

Thomas Coulton Hunter d 6 May 1882



IN AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE OF
THOMAS COULTON HUNTER

DIED 6. MAY 1882.

AGED 71 YEARS

HIS END WAS PEACE

ALSO OF **ELEANOR**, HIS WIDOW,

DIED JULY 15TH 1915,

AGED 73 YEARS.

The *Barrow News* 13 May 1882 reported on the

DEATH OF MR. THOMAS COULTON HUNTER. – We regret to record the death of one of Barrow's oldest and most respected citizen's (sic), Mr. Thomas Coulton Hunter, contractor and farmer, which took place at his residence, Peas Holmes, on Saturday week. The deceased, who was 71 years of age, enjoyed very good health up to a week or two ago, when he took his bed. (sic) The deceased has had charge of some of the largest earthwork contracts in

the borough and district, and his genial temperament, his kind disposition, and his charity have won for him a good name amongst a very large circle of friends in the neighbourhood. The funeral takes (*should be took*) place at Kirkby on Wednesday, at 3.15 p.m., and all friends are invited. Mr. Mason, locomotive superintendent of the Furness Railway Company, was engaged, along with Mr. Hunter, on the Preston and Wyre Railway 40 years ago, and for 30 years they have each been engaged on the Furness Railway. The Mayor of Barrow (*William Gradwell, who died in office Nov. 1882*) and Mr. Hunter contracted largely together for the last 34 years, each in their own departments, and some years ago Mr. James Garden, of Dalton, was in partnership with the deceased. Mr. Hunter's first work here was in the construction of the embankment from Concle to Roa Island, and he was afterwards employed in the construction of the railway from Kirkby to Broughton, and since then he has contracted under the Furness Railway Company. His first wife died about 14 years ago, to the deep regret of the members of her family and many friends. Mr. Hunter has left behind him two sons in the same business; another son who is now on his way home from Australia, and two daughters. The deceased was a great grandfather, and he left behind him three generations of children. His widow, who was his second wife, is left to mourn his loss with six children, the youngest being four years of age. The funeral took place on Wednesday at Kirkby, the Rev. G. Postlethwaite being the officiating clergyman. The funeral *cortege* consisted of 25 mourning coaches and private carriages, the bearers being Messrs. R. Sharp, R. Lyon, T. Myers, John Cheatle, D. Fryears, F. Brown, and H. Burrows, all foremen in the employ of the deceased, and all of whom had been in his service for about a quarter of a century. Amongst the mourners present we noticed: - Mr. and Mrs. James Hunter, and Tom Hunter, Mr. and Mrs. Councillor Hunter, Mr. and Mrs. W. Ormerod, Mr. and Mrs. R. Shaw, Mr. and Mrs. Coulton Hunter, Mrs. Garland, Mr. and Mrs. H. Warren, Mr. P. K. Dobson and the Misses Dobson, Mr. Joseph Coulton, Mr. George Coulton and Miss Nancy Coulton, Kirkby; and Messrs. H. F. Wright, Thomas Rainford, S. Westwood, E. Hinks, T. Taylor, J. Pennington, F. W. Beucher (?), J. Hankinson, R. Kinnish, F. Worrall, J. R. Patterson, Councillor Steele, E. J. Morgan, J. Holmes, R. Addison, J. Robinson, W. Leech, E. Valient, Alderman Townson, J. Todd, Capt. Stoker, Councillor Ormandy, W. Boaden, Councillor Atkinson, Councillor Ainsworth, J. Smith, E. Nelson, R. Mason, J. Horn, T. Edge, R. Addison, W. S. Whitworth, Johnson, Coutts, Boucher, Hankinson, Lawrence, Bleasdale, Lakin, Richardson, Robinson, Berry, Dixon, Pennington, Troughton, Brownrigg, Morphet, Pickthall, Mc.Carthy (sic), Walmsley, Coward, Harrison, Charnley, Postlethwaite, Mc.Intosh (sic), Hodgson, Dobson, Kneen, and a number of old *employees* and farmers from the surrounding neighbourhood.

At a special meeting of the Royal Antedeluvian Order of Buffaloes held last night votes of sympathy were passed to Lady Cavendish and the Devonshire family. *Why this is attached to the account of Thomas Hunter's funeral is a mystery, and probably an error. It is a reference to the killing of Lord Frederick Cavendish in Phoenix Park, Dublin, on the same day as Hunter's death.*

Ancestry tells us:

Thomas Colton (sic) Hunter married Elizabeth Fell 30 March 1833 at Dalton in Furness. In the marriage bond, Thomas Colton (sic) Hunter made "his mark", indicating that he could not write.

