

Joseph and Arabella Wallace

Black Civil War Soldier and Land-owning Farmer

Joseph Wallace was born south of Parkers Creek as a Free Black (using the term of the time) in the late 1830s. During the Civil War, he enlisted in the U.S. Colored Troops and sustained injuries at the 1864 Battle of Cemetery Hill in Virginia. Wallace mustered out in 1865 with a pension and bonus.

U.S.C.T. Joseph Wallace Capt. Co. 9, 39 Reg't U.S. Col'd Infantry. Appears on Co. Muster-out Roll, dated Williamsburg, Va., Dec. 4, 1865. Muster-out to date Dec. 4, 1865. Last paid to June 28, 1865. Clothing account: Last settled June 30/65 186; drawn since 1/1/65 Due soldier \$100; due U.S. \$100 Am't for cloth'g in kind or money adv'd \$100 Due U.S. for arms, equipments, &c., \$100 Bounty paid \$100; due \$300 Remarks: Appointed Corp'l, July 3/65, S.O. No. 60, Reg't. Hd. Qrs. Free April 19/61. Purchased gun & accoutrements \$600. Bruised on right leg in battle July 30/64, near Petersburg, Va. Was bruised on left leg. Book mark:	Due U. S. for arms, equipments, &c., \$100 Bounty paid \$100; due \$300 Remarks: Appointed Corp'l, July 3/65, S.O. No. 60, Reg't. Hd. Qrs. Free April 19/61. Purchased gun & accoutrements \$600. Bruised on right leg in battle July 30/64, near Petersburg, Va. Was bruised on left leg. Book mark:
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Wallace's military records: the statement "Free April 19/61" indicates that he was a Free Black as of that date and eligible for a \$300 bounty above and beyond his pay.

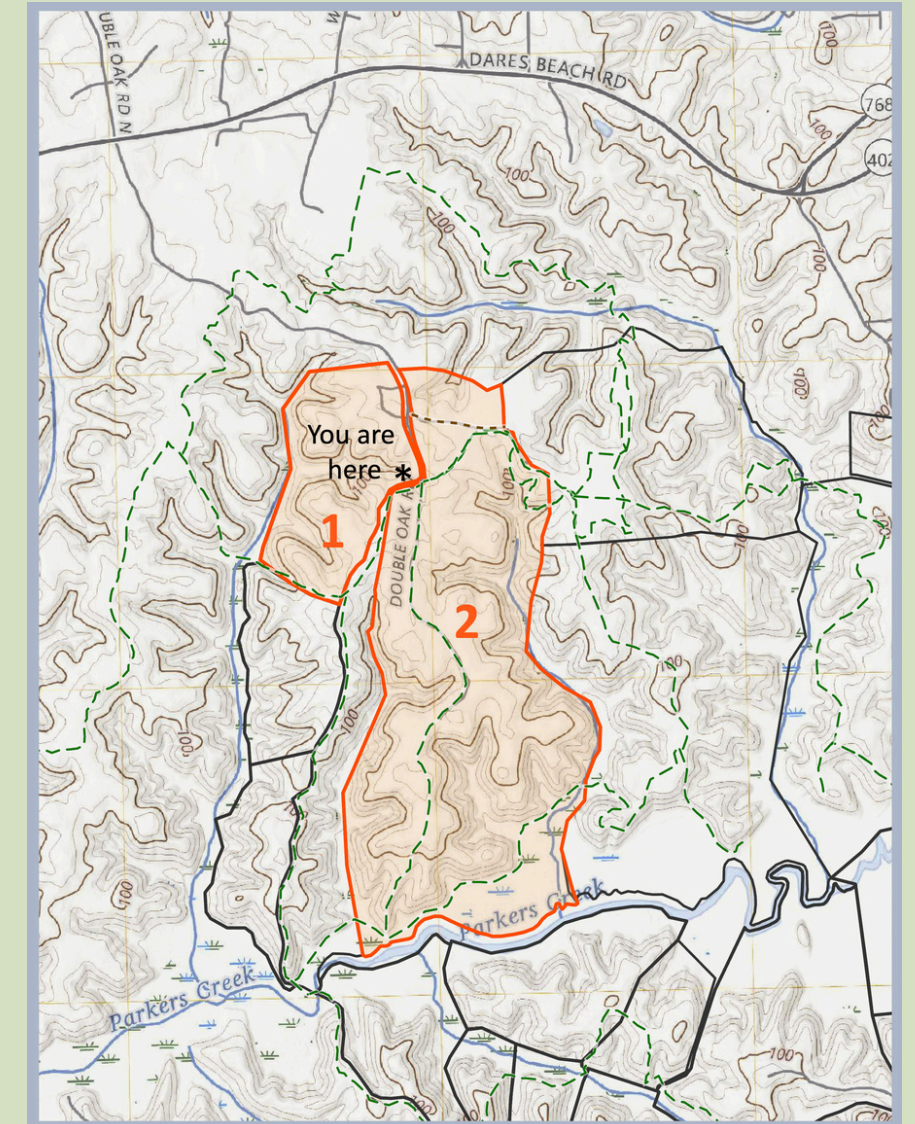
Upon his return, he formed a household with Arabella Watts, a woman born in Island Creek, a community near the Patuxent River. Watts had been enslaved in a household north of Parkers Creek and, as a teenager in the 1850s, had a child named Mary by an enslaved man named Jim Parker. Parker escaped, was recaptured, and sold to a slave owner in Georgia.



Joseph and Arabella Wallace raised eight children, including Mary and the couple's seven children born from 1865 to 1880. Joseph and Arabella formalized their marriage in 1877 at a church near Parkers Creek, later known as Brown's United Methodist Church.

During the 1880s, Joseph Wallace was a trustee of the church. Between 1880 and 1901, Wallace acquired more than 200 acres of land. In addition to serving as church trustee, Joseph Wallace was a trustee of the Parkers Creek Colored School, built with the support of the Freedmen's Bureau and in operation from 1869 to 1949. Wallace was also a member of the Grand United Order of Galilean Fishermen, a benevolent society founded in Baltimore in 1856 that established homes for orphans, the elderly, and disabled persons. Galilean Fishermen Tabernacle 809 was associated with Brown's Church.

Joseph Wallace died in 1909, with an obituary in the Calvert Gazette that highlighted his Civil War service and civic activities, noting his well-attended funeral at Brown's Church. Arabella Wallace passed away in 1923.



Between 1880 and 1899, Joseph Wallace bought his first property, north of Parkers Creek and containing about 70 acres. In 1901, he bought a second, adjacent property with more than 200 acres. For farming, the relatively flat ground at the tops of the ridges was cleared of trees.

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