

**James Albritton Jr.**  
**(1728/1738-c1795)**  
**of**  
**Grindle Creek, Pitt County, North Carolina,**  
**Son of [James Albritton Sr.](#)**

**by Timothy Dean Hudson**

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## The Life of James Albritton Jr.

James Albritton Jr. was the son of [James Albritton Sr.](#) and his first wife, Elizabeth [1]. He was born while lived in Princess Anne County, Virginia. James Albritton Jr. is undoubtedly the most confusing of the sons of his parents due to persistent undocumented claims about his wife and children and confusion caused by the multiple males with his given name in the Pitt County records.

Both born between about 1728 and 1738, it remains unclear whether James or Matthew was the second-eldest son of their parents. James' birth could have occurred as early as the latter 1720s, probably sometime after Thomas', or as late as 1738. We believe that he is the "*James Alberton*" who served as a private in the Onslow County Militia on 25 October 1754, along with "*Lieutenant James Alberton*" and "*Thos. Alberton, Sergeant*," believed to be his father and older brother. A militia official recorded their surnames as "*Alberton*," a common occurrence among Onslow County court officials. In each such instance in the Onslow, subsequent records verify that the surname was actually "*Albritton*." For him to have served in the militia in October 1754, the younger James had probably reached the age of at least sixteen years by then, placing his birth no later than about 1738 [2].

We do not know if James Albritton Jr. returned from the southeastern North Carolina coast to the Tar River with his father by early 1756 or if he remained with his older brother, Thomas, in Onslow County for several more years before joining his father in eastern North Carolina [3]. On 30 June 1760, James "*Alberton*" served as a chain carrier, assisting Beaufort County deputy surveyor James Ellison in surveying a 700-acre tract of land on Grindle Creek for Ebenezer Folsom, a tract that adjoined the lands of John Cason, James Barrow, Whichard, and Cherry. The Provincial Government officially granted Folsom the tract on 4 March 1761, by which time the region had become Pitt County [4]. Ebenezer Folsom sold a portion of his grant to James Albritton Jr. later in 1761. Given that he resided next to the men that Folsom's land adjoined for the next three decades, James Albritton Jr. is undoubtedly the young man who worked as a chain carrier helping to survey this tract for Folsom the previous year [5].

The land that James Albritton Jr. bought in 1761 lay on Grindle Creek near the mouth of Hunting Run, a region on the north side of the Tar River near where his father had settled in 1745 when the Albrittons first arrived in eastern North Carolina from Virginia. The younger James spent his life on Grindle Creek. In contrast, when James Albritton Sr. returned to Beaufort County in 1755, he settled south of the Tar River. The elder James bought land that lay along Cow and Cross Swamps that feed into Chicod Creek, which empties into the Tar River from the south side of the

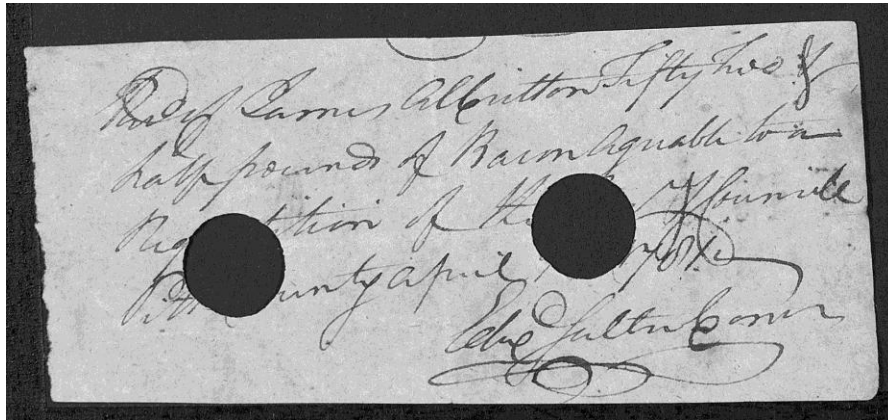
river, one half-mile downstream from the mouth of Grindle Creek, which flows into the Tar from the north side. All the other sons of James Albritton Sr. settled near their father on the south side of the Tar, on various tributaries of Chicod Creek. This region on the south side of the river formed Pitt County's population center during the 1760–1795 period, with the original county seat of Martinsborough located near the Albritton farms. This shows that James Albritton Jr. lived at a distinct and more remote location than the rest of his family.

James Albritton Jr. paid Pitt County taxes on one white poll and one slave in 1762, 1763, and 1764 [6]. On 11 September 1764, for £30 he sold 50 acres of land on the "*Great Pond*" that he had purchased from Ebenezer Folsom in 1761 to Matthias Moore [7]. On that same day, Albritton purchased 200 acres of land on the south side of Grindle Creek from James Cason for £59. His new land adjoined the lands of Archibald Adams and John James, and John Cason witnessed the purchase [8]. James Albritton Jr. and his relatives remained closely connected to the Cason brothers, James, John, Hillery, and Henry, for the rest of the century. Unlike his brothers, the records do not show James Albritton Jr. continually increasing his acreage or obtaining additional land grants near his existing plantation, at least until after the American Revolution. For the next twenty years, he appears to have merely worked his existing farm of several hundred acres on Grindle Creek, near the mouth of Hunting Run.

On 25 May 1774, James Albritton Jr. and his brothers Thomas, Peter, and Matthew, sold their interest in a 200-acre tract of land their father had left them in his will to their brother, George [9]. As the political situation in eastern North Carolina dissolved into chaos, in June 1775, the Pitt County Safety Committee had appointed James' brothers, Thomas, Richard, and George, as "*Patrolers*," assigned to help suppress Royal Governor Josiah Martin's attempted slave insurrection in Pitt County [10].

By early 1776, many of the "*Patrolers formerly appointed have gone into the army for the services of their Country*," and so on 13 February 1776, the Pitt County Safety Committee appointed additional Patrollers, including "*James Alberton*," George Moye, James Brooks, Archibald Adams, and John James, the latter four of whom lived on the north side of the Tar River near James Albritton Jr. Although Solomon Alberson lived in Pitt County beginning in the 1770s, since many of these Patrollers are known neighbors of James Albritton Jr., the man listed here as "*James Alberton*" is almost certainly James Albritton Jr. There are no documented Pitt County families by the name of "*Alberton*," just "*Albritton*" and "*Alberson*" [11].

James' appointment as a Pitt County Patroller indicates his support for the Patriot cause, but we have no evidence that he engaged in any active military service during the Revolutionary War. He had reached his forties by 1776, typically too old for active military service. The James Albritton of Craven County who served in the North Carolina Militia is probably his nephew, the son of Peter Albritton. However, James Albritton Jr. is probably the man who provided supplies to the Patriot forces during the conflict. In April 1781, the North Carolina Council requisitioned bacon from James Albritton of Pitt County. They issued receipts to him for supplying them with one batch of 25 pounds of bacon and another of 52.5 pounds:



It appears that after the Revolutionary War, Albritton presented these receipts to the auditors for payment, and that they paid him £333 6s 8p for the load of 25 pounds of bacon and £693 6s 8p for the 52.5 pounds he supplied them [12]. We have no other record of James' activities during the Revolution.

During the 1760–1790 period, Pitt County’s population base remained along the south side of the Tar River, where James Albritton Jr.’s father and brothers lived. The extensive swaths of land on the north side of the Tar, along Grindle Creek near James Albritton Jr., remained mostly vacant. On 5 May 1778, two longtime neighbors of James Albritton Jr., the brothers John and Henry Cason, filed land entries for grants of 550 and 600 acres. An *entry* was the first step in securing a land grant in North Carolina, and the Pitt County Surveyor prepared surveys for the Casons in 1781 and 1782, with the grants awarded the following year. Both of the Cason grants adjoined the lands of James Albritton Jr. [13]. On 10 March 1783, James Albritton Jr. himself filed a land entry for 100 acres that adjoined his existing plantation, adjoining the lands of James Cason, and Samuel, Joshua, and David James. For some reason, the tract was never surveyed for him [14].

It is possible that the entry James filed intersected with part of John Cason's grant, for on 23 March 1784, for £40, Cason sold James Albritton Jr. a 236-acre tract from his 500-acre grant, with

Albritton's land adjoining the lands of John Jordan and William James [15]. On that same day, James Albritton Jr. witnessed John Cason's sale of a 50-acre tract from his 1782 grant to William James [16]. It is also possible that the entry James Albritton Jr. filed in 1783 intersected Henry Cason's grant, which we know adjoined his own land. Henry Cason's survey left the precise boundary between their farms uncertain, and so James Albritton Jr. and Henry Cason had to agree upon the specific boundary between their adjoining properties. By 1784, they described the boundary as

*Beginning at a pine on James Albrittons Sen<sup>r</sup> Line thence Runing [sic] a line of markd. Trees to a pine on a branch on the South side of the s<sup>d</sup> [line] and Runing [sic] up the Agreed upon by Henry Cason and the s<sup>d</sup> James Albrittain s<sup>d</sup> [James Albritton Sr.] to a pine thence a line of markd trees to a Gum...*

James Albritton Sr. had died in 1773, and so the man we refer to as James Albritton Jr. had now become the elder Pitt County resident by that name. By the 1780s, James Albritton Jr. had namesake nephews who had reached adulthood, and so Pitt County court officials now began referring to our James Albritton Jr. as "*James Albritton, Sen<sup>r</sup>*" [17].

