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The Calvert County Historical Society

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Joseph H. and Arabella Wallace of Calvert County, Civil War Veteran and Family¹

By Carl Fleischhauer

The Siege of Petersburg, Virginia, 1864-1865

The Civil War siege of Petersburg, Virginia, lasted from June 1864 through March 1865. Also known as the Richmond-Petersburg campaign, the nine-month encounter began with Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's unsuccessful Union assault of Petersburg, an important Confederate rail center.²

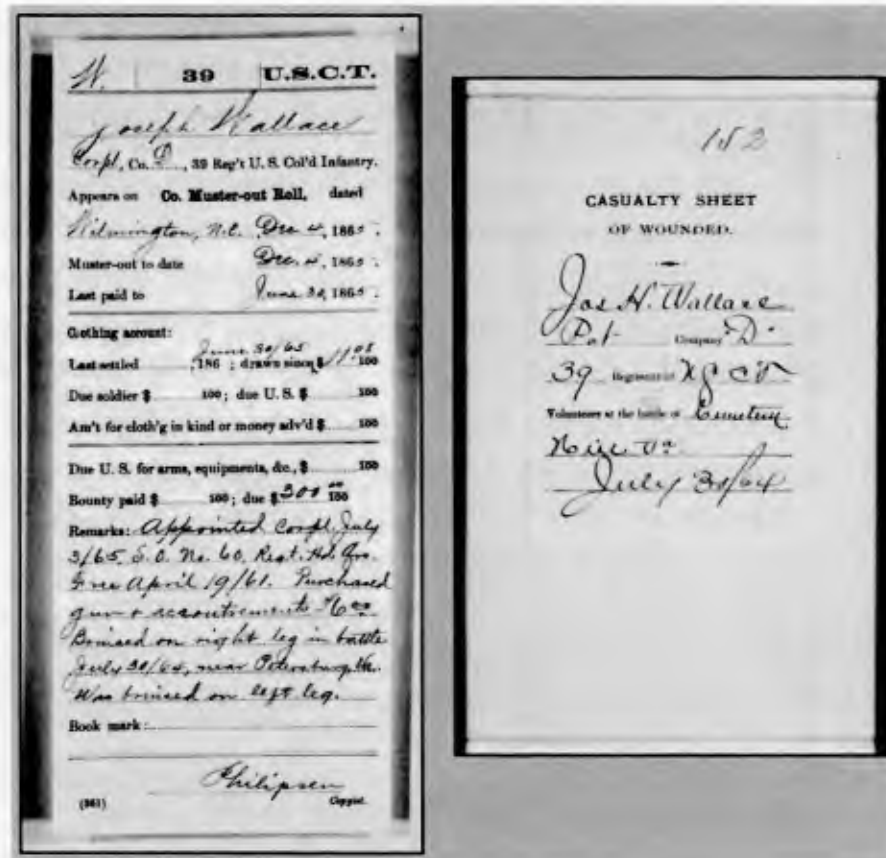
This campaign featured the Civil War's largest concentration of African American troops, who suffered heavy casualties, especially in the Battle of the Crater. Joseph H. Wallace, who lived near Parkers Creek in Calvert County, was one of the Black soldiers at Petersburg. Wallace was wounded in action on Cemetery Hill, a contested location on the battlefield.³ At the time, Wallace held the rank of private in Company D of the 39th Regiment of U.S. Colored Troops (USCT), then attached to 1st Brigade, 4th Division, IX Corps (often written as 9th Corps), Army of the Potomac.⁴

The Battle of the Crater took place on July 30, 1864. According to the historical writer Kyle Nappi, the Union Army planned to tunnel "underneath the Confederate frontlines, detonating explosives, sending thousands of Federal troops over the destroyed rebel trenches, and seizing Petersburg to end the stalemate."⁵ Meanwhile, recent studies have emphasized the role played by Black soldiers in the fray, with "nine Black regiments of roughly 4,500 men . . . selected to lead the attack. However, just hours before the scheduled assault, the

U.S. Army's high command ordered three white divisions to lead the charge; the USCT men would accompany them in the rear. 'Both our officers and men were much disappointed, as it was an opportunity to show what they could do,' reflected a crestfallen . . . officer."⁶

Brett Schulte, a close student of the Richmond-Petersburg campaign, continues the story: "After weeks of preparation, on July 30 the Federals exploded a mine . . . beneath Pegram's Salient, blowing a gap in the Confederate defenses of Petersburg. From this propitious beginning, everything deteriorated rapidly for the Union attackers. Unit after unit charged into and around the crater, where soldiers milled in confusion . . . The break was sealed off, and the Federals were repulsed with severe casualties. [Col. Edward Ferrero's] division of Black soldiers was badly mauled. . . Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside was relieved of command for his role in the debacle."⁷ Regarding Edward Ferrero, Maj. Gen. Winfield S. Hancock's court of inquiry cited Ferrero for "being in a bomb-proof [shelter] habitually, where he could not see the operation of his troops [nor know] the position of two brigades of his division or whether they had taken Cemetery Hill or not."⁸

