

Thomas Hunn

(Oct 8, 1735, Freehold NJ - Sept 17, 1796, Mount Pleasant, NJ)

2nd Major, 1st Regiment Monmouth County Militia

By Daisy Orr

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Major Thomas Hunn lived in what later became known as Hawkins House on Mill Road in Matawan. He was a member of a group called the "Liberty Boys" and served during the Revolution in the 1st Regiment of the Monmouth County Militia, rising to the rank of Major. On May 27, 1778, the Loyalists raided Middletown Point (Matawan) and he was a participant in the skirmish at the Burrowes Mansion.



Probable Position of the Wreck of the English "Victualing Ship" Cast Ashore in February, 1777.

Battle of the Navesink. Adapted from The New York Times, February 23, 1896, P. 1.

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Thomas Hunn's Company was at the Battle of Navesink. This was also called the Massacre of Sandy Hook. The British invaded the Militia camp of about 150 men before dawn. They killed 25 militiamen and took prisoner of over 70 men it was estimated about 40 men got away.

Approximately 20 of Hunn's men were taken prisoner. Page 2 of a list of the men captured contained the men in (then Captain) Hunn's Company:

Company	Name	Rank	Pay	Notes
C3 Capt. Hunn's Company	William Van Cleaf	Serj.	3	
	Samuel Heigney	Private	2 15	
	Matthias Boyer	Capt.	2 15	
	Hendrick Hendrickson	Capt.	2 15	
	Koert Sutphen	Capt.	2 15	
	Hendrick French	Capt.	2 15	
	Jesse Emmons	private	2 10	
	Mathais Mount		2 10	
	Johnathan Reed		2 10	
	Tunis Vanderveer, Jr.		2 10	
	William Pease		2 10	
	Cornelius Vanderhoff		2 10	
	Abraham Mariott		2 10	
	Hendrick Williamson		2 10	
	Richard Tice		2 10	
	Jacob Quackenbush		2 10	
	James Hulsart		2 10	
	William Clark		2 10	
	David Doren		2 10	
	Tice Hulsart		2 10	
C4 Capt. Hendrickson's Company	Thomas Cox	Lieut.	3	
	William Hance	Serjt.	2 10	
	Mathias Lee	private	2 10	
	James Hibbets		2 10	
	William Chambers		2 10	
	Joseph Cox		2 10	
C5 Capt. Walton's Company	John Craig	Lieut.	2 10	
	Peter Yatesman	private	2 10	
	John Yateman		2 10	

The Official Record of the Officers and Men of New Jersey in the Revolutionary War, published by the Adjutant General's Office, p. 344, identifies Thomas Hunn as having served the First Regiment, Monmouth County, first as a Captain and then as a Second Major. Here is a list of the first Regiment officers:

George Taylor, Colonel. (Deserted to the enemy. Asher Holmes replaces him)

Nathaniel Scudder, Lieutenant Colonel, Colonel.

Asher Holmes, First Major, Colonel.

John Smock, Captain, Major, Lieutenant Colonel, Colonel.

Thomas Seabrook, First Major, Lieutenant Colonel.

Elisha Walton, Ensign, Captain, Second Major, First Major.

Thomas Hunn, Captain, Second Major.

Kenneth Anderson, Adjutant.

David Rhea, jr., Adjutant.
 John Stillwell, Quartermaster.
 John Campbell, Quartermaster.
 Richard Hartshorne, Quartermaster.
 Thomas Barber, Surgeon.
 Jacob Hubbard, Surgeon.
 John Scudder, Surgeon's Mate.

The Tragedy of War
Clerks Office, Freehold
Misc. Records. Book B.
N. J. Monmouth County October
27, 1779.

These do certify that John Whitlock was appointed 2d Lieut of my company militia belonging to the 1st Battalion Monmouth Militia Col. Nathaniel Scudder and that the sd John Whitlock was acting as sutch in the Battle with the enemies of the U. S. on the High Lands of Neversinks on the 13 day of February 1777 and that he was killed in the engagement and left a widow named Lydia with seven children and the said Lydia had a child born five months after her husband's death.

This Old Monmouth of Ours, by William S Hornor, p. 165, mentions that Capt. Hunn was at the Battle of Navesink 1777 in which 25 militia men were killed and over seventy were taken prisoner. Also, he signed a petition to the NJ Governor requesting more militia to defend residents of Monmouth County (Feb. 21, 1777). However, he is not on the list of men captured.

Major Thomas Hunn from 10 Oct 1778 to 25 March 1779 } 105.2.6
 at 50 Dollars of Month 5 Months 14 Days }
 Sub-line 61.17.6
 of Month } 43.49.0

He was elected 2nd Major of the 1st Regiment of the Monmouth Militia under Col. Asher Holmes, Lt. Col. John Smock, and 1st Major Elisha Walton on March 27, 1778. (From the March minutes of the General Assembly, p.26) In 1778, he was present at the Battle of Monmouth, one of the longest battles of the Revolution.

