

James Albritton Sr.
(1705–c1773)
of
Virginia and North Carolina,
Son of Thomas Albritton & Agnes Forsyth
by Timothy Dean Hudson[†]

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[†]I am grateful to Albritton researcher and descendant Annie Crenshaw for her astute research, collaboration, insightful critique, and constant encouragement. Our collaboration has significantly influenced the material presented here.

Early Years in the Old Dominion

James Albritton Sr. was born on 17 September 1705 in Charles Parish, York County, Virginia, the son of [Thomas Albritton](#) and his wife, [Agnes Forsyth](#) [1]. The Charles Parish Register records the birth of one of James' younger siblings, Agnes, as occurring on 13 March 1708 [2]. Soon after this, Thomas and Agnes Albritton moved south, across the Virginia/North Carolina border into what was then Currituck Precinct, Albemarle County, later designated as Currituck County, the northeastern-most North Carolina county. Thomas participated in various legal transactions there between November 1709 and July 1711 [3]. York County records prove that Thomas Albritton had vacated his home there by 1712, suggesting that his family probably accompanied him to the North Carolina Province [4]. Thus, it appears that James Albritton spent several years living in North Carolina as a young boy.

The Albrittons did not linger in North Carolina for long. After living in close contact for many years in northeastern North Carolina, a series of white encroachments on Tuscarora Indian territory led to violence. On 22 September 1711, just two months after Thomas Albritton purchased land in Currituck Precinct, Tuscarora warriors attacked settlements further south on the Trent and Pamlico Rivers, massacring 130 white settlers. The extended hostilities between the North Carolina colonists and the Tuscarora Indians during the 1711–1715 wars drove many recent white immigrants back into the safety of coastal southeastern Virginia [5].

Probably to escape the violence, Thomas Albritton and his family soon vacated northeastern North Carolina and moved across the colony line into the southeastern corner of Virginia. They had settled in Princess Anne County by 2 April 1715, when Thomas paid £10 sterling for a 57-acre tract of land in the Precinct of Eastern Shore [6]. James Albritton grew up in Princess Anne County and spent the next three decades of his life there.

James' mother, Agnes, appeared in court on 5 April 1727 to relinquish her dower rights when she and Thomas disposed of a tract of land [7], but she died shortly afterwards. James' father soon remarried to Ann, and when he wrote his will on 24 January 1731, Thomas Albritton named his new wife and son as his only legatees, bequeathing to James

...my horse and mill all my saddler Tools and bedsted bolster two blankets & rugg one grindstone making him my whole & sole Exor of this my Last will & testament – abjureing & disanuling all former wills by me made heretofore...

Thomas directed that his lands be sold to pay his debts and any remainder be divided equally between his wife and son. Thomas Albritton died within several weeks of writing his will, for James presented his father's will in Court on March 3rd.

The debts owed by Thomas Albritton's estate must have exceeded the available cash on hand, so at this same court session,

...it was ordered by y^e said Court with agreement of y^e said James Albritton & y^e widow of y^e said Thomas that y^e Sherif [sic] should sell all y^e estate of y^e said Thomas Albritton at Public sale...

Shortly afterwards, Sheriff Francis Moseley conducted a public auction to sell a 100-acre tract of land on the south side of the Blackwater River in Princess Anne County that belonged to Thomas Albritton. Thomas Cornish offered the highest bid of £10, and he thus acquired the Albritton land. The sheriff neglected to make a deed formally conveying the property to Cornish, who died shortly afterwards. Several years later, Thomas Cornish wrote his own will and bequeathed Thomas Albritton's former land to his brother, Elias Cornish.

When he initially filed his father's will with the Princess Anne County Court on 3 March 1731, James Albritton *"refused y^e Exorshipp [executorship],"* and this prompted the Court to order the sheriff to conduct the sale of Thomas Albritton's land. Sometime in the next few years, the Princess Anne Court confirmed the appointment of James Albritton as the executor of Thomas Albritton's will. On 3 December 1740,

James Albritton son & heir of Thomas Albritton late of y^e County of Princess Anne Dec'd. & also executor of y^e last will & Testament of y^e said Thomas...

made a deed by which he conveyed to Elias Cornish all of his interest in the 100-acre tract of land *"by virtue of y^e said will of y^e said Thomas Albritton or any other way whatever"* [8].

In widely disseminated works published between 1979 and 2004, three Albritton researchers concluded that James' initial refusal to serve as the executor of his father's will implies personal animosity towards his stepmother. One wrote that he declined the executorship *"probably because of his stepmother,"* while the other two wrote, *"James must not have liked his step-mother"* and *"James apparently did not like his step-mother."* Subsequent researchers have extrapolated this hypothetical family enmity even further, with one writing that, *"James apparently did not get along with his stepmother and refused to act as executor of the will"* [9].

An objective analysis of the limited evidence reveals no basis for such conclusions regarding the precise nature of the personal relationship between James Albritton and his stepmother. A variety of potential reasons may have caused James to initially decline to serve as his father's executor. Without any further documentation, it is inappropriate to draw any conclusions about James and Ann's feelings for each other based solely upon his actions in the immediate aftermath of his father's death.

As a young man, James Albritton married Elizabeth, referred to as “*Eliza*.” On 3 August 1726, Eliza Albritton witnessed a deed of gift from Elizabeth Brock to Henry Brinson. The Princess Anne County records do not mention any other Albrittons besides James and his immediate family, so this woman is probably James’ wife. If so, this suggests an approximate marriage date for James and Eliza of about 1725 or early 1726 [10].

Several researchers have stated in published works that James Albritton married Elizabeth Lanier, the daughter of John Lanier and Elizabeth Byrd. Subsequently, this “*fact*” has proliferated via the internet to the point that it has become accepted as thoroughly documented and no longer questioned by casual Albritton researchers. To the contrary, no one has yet produced a primary source document to verify the identification of Elizabeth Albritton as the former Elizabeth Lanier. Moreover, no one has reported the discovery of any documents that suggest a connection between Elizabeth Albritton and John and Elizabeth Byrd Lanier. Until concrete evidence is located, her maiden name remains unknown [11].

James and Eliza Albritton spent the first two decades of their married life in Princess Anne County, Virginia. He engaged in various legal affairs, including several land transactions and witnessing the will of a neighbor. In all of Albritton’s known transactions in both Virginia and North Carolina, he made his mark to the documents, indicating that, like his father, James was illiterate and could not sign his name:

6-7 Jun 1731 – Roger Fountain and James Albritton, both of Princess Anne County, transacted a lease and release of a 75-acre tract of land in the Upper Precinct of the Eastern Shore. Albritton paid Fountain six shillings “*Currant money*” for the six-month lease that put him in possession of the land, and he paid Fountain £15 “*Currant money*” for the release that gave him full ownership of it [12].

9-10 Mar 1736 – James and Elizabeth (Eliza) Albritton of Princess Anne County disposed of the 75-acre tract of land they purchased five years earlier. On these two days, they made a lease and release to Solomon Waterman, also of Princess Anne County. The documents described the land as lying on Muddy Creek and bounding the lands of Thomas Franklin, Edward Lands, and John Malbone Jr. For the one-year lease, Waterman paid the Albrittons five shillings upon signing and agreed to

...yielding & paying therefore the yearly rent of one ear of Indian corn at y^e feast of St. Michael y^e Arch Angel only if the Same be lawfully demanded...

For the release that gave Waterman full ownership of the property, he paid the Albrittons £20.

On 2 June 1736, James and Eliza Albritton appeared before the Princess Anne Court, with James

acknowledging the lease and release, and Eliza, *“wife of ye said James relinquished all her right of Dower thereto”* [13].

6 Sep 1736 – John Malbone Sr. wrote his will, making specific bequests to his children and a grandchild. He appointed his wife, Margaret, as his sole executrix and made this bequest to her:

I give to my wife five hundred pounds of pork that James Albritton is indepted [sic] to me...

James Albritton also witnessed Malbone’s signature on his will. Malbone died later that year or in January 1737. On 2 February 1737, James Albritton appeared before the Princess Anne County Court with Margaret Malbone to prove the will [14].

4–5 Oct 1736 – Robert Dearmore and James Albritton, both of Princess Anne County, engaged in a lease and release of a 100-acre tract of land on Kendal’s Island in Princess Anne County. For the one-year lease that put him in possession of the tract, Albritton paid Dearman *“five shillings currant money.”* For the release that gave him ownership of the land, Albritton paid Dearman *“twenty pounds currant money”* [15].

30–31 Mar 1741 – James and Elizabeth Albritton of Princess Anne County engaged in a lease and release with William Weblin of the same county. They disposed of their tract of land known as Kendal’s Island purchased five years earlier. This document described it as 130 acres, not 100 acres as indicated by the 1736 document. Weblin paid Albritton five shillings for the six-month lease that gave him possession, and he paid *“Thirty pounds currant money of Virginia”* for the release that gave Weblin ownership of the tract. On 1 April 1741, James and Elizabeth Albritton appeared before the Princess Anne County Court, and James acknowledged his lease and release, and *“Elizabeth, wife of the said James relinquished her right of Dower thereto, to Will. Weblin”* [16].

6–7 Nov 1744 – Sometime prior to this date, James Albritton and John Burfoot came into joint possession of a 131-acre tract of land on the east side of Brock’s Bridge in Princess Anne County adjoining lands of *“Mr. Henley”* and Cherry. On November 6–7, Albritton and Burfoot disposed of the tract by making a lease and release to John Buskey Sr., who paid Albritton and Burfoot six shillings for the lease that put him in possession of the land. For the release giving him full ownership of the 131 acres, Buskey paid *“Fifty Pounds Curr^t money.”* Albritton and Burfoot appeared before the Princess Anne Court on November 7th to acknowledge the deed, and on the same day, *“Eliz^a wife of the s^d James relinquished all her right of Dower thereto.”* The connection between James and Eliza Albritton and John Burfoot is unknown [17].



Life in North Carolina

Soon after appearing before the Princess Anne County Court on 7 November 1744, James and Eliza Albritton moved their family southward along the Atlantic coast into the Province of North Carolina. By early 1745, James had settled in Beaufort County, North Carolina, then the region extending from the Pamlico Sound westward along the inland region surrounding the Pamlico and Tar Rivers. On 11 March 1745, James Albritton engaged in a transaction with William Stafford, with the document giving both of their occupations as “*planter*.” Albritton paid William and Elizabeth Stafford £320 for a 128-acre tract of land that Stafford had patented in 1740. At the time Albritton bought it, the tract lay in Beaufort County, on the north side of the Tar River and south side of Grindle Creek [1]. Upon the creation of Pitt County from Beaufort effective 1 January 1761, the land fell into the eastern side of Pitt [2].

James Albritton did not remain long in eastern North Carolina. In the latter 1740s, he began preparations to move to Onslow County, on the Atlantic coast of southeastern North Carolina. On 16 January 1750, he paid Zachariah Field, a gunsmith, £35 for a 90-acre tract of land on Harris’ Creek in Onslow County [3].

Later that year, on 20 November 1750, James Albritton sold his Beaufort County land to John Whitchard for “*the Sum of forty pounds Virginia money*.” By this time, James had married Amy, who made her mark to the transaction along with James. It listed them as residents of Beaufort County even though they had already begun making the move south to Onslow [4].

