

William Albritton

Son of Peter Albritton Sr. and grandson of James Albritton Sr.

by Timothy Dean Hudson

William Albritton (c1765–c1830) is a documented son of Peter Albritton Sr. [1], but his precise date of birth was not listed with most of Peter's other children in a list published in 1979 by an Albritton researcher. William Albritton's birth probably fell between the births of Peter's daughter, Elizabeth, born on 2 March 1763, and Mary, born on 24 January 1767. This places his birth about 1765 [2].

William Albritton first appears in the Pitt County records on 29 July 1789, when he and his father witnessed the transaction in which William's first cousin, James, purchased from James Moore a tract of 150 acres on Cross Swamp, near their father's plantation. A few months later, on 26 February 1790, William and his father witnessed James Moore selling a young female slave child, Ann, to James. The 1790 Pitt County Federal Census indicates that William and James lived on Peter's plantation, and his household makeup suggests William married in the 1780s. Besides he and his wife, William's household included one male under sixteen years and two females.

On 10 November 1791, William and his brother, Jonathan Albritton, witnessed a transaction between Hillory Cason and James Langley for 200 acres of land on Grindle Creek north of the Tar River, adjoining the lands of Eleazer Cherry. On 10 August 1793, William Albritton and James Buck witnessed the purchase of 100 acres of land on Long Branch by Benjamin Buck; five years later, in October 1798, William appeared in Court in Greenville to swear that he witnessed the transaction. James Buck was a neighbor of William and Peter, having purchased land that adjoined the Albritton plantation in July 1790 [3].

On 4 February 1797, William's father deeded him the 200-acre tract that North Carolina granted him in 1773, and on 8 January 1800, while still a Pitt County resident, William sold this tract to his brother, Peter Albritton Jr. [4]. William was not listed as a head of household on the 1800 Pitt County, North Carolina Federal Census, suggesting that he sold his land in Pitt County and then migrated to Georgia prior to the 1800 enumeration [5].

By 1803/1804 when he registered for the 1805 Georgia Land Lottery, William Albritton had settled in Washington County, Georgia, located on the west side of Jefferson County [6]. A few years later, William's younger brother, Peter Albritton Jr., followed William to Washington County [7]. Sometime prior to 1818, William moved again, following the general white influx into the former heartland of the Creek Confederacy. He settled in Twiggs County and soon acquired a 101¼-acre

tract of land. In 1818, he paid \$2.33¼ in taxes on his farm and six taxable slaves [8]. In 1821, William Albritton registered for the upcoming land lottery as a resident of Chain's District, Twiggs County. He was a fortunate drawer in that lottery, soon paying the grant fee and obtaining a patent for his new 202½-acre tract in Monroe County [9].

On Saturday, 3 July 1824, William's son, Jesse Albritton, died at the age of twenty-four. Several newspapers published this tribute to Jesse [10]:

Departed this life, on Saturday the 3d inst. at the residence of his father William Albritton, Twiggs county [sic], Mr. JESSE ALBRITTON, in the 25th year of his age, after a severe illness of 16 days. Without exaggeration, it may be said of this young gentleman, that few of the vicious gaities [sic-gaities] pursued by those of his age, attracted his attention; and a moral respect for society, was a leading trait in his character. Respected by all who knew him, his loss will long be deplored. This tribute of respect, is offered to his memory by one that has received from him the liveliest tokens of the most disinterested friendship.

On 22 December 1825, James Finley of Houston County, Georgia sold John Hennington of Twiggs County, Georgia a lot of land in Houston County, which bordered Twiggs County on its southwest side. Margaret Albritton and Solomon Simpson witnessed the transaction. A few years later, in his will, William Albritton named Solomon Simpson as one of his executors along with his son, Matthew, which suggests that Simpson was William Albritton's son-in-law. Clearly, Solomon Simpson had a close connection to William Albritton, and his witnessing this document with Margaret Albritton suggests she was William's wife. This is the only known indication for the given name of William's wife [11].

