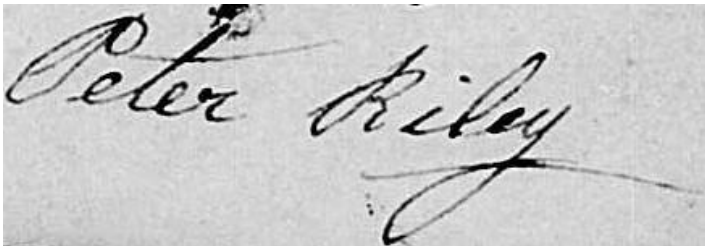


Peter Riley
(1770/1775–Dec 1844)

of
Orange County, North Carolina
&
Greene County, Georgia



by Timothy Dean Hudson

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Early Life in Orange County, North Carolina

Peter Riley was born between 1770 and 1775 in Orange County, North Carolina [1], a younger son of Jacob Riley [2]. Orange County and the surrounding region along the North Carolina's frontier had become a hotbed of revolt about the time of Peter's birth, with the War of the Regulation climaxing in 1770 and 1771 [3]. A few years later during the Revolutionary War, Peter's father, Jacob, provided supplies to the Patriots in their struggle for independence against the British and Loyalist forces [4].

On 21 July 1795, Peter Riley signed a marriage bond in Orange County to secure a license to marry Elizabeth Woods. Presumably, their marriage occurred within a few days [5]. We have no information on Elizabeth's family background and little details on her life other than her name. There is no evidence that Peter married again before 1830, so she presumably survived until the 1820s and is the mother of his children born prior to 1820. The 1820 federal census enumeration of Peter's household lists the elder female in the 26–44 age bracket, placing Elizabeth's birth in the latter 1770s or about 1780 [6].

Peter and Elizabeth Riley appear to have lived in Orange County during the decade after their marriage. Their household as well as that of Peter's father was omitted from the 1800 Orange County federal census, but Peter's daughters born between 1798 and 1802 reported North Carolina births. Moreover, on 30 June 1804, the post office at Hillsborough, the Orange County seat, advertised that Peter Riley had a letter waiting for him to retrieve [7].

In late 1804, Peter Riley followed his older siblings, Mary Riley Gray, Catherine Riley Findley, and John Riley, to Greene County, Georgia. His sisters and their families had settled in Greene County by about 1793, with his brother following about 1794 or 1795. Peter and Elizabeth had not yet settled in Greene County by 1804, but in 1805, he lived in Capt. Dawson's Militia District near his three siblings. In that year, he paid his own white poll tax and taxes on two slaves [8]. About 1805, Peter obtained possession of a 122-acre tract of land on the Ogeechee River, although he did not pay taxes on it that year.

Back in Orange County, North Carolina, on 28 November 1804, Jacob Riley,

...for and in Consideration of the natural love and affection which he hath and beareth unto his said Son Peter Riley as also for the better support maintainance [sic] and preferment of him the said Peter Riley...

gave Peter the 150-acre tract of land in Orange County, North Carolina "*whereon the said Jacob Riley now lives*" [9]. Rather than permanently remaining in Georgia with his siblings, Peter chose to return to North Carolina to his father's farm. On 25 October 1805, as a resident of Greene

County, he sold his 122-acre tract of land there for \$200 [10]. He then returned to Orange County, North Carolina and operated his father's old farm for the next decade [11].

Peter Riley continued to farm in Orange County for several years after his father's death in 1812 [12]. On 20 June 1813 and 30 June 1814, the Hillsborough Post Office published notices that Peter Riley had letters addressed to him awaiting pickup [13]. By 1816, Peter Riley had decided to emigrate from North Carolina. On July 27th, he sold his 168-acre Orange County farm for \$1320 and finally moved to Greene County, Georgia [14].

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Georgia Farmer

On 22 May 1817, Peter Riley paid \$1000 to Thomas Ware for a 194-acre tract of land on Richland Creek several miles south of the county seat of Greensborough. Peter's nephew, Joseph Riley, witnessed the transaction [1]. Tax records rated it as 2nd quality "*Common Oak and Hickory Land*," a higher quality land than the bulk of the Greene County lands. In fact, the region between Greensborough and the Oconee River surrounding Peter's farm consisted of such exceedingly rich farmlands that it gave the creek meandering through the region its name [2].

Peter and Elizabeth had no sons born in their first two decades of marriage who survived early childhood, so this left the cultivation of their farm to Peter, perhaps one of his unmarried teenaged or young adult daughters, and his slaves. The next section discusses the enslaved humans Riley owned during his lifetime.

On 1 July 1819, Peter, John, and Jacob Riley all had letters waiting for them at the Greensborough Post Office [3]. On 4 September 1820, the Greene County Court appointed Peter Riley, his nephew, Jacob Riley, and three other local men as road commissioners and instructed them to [4]:

...to view and report the practicability of altering the road leading from the bridge on Richland Creek to Garner's Ferry so as to include the branch near the Bridge in the said Moseley's enclosures & report to the next Court...

Later in the decade, Claborn Upchurch lived in the 161st Militia District near Peter Riley, with Upchurch's residence located near the bridge across Richland Creek. Upchurch found several estray animals on his farm, and he took them before George Hall, the local Justice of the Peace, for appraisal. Peter Riley and a neighbor, Lewis Moseley, appraised the animals for Hall. In February 1828, they appraised a dark bay mare aged about seven years old at \$30 [5]. On 4 April 1829, Riley and Moseley appraised an estray unbranded iron gray mare, described as about three years old, 4'5" in height, as worth \$20 [6].

Between about 1815 and 1818, Peter Riley's daughter, Susannah, married Robert Brooks. Several Brooks families lived in Orange County, North Carolina, so their marriage could have occurred there, but Robert and Susannah may also have met and married after the Rileys arrived in Georgia. Robert and Susannah Brooks settled on a farm on Richland Creek near Peter's [7], but he died in late 1823. On 12 January 1824, "*Susannah Brooks*" and Peter's nephew, Jacob Riley, posted \$2500 bond to secure their appointment as administrators of Robert Brooks' estate [8].

Just two weeks later, on January 27th, the men appointed by the Greene County Court to conduct an appraisal of Robert Brooks' estate filed their inventory with the Court. Among Brooks'

assets was a note due to him by Peter Riley for \$15. On February 27th, Jacob Riley conducted a “*public Sale*” of Robert Brooks’ personal property. Susannah bought the bulk of the items, with her purchases totaling \$137.29¼. Peter Riley bought \$16.81¼ worth of items, including:

1 small Club ax.....	31¼¢
1 large Club ax.....	\$1.31¼
1 Harrow Stock and teeth.....	56¼¢
1 Colter plough.....	75¢
1 mans Saddle.....	50¢
1 Black sow & eight pigs.....	\$11.06¼
Candle moles [sic].....	18¾¢
1 Bag gin Cotton.....	\$1.25
1 Mattock.....	87½¢

Thomas and Jacob Riley, Susannah’s first cousins, bought a few items at the sale [9]. In 1825, Jacob Riley filed a return with the Greene County showing that Peter Riley had paid his \$15.00 due to the Robert Brooks estate [10].

On 8 September 1824, the Greene County Court issued a license for “*Susannah Brooks*” to marry Robert Foster Griffin (c1794–1855), with their marriage occurred shortly afterwards [11]. Two years later, on 6 November 1826, the Greene County Court appointed Griffin as the guardian of Susan’s son, Peter Riley Brooks. Peter Riley served as the security for his son-in-law on his \$3000 guardian’s bond [12].

In early 1821, Peter Riley registered for Georgia’s 1821 Land Lottery as a resident of Capt. Tally’s Militia District, and in the lottery, he drew a 202½-acre tract of land in Houston County [13]. On 3 January 1826, Georgia’s Governor signed the grant awarding Peter this land [14]. Although originally in Houston County, the land fell into Crawford County upon its creation in 1822. The available evidence indicates that Peter remained a Greene County resident, never settling on his land in Crawford County. On 25 November 1833, Riley sold the tract for \$325 [15].

The lack of documentation on Peter’s first wife, Elizabeth Woods, makes it difficult to know precisely how long she lived. Records prove that Riley had children born between the latter 1790s and 1818. Without any documentation of another marriage during this period, we assume that Elizabeth gave birth to all of Riley’s children. If so, then she bore her last child who survived to adulthood in her latter thirties or at about forty years of age. Elizabeth appears to have been the adult female listed in Riley’s 1820 household, and if so, then she died sometime in the 1820s.

In 1829 or early 1830, Peter Riley returned to his birthplace of Orange County, North Carolina. On 18 January 1830, he signed a marriage bond in anticipation of his forthcoming to Nancy Finley [16]. Nancy was born about 1799 in North Carolina, but nothing is known of her family of origin.

Peter and Nancy did remain long in North Carolina, for by mid-year, they were enumerated on his farm in Greene County [17].

Peter Riley's farm on Richland Creek adjoined the property of his nephew, Thomas Riley, the son of Peter's older brother, John Riley [18]. Thomas died at his residence on 21 November 1830 at the age of about forty-five [19]. Despite his close familial connection to Thomas, the Greene County Court approved Peter to serve as one of the three men directed to appraise Thomas Riley's property. The appraisers submitted their inventory of Thomas Riley's personal property to the court on 20 January 1831. It shows that he owned nine slaves, livestock, farm equipment and produce, and household goods all valued at \$5039.68³/₄.

The list of Thomas Riley's property shows that he had literary interests. Besides a Bible, one "*Lot old Books*" valued at \$2.00, and one "*Webster's Dictionary*" valued at 75¢, Thomas owned a twelve-volume set of encyclopedias valued at \$12.00 and the four-volume "*Goldsmith's Animated Adventures*," a work published in 1830 by Oliver Goldsmith, an Irish novelist and playwright, and valued at \$5.00 [20].

On 21 February 1831, Seaborn McMichael, the executor of Thomas Riley's will, conducted a sale of Riley's personal property. Peter Riley made several purchases at his nephew's estate sale, including:

1 Plough & Swingletree	62½¢
Chop ax & Chisels	50¢
4 Sitting Chairs \$1.31¼, 1 Ax \$1.62½, Side Soal [sic] Leather \$1.50.....	\$4.43¾
1 Large Spotted Sow.....	2.18¾
3 Yearlings [young cattle]	5.43
1 Pr [pair] Dog Irons.....	1.—
1 Shot Gunn [sic].....	8.—
Sheep Shears.....	62½¢
Lot of Potatoes	50¢
1098 ^{lb} Pork at \$4 Gross	43.92

Peter Riley's son-in-law, Robert F. Griffin and his future son-in-law, Ezekiel Blanks, also bought items from Thomas Riley's estate, but Thomas' own three sons-in-law, Seaborn McMichael, William Armor, and William Askew, made the bulk of the purchases [21]. Cynthia Riley, Thomas' daughter, had just married William Askew on 3 January 1831, a mere six weeks after her father's death [22].

By the mid-thirties, after cultivating his Richland Creek farm for over fifteen years, Peter Riley decided to move. On Christmas Eve 1836, he sold his 194-acre farm on Richland Creek to his grandnephew, William Askew, for \$1010 [23]. Sometime between 1834 and September 1836, Riley purchased a nearby 475-acre tract of land lying between the Oconee River and Richland

Creek in southwestern Greene County. His new tract adjoined the land of John Kimbrough, John Cartwright, and Thomas Mallory. Riley's new farm was also rated as 2nd Quality land, an indication that, like his previous property, it also consisted of extremely rich farmland [24].

By the 1830s, Peter Riley had reached the age of sixty. He finally had teenaged sons to help his slaves and him cultivate his new farm, with William M. Riley born about 1816 and James Gray Riley in 1818. In 1840, eight members of Peter's household worked in agriculture. William married in 1836 and moved into his own household, and so the eight members of the Riley household working in agriculture in 1840 presumably included Riley, his son, James Gray Riley, then still single at the age of twenty-two, and some of his slaves [25].

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Financial Upheaval & Family Discord

The available evidence indicates that Peter Riley thrived as a farmer in both North Carolina and Georgia through the mid-1830s. On 27 July 1816, in preparation for emigrating from his native state while in his early forties, he sold his 168-acre North Carolina farm for \$1320 [1]. Ten months later, he paid \$1000 for a 194-acre tract of land in southwestern Greene County, Georgia [2]. These large sums indicate the high value of his farms in both states. Although Riley owned slaves, the very small number he possessed indicates that he cultivated his lands along with those he enslaved [3].

