

*The Waith family
of
Barbados and Guyana*

*and associated families,
mainly in Barbados*

January 2009

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Acknowledgements and Disclaimers

I started researching the Waith family because my son married a Waith whose grandfather was born in Guyana but whose paternal family originated in Barbados. To begin with, although the IGI showed plenty of Waiths in Barbados, there was little to go on, as family links had been broken. However, after an initial breakthrough initiated by some Canadian cousins able to demonstrate a link to Thomas Lewis Waith, I was able to make contact via the internet with Jean Cowie, Stephen Foster and Alex Waith, all of whom have been invaluable in helping to piece the story together. I owe all three a huge debt of gratitude. I would also like to thank Tikwis Begbie (see <http://www.vc.id.au/tb/>) for advice and assistance so readily given to help me interpret what few Guyanan records are available.

Initial research was done using the IGI, but all early entries there were verified by entries on the *English Settlers in Barbados CD*, which covers extant baptisms and marriages up to 1800 and wills until 1725. Later will abstracts were acquired through the good auspices and research of Geraldine Lane, whose book *Tracing Ancestors in Barbados* was a constant guide. Other material has come from LDS films of the later original baptism and marriage registers and the burial registers held by the Family History Centre in Hyde Park. I have also consulted books and documents at the Society of Genealogists and The National Archives.

It is necessary to bear in mind that most remaining records from Barbados only exist as copied or recopied records so may not always completely reflect the originals. While I have made every effort to be accurate in my own transcriptions, I acknowledge that I may also have let errors slip through, and that I may have drawn erroneous conclusions on occasions. I would be delighted to hear from anyone who can correct or add to my research.

I have recently discovered that Lucretia Waith's middle name is Haggett, not Hackett. This has been corrected in the text, but not the trees.

Abbreviations

SoG
TNA

The Society of Genealogists
The National Archives

Background in Barbados

According to David Kent, in his book *Barbados and America*¹:

Colonisation of Barbados began in 1626/7 with the arrival of the *William and Mary*, containing 80 settlers and 10 negro slaves.

A range of people were attracted by the challenges of a new world. Some voluntary migrants were men without masters who left their home parishes to escape hard times. Many of these had their passage paid for them in exchange for a contract of servitude. They assumed that, once settled in Barbados, they would be able to build a comfortable existence, but found conditions a lot harder than anticipated, so there were few 'rags to riches' stories. There were also involuntary migrants, those who were vagrants or convicts, or who were on the wrong side in the various skirmishes that took place around the time of the English Civil War. The planters were better off to begin with, and often had patronage from home. Gary Puckrein², in his book on plantation society writes:

Those who emerged as members of the Barbadian plantocracy had strong ties in the middle and upper strata of English society well before they settled in the colony.

Many of the personalities who appear in this account styled themselves as planters, and certainly by the late 18th and early 19th centuries seem to have had fairly high status. Whether they count as part of the 'plantocracy' or not is perhaps open to conjecture. With the possible exception of one line, I have been unable to discover where they came from before emigrating to Barbados. Puckrein says that once sugar cultivation became firmly established on the island in the mid 1660s, emigrants arrived from a variety of places: England, Ireland, Scotland, France, the Netherlands, Portugal and America.

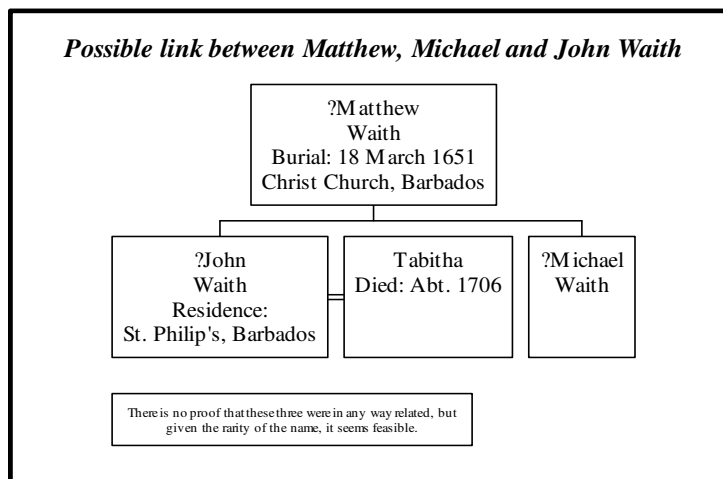
Very few of the early records exist in their original form. A tropical climate took its toll, and what is left is mainly recopied records. Every time something is transcribed, the margin for error increases, so sometimes a speculation is the best that can be managed. Where the records are incomplete, I have researched laterally, in the hope that another branch of the family will supply clues to the missing details.

¹ SoG, WI/C2, *Barbados and America*, David L. Kent

² *Little England: Plantation Society and Anglo-Barbadian Politics 1627-1700*, Gary A Puckrein, New York University Press, New York, 1984

Matthew Waith?

The earliest reference to anyone with the name Waith that I have found on Barbados is in the burial of Matthew Waith at Christ Church, on 18th March, 1651, only some 25 years after the first English colonists appeared on the island, so unless he died shortly after arrival, which is possible, he was part of the earliest influx of immigrants to the island. He may have been the father or brother of one Michael Waith, who was mentioned as a friend in the will of Andrew Walmsley³ in 1674. However, I have found no further reference to either of these men, in Barbados or England. There are many theories as to where this family originated: in Wales or the Herefordshire borders, where there are several later Waith lines; from the village of Waith in Lincolnshire; as prisoners from Scotland or Ireland following one of the many battles which took place during the Civil War period – though this is unlikely if Matthew is part of the clan; or from somewhere else in England. However, nothing has yet come to light which gives any real clue as to the origins of this family.



John¹ Waith

It is also possible that Matthew Waith was the father of John¹ Waith, who, with a wife named Tabitha, can be shown to be the ancestor of all the Waiths traced in this account. The baptisms of his children show him to have been living in Barbados in the 1670s, but there is no record of John¹ Waith in the 1680 census⁴, or on any of the maps which have family names inscribed on

³ *Barbados Records: Wills, 1639-1725*. Vols. 1-3. Joanne McRee Sanders, Baltimore, MD, USA: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1979-1981, Will of Andrew Walmsley, 1674

⁴ <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~brbwgw/1680CensusR-Z.htm>

them (Ligon⁵, 1657; Lee and Sellar⁶, 1685, Mayo⁷, 1717.) Nor does his signature appear on the Association Oath Roll of 1695⁸. Whether this implies that he was not of sufficient status to be recorded or that the information is incomplete is not known.

An early survey gives interesting background information about the Barbados John Waith would have known. *An Account of Barbados and the Government thereof*⁹ notes that 338 ships were recorded as trading to the island in one month up to the end of September 1683, suggesting a lot of coming and going even at this early date. Some of the items imported included 325 free men, 385 servants, 3,995 negroes. At the same time, 285 free persons were exported to the plantations and 161 to Europe.

Dutton numbers the inhabitants of Barbados at this time as follows:

White men	7,235
White male children	3,687
White women and female children	8,646
Total	19,568
Negroes	46,204
Mulattoes	5,326
Indians	16,172
Total	46,502
In all	66,070

If we assume that there were approximately as many female as male children, wives were clearly at something of a premium at this time, although there were many family units. Dutton describes St. Philip's parish as having:

510 families and housekeepers; 2365 free persons; 206 unfree and servants; 5181 slaves; 802 men able to bear arms; 13,400 acres of land useful & posse't; 31 sugar works.

The same document records 28 marriages, 46 baptisms and 90 burials at St. Philip's in 1683, more than in many small communities back in England. As with other parishes, St. Philip's was entitled to send two men to the National Assembly.

⁵ British Library, Maps K.Top.123.114, *A Topographical Description and Admeasurement of the Yland of Barbados in the West Indyaes. With the names of the Seuerall plantacons*, London, 1657

⁶ British Library, Maps C.27.d.17.(36.), *A New Map of the Island of Barbadoes, wherein every Parish, Plantation, Watermill & Cattlemill, is described with the name of the present possessor, and all things els [sic] remarkable according to a late Exact Surveye thereof*. Philip Lea and John Seller, London 1685

⁷ British Library, Maps K.Top.123.117.2, *A New and Exact Map of the Island of Barbados in America according to an actual and accurate surveye made in the years 1717 - 1721*, William Mayo, London 1722

⁸ <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~brbwgw/AssocOath.htm>

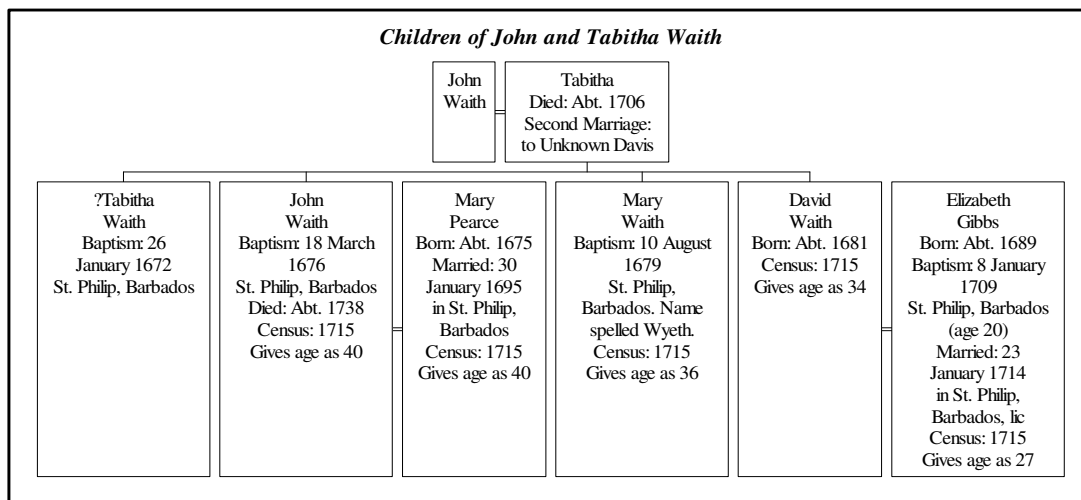
⁹ British Library, Sloane MS 2441, *An Account of Barbados and the Government thereof*, Sir Richard Dutton, 1683-4

*Sugar and Slaves*¹⁰ gives the following figures for the white population:

1655	c 23,000
1673	21,309
1676	21,725
1684	19,568
1712	12,528
1715	16,588

which reflects that fact that, after initial euphoria amongst immigrants, many discovered that making their fortune through tobacco or sugar was harder than they had anticipated, and that some moved on elsewhere or simply failed to survive.

However, John¹ and his wife Tabitha either arrived on the island sometime in the second half of the 17th century, or were born on the island and stayed despite difficult times. A Tabitha 'White' was baptized at St. Philip's on 26th January 1672. Given that her parents are recorded as John and Tabitha, it is just possible that she was the eldest child of new residents and that the clerk or the later transcriber wrote the surname down wrongly. Certainly, there seem to be no White siblings for Tabitha. However, I have found no further reference to her, and she may not be part of this family.



The first certain child of John¹ and Tabitha Waith was John², baptized at St. Philip's on 18th March 1676. He was followed by Mary (surname recorded as Wyath which may reflect the pronunciation at the time), baptized on 10th August 1679, and David, whose baptism is not recorded, but who was born around 1681. About a hundred years later, David's grandson and

¹⁰ *Sugar and Slaves: the Rise of the Planter Class in the English West Indies, 1624 – 1713*, Richard S Dunn, Jonathan Cape, London, 1973

John²'s granddaughter married (see page 36), doubling the Waith genetic inheritance to their descendants.

There is no record of John¹'s burial. However, his wife Tabitha must have remarried after his death, for, as Tabitha Davis, she left a will¹¹ at St. Philip's. This was written on 8th July 1706 and proved an incredibly short six days later. There was a bequest to son John Davis of 30lbs (sic) - the amount of the estate of his father John Davis deceased. Also receiving bequests were daughter Elizabeth Davis and widowed daughter Velitta (Violetta) Briggs. I imagine these were step-children, as the remainder of the estate went to her children Mary and David Waith, who were named as executors. Tabitha marked the will rather than signing, and the document was witnessed by Thomas Hunte, Nathaniel Clarke and John Wake.

The Pearce line

John² Waith married Mary Pearce at St. Philip's on 30th January 1695 (their names appear as Wayth and Peirce in the register). Mary was the eldest daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Pearce. There was a Peers family which held various offices in Barbados, including Deputy Governor and councillor. However, Pearce, in various forms, seems to have been a common name on the island, so there is probably no connection, although our Thomas could be the one mentioned in Hotten¹² as holding 6 acres and owning 4 negroes in St. Philip's.

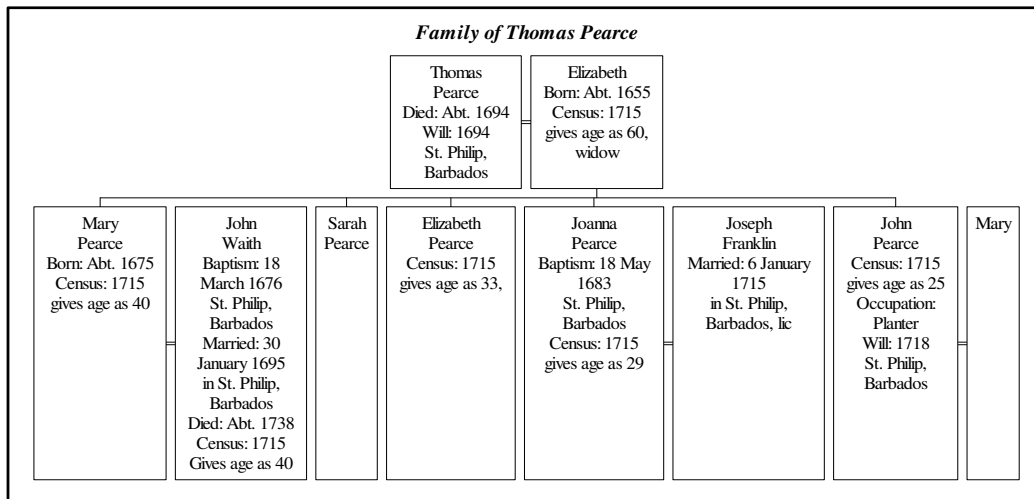
It is certainly this Thomas whose will¹³ of 16th January 1694 mentions eldest daughter Mary Pearce, three further daughters: Sarah, Elizabeth and Joannah, their brother John, and names their mother, Elizabeth Pearce, as executrix. It was signed Thos Pearce and witnessed by, among others, John Davis. His widow Elizabeth, aged 60, and unmarried daughters Elizabeth, 33, and Joannah, 29, appear twenty years later on the 1715 census¹⁴ in the parish.

¹¹ *Barbados Records: Wills, 1639-1725*. Vols. 1-3. Joanne McRee Sanders, Baltimore, MD, USA: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1979-1981. Will of Tabitha Davies, widow of St. Philip's, 1706, RB6/35 p 399

¹² *Omitted Chapters from Hotten's Original List of Persons of Quality and others who went from Great Britain to the American Plantations* James C Brandow, Baltimore MD, USA Genealogical Publishing Co. 2001, St. Philip's 'An Account of the Inhabitants' 1680

¹³ *Barbados Records: Wills, 1639-1725*. Vols. 1-3. Joanne McRee Sanders, Baltimore, MD, USA: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1979-1981. Will of Thomas Pearce St. Philip's, 1694, RB6/11 p. 406

¹⁴ *Barbados and America* David L. Kent Censuses for 1679/80 & 1715, David L Kent, Arlington VA, 1980. Also: TNA, State Papers, Colonial Office General Class 1, piece 44, no 47, f 141-379, and State Papers, Colonial Office Class 28, piece 16 no. 2, f 100-375



Son John later wrote his own will¹⁵ on 26th December 1718, in which his occupation was given as planter. The first bequest went to:

Wife Mary Pearce, things that were her own before our marriage

but he also mentioned:

the child my wife is now with; cousin John Waith; my sisters Mary Waith, wife of John Waith, Sarah Hamden, Eliza. Pearce, and Joanah Franklyn the wife of Joseph Franklyn

His wife Mary and brothers-in-law John Waith and Joseph Franklyn were named as executors, and like his father, John signed the will. His wife Mary (who made her mark) was one witness; the other was Joseph Bailey. The will was proved on 19th November 1718. There is some confusion over his relationship to John² in the wording of the will, but I suspect he may have used the terms cousin and brother-in-law interchangeably.

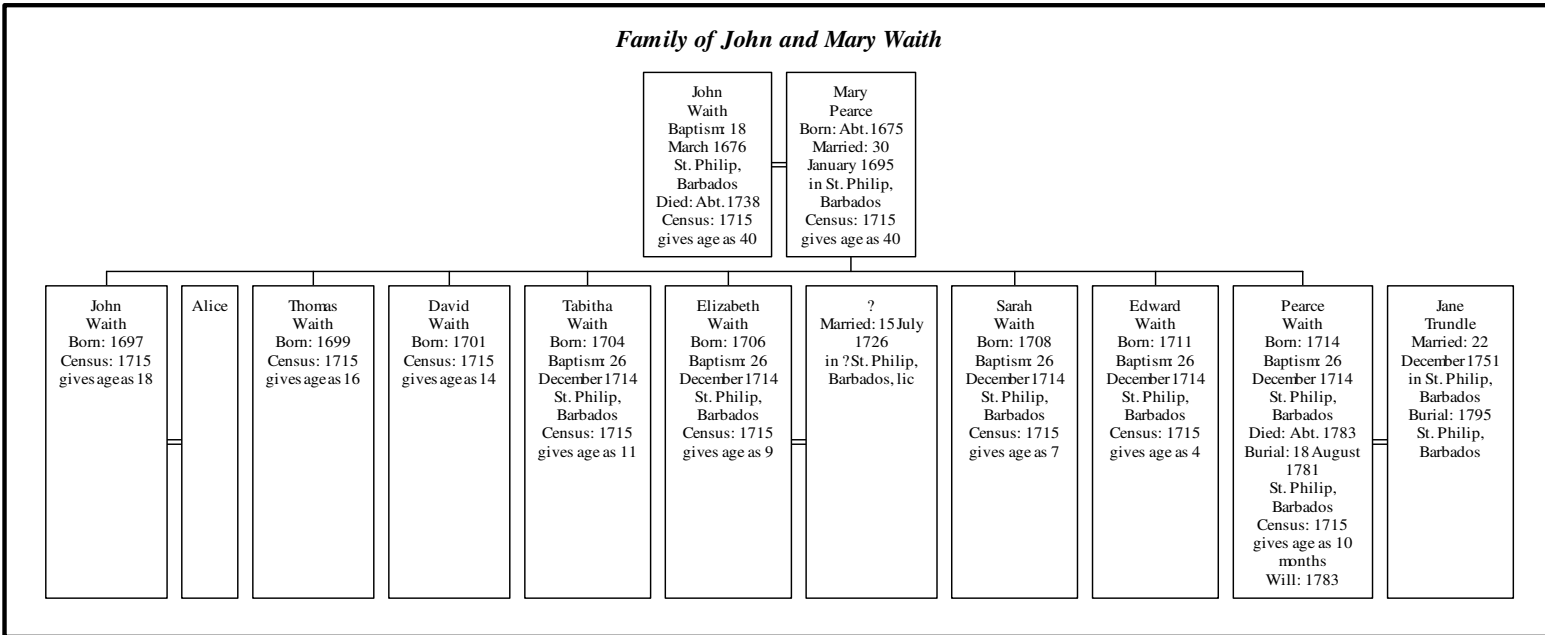
John² Waith

Baptised in 1676, John² Waith also appears on the census of 1715¹⁶ in St. Philip's parish (p. 248). The entry lists him with his family, and with the title 'Mr', which suggested some status at this time:

¹⁵ *Barbados Records: Wills, 1639-1725*. Vols. 1-3. Joanne McRee Sanders, Baltimore, MD, USA: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1979-1981. Will of Thomas Pearce St. Philip's, Will of John Pearce planter, St. Philip, 1718. RB6/4 p 418.

¹⁶ *Barbados and America* David L. Kent Censuses for 1679/80 & 1715, David L Kent, Arlington VA, 1980. Also: TNA, State Papers, Colonial Office General Class 1, piece 44, no 47, f 141-379, and State Papers, Colonial Office Class 28, piece 16 no. 2, f 100-375

Family of John and Mary Waith



Mr John Waith	40
Mrs Mary Waith	40
Thomas Waith	16
David Waith	14
Tabitha Waith	11
Elizabeth Waith	9
Sarah Waith	7
Edward Waith	4
Pearce Waith	1

A few pages on his brother David is listed, with wife Elizabeth and sister Mary.

No baptisms are extant for John² and Mary's first three children, John³, Thomas and David, but from the census we can surmise probable birth years of 1697, 1699 and 1701. Baptisms in Barbados are not always helpful in working out years of birth, as it was often the custom to baptize several children together, as with the remaining children, Tabitha, Elizabeth, Sarah, Edward and Pearce, who were all baptized at St. Philip on 26th December 1714. Their likely approximate years of birth were 1704, 1706, 1708, 1711 and 1714.

The only other evidence we have of John²'s life comes from his will¹⁷ in 1738. The abstract below has been transcribed from the Recopied Records.

My son John Waith - 5 shillings
 My son David Waith - 5 shillings, estate
 My son Edward Waith - 11 acres of land plantation, buildings and
 1/2 of my negro slaves
 My son Pearce Waith - 10 acres of land and 1/2 of all my negro
 slaves
 My sister Mary Waith - to live on my estate and be supported
 and maintained out of the profits thereof
 My wife Mary - 1/3 of my land, buildings and negro slaves

Witnesses, John Saer, Elliot Saer jnr
 Will dated 8th September 1738.

These details are frustratingly scanty, and don't quite add up, but do show John² owning over 20 acres of land in plantation. The fact that his two eldest surviving sons receive only 5 shillings apiece suggests that they had already been provided for (though the word 'estate' by David's name is puzzling). Presumably, then, at some earlier date, John² owned other land that he passed on to John³ and David before his death.

¹⁷ Barbados Department of Archives: Recopied Record Book Ref: RB6/27/495, Will of John Waith, Sty. Philip's. 1738

The fact that John²'s next son, Thomas, does not appear in the will suggests an early death, and although David lived to be mentioned, I have found no marriage for him and no further record of him. The next child, Elizabeth, was married at St. Philip by license on 15th July 1726, but her husband's name is no longer legible in the register. Sarah also disappears from sight after the 1715 census, and nothing more is known of Edward and his 11 acres of land.

The youngest child, Pearce¹, lived to marry Jane Trundle and father a large family. His line is followed later (see page 18).

