

Peter Albritton Sr.
(1740/1742–c1798)
of
Pitt County, North Carolina,
Son of James Albritton Sr.

by Timothy Dean Hudson[†]

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Introduction

Peter Albritton was the fourth son of [James Albritton Sr.](#) who reached adulthood [1]. The available evidence indicates that Peter's birth occurred between about 1740 and 1742 [2]. This implies that he was the son of James' first wife, Elizabeth, and that his birth occurred while his parents lived in Princess Anne County, Virginia [3]. While he was still a young child, Peter's parents sold their property in the Virginia Colony and moved south along the Atlantic coast into the Province of North Carolina.

Peter grew up along the Tar River in present-day eastern Pitt County and along the New River in coastal Onslow County. His mother died when he was still a young boy, and his stepmother, Amy, undoubtedly cared for him from a young age. In fact, he may have only had vague memories of his biological mother [4].

Despite residing in remote eastern North Carolina during most of his children's early years, James Albritton managed to provide his sons with a decent education. Unlike their father, the Albritton sons were literate. Throughout his adult life, Peter Albritton signed his name to official documents rather than making his mark to them [5]. Like his brothers, father, and grandfather, Peter worked as both a farmer and saddler [6].

Between 1764 and 1785, Peter Albritton Sr. acquired a large plantation on the south side of the Tar River that adjoined his father's. By 1785, he owned at least 850 acres of land there, located near the modern community known as Black Jack. After several decades of cultivation, it appears that Peter's lands south of the Tar River began to lose their productivity, probably due to agricultural practices of the era that leached nutrients from the soil. In the 1780s, many of his children moved to the north side of the Tar River and joined Peter's brother, James Albritton Jr., along Grindle Creek, a region that remained relatively unsettled. About 1794–1797, Peter Albritton himself acquired a tract of land on Grindle Creek that adjoined his brother's farm, probably with the intent of relocating to the north side of the Tar River. He may have moved there just before his death in late 1797 or 1798.

Although numerous Albrittons resided in Pitt County, North Carolina south of the Tar River in the eighteenth century, they had all died or emigrated soon after 1800. By the 1820s, the only remaining Pitt County Albrittons were descendants of Peter, all of whom congregated along Grindle Creek on the north side of the Tar River, in the community that became known as Pactolus.



Cow Swamp Farmer & Saddler

Peter Albritton first paid taxes in Pitt County, North Carolina as an adult male in 1763 and 1764 [1]. In a series of land transactions over the next two decades, he accumulated a large farm south of the Tar River on Cow Swamp. Peter's activities between 1764 and 1781 include:

20 Jun 1764 – Peter Albritton paid £20 "*proclamation money*" for 200 acres of land in Pitt on the south side of the Tar River, "*on a prong*" of Chicod Creek now known as Cow Swamp [2].

8 Apr 1768 – Peter paid £25 for 200 acres of land on Cross Swamp that adjoined his existing land. The land had originally been granted to Isaac Buck in 1757. John Simpson, Pitt County's representative in the North Carolina General Assembly, the Pitt County Register, and colonel of the Pitt County Militia, witnessed the transaction [3].

26 May 1768 – Peter Albritton served as one of the chain bearers who assisted Pitt County Surveyor William Armond as he prepared a survey for Col. John Simpson for a 61-acre tract of land that adjoined Peter's land. The tract lay along Cow Swamp at the mouth Cross Swamp [4].

5 Nov 1771 – Peter Albritton and his father, James Albritton Sr., served as chain bearers for Pitt County Deputy Surveyor J. G. Blount as he prepared a survey for Col. John Simpson for a 118-acre tract of land that adjoined the farms of both Peter and his father, and a second 100-acre tract nearby [5].

11 Jan 1773 – Peter Albritton filed a land entry, an application with the State of North Carolina for a grant of 200 acres adjoining his existing lands on Cow Swamp. Pitt County Surveyor J. G. Blount surveyed the tract for Albritton on November 2nd, with Peter's brother, George Albritton, assisting Blount as one of the chain bearers along with Benjamin Buck. The provincial government formally issued Peter a patent for the land on 22 July 1774 [6].

8 May 1779 – Peter filed an entry for a grant of 150 acres that adjoined his existing lands. The tract lay on the north side of Cow Swamp and adjoined lands of Moore and Edwards [7]. Due to the ongoing Revolutionary War and its chaotic aftermath, the Pitt County Surveyor did not complete a survey of the tract until 5 September 1782, with the new State of North Carolina issuing a formal grant to Peter for his 150-acre tract on 13 October 1783 [8].

12 Nov 1781 – Peter Albritton filed an entry for a grant of 100 acres that adjoined his farm, located on the northwest side of Cross Swamp, south side of Cow Swamp, and adjoining lands of Dixon and Tuton. Pitt County Surveyor Jesse Proctor completed the survey for this tract on 5 September 1782 [9], and the State issued him a grant for it on 23 September 1785 [10].

With these land purchases and grants, Peter Albritton's land holdings increased from 200 acres in 1764 to 850 acres by 1781. His farm adjoined that of his father, James Albritton Sr., and lay on Cow and Cross Swamps near Chicod Creek, south of the Tar River and near present-day Black Jack and Grimesland, in eastern Pitt County [11].

As discontent with British governmental policies spread across the American Colonies in the early 1770s, local communities with strong Patriot sentiments formed *Committees of Safety* that formed a shadow government, helping to maintain order within the local society and gradually wresting control of the colonies from Royal officials. Although the aftermath of the 1770–1771 of the War of the Regulation managed to preserve Royal loyalties in western North Carolina, the Patriot cause dominated in the eastern counties, especially near the Royal Capital of New Bern. Peter Albritton did not actively participate in helping to suppress the British slave insurrection of July 1775 as his brothers, Thomas, George, and Richard did [12]. However, when the Pitt County Safety Committee met at Martinborough (now Greenville) on 23 August 1775, Peter Albritton joined many of his neighbors in signing this proclamation:

We the subscribers professing our allegiance to the King and acknowledging the constitutional executive power of Government, do solemnly profess and testify and declare that we do absolutely believe that neither the Parliament of Great Britain nor any member or constitutional branch thereof have a right to impose taxes upon these colonies to regulate the internal policy thereof and that all attempts by fraud or force to establish and exercise such claims and powers are violations of the peace Security of the people and ought to be resisted to the utmost, and that the people of this province, singly and collectively are bound by the acts and resolutions of the Continental and provincial Congresses, because in both they are freely represented by persons chosen by themselves and we do Solemnly and Sincerely promise and engage under the sanction of virtue, honor, and the sacred love of liberty and our country, to maintain and support all and every the acts and resolutions and Regulations of the said Continental and provincial Congresses to the utmost of our power and abilities...

Although we have no record of any military service by Peter, this does show that he joined with his brothers to support the Patriot cause [13].

Peter's father died in 1773, and in his will, James Albritton Sr. left a 200-acre tract of land to Peter and his brothers, Thomas, James, and Matthew, and probably to George. On 25 May 1774, for £90 the elder four brothers sold this land to their brother, George Albritton [14].

Their father's death precipitated a dozen years of change for the Albritton brothers in addition to the political unrest of the Revolutionary War and its tumultuous aftermath. First, Matthew Albritton emigrated from Pitt County between February and May 1774 [15]. Next, in late 1778, George Albritton and his wife, Lydia, appear to have begun preparing to follow Matthew back to Onslow County on the southeastern North Carolina coast. On October 3rd, George and Lydia sold

the 200-acre tract he obtained from his brothers following their father's death, with Peter witnessing the transaction [16].

Back in 1769, James Albritton Sr. had purchased a 400-acre tract of land from Col. John Simpson [17]. In his will, James left 100 acres of this tract to his youngest son, Henry, who sold it to his eldest brother, Thomas, in November 1781 [18]. In his own will written in about 1782 or 1783, Thomas named his brothers, Peter and James Albritton Jr., as his executors, and he directed them to sell the 100-acre tract. They fulfilled his request on 1 March 1785, when they sold it to Abraham Adams for £28 10s [19].

Later that same day, for £20, Peter Albritton purchased this tract of his father's old plantation for himself [20]. Peter's new tract adjoined James Albritton Sr.'s old 280-acre home plantation that he bequeathed to his son, Henry, and that Henry had sold to Moses Moore on 25 October 1781 [21]. Thus, by 1785, Peter Albritton's contiguous land holdings on Cow and Cross Swamps totaled 950 acres, and it now adjoined the land of Moses Moore [22].

Besides his involvement with the legal affairs of his brothers George and Thomas, Peter Albritton participated in numerous legal transactions made by his younger brother, Richard. On 18 November 1776, Peter witnessed Richard's sale of a 100-acre tract of land adjoining Peter's farm that their father left Richard in his will [23]. Several years later, in 1784, Richard Albritton began preparing to join the post-Revolutionary War general migration from North Carolina to Georgia. On March 18th, he sold three tracts of land in Pitt County, including a 150-acre tract and a 50-acre tract on Cow Swamp that adjoined Peter Albritton's plantation. Their father, James Albritton Sr., had bequeathed these two tracts of land to Richard in his will. Both Peter and their brother, James Albritton Jr., witnessed the transaction [24].

