The Life of

Capt. Walter Spratley Sr.

(c1782–1833)



of

Cabin Point, Surry County, Virginia,

Son of Benjamin Spratley & Susanna Sebrell

Husband of Elizabeth Shackleford, Sarah W. Newsum, & Rebecca B. Carsley

by Timothy Dean Hudson

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Early Life Along the Blackwater Swamp

Walter Spratley was the son of Benjamin Spratley (c1754–1792) and Susanna Sebrell (1755/1760–Apr 1794) [1]. Walter's grandparents were all natives of southeastern Virginia and longtime Surry County residents. Benjamin was the son of John Spratley (1720/1725–1758) and Mary Cocke (c1730–1773) [2], and Susan was the daughter of Nathaniel Sebrell Sr. (1723–1815) and Elizabeth Faulcon (c1735–aft. 24 Feb 1784) [3]. Benjamin inherited a 250-acre farm on the north side of the Blackwater Swamp, adjacent to his father-in-law Nathaniel Sebrell's land. Susanna and Benjamin operated the farm from about 1780 until Benjamin's death in 1792. Evidence indicates that Walter was born about 1782, undoubtedly on his parents' farm [4].

By the time Walter was only about six years old, his father's health had declined, prompting Benjamin to write his will on 13 January 1789. He lived another three years, dying about January 1792 at the age of about thirty-seven [5]. Susanna Sebrell Spratley paid property taxes on two horses or mares in 1792 and 1793 [6]. She herself died about April 1794, also in her mid-to-late thirties [7].

Benjamin Spratley and Susan Sebrell's premature deaths orphaned Walter and his five siblings, including his older sister, Mary (Polly), born about 1780; Henry, born about 1785; Benjamin Jr., born about 1787; Elizabeth (Betsy), born in 1789; and Nathaniel, born about 1791. The Sebrell family's stability and resources provided the structure that allowed the Spratley children to remain rooted in their community despite their parents' early deaths. Their maternal relatives cared for them, and they probably lived with their grandparents, Nathaniel Sebrell Sr. and Elizabeth Faulcon.

On 27 February 1798, the Surry County Court appointed their uncle, Capt. David Sebrell, as their legal guardian. Records show David carefully managing the accounts of his nieces and nephews over the next two decades. Sebrell also maintained the graves of his sister and brother-in-law. On 2 December 1809, some fifteen years after his sister's death, he paid $8.00 for *"pailing the Grave Yard,"* indicating that he had it enclosed with a fence [8]. These early experiences—loss, kinship dependence, and the stability of the Sebrell household—shaped the contours of Walter Spratley's adulthood.

The subject of this biography was the elder of two first cousins with the given name, *"Walter Spratley,"* both namesakes of their uncle who died during the Revolutionary War in the service of Continental Army's 4th Virginia Regiment. The first cousins lived near each other in the early 1800s, and to distinguish themselves in official records, they adopted the usage of *"Sr."* and *"Jr."*

[9]. Both remained in Surry County until about 1813, when Walter Spratley Jr., son of Capt. William Spratley Sr., moved across the county line into Sussex County, where he died in 1824 [10].

This article exclusively deals with the life of the elder cousin, the son of Benjamin Spratley and Susanna Sebrell. To avoid any possible confusion between the pair, we refer to him as did court clerks and other officials did during his lifetime: *"Walter Spratley Sr."*

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Justice of the Peace, Militia Officer, Tavernkeeper, & Merchant

Walter Spratley Sr. was orphaned at about twelve years of age, after which he lived with his maternal grandfather and uncle, Nathaniel and David Sebrell, on their farm near The New Design along the Blackwater Swamp in southern Surry County, Virginia. Given his later appointments as a court official while still in his twenties, he probably had a formal education like another maternal uncle, Sen. Nicholas Sebrell. If so, his relatives may have sent him away to college between 1797 and 1799. However, by 1800, at the age of only eighteen, he had settled in Cabin Point.

Located about twelve miles northwest of Spratley's birthplace along the north side of the Blackwater, Cabin Point was a bustling commercial village. It lay at the head of navigation of Upper Chippokes Creek, giving easy access to the James River. Cabin Point boasted several tobacco warehouses and had served as one of Surry County's two official tobacco inspection stations since 1730, along with that at Cobham, located further downriver [1].

Walter Spratley Sr. went to work in Cabin Point in late 1799 or early 1800, living in the household of John Newsum, a Cabin Point militia officer, Surry County justice of the peace, and farmer [2]. Spratley lived with Newsum in 1801, 1802, and 1803, with Newsum paying the young man's white tithe each year. In 1804, Newsum only paid his own white tithe, and it is not known where Spratley lived in 1804–1805. Beginning in 1806, Walter Spratley Sr. paid Surry County personal property taxes each year [3].

In late March 1807, at the home of Mrs. Ann C. Cocke, residents discovered the body of Isaac, a black man who belonged to Joseph Heath. As it appeared he died from violence, the coroner convened a jury of local men to conduct an inquest. On March 31st, the jury determined *"that certain persons unknown did kill and murder"* Isaac, and that *"after they had commited* [sic] *the said felony & Murder…did fly away."* Walter Spratley Sr. served on the inquest jury, providing the earliest known sample of his original signature, signed when he was about twenty-five [4]:



On 26 July 1808, the Surry County Court appointed Walter Spratley Sr. as Ensign in the 71st Regiment Virginia Militia of Surry County. On 25 July 1809, the Court commissioned Spratley as a

justice of the peace for Surry County, and he appeared in Court that day to take the required oath of office. He then took his place as a justice on the Surry County Court [5].

Spratley's militia responsibilities unfolded in the shadow of one of the most consequential events in early Virginia history. In 1800, several enslaved men of Henrico County, Virginia concocted a plan to launch an attack on Richmond and negotiate for their freedom. A combination of a torrential rainstorm and a warning by two slaves of the plot thwarted the plans, and Virginia Governor James Monroe called out the state militia to arrest the conspirators. Known as *"Gabriel's Conspiracy"* after the most significant leader of the conspiracy, the event led to calls for an end to slave manumissions and deportation of free blacks from Virginia. In the aftermath of the planned insurrection, the Virginia Assembly passed an act that restricted the movement of free blacks by requiring them to register with their county courts. They also banned assemblies of slaves and free blacks by requiring the commanding officer of every militia battalion to maintain a monthly schedule of men

> *…to patrole* [sic] *and visit all negro quarters and other places suspected of entertaining unlawful assemblies of slaves, servants or other disorderly persons…unlawfully assembled, or any others strolling from one plantation to another without a pass from his or her master or mistress or overseer…*

The act authorized payment for privates performing militia duty of 75¢ for every twelve hours of patrol [6].

In June 1810, the Surry County Court issued payments to the men who recently performed their militia duty by patrolling as required by the General Assembly. Walter Spratley Sr., patrolled for six hours, while his first cousin, John Stiles Jr., had spent forty-eight hours on patrol. The Court ordered payments to Spratley of 37½¢ and to John Stiles of $3.00 for their service on patrol [7]. As a militia officer, Spratley commanded periodic militia patrols. On 25 June 1811, *"Walter Spratley Gentleman"* made a return to the Court for a recent patrol [8].

Despite his rank of Ensign in the Surry County Militia, it does not appear that Walter Spratley Sr. saw active military service during the 1813–1814 British attacks along the James River as did his younger brother, Nathaniel Spratley, and first cousins John Stiles Jr., William Carsley, Peter T. Spratley, and Lewis M. Spratley. However, on 26 January 1818, the Surry County Court again appointed Walter Spratley as Ensign in the 71st Regiment Virginia Militia, 2nd Battalion for Surry County Militia under Capt. David Booth [9]. Booth resigned in early 1822 along with Capt. William Maynard, and on 25 March 1822, the Court appointed Walter Spratley as captain of Maynard's former militia company. He served as captain of his militia company for three years, and when he

resigned in November 1825, the Surry Court replaced him with his first cousin, Benjamin W. Sebrell, who was also his business partner [10].

Walter Spratley Sr. served in a wide variety of civic roles in Surry County. In January 1818, the Surry County appointed him as commissioner to let out bids for the construction of a bridge across Birchen Swamp near Low Point [11]. Then in early 1819, citizens of the precinct surrounding Cabin Point elected him and his brother-in-law, Amos Sledge, as Overseers of the Poor, and on March 22nd, both men appeared before the Surry Court to take the required oaths of office [12]. On 23 August 1824, the Surry Court appointed Walter Spratley as the *"Surveyor of the road in Cabin Point Precinct"* in the place of John Peter [13].

Richard Shackleford had served on the March 1807 inquest jury along with Walter Spratley, with Shackleford the senior member of the jury. A resident of Prince George County that adjoined Surry to the northwest, Shackleford first acquired Surry County property on 20 June 1788, when he purchased an 85-acre tract of land in Surry on Warwick Swamp, the boundary between Surry and Prince George Counties. By 1793, Shackleford had business dealings at Cabin Point in Surry, but he retained his residence in Prince George County [14]. Shackleford's long presence in Cabin Point created the commercial environment into which Walter Spratley would later enter as a tavernkeeper and merchant.

On 22 July 1794, the Surry County Clerk issued Herbert Holloway a license to operate an *ordinary,* or tavern, at his house. It appears that Shackleford took over the operation of Holloway's tavern, for Shackleford signed the bond himself. Shackleford acquired a lot in Cabin Point and had a new house constructed at the location. On 24 April 1798, the Surry County Clerk issued Richard Shackleford a license authorizing him *"to keep an Ordinary at his New House at Cabin Point."* By this time, Shackleford had established his residence at Cabin Point in Surry County, and on 27 February 1799, he sold his land on Warwick Swamp that he had purchased in 1788. Richard Shackleford continued to operate his tavern in Cabin Point for the next decade, obtaining his final tavern license on 23 February 1808 [15].

On 24 May 1808, Walter Spratley Sr. married Elizabeth Shackleford (c1790–c1820), daughter of Richard Shackleford [16]. Spratley took over operation of his father-in-law's tavern, and on 23 May 1809, the Surry Court issued Spratley a license to *"keep an Ordinary at Cabin Point."* As required by law, the license required that Spratley,

> *…doth constantly find and provide in his said ordinary good wholesome and cleanly lodging & diet for Travellers and Stablage* [sic] *fodder provender or pastuage* [pasturage] *and provender as the season shall require for their horses… and shall not suffer or permit any unlawful gaming*

in his said house nor on the sabath [sic] *day suffer any person to tipple and drink more than is necessary…*

Walter Spratley operated his Cabin Point Tavern from 1809 until 1815, paying the annual fee for an *"Ordinary License"* each year. He again obtained an ordinary license in 1822 [17].

With Walter taking over their tavern, his in-laws, Richard and Sarah Shackleford, returned to Prince George County and spent the remainder of their lives living on their plantation there, although Richard continued his business dealings in Surry County [18]. On 27 July 1812, Richard Shackleford, for *"the natural love and affection which I bear to my son in Law Amos Sledge,"* gave a lot in Cabin Point to him.

Shackleford's wife had not been privately examined when she signed the deed conveying the town lot to Sledge, so on August 15th, Surry County Clerk John Faulcon ordered Surry Justices John Peter and Walter Spratley Sr. to examine Sarah Shackleford to ensure that she made her agreement of her own free will. On November 25th, John Peter and Spratley *"this day waited on Mrs. Sarah Shackleford,"* and they reported that she made the gift to Sledge *"of her own free will and accord"* [19]. Sledge operated Shackleford's mercantile establishment at Cabin Point for the next several years [20].

On 1 January 1820, Walter Spratley witnessed Richard and Sarah Shackleford's sale of a 200-acre tract of land in Surry County to Archibald Conway for $1150. Two justices of the peace, John Peter and Benjamin Cocke, examined Sarah to ensure that she signed the document of her own free will [21].

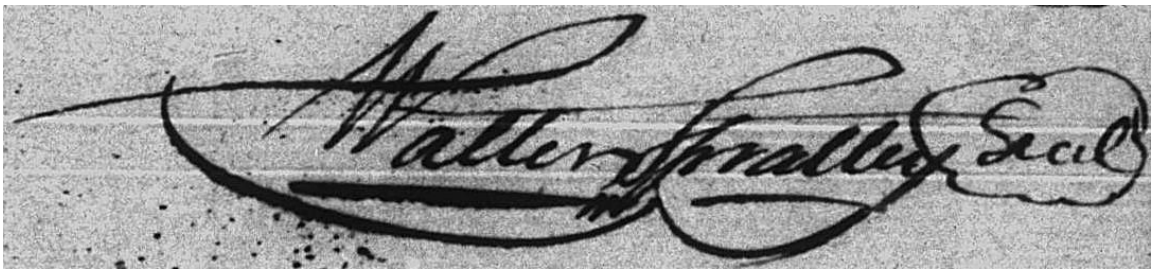
Walter Spratley Sr. did not renew his ordinary license for 1816, with his neighbor, William Parker, obtaining the license on May 1st to operate the Cabin Point Tavern. Instead, Spratley joined his brother-in-law, Amos Sledge, in the mercantile business. Spratley opened his own store, obtaining his first merchant's license on May 1st [22]. Either in late 1816 or early 1817, Richard Shackleford conveyed a 16¼-acre tract of land in Cabin Point to Walter Spratley Sr. during his lifetime, and at his death, to Walter's eldest son, Benjamin R. Spratley; undoubtedly, the Shackleford gave them the lot on which Spratley operated his store. On 2 April 1819, Spratley paid $80 to William Gilchrist for an adjoining ½-acre Cabin Point lot bounded by another one owned by Richard Shackleford. Amos Sledge and Spratley's first cousin, Benjamin W. Sebrell, both witnessed the transaction [23].