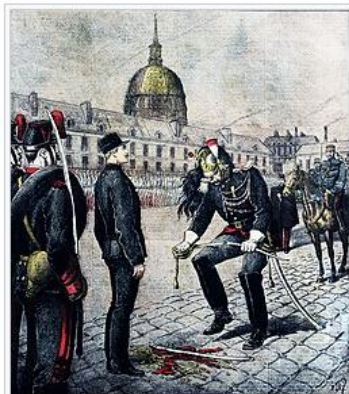
However, the court martial of several officers was reported in the *New Jersey Gazette* on February 21, 1781. This included Thomas Hunn. The gravity of the trials is underscored by the fact that they were presided over by General Philemon Dickinson, the commander of the New Jersey Militia. In Historian Michael Adelberg's book *The American Revolution in Monmouth County*, p. 19, he mentions that Hunn was cashiered (court-martialed) for his poor performance at the raid of the Burrowes Mansion on May 27, 1778. However, a recent email from Adelberg concerning Thomas Hunn is as follows:

I recall that Hunn was cashiered following a court martial finding him guilty of allowing men under his command to pilfer a chest of counterfeit money recovered from a Loyalist party. The militia under his command mounted a weak defense during the May 1778 raid of Middletown Point. This poor defense was not the official reason for his removal but would have diminished his standing and laid the predicate for his eventual removal.

The charges were "cowardice and officer-like behavior", and he was acquitted of the first charge but he was unanimously found guilty of the last and judged to be "cashiered."

Thomas Hunn, captain, first regiment; second major, ditto, March 27, 1778; cashiered February 21, 1781, for conduct unbecoming an officer.

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/gdcmassbookdig.historyofmonmout00elli/?sp=250&st=image&r=-0.149,0.407,1.393,0.832,0>



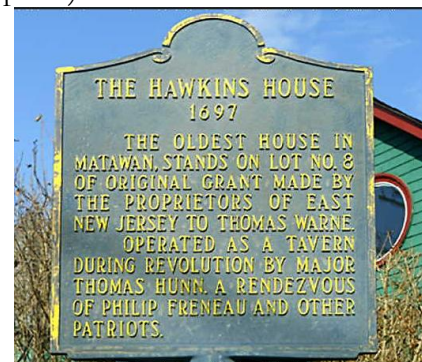
The cashiering of Alfred Dreyfus on 5 January 1895

What is cashiering? "Cashiered" means to be dismissed from a position of responsibility, particularly in the military, with disgrace or dishonor. Originating in the late 16th century from the Dutch *casseren* and French *casser* ("to break" or "annul"), it referred to casting off troops. It often involved breaking an officer's sword. In this case, cashiered referred to "conduct unbecoming an officer" is a severe military punishment, primarily authorized under Article 133 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). This code mandates the dismissal of commissioned officers for dishonorable acts, moral turpitude, or serious breaches of professional ethics that destroy their standing. It could be for a number of reasons in addition for not performing their duties, such as failure to pay debts,

assault, adultery, making false statements, or public drunkenness.

So, for example, research on this topic revealed that an Ensign Barnes Bennett was charged with "disobeying orders", "suffering those goods to be embezzled," and "**for passing counterfeit money.**" This seems similar to Thomas Hunn's case. There are additional sources that state Hunn was court martialed for embezzling counterfeit money (see Wikipedia).

Thomas Hunn and his wife kept a store and tavern (which was continued after his death by his widow). This building was located on Mill Road. The building was a tavern where patriots assembled. Afterwards the building was known as the Leadbeater House and now as the Hawkins - Hunn house. This house is still located on Mill Road but is somewhat modernized. Nevertheless, it is an interesting revolutionary relic.



The Hunn (Hun) Family:

Thomas Hunn was born on Oct. 8, 1735, Freehold NJ and died on Sept. 17, 1796, in Mount Pleasant, NJ. Major Thomas Hunn was the son of Adrien (died June 15, 1738, aged 27-7-, buried at Topanemus) and Phoebe (Smith) Hunn. His brother John Smith Hunn married Philip Freneau's

youngest sister, Margaret Allaire Hunn Freneau. They were the parents of at least one son and two daughters: Mary Freneau Hunn, Peter Freneau Hunn and Cornelia Van Emburg Hunn. He died on March 5, 1829, in Newburgh, Orange, New York, United States, at the age of 64.

Major Hunn married Catherine VanEmburg on May 20, 1763.

Catherine (Nov. 2, 1738 -March 4, 1816) was the daughter of Peregrine and Catherine (Provost) VanEmburg.

They had the following children:

John Smith Hunn (1764 -1808) Married Margaret Allaire Freneau

Phoebe M. Hunn (1767 -1801) Married Cornelius P. Vanderhoff

Adrian Hunn (1770 -1802)

Peregrine Hunn (1772 -1802)

Cornelia Hunn (1775 -1777)

Mary Hartshorne Hunn (1778 – 1804)- married Richard Stout

Catherine Hunn (1781 - 1840)

Thomas Hunn (1783 -1847)

His daughter Phoebe married Judge Cornelius P Vanderhoff, of Monmouth County.

His grave is marked by a large flat white stone which has deteriorated and is illegible. His military service dates from 1777 to 1780 according to the US Revolutionary War Rolls.

DIED, On the 17th. Inst. at Mount Pleasant, Monmouth, N. J.

Major THOMAS HUNN, an old and respectable inhabitant of that place; and an active and patriotic officer in the American service, during the revolutionary war of America. His remains were interred in the burying ground near Middletown Point, attended by a large concourse of people. A Sermon, suitable to the occasion, was preached by Rev. Woodbull.