

# AJ Genealogy

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Date: 2 February 2017, revised 8 March 2018

Report To: Personal Files

Objective: Provide a proof argument for the parentage of Nancy (Waite) Reynolds, the wife of Daniel Reynolds of Wellington, Prince Edward County, Ontario.

Subjects:

- Nancy (Waite) Reynolds, born about 1773
- Daniel Reynolds of Wellington, Prince Edward County, Ontario
- Benjamin Waite, born in Exeter, Washington County, Rhode Island, to Samuel Waite and Sarah Green on 5 January 1745
- Amy Bull

Background: Daniel Reynolds is widely regarded as the first white settle in what is now known as Prince Edward County, Ontario. He built a stone house that is still standing in the late 1700s. He married a Nancy Waite in 1792 and they had eight children.

Resources: Prior to writing the proof argument, Cari Darminio completed much of the research and obtained the following:

- Notes, photocopies, and photos taken on prior trip to Prince Edward County, Ontario
- Ancestry.com DNA results
- Digital images of census and land records
- Waite Family Record, 1745-1943, and will of Benjamin Waite, photocopies provided by Sandra J. Messner, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan.

Limitations: 5 hours for review of research, analysis, and report writing

Summary of Findings: Benjamin Waite, born 1745, and Amy Bull are most likely the parents of Nancy (Waite) Reynolds, wife of Daniel Reynolds of Wellington, Prince Edward County, Ontario.

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**Who Was the Father of Nancy Waite, the Wife of Daniel Reynolds?****A Famous Man's Elusive Wife**

The tales of Daniel Reynolds seem to grow taller with every generation, while knowledge of his wife, Nancy Waite, seems to shrink. The consensus of at least a dozen authored works is that Daniel Reynolds was the first white settler in Prince Edward County, Ontario, a true pioneer, trapper, and fur trader. He built a stone house in the late 1700s— which is still standing and occupied —with help from Indians, in what is now called the town of Wellington. While much is written about Daniel, little is written about Nancy. Furthermore, there are many inconsistencies between the abundant authored works and the very few surviving records.

There are three pieces of direct evidence indicating where Nancy Waite may have resided at the time of her marriage to Daniel Reynolds; each piece seems to conflict with the other two.

- 1) The prevailing narrative likely originated with an interview with Mrs. Hicks, aged 80, step daughter of Ebenezer Reynolds (son of Daniel Reynolds) for an article in the Picton Times and has been repeated in several publications since.<sup>1</sup> The story claims that Daniel, a trapper and pioneer, made annual trips across Lake Ontario to the Albany area of New York to trade his furs. On a trip he made, the year after he built his house, he brought back a 15 year old bride, Nancy Waite. Daniel and Nancy had eight children, Benjamin, Ebenezer, Cecil, Jacob, Serenus, Silas, Amy, and Jane.<sup>2</sup> An owner of the Reynold's house, Mrs. Harry Robison, estimated that the house was built around 1786 based on references to his age made at a later time.<sup>3</sup>
- 2) A second narrative states that Daniel Reynold's wife, Nancy Waite, was the daughter of an Adolphustown Loyalist.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> David R. Taylor, "Daniel Reynolds," 5 July 1999, manuscript from Quinte Genealogy Centre, Quinte West Public Library, Trenton, Ontario.

<sup>2</sup> *Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte: Including Genealogies of Old Families and Biographical Sketches of Representative Citizens* (Toronto: Rolph and Clark Limited, 1904), 694-697, specifically 695. Nick and Helma Mika, *The Settlement of Prince Edward County* (Belleville, Ontario: Mika Publishing Company, 1984), 224; photocopies made at Prince Edward County Archives, Wellington, Ontario, 1915. Wellington Centennial 1863 – 1963 (Wellington, Ontario: Centennial Book Committee, 1963), 19; photocopies made at, Quinte Genealogy Centre, Quinte West Public Library, Trenton, 1915.