The November 1750 transaction proves that James’ first wife, Elizabeth, died sometime after 7 November 1744, and before 20 November 1750, by which time James had remarried. The extant Beaufort County records do not otherwise mention James Albritton during this period, so we do not know exactly when he remarried. This leaves the precise location and date of Elizabeth’s death uncertain. While she may possibly have remained in Virginia and died there before the move to North Carolina, it seems more likely that she died after James settled the family in North Carolina. All we know from the existing records is that Elizabeth died sometime between November 1744 and mid-1750 [5].

In addition to the uncertainty regarding when James Albritton married Amy, no known evidence points to her family of origin. None of the published Albritton works make any claims to Amy’s parentage or maiden name, but numerous online genealogical trees in recent years have begun claiming she was “*Amy Petit*.” No known documentation supports this claim or provides any clues to suggest Amy’s family background. All we know is that she married James sometime between about 1745 and November 1750 [6].

James Albritton lived in Onslow County, North Carolina between the latter 1740s or 1750 and mid-1755 [7]. He engaged in several activities there, including:

8 Oct 1751 – James Albritton bought an additional tract of land from Zachariah Field. For £40, Albritton purchased 110 acres of land on Harris' Creek "*joining plantation where said Albriton [sic] now lives,*" the property he had purchased from Field the previous year [8]. Albritton lived on this land until shortly before April 1752.

3 Apr 1752 – Six months later, James Albritton engaged in a land swap with John Christian Heidleborg, with the exchanged tracts each worth £80. Albritton sold Heidleborg his 110-acre tract on Harris' Creek, while Heidleborg sold Albritton a 320-acre tract of land on Stones Creek Bay and Muddy Creek, described as

...near the mouth of Stone's creek joining on Stone's creek Bay and up towards the mill then going over the place and down Muddy Creek to the river.

James Albritton appears to have lived on this large tract on the New River for the next three years [9].

15 Jul 1754 – "*James Alberton*" witnessed a transaction in which Thomas Rodes gave land, livestock, and household property to his son and daughter, Solomon and Christian Rodes [10]. Officials in Onslow County regularly confused the Albritton and Alberton surnames, and the following record shows that Thomas Rodes and James Albritton owned adjoining farms. This shows that the clerk erred, and that James Albritton actually witnessed this transaction.

18 Jul 1754 – "*James Albriton*" witnessed a transaction in which Thomas Rodes sold Richard Koon a 50-acre tract on the northeast side of the New River, part of 640-acre grant to Christian Heidleberg. The land was located on a "*small branch which empties into Mill Creek,*" and it "*adjoins Albriton's corner*" [11].

2 Aug 1754 – James Albritton is mentioned as an adjoining landowner to a 70-acre tract of land on "*Harry's*" Creek sold by Zachariah Field to Daniel Hicks [12].

4 Jan 1755 – James Albritton is mentioned an adjoining landowner of the same 70-acre as the previous August. The land lay on Harry's Creek, part of a 180-acre grant to Zachariah Field [13].

While James Albritton and his family resided in Onslow County along North Carolina's southeastern Atlantic coast, the cold war that had existed between the French and British colonies in North America following the 1748 end of the War of Austrian Succession gradually became a military struggle over the vast Ohio Valley region. When Virginia's Gov. Dinwiddie called for military assistance from the other colonies in January 1754 to confront the French threat, only North Carolina committed to send troops and supplies aimed to assist Col. George Washington as

he faced the French at Fort Duquesne. Following the disaster there in July 1754 in which the French forced Washington to surrender Fort Necessity, American Indians allied to the French began attacks on the North Carolina backcountry [14].

These hostilities led North Carolina counties to hold regular musters of their militias in the fall of 1754 in preparation for potential upcoming hostilities. On 25 October 1754, Capt. Thomas Hicks held a muster of the Onslow County Militia. Among those reported as present include Lt. James Alberton, Sgt. Thos. Alberton, and Pvt. James Alberton. Given the documented frequency with which Onslow clerks confused *“Albritton”* and *“Alberton,”* these three are undoubtedly James Albritton Sr. and his two sons, Thomas and James Albritton Jr. [15]. Although military events in the North Carolina backcountry involved some settlers there, residents in the eastern portion of the colony took little part in them. No known evidence points to any involvement of our Albrittons in military activities during the French and Indian War of 1754–1761.

On 10 July 1755, while still a resident of Onslow County, James Albritton Sr. sold his 320-acre plantation on Stone’s Creek Bay near the New River in Onslow County for £80 [16]. It is not clear what prompted Albritton to leave the southeastern North Carolina coast, but it is possible that their residence along the Atlantic coast left them susceptible to raiding by French warships. Sometime in the latter half of 1755, James Albritton moved his family back to the Tar River region of Beaufort County they had left about five or six years earlier.

On 27 February 1756, for *“one hundred pounds Current money of Virginia,”* James Albritton Sr. of Beaufort County, North Carolina purchased a 500-acre tract of land that lay on the south side of the Tar River, near the modern village of Grimesland. He bought land across the river from his earlier farm that lay on the north side of the river between the Tar and Grindle Creek. The document listed James’ occupation as *“Sadler,”* indicating he had made good use of the tools his father left him [17].

John Simpson also immigrated to Beaufort County in the 1750s and became closely connected with James Albritton Sr. and his family over the next three decades. A native of Boston, Massachusetts, Simpson settled near Albritton on the south side of the Tar River. In 1757, he was commissioned as a lieutenant in the Beaufort County Militia, and in 1759, citizens elected Simpson as one of their representatives to the Colonial Assembly [18].

At the March 1758 session of the Beaufort County Court, John Simpson petitioned for permission to *“build a Water Grist Mill upon the South Side of Tar River on the School Branch.”* The Court approved his request, and they ordered the county surveyor to survey two acres of land for

the mill. They also ordered four men to appraise the two acres, including Isaac Buck and “*James Alberton*” [19]. Isaac Buck had received several land grants in the 1740s for land along Cow Swamp near James Albritton’s.

At the June 1759 court session, the Beaufort Court ordered the construction of a road “*from William Spiers ferry beginning at the landing place on the south side of the River and from thence out to the Main Road...from Chicod Bridge to Simpsons.*” They appointed fifteen local residents as “*Jurymen to lay out the same,*” including “*James Alberton,*” John Simpson, and Isaac Buck [20].

James Albritton’s farm on the south side of the Tar River lay in the western portion of Beaufort County when he purchased it in 1756. By the latter 1750s, the population in that region had increased sufficiently to prompt local citizens to petition the North Carolina General Assembly to create a new county. The Colonial Assembly approved the creation of Pitt County from western Beaufort effective 1 January 1761. They appointed several commissioners, including John Simpson and Isaac Buck, to have a courthouse and other necessary buildings constructed on the land of John Hardee, located several miles east of modern Greenville and near James Albritton’s land [21].

By the early 1760s, James Albritton paid taxes on both himself, his teenaged son still living in his household, and three taxable slaves. His elder sons had reached adulthood by this time, and all five of them obtained their own nearby farms during the 1760s [22].

In 1764, James Albritton Sr. filed an application to obtain a land grant from the Province of North Carolina for 100 acres adjoining his existing plantation. Something delayed the process, and North Carolina officials did not survey the tract for Albritton until July 1772, with the land finally granted to him in February 1773 [23]. In December 1765, Albritton made another application for a 100-acre grant of land, but there is no record of any action ever taken on this grant after the 1765 survey [24].

After fourteen years of living on his farm south of the Tar River in Pitt County, James Albritton Sr. decided to move. On 4 March 1769, he engaged in a series of five land transactions with Col. John Simpson, who had accumulated large land holdings in the region during the 1760s. The documents all gave Albritton’s occupation as “*Saddler*” and Simpson’s as “*Merchant.*” First, for £300 “*proclamation Money,*” Albritton sold Simpson his 500-acre farm on the south side of the Tar River [25].

Albritton then made several land purchases from Simpson, buying adjoining tracts of land totaling almost 1000 acres. This land lay in eastern Pitt County near his previous farm, just south

of the Tar River and south of Chicod Creek, on Cross Swamp and Cow Swamp, formerly known as Taylors Swamp. Albritton bought these distinct tracts:

100 acres – Albritton paid £15 proclamation money for this tract located “*on the S.W. side of Taylor’s Swamp begin[ing] at the mouth of Watery branch...*” and along Phipp’s Pocosin [26].

400 acres – Albritton paid a mere £5 in cash for this tract granted to Simpson on 28 April 1768. The transaction described the land as lying “*on both sides of Taylors Swamp & on the east side of Watery branch,*” including the land on which John Taylor formerly lived, along Sparks Branch and adjoining Buck’s line [27].

200 acres – Albritton paid £120 proclamation money for this tract originally granted to Simon Burney and sold to William Taylor on 10 September 1751. The land lay on the south of the Tar River and “*lower side of Cross Swamp & S^o Side Chicod Swamp...beginning at a Chesnut Oak on one of the Swamps of Chicod...*” Later land descriptions show that the latter referenced swamp was then called “*Taylor’s Swamp,*” but it soon became known as Cow Swamp [28].

280 acres – Albritton paid £80 proclamation money for this tract of land granted to John Taylor on 12 December 1757 and sold to Simpson on 1 April 1765. It lay on the south side of the Tar River, north side of Chicod Creek, and “*lyes [sic] on the South easterly side of Cow Swamp,*” adjoining Buck’s line [29].

James Albritton made the 280-acre tract on the southeast side of Cow Swamp his primary residence, and he spent the remainder of his life on his new 980-acre farm. Albritton had established himself adjoining the lands of Col. Simpson and near the center of activity of Pitt County. Two years later, local citizens petitioned the North Carolina Provincial government to locate the county seat of Pitt a few miles west of Albritton’s farm on the south side of the Tar River. They named it “*Martinborough*” after Royal Gov. Josiah Martin. In the aftermath of the Revolutionary War, North Carolina changed the name of Martinborough to “*Greenesville*” after Patriot hero Gen. Nathanael Greene [30]. The town’s name was soon shortened to “*Greenville,*” which it remains today. In comparison to modern communities, James Albritton’s farm lay just south of Grimesland and north of Black Jack.

On 5 November 1771, Pitt County Deputy Surveyor J. G. Blount prepared surveys for two grants for Col. John Simpson, one of which adjoined the plantations of James Albritton Sr. and his son, Peter. Both James and Peter Albritton served as the chain bearers, helping Blount prepare the

official surveys. James' service as chain carrier indicates he still enjoyed good physical health in his mid-sixties [31].

The next summer, on 1 July 1772, Surveyor Blount finally fulfilled the 1764 warrant for James Albritton's grant of land adjoining his existing plantation. Although Albritton originally filed an entry for a grant of 100-acres, when Blount surveyed the property, the tract totaled only 62 acres. The North Carolina Provincial Government officially granted Albritton the tract on 4 February 1773 [32].

