

## Connecting the Descendants of Nathaniel Causey

This paper attempts to develop a fact-based storyline of the connection of John Causey, son of Nathaniel Causey late of the Virginia Colony and his descendants who, after 1634, migrated from Charles City County, Virginia Colony through Northumberland County, Colonial Virginia, to Dorchester County, Colonial Maryland by 1669. To do that we should go back to Nathaniel Causey and a bit of his family history before moving to his descendants.

### Nathaniel Causey of Jamestown 1607

Nathaniel Causey was an old soldier under the command of Captain John Smith.<sup>1</sup> He arrived in Jamestown April 22, 1608 on the ship Phoenix, Capt. Nelson. Thomasine, his wife, arrived a year later. Before looking at children and grandchildren of Nathaniel and Thomasine, a tenuous connection can be made to Causey families who lived in Lancashire County, England during the fifteen and sixteen hundreds.

There have been scores of Causey cousins who, like the author, have for decades been trying to document our Irish roots. But to this day, none of us have been able to conclusively make that Irish connection. So for the time being we turn to the Causey families of Lancashire County in northwest England. For there we find a Nathaniel Casse was buried in 1631.

In the two Lancashire, England parish registers which I studied, there are no previous mentions of Nathaniel Casse before his burial in 1631 except for the birth of a Nathaniel Causey son of Richard born 12 December 1627. This Nathaniel Causey was probably named after his grandfather Nathaniel Causey of Jamestown. Though I have not been able to document it, there are many of our Causey cousins who list a Richard Casey-Causey as a son of Nathaniel Causey of the Virginia Colony. If this Richard Causey is the son of Nathaniel Causey of Virginia Colony, then this Nathaniel b. 1627 would be his grandson. We may then presume our Nathaniel Causey of Virginia Colony to be the Nathaniel Casse buried at the Parish Church in Chorley. *Added here are extracts of Causey families of two parish Churches in Lancashire, CHORLEY and ORMSKIRK PARISH REGISTERS. Readers may use this documentation, along with all the Causeys listed in these two parish Church registers, to follow-up with their own assessment of these facts.*

#### **ORMSKIRK PARISH REGISTERS**

<https://archive.org/details/registerofparis01orms/page/304/mode/2up?q=cawsey&view=theater>  
PAGE 305:

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<sup>1</sup> Virginia Immigrants and Adventurers, 1607-1635: A Biographical Dictionary By Martha W. McCartney, page 193

*Cawsey and variants (Causey, Cosev, Cowsey),  
Ann, 41, 160  
Anes, 16  
Catherine, 35, 96, 280  
Edward, 24, 81, 86, 91, 96, 102, 228  
Elizabeth 49, 212  
Ellen, 257  
Fleetwoode, 102  
Hugh, 22, 24, 29, 37, 41, 52, 91, 151, 171, 179  
Ja: 149*

*James, 28, 49, 212  
John, 22, 29, 151, 169  
Johne, 138  
Margaret, 81, 154  
Mary, 86, 243  
N.X.N., 149  
Robert, 37, 52, 147, 154, 166, 257  
Thomas, 174, 261  
William, 28, 203*

## **CHORLEY PARISH CHURCH REGISTER**

LINK:

<https://ia803206.us.archive.org/3/items/registersofparis00chor/registersofparis00chor.pdf>

PAGE 130:

*Causey and Variants (Case, Casey, Casse, Cassey,  
Cawsey, Cose, Cowsey)  
NAME and Pages:  
Alexander, 46, 91  
Alice, 1  
Annes, 83  
Elizabeth, 6, 41, 45, 86, 91  
Ellen, 53, 64  
Grace, 53  
James, 24, 41, \* 43, 45, 47, 86, 91  
Jenet, 43, 88  
Joan, 2*