Spratley and Sledge operated their respective mercantile establishments at Cabin Point for the next decade [24]. In early 1826, Walter Spratley went into partnership with his first cousin, Benjamin W. Sebrell, and they operated under the name *"Spratley & Sebrell"* until Sebrell's health

failed in 1828. Sebrell wrote his will on 1 March 1828, but the clerk marked it as *"Signed alone,"* as he did not have witnesses. On 27 April 1829, shortly after Sebrell's death, Walter Spratley and James D. Edwards appeared in Court and made oath

> *…that they were well acquainted with the hand writing of the said deceased having often seen him write that they verily believe the same was wholly written and signed by the said Benjamin W. Sebrell deceased.*

Walter Spratley and his uncle, Capt. David Sebrell, served as securities for Benjamin's brother, James W. Sebrell, on his bond as Benjamin's executor. Walter's signature on the bond [25]:



After Benjamin W. Sebrell's death, Walter Spratley went into business with a Mr. Lane, and later, with his cousin, Edwin Thomas Spratley [26].

Walter's father, Benjamin Spratley had inherited a 414-acre farm on the north side of the Blackwater Swamp along Cypress Swamp from his father, John Spratley III. After the deaths of Walter's parents in the 1790s, the farm remained intact until 1812, when the youngest Spratley child reached the age of twenty-one [27]. That year, the four surviving Spratley children, Polly, Walter, Elizabeth, and Nathaniel, divided the farm among themselves, with Walter and Elizabeth receiving 100 acres each, and Polly and Nathaniel receiving 133⅛ [28].

On 18 January 1816, Walter and Elizabeth Spratley sold his 100 acres of his parents' old farm to Nathaniel Cocks for $550, with the land bounded

> *…on the South and East by the lands of Polly Spratley it being a part of the tract of our beloved father Benjamin Spratley died possessed of and allotted to us as our proportion of his real Estate…*

Walter's younger sister, Elizabeth Spratley, died soon after the division of their parents' farm in 1812, and Walter inherited one-third of her lands. On 31 March 1818, Walter and Elizabeth sold his 33⅓-acre tract to his older sister, Polly Spratley, with the tract described as:

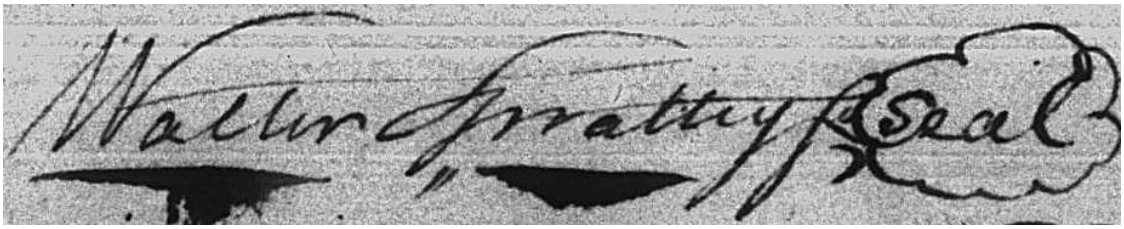
> *It being one third of one fourth of the whole tract whereof Benjamin Spratley late of the said County died seized and possessed, and which descended to the said Walter Spratley by the death of his sister Elizabeth Spratley.*

Polly paid her brother and sister-in-law $166.66⅔ for their interest in Elizabeth's land [29].

By the mid-1810s, Walter Spratley Sr. had become a trusted legal agent within his extended kin network, and he handled legal matters for many of his relatives and friends. Between 1813 and 1827, he managed the affairs of the estate of his uncle, Nathaniel Sebrell Jr. [30]. On 17 July 1818, Mary Ann Sebrell, the younger sister of Walter's mother, wrote her will. Mary Ann had remained single, and she left her property to her other nieces and nephews. Although she made no bequests to Walter, she concluded her will with:

> *And lastly I nominate and appoint my nephew Walter Spratley executor of this my last Will and Testament.*

Several months later, on September 28th, *"Walter Spratley Sen."* appeared in Court. With his brother, Nathaniel, and first cousin, Peter T. Spratley as his securities, Walter signed his $2000 executor's bond:



Walter Spratley took several years to finalize his settlement of his aunt's estate. He filed his final accounting of his aunt's estate with the Surry County Court in 1827 [31].

On 13 May 1820, Walter Spratley witnessed the transaction in which Surry County resident Robert C. Maynard paid $1430 for The New Design plantation located in southern Surry County [32]. Built by Maj. James Kee in about 1796, it adjoined the old farm of Spratley's grandfather, Nathaniel Sebrell Sr. The New Design was located at the intersection of the road leading to Cabin Point and that running from southern Surry County to Surry Court House, and it soon became an important community gathering point. Spratley's uncle, John Stiles Sr., had served as the tavernkeeper of The New Design Tavern between 1798 and 1807 [33].

Robert C. Maynard wrote his will on 3 March 1823, leaving his property to his wife and children. His final directive was to appoint his executors:

> *It is my wish and desire that my beloved wife Martha Maynard and my friend Walter Spratley Senior shall see this my last Will and Testament executed, and I do hereby nominate and appoint them my Executrix and Executor.*

Maynard died by May 26th, when Martha presented his will to the Surry County Court, which appointed her as Executrix. She handled the affairs of her husband's estate, and Spratley did not

appear in Court with her. The clerk recorded, *"Liberty is reserved Walter Spratley to qualify at a future day"* [34].

On 20 June 1825, Surry County resident James Douglas had his will prepared, leaving his property to his wife, Mary Mooring, during her life and afterwards, to his two children. While he left his lands to his children, he stated that his friend, William Allen, had the *"exclusive privilege of hunting and ranging all my Lands in the County of Surry during his life,"* charging Allen with preventing others from trespassing. Douglas appointed Allen as his executor. However, when Allen filed Douglas' will with the Surry County Court on 26 August 1826, Allen testified that although he read the will to Douglas on 20 June 1825, and Douglas confirmed it conformed to his wishes, no one was present to serve as witnesses, and so Douglas did not sign it. Allen stated that two or three times afterwards while Douglas was at Allen's house, Douglas agreed that the will was agreeable to his wishes, but it was never signed. Based upon Allen's testimony, the Court accepted Douglas' will as valid, but since it was not signed, William Allen refused the executorship [35].

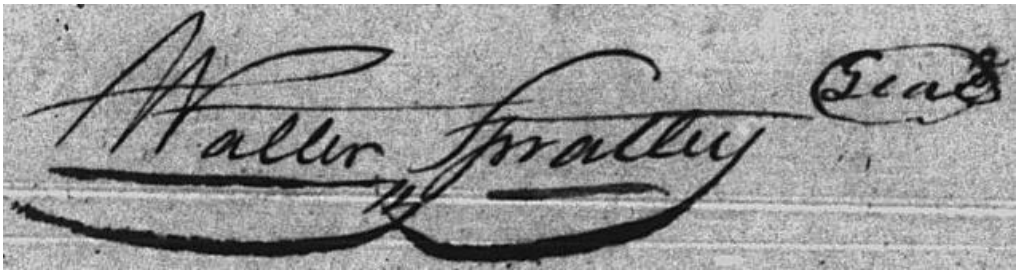
On 27 February 1826, the Surry Court appointed Walter Spratley as the administrator of James Douglas' estate, requiring him to sign a $20,000 bond with Douglas' wife, Mary, and Henry O. McEnery, Douglas' son-in-law, as his securities [36]. Spratley administered Douglas' complicated estate over the next few years, filing detailed accounts with the Court in 1827 [37] and 1831 [38].

On 19 February 1827, Miles Turner Burgess secured a bond to marry Mary Mooring, the widow of James Douglas [39]. Born between about 1800 and 1810, Burgess was the son of Miles Burgess and Nancy Velvin, making him the nephew of Major John Velvin [40]. On 14 September 1827, about six months after his marriage to the former Mary Douglas, Miles T. Burgess signed his will, apparently wishing to secure the property Burgess had inherited from James Douglas to her. Burgess left Mary his horse, livestock, and other household goods, together with the enslaved people he acquired from the Douglas estate. Finally, Burgess appointed *"my friend Walter Spratley of Surry County"* as his executor. Ironically, Burgess outlived Spratley, with his will not filed in Court until 27 March 1837 [41].

On 28 August 1829, Walter's uncle and first cousin, Capt. David and James W. Sebrell, had witnessed the will of their neighbor, Jesse P. Warren. In 1812, Warren had purchased a 388-acre tract of land that adjoined the farm of Walter's grandfather, Nathaniel Sebrell Sr. Warren had witnessed the will of Nathaniel Sebrell Sr. in 1813, and a few years later, Warren helped to appraise Sebrell's estate [42].

Jesse P. Warren had appointed another of Walter's first cousins, David's son John Nicholas Sebrell, as his executor, describing him as *"my friend John N. Sebrell."* After Warren's death, Dr. John

N. Sebrell filed the will with the Surry Court the following November 23rd. On that same day, David and James Sebrell appeared before the Court to swear to their signatures on Warren's will, and Walter Spratley Sr. joined his uncle in serving as security on the executor's bond of John N. Sebrell, signing his name as [43]:



By the late 1820s, Walter Spratley Sr. stood at the center of a web of civic, commercial, and familial responsibilities, his signature appearing across the county's legal records as witness, executor, administrator, merchant, and community leader.

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Plantation Owner

On 15 April 1818, George Birdsong of Sussex County, Virginia wrote his will. Sussex borders Surry to the southwest, and Birdsong had land holdings both in Sussex and Surry. In particular, he owned the 487¼-acre *"Birch Island Tract"* that lay in Surry on the Blackwater Swamp and Birch Island Road. Birdsong concluded his will by appointing his executor:

> *I nominate & appoint my friend Walter Spratley (of Cabin Point) executor to this my last will and Testament.*

George Birdsong died a few months after writing his will, for on June 4th, Walter Spratley appeared before the Sussex County Court to sign his bond as Birdsong's executor. He spent the next eleven years handling the affairs of his wealthy friend, including serving as legal guardian for Birdsong's two underage children, George T. and Martha Birdsong [1].

George Birdsong's will directed his executor to sell his Birch Island tract of land in Surry County and divide the money equally among his daughters. In compliance with his will, Walter Spratley advertised the sale of the tract in late 1818, and on December 10th, he auctioned the property. As executor, Spratley could not bid on the tract himself. John F. Cocke placed the highest bid at $1630, and on 1 January 1819, Walter Spratley sold the land to Cocke. On the next day, January 2nd, Walter Spratley purchased the 487¼-acre Birch Island Tract from John F. Cocke for the exact price Cocke paid the previous day [2].

Between 1817 and 1819, Walter Spratley Sr. purchased a 100-acre farm near Cabin Point, a location known as *"Reedy Springs."* The tract adjoined the land of Bailey and Mingo, and Spratley's Reedy Springs Plantation became his primary residence [3]. It appears that a hired overseer managed his Birch Island Tract.

Walter Spratley's purchase of these two plantations indicates that his tavern and mercantile store at Cabin Point had proved very lucrative business ventures. He turned both locations into thriving plantations, and successful Virginia plantations during this era required slave labor. This is striking, given his father's objection to the institution of slavery.

By the good fortune of birth, Walter's father, Benjamin Spratley, belonged to a very wealthy family for the era, the son of John Spratley III and his wife, Mary Cocke. At his death in 1758, Benjamin's father owned multiple large tracts of land and twenty-six slaves. Following an order by the Surry County Court, on 1 February 1773, three commissioners divided the slaves belonging to John Spratley's estate, allotting four enslaved people to Benjamin Spratley. He inherited a few more upon his mother's death later that year, and by 1782, he owned ten enslaved people, four aged sixteen years or older and six under sixteen years [4].

During the mid-1770s and early 1780s, many of our country's founding fathers retained ownership of their slaves while still declaring that all men were created equal, presumably ignoring their own double standard. Many forward-thinking Virginians picked up on this hypocrisy and had a moral epiphany, resulting in thousands of slave manumissions. Many Surry County residents followed this trend in the 1780s and 1790s [5]. Benjamin Spratley followed their lead, and on 28 October 1783, he published a remarkable document, stating that,

> *...being fully persuaded that freedom is the natural right of all mankind, and that it is my duty to do unto others as I would desire to be done by in the like situation...*

He then manumitted his eleven slaves, retaining guardianship rights over the younger ones until they reached adulthood. Upon obtaining their new status as free black people, Benjamin's former slaves needed a surname, and all chose the family name of their former owners. Thus, Benjamin Spratley's 1783 manumissions resulted in the large number of free blacks in southeastern Virginia with the surname of *"Spratley"* beginning in the 1780s [6].