James Albritton Sr. died about 1773, or more precisely, sometime between about late 1772 and early 1774. He was still alive on 1 July 1772, when Blount completed the survey of the 62-acre tract of land for Albritton, for otherwise, his death would have terminated the grant process. He could possibly have died shortly before North Carolina completed the final paperwork before issuing him a patent for the tract on 4 February 1773. Albritton's death occurred prior to 25 May 1774, by which time the Pitt County Court had already probated his will and distributed his lands among his legatees [33].

James Albritton Sr. appears to have written his will sometime after 1 July 1772, when J. G. Blount finished the survey for the 62-acre tract on Cow Swamp that James bequeathed to his youngest son, Henry [34]. James left 150 acres of his land to his second-youngest son, Richard [35], and the 200-acre tract originally granted to Simon Burney to his five eldest sons, Thomas, James Jr., Matthew, Peter, and George [36]. James left his wife, Amy, a lifetime interest in their 280-acre home plantation, directing that after her death, their home went to Henry.

Soon after her husband's death, Amy Albritton remarried to John Robinson. This appears to have prompted the Pitt County Court to appoint George Albritton as Henry's guardian, as he was still a minor. On 10 September 1775, Amy and John Robinson sold "*all and singular our Right of Dower or otherwise...*" in the 280-acre tract of land

...whereon we now live which said land & premises was by the Last will & testament of my former Husband James Albrittain [sic] decease^d Left Unto Ami Abrittain [sic] (Now Ami Robinson) for & during her Natural Life Right.

The Robinsons sold the tract to

George Albrittain [sic] Guardian of Henry Albrittain [sic] (Minor), in Trust for the s^d Henry Albrittain [sic] a (Minor)

for the sum of "*twenty pounds proclim [sic-proclamation] Money*" [37]. By 1780, Henry Albritton had reached the age of adulthood and came into possession of the lands his father left him. He disposed of his father's old lands in 1781, and those records reiterate that James Albritton bequeathed the property to Henry in his will [38].

In 1775, the household of John Robinson included Amy and him, together with their four slaves: one adult slave couple and two young female slaves. The Robinsons lived near Thomas and Richard Albritton, but Henry was not listed in their household. Presumably, he lived nearby in a different district with George, his guardian [39].

We know little else about Amy Albritton Robinson or her husband, John Robinson. We cannot specifically attribute any other Pitt County records to him. In 1790, "*Amy Robeson*" was listed as the head of her own Pitt County household consisting only of herself and one slave. She lived very near Peter and Henry Albritton, suggesting that this woman was indeed the widow of James Albritton Sr. Thus, it appears that John Robinson died between 1775 and 1790, and Amy sometime after 1790 [40].

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Children of James Albritton Sr.

We know that James Albritton Sr. left a will that distributed his plantation among his sons, but the 1857 fire that consumed the Pitt County Courthouse destroyed all wills and probate records. The surviving deed records document his seven sons who reached adulthood [1]:

1. **Thomas Albritton** (1726/1735–Nov 1781/Apr 1784) [2].
2. [James Albritton Jr.](#) (1728/1738–c1795) [3].
3. [Matthew Albritton](#) (1729/1739–aft. 10 Apr 1784) [4].
4. [Peter Albritton Sr.](#) (1740/1742–c1798) [5].
5. **George Albritton Sr.** (1742/1745–1810) [6].
6. **Richard Albritton Sr.** (1747/1755–1817) [7].
7. **Henry Albritton** (1755/1759–c1815) [8].

No other known documentation in either Virginia or North Carolina suggests that James had any additional sons to survive childhood [9].

While we have clear documentation for James' seven sons who reached adulthood, the existing Pitt County records fail to shed any light on whether he had any daughters who survived childhood. Like most men of that era, it appears that in his will, James divided his lands among his sons. If he made bequests to any of his daughters in his will, he must have left them only slaves, property, or cash. Thus, the destruction of the Pitt County wills and estate records has seemingly obliterated any trace of the existence of James' daughters [10].

Published Albritton works uniformly attribute James Albritton's eldest five sons to his first marriage to Elizabeth. This appears accurate given their approximate age ranges. Albritton researchers also identify the youngest two, Richard and Henry, as sons of Amy, James' second wife. The evidence placing Henry's birth between 1755 and 1759 clearly indicates that he was Amy's son.

However, documentation to conclusively prove the identity of Richard Albritton's mother is lacking due to these uncertainties:

1. Richard Albritton's birth could have occurred anytime between about 1747 and 1755.
2. Elizabeth Albritton's death could have occurred anytime between November 1744 and early 1750.
3. After Elizabeth's death, James Albritton remarried to Amy, and the uncertainty of Eliza's death places the marriage of James and Amy between about 1745 and 1750.

These ambiguities make it impossible to state with certainty which of James' wives gave birth to Richard [11].

In legal records made in 1736, 1741, 1744, 1750, and 1769, James Albritton Sr. made his mark to the transactions, indicating that, like his father, he could not sign his name. Despite raising his sons in remote, frontier locations in the Province of North Carolina, James managed to provide them with a better scholarly education than he received. All of his sons except Thomas, the eldest, routinely signed their names to their transactions throughout their lifetimes.

Finally, the records show that James Albritton's sons and grandsons maintained close bonds for several generations after his death. Those that left North Carolina settled near one another after immigrating from Pitt County to Georgia, and many of them interacted with each other in both locations [12].

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Notes

Published Albritton Books – These three works are referenced throughout these notes:

Lomas, Fran Wylie. *Book of Albrittons: 1609–1979*. San Angelo, TX, 1979.

McSwain, Eleanor Davis. [*Some Descendants of Francis Albrighton \(1609–1667\), Mathew Jones of Mulberry Island, Virginia \(1643–1712\), and Ralph Albritton of York County, Virginia \(1656–ca1701\), and Connecting Families*](#). Macon, GA: Jones and Grissom, 1984.

Albritton, Bobby G. [*Albrittons of the Second Millennium*](#), Revised ed. Alpharetta, GA: Balbritt, 2004.

Early Years in the Old Dominion

1. Bell, Landon C. *Charles Parish, York County, Virginia, History and Registers*. Richmond, VA: Virginia State Library Board, Division of Purchase and Printing, 1932, p. 42. York County VA Deeds and Bonds Book 3 (1713–1729), pp. 432–434 (John James and Thomas and Agnes Albritton to Thomas Nelson, 14 November 1724). The Charles Parish Register records the birth of James Albritton, “son of Thomas by Agnes.” The 1724 document identified Agnes Albritton, wife of Thomas as “the only Surviving Daughter & heir at Law of the said James Foresyth.”
2. Bell, p. 42. The Register records the birth of Agnes Albritton, “dau. of Thomas by Agnes,” on 13 March 1707. As this event occurred before 1752, it fell during the period when England and her colonies used the Julian Calendar, which designated New Year’s Day as March 25th. As a result, a date written as 13 March 1707 during this period translates to 13 March 1708 according to our modern calendar, adopted in England and her colonies in 1752.
3. Currituck County NC Deed Book 3, p. 110 (William and “Christain” Reed of Albemarle County, North Carolina to John Northen of Charles Parish, York County, Virginia, 12 November 1709); pp. 102–103 (William and “Christain” Reed of Albemarle County, North Carolina to John Northen of Charles Parish, York County, Virginia, 13 November 1709); pp. 104–105 (William and “Christian” Reed of Albemarle County, North Carolina to John Northen of Charles Parish, York County, Virginia, 14 November 1709); p. 103 (John Northen of Currituck Precinct, North Carolina to wife, Elizabeth Northen, 10 January 1710/11); pp. 106–107 (William and Margaret Russell to Richard Smith, both of Albemarle County, Currituck Precinct, North Carolina, 10 July 1711); p. 107 (William Russell to Thomas Albritton, both of Currituck Precinct, Albemarle County, North Carolina, 10 July 1711).
4. York County VA Deeds and Bonds No. 2 (1701–1713), pp. 384–385 (Simon and Elizabeth Story to John Patrick, 16–17 May 1712); pp. 391–392 (John Wills to Simon Story, 14–15 March 1711/1712). These four documents all relate to the 50 acres in Charles Parish on which Thomas Albritton had formerly lived. John Wills acted as the attorney for Elizabeth Hill of Currituck Precinct, the owner of the land, and possibly Thomas Albritton’s stepdaughter and James Albritton’s half-sister. Born on 11 March 1690, Elizabeth Hill was the daughter of Samuel and Agnes Hill, and the latter is possibly Agnes Forsyth, later the wife of Thomas Albritton. The land may have originally belonged to Agnes’ father, James Forsyth, who left land to his grandson, Samuel Hill in his will. Since the young boy appears to have died young, and since Sarah, the other daughter of Samuel and Agnes Hill, died on 28 November 1694 (see Bell, p. 221), Elizabeth Hill would have inherited at least an interest in the land.
5. Swanton, John R. *The Indian Tribes of North America*. Smithsonian Institution Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin 145. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1952 (reprinted by Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, MD, 2003), pp. 86–87.
6. Princess Anne County VA Deeds and Wills Book 3 (1714–1728), Part 1, p. 83 (Denis and Milborrow Capps to Thomas “Allbritons,” 2 April 1715).
7. Princess Anne County VA Deeds & Wills Book 4, Part 1 (1724–1735), p. 111 (Thomas and Agnes Albritton lease and release to John Airts, April 3–4, 1727). Agnes Albritton appeared before the Princess Anne County Court on 5 April 1727 and relinquished her right of dower in the land.
8. Princess Anne County VA Deed Book 4, Part 2 (1724–1735), p. 318 (Will of Thomas “Albrittin,” dated 24 January 1730/31, filed in court 3 March 1730/31). Deed Book 5 (1735–1740), pp. 530–531 (James Albritton to Elias Cornish, 3 December 1740).
9. Lomas, p. 12. McSwain, p. 68. Albritton, p. 29. Carter, Jeff. *Ancestors of Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter*. Jefferson, NC: MacFarland, 2012, p. 115. Carter gave Albritton’s work as his source for details on the Albrittons.
10. Princess Anne County VA Deeds & Wills Book 4, Part 1, (1724–1735), pp. 66–67 (Elizabeth Brock to brother, Henry Brinson, 3 August 1726; witnesses: Henry Brinson, “Eliz. Albritton”). Elizabeth Albritton witnessed the gift of the 100-acre Dobs Plantation in Dam Neck from Elizabeth Brock to her brother, Henry Brinson. Neither the records of Princess Anne County nor those of any adjacent county show other Albritton families in the region during this period. This strongly suggests that Eliz Albritton who witnessed this transaction was James’ wife.
11. Albritton, pp. 31–32. Carter, pp. 36, 115–116. Neither the works of Lomas (1979) nor McSwain (1984) make any claims regarding Elizabeth’s maiden name, but Mr. Bobby G. Albritton initially states it as fact. He then backtracks, stating that

“Elizabeth is believed by some researchers to have been a Lanier as one of her sons named his oldest child Lanier.”

Next, regarding Elizabeth's maiden name, Mr. Albritton admits,

"The evidence of this is circumstantial as no one to date has discovered any written evidence."