*John, 5  
Margaret, 47  
Margery, 51  
Martin, 39  
Nathaniel, 44, 93  
Richard, 1, 2, 5, 6, 39, 41, 43, 44, 46, 57, 91, '13  
Thomas, 24, 28, 43, 47, 48, wife of 87, 87,  
95, 111  
William, 41, 47, 48, 51, 54, \* 57, 64, 95,  
104, \* son of 104*

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**John and sister Elizabeth Cawsey** (whom we will now discuss at length), lived some 70 miles north of Charles City where "John Cawsey, Planter, ... of Causeys Cleare sold the 200 acres "neare Sherley hundred, S(outh) upon Henry Watkins Cr(eek)"... . "Consideration: 1,000 wt. of Tobacco & 1 cowe\*... ." (1) The deed was signed February 7, 1634, This was land granted to his father Nathaniel Causey, a designated "Ancient Planter" of the Jamestown Colony and one of Captain John Smith's "Old Soldiers<sup>2</sup>".

*\*Accepting a Cow as part of the payment for the land would suggest John Causey was not planning on returning to England. wrc*

John Causey was heir to Nathaniel Causey's plantation called Causeys Cleare in Charles City district of the Virginia Colony. As his presumed son and in fact his heir, John Causey sold Nathaniel's 200 acres of land to Walter Aston in 1634 . After John sold his late father's land, there appears to be no subsequent record of him in Charles City, County. There is also no record of his return to England. Note that there are very few passenger lists of those leaving the Virginia Colony during the mid-1600s. It is noted that Elizabeth Cawsey sister to John Cawsey was visiting England in 1658 from Virginia. It is possible, even probable that this John Cawsey/Causey, son of Nathaniel, which we shall label as John Causey-I born say 1600, possibly earlier in Lancashire, England. After the selling of Causeys Cleare, John very likely remained in Virginia, married, and began a family there. It appears he may have migrated some

70 miles north to Northumberland County, Colonial Virginia. There by the year 1638, at least two children had been born, John Cawsey-II and Elizabeth. This story picks up with them from court records in Northumberland County.

Facts found in the following documents will shed light on familial connections. Documents include the will of John Howell d. c.1657; the will of John Earle d. c. 1660 and several estate and court documents relating to those wills. First, the will of John Howell<sup>3</sup>:

1657-1661 Northumberland County, Virginia Order Book, Part 2; [Antient Press]; Page 162-163  
Northumberland County Court **20th of May 1658**

- Whereas JNO: HOWELL by his Last Will and Testamt. (being proved before this Cort,) did bequeath unto **JNO: CAWSEY** (after his debts paid) the one halfe of his Estate & the other halfe to **his Wife, ELIZABETH (Cawsey) HOWELL, shee being in England**. And whereas the sd deced by his Will appointed WM. WARDER & JNO: STANDLEY, Executrs: of his sd. Will, & the sd WARDER to have ye Oversight & keeping of the sd. CAWSEY **untill hee should attaine to the age of 21 yeares**, all wch: sd. Trust is uterly refused by the sd. Exrs., It is therefore ordered that the said JNO: CAWSEY remaine at ye House of the said HOWELL & carefully looke to and pr:serve the sd. Estate not imbezzeleing any pt: thereof, neyther to sell or dispose of any part of the same wth,out the consent of Mr. NICHOLAS JERNEW. whoe is hereby appointed & impowered to be Supervisor, Overseer & Assistant to the sd. CAWSEY & the sd. Estate untill the said ELIZABETH HOWELL come into this Countrey or further order concerning the p:misses; And that the said Mr. JERNEW be allowed reasonable satisfaccon for his paines & care taken in the sd. Estate, And it is further ordered that the sd. Mr. JERNEW request 2 or 3 honest neighbours to view the sd Estate and that Inventory be taken of the same and presented to the next Cort:

