



# Hunter Log Cabin

**E**mmanuel Hunter built the Hunter Log Cabin in 1818, the year Illinois became a state. Emmanuel, who was opposed to slavery, had chosen to move from Tennessee to southern Illinois. Emmanuel served in the military while living in Tennessee with several commissions, serving in the War of 1812, and serving with Andrew Jackson fighting the Creek Indians in 1814. In 1832, he served in the Black Hawk War as a Corporal in Captain Armistead Holman's Company of Illinois Mounted Volunteers against the Sac and Fox Indians. This Company was in Abraham Lincoln's Regiment.

In 1818, the government was opening up territory in the free state of Illinois for veterans of the War of 1812. When he built the cabin, Emmanuel and his wife Judith Lee Hunter had six children. Originally, there was a loft in the cabin with an opening near the fireplace. The children slept in the loft. The Hunter Log Cabin was located northeast of Marion and east of White Ash, Illinois.

The log house was deeded with 40 acres in 1886 to Elijah Lodge Grant. He and his descendants preserved the building for the next 120 years.

In February 2005, Richard H. Hunter purchased the cabin from Wendell E. Grant who then owned the original Emmanuel Hunter homestead. Richard donated the cabin to the Jacob Hunter Trust, named after the Revolutionary War soldier Jacob Hunter, who was Emmanuel Hunter's father. In July 2005, the Jacob Hunter Trust donated the cabin to John A. Logan College.

Dr. Robert L. Mees, president of John A. Logan College, saw the historical and educational value of restoring this historic cabin and applied for a grant from the Julia Harrison Bruce Foundation. In 2006 the Foundation provided a generous grant that allowed for the reconstruction of the cabin on the Logan College campus. The reconstruction was completed in the summer of 2007.

Approximately 80 percent of the logs are original. The logs were secured at the corners using a half lap, dovetail joint. This was used in log cabin construction from 1800 to 1830. Cabins built after 1830 were not as carefully constructed and used only a half lap joint. The cabin served as a residence until 1899 when it was converted into a storage building.

Some minor modifications were made from the original. The fireplace opening in the original cabin was larger and was used for both cooking and heating. A loft served as a place for storage and sleeping space for children and was not placed in the restructured cabin.

*Hunter Log Cabin:  
Established 1818  
Relocated 2007*

*April 10, 2012*