

Delaware

Maryland

The Wyatt Family

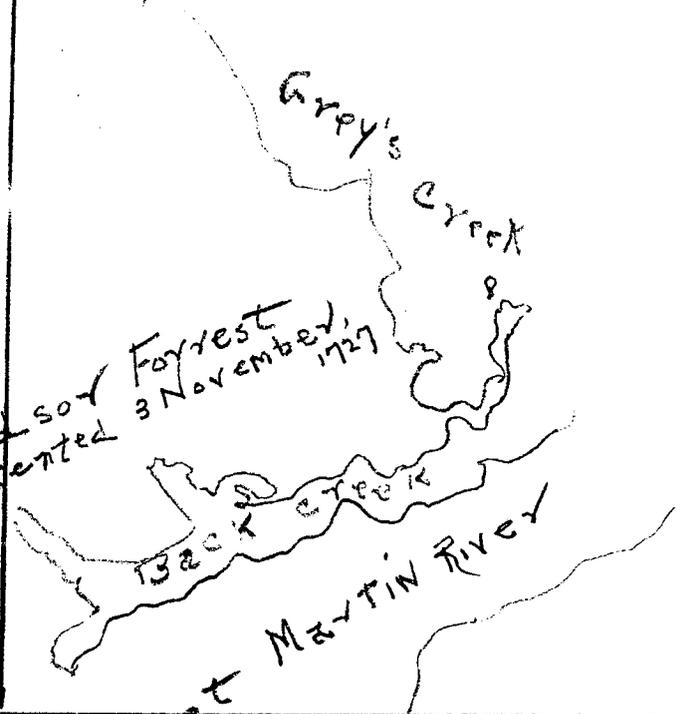
of

Delaware

and their kin

By Louise N. Adkins

Windsor Forrest
Patented 3 November, 1729



Rock Liffes
Discovery

Tribulation

Sel
Wyatt's
Conclusion

Aydelotte
Pleasant
Grove
Branch

Gray's
Lott
1735

West Grove
Farm

450 W
Wyatt

Hope well

Woodcroft's
Purchase

Wyatt
Humor
6 July, 1728

Tanner's Hall
Patented 26 May, 1681

Virginia

Accomack

450W
C-3

THE WYATT FAMILY

of

DELMARVA

by

Louise H. Atkins

Dedicated to my grandmother, Mahala Wyatt Hammond

and

to my father, Joseph Grafton Hammond

who, each in his own way, built well

as they built on the solid rock

"and the rains descended, and the floods came,
and the winds blew, and beat upon that house;
and it fell not: for it was founded upon a
rock."

The Gospel according to St. Matthew

Chapter 7

Verse 25

March, 1982

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ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

Introduction

I have always had the feeling that the history of the American family is, in reality, the history of America. Family research has indeed strengthened that feeling.

It is undoubtedly true that the leaders, the statesmen, and military heroes have created and influenced events, but it was the ordinary family coping with these events to the best of their abilities that made the country strong and enduring.

The following is a history of just such a family. They lived through an adjustment to a strange land, the upheaval in breaking with the mother country, a war between brothers and two global conflicts all of which changed lives completely as they happened. There were times of economic distress and the great depression of the 1930's. Different political theories arrived and departed from the scene. But in the hard times, they made do or did without with no undue complaining. And in good times, they enjoyed themselves with temperance and kept "their feet on the ground". Weekdays found them on the job and the Sabbath found them in Church.

They weren't saints, and I'm sure there were times they were discouraged and disgusted. And very likely, they lost their temper, and pretty certainly they did what they should not have done, but they must have done something right too as they always managed to muddle through and make a go of things.

Don't look for any famous people in these next pages as they are not there. You will only find a pattern for those who came here as dissenters forced to leave their English homes so that they could worship as they chose and not as ~~these~~ on throne commanded, and remain constant in their beliefs without changing as the throne changed.

Changes did come here, but gradually as the people themselves wished, and they remained convinced that on this earth, this was the best of all possible worlds.

Many of you will see familiar reminders of your own families, and may ask yourselves, "If these ancestors did so much with so little, can we, with so many opportunities, do less?".

The name Wyatt seems to be English, and we do know that many of the families that emigrated before 1700 were of English origin.