In early 1784, James Albritton Jr.'s younger brother, Richard, began his preparations for joining the post-Revolutionary War migration from North Carolina to Georgia. On 18 March 1784, brothers James and Peter Albritton witnessed Richard's sale of 300 acres of land on Cow Swamp, including a 150-acre tract their father left Richard in his will [18]. Richard Albritton then emigrated from Pitt County, and by September 6<sup>th</sup>, he had established residence in Effingham County, Georgia [19]. On 6 November 1784, in his absence from North Carolina, the new State Government had issued a grant to him for a 150-acre tract of land that adjoined his former land on Cow Swamp [20]. Richard Albritton returned to Pitt County from his new Georgia home in the fall of 1785 to dispose of this last remaining North Carolina property. On October 26<sup>th</sup>, Peter and James Albritton Jr. witnessed their brother's sale of his 150-acre grant to Joshua Kemp [21]. By this time, James Albritton Jr. had only two brothers remaining on the south side of the Tar River near him in Pitt County, Peter and Henry, for Thomas and Matthew had by now both died, and George and Richard had moved to Georgia.

James Albritton Jr.'s older brother, Thomas, wrote his will in 1780 or 1781, and he named his brothers, James and Peter, as his executors. In his will, Thomas instructed them to sell a 100-acre tract of land that their father, James Albritton Sr., bequeathed to their youngest brother, Henry, and that Henry had later sold to Thomas. Following Thomas' death, James and Peter Albritton sold the land on 1 March 1785 to Abraham Adams for £28. Gen. John Simpson, a local merchant, former commander of the Pitt County Militia and Chairman of the Pitt Safety Committee, and now the local State Senator, witnessed the transaction [22].

The last decade of James Albritton Jr.'s life brought about great change for him. As described earlier, between about 1760 and 1783, he lived at a somewhat distinct location from his closest relatives, spending his adult life on Grindle Creek near the mouth of Hunting Run, on the north side of the Tar River. James Jr.'s father, brothers, nephews, and nieces all lived on the south side of the Tar, along tributaries of Chicod Creek. Beginning about 1782 or 1783, James' nephews and nieces, the sons and daughters of his brother, Peter Albritton, gradually began leaving their father's plantation on Cow and Cross Swamps south of the Tar River, to join their uncle, James Albritton Jr., on his farm north of the river. It remains unclear precisely what enticed the younger generation to join their uncle north of the river. We surmise that after a half-century of cultivation, the lands south of the Tar River had made them less productive compared to the sparsely settled lands along Grindle Creek. The association of Peter Albritton's children to his brother indicates an especially close relationship between James Albritton Jr. and Peter's children.

James Albritton Jr.'s first nephew who joined him on Grindle Creek appears to have been James, the eldest surviving son of Peter Albritton. The younger James Albritton settled there about 1783 or early 1784 [23]. The following events between 1784 and 1793 detail the migration of James Albritton Jr.'s nephews and nieces to his farm on Grindle Creek from the south side of the Tar River, and they also describe related activities of James Albritton Jr. during this period:

**18 Apr 1784** – James Albritton Jr. and Samuel Barrow witnessed Henry Cason selling to "*James Albrittain Junr*" (the younger man by this name, the son of Peter Sr.) a 250-acre portion of his 600-acre 1783 grant that adjoined the lands of "*James Albrittons Senr*" (the clerk's reference to the older man by this name, the one we refer to as James Albritton Jr.), with the document specifying that Henry and James Albritton Jr. had agreed on the boundary between their properties [24].

**18 Apr 1784** – James Albritton Jr. and Samuel Barrow also witnessed Henry Cason's sale of a 50-acre tract from his same grant to John Leggett [25].

**1780s** – Both of Peter Albritton's daughters moved to the north side of the Tar River in the 1780s. The eldest, Elizabeth, married Gardner Moye, in the early 1780s. By about 1785, Mary Albritton had married Matthew James, son of Lemuel James, a longtime Grindle Creek resident and neighbor of James Albritton Jr. Both Betsy Moye and Mary James lived near James Albritton Jr. in 1790 [26].

**19 Jan 1789** – James Albritton Jr. paid £80 to his longtime neighbor, John Cason, for a 250-acre tract of land on the north side of Grindle Creek near Hunting Run, adjoining the lands of John

Jordan and John Cason. James Albritton Jr.'s nephew, Adam Albritton, witnessed his uncle's transaction [27]. This suggests that Adam had joined his older brother and sisters on their uncle's farm north of the Tar River by the latter 1780s.

**2 Mar 1789** – James Albritton Jr. and John Cason served as the sworn chain bearers who assisted Pitt County Deputy Surveyor Jesse Moye in preparing surveys of two tracts of land for Absalom Carney, one for 53 acres and the other for 51 acres. Both tracts adjoined the lands of James Albritton Jr. [28].

**1790** – The Pitt County Federal Census shows James Albritton Jr. living in the Grindle Creek neighborhood along with many of his documented neighbors and associates, including Samuel Barrow, John Cason, and Henry Cason, and his nieces and nephews: James Albritton, Mary Albritton James, Betsy Albritton Moye, and Adam Albritton [29].

**1791** – Adam Albritton married John Cason's daughter, Eleanor, and they settled on a tract of land Cason gave his daughter that adjoined the land of James Albritton Jr. [30].

**7 Oct 1791** – About 1790 or 1791, at the age of nineteen or twenty, Peter Albritton's son, Jonathan, joined his uncle and siblings on Grindle Creek. In 1791, John Cason, longtime neighbor of James Albritton Jr. and now the father-in-law of Adam Albritton, divided his property among his children in preparation for emigrating. On this day, Cason sold Jonathan Albritton a 200-acre tract of land on Briery Swamp that Jonathan's uncle, "*James Albriton Snr.*," paid for with "*One hundred fifty Hard Spanish milled Dollars.*" Adam Albritton witnessed the transaction [31].

**7 Oct 1791** – Jonathan Albritton witnessed four other transactions between John Cason and his children as he disposed of his Pitt County property [32].

**10 Nov 1791** – Jonathan Albritton witnessed a land transaction between Hillory Cason and James Langley, with his brother, William Albritton, also witnessing [33].

**12 Nov 1791** – Peter Albritton's final son to leave his Cow Swamp plantation and join James Albritton Jr. north of the river on Grindle Creek was Joel, born in June 1773. On this day, at the age of eighteen years, Joel Albritton witnessed a land transaction between Colson Adams and Obediah Moore for a tract of land on the north side of the Tar River, the place on which Joel's sister and her husband, Betsy and Gardner Moye, lived at the time. Adams was the brother-in-law of Joel's brother, Adam Albritton, and Gardner Moye witnessed the transaction along with Joel [34].

**15 Dec 1791** – As John Cason continued to dispose of his property in anticipation of emigrating from Pitt County, James Albritton Jr. witnessed his gift of two slaves and six head of cattle to Cason's daughter, Eleanor Cason Albritton, the wife of James Jr.'s nephew, Adam [35].

**16 May 1793** – For £100, Jonathan Albritton sold his 200-acre tract on Briery Swamp that James Albritton Jr. had paid John Cason for in 1791 [36].

**25 May 1793** – For £100 James Albritton Jr. sold his nephew, Jonathan Albritton, the 250-acre tract of land he had purchased in 1789 from John Cason, with Adam Albritton witnessing the transaction [37].

**26 Dec 1793** – James Albritton Jr. and John Cherry file an entry on a 114-acre tract of land on Grindle Creek, the first step in obtaining a grant of the land. The Pitt County Entry officer issues a warrant to have the tract surveyed, describing it as lying on the south side of Grindle Creek, joining the lands of Joel Albritton [38]. Although there is no record of Joel's purchasing land along Grindle Creek until 1799, this shows his residence there by this time.

As noted above, James Albritton Jr. sold his nephew, Jonathan Albritton, a 250-acre tract of land in May 1793. When the clerk recorded the transaction in the record book, he indicated that James Albritton Jr. made his mark to the document instead of signing his name to it. All earlier records show James Jr. as literate and signing his name to transactions. Thus, if the clerk accurately recorded the 1793 transaction, this seemingly suggests that James Albritton Jr. had by now become disabled or developed a physical disability, perhaps age related, that prevented him from signing his name as he did in his earlier years [39].