<sup>3</sup> "The Reynolds Homestead: The Past in Stone," *County Magazine 2* (Special Christmas Issue 1976): 14 – 15, 71, specifically 15. Photocopy made at Prince Edward County Archives, Wellington, Ontario, 1915. According to the article, Mrs. Robinson was also in possession of a handwritten account, originally prepared by Mrs. William Garrett, Sr. sometime before 1903.

<sup>4</sup> Richard and Janet Lunn, *The County: The First Hundred Years in Loyalist Prince Edward* (Prince Edward County Council: 1967), p. 26; photocopies made at Prince Edward County Archives, Wellington, Ontario, 1915.

- 3) Perhaps the most reliable record is a photocopy of the original marriage register of St. Paul's Church in Fredericksburg, Ontario. The record states that "Daniel Runnolds of Ameliasburg" and "Nancy Waight of Sophiasburg" were married on 16 April 1792 by John Langhorn, Missionary.<sup>5</sup> Johnathan Langhorn opened the Church in Fredericksburg on 25 December 1791. It is located about 40 miles from Wellington. Until then, the closest clergyman was located in Kingston, Ontario.<sup>6</sup>

A fourth clue lies in the age of Nancy and Daniel's oldest child, who was previously believed to be their youngest. Three census records and a death announcement all indicate that Jane Reynolds was not only the oldest, but she was likely born, or at least conceived, before Daniel and Nancy were married. Jane Reynolds married a Jonathan Wait (born in England<sup>7</sup>) and had five children: Daniel, Ebenezer, Calvin, Lucy, and Rebecca.<sup>8</sup> Jane was probably the last child mentioned in previous narratives about Daniel because she had left Ontario and moved to northern New York.

- According to her death announcement, Jane Wait, "a relic of Jonathan Wait," was 84 at the time of her death in March of 1874. This indicates that she was born between March 1789 and March of 1790.<sup>9</sup>
- The 1850 Census indicates that Jane was born between July 1791 and July 1792.<sup>10</sup>
- The 1860 Census indicates she was born between July 1790 and July 1791.<sup>11</sup>
- The 1870 census indicates that Jane was born between August 1793 and August 1794.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> "The Marriage Register of St. Paul's Church, Fredericksburg," entry 624, Runnolds-Waight marriage (1792); photocopy made from manuscript: David R. Taylor, "Daniel Reynolds," 5 July 1999, note: source label on manuscript reads "Diocese of Ontario Archive, Kingston"; Quinte Genealogy Centre, Quinte West Public Library, Trenton, Quinte West, Ontario. The photocopy is clear and legible. The handwriting is different for the two witnesses that did not sign with their mark "x", indicating the copy is of the original record. Ontario Historical Society, "Rev. John Langhorn Register of St. Paul's Church, Fredericksburgh," *Papers and Records* (Toronto: William Briggs, 1899) 1:64; digital images, *Internet Archive* (<https://archive.org> : accessed on 2 February 2017).

<sup>6</sup> Richard and Janet Lunn, *The County: The First Hundred Years in Loyalist Prince Edward*, (Prince Edward County Council: 1967) p. 123; photo copies from Prince Edward County Archives obtained 30 July 2015. St. Paul's Anglican Church of Canada, Church plaque, photo taken 29 July 2015.

<sup>7</sup> State of New York Department of Health, no. 320539, Nancy Rebecca McNeil, 1901; Town of Waverly, Franklin County, New York. The town clerk included a handwritten abstract of the death register, which stated that Rebecca's father was Johnathan Wait, born in in England, and her mother was Jane Reynolds Wait, born in Canada.

<sup>8</sup> *Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte*, 696-697.

<sup>9</sup> "DIED.," *The Ogdensburg Journal*, Ogdensburg, New York, 17 November 1937, p. 3, col 6.

<sup>10</sup> 1850 U.S. census, St. Lawrence Co., New York, population schedule, Oswegatchie, p. 142 (stamped), dwelling 845, family 876, Jane Waite; image *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 11 November 2016); citing NARA microfilm publication M432 roll 589.