Prior to research "in depth" on my family lines in this area, my tendency was to identify my ancestors simply as Worcester countians. But to my surprise, I am now convinced that the term Delmarvians is much more accurate since their roots are also in Delaware and Virginia particularly the two Eastern Shore counties of Accomac and Northampton.

The Wyatts (also spelled Waite, Wiat, etc.) lived, at one time or another, in all of the above locations and may have lived also in Northumberland County on Virginia's western shore since we have evidence that the father-in-law of the first Wyatt settler was in Northumberland as early as 1653. This was Nathaniel Hickman who patented land that year, and the record also shows that _____ Hickman was brought to Northumberland the same date by her husband, Nathaniel.

Settlers in this area came from many places, such as England, New England, and other settled parts of Virginia such as the Accomac Peninsula and the valley of the James. Little background information exists as to the places from which they immigrated, or ship lists.

Nathaniel Hickman's will was proved 20 January, 1656. He names issue Thomas, Diana, and Nathaniel, Jr. so it would seem clear that at least one of these children was born somewhere other than Northumberland Co.

Diana married Thomas Barrot (Barrett), and Virginia land grant records show a grant to him in James City County June 7, 1648. He must have gone to Northumberland county before this marriage since it was unusual for couples who lived very far apart to marry. There was one son from this marriage whose name was George. In 1701, she passes land to this son as a deed of gift, but by this time she is identified as Diana Waite, wife of William Waite. The land is identified as being located on the Mattapony River.

And Diana Waite is now a resident of Accomac County on Virginia's Eastern Shore since a deed in 1678 shows John Tarr, Cooper, is selling land to William Waite, Tanner, and the land is located in Accomac near the Maryland boundary.

In England at this time, the trades were in high repute. Even the younger sons of the English gentry resorted to the cities and became tailors, coopers, weavers, etc. Naturally then, many immigrants were of the tradesmen class.

A cooper is defined as a maker or repairer of barrels or casks, and a tanner converted animals skins or hides into leather.

In addition to his Virginia land, Somerset county, Maryland records show "Tanners Hall 26 May 1683 assigned William Waite Possessed by Nathaniel Waite Mattapony 100". A listing of early settlers into Maryland shows entry for William Wyatt in 1671, 1674 and 1677 but I find no lands for him on the Somerset Rent Rolls for these dates.

Mattapony Hundred is the southernmost of the hundreds lying in now what is Worcester county bordering on Accomac county so it is quite possible that the lands were not widely separated.

William Waite died in the summer of 1708, and his will made 31 March, 1705/6 and probated 3 August, 1708 reads as follows:

To son Joseph Waite - plantation where I now live

To son Nathaniel Waite - land in Maryland called Tanners Hall

To son William Waite - 3000 lbs of tobacco

Wife (unnamed) Executor. However the wife is identified as Diana when the will is proved.

Wit: John Martiial (Marshall,) Sebastian Cropper, Daniel Walker,
Annabelle Walker.

I have no further information on Nathaniel and William. One or both of them may have made their homes in Virginia as there seem to be Wyatts there for many years.

The land that was left by will to Wm.Waite's son Joseph, was sold by Joseph and his wife Rebecca to John Griffin.

Evidently this was the time that Joseph moved over to the Maryland area. I have never found the maiden name of his wife.

Joseph Wyatt patented land granted to him by the Lord Baltimore known by the name of Wyatt's Humor bearing the date 6 July, 1728 starting at a branch issuing out of Beaverdam branch above the cowbridge. In November, 1724 Joseph and Rebecca sold this to John Morris. There was a house, fences, and orchard planted. Book ~~AZ~~ pg.178, Somerset Deeds. Same source Book SH pg.362 Joseph Wyatt of Somerset was appointed by Clark Jacobs and Margaret, his wife, of Northampton Co., Va. as attorney to sell land that the Jacobs owned in Somerset. This land was called Powell's Lott and was sold to Thomas Coffin 30 November, 1730. Joseph Wyatt is spoken of as their trusty and loving friend.

Somerset Deed Book E-1 pg.307 14 August 1738 From Ambrose White, Bathsheba, his wife, and Jacob White, all of Sussex Co. in the province of Pennsylvania (now Sussex Co., Delaware) to Joseph Wyatt of Somerset Co. The grant for this land had been made to the Whites 3 November, 1727. The land was called Windsor Forrest at head of Back Creek and contained 370 acres.