Despite the implication that he may have suffered poor health earlier that year, on 26 December 1793, James Albritton Jr. made a joint land entry with John Cherry, applying for a 114-acre land grant adjoining his own lands and the lands of his neighbor, James Jones, and Joel Albritton. The Pitt County Surveyor completed the survey merely one week later, on January 5<sup>th</sup>, with James' nephew, Adam Albritton, and neighbor John James serving as chain bearers. The State issued Albritton and Cherry a patent for the tract on 1 December 1794. It is unclear why James would have pursued the joint grant with John Cherry, nor is there any documentation showing Cherry selling Albritton or anyone else his interest in their 114 acres [40].

There is no known record of James Albritton Jr. after the surveyor completed his work on 5 January 1794. We know that he lived until after that date, for else the surveyor could not have completed required the paperwork to send to the State to secure Albritton and Cherry's grant. James Albritton Jr. probably lived until at least later that year, as the State officially granted them the land on 1 December 1794.

Given that he had reached the age of around sixty, and the likelihood that he suffered from ill health in May 1793, James Albritton Jr. probably died in late 1794 or in 1795. The Pitt County



deeds do not show that he made any sales or gifts of his lands, and the only known references to him in the deeds after 1793 are to the boundary between his property and Henry Cason's upon which they agreed in the early 1780s [41].

In fact, the only record of what became of any of the lands of James Albritton Jr. indicates that they came into the possession of his brother and nephew, Peter and Joel Albritton. Sometime before Peter Albritton wrote his will in about 1797, he had acquired a 164½-acre tract of land on Grindle Creek. Part of Peter's land came from the land James Albritton Jr. purchased of James Cason in 1764, and the other part was a portion of the grant that James Albritton Jr. and John Cherry received in 1794 [42]. By 1821, Joel Albritton had acquired ownership of the 236-acre tract of land James Albritton Jr. purchased from John Cason on 23 March 1784 [43].

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### James Albritton Jr.'s Wife & Children

Based upon his birth between 1728 and 1738, we can reasonably expect that James Albritton Jr. would have married by the time he reached his twenties, in the latter 1750s or early 1760s. Despite pervasive claims that he married Mary Arnett, no one has thus far produced one shred of documentary evidence that proves the given name of James Albritton Jr.'s wife, nor that connects her to any Arnett family. In fact, the only documented male Arnett in Pitt County prior to 1789 was William Arnett who paid 1762 taxes on two white polls (adult white males of voting age). He appears to have lived there only briefly, as he did not pay taxes in either 1763 or 1764. While it is *possible* that James Albritton Jr. married a daughter of William Arnett, no known records suggest a connection between the men or their families [1].

Based upon a statement in a 1979 Albritton family history, it appears that Albritton researchers in the 1960s and 1970s surmised an Arnett connection due to the use of Arnett as a middle name in later generations, and somehow this became attributed to "*family tradition*." It is unclear if the purported Arnett connection truly originated as family tradition, or if it were merely a hypothesis passed around by Albritton researchers of that period who maintained active collaboration. Records of this groups' research available today do not reveal where this tradition originated, as it was never attributed to any specific Albritton descendant. Without a Bible record or other evidence to connect James Albritton Jr. with this hypothetical "*Mary Arnett*," claims that she was his wife are completely unsubstantiated, and we believe they should be disregarded [2].

The Pitt County deed records are reasonably complete and include many court-ordered divisions of lands between heirs and allocations of lifetime dower rights that widows acquired by law when their husbands died owning land but leaving no will. The lack of any such records for the estate of James Albritton Jr. combined with the fact that Peter and Joel Albritton owned his lands after his death suggest that James Albritton Jr. either bequeathed his lands to his brother and nephew in his will, or else they purchased it from his estate. The lack of any dower restriction on his lands makes it very unlikely that James Albritton Jr. left a widow, so if he married, his wife appears to have predeceased him.

The disposition of his lands combined with the lack of any male Albrittons on Grindle Creek who could have been his sons makes it appear exceedingly unlikely that James Albritton Jr. had any sons to survive him. If he had any grown daughters alive by the 1790s, it also seems unusual that he would have left his lands to his brother and nephews rather than to them.

The situation regarding the disposition of the lands of James Albritton Jr. and the very close relationship that he had with his nephews and nieces, the children of his brother, Peter Albritton, could be explained by one of several potential scenarios:

1. James Albritton Jr. remained a lifelong bachelor.
2. James Albritton Jr. married but had no children who survived to adulthood.
3. James Albritton Jr. married and had at least one daughter who married one of her first cousins, James, Jonathan, or Joel Albritton, sons of Peter Albritton Sr.

First-cousin marriages were both socially acceptable and relatively common throughout the colonial and early American eras, and the wives of James, Jonathan, and Joel Albritton, James' nephews who left their home to settle beside their uncle on Grindle Creek, are undocumented. We must consider the possibility that one or more of the nephews of James Albritton Jr. was also his son-in-law.

These uncertainties make the household composition of James Albritton Jr. on the 1790 federal census impossible to interpret. His household consisted of three white males aged sixteen years or older, two males under sixteen, one female, and eight slaves. The documented migration of his nephews to Grindle Creek makes it impossible to draw any conclusions about the identities of these four males besides James Jr., and either some or all may have been Peter's sons [3].

The lack of any additional documentation leaves us with only this speculation and numerous unanswered questions regarding the potential descendants of James Albritton Jr. In short, none of the known records gives any strong indication that he left any direct descendants.

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### **Correcting Published Errors on Purported Descendants of James Albritton Jr.**

It is unclear today why the active group of Albritton researchers in the 1960s and 1970s definitively stated that James Albritton Jr. married Mary Arnett, and why they attributed certain Albrittons as the children of James and Mary. They may have lumped any unconnected Albrittons born in the latter 1700s as their children. The results of this research group were published in 1979 by one member, Mrs. Lomas:

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

Her book was privately printed and widely distributed among Albritton researchers at that time. It was followed by the publication of two other family histories in 1984 and 2004:

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.

With the advent of the internet in the late 1990s and early 2000s, the latter family history was digitized and widely disseminated online. These three works publicly cemented certain inaccuracies and misconceptions regarding Mary Arnett as the supposed wife of James Albritton Jr. Moreover, all three of these Albritton family histories give conflicting lists of the children of James Albritton Jr. and Mary Arnett, and none of them include any documentation whatsoever to prove their claims regarding their children.

A thorough analysis of the surviving Pitt County deed records either proves the correct parentage of most of the children attributed to James Jr. and Mary in these publications, or else it casts significant doubt upon any claims that James Jr. could be their father.

The discussion in the previous section illustrates the complete lack of any documentation to indicate that James Albritton Jr. had any children. In the spirit of providing accurate documentation of Albritton ancestry based upon the records available today as a starting point for future Albritton family researchers, in this section we will analyze each of the Albrittons identified in the above works as a child of James Albritton Jr. and show that such claims are invalid. Thus, the purported connections of the following as children of James Albritton Jr. **should be completely disregarded**.

## **Enoch Albritton**

Enoch is the only person identified in all three published Albritton family histories as a child of James Albritton Jr. and Mary Arnett. Lomas wrote this regarding James Albritton Jr. in her 1979 publication:

*James married by 1762 Mary, who was possibly an Arnett. Their children were Enoch and possibly, Samuel and Peter.*

Notice that this shows that by the latter 1970s, the Albritton research group had definitively determined that Enoch was the son of James Albritton Jr. Lomas offered no documentation for her definitive statement regarding Enoch as James Jr.'s son [1].

A few years later, Eleanor Davis McSwain, typically an astute researcher, attributed Enoch and Jonathan Albritton as sons of James Albritton Jr. Regarding Enoch, McSwain wrote:

*Descendants of Enoch say that James Albritton, Jr. married Mary Arnett and that Enoch was one of their children. Two facts would strengthen that tradition. Enoch Albritton married Penelope Frizzle. Among their children was a son, Silas White ARNETT Albritton, and the name "Arnett" was used a number of times among the descendants of Enoch Albritton. The name is not used in other branches. The second fact that strengthens the tradition is by the process of elimination. Of the sons of James the Saddler, no connection of Enoch has been found to Thomas Albritton, Matthew Albritton, George Albritton, Peter Albritton, Richard Albritton, nor Henry Albritton. That leaves only James Albritton, Jr. for his father.*

Two decades after McSwain published her book, Bobby G. Albritton published the second edition of his book on the Albritton family. He wrote,

*The parents of Enoch Albritton have not been proven to be absolute. However, early descendants of Enoch state that he was the son of James Albritton Jr.*

Mr. Albritton then republished the identical paragraph quoted above from McSwain's work [2].

None of Lomas, McSwain, nor Albritton give any concrete documentation for their claims that Enoch was a son of James Albritton Jr., nor do they even provide any circumstantial evidence that would illustrate a connection between the two. The definitive manner in which they identify James Albritton Jr. as Enoch's father has resulted in modern researchers regarding it as documented fact, and this purported connection has now proliferated on the internet, in family histories, and in online family trees.

