

PART II

CHAPTER IX
The Waters Family

WALTER WATTERS (Waters) of Isle of Wight County, Virginia whom we believe to be our ancestor appeared first in the records of that county on 9 December 1687.¹ At that time he requested power to administer the estate of ROGER LARAMORE, deceased husband of Walter's wife ALICE. The request was granted and on 2 April of the following year an inventory of Roger Laramore's estate was presented by Walter and Alice Watters.² He did jury duty on 24 September 1696 and was on the Quit Rent Roll of 1704 as owning 150 acres of land.³

Walter Waters and his family were members of the Society of Friends.⁴ His daughter, Mary, married George Murrell of Surry County in 1794 at the Chuckatuck Monthly Meeting. This was one of the earliest groups of Quakers in Virginia, and in the period we are concerned with "most of the prominent persons of this section were Quakers or related to them by marriage" across the whole of southside Virginia.⁵

Walter Watters "of the Lower parish of the Isle of Wight County" made his will on 26 November 1730.⁶ After the usual provisions for burial and so on he said: "ITEM. I Give and Bequeath to my Grandaughter Martha Brown that plantation that formerly Robert Owen did live on and the Land adjoining to it that belongs to me and one Cow and Calf and what she is already possessed with and no more. ITEM. I Give and Bequeath to my Grandaughter Alice Powel One Hundred & Eighty seven Acres of Land adjoining on William Watkins and John Powel at Carrawoak and what she is already possessed with and no more. ITEM. I Give and Bequeath to my two Grandson Walter and Benjamin Morrel all my "tract of Lands (adjoining) Bridgman Joyners, to be equally divided betwixt them and their Heirs for ever Excepting fifty acres I Give to George Morrell and Mary his wife at the End joining to the Land of Richard Beals during their Lives. ITEM. I give to my Grandaughter Mary Morrel the Plantation I now live on and all the Land adjoining to it belonging to me to Her and Her Heirs forever. ITEM. I Give & Bequesth to my dear & loving Wife Alice and my Grandaughter Mary Morrel all the remainder of my Estate, Goods and chattels to be equally divided to them for ever. And I Appoint my loving Wife and my Grandaughter Mary Morrel my whole & sole Execx. to see this my last Will fulfilled." He signed by mark, and the witnesses were Jacob Darden, Sarah Darden and John Chapman.

On 23 January 1731/2 he made a revocation saying: "I do make Void all Parts & paragraphs of this my last Will and Testament within mentioned excepting one shilling to my Grandaughter Martha Brown and likewise One Shilling to

Alice Powel my Grandaughter excepting what they are possessed with. And likewise my two Grandsons Walter & Benjamin Morrell and their parents. For the lands already bequeathed to stand as the Will specifies and the Residue of my Estate wholly & solely to my Grandaughter Mary Morrell plantation Goods & Chattels to her and her Heirs after my own and her Grand Mothers decease, AND I do appoint my Grandaughter Mary Morrell my whole & sole Executrix. As WITNESS my hand this 23rd Day of January in 1731/2."

He signed by mark and the witnesses were Jacob Darden, Stephen Darden and John Powell. The will was brought for probate at the court held on 27 March 1732 and was proved by the subscribing witnesses.

From the above it is apparent that Walter Watters was born at least by 1666 (being 21 or older in 1687) and died between 23 January and 27 March 1732. His wife was living as late as 1732.

Children of WALTER WATTERS and ALICE _____ (widow of ROGER LARAMORE) were:

- i. a daughter _____ WATTERS who had married a BROWN and had at least:
 1. MARTHA BROWN of age in 1732.
- ii. a daughter _____ WATTERS who had married a POWEL and had at least:
 1. ALICE POWEL of age in 1732.
 - ii. MARY WATTERS married GEORGE MURRELL of Surry County in 1704. Their family is dealt with in the first portion of this book.

There were several other men surnamed Watters in Virginia in the early seventeenth century. Lieutenant Edward Waters obtained a patent in 1624 for 100 acres two miles below Blount Point in Elizabeth City County by headrights from Thomas Hamor, brother of Captain Ralph Hamor and William Arnold.⁷ He is possibly the Edward Waters of the 1624 Muster (under his own muster), aged 40, who came to Virginia in the "Patience" in 1608 and had with him Grace Waters aged 21 (in the "Diana", 1618) and William and Margaret Waters, both born in Virginia.⁸ Lieut. Watters died in England in 1630; his will recites that he was of Elizabeth City County and his brother John Watters was named executor.⁹

Shortly after this time a John Waters was a landowner in Kingston Parish, Gloucester County joining the lands of Jacob Johnson, Col. Armistead, William Beard and Col Dudley; in 1679 he held two tracts containing 640 acres in Mathews Parish of that county.¹⁰

By 1704 John, Walter and William Waters are listed in Abington Parish of Gloucester while the Quit Rent Rolls of that year show John, Walter, Elizabeth and Charles Waters having land in the Gloucester County parishes of

Kingston, Abington, Petso and Ware.¹¹ The early land patents show a John Waters as an importee to Virginia as early as 1637 while a Hoell (Howell or Joel ?) Waters came on 18 March 1663/4.¹² What connection, if any, existed between these men and our Walter Watters of Isle of Wight County is a question which we have not been able to resolve.