Richard Albritton then emigrated from Pitt County, and by 6 September 1784, he had established residence in Effingham County, Georgia [25]. On November 6th, in his absence from North Carolina, the new State Government had issued him a grant for a 150-acre tract of land that adjoined his former land on Cow Swamp [26]. In the fall of 1785, Richard Albritton returned to Pitt County from his new Georgia home to dispose of this last remaining North Carolina property. On October 26th, Peter and James Albritton Jr. witnessed their brother's sale of his 150-acre grant to Joshua Kemp, the man who had become Peter's neighbor the previous year when he purchased Richard's plantation next to Peter [27].

By this time, Peter Albritton had only two brothers remaining in Pitt County: James Jr. and Henry. The eldest Albritton brother, Thomas, had already died, and Matthew probably perished soon after April 1784, while George followed Richard to Georgia about 1784 [28].

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The Lure of Grindle Creek

The Tar River flows along a southeast-to-northwest diagonal path that bisects Pitt County. As settlement of the region began in the 1740s and 1750s when it was the backcountry of western Beaufort County, immigrants favored the lands along the south side of the Tar River east of modern Greenville. In fact, the settlers of those lands became instrumental in the creation of the new Pitt County effective on 1 January 1761. This region along the southern rim of the Tar River formed the political nucleus of the new county, with the home of Col. John Hardee, located about three miles east of Greenville, serving as the first courthouse [1].

When James Albritton Sr. arrived from Virginia in 1744/1745 and initially settled near the Tar River, he bought a 128-acre tract of land on the north side of the Tar River and south side of Grindle Creek. He lived there for about the next five years before moving to the southeastern coast of North Carolina [2]. Upon his return to the Tar River country in 1756, James Albritton Sr. bought a 500-acre tract on the south side of the Tar, a few miles east of what would later become the county seat of Martinborough, now Greenville [3]

During the 1760s, most of James Albritton's sons acquired farms near his, with the Albritton lands lying along Cow and Cross Swamps that feed into Chicod Creek. The creek empties into the Tar River from the south, one-half mile downstream from the mouth of Grindle Creek on the north side of the Tar. The channel of Grindle Creek extends in a northwesterly direction from its mouth, forming a smaller waterway that parallels the Tar River.

While the majority of the Albrittons settled near James Albritton Sr., James Albritton Jr. settled on the north side of the Tar River, living in that area there by 1760 [4]. The younger James purchased his first tract of land there on Grindle Creek in 1761 [5]. He bought an adjoining 200-acre tract on 11 September 1764 from James Cason [6], and James Albritton Jr. spent his life on his Grindle Creek lands.

In 1783 or 1784, just about the time that Peter Albritton's brother and nephew, Richard and John Albritton, joined the exodus to Georgia after the Revolutionary War, Peter's second son, James, then aged about twenty-three, also decided to leave the Cow and Cross Swamp region south of the Tar River where most Albrittons had congregated their farms since 1756. James did not follow his relatives to Georgia, but rather he moved across the Tar River and joined his uncle, James Albritton Jr., on Grindle Creek.

On 18 April 1784, for £100 "*Currant Money*," the younger James Albritton purchased a 250-acre tract of land on the south side of Grindle Creek from Henry Cason, his uncle's neighbor. The

tract adjoined his uncle's farm and that of John Cason. James Albritton Jr. and Henry Cason had agreed upon the dividing line between their lands, and that agreed boundary now divided the farms of James Albritton Jr. and his namesake nephew [7]. Within the next few years, Peter's next-oldest son, Adam Albritton, also moved across the Tar and settled near the two James Albrittons, Peter's brother and son. Peter's two married daughters, Betsy Albritton Moye and Mary Albritton James, followed their relatives across the Tar and settled on Grindle Creek during the 1780s [8].

During the early 1790s, two of Peter's younger sons, Jonathan and Joel, continued the exodus from the south side of the Tar River. They left their Cow Swamp birthplace and joined their relatives on Grindle Creek beside their uncle, James Albritton Jr. [9]. This left only Peter and his sons, William, Enoch, Peter Jr., and Luke Albritton, on his farm south of the Tar River where the extended Albritton family had lived since the mid-1750s.

We do not know today precisely what motivated Peter's children to leave their Cow Swamp home and move across the river to their uncle's neighborhood. We surmise that by the 1780s, the soil of the lands south of the Tar had become depleted after more than four decades of intense cultivation. The area north of the Tar River, including the Grindle Creek lands, had remained sparsely settled during the eighteenth century. Evidence indicates that the farmland there remained fertile and agriculturally productive during the early nineteenth century, and settlement in that region increased considerably beginning in the 1790s. Thus, economic forces associated with the prospects of superior crop yields on the Grindle Creek lands probably motivated this Albritton migration across the river.

Peter Albritton Sr. continued to reside on his Cow Swamp farm south of the river until at least the mid-1790s. Beginning in 1788, he engaged in several legal affairs with his son, William, and James Albritton. None of these records include any identifying information to describe precisely which James Albritton participated in these records with Peter. However, both his brother, the man we refer to here as "*James Albritton Jr.*," and Peter's son by that name lived across the Tar River on Grindle Creek [10]. Moreover, deed records show that the James Albritton involved in the transactions with Peter Albritton outlived Peter's son by this name [11]. It appears that the James Albritton who settled along Cow and Cross Swamps on a farm that adjoined Peter's about 1788 was his nephew, believed to be the son of [Capt. Matthew Albritton](#) [12].

The records involving Peter, William, and James Albritton include:

30 Jan 1788 – Peter and James Albritton witnessed the sale by Lemuel Golding of a 50-acre tract of land on Cow Swamp adjoining Peter's farm [13].

29 Jul 1789 – James Albritton purchased a 150-acre tract of land on Cross Swamp, with Peter and his son, William, witnessing the transaction [14].

26 Feb 1790 – Peter Albritton witnessed the sale of a slave by James Moore to “Jesse” Albritton, with Peter’s son, William, and Foreman Hodges also witnessing. No other record of an Albritton male with this given name is found in Pitt County during this era. Given the land sale between James Moore and Peter’s nephew, James Albritton, some seven months earlier, and the connection of James Albritton to the Hodges family (James’ first wife is a documented daughter of Robert Hodges), this appears to have been a clerk’s error when recording the deed. It appears that Peter’s nephew, “James” Albritton, is actually the man purchased the slave [15].

1790 – On the enumeration of the 1790 Pitt County Federal Census, Peter Albritton’s household consisted of four males aged 16 or over, one male under 16, one female, and four slaves. The census listed three adjoining Albritton households: Peter Albritton, followed by James Albritton, who we believe was Peter’s nephew, followed by William Albritton, Peter’s documented son. The household following William Albritton was Joshua Kemp, the man who had bought a portion of James Albritton Sr.’s old plantation in 1785 [16].

On 26 December 1793, Peter’s brother, James Albritton Jr., and John Cherry filed an entry for a grant of 114 acres on the south side of Grindle Creek, joining the lands of Joel Albritton and James Jones. When surveyed, the land lay along the creek and bordered land of James Albritton, and the State of North Carolina issued James Albritton and John Cherry a patent for the land on 1 December 1794 [17].

Soon afterwards, Peter Albritton acquired a portion of his brother’s 114-acre grant with John Cherry, plus a portion of the tract that his brother had purchased from James Cason in 1764. This gave Peter ownership of a 164½-acre tract of land on Grindle Creek. No known Pitt County document shows how Peter acquired possession of this land. He may have purchased it from his brother before James Jr.’s death with the transaction not recorded. Alternatively, James Albritton Jr. may have left a will and bequeathed the land to Peter, or Peter may have purchased it from his brother’s estate after his death. Regardless, between December 1794 and about 1798, Peter somehow acquired possession of a 164½-acre tract of land on Grindle Creek that had belonged to his brother [18].

The departure of most of his children from their Cow Swamp birthplace coincided with Peter Albritton’s reaching his mid-fifties, a typical lifespan for many Albritton males in that era. On

February 4th and 6th, 1797, Peter Albritton Sr. made a series of transactions, selling portions of his Cow Swamp farm at prices significantly below market value to his sons who remained on the south side of the Tar River, William, Enoch, and Peter Albritton Jr. The elder Peter sold an equal portion to his son, James, even though James had lived on Grindle Creek since the early 1780s [19].

William, Enoch, and Peter Albritton Jr., as well as Peter Sr.'s nephew, James Albritton, only remained on Cow Swamp a few more years. All four men sold their lands there between 1800 and 1808 and emigrated from the area, with Peter's three sons moving to Georgia, while his nephew, James, moved into neighboring Greene County. This left only Peter's youngest brother, Henry, on the south side of the Tar. All other nineteenth century white Pitt County Albrittons lived in the Grindle Creek region north of the river, a neighborhood that soon became known as Pactolus.