The family tradition argument for Enoch as the son of James Albritton Jr. and Mary Arnett might have some measure of legitimacy if we could attribute it to a specific descendant, say a grandchild or great-grandchild, who recorded this family information during his or her own lifetime. Unfortunately, the Albritton books merely give vague statements, e.g., "*Descendants of Enoch say...*" and "*early descendants of Enoch state...*," without any explanation of precisely **who** said it and **when** it was first recorded. The extensive proliferation of these family tradition claims – in

Albritton publications, in written correspondence, and, in the past two decades, on innumerable genealogical websites – has made its origins murky, obliterating the already blurry boundary between the Enoch Albritton family’s potentially accurate oral history and the compilations of modern researchers who are simply repeating, over and over, what they have seen in other unsourced data. Thus, the “*tradition*” has lost any measure of validity as a documentary source it might otherwise have [3].

As mentioned by McSwain and Albritton, it is correct that “*Arnett*” was used as a middle name among the descendants of several sons of Enoch Albritton, but this in isolation proves nothing. Moreover, while the use of a “*process of elimination*” may narrow possibilities for a family connection, is not an appropriate means of documenting them, for as the aphorism goes, “*Absence of evidence does not imply evidence of absence.*”

McSwain’s statement of finding no connection between Enoch and Peter Albritton reveals a lack of careful analysis of the Pitt County deeds, which show a connection between Enoch and Peter Sr. In fact, these records provide strong circumstantial evidence that Enoch was another son of Peter Albritton Sr.

The Pitt deeds also show a complete disconnect between James Albritton Jr. and Enoch Albritton: James Albritton Jr. is documented as residing on Grindle Creek on the north side of the Tar River, while Enoch remained on Cow Swamp and Swift Creek south of the river along with two of Peter’s other sons, William and Peter Albritton Jr. So contrary to the statements published in the works of McSwain and Albritton, a clear connection exists between Enoch and Peter Albritton Sr., but deed records show a disconnect between Enoch and James Jr. [4].

### **Jonathan Albritton**

Pitt County records prove that Jonathan Albritton was the son of Peter Albritton, Sr. [5]. The 1810 Pitt County Federal Census shows two men by the name of “*Jonathan Albritton*” as living in Pitt County [6]. This, combined with fact that James Albritton Jr. paid \$150 for the land that Jonathan Albritton purchased from John Cason in 1791 [7], led McSwain state in her 1984 work:

*Was the second Jonathan a son of James Albritton, Jr.? So it would seem for James paid John Cason for the land Jonathan bought. Jonathan Albritton did not have an uncle James Albritton and it is not likely that a brother would be so accommodating as to pay for a large tract of land for him. Jonathan Albritton is considered a son of James Albritton, Jr.*

Based upon the appearance of two Jonathan Albrittons on the 1810 census, Mrs. McSwain’s first question was a natural and logical one. However, she then answered herself in the affirmative, assuming in her work that the “*second*” Pitt County Jonathan Albritton was the son of James

Albritton Jr., along with Enoch Albritton. She admitted the uncertainty surrounding the children of James Albritton Jr., stating her reason for attributing Jonathan as James Jr.'s son was entirely because James *"paid for his land, and was associated with him"* [8]. McSwain admits that in her Albritton research, she did not study the Pitt County deeds after 1800, and these may possibly reveal additional evidence [9].

Although she listed Jonathan and Enoch as sons of James Albritton Jr., Mrs. McSwain expressed hesitation for these conclusions regarding James Jr.'s children, clearly making caveats that future research was needed to support her attributing them as sons of James Jr. Sadly, later researchers glossed over her statements indicating the circumstantial nature of these conclusions.

The 2004 publication of the late Mr. Bobby G. Albritton was disseminated extensively across the United States. He definitively stated that Jonathan Albritton was a son of James Albritton Jr. and Mary Arnett, and that Jonathan married Eleanor, whose maiden name he states is unknown. He did not provide documentation for any of these claims and made no mention of the lack of evidence for them [10].

A careful examination of the Pitt County records shows that the claims of two contemporary Jonathan Albrittons residing in Pitt County are inaccurate, as the only record that implies the existence of two such men is the 1810 Pitt County Federal Census. Here are the two Jonathan Albritton households on the 1810 Pitt County North Carolina Federal Census:

p. 234b; #8: Jonathan Albritton  
 1 male 10–16  
 1 male 26–45  
 2 females aged under 10  
 1 female 10–16  
 1 female 26–45  
 4 slaves

p. 241b, #10: Jonathan Albritton  
 1 male 10–16  
 1 male 26–45  
 3 females aged under 10  
 2 females 10–16  
 1 female 26–45  
 4 slaves

While the two households do not have the exact same number of females, their basic structure is identical: a male/female couple, both aged 26–45, one male aged 10–16, several young females, and four slaves. While one household has three females under sixteen and the other has five, due to visitors and relatives coming and going, if visited on different days, the same household could have a varied number of young people.

We emphasize three facts about Jonathan Albritton in Pitt County:

1. There is exactly one household headed by Jonathan Albritton in each of the federal census enumerations of 1800, 1820, 1830, and 1840, and these censuses appear to track the same family from 1800 to 1840 [11].

2. There is exactly one Jonathan Albritton who paid his 1815 Pitt County taxes, paying taxes on his 200-acre farm valued at \$800, one white poll, and on three taxable slaves [12].
3. The Pitt County North Carolina deeds do not imply the existence of more than one man by the name of "*Jonathan Albritton*" who resided in Pitt County between 1790 and his death in 1845.

Based upon these three facts, we conclude that the 1810 Pitt County North Carolina Federal Census enumerator(s) must have visited and recorded Jonathan Albritton's household twice. There is just no basis for claims of two contemporary men by the name of "*Jonathan Albritton*" living in Pitt County between the 1790s and 1840s.

A facet of the Albritton family of the 1780s and 1790s of which earlier Albritton researchers seem unaware relates to the familial closeness of Peter Albritton's children to their uncle, James Albritton Jr. Peter's eldest surviving son, James, left his father's home and joined his uncle on Grindle Creek by 1784 [13], followed about 1788 or 1789 by the next son, Adam Albritton [14], with Jonathan joining them by 1791 [15]. Finally, Joel Albritton arrived in the Grindle Creek region by 1794 [16].

Moreover, these records show that Joel Albritton somehow came into possession of a 236-acre tract of land that James Albritton, Jr. purchased in 1784 [17]. Given this close bond that James Albritton Jr. clearly had with his nephews, it is not at all surprising that in October 1791, he paid for his twenty-year-old nephew's 250-acre tract of land with 150 "*Spanish Milled Dollars*" [18].

### **Conclusion:**

The Pitt County records provide evidence for only one adult Jonathan Albritton who lived there between 1790 and 1845, and this man was the son of Peter Albritton Sr.

### **Elizabeth Albritton Carney**

In his 2004 book, Mr. Bobby G. Albritton stated that Elizabeth Albritton was the wife of Thomas Carney and the daughter of James Albritton Jr. He wrote, "*Proof that Elizabeth was the wife of Thomas Carney came from Pitt County, North Carolina Deeds and Wills*" [19]. He is correct that the deed records verify that Thomas Carney's wife was named "*Elizabeth*," and the 1828 division of Thomas Carney's land gives the names of their children. However, the deeds do not prove that Elizabeth Carney was an Albritton. In fact, no known Pitt County deed suggests any family connection for her [20].

In 1790, Absalom and Josiah Carney lived in Bertie County, North Carolina, located a short distance northeast of Pitt County [21]. However, by the latter 1780s, the Carneys had already



begun making plans to move to Pitt County, for in early 1789 Absalom bought the rights to two grants that adjoined lands of James Albritton Jr. On March 2<sup>nd</sup> of that year, James Albritton Jr. and his longtime neighbor, John Cason, served as the chain bearers to assist the surveyor in preparing the grants for Carney. North Carolina issued both grants to Carney in 1792 [22], and in that same year, he purchased nine tracts of adjoining land from George Cannon [23].

Pitt County records from the 1790s show Josiah and Thomas Carney closely involved with the Albrittons in transactions of land on Grindle Creek [24], and in 1800, Absalom, Josiah, and Thomas Carney all lived in adjoining households near the Albrittons there [25].

These records do show that the Carneys lived on land that adjoined that of James Albritton Jr., and he could potentially have been the father of Elizabeth who married Thomas Carney in the early 1790s. However, no known record gives the maiden name of Elizabeth Carney, and without additional documentation verifying her maiden name, it is premature to definitively state that she was a daughter of James Albritton Jr.

### **Zachariah Albritton**

The origins of Zachariah Albritton remain mysterious given that he left so few records in Pitt County, North Carolina. This dearth of evidence led both Lomas and McSwain to refrain from making any claims regarding Zachariah Albritton's parentage. However, in his 2004 work, Mr. Albritton stated definitively, without any documentation whatsoever, that Zachariah was a son of James Albritton Jr. and Mary Arnett [26].