- Whereas it doth appeare unto ye Cart: that the Estate of JNO: HOWELL is indebted unto WM; COLMAN by the assignemt. of RICHARD HOLDEN. the summe of 300 lb. of tobco: & caske. It is ordered that the sd. WM: COLMAN shall by the tenth of Octobr: next be paid the sd debt out of the sd, Estate

John Howell died before 20th of May 1658 leaving his estate to John Cawsey and John Cawsey's sister Elizabeth Causey Howell, John Howells wife. John Cawsey had not reached his majority at the time of John Howell's death. He was ordered to remain at the John Howell house and look after the estate until he reached his majority at age 21. Sister Elizabeth was in England at the time of the of this court document (May 1658). It is presumed that Elizabeth was older than John as she had already married. But this might not be the case since childhood marriages were common in the colonies.

The next document in the series will provide a narrow window for John Cawsey's birth date.<sup>4</sup> This order of Northumberland County Court dated 20th of November 1659 could mean the John Causey-II had reached his majority. The Court did order the inheritance split between the two of them, John and Elizabeth, and it would appear that John would not have legal standing to petition the court unless he had reached his majority. It is the conclusion of the author, therefore, that John Causey/Cawsey-II was born not later than 20 November 1638.

<sup>3</sup> 1657-1661 Northumberland County, Virginia Order Book, Part 2; [Antient Press]; Page 162-163

<sup>4</sup> 1657-1661 Northumberland County, Virginia Order Book, Part 2; [Antient Press]; Page 225

Northumberland County Court 20th of Novembr 1659

- Whereas JOHN HOWELL, deced., did by his Last Will and Testament devise one full moiety\* of all his Estate unto JOHN CAWSEY and the other moyety unto ELIZABETH, the Wife of him the said JOHN HOWELL, Upon the Peticon (*Petition*) of the said CAWSEY, It is ordered that Mr NICHOLAS JERNOW, Capt. PETER LEFEBUR, Mr. JNO: POWELL & Mr. THOMAS PHILLPOTT make equall devision of the said Estate and that the full moyety thereof bee conferred on the said JNO:CAWSEY, Provided hee put in security for the paymt. of one halfe of all such debts as shall appeare due from the sd. Estate, soe Farr forth as it will afford.

\*Anglo-French moitié (meaning "a half")

Next, The Last Will and Testament of John Earle:<sup>5</sup>

In ye Yeare of or: Lord 1660, the 19th of Septembr:

I JOHN EARLE being sick yett haveing my p:fect memory & understanding & knowing the certainty of death & the uncertainty when, I therefore desire that this my Last Will & Testament shall stand in full power. First I doe bequeath my Soule to God from whence I have received the same & my body to the Earth from whence it was taken; comeing to the disposing of my temporal! Estate, I doe give to my two Sonnes, SAMUELL and JOHN, my Plantacon where now I live; Five hundred acres with ye houseing to my Sonne, SAMUELL, and the other Five hundred acres to my Sonne, JOHN, with the cattle belonging to them by the severall markes being knowne, I doe give to my Daughter, MARY EARLE, the cattle which are markt. for her. And I will that my Sonne, SAMUELL, shall have the lookeing to the sd. Cattell until' his Brother or Sister shall come to age or marry and that every one of them shall have the benefitt as well of male cattle as of female; I give to my Daughter, MARY, my feather bed & what ( ) a greene rugg; I give to my Sonne, SAMUELL, a feather bed & a rugg;

I give my Sonne, JOHN, a bed halfe stocke & three ( );

**I give to my Wife, ELIZABETH, the Land and ( ) stuffe & all that did belong unto her before ( ) her with her cattle, alsoe a man Servant she shall receive of JOSEPH HORSLEY.**

**Alsoe I ( ) my Wife the three hundred acres of land lately ( ) THO: BROUGHT ON for her & JOHN CAWSEYs ( ) laid out of my Estate & what shall be ( ) shall be equally divided betweene my ( ) Sonne, SAMUELL, a Bull which is black ( )earing clothes unto JOHN CAWSEY.**