Note for White researchers: The White's children are identified as Ambrose, Wrixom, and Grace.

Joseph Wyatt was test for will of Samuel Cobb 18 November, 1716. (From Magruder's Abstracts of Colonial Wills Vol.4, pg.154)

Will of Joseph Wyatt, Sr. from Hall of Records Annapolis, Md. Book DD#1-31 page 856 Worcester Co. (Worcester has now become a separate county) 9 December, 1762 23 January, 1763

to eldest daughter, Mary Wyatt 12 acres of land being part of a tract called Wyat's Conclusion for her natural life--at her decease to my son, John Wyat and his heirs--I also give to my daughter, Mary 1 feather bed, furniture and 1 cow.

to youngest son, John - 155 acres land called Windsor Forrest and 25½ acres of Wyat's Conclusion, a black walnut table, and a hand mill.

I give to my son Nathaniel my large Bible

I give to my daughter, Dinah Latchum 1 pewter dish

I give to my eldest son, William, 1 negro girl named Darkness

Will of Joseph Wyatt (Continued)

I give to my granddaughter, Zipporah Wyatt the bed and furniture*whereon I lie and one 2 year old heifer.

To my true and lawful wife, Rebecca Wyatt, the plantation where I now live and during her natural life to have privilege in all timber lands.

Rebecca Wyatt and John Wyatt, Execs.

*Furniture as referred to here probably means items connected with the bed such as mattress, feather bed, sheets, pillows, coverlets plus the tester, bed curtains, bed steps, etc.

From this will, we can infer that one of the sons was married, and the most likely is William since John is the youngest and I find no daughter, Zipporah for Nathaniel. Also this would seem to be probable for William's age since he is listed in the Maryland Militia Revolutionary War-- A Roll of Capt. E. Purnell's Co. 1st class Wm. Waite

I have no further information on eldest daughter, Mary.

Nathaniel follows later.

One more reference to John Wyatt-- An old subscription paper kept in the Historical Society of the Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia shows that during the stormy days of the Revolution when money was so uncertain that the members of Buckingham Presbyterian Church in Berlin pledged to pay the Rev. Mr. John Rankin in corn. The paper reads as follows:
" As we profess ourselves Christians and members of the Church of Christ, we must certainly consider the preaching of the Gospel and the regular dispensation of divine ordinances as necessary, and those who are faithfully employed in the sacred office should be decently supported. It is well known that the depreciation of our currency has for some time rendered our contribution for the support of the Rev. Mr. Rankin very inadequate to his labors in the Gospel, and therefore to remedy this evil and encourage his continuance amongst us, it is judged most expedient for him and us that his yearly salary be paid at the old rate and as corn is the prevailing article in this place, it will always be the best standard; and therefore those who are willing to contribute anything for the above-mentioned purpose, are requested to subscribe their quota in corn, at a half-crown per bushel to be paid yearly at some convenient place. If any subscriber or subscribers do not have the corn to spare, the current price of money at the time of the delivery will be accepted. Agreeable to this plan we, the subscribers, do promise to be paid to the Rev. Mr. John Rankin, on his order our several quantities of corn annexed to our names, or the amount in money at the current price, annually on the first day of June, as long as he remains our stated minister and regular member of Lewes Presbytery, as witness our hands this 27th day of June, 1779." (The number of bushels subscribed follows each name and John Wyatt is listed among others as subscribing two bushels.)

Thus we see that tobacco was replaced as a cash crop. Some was being raised, but in reduced amounts, and foreign markets had nearly disappeared. Pork had been substituted somewhat and corn was gaining popularity.

Paper money issued by the several colonies fluctuated and at sometimes 1 ear of corn sold for fifty cents Maryland script.

John Wyatt sold his inheritance of Windsor Forrest (part of the tract) to McClemy Jones on 10 April, 1765. Deeds F pg 324

Diana Latchum died Sunday morning 25 October, 1772 leaving a word of mouth will leaving all to her son, Isaiah Latchum. Will attested to by Travour Taylor and Elijah Wyatt. Worcester wills list Latchums down through the years which are likely descendants of this line, John, Micajah, Thomas, Nehemiah, and Joseph either making wills and/or being mentioned. Lands are Smith's Choice, Holland's Discovery, and Newington Green.