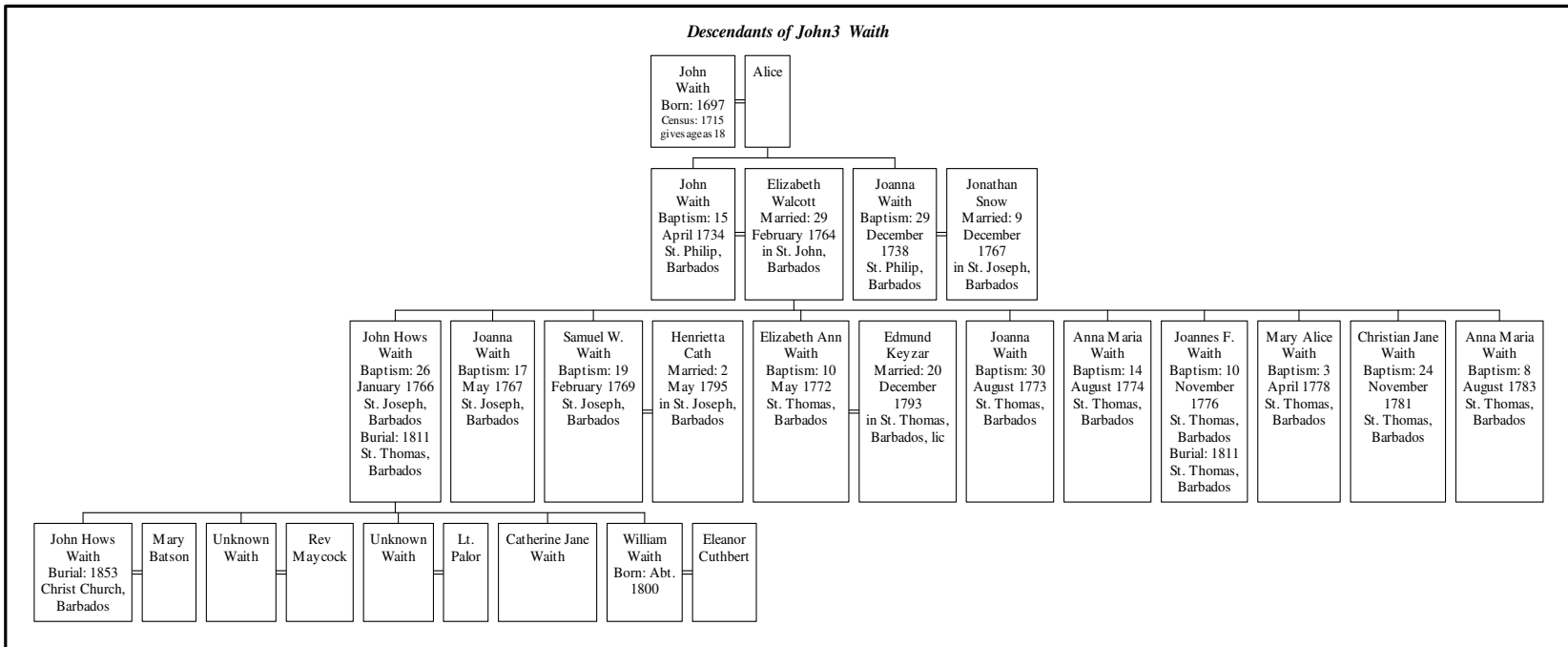
John³ Waith and his descendants.

John³ also appears on the 1715 census¹⁸, but by himself rather than with his family. His age is given as 18 and he is listed as Mr John Waith junior, which effectively ties him to John². His wife was named Alice, and they had two children: John⁴, baptized 15th April 1734 at St. Philip's and Joanna, named maybe after her aunt, and baptized 29th December 1738 at St. Philip's. She married Jonathan Snow at St. Joseph on 9th December 1767. Her brother, John⁴ married Elizabeth Walcott on 29th February 1764 at St. John's, and they baptized 10 children, not all of whom survived infancy.

Three of these children were baptized at St. Joseph: John Hows Waith – 26th January 1766, Joanna – 17th May 1767 and Samuel Walcott Waith – 19th February 1769. The rest were baptized at St. Thomas: Elizabeth Ann - 10th May 1772, Joanna – 30th August 1773, Anna Maria – 14th August 1774, Joannes Franklyn Waith – 10th November 1776, Mary Alice – 3rd April 1778, Christian Jane – 24th November 1781 and another Anna Maria – 8th August 1783. Presumably the altered spelling of Joanna and the insertion of the second name Franklyn in memory of a several times great aunt was an attempt to avoid the fate of the two earlier Joannas. However, although she reached adulthood, she died at a relatively young age and was buried at St. Thomas in 1811.

Of her siblings, John Hows Waith also died young, being buried in St. Thomas in 1801. However, he did marry and raise a family. My information on his children is scanty, and comes from a rough tree drawn up by Lucretia Haggett Waith (see page 53) and passed down through another branch of Waiths to Alex Waith and his cousin Stephen Foster. The eldest son was another John Hows, who married Mary Batson (see page 20).

¹⁸ *Barbados and America* David L. Kent Censuses for 1679/80 & 1715, David L Kent, Arlington VA, 1980. Also: TNA, State Papers, Colonial Office General Class 1, piece 44, no 47, f 141-379, and State Papers, Colonial Office Class 28, piece 16 no. 2, f 100-375



According to the 'passed down' trees, this Mary was the daughter of Richard Smitten Batson and Rebecca Waith -the daughter of John³'s youngest brother, Pearce (see page 18). The surname Batson will appear later in the account, but I have not been able to find a link between Mary and the Margaret Batson who married John Hows' second cousin once removed, Thomas Lewis Waith (see page 41). There are two unnamed sisters on the tree, one of whom apparently married Reverend Maycock, and the other Lieutenant Pallor. A third sister was named Catherine Jane, and a brother, named William was born around the turn of the century. The handwritten tree has him married to 'Miss Cuthbert'. From a posting on *Rootsweb*¹⁹, I suspect that this is Elanor Cuthbert, that William's middle name was Francis, and that he was buried in 1839 in St. Mark's, the Bowery, NYC. However, another posting suggests that William Francis Waith was the descendant of slaves, so there may be some mis-information here.

Two others of John³'s children's marriages have been traced: Samuel Walcott Waith's to Henrietta Cath at St. Joseph on 2nd May 1795 and Elizabeth Ann's to Edmund Keysar on 20th December 1793 at St. Thomas.

John⁴'s widow, Elizabeth, John Hows (junior, I assume), William Francis, Anna Maria and Christian Jane appear together presumably as a family unit in the index for the Slave Registers²⁰ of St. Michael's parish in 1817, showing a total of 23 slaves between them.

	Parish	folio	volume	no. of slaves
Waith Eliz: JH & Wm Fr	M	574	1	11
Anna Maria	M	585	1	8
Christian Jane	M	587	1	4

Presumably John⁴ was dead by this time, and by 1826, only John Hows Waith junior and Christian Jane are listed in the Slave Register index²¹.

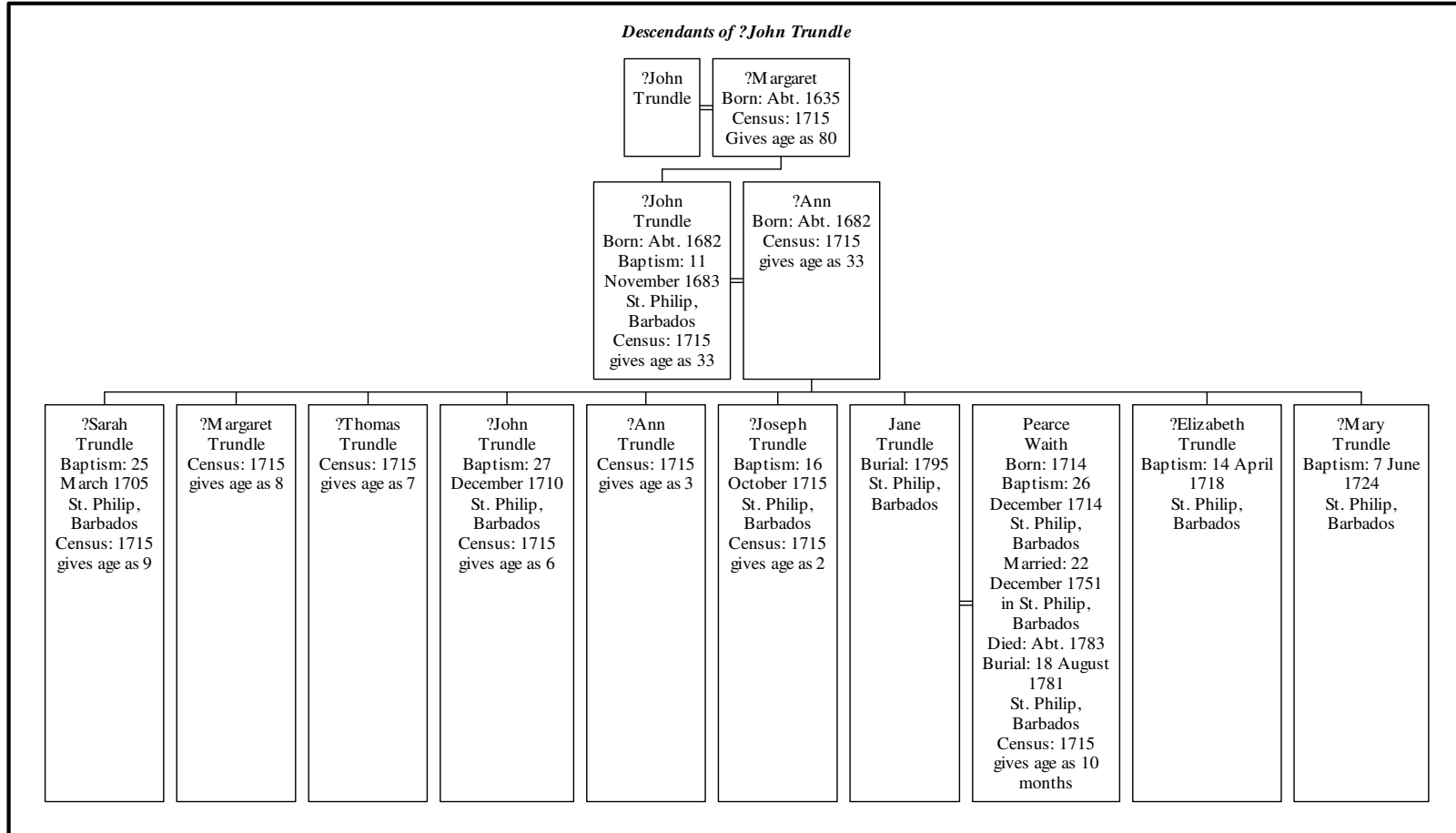
	Parish		M	F	Total
Waith Christian Jane	St. Michael	f 207 vol 2	2	6	8
Waith John H	St. Michael	f 229 vol 2	5	12	17

I have not followed this branch further.

¹⁹ <http://boards.rootsweb.com/>

²⁰ TNA, T71/523, Index to Slave Register - Barbadoes 1817

²¹ TNA, T71/539, Index to Slave Registers - Barbados 1826



The Trundle line

Pearce¹ Waith married a girl named Jane Trundle. She was presumably younger than her husband, as she is not recorded in the 1715 census. However, there is only one family of Trundles appearing on the St. Philip's portion of the census²² and none that I could see elsewhere, so it seems reasonable to think that this is Jane's family. The family unit consisted of: John Trundle - 33, Ann 33, Mrs Margaret Trundle, widow - 80, Sarah - 9, Margaret - 8, Thomas - 7, John - 6, Ann - 3, Joseph - 2. I presume that John and Ann are Jane's parents and Margaret her grandmother, but of course, this can't be proven.

There are two later baptisms of daughters of John Trundle, which makes it doubly annoying that Jane's baptism is missing. Elizabeth was baptized on 14th April 1718, and Elizabeth on 7th June 1724 (both St. Philip's). There is also a baptism recorded in the St. Philip's on 11th November 1683 of the son of John and Margaret Trendle. Given that this would tally with his age, I suspect the name now illegible in the register was John.

This earlier John does, I think, appear on the 1680 census²³ at St. Philip, with 8 acres and 2 negroes, slightly mis-transcribed as:

Trund.r John

I suspect it was this John Trundle who witnessed the will of William Boone²⁴ in St. Philip in 1701. He made his mark rather than signing.

There is a marriage recorded between a John Trundell and Joan Therston on 20th October 1653 at Christchurch. It is tempting to see them as parents of the John who married Margaret. However, if Margaret really was 80 in 1715, she would have been born around 1635, so maybe she was a second wife and Joan a first.

²² *Barbados and America* David L. Kent Censuses for 1679/80 & 1715, David L Kent, Arlington VA, 1980. Also: TNA, State Papers, Colonial Office General Class 1, piece 44, no 47, f 141-379, and State Papers, Colonial Office Class 28, piece 16 no. 2, f 100-375

²³ <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~brbwgw/1680CensusStPhillip.htm>

²⁴ *Barbados Records: Wills, 1639-1725*. Vols. 1-3. Joanne McRee Sanders, Baltimore, MD, USA: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1979-1981, RB6/5 p 292, Will of Lawrence Boone, St. Philip's 1701

Pearce¹ Waith

The baptism entry for Pearce¹ at St. Philip's on 26th December 1714 reads:

Edward and Pearce, sons of & Tabitha, Elizabeth and Sarah daughters of John and Mary Waith

The 1715 census gives Pearce¹'s age as 10 months. This would have made him a mature 37 when he and Jane married at St. Philip's on 22nd December 1751, and for some time, I thought there must be another generation in between. However, that would make for very youthful grooms, and there is no evidence to support the theory. Consequently, I have accepted that Pearce (or Peirce as it is spelled in the marriage register) married late, and went on fathering children into relatively old age. His elder brother John was also in his mid-thirties by the time he started a family.

Pearce and Jane's children were: Mary Elizabeth, born about 1753; Thomas Waith, born around 1754; Pearce², baptized at St. Philip's on 11th February 1758 and buried the following September; Pearce³; Jane - born in 1762; Sarah - born in 1765; Elizabeth Ann - born in 1767; John - baptized 29th November 1769; a child born on 20th July and baptized 17th August 1771, but whose name is no longer legible. Their final child, Rebecca, was baptized 17th November 1777, but may have been born earlier.

An abstract from the will²⁵ of Pearce¹ Waith lists the following bequests:

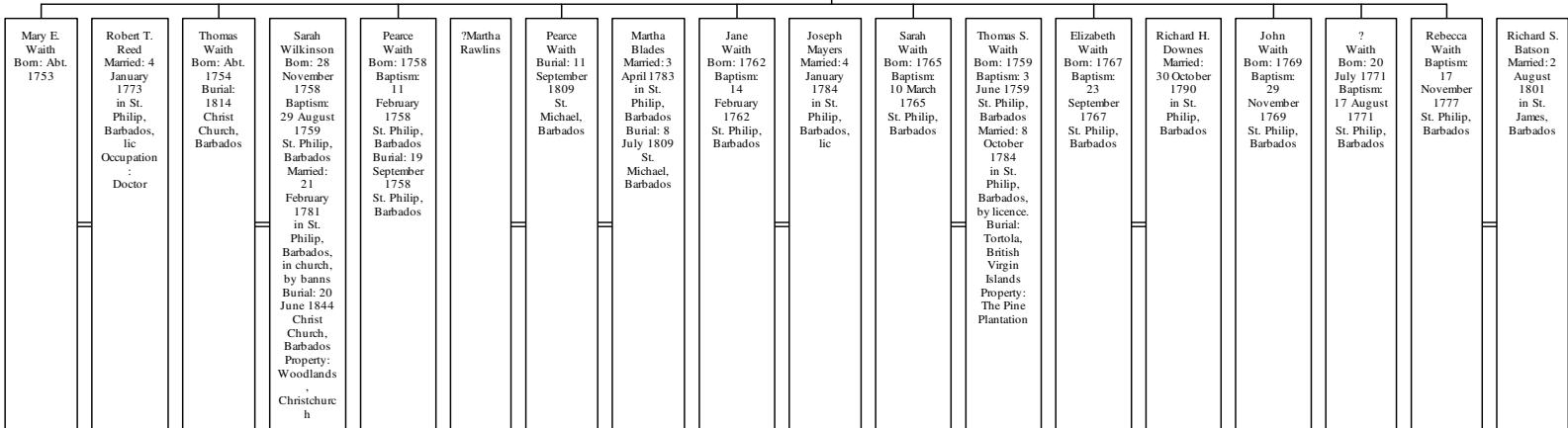
My wife Jane Waith - all of the estate
My son Thomas Waith - 2 negro slaves
My daughter Mary Reed, wife of Dr. Robert Tate Reed -
2 negro slaves
My daughter Jane Waith - 2 negro slaves
My daughter Sarah Waith - 2 negro slaves
My daughter Elizabeth Ann Waith - 2 negro slaves
My daughter Rebecca Waith - 2 negro slaves
My grandson Robert Reed - 1 negro boy

The will was dated 31st March 1783, and witnessed by William Blades (possibly a brother of the Martha who married Pearce³), Richard Croney and Joseph Lyder. The executors were his wife Jane Waith, sons Thomas and Pearce³ Waith, son-in-law Dr. Robert Tate Reed and friend Brian Taylor.

²⁵ Barbados Department of Archives, The recopied record book Ref: RB6/28/34, will of Pearce Waith, 1783

Family of Pearce I Waith

Pearce Waith Bom: 1714 Baptism: 26 December 1714 St. Philip, Barbados Burial: 18 August 1781 St. Philip, Barbados Census: 1715 gives age as 10 months	Jane Trundle Married: 22 December 1751 in St. Philip, Barbados Burial: 1795 St. Philip, Barbados
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The only feasible burial entry for Pearce¹ in the recopied registers is on 18th August 1781, which appears to be before the date of the will. However, both sets of records have been recopied, and so errors may have crept in to either document.

Pearce¹'s daughters and Pearce³

One of Pearce¹'s daughters married a Waith, and so her life will be followed later (see page 36). The others all seem to have married into well-established planter families.

The eldest, Mary Elizabeth, married Robert Taite Reed, who, according to the old trees passed down, was a doctor. They had nine children: the first – born in 1774 – was baptized John Pearce. He was followed by: Robert – 1776; Elizabeth – 1780; Jane – 1784; Trundal - born 1785, named after his grandmother and later to marry Jane Ann Hunt in 1819; Lewis – born 1790; and Mercy and Rebecca in 1799.

Jane Waith married Joseph Mayers in St. Philip on 4th January 1784. This was the beginning of a close relationship between these two families. Joseph and Jane baptized five children at St. Philip's: William Pearce Mayers – 28th May 1787; Joseph – 11th October 1789; John – 1st June 1792 - who became a lawyer and married his first cousin, also named Jane Waith (see page 41); Jane Waith – 8th January 1793; and Mary Ann – 25th February 1785. Jane junior married Charles Evelyn in 1813 at Christchurch, and the couple had 10 children, three of whom married first cousins, and one married a Batson, another family with close links to the Waiths. Mary Ann married Nathan Lucas Eversley at Christchurch on 24th February 1805 and had seven children.

The next sister, Elizabeth Ann, married Richard Haynes Downs on 30th October, but doesn't seem to have had any children. The youngest of Pearce¹'s daughters, Rebecca, married Richard Smitten Batson on 2nd August 1801 at St. James. Elizabeth, their first child, born 1801, married a clergyman, John Ince Jones; Richard Smitten Batson junior, born 1806, married an Evelyn, and Mary, as already outlined, married John Hows Waith, her first cousin once removed (see page 15). One of the Richard Smitten Batsons (probably the son) is recorded on the West Indies Plantation website²⁶ as owning Maynard's and Warner's plantations in 1846 (see page 46).

Pearce³ is a bit of a mystery. There is no record of his baptism. He appears to have married Martha Blades on 3rd April 1783 at St. Philip, and her burial is not recorded until 8th July 1809 in the same parish. However, he seems to be recorded 16th October 1787 as the father of a presumably

²⁶ <http://www.plantations.bb/>

illegitimate daughter Harriet by Martha Mary Rawlins. The baby is baptized as a Waith, so if this is what happened, Pearce³ presumably recognized the child. A local newspaper²⁷ recorded his death on September 12th 1809, referring to him as:

Mr Pearce Waith.

Thomas Waith

When I started to try and piece the Waith family together, I thought that Thomas must belong to another line. It was only when he appeared as both beneficiary and executor of Pearce¹'s will, and I discovered that there are missing years in the St. Philip's register that I was able to place him.

Thomas was probably born between 1752 and 1755. Certainly there are gaps in the register at that time. I have surmised that Mary Elizabeth was the oldest of Pearce¹'s children, as otherwise she would have married very young. This would presume a year of birth for Thomas of around 1754. On 21st February 1781, he married Sarah Wilkinson at St. Philip's, in church, by banns. By this time, he was presumably established with his own land, as his father's will only mentions a bequest of 2 slaves.

As so often, a large family ensued. The first child, named Pearce⁴ after his grandfather, was baptized at St. Philip's on 10th October 1782. The next six children were all baptized at St. Philip's, with the register giving date of birth as well as baptism. The second child appears later in this story, when, once again, two branches of the family come together in marriage (see page 56). This child, a son, was named Sampson Wood Waith, whether for a family connection or after a friend is not known. He was born on 16th December 1783, but was baptized along with his next two siblings on 29th July 1787. The brothers – Joseph and John Pearce, were born on 15th July 1785 and 25th March 1787 respectively. The next two children, Thomas Henry and Ralph Weekes also shared a baptism, on 4th February 1792. They were born on 15th March 1789 and 2nd December 1790. Jane Ann, the first daughter, followed on 22nd September 1792 and was baptized on 11th August 1794.

Presumably, at around this time, the family moved to Christ Church, as this is where the baptisms took place for the last three children: William Septimus, born 25th October 1794 and Mary Murrell, born 7th May 1797, were both baptized on 2nd December 1797. The last child, Sarah Elizabeth, was born on 18th April 1799 and baptized on 12th October that year.

²⁷ Caribbeana vol 2 WI/Per/17640u/1- 9 p. 876

I don't know where Thomas lived in the parish of St. Philip, but I believe he owned an estate called 'Woodlands' in Christ Church. Certainly her widow gave this as the name of her estate in the Slave Compensation Registers²⁸. *The Barbados Mercury* ran an advertisement on 9th December 1788 as follows:

To be sold. An excellent cotton estate in a pleasant situation on Cotton Coast, Christchurch, called Woodland, 3 m from Bridgetown bounding on the sea and having an excellent bay thereto. Contains 130 acres, has an extensive freshwater fishery, looked upon as the best in the island, a good mansion and 20 negroes, (the greater part field people, the remainder young and healthy) sd Stephen Birchall.

It is not unusual for families to return to a previous parish for baptisms for a while, before settling in to a new church, so it seems feasible that it was the purchase of this property which heralded the move. Alternatively, the sale and therefore the move may have taken place some time after the advertisement. Certainly, though, later generations in this line give Cotton Coast as their abode.

Thomas Waith was buried at Christ Church in 1814. The day is the 29th, but the month is illegible. Proof that this is our Thomas lies in the fact that the slaves on the estate were held in his wife's name, not his, throughout the years of the slave registers.

Of his sons, many went on to have large families of their own. Sampson Wood's will be dealt with later (see page 56). The second, Joseph, married Anna Gertrude Nyst in 1812, and had four children: Sarah Ann, John Thomas, William Neil and Catherine. The Slave Register²⁹ for 1826 shows Joseph owning seven slaves in Christ Church. He and his wife were both buried at Christ Church, she in 1823 and he in 1828 with his abode confirmed as Below Rock.

The third son, John Pearce, married Margaret Jane Evanson in 1806. Their children were: Thomas Nathaniel Bolton, Margaret Murrell, John Pearce (who also emigrated to Guyana), Sarah Ashby, Catherine Elizabeth, Mary Caroline, Sampson Bracey, Francis Webster and Francis Evelyn. In 1826, John P junior owned 8 slaves³⁰, but by 1834 this had gone up to 24 and he was given £860 in compensation on emancipation. He was recorded as living at Conways³¹ in Christ Church. John senior was buried at Christ Church in 1835, also at this point from Below Rock.