Peter Albritton Sr. died sometime between February 1797 and early 1799. It is unclear if he died on his Cow Swamp farm where he had spent his adult life, or if he left there and joined his relatives on Grindle Creek prior to his death [20].

None of Peter Albritton's recorded Pitt County land transactions identify his wife, nor does any other known contemporary record reveal any clues to her identity. It does appear that she survived Peter and lived with their youngest son, Luke, in 1800 and 1810. Born in 1778, Luke remained single until about 1803–1805. In 1800, he lived on Grindle Creek beside his brothers, and his household consisted only of himself, a female aged 45 years and older, and five slaves. Luke had married by about 1805, and his 1810 household consisted of himself, a female aged 16–26, presumably his wife, four young children, and a white female aged 45 and over. This older female in Luke's household in 1800 and 1810 is probably his mother. This suggests that Peter Albritton's widow died sometime after 1810 [21].

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Peter Albritton Sr.'s 164½ Acres on Grindle Creek

Records discussed above show that in a series of land purchases and grants made between 1764 and 1785, Peter Albritton Sr. accumulated a contiguous plantation of 950 acres on Cow and Cross Swamps south of the Tar River in Pitt County. Albritton was still alive in early February 1797, for on the 4th and 6th of that month, he transferred his land on Cow Swamp to four of his sons. Those transactions failed to give the precise acreage transferred, but Peter appears to have disposed of a total of only 450–500 acres. It is not known how Peter disposed of the remainder of his Cow Swamp lands [1].

On 28 April 1799, the Pitt County Court issued this order [2]:

*To the Sheriff of Pitt County Greeting. We Command you to Summon **George Daniel, Lanier Daniel, John Hatton, John Cherry, and Henry Cason** Commissioners with the County Surveyor to meet on a day by you to be appointed on the premises [sic] then and there to divide all the lands of **Peter Albritton** Deceased Amongst his legal representatives according to act of Assembly and when having so done to make an accurate return of their proceedings to Court. Here in fail not.*

The five commissioners made their report to the Pitt County Court on 1 July 1799 [3]:

*Persuant [sic] to an order of Pitt Court April Term 1799 to us Directed to lay off & set a part to the Heirs of **Peter Albritton Dec^d** all the land of said deceased in the following manner, to Vizt. We have laid off & sett [sic] apart to the Heirs of **James Albritton Jr. Dec^d** twenty three & a half acres of aforesaid Land they being legatees Intitled [sic] to one seventh part which is 23½ Acres. Beginning at a Gum on the Run of Grindal [Grindle] Creek and runs south sixteen degrees wt. one hundred & seventy four poles to a small Oak and pine in the old line which Corse [sic] is the Course of a ditch a dividing line made between sd. decd. and his father **James Albritton** then running with the old Pattent [sic] line Est twenty two pole to a small oak in said line then a parrellel [sic] Course with the ditch line North sixteen degrees East to the run of Grindal [Grindle] Creek then with said run to the Begining [sic]*

*Also we have laid off & set apart to **Adam Albritton, Jonathan Albritton, Joel Albritton & Luke Albritton & Elizabeth Moyer** (wife of **Gardner Moyer**) and **Mary James** (wife of **Mathew James**) being the balance of the Representatives of said Deceased, in the following manner to Vizt. Beginning at a black Gum the lower Corner of the Heirs of **James Albritton dec^d** then runing [sic] the Reverse of their line south sixteen degrees west one hundred and seventy four pole to a red oak their Corner in the old pattent [sic] line then runing [sic] with the old pattent [sic] line East one hundred & thirty eight pole to **John Cherrys** line then with his line north ten degrees East one hundred and Eighty eight pole to the run of Grindal [Grindle] Creek then with the run of said Creek to the begining [sic].*

Two items in the commissioner's report imply that Peter Albritton Sr. left a will:

1. Peter's 164½-acre tract of land was divided among seven of his children (or in James' case, his heirs), whereas other documents prove that Peter had additional children besides these seven. Specifically, William Albritton is a documented son of Peter who did not receive a share of this tract [4]. Had Peter not left a will that specifically bequeathed his Grindle Creek lands to certain of his children, the court would have divided Peter's property among all of his children. The

fact that they divided it into only seven shares, omitting some of his documented other children, implies that Peter left a will, and in it, he specifically left this tract to these seven of his children.

2. In referring to the heirs of James Albritton, the commissioners state, *"they being legatees Intitled [sic] to one seventh part."* The use of the term *"legatees"* implies the existence of a will.

These documents show that Peter Albritton Sr. was still alive in early February 1797, but that he had died prior to 28 April 1799, when the Pitt County Court ordered a division of his lands following his death. Moreover, they show that he left a will that bequeathed a tract of land on Grindle Creek to certain of his children.

While we do not have a precise date or month of Peter's death, these records indicate that he probably died in the latter portion of 1797, 1798, or, at the very latest, early 1799. The land division suggests that Peter's son, James, predeceased him, with Peter leaving James' children their father's share of the Grindle Creek tract.

The Pitt County Court's division of Peter Albritton's 164½-acre tract of land on Grindle Creek raises two critical questions:

Question #1: When and from whom did Peter Albritton obtain ownership of his 164½-acre tract on Grindle Creek?

Explanation: Pitt County deeds and land grants made by Peter Albritton Sr. show his transactions during his acquisition of lands on Cow and Cross Swamps south of the Tar River. No recorded Pitt County deed or other known record shows him acquiring property on Grindle Creek, on the north side of the Tar River where his brother, James Albritton Jr., settled in about 1760 and most of Peter's older children settled in the 1780s and 1790s. However, he clearly came into possession of a 164½-acre tract of land on Grindle Creek prior to his death.

Question #2: Why does the division mention a dividing line between Peter Albritton and his father, James Albritton?

Explanation: The commissioners' report mentioned that one boundary of the 23½ acres allotted to the heirs of Peter's son, James, was

...a ditch a dividing line made between sd. decd. and his father James Albritton.

Peter's land lay on Grindle Creek, on the north side of the Tar River. There is no record of Peter's father, James Albritton Sr., owning land on the north side of the Tar River after he sold his 500-acre tract there in November 1750. Between 1756, when he returned to Pitt

County from Onslow, through his death in 1773, James Albritton Sr. owned land exclusively on the south side of the Tar River. During this period, Peter's father purchased a total of 1480 acres on Cow and Cross Swamps, all near Chicod Creek and on the south side of the Tar [5].

Answering these two questions requires tracing the ownership of this 164½-acre tract between 1799 and 1842 as it passed between Peter's descendants, together with a careful analysis of the land descriptions provided in each document.

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In the italicized land descriptions quoted verbatim below from the original records, the relevant portions critical to identify Peter Albritton's lands are underlined:

1 July 1799

Pitt County Commissioners divide the 164½-acre tract into two parts, a 23½-acre allotted to the heirs of James Albritton, deceased, and a 141-acre undivided tract belonging to the other six of Peter's legatees [6]:

Beginning at a Gum on the Run of Grindal Creek...to a small Oak and pine in the old line which Corse is the Course of a ditch a dividing line made between sd. decd. and his father James Albritton then running with the old Pattent [sic] line Est twenty two pole to a small oak in said line then a parrellel [sic] Course with the ditch line North sixteen degrees East to the run of Grindal [Grindle] Creek then with said run to the Beginning...

*Beginning at a black Gum the lower Corner of the Heirs of **James Albritton dec^d** then runing [sic] the Reverse of their line south sixteen degrees west one hundred and seventy four pole to a red oak their Corner in the old pattent [sic] line then runing [sic] with the old pattent [sic] line East one hundred & thirty eight pole to **John Cherrys** line then with his line north ten degrees East one hundred and Eighty eight pole to the run of Grindal [Grindle] Creek then with the run of said Creek to the begining [sic].*

22 July 1799

Adam, Jonathan, and Luke Albritton, Betsy and Gardner Moye, and Mary and Matthew James, sell the 141-acre tract they received in the division of Peter's lands a few weeks earlier to their brother, Joel Albritton [7]:

Beginning at a Gum on the South Side of Grindall [Grindle] Creek thence South 10 West 114 Pole [to a] Post Oak thence East 138 pole to a pine thence North 10 East 188 Pole to a Gum on the Run of the Creek thence up the Run of S^d Creek to the first Station.