If I've got the right family, then in the **1841 Census** living at Sowerby Hall (now Ormsgill) were Sarah Hunter (50), Farmer; Thomas Hunter (30); Elizabeth Hunter (25); Mary Hunter (20); William Hunter (20); Edward Miers (50) Farmer; Thomas Berry (20) Agricultural Labourer; James Sprout (20) Agricultural Labourer; William Clark (2). *The 1841 Census did not have much detail, e.g. no place of birth or marital status. It is unclear what the relationships were.*

In the **1851 Census** they were living in March Cottage, Thornton, Lancs. Thomas Hunter (40) Head, Railway Contractor, born Dalton, shares the home with Elizabeth Hunter (43) Wife, born Ulverston; Thomas Hunter (15) Son, Scholar, born Ulverston; Mary Ann Hunter (13) Daughter, Scholar, born Preston; Joseph Hunter (10) Son, Scholar, born Fleetwood; Elizabeth Hunter (8) Daughter, Scholar, born Fleetwood; Jane Hunter (5) Daughter, Scholar, born Fleetwood; and Mary Crampton (20) Unmarried, House Servant, born Carleton, Lancs.

In the **1861 Census** living on Dalton Road (no number recorded) were Thomas Coulton Hunter (50) Head, Contractor, born Dalton; Elizabeth Hunter (53), Wife, born Walney Island; Elizabeth Hunter (18) Daughter, born Fleetwood, Lancs. Next door were Thomas Hunter (25) Head, Labourer, born Ulverston; Anne Hunter (25) Wife, born Cartmel, Lancs; Jane Close Hunter (6), Daughter, born Millom, Cumberland; Coulton Walker Hunter (4) Son, born Barrow; Elizabeth Ann Jackson Hunter (2) Daughter, born Barrow.

Thomas Hunter married Eleanor Helme in Lancaster in Q2 1870.

By the time of the **1871 Census** his first wife had died, and he was living at Old Barrow Farm. Thos. C. Hunter (60) is a farmer of 15 acres, employing 5 men and 5 boys. His new wife is Ellen Hunter (30), born Dalton. There are three children, presumably Ellen's, namely T. Helm (8) Scholar, born Lancaster; C. Helm (6) Scholar, born Lancaster; and J. Helm (3) Scholar, born Lancaster. Their gender is not recorded, though their ages are in the male column. There were four servants: T. Cookson (24) Labourer, born Houghton, Lancs; T. Webster (17) Labourer, born Cartmel, Lancs; T. Tyson (17) Labourer, born Dalton, Lancs; and Eliza Abbotson (18) Domestic Servant, born Dalton.

At Peasholmes, in the **1881 Census**, lived Thos. Coulton Hunter (70) Farmer of 120 acres, employing 4 men and 2 boys, born Dalton; Eleanor Hunter (39) Farmer's Wife, born Barrow; Thomas Hunter (18) Son, Unmarried, Farmer's Son, born Barrow; Elizabeth Dobson (24) Visitor, born Millom, Cumberland; John Hunter (13) Son, Scholar, born Barrow; Barrow Hunter (7) Son, Scholar, born Barrow; Willie Hunter (5) Son, Scholar, born Barrow; Eleanor Hunter (3) Daughter, born Barrow. Other residents were Thomas Nelson (46) Farm Servant, born Cartmel; Thomas Backhouse (46) Farm Servant, born Aldingham; James Walker (60) Farm Servant, born Dalton; William Wilson (33) Farm Servant, born Dalton; Elizabeth Mary Thompson (27) Domestic General Servant, born Dalton; Isabella Kitchen (15) Domestic Servant, born Barrow; Henry Helm (17) Farm Servant, born Dalton; Mary Hunter (20) Granddaughter, born Dalton. *Note that Eleanor's children have adopted her husband's name.*

The National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations) 1882 had the following:

HUNTER Thomas Coulton 19 July The Will of Thomas Coulton Hunter late of Peasholmes Barrow-in-Furness in the County of **Lancaster** Contractor and Farmer who died 6 May 1882 at Peaseholmes was proved at **Lancaster** by Joseph Hunter Contractor and Coulton Walker Hunter Contractor and Farmer the Grandson both of Barrow-in-Furness the Executors. Effects £4607 15s 2d. (*approx. £305,000 in 2022*)