<sup>11</sup> 1860 U.S. census, St. Lawrence Co., New York, population schedule, Town of Oswegatchie, p. 221 (penned), dwelling 1583, family 1517, Jane Wait; image *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 11 November 2016); citing NARA microfilm publication M593 roll 937.

<sup>12</sup> 1870 U.S. census, Franklin Co., New York, population schedule, Brandon, p. 2 (penned), dwelling 11, family 11, Jane Waits [sic]; image *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 11 November 2016); citing NARA microfilm publication M653 roll 854.

**Theory One:**

Nancy (Waite) Reynolds is the daughter of Benjamin Waite and Amy Bull, who were married in New Britain, Columbia County, New York, on 5 April 1770. At the time, New Britain was located in Albany County, New York, near Canaan and New Lebanon. It has since been absorbed by neighboring towns and no longer exists. Benjamin and Amy had ten children, including a daughter, "Annie Nancy," born 27 February 1773, who was second in the birth order.<sup>13</sup>

**Tracing the Footsteps of Benjamin Waite:**

Date	Event
5 Jan 1745	Benjamin Waite was born in Exeter, Washington County, Rhode Island, to Samuel Waite and Sarah Green. <sup>14</sup>
5 April 1770	Benjamin Waite married Amy Bull in New Britain, New York. <sup>15</sup>
7 Feb 1778	Son, Isaac Waite, was born.
27 Feb 1773	Daughter, Nancy Waite was born.
11 Mar 1776	Daughter, Lucy Waite, was born.
7 Feb 1778	Son, Jencks Waite, was born.
27 Dec 1779	Benjamin appears on the King's District tax list. The King's District was located in what is now Canaan and New Lebanon (towns that absorbed New Britain), Columbia County, New York. <sup>16</sup> Benjamin's brothers, Jonathan and George appear on the same list. <sup>17</sup>
7 Sep 1782	Son, Sisson Waite, was born.
21 Jul 1784	Daughter, Catherine Waite, was born in Washington County, New York. <sup>18</sup>
11 Jul 1786	Daughter, Amy Waite, was born.
16 May 1788	Son, Daniel Waite, was born.
1790	Benjamin lived in Granville, Washington County, New York. There were two males under 16, two males 16 and over, and 4 females living in the household. <sup>19</sup> This census

<sup>13</sup> Wait Family Record, 1745-1943, passed down through the Jinks Wait line and privately held by Mrs. Sandra J. Messner, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, p. 268. Hand written compilation of vital events in a bound journal, authors unknown; photocopies of p. 267-275 in possession of Cari Darminio, Portsmouth, Rhode Island, 2017. Note: at the time, New Britain was part of Albany County; in 1786 Columbia County was formed from parts of Albany County.

<sup>14</sup> Wait Family Record, 1745-1943, p. 268 [provided date]. James N. Arnold, *Vital Record of Rhode Island, 1636-1850, First Series, Births, Marriages and Deaths, A Family Register for the People*, vol. 5 Washington County, (Providence: Narragansett Historical Publishing Company, 1894), part 3 Exeter, p. 62; consulted as "Rhode Island, Vital Extracts, 1636-1899," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : 8 March 2018) > Vol. 5: Washington County: Births, Marriages, Deaths > image 247 of 523. [Corroborated date and provided location of birth].

<sup>15</sup> Wait Family Record, 1745-1943. This is also the source for the date of birth for each of Benjamin Waite and Amy Bull's children.

<sup>16</sup> Bonnie Bunce, "Tax List King's District (1779), Albany Co., NY, 1999," *USGENWEB*, (<http://files.usgwarchives.net/ny/columbia/taxlists/albanytax.txt> : 10 November 2016), Capt. Daniel Herrick's Beat, Jonathan Wait, George Wait, and Benjamin Wait; notes: this list was transcribed from a copy of the handwritten original printed off of microfilm at the New York State Archives.

<sup>17</sup> Wait Family Record, 1745-1943, p. 267. Arnold, *Vital Record of Rhode Island, 1636-1850*, vol. 5, part 3, p. 62.

