

[3] Porter Flagg

PORTER⁶ FLAGG (Joshua⁵, Josiah⁴, Allen³⁻², Thomas¹), son of Rev. Joshua Flagg and his wife, Eliza Comee, was born at Dana, Worcester, Massachusetts, 7 March 1810.⁹¹ He married at Powhatan County, Virginia, 26 September 1837, **MATILDA HOLMAN**,⁹² who was born about 1808,⁹³ daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Barbara (Branch) Holman of Powhatan County, Virginia.⁹⁴ Porter was a farmer and mail contractor/agent and removed to Virginia from Massachusetts prior to his marriage to Matilda in 1837.

“In 1842, a turnpike from Danville to Lynchburg was chartered... A stage coach plied daily between the two towns, a distance of some seventy-five miles, and the turnpike was known as the ‘Stage Road.’ Porter Flagg had the mail contract for years. Four horses driven at a long gallop were used to the stage, and relay stables were placed at Chatham and Chalk Level, where the horses were changed...”⁹⁵

Porter was involved in multiple real estate purchases and monetary disputes and transactions in Pittsylvania, Campbell, Goochland, Powhatan and King and Queen Counties and the cities of Danville and Richmond, Virginia between 1837 and 1872.⁹⁶

In 1840, Porter was living with his wife, Matilda, and child, Ann E., in Campbell County, Virginia. He had two male slaves and one female slave.⁹⁷ In 1850, he was living in Danville, Pittsylvania, Virginia with his wife, Matilda, and his daughter, Ann E., and Josephine Puryear, a 14 year old, who was probably the daughter of Matilda’s sister, who married Joseph P. Puryear, 17 January 1827.⁹⁸ In 1860, Porter was living in Danville, Virginia with his wife, Matilda, and his

⁹¹ *Comey-Comee Family*, p. 15 (LDS FHC Film #1464004).

⁹² Powhatan County Courthouse, Powhatan, VA, Marriages.

⁹³ Birth date deducted from burial date of 26 Oct. 1868 at age 60 (from burial records of St. Luke’s Church, Powhatan, VA, available at Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, VA).

⁹⁴ Powhatan County Courthouse, Powhatan, VA, Marriage Bond 9/25/1837 lists father as Henry Holman.

⁹⁵ Clements, Maude Carter, *The History of Pittsylvania County*, Baltimore: Baltimore Regional Publishing Company, 1987. P. 241.

⁹⁶ Pittsylvania, Campbell, Goochland, Powhatan and King and Queen County courthouse records in VA. as well as the cities of Danville and Richmond courthouse records.

⁹⁷ 1840 U.S. Census, Campbell Co., VA, Lynchburg N.E. District, p. 43 (microfilm).

⁹⁸ 1850 U.S. Census, Danville, Pittsylvania, Dwelling 68, Family 68, p. 165 (microfilm).

daughter, Ann E. Walters, who had married William F. Walters.⁹⁹ In 1870, Porter was living with his daughter, Ann E., who had reassumed her maiden name of Flagg, in King and Queen County, Virginia.¹⁰⁰ By 1875, Porter removed to Richmond, Virginia,¹⁰¹ and was listed in the Richmond City Directory in 1875-1877, 1880, and with his brother, Murray in 1881. In 1880, Porter was living in Richmond, Henrico, Virginia as a boarder and unable to work because of liver disease.¹⁰²

Matilda died Oct. 1868 and was buried 26 October, 1868 at the Holman Family Cemetery in Powhatan County, Virginia, with the funeral being conducted by the minister at St. Luke's Church.¹⁰³ Porter Flagg died at Richmond, Virginia on 26 December 1880 of softening of the brain and heart disease. He had been a resident of the city for about 15 years, and was buried at Powhatan, Virginia, probably at the family cemetery of Henry Holman, where his wife, Matilda, was buried.¹⁰⁴ The cemetery is no longer in existence. Porter's Last Will and Testament reads as follows:¹⁰⁵

In the name of God, Amen! I Porter Flagg of the City of Richmond in the state of Virginia do make this my last will and testament, as follows, (that is to say) my desire is to be buried in a decent manner and that all my just debts and funeral expenses be paid as soon after my decease as conveniently may be -- And I give and devise and bequeath all my estate both real and personal of every kind and description whatsoever unto my two brothers Lucius Flagg and Murray Flagg, to be equally divided between them, to them and their heirs respectively forever -- it being my desire that they shall be my only devisees and legaties and that they shall share equally in my estate and that no part of it shall descent to any lineal descendant of mine, in any event whatsoever. Should I survive either of my said brothers then I desire that the share to which my deceased brother aforesaid would have been entitled under this will, had he survived me, shall pass and descent to his heirs and distributes, according to the statute of descents and distributions of the State of Virginia in the same manner, as it would have

⁹⁹ 1860 U.S. Census, Danville, Pittsylvania Co., VA, p. 473 (microfilm), Danville VA Marriages, 1855.