Had Benjamin Spratley lived long enough to raise his eldest son to adulthood, perhaps he would have passed along to him his moral objections to the institution of slavery. But at Benjamin's death, Walter was only a boy of ten years, and he grew up on the farms of his uncle, David Sebrell, and grandfather, Nathaniel Sebrell Sr., both of whom owned a few slaves. This environment may have shaped Walter's attitude toward slaveholding. It is also possible that, regardless of his personal views, his marriage into a slave-holding family may have left him little choice.

Walter Spratley Sr. did not pay taxes on any slaves in 1806 or 1807, but following his marriage to Elizabeth Shackleford in 1808, it appears that he acquired ownership of several from her family. The Shacklefords operated a large plantation in Prince George County, just across the county line from Cabin Point, with Richard Shackleford owning fifteen slaves in 1810 and twenty-one in 1820 [7]. In 1809, the year after his marriage, Walter Spratley paid taxes on five slaves aged sixteen and above, presumably acquiring them from his wife's family. He remained a slaveholder for the remainder of his life, acquiring a few from the estate of his grandfather upon his death in 1815. By 1830, Walter Spratley's household included twenty-eight slaves [8].

Between 1809 and 1818, Walter and Elizabeth Spratley had three sons who survived early childhood. She was apparently still alive in mid-1820 but died in late 1820 or early 1821 [9]. Walter Spratley remarried on 2 August 1821 in Surry County to Sarah W. Newsum [10], the daughter of John Newsum (1760/1780–1808) and Catherine [Katy] ? (1770/1780–Oct 1840). Spratley had lived with John and Katy between 1800 and 1803.

John Newsum was a wealthy Surry County resident who wrote his will on 3 November 1808. He left his property to Katy for the benefit of their children and appointed his wife and *"my friend Walter Spratley Senr"* as his executors. However, when they filed his will with the Surry County Court on 28 February 1809, both Katy Newsum and Walter Spratley Sr.

> *…refused to take upon themselves the burthen of the…execution of the same, but prayed administration with the said will annexed.*

The Court approved their petition, requiring them to sign a $10,000 administrator's bond. Walter's uncle, David Sebrell, served as the security on their bond. Walter Spratley managed the affairs of Newsum's estate over the next four years, holding sales and making returns to Court [11].

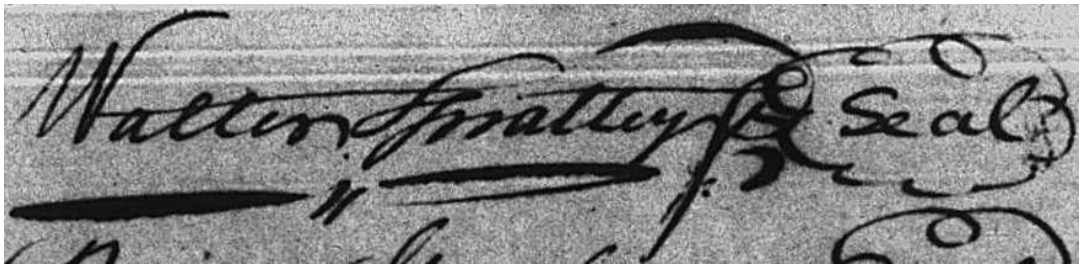
In 1820, Katy Newsum's household in Surry County includes three young females, and their ages suggest that Sarah W. Newsum was born between 1794 and 1804. We have no further information on Sarah W. Newsum Spratley, as she appears to have died soon after their marriage. She may have died about 1822 in childbirth, but if so, her child must have also died, as the records do not indicate that Walter and Sarah had any children to survive infancy [12].

By the early 1820s, Walter's expanding plantation interests coincided with a widening circle of legal and personal responsibilities, drawing him deeper into the affairs of neighboring families. On 5 May 1819, Walter Spratley's friend, Robert S. Hinton, married Rebecca B. Carsley (1802/1804–c1869), daughter of merchant Hartwell Carsley (c1775–1816) and Sarah Chappell [13]. The couple settled near Cabin Point, where it appears that Hinton operated both a plantation and a small manufacturing operation [14].

Robert Hinton's health declined after only a few years of marriage, prompting him to write his will on 15 February 1822. He left his property to his wife and daughter, and then Hinton concluded his will with:

> *It is my will and desire that my friend Walter Spratley Se^r. shall see this my last Will and Testament executed, and do hereby constitute nominate and appoint him my Executor and further it is my wish and desire that he shall act as Guardian to my Daughter Rebeccah C. Hinton, and do accordingly appoint him her Guardian.*

Hinton died by May 27th, when Walter Spratley appeared before the Surry County Court to qualify as Hinton's executor. Spratley signed his executor's bond as:



Robert S. Hinton had extensive business dealings, and over the next three years, Walter Spratley settled his friend's accounts, filing his final settlement with the Surry County Court on 1 February 1825 [15].

Eighteen months after his friend's death, Walter Spratley began preparations to marry Hinton's widow, Rebecca B. Carsley Hinton. Walter's cousin, John Nicholas Spratley, served as his security on the marriage bond, signed on 8 December 1823. Walter Spratley's signature on his marriage bond:



Ten days later, on December 18th, Rev. Hill married Spratley and Hinton [16].

Rebecca B. Carsley and Robert S. Hinton had one known child, Rebecca C. Hinton (20 Oct 1820–23 Oct 1895). As Hinton directed in his will, Walter Spratley Sr. served as her guardian. She received a substantial inheritance from her father, and Spratley kept a careful accounting of her finances until his death in 1833 [17].

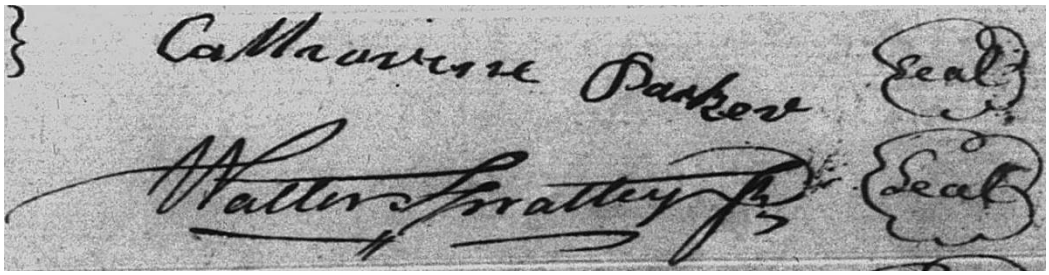
Walter Spratley's marriage to Rebecca gave him control of Hinton's 182½-acre Sheffield Plantation, in addition to Spratley's plantations, his 100-acre Reedy Springs and 487½-acre Birch Island tracts. For the remainder of his life, he oversaw the operations at his Cabin Point store and his plantations [18].

Walter Spratley also participated in other business ventures. On 22 May 1820, he paid $226 for a water-powered grist mill originally built by Thomas and Benjamin Clary [19]. Throughout the latter 1810s and 1820s, he served as something of a local financier, loaning money, managing properties, and acting as trustee to secure mortgages by accepting property to hold as collateral until debts were paid to others. Although he maintained property across a wider geographic region in Surry County, Walter Spratley Sr. maintained his residence at Cabin Point [20].

Spratley's Cabin Point residence adjoined the property of William Parker and Mary Catherine McKie, a couple who married in 1791. William Parker operated a farm at Cabin Point, and beginning in May 1816, he took over management of the Cabin Point Tavern from Spratley [21]. On 24 July 1815, Spratley and Parker served as securities on the bond of their neighbor, William Maynard, to serve as the constable of the Cabin Point District. Later that year, Spratley's father-in-

law, Richard Shackleford, served as security on William Parker's bond as Cabin Point Constable. The Surry County Court reappointed Parker as Cabin Point Constable on 28 July 1817, 28 August 1820, and 22 July 1822 [22]. On 27 January 1815, Walter Spratley Sr. served as trustee to hold as collateral property of William Gilchrist to secure his payment of a $250 debt to William Parker. Following Gilchrist's payment of $288.71 of his debt plus interest, on 4 January 1818, Spratley and Parker released the property back to Gilchrist [23].

Perhaps in anticipation of his death, William Parker wrote his will on 4 January 1823, leaving his property to his wife, Catherine, to support his children. He died a few months later, for his wife filed his will with the Surry County Court on May 26th. Walter Spratley Sr. served as one of Catherine's securities on her $3000 executor's bond. Their signatures on the bond [24]:



William Parker had taken over operation of the Cabin Point Tavern from Walter Spratley Sr. in 1816, and he managed it until his death. Afterwards, his widow, Catherine, continued its operation for the next decade, obtaining her own ordinary license on 1 May 1823, shortly after her husband's death [25]. Walter Spratley supported Catherine Parker in her continued operation of the Cabin Point Tavern, serving as her security on her ordinary license bonds each year between 1824 and 1832. The surviving bonds give us the last known sample of his signature during his lifetime, signed on 28 May 1832, the year before his death [26]:



By 1833, with his health failing at the age of only about fifty-one years, Walter turned to the task of ordering his affairs. He wrote his will on 25 May 1833, stating that he was

> *…unwell and knowing the uncertainty of this mortal life, & being at this time blest with all the reason I ever possessed, thanks be to my God for the same, do make and establish this my last Will and Testament and devise my worldly goods and affairs as follows…*

Spratley made ample provisions *"to my dear wife Rebecca B. Spratley,"* referencing their pre-marriage contract:

> *And be it remembered that at the time we ware* [sic] *married, there was a contract securing to her all the property she then possess'd, which contract I wish complyed* [sic] *with so far as to entitle her to the increase of the horses Cattle and sheep…*

He also made this bequest to her:

> *I loan to my said wife Rebecca B. Spratley the use of my negroes, Jim, Arrena, Nicy and child Henry, Boys George, Alfred and Edmund during her life or widowhood.*

Spratley made this bequest to *"to my dear Daughter in Law Rebecca C. Hinton,"* or stepdaughter, that he had raised since infancy:

> *I give and bequeath to my said daughter in Law Rebecca C. Hinton my Land and plantation call'd Birth Island, and my negro Man Ellick, to her and her heirs forever.*

Spratley referred to his ongoing management of the accounts of Robert S. Hinton and as guardian to his stepdaughter. He mentioned the complicated financial affairs of Hinton's estate and expressed concerns that a future guardian may have trouble sorting through the accounts:

> *…and further I direct that if there should be any bonds on hand after paying up the amount that is due on the Acct. rendered by me as Executor of Robert S. Hinton which ware* [were] *executed to me as his Executor or as guardian to Rebecca C. Hinton his orphan that all such bonds shall be paid over to her next guardian an*[d] *on the same conditions of the above legacy, and I will here add, that my object is not to defraud, but to prevent my daughters sustaining loss, as I fear my friends would find difficulty in making up the accts. properly.*

Walter made provisions for his own five sons, giving his interest in the mercantile store at Cabin Point to his eldest son, Benjamin. For his other four sons, he wrote:

> *Item 9th. It is my will and desire that all my negroes not herein named shall be divided in four lots as equally as possible, one lot I give and bequeath to my son Albert G. Spratley, one other lot I give and bequeath to my son James W. Spratley, one other lot I give and bequeath to my son Robert W. Spratley and one other & the last lot I give and bequeath to my son Patrick H. Spratley, and provided there is a difference in the value the most valuable lots are to be assigned to youngest child & etc. and I desire that my dear wife Rebecca B. shall have the privilege of keeping all the chargeable negroes belonging to my said children so long as she remains a widow, and be paid a fair price by said childs guardian.*

Item 10th. After the death or marriage of my wife Rebecca B. Spratley I give and bequeath the negroes loaned her to my sons Albert G. Spratley, James W. Spratley, Robert W. Spratley and Patrick H. Spratley to be divided as direct in the 9th item.

Item 11th. It is my will and desire that all the balance of my property both real and personal shall be sold and after paying all my just debts the balence [sic] *of money reserved to educate my children.*

Spratley appointed *"my dear Cousins Peter T. Spratley, Edwin T. Spratley"* and *"my dear son Benjamin R. Spratley"* as his executors and guardians to his children. Spratley died several months later, probably in August or September, as his executors filed his will on September 23rd. It took them until 1840 to finalize the affairs of his estate [27].

Walter Spratley's stepdaughter, Rebecca C. Hinton, married on 15 August 1838 in Surry County to William Dillard (c1809–1870/1880) [28], and Rebecca B. Carsley Spratley lived with them for the remainder of her life. Rebecca Spratley wrote her will in 1867, leaving her large real estate holdings to her grandson, William Dillard Jr., as trustee for his mother, Rebecca Hinton Dillard. Rebecca Carsley Spratley died in late 1869 or January 1870 [29].

In life and in death, Walter Spratley's affairs touched nearly every corner of the Cabin Point community, leaving a documentary footprint that reveals both the opportunities and contradictions of early-nineteenth-century Virginia.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Children of Walter Spratley Sr.

At his death, Walter Spratley Sr. had five surviving sons by his first and third wives. He did not mention any daughters in his will, and no daughters appear in the 1820 or 1830 household enumerations. However, court records prove that his sons and widow were heirs of Sarah Spratley, who died about 1842. Because she was not named in Walter's 1833 will, Sarah was almost certainly born after he signed it on 25 May 1833. There is no known evidence that he had any children by his second wife, Sarah W. Newsum.