<sup>18</sup> 1865 New York state census, "Population," Wilson, Niagara County, p. 7, Catherine Bradley; image, "New York State Census, 1865," *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 10 November 2016); citing microfilm New York State Archives, Albany, New York.

	record indicates that his oldest daughter, Nancy, had probably left home, as well as one of his sons.
17 Aug 1790	Son, Benjamin Waite, was born.
29 Apr 1794	Benjamin appears before the Land Board in Adolphustown, Lennox and Addington, Ontario and is granted land in Upper Canada (now called Ontario). "Benjamin Wait being desirous to become a settler in this Province prays for 200 Acres of land And his loyalty and character being found to entitle him to the same it is granted." Daniel Reynolds appears before the Land Board on the same day and was also granted an exchange of a lot in Sophiasburg for a lot in Ameliasburg. <sup>20</sup>
19 Nov 1795	Benjamin Waite's land in Sophiasburg was mentioned as a border to a property being transferred from Barret Dyer to William Dyer. <sup>21</sup>
7 Feb 1796	Daughter, Lodemy Waite was born.
17 Jun 1797	Benjamin, his sons Jenks and Isaac, and his brother George are all listed as settlers in Haldimand Township, Northumberland County, Ontario. <sup>22</sup>
18 Jun 1799	Benjamin, his son Jencks, and his brother George are all listed as men that improved part of the time on their lots in Haldimand, Northumberland County, and part of the time on their lots in Hallowell, Prince Edward County. <sup>23</sup>
9 Apr 1804	Cecil [Sisson] Waite appears as a head of household in the Haldimand census. <sup>24</sup>
9 Apr 1805	Benjamin is moved to the "Over 60" column in the Haldimand census.
1812	Daniel and Benjamin Jr. appear for the first time in the Haldimand Land Assessment.
6 Oct 1812	Benjamin Waite's will is dated. In his will, he leaves land and/or possessions to his wife, Sarah, and his three youngest sons, Daniel, Sisson, and Benjamin—named according to birth order. He appointed his son, Isaac Wait, and Samuel Williams [married to his

<sup>19</sup> "1790 United States Federal Census," database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.Ancestry.com> : accessed 10 November 2016) entry for Benj<sup>m</sup> Wait, Granville, Washington Co., New York; citing NARA microfilm publication M637 roll 6.

<sup>20</sup> Lennox & Addington, Hastings and Prince Edward Counties, Minutes and Records 8:45, no. 115 Benjamin Wait and no. 253 Daniel Reynolds, 29 April 1794; "Minutes and Records of the Land Boards Accumulated by the Executive Council Office," *Heritage* (<http://heritage.canadiana.ca/view> : accessed 10 November 2016); citing microfilm C-14027, img 712.

<sup>21</sup> Linda Corupe & Gary Corupe, compiler, *From Settler To Land Owner: The First Heir & Devisee Commission For the Midland District, 1797 – 1803, Part 1: Surnames A-L* (Bolton, Ontario: L. Corupe, 2013), p. 273; photocopies made at Prince Edward County Archives, Wellington, Ontario, 1915.

<sup>22</sup> "A List of Settlers in Haldimand," Haldimand, Northumberland Co., Ontario, 1797, Benjamin Weight, George Weight, Jinks Weight, Isaac Weight; Upper Canada Land Petitions, "H," Bundle 3, 1797, RG 1, L 3, Vol. 224:168x-168y; consulted as "Upper Canada Land Petitions (1763-1865)," digital images, *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/microform-digitization> : accessed on 11 November 2016), microfilm C-2044 image 290.

<sup>23</sup> Aaron Greeley, "A Statement of the Settlement of the Township of Haldimand," Haldimand, Northumberland Co., Ontario, 1799, item: 2<sup>nd</sup> Concession, Lot 10, Benjamin Weight; Upper Canada Land Petitions, "H," Bundle 3, 1797, RG 1, L 3, Vol. 224:168z-168cc, specifically 168z; consulted as "Upper Canada Land Petitions (1763-1865)," digital images, *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/microform-digitization> : accessed on 11 November 2016), image 292.

