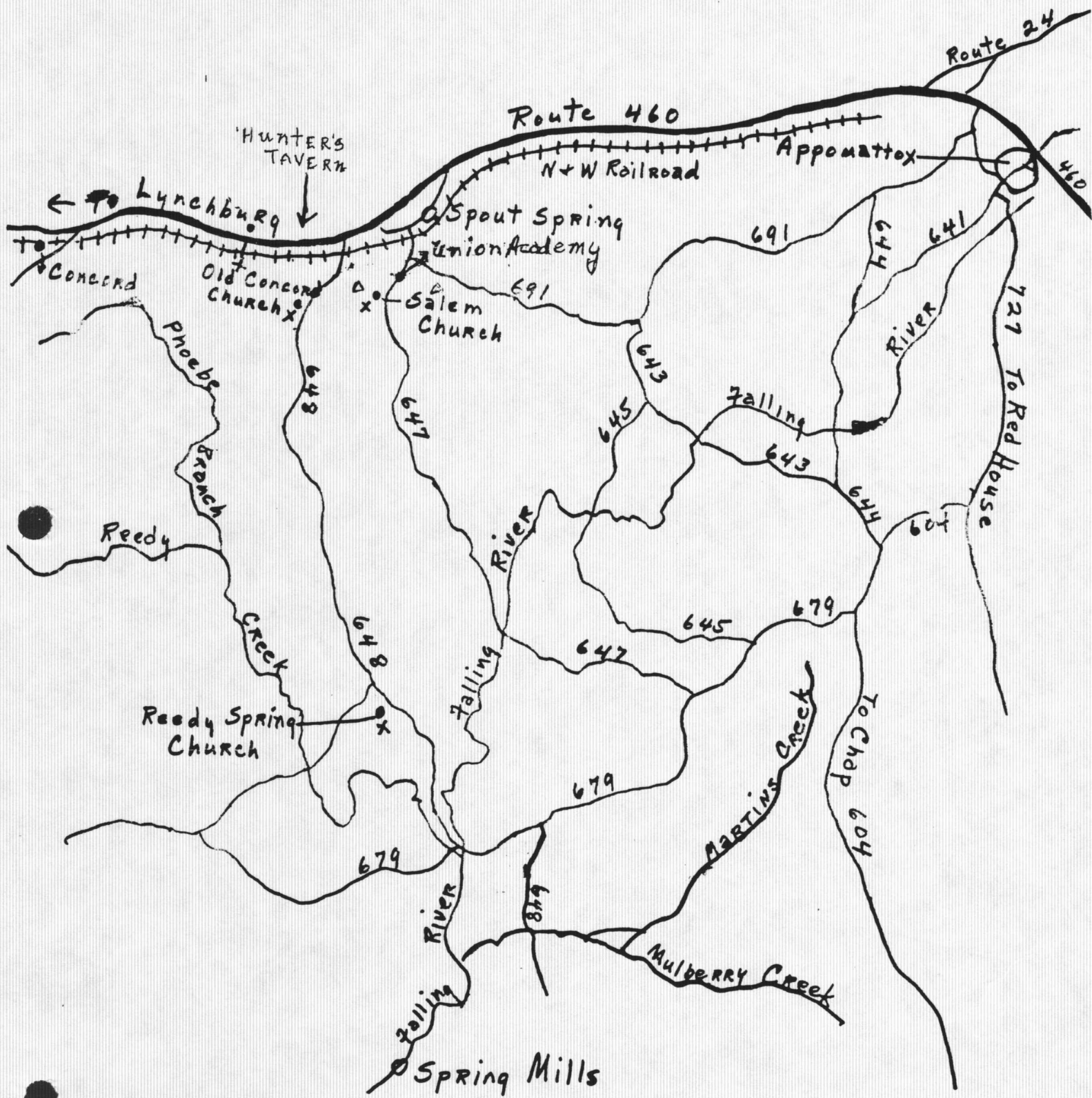
B

P

M

A

C



Current (1988) map showing former location of Hunter's Tavern.