

ANCESTRY AND NOTES ON THE FAMILY OF APRIL WATERS

In putting together my notes on April Waters I wanted to clear up some false impressions. First of all April was not one of the slaves of George Morgan Waters that was freed by his will. He was always in Georgia as far as I can tell. He was however mentioned in the will as part of the legacy to his granddaughters. The second is that April was a male slave and not female as some writers seem to think. Here I tried to include as much documentation as is available.

In the fourth item of George M. Waters will dated 12 March 1851 (see below) the answers to the question why James M. Howell was selling at Sheriff sale on Feb. 3, 1858 some slaves and the Warsaw Ferry property left to his wife Harriett Fitts Howell, one of the grand- daughters mentioned in the will. More might be found if the deeds to Warsaw property or the other lots are found and followed. The property is now part of the park now located at Abbots Bridge. Not sure if records can be found on this Sheriff sale as to where April went or his mother Lucy.

Will note-“Item Four: I give and bequeath in trust for the benefit of my deceased daughter Catherine, the former wife of William H. Fitts, the following slaves to wit: Sawney, his wife Lucy and their children; Bicha, Nanny, August, Ancil, and April and the further issue and increase of the females. I also bequeath and in trust to my qualified executors to my deceased daughter’s children Harriett and Catherine Fitts my plantation called Warsaw in the county containing about 130 acres and three lots in Forsyth County known as numbers 330,331,332 and fractional lot 36.....”

Harriett Fitts married on February 14, 1855 at the age of about age 18 to **James Marion Howell** the son of Nelson Gray Howell and Mary Polly Moody. I have not been able to find a marriage contract or how the property was divided by the trustee’s between Harriett and Catherine. Catherine, also known as Kate, married to James Christian and lived in nearby Bartow County. What is apparent is that by 1858 James M. Howell was selling some of the same at Sheriff’s sale in Gwinnett to settle some debts.

An article printed in the ***Atlanta Intelligence and Examiner*** dated February 3, 1858 on page 2 had a notice of the sheriff sale. Listed were six slaves: a man about 50, a women named **Lucy about 51** and a boy named Oliver age 14, Jane age 12, Sally age 12, **April, a boy age 13** and other things such as horse and buggy, corn and Warsaw Ferry Tract. I have not been able to determine who bought the same but some deeds might be found.

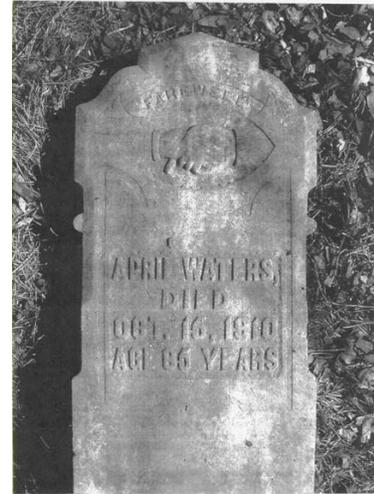
Some researchers continue to think that April is a girl but the records that have been found all list his sex as male. April Waters shows up in Gwinnett County in 1867 with **Return of Qualified Voters** in Goodwin Gwinnett County list 4th precinct 34 election district. On the same page is Thomas J. Waters the son and heir of George Morgan Waters. This is followed by a record in **the Georgia, Returns of Qualified Voters and Reconstruction Oath Books, 1867-1869**. Signed by his mark on August 10, 1867 for 34 Election District.

April shows up as an employee on the farm of P. R. Hutchins in 1872-1875 tax digest. Also working on this farm are: John Waters, Sam Waters, Sampson Waters, and Nelson Waters. More about these families later as these names will come up in the history of the African American Waters lines. Also working here are a James Howell and a Columbus Howell.

In 1880 to 1883 April Waters shows up in a tax digest for Duluth along with other Waters Family members. They include this time Esau, Sam, Nelson, Casper and Jack.

April Waters married a Mittie Howell sometime before 1881 when their son Austin Waters was born. Recorded on the 1880 Census, he is listed as April Waters, a black male about 30 living in Duluth in dwelling 317 and working as a farm laborer and married. The Census must have been taken at work as no wife is listed here.

The next record for him is in 1884 to 1886 Tax List. Here he is working for W. H. Knox and William T. Craig. A note here that Thomas J. Waters sold some of the plantation property in this area to a Craig Family or in later years was known as the Craig sisters property. By this time Thomas J. Waters has removed to New Jersey to join his slave family. They were sent north as they were freed by his father's will. Other Waters working for them with April were Sam, Harry, Esau and Nelson Waters.