Throughout the nineteenth century, credit formed the foundation of the Southern economic system. Each spring, farmers and planters received advances of supplies from merchants to enable them to cultivate that year's crops. They typically signed promissory notes to the merchants, promising to pay the dollar amount they owed after the sale of that fall's harvest [4]. Peter Riley followed the standard credit practices of his day, as we see in this promissory note he signed along with his son-in-law, Robert Brooks in early 1821 [5]:

On or before the 25 of December next we promise to pay W^m Armor or barer [sic] one hundred and twenty four Dollars and 25 cents with Interest from the date for value recd Fabuary [sic] 8th 1821.

Evidence indicates that through the latter 1830s, by which time Riley had reached his latter sixties, he repaid the merchants who loaned him supplies each year after he harvested his crops. In short, throughout the bulk of adult life, Riley grew his crops, paid his debts, and earned a surplus during at least most seasons that enabled to him maintain a comfortable, upper-middle class lifestyle. However, a major event occurred in early 1837 that completely disrupted the status quo, causing financial chaos for Riley and other Georgia farmers: the Panic of 1837.

The Panic of 1837 proved a watershed event in United States economic history. Various factors combined to create the most severe financial panic in the nation's history until that time, including President Andrew Jackson's war on the Second Bank of the United States, devaluation of the gold standard, and burgeoning government land sales in the west. The [Bank War](#) of the early 1830s and the resulting economic and political crisis propelled Jackson's political opponents to coalesce into the Whig Party and elevated it to national prominence. Jackson vetoed the recharter of the Second Bank and then won reelection in late 1832 on his anti-banking platform. In 1833, he issued an executive order that diverted federal deposits in the Second Bank to private banks, followed by the [Specie Circular](#), an executive order issued in 1836 that required all government land offices

in the western states to cease accepting paper script and require gold or silver specie for land sales after 15 December 1836.

The Specie Circular, acting in tandem with the Distribution Act of 1836, led to a drain of specie from New York to the western and southwestern states. This resulted in a reduction of New York City's specie reserves from \$7.2 million on 1 September 1836 to \$2.8 million by 1 March 1837, and to a mere \$1.5 million by May 1st. News of New York City's dwindling reserves then combined with the pressures of Great Britain's weakened economy and declining land prices to create a demand for coin by early May [6].

The U.S. government had managed to stave off economic collapse in November 1836, and they hoped that the marketing of the 1836 and 1837 cotton crops would help relieve monetary pressure. Since land offices in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas retained a high level of activity, specie accumulated in those states, leading the Treasury to call for specie deposits. As the new President Van Buren hedged on signing the repeal of the Specie Circular, which many hoped would return coin to the northeast, public confidence in paper currency plummeted. As a result, New York merchants began refusing to accept paper bills issued by banks in the South and West.

In the midst of the specie shortage, overproduction of U.S. cotton and competition from India's cotton exports resulted in a 17% drop in the price of cotton in March and April 1837. This caused the bankruptcy of one of New Orleans' major cotton factors, creating additional ripples in the troubled United States economy.

These interwoven events triggered a run on New York City's Mechanics' Bank on 4 May 1837. Although able to fulfill all specie requests, the event represented the public's loss of confidence in banks. Subsequent runs on banks removed \$1.3 million in specie from the city's banks by May 9th, causing the banks to suspend specie payments by May 10th. Upon learning of the panic in the northeast, the New Orleans banks followed their lead and suspended payments of specie on May 13th, forming the catalyst for the Panic of 1837 [7].

These wide-ranging economic events had an immediate direct effect upon Peter Riley, undoubtedly making him unable to pay a \$64.80 "*due Bill*" he had signed to the Greensboro mercantile firm of Seymour & McKinley on 10 March 1835. It is unclear why Riley did not pay the note sooner, but in August 1837, the firm filed a lawsuit against Riley with the Greene County Superior Court. They filed the suit as an action of "*assumpsit*," an implied promise or contract that they claimed Riley had breached. Their attorneys stated that although Riley admitted his debt to the firm and promised to pay them, he had delayed paying any part of the debt. He "*has hitherto*

refused and Still do refuse" to pay them, and they claimed that with interest they were entitled to damages of \$145.00.

On 17 August 1837, the Court summoned Peter Riley to appear before them in September 1837 to answer the petition filed by Seymour & McKinley. On the 23rd, Deputy Sheriff John Armstrong reported that he served the summons to Riley by leaving a copy "*at his notorious place of abode.*" Riley appeared before the Greene County Superior Court on Thursday, September 14th. The court records merely recorded that the case was "*Settled,*" without providing details of the settlement [8].

The next year, Peter Riley had a family dispute with his son-in-law, Ezekiel Blanks, husband of his third daughter to survive childhood, Temperance. She had married twice in the 1820s and had one son born in January 1827. Widowed again in 1828, she moved back in with her father until she married Ezekiel Blanks in March 1832. The dispute arose over money that Tempey had given Peter Riley to keep for her when she moved back in with him. Although Riley appears to have acknowledged his debt, the ongoing financial crisis probably left him unable to repay her in 1838 when Blanks demanded payment.

By mid-1838, Ezekiel and Temperance Blanks were in their mid-thirties and had been married for six years. In addition to Tempey's son, aged eleven years, they had two young daughters of their own aged five and three years. Tempey was also pregnant, delivering her third daughter on September 22nd.

On 19 August 1838, Greene County attorneys Francis H. Cone and Y. P. King filed a lawsuit against Peter Riley with the Greene County Superior Court on behalf of "*Ezekiel Blanks & Temperance Blanks his Wife formerly Temperance Riley.*" They alleged that Peter Riley "*owes and from your Petitioners unjustly detains*" a total of \$200 plus interest. Their attorneys filed this as an action of "*assumpsit,*" asserting that Riley had breached his verbal contract with Tempey.

The petition claimed that on 5 March 1831, while Temperance was "*solely & unmarried,*" her father received \$100 from the late Irbane Leonard, who paid the money to Riley on behalf of William Robins, who was indebted to Tempey [9]. Blanks' attorneys claimed that Tempey's father "*borrowed*" the money from her, and that he

...then and there promised and agreed to hold and keep the said sum of money for [Temperance]...untill [sic] she called for it at which time...when called for he the said Peter was to give your Petitioner a good note or the money with interest.

Blanks' petition averred that on 1 June 1838, the \$100 plus interest

...was demanded of the said Peter who then and there failed and refused to pay the same or any part thereof or to give your petitioners a good note...

By his refusal, they claimed that Riley breached his verbal contract, since he had previously “faithfully promised your Petitioner” to pay her when requested. Next, Blanks’ attorneys claimed that also on 5 March 1831, Peter Riley borrowed another \$100 from

...Temperance whilst She was Sole & unmarried and being so indebted he the said Peter undertook and then & there promised to hold & keep said sum of money untill [sic]...Temperance wanted or Called for it at which time...when called for the said Peter was to pay it or give a good note for it...

As with the first sum, they stated that on 1 June 1838, the \$100 plus interest “was demanded of the said Peter who then and there failed and refused to pay” any part of the sum. The petition stated that Riley,

Although so indebted and often thereto requested hath not paid the same nor any part thereof but...hath hitherto refused and still doth refuse to the damage of your petitioner three hundred dollars.

Since Blanks’ attorneys detailed two separate sums of \$100 that Peter Riley borrowed from his daughter, it is unclear how they arrived at total damages of \$300, a sum much larger than the \$200 plus the accrued interest.

Upon their attorneys filing the “action of assumpsit” with the Greene County Superior Court on 19 August 1838, Judge John G. Polhill ordered the sheriff to summon Peter Riley to appear before the Court in September. On August 23rd, Deputy Sheriff William L. Skain left a copy of the summons for Peter Riley “at his noted place of abode.”

Peter Riley’s attorneys, Thomas F. Foster and Henry Sanford, filed Riley’s answer to the Blanks’ petition at the September 1838 session of the Greene County Superior Court. They acknowledged Riley’s receipt of the declaration but filed a cause of exception, arguing

...that the said action is brought in the Joint names of Ezekiel Blanks & Temperance Blanks his Wife when the right of action if any exists[s] is in the said Ezekiel Blanks alone and therefore there is a misjoinder of plaintiffs wherefore this defendant prays that said writ may be quashed.

To answer the Blanks’ declaration, Riley stated that

...he never did assume [or] promised [sic] in manner & form as the plaintiffs hath declared against him and of this he puts himself upon the County &c.

Furthermore, Riley stated that he

...admits that he may have owed the plaintiff one cent but says & pleads that said Plff. Ezekiel Blanks was indebted to this defendant in a much larger sum to wit in the Sum of Two hundred and twenty dollars according to an account & Bill of particulars hereto annexed which the said defendant pleads as a sett [sic] off and on the trial of said case will insist on a Judgement for the amount due him and this he is ready to Verify and prays Judgement & also puts himself upon the County.

Finally, Riley stated that “...if he ever did assume and promise as...” the Blanks’ lawsuit claimed, then “such assumption & promises were not made within four years” before filing of their suit. Thus, such action is “bound by a Statute of limitation.”

Along with his reply to Blanks’ lawsuit, Peter Riley’s attorneys filed the following account showing the debt that he claimed Blanks owned him:

Bill of Particulars above refered [sic] to

Ezekiel Blanks To Peter Riley

<i>1836 Jany 1. To board of his Wife the Said Temperance while Sole & unmarried for three years @ \$60 P. year</i>	<i>\$180.00</i>
<i>1837 Jany 1. To Cash paid to J. Coley for eight hogs</i>	<i>40.00</i>
	<i>\$220.00</i>

Riley’s submitting a bill for caring for his own daughter, then widowed and with a young son, for the period in which she was unmarried seemingly reveals a complete breakdown in familial relations between Blanks and his father-in-law. It conflicts with other records that portray Peter Riley as a caring father who provided for his adult children and orphaned grandchildren.

The Superior Court took no additional action on the case at the September 1838 court term after Riley’s attorneys filed their answer. When the case appeared on the court’s docket on Thursday, 14 March 1839, it appears that Blanks and Riley agreed to settle the case. Both the court minutes and proceedings merely mark the case as “Settled,” without recording any specific details of the settlement [10].

Although court records can be difficult to interpret, Riley’s response filed by his attorneys implies that Zekiel himself pressed the matter against his father-in-law, even though his attorneys filed the suit in the names of both Zekiel and Temperance. Filing a lawsuit against his father-in-law certainly implies animosity between Blanks and Riley, at least in 1838 when he initially filed the suit. If they did not make amends and heal their personal relationship by September 1839, it likely remained contentious, for Ezekiel Blanks had by then decided to emigrate from Georgia. On September 27th, Ezekiel Blanks sold his remaining interest in his own father’s old farm on Beaverdam Creek. Soon afterwards, he moved westward with Tempey and their children [11].

The ongoing economic depression caused by the Panic of 1837 undoubtedly took a toll on Peter Riley’s finances. It appears that he had recovered somewhat by late 1841, when he began distributing some of his assets to his older children. On 23 December 1841, for \$500 Peter Riley sold his eldest son, William M. Riley, a 98-acre tract of land on the Oconee River, the western border of Greene County. Peter’s son-in-law, Robert F. Griffin, a justice of the peace, witnessed the

transaction [12]. A few months later, on 9 May 1842, again for \$500, Peter conveyed a 106-acre tract of land near the mouth of Richland Creek to his younger son, James G. Riley, with Griffin again serving as witness [13].

It is unfortunate that the court records did not provide details of the 1838 settlement agreement reached between Riley and Blanks. While Riley may have consented to give them money in preparation for their journey westward, his son-in-law may have agreed to wait for payment until Riley could recover financially from the ongoing depression.

After leaving eastern Georgia, Temperance and Ezekiel Blanks moved westward to Perry County, Alabama by mid-1840. They only remained briefly, moving into neighboring Dallas County about 1841. On 1 October 1842, Mr. William Seawell, who had resided in Perry County in 1840 [14], sold and delivered to

...Temperance Blanks Wife of Ezekiel Blanks a certain negro Woman named Jane about 16 Years Old to have & hold the Said negro Woman to the Sole and Exclusive use of her the Said Temperance during the natural Life of Said Temperance Without being Subject to the ownership or Control in any Shape of her present husband Ezekiel Blanks or any future husband She may have and Without being Liable to the debts of her present or any future husband and after the determination [sic] of the life of the said Temperance Blanks then the Said Jane to belong to and be equally divided between all the Children of Said Temperance Blanks by her present husband Ezekiel Blanks who shall be Living at the time of her Death Said Temperance...