Both Washington and Twiggs are burned counties, so we have few other details on William Albritton's life in Georgia. In 1826, William paid taxes of \$3.75 on his 202½-acre Twiggs County farm, the 202½-acre lottery land in Monroe County, and ten taxable slaves [12].

William Albritton lived through 1828, for that January, he had a letter addressed to him in the possession of the deceased postmaster of Marion, then the county seat of Twiggs County [13]. He appears to have died in Twiggs County by late 1829, for on 25 November 1829, his executors began advertising for any creditors to present their demands against Albritton's estate [14].

William Albritton left a will in Twiggs County in which it appears that he appointed his son and son-in-law, Matthew Albritton and Solomon Simpson, as his executors, and by mid-1830, the Twiggs County Court had approved their executorship of Albritton's estate. Although the will does not survive, newspaper advertisements from 1830 show them handling the affairs of his estate in 1830 and 1831.

Before William Albritton's death, he paid \$80 to Edward Garlick for 202½ acres of land drawn by Jarred Johnson of Burke County in the 1821 Land Lottery. Johnson sold Garlick the tract too

soon, with their transaction ruled invalid. Before they received notice of their invalid transaction, Garlick sold the land to William Albritton prior to the latter's death. To give Albritton's estate a clear title to the land, on 17 September 1830, Jarred Johnson of Burke County, Georgia, in consideration for the \$80 Albritton already paid "*in his Lifetime*," transferred the land to the Executors of William Albritton's Estate. On 30 October 1830, Albritton and Simpson began advertising to sell this land, with the sale scheduled for the first Tuesday in January 1831 [15].

Before his death, William Albritton had purchased another 202½-acre land lot, and for \$101, on 2 November 1830, Matthew Albritton and Solomon Simpson sold this tract to William's son, James Albritton [16].

William Albritton's executors also had to settle another debt owed him at the time of his death. Hardy Pace and Freedom White owed Albritton money which they either could not or refused to pay. Albritton's executors, Matthew Albritton and Solomon Simpson, filed suit for nonpayment of the debt, and the Court awarded them a judgement. Since neither Pace nor White could pay the judgement, in January 1831, the constable seized three slaves belonging to Pace, an eight-year-old girl named Silva, and two four-year-old boys, Gust and Hilliard, and the constable also seized 20½ of land belonging to White. The Court offered this property for sale on the first Tuesday in March 1831 to satisfy their debt to Albritton's estate [17].

The destruction of the early Twiggs County records prevents our having clear documentation for the names of William's wife or children. As stated earlier, it appears that William's wife was Margaret Albritton who witnessed a document with Solomon Simpson, presumably Albritton's son-in-law. The 1824 newspaper obituary proves that Jesse Albritton who died in 1824 was one of William's sons, whereas we presume that his executor, Matthew Albritton, is another son. James Albritton, to whom his executors sold his land in Houston County in 1830, is likely another son. Court records also show that William's youngest daughter was Rebecca, still a minor at her father's death.

William's son, Matthew, reportedly married Susannah Oliver, and her family Bible contained a list of the dates of birth for Matthew and his siblings. The Bible was originally owned by Jefferson Albert Carnley, but it was recently in the possession of a descendant living in Elba, Alabama. Another descendant copied the information from the Bible and posted it online in 2002. Hopefully, someone will manage to locate the Bible and obtain a scanned image for verification. The information listed in the Bible gives the birth of William's eldest child as occurring in July 1790. The 1790 Federal Census lists William's household as including one male under sixteen and a total of three females, and if these females are not William's own children, this suggests that the others

in William's 1790 household were stepchildren or other relatives, but not his own children. The second name in the Bible transcription was Margaret Albritton, listed without a birth date. The person who posted the transcription interpreted this to indicate she was William's wife, which would match the 1825 document mentioned above.