The only known references in Pitt County, North Carolina to Zachariah Albritton are in 1795, when he witnessed two deeds involving land south of the Tar River. On 20 August 1795, "*Zacra Albritton*" and James Albritton witnessed the sale of a five-acre tract on Cow Swamp [27], and several weeks later, on September 9<sup>th</sup>, Zacra witnessed the purchase by James Albritton of a 150-acre tract of land on Cow Swamp. The land adjoined that of Peter Albritton Sr. [28]. This James Albritton is man who moved to Greene County, North Carolina about 1800, the one we believe is the son of Capt. Matthew Albritton, making James a nephew of Peter Albritton Sr.

Soon after 1795, Zachariah Albritton left Pitt County and moved to Georgia, settling by 1798 in Jefferson County, adjoining Burke County, where George Albritton Sr. lived. On September 3<sup>rd</sup> that year, the Jefferson County Court of Justices issued a warrant to the County Surveyor, ordering him to prepare a survey of 250 acres for Zachariah Albritton. He surveyed the 250-acre tract three days later, on September 6<sup>th</sup>, with George Albritton Sr. assisting the surveyor as one of the chain bearers.

Although his warrant described a 250-acre tract, the State of Georgia issued him a patent in 1800 for only 200 acres of land [29].

Zacra Albritton did not pay taxes in Jefferson County in 1799, but after receiving his land grant in 1800, he paid taxes there in 1801, 1802, and 1803 [30]. On 28 July 1803, as a resident of Jefferson County, Georgia, Zacra paid “*the Sum of twenty five Spannish [sic] Mild [sic-milled] dollars*” to John Tinsley, Nancy Chance, Mary Hammock, and Sarah Tinsley for a 100-acre tract of land back in Pitt County, North Carolina on the south side of the Tar River, a tract granted to their grandfather, Thomas Tinsley, deceased, in October 1783. There is no record of Zacra selling this tract in Pitt County, and his relationship to Thomas Tinsley and his family is unclear [31].

In 1803/1804, Zacra Albritton registered for the 1805 Georgia Land Lottery as a resident of Jefferson County, winning one fortunate draw in the lottery. He promptly paid the grant fee, and the State of Georgia granted him the land on 5 December 1805 [32]. Soon after registering for the Land Lottery in Jefferson County, Zacra Albritton sold his Jefferson County farm and left before his 1804 Jefferson County taxes became due.

We have no record of where Zachariah Albritton lived for the next several years, but by 1812, he had settled in Twiggs County, possibly on the land he had drawn in the 1805 Land Lottery. On 7 January 1812, for \$100, Zacra Albritton of Twiggs County purchased the 202½-acre lot that Verity Farmer had drawn in the 1805 Land Lottery, now in Laurens County. Between 1810 and 1813, Verity Farmer served as one of the administrators of George Albritton Sr., along with Amos Albritton. It appears that Amos Albritton was George’s son, and although “*Verity*” is typically a female name, records show that Verity Farmer was male. His serving as one of George’s administrators suggests that Verity was George’s son-in-law.

Although Verity Farmer moved to Jefferson County after Zacra left in 1804, he moved back to Burke after just a few years. On 15 January 1812, only one week after purchasing the land from Verity, Zacra sold the tract for the same price he paid. Since Twiggs County adjoined Laurens, Zacra may have merely been assisting Farmer in disposing of the land [33].

Between 1812 and 1818, Zachariah Albritton left Twiggs and moved back east to Washington County, where Peter Albritton Jr. had settled about 1808. Zacra purchased a farm drained by Sandy Hill Creek in Washington County, and in 1818, the State of Georgia granted him 27½ acres there, bringing his farm to a total of 200 acres of pine land [34]. Zacra Albritton lived there in 1820 with his family, presumably consisting of five sons, four daughters, his wife, one older male slave, and one female slave aged 26–45 [35]. Zachariah Albritton died in Washington County between 1820 and 1825, leaving a will in which he appointed John Hardin as his executor [36].

These records of Zachariah Albritton do place him among the Albrittons of Pitt County, given his associations in Pitt County with James Albritton, son of Capt. Matthew Albritton, and in Georgia with George Albritton Sr. and Verity Farmer. In fact, we can infer with reasonable certainty from these associations that Zachariah is a grandson of James Albritton Sr.

However, there is no basis for Mr. Bobby Albritton identifying Zachariah as a son of James Albritton Jr. The two Pitt County references place Zachariah on Cow Swamp south of the Tar River, not on Grindle Creek where James Albritton Jr. lived. Zakra's witnessing two deeds associated with James, son of Capt. Matthew Albritton, seemingly suggest that Zakra was a possible son of Matthew Albritton, which would make him a brother of James Albritton of Snow Hill, Greene County, North Carolina.

Given the lack of documentation in his work and the evidence described here, the claim made by Mr. Albritton regarding Zachariah Albritton as a son of James Albritton Jr. and Mary Arnett should be disregarded.

### **Joel, Henry, & Luke Albritton**

Mr. Bobby Albritton attributed three additional children to James Albritton Jr. and Mary Arnett, including Joel Albritton, born in 1773, Henry Albritton (1775–1785), and Luke Albritton, born about 1776. He provided no documentation for his claims regarding Joel or Luke, and the dates given for them match the approximate years of birth for the documented sons of Peter Albritton Sr. by these names. For Henry, Mr. Albritton states that he obtained his information from an online family tree [37].

The lack of any documentary basis for claims that these three were sons of James Albritton Jr. make them appear spurious, and we believe they should be completely disregarded.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

## 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.

### **Life of James Albritton Jr.**

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 Sen<sup>r</sup> Convyd by his last Will and testament to us his four Sons to Wit. Thomas James Peter and Mathew Albritton.*  
 This document provides conclusive proof that Thomas, James, Matthew, and Peter Albritton are sons of James Albritton Sr.
2. 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 25<sup>th</sup> of October 1754. To Serve as Militia in A Regiment of Foote commanded by the Honorable Colonel John Starkey Esq<sup>r</sup> in Captain Th<sup>o</sup> 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.”
3. We have no records of James Albritton Jr. between 1754 and 1760, so it is not certain whether James remained with Thomas in Onslow when their father returned to the Tar River country, or if James accompanied his father and stepmother, leaving Thomas there alone. Whatever his activities between 1755 and late 1759, James Albritton Jr. had returned to the Tar River region by early 1760.
4. North Carolina Grant Book 11, p. 53, Grant #87, #491 (Ebenezer Folsom, 700 acres, surveyed 30 June 1760 with chain carriers George Moore, James “Alberton,” granted 4 March 1761). The land adjoined that of John Cason, James Barrow, and Samuel James. The “upper” portion of Beaufort County, including the Tar River region where the Albrittons lived, became Pitt County effective 1 January 1761.
5. Pitt County NC Deed Book A, p. 240. The earliest deed book disappeared from the Pitt County Courthouse many years ago, prior to LDS microfilming and perhaps a century or more prior to that. However, the records from that book are included in the Pitt County Index to Deeds.
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. James Albritton Jr. paid his own poll tax in all three years, and on one slave in 1762 and 1764. The 1763 tax list did show taxes paid on slaves.
7. Pitt County NC Deed Book C, pp. 187–188 (“James Albritton, Jun<sup>r</sup>” to Matthias Moore, 11 September 1764). Since we do not know the acreage of James Albritton Jr.’s 1761 purchase from Ebenezer Folsom, Albritton could have sold his entire tract on the Great Pond that he bought that year. Later records do not reference this purchase.
8. Pitt County NC Deed Book C, pp. 148–149 (James Cason to “James Albritain, Jun<sup>r</sup>,” 11 September 1764).
9. Pitt County NC Deed Book F, pp. 75–77 (Thomas, James, Peter, and Mathew Albritton to George Albritton, 25 May 1774; witnessed by Richard Albritton and John Simpson).
10. See the article on [Gen. John Simpson](#), which provides details on the Pitt County Safety Committee and the involvement of Thomas, George, and Richard Albritton with suppressing the attempted slave insurrection of July 1775.
11. Saunders, William L., ed. *The Colonial Records of North Carolina*. Raleigh, NC: Josephus Daniels, 1890, Vol. X, p. 451.
12. North Carolina Revolutionary Pay Vouchers (1779–1782), LDS Film #4320121  
[Images 396–397](#): Receipt issued to James Albritton of Pitt County for 25 pounds of bacon; £333 6s 8p written on back  
[Images 398–399](#): Receipt issued to James Albritton of Pitt County for 52.5 pounds of bacon; £693 6s 8p written on back

Both receipts have been hole-punched, and the hole destroyed the precise day in April 1781 that Albritton delivered the bacon. He presumably presented these receipts for payment after the Revolutionary War, and it appears they paid him the large sums written on the back of each receipt.