1 ) I desire shall be killed for my burial! ( ) my Wife shall see that all my debts are paid, my Sonne, JOHN shall life with her during her widowhood, shee promiseing to free my ( ) Morter, desireing that my Sonne, ( ) & live upon my plantacon & that ( ) Stock shall be kept upon the said ( ) hee come to age, leaveing my Wife Executrix to this my Last Will I have sett my ( )

Witnesses PETER LEFEBUR, JOHN EARLE ye Seale

NICHOLAS JERNEW his marke

**14 Nov?br: 1660**, This Will was proved in the County Court of Northumberland by the Oath of NICHOLAS JERNEW, to be the Last Will & Testament of JOHN EARLE deced., and execucon thereof committed to ELIZABETH EARLE; the Widdow & Relict of the sd. JNO, EARLE, and the Will is recorded

<sup>5</sup> 1658-1662 Northumberland County, Virginia Record Book, Part 1; [Antient Press]; Page 48

Elizabeth, now married to John Earle who became sick and died before 14 November 1660, was given all the assets and land she had inherited from John Howell. In his will, he also mentions that she and her brother John Cawsey had “Brought on” their inheritance to the Howell estate.

Another important document, An Inventory of the Estate of John Earle deced.<sup>6</sup>, shows that Elizabeth Causey Earle the relict (widow) John Earle, and the executrix of his will was now married William Clement (before 24 April 1662).

AN INVENTORY of the Estate of JOHN EARLE deced., **Aprill ye 24th Ano: Dom: 1662..** presented by **WILLIAM CLEMENT & ELIZABETH his Wife, who was the Relict & Executrix of the sd. JOHN EARLE**, taken & appraised by us whose names are subscribed being sborne in Court vizt., 2 cows each at 400 lbs., 1 cow & 3 heifers; 2 steeres, 4 SOWS, a man Servt, havinge about ( ) yeares to serve, a featherbed, old green rugg, 4 old feather bolsters, 1 old trunck, dozen of bottles, table & forme; paire of old canvas ( ), 1 old pillowbeare, a parcell of old pewter, old skillet broken, gimlet, glass bottles,, 2 old guns & 1 pistoll, 1 iron pot & fryinge pan, pot rack, 2 milk trayes, 1 old pale, 1 Bible sould at 0060, 3 spoones, small parcell of old iron; MARTIN COLE his Accot., 1100 lbs. of Porke sold att 01100; reced. of JOHN CAWSEY, 2 old diaper napkins, 1 little ould feather bed wth; old canvas tickin; 1 old flock bed, 1 old cat tayle bolster; 1 old rugg & blanket, 1 little iron pot & hookes, 1 little fryinge pan; 1 old hoe & 1 old sadle & bridle; a Mare & a Bull excepted Summe 9010  
ELIZABETH CLEMENTs marke RICH: FLYNT  
Sworne in Court NICHOLAS OWEN  
ABRAHAM JOYCEs marke  
Ye **20th May 1662**, This Inventory was presented to ye Court on the Oath of ELIZABETH CLEMENT & upon Records

Evidently John Cawsey had remained in John Earle’s family home with his sister Elizabeth Cawsey Earle after he had reached his majority. The inventory lists numerous items received of John Cawsey.

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<sup>6</sup> 1658-1662 Northumberland County, Virginia Record Book, Part 1; [Antient Press]; Page 75

Now we have a court order<sup>7</sup> to examine.