Based upon the Bible record and a newspaper obituary, these are the presumed children of William Albritton:

1. **Nancy Albritton**, born 25 July 1790.
2. **Susannah Albritton**, born 6 February 1795.
3. **Ditson Albritton**, born 25 May 179? [date and first name illegible] may be the same person as Jesse Albritton. The name of "Ditson" may be a nickname, possibly for "Dixon."
4. **Jesse Albritton** (c1799–3 Jul 1824) died in his twenty-fifth year. From his obituary published a few weeks after his death:

Departed this life, on Saturday the 3d inst. at the residence of his father, William Albritton, Twiggs county, Mr. JESSE ALBRITTON, in the 25th year of his age, after a severe illness of 16 days. Without exaggeration, it may be said of this young gentleman, that few of the vicious gaieties pursued by those of his age, attracted his attention; and a moral respect for society, as a leading trait in his character. Respected by all who knew him, his loss will long be deplored. This tribute of respect, is offered to his memory by one that has received from him the liveliest tokens of the most disinterested friendship.

5. **Elizabeth Albritton**, born 15 December 1800.
6. **Sarah Albritton** [Sary], born 28 April 1802.
7. **Matthew Albritton** (22 May 1805–Nov 1845) married on 27 October 1824, presumably in Twiggs County, Georgia, to Susannah Oliver (c1805–1860/1870). They moved from Twiggs west into neighboring Houston County in the latter 1820s and lived there in 1830. After he completed the settlement of his father's estate in the early 1830s, Matthew and Susannah moved their family from Georgia to Alabama, where he enlisted in the Alabama Militia during the brief 1836 Creek War. In 1840, they lived in Dale County, where Matthew died in 1845. By 1850, Susannah had remarried to Daniel Judah, and she and her youngest son, Thomas J. Albritton (c1833–c1864) lived on Judah's farm with his children from his previous marriage. Susan's second husband had died by 1860, when she lived with Thomas, still single, and nine-year-old Napoleon A. Skinner. Their farm was valued at \$1600, with a personal estate of \$898. Susan died sometime after 1860, while Thomas J. Albritton joined the Confederate Army, was captured, and died in a Federal Prison in Maryland.
8. **James Albritton** [Jamessey], born 18 May 1807 lived in Houston County, Georgia from the latter 1820s until the 1840s. In 1840, his household included an adult female, two females born

1835–1840 and two more born 1830–1835. During the 1840s, James either died in Houston County or moved west. If the females living in his household in 1840 were his wife and daughters, we have no record of what became of them.

9. **Mary Ann Albritton**, born 3 November 1810.
10. **Rebecca Albritton** [Rebeckah] (12 May 1812–4 Aug 1890) was a minor at the time of father's death. On 1 November 1830, she appeared in court and requested that her brother, James, serve as her guardian. The Court approved Rebecca's request, and James posted a guardian's bond of \$1000, with their brother, Matthew, serving as his security.

Rebecca Albritton married on 21 December 1832 in Houston County, Georgia to Allen Albritton (6 Jan 1807–19 Jul 1870). According to published records of Albritton Bibles, Allen Albritton is the son of Matthew Albritton (1770/1775–1841), the son of George Albritton Sr. who moved from North Carolina and died in Burke County, Georgia in 1810. If correct, then Rebecca married her second cousin, as her father and Allen's father were first cousins. Rebecca and Allen moved from Houston County, Georgia to Pike County, Alabama in the latter 1850s. Allen died in Crenshaw County, Alabama in 1870, and Rebecca still lived there in 1880. Reportedly, she later returned to live with relatives in Berrien County, Georgia, where she died in 1890. The presumed Bible record giving the names of William Albritton's children gives her birth as occurring in May 1812. The dates given here reportedly come from another Bible record.

Undocumented online sources claim that William Albritton's daughters Nancy married John Martin Lee, Elizabeth married Elijah Carver, and Mary Ann married Jacob Henry Strickland. These sources also claim that Susannah Albritton married Solomon Simpson, one of William Albritton's executors. If accurate, then Susannah appears to have died prior to 1830, for Simpson's household in Houston County shows no adult female, only him, born 1780–1790, and four younger children born between 1815 and 1830 [18].

