

## Rose and Samuel Waters Family

Rose Waters was born about 1840 in Georgia. In 1870 census she is listed as the housekeeper for Thomas J. Waters in Pinkneyville Gwinnett County Georgia. Also in the household are Luke, Esau and Betsy all covered in other chapters. Others at this address are Elleck Andrews and Polly Andrews. Relationship to Thomas unknown. Both listed as black. Elleck is 18 and Polly age 55.

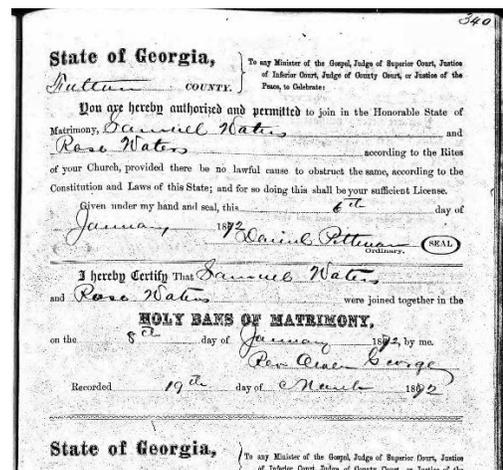
In 1850 there is a Rose Waters, listed in the family of Rory Waters the overseer of the plantation of George M. Waters in Bryan County Georgia. He is the father of Thomas J. Waters and George also had the lands in Gwinnett and Forsyth counties inherited by his son Thomas. Rory was listed as Mulatto on the 1850 census and Rose was age 5. No proof that this is the same Rose as the family was freed in 1857 by George Waters Will and chose to go to Liberia. It is known that Jefferson and William Waters returned to Georgia as did some others. One of them may have been Rose.

In 1880 Thomas Waters had left Georgia and sold the plantation during a bankruptcy. By 1880 Rose is married to Samuel Watters a widower. Sam is listed in the previous household on the 1870 census with a daughter Phyllis age 5 and Cippio Watters age 60, possibly his father. Also in this household in 1870 was Harriet Waters age 22 a possible sibling.

Samuel and Rose Waters were married in Fulton County on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January 1872. Copy of marriage seen atringt. They had a daughter Lena Waters born about 1880. Daughter Phyllis was still in the household in 1880 now age 13. Samuel's occupation is that of a blacksmith. On this census it states his parents were born in South Carolina.

In the household in 1900 is only Rose and Samuel. Lena, their daughter, has since married and will be covered later. He owns his property and is still working as a blacksmith. They are still living in Duluth Gwinnett County.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of October 1906 he made his will leaving his property and money to his wife Rosie. Upon her death it went to his daughter Lena. Here is a copy of the will. It should be noted that Samuel Waters was probably wealthy by the standards for most African Americans who were former slaves as testified in this will.



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State of Georgia Gwinnett County  
Last Will and Testament of Sam Waters

I Sam Waters of said State and County being of sound and disposing mind and memory do make this my last will and Testament - Item 1<sup>st</sup> I Give to my beloved Rosie the following property to wit - The house and Lot in the Town of Duluth Ga on which I now live and the Lot adjoining which I bought from the Herrington Estate also one note on J B Lowe for Five Hundred dollars One on J M Knox for Three Hundred dollars one note on H Strickland for Two Hundred dollars and all the Household and Kitchen furniture in my house. Also Fourteen ~~Acres~~ Acres of Land in the Sixth Land District of Gwinnett County adjoining Lands of Mrs H H Miller and Mr T Crumby Five Hundred and Sixty five Dollars The above property I Give to my beloved wife during her life and at her death to go to Leneu Howell and her Heirs Intestate any whereof I have hereto set my hand this 8<sup>th</sup> day of October 1904

Sam<sup>l</sup> Waters

Signed and published by Sam Waters <sup>his</sup> ~~name~~  
as his last will and testament in the presence of the undersigned who subscribed our names hereto as witnesses at the instance and request of said testator and in his presence and in presence of each other this 8<sup>th</sup> day of October 1904

J S Purser  
J M Knox  
G H Baker

State of Georgia Gwinnett County May 1<sup>st</sup> 1905

Samuel Waters died on 17 October 1906 and was buried in Duluth in Goodwin Cemetery. His stone is one of the largest in the cemetery. There was a researcher who came to the Historical Society in Gwinnett looking for information about him but there was no information about how to get in touch. The stone is not in the best of condition now as the top has fallen from the base. But the information on the base is quite good for it's age. Here is a picture of it from the site findagrave.org. Photo added by Craig McCraw



The site looks like a family plot but no other markers are found or recorded in the records.

His will was probated on 7 January 1907 with the following people Evan Howell as principle and John Howell, W.E. Jones and E. Lowe as securities. In the sum of three hundred dollars.

Recorded 11 February 1909.

Rose is listed with her son in law John E. Howell and daughter Lena and their family in 1910 and in 1920. More on Lena later. She is listed as having had 2 children and both living. The second child may have been born between the 1880 and 1900 census and be out of the household during those 20 years. No other child is listed in Sam's will so she may have had a child before her marriage to Sam that is unknown.

Rose died on April 17, 1921 of Pneumonia but she also had cancer. She was listed as 70 years of age. She was buried in Duluth Gwinnett County GA and the informant was Evan Howell. Not sure if this is the same Evan that was in Sam's will or her son in law John Evan Howell. Her grave site has not been found.

