

CAROLINE "CARRIE" BENNETT WAITE

Compiled by Sue Waite-Langley

A small success! After many years, I've discovered who the mysterious W.W. Waite was that married Caroline Bennett. The line of "Carrie" (Bennett) Waite is the closest connection I've found to date between the Wait(e) and Waters families. This entire discussion was prompted by the single sentence in The Putnam Genealogy which states simply, "Carrie Bennett married W.W. Waite of St. Catharine's, Ontario, Canada." Carrie's uncle was Howard Waters.

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The fact that these families in general came from eastern New York state fits nicely with Bill Waite's theory that Waters' parents moved from the eastern counties of New York to Vermont where we find him in 1850. However, the reference above stated that W.W. Waite was from St. Catharine's, Ontario, Canada which is located on the extreme western border of New York. *This statement posed some questions:*

Was W.W. Waite from St. Catharine's or was he originally from the Vermont and New York area and later moved to St. Catharine's?

How old were W.W. and Carrie? Were they old enough to have been Waters' parents? Or were they contemporaries of Waters?

Before pursuing this possible connection in detail, these questions needed to be answered. I had to know what type of relationship Waters might have had with these people before I could prove or disprove a possible connection.

My own preliminary research on this family yielded very little information. It was in fact the intercession of two serendipitous events that gave me the push I needed to determine that yes, there was definitely reason to pursue research on these families. In response to a query I placed in *The Nutmegger*, the publication of **The Connecticut Society of Genealogists**, I received a letter from Mr. John Austin detailing the family of Timothy Bennett, father of "Carrie" Caroline Bennett, wife of W.W. Wait. Although Mr. Austin could not offer any information on the line of W.W. Wait, he did document the long history of the Bennett family in Warren County, New York. At last, some new information to work on. I had already found a small amount of information on a **Timothy Bennett family** with ties to both Addison County, Vermont and Warren County, New York. Although I have not determined their exact relationship to the Mr. Austin's Bennett family, it seems extremely likely that the families of Timothy Bennett found in paf records and the line of Benager or Benajah Bennett of Warren County, New York do in fact connect.

Within weeks of receiving Mr. Austin's letter, I received a second letter; this one from Frances (Waite) Thomas of Montrose, British Columbia, Canada. She was "wondering" if I might have any information on Caroline Bennett and her husband **William Wilson Waite!** Frances had no information on Carrie's

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maternal lines but there was the line of W.W. Waite. At last, I had enough information to know what I might be looking for. And, I knew which Wait(e) family the mysterious W.W. Waite belonged to! The most important clues received from these letters were:

William Wilson and Carrie were contemporaries of Waters Nathan Waite.

William Wilson Waite did in fact have ties with western Vermont and eastern New York. His parents, Reuben Waite and Abigail Patterson were from Bennington County, Vermont. William himself, although reputedly born in St. Catharine's apprenticed as a wagon maker in Ripon, Massachusetts and married Carrie at Toronel, Vermont. There is no Ripon, Massachusetts, but there is a Ripton, Wisconsin near St. Catharine's and even better, a Ripton, Vermont in Addison County. There is no Toronel, Vermont but I wonder if it should be Pownel, Vermont. Mrs. Thomas' information came from family history and the names of the towns could well have been misunderstood.

Carrie's Bennett family resided at Warren County, New York and could well have had many ties with the Waters families residing there.

Warren County, New York is just across the border from Addison County, Vermont.

There is no guarantee that a connection to Waters Nathan Waite exists here, but there are too many possibilities to ignore research on these lines. Given below is the Putnam line of the sisters Laura Alma and Eliza Putnam. Aligned with this ancestry are the corresponding generations and lineage of Laura's husband Howard Waters.

Waters Line of Descent	Putnam Line of Descent	Generation
	John Putnam = Priscilla Gould	8
Richard Waters = Rejoice Plaise	Thomas Putnam born 1614/5 = Ann Holyoke born 1626	7
James Waters = Mary Stallworthy	Edward Putnam born 1654 = Mary Hale born 1660	6
Samuel Waters born 1679 = Anne Sterling	Isaac Putnam born 1698 = Anna Fuller born 1699	5
Samuel Waters born 1719 = Jemima Howard	Asaph Putnam born 1724 = Sarah Parks born 1724	4
Starling Waters born 1756 = Elizabeth Reynolds	Parks Putnam born 1756 = Sarah Chapman born 1763	3
Sisters Laura Alma & Eliza Putnam d/o Parks & Sarah married:		
Howard Waters born 1788 = Laura Alma Eliza Putnam = Timothy Bennett Putnam		2
	Carrie Bennett = W.W. Waite	1