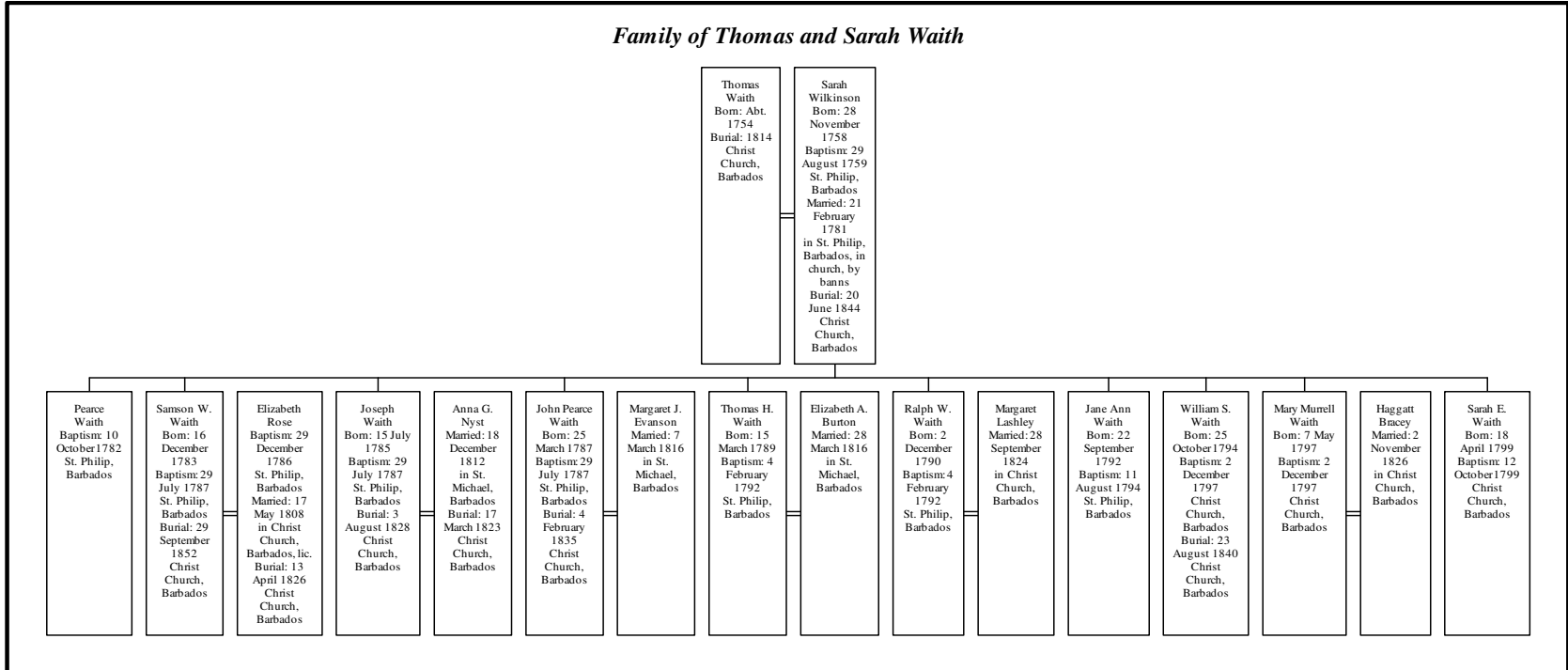
²⁸ TNA, T71/798, Slave Compensation registers 1834

²⁹ TNA, T71/535, Slave register, Barbados, 1826

³⁰ TNA, T71/535, Slave register, Barbados, 1826

³¹ TNA, T71/798, Slave Compensation Claims, Barbados, no 3417

Family of Thomas and Sarah Waith



Ralph Weekes, married to Margaret (possibly Mary) Lashley in 1804, was more restrained in the number of children he produced, with Edward Thomas Sampson and two daughters named Julia. The baptismal register gives 'Cotton Coast' as an address on the first Julia's baptism. He had nine slaves in 1826 and 23 by 1834. In the Index to Claims³² he is listed as living at Almond Cottage in Christ Church.

Thomas Henry married Elizabeth Ann Burton in 1816 and fathered Catherine, Mary Murrell (who later married her cousin Sampson), Catherine Jane, Thomas William, Mary Ann, Sampson Joseph, Francis Henry and Francis Burton. He had 4 slaves in 1826, 17 in 1834 and was living at Mt Gilliard at the time of emancipation. William Septimus seems not to have married, but held 3 and then 20 slaves at the registrations listed above and is recorded in the Claims Register as living at Waith Cottage. However, when he was buried in 1840, he was residing at Briar Hall. *The Barbadian*³³ recorded his death on 1st April as follows:

Died at Christ Church William Septimus Worth.

Whoops!

Mary Murrell Waith's marriage to Haggatt Bracey was witnessed by brothers Sampson and Joseph and recorded in *The Barbadian*³⁴ on 3rd November 1826:

Married at Christ Church yesterday morning H Bracey esq.
to Mary M Waith.

I have found no further record of the other two sisters, Jane Ann and Sarah Elizabeth.

The Wilkinson Line

Sarah Wilkinson, whom Thomas Waith married in 1781, was also the descendant of a long-established family. She was born on 28th November 1758, the daughter of Joseph and Ann Wilkinson, and baptized on 29th August 1759 at St. Philip's. She did not die until 1844, and so lived into a period of great changes in Barbados.

Following many years of campaigning by a number of dedicated people, both black and white, the transatlantic slave trade, which had been the mainstay of the island's economy, was abolished in 1807. This did not

³² TNA, T79/940, Index to Claims, Barbados

³³ *The Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society*, Bridgetown, 1933-93

³⁴ *The Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society*, Bridgetown, 1933-93

mean that slavery ended. Instead, with a meticulousness which seems offensive to 21st century sensibilities, the planters began to take an interest in maintaining and increasing the stock of slaves already on the island. To this end, from 1817, every three years until the final abolition of slavery in 1834, all slave owners were required to make a return of the number of slaves they owned, and show whether there had been a net increase or decrease since the last registration. Sarah was clearly a wealthy woman. The registers³⁵ show the number of slaves she owned rise from 65 in 1817 to nearly 100 in 1832. After that, presumably realizing that she was nearing the end of her life, or maybe the end of slavery, she gifted all but 14 to her relatives.

From our perspective, the heading on each relevant page of the Christ Church registers:

The return of Sarah Waith of slaves her own property

seems inhuman, but maybe before we condemn, it is salutary to remember the appallingly harsh way the poor were treated at home, where people starving to death on the streets of London was a common occurrence, and the poor often found themselves in a catch-22 situation between the workhouse and the streets. At least the slave owners would have had a vested interest in keeping their slaves fed and relatively healthy. In the London sweatshops, if one worker died, there were plenty more to replace him or her on starvation wages.

The information given about the slaves is eerie, and makes for somewhat uncomfortable reading. Names are given, and range from those shared with the owner's family, for example Mary Murrell and Sampson, through everyday forms like Dinah, Bob, Jenny and Charles, to nicknames which could have been ironical, like Caesar, Nelson and Queen, to the (to us at least) strange – Bussoe, Fibbah and Moll Wreck. In the early registers, occupations are given. There are large numbers of field hands, as would be expected, but also house servants, a cook, washers, a sick nurse, cattle and hog keepers, stock keepers, water carriers – a reminder of the thirsty work of the field hands, maybe, a fisherman and a field superintendent. One 58 year old, Betty, is listed simply as 'invalid'. In 1817, she and the sick nurse, at 60, are the oldest slaves registered. The other information recorded is whether each slave was African or Barbadian, and black or coloured!

The final insult comes in 1834, when the owners put in claims for compensation³⁶ on being forced to free their slave labour. The government

³⁵ TNA, T71/ 521 Slave Register Barbadoes 1817; T71/525 Slave Register Barbadoes 1820; T71/530 Slave Register Barbadoes 1823; T71/536 Vol 3 Slave Register Barbadoes 1826; T71/544 Slave Register Barbadoes 1829; T79/549 Slave Register Barbadoes 1832

³⁶ TNA, T71/798 Slave Compensation Claims, Barbados

coughed up, but you can see them trying to keep the bill down by denigrating the quality of the slaves to be emancipated:

No: 3542 Woodlands, Christchurch.
 Barbadoes Return of the number of slaves and estimated
 value thereof, in each class, in possession of Mrs Sarah Waith
 on the 1st day of August 1834

	m	f	no.	Value in sterling
Total number of slaves 13				
Inferior tradesmen	1		1	75
Field labourers	3		3	225
Inferior field labourers	3	1	4	166
Head domestic servants		1	1	100
Inferior domestic servants		3	3	150
Children under 6 years of age	1		1	10
		13	£720	

Dated this 19th day of November 1834 Signed Jonas Wilkinson
 Sworn this 30th day of December 1834 Signed E.H ?Sinhouse
 Before me: H Hamden

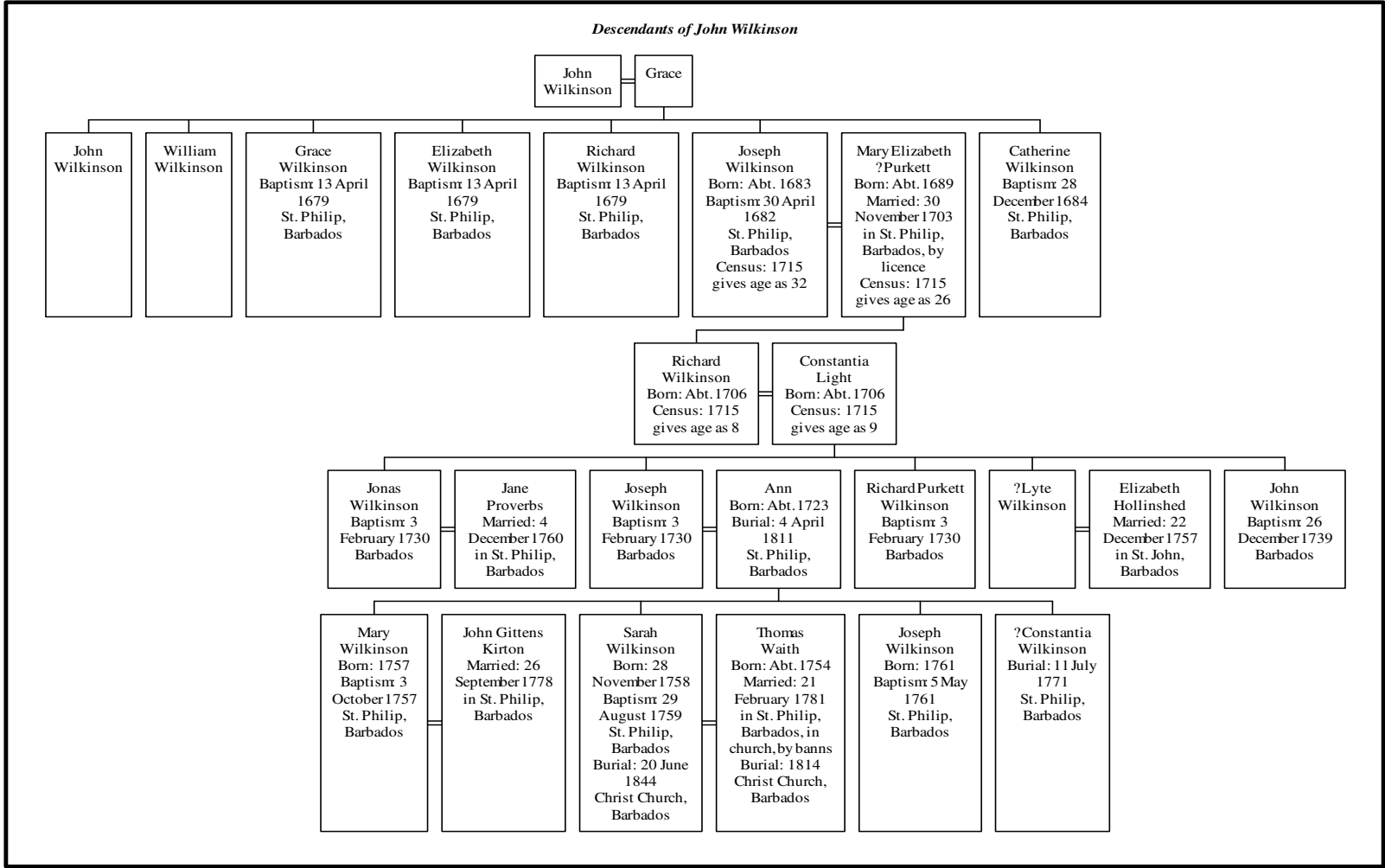
I suspect that the Jonas Wilkinson who was signatory to this document was one of Sarah's extended family, as the name Jonas appears elsewhere on her tree.

In fact, compensation must have been awarded posthumously, as by this time, Sarah was dead. Her burial is recorded at Christchurch on 20th June 1844, with her abode given as Woodland and her age as 86. She had outlived her husband by thirty years.

Sarah was the second daughter of Joseph and Ann Wilkinson. Their first daughter, Mary, was baptized 3rd October 1757. Sarah came a year later, and then Joseph, baptized 5th May 1761. There is no baptism for another child, Constantia, but she was buried on 11th July, 1771, aged either 10 or 16. Neither their mother Ann's baptism nor their parents' date of marriage has been found, but the fact that Ann was recorded as being 88 when she was buried at St. Philip's on 4th April 1811 would suggest a year of birth for her of about 1723.

Joseph, who was baptized on 3rd February 1730, was the second son of Richard Wilkinson and his wife Constantia. I have assumed that her surname was Light. Certainly no other obvious candidates have appeared, and there is circumstantial evidence that this is the right name. A Lyte Wilkinson married at St. John's in 1757, and raised a family in St. Philip's. My guess is that this is another child of Richard and Constantia. Certainly the IGI lists him as such. One of his children was named Jonas, another relatively unusual name, and one which was given to both one of Constantia's brothers and one of her sons.

Descendants of John Wilkinson



Richard seems to have been the only child of Joseph and Mary Elizabeth Wilkinson. These two appear on the census at St. Philip's as Mr Joseph Wilkinson, aged 32 and Mrs Mary Eliz. Wilkinson aged 26. Richard is the only person listed with them. The transcript records their marriage as being between:

Josep: Wilkinson and Mary Eah: Pentrett??? by lic.

at St. Philip on 30th November 1703. Given that their son was named Richard Purkett, I suspect this may have been her surname and that Pentrett was the best guess of the transcriber at an entry which was difficult to read. No baptism has come to light on either name.

There is, however, a baptism for Joseph Wilkinson at St. Philip's which would fit his age as given on the census. Joseph Wilkinson, son of John and Grace, was baptized on 30th April 1672. He seems to have been the youngest son in the family. Three elder siblings were baptized together on 13th April 1679: Grace, Elizabeth and Richard. Another sister, Katharine, seems to have been baptized twice, on 5th October and 12th December 1684. Maybe the first one was the private baptism of a sickly child, or maybe there is simply an error in the transcript. These are all named as beneficiaries by John Wilkinson carpenter, whose will was proved at St. Philip's on 18th July 1700. He also named his father, John senior, another brother – William - and Joseph. I haven't found a baptism for William, and the only one for John junior is on 7th July 1689. This would make it a very late baptism, as he must have been more than 11 when he wrote his will. Maybe if the family had just arrived in Barbados at the time of his birth, his baptism was overlooked.

The Light Line

Constantia and her family appear together on the 1715 census³⁷ as follows:

Mr John Light	64
Mrs Mary Light	47
Rebecca Light spinster	22
Mary Light spinster	20
Jonas Light	13
Dorothy Light	11
Constantia Light	9

³⁷ *Barbados and America* David L. Kent Censuses for 1679/80 & 1715 , David L Kent, Arlington VA, 1980. Also: TNA, State Papers, Colonial Office General Class 1, piece 44, no 47, f 141-379, and State Papers, Colonial Office Class 28, piece 16 no. 2, f 100-375

A John Light appears on the 1680 census³⁸ for St. Philip's.

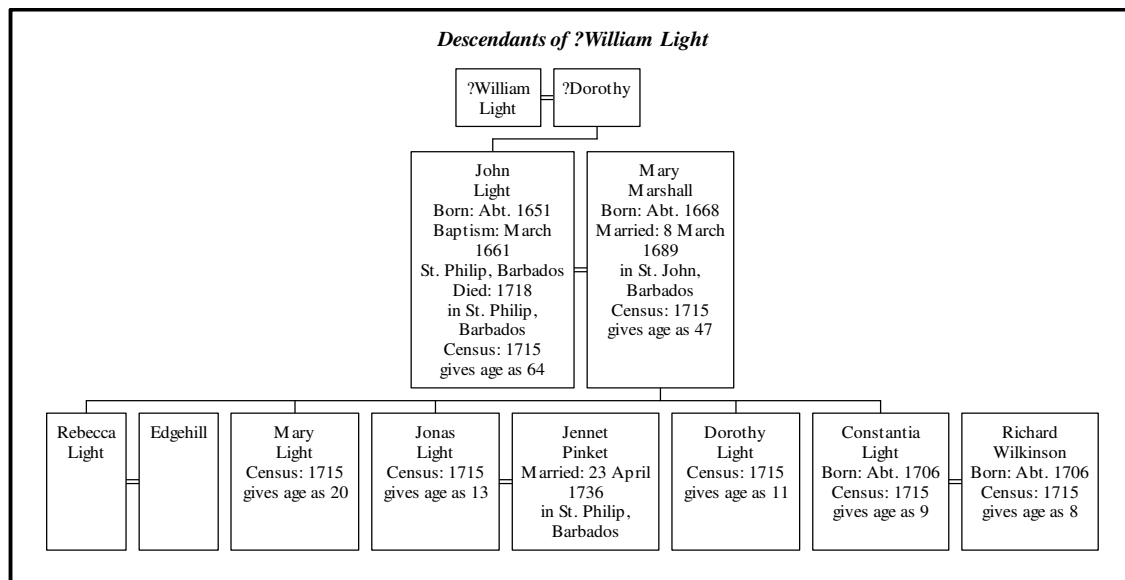
	No of acres	Wt servants	Negroes
John Light	5		

A Richard Light with 12 acres and 4 negroes and a William Light with 3 acres are also listed at St. Philip's, but it is impossible to tell if they are related.

There is also a reference in Hotten, in a list dated 6.1.1679, to:

Mrs Dorothy Light, her ffay (family?)	John Light	App 1
---------------------------------------	------------	----------

in Matthew Pinket's company in Col. Chris Line's Regiment. Maybe Dorothy was John's mother and he was the family representative doing service in the militia.



John Light left a will³⁹ dated 2nd August 1718 with bequests as follows:

My sons Jonas Light at 21 and Richard Light; daughters Mary and Constantia Light - 10 acres at the lower end of the land bought of Robert Jones and his mother; my daughter Dorothy Light; my grandson John Edgehill and my daughter Rebecca Edgehill; my wife Mary Light exec.

³⁸ *Omitted Chapters from Hotten's Original List of Persons of Quality and others who went from Great Britain to the American Plantations* James C Brandow, Baltimore MD, USA Genealogical Publishing Co. 2001, St. Philip's - 'An Account of the Inhabitants' 1680

³⁹ *Barbados Records: Wills, 1639-1725*. Vols. 1-3. Joanne McRee Sanders, Baltimore, MD, USA: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1979-1981, RB6/4 p 364, Will of John Light St. Philip's, 1718

John made his mark, and the will was witnessed by Richard Sandford, William Wheeler and Elias Guy. It was proved on 2nd October 1718.

There is no baptism for John Light around 64 years before the census, but if we accept that late baptisms were often the norm, it is feasible that the John Light, son of William, baptized in March 1661, may well be our man.

John Light and Mary Marshall married at St. John's on 8th March 1689. It is possible she was the daughter of Robert and Constantia Marshall, but this is pure speculation, based on the unusualness of the name Constantia.

Sarah Waith and the descendants of David Waith

After the digression into the Wilkinson and Light families, it is time to return to the one daughter of Pearce¹ Waith whose story has not yet been told (see page 20). Sarah was baptized at St. Philip's on 10th March 1765, the sixth child of Pearce and Jane Waith. On 8th October 1784, she married her second cousin, Thomas Shepherd Waith (see page 36), at St. Philip's, by license.

Thomas Shepherd Waith was the sole grandson of David, the younger son of John¹ and Tabitha Waith, who was born around 1681 (see page 8). He was named as beneficiary and executor to his mother Tabitha's will and also appeared on the 1715 census⁴⁰ as:

Mr David Waith 34

With him in the household were his wife Elizabeth, aged 27 and his sister Mary, a spinster aged 36. Both women are given the honorific 'Mrs'. In the same year, he acted as witness to the will of James Bruden, planter. This is the last reference to David that I have found. There is no burial recorded for him, but given that the sister Mary, who was living with him at the time of the census, was mentioned in their brother John's will of 1738, and effectively given a home by it, I suspect David may have predeceased his brother.

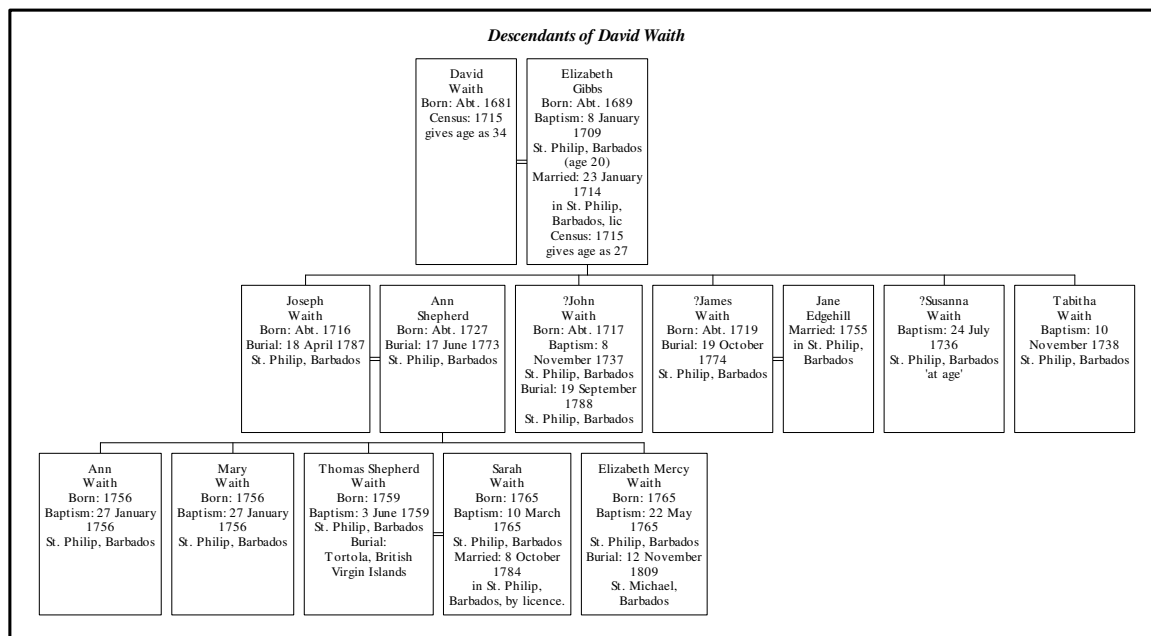
David's wife was Elizabeth Gibbes, whom he married by license at St. Philip's on 23rd January 1714. Unfortunately, their children seem either not to have been baptized, or baptized in maturity. Elizabeth herself was baptized as an adult, and I suspect that Susanna Waith baptized 'at age' on 24th July 1736 could be one of their children, as probably is John, baptized 8th November 1737 aged 20, i.e. born around 1717. There is also a Tabitha Waith, baptized at St. Philip's on 10th November 1738 as the daughter of David,

⁴⁰ *Barbados and America* David L. Kent Censuses for 1679/80 & 1715, David L Kent, Arlington VA, 1980. Also: TNA, State Papers, Colonial Office General Class 1, piece 44, no 47, f 141-379, and State Papers, Colonial Office Class 28, piece 16 no. 2, f 100-375

who I suspect also belongs to this family group rather than to David's nephew of the same name.

There were, I think, two other sons, whose baptisms have never come to light. One was James, who married Jane Edghill at St. Philip's on 22nd June 1753 by license. He was buried on 19th October 1774, aged 55, which would suggest a year of birth around 1719. He seems to have had a son named John⁴¹ by Jane Edghill, and possibly had a second family of Jean, Sarah, Thomas and Ruth by a second wife, Mary. However, this is all highly speculative.

The other son was Thomas Shepherd Waith's father, Joseph. I believe him to have been the oldest of David and Elizabeth's children, as his burial entry at St. Philip's on 18th April 1787 gives his age as 71. If this is accurate, it would place Joseph's birth in 1715 or 16 – perfect timing for a first child. The lack of clear baptismal records, and the fact that neither David nor Elizabeth left a will, is frustrating, and means that this link must have doubts attached to it. However, there is one more clue which would suggest that this surmise is right.