The known children of Walter Spratley and Elizabeth Shackleford include [1]:

1. **Benjamin R. Spratley** (c1810–1834) never married and left no known children.
2. **Albert Gallatin Spratley** (15 Aug 1815–1880) married Lavinia Alberta Wheadon (21 Apr 1820–12 Oct 1878).
3. **James W. Spratley** (2 Feb 1818–14 Dec 1858) married Lucy M. Ruffin (c1833–c1881).

The known children of Walter Spratley Sr. and Rebecca B. Carsley include [2]:

4. **Robert Walter Spratley** (1825/1830–1 Nov 1840).
5. **Patrick Henry Spratley** (1830/1833–1834).
6. **Sarah Spratley** (c1833–c1840).

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Biographical Sketches of the Children of Walter Spratley Sr.

1. Benjamin R. Spratley

Benjamin R. Spratley (c1810–1834) is the eldest known son of Walter Spratley Sr. and Elizabeth Shackleford. Benjamin was probably named after his two grandfathers, Benjamin Spratley and Richard Shackleford, which would have made his full name, *"Benjamin Richard Spratley."* However, no known record gives his full legal name.

Benjamin R. Spratley never married and left no known children. In his will, Walter Spratley made this bequest to his eldest son:

> *I give and bequeath to my son Benjamin R. Spratley my negro boy John and my interest in the Store of W & E. T. Spratley, with my proportion of all the bonds and accts due the said Firm, provided that he my son Benjamin shall take up my acct with said Firm and exempt my estate from all debts due by said Firm.*

This bequest effectively transferred to Benjamin the Cabin Point store lot where his father had conducted business for the previous two decades.

Benjamin's health may have already been precarious when his father died in about August or September 1833, and shortly afterwards he wrote his own will. He left his Cabin Point lot to his brother, Albert, and *"my Negro boy John"* to his brother, James. He also gave James $500 out of his interest *"in the firm now under the name of W & E. T. Spratley given to me by my Father."* Benjamin divided the remainder of his estate equally between his two brothers, Albert and James, making no mention of his younger brothers, Robert W. and Patrick H. Spratley. In the final item of his will, Benjamin wrote, *"I do hereby appoint my friend and Cousin James W. Sebrell my sole executor."* James was the son of Capt. David Sebrell, making him the first cousin of Walter Spratley Sr.

Benjamin R. Spratley failed to date his will, but he appears to have written it in late 1833 or early 1834. He received payment of $50.60 from his father's estate on 12 February 1834 for his mercantile firm, plus $4.50 on the 24th for another account, but he died in the next few months. James W. Sebrell filed his will with the Surry County Court on May 24th [3].

Benjamin's early death at about twenty-four years of age ended the line of Walter's eldest son, leaving his brothers to carry forward their father's legacy.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

2. Albert Gallatin Spratley

Albert Gallatin Spratley (15 Aug 1815–1880) is the second known child of Walter Spratley Sr. and Elizabeth Shackleford to survive infancy. His mother died when he was around five years old, and his father's health failed when Albert was only seventeen. In his 1833 will, Walter Spratley made the following bequest to Albert:

I give and bequeath to my son Albert G. Spratley my Negro Boy Fed,

as well as the interest in his father's slaves after the death of his stepmother. Albert was only eighteen when his father died, and his father's first cousin, James W. Sebrell, served as his guardian. On 12 April 1837, Albert G. Spratley received $1177 as his portion of his father's estate, and $1229 from the estate of his older brother, Benjamin [4].

Albert G. Spratley married on 14 August 1839 in Surry County, Virginia to Lavinia Alberta Wheadon (21 Apr 1820–12 Oct 1878), daughter of James and Mary Wheadon [5]. In 1840, as newlyweds, Albert and Lavinia lived in Surry County near his great-aunt, Elizabeth Sebrell Watkins. However, they soon moved to nearby Isle of Wight County, Virginia near her family, where Albert farmed for the next three decades [6]. In 1880, Albert and two of his younger children lived in Smithfield, Isle of Wight County, Virginia, but he died later that year [7].

Although Albert died in 1880, his line continued through multiple generations. Through Albert's children and grandchildren, the Spratley name remained present in Isle of Wight and surrounding counties well into the twentieth century. Besides Albert, only James had children, but his only son died by 1880. All of Walter's other children died without issue.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

3. Maj. James W. Spratley

James W. Spratley (2 Feb 1818–14 Dec 1858) is the third known child of Walter Spratley Sr. and Elizabeth Shackleford to survive infancy. See the biography of Maj. James W. Spratley for details on his life.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

4. Robert Walter Spratley

Robert Walter Spratley (1825/1830–1 Nov 1840) is the eldest known child of Walter Spratley Sr. and Rebecca B. Carsley. He received this bequest in his father's will:

I give and bequeath to my son Robert W. Spratley my Negro boy Lewis.

Lewis, a son of Walter's enslaved woman, Sally, must have been only a young boy when Walter wrote his will in 1833. Walter also left Robert an interest in his enslaved people after the death of his mother [8].

Peter Thomas Spratley, Walter's first cousin, acted as Robert's guardian between 1833 and 1839. In 1837, Peter charged $6 for Lewis' hire for the year, *"it being the first year he would hire for anything more than his maintenance."* In 1839, Peter charged $10 for the hire of Lewis, and in 1840, $12. In August 1838, Robert's half-sister, Rebecca C. Hinton, married William Dillard, and Dillard assumed guardianship of Robert from Peter T. Spratley effective 27 May 1839 [9].

On 1 January 1839, Dillard paid $2 *"for a hat in Richmond"* for Robert W. Spratley, and he made cash payments to Thomas Ruffin for tuition of $35 for the year 1839 and $24.50 for 1840. Dillard paid $1.25 for a new pair of shoes for Robert on October 15th, but he died just two weeks later, on November 1st. Dillard made cash payments on 1 January 1840 of $23.25 to Dr. A. S. Edwards for medical services provided for Robert W. Spratley prior to his death, and he paid $10 to John M. Semmell for making Robert's coffin [10].

Given his estimated birth between 1825 and 1830, Robert was no more than fifteen years old at his death.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

5. Patrick Henry Spratley

Patrick Henry Spratley (1830/1833–1834) is the second oldest known child of Walter Spratley Sr. and Rebecca B. Carsley. He appears to have been only an infant or toddler when his father died [11]. Like his older brothers, his father left him one of his slaves:

> *I give and bequeath to my son Patrick H. Spratley my Negro boy Andrew Jackson.*

Andrew Jackson was the middle son of Walter's enslaved woman, Sally, and still a small boy when Walter wrote his will in 1833. In his will, Walter Spratley directed his executor to divide the remainder of his enslaved people *"in four lots as equally as possible,"* assigning the final lot to Patrick. Walter further stated that,

> *…provided there is a difference in the value the most valuable lots are to be assigned to the youngest child…*

On 1 January 1835, Spratley's executors paid $33.33 to *"Rebecca B. Spratley for 8 months board of Patrick H. Spratley till his death,"* implying that Patrick died in August or September 1834 [12]. Given his estimated birth between 1830 and 1833, Patrick was no more than four years old at his death.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

6. Sarah Spratley

Sarah Spratley (c1833–c1840) is the only known daughter of Walter Spratley Sr. and Rebecca B. Carsley. Her father made no mention of her in his will signed on 25 May 1833. Given the care he took to provide for his five sons and stepdaughter in his will, it seems unlikely that he would have omitted Sarah from his will had she been alive or even if Rebecca was close to delivering an infant when he signed his will. Thus, Sarah was likely born around the time of her father's death in August or September 1833, or perhaps even several months afterward.

Few records survive to document Sarah Spratley's brief life. She may be the young female under age five listed in the 1840 household of William Dillard, her brother-in-law. Sarah died about 1840, and the Surry Court appointed Albert G. Spratley as her administrator on 26 October 1840. The Surry Court accepted his final settlement on 1 October 1842, and several months later, her mother and siblings accepted their share of her estate [13].

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Notes

Early Life Along the Blackwater Swamp

1. Surry County VA Will Book 12 (1783–1792), pp. 318–319 (Will of Benjamin Spratley, written 13 January 1789, filed in court 28 February 1792). Surry County VA Will Book 1 (1792–1804), pp. 282–284 (Account of Benjamin Spratley Estate, filed 24 July 1798). Surry County VA Guardians Bonds (1797–1814), p. 3 (David Sebrell appointed guardian to Benjamin Spratley's Orphans, 27 February 1798). Surry County VA Fiduciary Accounts (1831–1839), pp. 233, 239 (Accounts of Walter and Elizabeth Spratley, orphans of Benjamin Spratley, filed by their guardian, David Sebrell, and approved by the Surry County Court on 24 October 1836). Surry County VA Guardians Bonds (1797–1814), p. 3 (Guardian of Walter, Henry, Benjamin, Betsy and Nathaniel Spratley, 27 February 1798). Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 4 (1822–1827), pp. 614–616 (Nathaniel Sebrell Estate Account, filed 26 October 1826). 1782–1794 Surry County VA Personal Property Tax Records. Either Thomas Spratley or commissioners appointed to complete the administration of Benjamin Spratley's estate after Thomas' death recorded payment of £95 8s 0½d for:

   To Board, Clothing & Schooling of Mary Spratley, Walter Spratley, Henry Spratley, Benjamin Spratley, Elizabeth Spratley & Nathaniel Spratley, orphans of the said Benjamin Spratley decd. from April 1794 to the 31st December 1797.

   This implies that Susanna Sebrell Spratley died in April 1794. Administrator Thomas Spratley filed undated records of payments of 15 shillings, *"To Cash paid for a Coffin for Benjamin Spratley,"* and 12 shillings *"To Cash paid for a Coffin for Susanna Spratley."* In 1794, the taxes on three horses were not paid in Susanna's name, but in the name of *"Estate of Benja. Spratly Decd."* This further indicates that she died before the personal property taxes were paid in 1794. These multiple references all show that the children of Benjamin and Susanna Sebrell Spratley included Mary (Polly), Walter, Henry, Benjamin, Elizabeth (Betsy), and Nathaniel Spratley. Three of them died young, and by 1826, the surviving heirs of Susan Sebrell Spratley included Walter, Polly, and Nathaniel Spratley. On 2 December 1809, David Sebrell charged the four surviving children of his sister $2.00 each *"paid for Silling and smokehouse and pailing the Grave Yard in,"* showing that he maintained the graves of his sister and her husband.
2. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 10 (1754–1768), pp. 155–156 (Will of John Spratley, written 3 May 1758, filed in court 19 July 1758). Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 10a (1768–1779) (Will of Mary Spratley, written 19 March 1773, filed in court 23 November 1773). Surry County VA Order Book (1764–1774), pp. 335–336 (*"Benjamin, Ann, Walter and Thomas Spratley's Orphans of John Spratley Decd. made Choice of William Spratley for their Guardian,"* 22 December 1772). Surry County VA Guardians Accounts (1762–1783), p. 318 (Benjamin Spratley Acknowledgement, 22 August 1775). Both John and Mary Spratley identified Benjamin as their son in their wills.
3. Surry County VA Will Book 12 (1783–1792), p. 17–19 (Will of Nicholas Faulcon Sr., written 6 January 1781, filed in court on 23 December 1783). Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 3 (1815–1821), pp. 140–141 (Will of Nathaniel Sebrell, written 25 December 1813, filed 22 April 1816); Book 4 (1822–1827), pp. 613–619 (Nathaniel Sebrell Estate Account, filed 26 October 1826); Book 5 (1827–1830), pp. 208–214 (Nathaniel Sebrell Estate Account, filed 22 October 1827). The 1826 and 1827 accounts of Nathaniel Sebrell's estate carefully lists his grandchildren by his deceased children, as named in his will. Nathaniel Sebrell named his deceased daughter, Susanna Spratley, and the accounts of payments to Sebrell's grandchildren prove that she married Benjamin Spratley.
4. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 10 (1754–1768), pp. 155–156 (Will of John Spratley, written 3 May 1758, filed in court 19 July 1758). In his will, John Spratley wrote, *"I Give and Bequeath to my two Sons William and John all my Land of the Southside of Blackwater Swamp to be equally divided between them…I give and bequeath to my Son Benjamin a peace* [sic] *of Land on the north side of the said Swamp where John Allen now lives."*
5. Surry County VA Will Book 12 (1783–1792), pp. 318–319 (Will of Benjamin Spratley, written 13 January 1789, filed in court 28 February 1792). Surry County VA Order Book (1789–1794), p. 312 (Court session of 28 February 1792); p. 313 (Susanna Spratley appointed administrator of Benjamin Spratley's estate, Thomas Spratley, security).
6. 1792–1793 Surry County VA Personal Property Tax Books, LDS Film #8458765, 1792: Image #346, line #10: *"Susannah Spratley;"* 1793: Image #429, line #19: *"Sussanna Spratley;"* LDS Film #8188299, Image #136, line #19: *"Sussanna Spratley."*
7. Surry County VA Will Book 1 (1792–1804), pp. 282–284 (Account of Benjamin Spratley Estate, filed 24 July 1798). Either Thomas Spratley or commissioners appointed to complete the administration of Benjamin Spratley's estate after Thomas' death recorded payment of £95 8s 0½d for:

   To Board, Clothing & Schooling of Mary Spratley, Walter Spratley, Henry Spratley, Benjamin Spratley, Elizabeth Spratley & Nathaniel Spratley, orphans of the said Benjamin Spratley decd. from April 1794 to the 31st December 1797.