After the Battle of the Crater, eight additional months of fighting saw significant Union victories. In April 1865, Lee surrendered at Appomattox, about 90 miles to the west. Later that year, many Union military units disbanded and on December 4, 1865, Joseph Wallace mustered out. His mustering-out roll notes that he had been promoted to corporal in July, lists his injuries as bruises to his legs, and reports that he paid six dollars to purchase his "gun and accoutrements."⁹



1 Left: Joseph H. Wallace's military muster-out document that includes "Free April 19/61," a fact that made Wallace eligible for a \$300 bounty above and beyond his pay. Right: Casualty sheet reporting Wallace's wounding at Cemetery Hill, July 30, 1864.

After his discharge, Wallace was eligible for a bonus, indicated in a handwritten note (cryptic to today's readers) on his discharge papers: "Free, April 19/61." This note references the Civil War-era federal government rule that stated, "All persons of color who have been enlisted and mustered into the service of the United States, and are mustered on the rolls as 'free on or before April 19, 1861,' are entitled to bounty as follows . . . If enlisted . . . after October 24, 1863, and

prior to April 1, 1864, \$300." This bounty coexisted with the more notorious system of bounties paid to compensate so-called "loyal slaveowners" for the loss of the labor provided by the enslaved men who enlisted.¹⁰

Joseph Wallace's family background

Our findings concerning Joseph Wallace's parents and family history are tentative. We start with the first-hand testimony his wife Arabella provided in her application for a Civil War widow's pension in 1910, one year after Joseph Wallace's death.¹¹ In her deposition, she states that "his parents were Harry and Jennie (Gray) Wallace; I knew them well; all his people are dead."¹² Thus far, we have been unable to identify persons with those names in census records. Joseph Wallace, identified in the military records as a Free Black, may have been manumitted himself. If he had been born into a Free Black household, however, we would hope to find a listing for one or both of his parents in, say, the 1850 or 1860 census.¹³

Joseph Wallace and Arabella Watts form their own household

Joseph Wallace and Arabella Watts formed a household before the Civil War. In her pension deposition, Arabella states that "Joseph H. Wallace began living with me about three years before the war began, and I had two children by him, Joe and John, before he enlisted. When he came back from the army he began living with me again, and lived with me till he died."¹⁴ In a deposition related to Arabella's pension application, a neighbor and friend named George Gross adds a detail, saying, "Sometime before the Civil War, Arabella Watts began living with Joseph H. Wallace. I saw them living together on the farm of Ock

Bowen, near Governors Run on Chesapeake Bay, a few miles from here."¹⁵

The identities and ages of the two sons are borne out by census records if we forgive slight inexactitude in names and ages. A son named Joseph turns up in three later enumerations, with inferred birth years ranging from 1864 to 1867. A son named James turns up in the 1880 census with an inferred birth year of 1866. Census records for various decades identify five other children born to the couple from about 1868 to about 1880.

Arabella Watts and her daughter, born before meeting Joseph Wallace

According to the 1870 census, the new household also includes a child listed as 10-year-old Mary Wallace. The circumstances of this child's birth, which may have predated 1860 by two or three years, are prominent in several of the 1910 pension-case depositions.

In one deposition, Arabella sketches her circumstances before Mary's birth. "I was born in the neighborhood of Island Creek [in Calvert County]," Arabella says, "about 16 years before the Civil War broke out." This statement places her birth in 1845; other records indicate birth dates from 1837 to 1848. "My father was Frank Watts and my mother was Susan (Brooks) Watts," Arabella continues, and "my mother, a widow, took me to Parker's Creek when I was a child, and I have lived there ever since."¹⁶ Her mother was probably enslaved; we learn from the deposition of 71-year-old Lucretia Parran that (presumably in the mid-to-late 1850s), Arabella Watts herself was "a slave belonging to Miss Howe Clare, an old maid."¹⁷

During these years, Parran attests, Arabella "lived with a slave named Jim Parker . . . and had one child by him named Mary."¹⁸ In his testimony, George Gross says that Arabella was about 15 years old when Mary was born. Meanwhile, Parran states that "Parker belonged to a family named Taylor, living some miles away from the Clare place. Parker was hired out by the Taylors to work for Mr. [John] Dare on his farm [where] Miss Howe Clare [also] lived. In that way, Jim Parker and Arabella Wallace came together. I saw them living together in a little hut near Miss Clare's house."¹⁹

Arabella's own deposition reports that "Jim Parker was working on the farm and came around to see me. I slept in the little log kitchen, which was separate from the house. There was a bed in there. Jim told me he was going to ask Miss Howe for me; that is, ask to live with me. Miss Howe never said anything to me about it, so I don't think he ever asked her. He came in sometimes and slept with me in the kitchen. He had to get up very early to go to work. . . . she asked me who the father was when Mary was born. I told her. She paid the doctor woman who delivered me. She had a 'right smart' to say, Miss Howe did, said I had done wrong."²⁰

Reflecting on this matter, Arabella states, "I had lost my parents and had no one to look after me but my mistress, and I was very young." Her testimony emphasizes the life-long bond and relationship she had with Joseph: "I had known Mr. Wallace before the war. He was born in the Parker's Creek neighborhood. He began courting me before the war began when I was a young girl Joseph H. Wallace and I lived together as man and wife until he died, and were never divorced, nor separated from each other."²¹ And as the 1870 census enumeration of

Mary Wallace indicates, the child was adopted into the then-new Wallace household.

