

John NORSWORTHY and Mary CAUNTER



This document is an effort to add dimension to the lives and immediate descendants of John Norsworthy and his wife, Mary Caunter. Eleven children were born to them and each has a story to tell. We know more of some than others, but by writing down what we do know we honor their efforts and give a face to these brave souls who travelled so far from their homeland.

Voices from the Past: When one researches a family, no matter how accurate the sources, to wish “If only they had written it down, I would know for sure,” is for most of us, a wish unfulfilled. But not so with this family. In 1909, James C. Norsworthy, son of John and Mary, was visiting his brother, George, at his home in Florida; also visiting was Joseph Coombe, their cousin. In the interests of preserving their family history, two biographies were written and placed inside newly poured concrete steps to George’s home. George C. Norsworthy states that his own father was about twenty-five and still single at the time. He believes that his father possessed the only copies of those two papers placed within the steps, and that it was a minor miracle his mother gave them to him for safe keeping. A second document comes from Stanley Norsworthy, son of James, who recorded events as recalled by his father. From these, we have glimpses of the lives of John and Mary, some of their children, and cousins. Further research has allowed us now to add even more to these biographies. Moving us beyond bare names and dates on a page, the story becomes ours to give to our children, and in so doing we carry out their presumed wishes, as they sealed papers in a step, that they not be forgotten.

I have served as a researcher and compiler of information in this effort but without the help of others, it would not have been written at all. Many thanks must go to Leigh Decorte and Mike Norsworthy. Mike would, no doubt in turn, thank Michael Nosworthy from Widecombe-in-the-Moor and Carolyn Belam from Buckfastleigh.

Anne Brooks, nee Nosworthy
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Descendant of William Nosworthy and Ann Cleave.

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