13. These records document the Cason land grants that adjoined the lands of James Albritton Jr. on Grindle Creek:  
 Pitt County NC Warrant #130, File #095: Henry Cason, 600 acres, entered 5 May 1778, surveyed 6 October 1782; state officials erred and failed to record the grant in the state grant books.  
[Pitt County NC Deed Book K, p. 358, Grant #448](#): Henry Cason, 600 acres, "*On the North side of Tar River and South side of Grindal Creek...Beginning at a pine James Abertsons [sic] corner...;*" adjoining the lines of Matthew Moore, "*Legets line,*" "*Legats corner,*" "*Tuckers line,*" "*James Albertsons corner then with his line East to the Beginning;*" granted 13 October 1783).  
 North Carolina Grant Book 43, p. 143, Entry #155, Grant #357, #577: John Cason, entered 5 May 1778, surveyed 14 February 1781, granted 21 October 1782, 550 acres.  
[Pitt County NC Deed Book G, p. 179](#): John Cason, 550 acres on the north side of Grindle Creek, adjoining Hunting Run, granted 21 October 1782.  
 Henry Cason's land description began on James Albritton's line and corner where it joined Mathias Moore's and John Leggett's lines. John Cason's land adjoined that of Henry and James Cason, and in the 1780s, he sold 486 acres of his grant to James Albritton Jr.
14. Pruitt, A. B. *Pitt County Land Entries 1778–1797*. 1991, pp. 225–226. It is unclear why James Albritton failed to secure a grant for this tract of 100 acres.
15. Pitt County NC Deed Book I, pp. 260–261 (John Cason to James "*Albriton,*" 23 March 1784). Although the court clerk did not include any suffix on James Albritton's name, the grantee appears to have been James Albritton Jr.
16. Pitt County NC Deed Book I, pp. 256–257 (John Cason to William James, 23 March 1784; witnesses: James "*Albrtain*"). Given that he purchased land from John Cason on this same day, we believe it was James Albritton Jr. who witnessed this transaction.
17. Pitt County NC Deed Book I, pp. 268–269 (Henry Cason to "*James Albrittain Junr,*" 18 April 1784; witnessed by James Albritton).
18. Pitt County NC Deed Book I, pp. 253–255 (Richard Albritton to Joshua Kemp, 18 March 1784). Presumably, it was Peter and Richard's brother, James, who witnessed the transaction, as opposed to Peter's son, who had by then reached adulthood. The Pitt County court officials seemed to use no suffix if the elder man was the only one involved in the record.
19. Georgia Headright and Bounty Documents, 1783–1909, Richard Albritton, Effingham County, 200 acres, 6 September 1784 (LDS Film #005034305, Image #55-56).
20. Pitt County NC Deed Book K, p. 92, Grant #573 (State of North Carolina to Richard Albritton, granted 6 November 1784, surveyed 22 May 1783).
21. Pitt County NC Deed Book L, p. 6 (Richard Albritton to Joshua Kemp, 26 October 1785; witnessed by Peter and James Albritton). Presumably, it was Peter and Richard's brother, James Albritton Jr., who witnessed the transaction, as opposed to Peter's son, who had by then reached adulthood.
22. Pitt County NC Deed Book I, pp. 495–496 (James & Peter "*Albrtain, Executors of the last will and Testament of Thomas Albriton,*" to Abraham Adams, 1 March 1785). There is nothing in the document that specifically states that in his will, Thomas named his brother, James, as his executor, along with Peter, as the document did not include any suffix on James Albritton's name. However, Pitt County officials in the 1780s and 1790s appear to have followed the convention that if the elder James Albritton were the one transacting business without the younger one involved, they did not include a suffix. If it were the younger man participating, they included the "*Jr.*" suffix. In this case, it seems entirely logical that Thomas Albritton would have named his brothers, James and Peter, as his executors, as opposed to his brother, Peter, and his nephew, who was then aged nineteen or twenty years.
23. Lomas, p. 164. The article, [James Albritton's 1784 Grindle Creek Land Purchase](#), provides a detailed discussion of the 1784 purchase of land on Grindle Creek by James Albritton and documents that he was the son of Peter Albritton. Lomas lists Samuel Albritton as the eldest son of Peter Albritton Sr., giving his date of birth as 2 April 1759. Her list of precise dates of birth for Peter's other children who are known to have settled on Grindle Creek suggests that the list came from a family Bible. This is the only known record of Peter's son, Samuel, and he appears to have died young.
24. Pitt County NC Deed Book I, pp. 268–269 (Henry Cason to "*James Albrittain Junr,*" 18 April 1784; witnesses: Samuel Barrow, James Albritton).
25. Pitt County NC Deed Book I, pp. 259–260 (Henry Cason to John "*Legate*" [Leggett], 18 April 1784; witnesses: Samuel Barrow, James "*Albrittain*").
26. Pitt County NC Deed Book O, p. 469 (Pitt County Commissioners divide lands of "*Peter Albritton, Decd,*" 1 July 1799). 1790 Pitt County NC Federal Census, p. 452/29, column 2, #18: James Albritton; #33: James Albritton; #61: Matthew James; #62: John Cason; #66: Gardner Moyer; #71: Henry Cason Senr. The 1799 division of the land of

- Peter Albritton identifies Elizabeth (Betsy), wife of Gardner Moye, and Mary, wife of Matthew James, as Peter's daughters.
27. Pitt County NC Deed Book M, pp. 114–115 (John Cason to James "*Albriton*," 19 January 1789; witness: Adam Albritton).
  28. North Carolina Grant Book 75, p. 501. Entry #70, Grant #961, File #1054. Grant issued 10 April 1792 (North Carolina to Absolem Carney, Assignee of George Cannon; entered 10 February 1789; surveyed 2 March 1789; 53 acres of land adjoining James Albritton; chain bearers: John Cason, James Albritton); Entry #69, Grant #962, File #1055. Grant issued 10 April 1792 (North Carolina to Absolem Carney, Assignee of George Cannon; entered 10 February 1789; surveyed 2 March 1789; 51 acres of land adjoining James Albritton; chain bearers: John Cason, James Albritton). The fact that John Cason, a longtime neighbor of James Albritton Jr., served as chain bearer on both grants along with James Albritton suggests that it was James Albritton Jr. who served as the chain bearer. Typically, Pitt County officials of the 1780s and 1790s did not include a suffix when the James Albritton involved was the elder man by that name.
  29. 1790 Pitt County NC Federal Census, p. 452/29, columns 1, 2 and p. 453/30, column 1 lists many of the Grindle Creek families associated with James Albritton Jr., as evidenced by their land ownership and involvement with land transactions there. His associates include: p. 452/29, column 2: #18: James Albritton [this is James Albritton Jr.]; #20: Samuel Barrow; #21: James Barrow; #22: Archibald Adams; #33: James Albritton [James, son of Peter Albritton Sr.]; #61: Matthew James; #62: John Cason; #66: Gardner Moye; #71: Henry Cason Senr.; p. 453/30, column 1, #4: Robert Hatton; #14: Jacob Little; #15: John Cherry; #16: John Whichard; #17: Adam Albritton.
  30. Pitt County NC Deed Book M, pp. 483–484 (John Cason to Eleanor "*Albriton*," 7 October 1791; witness: "*Jonathan Albriton*," 181 acres adjoining James Albritton and John Cason); pp. 495–496 (John Cason to Jonathan Albritton, 7 October 1791; witness: Adam Albritton); Deed Book M, p. 509 (John Cason to Colston and Rachel Adams, 7 October 1791; witness: Adam and Jonathan Albritton). Deed Book M, p. 458 (Silvanus Pumphey to William Speir, 25 October 1791; witness: Adam Albritton). See the biography on Adam Albritton for documentation of his 1791 marriage to Eleanor Cason.
  31. Pitt County NC Deed Book M, pp. 495–496 (John Cason to Jonathan Albritton, 7 October 1791; witness: Adam Albritton). This transaction has been used to justify claims that Jonathan Albritton was a son of James Albritton Jr. There is no documentary basis for this invalid assumption, as only one Jonathan Albritton lived in Pitt County during this era, and the evidence clearly indicates that he was James Jr.'s nephew, the son of Peter Albritton Sr.
  32. Pitt County NC Deed Book M, pp. 471–472 (John Cason to Jane Adams); Deed Book M, p. 473 (John Cason to "*James Albriton Junr*"); Deed Book M, pp. 483–484 (John Cason to Eleanor Albritton); Deed Book M, p. 509 (John Cason to Colston and Rachel Adams). Jonathan Albritton served as a witness to these four transactions, all of which occurred on 7 October 1791. John Cason sold 15 acres of land to "*James Albriton Junr*," who is the son of Peter Albritton Sr. The clerk used the "*Junior*" suffix to distinguish Peter's son from his uncle, the man we refer to as James Albritton Jr., as the latter was the elder man by this name during this period.
  33. Pitt County NC Deed Book M, pp. 493–494 (Hillory Cason to James Langley, 10 November 1791; witnesses: Jonathan Albritton, William Albritton).
  34. Pitt County NC Deed Book M, pp. 599–600 (Colson Adams to Obediah Moore, 12 November 1791; witnesses: Joel Albritton, Gardner Moye). Colson Adams married Rachel Cason Adams, a daughter of John Cason and the sister of Eleanor Cason Albritton, wife of Adam Albritton (see Pitt County NC Deed Book M, p. 509). The tract of land on the north side of the Tar River was described as "*including the Plantation whereon Gardiner Moye now lives*." Joel Albritton's signature on this deed verifies his presence on his relatives' land north of the Tar River, but it doesn't necessarily prove his settlement on Grindle Creek. He may merely have been visiting his relatives there. Two days earlier, Joel's brothers William and Jonathan Albritton, both witnessed the sale by Hillory Cason, a neighbor of James Albritton Jr., of a tract of land on Grindle Creek, and other records verify that William's primary residence remained on his father's plantation on Cow Swamp, on the south side of the Tar River.
  35. Pitt County NC Deed Book M, pp. 484–485 (John Cason to Eleanor Albritton, 15 December 1791; witness: James Albritton). The court official did not include any suffix on James Albritton's name, but this seems to indicate it was the elder man who witnessed the transaction. The official included a suffix if it were the younger man involved, as the clerk did with John Cason's sale of four slaves to "*James Albriton Ju*" on that same day (Pitt County NC Deed Book M, p. 533).
  36. Pitt County NC Deed Book N, p. 54 (Jonathan Albritton to Colston Adams, 16 May 1793; witness: Adam Albritton).
  37. Pitt County NC Deed Book N, p. 169 (James Albritton to Jonathan Albritton, 25 May 1793; witness: Adam Albritton). The clerk indicated that James Albritton made his mark to this transaction rather than signing his name.
  38. North Carolina Grant Book 84, p. 383. Entry #268, Grant #1147, File #1177 (State of North Carolina to James Albritton and John Cherry). On 26 December 1793, Jesse Moye issued a warrant for a survey for 114 acres in Pitt County on the south side of Grindle Creek adjoining the lines of James Jones and Joel Albritton.