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DEPOSITION A

Case of Arabella Wallace N.O., No. 930,265

On this 26 day of September, 1910, at
Prince Fredericktown, county of Calvert
State of Maryland before me, L. S. Perkins, a
Special Examiner of the Bureau of Pensions, personally appeared
Arabella Wallace, who, being by me first duly sworn to
answer truly all interrogatories propounded to her during this special
examination of aforesaid claim for pension, deposes and says:

1 I do not know how old I am; suppose I am about 65 years
2 old; p.s. Prince Fredericktown, Md.; work in corn and to-
3 bacco fields when able; am the widow of Joseph H. Wallace.
4 I am claiming pension as the widow of Joseph H.
5 Wallace, who served in Co. —, 39th regiment of
6 colored troops, and who died at our home on Parker's
7 Creek near here a year ago. I have not since re-
8 married.

9 I was born in the neighborhood of Island Creek,
10 in this county, about 16 years before the civil war
11 broke out. My father was Frank Watts and my mother
12 was Susan (Brooks) Watts. I have no brother nor sister liv-
13 ing. My mother, a widow, took me to Parker's Creek when
14 I was a child. ~~She~~ and I have lived there ever since.
15 In Parker's Creek church, more than thirty years ago, I mar-
16 ried Joseph H. Wallace. The ceremony was performed
17 by Bro. — Walker. Among those present at my wedding
18 were Jerry Boats, Alonzo Bell and Mary E. Brooks.
19 Written and Subscribed at Prince Fredericktown, Md., this 26 day of September, 1910.

2 Detail from the first page of Arabella Wallace's deposition to determine her eligibility for a widow's pension. From pension file 930265, deposition made 26 September 1910, held by the National Archives and Records Administration

If Arabella was enslaved by Howe Clare, was she manumitted before she and Joseph established their household? Or was their initial life together on the Ock Bowen farm as a free man and still-enslaved woman? The depositions do not answer these questions; we hope additional research will provide the missing information.

Joseph and Arabella Wallace were formally married by the Rev. Charles W. Walker on May 3, 1877.²² In another pension-file deposition, neighbor and friend Jerry Boots states that he "was present when the two were married to each other in the Parker's Creek church, over 30 years ago. I heard the ceremony said by the preacher Reverend Charles Walker." The reference is not clear, but we assume the church was an early instantiation of the Parkers Creek church affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and later known as Brown's Church. Fundraising for a Brown's Church building got under way in 1886²³ and, as described later in this article, Joseph Wallace is named as a trustee of that church in an 1884 deed.

In the end, Arabella Wallace's application for the widow's pension was successful; the approval form was signed in September 1910, one year after Joseph Wallace's death.²⁴

Buying farmland, moving to the north side of Parkers Creek

The names of adjacent households in census listings indicate that the Wallace family lived south of Parkers Creek in 1870 and 1880. Between 1880 and 1899, Joseph Wallace bought his first property, located north of Parkers Creek, and the family moved to their new farm. In this purchase, Wallace was part of a larger trend in the decades after the Civil War, when many African Americans bought land.²⁵ In Wallace's case, the specific purchase date and other details

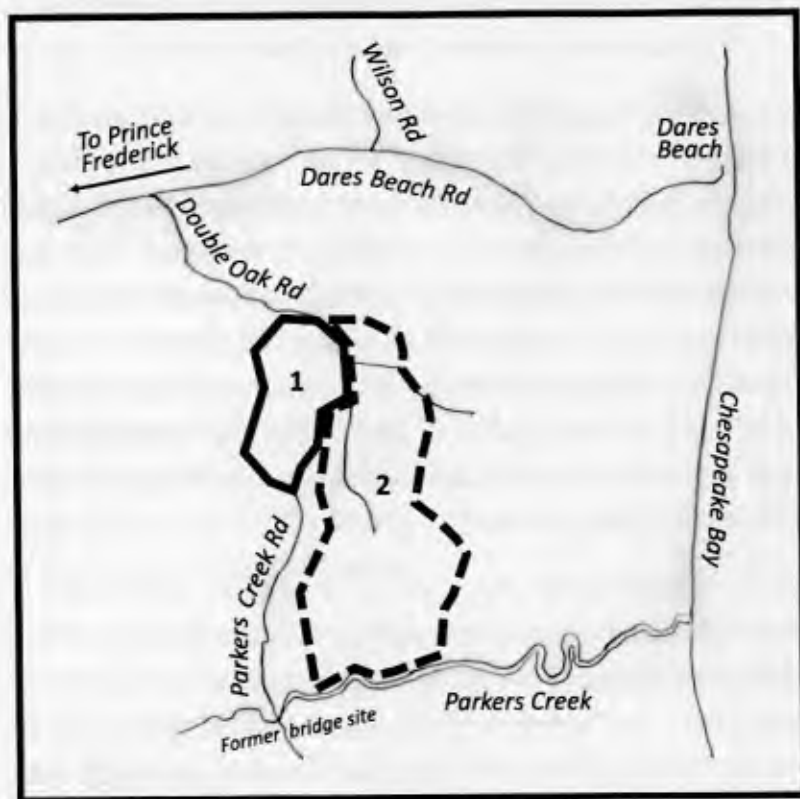
are difficult to determine due to the loss of two sets of governmental records: Calvert County's land records were destroyed in an 1882 courthouse fire and the county's 1890 census records were lost in a 1921 fire in the U.S. Commerce Department Building in Washington DC.