William Seawell made the transaction for the consideration of the sum of \$800, “to me in hand paid the receipt Whereof is hereby Acknowledged” [15].

Ezekiel Blanks worked as a farm laborer. No known evidence indicates that he had the financial resources to purchase his own farmland in either Georgia or Alabama, let alone the money to purchase an enslaved worker for the enormous sum of \$800. In fact, Greene County, Georgia tax records from the 1830s show that Blanks did not own any appreciable property.

The specific manner in which Seawell conveyed Jane to Temperance as her own property, free from the control of Ezekiel, indicates that this transaction was part of the settlement with her father stemming from the 1838 lawsuit. Seawell’s 1840 household included eight enslaved females in Jane’s age range, and Riley had probably sent the money to Seawell to pay for him conveying Jane to Temperance. The timing of Seawell’s transferring Jane to Temperance closely coincided with Riley’s land transactions with his sons several months earlier. While he gave them both land valued at \$500, the transaction with Temperance was made for \$800, which ironically is \$500 plus \$300, the amount Blanks claimed Riley owed them in his lawsuit.

While Peter Riley’s precise feelings towards Ezekiel Blanks are unknown, he clearly did not harbor lingering resentment towards his daughter. When he wrote his will in early 1844, Peter

included Tempey in his list of children to receive a portion of the final distribution of his estate after his death. The wording of his will, specifically, the money he left to his daughter, Susan, and to his orphaned grandson to *“make all of my first children equall [sic] or nearly so,”* further suggests that he gave Tempey the enslaved woman as her share of his estate equal to that Peter had given to his sons, William and James, about the same time [16].

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Betrayal

In late 1835, Peter Riley became involved in the guardianship of the minor heirs of Littleton Caldwell, a man born between 1800 and 1810. He was the son of Samuel Caldwell, who settled in Greene County prior to 1820 [1]. In 1822, Samuel owned a 60-acre tract of Quality 2 land on Beaverdam Creek, located in southern Greene County in the same general vicinity as Peter Riley's farm [2].

Littleton D. Caldwell married on 4 September 1825 in Greene County, Georgia to Cynthia McHargue [3]. In 1827, he was listed as a defaulter, but in 1828, he paid taxes on four slaves and a 202½-acre tract of land he had drawn in Troup County in the 1827 Land Lottery [4]. Caldwell bought a 110-acre tract of land in southern Greene County in 1831, and the following year, he purchased an adjoining 137.3 acres [5].

On 3 April 1833, although still a young man and *"of Sound mind & memory,"* Littleton D. Caldwell wrote that he had *"thought proper to prepare"* for his death by writing his will. He must have recognized his impending premature demise, for he directed that *"my family [be] kept together this Year for the purpose of finishing the crop,"* but that

At the end of the Year they (my Executors) may still continue to Keep up the Plantation by continuing the family & hands thereon or by making disposition of the plantation hands &c. as they may think best for the interest of my family.

Caldwell appointed his wife and a neighbor, Albert Jernigan, as his executors. He died within a few months, for his will was filed with the Greene County Court on July 1st [6]. In 1834, Jernigan paid the taxes on Littleton Caldwell's estate, which then included his remaining 188-acre farm near the Ogeechee River and five slaves [7].

On New Year's Day 1835, Littleton Caldwell's widow, Cynthia, married Norwood H. Finley [8]. Later that year, on 7 December 1835, the Greene County Court appointed Finley as the guardian of his three stepchildren, Augustus, Martha Ann, and Adaline Dennis Caldwell. Given the value of Littleton D. Caldwell's estate, Georgia law required that Finley sign bonds of \$1500 for each of the three Caldwell children to ensure his faithful performance as their guardian. Peter Riley and Elijah Anderson served as Finley's security on each of the bonds [9].

It is not clear why Peter Riley made the decision to involve himself with the guardianship of the Caldwell orphans, a decision that would haunt Riley for the remainder of his life. Although they lived in the same general vicinity in southern Greene County, Riley had no discernable connection to Littleton D. Caldwell that would explain his agreeing to endanger his personal finances by serving as security on the guardian bonds. Riley's connection to the Caldwell orphans

must have come through Norwood H. Finley. Although his precise origins are unknown, he was probably a close relative of Riley's second wife, Nancy Finley. One plausible explanation for Riley's involvement would be that Norwood H. Finley was Nancy's brother, but this is idle speculation, as her parents are not documented.

On 28 January 1836, one month after the Georgia Inferior Court appointed Finley as guardian to the Caldwell children, Albert Jernigan, executor of Littleton D. Caldwell's will, conveyed Caldwell's 188.6-acre farm on the south fork of the Ogeechee River valued at \$800 to Norwood H. Finley *"in right of his Wife,"* Cynthia [10]. Finley soon acquired an adjoining 60 acres, for in 1837, he paid taxes on 250 acres of land and three slaves [11].

Norwood H. Finley had now acquired complete control over the estate of Littleton D. Caldwell, who failed to place limits on the disposition of his lands and slaves by his executors, his wife and Albert Jernigan. In his will, Caldwell gave his wife and Jernigan free reign to dispose of his land and slaves as they saw fit. By marrying Caldwell's widow and assuming guardianship of her children, Norwood Finley had come into possession of valuable property that should have been exclusively used for the care and maintenance of the Caldwell children.

On 19 November 1838, Norwood and Cynthia Finley sold their 244-acre land for \$1275 [12]. Despite his appointment as guardian of his stepchildren, Finley failed to ever file an account of his handling of their money with the Greene County Court. Instead, the Court later charged that he *"wasted & squandered & converted"* their land, slaves, and money *"to his own use...nor has he taken Care of said minors."* Either alone or with his wife, Norwood Finley soon absconded, taking the money and slaves that rightfully belonged to the Caldwell orphans. His household was not listed on the 1840 federal census enumeration of Greene County, nor is he found elsewhere in Georgia. Finley left the Caldwell orphans behind in Greene County, but the records make no further mention of Cynthia. It would be unusual for a woman to abandon her three children, so she may have died about 1839 or 1840, after which Finley fled with her children's money.

On 22 January 1841, Augustus Caldwell, the eldest child, appeared before the Greene County Inferior Court. Having passed the age of fourteen, the Court allowed him to choose his own guardian, and he selected his father's friend and executor, Albert Jernigan, who then posted the required \$1500 guardian's bond. In its next action, the Court charged Norwood H. Finley with *"mismanaging the property"* of Martha and Adaline Caldwell. It ordered the sheriff to summon Finley to appear before the next court session to show cause why they should not revoke his guardianship [13].

The Greene County sheriff reported to the Court that Finley had left Greene County, so on 10 March 1841, they ordered the publication of an advertisement for four weeks ordering Finley to appear before the Court [14]. When Finley failed to appear, at its session on May 3rd, the Inferior Court revoked his guardian's bonds for the two younger Caldwell orphans. They also secured the services of an attorney to file a lawsuit against Finley and the securities on his three bonds [15].

In August 1842, the Inferior Court Justices filed suit with the Greene County Superior Court against Peter Riley and Elijah Anderson as securities on the three bonds of Norwood H. Finley as guardians of the Caldwell orphans. The attorney for the justices charged that Riley and Anderson owed them a total of \$4500 for Finley's mismanagement of the property belonging to the Caldwell orphans. They charged that Finley *"has not in all things well & truly performed & discharged the duties of Guardian...as required by law."* Instead, the justices claimed that *"on the Contrary,"* Finley *"has been guilty of a breach of the bond,"* for *"whilst acting as Guardian...very soon after his appointment,"* Finley

...took into his possession a large Sum of money the sum of fifteen hundred Dollars belonging to [the minors]...also land & negroes & other property nor has he at any time since he took the possession thereof accounted with your petitioners or Albert Jernigan the Guardian at this time...nor has he paid over to him for said minor or any one else on his account the money aforesaid or any part thereof...

Instead, they charged that Finley had appropriated the money and property for his own purposes, thereby forfeiting the bonds.

Since Finley had absconded, the justices held Peter Riley and Elijah Anderson jointly liable for the bonds. Their attorney filed three separate suits against Riley and Anderson, one for each of the three bonds on which they signed as security. On 17 August 1842, the Superior Court ordered that Riley be served a summons to appear before the Court the next month. Riley appeared in court the day the justices filed the lawsuits, as he signed an acknowledgement of service of the summons on that day.

At the September 1842 session of the Greene County Superior Court, Riley's attorney filed his response to the three lawsuits. Riley denied his indebtedness to the Inferior Court justices and put himself at the mercy of the Superior Court. Riley claimed that the justices only filed suit against him and not against Anderson, who had moved to Troup County, nor had they filed suit against Finley.

Over the next six months, Peter Riley's attorney must have informed him that his claims were unsubstantiated, and that since Finley had fled, he was legally responsible for a portion of each of

the bonds he had signed. At the March 1843 term of court, Riley signed three confessions of judgement for his portion of each of the three \$1500 bonds:

I Confess Judgement to the Plaintiff for Seven hundred Dollars with Cost.

This put Peter Riley in debt to the Inferior Court for \$2100 [16].

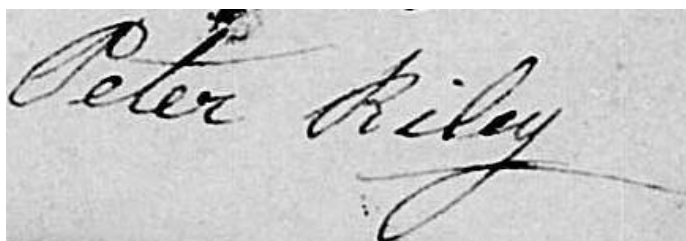
Peter Riley's 1835 decision to serve as Norwood H. Finley's security on his guardianship bonds for the Caldwell children crippled his finances for the rest of his life. Had Georgia's economic situation continued into the latter 1830s and early 1840s as it has for the previous two decades, then Riley may have managed to eventually recover from this extreme financial burden. However, the economic depression following the Panic of 1837 continued to cause financial woes into the 1840s, and he did not repay the Inferior Court Justices during his lifetime.

No further record of Norwood H. Finley is known, either in Georgia or elsewhere. The Caldwell orphans remained in Greene County, and the Inferior Court appointed their father's friend and executor, Albert Jernigan, as their new guardian in 1841 [17]. They each married and lived their lives in Greene County, Georgia.

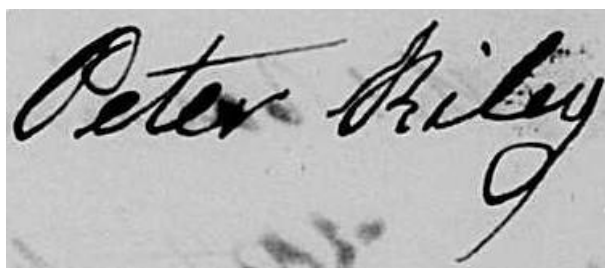
♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

The Latter Years

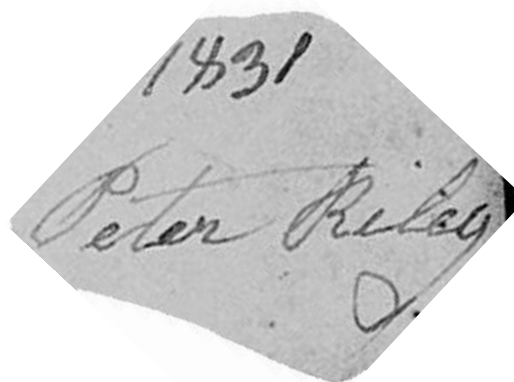
Peter Riley apparently had sufficient education as a child to enable him to sign his name to legal documents throughout his lifetime. Multiple samples of his original signature between 1821 and 1844 survive. On 8 February 1821, he signed a promissory note along with his son-in-law, Robert Brooks. The pair agreed to pay William Armor \$124.25 "*for value recd.*," probably supplies furnished to enable them to produce a crop for the upcoming growing season. The original document gives us a sample of his signature when he was about fifty years of age [1]:

A black and white photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature reads "Peter Riley" and is written on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The ink is dark, and the handwriting is fluid and legible.