The Elijah Wyatt above is a possibility for any researching this family in another line.

A Joseph Wyatt is listed in the 1790 reconstructed Census of Delaware.

Also the Hall of Records Archive Division in Dover has record in Deed Book C14 pg. 513 that Joseph Wyatt son of Jehu Wyatt on 10 March, 1788 is involved in a land deal on road from Doe Bridge to St. George's Chapel.

Nathaniel Wyatt of Joseph is the line in which I am interested. Birth and marriage records are very scarce at this time, but the following record indicates that he may have been born by ca 1740, and was married by 1762 to Sarah Dulaney, daughter of John Patrick Dulaney.

Worcester deeds Book E page 439 26 October, 1762 Nathaniel Wyatt, planter and Sarah, His wife and Elizabeth Dulaney and Comfort Dulaney, spinsters deed to Charles Nicholson tracts called Hopewell and Woodcroft's Purchase located on seaboard side at Deep Branch. This land had belonged to John Patrick Dulaney, now deceased, and who died intestate. As a result, this land became the property of his 5 daughters--Elizabeth, Comfort, Mary and Diligence Dulaney and Sarah Wyatt. Mary and Diligence must have also been deceased by this time since their names do not appear on the deed.

I have one other record that identifies Nathaniel Wyatt as a carpenter.

I have followed all the records that I could find, to date, on John Patrick Dulaney who first appears in records found at the Hall of Records in Dover Book D pg. 346 6 November 1718 Yolverson Crowell of the county of Cape May in the Western Section of the province of Nova Scotia in New Jersey deeds Patrick Dollano in Lewes Town in Sussex, Pa. Yolverton Crowell is heir to Samuel Crowell. Patrick Dollano (Dulaney) is referred to as a tailor.

Book F pg. 120 Deed of sale for a town lot--Patrick Dulaney to Robert Pirrie 23 June, 1721. Pirrie was the school master. Samuel Crowell had originally petitioned for the adjoining lot granted to Nehemiah Field. Further reading indicates that improving or building on the lots thus granted was necessary.

Nehemiah Field is recognized as one of the early settlers of the town of Lewes. There are several references of his acquiring lots in the town which passed to his children. A Field daughter, Mary married John Maull from another early family in this town on October 12, 1736.

Book F pg. 297 Patrick Dulaney sold to Wm. Godwin and Anne, his wife for a remainder of 16 pounds--he had already received 8 pounds on this property. Date 7 March 1721/22.

Godwin is selling to Rhyves Holt on southeast side of Samuel Davis. A new street had recently been laid out on the northwest side of this property called Knitting Street and another boundary was 2nd Street.

A quotation in the history of Lewes states that Knitting Street eventually became Mulberry Street. Later, an attempt was made to return the original name of Knitting Street, but the residents of the street complained and resisted the change so that it remains Mulberry Street to this day.

A house now still stands at this location--corner Second and Mulberry

Streets identified as no.26 in the listings for the Lewes Historical District tour known as the Ryves Holt House (private). This is the oldest house in Lewes, having been erected before 1685. It was once an inn run by Philip Russell and was later the home of Chief Justice Holt. So it seems possible that this historic house may be the one in which John Patrick Dulaney lived and may have had his tailor shop in this house. After selling his property in Lewes, Patrick Dulaney bought the tracts Hopewell and Woodcroft's Purchase in Worcester county which his daughters are selling in 1762.

I have no information as to who Patrick Dulaney's wife was.

Nathaniel Wyatt must have died intestate. He was dead by the time that the 1790 census was taken since Sarah Wyatt appears at the head of the household.

Sarah Wyatt leaves will Worcester county Book MH (2) folio 534-535 date 6 January, 1818 probated 22 March, 1822 and she leaves to son, Absolom who is to be the executor, and daughters Ann Parker and Eleanor Murrow. Also mentions grandson, Robert Wyatt. Witnesses: John Evans, Jacob Evans, and James K. Mitchell.