6 May 1817

Samuel Albritton, John Bowers and Susannah Bowers, Abel Moore and Dorothy Moore, and Allen Moore and Nancy Moore sell a 25-acre tract of land to Joel Albritton [8]:

*...a certain peace [sic] of land the property of **Peter Albritton dec^d** lying and being in the County of Pitt & said State Beginning at a gum on the south side of Grindal Creek thence up the various coses [sic-courses] of s^d creak [sic] to **Luke Albrittons** line at the end of a ditch [sic-ditch] thence with the said ditch south to the back line a pine thence with the back line to a post oak thence north Ten East 188 pole to the beginning containing by estimation twenty five acres...*

19 Jan 1839

Peter Albritton sells to Howell Albritton a 23-acre tract on the south side of Grindle Creek [9]:

*...it being a part of a land pattent [sic] granted to **James Cason** bearing date the 20th of February 1761 and part of a pattent [sic] granted to **James Albritton** and bounded as follows to wit., Beginning in the main run of Grandal [Grindle] Creek at **Luke Wards** corner running with his line nearly south to the back line of **Jas. Cason** patten [sic] thence due east with the pattent [sic] line to **John Cherrys** corner thence south ten degrees east to the main run of Grandal [Grindle] Creek thence with the run of said Creek to the beginning it being one seventh part of the above described pease [sic] or parcel of land which I am in title to by the death my Father and containing by Estimation twenty three acres...*

23 Nov 1839

McGilberry F., Hymon, Levina, and Lucinda Albritton, and Talitha (Tilley) Ann E. and Ivey Flemmings sell Howell Albritton a 160-acre tract of land located on the south side of Grindle Creek [10]:

*...on the north side of Tar River and on the south side of Grindle Creek it being a part of a Pattent [sic] granted to **James Cason** bearing date the 20th day of February 1761 and part of a pattent [sic] Granted to **James Albritton & John Whitchard** and bounded as follows to wit. Beginning at a Gum in the main run of Grindle Creek **Rippan Wards** Corner thence running with his line to the back line of **Jas. Cason** pattent [sic] thence with the pattent [sic] line due east to **Joel Albrittons** corner in said line thence north ten degrees east to the main run of Grindle Creek thence up the main run of Grindle Creek to the beginning it being five sevenths part of the Lands which our Father owned at his death and the above are heirs at Law in said Lands...*

8 Feb 1842

Howell Albritton sells the 160-acre tract described in the November 1839 deed to John S. Daniel [11]:

*...on the north side of Tar River and south side of Grindle Creek it being a part of a pattent [sic] granted to **James Cason** bearing date the 20th day of February 1761 and a part of a pattent [sic] granted to **James Albritton and John Whitchard** and bounded as follows Beginning at a gum in the main run of Grindle Creek **Rippon Wards** Corner thence running with his line to the back line of **James Casons** pattent [sic] thence with the pattent [sic] line due East of **Waddingin** and **Edmonds** corner in said line thence north ten degrees east to the main run of Grindle Creek thence up the various courses of said creek to the beginning...*

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Although the precise acreage and wording of each of the land descriptions vary slightly, especially as the adjoining landowners change with the passage of time, we can clearly see that a gum tree in the “*main run*” of Grindle Creek marked the tract throughout this forty-three-year period, as did a ditch that formed a dividing line. Moreover, a central measurement common to all descriptions was when the boundary turned back to the creek at “*north ten degrees east*” (the January 1839 uses “*south ten degrees east*,” but this is probably just clerk’s error, given the other similarities in that record). This leaves no doubt but that the 1799, 1817, 1839, and 1842 transactions convey all or portions of the 164½-acre (later reduced to 160-acre) tract that Peter Albritton Sr. left to seven of his children in 1799.

The last three descriptions from 1839 and 1842 state that the 160-acre tract came from two grants, the first issued to James Cason on 20 February 1761 [12]. We can clearly identify this grant, as Cason only obtained one from the North Carolina Province, for 229 acres in “*Beaufort*” County. Although the region lay Pitt County by the time the province issued the grant, when Cason originally filed his entry for the grant, the tract still lay in Beaufort. While the land description given in the original grant is not particularly revealing, three years later, on 11 September 1764, Peter’s brother, James Albritton Jr., purchased 200 acres of this tract from James Cason [13]. The transaction from Cason to Albritton described the land purchased as:

*...on the South side of Grindall [sic] Creek Bounded as follows Begining [sic] at a pine on the said Creek being a Corner of a Tract of Land Secured by Archibald Adams runing [sic] with his line South 200 pole to a pine one of the said line trees thence East to John James line thence North 10 Degrees East 80 pole to the Creek at a Gum thence up the Creek to the first station... it being part of a tract of 229 Acres of Land Granted and Confirmed Unto me the said **James Cason** by Deed From the right Honorable John Earl Granville Bearing Date February the 20th 1761...*

Remarkably, this shows that the same gum tree in Grindle Creek that marked the boundary from 1799 through 1842 apparently stood as early as 1764, with the same “*north ten degrees east*” measurement as the boundary turned back towards the creek.

The second grant proves more difficult to identify. The January 1839 document identifies the second grant as “*part of a pattent [sic] granted to **James Albritton**,*” while the November 1839 and 1842 documents identify it as “*part of a pattent [sic] Granted to **James Albritton & John Whitchard**.*” However, there are no North Carolina grants made to James Albritton for land on Grindle Creek, nor any grants made jointly to James Albritton and John Whitchard. However, there was a 114-acre tract on the south side of Grindle Creek surveyed on 26 December 1793, with the grant issued on 1 December 1794, made to James “*Albriton*” and John Cherry [14]. Moreover, when James Albritton and John Cherry filed their application for the grant, they described the land as

adjoining the property of Joel Albritton. This is noteworthy, for in 1799, he purchased Peter Albritton's 164½-acre tract and lived there until his death.

When the Pitt County surveyor completed the survey of the land for James Albritton and John Cherry in January 1794, he described it as:

*Survey^d January the 5 Day 1794 for **James Albriton** and **John Cherry** one hundred and fourteen acres of Land Situated in Pitt County on the South Side of Grindal Creek Begining [sic] at the main Run of the Said Creek a Gum and Runs South Eightey [sic] four pole to a Pine **James Albritons** Corner thence a long his line North Sixtey [sic] five D west two hundred and sixtey [sic] pole to said **Albritons** Corner a Read [sic] Oak thence north fiftey [sic] poles to the Run of the Creek to a Cypress thence with the main Run of the Creek to the Begining [sic]...*

We again see a gum tree in the "main Run" of Grindle Creek, and this 114-acre tract adjoined "James Albritons Corner."

Conclusions:

This analysis of the documents from 1761 through 1842 allows us to answer the two questions raised above.

Question #1: When and from whom did Peter Albritton obtain ownership of his 164½-acre tract on Grindle Creek?

Answer: The above analysis of the land descriptions shows that the 164½-acre tract that Peter Albritton Sr. left to seven of his children at his death in about 1798 had been owned by his brother, the man we typically refer to as James Albritton Jr. He purchased part of the tract in September 1764 and received a grant for the remainder in December 1794.

Evidence suggests that James Albritton Jr. was in poor health in May 1793, for after a lifetime of signing his name to legal transactions, he made his mark instead of signing his name to the deed when he sold a 250-acre tract to his nephew, Jonathan Albritton [15]. There is no record of James Albritton Jr. after the surveyor completed his work preparing the survey for Albritton's joint 114-acre grant with John Cherry on 5 January 1794; the State of North Carolina officially issued Albritton and John Cherry their grant on 1 December 1794 [16].

This suggests that James Albritton Jr. did not live long after January 1794, probably dying in late 1794, 1795, or 1796. Since no recorded Pitt County deed shows the property transfer, we know neither precisely how James Albritton Jr. or Peter came into possession of John Cherry's interest in his joint grant with James Albritton Jr., nor how Peter obtained the 164½-acre Grindle Creek tract from his brother.

This uncertainty parallels that regarding the 236-acre tract of land on the north side of Grindle Creek that James Albritton Jr. purchased in March 1784 [17]. In 1821, James' nephew, Joel Albritton, owned the tract, with no record of how Joel came into possession of it [18]. Certainly, not all private land transactions were recorded, especially within family groups, but this shows that most of the lands we know James Albritton Jr. owned later ended up in the hands of his brother or nephews. In the absence of any deeds showing these property transfers, this James Albritton Jr. may have left his lands to his brother or nephew in his will. Alternatively, James Jr. may have died intestate, with Peter and Joel Albritton purchasing his lands from his estate.

Question #2: Why does the land description in the report of the Commissioners appointed by the Pitt County Court to divide Peter Albritton's land include this phrase:

*...a dividing line made between sd. decd. and his father **James Albritton**...*

Answer: The analysis above clearly shows that it was Peter Albritton's brother, James Albritton, who owned the adjoining tract, not his father. The confusing phrase in question, "*his father James Albritton*," was merely a mistake made by the clerk who recorded the document in Pitt County Deed Book O, undoubtedly confused since Peter Albritton's father, brother, son, and nephew all carried the name of "*James Albritton*." As illustrated above, the land descriptions presented here show that Peter's brother owned the 164½-acre tract as well as the adjoining land, with the ditch dividing the tract Peter obtained from the remainder of his brother's land.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Children of Peter Albritton Sr.