¹⁰⁰ 1870 U.S. Census, King and Queen Co., VA, Dwelling 226, Family 228, June 22, 1870, p. 391 (microfilm).

¹⁰¹ Certificate of Death, Richmond, VA, 1880, Vol. 47, C-G, available at Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va.

¹⁰² 1880 U.S. Census, Richmond, Henrico, VA, Sup. Dist. 3, ED 78, p. 12 (microfilm).

¹⁰³ St. Luke's burial records, Powhatan, VA, available at the Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, VA.

¹⁰⁴ Certificate of Death, Richmond, VA, 1880.

¹⁰⁵ City of Richmond, VA, Chancery Court, Will Book 2, pp. 407-408.

done had said brother survived me and then died intestate -- but in no event shall any portion of my estate pass and descend to any lineal descendant of mine -- and in order to settle up my estate and to effect a division thereof as above indicated, without necessary delay and expense, I hereby authorize and empower my executors hereinafter named or such one of them as may qualify, or my administrator with the will annexed, should one qualify, to sell all my real estate or any portion thereof, if a sale should be deemed necessary and advisable for the purpose of effecting such settlement and division -- I hereby revoke all former wills made by me, and having the utmost confidence in my said brothers, I hereby nominate and appoint my two brothers, above mentioned, executors of this my last will and testament, and request that the court will allow them to qualify without security, and I further request that they will both act.

In witness whereof, I, the said testator Porter Flagg have hereto set my hand and affixed my seal this 18th day of September 1877 at Richmond, Virginia.

In January 1881, Porter Flagg's Estate was appraised in Richmond, Virginia and included: one hack, ½ stage coach, one wagon, one buggy, one bay mare, one buggy harness, two wagon harnesses, one hay cutter, three feather beds, three bed comforters, one desk, one wardrobe, two trunks, two chairs, one gun, one gold watch, two silver watches and miscellaneous items.¹⁰⁶

Porter and Matilda had the following child born in Virginia:

[10] i. **ANN E. FLAGG**, b. 1838; m. **WILLIAM F. WALTERS**.

¹⁰⁶ City of Richmond, Virginia, Chancery Court, Accounts of Fiduciaries, Book 27, p. 25-26.

[10] ANN E. FLAGG

ANN E. FLAGG, daughter of Porter and Matilda (Holman) Flagg, was born about 1838 in Virginia. She married at Danville, Pittsylvania, Virginia, (Lic.) 23 October 1855,¹ **WILLIAM FELIX WALTERS**, a farmer and merchant, who was born at Pittsylvania County, Virginia, 26 April 1834, son of Azariah Graves and Elizabeth Payne (Richardson) Walters.² As Azariah Graves Walters' property was in both Caswell County, North Carolina and Pittsylvania County, Virginia, William Walters' birthplace is sometimes given as North Carolina.

In 1840, Ann and her parents were living at Campbell County, Virginia in the Lynchburg NE District.³ In 1850, Ann was living with her parents at Danville, Pittsylvania County, Virginia.⁴ In 1860, Ann was living as Ann E. Walters with her parents at Danville, Pittsylvania County, Virginia.⁵ In 1870, Ann was living with her father, as her mother was deceased, at King and Queen County, Virginia and had resumed her maiden name of Flagg.

Ann, her husband, William F., and daughter, Mollie Belle, never appear together in any census records or other found records. William and Mollie lived with his family, and Ann lived with her parents. Ann kept the Walters name into at least the 1860's and William reported himself as widowed in the 1900 census. It is not known if Ann and William divorced or were just separated; neither remarried. Azariah Graves Walters and Porter Flagg, William F. and Ann's fathers, knew each other many years. They were both land owners in Pittsylvania County, Azariah was a mail contractor in the Danville and surrounding areas, Porter was a mail contractor from Richmond to Farmville to Danville for many years, and they had business dealings together.

William Felix Walters was a Private in Co. A, VA Infantry (Danville

¹ Bureau of Vital Statistics, Dept. of Health, Commonwealth of Virginia, Danville Marriages, 1855, p. 28, line 7, available at Library of Virginia, Richmond, VA.

² Obituary, *Danville Register*, Tue., May 25, 1909, p. 8, col. 2.

³ 1840 U.S. Census, Campbell Co., VA, p. 43 (microfilm).

⁴ 1850 U.S. Census, Danville, Pittsylvania Co., VA, Dwelling 68, Family 68, p. 165 (microfilm).

⁵ 1860 U.S. Census, Danville, Pittsylvania Co., VA, p. 473 (microfilm).

Blues), enrolled for active service on June 5, 1861 and was mustered in June 30, 1861. He was often sick, complained of chronic rheumatism and was hospitalized in 1861 and 1862 at Chimborazo and Bellevue Hospitals at Richmond, Virginia and C.S.A. General Hospital at Danville, Virginia. He furnished a substitute in 1862.⁶

It is believed that Ann E. (Flagg) Walters died between 1870 and 1875, as Porter, her father, was living by himself in Richmond in 1875 and Ann is not living with the Walters. It is assumed that Ann is buried at the Holman farm in Powhatan County, Virginia in an unmarked grave along with her mother and father. William died at Danville, Pittsylvania County, Virginia, 24 May 1909.