KNOWE ALL MEN by these pr:sents that I JOHN CAWSEY with the Consent of ANNE my Wife doe for a valuable consideracon **sell unto WILLIAM CLEMENT Fifty acres of land being the land which was left mee by the Last Will & Testamt. of JOHN HOWELL deced.**, To have & to hold the sd. Land to him the sd: WILLIAM CLEMENT his heires for ever from mee the sd: JOHN CAUSIE or my heirs & assignes for ever; that they shall for ever lay noe title to the said Land for ever and I the sd: JOHN CAUSIE doe bind my selfe to acknowledge this Bill of Sale in Northumberld. County Court to all the intents & meaning of this present writeing; In Witnesses whereof I the sd. JOHN CAUSIE and ANNE my Wife have hereunto sett our hands & seales this ninth day of June ( )  
Witness WILLIAM COLMAN

JOHN CAUSIE ye Seale

WILLIAM , CLARKE his marke ANNE CAUSIE ye Seale

**20th June 1663**, This Sale of Land was acknowledged in Northumberland County Court by the sd: JNO: CAUSIE & THOMAS DODSON, Attorney of the sd. ANNE CAUSIE and recorded KNOWE ALL MEN by these pr:sents that I ANNE CAUSIE, ye Wife of JOHN CAUSIE, of YEOACOMOCO doe by these presents appoint my trusty & well beloved Freind, THOMAS DODSON, my lay/full Attorney, to acknowledge all my right of Fifty acre of land sold by my Husband, JOHN CAUSIE, to WILLIAM CLEMENT all which I doe by these pr:sents ( ) Attorney to do in as full & ample manner as if I my selfe were p:sonally p:sent; For the true performance hereof I the sd: ANNE CAUSIE have sett my hand & seale this 19th day of June 1663 ( ) ANNE CAUSIE, her marke, ye Seale  
20th June 1663, This Lre. of Attorney was recorded

This Deed clearly documents that John Cawsey/Causie had married Anne after the inventory of the property of John Earle, and before 9 June 1663, the date of the transfer of the deed of his land to his brother-jn-law William Clement.. The sale of his inherited land provided John Causey-II with the necessary funds for he and Anne to migrate north to Maryland.

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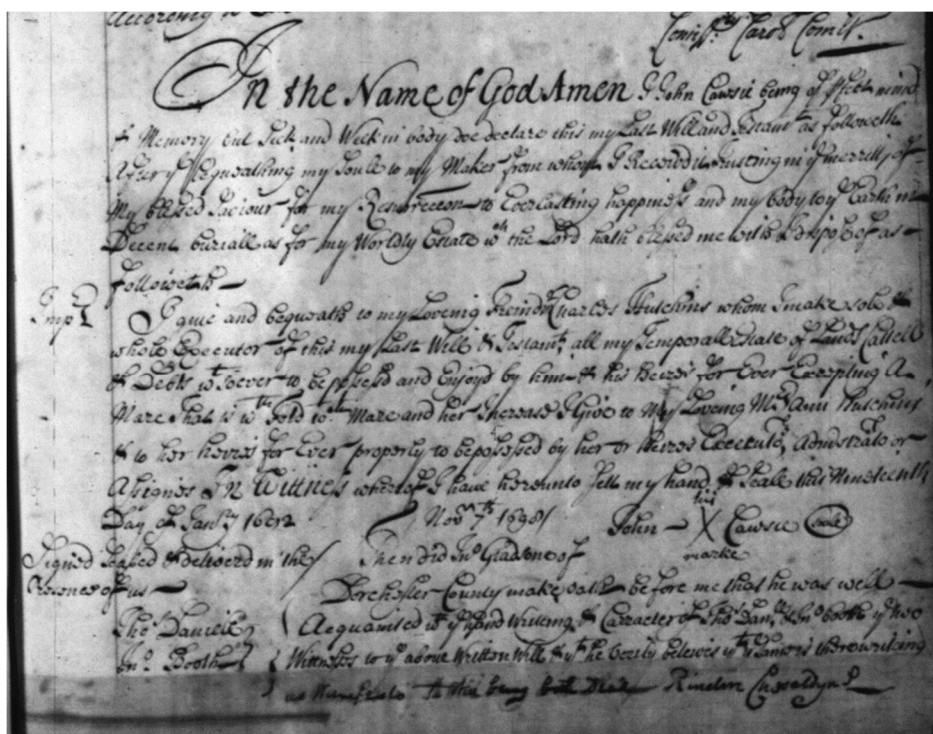
<sup>7</sup> 1657-1661 Northumberland County, Virginia Order Book, Part 2; [Antient Press]; Page 103