In a book called *Genealogies of Barbados Families*⁴² there is an extract from the will of William Higinbotham of St. Philip's, dated 22nd September 1748 which reads as follows:

To my cousin Joseph Waith one Negro Jack and a woman Selsey,

⁴¹ http://www.boonefamily.org/bio_b015.html

⁴² *Genealogies of Barbados Families*⁴² p.317

and sole exec.

While the term cousin can be used fairly loosely, it does usually imply a blood relationship, so I looked for a suitable William Higinbotham. The only one in the registers at around the right time was baptised at St. Philip's in 1702, the son of Charles Higinbotham and Ann Rawlins, with Charles in turn being the son of Capt. John Higinbotham (see tree page 34). Elizabeth Gibbs' grandmother was a Higinbotham, and this William would have been her second cousin, so also technically a cousin to Joseph. There are glitches; William isn't mentioned in his parents' wills, which is unusual, and there are other relatives who would seem to be closer in line for a bequest. Maybe the two men were also friends.

Even more frustratingly, Joseph did actually leave a will⁴³, which would perhaps have solved a lot of the questions surrounding him. However, it is currently unfit for production. His wife predeceased him by 13 years, and was buried at St. Philip's on 17th June 1773. Her age was recorded as 46 years. Her probable lineage is followed under the Shepherd line (see page 47).

Joseph Waith and his wife Ann had four children, Ann, Mary, Thomas Shepherd¹ and Elizabeth Mercy, whose lives will be followed after tracking Elizabeth Gibbs' antecedents.

The Gibbs and the Higinbothams

The register of St. Philip's records the baptism of:

Higinbotham 15 years and Elizabeth 20 years, so: and dau of
Thos: Gibbs

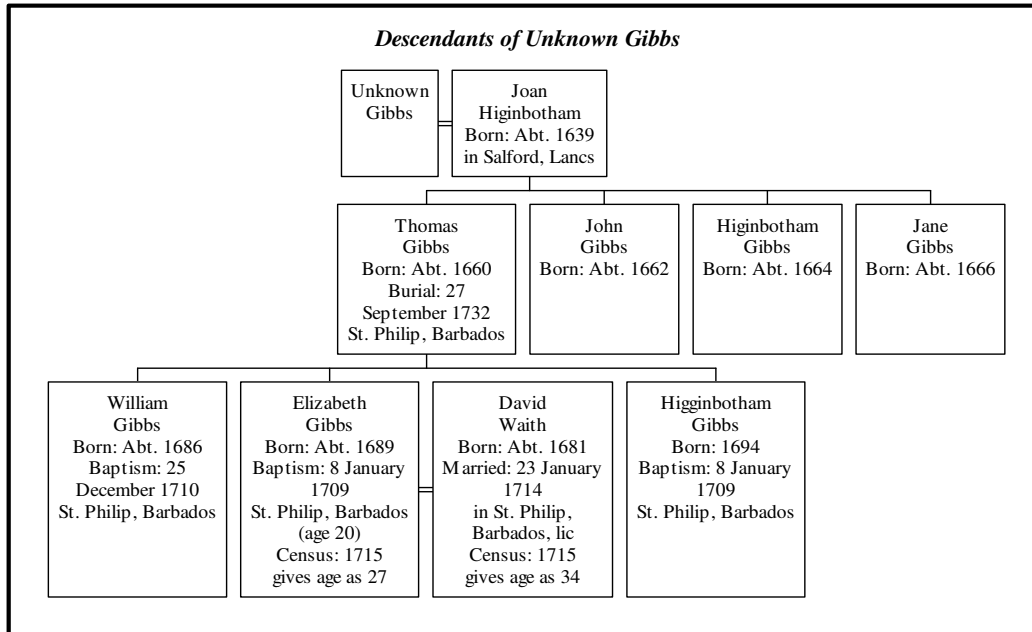
on 8th January 1709, suggesting that Elizabeth was born around 1689. This ties in nicely with her given age of 27 on the 1715 census⁴⁴. William, son of Thomas Gibbs, aged 24 was baptized on Christmas Day the following year. Their mother's name is not recorded, but the will⁴⁵ of John Higginbotham in 1672 names his daughter Joane Waite and her children Thomas, John, and Jane Gibbs. I believe that the Thomas Gibbs referred to in the will was Elizabeth Gibbs' father. The version below was copied from *The Genealogies of*

⁴³ Caribbeana vol 5 WI/Per/17643j/1-8 p 295 Barbados Wills - Joseph Waith, 1787.

⁴⁴ *Barbados and America* David L. Kent Censuses for 1679/80 & 1715, David L Kent, Arlington VA, 1980. Also: TNA, State Papers, Colonial Office General Class 1, piece 44, no 47, f 141-379, and State Papers, Colonial Office Class 28, piece 16 no. 2, f 100-375

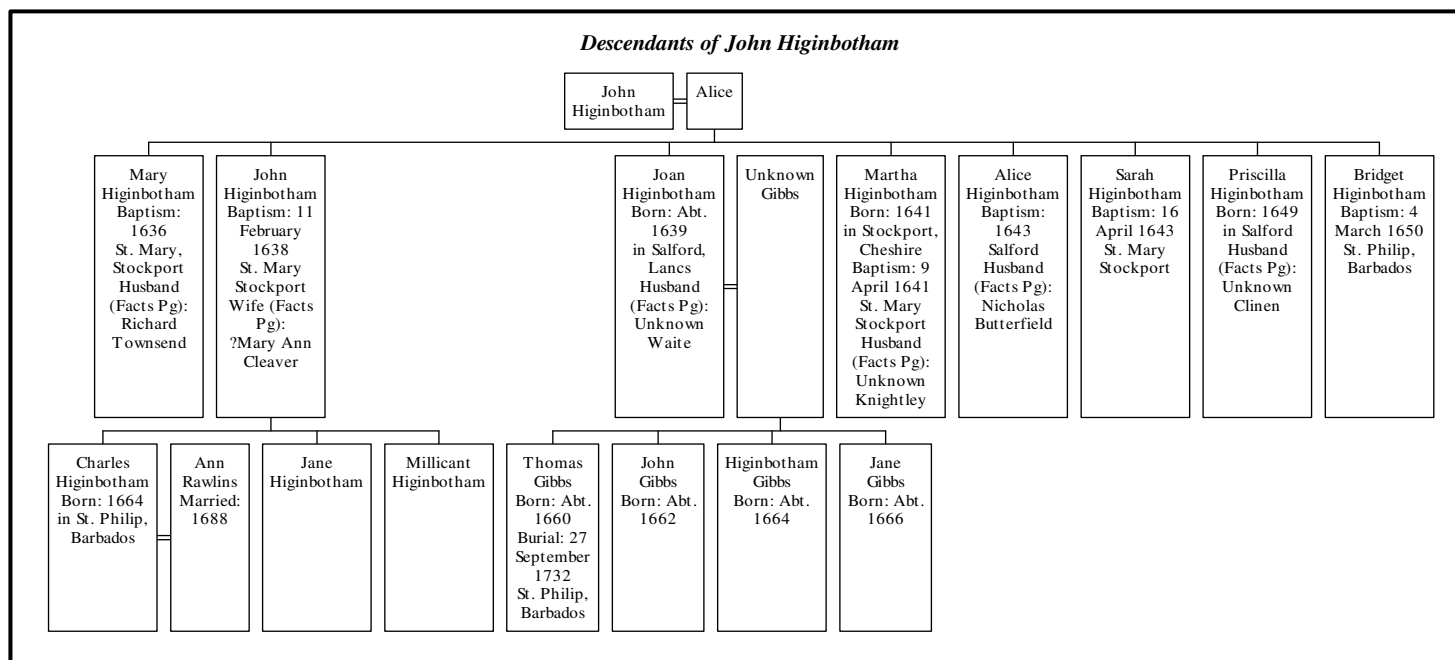
⁴⁵ *Barbados Records: Wills, 1639-1725*. Vols. 1-3. Joanne McRee Sanders, Baltimore, MD, USA: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1979-1981, RB6/9, p. 23

*Barbados Families*⁴⁶ via a Hickenbotham website which is no longer accessible, and does have some transcription errors. However, because it is rich in genealogical detail, I have quoted it in full. It is worth pointing out that there are also some minor differences between the wording of this and the abstract which appears in the McRee Sanders version:



John Higinbotham of St. Philip's, Barbados, Senr. Will dated 19 Sept 1672, To my son Capt. John H 2000 lbs. of sugar, besides the 70 acres I settled him in and acquit him of all accounts when I sold unto him and Left Sam. Tweney the work and 60 acres or for his voyage to Jamaica and New England. I also give him 60 feet square of land on Carlisle island between Mrs Griffin's house and the sea. To Chas. H, my grandson 1000 lbs., and to his two sisters Jane and Millicent 500 lbs. each at the age of 15. To my dau. Joane Waitte, widow, 2000 lbs., and to her four children Tho. Gibbs, John Gibbs, Higinbotham Gibbs and Jane Gibbs 1000 lbs. each at 21 the two sons, and 15 the two daus., and quitclaim to her the plantation whereon she now lives, being 50 acres, she giving equal portions to them at 21 only to Tho. Gibbs her eldest son to have 4000 lbs. more. To my dau. Martha Knightly 3000 lbs., and to her three children Shedon K., John K., and Martha K. all my plantation in the Thicketts where they live, about 25 acres, with the houseing built when the eldest son Shedon attains 21, and I give them the negros

⁴⁶ *Genealogies of Babados Families: from Caribbeana & The Journal of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society*, James C Brandow, Genealogical Publishing Co, Baltimore, 1893



Sampson and his wife Mingo, Winbar and his child Pefoe. My dau. to have the management or 6000 lbs. apiece. To my dau. Mary Townsend wife of Lieut. Richard T. 2000 lbs., and to him 500 lbs., and to my three grandchildren Tho. T., Alice T., and John T. 500 lbs. each at 15, and to the child wherewith my dau. now goeth 500 lbs. To Nicholas Buckerfield late husband to my deceased Goddau. (sic) Alice 200 lbs., and to his two sons my grandchildren Nicholas and Higinbotham B. 1000 lbs. each at 12. To my dau. Sarah H. 14 acres next to Mr. Francis Dethickshire from Exors long gully square over to Dr. Tho. Parkins, but my wife to enjoy one half the crop of ginger, cane or corn, and I give her one negro woman, Nen Judy, and one wench (,)cain, and a girl Black Jane, one bedsted of Bully tree and a cedar tester and 4000 lbs and one year's maintance. To my dau. Priscilla Long 3000 lbs ., and to her two daus. Merandila Clenen and Mellicent Clenen 500 lbs each at 15. To my granddau. Jane Beleffe 1000 lbs at 21, and have her stock of cattle and sheep. To my natural brother Lt Tho. Higinbotham 2000 lbs., and my sister his wife 100 lbs., and to Margt Jones 500 lbs., and to his two children Nicholas and Eliz. each 500 lbs., at 21. To my nephews Sam. Finny and Joseph Higinbotham 500 lbs., each and to coz. Finney's wife Mary 500 lbs., and to their son Jeffrey my graud (sic, but ? god) son 500 lbs. At 16. To my dau. Sarah H. the house and lands to Mrs. Griffin at the Bay for which she pays 50s by the year. I give my dau. Priscilla Long my tenement at the Carlisle Bay wherein Mr. Hampton lives and pays 50s rent. To my son Capt. John H. my tenement on Carlisle Bay rented to Mr. Robert Gibson in lieu of the 60 feet square, and the latter I give to my two daus. Joane Waite and Martha Knightly. To my wife Alice all the rest of my estate she paying my debts and legacies and leave her sole Ex'trix.

Codicil, 21 Feb. 1672. If wife die suddenly the Ordinary to appoint a trustee. In the presence of Tho. Parkins, David Evans, Sibbell Powell, Tho. Wormbarton. By his Excellency, the 13 Oct. 1673 Dr. Tho. Parkins, David Evans and Tho. Wormbarton made oath that they did see Lt Coll. John H. seal and publish his will. Signed "R. Colleton." Entered 27 Nov. 1673.

I haven't traced the first name of Joane Higinbotham's first – Gibbs - husband. However, her parents are the only people in this account that I can track back to England with any degree of certainty. John Higinbotham and his wife Alice baptized all but their last-born daughter, Bridget, in England. The IGI is initially confusing as some entries suggest John and Alice's children were baptized in Salford. However, this is Salford Hundred, not the modern city, and the parish of St. Mary Stockport in Cheshire, cited on some of the entries, fits into this area.

The eldest child, Mary, who later married Richard Townsend, seems to have been baptized there in 1636; the next, John, was baptized on 11th

February 1638; Joan was apparently born some time in 1639; Martha, who later married a Knightly, seems to have been born in 1641; Alice -, who married Nicholas Buckerfield - in 1643; Sarah's baptism is recorded on 16th April 1643 and Priscilla (married a Long) was apparently born in 1649. The final daughter, Bridget, was the only one baptized in Barbados, at St. Philip on 4th March 1650.

All the English baptisms are from the IGI, and haven't yet been verified against the original registers, so I can't vouch for them, any more than I can for an entry which says that John Higinbotham was baptized as the son of Anthonye Heginbotham on 9th July 1609, also at St. Mary Stockport in Cheshire.

Thomas Shepherd¹ Waith

Joseph and Ann Waith had four children. The first two, Ann and Mary, were baptized together at St. Philip's on 26th January 1756. A final daughter, Elizabeth Mercy, was baptized at St. Philip's on 22nd May 1765 and buried on 12th November 1809 at St. Michael's.

The only son was baptized as Thomas Shepherd¹ Waith on 3rd June 1759 at St. Philip's. Although I have been unable to find a marriage for his parents, the choice of Shepherd as a middle name for the son and heir made me wonder if Ann's maiden name was Shepherd. This speculation was confirmed by Lucretia Haggett's tree, which has Thomas Shepherd¹'s father married to 'Miss Shepherd (1)', who is drawn in as sister to 'Miss Shepherd (2)' married to 'Old Baston'. Later on in this account, we will encounter Elizabeth Shepherd and her husband Samuel Batson as grandparents to the Margaret Batson who married Thomas Shepherd¹ Waith's son, so I will follow the Shepherd line then (see page 47).

Thomas Shepherd¹ Waith married his second cousin Sarah Waith - Pearce¹'s daughter (see page 20) on 8th October 1784 at St. Philip's by license, and seems to have lived comfortably until his death in 1805. Page 331 of 'Births, Deaths and Marriages from the *Barbados Mercury and Bridgetown Gazette* 1805-1818'⁴⁷ records the following:

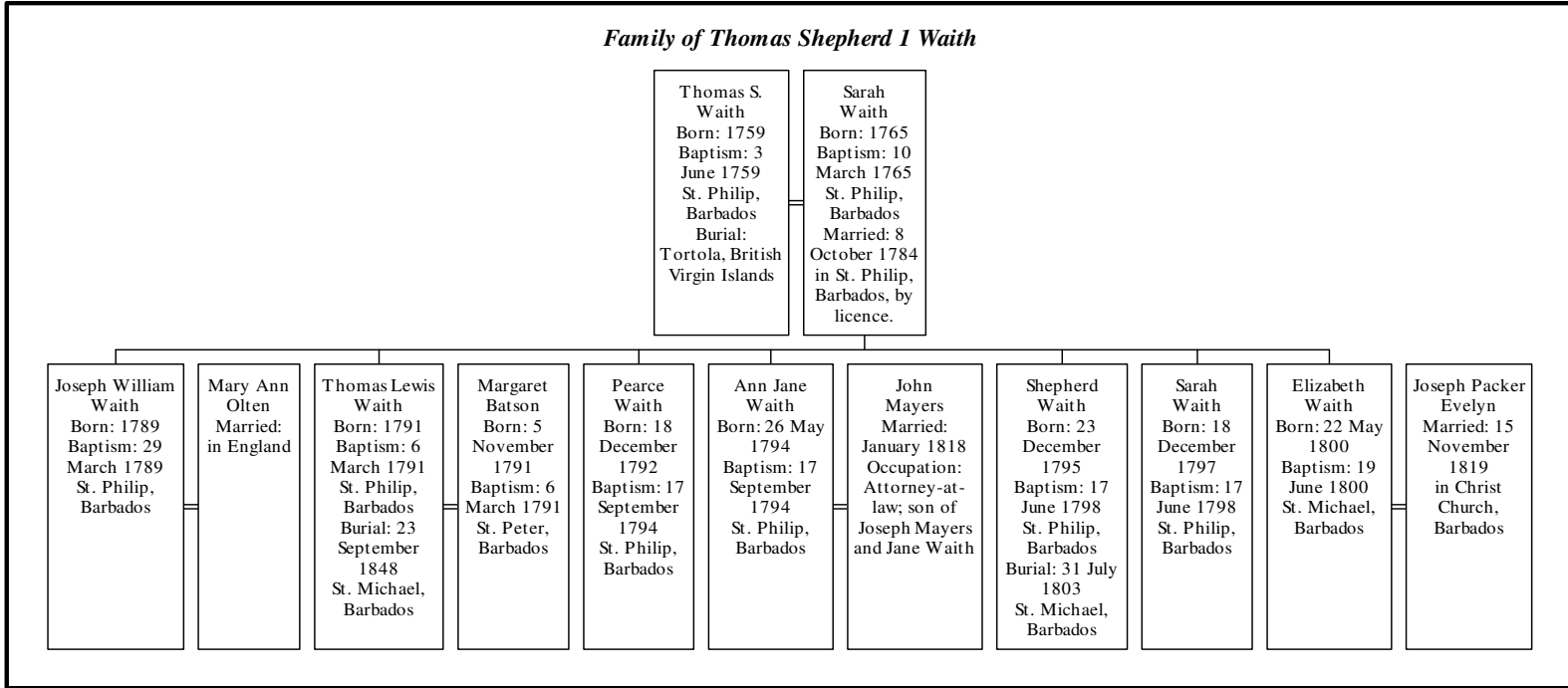
Oct 12th 1805 (Deaths) The 12th ult, on his passage to England,
Thomas Shepherd Waith esq, of the 'Pine' Plantation.

Lucretia Haggett Waith's tree is marked:

buried at Tortola

⁴⁷ SoG, *Caribbeana* volume 1, WI/Per/176391/1-10

Family of Thomas Shepherd 1 Waith



which is in the British Virgin Islands. It is interesting to note that the family still had links with, or reason to travel back, to England.

Whether by bringing two branches of the family together to consolidate inheritance, or through his mother Ann Shepherd, or through his own endeavours, Thomas Shepherd¹ Waith seems to have been a well-off man. At some point, he acquired or inherited the Pine Plantation in St. Michael's parish. In 1784, a James Shepherd was living there, (as demonstrated by the following advertisement in *The Barbados Mercury*⁴⁸) who may or may not have been related to Ann, and may or may not have been a prior owner:

For sale. The sugar work pln of Dr Alexander Bruce dec'd
situate in St Andrews.... Apply to the subscriber living on the
Pine pln – James Shepherd.

The website *West Indian Plantations*⁴⁹ gives James Shepherd as manager of the Pine in 1763. It is prudent to point out, however, that Shepherd is a very common name on the island, and there may be no connection.

When the estate was sold out of the family, many years later, the advertisement in *The Barbados Mercury*⁵⁰ read as follows:

1842 Dec 31st For sale The Pine Plantation with 489 a of land to make
140 hhds (hogsheads) of sugar. Henry Dummett.

which suggests a sizeable concern, and if the Pine Plantation included Pine Mansion House (which is yet to be proven), it would seem that it was a prime property, as a further advertisement on 10th October 1841 for the sale of the Pine Mansion House with 20 acres of land prompts a suggestion from the Editor:

..... the purchase of Pine Mansion to be Government House.

In 1849, the newspaper records:

Another attempt made in the House of Assembly to sell
Pilgrim House and buy the mansion house of the Pine Estate
(Erdiston). Not approved.

Later in the same year, the paper is recording:

an attack on the guard at Pine House..

⁴⁸ *The Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society*, Bridgetown, 1933-93

⁴⁹ <http://www.plantations.bb/search.php>

⁵⁰ *The Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society*, Bridgetown, 1933-93

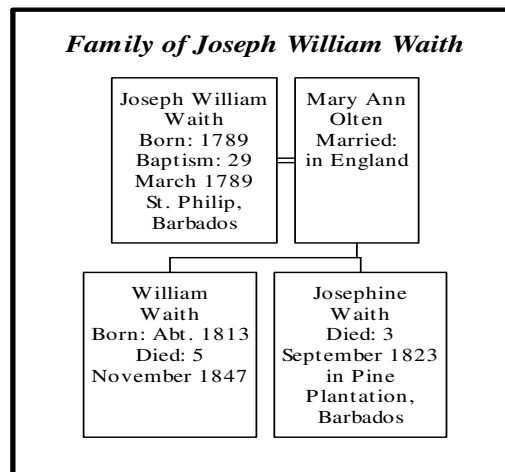
Papers in the National Archive also demonstrate public interest in the property⁵¹. Part of official dispatches in 1838 include entry no. 655:

An act to ratify and confirm the exchange of part of the land attached to Pilgrim House for the like quantity belonging to the Pine Plantation late the property of Joseph Waith.

The Joseph in this instance was Thomas Shepherd¹ Waith's son. I don't know whether the Pine Plantation was ultimately bought by the House of Assembly. However, there is still a Pine Plantation House, in Pine Gardens, St. Michael, which seems to house both part of the University of West Indies and several government offices.

Thomas Shepherd¹ and Sarah's first child was named Joseph William, partly after his grandfather. He was baptized on 29th March 1789 at St. Philip's. According to an inscription in a bible belonging to one John Olten⁵², he married in England:

Mary Ann (Olten) ... was md to Edward James Yard ... Mr Yard soon left her a widow with three children, Edward, Mary and Elizabeth, and she afterward md in England 18... Joseph William Waith of the Pine plantn by whom she has two children William and Josephine.



Presumably Joseph William inherited the Pine Plantation from his father, and the slaves listed under his name in the Slave Register Indexes⁵³ below will be for that establishment.

⁵¹ TNA, CO28/122 Despatches from Sir Evan Murray John McGregor 18.4.1838

⁵² *Genealogies of Barbados Families: from Caribbeana & The Journal of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society*, James C Brandow, Genealogical Publishing Co, Baltimore, 1893, p.419

⁵³ TNA, Slave Register Indexes T71/523, T71/528, T71/546, T71/552

Barbadoes Slave Register Index 1817						
	Parish	Folio	vol	Total slaves		
Waith Jos Wm	St. Michael	522	1	155		
Barbadoes Slave Registers Index 1820						
		Folio	vol	Total slaves		
Waith Joseph William	St. Michael's	666	1	144		
Barbadoes Slave Register Index 1829						
				M	F	Total
Waith Joseph Wm	St. Michael's	275	2	75	86	161
Barbadoes Slave Register Index 1832						
Waith Joseph W	St. Michael's			77	89	166

Joseph William's name is missing from the 1834 index, and from the Slave Compensation Claims, so presumably he had died by that time.

Despite his evident wealth, Joseph William's family did not flourish, as evidenced by a series of obituaries in *The Barbadian*⁵⁴. First to go was his daughter, Josephine, recorded on 6th September 1823:

Death. At the Pine Plantation on Wednesday night last, Miss Josephine, dau of Joseph W Waith.

Two years later, in the 14th August edition, it was his step-daughter:

Deaths. On 7th inst at the Pine Pln. Miss Mary Yard, daughter-in-law of Joseph W Waith esq.

On November 6th 1847, *The Barbadian* printed the following:

Obit. Yesterday morning at the residence of John Mayers esq, of decline, 14 days after his arrival from the US, Mr William Waith, aged 34, only son of the late Joseph William Waith formerly of the Pine Estate in this island.

It would seem, then, that the last of this particular line had left Barbados to live in the United States. Whether, with the emancipation of the slaves he had been unable to maintain the plantation, or whether it was already foundering is not known. Maybe his health was not up to it. Certainly, as has been outlined above, by 1842, the Pine Plantation was up for sale.

