

## **Bio: Bridget Mathews**

Pamela Hutchison Garrett, 2018

Bridget Mathews was born on the 22nd of March 1763 probably at the home of her parents, Fletcher Mathews and Sarah Woodhull of Mount Pleasant, in Ulster (Orange) county New York. Little is known of her childhood, but her teen and early adult years must have been affected by the turbulent affairs of her loyalist father during the American Revolution.

Bridget Mathews was married to Thomas Waters about the year 1787. Her husband was a member of the Waters family that resided around the communities of Jamaica and Hempstead on New York's Long Island. After his father's death, Thomas Waters removed with his mother and step-father, Henry Wisner, to Orange county New York, where Thomas inter-married with the Mathews family.

It is unknown where Thomas Waters and Bridget Mathews set up housekeeping in the early years of their marriage, but it was likely in Orange county New York, within easy reach of their families. Eventually, Thomas Waters is described as the resident of six hundred acres along the Florida Road, between the communities of Goshen and Florida in Orange county. When and how he came into possession of this property has not been determined.

Thomas Waters and Bridget Mathews lived as man and wife for about twenty-five years, and produced four identified children, born between 1788 and 1797 – Sarah Waters (married Robert Seely); Elizabeth Waters (married Thomas Thorne); Thomas Cornell Waters (married Emeline Darrah); Henry William Waters (married Eliza Denton). The village of Goshen was probably considered their "hometown", and records for "servants" and family members appear in both the Presbyterian and Episcopal Churches of Goshen. Thomas Waters' death is reported in the archives of St James Episcopal Church of Goshen, New York.

Bridget's father, Fletcher Mathews died intestate in 1789, and the division of his primary property was made ten years later, in May 1799. The portion of property allotted to Bridget Mathews Waters was described as follows:

*All that part of the Estate of the said Fletcher Mathews deceased and bounded as follow, to wit, Beginning at the stump of a white oak tree in the line of a tract of Land granted to Edward Blagg being also the southerly corner of a tract of five hundred acres purchased from \_\_\_ Keneday by the said Fletcher Mathews and runs thence . . . [mentions – Silas Piersons land, East Division Road, division allotted to the heirs of Elizabeth Williams] . . . to the place of Beginning containing one hundred and seventy seven*

*acres is set apart and allotted to Thomas Waters and Bridget his wife a Daughter of the said Fletcher Mathews.*

Bridget Mathews Waters died in 1813, when she was about fifty years of age. She is buried in the Everett Cemetery in Goshen, Orange county New York.

Died – . . At the seat of Dr Phillips, Mrs Bridget Waters . .  
[source] Spectator (New York City); 13 February 1813.

Her husband outlived her by twenty years. He removed to New York City during the later years of his life, and his death is reported there in 1834. He is buried in the Everett Cemetery, along with his wife.

On Sunday, Thomas Waters, Esq, late of Orange co, in the 73rd year of his age.  
[source] Spectator (New York City); 4 Dec 1834.

Do you want to know more?

[Link to Bridget Mathews in database](#)

[Link to Thomas Waters in database](#)

[Sketch: Sketch: The Division of Fletcher Mathews' Estate, 1799](#)

**Bio of Bridget Mathews; written by Pamela Hutchison Garrett for John Markham of Chesterfield website; 2018.**