<sup>24</sup> Dave Hargreave, transcriber, "19th Century Census for Northumberland County, Ontario," *West History* (<http://www.eagle.ca/westhistory/Haldimand%20census.html> : accessed on 11 November 2016); citing Ontario Archives Microfilm MS16 Reels 4,5,6; Available at Cobourg Public Library, Cobourg, Northumberland Co., Ontario.

	daughter Lucy Waite] executors. Benjamin's nephew, Barret Dyer, the son of Deborah (Waite) Dyer Aylesworth/Ellsworth, was a witness. <sup>25</sup> The fact that Nancy was not mentioned in Benjamin's will, neither proves nor disproves that she was his daughter. He does not name any of his five daughters, most likely because they were all married. He does not leave anything to his two oldest sons, most likely because they already had land.
20 Nov 1813	Benjamin Waite's will was proved.

### Putting the Pieces Together:

According to the 1790 census, Benjamin Waite had four females living in his household. These four females were most likely his wife, Amy, and his three youngest daughters at the time, Lucy, age 14 or 15, Catherine, age 5 or 6, and Amy age 3 or 4. This indicates that Nancy has likely married or had at least been whisked away by the 1790 census, the year she turned 17. Nancy's presumed absence from her father's household in 1790 is consistent with the approximate date of birth of Nancy and Daniel's oldest child Jane (Reynolds) Wait. Benjamin's daughter Nancy would also have been approximately fifteen when Daniel Reynold's house was estimated to have been built, in 1786.

If most of the evidence points to Nancy Waite living with Daniel Reynolds and starting a family by 1790, why were they not married until 16 April 1792? Until Christmas Day 1791, when St. Paul's Church in Fredericksburg opened, the closest clergyman to Daniel Reynold's famous home was in Kingston, Ontario, more than 60 miles away and requiring a short boat trip across the Bay of Quinte. Even St. Paul's Church was approximately 40 miles away and required the same boat ride, but as the record shows, Nancy and Daniel made the journey less than five months after the church opened.<sup>26</sup>

According to the marriage record, Daniel was from Ameliasburg and Nancy was from Sophiasburg. At the time, there were only three towns in Prince Edward County (1) Marysburg or 5<sup>th</sup> Town, (2) Sophiasburg or 6<sup>th</sup> Town, and (3) Ameliasburg or 7<sup>th</sup> Town. Daniel's Wellington home was in, what was then, Ameliasburg. An exhaustive search of Prince Edward County records shows that there were no Waite's (of any spelling variation) in what was then called Sophiasburg before the year 1794.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>25</sup> Benjamin Waite will, Haldimand, Upper Canada, 1812, digital images, supplied by Sandra Messner, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Canada, 2017. Images were supplied to Messner by a professional genealogist; repository and volume number were not provided. However, Ontario estate files have been microfilmed and the will of Benjamin Waite is located on microfilm GS1, Reel 1096, Archives of Ontario, Toronto.

<sup>26</sup> Richard and Janet Lunn, *The County: The First Hundred Years in Loyalist Prince Edward* (Prince Edward County Council, 1967), 123; photocopies made at Prince Edward County Archives, Wellington, Ontario [There are records for 17 marriages that predate St. Paul's church opening. These records are for marriages performed during John Langhorn's missionary trips.].

<sup>27</sup> "Land Boards of Upper Canada, 1765-1804" and "Land Petitions of Upper Canada, 1763-1865" using "Search Database," *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca> : accessed on 11 November 2016), Home > Discover the Collection > Land Records. Line by line search of "Location certificates submitted in support of claims, surnames W-Y"; consulted as "Heir and Devisee Commission, 1777-1854," digital images, *Heritage* (<http://heritage.canadiana.ca/view> : accessed 10 November 2016); citing microfilm H-1140. Search catalogs at: Prince Edward County Archives, Wellington, Ontario, 1915; The Marilyn Adams Genealogical Research Centre