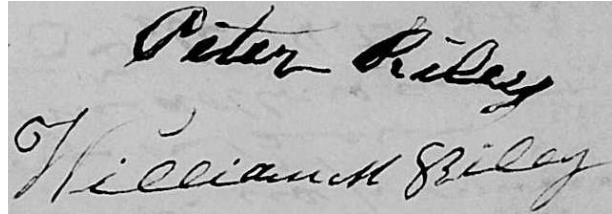
In January 1831, the men appointed to appraise the property of Peter's nephew, Thomas Riley, signed the inventory as they submitted it to the Greene County Court. This gives us a sample of Peter Riley's signature at the age of about sixty [2]:

A black and white photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature reads "Peter Riley" and is written on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The ink is dark, and the handwriting is fluid and legible.

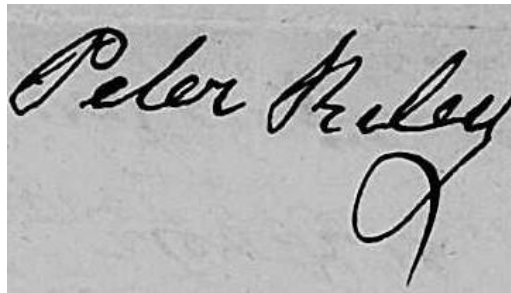
A few weeks later, on February 12th, Peter signed a promissory note to pay William Armor for supplies valued at \$9.79³/₄, giving another sample of his signature [3]:

A black and white photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature reads "Peter Riley" and is written on a diamond-shaped piece of paper. The ink is dark, and the handwriting is fluid and legible. The date "1831" is written above the signature.

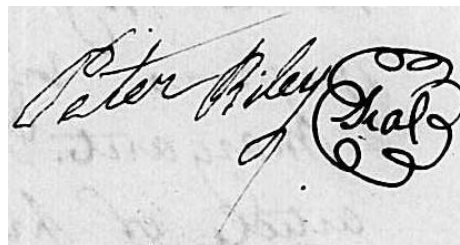
By 1840, Peter Riley had reached the age of about seventy, and he seemingly still enjoyed sufficiently good health that allowed him to continue operating his farm as usual. On 18 February 1843, Riley, his son, William M. Riley, and his neighbor, John Kimbrough, all signed a promissory note to Green Moore for \$341. The original document shows their signatures [4]:

A photograph of a document showing two handwritten signatures in cursive. The top signature is 'Peter Riley' and the bottom signature is 'William M. Riley'.

On 1 January 1844, Peter Riley signed a promissory note to James Smith for \$108 due the following Christmas Day. His clear signature suggests that he then continued in reasonably good health [5]:

A photograph of a document showing a single handwritten signature in cursive, which reads 'Peter Riley'.

Peter wrote his will on 31 January 1844, leaving property to his wife and his children. He signed his will, but his signature appears shakier than it had thirty days earlier [6]:

A photograph of a document showing a handwritten signature in cursive, which reads 'Peter Riley'. The signature is followed by a large, circular, decorative flourish.

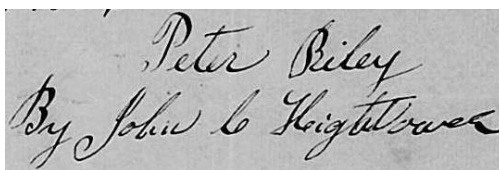
Peter Riley continued to conduct his business over the next month after signing his will. On February 29th, he signed a promissory note for \$150 to Daniel Pardue at the Central Bank of Georgia. His clear signature does not reveal obvious indications of poor health [7]:

A photograph of a document showing a single handwritten signature in cursive, which reads 'Peter Riley'.

During this period, Riley sought medical services for himself and his family from Dr. Green Johnson, a physician who lived just across the Oconee River in Putnam County. Back on 10 May

1841, Dr. Johnson had treated Riley's wife, Nancy, charging \$5.00 for the visit and medicine. In February 1844, Dr. Johnson paid a visit to the Riley farm to treat Peter on February 13th, and he charged \$1.25 for medicine on the 26th and 25¢ for medicine on the 28th. The doctor returned to the Riley farm on April 3rd, but for "*Visiting N. woman*," undoubtedly medical services for one of Riley's enslaved women. Dr. Johnson charged Riley \$5.25 for each of his visits in February and April. He charged Riley for additional medications on May 2nd, August 17th, and December 12th, presumably prescribed for Peter [8].

On 17 December 1844, Peter Riley had a note written to the firm of Adams & Hopkins of Augusta, directing them "*At sight*" of the note, to "*pay to the order of McKinly & Seymour*" the amount of \$110 and to charge it to his account. Riley did not sign the note himself, but he had John C. Hightower sign it for him [9]:

A photograph of a handwritten note. The top line reads "Peter Riley" in a cursive script. Below it, in a smaller cursive script, it says "By John C. Hightower".

Presumably one of Riley's neighbors, Hightower had witnessed his will the previous January 31st. This is the first instance of Riley not signing his name to his own documents, and it suggests that his health had significantly declined by December 17th.

Ten days later, on December 27th, John G. Gaston wrote an invoice for two items, charging \$3.50 to Peter Riley for a "*Rim & spoke wagon wheel*" and \$7.00 to W. M. Riley "*to Burial of his farther coffin & case*" [10]. This shows that Peter Riley died in late December 1844, sometime during the ten-day period between the 17th and the 27th.

Although the next session of the Greene County Inferior Court was not slated to begin until mid-January, the justices had presumably been awaiting Riley's death to collect on the \$2100 debt he owed them for the revoked guardianship of Norwood H. Finley. The Court immediately issued two fieri facias (fi. fa.) against Peter Riley's property. To satisfy them, Sheriff James Burk ordered the sale of five of the seven slaves that Riley had ordered sold in his will. In fact, Riley must have made a settlement with the Inferior Court, agreeing to order the sale of slaves valued precisely to satisfy his debt to the Inferior Court. The sheriff advertised the sale on December 31st, merely a few days after Riley's death. The advertisement appeared weekly through February 4th, 1845 [11].

At the Greene County Inferior Court session on 13 January 1845, the three men who had witnessed Peter Riley's will the previous January, John Kimbrough, John C. Hightower, and James J. Matthis, all appeared in court to swear that they saw Riley sign his will while in "*perfect sound*

mind & memory at the time of his signing the same." The Court approved Riley's sons as executors and ordered that his estate be appraised [12].

Merely three days later, on January 16th, Riley's son-in-law, Robert F. Griffin, acting as a justice of the peace, administered the required oath to B. Kimbrough, William T. Gaston, and John C. Hightower prior to their making an appraisal of his estate. They valued it at \$3937.25 [13]. The next day, January 17th, Riley's sons held a sale of his personal property. They purchased the bulk of the items, along with Riley's son-in-law, Robert F. Griffin, and grandson, Peter Early Fossett. The sale netted \$484.77½ for the estate [14]. Several weeks later, on February 4th, as advertised, the sheriff held the sale of five slaves that had belonged to Peter Riley. The sale of these five enslaved people raised \$2056.00, fulfilling the debt Peter Riley owed to the Inferior Court justices as security on the revoked bonds of Norwood H. Finley [15].

William M. and James G. Riley managed the affairs of their father's estate throughout the rest of the year. By late 1845, they had paid the debts he owned and collected payments due to him. Beginning on November 11th, they began advertising to finalize his estate:

ALL persons indebted to the estate of Peter Riley, late of Greene county, deceased, are requested to come forward and settle; and those to whom said estate is indebted, will present their claims for payment.
WILLIAM M. RILEY, } Ex'ors.
JAMES G. RILEY, }
 Nov. 11, 1845 45 6t

The advertisements ran through 30 December 1845 [16]. They filed their final returns of Peter Riley's estate to the Greene County Court in March and July 1846, and these showed payments of all of their father's debts. Their returns only showed one source of income during this period: they had sold the 1845 cotton crop planted on Peter Riley's old farm for \$280 [17].

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

No known record conclusively proves Peter Riley's religion, but his son and daughter-in-law, James G. Riley and Sarah Ann Woodward [18] and two of his daughters, Susan and Temperance, followed the Methodist faith. Susan and her husband, Robert F. Griffin, attended the Ridge Grove Methodist Church, organized in 1825 and located near the Riley farms between the Oconee River and Richland Creek in southwestern Greene County. Susan was very active in the church, remembered as someone who *"...used to entertain the preachers in a most hospitable manner, and her house was known as the 'preacher's Home.'"* Peter's great-niece, Elizabeth A. Riley, and her husband, Seaborn McMichael, also attended services at Ridge Grove Church. Several of the early

members from the 1825–1845 period “*are buried in the Church-yard,*” the plot of land now known as the Ridge Grove Cemetery [19].

While Peter Riley may have been buried on his farm, he likely attended religious services at the Ridge Grove Church with his daughters and other relatives. His children may have buried him in the church cemetery with others who died during the same era.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Peter Riley's Slaves

Peter Riley owned enslaved humans of African descent throughout most of his adult life. No known records survive to show his buying or selling any slaves, so he presumably inherited them. The earliest available record showing him as a slaveowner comes from when he was in his early thirties, and it indicates that he then owned two slaves, probably owned a male and female couple. Their children probably explain the gradual increase in the numbers of his slaves between 1805 and 1845.

If Riley did inherit the slaves he owned, they must have come from the relatives of his wife, Elizabeth Woods, as records show that his father, Jacob, did not himself own slaves. No information is currently known on Elizabeth Woods' family of origin, so precise details of how Peter Riley initially obtained the enslaved people he owned in the early 1800s remain unclear.

During his brief foray to Greene County, Georgia in 1804–1805, Peter Riley paid 1805 taxes on his own white poll tax and on two slaves [1]. After returning to Orange County, North Carolina, he had three slaves living in his household in 1810 [2]. In 1820, a few years after settling on his Richland Creek farm in southwestern Greene County, Georgia, Peter Riley's household included four slaves:

Two males aged 14–25
One female aged 14–25
One male under fourteen years

Five members of the Riley household engaged in agriculture in 1820, suggesting that Peter and four others routinely cultivated his fields [3]. Peter still paid taxes on four slaves in 1822 [4], but in 1824 and 1825, he paid taxes on five slaves. By 1827 and 1828, he paid taxes on six enslaved humans [5]. In 1830, seven slaves lived in the Riley household, including three adults and four children under the age of fourteen [6]:

Two males aged 24–36
One female aged 24–36
Three male children under fourteen years
One female child under fourteen years

The seven slaves Peter Riley owned in 1830 increased to eight by 1834 and to nine by 1837 [7]. In 1840, eight members of Riley's household worked in agriculture, presumably including himself and his son, James Gray Riley, then still single at the age of twenty-two. The others engaged in agriculture undoubtedly included some of Peter's ten slaves living in his household [8]:

Two male slaves aged 36–55
One female slave aged 36–55
One male slave 10–24

Three female slaves aged 10–24
 One male slave aged under 10 years
 Two female slaves aged under 10 years

No known records provide us with the given names of Peter Riley's slaves before 31 January 1844, when he wrote his will. To his wife, Nancy, Peter bequeathed "*my Negro man Harry & his wife Nance*," and he left to his youngest son, Henry N. Riley, "*my negro boy Dock*." He then directed his executors to sell his remaining slaves, including "*Alsy, Ras, Dick, Lige, Alfred, Margaret & Phil*," to raise money to pay his debts and satisfy bequests to his older children [9]. The wording of his will appears deliberate, probably an agreement he had made with the Greene County Inferior Court justices following their judgement against him as security for the revoked guardian's bonds of Norwood H. Finley in 1842. The slaves Riley ordered sold were sufficient to satisfy the \$2100 he owed the Inferior Court justices [10].

Immediately upon Peter Riley's death in late December, the Justices of the Inferior Court of Greene County issued two fieri facias (fi. fa.) against Peter Riley's property. These were writs of execution directed to the Greene County sheriff, ordering him to seize certain property of Riley's to satisfy his debts. To satisfy the fi. fa. orders, Sheriff James Burk ordered the sale of the five slaves that Riley had directed to be sold in his will. The sheriff advertised the sale beginning 31 December 1844, merely a few days after Riley's death. The sheriff announced that the sale would occur on the first Tuesday in February 1845, and his advertisement described Riley's slaves to be sold as:

Erasmus, a man 23 years old

Eliza, 20

Ailsey, a woman 23, and her two children, **Margaret** 7, **Alfred** a boy 9 years old

The advertisement ran from December 31 through February 4th, 1845 [11].