39. Pitt County NC Deed Book N, p. 169 (James Albritton to Jonathan Albritton, 25 May 1793; witness: Adam Albritton). The clerk indicated that James Albritton made his mark to this transaction rather than signing his name.
40. 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).
41. Pitt County NC Deed Book N, pp. 397–398 (Henry Cason to Matthias Moore Sr., 18 October 1796); Deed Book O, pp. 247–248 (Matthias Moore Sr. to Matthias Moore Jr., 29 January 1799). On 18 October 1796, Henry Cason sold the remaining 300 acres from his 600-acre 1783 grant, with the land beginning “*at a Pine James Albrittons corner,*” adjoining Matthias Moore’s and Leggetts’ line, and “*thence along an agreed line to James Albritton Sen<sup>r</sup> line thence with his line East...*” The 1799 transaction gives the identical land description. Neither of these descriptions give any indication whether or not James Albritton was still alive.
42. See the biography of [Peter Albritton Sr.](#) for a thorough analysis of his Grindle Creek lands, including documentation that he obtained his 164½-acre tract there from James Albritton Jr.
43. Pitt County NC Deed Book I, pp. 260–261 (John Cason to James Albritton, 23 March 1784); Deed Book CC, p. 78 (Joel Albritton to Henry James, 24 September 1821). The land descriptions for the 236-acre tract of land that James Albritton Jr. purchased from John Cason in 1784 and that Joel Albritton sold to his nephew, Henry James, son of Mary Albritton James, in 1821, are identical.

### **James Albritton Jr.’s Wife & Children**

1. Secretary of State Records, State Archives of North Carolina. SSXVIII, Recordkeeping (Misc.): Tax Lists, Box 2, 1762, 1763, 1764 Pitt County NC Tax Lists. North Carolina Grant Book 71, p. 246, Grant #865, Entry #109, File #988 (entered 11 August 1789 to James Glasgow, surveyed 6 April 1789 for Silas White Arnett, assignee of James Glasgow, 1000 acres). William Arnett paid taxes in Pitt County in 1762, but not in 1763 or 1764. There is no other known record of William Arnett in Pitt County, as his name does not appear in any of the Pitt County deeds. He appears to have remained in the region only very briefly. In 1790, New Bern attorney and politician Silas White Arnett lived in Craven County (adjoins Pitt to the southeast), and he is the only Arnett male found in the Pitt County deed records. He obtained a 1000-acre land grant on the south side of the Tar River near the Albrittons in 1789 and sold it in 1794.
2. Lomas, p. 56. McSwain, pp. 119–121. Albritton, pp. 39–40. Lomas wrote, “*James married by 1762 Mary, who was possibly an Arnett.*” McSwain stated, “*Family tradition states that James Albritton, Jr. married Mary Arnett.*” In his work, Mr. Albritton initially made the definitive statement that James Albritton Jr. married Mary Arnett in 1766, yet he then backtracks, stating,
 

*...there has been no documented proof of this. There is only circumstantial evidence in [sic] that several grandchildren were given the name of Arnett as their middle name. However, until further research either proves or disproves this, Mary Arnett is considered to be the wife of James Albritton.*

Mr. Albritton’s reasoning is illogical and invalid, as the use of middle names does not constitute documentation of a maiden name. The widespread dissemination of his work has created the perception among modern Albritton researchers that Mary Arnett is documented as the wife of James Albritton Jr., which is definitely not the case.
3. 1790 Pitt County NC Federal Census, p. 452/29, column 2, line #18: James Albritton; #33: James Albritton. As discussed earlier, this page includes households living along Grindle Creek, and it seems clear based upon the household composition that #18 is the household of James Albritton Jr., with #33 being that of his nephew, the son of Peter Albritton. Household #18 consists of three males aged sixteen or above, two males under sixteen, one female, and eight slaves. It is impossible to draw any conclusions on the family structure of James Albritton Jr. based upon this vague household description. The lack of any evidence that anyone other than his brother and nephew inherited his lands lends support to these other males not being his sons.

### **Correcting Published Errors on Purported Descendants of James Albritton Jr.**

1. Lomas, p. 56. It appears that these early Albritton researchers did not know the parents of either Samuel Albritton or Peter Albritton Jr. Land records prove that Samuel was the son of James Albritton and grandson of Peter Albritton Sr. See the article [Children of Peter Albritton Sr.](#) for documentation that Peter Albritton Jr. was the son of Peter Sr. See the biographies of both [Peter Albritton Sr.](#) and his son, [James Albritton](#), for details.
2. McSwain, pp. 120–121. Albritton, pp. 40, 61–62.
3. In correspondence with T. D. Hudson beginning in 1983, numerous Albritton family researchers repeatedly refer to family tradition as the basis of documentation for claims that Enoch was the son of James Albritton Jr. and Mary Arnett. Today, the internet is littered with websites that definitively state that James Albritton Jr. was Enoch’s father. None, however, offer any documentation for this claim.
4. The article, [The Children of Peter Albritton Sr.](#), details the documentation connecting Enoch to Peter Albritton Sr.
5. Pitt County NC Deed Book O, p. 469 (Pitt County Commissioners divide lands of “*Peter Albritton, Dec<sup>d</sup>,*” 1 July 1799). Jonathan Albritton was listed among the sons of Peter Albritton, Sr.