A separate set of notes gives documentation for the list of children of Peter Albritton Sr. given below (the link above directs to these notes). None of the surviving records of Pitt County, North Carolina show the given name of Peter's wife. All that we know is that it appears that she survived Peter and lived until at least 1810. The birth dates of Peter's children indicate that his wife gave birth approximately every two years beginning in 1759. This perhaps indicates that one woman gave birth to all of Peter's children.

The children of Peter Albritton Sr., as documented and implied by the records of Pitt County, North Carolina:

1. [Samuel Albritton](#) (2 Apr 1759 – ?)
2. [James Albritton](#) (2 July 1761–1797/1798)
3. [Elizabeth Albritton](#) (2 Mar 1763–aft. Jan 1824) married Gardner Moye (c1755–1821)
4. [William Albritton](#) (1760/1770–c1830) married Margaret ?
5. **Mary Albritton** (24 Jan 1767–aft. 1800) married Matthew James (1755/1765–1801/1806)
6. **Adam Albritton** (10 Apr 1769–c1835) married Eleanor Cason (1770/1775–aft. 1833)
7. [Enoch Albritton](#) (c1771–14 Feb 1834) married Penelope Frizzle (27 Jan 1772–aft. 1860)
8. **Jonathan Albritton** (19 Mar 1771–fall 1845) married Martha ?
9. **Joel Albritton** (9 June 1773–1830/1839)
10. **Peter Albritton Jr.** (2 Jan 1776–1845)
11. **Luke Albritton** (8 May 1778–5 Oct 1853)

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

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.



Introduction

1. Pitt County NC Deed Book F (1774–1801), 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^r 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. 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, William L., ed. *The Colonial Records of North Carolina*. 10 vols. Raleigh, NC: Josephus Daniels, 1886. 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 (1764–1767), pp. 134–135 (Francis Buck to Peter “Albrittain,” 20 June 1764). 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’d’s. 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 had to begin paying a poll tax makes it difficult to determine a precise approximation of when Peter Albritton’s birth occurred. Even if the minimum age of eighteen were used, using his absence from the 1762 tax list to imply he had not yet reached eighteen years would place his birth 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 and 1764, which would place Peter’s about 1742. Although somewhat ambiguous, the records suggest that he was born between about 1740 and 1742.

3. 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); Deed Book 6 (1740–1747), pp. 24–25 (James and Elizabeth Albritton lease and release to William Weblin, 30–31 March 1741); Deed Book 6 (1740–1747), pp. 325–326 (John Burfoot and James Albritton to John Buskey Sr., 6–7 November 1744). Eliza Albritton appeared in Princess Anne County, Virginia Court on 7 November 1744 to

relinquish her dower rights to the land James Albritton sold the previous day. This proves that Peter's birth occurred during his father's first marriage to Elizabeth.

4. 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); Deed Book 3, p. 63 (James and Amy Albritton to John Wichard, 20 November 1750). These deeds show that after James and Elizabeth sold their land in Virginia in November 1744 (see above reference), they moved to Beaufort County, North Carolina. Elizabeth Albritton died between November 1744 and November 1750, by which time James had remarried to Amy. See the [James Albritton Sr. Biography](#) for references to his residence in Onslow County between 1750 and 1755, followed by his return to Beaufort, later Pitt, County. Peter was either a toddler or a young boy when his parents sold their Virginia land in 1744. Eliza Albritton could have died soon after that transaction, or she could have lived until 1749 or very early 1750, when Peter was about eight or nine.
5. Either as a grantor or witness, Peter Albritton signed his name to transactions in 1774, 1776, 1778, 1784, 1785, 1788, 1789, 1790, and 1797, all in Pitt County, North Carolina:
 - Deed Book F, pp. 75–77 (Thomas, James, Peter, and Matthew Albritton to George Albritton, 25 May 1774)
 - Deed Book F, p. 208 (Richard "*Albrittain*," to Nehemiah Tuten, 18 November 1776, witnessed by Peter Albritton)
 - Deed Book H, p. 9 (George and Lydia Albritton to Edward Dixon, 3 October 1778, witnessed by Peter Albritton)
 - Deed Book I, pp. 253–255 (Richard "*Albrittain*" to Joshua Kemp, 18 March 1784, witnessed by Peter Albritton)
 - Deed Book I, pp. 487–489 (James and Peter "*Albrittain*" to Abraham Adams, 1 March 1785)
 - Deed Book I, pp. 487–489 (Abraham Adams to Peter Albritton, 1 March 1785)
 - Deed Book L, p. 6 (Richard Albritton to Joshua Kemp, 26 October 1785, witnessed by Peter Albritton)
 - Deed Book M, p. 95 (Lemuel Goldin to James Moss, 30 January 1788, witnessed by Peter Albritton)
 - Deed Book M, pp. 211–212 (James Moore to James Albritton, 29 July 1789, witnessed by Peter Albritton)
 - Deed Book M, p. 244 (James Moore to "*Jesse Albriton*," 26 February 1790, witnessed by Peter Albritton)
 - Deed Book O, pp. 17 (6 February 1797), 40 (4 February 1797), 85–86 and 155–156 (6 February 1797): deeds made by Peter Albritton to William, Peter Jr., Enoch, and James Albritton.
6. Pitt County, North Carolina deeds in 1764 and 1768 list Peter's occupation as "*Plantor*" and "*Planter*," while one in 1785 gives it as "*Saddler*:"
 - Deed Book C, pp. 134–135 (Francis Buck to Peter "*Albrittain*," 20 June 1764)
 - Deed Book D, pp. 31–32 (Robert Webb to Peter "*Albrittain*," 8 April 1768)
 - Deed Book I, pp. 487–489 (Abraham Adams to Peter Albritton, 1 March 1785).

Cow Swamp Farmer and Saddler

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. Peter Albritton did not pay taxes in Pitt County in 1762, but in 1763 and 1764, he paid a white poll tax. Unlike his brother, George, whose tax was paid as a member of their father's household, Peter paid his taxes in his own name. This implies that Peter had already married by 1763 and had established his own household rather than living with his father.
2. Pitt County NC Deed Book C (1764–1767), pp. 134–135 (Francis Buck to Peter "*Albrittain*," 20 June 1764). The "*prong of Chicod Creek*" was then known as "*Taylor's Swamp*," after John and William Taylor who lived there in the 1750s and early 1760s. The description of the land Peter purchased here mentioned "*John Taylor's path*," whereas the land his father purchased on 4 March 1769 lay on "*Taylor's Swamp*" and had previously belonged to William Taylor. However, the definitive proof that what was originally known as "*Taylor's Swamp*" became "*Cow Swamp*" after the Taylors vacated the region comes from the 1764 land entry made by James Albritton Sr. When the provincial official issued a "*warrant*" ordering a survey on 14 February 1764 in response to the "*land entry*" filed by James Albritton Sr. earlier, it was for land "*Lying on the head of Taylor's Swamp*." However, when the Pitt County Surveyor finally fulfilled the warrant by surveying the tract on 1 July 1772, he described it as "*on Cow Swamp*;" see North Carolina Grant Book 22, p. 237, Entry #153, Grant #548, #162 (James Albritton, 62 acres "*on Cow Swamp*" adjoining Albritton's land, entry filed 14 February 1764, surveyed 1 July 1772, grant issued 4 February 1773). The 1764 entry requested a survey of 100 acres "*Lying on the head of Taylor's Swamp*."
3. Pitt County NC Deed Book D (1768–1771), pp. 31–32 (Robert Webb to Peter "*Albrittain*," 8 April 1768; witness: John Simpson). John Simpson was a local merchant who owned large tracts of land in the Pitt County region. Peter's father would engage in a series of land transactions with Simpson the following year.
4. Secretary of State Records, Land Grant Section. Warrants, Surveys and Related Documents (ca. 1735–1957). S.108.970: Pitt County Land Grant Files. File #068, Warrant #550, 100 acres, entered 28 April 1768. This grant was never issued.

