

William Norris, Jr.

William Norris, Jr. was born 4 June 1783, the son of William Norris, Sr., and Martha Amos of Harford County. He married Sarah “Sally” Hough Martin, daughter of Colonel Martin of Snow Hill, on 7 August 1806; the marriage notice shows him as associated with the business house of Jacob and William Norris. The 1816 Baltimore Directory shows him as merchant, residence at 256 Baltimore Street.

William and Sally had four sons and two daughters: Thomas Edmund (1809 – 1888), unmarried; William Henry (1810 – 1890), married Mary H. Owen; Mary Eleanor (1813 – aft 1889), married Judge T. A. Spence; Oliver (1814 – 1854), unmarried; Charlotte Augusta (1816 – 1876), married the Honorable Charles Benedict Calvert of Riversdale; and Henry Pason (1819).

William died 10 January 1819; his will is dated 7 February 1818 and proved 15 January 1819. It states: “It is also my particular desire that no expense or trouble be spared in giving to my dear children excellent education and it is my desire that they frequently be reminded that what had been left them by their deceased father has been obtained by close application to business and years of toil and trouble.”

William Norris served in the War of 1812 as a private. in Capt. Henry Thompson’s First Baltimore Horse Artillery that saw action in 1814 at the Battles of Bladensburg and Baltimore as a messenger/observation cavalry unit in addition to being the personal guard of Maj. Gen. Samuel Smith, commander of the 3rd Division.

William Norris’ uncle, Benjamin Bradford Norris was a signer of the Bush Declaration adopted on 22 March 1775, in Harford County, Maryland. Like other similar resolutions in the Thirteen Colonies around this time, the Bush Declaration expressed support for the Patriot cause in the emerging American Revolution.

William Norris is buried in Greenmount Cemetery in Baltimore City, Maryland.