What we know about Joseph Wallace's first land purchase comes from an 1899 mortgage. In that year, Wallace put up his 63-acre property as collateral when he borrowed \$124 from Isaac P. Bowen. The mortgage states that Wallace had bought this land--date not provided--from George T. Freeland (1835-1892) and his wife Wilhelmina Lyles Freeland (1840-1919), members of an extended white family still resident north of Parkers Creek.²⁶ Meanwhile, later agreements and deeds report the acreage of Wallace's first acquisition as 73²⁷ or 54.²⁸ In one document, we learn where Wallace's dwelling stood: he describes this property as the "tract of land on which I reside."

By 1900, the six oldest children seem to have moved on. That year's census reports that Joseph and Arabella's household includes their two youngest children: daughter Ann (listed elsewhere as Annie), age 19, and son Daniel, age 24. The enumeration also includes Daniel's wife Ella and that couple's two boys, McKinley and Clarence. Although not the oldest of Joseph and Arabella's sons, Daniel's presence in the household in 1900 is consistent with later information, provided below, that positions him as taking over the farm after his father's death.

In 1901, Joseph Wallace bought a second property deeded as containing 200 acres;²⁹ later surveys suggest that this land may have contained as much as 230 acres. There is some uncertainty about boundaries for both Wallace tracts, and the map that illustrates this

article is based on the study of the likely (albeit also uncertain) boundaries of adjacent land and of surveys from later sales of segments of what had been Wallace's land.



³ Joseph Wallace's property north of Parkers Creek. Various records describe tract 1, purchased between 1880 and 1899, as containing 54 - 73 acres; tract 2, purchased 1901, containing 200 - 230 acres. Names in this map are those in use in 2023.

Joseph Wallace as school cofounder, church trustee, and benevolent-society member

Just as African Americans were eager to buy land after the Civil War, they were also eager to advance the education of their children. In

this, they were sometimes supported by the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, usually referred to as the *Freedmen's Bureau*, founded in 1865 to assist African Americans after Emancipation. The one-room Parkers Creek Colored School was a beneficiary of Freedmen's Bureau assistance.³⁰

The Parkers Creek School story begins in 1867, with Samuel B. Wilson's \$50 sale of one acre of land to a newly formed group of school trustees, which included Joseph Wallace and five other men.³¹ As it turned out, county authorities later determined that the establishment of this set of trustees had not followed correct legal protocols and, in 1884, Wilson re-deeded the same land to a group of five men described as "trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States of America for Parkers Creek Church," later known as Brown's Church.³² Joseph Wallace is the only man who appears as a member of both sets of trustees, and these actions connect him to the establishment of both the school and the church.

Joseph Wallace was also a member of the Grand United Order of Galilean Fishermen, a benevolent society founded in Baltimore in 1856 that established homes for orphans, the elderly, and disabled persons, as well as providing expenses for the sick, widows, and funerals.³³ The group was organized into *tabernacles*, and post-Civil War Calvert County was home to a handful of Galilean Fishermen tabernacles. Tabernacle 809 was associated with Brown's Church. For example, the July 22, 1911, issue of the *Calvert Gazette* carried this announcement, "The annual turnout of Morning Glory Tabernacle No. 809, of the Order of Galilean Fishermen will be held at Browns M.E. Church Sunday, July 23, at 11 A. M. All the tabernacles of the county are invited to attend."

Joseph Wallace's membership in this tabernacle is mentioned in his obituary, quoted below, and the Wallace family connections to the group are also part of a 1916 real estate transaction, described below, that followed Joseph Wallace's death.

Joseph Wallace dies in 1909; Arabella Wallace dies in 1923

Joseph Wallace died on September 27, 1909. His obituary in the October 2, 1909, issue of the *Calvert Gazette* gives his age as 73, indicating a birth year of 1836.