5. North Carolina Grant Book 20, p. 708, Grant #119, #141 (John Simpson, 100 acres on east side of Swifts Creek). North Carolina Grant Book 20, p. 709, Grant #121, #143 (John Simpson, 118 acres at the Mouth of Cross Swamp and on James and Peter Albritton's lines). Issue date on both grants: 14 November 1771. Chain bearers: James Albritton and Peter Albritton.
6. North Carolina Grant Book 22, p. 367, Entry #350, Grant #252, File #175 (Peter Albritton, 200 acres on Cow Swamp; entered 11 January 1773, surveyed 2 November 1773, granted 22 July 1774). Chain bearers: George Albritton and Benjamin Buck.
7. North Carolina Grant Book 54, p. 229, Entry #345, Grant #523, #745 (Peter Albritton, 150 acres adjoining his existing line on Cow Swamp, entered 8 May 1779, surveyed 5 September 1782).
8. Pitt County NC Deed Book G (1779–1783), p. 337, Grant #523 (State of North Carolina to Peter "Albritian," 13 October 1783, 150 acres on north side of Cow Swamp adjoining "Albritains own line").
9. North Carolina Grant Book 69, p. 299, Entry #61, Grant #739, #987 (Peter Albritton, 100 acres adjoining his existing line on west side of Cross Swamp and south side of Cow Swamp, entered 12 November 1781, surveyed 5 September 1782).
10. Pitt County NC Deed Book K (1784–1789), p. 107, Grant #739 (State of North Carolina to Peter "Albritian," 23 September 1785, 100 acres on west side of Cross Swamp and south side of Cow Swamp). The description from the survey indicated that this tract adjoined Albritton's own line and lay along a line that was "formerly Simpsons."
11. North Carolina Grant Book 20, p. 709, Grant #121, #143 (John Simpson, 118 acres at the Mouth of Cross Swamp and on James and Peter Albritton's lines, surveyed 5 November 1771). Pitt County NC Deed Book F (1774–1801), p. 208 (Richard "Albrittain" to Nehemiah Tuten, 18 November 1776); Deed Book M (1788–1793), pp. 188–189 (Nehemiah Tuten to Nesby Mills Sr., February 1788). The 5 November 1771 survey for Col. John Simpson's 118-acre land grant proves that James and Peter Albritton's plantations adjoined. In November 1776, Richard Albritton sold a 100-acre tract of land on the south side of Cow Swamp "begining at Peter Albritons seventh corner" and running along Peter's line, surrounded by Peter Albritton's line and Pocason near Franks Branch. This was 100 acres of the 400-acre tract originally granted to Col. John Simpson on 28 April 1768 and sold by him to James Albritton on 4 March 1769; see Pitt County NC Deed Book D (1768–1771), p. 69 (John Simpson to James "Albrittain," 4 March 1769, 400 acres on both sides of Taylors Swamp, on Sparks Branch and along "the pocoson," granted to Simpson on 28 April 1768). The 18 November 1776 deed in which Richard Albritton sells this 100-acre tract contains an omission that suggests the land was originally granted to Richard. He states that the land was "Granted to me by Pattent bearing date April 28: 1768;" if correct, it would date Richard's birth to about 1747, for him to have reached twenty-one years by April 1768. This statement is an error of omission, presumably made by the Pitt County clerk who recorded the document. There are no North Carolina land grants to Richard Albritton other than his 1784 grant. In fact, the only land grant made in Pitt County on 28 April 1768 was that to Col. John Simpson, who received 400 acres "On both sides of Taylors Swamp," land that Simpson sold to James Albritton in 1769 (see North Carolina Grant Book 23, p. 211, Grant #149, File #194 for the grant to Simpson). The mistake is made clear when Tuten sells the tract in February 1788; that document states that the 100 acres was "Granted to John Simpson Patent bearing date April 28, 1768 and by him sold to James Albritton." The implication is that James Albritton Sr. gave the land to Richard Albritton in his will. This all shows that the plantations of James Albritton Sr. and that of his son, Peter, adjoined.
12. 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. That article also discusses the service of James Albritton Jr. as a Patroller in early 1776.
13. Saunders, Vol. X, pp. 221–222. Peter's older brother, Matthew, and two youngest brothers, Richard and Henry Albritton, are documented to have supported the Patriot or Whig cause.
14. Pitt County NC Deed Book F (1774–1801), pp. 75–77 (Thomas, James, Peter, and Matthew Albritton to George Albritton, 25 May 1774). The destruction of the Pitt County records resulted in the loss of all wills and estate records, but the 1774 deed in which the Albritton brothers sold the land to George Albritton states of the tract, "...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..."
15. Pitt County NC Deed Book F (1774–1801):
 - pp. 73–75:** Matthew Albritton to Benjamin Buck, 21 February 1774
 - pp. 75–77:** Thomas, James, Peter, and Matthew Albritton to George Albritton, 25 May 1774
 On February 21st, Matthew Albritton was a resident of Pitt County, but by May 25th, he had established residence in Onslow County.
16. Pitt County NC Deed Book H (1778–1782), p. 9 (George and Lydia Albritton to Edward Dixon, 3 October 1778; witness: Peter Albritton).

17. Pitt County NC Deed Book D (1768–1771), p. 69 (John Simpson to James “*Albrittain*,” 4 March 1769). The Province of North Carolina granted the 400-acre tract to John Simpson on 28 April 1768 (North Carolina Grant Book 23, p. 211, Grant #149, File #194, described as land “*On both sides of Taylors Swamp*”).
18. Pitt County NC Deed Book H (1778–1782), pp. 170–171 (Henry Albritton to Thomas Albritton, 14 November 1781).
19. Pitt County NC Deed Book I (1782–1785), pp. 495–486 (James & Peter “*Albritain, Executors of the last will and Testament of Thomas Albriton*,” to Abraham Adams, 1 March 1785).
20. Pitt County NC Deed Book I (1782–1785), pp. 487–489 (Abraham Adams to Peter Albritton, 1 March 1785).
21. Pitt County NC Deed Book I (1782–1785), pp. 333–335 (Henry “*Albritain*” to Moses Moore, 25 October 1781).
22. If Peter Albritton retained ownership through 1785 of all the land he purchased or was granted, then by that year his farm consisted of at least 950 acres. There are no recorded Pitt County deeds showing him selling any land until 1797.
23. Pitt County NC Deed Book F (1774–1801), p. 208 (Richard Albritton to Nehemiah Tuten, 18 Nov 1776; witness: Peter Albritton).
24. Pitt County NC Deed Book I (1782–1785), pp. 253–255 (Richard Albritton to Joshua Kemp, 18 March 1784; witnesses: Peter Albritton, James Albritton, Robert Dixon). 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.
25. Georgia Headright and Bounty Documents, 1783–1909, LDS Film #5034305, Image #55–56 (Richard Albritton, Effingham County, 200 acres, 6 September 1784).
26. Pitt County NC Deed Book K (1784–1789), p. 92, Grant #573 (State of North Carolina to Richard Albritton, granted 6 November 1784, surveyed 22 May 1783).
27. Pitt County NC Deed Book L (1784–1788), p. 6 (Richard Albritton to Joshua Kemp, 26 October 1785; witnesses: Peter Albritton, James Albritton). Presumably, it was Peter and Richard’s brother, James, who witnessed the transaction, as opposed to Peter’s son, who had by then also reached adulthood.
28. Onslow County NC Deed Book B-1, pp. 273–274 (Matthew “*Allbritton*” to Wm. Sanders, 8 April 1784); pp. 272–273 (Matthew Albritton to William Sanders, 10 April 1784). Albritton, p. 38. McSwain, p. 100. The last known record of Matthew Albritton is his land sale to William Sanders in Onslow County on 10 April 1784. Definitive statements made by researchers Albritton and McSwain that “*Mathew Albritton had died in Onslow by 1790*” based upon his omission from the 1790 federal census are speculative. While he probably indeed died soon after April 1784, we cannot be certain without more documentation.

The Lure of Grindle Creek

1. Clark, Walter, ed. *The State Records of North Carolina*. Vol. XXIII, Goldsboro, NC: Nash Brothers, 1907, 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...*”).
2. 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); Deed Book 3, pp. 63–64 (James and Amy “*Albriton*” to John “*Wichard*,” 20 November 1750). James Albritton’s 128-acre tract lay on the north side of the Tar River and south side of Grindle Creek.
3. Beaufort County NC Deed Book 3, p. 243 (David Cannon, “*Planter*,” to James “*Alberton*,” “*Sadler*,” 27 February 1756). The deed gave only a vague description of the 500-acre tract, merely stating that it lay on the south side of the Tar River and adjoined the lands of John Mills Jr.
4. North Carolina Grant Book 11, p. 53, Grant #87, #491 (Ebenezer Folsom, 700 acres, surveyed 30 June 1760). Chain carriers: George Moore, James “*Alberton*.” Given that Ebenezer Folsom sold James “*Albritton*” Jr. a portion of this land the next year, it was clearly James Albritton Jr. who served as one of Folsom’s chain carriers.
5. Pitt County NC Deed Book A, p. 240 (Ebenezer Folsom to James Albritton Jr., 1761). Deed Book A disappeared from the Pitt County Courthouse many years ago, before the LDS microfilmed the deeds and perhaps a century or more prior to that. However, the records from that book are listed in the Pitt County Index to Deeds. The only other information given about this transaction is that it involved a tract on “*Grindal Creek*.”
6. Pitt County NC Deed Book C (1764–1767), p. 148–149 (James Cason to James Albritton Jr., 11 September 1764).
7. Pitt County NC Deed Book I (1782–1785), pp. 268–269 (Henry Cason to “*James Albrittain Junr*,” 18 April 1784). See the article, [James Albritton’s 1784 Grindle Creek Land Purchase](#), for a detailed discussion of the 1784 purchase by James Albritton and the identification of that man as Peter Albritton’s son.
8. Pitt County NC Deed Book M (1788–1793), pp. 114–115 (John Cason to James Albritton, 19 January 1789; witness: Adam Albritton). 1790 Pitt County NC Federal Census, p. 452/29, column 2, #61: Matthew James; #66: Gardner Moye; p. 453/30, column 1, #17: Adam Albritton. It is not entirely certain when Adam Albritton settled on Grindle Creek, as his witnessing his uncle’s land purchase on 19 January 1789 need not necessarily prove residence there. However, the 1790 federal census shows him living in his own household near known Grindle Creek residents,

indicating that he had followed his brother to Grindle Creek by 1788. Similarly, Matthew James and Gardner Moye were both listed among known Grindle Creek residents on the 1790 federal census.

