

John W. Hunter

(1767 – 12 Dec 1841)

The National Intelligencer, Tuesday, December 14, 1841

In this city, on Sunday last, Col. John W. Hunter, Doorkeeper of the House of Representatives, aged about 76 years. Col. H. served in the Revolutionary war with fidelity and bravery, and was in the battle of Eutaw and other hard-fought fields. He was a native of Virginia, but for a long time a citizen of Georgia prior to his removal to this city, in which he had resided many of the last years of his life. Here, as everywhere, he was esteemed for the integrity, simplicity, and benevolence of his character. He has left many worthy and respected descendants to lament his death.

Children of the American Revolution, July 4 presentation.

John W. Hunter

Each year since 1962 the District of Columbia Society of the Children of the American Revolution has honored the memory of John W. Hunter who served in the Revolutionary War at the age of 13.

He was born in 1767 in Lincoln County, North Carolina, but enlisted with the South Carolina troops of General Thomas Sumter in 1781. He served first as a trumpeter with Captain McKenzie's company and later served as Sergeant Major under Colonel Henry Hampton. He was with the forces that captured Orangeburg, South Carolina, from the British in May 1781; and was also in a skirmish at Dorchester, South Carolina. He knew many defeats also, and his party was beaten near Orangeburg and in Juniper Springs, South Carolina. Then at the battle of Eutaw Springs on September 8th, 1781, he was wounded.

In 1782 his term of service expired, but he re-enlisted and joined a troop of horse soldiers under Colonel James Jackson as a trumpeter. They were scouting near Saint Mary's River in Georgia in pursuit of Tories. He then served with the Calvary in General Anthony Wayne's siege of Savannah, Georgia, when they took possession of that city after the British evacuated on July 11, 1782.

He continued to serve in the army after the war, first as a Lieutenant in a troop of Militia Dragoons in Camden County, Georgia in 1793. In 1795 he served as Lieutenant Colonel of the 137th Regiment of the Pennsylvania Militia. In 1822 he moved to Baltimore, Maryland, but after a year returned to Georgia, where he remained until November of 1831, when he came to Washington, DC.

Here he served as a Doorkeeper of the United States House of Representatives. At the time of his death on December 12, 1841, a Washington newspaper said he was "esteemed for the integrity, simplicity, and benevolence of his character."

Since both the military service and the date shown on the tombstone at the grave of John W. Hunter are incorrect, the Children of the American Revolution placed the adjoining marker to make known the true history of a young patriot who helped to establish American Independence, and who throughout his life served his country.