Obituary. Joseph H. Wallace, a well-known colored man of the Second District, died early Monday morning at his home on Parker's creek, aged about 73 years. He was a civil war veteran, and for many years drew a government pension. He invested much of his income in real estate and had acquired some three hundred acres of land. His funeral took place at Brown's Church Tuesday afternoon and was conducted by Rev. H.A. Johnson. The order of Galilean Fishermen, of which the deceased was a member, and many others attended the funeral.

We have not turned up an obituary for Arabella Wallace. A record of her death, however, is in the Maryland Department of Health collection at the Maryland State Archives. The entry for Arabella Wallace in this archive reports her death as March 9, 1923, with her age at death as 98.³⁴ This age report is certainly too high; it puts Arabella's birth year as 1825. Other records report more plausible ages that place her birth year as early as 1837 and as late as 1848.³⁵

Land transfers before and after Joseph Wallace's death

Joseph Wallace sold a significant portion of his land in 1908, the year before his death. His health had deteriorated, and this may help account for the sale. The military pension file discussed earlier not only tracks Arabella's application for a widow's pension but also documents Joseph's quest for disability payments beginning in 1889. Medical reports describe his wartime leg injury as a gunshot wound and a 1905 affidavit from the physician Isaac N. King, of Barstow in Calvert County, concludes, "I do not think he is able to do any work at all."³⁶

The 1908 sale transferred a 100-acre tract to Mary E. Brooks.³⁷ Mary and her husband Benjamin Brooks were friends of the Wallaces, and both provided depositions in support of Arabella's 1910 application for the widow's pension. In her testimony, Mary Brooks states her age as 60 and says, "I have known Arabella Wallace . . . ever since I was a little girl; we were both raised in the same neighborhood in this county." She strengthens Arabella's claim to the pension by asserting that neither Arabella nor Joseph Wallace was "married before they married each other. I saw them married to each other a good many years ago . . . at the Parkers Creek church five miles east of here. Preacher Walker performed the ceremony."³⁸

A second tract may have changed hands prior to 1924. We have not found copies of deeds or other formalities but infer that Joseph Wallace, or his wife Arabella after Joseph's death, transferred ownership of a 22-acre tract to their son William Wallace. We believe that this property is the northern portion of Joseph Wallace's first acquisition. Taxes were not paid in 1924 and 1925 and the property was foreclosed. Legal documents identify William Wallace as the

person responsible for paying the taxes.³⁹ The foreclosure resulted in the 1928 sale of the parcel at auction.⁴⁰

Two small parcels were sold by Joseph Wallace's wife and children after his death. In 1916, a 4.5-acre parcel was sold to Albert McCormick, a man who was active at both Brown's Church and in Tabernacle 809 of the Order of Galilean Fishermen.⁴¹ In 1919, there was a second sale, this time of a half-acre to "the trustees of the Order of Galilean Fishermen (Tabernacle No. 809)," identified as Albert McCormick, Ephrim Harrod, and Daniel Wallace. Daniel Wallace, as one of Joseph and Arabella's children, is also named as a co-seller of this lot.⁴² We believe that Tabernacle 809 members planned to build a meeting house but have found no indication that a building was erected.

Daniel Wallace manages the farm

How much land was left after the transfers described above? Variation in the statements found in the relevant deeds, mortgages, and surveys make it impossible to state an exact acreage with confidence. For the purposes of this article, we will say that, at their greatest extent, Joseph Wallace's landholdings represented from 260 to 300 acres.⁴³ Meanwhile, the transfers and sales reported in the preceding section total 127 acres. Thus, the land still in possession of Wallace's heirs in the mid-1920s would have been in the range of 130 to 170 acres. Whatever the exact amount, this was the extent of land farmed by Joseph and Arabella Wallace's son, Daniel.

We have not found a deed or other document that vests Daniel Wallace with the ownership of the land. Evidence indicates, however, that his role was farmer-owner and that he was so perceived by

others. For example, a 1927 deed for an adjoining tract includes this description of that property's boundaries (emphasis added):

"Beginning at a sliped gum tree on the division line . . . thence running with said fence in a northerly direction to the land of George D. Turner, thence . . . in a westerly direction **to the land of Daniel Wallace, thence with the said Wallace's land** in a southerly direction to the land of John W. Scales . . ." ⁴⁴

Meanwhile, Daniel Wallace and his family appear in the 1920 and 1930 censuses. In 1920, the listing includes Daniel, his wife Ella, and eight children. The census record indicates that the Wallaces owned their home free of a mortgage. The household next door includes Daniel's sister Rebecca and her husband, Cornelius Gross. In the 1930 census, Daniel and Ella Wallace are enumerated with five children; the difficult-to-read handwritten mark regarding home ownership may state *unk* (unknown). Rebecca and Cornelius Gross are again next door.⁴⁵

Land lost to foreclosure, Daniel Wallace as recipient of 1934 relief action, death in 1936

The final section of this account is melancholy, no doubt reflecting in part the impact of the Great Depression. The remaining land once owned by Joseph Wallace was lost to foreclosure, followed soon after by the death of Daniel Wallace.