However, Daniel was granted lot number 11 in Sophiasburg which he had since relinquished.<sup>28</sup> According to a map, George Finkle owned the adjacent lot to the east and Joseph Jencks owned the lot to the south.<sup>29</sup> George Finkle's daughter, Hannah<sup>30</sup>, and Rachel Jencks (either the wife or daughter of Joseph Jencks<sup>31</sup>) were witnesses to Daniel Reynolds and Nancy Waite's wedding.<sup>32</sup> Furthermore, Daniel and Joseph Jencks appear consecutively before the Land Board on 11 March 1790, each of them hoping to exchange their lots in Sophiasburg that they deemed unfit for cultivation.<sup>33</sup> This indicates that while Nancy did not appear to have any family in Sophiasburg, Daniel did have several connections there. Perhaps Nancy and Daniel did not want to tell the Reverend that they were living together or had a child out of wedlock, explaining why they may have stated that Nancy was from Sophiasburg.

Benjamin Waite migrated to Prince Edward County in 1794. Benjamin appeared before the Land Board in Adolphustown, on 29 April 1794, and was granted land on the same day as Daniel Reynolds.<sup>34</sup> Perhaps this record was the source of the claim in the second narrative, that Nancy Waite was the daughter of an "Adolphustown Loyalist," when, in fact, the Land Board met in Adolphustown to serve all of the District of Mecklenburg, including Prince Edward County. While a line by line search of the Heir and Devisee land records does not produce a record showing which lot Benjamin Waite drew, he must have been granted land in a part of Sophiasburg that later became Hallowell. His land is mentioned as a boarder to land being transferred on 19 November 1795.<sup>35</sup> Benjamin Waite was elected as one of the "overseers of highways and fenceviewers," along with John Miller, another witness to the marriage of Daniel Reynolds and Nancy Waite, at the first Town Meeting of Hallowell on 5 March 1798.<sup>36</sup> While filling this roll in the town of Hallowell, Benjamin, his brother George, and his sons Jencks and Isaac had all acquired land in Haldimand, Northumberland County, by 17 June 1797. "A Statement of the Settlement of Haldimand," as it was called, lists Benjamin, George, and Jenks Weight as men with families that also improve on their land in Hallowell.

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(MAGRC), Ameliasburg, Prince Edward County, Ontario, 1915; Quinte Genealogy Centre, Quinte West Public Library, Trenton, Quinte West, Ontario; Lennox and Addington Historical Society, Napanee, Ontario.

<sup>28</sup> "Schedule of the Original Papers and Documents relating to the District of Mecklenburg – now The Midland District, Province of Upper Canada and belonging to the Council Office," p. 316, 3 March 1791, Daniel Reynolds; consulted as "Minutes and Records of the Land Boards Accumulated by the Executive Council Office," vol. 7:316, *Heritage* (<http://heritage.canadiana.ca/view> : accessed 10 November 2016); citing microfilm C-14027, image 616.

<sup>29</sup> "Sophiasburgh Township," *Heritage Property INdex*, (<http://ontario.heritagepin.com/sophiasburgh-township-in-princeedward> : accessed on 11 November 2016), image 10045951.

<sup>30</sup> "The Descendants of Joseph Rosebush," p. 69; catalogue: GEN-MCM 001-3-69; photocopied at The Marilyn Adams Genealogical Research Centre (MAGRC), Ameliasburg, Prince Edward County, Ontario, 1915.

<sup>31</sup> Angela Files and Darby Livingston, *The Footsteps of the File Family* (Brantford, Ontario: Mecantile Press, 1982), 155.

<sup>32</sup> St. Paul's Church (Fredericksburg), entry 624.

<sup>33</sup> "Minutes and Records of the Land Boards," vol. 7:96, Daniel Reynolds and Joseph Jenks.

<sup>34</sup> "Minutes and Records of the Land Boards," vol. 9:45, Benjamin Waite and Daniel Reynolds.