There must have also been a deceased son, Caleb Wyatt since an examination of Worcester county Administration Bonds and Inventories for the period 1783-1790 shows an entry dated 3 October, 1785 Caleb Wyatt bonds by Sarah Wyatt exec., Samuel Bratten, Samuel Richardson inventory Sarah Wyatt exec., next of kin Anny Wyatt Rhody Murray. Was Anny Wyatt his wife. If so, it is possible that she remarried since July 10, 1799 Worcester county marriage license applications show an entry for Archibald Baker and Anna Wyatt. Or was Ann the sister who later became Parker?

Absolom Wyatt applied for marriage license in Worcester county on 11 December, 1795 with Nancy Penniwell.

Their children were:

James Wyatt born 14 February, 1800 married 21 July, 1823 to Martha Nickerson.

Catherine Wyatt born February, 1802 married James Ward.

Caleb Wyatt born in 1806 no other information

Seth Wyatt born in 1812 married Mary E. Hamblin 4 December, 1855

Nancy Wyatt no date of birth married Thomas Palmer 24 August, 1829

John Wyatt born in 1816 married Sarah (Sally) Hammond 30 December, 1836

Robert Wyatt born in 1818 married Louisa Downs by 15 April, 1848

Wor. Deeds Book AQ pg. 433 11 April, 1825 Absolom Wyatt to Samuel Dale land called Gray's Lot left to him by his mother, Sarah.

Wor. Deeds Book GHE #5 pg. 420 23 July, 1842 Johnson Dennis and Polly, his wife, to Absolom Wyatt a tract called Tribulation on Adelotte's Branch being a branch of the Pocomoke adjoining tract called Pleasant Grove belonging to Absolom Wyatt. It is clear of the mill pond called New Hope Mills.

Absolom Wyatt left a will dated June 15, 1857. He would have probably been in his 80's and some of the will may be missing since it mentions only one daughter and son James. Some of the other children could have predeceased him. He had, according to a deed made by John Wyatt (more on this later) left land to John.

I do not know the parents of Nancy Penniwell even though I have done considerable research on this family name.

The Maryland Mortality Schedule does note that she died during year 1849 in September in the East 4th District at age 78--thus we can assume that she was born in 1771 and was 24 at the time of her marriage in 1795.

The John Wyatt who married Sally Hammond in December of 1836 is the ancestor that I am following.

The children of John and Sally Wyatt were:

Rebecca born in 1838 married William Parker 1-7-1857
Caleb born in 1840 married Narcissa Ellen Dennis 4-4-1864
Mahala born in 1842 married Minos Hammond (More later)
Catherine born in 1843 married Isaac Betts 12-21-1859
Lavinia born in 1848 no other information
Nancy 4/12 born in 1849 married ?Baker died July, 1936

Wicomico Deeds TFJR #3 pg.105 8 October, 1870 Charles R. Hearne from John Wyatt and Sally, his wife lands adjoining the lands of James Whaley, Esquire and Mrs. Nancy Palmer, William A. Dennis, and Benjamin Sheppard called Rackliffe's Discovery and being the same land devised the said John Wyatt by last will and testament of his father, Absolem Wyatt.

John and Sally Wyatt lived on this farm and some of their married children lived there too. One of my aunts gave a deposition to her granddaughter for clearance for government work during the Second World War in which she stated that she was born on this farm located at the eastern boundary of this county not far from Whaleyville.

The 1877 Atlas of Wicomico county locates the farm and residence of C.R. Hearne (also some of the other names listed in the deed) just this side of the Pocomoke River a little south of Sheppardsville.

I do not have the death date for either John or Sally Wyatt, but I know that she was the daughter of William and Catherine Riley Hammond.

Mahala Wyatt and Minos Hammond apply for a marriage license in Worcester County December 13, 1858. They were my grandparents.

In the late 1860s my grandfather bought land near Parsonsburg in the newly formed Wicomico County. He did have property in Salisbury where he sold some of the furniture that he made.

According to his gravestone in the cemetery adjoining the farm, he died 21 October, 1900.

Grandmother Mahala's adjoining gravemarker shows her date of death as 27 December, 1924. I really do not remember her, but have heard her children speak of her so affectionately that I am sure that I would have loved her very much. I have her folding carpet rocker and a vinegar cruet that belonged to her that I prize very highly.