6. 1810 Pitt County North Carolina Federal Census, p. 234b, #8: Jonathan Albritton; p. 241b, #10: Jonathan Albritton.
7. Pitt County NC Deed Book M, pp. 495–496 (John Cason to “Jonathan Albritton,” 7 October 1791; witness: Adam Albritton).
8. McSwain, pp. 119–120.
9. McSwain, p. 125. She writes, “Any further information about Jonathan Albritton might be obtained by studying the records of Pitt County after 1800.”
10. Albritton, pp. 40, 61.
11. 1800 Pitt County NC Federal Census, p. 251, #4: Jonathan Albritton. 1820 Pitt County NC Federal Census, Capt. Clark’s District, p. 503, #1: Jonathan Albritton. 1830 Pitt County NC Federal Census, p. 85, #24: Jonathan Albritton. 1840 Pitt County NC Federal Census, p. 409, #10: “Johnathan Albritton.”
12. Treasurer and Comptroller, State Archives of North Carolina. Box 7, 1815 Pitt County NC Tax List, Captain Hodge’s District, p. 1, #9: Jonathan Albritton.
13. The article, [James Albritton’s 1784 Grindle Creek Land Purchase](#), provides a detailed discussion of the 1784 purchase of land on Grindle Creek by James Albritton and documents that he was the son of Peter Albritton.
14. Pitt County NC Deed Book M, pp. 114–115 (John Cason to James Albritton, 19 January 1789; witness: Adam Albritton). 1790 Pitt County NC Federal Census, p. 453/30, column 1, #17: Adam Albritton; p. 452/29, #20: Samuel Barrow; #22: Archibald Adams; #33: James Albritton; #61: Matthew James; #62: John Cason; #66: Gardner Moye; #67: Thomas Daniel; #70: Colston Adams; #71: Henry Cason, Sr. All of the households on p. 452/29 constitute the Grindle Creek region near the mouth of Hunting Run. The proximity of Adam Albritton to this neighborhood indicates that he left his father’s plantation and settled north of the river along Grindle Creek about 1788 or 1789.
15. In late 1791, Jonathan Albritton was involved in these six transactions that show his arrival on Grindle Creek. All six come from Pitt County NC Deed Book M:
  - pp. 471–472: John Cason to Jane Adams; witness: Jonathan Albritton; 7 October 1791
  - p. 473: John Cason to James Albritton Jr.; witness: Jonathan Albritton; 7 October 1791
  - pp. 483–484 (John Cason to Eleanor Albritton; witness: Jonathan Albritton; 7 October 1791
  - p. 509: John Cason to Colston and Rachel Adams; witness: Jonathan Albritton; 7 October 1791
  - pp. 495–496: John Cason to Jonathan Albritton, 7 October 1791
  - pp. 493–494: Hillory Cason to James Langley; witnesses: Jonathan & William Albritton; 10 November 1791
16. Pitt County NC Deed Book M, pp. 599–600 (Colson Adams to Obediah Moore, 12 November 1791; witnesses: Joel Albritton, Gardner Moye). North Carolina Grant Book 84, p. 383. Entry #268, Grant #1147, File #1177 (State of North Carolina to James Albritton and John Cherry). On 26 December 1793, Jesse Moye issued a warrant for a survey for 114 acres in Pitt County on the south side of Grindle Creek adjoining the lines of James Jones and Joel Albritton.
17. Pitt County NC Deed Book I, pp. 260–261 (John Cason to James Albritton, 23 March 1784); Deed Book CC, p. 78 (Joel Albritton to Henry James, 24 September 1821). The land descriptions for the 236-acre tract of land that James Albritton, Jr. purchased from John Cason in 1784 and that Joel Albritton sold to his nephew, Henry James, son of Mary Albritton James, in 1821, are identical. Either the deed in which Joel purchased the tract from his uncle went unrecorded, or James Albritton, Jr. bequeathed it to his nephew in his will.
18. Pitt County NC Deed Book M, pp. 495–496 (John Cason to “Jonathan Albritton,” 7 October 1791; witness: Adam Albritton).
19. Albritton, pp. 40, 58–59.
20. Pitt County NC Deed Book EE, p. 59 (Elizabeth Carney Dower, 3 November 1826); pp. 209–212 (Division of Thomas Carney’s land among his heirs, 5 February 1828).
21. 1790 Bertie County NC Federal Census, p. 352, column 2, #34: Absalom Carney; p. 353, column 2, #16: Josiah Carney.
22. North Carolina Grant Book 75, p. 501. Entry #70, Grant #961, File #1054. Grant issued 10 April 1792 (North Carolina to Absolem Carney, Assignee of George Cannon; entered 10 February 1789; surveyed 2 March 1789; 53 acres of land adjoining James Albritton; chain bearers: John Cason, James Albritton); Entry #69, Grant #962, File #1055. Grant issued 10 April 1792 (North Carolina to Absolem Carney, Assignee of George Cannon; entered 10 February 1789; surveyed 2 March 1789; 51 acres of land adjoining James Albritton; chain bearers: John Cason, James Albritton). Pitt County NC Deed Book K, p. 240 (North Carolina to Absalom Carney, 10 April 1792; Grant #961, 53 acres); p. 241 (North Carolina to Absalom Carney, 10 April 1792; Grant #962, 51 acres).
23. Pitt County NC Deed Book M, pp. 523–526 (George Cannon to Absalom Carney, 26 March 1792; witnesses: Edward Moore, Josiah Carney). Cannon was a Pitt County resident, while Carney was a Bertie County resident.
24. These Pitt County grants and deeds show a further connection between the Albrittons and Carneys:
  - Deed Book N, p. 54 (Jonathan Albritton to Colson Adams, 16 May 1793; witnesses: Josiah Carney, Adam Albritton).



- Deed Book N, pp. 199–200 (Colson Adams to Adam Albritton, 16 May 1793; witnesses: Josiah Carney, Jonathan Albritton).
  - Deed Book N, pp. 240–241 (Absalom Carney to Josiah Carney, 3 January 1795; witnesses: Jonathan Albritton, Thomas Carney).
  - Deed Book O, pp. 335–336 (Heirs of Peter Albritton to Joel Albritton, 22 July 1799; witness: Josiah Carney).
  - Deed Book O, p. 375 (Moses Moore to Benjamin Moore, 27 July 1799; witnesses: Josiah Carney, Adam Albritton).
  - Deed Book R, p. 10 (Isaac Carrell Sr. to Adam Albritton, 10 April 1805; witness: Thomas Carney).
25. 1800 Pitt County NC Federal Census, p. 229, line #1: Josiah Carney; #2: Absalom Carney; #3: Thomas Carney; #10: John Bowers junior. Bowers married Susannah, daughter of James and granddaughter of Peter Albritton Sr.
  26. McSwain, p. 160. Albritton, pp. 40, 59–60.
  27. Pitt County NC Deed Book N, p. 456 (Edward Dixon to Abraham Dixon, 20 August 1795; witnesses: James Albritton, Zakra Albritton). The description of the land states that it was part of a grant to Simon Burney on 5 August 1742. Deeds of Peter Albritton Sr. show that he owned a large portion of the Burney grant on Cow Swamp.
  28. Pitt County NC Deed Book N, pp. 334–335 (Edward Dixon to James Albritton, 9 September 1795; witness: Zakra Albritton). The land description states that one boundary of the 150-acre tract was along “*the old line to a pine on James Albritton line,*” with the land originally granted to William Taylor on 15 February 1764.
  29. Jefferson County GA Plat Book 1–4 (1796–1836), p. 45, #109. Georgia Land Grant Book CCCCC, p. 574. The George Albritton who served as a chain carrier is presumably George Albritton Sr., son of James Albritton Sr., who lived in the adjoining county and may have himself lived in Jefferson briefly before returning to Burke by about 1809. George Albritton Sr.’s son, George Albritton Jr., lived in Screven County in 1804, and while he was by then old enough to be legally sworn as chain carrier, Screven’s location on the eastern side of Burke (Jefferson lay on the western side) suggests George Albritton Sr. served as chain carrier.
  30. 1801 Jefferson County GA Tax Digest, p. 62, Capt. Cowart’s District, #69: “*Zachry Albriton.*” 1802 Jefferson County GA Tax Digest, p. 23, Capt. Cowart’s District, #32: “*Zachariah Albritton.*” 1803 Jefferson County GA Tax Digest, p. 33, Capt. Cowart’s District, #20: “*Zachariah Albritton.*”
  31. Jefferson County GA Deed Book E (1803–1806), pp. 75–76 (John Tinsley, Nancy Chance, Mary Hammock, and Sarah Tinsley to Zakra Albritton, 28 July 1803).
  32. Graham, Paul K. *1805 Georgia Land Lottery: Persons Entitled to Draws*. Decatur, GA: The Genealogy Company, 2005, p. 4. Graham, Paul K. *1805 Georgia Land Lottery: Fortunate Drawers and Grantees*. Decatur, GA: The Genealogy Company, 2004, p. 227. Zakra Albritton drew Lot 202, then in Wilkinson County (see Grant Book Wilkinson County, District 5 Grant Book, p. 88).
  33. Laurens County GA Deed Book D, p. 139 (Verity Farmer of “Burk” County to Zakra Albritton of Twiggs County, 7 January 1812); pp. 138–139 (Zakra Albritton of Twiggs County to Gilbert Chancellor of Laurens County, 15 January 1812). Both deeds detail the sale of Land Lot #136 in the 18<sup>th</sup> District, then in Laurens County, land Farmer had been granted in the 1807 Land Lottery (Georgia Grant Book Wilkinson County District 18, p. 68).
  34. 1818 Twiggs County GA Tax Digest. [Georgia Grant Book LLLLL, p. 720; LDS Film #5007537, Image #753](#): Georgia to “*Zakra Albritton,*” 27½ acres in Washington County, bounded by Dean, Elkins, “*and on all other sides by s<sup>d</sup> Albrittons land;*” 16 June 1818.
  35. 1820 Washington County GA Federal Census, p. 143b, line #2: Zachariah Albritton.
  36. 1825 Washington County GA Tax Digest, Capt. Floyd’s District (77<sup>th</sup>), pp. 77, 81 (“*John Hardin, Ex. of Z. Albritton.*”).
  37. Albritton, p. 40.

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