   This implies that Susanna Sebrell Spratley died in April 1794. Administrator Thomas Spratley filed undated records of payments of 15 shillings, *"To Cash paid for a Coffin for Benjamin Spratley,"* and 12 shillings *"To Cash*

paid for a Coffin for Susanna Spratley." In 1794, the taxes on three horses were not paid in Susanna's name, but in the name of *"Estate of Benja. Spratly Decd."* This further indicates that she died before the personal property taxes were paid in 1794.

8. Surry County VA Guardians Bonds (1797–1814), p. 3 (David Sebrell appointed guardian to Benjamin Spratley's Orphans, 27 February 1798). Surry County VA Fiduciary Accounts (1831–1839), pp. 233, 239 (Accounts of Walter and Elizabeth Spratley, orphans of Benjamin Spratley, filed by their guardian, David Sebrell, and approved by the Surry County Court on 24 October 1836). Surry County VA Guardians Bonds (1797–1814), p. 3 (Guardian of Walter, Henry, Benjamin, Betsy and Nathaniel Spratley, 27 February 1798). Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 4 (1822–1827), pp. 614–616 (Nathaniel Sebrell Estate Account, filed 26 October 1826). The Spratley orphans on the guardian bond included Walter, Henry, Benjamin, Betsy, and Nathaniel Spratley; Polly was not listed as an orphan, an accidental omission, for later records show Sebrell acting as her guardian as well. William Spratley served as the security on Sebrell's guardian's bond; his identity is unclear, but since Benjamin's brother by that name died in about 1795, William Spratley Jr., son of the elder William, probably served as security. On 2 December 1809, David Sebrell charged the four surviving children of his sister $2.00 each *"paid for Silling and smokehouse and pailing the Grave Yard in."* These references show that the children of Benjamin and Susan Sebrell Spratley who survived infancy included Mary, Walter, Henry, Benjamin Jr., Elizabeth, and Nathaniel Spratley. Three of them died young, and by 1826, the surviving heirs of Susan Sebrell Spratley included Walter, Polly, and Nathaniel Spratley.
9. Compiled Military Service Record, Walter Spratley, Corporal, 4th Virginia Regiment, Revolutionary War. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 10a (1768–1779), pp. 481–482 (Will of Walter Spratley, 10 April 1776, filed in court 23 December 1777). In his will, Walter Spratley named his siblings, including brothers William Spratley and Benjamin Spratley. Both of them had sons of their own, with Benjamin's son being the elder. The first cousins adopted the monikers *"Sr."* and *"Jr."* to distinguish them from each other.
10. Surry County VA Personal Property Tax Books, 1800–1833. Sussex County VA Will Book K (1822–1827), p. 22 (Will of *"Walter Spratley Jr.,"* written 13 January 1824, filed in court 5 February 1824). The tax records first list a Walter Spratley in Surry County in 1803. Given that he lived in the household of William Spratley Jr., the older brother and guardian of Walter Spratley Jr., this is undoubtedly the younger cousin. Walter Spratley Jr. was also listed in his brother's household in 1804, but beginning in 1805, the younger Walter Spratley was listed in his own household under the name *"Walter Spratley."* Beginning in 1806, both Walters were listed in Surry, with the elder one identified as *"Walter Spratley son of Ben."* In 1807, they were listed as *"Walter Spratley Sr."* and *"Walter Spratley Jr.,"* and this identification continued through 1813. About 1813, the younger man moved to Sussex County, and between 1814 and 1833, the only Walter Spratley in Surry was the son of Benjamin and Susan Spratley.

Justice of the Peace, Militia Officer, Tavernkeeper, and Merchant

1. Hening, William Waller, ed. *The Statutes at Large; Being a Collection of all the Laws of Virginia from the First Session of the Legislature, in the Year 1619.* Richmond, VA: Samuel Pleasants, 1814, Vol. IV:
   - p. 241: *"At a General Assembly Begun and Held at Williamsburg, the first day of February, anno dom. 1727…And from thence continued…to the twenty-first day of May, 1730…"*
   - p. 247: May 1730; *"An Act for amending the Staple of Tobacco; and for preventing Frauds in his Majesty's Customs."*
   - p. 266: *"That a public warehouse or warehouses shall be kept, and the same are hereby appointed to be kept at the following places…At Cabbin* [sic] *Point, in Surry;…At Gray's Creek, in Surry, where the Agents houses were."*
2. Surry County VA Order Book (1795–1800):
   - p. 96: Court session 23 August 1796;
   - p. 98: *"Militia Officers sworn, to wit, William Ruffin Captain to a Company of Light Infantry – John Newsum Ensign to the said Company."*

   Order Book (1800–1804):
   - p. 317: Court session 23 November 1802;
   - p. 326: *"Ordered that Nicholas Sebrell, Beverly Booth, John Newsum, John H. Cocke…be recommended to the Governor and Council as fit and proper persons to be commissioned Magistrates in this County."*
   - p. 394: Court session 24 May 1803;
   - p. 396: *"Nicholas Sebrell, Beverly Booth, John Newsum, Archibald Davis, James Simpson and William Scammell Gentlemen being Commissioned Justices of the Peace for this County appeared personally in Court, and took the several Oaths prescribed by Law."*

   Surry County VA Personal Property Tax Books, LDS Film #8458765:

1799, Image #684, #15: John Newsum; 1 white tithe, 3 slaves over sixteen (Nancy, Will, Betty), one 12–16 (Jenny), 1 horses or mares, 2 wheeled carriage.

1800, Image #725, #14: John Newsum; 2 white tithes: *"Jn° Newsum; Walter Spratley;"* 4 slaves over 16: Charles, Davy, Nancy, Betty; 1 slave 12–16 (Jenny); 2 horses or mares, 2 wheeled carriage.

3. Surry County VA Personal Property Tax Books, LDS Film #8188299:

1801, Image #478, #20: John Newsum; 2 white tithes: *"Jn° Newsum; Walter Spratley;"* 3 slaves over sixteen (Nancy, Will, Charlott); one slave 12–16 (Jenny); 1 horses or mares.

1802, Image #515, #19: John Newsum; 2 white tithes: *"J. Newsum; Walter Spratley;"* 5 slaves over sixteen (Nancy, Toney, Sam, Betty, Will, Beck); two slaves 12–16 (Jenny, Billy); 3 horses or mares.

1803, Image #558, #6: John Newsum; 2 white tithes: *"Jn° Newsum; Walter Spratley;"* 7 slaves over sixteen (Nancy, Toney, Sammy, Betty, Beck, York, Tiller);4 horses or mares; 2 wheeled carriage wagon.

1804, Image #591, #11: John Newsum; 1 white tithe; 6 slaves over sixteen; 2 slaves 12–16; 5 horses or mares.

1806, Image #637, column 1:

#34: Walter Spratley; 1 free male above 16 years; 3 black tithes above 12; 2 black tithes above 16; 1 horse, mare, colt, or mule [this man is Walter Spratley Jr., the son of Capt. William Spratley Sr.]

#42: *"Walter Spratley son of Ben,"* 1 free male above 16 years.

1807, Image #658:

column 1, #24: *"Walter Spratley jr;"* 1 free male above 16; 9 black tithes above 12; 7 black tithes above 16; 2 horses, mares, mules & colts; 2 *"Riding Carriages with Two wheels."*

column 2, #1: *"Walter Spratley Sr;"* 1 free male above 16.

4. Surry County VA Miscellaneous Records–1 (1784–1942), LDS Film #4126722, Images #1304–1305 (*"Inquest taken on the view of Negro Isaac,"* 1 March 1807). The cover was dated March 1st, but the body of the inquisition was dated March 31, 1807.
5. Surry County VA Order Book (1807–1811), pp. 139, 144 (*"Ordered that James Stewart be recommended to the Governor in Council as a fit and proper person to be commissioned Lieutenant in the 71st Regiment of Virginia Militia…and Walter Spratley Sen. as Ensign,"* 26 July 1808); pp. 258–260 (*"Randolph Fitchett, Walter Spratley Senr, and Reuben Butler Gentlemen having been Commissioned Justices of the Peace in and for this county personally appeared before the Court and took the several oaths prescribed by Law,"* 25 July 1809). After the entry in which Walter Spratley, Fitchett, and Butler took their oaths, the presiding justices on the Surry County Court were listed as *"Present,"* including *"Walter Spratley Sen.,"* one of the *"Gent. Justices."*
6. Shepherd, Samuel, ed. *The Statutes at Large of Virginia, from October Session 1792, to December Session 1806, Inclusive.* Vol. II. Richmond: Samuel Shepherd, 1835, pp. 417–418 (*"An ACT more effectually to restrain the practice of negroes going at large,"* passed 25 January 1803). Shepherd, Vol. III, 1836, pp. 3, 17 (Chap. 1, Section 46 – *"An ACT to amend and reduce into one the several acts of the general assembly, for regulating the militia of this commonwealth,"* passed 28 January 1804).
7. Surry County VA Order Book (1807–1811), p. 386 (Court session of 26 June 1810); p. 390 (Surry County payments to John Stiles of $3.00 *"for 48 hours patrole"* [sic]); p. 391 (Surry County payments to Walter Spratley of 37½¢ *"for 6 hours patrole"* [sic]).
8. Surry County VA Order Book (1811–1815), p. 1 (Court session of 25 June 1811); p. 3 (*"A return of Patrole* [sic] *made and sworn to by Walter Spratley Gentleman"*).
9. Surry County VA Order Book (1815–1820), p. 380 (Court session of 26 January 1818); pp. 382–383 (*"The Justices having been summoned, the Court proceeded to the recommendation of Militia Officers and do recommend…David Booth as a fit and proper person to be commissioned Captain in the Second Battalion of the Seventy first Regiment…, And Walter Spratley Sen. as Ensign in the room of William Maynard"*).
10. Surry County VA Order Book (1820–1822):

p. 305: Court session of 25 March 1822;

p. 308: *"…the Court proceeded to the recommendation of Militia Officers, and so recommend as follows, Wilie Davis to be Commissioned Captain in the second Battalion of the 71st Regiment in the room of David Booth who has resigned. Walter Spratley Sen. Captain in the same Battalion in the room of William Maynard who has resigned."*

Surry County VA Order Book (1823–1825):

p. 552: Court Session of 25 November 1825;

p. 557: *"The Justices of this County having been summoned for the purpose…this day proceeded & recommended Militia Officers as follows to wit. Benjamin W. Sebrell to be commissioned Captain in the room of Walter Spratley who has resigned."*

11. Surry County VA Order Book (1815–1820), p. 380 (Court session of 26 January 1818); p. 383 (*"Ordered that John Peter, Walter Spratley and William Parker or any two of them, do let to the lowest undertaker the Building of a Bridge across Birchen Swamp near Low Point," 26 January 1818"*).