This early map of northern Virginia and Maryland shows that Northumberland County, Colonial Virginia lies just across the Potomac River from St. Marys in the Province of Maryland. We



know that many Virginians in the Northern Neck moved north into Maryland after the Civil War in England ended which also ended the “Plundering” of Maryland. John Causey-II as a grandson of one of the Ancient Planters of the Jamestown Colony, would have also retained the status of Gentleman Planter in Maryland. We do not know the year that John and Anne Causey made the move across the Chesapeake Bay to the newly formed county of Dorchester. We know he was there by the year 1669 as a member of the Dorchester County Militia who were called out to

confront the Nanticoke Indian tribe in 1669. Here's what Bowen Causey Dees<sup>8</sup> had to say about this John Causey, "Maryland records show a John Causey there before 1678, for in that year he was granted 600 pounds of tobacco for having fought Indians at some earlier date. There is then the John Causey who made his will in Dorchester County, Maryland in 1692... which will was proved in 1698." If Nathaniel and Thomasine's son John was born about 1615, this would render his age as about 83, pretty old for that day and age, but not impossible. Possibly he was a son born sometime in the early 1640s, whose name was logically, John, Jr. John Jr. would have reached his majority about 1660 and would very likely have served in the local militia. If John Causey, Jr. is the one who expired in 1698, he would have been near sixty. This I believe is a more likely scenario. Furthermore, because no documents have been discovered linking this John Causey with Nathaniel and Thomasine Causey of Jamestown, we are dealing with something between a possible and a probable lineage." It is the conclusion of this author that the link Bowen Dees was looking for is John Cawsey-II of Northumberland, Colonial Virginia. John



**Last Will and Testament of John Causey-II (1638-1698)**

Causey-II b. 1638 would be the John Causey whose will was probated 7 November 1698.

<sup>9</sup> John Causey-II and his wife Anne would have married before 1659 with their first child born say 1660. Based on the English naming system their first son would have also been a John, John Causey-III. It is he that died before 11 March 1724.

The foregoing documents and comments in this essay

present a credible outline of a likely descendency from Nathaniel Causey to John Causey III. Documents establishing births, marriages and deaths are extremely rare for the period of time for the Causey family. Most are found in probate records, court records, grants and deeds. Occasionally one will find the annotation such as "John, son of Nathaniel". The documents and

<sup>8</sup> SOME AMERICAN CAUSEYS, Bowen Causey Dees. An unpublished Treatise, (Physicist Dr. Bowen Causey Dees (1917-2009) worked at the National Science Foundation, 1951-1966, and was an administrator at the University of Arizona, 1966-1970)." A copy of this Treatise may be found on FamilySearch.org. Log in and go to: <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/memories/L14Y-9FC>

<sup>9</sup> 1698 LWT John Causey. Huntington Collection of Maryland State Archives Security Microfilm as of 1946. msa\_te\_1\_002-0144 [http://mdhistory.msa.maryland.gov/msaref10/msa\\_te\\_1\\_002/pdf/msa\\_te\\_1\\_002-0144.pdf](http://mdhistory.msa.maryland.gov/msaref10/msa_te_1_002/pdf/msa_te_1_002-0144.pdf)

assessments of the evidence presented in the thesis does not rise to the level of proof positive. The author does, however, suggest these documentations do rise to the level of Prima Facie\* evidence connecting Nathaniel Causey of Jamestown Colony with the John Causey families of early Dorchester County, Colonial Maryland.

*Note: Prima facie as typically used in civil cases where the burden of proof is on the plaintiff.*