9. These Pitt County deeds records and grant book document the residence of Jonathan Albritton on Grindle Creek between 1791 and 1795:
 - a. Deed Book M, pp. 471–472 (John Cason to Jane Adams, 7 October 1791; witness: *"Jonathan Albriton"*).
 - b. Deed Book M, p. 473 (John Cason to *"James Albriton Junr,"* 7 October 1791; witness: *"Jonathan Albriton"*).
 - c. Deed Book M, pp. 483–484 (John Cason to *"Eleanor Albriton,"* 7 October 1791; witness: *"Jonathan Albriton"*).
 - d. Deed Book M, pp. 495–496 (John Cason to *"Jonathan Albriton,"* 7 October 1791; witness: *"Adam Albriton"*).
 - e. Deed Book M, p. 509 (John Cason to the children of his daughter Rachel Adams, 7 October 1791; witnesses: *"Adam Albriton," "Jonathan Albriton"*);
 - f. Deed Book M, pp. 493–494 (Hillory Cason to James Langley, 10 November 1791; witnesses: *"Jonathan Albriton," "William Albriton"*).
 - g. Deed Book N, p. 54 (Jonathan Albritton to Colson Adams, 16 May 1793; witness: Adam Albritton).
 - h. Deed Book N, pp. 199–200 (Colson Adams to Adam Albritton, 16 May 1793; witness: Jonathan Albritton).
 - i. Deed Book N, p. 169 (James Albritton to Jonathan Albritton, 25 May 1693; witness: Adam Albritton).
 - j. Deed Book N, pp. 200–201 (Thomas Daniel to Adam Albritton, 16 May 1794; witness: Jonathan Albritton).
 - k. North Carolina Grant Book 84, p. 381. Entry #270, Grant #1143, File #1173 (*"Adam Albriton,"* 73 acres on Grindle Creek on James Albritton's line; issued 1 December 1794). Chain bearer: Jonathan *"Albriton"*
 - l. Deed Book N, pp. 240–241 (Absalom Carney to Josiah Carney, 3 January 1795; witnesses: Jonathan Albritton).

These Pitt County deed records document the presumed residence of Joel Albritton on Grindle Creek north of the Tar River beginning in about 1791:

- a. Deed Book M, pp. 599–600 (Colson Adams to Obediah Moore, 12 November 1791; witnesses: Joel Albriton; Gardner Moye).
 - b. North Carolina Grant Book 84, p. 383. Entry #268, Grant #1147, File #1177 (James *"Albriton"* and John Cherry, 114 acres, warrant dated 26 December 1793, surveyed 5 January 1794, grant issued 1 December 1794). The warrant described the land as lying on the south side of Grindle Creek *"Joining of James Jones Line and Joel Albritons [sic] Line and the Run of the Creek."*
10. See the article: [James Albritton's 1784 Grindle Creek Land Purchase](#) for an analysis of James Albritton's 1784 land purchase on Grindle Creek. It provides documentation that this man was the son of Peter Albritton Sr.
 11. These Pitt County deed records describe James Albritton's participation between 1788 and 1800 in transactions of land on Cow and Cross Swamps and adjoining Peter Albritton's farms. The similar land descriptions and time frame indicate that all five records were made by the same man. They show that the James Albritton involved lived until January 1800. This proves that the James Albritton involved in these records could not have been Peter's son, who is documented as having died prior to July 1799:

[Deed Book M \(1788–1793\), pp. 211–212](#): James Moore to James Albritton, 29 July 1789; witnesses: Peter Albritton; William Albritton; James Albritton bought 150 acres on north side of Cross Swamp, beginning at the mouth of the muscadine branch, originally granted to William Taylor.

[Deed Book N \(1793–1797\), p. 456](#): Edward Dixon to Abraham Dixon, 20 August 1795; witnesses: James Albritton, Zakra Albritton; land sold was 5 acres on the north side of Cow Swamp originally granted to Simon Burney.

[Deed Book N \(1793–1797\), pp. 334–335](#): Edward Dixon to James Albritton, 9 September 1795; witness: Zakra Albritton; James Albritton bought 150 acres on the north side of Cross Swamp on Frances Bucks' line, originally granted to William Taylor.

[Deed Book O \(1797–1801\), p. 399](#): James Albritton to James Barfield, 17 January 1799; witness: John Pope; acknowledged by James Albritton in January 1800; James Albritton sells 400 acres, including 300 acres patented to William Taylor and on Cross Swamp, the same land bought by Albritton in 1789 and 1795. Albritton acknowledged the deed before the Pitt County Court in January 1800, after we know that Peter's son, James Albritton had already died. The witness is the father-in-law of James Albritton, whose second wife was Sarah Pope.

[Deed Book P \(1801–1804\), p. 35](#): James Albritton to Peter Albritton, 8 January 1800.

12. Albritton Graveyard, Snow Hill, Greene County NC, tombstones of James Albritton (13 July 1765–29 Sept 1827), *"son of Mathew & Susan Albritton,"* and Pattie Albritton (5 Mar 1773–10 Nov 1835), *"dau. of Benjamin & Polly May and wife of James Albritton; Age: 62 yrs., 8 mos., 5 days."* Pitt County NC Deed Book O (1797–1801), pp. 155–156 (Peter Albritton Sr. to *"His Sun James Albritton,"* 6 February 1797); Deed Book O (1797–1801), p. 469 (Pitt County Commissioners divide lands of *"Peter Albritton, Decd,"* 1 July 1799). McSwain, p. 104 (transcription of Bible record of James William Pope Grimsley). The gravestone transcriptions were made on 14 March 1971 at the graveyard, *"located in a field beside Highway 13 between Snow Hill and the county line, near a small run."* The information on