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Transcription of William Albritton's Family Bible

On 20 January 2002, M. Boyen posted a transcription of the Family Bible of William Albritton on the Albritton Message Board of the now-defunct Rootsweb.com website. The post is still available on Ancestry.com:

[William Albritton Bible Transcription](#)

Boyen writes,

I am a descendent of William Albritton through his son Mathew. I copied all of the names of his children in the family bible that was owned by my grandfather. James and MaAthew [sic] were brothers. Mathew and his wife Susannah Oliver, nad [sic] his sister Rebecca Albritton, married to a cousin Allen Albritton moved to Alabama. Here is the information from the family Bible. Bible of Jefferson Albert Carnley, in possession of Fleetwood Carnley of Elba, Alabama. It is mentioned in the booklet. I copied the information in April 1997.

Boyen gives the following as the family information recorded in the Bible record:

Matthew Albritton

B. May 22, 1805

M. October 27, 1824

D. November 1845

Spouse: Susannah Oliver

1. Nancy Albritton- B. July 25, 1790

2. Margaret Albritton

3. Susannah Albritton Feb. 6, 1795

4. Ditson (?) Albritton-May 25, 179?

5. Elizabeth Albritton-December 15, 1800

6. Sary Albritton-April 28, 1802

7. Jamessey Albritton-May 18, 1807

8. Mary Ann Albritton-November 3, 1810

9. Rebeckah Albritton-May 1812

Charlotte (Oliver) M. May 3, 1823 William B. Guest

William Thomas Hart 56 years died 1857 (born 1801)

M. Sarah Ann Albritton b. December 19, 1826

Children of Matthew and Susannah:

Sarah Ann Albritton

John Martin Abritton [sic] – August 20, 1825

O. Albritton – January 1828

Mary Jane Albritton – B. March 26, 1827 Spouse: James H. Andrews

Williams Albritton – B. 1831 D. 1853

Boyen ends the post with this comment: "I believe the Margaret listed is the Mother," presumably referring to the Margaret Albritton list as #2, without a birth date.