This is the only picture in existence that I have located of Mahala Wyatt Hammond taken with her brother, Caleb Wyatt in front of the barn at Forest Grove probably when she was in her 70's. It seems that she did not get very far from her faithful dog.



My father, Joseph Grafton Hammond was born at Forest Grove Farm on March 10, 1883. He was a ship carpenter, and worked at the Salisbury shipyard for many years. I have the identification disc which he was required to use during the 1st World War to pass into the yard since government vessels were being built. Later, after shipbuilding was in a decline, he worked on housing projects and finally worked as a truckbody builder. He and my mother, Marjorie Driscoll, were married at the Presbyterian Manse on North Division Street in Salisbury by the Rev. Mr. Wilson Beale on December 18, 1913. He died on May 28, 1962, and is buried in Parsons Cemetery.

There were other children in the family, but unfortunately I do not have the family Bible or know its whereabouts so I could not list dates of births, deaths, etc. on them. However, I am in touch with with cousins and plan to give them a copy of this material in order for them to add their own family lines.

✓ The following are some other Wyatt marriage license found:

Andrew B. Wyatt, Elizabeth Mason	8-1-1821	All are Worcester Co.
Margaret Wyatt, James Mitchell	12-14-1821	
Nancy Wyatt, Isaac Donaway	7-30-1823	
Elizabeth Wyatt, Elijah Baker	1-6-1824	
Esther Wyatt, John Mitchell	9-15-1827	
Nancy Wyatt, Thomas Palmer	8-24-1829	
Nathaniel W. Wyatt, Margaret Brickhouse	9-18-1848	
Maria Wyatt, David Coffin	11-3-1848	
Minos Wyatt, Hetty Bowen	1-30-1849	
Nancy Wyatt, Henry Gray	4-21-1853	
William Wyatt, Mary Baker	12-1-1861	

The Caleb Wyatt in the picture married Narcissa Ellen Dennis.

Born New Hope Mill 17 Nov., 1845

Died Crisfield July 5, 1898

Married Willards, Md. 4 Apr., 1864

Their children were:

Edward b. 4 March, 1865, Sallie H. b. 22 Aug., 1867, Charles M. b. 6 Apr., 1870

A. Benson b. 11 Aug., 1877, Wm. B. b. 18 Oct., 1880 Fred L. b. 15 Apr., 1889

The James Wyatt who had been born in 1800 to Absolem and Nancy Wyatt and married Martha Nickerson had a son John Parker Wyatt who married Martha Harmanson.

A descendant of this line told me that it was a family tradition that John Parker Wyatt became Master of the bark, E.S. Powell which was reportedly sunk in New York Harbor by a government ship. However GSA National Archives and Records Service, Judicial and Fiscal Branch, Civil Archives Division states: "We have examined New York Customhouse records of vessel entrances and clearances, and vessel documentation, and found that John P. Wyatt was the master of the Schooner N.W. Smith from 1855 to 1859, and part owner of the vessel from 1858-1866.

During the period that Wyatt was master of the Smith, the vessel was mainly engaged in trade between New York, N.Y. and Charleston, S.C.

We have been unable to locate any information about the loss of the E.S. Powell or John Parker Wyatt's connection with her. This does not necessarily mean that the first incident did not happen, but I have not been able to get official confirmation to date.

John Parker Wyatt did, however, die at the Sailor's Snug Harbor, a home for seafaring men at Staten Island, N.Y. A nephew, also named John P. Wyatt died at this same Sailor's Home 1 January, 1903.

I have consulted the census records and found the following:

1790 Sarah Wayatt (this is census spelling) showing one male under 16 in addition to Absolem. A Lott Wyatt shows in some of the later censuses such 1800, 1810 and 1820. Could he be the other male named? I have no records on him other than the will of Abisha Davis made in 1815 lists land that he bought from Lott Wyatt.

Caleb Wyatt showing 2 free white males over 16 including Head of Household
2 free white males under 16
4 females
3 slaves

I cannot account for his ancestry, but in 1820, a Lemuel Wyatt appears in the census. The only piece of information that I have on him is that he is listed in the militia for the War of 1812 as having served April 21-26 1814 Somerset Co. 23rd Regiment, Captain J. Johnston's Company

Edward Wyatt and Samuel Wyatt appear in Somerset Co. and John Wiat in Worcester co. for the 1840. I have not taken the time to check out these entries since they were not the direct line that I was researching. However, a marriage license application is in Somerset county records for Edward Wyatt--Polly Cox 25 May, 1812.