<sup>35</sup> "Location certificates submitted in support of claims, surnames S-V," p. 582b, Hazelton Spencer; consulted as "Heir and Devisee Commission, 1777-1854," vol. 34:582b, *Heritage* (<http://heritage.canadiana.ca/view> : accessed 10 November 2016); citing microfilm H-1139, image 340. Note: the microfilm index incorrectly states that vol. 34 is on film H-1139.

<sup>36</sup> *The Settlement of Prince Edward County*, 126.

**Conflicting Evidence:**

The Waite Family Record, 1745-1943, states that Benjamin Waite married Amy Bull in 1770. In Benjamin's will, written in 1812, he calls his wife Sarah. It is likely that Amy died and Benjamin remarried. Further research is required.

**DNA:**

Subject X—A descendent of Nancy (Waite) Reynold's oldest daughter, Jane—participated in an autosomal DNA test through Ancestry.com. If Benjamin Waite is Nancy's father, he would be the 5<sup>th</sup> great grandfather of Subject X. Although there are no matches yet, to other descendants of Benjamin Waite, Subject X is a match to five descendants of Benjamin's father, Samuel Waite. The matches include a descendent of Barret Dyre,<sup>37</sup>

**Summary of Theory One:**

Following the FAN (Family, Associates, Neighbors) principal, Benjamin Waite and Amy Bull appear to be likely candidates for the parents of the Nancy who married Daniel Reynolds. Benjamin and Amy did have a daughter named Nancy, about the same age as Daniel Reynold's wife, who moved out by the time Daniel and his wife started a family. Benjamin Waite eventually moved from Granville, Washington County, New York, to Prince Edward County, Ontario, where Daniel and his wife were living. Benjamin and Daniel likely knew each other, as they both appeared before the land board on the same day in Adolphustown. However there is one troubling factor: If Benjamin Waite is Daniel Reynold's father-in-law, it is strange that there is no mention of him in the many writings about Daniel, the famous pioneer and first white settler in Prince Edward County. Especially, since Benjamin lived in the next town over and appears to have been an active member of the community. Perhaps they were estranged because Benjamin's granddaughter was born out of wedlock. However, this seems unlikely, as the two men traveled to Adolphustown, on the same day, to appear before the Land Board.

**Alternate Theory:**

Nancy Reynolds was the daughter of another Waite from New York. In the 1790 census, there are eighteen other heads of household with the surname Waite (of various spellings) in Albany County alone.<sup>38</sup> It is possible that one of them also had a daughter named Nancy, born around the same time as Benjamin's daughter. Many of these other Waites were siblings or cousins to Benjamin, which would be consistent with the DNA results. Someone other Benjamin Waite would conflict with the unsourced "daughter of an Adolphustown Loyalist" narrative; however there would be no conflicts with the remaining limited evidence regarding Nancy.

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<sup>37</sup> AncestryDNA, database, *Ancestry.com* (<https://www.ancestry.com/dna/matches> : accessed 11 November 2016).

<sup>38</sup> Searched: "1790 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed on 11 November 2016), Search > Census & Voter Lists.

## Further research:

- 1) Find any transaction between Benjamin Waite and Nancy and Daniel Reynolds or any of their children.

Rent the "Township papers, ca. 1783-1870's," from the Family History Library. "The township papers contain copies of Orders-in-Council, location certificates of settlement duties, copies of receipts, some correspondence, copies of Surveyor-General's descriptions, and a few letters, Patent of Crown Leases and Grants."<sup>39</sup>

Specifically:

- Sophiasburg microfilms: 1403567 1403568 1403569
- Hallowell microfilms: 1376447 1376448
- Haldimand microfilms: 1402723 1402724

- 2) Continue searching for DNA matches.
- 3) Search church records for marriage for Benjamin Wait and Sarah.
- 4) Search cemetery records for Benjamin Wait, Amy (Bull) Wait, and Sarah Wait.
- 5) Lastly, investigate other Waite families in New York.

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<sup>39</sup> "Township papers, ca. 1783-1870's," *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/search/catalog> : accessed on 11 November 2016), catalog information.