Information about the foreclosure is provided by a pair of documents. The first is a Circuit Court petition that leads off with this sentence: "In the matter of the Tax Sale of Land Assessed in the name of Arabella Wallace by John L. Gibson, Treasurer."⁴⁶ This document asserts that taxes were due in October 1930 and reports that, on April 4, 1931, a

constable "failed to find Arabella Wallace in the 2nd District. Left a copy of within bill with Agent of Arabella Wallace (Cornelius Gross [her son-in-law])" Nowhere does the petition acknowledge Arabella Wallace's 1923 death. The document proceeds to list additional procedural steps, concluding with the auction sale of the land to Hugh W. Ward on January 30, 1934. The petition includes the newspaper advertisement for the auction, which states the extent of the land as 156 acres. The second document that offers information about the foreclosure is Hugh Ward's deed for the land, filed in April 1935, with a property description for 150 acres.⁴⁷ The deed asserts that the Wallaces failed to pay taxes from 1927 to 1930.

After the loss of ownership, Daniel Wallace lived on the property as Hugh Ward's tenant farmer. Wallace needed a workhorse, a necessity addressed by a Depression-era relief agreement he signed in May 1934, between the courthouse land auction and the filing of Ward's deed. The agreement was issued by the Calvert County Welfare Board,⁴⁸ an entity created after the 1933 passage of state-level legislation that established a Board of State Aid and Charities.⁴⁹

To today's readers, the relief agreement's terms and conditions pertaining to the workhorse do not seem very generous:

... the said Board has purchased and hereby loans and agrees to sell [to Wallace] one sorrel horse with a white streak in his forehead beginning about two inches above the level of his eyes and extending toward the tip of his nose for a distance of about eight inches, purchased ... from Frank Brightwell. [Wallace] agrees that he will use said horse in the conduct of his farming operations on the property of Dr. Hugh Ward, in Calvert County, in a careful and humane manner.... [Wallace also] agrees that he will buy said

horse for the sum of one hundred and fifteen dollars (\$115) ... payable ... within fifteen months from this day, with interest

Meanwhile, another stipulation in the agreement sounds like a farm tenancy contract rather than a relief agreement:

[Wallace] agrees that he will plant a crop of tobacco of 30,000 hills of tobacco on said farm, unless prevented by circumstances beyond his control, will properly and seasonably cultivate, harvest, cure, strip, pack and market said crop

Finally, the agreement puts this requirement on the provision of relief:

[Wallace] agrees that during such slack seasons as the Board may designate, he will, if and when requested by the Board, work on such public projects as may be designat[ed] by it, at the rate of (30 cents) thirty cents per hour

Whatever the merits of the agreement, it was not in effect for long: Daniel Wallace died in 1936 at about the age of 59.⁵⁰ Meanwhile, the 1940 census lists Ella Wallace as a 64-year-old widowed mother in the home of her daughter Ada and son-in-law Edward Coats, in Edmonston, Prince George's County, Maryland.

ENDNOTES

¹ Research pertaining to Joseph H. and Arabella Wallace and their family is being carried out within the Parkers Creek Heritage Trail project. The project is an undertaking of the American Chestnut Land Trust, a Calvert County non-profit that preserves the natural and cultural resources of the Parkers Creek and Governors Run watersheds. Project funding has been provided by the

Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, part of the Maryland Historical Trust in the Maryland State Department of Planning.

² Several online sources discuss this campaign, typically citing an extensive supporting literature. For example, see Brett Schulte's *The Siege of Petersburg Online*, <https://www.beyondthecrater.com/>, consulted 24 December 2022, and Kyle Nappi's *Retracing Hallowed Grounds From the Battle of the Crater*,

<https://www.journalofthecivilwarera.org/2021/08/retracing-hallowed-grounds-from-the-battle-of-the-crater/>, consulted 24 December 2022.

Additional information (and many additional links and references) will be found in Wikipedia articles like *Siege of Petersburg*,

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Petersburg, and *Battle of the Crater*,

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_the_Crater, both consulted 24 December 2022.

³ Wallace's middle initial is most often recorded as *H.* However, in volume two of L. Allison Wilmer, J.H. Jarrett, and Geo. W.F. Vernon's 1898 work *History and Roster of Maryland Volunteers, War of 1861-5* the soldier is listed as *Joseph U. Wallace* (p. 271).

⁴ Wilmer, Jarrett, and Vernon, op. cit., pp. 269-271.

⁵ Nappi, op. cit.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Schulte, op. cit.

⁸ Warner, Ezra J., *Generals in Blue: Lives of the Union Commanders*, Louisiana State University Press, 1964, pp. 150-151.

⁹ National Archives and Records Administration, NARA M1993, military service records of volunteer Union soldiers belonging to the 36th through 40th infantry units, United States Colored Troops (USCT). Accessed via Ancestry.com 28 June 2020.