The next son of Thomas Shepherd¹ and Sarah Waith was named Thomas Lewis¹ Waith, and was baptized at St. Philip's on 6th March 1791. While not as wealthy as his older brother, he was still a planter. He fathered an extensive family, and his story will be fleshed out below (see page 41).

⁵⁴ *The Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society*, Bridgetown, 1933-93

The next son was named, unsurprisingly, Pearce. Born on 18th December 1792, he was baptized nearly two years later on 17th September 1794 along with his next sister, Ann Jane, who had been born on 26th May 1794. There is a burial, which I think is for this Pearce, on 10th October 1810 at St. Michael's. Ann Jane grew up to marry her first cousin, the lawyer John Mayers, son of Joseph Mayers and Jane Waith (see page 20). An announcement was placed in *The Barbados Mercury*⁵⁵:

Jan 8th 1818 (married) On Wednesday morning last, John Mayers esq., Attorney-at- Law, to Miss Waith, dau of the late Thomas S Waith esq., of the Pine Plantation.

Their marriage took place on 31st December 1817 at St. Michael's, and resulted in six children: Maria Jane, John, Elizabeth Caroline, Sarah Elizabeth, Joseph Shepherd and Thomas Evelyn Mayers.

A son Shepherd born 23rd December 1795 and a daughter Sarah born 18th December 1797 were baptized together on 17th June 1798 at St. Philip's, but again, the boy died, and was buried on 31st July 1803 at St. Michael's. It would appear that this branch of the family moved away from St. Philip's at around this time, as the final daughter, Elizabeth, born 22nd May 1800, was baptized at St. Michael's on 19th June 1800. She grew up to marry into another family with close ties to the Waiths, as her husband was Joseph Packer Evelyn, whom she married at Christ Church on 15th November 1819.

There are two burials of a Sarah Waith at St. Michael's in the early 1800s, one on 13th May 1801 and the other on 25th November 1803. At a guess they are the burials of Thomas Shepherd's wife and daughter, but the register is not specific enough for certainty. I have found no further reference to either of them elsewhere.

Thomas Lewis¹ Waith

Back to Thomas Lewis¹ Waith. Like others in this saga, he is trackable through the Slave Registers, and by the time they appear, he was living in Christchurch. The 1817 register⁵⁶ reads:

Christ Church. The return of Thomas Lewis Waith of slaves his own property.

The 1817 return lists 27 slaves, a much smaller quota than his brother owned. Most of them are field hands, but there is a cook, a domestic and a couple of

⁵⁵ SoG, *Caribbeana* volume 2, WI/Per/17640u/1- 9 p. 282

⁵⁶ TNA, T71/521 Slave Register Barbadoes, 1817

house servants, as well as a couple of cattle keepers. In 1820⁵⁷ the numbers are much the same, but by 1823⁵⁸, the numbers have gone up:

Number this 7th day of May 1823 44
 Number of slaves according to the present return 44 males and
 females Thos L Waith

partly due to a gift of two slaves from Mary A Hunt, but largely due to births on the plantation.

By 1829⁵⁹ four more slaves had been born and he was in a position to sell three others to Robert Hudgewell Batson, his brother-in-law. By 1832⁶⁰ he has sold 11 slaves to John W Grogan and one to Jn Hy Nurse, but there have been three more births. The reason for the Barbadians to begin keeping registers was a slightly gruesome need to 'breed their own' labour force following the abolition of the slave trade. Given that where conditions were bad, female slaves simply weren't healthy enough to support pregnancy, we must assume that Thomas Lewis¹ must have looked after his slaves reasonably well to show such a high birth rate. Barbados as a whole had a reputation for 'breeding its own' successfully. By the time of the final return⁶¹, Thomas Lewis¹ had sold two more slaves – to Benjamin Junnis and Elizabeth Nurse – and two more had been born, giving a total of 32 slaves in all.

Again, in a way which seems barbaric to us, Thomas Lewis¹ Waith was entitled to compensation once slavery was abolished completely. The compensation claim⁶² submitted was numbered 3300:

Barbadoes Return of the number of slaves and estimated value thereof, in each class, in possession of Mr Thomas Lewis Waith esq. on the 1st day of August 1834

Name of the estate or domicile of slaves: Bartlettts

Total number of slaves 32

	m	f	no.	Value in sterling
Head people	1	1	1	100
Field labourers	7	7	14	1050
Inferior field labourers	6	2	8	320
Head domestic servants	1	1	2	200
Inferior domestic servants	2	1	3	150
Children under 6 yrs of age	4	4	4	40
			32	1860

Dated this 19th day of November 1834 Signed Jonas Wilkinson

⁵⁷ TNA, T71/525 Slave Register Barbadoes, 1820

⁵⁸ TNA, T71/530 Slave Register Barbadoes, 1823

⁵⁹ TNA, T71/544 Slave Registers Barbadoes, 1829

⁶⁰ TNA, T79/549 Slave Registers Barbadoes, 1832

⁶¹ TNA, T71/555 Slave Registers Barbadoes, 1834

⁶² TNA, T71/798, Slave Compensation Claims, Barbados

Sworn this 30th day of December 1834 Signed E.H ?Sinhouse
Before me: H Hamden

If his 32 slaves were worth nearly £2000, then brother Joseph's 160 plus must have been worth a considerable sum. The other interesting piece of information this entry gives, is the name of Thomas Lewis's property, 'Bartletts'.

I suspect that the:

New Commission of the Peace issued by the Governor, Bishop of Barbados, the members of H.M Council, and of the General Assembly

mentioned in *The Barbadian*⁶³ on 8th October 1834 may have had something to do with fears of unrest following emancipation. 'T.L. Waith' appears as one of about 40 men to be involved in its inception.

In 1840, he was living at Black Rock, presumably in St. Michael's (maybe a suburb of Bridgetown) as *The Barbadian*⁶⁴ publishes an advertisement in its issue dated January 4th. 1840:

For sale. The Farm, sea coast, between the villages of Worthing and Bath, 5 a and dwelling-house. Apply to Thomas Waith, Black Rock, or Sampson W. Waith, 40, Swan St.

Sampson Wood Waith was Thomas Lewis's first cousin, but by this time, they were more closely linked through the marriage of two of their children (see page 52). Sampson was guardian to his brother Joseph's son, and I believe 'The farm' to have belonged to him. Presumably Thomas Lewis was helping Sampson to sell the property on William Neil Waith's behalf.

Thomas Lewis Waith died on 22nd September 1848. *The Barbadian's* obituary⁶⁵ reads:

September 27th. Deaths. On Friday last at his residence in Christ Church, Thomas L Waith esq. aged 57 yrs.

By the time the newspaper came out, he had already been buried. The entry in the St. Michael's register gives:

Thomas Lewis Waith (planter). Abode Parish of Christ Church.
Buried 23rd September 1848. Age 57 years.

⁶³ *The Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society*, Bridgetown, 1933-93

⁶⁴ *The Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society*, Bridgetown, 1933-93

⁶⁵ *The Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society*, Bridgetown, 1933-93

The Batson Line

When there is so much material available in the 19th century, it is frustrating that no record exists of Thomas Lewis¹ Waith's marriage to his wife Margaret. Once again, it is necessary to turn to the trees passed down from the family history written by Lucretia Haggett Waith. This has not proved to be without errors, but in this case, I think it is right. The tree gives Thomas Lewis¹'s wife's maiden name as Batson, and sure enough, a Margaret Batson was baptized at St. Peter's on 6th March 1791. The entry in the recopied records has to have an error in it, as it says:

1791
Mar 6 Batson, Margaret parents Samuel and Francis his wf
born Nov 5

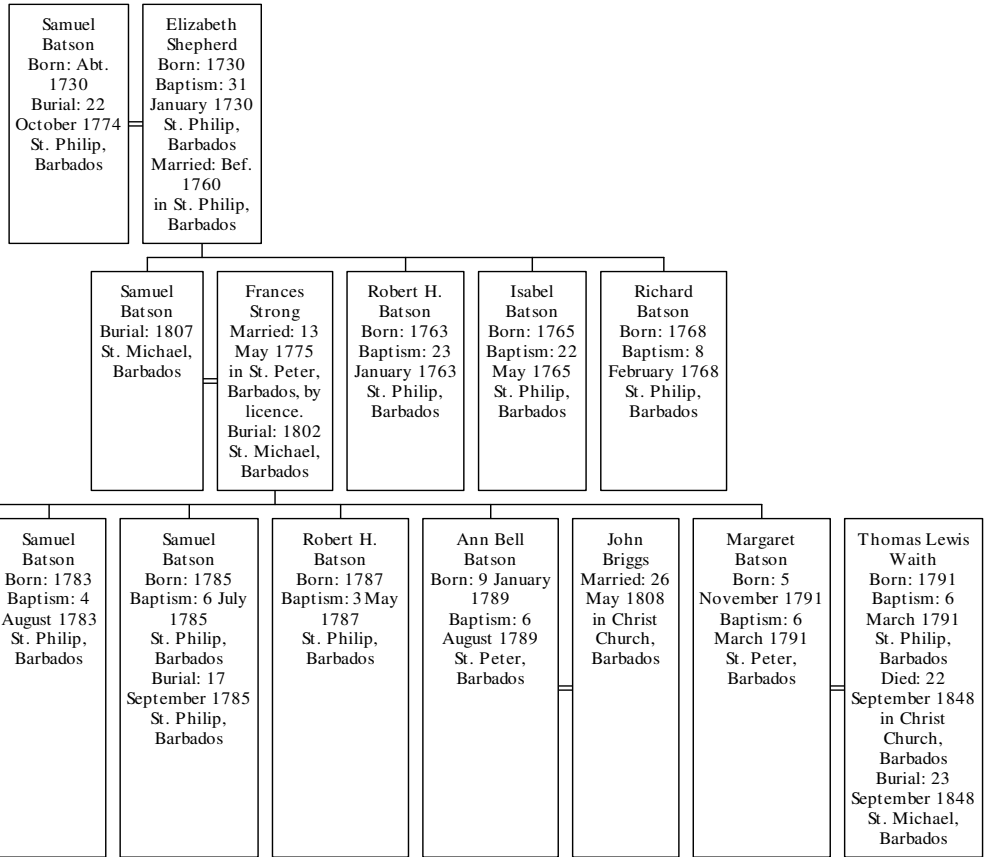
Clearly it would be tricky to be born after your baptism, but the key piece of information here lies in the parents' names, even to the spelling of Frances as Francis. For, having done her duty by her in-laws and given her children classic Waith names like Sarah, Thomas Shepherd, Elizabeth Jane and Pearce, Margaret suddenly baptized two children as Francis and Samuel, her own parents' names, and names which had appeared nowhere on the Waith tree before. Obviously, everything on this part of the tree is open to reappraisal if an alternative Margaret crawls out of the woodwork, but I think one is unlikely to do so.

Margaret was in fact the youngest child of her parents. Samuel² Batson and Frances Strong were married in St. Peter's parish by license on 13th May 1775. Apart from a possible date of burial at St. Michael's in 1802, nothing more is known of Frances. She and her family presumably came from St. Peter's, and the baptism records are lost before 1779.

Most of the couple's children were baptized at St. Philip's. The eldest, Elizabeth Mary, was recorded there on 28th April 1776, followed by Francis – 10th October 1778, John – 4th June 1782, Samuel – 4th August 1783, a second Samuel – 6th July 1785 (he was buried on 17th September the same year), and Robert Hudgewell – 3rd May 1787. The next child, named Ann Bell, was born on 9th January 1789 and baptized at St. Peter's on 6th August the same year.

Two of the daughters married very close together at Christ Church in 1808. Frances married Edmund Bowcher on 28th July, but was pipped to the post by her sister Ann Bell who married John Briggs on 26th May. She gave birth to a daughter Ann the following year, again outclassing her sister who seems not to have had a family. The only other one of Margaret's siblings I

Descendants of Samuel Batson



have any further information about is Robert Hudgewell Batson, who is listed on the *West Indian Plantations* website⁶⁶ as managing Warner's Plantation in 1832. The same website lists Richard Smitten Batson as the manager in 1846, which again suggests a family link.

Margaret's father, Samuel², was buried at St. Michael's in 1807. No record has come to light of his birth or baptism. However, another Samuel¹ Batson and his wife Elizabeth baptized a son named Robert Hudgewell on 23rd January 1763 at St. Philip's, and the name is so unlikely a coincidence, that I think we have to accept that the younger one was named after an uncle, and that Samuel was named for his father. There is, after all, a long gap between the marriage of Samuel¹ Batson to Elizabeth Shepherd, which, despite the poor condition of the register making the precise date illegible, must have taken place before 1760, and the baptism of Robert Hudgewell Batson. This begs the question of why two generations of Batsons chose the name Robert Hudgewell in the first place. Was this a friend, or a family name?

There were two further children born to Samuel¹ and Elizabeth: Isabel, baptized 22nd May 1765 at St. Philip's, and Richard, baptized 8th February 1768, also at St. Philip's. I have speculated that this was the mysterious Richard Smitten Batson, who married Rebecca Waith (daughter of Pearce¹) and fathered the Richard Smitten Batson who followed Robert Hudgewell Batson as manager of Warner's, but there is no proof. The only tiny clue is that one Mercy Batson married a Richard Smitten on 17th August 1763. I suspect she may have been Samuel¹ Batson's sister. However, the Batson line grinds to a halt here, despite the fact that there are references to Batsons from the 1650s, in wills, in Hotten, and in the 1715 census⁶⁷, where a Batson family is listed between the two Waith families and a household containing Elizabeth Shepherd's father and grandparents. Unfortunately, Samuel¹'s parents maybe chose to baptize him – if at all – in a parish where the register hasn't survived for that period. Fortunately for this story, he chose to be buried at St. Philip's, on 22nd October 1774. He is recorded as 44 years old.

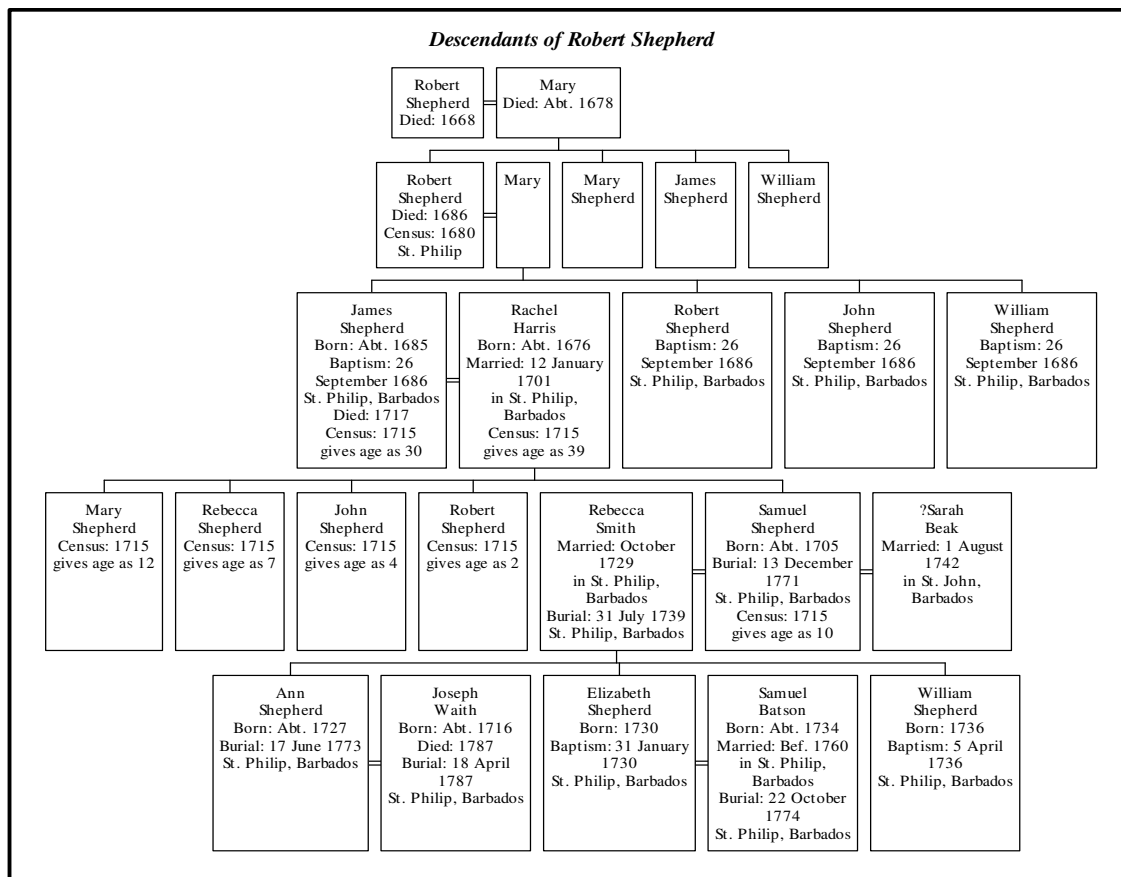
⁶⁶ <http://www.plantations.bb/search.php>

⁶⁷ *Barbados and America* David L. Kent Censuses for 1679/80 & 1715 , David L Kent, Arlington VA, 1980. Also: TNA, State Papers, Colonial Office General Class 1, piece 44, no 47, f 141-379, and State Papers, Colonial Office Class 28, piece 16 no. 2, f 100-375

The Shepherd Line

Lucretia Haggett Waith has two Shepherd women on her Waith tree, linked by a line which would presume that they were sisters. One married Joseph Waith, and the other 'Old Baston'. I believe that the reversal of the 's' and 't' are either inadvertent or simply reflect an alternative spelling or pronunciation as there is no evidence for anyone called Baston anywhere on the island. There is no baptism for Ann Shepherd, but Elizabeth was baptized, the daughter of Samuel Shepherd and Rebecca Smith on 31st January 1730 at St. Philip's. There was a son, too, William, who was baptized there on 5th April 1736.

The only clue for Ann's date of birth is in her burial in 1773 when her age is given as 46 years. If this is accurate, it would suggest a birth before the marriage of Samuel and Rebecca, which took place in October 1729 at St. Philip's. However, age at death can be notoriously inaccurate, (even when transcription errors such as occur when records are recopied are not taken into account) as the person giving it often did not know the true age of the deceased. So I feel this is within tolerance. As a caveat, I will repeat my earlier comment that Shepherd was a common name on Barbados. However, in tracing Elizabeth's family, I suspect I am also tracing Ann's.



Their mother, Rebecca, was buried at St. Philip's on 31st July 1739. It is probable that Samuel married again, as there is a marriage recorded at St. John's between a Samuel Shepherd and Sarah Beak on 1st August 1742, and certainly Samuel would have needed help raising 3 small children. Samuel lived on until 1771 when his burial entry on 13th December records him as being 66 years old. This would give a date of birth around 1705, and although no baptism has been found, the 1715 census⁶⁸ gives his age as 10 years old.

An extract from the will⁶⁹ of Samuel Shepherd dated 17th January 1772 shows his estate passing first to his wife, and then to William:

My wife Sarah Shepherd - £100.00 and all of my estate
My son William Shepherd - everything goes to William after the death of Sarah.

The executor was William Shepherd, and the will was witnessed by John French Clarke, William Crawford Jnr., Thomas Briggs. Unfortunately, there is no mention in the abstract of either daughter, but presumably they would have earlier received a marriage portion.

Samuel Shepherd appeared on the 1715 census⁷⁰ at St. Philip's with the rest of his family:

Mr James Shepherd	30
Mrs Rachel Shepherd	39
Mary Shepherd	12
Samuel Shepherd	10
Rebecca Shepherd	7
John Shepherd	4
Robert Shepherd	2

This suggests Samuel's mother Rachel to have been considerably older than her husband James. We know that this couple married on 12th January 1701 at St. Philip's, but although I have found his baptism - James Shepherd was baptized along with three brothers (Robert, John and William) on 26th September 1686, belonging to Robert and Mary Shepherd - Rachel's has eluded me. It is of course possible, given the age gap, that this was a second marriage for Rachel, in which case her maiden name is unknown. However, if she was a Harris by birth, it is tempting to see the will of James Harris of St.

⁶⁸ *Barbados and America* David L. Kent Censuses for 1679/80 & 1715, David L Kent, Arlington VA, 1980. Also: TNA, State Papers, Colonial Office General Class 1, piece 44, no 47, f 141-379, and State Papers, Colonial Office Class 28, piece 16 no. 2, f 100-375

⁶⁹ Barbados Department of Archives, recopied record book Ref: RB6/18/3, Will of Samuel Shepherd, 1772.

⁷⁰ *Barbados and America* David L. Kent Censuses for 1679/80 & 1715, David L Kent, Arlington VA, 1980. Also: TNA, State Papers, Colonial Office General Class 1, piece 44, no 47, f 141-379, and State Papers, Colonial Office Class 28, piece 16 no. 2, f 100-375

Philip's⁷¹, which mentions a daughter Rachel, as being the will of Rachel Shepherd's father. Harris is an extremely common name in the Barbados registers, but I have quoted the abstract, although it must be remembered that there is no proof of a link:

My sons James Harris, Thomas Harris, and Richard Harris;
my daughters Elizabeth Harris, Mary Harris, Rachell Harris,
and Sarah Harris; wife Jane Harris, executrix; friends Richard
Cheeseman and Thomas Napp - executors in trust.
Signed James X Harris. Witnesses: Robert Marshall, Mathew
Metford, John Higginbotham. Proved 14th August 1682.

If this will does refer to 'our' Rachel, then she was the daughter of James and Jane Harris.

Despite being younger than his wife, James predeceased her, and named her executrix in a will⁷² written on 3rd November 1717. In it, he refers to himself as a Planter of St. Philip's. He leaves:

8 acres of land lately bought of kinsman James Shepherd,
son Samuel at 21, daug Mary and Rebecca at 18, son John at 21,
6½ acres joining Wllm Heddin and others commonly called
Cheeseman's land, and my son Robert Sheppard at 21, wife
Rachel Sheppard and friend Alexander Parrin executors.

The will is signed James Sheppard and was proved on 4th February 1717. There is no mention of John, so presumably he had died in the interim.

Little is known of James' father Robert². He appears in Hotten⁷³:

St. Philip's 'An Account of the Inhabitants' 1680 (Census)	No of acres	Wt servants	Negroes
Robert Shepperd	29		7'

Robert² Sheppard's will⁷⁴ refers to him as a planter of St. Philip's, and is dated 15th September 1686. The abstract is very brief:

'Eldest son Robert, sons John, James, William and Samuel,

⁷¹ *Barbados Records: Wills, 1639-1725*. Vols. 1-3. Joanne McRee Sanders, Baltimore, MD, USA: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1979-1981, RB6/12, p. 105. Will of James Harris, St. Philip's Parish, 1681

⁷² *Barbados Records: Wills, 1639-1725*. Vols. 1-3. Joanne McRee Sanders, Baltimore, MD, USA: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1979-1981, RB6/4 p 245, will of James Shepherd, planter, 1717.

⁷³ Omitted Chapters from Hotten's Original List of Persons of Quality and others who went from Great Britain to the American Plantations James C Brandow, Baltimore MD, USA Genealogical Publishing Co. 2001, St. Philip's - 'An Account of the Inhabitants' 1680

⁷⁴ *Barbados Records: Wills, 1639-1725*. Vols. 1-3. Joanne McRee Sanders, Baltimore, MD, USA: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1979-1981, RB6/40 p. 304, Will of Robert Sheppard, 1686

all at 21. Wife Mary. William Sheppard overseer.'

From the will of Robert²'s father, another Robert¹, which names a son William, we can assume that the overseer was Robert²'s brother. Both Roberts married a woman named Mary, just to add to the confusion, and both were planters. Robert¹'s will⁷⁵, dated 1st July 1668, and calling him a planter of St. Philip's, gives the following information:

Wife Mary, exec and guardian; son Robert, daughter Mary at 16,
sons James and William at 21. Friends Capt. Richard Pocock and
Thomas Start - overseers. Witnesses: Christopher Robinson, Joanna
Robinson, William Broxon.
Robert x Shepherd.

It was proved on 8th December 1668.