No records have been found for April from this time until shortly before his death.

April is found again in 1910 shortly before his death in Coxes Cobb County Georgia. Age about 70 and he is listed as a widower doing odd jobs. His tomb stone gives his death date as October 16, 1910. His age as 85 but all other records put his age at about 70.

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
 GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
 Bureau of Vital Statistics

30-19013
 STATE FILE NUMBER

1 PLACE OF DEATH
 State—Georgia
 County—Duluth Co Ga Militia District No. 1061 Registered No. 3287
 City or Town—Atlanta Ga No. 494 Mougham St. _____ Ward _____
(If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number.)

2 FULL NAME
Austin Waters
 (a) Residence 494 Mougham
Length of residence in city or town where death occurred yrs. mos. da. If NON-RESIDENT give city or town and state of residence.

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS				MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH				
3 SEX <u>Male</u>	4 Color or Race <u>Colored</u>	5 Single, Married, Widowed, or Divorced (circle the word) <u>Married</u>	16 DATE OF DEATH (month, day and year) <u>July 21 1930</u>	17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, that I attended deceased from _____, 19____, to _____, 19____, that I last saw h _____ alive on _____, 19____, and that death occurred, on the date stated above at _____ m. The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows: <u>Subungual tuberculosis</u>				
6a Name of Husband or Wife, if Married, Widowed or Divorced. <u>Minnie Waters</u>	6 DATE OF BIRTH (month, day and year) <u>13/1881</u>	7 AGE Yrs. _____ Mos. _____ Days _____ <u>49</u>	8 OCCUPATION (a) Trade, Profession or particular kind of work (b) General nature of industry, business or establishment in which employed (as employer) <u>Basket Maker</u>					18 Where was disease contracted if not at place of death? Did an operation precede death? _____ Date of _____ Was there an autopsy? _____ What test confirmed diagnosis? (Signed) <u>Dr. J. H. ...</u> <small>(Address) _____</small>
9 BIRTHPLACE (State or County) <u>Winnett Co. Ga</u>	10 NAME OF FATHER <u>April Waters</u>	11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER <u>Winnett Co. Ga</u>	12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <u>Mittie Howell</u>	13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER <u>Milledge Co. Ga</u>	14 The Above is True to the Best of My Knowledge. (Informant) <u>April Waters</u> (Address) <u>494 Mougham St</u>			
15 FILED <u>JUL 28 1930</u>				19 Place of Burial, Cremation, or Removal Date of Burial <u>Hokewell Cemetery July 27, 1930</u>				
16 REGISTRAR <u>Bohannon</u>				20 UNDERTAKER <u>Mundlaugh Ross</u> Address <u>By Otto Fair</u>				

N. B.—WRITE PLAINLY, WITH UNFADING INK.—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in full, and give the name of the patient, and the name of the physician. If death was due to insanity, the name of the hospital should be given.

The only other record connected to April is the death record for his son Austin in 1930. It records s his parent's names as April Waters and Mittie Howell. The informant was his son Cleveland Waters and burial is listed as Hokewell Cemetery. Austin was born in Milton County as was his mother. Father was born in Gwinnett. Austin was listed as a basket maker.

Austin and Mittie's residence in Atlanta Georgia seems to be the heart of the home for the families next generation.

It is possible that Lucy was in the family of James M. Howell and Harriett when she was freedso took the name Howell???

Lucy Howell

Age in 1870: 45

Birth Year: abt 1825

Birthplace: Georgia

Dwelling Number: 783

Home in 1870: Milton, Georgia

Race: Black

Gender: Female

Occupation: Day Laborer

Cannot Read: Y

Cannot Write: Y

Name Age

April Howell 28

Maria Howell 24

Rosey Howell 8

Monroe Howell 4

Austin Howell1

Lucy Howell 45

George Howell

Age in 1870: 14

Birth Year: abt 1856

Birthplace: Georgia

Dwelling Number: 784

Home in 1870: Milton, Georgia

Race: Black

Gender: Male

Occupation: Day Laborer

Cannot Read: Y

Cannot Write: Y

Inferred Father: David Howell

Household Members:

Name Age

David Howell 60

Nelly Howell 16

George Howell 14

Cenith Howell 13

Elvira Howell 11

Matta Howell 9

Amanda Howell 7

Milly Howell 5

Same page is April Howell (Waters) and Family

If April is the son of Sawney and Lucy Waters then this fits as they were inherited by Harriet Fitts Howell from her grandfather George M. Waters. Lucy was later sold by James Howell husband of Harriet.