He continues to make other confusing and conflicting statements about Elizabeth Albritton's purported Lanier connection. The origins of the notion that James married Elizabeth Lanier are unclear, but the publication of Mr. Albritton's work has caused a proliferation of this undocumented claim. Carter covered the purported Albritton ancestry of his mother, Rosalynn Smith Carter, twice. In a discussion of the potential genealogical relationship of his parents, Carter stated as fact that *"James Albritton married Elizabeth Lanier"* (p. 36). In a more detailed section on the Albrittons later, he wrote, *"James Albritton married Elizabeth. She may have been Elizabeth Lanier, the daughter of John Lanier and Elizabeth Bird but there is no proof of it"* (p. 115). Carter only references Bobby G. Albritton's book as his source for these conflicting statements.

12. Princess Anne County VA Deeds and Wills Book 4, Part 2 (1724–1735), pp. 407–408 (Roger Fountain lease and release to James Albritton, 6–7 June 1731).
13. Princess Anne County VA Deed Book 5 (1735–1740), pp. 90–91 (James and Elizabeth (Eliza) Albritton lease and release to Solomon Waterman, 9–10 March 1736; witnesses: Roger Fountain, Thomas Henley, Jeremiah Henley). Although this document was made prior to 1752, the dates of March 9–10, 1736 appears to be the correct year according to our calendar. This deed book was recopied in the latter nineteenth century, and the clerk who made the copy appears to have updated the year to the modern calendar.
14. Princess Anne County VA Deed Book 5 (1735–1740), pp. 166–167 (Will of John Malbone Sr., 6 September 1736, filed in court 2 February 1737; witnesses: William Dauley, William Carrel, and James Albritton). Although the clerk who copied the original Deed Book 5 appears to have updated the year of the lease/release on pp. 90–91, he failed to update this one. Malbone wrote his will on 6 September 1736, but the recopied document retained the old-style date showing when the will was filed in court as 2 February 1736. The will must have been filed in court on 2 February 1737.
15. Princess Anne County VA Deed Book 5 (1735–1740), pp. 99–100 (Roger Dearmore lease and release to James Albritton, 4–5 October 1736; witnesses: John Kempe, John Britahan, John Shipp Sr.).
16. Princess Anne County VA Deed Book 6 (1740–1747), pp. 24–25 (James and Elizabeth Albritton lease and release to William Weblin, 30–31 March 1741).
17. Princess Anne County VA Deed Book 6 (1740–1747), pp. 325–326 (John Burfoot and James Albritton to John Buskey Sr., 6–7 November 1744). This book is a copy of the original. Although the lease on p. 325 of the original version was legible, on the top of p. 326, the clerk who made the copy wrote, *"Original badly mutilated."* The left quarter of that page is illegible, and this prevents us from knowing the watercourse on which the land was located.

Life in North Carolina

1. Beaufort County NC Deed Book 2, pp. 427–428 (William and Elizabeth Stafford to James Albritton, both of Beaufort County, North Carolina, 11 March 1745).
2. Pitt County NC Deed Book C, pp. 278–280 (John Barber to Lemuel James, 7 October 1765). John Barber sells Lemuel James the same 128-acre tract of land on Grindle Creek on the north side of the Tar River that James Albritton purchased from William Stafford in 1745. This document gives the ownership history of the tract, stating that William Stafford patented it on 12 March 1740, and *"Will^m Stafford Conveyed to James Albriton [sic] and by the s^d James Albriton [sic] to John Whichard..."* This proves that the land Albritton purchased in 1745 lay in the portion of Beaufort County that became eastern Pitt County upon its creation effective 1 January 1761.
3. Onslow County NC Deed Book C, p. 47 (Zachariah Field to James *"Alberton,"* 16 January 1750). The Onslow County clerks often recorded *"Albritton"* records under the name *"Alberton."* While in some cases these are distinct families, in this case, as records from 1751 and 1752 show, it was indeed James *"Albritton"* who purchased this tract (see Onslow County NC Deed Book C, pp. 55, 58). The references given here to Onslow County deeds come from abstracts published by Zae Hargett Gwynn from Onslow County records in the North Carolina State Archives, and not from those currently in the Onslow County Register of Deeds Office. See Gwynn, Zae Hargett. *Abstracts of the Records of Onslow County, North Carolina, 1734–1850*. Vol. I, 1961. Several hurricanes destroyed the Onslow County Courthouse, leaving the records in a confused state. Early court officials attempted to re-record many of the earliest ones, and it seems this left the deed books with duplicate numbers.
4. Beaufort County NC Deed Book 3, pp. 63–64 (James and Amy *"Albriton"* to John *"Wichard,"* 20 November 1750). The 1750 document gives John's surname as *"Wichard,"* but in later Pitt County records, the family name is most commonly spelled as *"Whitchard."*
5. Lomas, p. 12. McSwain, p. 69. Albritton, pp. 31–33. Lomas wrote,
"Elizabeth died after 1743 and before 1745 when James married Amy..."

Mr. Albritton states that Elizabeth was

"...was born Abt. 1709 in Surry County, Virginia, and died Abt. 1744 in Beaufort County, North Carolina."

No known documentation supports any aspect of these definitive statements. In her 1984 work, McSwain wrote this very balanced assessment of the known evidence that remains accurate four decades later:

It is not known just when Elizabeth Albritton, wife of James Albritton, died. She could have died in Virginia, but it is more likely that she died soon after the move to North Carolina.

As McSwain pointed out, Elizabeth Albritton's death could have occurred in Princess Anne County, Virginia, or in either Beaufort or Onslow Counties, North Carolina.

6. Lomas, p. 12. McSwain, p. 69. Albritton, pp. 31–33. Pitt County NC Deed Book D, pp. 67–68, 70–71. Lomas wrote that James' first wife died *"before 1745 when James married Amy."* She appears to have written this based upon claims by descendants of James' son, Richard Albritton, that his mother was Amy, and that his birth occurred in 1745. No known documentation supports the precise date for any of these three critical events: the marriage date of James and Amy, the identity of the mother of Richard, and Richard's precise birth year. McSwain made no claims regarding Amy's background or the date of her marriage to James. Mr. Albritton made several baffling statements about Amy and their marriage, writing that they married in *"1745 in Beaufort County, North Carolina,"* and giving Amy's birth about 1720 in Onslow County. He mentioned that some claimed she was a Petit but that no information verified that. He then claimed that James lived in Beaufort County at the time of his wedding to Amy, not Onslow County. No known documentation gives the location of James and Amy's marriage, and it may have occurred in either Beaufort, Onslow, or another location in North Carolina. The only connection between James Albritton and the Petit surname comes from the various deeds Albritton made in March 1769, when he purchased several tracts of land from Col. John Simpson. The deeds were witnessed by his son, George Albritton, and Nathan Petit. No other information on Nathan Petit or his family is known.
7. James Albritton's purchase of land in Onslow County from Zachariah Field on 16 January 1750 is the earliest known record for him in Onslow. While it seems reasonable to assume that he made the trip to Onslow at least in late 1749 before making a purchase on 16 January 1750, this is speculation.
8. Onslow County Deed Book C, p. 55 (Zachariah Field to James *"Albriton,"* 8 October 1751).
9. Onslow County Deed Book C, p. 58 (James Albritton to John Christian Heidleborg); p. 63 (John Christian Heidleborg to James Albritton), with both transactions made on 3 April 1752. The 1755 deed in which Albritton sold the 320-acre tract gives the detailed description (see Deed Book D, p. 43).
10. Onslow County Deed Book D, p. 32 (Thomas Rodes to his son and daughter, Solomon and Christian Rodes, 15 July 1754; witnesses *"James Alberton,"* Richard Keen, Henry Rodes).
11. Onslow County Deed Book D, p. 28 (Thomas Rodes to Richard Koon, 18 July 1754; witnesses: *"James Albriton,"* Henry Rodes).
12. Onslow County Deed Book D, p. 34 (Zachariah Field, gunsmith, to Daniel Hicks, 70 acres on Harry's Creek *"on James Albriton line,"* 2 August 1754).
13. Onslow County Deed Book D, p. 35 (Daniel Hicks to Aron Prescoat/Prescot, 70 acres on Harry's Creek, *"being lower part of tract at James Albriton's line,"* 4 January 1755).
14. Maass, John R. *The French & Indian War in North Carolina: The Spreading Flames of War.* Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2013, pp. 15–33.
15. State Archives of North Carolina, Troop Returns. Military Collection. Title: Onslow County. Muster roll of forces retaken. Description: [A muster roll of Onslow militia regiment](#), commanded by Colonel John Starkey in Captain Thomas Hicks company. Date: 25 October 1754. Clark, Walter, ed. *The State Records of North Carolina.* Vol. XXII, Goldsboro, NC: Nash Brothers, 1907, pp. 339–341. There are no known families in Onslow or the surrounding area of this period with the surname of *"Alberton,"* and the surviving Onslow deeds illustrate how frequently the clerks there confused *"Albritton"* with *"Alberton."* The heading of the first page of the original muster roll reads:
North Carolina, Onslow County. A Muster Roll of Forces retaken at Henry Rhodes on Friday the 25th of October 1754. To Serve as Militia in A Regiment of Foote commanded by the Honorable Colonel John Starkey Esq^r in Captain Th^o Hicks own Company.
 The muster roll numbers the soldiers, and on the first page, #2 is *"Thomas Alberton,"* identified as a sergeant, while #28 is *"James Alberton,"* a private. On the second page of the muster roll, the ninety-four privates and four *"Pioneers"* were identified as present by *"Lieutenant James Alberton."*
16. Onslow County Deed Book D, p. 43 (James Albritton Sr. to James Gray, 10 July 1755; witnesses: Henry Rodes, Enoc Ward, John Averitt). The transaction described Albritton's land on the New River as *"near the mouth of Stone's creek joining on Stone's creek Bay and up towards the mill then going over the place and down Muddy Creek to the river."* Albritton sold his land to James Gray of Maryland.
17. Beaufort County NC Deed Book 3, p. 243 (David Cannon, *"Planter,"* to James *"Alberton,"* *"Sadler,"* 27 February 1756). The land description indicates that North Carolina granted the land to Cannon on 11 March 1741. The description gave little other identifying information on the tract other than mentioning a beach tree between Cannon and John Mills Jr. on the property line. Although the Beaufort clerk recorded his surname as *"Alberton"* in this record, when he sold the tract in 1769, the Pitt record identified him as James *"Albrittain,"* the common way