On 16 January 1845, Riley's son-in-law, Robert F. Griffin, in his capacity as justice of the peace, administered the legally required oath to the three local men appointed by the Greene County Court to prepare an inventory of Peter Riley's property. Since Peter had made specific bequests of Harry, Nance, and Dock to his wife and youngest son, they were not inventoried. The appraisers valued Riley's seven other enslaved people as follows [12]:

1 Negro woman Alsy	\$300
1 Negro Girl Peggy	300
1 Man Rasbury	650
1 Man Elijah	700
1 boy Alfred	330
1 boy Phil	450
1 Man Dick	700

The inventory shows a discrepancy with the names of the enslaved people belonging to the Riley estate that were advertised to be sold. “*Rasbury*” and “*Ras*” were undoubtedly nicknames for Riley’s adult made slave, “*Erasmus*,” and “*Peggy*” was a nickname for the young girl advertised as “*Margaret*.” However, the sheriff mistakenly identified “*Eliza*” as the adult man that Riley referred to as “*Elijah*,” or “*Lige*.”

As advertised, the sheriff conducted the sale of the Riley slaves on 4 February 1845. The record of the sale indicates that five of them were sold:

1 Negro woman Ailsy 47 years old	Sold to John Orr for \$222.00
1 Negro Girl Margaret	Sold to John Brunt321.00
1 Negro Boy Phil	Sold to P. E. Fawcett500.00
1 Negro Boy Alfred	Sold to David Leslie301.00
1 Negro Man Dick	Sold to Jas. G. Riley712.00
	<u>\$2056.00</u>

The amount raised from the sale satisfied the \$2100 judgement that the Inferior Court justices had obtained against Peter Riley as security on the forfeited guardian’s bonds of Norwood H. Finley several years earlier.

Three of Peter Riley’s former slaves were purchased by family members: Peter Early Fossett was Peter Riley’s grandson, while James G. Riley was his son, and John Brunt was the latter’s father-in-law. However, no information on John Orr or David Leslie (or Larsley) is known [13]. The records of Peter Riley’s estate give no indication of what became of his adult male slaves, Rasbury (Erasmus) or Elijah (Ligi). The ages given in these records for Ailsey conflict, with the newspaper advertising her as aged twenty-three, but the sale listed her age as 47 years. Regardless, if her two children, Margaret and Alfred, were indeed aged only seven and nine, then the sale of Peter Riley’s enslaved people illustrates one of the inhumane realities of chattel slavery: the young children were sold to different men than their mother.

Little else is known of the enslaved people formerly owned by Peter Riley after 1845. We do know that John Brunt apparently bought Margaret, or Peggy, for his daughter, Martha, wife of Riley’s grandson, Peter Early Fossett. On 8 December 1845, “*for the love & affection that I have for my Daughter Martha Fossett*,” Brunt gave her “*a negro girl & the increase of her body named Pegg about eight years old*.” Brunt valued Pegg at \$325, basically the same price he paid the sheriff when he bought her from Peter Riley’s estate earlier that year [14]. This meant that both Phil and Peggy went with the Fossetts when they moved from Greene to Pike County in the latter 1840s.

The 1850 household of Peter Riley’s widow, Nancy, included their son, Henry, aged eighteen, and a male aged sixteen years, “*Dock Shirley*.” The given name of “*Dock*” is unusual, and he could

have been "*my negro boy Dock*" that Peter Riley bequeathed to Henry in his will. Although the 1850 census enumeration was supposed to only include white people by given name, the enumerator may have erred and mistakenly recorded Dock as white [15].

In 1850, Nancy Riley was listed as the owner of three slaves, a male aged sixty-five, a female aged fifty-two, and a male child of eight years. Peter's will specified that "*my Negro man Harry & his wife Nance*" went to Nancy, and it would fit that they were this adult slave couple [16]. However, a later record suggests that Harry was much younger.

Nancy Finley Riley appears to have died between 1850 and 1855. Her son, Henry N. Riley, moved across the state to the booming village of Columbus, located in Muscogee County on the Alabama/Georgia state line. On 26 July 1855, Henry signed a promissory note to Columbus merchant John T. Walker for \$175.75 due the following Christmas Day, probably for supplies or merchandise furnished him. To guarantee his payment, Henry Riley mortgaged to Walker "*a certain Negro fellow named Harry of dark complexion, Thirty years old, five feet nine or ten inches high*" [17].

Riley must have paid his note to Walker early, for on October 4th, he and Dunwoody K. McGee signed a promissory note to Alexander J. Robinson for \$310 by the following January 1st. To guarantee payment of the note, Henry Riley mortgaged to Robinson "*a certain negro man Slave of black complexion aged about (32) thirty two years and by the name of Harry by trade a Shoemaker*" [18]. There is no further record of Harry. In 1860, Henry N. Riley worked as an express rider, but he was not enumerated as owning any slaves. After 1855, Harry, Nance, and the other enslaved people owned by Peter Riley during his lifetime faded into obscurity.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Peter Riley's Children

Peter Riley identified five living children in his will written on 31 January 1844. He also made a bequest to his grandson, Peter Early Fossett, proving that at least one other of his daughters married and predeceased him [1]. The will does not specifically state that the children to whom he left bequests constituted all of his children then alive, but no known evidence suggests otherwise. The 1810 and 1820 enumerations of his household strongly suggest that Riley had at least one son and one daughter born during that period. Presumably, they both died young and without heirs.

Peter Riley had two known wives, Elizabeth Woods, to whom he married in 1795, and Nancy Finley, to whom he married in 1830. Based upon the number of children living in his 1810 and 1820 households, he had at least five children born prior to 1810, then a gap, followed by the births of sons in 1816 and 1818. This may have been a natural gap in his children by Elizabeth Woods, possibly with several children perishing as infants. However, may possibly be an indication that Elizabeth died, and Peter remarried to an unknown woman who was the mother of his two sons born in 1816 and 1818. He was again a widower by late 1829, when he returned to his birthplace and married Nancy Finley, the mother of his youngest son, Henry N. Riley.

Despite the gap in births of Peter's children, without any concrete documentation that Peter married an unknown woman between his 1795 marriage to Elizabeth Woods and 1830 marriage to Nancy Finley, we assume that Elizabeth was the mother of all of his children except for the youngest, who is documented as the son of Nancy Finley.

The known children of Peter Riley include:

1. [daughter] **Riley** (1795/1805–1817/1844) married about 1815 or 1816 to Mr. Fossett and had one son.
2. **Susannah Riley** [Susan] (1798/1800–aft. 1880) married before 1819 to Robert Brooks (?–1823) and about 8 September 1824 to Robert Foster Griffin (c1794–1855).
3. **Temperance Riley** [Tempey] (15 Apr 1802–6 Mar 1894) married on 4 December 1821 to Thomas Deviney (?–1821/1826). She appears to have married about 1826 to Mr. Robins, and she married on 1 March 1832 to W. Ezekiel Blanks (31 Aug 1805–25 Feb 1864).
4. [son] **Riley** (1804/1810–aft. 1820) may have been a son of Peter Riley. A male child born between 1804 and 1810 lived in Riley's 1810 and 1820 households. If he was indeed his son, this boy died sometime after 1820.
5. [daughter] **Riley** (1804/1810–aft. 1820) may have been a daughter of Peter Riley. Three female children born between 1800 and 1810 lived in Riley's 1810 household, and one born

between 1804 and 1810 lived in his 1820 household. This suggests that he probably had a daughter born 1804–1810 who died sometime after 1820.

6. **William M. Riley** (abt. 1816–aft. 1867) married on 8 January 1835 to Louisa Ann Mallory (c1821–1850/1860). He married before 1860 to Elizabeth R. ? (c1819–aft. 1860).
7. **James Gray Riley** (19 Jan 1818–13 Dec 1883) married on 8 June 1843 to Mary Frances Brunt (13 Aug 1829–25 Mar 1847), and he married on 19 March 1848 to Sarah Ann Sims Woodard (17 July 1827–11 Feb 1910).
8. **Henry N. Riley** (c1832–Oct 1873) married on 14 May 1851 to Lavina Bell [Melvina] (c1835–Jan 1869).

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Biographical Sketches of Peter Riley's Children & Grandchildren

Both county marriage records and federal census records are readily available online, and so they are not generally referenced below. Documentation for all other statements is provided in the notes at the end.

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1. [unknown daughter] **Riley**

Peter Riley had a daughter born between about 1795 and 1800 who married about 1815 or 1816 to Mr. Fossett. She was probably Peter's eldest child, and she may have married Fossett in North Carolina before Peter Riley moved to Georgia. In 1810, Ralph "*Faucett*" lived in Orange County only a few households from Peter Riley [1]. In 1820, Elmore "*Faucett*" lived in Capt. Woodham's District, near Peter's son-in-law, Robert Brooks, and nephews, Thomas and Jacob Riley [2]. It is unclear if either of these men was related to the man who married Peter's daughter.

Nothing further is known about this woman or her husband but given that she appears to have left only one son, she probably died young, perhaps giving birth to him. In his January 1844 will, Peter Riley identified the following man as his grandson:

1. **Peter Early Fossett** (23 Feb 1817–20 Jun 1868) married on 29 September 1842 in Greene County, Georgia to Martha Ann Brunt (18 June 1827–9 Mar 1901), with Early's uncle, Justice of the Peace Robert F. Griffin, performing the ceremony [3]. Martha Ann Brunt was the daughter of John Brunt (25 May 1804–28 Dec 1855) and Patience Rowland (10 Apr 1809–4 Oct 1883) [4]. On 8 December 1845, John Brunt had a gift recorded in the county records to Martha Fossett, "*She being the Daughter of the said John Brunt.*" The transaction reads [5]:

I do for the love & affection that I have for my Daughter Martha Fossett give her & the increase of her body a negro girl & their increase of her body named Pegg about eight years old I do give this girl Pegg to my Daughter Martha Fossett for her own use and Support and after her death then to the heirs of her own body. I do price this girl Pegg at three hundred and Twenty four dollars to go in her part of my estate at my death to make an equal division with the rest of my Children...

Peter Early Fossett still lived in Greene County on 14 February 1848, when he paid \$621 to W. M. Brunt for a 100-acre tract of land in Greene County [6].

Although no record of his selling his Greene County lands was recorded, Peter Early Fossett presumably sold them by late 1848. He had settled in Pike County, Georgia by 18 January 1849, when his father-in-law, John Brunt, sold him a 130-acre tract of land for \$600 [7]. The 1850 federal census enumeration showed the Fossett and Brunt households as adjoining, with

Early's uncle, William M. Riley, living nearby. Riley moved to DeKalb County about 1851, but Early and Martha Fossett remained Pike County residents.

On 7 December 1850, Early Fossett paid his father-in-law \$1000 for a 100-acre tract of Pike County land [8]. Following Brunt's 1855 death, Fossett served as one of the administrators of his estate. They held a public auction of a portion of Brunt's real estate at the courthouse in Zebulon on 26 November 1856. Early Fossett bid \$1600 for the 162½-acre tract [9]. By 1860, Fossett owned real estate valued at \$4000 and personal estate of \$12,000, primarily the value of his fourteen slaves. He owned six adults, apparently three families who lived in three houses on his farm [10].

Although too old for regular military service during the Civil War, Peter E. Fossett was listed as a private in the 56th Regiment Georgia Militia (Pike County) on the muster roll dated 5 March 1862. In the 1864 reorganization of the Georgia Militia, Fossett was listed in the 505th Militia District of Pike County, aged forty-seven years [11]. Due to the dire military situation in Georgia that year, Fossett was called to active service with the militia, leaving his and the surrounding farms unattended. On 24 August 1864, his wife, mother-in-law, and two neighbors sent a petition to Georgia Governor Joseph E. Brown:

The petition of the undersigned praying for the detail of Peter E. Fosset a Soldier now in Service of the State, he being forty nine years of age, and in ill health he being the only man in our Settlement Capable of attending to our negroes or manageing [sic] them of which there are forty Six Slaves on the above plantations, and on said plantations we have a fine Crop of Corn and Sugar Cane and without the Attention of some good manager, it will be liable to waste, the above facts set forth, which will enable you to see our Condition, and by granting our request your humble petitioners will Ever pray &c.

Besides the signatures of Patience Brunt and Martha A. Fosset, the petition was signed by Minerva Brooks and Tabitha Kent, both neighbors of Fossett [12].

Peter E. Fossett survived the War and registered to vote on 10 August 1867 [13], but he died the following year on 20 June 1868. Martha lived as a widow for the next three decades. She continued to operate their farm with the help of her children. Peter and Martha Fossett are reportedly buried in the Fossett Cemetery in Pike County, near the tombstones of her parents.