The children of Thomas Lewis¹ Waith and Margaret Batson

Thomas Lewis¹ and Margaret had eight children. The eldest was a girl, baptized on 19th March 1811 at St Michael's, and unsurprisingly named Sarah. On 16th June 1829 she married Joseph Theoderic Bedout, also at St. Michael. They had one daughter, Margaret Ann, also named after a grandmother. Sarah probably died when Margaret was young, as in 1839, her husband, presumably now widowed, married again, and had another child. I wonder whether Margaret went to live with her grandfather, as, when she died on 18th December 1846, *The Barbadian*⁷⁶ referred to him, rather than her father in their announcement on 19th December 1846:

Died yesterday in Christ Church Miss Bedont granddaughter of
TL Waith esq.

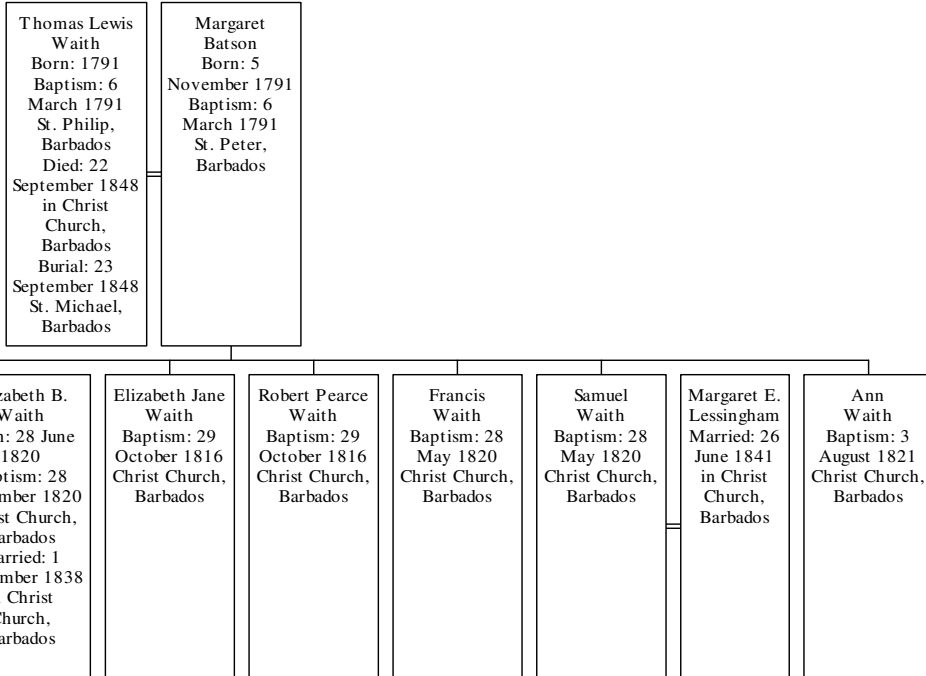
I assume Bedont for Bedout to be a typographical error either by the paper or *The Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society*.

The next child, also destined to die young, was named after his paternal grandfather, Thomas Shepherd¹. Thomas Shepherd² was baptized at St. Michael on 16th July 1811. A baptism three months after another sibling would raise doubts in an English register, but on Barbados one can suggest that the imminent arrival of a second child may have reminded the parents about the need to baptize the first!

⁷⁵ *Barbados Records: Wills, 1639-1725*. Vols. 1-3. Joanne McRee Sanders, Baltimore, MD, USA: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1979-1981, RB6/10 p.91, Will of Robert Shepherd 1668

⁷⁶ *The Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society*, Bridgetown, 1933-93

Family of Thomas Lewis and Margaret Waith



On 17th September (probably of 1816, but the register binding is too tight to be able to tell for sure), another child was born, and given the name Thomas Shepherd³ at baptism in Christ Church on 29th October 1816. More of his life later (see below). Two other siblings were baptized on the same day, and may well have been older than Thomas Shepherd³. These were named Elizabeth Jane and Robert Pearce. According to the passed down trees, Robert later married a Miss Fawcett, but I have found no record of the marriage.

Two further sons were baptized together on 28th May 1820 at Christ Church: Francis and Samuel. The latter married Margaret Elizabeth Lessingham on 26th June 1841 at Christ Church. A daughter, named Marion Lessingham, was baptized by this couple at Christ Church on 7th January 1845. Marion is sufficiently unusual a name to suggest that the Marion baptized in the same parish on 5th December 1857 with a father Robert was a cousin, the child of Robert Pearce Waith. However, his mother's name is recorded on the IGI as Margaret Linton, not Fawcett. Maybe Robert married twice.

A final daughter for Thomas Lewis¹ and Margaret was baptized on 3rd August 1821, also at Christ Church. She was named Ann.

Thomas Shepherd³ Waith

Thomas Shepherd³ presumably inherited his father's small sugar plantation of Bartletts, as this is given as his address when on 11th April 1857, *The Barbadian*⁷⁷ records:

Names of Grand Jury summoned for the Court of Grand Sessions
.... T. S. Waith, Planter, Bartlett's.

Thomas Shepherd³'s is one of a list of about 30 names. This is the only reference to him in the newspapers, however. After emancipation in 1834, there was a period during which the freed slaves continued to work for their old masters as indentured workers, but clearly society was changing. By the 1860s, times for planters were becoming more difficult. A lot of plantations appeared for sale in the newspapers, and advertisements aimed at 'labourers' encouraging emigration to British Guiana and offering free passage became common. Although he had raised a large family in Barbados in the 1840s and 50s, Thomas Shepherd³ evidently decided it was time to leave the island and try his fortunes in what was then British Guiana. There is no record of his

⁷⁷ *The Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society*, Bridgetown, 1933-93

move, but a diary kept by one of his sons suggests a date somewhere around 1868.

What of his life in Barbados, though? On 1st November 1838, he married his second cousin Elizabeth Blagrove Waith, daughter of Sampson Wood Waith (see page 56). They gave their numerous offspring names to conjure with. The first, Orlando, was baptized at St. Michael's on 23rd September 1840, but only lived a few months and was buried on 14th November 1840, also at St. Michael's. The rest, with the exception of Rosina, were all baptized at Christ Church. Twins Edwin Word (Should this be Wood?) Waith and Robert Blagrove Waith were both baptized on 26th October 1841.

Nothing more is known of Edwin, but Robert obviously went to British Guiana, as when he died, an obituary appeared in a Georgetown paper, *The Colonist*⁷⁸, on Wednesday 10th June 1868:

Died Waith , On Tues 9th inst, at Plantation Helena Mahaica, after a lingering illness, Robert Blagrove, aged 25 yrs, a native of Barbados.

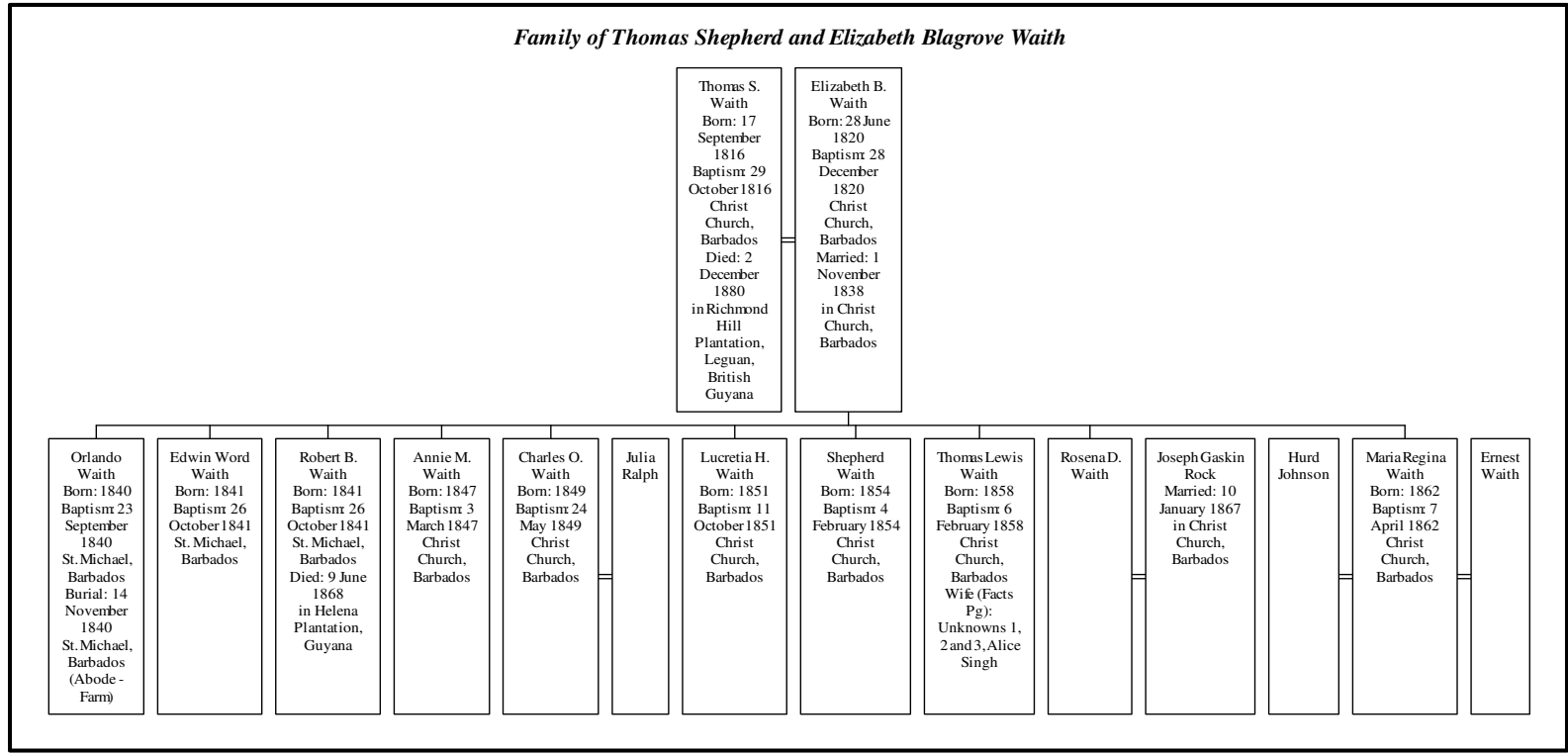
This announcement confirms emigration before June 1868, but one can only speculate whether he had been ill before leaving Barbados, or whether the family had already been in Guyana for some time.

Annie Montravers Waith, baptized 3rd March 1847, never married, but the next child, Charles Orlando, baptized 24th May 1849 grew up to wed Julia Ralph. No record of the marriage has been found, so it probably took place in British Guiana. This couple had a large family, whose descendants have lived in Guyana, England and Canada. The next daughter, Lucretia Haggett Waith, who was baptized 11th October 1851, also remained single, and went to the USA. She was the one who created the original family trees which have been drawn on to fill gaps in the official records. Shepherd Waith – 4th February 1854 - also emigrated to British Guiana; he never married, but ran a sugar plantation with his brothers Charles Orlando and Thomas Lewis². I will return to Thomas Lewis² later (see page 73). The last baptized child of Thomas Shepherd³ and Elizabeth Blagrove Waith – Maria Regina, christened 7th April 1762 - married firstly John Hurd Johnson and then Ernest Waith.

Family members know of one more sister – Rosina Doughty - born in 1844. No baptism has been found for her, but Elizabeth Blagrove's brother Robert Doughty Waith, and a wife named Margaret, baptized a daughter

⁷⁸ SoG, AMS/R2, *Birth Marriage and Death announcements appearing in Georgetown newspapers*

Family of Thomas Shepherd and Elizabeth Blagrove Waith



Thomas S. Waith
 Born: 17 September 1816
 Baptism 29 October 1816
 Christ Church, Barbados
 Died: 2 December 1880
 in Richmond Hill Plantation, Leguan, British Guyana

Elizabeth B. Waith
 Born: 28 June 1820
 Baptism 28 December 1820
 Christ Church, Barbados
 Married: 1 November 1838
 in Christ Church, Barbados

Orlando Waith
 Born: 1840
 Baptism 23 September 1840
 St. Michael, Barbados
 Burial: 14 November 1840
 St. Michael, Barbados (Abode - Farm)

Edwin Word Waith
 Born: 1841
 Baptism 26 October 1841
 St. Michael, Barbados

Robert B. Waith
 Born: 1841
 Baptism 26 October 1841
 St. Michael, Barbados
 Died: 9 June 1868
 in Helena Plantation, Guyana

Annie M. Waith
 Born: 1847
 Baptism 3 March 1847
 Christ Church, Barbados

Charles O. Waith
 Born: 1849
 Baptism 24 May 1849
 Christ Church, Barbados

Julia Ralph

Lucretia H. Waith
 Born: 1851
 Baptism 11 October 1851
 Christ Church, Barbados

Shepherd Waith
 Born: 1854
 Baptism 4 February 1854
 Christ Church, Barbados

Thomas Lewis Waith
 Born: 1858
 Baptism 6 February 1858
 Christ Church, Barbados
 Wife (Facts Pg): Unknowns 1, 2 and 3, Alice Singh

Rosena D. Waith

Joseph Gaskin Rock
 Married: 10 January 1867
 in Christ Church, Barbados

Hurd Johnson

Maria Regina Waith
 Born: 1862
 Baptism 7 April 1862
 Christ Church, Barbados

Ernest Waith

Rosina on 3rd December 1844 in Christ Church. It may be this child whose burial is recorded at Christchurch on 30th September 1845 (address Pleasant Cottage) but I have also wondered, given that Rosina Doughty's is the only baptism missing in Thomas and Elizabeth's family whether she was orphaned and brought up as a daughter by Thomas Shepherd Waith. Whatever the truth of her birth, she stayed in Barbados when the rest of the family emigrated, having married Joseph Gaskin Rock at Christ Church in 1867.

Thomas Shepherd³ evidently decided to stick with the business he knew best in British Guiana – sugar. He bought a sugar plantation named Richmond Hill, on Leguan which is a large island in the Essequibo River in Western Demerara. Although I have only managed to find documentary evidence for him at Richmond Hill, family sources also mention two other plantations in Leguan; Good Intent and Claremont. One website which seems no longer extant places all three on the same co-ordinates: 6.95 latitude, -58.4 longitude. Another website⁷⁹ shows Richmond Hill at N 6° 57' 0" W 58° 24' 0" and Good Intent at N 6° 57' 0" W 58° 24' 0". A posting on Rootsweb⁸⁰ from Tikwis Begbie, who created the *British Guiana Colonists*⁸¹ website, gives with the following information:

St. Peter's Parish 1843
Eastern side: Lot 21 Richmond Hill Sugar.

Waakenaam, which was also mentioned by family members, seems to be the administrative district.

An extract from *The Demerary and Essequibo Royal Gazette April 1815*⁸² shows that in the early 1800s, Richmond Hill, Clairmont and Good Intent estates had nearly 700 slaves, and principally produced sugar and rum, though Good Intent also produced coffee. The modern maps make the plantations look too small to maintain such a workforce, so maybe when Thomas Shepherd² owned them they were somewhere in between.

Presumably, Thomas Shepherd³ worked these plantations until his death at Richmond Hill on 2nd December 1880. This event was reported in *The Colonist*⁸³

Obituary 23 December 1880. Georgetown. On the 2nd inst, at
Pln Richmond Hill, Leguan, Thomas Shephard Waith, aged 66 yrs.

There is no record of when Elizabeth Blagrove Waith died.

⁷⁹ http://www.geonames.org/maps/google_6.95_-58.4.html

⁸⁰ <http://boards.rootsweb.com/localities.southam.guyana.general/194.196/mb.ashx>

⁸¹ <http://www.vc.id.au/tb/>

⁸² <http://www.vc.id.au/edg/181504derg-chart.html>

⁸³ SoG, AMS/R2, *Birth Marriage and Death announcements appearing in Georgetown newspapers*

Sampson Wood Waith

Sampson Wood Waith, the eldest surviving son of Thomas and Sarah, was born on 16th December 1783. His family probably moved from St. Philip's to Christ Church when he was approaching his teens. On 17th May 1808, when he was 22 years old, he married Elizabeth Rose by license at Christ Church. Seven children were christened, with all but one of the baptisms taking place at Christ Church. The first was James Rose Waith, baptized Boxing Day 1812; then came Mary Murrell Waith who is recorded on the IGI as baptized on 18th February 1815. Reading from the film of the original register, I have her burial date as 3rd July 1814, but may well have recorded the year wrongly. Either way, even if there was an earlier sibling of the same name, she died as an infant or young child. Robert Doughty Waith came next, baptized on 24th August 1816, and then Sampson Wood Waith, baptized at St. Philip's on 1st August 1818.

The next child was Elizabeth Blagrove Waith, whom we have already met as the wife of Thomas Shepherd² (see page 53). She was born on 28th June 1820 and baptized on 28th December the same year. Two of her brothers already mentioned, James R and Sampson W Waith witnessed her marriage to Thomas Shepherd². The register records both bride and groom as 'of this parish'. Two further sisters followed: Sarah Murrell (again), baptized on Boxing Day 1822 and Ellen Frances, baptized 19th May 1826. Nothing more is known of these, though.

It seems that there was another son, although no baptism has been found. The Slave Registers⁸⁴ for 1817 have the following entry:

Christchurch. The Return of Sampson Wood Waith of a slave,
the property of Thomas Waith a minor, and son of the said
Samson Wood Waith
Prince Edward m black house servant 15 Barbadian

Given that Sampson Wood's father was named Thomas, this would be a logical name for an eldest son, and there is a four year gap between his marriage to Elizabeth Rose and the baptism of James Rose Waith. The 1820 register⁸⁵ shows the same information:

Return of Sampson Wood Waith of a slave the property
of his son Thomas Waith a minor:
Name Sex Colour Employ't Age Country Increase/Decrease
Edward Male Black Field 18 Barbadian

In the 1823 return⁸⁶ Thomas still has one slave, but no relationship is stated:

⁸⁴ TNA, T71/521 Barbadoes Slave Register 1817

⁸⁵ TNA, T71/525 Slave Register Barbadoes 1820

⁸⁶ TNA, T71/530, Slave Register, Barbados, 1823

Family of Sampson Wood and Elizabeth Waith

<p>Samson Wood Waith Born: 16 December 1783 Baptism: 29 July 1787 St. Philip, Barbados Died: 20 September 1852 in Christ Church, Barbados Burial: 29 September 1852 Christ Church, Barbados</p>	<p>Elizabeth Rose Baptism: 29 December 1786 St. Philip, Barbados Married: 17 May 1808 in Christ Church, Barbados, lic. Died: 1826 in Christ Church, Barbados Burial: 13 April 1826 Christ Church, Barbados</p>
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<p>Thomas Waith Died: Bef. 1829</p>	<p>James Rose Waith Born: 1812 Baptism: 26 December 1812 Christ Church, Barbados</p>	<p>Sarah Murrell Waith Born: 1815 Baptism: 18 February 1815 Christ Church, Barbados</p>	<p>Robert Doughty Waith Born: 1816 Baptism: 24 August 1816 Christ Church, Barbados</p>	<p>Sampson Wood Waith Born: 1818 Baptism: 1 August 1818 St. Philip, Barbados</p>	<p>Mary Murrell Waith Married: 23 December 1841 in St. Michael, Barbados</p>	<p>Elizabeth Blagrove Waith Born: 28 June 1820 Baptism: 28 December 1820 Christ Church, Barbados</p>	<p>Thomas Shepherd Waith Born: 17 September 1816 Baptism: 29 October 1816 Christ Church, Barbados Married: 1 November 1838 in Christ Church, Barbados Died: 2 December 1880 in Richmond Hill Plantation, Leguan, British Guyana</p>	<p>Sarah Murrell Waith Born: 1822 Baptism: 26 December 1822 Christ Church, Barbados</p>	<p>Ellen Frances Waith Born: 1826 Baptism: 19 May 1826 Christ Church, Barbados</p>
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Return of Sampson W Waith of a slave the property of
Thomas Waith a minor to whom he is guardian.
No alteration required to be specified by law since last registration.
April 24th 1823 S. W. Waith

By 1826⁸⁷, Thomas is clearly grown up:

Return of Thomas Waith of slaves his own property
Number p last Registration
No alteration required by law to be specified since last registration
April 1826 Thomas Waith

but by the following return⁸⁸ in 1829, he is listed as deceased.

Sampson Wood Waith was executor to his brother Joseph, which put him into the role of guardian to his nephew William Neil. In 1829, the Slave Register has the following entries which show him fulfilling his duties:

Return of Samson Wood Waith of slaves the property of the
estate of Joseph Waith (dec^d) to which he is qualified executor
..... Reverted at the death of said Jos Waith to his son
Wm Neil Waith

and:

Return of Samson Wood Waith of slaves the property of
William Neil Waith (a minor).
.....Reverted by the death of Joseph Waith his father

Sampson Wood also held slaves in his own right. In 1817⁸⁹ these numbered seventeen: five fishermen, five field hands, a cook and three house servants. By 1820⁹⁰, this had gone up to 39, though three of these were sold to Ann Greenidge. Four more were a:

gift of Griffith Edghill deceased

and nine more had been purchased from his widow, Christian Edghill. I suspect that Griffith Edghill may have been a distant cousin, as Sampson Wood's great-great aunt had married a man with the same unusual name. This time, their occupations include a cattle keeper, sick nurse and washer as well as those already outlined.

⁸⁷ TNA, T71/536, Slave Register, Barbados, 1826

⁸⁸ TNA, T71/544, Slave Register, Barbados, 1829

⁸⁹ TNA, T71/521, Slave Register, Barbados, 1817

⁹⁰ TNA, T71/525 Slave Register Barbadoes 1820

By 1823, the number had gone down to 28, but rose again to 39 in 1826, and stayed there through 1829 despite the purchase of three slaves from Henry Braithwaite⁹¹. In 1832⁹² a gift of sixteen slaves from his mother, Sarah, and nine births raised the number to 60, despite some deaths, including one:

by the hurricane.

Like the rest of the family, Sampson Wood Waith claimed compensation when emancipation arrived. The entry⁹³, which places him at Amity Lodge, shows him to have been a wealthy man.

Barbadoes Return of the number of slaves and estimated value thereof, in each class, in possession of Mr Samson Wood Waith esq. on the 1st day of August 1834

Name of the estate or domicile of slaves: Amity Lodge

	Total number of slaves 65			Value in sterling
	m	f	no.	
Head people	1		1	100
Tradesmen	3		3	300
Inferior tradesmen	1		1	75
Field Labourers	6	13	19	1425
Inferior field labourers	11	13	24	960
Head domestic servants		2	2	200
Inferior domestic serv's	3		3	150
Children under 6 years of age				
	5	7	12	120
			65	£3330

Dated this 19th day of November 1834 Signed Jonas Wilkinson

Sworn this 30th day of December 1834 Signed E.H ?Sinhouse

Before me: H Hamden

No doubt the thought of a lot of freed slaves roaming the island struck terror into the planters, who had held the upper hand for a very long time. They took what measures they could to maintain their control. On 16th July 1834, *The Barbadian* reported that:

On 8th inst. the Bills passed were passed by the Legislature for establishing Town and Rural Police Forces. On this date the Governor appointed as Commissioners for carrying into effect the Rural Police Bill.

One of the fifteen or so commissioners was Sampson Wood Waith.

From its first colonization by the British, Barbados had been ruled by a General Assembly, and each of the eleven parishes on the island was allowed

⁹¹ TNA, T71/544, Slave Register, Barbados, 1829

⁹² TNA, T79/549, Slave Register, Barbados, 1832

⁹³ TNA, T71/798, Slave Compensation Claims, Barbados, No. 3541

to nominate two members. In the 29th June edition for 1836, *The Barbadian*⁹⁴ noted:

Returns for the General Assembly made yesterday
Christchurch. S.W.Waith and J.P. Evelyn ... John Mayers, clerk.

Whether this was his first foray into politics, or just the only one reported in the newspapers, there is no further reference to him in *The Barbadian*⁹⁵ until 4th January 1840, in the advertisement already described under Thomas Lewis¹ Waith:

For sale. The Farm, sea coast, between the villages of Worthing and Bath, 5 acres and dwelling-house. Apply to Thomas Waith, Black Rock, or Samuel W. Waith, 40, Swan St.

