

HISTORY OF CAUSEY'S MILL

City historian John Quarstein outlined the historic significance of Causey's Mill in a report for the Newport News City Council. A brief timeline follows:

- * Colonial era: Gov. Sir Francis Wyatt grants a land patent of 100 acres, including the mill site, to Edward Waters, of Elizabeth City County, in 1624. Waters serves as a militia officer, burgess and justice before he dies in 1629. Lake Maury was named Waters Creek before it was dammed. The first tide mill on Waters Creek dates from 1681. The tidal creek's ebb and flow powered the mill.
- * Revolutionary War: Capt. Edward Mallory and troops of the Warwick militia turn back a British raiding party at Waters Creek in 1781. Later, raiding parties disarm the militia.
- * Civil War: Confederate troops under the command of John Bankhead Magruder position themselves at the crossing of Waters Creek and fight a skirmish there on April 4, 1862, with Union troops.
- * Late 1800s: William Causey buys the mill in 1866. He replaces old machinery and installs a new turbine wheel, which produces "superior water-ground corn meal." By 1890, railroad baron Collis P. Huntington has bought the mill and several surrounding land tracts in hopes of building a reservoir for his new city, Newport News. This never happens. The mill never operates again.
- * 1930: The Mariners' Museum buys the property and dams Waters Creek to create Lake Maury.