



## **The Woolverton Family 1714- 1794** **A Time-Line History of the historic Prior to John Prall Jr**

**1714-** Charles Woolverton came from Burlington County, New Jersey and purchased a 1665-acre plantation near the present village of Rosemont for 350 pounds. The land crossed the Wickecheoke twice, according to the deed.<sup>1</sup>

**1730's-** John Woolverton was born in Amwell Township

**1731-** Charles Woolverton seems to have deeded farms to his sons instead of bequeathing them.

**From 1731-1733-** There are deeds recorded from Charles Sr. to his sons. A plantation of 288 acres north of Rosemont, bordering Isaac and Dennis Woolverton, was conveyed to Charles Woolverton Jr. in 1731. There is no estate recorded for Charles Woolverton Sr., and no death record. He is thought to have died about 1746. His widow Mary Chadwick Woolverton died in 1751. They are both probably buried in the Rosemont Cemetery, although their stones have not survived.

**1750-** Charles Woolverton purchased the mill property from Daniel Howell Jr. The property was described as “the land on the south side of the Wickecheoke that the gristmill stands on” and totaled 70 acres. Daniel Howell Jr. preferred to stay at the Raritan River Plantation, and John Howell, who was established in Chestnut Hill, PA, sold the mill property to Charles Woolverton<sup>1</sup>, who owned a large plantation near the present village of Rosemont.

**1765-** Charles Woolverton died and left personal property to his wife Margaret and ordered she be provided for during her widowhood. His sons, Morris and John Woolverton were given control of their father’s real property holdings and made executors of his estate. Morris received the plantation of 268 acres, which his father had acquired in 1731. John received the 70 acres along the Delaware River and the Wickecheoke Creek where the gristmill was located.

**1768-** John Woolverton married Elizabeth Wilson and she birthed two children, Charles Jr. and George, both born around 1730.

**1773-** John Woolverton died leaving his will, in which he described himself as a “miller.” He also mentioned a house, barn, and “the mill” in his will. The inventory of his personal property included lumber, a cross-cut saw, and “saw-mill irons.” This provides strong evidence that he operated a saw mill during his eight years of ownership.

**1792-** Charles Jr. and George Woolverton bought the mill property from their father’s executors for 1,500 pounds. Their interest in the property was limited as they sold it two years later to John Prall Jr. for the same amount. The Woolverton family operated the grist and saw mills together with the 70 acres until they were sold to John Prall Jr.

**1794-** Charles Jr. and George Woolverton sell their recently acquired land to a successful Revolutionary War Lieutenant, John Prall Jr. for the exact price of their purchase. A descendant of the Woolverton family, Primrose Woolverton, has written that after John Prall purchased the property, he continued to operate the grist and saw mills and the store the Woolverton family had started. It was located on the recommendations of the native Indians in a place that would not flood.

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<sup>1</sup>West Jersey Proprietors, Deed Book BBB pg 429, 436

<sup>2</sup> See handout on the Reading -Howell Family for more detailed history