¹⁰ A series of U.S. federal laws and executive orders from 1862 to (at least) 1867 produced a complex record pertaining to the compensation and bounties related to African Americans in the military (or serving the military, e.g., as cooks). One provision—painful to consider—paid bounties to what were termed "loyal slaveowners," most in border states like Maryland, for the loss of their slaves' services. Other provisions, like the one that affected Joseph Wallace, paid a bounty to Free Blacks who enlisted, with the amount

paid dependent upon the specific enlistment dates. See Hampton University's online page *Colored men and their relation to the military service*, <http://lestweforget.hamptonu.edu/page.cfm?uuid=9FEC3269-053B-031B-62012CC699FF9302>, and also <https://www.slcl.org/content/guide-civil-war-slave-compensation-claims-compiled-military-service-records> and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/District_of_Columbia_Compensated_Emanicipation_Act (all consulted 23 January 2023).

¹¹ Wallace pension file 930265, 5 May 1910, from military records held at the National Archives and Records Administration; certificate 709549 issued 4 October 1910. This document was provided to the Parkers Creek Heritage Trail project by researcher Shelby Cowan.

¹² Ibid. Arabella Wallace was deposed on 26 and 27 September 1910.

¹³ There is an 1860 census record for a Free Black, land-owning family near Parkers Creek that includes a 20-year-old man named Joseph Wallace. This household is headed by David and Jane Wallace, both age 60, and seven other younger persons with the surname Wallace. It is possible that Jane Wallace was married more than once: a woman named Jane Wallice [sic] turns up in the 1840 census (about the time of Joseph Wallace's birth) as the head of a household consisting of six "Free Colored Persons."

¹⁴ Wallace pension file, op. cit.

¹⁵ Ibid. Ock Bowen may be Octavius W. Bowen (1812-1882) who lived south of Parkers Creek.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid. Howe Clare may be the Rebecca H. Clare (age 39) listed in the 1850 census as living with Elizabeth M. Clare (47, possibly a sister) in a household on or near Holly Hill, the north-of-Parkers Creek farm occupied by John G. Dare (28) and his mother Elizabeth S. Dare (61). In the 1850 Census of Slave Inhabitants, Elizabeth Clare is listed as the owner of 5 enslaved individuals; in 1860, Rebecca H. Clare is listed with 2 slaves in her household and 3 others living in neighboring households.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid. Jim Parker escaped from enslavement in 1857, at which time he was owned by the Taylor son-in-law Basil Duke Bond, who posted a "runaway" advertisement in the 25 April 1857 issue of the *Baltimore Sun*. Depositions in

the Wallace pension file indicate that Parker was recaptured and sold to a buyer in Georgia.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid. A copy of the Wallace marriage certificate is included in the pension file.

²³ A steamboat excursion to raise money for a church building is announced in the 2 October 1886 issue of the *Calvert Gazette*.

²⁴ Wallace pension file. op. cit.

²⁵ The extensive literature on this topic emphasizes the subsequent loss of much of the land that Blacks had acquired after the Civil War. One survey is provided by the 2001 publication *The Decline (and Revival?) of Black Farmers and Rural Landowners: A Review of the Research Literature*, by Jess Carr Gilbert, Gwen Sharp, and M. Sindy Felin, published by the Land Tenure Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison. The abstract states, "African-Americans as a group went from owning almost no land in the United States after the Civil War to peaking at 15 million acres by 1920. In that year, 14 percent of all US farmers were black. Of these 926,000 black farmers, all but 10,000 were in the South. By 1997, fewer than 20,000, or 1 percent of all farmers, were black, and they owned only about two million acres." (<https://minds.wisconsin.edu/handle/1793/21927>, consulted 19 June 2023).

²⁶ Land record GWD 1-180, index date, 8 November 1899; document date, 11 October 1899.

²⁷ Land record GWD 7-135, recorded 4 January 1907, for the sale of timber to the George D. Turner Lumber Company. Referring to Wallace's first acquisition, the contract states, "First, all that tract of land on which I reside containing seventy-three (73) acres more or less, which I bought of George T. Freeland"

²⁸ The 54-acre figure is based in one clear fact and one inference. In 1935, Hugh Ward bought a two-tract segment of what had been Joseph Wallace's land; the tract west of Parkers Creek Road south of its intersection with Double Oak Road was part of Wallace's first acquisition and was surveyed in 1978 at 32 acres. (The other Ward tract was part of Wallace's second acquisition, described later in this article.) Meanwhile an adjoining parcel

later surveyed at 22 acres belonged to William Wallace until it was foreclosed for non-payment of taxes and sold at auction in 1928 (land record AAH 19/427). We infer that this William Wallace was one of Joseph and Arabella Wallace's children and that he acquired the land from his parents.

²⁹ Land record GWD 2/466, 13 November 1901, for \$500, mortgaged to Isaac Bowen. The description cites adjoining landowners and states that this is "one of the tracts owned by Gilbert Gott . . . deceased."