If he sold 'The Farm', presumably he hung on to part of the estate, for his burial at Christ Church is recorded as follows:

Samson Wood Waith, Farm Cottage, buried September 29th 1852.
69 years.

*The Globe Official Gazette and Colonial Advocate*⁹⁶ reported his death on September 28th 1852:

D On 20th.... On same day in Christchurch at an advanced age, Sampson Wood Waith Esq. for some years a representative of that parish in the House of Assembly.

The Rose Line

Elizabeth Rose, wife of Sampson Wood Waith, was baptized on 29th December 1786 at St. Philip's, the daughter of James Rose and Mary Elizabeth Forte Doughty. She died at a relatively young age, as noted in *The Barbadian*⁹⁷ on April 14th 1826:

Deaths. In Christ Church, Mrs Waith, wife of Sampson W. Waith esq.

The entry in the Christ Church burial register on 13th April 1826 gives her age as 38 years.

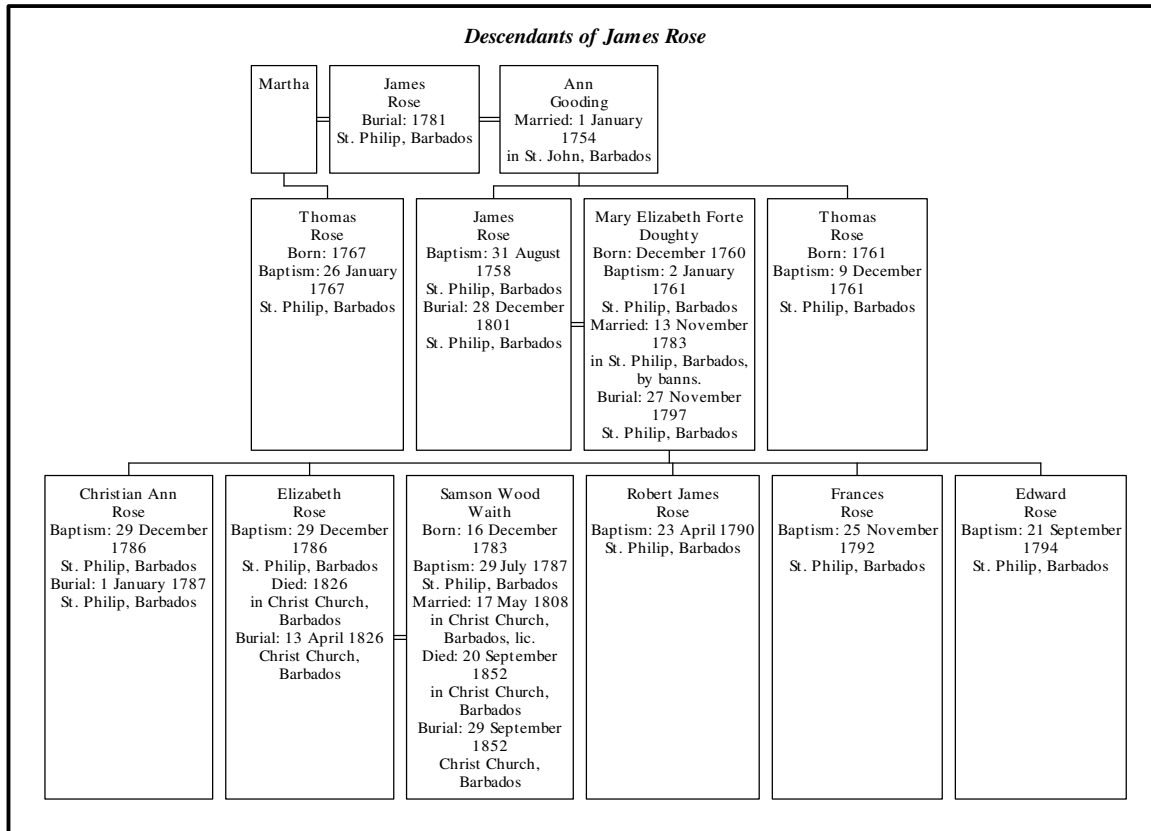
⁹⁴ *The Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society*, Bridgetown, 1933-93

⁹⁵ *The Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society*, Bridgetown, 1933-93

⁹⁶ *The Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society*, Bridgetown, 1933-93

⁹⁷ *The Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society*, Bridgetown, 1933-93

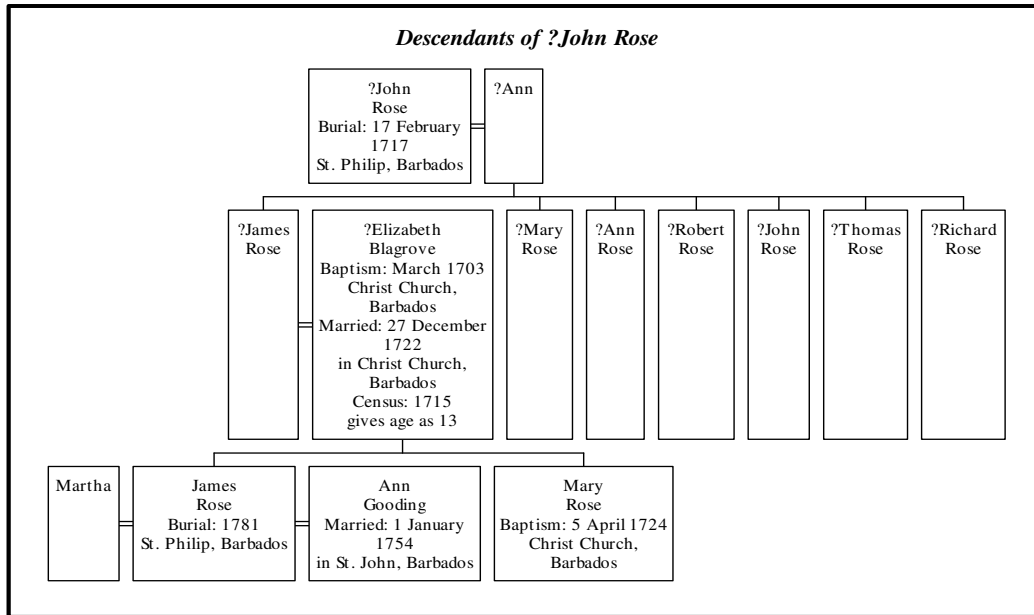
She had been the eldest of five children, unless Christian Ann, baptized at the same time as Elizabeth was the more senior. Robert James, named for both grandfathers, followed, and was baptized at St. Philip's on 23rd April 1790. Frances was baptized on 25th November 1792 and Edward on 21st September 1794, both at St. Philip's.



Her father, James Rose, was also from St. Philip's, and baptized there on 31st August 1758, the son of another James Rose and his wife Ann. His brother Thomas was baptized on 9th December 1761 in the same parish. James married Elizabeth Doughty by banns at St. Philip's on 13th December 1783. When she died in 1797, he seems to have remarried, to Christian Greenidge, on 21st December the same year. It is possible that this is another James, otherwise unrecorded, but if not, he seems to have wed in somewhat indecent haste. Maybe he suspected time was short, as his burial took place only four years later, on 28th December 1801 at St. Philip's.

The only feasible marriage I can find for James Rose senior to a bride named Ann took place at St. John's between James Rose and Ann Gooding on 1st January 1754, but it raises the question why St. John's not St. Philip's? There are no baptism records for St. John's at this time, so it is possible that this was the bride's home parish. There is no baptism for Ann at St. Philip's, although a Robert Gooding did baptize a 'job lot' of five sons in 1738, so there

were Goodings around. However, any thoughts on this are pure speculation and worth little. Although I have found no record of her death, I suspect Ann died young, as there is a marriage recorded at St. Philip's on 21st April 1764 between James Rose and Martha Penoyer. There was only one son from this union, also named Thomas (baptized 26th January 1767), so maybe the first Thomas and his mother Ann failed to thrive after childbirth. I found an entry in the index to burials for St. Philip's for James Rose in 1781, but missed the entry in the register itself.



Frustratingly, there is no baptism extant for James, so no way of knowing who his parents were. It seems feasible that his parents were another James Rose and Elizabeth Blagrove, which might explain the choice of name for Elizabeth Blagrove Waith, although naming a child for its great-great grandmother seems a little extreme. If the theory is right, though, the line goes back up through Elizabeth's parents Francis Blagrove and Dorothy Hardwick, and then to a John Blagrove and Jane. Elizabeth Blagrove's husband James Rose is even shadowier. He could be the son of either John Rose and Ann Austin or of Garratt Rose and Phyllis Warton.

The Doughty Line

This name appears variously as Doughty and Doughtie in the records, but I have generally kept to the one spelling.

Mary Elizabeth Forte Doughty was baptized at St. Philip's, as were her siblings, on 2nd January 1761. A note in the register says she was aged 1 year 2 weeks, which would suggest a birth date in December 1760. She was the second child of Robert and Elizabeth Doughty, the first being Francis, baptized on 1st October 1757. Mercy came next, baptized 26th May 1763, and then Ann Charity, baptized 24th April 1764 and buried 1st November 1765. Mary was also destined to die relatively young, being only 36 when she was buried at St. Philip's on 27th November 1797.

Her mother Elizabeth presumably died in childbirth, as she was buried at St. Philip's on 17th April 1764, before Ann Charity had been baptized. Robert Doughty remarried fairly swiftly, his wedding to Mary Wilson by license taking place at St. Philip's on 19th December 1764. Four children followed: Ann in 1767, Robert Gretton Tubbs in 1771, Edward James in 1774 and Elizabeth Ann in 1778. Four years later, in 7th February 1782, Robert Doughty was buried at St. Philip's.

Robert Doughty, baptized on 8th July 1736 - and his sisters Elizabeth (baptized 5th August 1724) and Mary (born 19th September 1729; baptized 13th June 1730) - were the children of Edward Doughty and Eleanor Marshall who married at St. Philip's (where they baptized their children) on 21st September 1723. Robert's mother Eleanor appears on the 1715 census⁹⁸ at St. Philip's, aged 12, which would suggest she was born around 1703. The only other person in the household, apart from 18 year old Mary Street, was Mary Marshall, aged 46, presumably Eleanor's mother.

Edward Doughty appears alone on the 1715 census⁹⁹, aged 18, suggesting 1696 or 7 as his year of birth. This would have made it difficult to place him in a family group had it not been for a very informative will¹⁰⁰ left by his maternal grandmother, Isabella Gollison. In it she names three Doughty grandchildren, Michael, Edward and Isabella, and a daughter Jane.

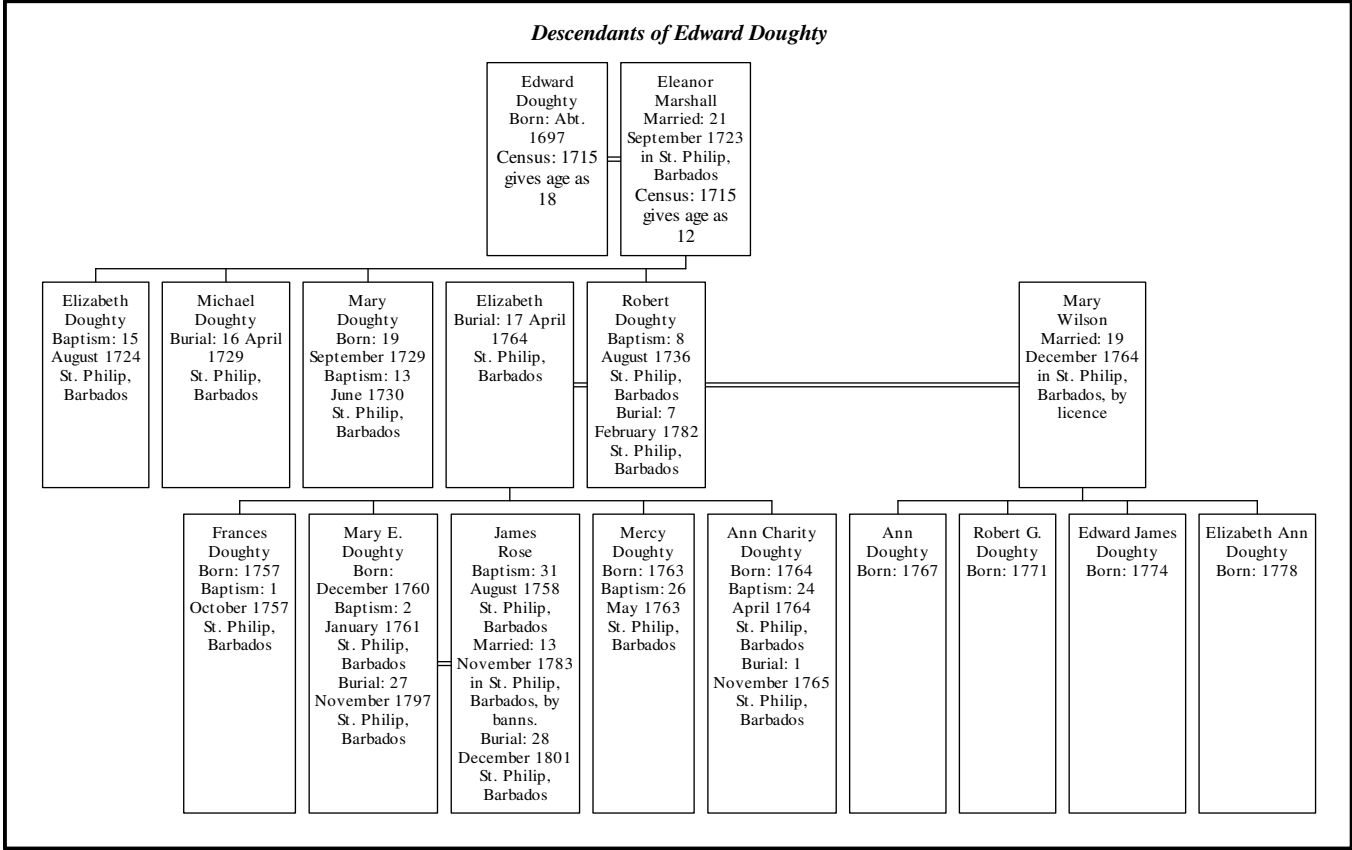
John Doughty, who left a will¹⁰¹ dated 12th September 1696, makes reference to his wife Jane, and to:

⁹⁸ *Barbados and America* David L. Kent Censuses for 1679/80 & 1715, David L Kent, Arlington VA, 1980. Also: TNA, State Papers, Colonial Office General Class 1, piece 44, no 47, f 141-379, and State Papers, Colonial Office Class 28, piece 16 no. 2, f 100-375

⁹⁹ *Barbados and America* David L. Kent Censuses for 1679/80 & 1715, David L Kent, Arlington VA, 1980. Also: TNA, State Papers, Colonial Office General Class 1, piece 44, no 47, f 141-379, and State Papers, Colonial Office Class 28, piece 16 no. 2, f 100-375

¹⁰⁰ *Barbados Records: Wills, 1639-1725*. Vols. 1-3. Joanne McRee Sanders, Baltimore, MD, USA: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1979-1981, RB6/37 p 483, Will of Isabella Gollison, St. Philip's, 1701

¹⁰¹ *Barbados Records: Wills, 1639-1725*. Vols. 1-3. Joanne McRee Sanders, Baltimore, MD, USA: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1979-1981, RB6/37, Will of John Doughty, St. Philip's, RB6/11, p. 407, 1696



Son Michael Doughtie; son John Doughtie; dau Isabella Doughtie;
dau Jane; child wf goes with; all chn very young.

Given a supposed year of birth for Edward of 1696-7, it seems highly likely that he was the 'child wf goes with' mentioned in the will, and outlived his siblings John and Jane.

John Doughty and Jane Gollison's marriage has not been found, but given that they had seven children, it must have taken place in the first half of the 1680s. There is a reference in a will¹⁰² in 1684 to John Doughty and his wife, but it is unclear whether this is John and Jane or John's father and mother. If it is John junior, then he and Jane must have been married by then, which would fit with the burial of their first child, Rebecca, on 2nd July 1685. (All the events recorded for their children took place at St. Philip's.) I am assuming that Michael came next, though it could have been John, who was buried on 12th November 1698. Michael married Rebecca Wilkinson in 1715 and died in 1725. James was baptized 5th January 1689 but buried 16th November 1691. There is no record of Isabella apart from in the two wills cited, but Jane appears on the census¹⁰³ with her mother, aged 20, suggesting a birth in 1694-5. Edward was, of necessity, the last child of the family.

There is also no record of John junior's baptism. However, a deposition made by him in relation to Nathaniel Middleton's will¹⁰⁴ on 7th February 1694 gives his age as 29. This would imply a birth year of about 1664-5. John and his supposed brother Edward both seem to have been doctors. This might explain John's popularity as a witness. He appears on no less than 15 surviving wills, mainly in St. Philip's parish. Edward Doughtie, chirurgeon of St. Lucy's, made John Doughty an executor rather than a witness when he wrote his will¹⁰⁵ in 1696. I assume this to be John's brother given the shared profession. Edward also died young – maybe it was an occupational hazard.

Thomas Parkins, chirurgeon named John Doughty senior, and his apprentices Thomas Wilkinson and John Doughty, in a will ¹⁰⁶ dated 1680, so presumably John junior learned his trade from his father's friend.

¹⁰² *Barbados Records: Wills, 1639-1725*. Vols. 1-3. Joanne McRee Sanders, Baltimore, MD, USA: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1979-1981, RB6/10, p 324, Will of Jeremiah Cooke esq, 1684

¹⁰³ *Barbados and America* David L. Kent Censuses for 1679/80 & 1715, David L Kent, Arlington VA, 1980. Also: TNA, State Papers, Colonial Office General Class 1, piece 44, no 47, f 141-379, and State Papers, Colonial Office Class 28, piece 16 no. 2, f 100-375

¹⁰⁴ *Barbados Records: Wills, 1639-1725*. Vols. 1-3. Joanne McRee Sanders, Baltimore, MD, USA: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1979-1981, RB6/11, p 74, Will of Nathaniel Middleton, 1694

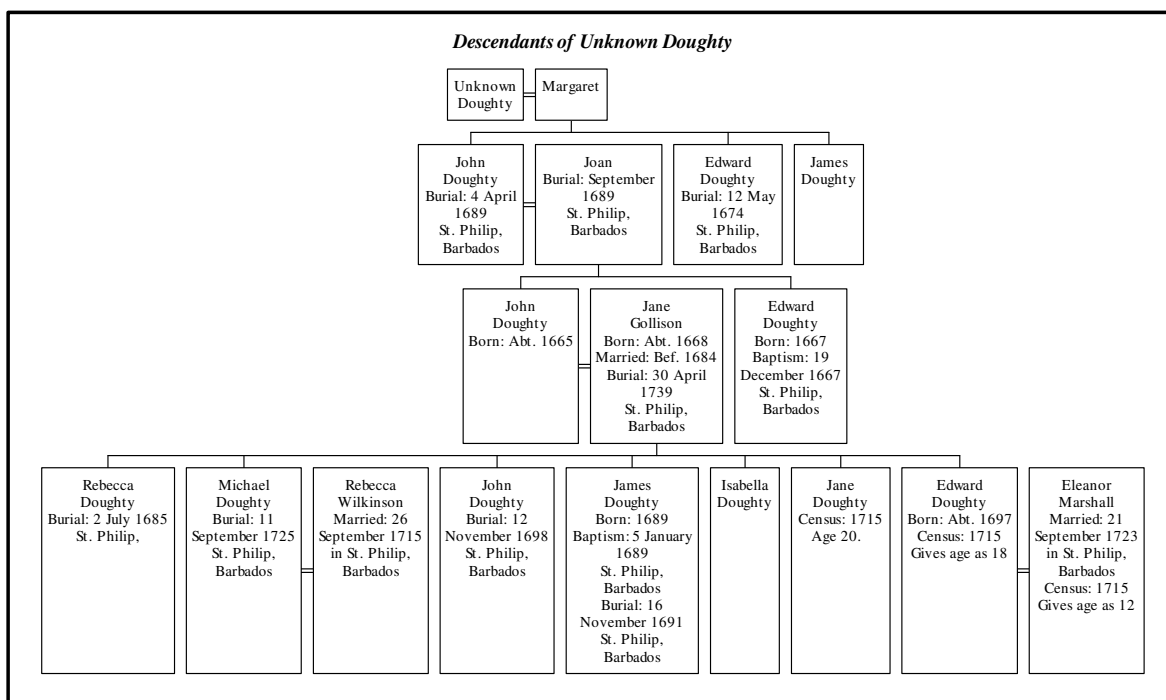
¹⁰⁵ *Barbados Records: Wills, 1639-1725*. Vols. 1-3. Joanne McRee Sanders, Baltimore, MD, USA: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1979-1981, RB6/11, p 398, Will of Edward Doughtie, chirurgeon, St. Lucy's, 1696.

¹⁰⁶ *Barbados Records: Wills, 1639-1725*. Vols. 1-3. Joanne McRee Sanders, Baltimore, MD, USA: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1979-1981, RB6/14, p.77, Will of Thomas Parkins, chirurgeon, 1680

Interestingly, eight years earlier, Thomas Parkins had witnessed the will of another character in this story, John Higinbotham (see page 33).

It is perhaps worth quoting the abstract from John junior's will¹⁰⁷ in full:

Son Michael Doughtie; son John Doughtie; dau Isabella Doughtie; dau Jane; child wf goes with; all chn very young; wf Jane Doughtie – exec; friends Thomas Pilgrim, John Braithwaite, and Maj. Thomas Rawlins - execs. signed John Doughtie.
Wit: Thomas Ward, John Crichlow. Memo, execs Capt. Robert Boucher and Maj. Thomas Rawlins. Proved 10.12.1696.



As we would expect, John signs rather than marks his will, spelling his surname 'ie' rather than 'y'. Eldest son Michael, who married Rachel Wilkinson, appears on the 1715 census¹⁰⁸ at St. Philip's aged 25 as:

Doct. Michael Doughty

So presumably he followed in his father's and grandfather's footsteps.

¹⁰⁷ *Barbados Records: Wills, 1639-1725*. Vols. 1-3. Joanne McRee Sanders, Baltimore, MD, USA: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1979-1981, RB6/11, p. 407, Will of John Doughty, 1696

¹⁰⁸ *Barbados and America* David L. Kent Censuses for 1679/80 & 1715, David L Kent, Arlington VA, 1980. Also: TNA, State Papers, Colonial Office General Class 1, piece 44, no 47, f 141-379, and State Papers, Colonial Office Class 28, piece 16 no. 2, f 100-375

Although there is no baptism to link John Doughty junior to John Doughty senior, identifying people in this way usually implies a father/son or at least an uncle/nephew relationship. In addition, if we accept that John junior and Edward were brothers, the will¹⁰⁹ of their uncle, also Edward, suggests this, as well as giving us part of the next generation back:

Mo Margaret Cockranid (Cockraine); kinsm Edward Doughty jnr,
son of my bro John Doughty snr - exec. Signed Edward Doughty.
Wit: James Lord srn, William Jatt (or Gatt). Proved 30.5.1674.

However, it is the link to Margaret Cockraine which is key, as her second husband Eleazor left a will¹¹⁰ which confirms the family grouping, though it also raises some questions:

Will of Eleazor Cockraine, gent, St. Thomas, 25th June 1667.
Kinsm William Cockraine' John Doughtie younger son of John
Doughtie and Joan Doughtie his wife and grandchild to my wife
Margaret; Elizabeth Doughtie dau of James Doughtie and
Elizabeth Doughtie and grandchild of my wife Margaret; John
Doughtie jnr, 3rd son of said wf Margaret - said John is lately
married and with child. Kinsm Eleazor Cockraine, wife exec and
guardian to Eleazor Cockrayne. Signed Eleazor Cockraine.
Wit: Francis (X) Beel, John Doughtie snr. Proved 9 Jan 1671.