- Pitt clerks wrote the surname in the eighteenth century. In the initial listing of the grantee's name in the document, the clerk wrote that Cannon sold it to "*Samuel Alberton*," but six subsequent references to the grantee in the body of the transaction listed him as "*James Alberton*." The initial reference to "*Samuel*" was undoubtedly a mistake.
18. Ashe, Samuel A., ed. *Biographical History of North Carolina: From the Colonial Times to the Present*. Vol. IV. Greensboro, NC: Van Noppen, 1906, pp. 390–391 (John Simpson). Saunders, William L., ed. *The Colonial Records of North Carolina*. 10 vols. Raleigh, NC: Josephus Daniels, 1886. Vol. VI, pp. 359, 362, 366, 396, 427; XXII, p. 393. John Simpson appeared and was seated as one of the representatives from Beaufort County on 24 April 1760.
 19. Beaufort County NC Court Minutes, Appearance Prosecution, & Trial Docket, Vol. 1 (1756–1761), LDS Film #8655725, Image #127 (March 1758), #130 (John Simpson petitions Court to build water grist mill).
 20. Beaufort County NC Court Minutes, Appearance Prosecution, & Trial Docket, Vol. 2 (1756–1761), LDS Film #8655725, Image #193 (p. 122, June 1759), #198 (p. 125, "*James Alberton*," John Simpson, and Isaac Buck appointed jury to determine the path of a road from the landing on Tar River to the Chicod Bridge).
 21. Clark, Walter, Vol. XXIII, pp. 531–534 (Laws of North Carolina Passed in 1760, Chapter III: "*An Act for Erecting the Upper Part of Beaufort County into a County and Parish, by the Name of Pitt County...*").
 22. Secretary of State Records, State Archives of North Carolina. SSXVIII, Recordkeeping (Misc.): Tax Lists, Box 2, 1762, 1763, 1764 Pitt County NC Tax Lists. James Albritton Sr. paid taxes on "*3 Negros*" in 1762 and 1764. The slaves were not listed on the 1763 tax list. Separate notes on James' sons show their purchase of nearby farms.
 23. North Carolina Grant Book 22, p. 237, Entry #153, Grant #548, #162 (Entry of James Albritton, 14 February 1764, 100 acres of land "*Lying on the head of Taylors Swamp*"). Although the 1764 entry and warrant were made for a grant of 100 acres, when surveyed, it was for only 62 acres. The grant was officially issued to Albritton for this 62-acre tract on 4 February 1773.
 24. North Carolina Land Surveys, #02, 11 December 1765 (surveyed for "*James Alberton*" but never officially granted). The survey was made for "*James Alberton*" for a 100-acre tract on the south side of the Tar River and on the "*South side of the three-Mile branch Beginning at a pine in the branch below James Brooks's Path...*" Given the location of the land and the connections between James Albritton Sr. and James Brooks, "*James Alberton*" was almost certainly our James Albritton Sr. who made this 1765 land entry. On 7 January 1763, James' son, Thomas Albritton, received a grant of land adjoining that of John Brooks (Pitt County NC Deed Book B, pp. 457–461), and on 7 July 1763, Thomas sold a 140-acre tract of land to John Brooks (Pitt County NC Deed Book B, pp. 441–442). John Brooks was the father James Brooks mentioned in the description (relationship proved in Pitt County NC Deed Book C, p. 222, 22 February 1765). Later, Thomas Albritton received land grants adjoining Isaac Brooks in 1778 (North Carolina Grant Book 38, p. 234, Grant #38) and 1779 (Pitt County NC Deed Book G, p. 1, Grant #38). Isaac's precise connection to James and John Brooks is unclear.
 25. Pitt County NC Deed Book D, pp. 67–68 (James "*Albrittain*" to John Simpson, 4 March 1769; witnesses: George Albritton, Nathan Petit). The land description clearly identifies this as the identical 500-acre tract granted to David Cannon on 11 March 1740 and sold in 1756 to James Albritton, although like in the 1756 description, few identifying descriptors are mentioned other than the line began at a beach tree between Albritton and John Mills Jr. This deed and the others on pp. 68–71 all list James Albritton as a "*Saddler*" and John Simpson as a "*Merchant*."
 26. Pitt County NC Deed Book D, p. 68 (John Simpson to James "*Albrittain*," 4 March 1769; witnesses: George Albritton, Nathan Petit). Simpson received a patent for this 100-acre tract on 16 November 1764.
 27. Pitt County NC Deed Book D, p. 69 (John Simpson to James "*Albrittain*," 4 March 1769; witnesses: Solomon Bareses, Cason Casas).
 28. Pitt County NC Deed Book D, p. 70 (John Simpson to James "*Albrittain*," 4 March 1769; witnesses: George Albritton, Nath. "*Pettit*"). This 200-acre tract lay on the south side of Tar River, lower side of Cross Swamp, and south side of Chicod Swamp, and adjoined "*one of the Swamps of Chicod*," a reference to what was then known as Taylor Swamp, later Cow Swamp. The quoted wording here comes directly from the original grant to Burney; see North Carolina Grant Book 5, p. 325 (North Carolina to Simon Burney, 4 April 1749).
 29. Pitt County NC Deed Book D, p. 71 (John Simpson to James "*Albrittain*," 4 March 1769; witnesses: George Albritton, "*Nath Pettit*").
 30. Clark, Walter, Vol. XXIII, pp. 865–866 (Laws of North Carolina Passed in 1771, Chapter XVIII: "*An Act for laying out a Town on the Land of Richard Evans, in Pitt County, by the name of Martinborough*"); Vol. XXIV, pp. 867–869 (Laws of North Carolina Passed in 1786, Chapter LXVII: "*An Act for Establishing an academy at the Place Heretofore called Martinborough, in the County of Pitt; and for Altering the Name of Martinborough to That of Greenville.*"
 31. North Carolina Grant Book 20, p. 708, Grant #119, #141; Grant Book 20, p. 709, Grant #121, #143 (Pitt County, NC Deputy Surveyor J. G. Blount surveys two warrants for Col. John Simpson; James and Peter Albritton, chain bearers, 5 November 1771). Issue date on both grants: 14 November 1771. The grant papers give the chain bearer's name as "*James Albritton*," with no indication as to whether it was the younger or older man. James Albritton Jr. lived north of the Tar River, while the farms of James Albritton Sr. and his son, Peter, adjoined Simpsons'. This suggests that it was James Albritton Sr. who served as chain bearer, not his namesake son.

32. North Carolina Grant Book 22, p. 237, Entry #153, Grant #548, #162 (On 1 July 1772, Pitt County Surveyor J. G. Blount surveyed for James "*Albriton*" 62 acres adjoining his own land and "*on the Cow Swamp*").
33. Pitt County NC Deed Book F, pp. 75–77 (Thomas, James, Peter, and Matthew Albritton to George Albritton, 25 May 1774); Deed Book H, p. 140 (Henry Albritton to Joshua Martin, 20 April 1781). The deed on 25 May 1774 proves James Albritton's will had been filed and his lands put into the possession of his legatees. The 1781 deed shows that James Albritton left the 62-acre tract to his son, Henry. James must have been alive when the surveyor prepared the survey for the 62 acres on 1 July 1772, and since his will gave this land to his youngest son, he probably wrote his will after the survey was completed. It is unclear if we can be assured that he lived after the patent was issued to him on 4 February 1773.
34. Pitt County NC Book H, p. 140 (Henry Albritton to Joshua Martin, 20 April 1781). Henry Albritton sold the precise 62 acres granted to James Albritton on 4 February 1773 (the land description given in the deed is identical to that of the July 1772 survey). The deed states of this 62-acre tract, "*it being patented by James Alberton [sic] and by him conveyed or given to his Son Henry Alberton [sic]...*" While this deed does not specifically mention that James left the land to Henry in his will, other deeds referenced below verify that James left a will.
35. Pitt County NC Deed Book I, pp. 253–255 (Richard "*Albrittain*" to Joshua Kemp, 18 March 1784). Richard Albritton sold two tracts of land, one of 100 acres and the other of 50 acres, that had been sold by John Simpson to James Albritton on 4 March 1769, "*and by my father's last will and Testament Bequeathed unto me.*"
36. Pitt County NC Deed Book F, pp. 75–77 (Thomas, James, Peter, and Matthew Albritton to George Albritton, 25 May 1774). The four Albritton brothers sold a 200-acre tract "*on one of the Swamps of Chicod*" (Cow Swamp) that John Simpson had sold to James Albritton Sr. on 4 March 1769 and "*by James Albritton Senr. Conveyd by his last Will and testament to us his four Sons to Wit Thomas, James, Peter, and Mathew Albritton.*" There is nothing in the deed that specifically states that James Albritton Sr. also left the 200-acre tract to George. The document states that he left it to the elder four who sold their interest to George. The four sold their share to George for £90, while when George sold the tract on 3 October 1778, he received £400 "*Carolina Currency.*" Inflation could explain the larger compensation he received, but the deed seems to imply that George also had an interest in the property.
37. Pitt County NC Deed Book F, pp. 140–141 (John and "*Ami*" Robinson to George Albritton, guardian of Henry Albritton, minor, 10 September 1775). This document proves that in his will, James Albritton Sr. left his wife, Amy, a lifetime interest in his 280-acre home plantation, and after her death, the tract went to Henry.
38. Pitt County NC Deed Book H, p. 140 (Henry "*Alberton*" to Joshua Martin, 20 April 1781); Deed Book I, pp. 333–335 (Henry "*Albrittain*" to Moses Moore, 25 October 1781); Deed Book I, pp. 332–333 (Henry "*Albrittain*" to Moses Moore, 29 October 1781). On 20 April 1781, for £25, Henry sold the 62-acre tract granted to his father in 1773 that was "*conveyed or given to his Son Henry Alberton.*" This deed does not specifically state that James gave it to Henry in his will, but Pitt County deeds are extant, and no recorded deed shows James giving land to any of his sons. On 25 October 1781, for £200, Henry sold the 280-acre home plantation of James Albritton Sr., with the deed stating that it was "*Conveyd by James Albritton by a Will to the said Henry Albrittain.*" On 29 October 1781, for £100, Henry sold a 20-acre tract of land "*conveyd by James Albrittain to Henry Albritton by Will...*"
39. Secretary of State Records, State Archives of North Carolina. SSXVIII, Recordkeeping (Misc.): Tax Lists, Box 2, 1775 Pitt County NC Tax List, Capt. William Burney's District, #65: John Robinson. Saunders, Vol. X, pp. 255–256. Although the North Carolina State Archives designates it as a "*tax list*," the original document contains the heading, "*A List of the Inhabitants of Pitt County Taken by order of the Continental & Provincial Congress August 25th, 1775.*" Instead of a tax list, this is the surviving census of this district, as ordered by the North Carolina Provincial Congress on 25 August 1775, and as recorded in the proceedings of the Pitt County Safety Committee the next month, directed by the chairman, Col. John Simpson (see Saunders, pp. 255–256). The document shows that John Robinson's household included only one white male, himself, so Henry must have lived with George, his guardian. While Thomas and Richard Albritton are listed along with John Robinson in Capt. William Burney's District, neither George nor Peter are listed. They appear to have resided in a neighboring district, and that census does not exist.
40. 1790 Pitt County NC Federal Census, p. 458/35, column 2, #51: Amy Robeson; #53: Peter Albritton; p. 459/36, column 1, #21: Henry Albritton.

Children of James Albritton Sr.

1. Pitt County NC Deed Book F, pp. 75–77 (Thomas, James, Peter, and Mathew Albritton to George Albritton, 25 May 1774; witnesses: Richard Albritton, John Simpson). This document describes the sale of the 200-acre tract of land that James Albritton Sr. had purchased from Col. John Simpson on 4 March 1769,
...and by James Albritton Senr Convyd by his last Will and testament to us his four Sons to Wit. Thomas James Peter and Mathew Albritton.

This document proves that Thomas, James, Matthew, and Peter Albritton are sons of James Albritton Sr., and it implies, but does not literally state, that George Albritton who purchased the tract was another son.