³⁰ The information on the Parkers Creek Colored School and the 1867 and 1884 deeds is from Mary B. Rockefeller's 2019 book *Early Schools of Calvert County Maryland* (ISBN: 0578582066, 9780578582061), pp. 299-305.

³¹ The Calvert County copy of the deed, recorded as DBMD 2/456, was destroyed in the 1882 courthouse fire. The book *Early Schools of Calvert County* (op. cit.) analyzes a copy held in the Freedmen's Bureau records at the National Archives.

³² The 1884 deed is land record SS 6/335. During the 1880s and 1890s, as the church was being established, it was called *Brown's Methodist Episcopal Church*; after the 1968 merger of the Methodist Episcopal Church and other denominations, it was called *Brown's United Methodist Church*. The church ceased operations in 1972.

³³ For more information, see Tamara L. Brown, Gregory Parks, Clarenda M. Phillips, eds., *African American Fraternities and Sororities: The Legacy and the Vision* (Lexington KY: University Press of Kentucky, 2012; ISBN: 9780813136622), and Theda Skocpol, Ariane Liazos, Marshall Ganz, eds., *The Panorama of African American Federations*, Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press, 2006; DOI: 10.1515/9780691190518-005.

³⁴ Department of Health Bureau of Vital Statistics, Death Record, Index, Counties, 1898-1944, MSA identifier SE58; <http://guide.msa.maryland.gov/pages/series.aspx?action=viewSeries&ID=SE58>, consulted 21 January 2023.

³⁵ Decennial census records for 1870, 1880, 1900, and 1920.

³⁶ Wallace pension file, op. cit.

³⁷ Land record GWD 8/248. More recent surveys indicate an extent of about 134 acres.

³⁸ Wallace pension file, op. cit.

³⁹ Petition No. 477, Circuit Court of Calvert County.

⁴⁰ Land record AAH 19/427.

⁴¹ Land record GWD 16/545.

⁴² Land record AAH 4/12.

⁴³ If we use the mortgages and deeds dating from (or near) the time of acquisition, Joseph Wallace's landholdings represent about 263 acres. Other surveys or statements from later dates bring the total to as much as 304 acres.

⁴⁴ Land record AAH 17/131; this 1927 deed transfers land from C. Lee Packard and Dorothy H. Packard to Julius L. Dorsey.

⁴⁵ In the 1920 census, the Grosses are renters; in 1930, home owners.

⁴⁶ The cover sheet identifies the document as *PETITION No. 714 In the Ct. Ct. for Calvert Co.*, with these added notes, "J. Briscoe Bunting, Attorney at Law . . . filed May 12/34," and "Final Order Filed July 2, 1934." The author's copy was obtained in 2021 from the Clerk of Circuit Court for Calvert County.

⁴⁷ Land record AAH 34/90. A 1976 survey, made two years before Hugh Ward's death, describes the land as consisting of one tract containing 31.910 acres (portion of Joseph Wallace's initial acquisition) and a second tract containing 84.997 acres (portion of Joseph Wallace's second acquisition). In 1975, Ward had sold a 7.5-acre segment. The total surveyed in the 1970s came to 124.407 acres.

⁴⁸ This information is based upon documents and correspondence that Helen Ward Wheeler, Hugh Ward's daughter, sent to the American Chestnut Land Trust in 2002 and to the author in 2022. Wheeler found a copy of the relief agreement among her father's papers after his death in 1978.

⁴⁹ Maryland Manual On-Line website page *Calvert County, Maryland*; <https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/36loc/cal/html/functions/calcommunity.html>, consulted 7 January 2023.

⁵⁰ Department of Health Bureau of Vital Statistics, Death Record, Index, Counties, 1898-1944, MSA identifier SE58, op cit. The Health Bureau record for Daniel Wallace gives his age at death as 59; calculations from earlier census records would make his age in 1936 to be 58, 60, or 62.

Archaeology at Calvert Towne, the first county seat

By Kirsti Uunila

People have lived on the land at the mouth of Battle Creek in Calvert County, Maryland, for hundreds of years, and probably longer than that. Artifacts recovered from the area affirm that it was occupied from at least the Middle Woodland through Contact periods (Glass et al. 2019). It was the dwelling place of indigenous people who hunted, fished, and harvested oysters. European colonizers claimed the land in the 1600s, among them William Berry who owned 500 acres on the north side of Battle Creek.

Calver Towne, also known as Calverton and Battle Town, was among the first towns created in Southern Maryland and was laid out in 1668 on a 20-acre parcel of Berry's land, located right on the water in a sheltered harbor just east of Battle Creek's confluence with the Patuxent River. The town served as the county seat until 1725 when the court functions moved inland to Prince Frederick.

The original 1668 plat of the town has not been found if it still exists, but a dispute about the town boundaries and whether William Berry ever ceded rights to it resulted in a resurvey of the property in 1682 (Boteler and Jones in Glass et al. 2019). Robert Jones, who was the county surveyor, created a plat of the town that included some of the key buildings and residences. The Robert Jones survey plat was the most important documentary source available to plan archaeological investigations.