12. Surry County VA Order Book (1815–1820), p. 508 (Court session of 22 March 1819); p. 510 (*"Walter Spratley, Amos Sledge and James Douglas, having been Elected Overseers of the Poor in Wakefield Precinct, appeared before the Court and took the oath of office"*).
13. Surry County VA Order Book (1820–1825), p. 330 (Court session of 23 August 1824); p. 348 (*"Ordered that Walter Spratley be appointed Surveyor of the road in Cabin Point precinct in the room of John Peter"*).
14. Surry County VA Deed Book 1 (1792–1799), pp. 29–30 (Peyton Short to Richard Shackleford, 20 June 1788). 1793 Surry County VA Personal Property Tax Book, LDS Film #8458765, Image 431, *"Rich[d] Shackleford, P. Geo. County."* The 1788 deed gave Shackleford's residence as Prince George County, and the 1793 tax record gave his residence in Prince George. While he paid his white male tithe in Prince George County, he paid Surry taxes on a female slave, Hannah, over sixteen years of age.
15. Surry County VA Business License(s) (1783–1856), LDS Film #4131659, Images #16–17 (Ordinary Bond of Richard Shackleford, 23 February 1808); #118–119 (Ordinary Bond of Richard Shackleford, 23 April 1805); #146–147 (Ordinary Bond of Richard Shackleford, 24 April 1804); #190–191 (Ordinary Bond of Richard Shackleford, 24 April 1798); #230 (Ordinary Bond of Herbert Holloway, 22 July 1794; signed by *"Rich[d] Shackleford"*); #327–328 (Ordinary Bond of Richard Shackleford, 27 May 1806). Surry County VA Deed Book 2 (1799–1804), pp. 262–263 (Richard Shackleford and Hamlin Harris to James Brockwell, 27 February 1799).
16. Surry County VA Marriage Bonds, 1808, LDW Film #4129160, Images #28–29 (Walter Spratley to *"Elizabeth Shackleford, daughter of R[d] Shackleford,"* 24 May 1808). Surry County VA Marriage Returns (1785–1854), p. 23 (Walter Spratley to Elizabeth Shackleford, 26 May 1808). Surry County VA Marriage Returns (1785–1820), LDS Film #4131987, Image 14 (Walter Spratley to Elizabeth Shackleford, 26 May 1808). Surry County VA Marriage Register (1768–1853), p. 77 (Walter Spratley to Elizabeth *"Shackleton,"* bond dated 24 May 1808); p. 222 (Walter Spratley to Elizabeth *"Shackleford,"* married 26 May 1808). These marriage records prove that Elizabeth was the daughter of Richard Shackleford.
17. Surry County VA Business License(s) (1783–1856), LDS Film #4131659, Ordinary License Bonds:
    Images #26–27: Walter Spratley Sr., 28 May 1811;
    Images 32–33: Walter Spratley Sr., 23 May 1810;
    Images 42–43: Walter Spratley Sr., 23 May 1809;
    Images 110–111: Walter Spratley Sr., 25 May 1813;
    Images 112–113: Walter Spratley Sr., 26 May 1812);
    Images 401–402: Walter Spratley, 22 May 1815;
    Images 421–422: Walter Spratley Senr., 23 May 1814.
    Surry County VA Order Book (1811–1815), pp. 340–341 *("Walter Spratley Sen. a Licence* [sic] *is granted him to keep an Ordinary at Cabin Point;"* 23 May 1814).
    Surry County VA Order Book (1815–1820), pp. 11–12 (*"Walter Spratley Sen…is licenced* [sic] *to keep an Ordinary at his house in Cabin Point;"* 22 May 1815).
    Surry County VA Order Book (1820–1822), p. 341 (Court session of 22 April 1822); p. 308 (*"Walter Spratley Sen. having this day personally petitioned this Court for a Certificate to entitle him to sell Spirtuos* [sic] *Liquors pursuant to an Act of the General Assembly and the Court being of Opinion tha the is a man of honesty, probity, and good demeanor, and not addicted to drunkaness* [sic]*, or gaming, the same is accordingly granted to him…"*
    Surry County VA Personal Property Tax Books (1791–1816), LDS Film #8188299:
    1813, Image #785: Walter Spratley, Ordinary License: $16.75;
    1815, Image #857: *"List of Ordinaries and Houses of Private Entertainment: Walter Spratley,"* $22.33.
18. 1810 Prince George County VA Federal Census, p. 532, line #32: *"Rich[d] Shackelford."* 1820 Prince George County VA Federal Census, p. 55, line #11: Richard Shackleford. 1830 Prince George County VA Federal Census, p. 50, line #27: Sarah Shackleford. Surry County VA Deed Book 5 (1815–1818), pp. 198–199 (Thomas Peter to William Allen and Richard Shackleford, 18 March 1816). Elizabeth Shackleford Spratley could be the daughter of Sarah, assuming that she is not Richard's second wife. The records of Prince George County were destroyed during the Civil War, and so no firm documentation exists to prove the identity of Elizabeth's mother. In 1816, for $1425, Thomas Peter sold Allen and Shackleford a 512½-acre tract of land plus a ½-acre lot that he inherited from his father. The precise reason Richard Shackleford made the purchase is not known.
19. Surry County VA Deed Book 4 (1811–1815):
    pp. 139–140: Richard Shackleford of Prince George County, Virginia to Amos Sledge, 27 July 1812. The document reads: *"I Richard Shackleford…for and in consequence of the natural love and affection which I bear to my son in Law Amos Sledge…"* Shackleford gave him a town lot in Cabin Point.
    p. 140: Acknowledgement of Sarah Shackleford: *"As I am not named in the above I have acknowledged myself the wife of Richard Shackleford and perfectly resigned to the above deed."*
    pp. 182–183: Examination of Sarah Shackleford by Surry Justices of the Peace John Peter and Walter Spratley Sr., 25 November 1812. The justices reported that she signed the deed *"of her own free will and accord…"*

20. 1813 Surry County VA Personal Property Tax Book, LDS Film #8188299, Image #784 (Amos Sledge, Merchant's License: $23.00).
21. Surry County VA Deed Book 7 (1823–1826), pp. 68–70 (Richard and Sarah Shackleford *"of the County of Prince George"* to Archibald Conway, 1 January 1820). Justices of the peace John Peter and Benjamin Cocke examined Sarah.
22. 1816 Surry County VA Personal Property Tax Book, LDS Film #8188299, Images #893 (*"List of Ordinaries and Houses of private Entertainment licenced* [sic] *in Surry 1816:"* William Parker; fee: $18.00, license granted: 1 May 1816; #894 (*"List of Merchants Licenced* [sic] *from 15 Sept 1815:"* Walter Spratley, Amos Sledge; fee: $20.00, expired 1 May 1817).
23. 1816 Surry County VA Land Tax Book, LDS Film #4124801, Image #25, *"Walter Spratley Sen.,"* 33⅓ acres *"Adjoining Nathl and Polly Spratley…From Est. of Eliza Spratley dec^{d} Pr. Inheritance 100 a. to N. Cocks."* 1817 Surry County VA Land Tax Book, LDS Film #4124808, Image #26, *"Walter Spratley,"* 33⅓ acres *"Adjoining Nathl and Polly Spratley,"* and 16¼ *"At Cabin Point adjoining Major Peter…From R. Shackleford Pr. deed of record."* Surry County VA Deed Book (1818–1823), p. 104 (William Gilchrist to *"Walter Spratley Senior,"* 2 April 1819; witnesses: *"Nathl Harrison Jur.,"* Amos Sledge, *"Benj^{a} W. Sebrell,"* Eldridge D. N. Clary). There is no deed from Shackleford to Walter Spratley listed in the indices to the Surry County deeds during this period. It either went unrecorded or it was not listed in the index. The 1819 deed gave Gilchrist's residence as Prince George County and Spratley's as Surry County. It also listed the lot Spratley purchased as bounded *"on the West by the Land of the said Walter and Benjamin R. Spratley, and on the North by the Lott* [sic] *of Richard Shackleford."* Finally, all of the Surry County Land Tax Books show Walter Spratley paying taxes on the 16¼-acre Cabin Point lot, with his owning it *"for life"* rather than owning it *"in fee simple."* This indicates that the deed by which he acquired it had conditions, and he only retained possession of it during his lifetime. At his death, it went to his son, Benjamin R. Spratley. He was Walter's eldest son, at that time a boy of at most ten years. This proves that Richard Shackleford had given the lot to his son-in-law during his lifetime, and afterwards, to his grandson.
24. 1821–1825 Surry County VA Personal Property Tax Books, LDS Film #8248743, Images #148 (*"Walter Spratley Sen."* and Amos Sledge, licenses dated 1 May 1821, $20); 179 (*"Walter Spratley,"* and Amos Sledge, licenses dated 1 May 1822, $20); 208 (Amos Sledge and Walter Spratley, licenses dated 1 May 1823, $20); 236 (Amos Sledge and Walter Spratley, licenses dated 1 May 1824, $20); 266 (Amos Sledge and Walter Spratley, licenses dated 1 May 1825, $20).
25. 1826–1829 Surry County VA Personal Property Tax Books, LDS Film #8248743, Images #295 (*"Spratley & Sebrell,"* license dated 1 May 1826, $20); 326 (*"List of Licenses…to Merchants, vending Goods of foreign and domestic growth or manufacture: Spratley & Sebrell,"* license dated 1 May 1827, $20); 344 (*"Spratley & Sebrell,"* license dated 12 May 1828, $20). Surry County VA Will Book 5 (1827–1830), pp. 414–415 (Will of Benjamin W. Sebrell, dated 1 March 1828, filed in court 27 April 1829). Surry County VA Executors Bonds (1816–1831), p. 159 (Executor's bond of James W. Sebrell, executor of Benjamin W. Sebrell, 27 April 1829; securities: David Sebrell, Walter Spratley). In his will, Benjamin W. Sebrell made a bequest to his father, David Sebrell, the brother of Susanna Sebrell Spratley, Walter's mother. He also made this bequest: *"I Give unto my brother James W. Sebrell all my Interest in the Store at Cabin Point now trading under the firm of Sebrell and Spratley…"* Sebrell's precise date of death is undocumented, but he probably died shortly before 27 April 1829, when his brother filed his will in court. Sebrell's father and Walter Spratley served as securities on James W. Sebrell's executor's bond.
26. 1829 Surry County VA Personal Property Tax Book, LDS Film #8248743, Image #370 (*"Spratley & Lane,"* license dated 11 May 1829, $20). Surry County VA Will Book 6 (1830–1834), pp. 633–634 (Will of Benjamin R. Spratley, no date, filed in court 26 May 1834). Benjamin R. Spratley wrote his will sometime after the death of his father, Walter Spratley, in 1833. He left to his brother, James W. Spratley, the sum of $500 *"to be paid to him by my executor whom I shall hereafter appoint out of my interest in the firm now under the name of W. & E. T. Spratley given to me by my Father."* E. T. Spratley was *"Edwin Thomas Spratley,"* the son of John Spratley, Walter's first cousin, Edwin T. Spratley's grandfather was Capt. William Spratley Sr., the older brother of Walter's father, Benjamin Spratley.
27. 1795 Surry County VA Land Tax Book, LDS Film #8742699, Image #188: *"Est^{a} Benjamin Spratley,"* 414 acres. 1812 Surry County VA Land Tax Book, LDS Film #4121839, Image #24: *"Est. Benjamin Spratley,"* 414 acres.
28. 1813 Surry County VA Land Tax Book, LDS Film #4121840, Images #26: *"Walter Spratley Sen."* (100 acres), *"Eliz^{a} Spratley"* (100 acres); #27: Nathaniel Spratley (133⅛), Polly Spratley (133⅛).
29. Surry County VA Deed Book 5 (1815–1818), pp. 149–151 (Walter and Elizabeth Spratley to Nathaniel Cocks, 18 January 1816); pp. 464–465 (Walter and Elizabeth Spratley to Mary Spratley, 31 March 1818). Walter Spratley signed the deeds as *"Walter Spratley Senr"* and *"Walter Spratley Sr."*
30. Surry County VA Administrators Bonds (1797–1815), p. 112 (Walter Spratley Senr, Administrator of Estate of Nathaniel Sebrell (Jr.), 27 July 1813). Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 5 (1827–1830), pp. 134–135 (Final Account of Nathaniel Sebrell Junr. Estate, Walter Spratley, Administrator, filed 27 August 1827).

31. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 3 (1815–1821), pp. 314–315 (Will of Mary Ann Sebrell, written 17 July 1818, filed in court on 28 September 1818). Surry County VA Executors Bonds (1816–1831), p. 12 (Walter Spratley Senr., Executor of Mary Ann Sebrell, 28 September 1818). Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 5 (1827–1830), pp. 117–121 (Final Account of Mary Ann Sebrell Estate, Walter Spratley, Executor, filed 25 June 1827).
32. Surry County VA Deed Book 6 (1818–1823), pp. 129–130 (Archibald Davis, *"trustee appointed by the County Court of Surry"* to Robert C. Maynard, 13 May 1820; witnesses: Walter Spratley Senr., Eldridge Clary, Dudley D. Maynard). Robert C. Maynard purchased *"the New Design Containing by estimation two hundred and eighty three acres."*
33. For details on the service of Spratley's uncle as tavernkeeper at The New Design, see the detailed biography of John Stiles Sr.
34. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 4 (1822–1827), pp. 126–128 (Will of Robert C. Maynard, written 3 March 1823, filed with the Surry Court on 26 May 1823). Surry County VA Executors Bonds (1816–1831), p. 67 (Bond of Martha Maynard, executrix of Robert C. Maynard, 26 May 1823).
35. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 4 (1822–1827), pp. 502–504 (Will of James Douglas, written 20 June 1825, but neither signed nor witnessed; proved in Court on 28 August 1826 by oath of William Allen). Surry County VA Marriage Returns (1785–1854), LDS Film #4131988, Image #35, p. 22 (James Douglas to Mary *"Moring,"* 12 November 1807).
36. Surry County VA Administrators Bonds (1815–1826), p. 193 (Walter Spratley appointed administrator of James Douglas, 27 February 1826; securities: Henry O. McEnery, Mary Douglas, Amos Sledge). James Douglas named Caroline Haskins Douglas as his daughter in his will. Just a few weeks later, she married McEnery; see 1825 Surry County VA Marriage Bonds & Consents, LDS Film #4129077, Image #46 (Henry O. McEnery to Caroline H. Douglas *"daughter of James Douglas,"* 6 July 1825).
37. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 5 (1827–1830), pp. 383–385 (*"The Estate of James Douglas dec^{d} In Acct Current with Walter Spratley admr,"* filed 11 July 1827).
38. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 6 (1830–1834), pp. 251–256 (*"The Estate of James Douglas dec^{d} In additional accompt* [archaic version of *"account"*] *Current with Walter Spratley administrator,"* filed 10 December 1831). The heirs of James Douglas include *"Miles T. Burgess and Mary his wife late Mary Douglas dec^{d} widow and relict of James Douglas dec^{d}."*
39. 1827 Surry County VA Marriage Bonds & Consents, LDS Film #4129080, Image #4 (Marriage bond of Miles T. Burgess to Mary Douglas, 19 February 1827).
40. Sussex County VA Marriage Register (1754–1853), LDS Film #7579169:
    Image #79, p. 77: *"Miles Burges"* to *"Nancy Velvin,"* marriage bond: 1 June 1795;
    Image #278, p. 269: Miles *"Burges"* to *"Nancy Vilvan,"* marriage date: 25 June 1795.
    Sussex County VA Will Book G (1806–1812), pp. 54–55 (Will of William Velvin, signed 19 October 1806, filed with the Sussex Court on 4 December 1806 by John Velvin, executor). Among his children, William Velvin named his son, John Velvin, and daughter, Nancy Burgess. John Velvin moved across the Blackwater Swamp into southern Surry County and served as constable, captain of a Surry County militia unit, and later as major of the Battalion of Surry Militia.
41. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 7 (1834–1840), p. 652 (Will of Miles Turner Burgess, signed 14 September 1827; proved 27 March 1837, but *"continued for further proof;"* again proved on 26 August 1839 and recorded). By the time Burgess died, his appointed executor, Walter Spratley, had died, and the only witness, *"Luice Baugh,"* had either died or moved away. It was proved in court in 1837 by the oaths of Patrick H. Bilbo and Archibald Davis, who testified that they *"were well acquainted with the hand writing of the said Miles T. Burgess having frequently seen him write."*
42. Surry County VA Deed Book 4 (1811–1815), pp. 161–162 (Thomas Ellis Jr. and wife and Sarah Ellis to Jesse P. Warren, 12 October 1812). Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 3 (1815–1821), pp. 140–141; Surry County VA Wills & Inventories (1797–1879), LDS Film #4124856, Images 1146–1147, 1323–1324 (Will of Nathaniel Sebrell, written 25 December 1813, filed 22 April 1816; witness: John Velvin, John Watkins, Jesse P. Warren).
43. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 5 (1827–1830), pp. 506–507 (Will of Jesse P. Warren, signed 28 August 1829, filed in court 23 November 1829; witness: David Sebrell, Jas. W. Sebrell; executor: *"my friend John N. Sebrell;"* securities on executor's bond: David Sebrell, Walter Spratley). Surry County VA Executors Bonds (1816–1831), p. 164 (Bond of John N. Sebrell, executor of Jesse P. Warren, 23 November 1829; securities: David Sebrell, Walter Spratley). The signature shown comes from the executor's bond of John N. Sebrell.