- this tombstone conflicts with the transcription of the John William Pope Grimsley Family Bible published in McSwain, which contains the entry, "*James Albritton the son of Peter Albritton by Susanna his wife was born July 13, 1765.*" McSwain states that she only had a transcription of the Bible, and she noted that it appears to have contained an error. The referenced Pitt County, North Carolina documents prove that Peter Albritton had a son by the name of James Albritton, but Peter's son died between February 1797 and July 1799. Thus, Peter's son could not possibly be the man who moved to Snow Hill about 1800 and died in 1827. While both tombstones and Bible records frequently contain mistakes since neither need be recorded contemporary to the events they purport to document, in this case we have verification that the names of James' parents in the transcription of the Bible record are incorrect. The Bible also states that James Albritton died on 27 September 1828, whereas the date copied from his tombstone still standing in 1971 was 29 September 1827. It is unclear if his tombstone remains standing today.
13. Pitt County NC Deed Book M (1788–1793), p. 95 (Lemuel "*Goldin*" to James Moss, 30 January 1788; witnesses: Peter Albritton, James Albritton).
 14. Pitt County NC Deed Book M (1788–1793), pp. 211–212 (James Moore to James Albritton, 29 July 1789; witnessed by Peter and William Albritton). We know that it was Peter's nephew who made this land purchase since he sold this land on 17 January 1799; see Pitt County NC Deed Book O (1797–1801), p. 399 (James Albritton to James Barfield). Peter's own son by this name had already perished by that date.
 15. Pitt County NC Deed Book M (1788–1793), p. 244 (James Moore to "*Jesse Albriton*," 26 February 1790). In the 1790 transaction in which James Moore sells the slave girl, the name "*Jesse Albriton*" was written a total of four times in this document. However, this is the only known reference to an Albritton with the given name of "*Jesse*" in Pitt County, North Carolina during this era. The document recorded immediately after this one (Deed Book M (1788–1793), pp. 244–245) is between Lewis Pipkin (of Dobbs County) and Jesse Duning, witnessed by Solomon Alberson and Ezekiel Duning, and was recorded at the same April 1790 Court that the document to "*Jesse*" Albritton was. The Dunnings and Solomon Alberson are all found on the 1790 Pitt County NC Federal Census living near James Moore (p. 455/32, column 2, #67: James Moore; #70: Ezekiel Dunning; #71: Jesse Dunning [column 2 has 73 names]; column 3, #2: Solomon Alberson). Since James Moore sold James Albritton land seven months prior to this transaction, with both transactions witnessed by Peter and William Albritton (who also witnessed this slave transaction to "*Jesse*" Albritton), it appears likely that the clerk who recorded this document mistakenly wrote the name of "*Jesse*" when he should have written "*James*," possibly because he had also had to record the document involving Jesse Duning. This explanation would fit, given that the James Albritton listed next to Peter Albritton on the 1790 census had three slaves listed in his household (1790 Pitt County NC Federal Census, p. 458/35, column 4, line #59: James Albritton).
 16. 1790 Pitt County NC Federal Census, p. 452/29, column 2, line #18: James Albritton; #33: James Albritton; p. 458/35, column 2, line #58: Peter Albritton; #59: James Albritton; #60: William Albritton; #61: Joshua Kemp. Based upon our knowledge of Peter's children, the male under sixteen is certainly Luke, born in 1778, and so then aged twelve. The four males sixteen or older would include Peter himself and probably his second-youngest son, Peter Jr., although technically, the latter was only fourteen years in 1790. As for the other two, Peter Sr. had sons Joel, aged seventeen in 1790, and Jonathan and Enoch, both aged nineteen in 1790. Jonathan is known to have lived on Grindle Creek in 1791, so he may have been one of the older males in the household of James Albritton Jr. (#18). The family structure of James Albritton (#33, p. 452/29) matches that of Peter's son, as he had one son born in 1783 and three daughters born in the 1780s.
 17. North Carolina Grant Book 84, p. 383. Entry #268, Grant #1147, File #1177 (James "*Albriton*" and John Cherry, warrant dated 26 December 1793, surveyed 5 January 1794, issued 1 December 1794; 114 acres on the south side of Grindle Creek on James "*Albritons*" corner). Chain bearers: Adam "*Albriton*," John James. The warrant of survey requested a survey for land on the "*South Side Grindal [sic] Creek Joining James Jones Line and Joel Albritons Line...*" but the actual survey did not mention Joel Albritton.
 18. The next section gives an analysis of the origins of the 164½-acre tract of land on Grindle Creek that Peter Albritton owned at his death, showing that it originally belonged to his brother, James Albritton Jr. It is not known whether or not James Albritton Jr. left a will or died intestate.
 19. Pitt County NC Deed Book O (1797–1801), p. 40 (Peter Albritton to William Albritton, 4 February 1797); p. 17 (Peter Albritton Sr. to Peter Albritton Jr., 6 February 1797); pp. 85–86 (Peter Albritton Sr. to Enoch Albritton, 6 February 1797); pp. 155–156 (Peter Albritton Sr. to James Albritton, 6 February 1797).
 20. The next section gives references proving the time frame during which Peter Albritton Sr. died. However, no known documentation reveals precisely where in Pitt County his death occurred.
 21. 1800 Pitt County NC Federal Census, p. 227, line #6: Luke Albritton. 1810 Pitt County NC Federal Census, p. 235, line #2: Luke Albritton. Lomas, pp. 163–165. McSwain, p. 148. Albritton, p. 40. Lomas lists Peter's wife as Susannah Albritton, but she gives no documentation for this statement. McSwain merely states that none of his deeds contain his wife's name, while Albritton reprinted the statement made by Lomas that Peter's wife was Susannah, without providing any documentation or source for this claim.

Peter Albritton Sr.'s 164½ Acres on Grindle Creek

1. Pitt County NC Deed Book O (1797–1801), p. 40 (Peter Albritton to William Albritton, 4 February 1797); p. 17 (Peter Albritton Sr. to Peter Albritton Jr., 6 February 1797); pp. 85–86 (Peter Albritton Sr. to Enoch Albritton, 6 February 1797); and pp. 155–156 (Peter Albritton Sr. to “*His Sun*” James Albritton, 6 February 1797). These are the only Pitt County deeds in which Peter Albritton sells his land. If he made any other land sales, those documents were not recorded in the deed books. Records discussed below show that Peter left a will in which he may have disposed of additional land on Cow Swamp.
2. Pitt County NC Deed Book O (1797–1801), p. 469 (Pitt County Court orders the Sheriff to summon commissioners to divide the “*lands of Peter Albritton, Deceased,*” 28 April 1799). The Court names the commissioners to be summoned by the sheriff as George Daniel, Lanier Daniel, John Hatten, John Cherry, and Henry Cason.
3. Pitt County NC Deed Book O (1797–1801), p. 469 (Pitt County Commissioners divide lands of “*Peter Albritton, Decd,*” 1 July 1799).
4. Pitt County NC Deed Book O (1797–1801), p. 40 (Peter Albritton to William Albritton, 4 February 1797); Deed Book P (1801–1804), pp. 48–49 (William Albritton to Peter Albritton, 8 January 1801 [sic–1800]). In the latter deed, William sells to his brother, Peter Albritton Jr., 200 acres of land “*Granted to Peter Albritton Senr and by him by a deed to his son William Albritton...*” The date on that deed was written as “1801,” but it appears that it was literally transacted on 8 January 1800, the same day on which James Albritton sold land to Peter Albritton Jr. Both of those deeds were filed with the Pitt County Court during their November Term 1801, and the recording clerk appears to have written the wrong year on this deed (see Pitt County NC Deed Book P (1801–1804), p. 35 (James Albritton to Peter Albritton, 8 January 1800; filed in court November 1801). A discussion below describes strong circumstantial evidence that indicates that Peter Albritton Jr. and Enoch Albritton were also sons of Peter Albritton Sr. not among those receiving a share of this 164½-acre tract.
5. See the biography of [James Albritton Sr.](#) for references to his Pitt County deeds and North Carolina land grants.
6. Pitt County NC Deed Book O (1797–1801), p. 469 (Pitt County Commissioners divide lands of “*Peter Albritton, Decd,*” 1 July 1799).
7. Pitt County NC Deed Book O (1797–1801), pp. 335–336 (Adam, Jonathan, and Luke Albritton, Betsy and Gardner Moye, and Mary and Matthew James to Joel Albritton, 22 July 1799).
8. Pitt County NC Deed Book AA (1817–1819), pp. 70–71 (Samuel Albritton, John & Susannah Bowers, Abel & Dorothy Moore, and Allen & Nancy Moore to Joel Albritton, 6 May 1817). Both Luke and Peter Albritton witnessed this document. Luke was clearly the youngest son of Peter Albritton Sr., and Peter Albritton must be the man born in 1797 who later moved to Muscogee County Georgia. Later arguments show he is the younger brother of those selling this tract.
9. Pitt County NC Deed Book II (1838–1841), p. 402 (Peter Albritton to Howell Albritton, 19 January 1839).
10. Pitt County NC Deed Book KK (1842–1845), p. 50 (McGilberry F., Hymon, Levina, and Lucinda Albritton, and Tilley Ann E. and Ivey Flemmings to Howell Albritton, 23 November 1839).
11. Pitt County NC Deed Book KK (1842–1845), p. 40 (Howell Albritton to John S. Daniel, 8 February 1842).
12. North Carolina Grant Book 11, p. 49. Grant #106, File #475 (James Cason, 229 acres “*On the south side of Grindall Creek beginning at a pine;*” grant issued 20 February 1761).
13. Pitt County NC Deed Book C (1764–1767), pp. 148–149 (James Cason to James “*Albrittain, Junr.,*” 11 September 1764).
14. North Carolina Grant Book 84, p. 383. Entry #268, Grant #1147, File #1177 (James “*Albriton*” and John Cherry, warrant dated 26 December 1793, surveyed 5 January 1794, issued 1 December 1794; 114 acres on the south side of Grindle Creek on James “*Albritons*” corner). Chain bearers: Adam “*Albriton,*” John James. The warrant of survey requested a survey for land on the “*South Side Grindal [sic] Creek Joining James Jones Line and Joel Albritons Line...*” but the actual survey did not mention Joel Albritton.
15. Pitt County NC Deed Book N (1793–1797), p. 169 (James Albritton to Jonathan Albritton, 25 May 1793; witness: Adam Albritton).
16. James Albritton Jr. remained alive on 5 January 1794, for else the Pitt County Surveyor could not legally have completed his work to fulfill the warrant (North Carolina did not grant land to deceased men). However, once the surveyor had submitted it to the state for an official grant, it is unclear if the bureaucracy could have been stopped. In other words, while James Albritton Jr. was certainly living on 5 January 1794, we cannot necessarily draw any conclusions based upon the official grant date of 1 December 1794.
17. Pitt County NC Deed Book I (1782–1785), pp. 260–261 (John Cason to James “*Albriton/Albrittain,*” 23 March 1784).
18. Pitt County NC Deed Book CC (1822–1830), p. 78 (Joel Albritton to Henry James, 24 September 1821). Both transactions involved the same 236-acre tract on the north side of Grindle Creek. Henry James is the son of Mary Albritton James, sister of Joel and daughter of Peter.

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