Obituary of Pvt. William Felix Walters⁷

Mr. William Felix (sic) Walters, eldest son of the late Captain Azariah Graves Walters, died yesterday at his country home, "Cottage Grove," just beyond the Danville School for Boys after a long illness.

He was born in Pittsylvania County, April 26, 1834, being his 76th year at the time of his death. When the War between the States broke out in the early sixties, Mr. Walters entered the Confederate Army and served during the four years with honor. He was a member of the Cabell-Graves Camp, Confederate Veterans of this city.

Early in life he joined the Methodist church and was a member of Main Street Methodist Episcopal Church. He is survived by two brothers, Messrs. R.A. and E.A. Walters of this city and one daughter, Miss Mollie Belle Walters. The funeral will be held from the late residence this afternoon and interment will be in Green Hill Cemetery.

William and Ann had the following child:

i. **MOLLIE BELLE WALTERS**, b. 1856 VA or NC⁸, unm.; lived

⁶ Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers who served in Organizations from Virginia, Eighteenth Infantry, V-Wa, Roll 613, U.S. Lib. Arch.; available at Library of Virginia, Richmond, VA.

⁷ Obituary, *Danville Register*, Tue., May 25, 1909, p. 8, col. 2.

⁸ The 1860-1920 U.S. Census records state both North Carolina and Virginia as Mollie's birthplace. The Azariah Graves Walters' property was located in both Caswell County (80 acres) and Pittsylvania County, VA (1000+acres).

with her paternal grandparents in 1860 and 1870 in Pittsylvania, Co., VA,⁹ lived with her grandparents and father in Tunstall, Pittsylvania Co., VA in 1880,¹⁰ lived with her father in Tunstall, Pittsylvania Co., VA in 1900,¹¹ and was living as a boarder in Tunstall, Pittsylvania Co., VA in 1920. In the 1920 census, which may be the first time Mollie communicated her information directly to the census taker, she stated her mother was born in Massachusetts.¹² This indicates that Mollie had some limited information about her mother. However, it was her grandfather, Porter Flagg, who was born in Massachusetts and not her mother, who was born in Virginia. In September 1877 when Mollie's grandfather, Porter Flagg, wrote his will, he mentioned twice that his estate should go to his brothers "...and that no part of it shall descent to any lineal descendant of mine..." He obviously was aware of Mollie but was not current on her living situation. Mollie inherited in 1899 from her grandfather, Azariah Graves Walters, a small, painted house with three rooms and a small parcel of land attached near the far front gate of his homeplace.¹³ Mollie Belle Walters died 28 January 1922 and is buried at Green Hill Cemetery, Danville, Virginia.¹⁴

Obituary of Mollie Belle Walters

Miss Mollie B. Walters, aged 65, died at 5:30 a.m. today at Edmunds Hospital, where she had been a patient for several months as a result of severe injuries she sustained from a heavy fall several years ago. She was a daughter of W.F. Walters and a granddaughter of Capt. A.G. Walters. For many years she had made her home at "Cottage Grove" the old Walters' home place near this city. She was a cousin of C.G. Holland, Frank Holland, Miss Nellie Holland, Mrs. Julian M. Robinson and C. Maurice Flinn.

⁹ 1860 and 1870 U.S. Census, Southern District, Pittsylvania Co., VA (microfilm).

¹⁰ 1880 U.S. Census, Tunstall, Pittsylvania, VA (microfilm).

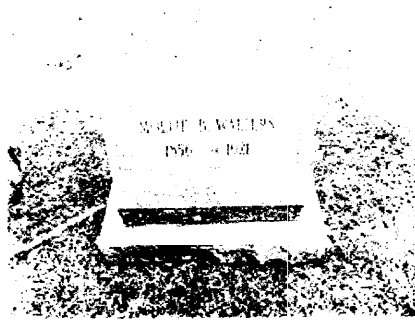
¹¹ 1900 U.S. Census, Tunstall, Pittsylvania, VA (microfilm).

¹² 1920 U.S. Census, Tunstall, Pittsylvania, VA (microfilm).

¹³ Azariah Graves Walters Will, a copy in the possession of Bob Carter of Rockingham Community College, 2012, per Caswell Co., NC Historical Society website.

¹⁴ *The Bee*, Danville, VA, 28 Jan. 1922, p. 1 and Tombstone, Green Hill Cem., Danville, VA.

Mollie Belle Walters Tombstone
Green Hill Cemetery, Danville, Virginia*



* The death date on the tombstone should be 1922 rather than 1921 according to *The Bee* obituary, published 28 January 1922.

On January 5, 1924, there was a legal notice in the newspaper concerning a suit filed to force the sale of the house and property owned by Mollie Belle when she died in order to pay her debts.¹⁵

¹⁵ *The Bee*, Danville, VA, Jan. 5, 1924.