Plantation Owner

1. Sussex County VA Will Book H (1813–1818), pp. 466–467 (Will of George Birdsong, written 15 April 1818, filed in court by executor Walter Spratley on 4 June 1818); Will Book K (1822–1827), pp. 230–233 (Account of George

Birdsong, *"with Walter Spratley the executor,"* filed 15 February 1825); Will Book L (1827–1833), pp. 153–154 (Account of George Birdsong, *"Walter Spratley, the Executor,"* filed 21 April 1829).

2. Surry County VA Deed Book 6 (1818–1823), pp. 11–12 (*"Walter Spratley executor"* to John F. Cocke, 1 January 1819); pp. 12–13 (John F. Cocke to *"Walter Spratley Sen.,"* 2 January 1819).
3. 1817 Surry County VA Land Tax Book, LDS Film #4124808, Image #26, *"Walter Spratley."* 1819 Surry County VA Land Tax Book, LDS Film #4124817, Image #40: *"Walter Spratley Sen.,"* 16¼ acres (*"Adjoining Jno Peter in Cabin Point"*), 100 acres (*"Adjoining John Mingo & James Bailey")*, 487¼ acres (*"Birch Island adj. E. Lane"*). Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 7 (1834–1840), pp. 242–245 (Inventory of Walter Spratley Estate, made 13 December 1833, filed in court 1 January 1834). The land tax book for 1818 does not exist, but since Spratley did not own the 100 acres in 1817 and the 1819 land tax book did not indicate it was a new purchase, he must have purchased it in 1818. The deed in which he purchased the tract has not been located. Spratley's inventory included property *"at the Sheffields Plantation,"* made 13 December 1833, and also property *"of the same estate at the Reedy Springs the late residence of the deceased."*
4. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 10 (1754–1768), pp. 155–156 (Will of John Spratley, written 3 May 1758, filed in court 19 July 1758); pp. 173–175 (Inventory of John Spratley's Estate, filed in court on 19 December 1758). Surry County VA Order Book (1764–1774), pp. 388–389 (Division of John Spratley's slaves, 1 February 1773). 1782 Surry County VA Personal Property Tax Book, LDS Film #8458765, Image #12: Benjamin Spratley.
5. Surry County VA Indentures (1699–1796), LDS Film #4123079, Images #33–34, 72–73, 80–81, 108–109, 140–143, 160–161, 166–169, 172–173, 254–255, 278–279, 326–327, 547–548, 624. These are examples of surviving original manumissions of slaves made in Surry County between 1782 and 1796. Others are recorded in the deed books.
6. Surry County VA Deed Book 12 (1783–1787), pp. 19–20 (Benjamin Spratley emancipates slaves Will (aged 34), Natt (27), Lucy (37), Betty (26), Simon (15), Jane (11), Mary (8), Sally (5), Cuffy (6), Annaky (3), and Judy (six months); 28 October 1783).
7. 1806–1807 Surry County VA Personal Property Tax Books, LDS Film #8188299, Images #637 (1806) and #658 (1807). 1810 Prince George County VA Federal Census, p. 532, line #32: *"Richd Shackelford."* 1820 Prince George County VA Federal Census, p. 55, line #11: Richard Shackleford. Upon his return to Surry County in 1806 and 1807, Walter Spratley paid only his poll tax, identified in 1806 as *"Walter Spratley son of Ben,"* and in 1807 as *"Walter Spratley Sr."* to distinguish him from his younger first cousin by the same name.
8. 1809 Surry County VA Personal Property Tax Book, LDS Film #8188299, Images #677: *"Walter Spratley Sen."* 1830 Surry County VA Federal Census, p. 179, line #3: Walter Spratley. In 1809, the year after his marriage to Elizabeth Shackleford, Walter Spratley paid taxes on five slaves aged sixteen years or older. By 1830, Walter Spratley had twenty-eight slaves listed in his household: seven males under ten years, seven males aged 10–24, four males aged 36–55, one male aged 55 and over, two females under ten, three females aged 10–24, and 4 females aged 24–36.
9. 1820 Surry County VA Federal Census, p. 275a, line #16: Walter Spratley. His household included one male aged 10–16, three males under ten years, and one female aged 26–45. Presumably, Elizabeth is the adult female, as it appears that Walter's older sister lived in the household of their brother, Nathaniel Spratley. Documentation given below shows that Benjamin R. Spratley is Walter's eldest son, making him the male aged 10–16. We only have documentation for two younger sons of Walter and Elizabeth: Albert, born 1815, and James Walter, born in 1818. The third male under ten is either another son who died young or an unidentified young boy.
10. Surry County VA Marriage Register (1768–1853), p. 235 (Walter Spratley Sr. to Sarah W. Newsum, married 2 August 1821). Surry County VA Marriage Returns (1785–1854), p. 51 (*"Walter Spratley Sr."* to Sarah W. Newsum, 2 August 1821). We have no information on Sarah W. Newsum.
11. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 2 (1804–1815), pp. 281–282 (Will of John Newsum, written 3 November 1808, filed with the Surry County Court 28 February 1809); pp. 391–393 (Sale of John Newsum Estate, made by *"Walter Spratley Adm^{r}"* on 22 November 1809, returned by Spratley to the Surry Court on 28 May 1811); pp. 411–414 (Account of John Newsum Estate, *"Walter Spratley Senior,"* administrator, approved by commissioners David Sebrell and John Bartle on 20 July 1811). Surry County VA Executors Bonds (1798–1816), p. 87 (Katy Newsum and *"Walter Spratley Senr,"* Executors of John Newsum, 28 February 1809; securities: Archibald Davis, David Sebrell, John Bell). Surry County VA Chancery Court Case #1841-026, Drawer #322: Executor of John Newsum vs. Catharine Newsum (Bill of Injunction filed 28 May 1838; suit dismissed October 1841). John Newsum's will did not identify his children, but in the lawsuit filed in 1838, Catherine's answer to the lawsuit included this statement: *"This respond^{t}* [respondent] *states that her said husband left four children to wit: Susan, Sarah, Mary & John S."*
12. 1820 Surry County VA Federal Census, p. 274b, line #22: Caty Newsum. Her household consisted of one male aged 10–16, one female 10–16, two females 16–26, one female 26–45, and nine slaves.
13. Sussex County VA Marriage Records (Hartwell Carseley to *"Salley Chappell,"* 3 November 1800). Surry County VA Marriage Bonds, 1794, Hartwell Carsley to Rebecca Burgess, 11 June 1794; Marriage Bonds, 1819, Robert S.

Hinton to Rebecca B. Carsley, 5 May 1819. Surry County VA Marriage Register (1768–1853), p. 113 (Robert S. Hinton to Rebecca B. Carsley, bond dated 5 May 1819; Augustin Carsley, security). Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 4 (1822–1827), pp. 539–543 (Account of Hartwell Carsley Estate, filed 27 February 1826). Surry County VA Guardians Accounts (1821–1831), pp. 161–165 (Account of Rebecca B. Carsley, *"orphan of Hartwell Carsley,"* guardian: Augustin Carsley; husband: Walter Spratley, finalized 27 February 1826). 1850 Surry County VA Federal Census, *"the Parish of Southwark,"* p. 67b, Household #126, line #16: William Dillard (age: 41); line #20: Rebecca B. Spratley (age: 46). 1860 Surry County VA Federal Census, P.O. Cabin Point, p. 65, Household #526, line #11: William Dillard (age: 50); line #19: Rebecca Spratley (age: 58). Little is known about either of Hartwell Carsley's wives but given that the 1850 and 1860 censuses indicate that Rebecca B. Carsley Spratley's birth occurred between about 1802 and 1804, we presume that she was the daughter of Sarah Chappell. Rebecca's approximate death date comes from her will (see below).

14. 1820 Surry County VA Federal Census, p. 281a, line #11: R. S. Hinton. Besides Robert and Rebecca Hinton, his household included another adult white couple and eleven enslaved people. Three people in the household were engaged in agriculture and four in manufacturing, suggesting that Hinton may have operated a type of business.
15. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 4 (1822–1827), pp. 15–17 (Will of Robert S. Hinton, written 15 February 1822, filed in court on 27 May 1822 by *"Walter Spratley Senr,"* Executor); pp. 342–347 (Account of Robert S. Hinton Estate, Walter Spratley, Executor, filed 1 February 1825). Surry County VA Executors Bonds (1816–1831), p. 52 (*"Walter Spratley Senr,"* Executor of Robert S. Hinton, 27 May 1822; securities: Peter T. Spratley, John Velvin).
16. Surry County VA Marriage Bonds & Consents, 1823, *"Walter Spratley Sen"* to Rebecca B. Hinton, 8 December 1823. Surry County VA Marriage Register (1768–1853), p. 127 (Walter Spratley Sr. to Rebecca B. Hinton, bond dated 8 December 1823). *"Family Visitor"* (Richmond, VA), 27 December 1823, p. 3, column 4. The newspaper notice of Spratley's marriage reads, *"In Surry Co. on the 18th inst. By the Rev. Mr. Hill, Mr. Walter Spratley, to Mrs. Rebecca B. Hinton, all of that county."*
17. Blandford Cemetery (Petersburg City, Virginia), tombstone of *"Rebecca Hinton Dillard, wife of William Dillard of Surry Co., VA.,"* (20 Oct 1820–23 Oct 1895), Ward S, Section 8, Square 8. Surry County VA Fiduciary Accounts (1831–1839), pp. 278–285 (*"Miss Rebecca C. Hinton, Orphan of Robert S. Hinton dec'd. In account current with Walter Spratley testamentary Guardian,"* approved by Surry Court on 28 August 1837).
18. 1823 Surry County VA Land Tax Book, LDS Film #4124838, Images #12: Rebecca B. Hinton, 182½ acres, *"from Robert S. Hinton et ux by his death;"* #16: Walter Spratley, 16¼ acres; 487¼ acres; 100 acres. 1824 Surry County VA Land Tax Book, LDS Film #4124841, Image #17: Walter Spratley, 16¼ acres (*"Adjoining John Peter Cabin Pt"*); 487¼ acres; 100 acres; 182½ acres, *"fee in wife," "From R. B. Hinton – intermarriage."*
19. Surry County VA Deed Book 6 (1818–1823), p. 131 (John Nicholson to Walter Spratley, 22 May 1820). The deed stated that Nicholson acted as administrator of the will of Richard Rogers, deceased of Sussex County, Virginia. Nicholson sold Spratley *"a certain Water Grist Mill whereof the said Richard Rogers died seized and possessed and being in the County of Surry which said Water Grist Mill was originally built by Thomas and Benj. Clary on the Lands of Henry and William Andrews."*
20. Surry County VA Deed Book 6 (1818–1823), pp. 196–197 (Edwin Rogers, *"Walter Spratley Sen.,"* John Velvin, trustee, 5 February 1821); pp. 257–258 (Harrison H. Cocke *"of the United States Navy"* power of attorney to *"Walter Spratley of Cabin Point,"* 28 June 1821); pp. 258–260 (Walter T. Cocke of Surry County, William A. Harrison of Prince George County, Talbot Parish of Surry County, and Walter Spratley Sr. of Surry County, 1 August 1821); pp. 429–430 (Miles Burgess, Benjamin Cocke, and *"Walter Spratley Sr.,"* 6 March 1822).
21. Surry County VA Marriage Bonds, 1791, William Parker to *"Catharine McKie,"* 22 September 1791. 1816 Surry County VA Personal Property Tax Book, LDS Film #8188299, Images #893 (*"List of Ordinaries and Houses of private Entertainment licenced* [sic] *in Surry 1816:"* William Parker; fee: $18.00, license granted: 1 May 1816). 1820 Surry County VA Federal Census, p. 275a, lines #16: Walter Spratley; #17: William Parker. Their adjoining households on the 1820 census proves that Spratley and Parker were neighbors at Cabin Point.
22. Surry County VA Deed Book 5 (1815–1818), p. 20 (William Maynard Constable Bond, 24 July 1815; securities: Walter Spratley, William Parker); pp. 95–96 (William Parker Constable Bond, 27 November 1815; securities: John Bartle, Richard Shackleford); p. 391 (William Parker Constable Bond, 28 July 1817; securities: John Bartle, David Bishop); Deed Book 6 (1818–1823), p. 147 (William Parker Constable Bond, 28 August 1820; securities: William Scammell, Charles H. Graves); p. 434 (William Parker Constable Bond, 22 July 1822; securities: John Velvin, Mark Booth). 1820 Surry County VA Federal Census, p. 275a, line #25: William Maynard. Given that Spratley and Parker were #16, 17 on this same page on the 1820 census, this shows that they lived near Maynard.
23. Surry County VA Deed Book 5 (1815–1818), pp. 170–171 (William Gilchrist, William Parker, *"Walter Spratley Sen.,"* 27 January 1815); pp. 449–450 (William Parker and *"Walter Spratley Senior,"* trustee, to William Gilchrist, 4 January 1818).