Notes

1. Pitt County NC Deed Book O, p. 40 (Peter Albritton to William Albritton, 4 February 1797); Deed Book P, pp. 48–49 (William Albritton to Peter Albritton, 8 January 1801 [1800]). Although the date of the deed in which William Albritton sells the 200 acres sold to him by Peter Albritton Sr. in 1797 was written as January 1801, this appears to have been the year in which the deed was filed with the Pitt County Court and recorded (November 1801), with the deed actually transacted on 8 January **1800**, the date on which William's cousin, James Albritton, also sold land to Peter Albritton Jr. The wording of the deed in which William sold the land states that he is selling land "*Granted to Peter Albritton Senr and by him by a deed to his son William Albritton...*" This conclusively proves that William Albritton was a son of Peter Albritton Sr.
2. Lomas, Fran Wylie. *Book of Albrittons: 1609–1979*. San Angelo, TX, 1979, pp. 164–165. 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, p. 149. Albritton, Bobby G. *Albrittons of the Second Millennium*, Revised ed. Alpharetta, GA: Balbritt, 2004, pp. 41, 64–65. Lomas gives a birthdate of 2 April 1759 for Samuel Albritton, but her list of precise birth dates of the children of Peter Albritton Sr. does not include one for William, who she lists as born between James, born 2 July 1761 and Elizabeth, born 2 March 1763. Lomas also states that William's wife was named Elizabeth, but she gives no documentation or further details about her. McSwain reprints the birthdates Lomas gave but hypothesizes that Samuel and William could have been the same son, perhaps Samuel William or William Samuel Albritton. Unfortunately, other authors seized upon McSwain's hypothesis and converted it into "*fact*," without any documentation. In *Albrittons of the Second Millennium*, Albritton gives much inaccurate information on William, including claims that he was "*Samuel William Albritton*," born in 1759, and he gives William a death date of 1805 in Pitt County. On the contrary, evidence indicates that William Albritton left North Carolina about 1800 and settled in Washington County, Georgia, where he lived in 1803/1804. Like other inaccuracies, the information given in *Albrittons of the Second Millennium* on William Albritton is completely unsubstantiated and should be dismissed.
3. Pitt County NC Deed Book M, pp. 211–212, 244, 414, 493–494; Deed Book O, pp. 163–164. 1790 Pitt County NC Federal Census, p. 458/35, column 4, #58: Peter Albritton, #59: James Albritton, #60: William Albritton. The James Albritton who made the 1789 land purchase appears to have been William's brother, although it could possibly have been his first cousin. The 1790 slave deed was made to "*Jesse*" Albritton, but this appears to have been a recording error. First, there is no Albritton male with the given name of "*Jesse*" in Pitt County in this era. Next, on the same page immediately after the Moore–Albritton slave deed, on pp. 244–245, the clerk recorded a land transaction between Lewis Pipkin of Dobbs County to Jesse Dunning, witnessed by Solomon Alberson and Ezekiel Dunning. The Dunnings and Solomon Alberson are all found on the 1790 Pitt County NC Federal Census (p. 455/32, column 2, #67: James Moore, #70: Ezekiel Dunning, #71: Jesse Dunning [column 2 has 73 names]; column 3, #2: Solomon Alberson). Given the previous James Moore to James Albritton transaction a few months earlier, it seems likely that the clerk erred in recording the slave deed, confusing James Albritton with Jesse Dunning. On 19 July 1790, James Buck purchased from James Moss 50 acres of land on the north side of Cow Swamp that adjoined "*Peter Albritons line near the Clay hill then with the said line to Albritons Corner, then Runing [sic] with Albrittons Line to a sweet Gum...*"
4. Pitt County NC Deed Book O, p. 40; Book P, pp. 48–49. Written in the document when William sold his 200 acres was "*This Indenture Made this Eighth day of January 1801*," but the document was not brought to Court until the November Term 1801. It seems more likely that the transaction was made on 8 January 1800, the same day that James Albritton [#4] sold land to Peter Albritton Jr. (Pitt County NC Deed Book P, p. 35). That document was also presented in Court at the November Term 1801. The recording clerk could have written the year as the current one when the document was recorded (1801), as opposed to the actual year when the instrument was signed. This would fit with William Albritton not being listed in Pitt County in 1800.
5. The extant Pitt County records do not give any indication whatsoever that William Albritton died there soon after 1800, as claimed by Albritton, pp. 64–65, 72–73. Moreover, sans any documentation whatsoever other than "*the authors believes*," he claims that William Albritton was the son of George Albritton and had lived in Burke County Georgia since the 1790s. On the contrary, the records show that William Albritton arrived in Georgia just a few years after Peter's son, William, sold his land in Pitt County North Carolina to Peter Albritton Jr. and disappeared from North Carolina. Moreover, just a few years later, about 1808, Peter Albritton Jr. joined William in Washington County. The available evidence indicates that William Albritton who arrived in Washington County Georgia about 1802 is the identical man as the son of Peter Albritton Sr.
6. Graham, *1805 Georgia Land Lottery: Persons Entitled to Draws*, p. 4.
7. McSwain, p. 154.
8. 1818 Twiggs County GA Tax Digest, Image #13–14, Capt. Robert Belcher's District. Lucas,