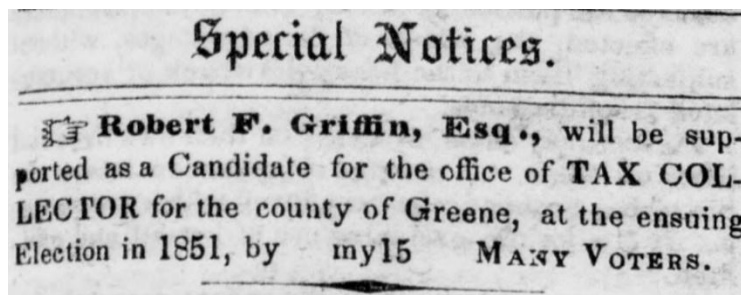
♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

2. Susannah Riley

Susannah Riley [Susan] (1798/1800–aft. 1880) was born in North Carolina, probably in Orange County [1]. She married prior to 1819, probably in Georgia, to Robert Brooks. In 1820, they lived in Capt. Woodham's District in Greene County, Georgia near her first cousins, Thomas and Jacob Riley [2]. Brooks paid his 1822 Greene County taxes on a 103½-acre of Quality 3 land on Richland Creek and one slave [3], but he died late the following year.

On 12 January 1824, "*Susannah Brooks*" and her first cousin, Jacob Riley, posted bond of \$2500 to secure their appointment as administrators of Robert Brooks' estate [4]. On 8 September 1824, the Greene County Court issued a license for "*Susannah Brooks*" to marry Robert Foster Griffin (c1794–1855), with their marriage occurred shortly afterwards [5]. Griffin helped to administer the estate of his wife's first husband and served as the guardian of Susan's son [6]. On 3 May 1825, Griffin paid \$141 to Jacob Riley as administrator of Robert Brooks' estate for the two-thirds interest in a 103-acre tract of land drained by Richland Creek and adjoining the lands of Thomas Riley [7].

Susan and Robert F. Griffin spent their married life in Greene County. He served as a Greene County Justice of the Peace [8], and in 1850, he worked as a teacher. Griffin's brother, Ezekiel P. Griffin, lived in Susan and Robert's household that year and worked as a tailor. An Augusta, Georgia newspaper published this notice in May 1850 [9]:



Shortly afterwards, Greene County citizens elected him as their tax collector. Two years later, in the fall of 1852, Griffin published a notice expressing that he "*Is thankful to his friends for their former support of him, and begs leave to say that he is again a candidate for the office of Tax Collector*" [10].

Susan and Robert attended the Ridge Grove Methodist Church, organized in 1825 near the Riley and Griffin farms between the Oconee River and Richland Creek in southwestern Greene County. In 1875, a former member wrote these reminiscences of a few early members from the 1830s and 1840s:

Prominent among the old members of this Church, were...Seaborn McMichael and wife, Ezekiel Griffin, Robt. Griffin and wife (aunt Susan) who still lives...Aunt Susan Griffin used to entertain the preachers in a most hospitable manner, and her house was known as the "preacher's Home." Such as it was.

Green County Justice of the Peace Seaborn McMichael married on 17 February 1824 to Elizabeth A. Riley, daughter of Thomas Riley, Susan's first cousin and her father's neighbor. The former member gave this description of the original Ridge Grove Church building:

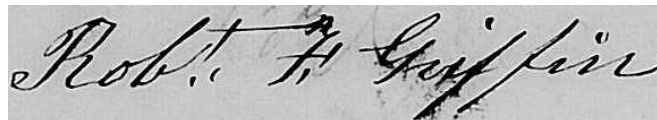
The house of worship...was built of hewn pine logs, with openings between the logs sufficient to admit light without the unnecessary expense of windows. There were neither ceiling nor joists, and altogether it was a very rough and, as the sequel proved, unsafe building. Sometime during the year 1830 or '31, just after the congregation, which had been attending week day worship, had been dismissed, the rafters gave way at the plates, and the whole roof fell within the walls. Some of the members tho't that certain brethren who were desirous of having a new Church edifice, were instrumental in having the roof prized in, while others suspected that a wild young man, whom the preacher had reproved very roughly, resorted to this means of avenging himself. Albeit, the members went to work and reconstructed the old building, so far as to raise the roof on a line with the plates and thus support it with forks and props, making it quite comfortable in dry and warm weather. A subscription list for a new building was soon started, workmen were employed and a new Church was completed during the year 1831.

The writer continued with these descriptions of the members of the old church who were still alive:

Of all those named as members of the Ridge Grove Church, I know of but two who are now living, viz: aunt Susan Griffin and uncle Jimmie Smith. Wm. K. Walker contributed the land whereon the new Church was built. – Several members of his family are buried in the Church-yard...

The writer concluded his reminiscences with, "*The memories of long ago are sweet. May they linger about my pathway and shed a hale around my dying pillow*" [11].

On 30 December 1854, Robert F. Griffin signed a promissory note to James Smith for \$513 due 1 January 1856 in exchange for the purchase of "*a negro man named Billy.*" The original receipt shows his signature that day [12]:



Griffin died something within the next month, for James Smith petitioned the Greene County Court on 29 January 1855 to be appointed as the administrator of Griffin's estate [13].

Susan Riley Griffin's whereabouts in the two decades following Robert F. Griffin's death are unknown. She has not been identified on either the 1860 or 1870 federal censuses although she presumably remained a Greene County resident until at least the mid-1870s. It appears that about 1875, she moved with her son and his family to Attala County, Mississippi, joining her younger

brother, James Gray Riley, who settled there about 1858. In 1880, Susan lived in her son's household there. She died sometime after 1880, presumably in Attala County.

Susannah Riley had only two known children, both by her first husband, Robert Brooks:

1. **Peter Riley Brooks** (c1819–aft. 1880) was only four years old when his father died. On 6 November 1826, the Greene County Court appointed Peter's stepfather, Robert F. Griffin, as his guardian. Peter's grandfather, Peter Riley, served as the security on Griffin's \$3000 guardian's bond [14].

Peter R. Brooks married on 1 January 1843 in Greene County, Georgia to Francina Credille (c1820–aft. 1880), daughter of Henry Credille (c1784–1830) and Sarah Smith (c1783–aft. 1870). Peter and Francina Brooks lived in Greene County, Georgia between their marriage and 1874. On 9 February 1874, for \$150, "*Fransina Brooks*" sold to McCall, Copelan & Co. a 200-acre tract of land described as "*a portion of the Credille Place,*" presumably land she inherited from her parents. Peter R. Brooks witnessed his wife's signature on the document [15]. Soon afterwards, Peter and Francina followed his uncle, James G. Riley, to Attala County, Mississippi. Peter's mother lived with them in 1880, the last known record of them.

2. **Elizabeth Brooks** (1820/1823–aft. 14 Feb 1824) was listed as an orphan of Robert Brooks in an account of his estate that paid for "*Boarding & Clothing*" her from 14 February 1824 [16]. Since Brooks' 1820 household only shows a young male and no young female, she was probably born between 1820 and 1823. There is no further record of her, and the lack guardianship records for her like there are for her brother, Peter, is an indication that she died young.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

3. Temperance Riley

Temperance Riley [Tempey] (15 Apr 1802–6 Mar 1894) married on 4 December 1821 in Greene County, Georgia to Thomas Deviney, who did not live long after their marriage. About 1825 or 1826, it appears that Temperance married a Mr. Robins, for her eldest son, Seborn Robins, was born on 8 January 1827. There is no known record of their marriage, however. On 1 March 1832, she married W. Ezekiel Blanks (31 Aug 1805–25 Feb 1864), son of William Blanks (1755/1760–1823) and Jane Hill (1775/1785–c1816).

Tempey and Ezekiel Blanks emigrated from Greene County, Georgia in late 1839. By mid-1840, they had settled in Perry County, Alabama, but they moved into adjoining Dallas County about 1841. They moved further westward in late 1842 or early 1843, settling in Hillsboro, Union County, Arkansas by late 1843. They spent the remainder of their lives near Hillsboro and are buried in the Olive Branch Cemetery near the modern community of Caledonia, Johnson Township, Union County, Arkansas [1]. The known children of Temperance Riley include:

1. **Seborn Robins** (8 Jan 1827–18 Mar 1894) married on 21 December 1854 in Union County, Arkansas to Elizabeth Jackson (c1839–1855/1870). Seborn is buried in the Bussey-Hearin Cemetery, located nearby in the Pleasant Grove community of near Hillsboro, Union County, Arkansas.
2. **Elizabeth J. Blanks** (1 Dec 1832–6 Apr 1891) married on 18 September 1851 in Union County, Arkansas to Isaac Nathaniel Ogden (28 Nov 1822–1 July 1877), son of Isaac Ogden (19 Aug 1797–28 Sep 1859) and Milinda Reed (21 Dec 1801–18 May 1860). Elizabeth and Nathan Ogden are buried in the Olive Branch Methodist Cemetery, near Junction City, Union County, Arkansas.
3. **Susan A. Blanks** (8 Mar 1835–25 Oct 1857).
4. **Martha M. Blanks** (22 Sep 1838–20 Jul 1842).
5. **Louisa A. Blanks** (29 Jul 1841–29 Jun 1852).
6. **Mary Ann Blanks** (29 Oct 1843–7 Jun 1915) married on 19 July 1866 in Union County, Arkansas to Reuben Searcy Breazeal (25 Feb 1843–2 Feb 1917), son of Hosea Bright Breazeal (5 Apr 1813–19 Oct 1891) and Sarah Elizabeth Mayfield (17 Jun 1819–9 Jan 1888). Mary Ann and Reuben Breazeal are buried in the Olive Branch Methodist Cemetery, near Junction City, Union County, Arkansas.
7. **Sarah C. Blanks** (6 Mar 1847–17 Aug 1848).



4. William M. Riley

William M. Riley (abt. 1816–aft. 1867) and his brother, James, are undoubtedly the two young males living in their father's 1820 and 1830 households. At the age of about nineteen, William married on 8 January 1835 in Greene County, Georgia to Louisa Ann Mallory (c1821–1850/1860), the daughter of Thomas Mallory (?–1836/1840) and Martha ? (?–aft. 1840). In September 1836, William M. Riley paid \$400 to Thomas Mallory for a 120-acre tract of land on *"Mallory's Spring branch,"* bounded by the *"public road leading on by Kimbroughs Mill"* and *"Peter Riley's line thence to the left on Riley's line to Kimbroughs line"* and Richland Creek [1]. Thomas Mallory died by 1840, for on 18 November 1840, for *"the Natural love & affection she has for William Riley & Ann Riley his Wife"* and for \$1.00 paid to her by William Riley, Martha Mallory gave them all her title and interest in the estate of *"the late Thomas Mallory dec^d"* for *"their care proper use & behoof & the heirs of the said Ann."* William's brother, James G. Riley, and his father's neighbor, John Cartwright, both witnessed the transaction [2].

John Cartwright managed the estates of both Thomas and Martha Mallory, and on 21 February 1842, William M. Riley signed acknowledgements for receiving his share of their estate. For \$750 from Cartwright, Riley released his undivided claim to Thomas Mallory's estate, *"to which I am entitled in right of my wife Ann."* Riley signed a separate receipt for the value of \$750 by the gift to him from Martha Mallory. The receipts were witnessed by Riley's nephew, Peter R. Brooks, with his brother-in-law, Robert F. Griffin, certifying them as Justice of the Peace [3].

On 18 February 1842, William M. Riley signed a promissory note to John Hall for \$1486.88 due the following Christmas Day. To secure payment of this debt, Riley mortgaged to Hall these enslaved people, presumably inherited from the estate of Thomas Mallory [4]:

Joe a boy about twenty two years of age and Henry a boy sixteen and Easter a Woman about Forty Six and Nicy a Woman about Twenty Six & Jane a Girl about Twelve years of age Cyrus a boy four years of age Sam a boy about three years of age Washington a boy about two years of age Easter a child about one year of age...

On 12 March 1845, William M. Riley witnessed his brother-in-law, Robert F. Griffin, selling a 70-acre tract of land located *"at the long Shoals of the Oconee River"* and bounded by the lands of James Riley [5].