Additional census records indexes in Delaware all for Sussex Co. show:

1800 Elijah, Joseph and William

1810 James

1820 Joseph, Mary

1830 and 1840 Charles

Notes gathered on other Wyatts

From Somerset Co. Deed Records Book LW 13, page 522, To William Wyatt from Wm. McDaniel and wife Mary land in Dame's Quarter district on road leading from Princess Anne to Deal's Island.

LW 14 page 389 20 January, 1874 Elexine Wyatt, wife of William Wyatt, from Lambert Muir--land in Dames Quarter District.

LW 14 page 466 29 Jan. 1874 Wm. Wyatt and wife Elexine to Lambert Muir--land in Dames Quarter bought by Wyatt from McDaniel.

Gravestones of Wyatts in Delaware from Hudson's Cemetery Records of Sussex Co. Delaware Page 84

James W. Wyatt May 3, 1856 Nov. 20, 1904 Conley M.E. Church

Page 202 Elijah Wyatt Nov. 23, 1843 April 8, 1926 Georgetown Union Cemetery
Nancy E. Wyatt, wife of Elijah L. Wyatt May 26, 1848 Oct. 1, 1926

Page 228 Clara T. Wyatt Jun. 17, 1922 age 46 Georgetown Union Cemetery

Page 451 Wm. J. Wyatt Feb. 22, 1850 Dec. 26, 1915 Lincoln Public Cemetery

Page 613 Robert Wyatt son of Thos. & Hester July 25, 1908 Oct. 6, 1908
Portersville M.P. Church Cemetery

Page 620 Thos. H. Wyatt 1845-1927 Rehobeth in the "Marsh" cemetery
Hannah J. Wyatt 1852

Since these records were made many years ago, I would like to suggest that anyone who wants to check farther on a branch of the family listed above, it might be well to visit these cemeteries as there may be additional graves in these plots which will make a family connection.

Also, in our cemetery checking, we have found the following in Bethel Cemetery just across the Delaware line north of Pittsville--
Nancy Baker b. Dec. 1849 died July, 1936--our family says that this is Nancy Wyatt, sister to my grandmother Mahala and is listed in 1850 census as infant. I remember seeing her when I was about 10 and thought she was such an old, old lady.

Even though I did not find the background on Nancy Penniwell, I am listing the information that I did find on this family--

Will of Richard Penniwell 7-13-1728 4-22-1729

Wife Ann, Sons George, Thomas, Charles, William, Richard, and John

Tests: Stanton Adkins, Jonathon William, William Davis

Land in the above will must have been somewhere near the Indian towns according to the following deed

Book E1 page 104 Nov. 5, 1736

Stanton Adkins from Geo. Truitt land called Forlorn Hope on the north side of the Pocomoke River at head of Askeminicon Neck on easternmost area of a branch where Richard Penniwell now dwells and where Geo. Truitt took up a certain tract of land beside a cypress swamp 250 acres registered in the land office Feb. 20, 1668 for 200 acres of the high land.

John Pennywill is test to will of Thos. Smock Jan., 1775 JW 4 pg. 300

Wm. Smock in his will made Dec. 1771--proved Feb. 1772 JW4 page 135 mentions plantation tract on south side Thos. Penuel's plantation.

Will of Thos. Penniwell Wer. Wills Book J.W. 4 page 487-488 26 Mar.1778
22 Jan.1782

to wife Mary, exec. plantation and her thirds
to daus. Edith, Leah, Rachel, Bridget, Martha, Sarah, Ann Mary
to sons Richard, Mclane, Elisha
wits: Schoelfield Parker, Perthena Bradly, Wm. Porter

JW 4 page 340 John Penniwell is test to will of Wm.Cord 1796-1798. John Penniwell dies 1801 JBR pg.221, Rachel Penniwell wife renounces administration has no child old enough to administer so appoints Elijah Brittingham Bendsmen Elijah Brittingham, Isaac Ayres, John Davis.

In will of Ananias Hudson Feb.1791 Rachel Penniwell is identified as wife of John so Rachel may have been a Hudson.