2. Clark, Vol. XXII, pp. 339–341. Onslow County NC Land Grant Book A, p. 149 (North Carolina to “*Thomas Alberton*,” 27 September 1756). Onslow County NC Deed Book E, p. 24 (Thomas “*Allbritton*” to William Richards, 13 December 1756). North Carolina Warrant #240, Number #090 (Warrant issued 10 April 1779, transferred to Levi Nobles on 1 April 1784). Pitt County NC Deed Book H, pp. 170–171 (Henry Albritton to Thomas Albritton, 14 November 1781). These records suggest that Thomas Albritton’s birth occurred between about 1726 and 1735:
 - a. Although the precise marriage date for James and Elizabeth Albritton is unknown, it appears they married in 1725 or 1726. While we have no definitive evidence that Thomas was the eldest son of his parents, the Onslow land records show that he began acquiring his own lands in 1756, four years earlier than the earliest-known land purchase made by any of his brothers. This would place Thomas’ birth after about 1726.
 - b. For Thomas Albritton to have served as a sergeant in October 1754 probably means he had reached the age of at least 18–20, suggesting that his birth occurred no later than about 1735.
 - c. Thomas engaged in land transactions in 1756, including obtaining a land grant. This suggests that he had already reached the age of twenty-one. This also indicates his birth occurred no later than about 1735.
 These records pinpoint Thomas Albritton’s death between 14 November 1781 and 1 April 1784:
 - d. Thomas Albritton purchased land from his brother, Henry, on 14 November 1781.
 - e. On 1 April 1784, Matthew Albritton signed a document stating that Thomas Albritton had died and left 250 acres of his land grant to his son, Matthew, and 50 acres of it to John Albritton and a Mr. Matthews. The Albrittons endorsed the warrant to Levi Nobles.
3. Clark, Vol. XXII, pp. 339–341. North Carolina Grant Book 84, p. 383. Entry #268, Grant #1147, File #1177 (State of North Carolina to James Albritton and John Cherry; entered 26 December 1793; surveyed 5 January 1794; granted 1 December 1794). Pitt County NC Deed Book N, p. 169 (James Albritton to Jonathan Albritton, 25 May 1793; witness: Adam Albritton); Deed Book O, p. 469 (Pitt County Commissioners divide lands of “*Peter Albritton, Dec^d*,” 1 July 1799). James Albritton Jr. appears to have been the “*Private James Alberton*” who served in the Onslow County Militia on 25 October 1754, along with “*Sergeant Thomas Alberton*” and “*Lieutenant James Alberton*,” believed to have been his older brother and father. His higher rank implies that Thomas was the elder son of James Albritton Sr., and to have served in the militia in October 1754 suggests that James Jr. had reached the age of at least sixteen years, meaning that his birth occurred no later than about 1738. This leaves a wide potential age range for James Jr.’s birth, 1728–1738 (probably closer to 1730–1735). James Albritton Jr. sold land to his nephew, Jonathan Albritton, in May 1793 and filed an entry for a grant in December 1793 that was officially granted him on 1 December 1794. A few years later, part of this land grant was owned by James’ brother, Peter Albritton, who left it to his children in his will written about 1797 or 1798. No recorded deed shows James conveying the land to his brother, but it appears that James Jr. either left it to Peter in his will or Peter inherited it as his heir. In either case, this implies that James Albritton Jr. died about 1795.
4. Clark, Vol. XXII, pp. 339–341. Beaufort County NC Deed Book 3, pp. 459–460 (Edward Cannon to Matthew “*Albriton*,” 25 January 1760). Onslow County NC Deed Book B-1, pp. 273–274 (Matthew “*Allbritton*” to Wm. Sanders, 8 April 1784); Deed Book B-1, pp. 272–273 (Matthew Albritton to William Sanders, 10 April 1784). The scarcity of North Carolina records makes it unclear if Matthew or James Jr. were the second-eldest son of their parents. First, Matthew’s absence from the 1754 Onslow County Militia list is difficult to interpret. His birth could have occurred in the latter 1720s or early 1730s, and he may have remained in Beaufort County while his father and two brothers, Thomas and James, moved to Onslow in the latter 1740s. Alternatively, Matthew’s birth could have occurred about 1739 or possibly as late as 1740, making him too young to serve in the Onslow County militia in 1754 as did his father and brothers, Thomas and James. The Beaufort County deed proves that Matthew had reached legal age by January 1760, implying that his birth occurred no later than about 1739 or 1740. There is no further record of him after his land sales in Onslow County in April 1784.
5. Lomas, pp. 164–165. Secretary of State Records, State Archives of North Carolina. SSXVIII, Recordkeeping (Misc.): Tax Lists, Box 2, 1762, 1763, 1764 Pitt County NC Tax Lists. Saunders, Vol. V, p. 565; Vol. VII, pp. 472, 487. Parker, Coralie. *The History of Taxation in North Carolina during the Colonial Period: 1663–1776*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1928, pp. 121–123. Pitt County NC Deed Book C, pp. 134–135 (Francis Buck to Peter “*Albrittain*,” 20 June 1764); Deed Book O, p. 469 (Pitt County Commissioners divide lands of “*Peter Albritton, Dec^d*,” 1 July 1799). The following somewhat conflicting items suggest that Peter Albritton was born about 1740–1742:
 - a. Mrs. Lomas published a list of birthdates for most of the known children of Peter Albritton, with the earliest, Samuel Albritton, born on 2 April 1759. If accurate and the baby conceived after marriage, Peter married no later than July 1758. Even in that era of young marriages, surely Peter married no younger than about sixteen, which means he was born no later than about 1742.
 - b. Peter Albritton purchased a 200-acre tract of land on 20 June 1764, seemingly suggesting that he had by this time passed the age of twenty-one years.
 - c. 1762–1764 Pitt County Tax Lists:

- **1762** – Peter’s father and brothers, James Sr., Thomas, Matthew, and James Albritton Jr., all paid Pitt County poll taxes in 1762, but Peter and George did not.
- **1763/1764** – Peter and George Albritton both paid a poll tax in 1763 and 1764, with Peter living in his separate household while George still lived as a member of his father’s household, James Albritton Sr.

Uncertainty regarding North Carolina’s precise regulations regarding poll taxes makes it difficult to draw firm conclusions from these tax records. The surviving records from the colonial period give contradictory information on precisely how North Carolina’s government defined a white poll:

- Saunders, Vol. V, p. 565: *“The White Tithables are only the Males from 18 years and upw’ds. Women and those under the Age of 18, both Males and Females are not tithed...”* [1754–1756]
- Saunders, Vol. VII, p. 487: *“In every county in the province there is a Sheriff who is an officer of trust and importance in the country. This officer is furnished with a list of all the taxable persons in his county, that is all the white males above sixteen years of age and all mollattoes [sic], masters and slaves male and female above the age of twelve...”* [Report of Gov. Tryon on North Carolina, 1767].
- Coralie Parker states, in reference to taxable and taxes paid between 1748 and 1770 in North Carolina, *“Although these were poll taxes, not all records of the laws imposing these taxes are in existence.”*

This ambiguity regarding the minimum age at which North Carolina law required a white male to begin paying a poll tax makes it difficult to determine a precise approximation of when the births of Peter and George Albritton. Even if the minimum age of eighteen were used, using their absence from the 1762 tax list to imply neither had yet reached eighteen years would place their births after 1744, and this seems too late given the other records. Perhaps the Sheriff only assessed poll taxes on males aged twenty-one and over in 1762, which would place Peter’s about 1742. On 1 July 1799, the Pitt County Court accepted the division of Peter’s real estate on Grindle Creek among his heirs made by the court’s commissioners, and it stated that the division had been ordered at the April 1799 court term. This proves that Peter Albritton’s death occurred prior to that, in about 1798 or early 1799.

6. Secretary of State Records, State Archives of North Carolina. SSXVIII, Recordkeeping (Misc.): Tax Lists, Box 2, 1762, 1763, 1764 Pitt County NC Tax Lists. Ratcliff, Clarence E., compiler. *North Carolina Taxpayers, 1701–1786*. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing, 1984, p. 2. Saunders, Vol. V, p. 565; Vol. VII, pp. 472, 487. Pitt County NC Deed Book C, pp. 356–357 (John O’Brian to George “Albrittain,” 3 November 1766; witnessed by Mathew “Albriton”). Pitt County NC Deed Book F, pp. 75–77 (Thomas, James, Peter, and Mathew Albritton to George Albritton, 25 May 1774; witnesses: Richard Albritton, John Simpson); Deed Book F, pp. 140–141 (John and “Ami” Robinson to George Albritton, guardian of Henry Albritton, minor, 10 September 1775). *“Augusta Chronicle”* (Augusta, GA), 8 December 1810, p. 4, column 1. George’s listing in the household of James Albritton Sr. on the 1763 and 1764 tax lists, his purchasing the land from his brothers in 1774, and serving as guardian for Henry all prove that George was a son of James, even though George was not specifically identified as his son in the 1774 deed like his four elder brothers were. The somewhat conflicting available records make a definitive determination of when George’s birth occurred difficult, but they suggest it occurred between about 1742–1745:
 - a. The original 1762 Pitt County NC Tax List does **not** contain the name of George Albritton, contrary to the information published in Ratcliff, who presumably made an error.
 - b. George does appear on the 1763 and 1764 tax lists, living in the household of James Albritton Sr. See the note #5 above for a discussion of the ambiguity of at what age North Carolina law required the county Sheriff to assess a poll tax on white males. If the Pitt County sheriff failed to follow Provincial law and only assessed poll taxes on males over twenty-one, this would place George’s birth about 1742.
 - c. George purchased his own land on 3 November 1766, presumably indicating that he had reached the age of about twenty-one years and placing his birth no later than about 1745.

See the previous note for a discussion of the ambiguity regarding how North Carolina defined a white poll. The 1810 newspaper proves that George Albritton died in Burke County about 1810, for by 17 November 1810, the Burke County Court had appointed Amos Albritton and Verity Farmer as the administrators of George’s estate.

7. Secretary of State Records, State Archives of North Carolina. SSXVIII, Recordkeeping (Misc.): Tax Lists, Box 2, 1762, 1763, 1764, 1775 Pitt County NC Tax Lists. Pitt County NC Deed Book F, pp. 75–77 (Thomas, James, Peter, and Matthew Albritton to George Albritton, 25 May 1774; witness: Richard Albritton); Deed Book I, pp. 253–255 (Richard Albritton to Joshua Kemp, 18 March 1784). Saunders, Vol. VII, pp. 472, 487. Lomas, pp. 12, 209. Albritton, pp. 34, 44. St. Helena Parish LA Succession File A-2, Richard Albritton (Will of Richard Albritton, written 30 March 1816, filed in court 13 September 1817). The March 1784 deed proves that Richard was the son of James Albritton Sr., for Richard sold 150 acres of land that James had purchased on 4 March 1769 *“...and by my father’s last will and Testament Bequeathed unto me.”* Although both Lomas and Albritton gave Richard Albritton’s birth in 1745, no known documentary evidence supports his birth occurring that early. The following records suggest that Richard’s birth occurred 1747–1755:
 - a. In 1764, James Albritton Sr. did not pay a poll tax for Richard Albritton. Uncertainty regarding when North Carolina required payment of a poll tax makes it unclear how to use Richard’s absence to determine his

approximate birth. It does, however, confirm him as younger than Thomas, James Jr., Matthew, Peter, and George Albritton.