William remained a resident of Greene County, Georgia through July 1846, when he finished settling his father's estate. In the latter 1840s, he moved to DeKalb County while his nephew, Peter Early Fossett settled in nearby Pike County. On 19 November 1849, as a DeKalb County resident, Riley paid \$750 for a 95-acre tract of land in Pike County. He only kept the tract for a brief period,

selling it on 13 September 1850 for \$850 [6]. While Fossett remained in Pike County, Riley soon returned to DeKalb County, where his eldest son married in October 1856 [7].

Louisa Ann Mallory died in the 1850s, probably in Georgia. Sometime prior to July 1860, William M. Riley remarried to Elizabeth R., born about 1819.

About 1859, William M. Riley moved his family to Texas. By July 1860, he lived with his new wife and children in Rusk County, located in northeastern Texas just west of the Louisiana state line. He remained in Rusk County through the turmoil of the Civil War, and on 16 August 1867, he registered to vote in Rusk County. Riley gave his residence at Mt. Enterprise, his birthplace as North Carolina, and stated that he had resided in the county and state for the previous six years. This indicates that Riley must have arrived in Rusk County in late 1859 or early 1860 [8]. William M. Riley died sometime after August 1867.

The known children of William M. Riley and Louisa Ann Mallory include:

1. **James Thomas Riley** (c1836–30 May 1864) lived in his parents' 1850 household in Pike County, Georgia. He married on 26 October 1856 in DeKalb County, Georgia to Anna James (5 Aug 1840–23 Jun 1936), daughter of Josiah James (c1790–c1850) and Sarah Hambrick (c1805–7 Jan 1855). Anna's family lived in Henry County between the 1830s and 1850s. After the birth of their eldest daughter in Lithonia, DeKalb County, Georgia on 13 December 1858, James T. and Anna Riley followed his parents to Texas [9]. In 1860, they lived in the adjoining household to his father, stepmother, and siblings.

James Thomas Riley enlisted in Rusk County on 10 May 1862 as a private in Capt. Harvy A. Wallace's company, Waterhouse's regiment for military service. His unit soon became Co. H, 19th Regiment Texas Infantry. He was present for duty between May and July 1862, but when the regiment moved on August 14th, Riley was ordered to remain behind at the Jefferson Hospital, working as a nurse. He rejoined his unit that fall, was promoted to 3rd sergeant, and was present for duty between November 1862 and June 1863. On 21 June 1863, he was sent to the hospital in Monroe, Louisiana, but returned to duty in July and was listed as present for duty through February 1864.

By early 1864, the 19th Regiment Texas Infantry was part of the garrison of Fort DeRussy, located in Avoyelles Parish, south of Alexandria and four miles north of Marksville, Louisiana. Fort DeRussy was an earthwork stronghold guarding the Red River approach to Alexandria. Although the Federals captured the fort in May 1863, they subsequently abandoned it, and the Confederates soon resumed control. Union Gen. Nathaniel Banks began his Red River Campaign in early 1864 by surrounding Fort DeRussy, and the Confederate garrison

surrendered on March 14th. Now a prisoner of war, Riley arrived at Baton Rouge on the 17th and was confined in prison at New Orleans on March 20th. He became ill with “*Acute Pneumonia*” and was sent to the hospital there on May 26th, where he died on the 30th. Federal officials buried him in the Cypress Grove Cemetery [10]. The cemetery has since been destroyed.

Anna James Riley remained a widow for the next seventy years. She and her three daughters lived near Tyler, Smith County, Texas in 1870. In the mid-1870s, Anna and her extended family moved west across the continent and settled in the town of Lebanon, Linn County, Oregon. In 1880, she and her youngest daughter, Thomas Theodosia Riley, worked as dressmakers there. By 1930, Anna and her two youngest daughters had settled in Pasadena, Los Angeles County, California. Anna James Riley and her daughters are buried in the Mountain View Cemetery and Mausoleum, Altadena, Los Angeles County, California [11].

2. **Martha E. Riley** (c1838–aft. 1860) lived in her parents’ 1850 household in Pike County, Georgia and with her father and stepmother in Rusk County, Texas in 1860. There is no known marriage record for her in Texas, and it is unknown whether she married or died single.
3. **Susan Louise Riley** [Louisa] (c1840–25 May 1874) lived in her parents’ 1850 household in Pike County, Georgia and with her father and stepmother in Rusk County, Texas in 1860. She married on 11 December 1860 in Rusk County to Missionary Baptist preacher John Huston Whitmore (2 May 1829–11 Sep 1908), son of John Whitmore (19 Dec 1793–10 Apr 1864) and Elizabeth Burk (c1800–7 Oct 1865). In 1870, Louisa and John lived near Tyler, Smith County, Texas near her brother’s widow, Anna James Riley. John Whitmore served as a justice of the peace.

In the mid-1870s, Louisa and John Whitmore moved with their extended family westward across the continent and settled in Eugene, Lane County, Oregon, where Louise died on 25 May 1874. She is buried in the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery there [12]. John H. Whitmore remarried in 1878 and settled in Bickleton, Klickitat County, Washington. He died on 11 September 1908 and is buried in the IOOF Cemetery there.

4. **Mary A. J. Riley** (c1842–aft. 1850) lived in her parents’ 1850 household in Pike County, Georgia. There is no known marriage record for her, and it is not clear if she died young or married in the latter 1850s.
5. **Temperance Henrietta Clay Riley** (19 Nov 1846–29 Nov 1931) lived in her father’s households in 1850 and 1860. She married on 22 November 1868 in Rusk County, Texas to Burwell Hambrick James (Jan 1850–15 Nov 1926), son of Josiah James (c1790–c1850) and

Sarah Hambrick (c1805–7 Jan 1855). In the early 1870s, Henrietta and Burwell James moved with their extended family westward across the continent and settled in Eugene, Lane County, Oregon. In 1880, they lived in Eugene and Burwell worked as a tinner. By 1900, they had moved to Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, and Burwell's occupation was then described as "*tinsmith*." Henrietta and Burwell James spent the rest of their lives in Portland. In 1910, he worked as a tinner for the railroad, and in 1920, his occupation was listed as "*Sheet Metal; Railroad*." Henrietta and Burwell James are buried in the Lincoln Memorial Park (or Mount Scott Park Cemetery) in Portland.

6. **William M. C. Riley** (c1848–aft. 1860) lived in his parents' 1850 household in Pike County, Georgia and with his father and stepmother in Rusk County, Texas in 1860. There is no known record of him after 1860.

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5. James Gray Riley

James Gray Riley (19 Jan 1818–13 Dec 1883) and his older brother, William, are undoubtedly the two young males living in their father's 1820 and 1830 households. During the Seminole War of the latter 1830s, James enlisted as a private in Dawson's Company, 1st Regiment Georgia Infantry [1]. Decades later, his widow obtained a pension based upon his military service against the Seminoles [2].

James G. Riley married on 8 June 1843 in Greene County, Georgia to Mary Frances Brunt (13 Aug 1829–25 Mar 1847), daughter of John Brunt (25 May 1804–28 Dec 1855) and Patience Rowland (16 Apr 1809–4 Oct 1883). On 8 December 1845, John Brunt made deeds to each of his two daughters, giving each of them young female enslaved girls valued at \$325. To "*Francis Rily* [sic] *my Daughter*," he made this transaction [3]:

I do for the love & affection that I have for my Daughter Francis Rily [sic] give her & the increase of her own body a negro girl Named Jane about Six years old & her increase. I do give this girl Jane to my Daughter Francis for her own use & Support and after her Death then to the heirs of her own body. I do price this girl at three hundred and Twenty four Dollars to go in her part of my Estate at my death to make an Equal division with the rest of my Children...

Frances and James G. Riley had two sons, John T. and James R. Riley, before her premature death in March 1847 [4]. In 1850, the boys, then aged four and three, lived with their father and his second wife on his Greene County farm, and a short while later, the younger boy, James, was enumerated in the Pike County household of his grandparents, John and Patience Brunt.

James G. Riley remarried on 19 March 1848 in Greene County, Georgia to Sarah Ann Sims Woodward (17/27 July 1827–11 Feb 1910). She had the unusual name of "*Sarah Ann Sims Woodard*," which causes some confusion regarding her actual maiden name [5]. She appears to have been the daughter of Jonathan Woodard (Woodward) (6 Aug 1797–27 Dec 1853/1854) and Elizabeth Brunt (18 Oct 1806–26 Feb 1862) [6]. After their marriage, James and Sarah settled on his farm for a few years. According to a family friend, James and Sarah Riley moved west in December 1852, "*arriving at a place which became their home, near Liberty Chappell, on Christmas eve, 1852.*" The Woodards accompanied them on the journey, and Jonathan Woodard is said to have died about three weeks after the group's arrival in Attala County, Mississippi [7].

James G. and Sarah Ann Sims Riley spent the rest of their lives in Attala County. He obtained government land there in the latter 1850s, both by cash purchase and via a military bounty warrant based upon his service in the Seminole War [8]. On 1 December 1859, Riley paid \$1000 to William T. Gaston, a former neighbor from Greene County who had also settled in Attala County, for one-sixth interest in the "*Phoenix Mills*," including a 210-acre tract of land [9]. In 1860, James

owned real estate valued at \$3500, with his personal estate valued at \$20,200, presumably the value of the twenty-one enslaved people listed as belonging to Riley who lived in four “*slave houses*” on his farm. Only one household separated the widowed Elizabeth Woodard from that of James and Sarah Riley [10].

James G. Riley enlisted on 21 July 1862 at Kosciusko, the county seat of Attala County, in Co. H, 1st Regiment Mississippi State Troops, also known as King’s Regiment. He was elected as the company’s 1st Lieutenant and entered military service at that rank. It is unclear how much service this unit performed, as they were furloughed on 4 October 1862 for forty days without pay, but their commander revoked the furlough on the 12th and ordered the company back into service on October 20th. Lt. Riley was marked as “*Absent with leave furlough*” on October 31st. In December, he was reported as “*Absent without leave furloughed 2^d Oct due 20th not returned,*” but he was discharged on 1 January 1863 after having furnished a substitute, his second son, James R. Riley, then a boy of almost sixteen years [11].

Records of the 1st Regiment Mississippi State Troops are sparse, but either in late 1862 before his discharge or afterwards, James G. Riley reportedly served as captain of a military company in a Confederate unit. Specific details of his service as captain are unknown [12].

James G. Riley operated his Attala County farm near Kosciusko for two decades after the Civil War. After his 1883 death at the age of sixty-five, Sarah Ann Sims Riley continued to operate their farm with the help of her sons and a grandson. She died in 1910 at the age of eighty-two years, with her obituary identifying her as “*Sarah A. Woodward,*” the wife of James G. Riley. It stated that she had raised nine children and two grandchildren and gave this description of her [13]:

Sister Riley was a devoted and a faithful follower of the Lord Jesus Christ for over 60 years. Was one of the pioneers of early Methodism in Attala county, Miss. Many long years ago her home was the home of Methodist Itinerent [sic] preachers who always received a cheerful christian [sic] greeting and made to feel at home and everything was provided for his rest and comfort that she could bestow. Her pious walk and Godly conversation led many to the Saviour [sic] of Sinners. She was truly a mother in Isreal [sic], her body sleeps in the silent tomb, her spirit has gone to God who gave it, and will bask in the sunlight of our heavenly Father’s love with loves ones gone before.

James and Sarah Ann Riley are buried in the Riley Cemetery, near McCool, Attala County, Mississippi [14].

James G. Riley and Mary Frances Brunt had two children before her premature death [15]:

1. **John T. Riley** (25 Jan 1845–14 Feb 1921) lived in his father’s 1850 household in Greene County, Georgia and 1860 household in Attala County, Georgia. He enlisted on 24 August 1861 at Grenada, Mississippi as a private in Capt. J. B. Moore’s company, later designated as Co. B, 4th Regiment Mississippi Infantry. He was captured at Fort Donelson on 16 February 1862,

arriving at Camp Morton, Indianapolis, Indiana in June 1862 as a United States prisoner of war. He was still there on August 24th but exchanged soon afterwards and returned to duty.

John T. Riley's officers reported him as present for duty through 3 December 1862, when he was listed as absent without leave, at home in Attala County. He returned to duty but was sent home to Attala County on 29 August 1863 to recover from illness. He was captured in operations on the Big Black River near Vicksburg, Mississippi on 17 May 1863 and sent to Memphis, arriving on the 25th. Federal officials sent him again to Camp Morton, Indiana before sending him on to Fort Delaware, Delaware, where he was paroled and exchanged on July 3rd and 4th. He presumably returned to duty for the latter half of 1863, but in February 1864, his commanders reported him as absent without leave since 20 December 1863 [16]. When he applied for a pension based upon his military service in 1919, he stated that in the action on the Big Black Bridge on 17 May 1863, he was wounded in the eye, resulting in his "*Lost sight in one eye entirely.*" He stated that in 1864, he was transferred to the Mississippi Cavalry [17].