Thos. Penniwell witnesses will of John Hutson JBR pg.247-8 1801

Matthias Penniwell witnesses will of Joshua Davis JBR (2) 1805

Levi Penniwell witnesses will of Benjamin Hamblin MH(2) 1810-1817

Matthias Penniwell witnesses will of Lemuel Hosier MH(2) pg.440 1815-1820

Will book MH page 86-89 Will of Littleton Robins 1824 mentions land where Purnell Penniwell formerly lived adjoining tract McKimney Penniwell lives-- also plantation formerly held by Capt. Wm. Undrill where McKimney Penniwell now lives (described in will) adjoining Capt. John P. Duffield, John Johnson, Samuel Johnson, Thos. Brittingham.

Same book pg.176-178 Will of Lanta Purnell is witnessed by Purnell Penniwell.

Will Book LPS pg.378 1848 Will of McKimney Penniwell--nephews Elias and Purnell Wesley Penniwell

Sister Lyphel Payne wife of Moses C. Payne

to niece Gatty Tarr wife of Peter Tarr

Littleton R. Purnell, Exec.

Wit: Wm. H. Purnell, Samuel Johnson

Same book page 349-350 Will of Huldah Holston 1842-1847 mentions Elizabeth Penniwell daughter of John

Henry B. Penniwell is test to will of Jacob B. Armstrong 1850 LPS pg.425

Same book page 429 Wm. H. Penniwell is witness to will of Wm.H. Coleburn 1850

Purnell Martin Penniwell born Snow Hill 22 March, 1837 died Oct.1,1923 is buried in the ME Cemetery in Snow Hill, Maryland. He was son of Elias and Adeline Hammond Penniwell.



FOREST GROVE

This is a sketch of the home at Forest Grove as I remember that it looked about 1940. My father, who grew up there, said that it had changed very little in his memory of it. It probably was built before Wicomico became a county. There was the so-called big house, colonnade, and kitchen. *

Even though it was not a large house, there was always room for one more. One of the older aunts was widowed at a young age, and her son, Gordon, went home to Forest Grove to grow up with the grandparents and the younger aunts and uncles who were still at home. As most of the family reached adulthood, they went to Philadelphia to work joining some of the older ones who were already there. Thus, they really felt that they did not leave home in a way but just changed their address. I remember them saying that at one time, eight of the brothers, sisters, or nieces or nephews were living and working in Philadelphia.

And if you wonder how it was possible for a mother to look after a large family, our ancestors had this problem solved too. It seems to have been customary for one of the older girls in the family to undertake the care of the "old" baby when the new infant arrived. So my Aunt Annie, at 13, assumed a great deal of the responsibility for my Dad when he was about 2 and 1/2 years, and Uncle Larry arrived. This made for a very close relationship between these two.

*Don't try to find this house today. As an illustrator, I'm definitely below fourth class. And the house has been completely remodeled, and the farm is now a very modern broiler farm.

I would like to include two family stories from Forest Grove Farm which I feel reflect some of the background of the times. My Aunt Annie told me that once when all the children plus all the hired help had been drafted to do some field work during a busy spring planting time, the tenant's small children had been left up at the house with strict instructions to behave and not to get into mischief. After a while, my grandmother who had a lot of experience with children, sent Aunt Annie to the house to check on the children. Aunt Annie laughed so much when she told what she found--the children were playing seesaw in the well no less taking turns with one in the bucket and two on the sweep. You can imagine the horror that an official of the Environmental Protection Agency would feel now at such pollution of the water supply, but our ancestors were hardy fellows and there is no record of any one being any worse for the game even the children as Aunt Annie said she got them out of mischief and did not "tell on them" either.

There was a Church across the road from the farm and the children often saw funerals taking place there. Some feel now that realism is bad for children, but they must really adjust to it in their own way. The younger children were playing "funeral" one hot day. Every family has one who seems to always get the easy job and Uncle Larry was ours. He was the corpse and spent his time lying in the shade while Uncle George and Aunt Ethel did all the hot jobs such as gathering flowers, setting out chairs, etc. Aunt Ethel, who was quite small, tired of all this activity in time, swatted Uncle Larry and told him, "get up Larry and you do some work while I play I be died for a while". So in our family after a hard day's work, you always played "I be died" till you became somewhat rested.

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