24. Surry County VA Will Book 4 (1822–1827), pp. 124–125 (Will of William Parker, written 4 January 1823, filed in court 26 May 1823). Surry County VA Executors Bonds (1816–1831), p. 66 (Bond of Catherine Parker, Executor of William Parker, 26 May 1823; securities: *"Walter Spratley Sr.,"* Benjamin Cocke).
25. 1816 Surry County VA Personal Property Tax Book, LDS Film #8188299, Images #893 (*"List of Ordinaries and Houses of private Entertainment licenced* [sic] *in Surry 1816:"* William Parker; fee: $18.00, license granted: 1 May 1816). 1822 Surry County VA Personal Property Tax Book, LDS Film #8248743, Images #179 (*"List of Licences* [sic] *granted since the first day of May 1822,"* William Parker, Ordinary license, $18.00). 1823 Surry County VA Personal Property Tax Book, LDS Film #8248743, Images #208 (*"List of Licences* [sic] *granted between the 1st day May 1822 & 1st May 1823…Catharine Parker, Ordinary,"* 1 May 1823, $18.00).
26. Surry County VA Business License(s) (1783–1856), LDS Film #4131659, Images #56–57 (Ordinary Bond of Catherine Parker at Cabin Point, 25 May 1829; security: Walter Spratley); #98–99 (Ordinary Bond of Mary Catherine Parker at Cabin Point, 25 June 1827; security: Walter Spratley); #130–131 (Ordinary Bond of Catherine Parker at Cabin Point, 24 May 1830; security: Walter Spratley); #132–133 (Ordinary Bond of Catherine Parker at Cabin Point, 27 June 1831; security: Walter Spratley); #134–135 (Ordinary Bond of Catherine Parker at Cabin Point, 28 May 1832; security: Walter Spratley); #154–155 (Ordinary Bond of Catherine Parker *"at her house near Cabin Point,"* 22 May 1826; security: Walter Spratley); #353–354 (Ordinary Bond of Catherine Parker at Cabin Point, 26 May 1828; security: Walter Spratley); #361–362 (Ordinary Bond of Catherine Parker *"to keep an Ordinary at her house at Cabin Point,"* 27 June 1825; security: Walter Spratley); #377–378 (Ordinary Bond of Catherine Parker *"to keep an Ordinary at her house, near Cabin Point,"* 24 May 1824; security: Walter Spratley).
27. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 6 (1830–1834), pp. 554–557 (Will of Walter Spratley, written 25 May 1833, filed in court 23 September 1833). Surry County VA Executors Bonds (1832–1858), p. 19 (Peter T. Spratley and Benjamin R. Spratley, Executors Bond, Will of Walter Spratley, 23 September 1833). Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 7 (1834–1840), pp. 242–245 (Inventory of Walter Spratley Estate, made 13 December 1833, filed in court 1 January 1834); pp. 435–439 (Account of Walter Spratley Estate, filed 25 September 1837); pp. 567–569 (Account of Walter Spratley Estate, filed 27 August 1838). Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 8 (1840–1845), pp. 63–65 (Account of Walter Spratley Estate, filed 27 April 1840). Surry County VA Fiduciary Accounts (1831–1839), pp. 278–285 (Account of Rebecca C. Hinton, Walter Spratley, guardian, filed 22 May 1837).
28. Surry County VA Marriage Bonds & Consents, 1838, William Dillard to Rebecca C. Hinton, 15 August 1838. Surry County VA Marriage Register (1768–1853), p. 178 (William Dillard to Rebecca C. Hinton, 15 August 1838; *"Rebecca B. Spratley, mother"*).
29. 1850 Surry County VA Federal Census, *"the Parish of Southwark,"* p. 67b, Household #126, line #16: William Dillard (age: 41); line #17: Rebecca C. Dillard (age 29); line #20: Rebecca B. Spratley (age: 46). 1860 Surry County VA Federal Census, P.O. Cabin Point, p. 65, Household #526, line #11: William Dillard (age: 50); line #12: Rebecca Dillard (age: 29); line #19: Rebecca B. Spratley (age: 58). Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 11 (1864–1875), pp. 280–281 (Will of Rebecca B. Spratley, written 24 April 1867, filed in court 24 January 1870).

Children of Walter Spratley Sr.

1. Surry County VA Fiduciary Accounts (1831–1839), pp. 32–33 *("Benjamin R. Spratley. In Account of Walter Spratley his Guardian,"* filed 26 March 1832); pp. 254–258 (*"Albert G. Spratley Orphan of Walter Spratley dec'd. In acct. with James W. Sebrell his Guardian,"* 26 June 1837); pp. 258–261 *("James W. Spratley orphan of Walter Spratley dec'd. In account with James W. Sebrell his Guardian,"* 26 June 1837); pp. 359–360 *("Robert W. Spratley orphan of Walter Spratley dec'd. In account with Peter T. Spratley his Guardian,"* 22 July 1839; guardianship transferred to William Dillard, 27 May 1839); Fiduciary Accounts (1840–1848), pp. 143–144 *("Robert W. Spratley orphan of Walter Spratley deceased. In account with William Dillard his guardian,"* 24 April 1843); pp. 200–203 *("James W. Spratley orphan of Walter Spratley deceased. In account with James W. Sebrell his guardian,"* 22 April 1844). James W. Sebrell served as guardian to Albert G. and James W. Spratley, but Walter's first cousin, Peter T. Spratley, initially served as guardian to Robert W. Spratley. Effective 27 May 1839, Peter turned guardianship over to Capt. William Dillard, who had married Rebecca C. Hinton, Walter Spratley's stepdaughter.
2. Precise identification of the children of Walter Spratley Sr. and Rebecca B. Carsley requires a careful study of Surry County guardianship records. All of their children died young and before 1850. In her will written in 1867, Rebecca named only her married daughter by her first husband, Rebecca Hinton Dillard.
3. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 6 (1830–1834), pp. 633–634 (Will of Benjamin R. Spratley, no date, filed in court on 26 May 1834); Wills, Etc. Book 7 (1834–1840), p. 436 (Account of Estate of Walter Spratley, items paid in 1834).
4. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 6 (1830–1834), pp. 554–557 (Will of Walter Spratley, written 25 May 1833, filed in court 23 September 1833). Surry County VA Fiduciary Accounts (1831–1839), pp. 254–258 (*"Albert G. Spratley Orphan of Walter Spratley dec'd. In acct. with James W. Sebrell his Guardian,"* 26 June 1837). The precise dates of birth for Albert and Lavinia Spratley come from an undocumented source, but they appear accurate.

5. Surry County VA Marriage Register (1768–1853), p. 180 (Albert G. Spratley to Lavinia A. Wheadon, bond dated 14 August 1839). Surry County VA Marriage Bonds & Consents, 1839, Albert G. Spratley to Lavinia A. Wheadon, bond 14 August 1839. Virginia Death Register (1853–1896), Isle of Wight County, Lavinia A. Spratley, died 12 October 1878 of pneumonia, wife of Albert G. Spratley, daughter of *"James & Mary Wheadon."*
6. 1840 Surry County VA Federal Census, p. 225, line #24: Elizabeth F. Watkins; line #28: Albert G. Spratley. 1850 Isle of Wight County VA Federal Census, p. 166a, Household #749: Albert G. Spratley (age: 35). 1860 Isle of Wight County VA Federal Census, P.O. Smithfield, p. 413, Household #1046: A. G. Spratley (age: 44). 1870 Isle of Wight County VA Federal Census, Smithfield, p. 282b, Household #30: A. G. Spratly (age: 55). 1880 Isle of Wight County VA Federal Census, Smithfield, p. 271a, Household #39: Albert G. Spratley (age: 64).
7. Isle of Wight County VA Probate Bonds (1878–1884), pp. 191 (Robert J. Eley, Administrator of Albert G. Spratley decd., 3 August 1880), 211 (J. Henning Nelms, Administrator de bonis of Albert G. Spratley decd., 6 December 1880), 215 (J. Henning Nelms, Administrator de bonis of Albert G. Spratley decd., 3 January 1881).
8. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 6 (1830–1834), pp. 554–557 (Will of Walter Spratley, written 25 May 1833, filed in court 23 September 1833); p. 245 (Inventory of the Estate of Walter Spratley, made 1 January 1834, filed with Surry County Court 27 June 1836). Surry County VA Chancery Court Case #1837-006, Albert G. Spratley, etc. vs. Rebecca B. Spratley (judgement issued 24 October 1836). Robert W. Spratley's full name comes from the Chancery Court case.
9. Surry County VA Fiduciary Accounts (1831–1839), pp. 359–360 *("Robert W. Spratley orphan of Walter Spratley decd, In account, with Peter T. Spratley his Guardian,"* account filed 22 July 1839).
10. Surry County VA Fiduciary Accounts (1840–1848), pp. 143–144 (*"Robert W. Spratley orphan of Walter Spratley deceased In account with William Dillard his guardian,"* final account filed 22 May 1843). This accounting of Robert W. Spratley's guardianship includes payment made by William Dillard on 1 January 1840 of $50.00 *"To Board of ward to 1st November 1840 when he died."*
11. Surry County VA Chancery Court Case #1837-006, Albert G. Spratley, etc. vs. Rebecca B. Spratley (judgement issued 24 October 1836). 1830 Surry County VA Federal Census, p. 179, line #3: Walter Spratley. Patrick H. Spratley's full name comes from the Chancery Court case, which stated that Benjamin Spratley died intestate in 1834, leaving *"two brothers of the half blood…Robert Walter Spratley and one Patrick Henry Spratley who has since died an infant, unmarried intestate and without issue."* Since both Robert W. and Patrick H. Spratley died prior to 1850, we have no accurate estimates for their dates of birth. In his will, Walter Spratley appears to list his sons in order of their ages, which implies that Robert is older than Patrick. Walter's 1830 household includes only two younger males, one aged 10–15, which is James, and one under five, presumably Robert. This implies that Patrick was born sometime after the enumerator visited the Spratley household in 1830 but before Walter wrote his will on 25 May 1833.
12. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 6 (1830–1834), pp. 554–557 (Will of Walter Spratley, written 25 May 1833, filed in court 23 September 1833); Wills, Etc. Book 7 (1834–1840), p. 245 (Inventory of the Estate of Walter Spratley, made 1 January 1834, filed with Surry County Court 27 June 1836); p. 437 (Account of Walter Spratley Estate, payments of 1 January 1835).
13. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 8 (1840–1845), pp. 406–408 (Account of Sarah Spratley, decd., Albert G. Spratley, administrator, final account filed 1 October 1842). Surry County VA Administrators Bonds (1836–1846), p. 74 (Bond of Albert G. Spratley, Administrator of Sarah Spratley, 26 October 1840). 1840 Surry County VA Federal Census, p. 216, line #4: William Dillard. The wording of the final account leaves no doubt but that Sarah was a daughter of Walter and Rebecca B. Carsley Spratley. Their receipt had blank spaces for the month and day, but it was dated 1843 and stated that they received of Albert G. Spratley the balance of Sarah's account, and *"we also acknowledge to have received full satisfaction for our respective proportion of the slaves belonging to said Estate, we the undersigned being the distributes legally entitled to the same."* The received was signed by Rebecca B. Spratley, *"Wm Dillard,"* and *"Jas. W. Spratley,"* the widow and three surviving children of Walter Spratley.

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