9. Lucas, Rev. Silas Emmett Jr. *The Fourth or 1821 Land Lottery of Georgia*. Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1986, p. 2.
10. "Georgia Journal" (Milledgeville, GA), 27 July 1824, p. 3, column 4. "The Georgian" (Savannah, GA), 3 August 1824, p. 3, column 2.
11. Houston County GA Deed Book C, pp. 417–418 (James Finley to John Hennington, 22 December 1825; witnesses: Margaret Albritton, Solomon Simpson). Margaret Albritton made her mark to the document as opposed to signing it, whereas the clerk indicated that Simpson signed his name to it.
12. 1826 Twiggs County GA Tax Digest, Image #27–28, Capt. Streetman's District. In 1818, William Albritton owned Land Lot #229, in District 25, Twiggs County, precisely half of the lot. The 1826 tax digest did not give the land lot number, but appears that between 1818 and 1826, William had purchased the remainder of lot #229.
13. "Southern Recorder" (Milledgeville, GA), 11 February 1828, p. 4, column 6.
14. "Georgia Journal," November 25 (p. 4, column 6), December 9 (p. 4, column 6), 1829.
15. "Macon Telegraph" (Macon, GA), October 30 (p. 3, column 5), November 6 (p. 1, column 2), 13 (p. 1, column 1), and 20 (p. 1, column 1), and December 18 (p. 1, column 1), 1830. "Georgia Journal," 3 February 1831, p. 4, column 2. Houston County GA Deed Book D, p. 445 (Jarred Johnson to "Matthew Albritton and Solomon Simpson Executors of the Estate of William Albritton Late of Twiggs County deceased," 17 September 1830). Lucas, *The Fourth or 1821 Land Lottery of Georgia*, p. 119. During his lifetime, in an unrecorded document, William Albritton purchased from Edward Garlick Land Lot #1, 10th District, land drawn by "Jerred Johnston" of Burke County in the 1821 Land Lottery. The Houston County sale gives Johnson's name as "Jarred Johnson." William Albritton also purchased Land Lot #72, 5th District in the lottery, and his Executors sold this 202½ acres to James Albritton on 2 November 1830.
16. Houston County GA Deed Book Deed Book E, pp. 456–457 ("Mathew Albritton and Sollomon [sic] Simpson Executors of the estate of William Albritton Late of Twiggs County deceased" to James Albritton, 2 November 1830).
17. "Georgia Journal," 3 February 1831, p. 4, column 2.
18. 1830 Houston County GA Federal Census, p. 285, line #21: Matthew Albritton; p. 291, line #10: Solomon Simpson. United States National Archives, Indians Wars Bounty Land Application of Susannah Judah, Warrant #55-160-90211. 1840 Dale County AL Federal Census, p. 23, line #24: Math. Albritton. 1850 Dale County AL Federal Census, Southern Division, p. 203a, Household #512: Daniel Judah. 1860 Dale County AL Federal Census, P.O. Newton, p. 629a/130, Household #881: Thos. J. "Albritton." 1840 Houston County GA Federal Census, p. 389, line #3: James Albritton. Houston County GA Inferior Court Minutes Book 1821–1836, p. 107. Houston County GA Marriage Book A, p. 37. 1850 Houston County GA Federal Census, pp. 347b–348a, Household #596: Allen Albritton. 1860 Pike County AL Federal Census, Western Division, P.O. New Providence, p. 17b, Household #112: Allen Albritton. 1870 Crenshaw County AL Federal Census, Township 7, P.O. Rutledge, Ala, p. 24b/249, Household #216: Allen Albritton. 1880 Crenshaw County AL Federal Census, Beat 10, p. 441a/30, ED#58, Household #279: George A. Albritton; Household #280: Rebecca Albritton. Albritton, pp. 145–149, 152–153. The date of Matthew Albritton's marriage to Susannah Oliver was given in her Family Bible. He served as a private in Captain Moore's Company, Alabama Militia during the 1836 Creek War, and his widow obtained bounty land based upon his service in the 1850s. In *Albrittons of the Second Millennium*, Albritton makes several incorrect statements regarding the familial relationship between Rebecca Albritton, youngest daughter of William Albritton (son of Peter), and her husband, Allen Albritton, son of Matthew Albritton (son of George). He erroneously states that William was a son of George, which would make Rebecca and Allen first cousins. In fact, Rebecca and Allen are *second* cousins, as their grandfathers, Peter and George Albritton, were brothers.

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