It has to be remembered that this abstract comes from the recopied wills, giving a fair margin for error. However, it looks as if Margaret and her unknown Doughty husband named two sons John. This was not unheard of at the time, when infant mortality was high and people were keen to keep family names alive. Sometimes, even, a lease was dependant on there being someone of the right name to inherit, so parents played safe. However, I think it is reasonable to assume that the line I have followed descends from John senior and his wife Joan.

I return now to John Doughty junior's his wife Jane Gollison. Again, the parish registers are of little use, and we are lucky that her family wrote wills. Her father Michael Gollison wrote his will¹¹¹ in 1682, referring Jane by her family name – which tells us she was still unmarried, and probably a minor:

Will of Michael Gollison, planter. 7th day of the month called

¹⁰⁹ *Barbados Records: Wills, 1639-1725*. Vols. 1-3. Joanne McRee Sanders, Baltimore, MD, USA: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1979-1981, RB6/9, p. 111, Will of Edward Doughtie, St. Philips, 1674

¹¹⁰ *Barbados Records: Wills, 1639-1725*. Vols. 1-3. Joanne McRee Sanders, Baltimore, MD, USA: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1979-1981, RB6/8 p. 297, Will of Eleazor Cockraine, St. Thomas', 1667

¹¹¹ *Barbados Records: Wills, 1639-1725*. Vols. 1-3. Joanne McRee Sanders, Baltimore, MD, USA: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1979-1981, RB6/12, p. 221, Will of Michael Gollison, 1682

September 1682. Son-in-law George Rice and Eliz Rice his wife, son Michael Gollison, my mother, daus Patience Gollison and Jane Gollison, dau Mary Gollison at 18, wife Issabel Gollison and friends Major Thomas Rawlins and Capt. Peter Evans, Emmanuel Curtis and John Braithwaite execs. Signed Michael X Gollison.
Wit: Urban Street, Thomas Taylor, Henry Bourne.
Proved 12th Jan. 1682/3.

It also tells us that his mother, albeit unnamed, was still alive at this point, and that he, Michael, was a planter. This is confirmed by the 1680 census¹¹²:

	acres	white servants	negroes
Michael Gollison	48		13

Michael Gollison's wife, Isabella, outlived him by nearly 20 years. Fortunately for this history, she left a detailed will¹¹³ which confirmed that Jane Gollison remarried after John Doughty's death:

Gollison Isabella, widow and relict of Michael Gollison of Bdos planter.

Gr daus Elizabeth Ward and Mary Ward, gr son Richard Rawlins, to be paid to his mo; my dau Jane Rawlins formerly called Jane Gollison the dau of Michael Gollison decd - 17 acres bounded by land formerly in possession of Elizabeth Maycock, lands of James Brewding, Neine Marcoclistler (Maracastry) Joshua Gittins, Richard Rawlins, John Harrison and Robert Ward,; my gr children Michael Doughty, Isabella Doughty and Edw Doughty, Elizabeth Rawlins, Michael Gollison and Elizabeth Gollison. Friends James Thurburne and Thomas Rawlin - Xtrs. Signed Isabella(X) Gollison.

I suspect the Thomas Rawlin named was the same as the Major Thomas Rawlins who was executor to John Doughty's will, and named as a friend in that of Michael Gollison.

As outlined above, the three Doughty grandchildren are proof of Jane's first marriage, and she presumably married fairly soon after being widowed, as she already had a daughter and a son by her second husband. However, this was standard practice for a woman widowed with young children as she was. There was at least one more child from this union, William. He, aged 12, his half-sister Jane Doughty aged 20 and their mother Jane Rawlins,

¹¹² Omitted Chapters from Hotten's Original List of Persons of Quality and others who went from Great Britain to the American Plantations James C Brandow, Baltimore MD, USA Genealogical Publishing Co. 2001, St. Philip's 'An Account of the Inhabitants' 1680

¹¹³ *Barbados Records: Wills, 1639-1725*. Vols. 1-3. Joanne McRee Sanders, Baltimore, MD, USA: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1979-1981, RB6/37, p. 48, Will of Isabella Gollison, 1701

widow, aged 47, appear together on the 1715 census¹¹⁴ for St. Philip's. This would suggest that Jane was born around 1668. She had outlived her first husband by over forty years and the second by over twenty. She was buried at St. Philip's on 30th April 1739.

Isabella's will was signed but not witnessed, so attached to it are three depositions¹¹⁵:

Dep, 6 Aug 1702, Nicholas Reid esq, Capt. Wm Gilbert, and John Brookfitt (Brookes)

Dep, 6 Aug 1702, Nicholas Reid Esq of St. Philips parish age 48:

'On 18 Jan 1701 a negro belonging to Isabella Gollison came to deponent and said his mistress sent for him. He went to her and her daughter Jane Rawlins told her mo that Nicholas was there. Jane gave deponent a draught of a will drawn by John Brookes and was told by the said Isabella to transcribe the will. This deponent desired George Montgomery to draw the will but he did not, will was done by James Mearres. It was examined by this deponent and Capt. Wm Gilbert and shown to Isabella. She was told she had made provision for all her grandchildren except her gr dau Colleton. She said she had no need. Her son-in-law Robert Ward asked her about a deed she had made and her daughter helped her sign the will but she would not seal it.'

Dep. John Brookes age 42: 'George Searle was to deliver the will to James Sherburne (Thurburne) the Xtr to the will.' (Will is repeated except John Gittens is named instead of Joshua Gittens.)

Proved 2.9.1702.

Curiosity about why granddaughter Colleton 'had no need' made me look her up. Granddaughter Colleton was Elizabeth and George Rice's daughter, Katherine, who married Peter Colleton. The Colletons seem to have been of high status; numerous members of the family holding the title baronet appear in *Barbados Records: Wills 1639-1725*. They seem to have come originally from St. Martin in the Fields, London.

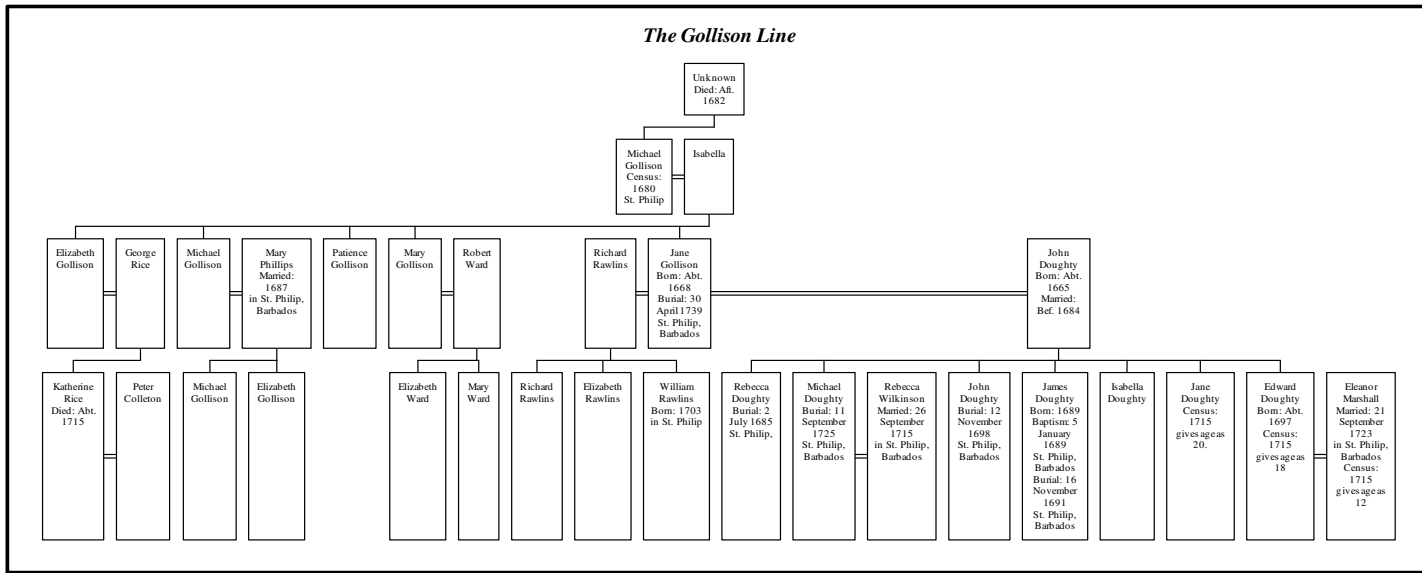
Katharine Colleton's will¹¹⁶ dated 7th June 1710 is also informative:

Katherine, the wf of Peter Colleton, the only dau and to be heir of my father George Rice decd.

¹¹⁴ *Barbados and America* David L. Kent Censuses for 1679/80 & 1715, David L Kent, Arlington VA, 1980. Also: TNA, State Papers, Colonial Office General Class 1, piece 44, no 47, f 141-379, and State Papers, Colonial Office Class 28, piece 16 no. 2, f 100-375

¹¹⁵ *Barbados Records: Wills, 1639-1725*. Vols. 1-3. Joanne McRee Sanders, Baltimore, MD, USA: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1979-1981, RB6/37, p. 48, Will of Isabella Gollison, 1701

¹¹⁶ *Barbados Records: Wills, 1639-1725*. Vols. 1-3. Joanne McRee Sanders, Baltimore, MD, USA: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1979-1981, RB6/5, p. 552, Will of Katherine Colleton, 1710



My kinsmen Michael Doughty and Isabella Doughty; kinswoman Jean Doughty, the daughter of Dr John Doughty; kinsman Michael Gollingson and kinswoman Elizabeth Gollingson and kinswoman Mary Ward at 24..... my husband Peter Colleton....

I suspect that Jean should read Jane, as Gollingson should read Gollison, unless, of course there is a Scottish connection; Jean is the usual Scots form of Jane. It is also interesting that Katharine was allowed to write a will while her husband was alive. Usually only spinsters and widows had the privilege of disposing of their possessions.

A final tit-bit on this digression into the Colletons comes from the Boone family¹¹⁷ website:

COLLETON, John, Lord Proprietor of Carolina. John-B:1608; D:1666. Lived in Barbados during the Cromwell years. When he died, his sons were, sequentially, Lords Proprietors, as his heirs. (1)Peter – no information; (2) Thomas Colleton – lived in Barbados and never visited S.C.; (3) James Colleton – lived in Barbados, but often visited Carolina. In 1686 James is commissioned Governor of Colony, but has stormy administration. In 1690, local parliament, with acting Governor Seth Sothell, banished James from Colony, and he retired to Barbados, dying there in 1706.

By piecing together information from a variety of Colleton wills in *Barbados Records: Wills 1639-1725*, it would seem that the Peter Colleton whom Isabella Gollison's granddaughter married was the grandson of John Colleton, Lord Proprietor of Carolina, through his second son, Thomas. No wonder she had no need of her grandmother's money!

The sons of Thomas Shepherd³ Waith in British Guyana

Once the Waiths were settled in Guyana, they are much harder to track, as no general registration records survived the unrest in the country in the 1960s. There are a few newspaper extracts, and trade directories, and some sterling research work done by Tikwis Begbie¹¹⁸ who has attempted to correlate all surviving Guyanan records into a central archive. Apart from that, there are only family anecdotes to go on, and these, while usually having a strong grain of truth, often need to be taken with the proverbial pinch of salt.

¹¹⁷ <http://www.boonefamily.org/coll001.html>

¹¹⁸ <http://www.vc.id.au/tb/>

However, there is an extant directory¹¹⁹ for 1882, which lists Thomas Shepherd Waith's heirs as proprietors of Richmond Hill Plantation. The names of all three brothers, Charles Orlando, Shepherd and Thomas Lewis² appear in several entries:

p. 111
Waith C O, Manager, Richmond Hill, Leguan
Waith S, Head Overseer, Richmond Hill, Leguan

and:

p. 211
Managers of Sugar Estates 'Waith, C.O. Richmond Hill, Leguan'

and again:

p. 219
Managers of Sugar Estates ... Waith, S, Head, Richmond Hill,
Leguan
Waith Thomas, Richmond Hill, Leguan

Another entry has the initials CP, which tell us that Richmond Hill extracted sugar by the 'common process' rather than the 'vaccum pan' method.

Sugar Estates:
Richmond Hill CP, Leguan. Proprietors; heirs of T.S. Waith.;
Town Agent Wm Z.G. King; Manager C.O. Waith

Page 247 lists the sugar estates arranged according to their geographical location:

Essequebo - Leguan Island: Canefield, Richmond Hill, Blenheim,
Enterprise, Maryville, Waterloo, Success, Henrietta

while page 252 still gives as one of the proprietors of Sugar Estates:

Waith T.S. Richmond Hill.

Directories were often a couple of years out of date.

As far as I can tell, Shepherd Waith never married, whereas Charles Orlando married Julia Ralph and fathered Francis Alexander, Charles Orlando, Mabel and Constance Elizabeth. There are still numerous descendants of Charles Orlando who bear the name Waith today, and their branch is not my story to tell. However, Charles Orlando did leave a journal, which suggests what happened to Richmond Hill plantation. Apparently,

¹¹⁹ SoG, *The British Guiana Directory and Almanack for 1882*, Georgetown, L. MDermott, 1882

and I don't know exactly when, possibly in the 1880s¹²⁰, the plantation went into a decline due to a drop in the price of sugar. It was closed, and Charles Orlando first planted tobacco and then took part in an expedition to the gold fields in the Potaro district. After that he managed a rice factory at La Penitence before returning to sugar at Anna Regina plantation. There are two other family stories about how they lost their plantations: one suggests that one of Thomas' brothers did not have insurance, and so they lost the land, and the other that Thomas Lewis² took to drink and lost everything he had.

Thomas Lewis² Waith

The IGI curiously records Thomas Lewis²'s mother as Elizabeth 'Blossom' Waith, and looking at the baptism entry for him, in one of the chapels in Christ Church parish, I can see how the name might be read like that, but it can also be read as Blagrove by someone familiar with the writing style of the time. The family's abode is given as Bartlett's and the father, Thomas Shepherd² Waith has his occupation recorded as planter. The baptism took place on 6th February 1858, so Thomas Lewis² was probably about ten when the family moved to Guyana.

He appears in a number of directories¹²¹ over the years. The first three entries below come from the British Guiana Directories of 1882, 1889 and 1898:

Manager at Richmond Hill Pln, Leguan Island, Essequibo, heir to T.S. Waith

Overseer (Building), Pln. Rose Hall, Berbice

Head Overseer, Pln Maryville and Belfield, Leguan

In 1898, *The Directory of South America Central America Mexico and West Indies* also showed him at:

Rose Hall. Triple Effet and VP. Canje Creek. Prop. A.J. McConnell and C.F. Bethune
Maryville and Belfield, Triple Effet and VP. Leguan, prop.
The Leguan Sugar Plantation Co. Ltd.'

In 1904, *The British Guiana Directory* showed:

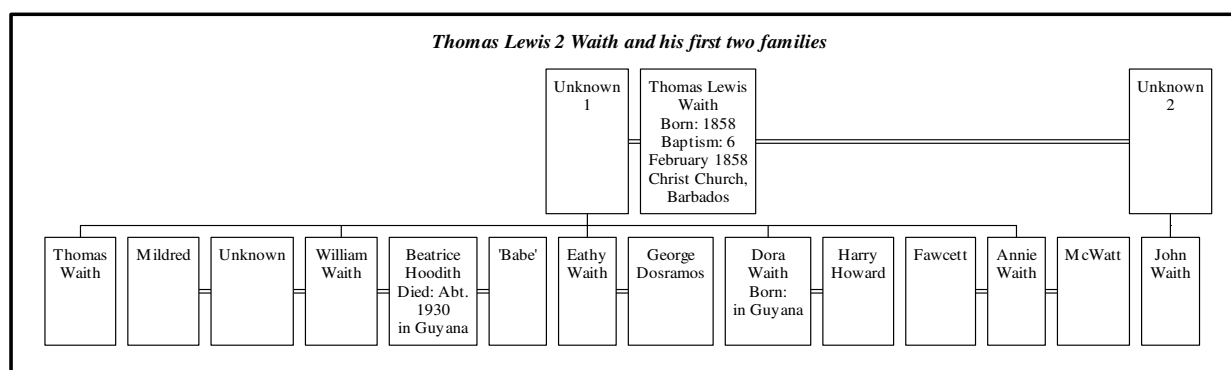
¹²⁰ Jstor - *Sugar Production in North-Eastern Brazil and Cuba* : 'The increased production of beet sugar contributed to the drop in sugar prices, especially after 1884, which forced many small estates to stop milling.'

¹²¹ SoG, *British Guiana Directory* – 1882, 1889, 1898, 1904; *Directory of S America C America Mexico and W Indies* - 1898

Waith T.L. Head Overseer Pln Maryville, Leguan

Thomas Lewis² seems to have been personally responsible for a small population explosion. According to members of his extended family, he had at least three, and probably four liaisons. As there are no marriage records extant, and indeed there is some doubts as to which of these relationships was formalized, the names of most of these women are, sadly, unknown.

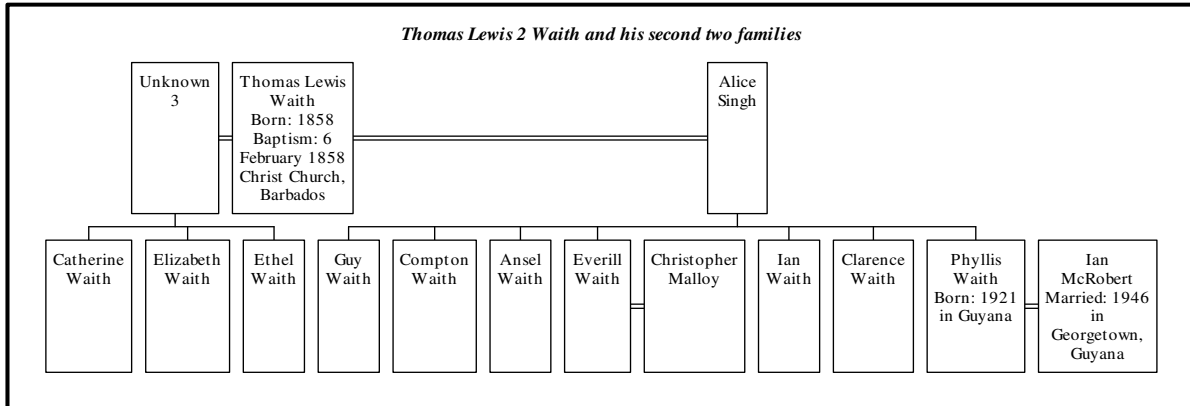
The first 'spouse' was mother to Thomas, William, Eathy, Dora and Annie. I have no dates, but would guess these were born in the 1880s and 90s. The second, if indeed she is a separate person, had a son named John. The third gave birth to three girls: Catherine, Elizabeth and Ethel. Only the final wife can be named – Alice Singh. She gave Thomas Lewis² seven more children, the last of whom was born in 1921. They were Guy, Compton, Ansell, Everill, Ian, Clarence and Phyllis. Including these sixteen children, Thomas Lewis² has about 140 descendants that I know of, although they don't all bear the name Waith.



One of Thomas Lewis²'s grandchildren told me of an aunt's memories of his life in Guyana. Apparently, Thomas Lewis² used to travel to Georgetown every Monday to do his financial business, and may have met Alice Singh on one of these trips. When he married Alice he went to live in Georgetown. The older children lived in a big house with a 'perfectly groomed live-in negro nanny' to look after them. Thomas and Alice also lived in a big house and were both evidently very musical. The cousin remembered with fondness that their part of the family would visit for dessert with Alice's family in the evenings and there would be lots of music and dancing around the piano. Thomas Lewis² lived to be at least 87 years old.

Alice Singh clearly had an Indian surname, which is unsurprising, as there was a huge influx of indentured workers from India into Guyana once the slaves had been freed, and considerable intermarriage took place, especially as there was a shortage of white women for the planters to marry. Charles Orlando's diary suggests that his brother had a liaison with someone 'of Asian extraction' and mentions that one of his wives 'was a Eurasian'. It is

impossible to know what part of India these women came from, though what little information is available about this Indian diaspora suggests that many originated from northern India, or Andhra and Uttar Pradesh, on the eastern side of the sub-continent.



An entry in *The Literary Encyclopedia*¹²² describes how the end of the ‘apprenticeship’ scheme for emancipated slaves ended in 1838 led to an acute shortage of labour in places like British Guiana. The Indian immigrants often came from villages which had become impoverished through British involvement in trading, believing that a four to seven year contract in the Caribbean would make their fortune. In fact, they often faced conditions worse than those experienced by the slaves who preceded them. However, unlike the Africans who came before them, they were at least allowed to keep their own culture.

As I have said, there are numerous descendants of Thomas Lewis² Waith, many still living, but theirs is not my story to tell, so I will restrict myself to the little I know of my grandsons’ great-great grandfather, Willie.

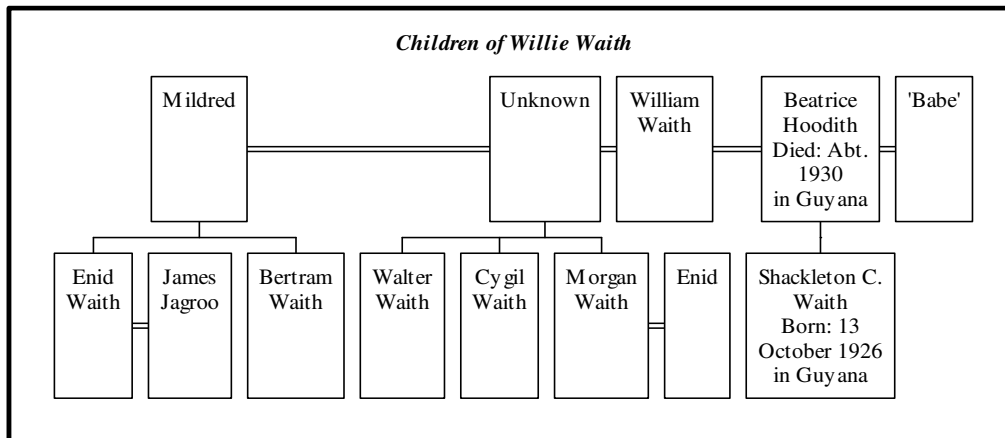
William Waith

Willie is the mystery man of the family. Presumably born in Guyana, there are no records extant for birth, baptism, marriage or death. I would guess that he was born in the 1880s, or possibly 90s. He seems to have still been alive in the late 1950s or possibly early 60s. According to one of his children’s birth certificates, in the mid-1920s, he worked as a diamond miner. One of his grandsons remembers seeing a picture of him in a Stetson, and sees a strong resemblance to a picture of his father, Thomas Lewis². He is also reported to have ridden a motor bike.

¹²² <http://www.litencyc.com/php/stopics.php?rec=true&UID=1519>

I don't know for sure whether his mother was white, Indian or Eurasian, but, like his father, he had at least four liaisons, two of which were with women of Asian ancestry. However, given that something like 50% of the population of Guyana is Indian in origin, this is not surprising.

His first wife was named Mildred, and there were two children from this union, Enid and Bertram. The second spouse's name is unknown, but gave birth to Walter, Cygil and Morgan. The fourth liaison was with a woman known as 'Babe'. As far as I know, there were no children from this relationship.



His third partner was Beatrice Hoodith, an Indian girl who was the mother of Shackleton, born in 1926. She died four years later, of septicaemia following a cat-scratch, and her mother and two Hoodith sisters, another adult male relative and three children left Guyana - initially for Trinidad and then for Barbados. The three children were Shackleton, his young Hoodith uncle and a probable cousin, Farren Lambert.

And here my story ends, not because there is not more to tell, but there are people alive who have more right to tell – or withhold - it. Tracing the Waiths has been a fascinating experience, and taught me much about a society which was unknown to me. I have had much help from many members of the family in putting the story together, but would be very pleased to hear from anyone who can add detail or who has a correction to make. However, what I would really like now is someone who can tell me about the Hoodiths.....