

## John Gaither

John Gaither (Gater, Gatter) first arrived in Virginia in 1620 aboard the *George*. In 1624 he was shown in the census as living at James City, and in the January 1625 muster he was residing with Captain William Pierce's group at Mulberry Island. He does not appear again in the records until the summer of 1636, when at age 36 and accompanied by his wife at age 23, he sailed again from England to Virginia, aboard the *Assurance*.

In September 1636 he received three land patents of 300, 300, and 200 acres along various branches of the Elizabeth River in Elizabeth City County, and in July 1638 he repatented some of these as part of a parcel of 800 acres in what by then had been organized as the Lower County of New Norfolk. In both 1636 and 1638 one of the land patents cited the headrights of John and Jane(or Joan) Gater. In January 1640 the Assembly named John Gater as one of the tobacco viewers for Lower Norfolk in the area from "Daniel Taners Creeke the Eastern Branch on both sides". In May 1640 at a court held at the home of William Shipps he was one of a group of men appointed to raise 36 pounds sterling "for the inhabitants from Danyell Tanner's Creek over all the Eastward and southward branches" toward the 100 pounds annual salary of the Lynnhaven Parish minister.

By 1646 his first wife appears to have died and he appears to have married as his second wife, Mary, the sister of Henry Waters (or Wate or Walters), whose estate he was appointed to administer. In June of 1649 they transferred to John Godfrey their 800 acres of land and shortly thereafter moved from Virginia to Maryland. This was at the time of the migration of the Puritans out of Virginia, and he appears to have moved to the north bank of the Severn River, across from present-day Annapolis. While the date of his death is not recorded, a court at St. Mary's City on 24 November 1652 provided authority to his widow, Mary, to administer his estate.

John Gaither and his second wife, Mary, had one son, John, probably born in Maryland. This son was active in the affairs of Anne Arundel County, mentioned for jury duty, and for service against the Indians in 1678. He received further sums for public service, and recorded his own military service. He was buried 12 November 1702. He had married a wife, Ruth, and had six children, three boys and three girls.

### Reference:

1. "Adventurers of Purse and Person Virginia 1607 - 1624/5", 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, Vol. 2; John Frederick Dorman; Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, MD, 2005
2. Virginia Magazine of History and Biography; Vol 1, p 327; Vol 5, p 456.
3. William and Mary Quarterly (Series 2); Vol 4, p 25.