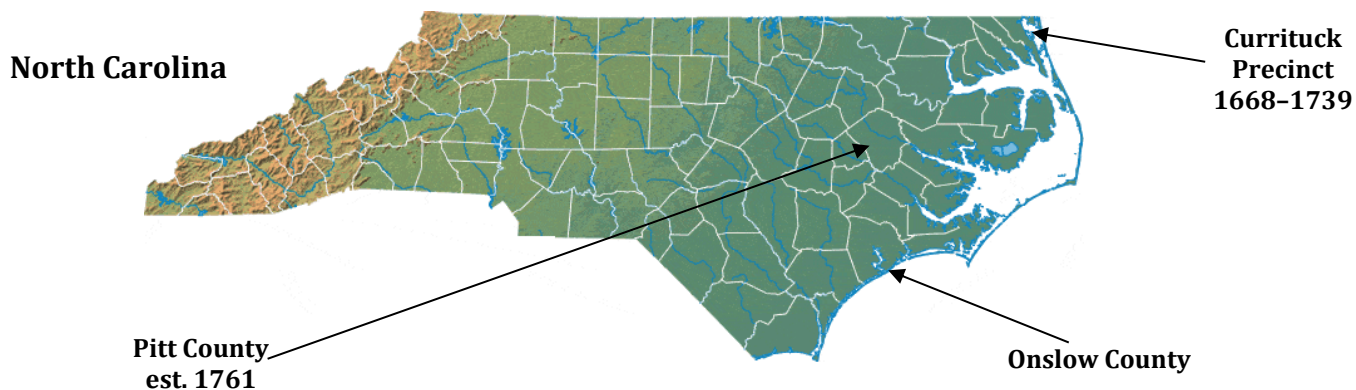
- b. In the document filed in the North Carolina States Archives as the "1775 Pitt County Tax List," Capt. William Burney's District includes #13: "*Rich^d Albritton*." Although the North Carolina State Archives designates it as a "tax list," the original document contains the heading, "*A List of the Inhabitants of Pitt County Taken by order of the Continental & Provincial Congress August 25th, 1775*." Instead of a tax list, this is the surviving census of this district, as ordered by the North Carolina Provincial Congress on 25 August 1775, and as recorded in the proceedings of the Pitt County Safety Committee the next month, directed by the chairman, Col. John Simpson (Saunders, Vol. X, pp. 255–256). The document shows that Richard Albritton was then a "*White male of age*," with his 1775 household consisting of an adult white couple and one young male slave. This is difficult to accurately interpret but seemingly implies that he had reached the age of twenty-one.
 - c. On 25 May 1774, Richard witnessed a deed in which his older brothers sold land. He had probably passed the age of eighteen years of age by May 1774 to have witnessed a deed, putting his birth prior to about 1756. Richard Albritton wrote his will on 30 March 1816, and his children filed it with the St. Helena Parish Court on 13 September 1817. Thus, he must have died shortly before 13 September 1817.
8. Pitt County NC Deed Book F, pp. 140–141 (John and Ami Robinson to George "*Albrittain*," 10 September 1775); Deed Book H, pp. 85–86 (Thomas Albritton to Henry Albritton, 14 November 1780); Deed Book H, p. 140 (Henry Albritton to Joshua Martin, 20 April 1781); Deed Book I, pp. 333–335 (Henry "*Albritain*" to Moses Moore, 25 October 1781); Deed Book I, pp. 332–333 (Henry "*Albritain*" to Moses Moore, 29 October 1781). 1800 Pitt County NC Federal Census, p. 253, #12: Henry Albritton. 1810 Pitt County NC Federal Census, p. 242b, #5: Henry Albritton. Lomas, pp. 12, 265. Albritton, pp. 34, 47. Treasurer and Comptroller, State Archives of North Carolina. Box 7, 1815 Pitt County NC Tax List. "*American Recorder*" (Washington, NC), 7 May 1824, p. 3, column 2. The 1781 deeds prove that James Albritton named Henry as his son in his will. The April 1781 deed states that Henry sells the 62-acre tract granted to James Albritton in 1773, "*and by him conveyed or given to his Son Henry Alberton as will appear*." The October 1781 deeds both state that Henry Albritton was selling land acquired by James Albritton, who himself conveyed the land "*by a Will to the said Henry Albrittain*." Three sources suggest that the birth of Henry Albritton occurred between about 1755 and 1759:
- a. The 10 September 1775 deed shows that Henry was still a minor on that date with a court-appointed guardian. This verifies that the 1748 birth year given in the publications of Lomas and Albritton is incorrect. As Henry was not yet twenty-one on that date, his birth occurred no earlier than late 1754.
 - b. In November 1780, Henry purchased land in his own right, indicating that he had by then passed the age of twenty-one years.
 - c. The 1800 census enumerator recorded Henry's age as forty-five or older, placing his birth in 1755 or earlier. The first items two pinpoint Henry's birth between about 1755 and 1759, while his age on the 1800 census puts it as prior to 1755. While these records conflict, census age brackets are notoriously inaccurate, and his age implied by the court records is a more reliable estimate than the census. Accepting that his birth occurred in the range of 1755–1759, this clearly makes him the son of James' second wife, Amy, to whom James had already married by November 1750. Henry Albritton was still alive in 1810, but he was not listed on the 1815 Pitt County tax list. The 1824 newspaper article lists Henry Albritton of Pitt County as delinquent in his 1816 Direct Tax, but not his 1815 tax. The newspaper article stated that by an Act of Congress, "*...the time for redeeming the same has been extended until the 3d of March, 1825*." This suggests that Henry died about 1815.
9. Albritton, p. 33. There is absolutely no documentary evidence to indicate James Albritton Sr. had a son by the name of "*John Albritton*," born in 1726 in Virginia, as indicated in Mr. Bobby Albritton's work. This claim seems without any basis in the historical record.
10. Albritton, pp. 33–34, 43–44. There is no known documentary evidence in either Pitt County, North Carolina, or Georgia that supports the claim made by Mr. Albritton that James Albritton had a daughter, Ann, who married Benjamin Lanier, and that they later moved to Screven County, Georgia. He gives no evidence, either conclusive or circumstantial, to support the claim that Benjamin Lanier's wife was an Albritton, let alone the daughter of James Sr. This claim appears to be merely an unsubstantiated conjecture.
11. Lomas, p. 12. McSwain, p. 74. Albritton, pp. 33–34. Lomas and Albritton stated as a documented fact that Thomas, James, Matthew, Peter, and George are sons of Elizabeth, while Richard and Henry are sons of Amy. On the other hand, McSwain, in another of her typically diplomatic and astute observations, writes:
- "The first five sons are said to be the children of James and Elizabeth Albritton and the last two sons are said to be the children of James and Amy Albritton."*
- Lomas was one of a group of active Albritton researchers in the 1960s and 1970s, and she mentions the contributions of her collaborators in her work. Lomas' statements suggest that these researchers accepted without question that Richard was Amy's son. However, they placed his birth in 1745, even though Elizabeth Albritton was still alive on 7 November 1744. Mr. Bobby Albritton appears to have accepted Lomas' information, as he listed no

evidence for his identification of Amy as Richard's mother and used the 1745 birth published in Lomas. Additional documentation is necessary to determine the identity of Richard's mother with certainty, and such documentation may not exist.

12. References to the deeds showing James Albritton making his mark are given earlier. Accompanying notes on James' sons and grandsons show their signatures on their own legal records and associations with one another.

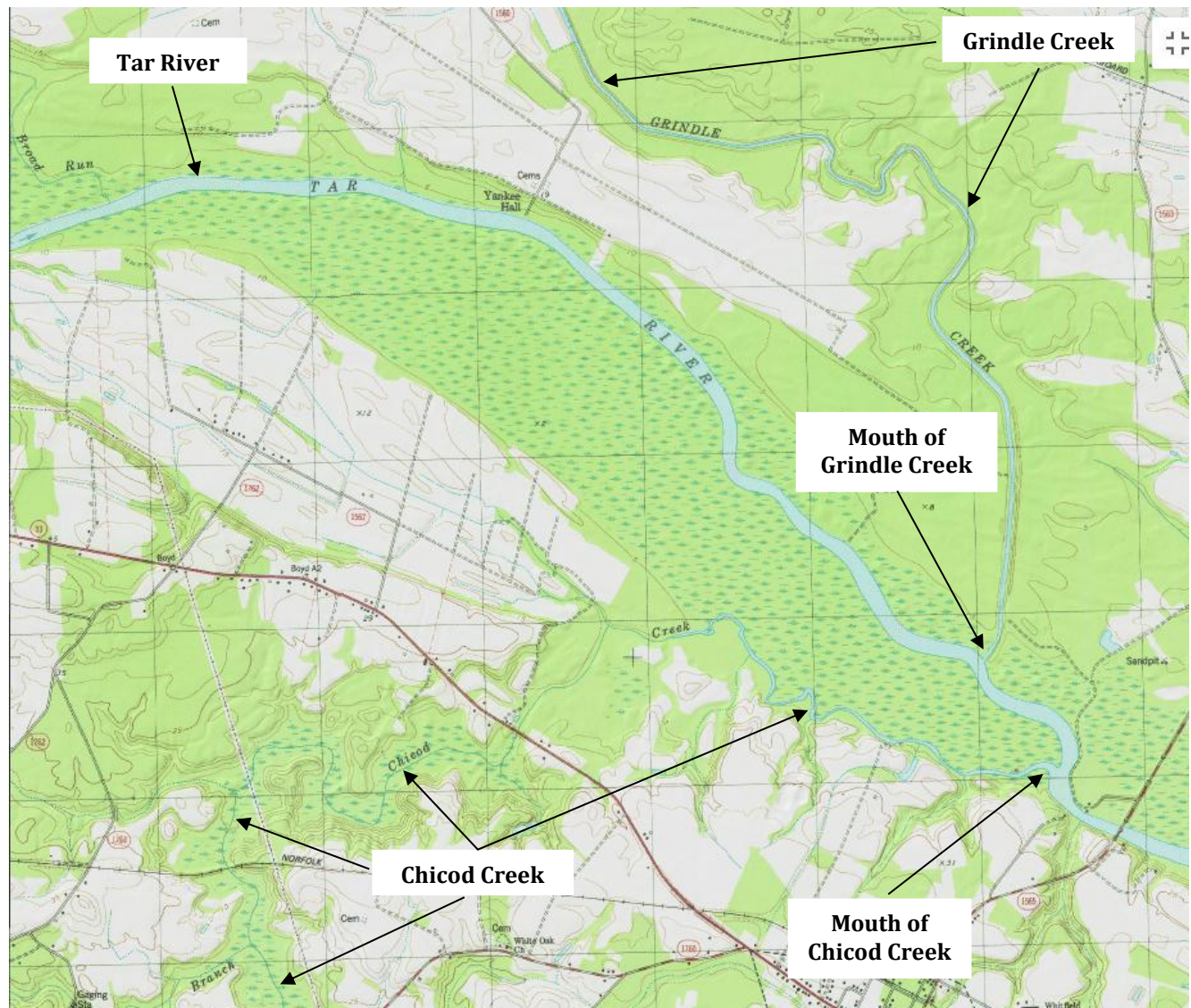
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North Carolina Maps Showing Residences of James Albritton Sr.



