

**MECHANICSBURG, IL PIONEERS  
JONATHAN WRIGHT WATERMAN AND CATHERINE HESTER GHASPER FAMILY  
CHARLES C. WATERMAN AND MARY ANN POLLY BROWN WATERMAN FAMILY**

JONATHAN, HESTER AND THEIR SON CHARLES WATERMAN WERE PIONEERS IN THE VILLAGE OF MECHANICSBURG IN SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS. ACCORDING TO OLD COUNTY RECORDS, JONATHAN WRIGHT WATERMAN VOTED IN THE 1826 AND 1830 ELECTIONS. THE EXACT DATE OF THE WATERMAN FAMILY ARRIVAL IN MECHANICSBURG IS UNCERTAIN, BUT IT IS A FACT THAT THEY ARRIVED BY COVERED WAGON JUST AFTER ILLINOIS BECAME A STATE IN 1818.

JONATHAN AND HIS WIFE, CATHERINE HESTER GHASPER WATERMAN CAME FROM CLARK COUNTY, KENTUCKY WHERE THEY WERE MARRIED ON 6 FEB, 1815. THEY EVENTUALLY HAD A FAMILY OF SIX DAUGHTERS AND ONE SON, CHARLES C. WATERMAN. JONATHAN AND HESTER WERE BORN IN VIRGINIA IN 1797 AND 1798 AND MIGRATED TO KENTUCKY WITH THEIR FAMILIES. JONATHAN HAD SERVED AS A PRIVATE IN BREVARD'S COMPANY OF THE CONTINENTAL VIRGINIA MILITIA IN THE WAR OF 1812. IT WAS A PRACTICE OF THE GOVERNMENT, THAT WHEN NEW STATES WERE FORMED, VETERANS WERE GIVEN LAND GRANTS AS PAYMENT FOR THEIR MILITARY SERVICE. LAND RECORDS OF MECHANICSBURG TOWNSHIP REVEAL THAT JONATHAN AND HIS SON CHARLES APPLIED FOR AND GIVEN 12,000 ACRES WITHOUT COST IN THE 1855. JONATHAN AND HESTER WATERMAN ARE LISTED IN THE CENSUS RECORDS IN 1870 LIVING IN TALKINGTON TOWNSHIP NEAR LANESVILLE IN SOUTHERN SANGAMON COUNTY. THEY WERE AGES 72 AND 73.

ON DECEMBER 3, 1842, CHARLES C. WATERMAN MARRIED MARY ANN POLLY BROWN IN MECHANICSBURG. BOTH CHARLES AND POLLY WERE BORN IN CLARK COUNTY, KENTUCKY. OVER THE YEARS THEY HAD A FAMILY OF FIVE DAUGHTERS AND THREE SONS. CHARLES WAS A FARMER AND HARNESS MAKER ACCORDING TO CENSUS RECORDS. IN 1852, CHARLES AND POLLY BOUGHT 15 ACRES NEAR THE VILLAGE FOR \$15.00 CASH IN HAND AND THE DEED CONTAINED BOTH THEIR SIGNATURES.

DURING THE 1850'S, CHARLES AND POLLY WATERMAN LOST THEIR THREE LITTLE SONS ; ALL HAD DIED IN CHILDHOOD. ON DECEMBER 24, 1863, THEIR OLDEST DAUGHTER SARAH ELIZABETH DIED IN CHILDBIRTH. HER BABY SON, WILLIAM EDWARD WATERMAN LIVED AND WAS RAISED BY HIS GRANDMOTHER, POLLY WATERMAN. THEIR SON JOHN, AGE 4, WAS BURIED IN PICKRELL CEMETERY IN MECHANICSBURG. IT IS PRESUMED THAT CHARLES, HIS SONS THOMAS AND CHARLES JR. AND HIS DAUGHTER SARAH ARE ALL BURIED THERE AS WELL.

CHARLES C. WATERMAN DIED AT AGE 45 ON JULY 1, 1861. THEIR BABY GIRL, EMMA EMALINE, WAS ONLY 8 MONTHS OLD. TWO YEARS LATER, POLLY REMARRIED TO R. F. BURGESS, A LOCAL FARMER. THEY HAD ONE SON, SAMUEL. IN 1864. POLLY NOW HAD THREE INFANTS TO RAISE: EMMA, SAMUEL AND WILLIAM. BY THE TIME WILLIAM REACHED HIS 16<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY, HE HAD MOVED TO ROBY, BUILT HIMSELF A CABIN AND SUSTAINED HIMSELF BY WORKING FOR AREA FARMERS, HUNTING AND FISHING. WILLIAM WAS ALSO LEARNING THE HARNESS MAKING BUSINESS FROM HIS STEP-GRANDFATHER, R. F. BURGESS.



**William Edward & Ida Frances Hancock Waterman  
Daughters Nellie Elizabeth and Mary Ellen—1892**

**IDA FRANCES HANCOCK WAS GROWING UP IN MECHANICSBURG DURING THE 1860 TO 80 YEARS. WILLIAM AND IDA MET AND MARRIED ON JANUARY 1, 1889 AND MOVED TO A FARM NEAR THE VILLAGE. IN 1900, THEY MOVED TO A HOME NEXT DOOR TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN BUFFALO, IL WHERE BILL OPERATED A HARNESS AND BLACKSMITH SHOP AND CONTINUED FARMING. BY 1912, THEIR FAMILY INCLUDED HERBERT 'BUCK', CHARLES BURL, RAYMOND PATTON AND DAN 'TUCK' AND DAUGHTERS, NELLIE, ELLEN, DELLA JANE AND BANDETTA.**

**BILL AND IDA BOUGHT A FARM IN CHRISTIAN CO. IL IN 1914 MOVING TO BEAR CREEK TOWNSHIP SOUTHEAST OF TAYLORVILLE. THEIR ROOTS, HOWEVER, REMAINED IN MECHANICSBURG. THEIR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS ARE BURIED IN MECHANICSBURG, PICKRELL AND RIVERSIDE CEMETERIES.**

**Shirley Waterman Harris, Granddaughter  
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