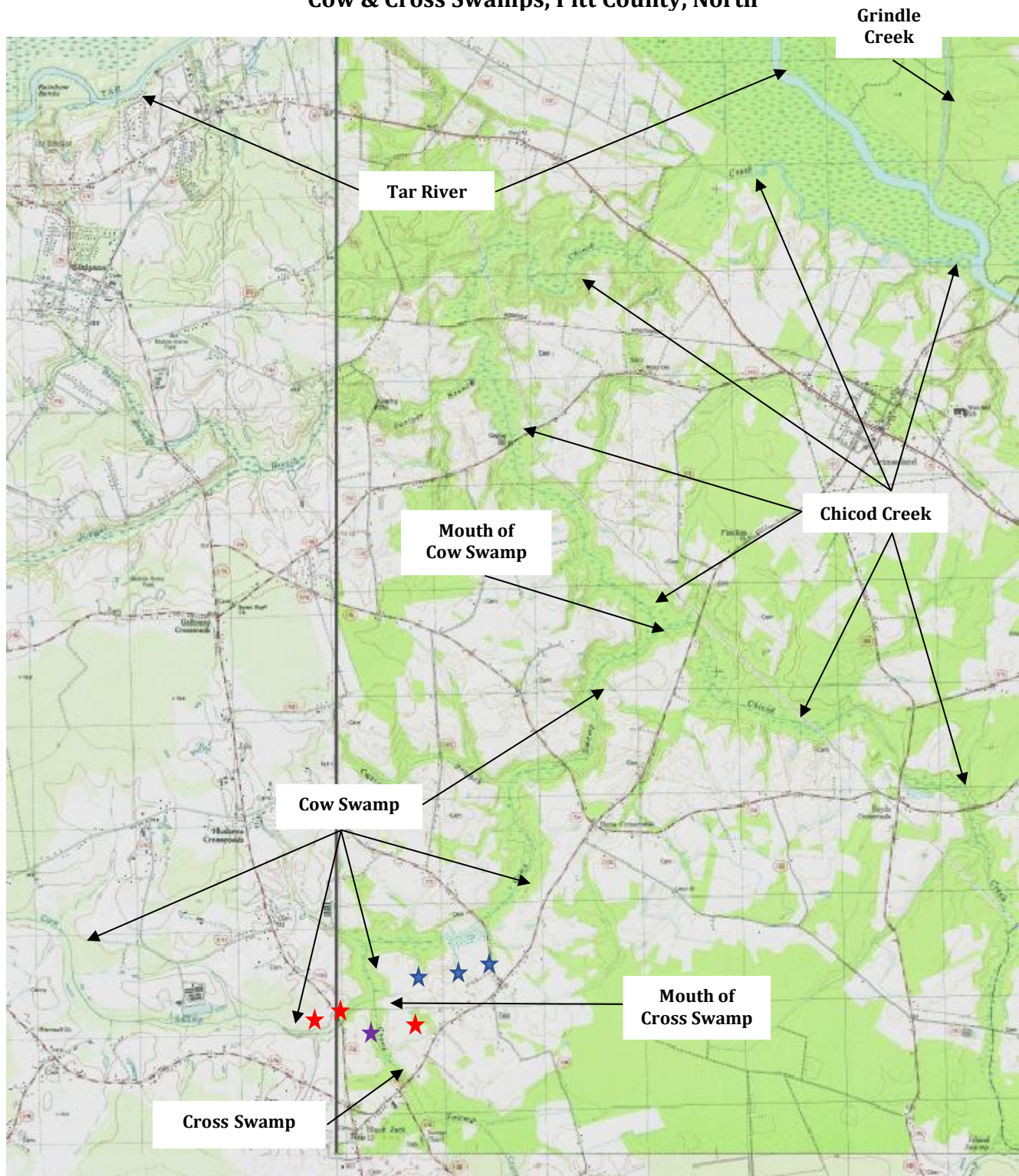
James Albritton moved into Currituck Precinct from Virginia about 1709 as a young boy, but his parents moved back into Virginia between 1711 and 1715. In 1745, James and Elizabeth Albritton moved their family from Virginia to what is now Pitt County. James moved to the southern North Carolina coast in the latter 1740s, living on the New River in Onslow County. In 1755 he returned to his former home on the Tar River in present-day eastern Pitt County, North Carolina.

Eastern Pitt County, North



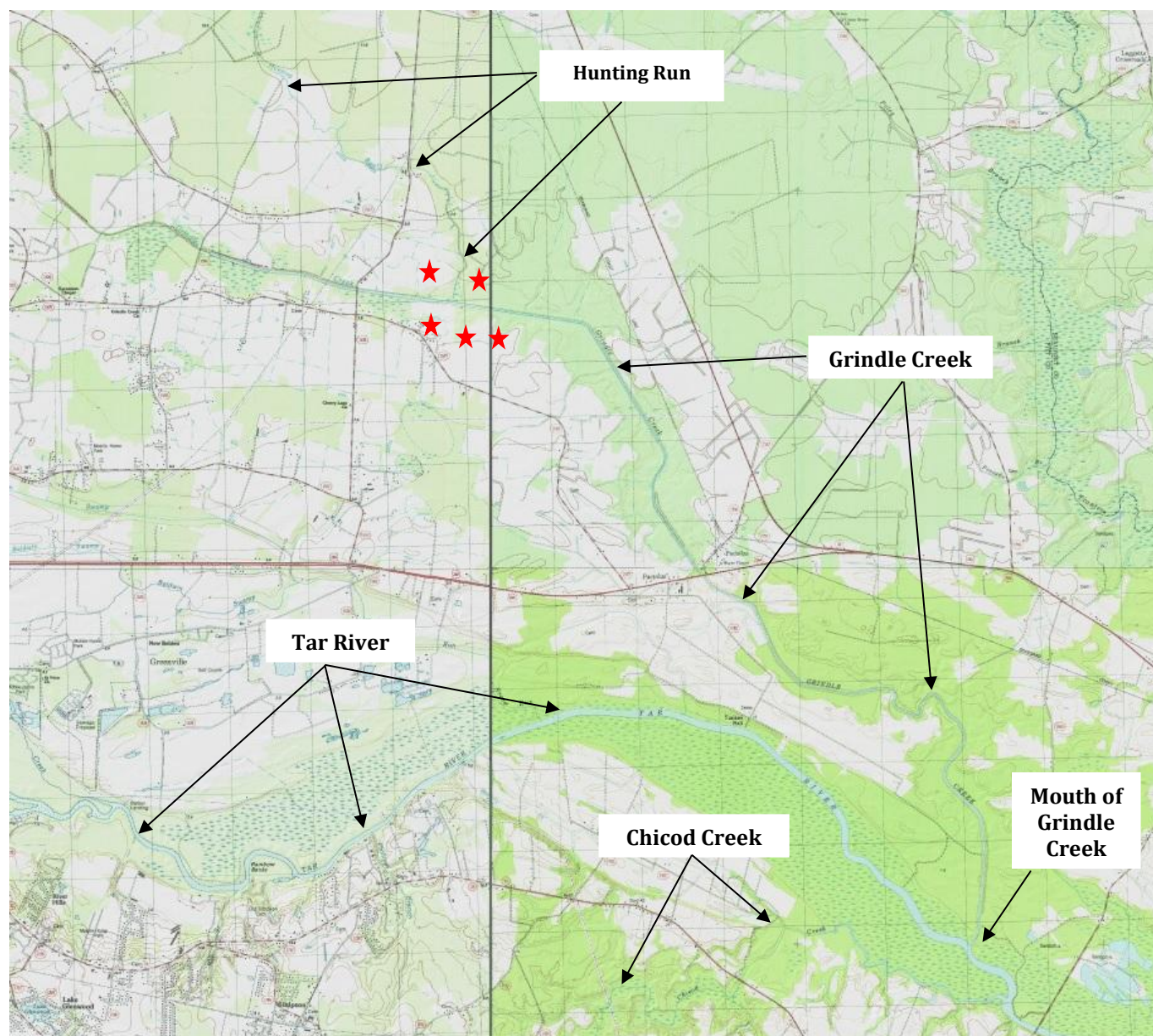
When James Albritton Sr. first arrived in eastern North Carolina in 1745, he purchased a 500-acre tract of land between the Tar River and Grindle Creek, living there until about 1749, when he moved to the southern North Carolina coast for a few years. When he returned in 1755, he bought a 500-acre tract on the south side of the Tar River, on Chicod Creek, and most of James' sons lived near him, on the south side of the Tar. Only his son, James Albritton Jr., settled on the north side, on a farm between the Tar River and Grindle Creek, the location where James Albritton Sr. lived between 1745 and 1749. In 1769, James Albritton Sr. sold his 500-acre farm and bought a 980-acre tract of land on Cow Swamp, a branch of Chicod Creek located just south of where the creek exits the bottom of the above map.

Cow & Cross Swamps, Pitt County, North



In 1769, James Albritton Sr. purchased a 980-acre tract of land on Cow Swamp. His 280-acre primary home farm lay on the southeastern side of Cow Swamp, approximately the location of the blue stars. His lands extended across Cow Swamp and down Cross Swamp, approximately the location of the red stars. In 1764 and 1768, James' son, Peter Albritton, purchased adjoining land on Cow and Cross Swamps, and in 1781 he obtained a 100-acre grant at the location of the purple star. In 1785, Peter obtained part of his father's old farm, and he lived on Cow Swamp until his death.

Grindle Creek & Hunting Run, Pitt County,



When he moved to the North Carolina Province in 1745, James Albritton Sr. purchased a 500-acre plantation between Grindle Creek and the Tar River. He sold that tract in 1750 when he moved to the North Carolina coast, and upon his return in 1756, he settled on a plantation south of the river, on Cow Swamp, a branch of Chicod Creek. Although six of his seven sons also settled south of the river, in 1760, one son, James Albritton, Jr., settled along on the south side of Grindle Creek, near the confluence of Grindle Creek and Hunting Run. By the 1780s, it appears that the Grindle Creek location became a more desirable region than south of the river, as Peter Albritton's children gradually left their father and grandfather's plantations on Cow Swamp and moved across the river to join their uncle on Grindle Creek. Peter himself obtained land from his brother, James Albritton Sr., and in his will left it to his children who had moved across the river. By 1800, only Peter's sons Enoch and Peter Albritton Jr. remained on the old plantations of their father and grandfather on Cow Swamp, and both emigrated from Pitt County by 1808. Thus, while the eighteenth century Albrittons lived near one another south of the Tar River along Cow and Cross Swamps, nineteenth century Albrittons, descendants of Peter, all lived north of the Tar along Grindle Creek, near the red stars on the map above, a region that soon became known as Pactolus community.