About 1865, John T. Riley married Martha Elizabeth ? (1 Mar 1841–30 Jul 1891), whose maiden name is unknown. They farmed in Attala County in 1870, but in 1880, John and Martha lived in Kosciusko, where he served as the Attala County Treasurer. They had three daughters before her death in 1891. John married about 1895 to Louisa E. Thompson [Lou] (3 Jun 1847–22 Nov 1933). In 1900 and 1910, he worked as a grocer in Kosciusko, but he had retired by 1920. John T. Riley and both of his wives are buried in the Kosciusko City Cemetery, Kosciusko, Attala County, Mississippi.

2. **James R. Riley** (20 Jan 1847–18 Jan 1922) was recorded in 1850 in Georgia as residing both his father's Greene County, Georgia household and with his maternal grandparents, who had just moved to Pike County. Although his tombstone is inscribed with the birth year of 1848, contemporary records place his birth in January 1847, just a few months before his mother's death in March 1847 [18]. James was listed in his father's 1860 Attala County, Mississippi household as a boy of thirteen. On 1 January 1863, shortly before he turned sixteen, he enlisted as a private in Co. H, 1st Regiment Mississippi State Troops, also known as King's Regiment, serving as a substitute for his father, then aged forty-five years. Records for that unit are sparse, with only one known muster roll surviving after he joined the unit. It shows him present for duty on 28 February 1863 [19]. When he applied for a pension based upon his military service in 1910, he stated that he served from 1862 through 1865 under "*Capt. J. G. Riley.*" Military files for his unit show that his father held the rank of 1st Lieutenant, and there is no known verification that James G. Riley served as captain of that unit [20].

James R. Riley married about 1865 to his cousin, Frances Elizabeth Brunt [Fannie] (Jan 1843–12 Jun 1926), daughter of James Brunt (24 Jun 1809–31 Dec 1886) and Nancy Elizabeth Caldwell (c1822–30 Jul 1883). Shortly after their marriage, James obtained a farm in Attala County, and they spent their lives working their farm. They are buried in the Stonewall Cemetery near Ethel, Attala County, Mississippi.

James G. Riley and Sarah Ann Sims Woodard had seven children who survived early childhood:

3. **Josephine P. Riley** (8 Mar 1849–17 Apr 1907) married about 1864 to Dr. Theophilus Lawrence Jones (c1841–aft. 1880), a native of Virginia. In 1870, Theophilus and Josephine operated a farm in Choctaw County, Mississippi near Huntsville. By 1880, he had become a physician, and they lived with their children in Attala County. Dr. Theophilus L. Jones reportedly died in Mobile, Alabama, and in 1900, Josephine and her son lived with her widowed mother in Attala County. Josephine P. Riley Jones is buried in the Liberty Chapel Cemetery, Ethel, Attala County, Mississippi.
4. **Temperance Ann Cornelia Riley** (8 Sep 1850–13 Aug 1869) was born on her parents' Greene County, Georgia farm. She died at nearly nineteen years of age and is buried in the Riley Cemetery, McCool, Attala County, Mississippi with her parents.
5. **William Woodward Riley** [Bud] (10 Feb 1852–1 Dec 1912) was born on his parents' Greene County, Georgia farm a few years before they emigrated. He lived in his parents' 1860 and 1870 households in Attala County, Mississippi. William W. Riley married on 9 January 1879 to Annie Bassora Clark (3 Jun 1857–11 Jan 1953), daughter of William J. Clark (20 Mar 1816–13 Mar 1900) and Martha A. Lawrence (12 Jan 1826–25 Oct 1866).

In 1880, William and Annie Riley farmed in Attala County, but in February 1884, they moved to Ackerman, Choctaw County, Mississippi and bought a farm on the edge of town. In 1900, William worked as a furniture dealer, and in 1910, he worked as a *"Salesman and Farmer."* He served for several years as Ackerman's postmaster, and a friend said that he was *"always ready with a smile and good word for all"* and that he did

...take a cheerful, hopeful, happy view and outlook upon life, and by his cheerful words and jovial disposition scattered happiness and sunshine athwart, along the pathway of very many.

About daybreak on Sunday morning, 1 December 1912, William W. Riley heard a disturbance in his chicken house. He rose from bed and went to investigate, taking his gun. In the dark, he stumbled on a piece of wood, and in the fall, one barrel of his shotgun discharged into his abdomen, killing him instantly. A lifelong friend wrote his obituary and lamented his untimely passing [21]:

No man in our community was more widely or favorably known than W. W. Riley, and his untimely, tragic taking off is widely and sincerely lamented. The deceased was deserving of remembrance, because his heart was filled with charity, and his hands were ever performing deeds of kindness....There are many an one who will pause with us here and cast a tear upon the grave of noble, genial, generous William Woodward Riley, and within whose minds recollections of him will ever linger.

William W. Riley is buried in the Enon Cumberland Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Ackerman, Choctaw County, Mississippi. Anna remarried and is buried in the Liberty Chapel Cemetery, Ethel, Attala County, Mississippi. William W. and Anna Riley had no children.

6. **Mary Elizabeth C. Riley** [Bettie] (5 May 1854–13 Mar 1924) lived with her parents in 1860 and 1870 on their Attala County farm. She married about 1879 to Abijah J. Moore (4 Sep 1844–30 Mar 1925). Bettie and Abijah J. Moore farmed between 1879 and the early 1920s. They are buried in the Stonewall Cemetery, Ethel, Attala County, Mississippi.
7. **Peter Adolphus Riley** (13 Sep 1855–1 Apr 1903) lived in his parents' households in Attala County, Mississippi in 1860, 1870, and 1880. He married on 17 November 1881 in Oktibbeha County, Mississippi to Ruth Josephine Sanders (Feb 1861–1922). They raised their two children and farmed in Oktibbeha County until his death in 1903. Peter and Ruth Riley are buried in the Pleasant Ridge Cemetery, Oktibbeha County, Mississippi.
8. **Oscar Dawson Riley** (25 Jul 1858–5 Feb 1931) lived in his parents' households in Attala County, Mississippi in 1860, 1870, and 1880. He married about 1888 to Ida Cleopatra Cole (17 Aug 1858–24 Dec 1935), daughter of William Cole (4 Oct 1813–6 Apr 1896) and Lucy W. Caperton (10 Aug 1823–24 Jan 1911). In 1900, Oscar and Ida lived on his parents' old farm, and they continued farming in Attala County for the rest of their lives. Oscar and Ida Riley are buried in the Berea Cemetery, Attala County, Mississippi.
9. **Susan Effie Beula Riley** (14 Feb 1860–11 Nov 1938) lived in her parents' households in Attala County, Mississippi in 1860, 1870, and 1880. She reportedly married on 15 October 1882 in Mississippi to Jasper Newton Clark (2 Apr 1854–3 Aug 1916), son of John Collingsworth Clark (4 Aug 1815–Aug 1900) and Matilda Pee (6 Jul 1822–13 Apr 1884). After their marriage, Effie and Jasper Clark moved south across the county line into Winston County, where they acquired a farm in Louisville. In 1900, he worked as the Winston County Treasurer, and in 1910, he operated a dry goods store. After Jasper's death in 1916, Effie lived with her children until her death in 1938. Susan Effie Riley and Jasper Newton Clark are buried in the Masonic Cemetery, Louisville, Winston County, Mississippi.



6. Henry N. Riley

Henry N. Riley (c1832–Oct 1873) is the only known child of Peter Riley by his second wife, Nancy Finley. In 1850, he lived on Peter Riley's old farm with his widowed mother. Henry married on 14 May 1851 in Greene County, Georgia to Lavina Bell [Melvina] (1832/1835–28 Jan 1869), the daughter of Pierce Bell (c1797–aft. 1850). Henry's mother presumably died in the early 1850s, and he and Lavina soon moved westward across Georgia to the booming town of Columbus, Muscogee County, along the Georgia/Alabama border.

On 26 July 1855, Henry N. Riley signed a promissory note to Columbus merchant John T. Walker for \$175.75 due the following Christmas Day, undoubtedly for supplies or merchandise furnished him. To guarantee his payment, Henry Riley mortgaged to Walker *"a certain Negro fellow named Harry of dark complexion, Thirty years old, five feet nine or ten inches high"* [1]. Harry was the enslaved man that Henry's father had left to his mother until her death. Riley must have paid his note to Walker early, for on October 4th, he and Dunwoody K. McGee signed a promissory note to Alexander J. Robinson for \$310 by the following January 1st. To guarantee payment of the note, Henry Riley mortgaged to Robinson *"a certain negro man Slave of black complexion aged about (32) thirty two years and by the name of Harry by trade a Shoemaker"* [2].

In 1860, Henry N. Riley lived with his wife and their three children in Columbus, and he worked as an express driver. Henry enlisted on 18 July 1864 as a private in Co. B, Arsenal Battalion of Columbus, Georgia Infantry. He was listed as present on the only known record of that unit, a muster roll for the period July 23 through August 29, 1864 [3]. No additional details of his service during the Civil War are known.

Henry N. Riley appears to have lived until 1873, but he has not been located on the 1870 federal census. Records of the Linwood Cemetery in Columbus provide the only other information on his family. He appears to have had several children die in early childhood. His wife, Lavina Bell Riley, appears to have been the *"Mrs. Riley"* who was buried there on 28 January 1869. She died of *"Confinement,"* presumably as the result of childbirth. The *"Henry Reiley"* who was buried there on 27 October 1873 after perishing of *"Dissenterry"* must have been Henry N. Riley. Mrs. Riley's interment was given as in the *"Old Cemetery,"* but Henry was buried in Section 2, Lot #851.

Henry N. Riley and Lavina Bell had the following known or presumed children:

1. **Peter P. Riley** (6 Jun 1852–1 May 1922) lived in his parents' 1860 household in Columbus, Muscogee County, Georgia. He married there on 29 March 1877 to Missouri Cole. Peter died of paralysis as a widower at 3300 Third Avenue in Columbus, Georgia and was buried in the

Linwood Cemetery on the same day he died. Cemetery records give his interment in Section 2, Lot #857 [4].

2. **Nancy Elizabeth Riley** (23 Oct 1853–10 May 1925) lived in her parents' household in Columbus County in 1860. She married on 5 February 1871 in Muscogee County, Georgia to William J. Vickery (c1854–17 Oct 1933), the son of Joseph Vickery and Rebecca Searcey. Nancy died at 3300 Third Avenue in Columbus of uremic poisoning. William J. Vickery died across the state line in Russell County, Alabama of gangrene in his leg. Nancy and William Vickery are buried with her family in Linwood Cemetery in Columbus. Cemetery records give her interment on 11 May 1925 and his on 18 October 1933, both in Section 2, Lot #857 [5].
3. **Mary J. Riley** (c1858–aft. 1860) lived in her parents' 1860 household. There is no later known record of her.
4. **Jackson Riley** (?–Jan 1867) died of smallpox and was buried in the old section of Linwood Cemetery on 12 January 1867, but the cemetery records did not list his age. He was likely a child of Henry and Levina Riley. If so, he must have been born after 1860.
5. [unknown] **Riley** (Dec 1866–Jan 1867) died of an unknown disease at the age of four weeks. Cemetery records identified him as "*Henry Riley Child of*" and gave his interment on 17 January 1867. He was born in Columbus and interred in the "*Old Cemetery*" portion of Linwood Cemetery.
6. **James Thomas Riley** (Jan 1869–May 1869) died of measles at the age of four months and was buried in Section 2, Lot #851 on 3 May 1869. He was identified as a son of Henry Riley and a nonresident, a native of Russell County, Alabama [6].

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

1844 Will of Peter Riley

[Greene County GA Will Book 5 \(1840-1877\), p. 28](#)

[Greene County GA Original Wills, LDS Film #5764274, Images #499-503](#)

Two versions of Peter Riley's will survive – the original version containing his original signature and the one recorded in the county will books. The version below is a verbatim transcription from the original will that carries Riley's signature.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Georgia

Greene County



For the purpose of arranging my earthly affairs, and prepairing [sic] to leave this world, I make the following disposition of my Estate.

First

*I give to my wife **Nancy Riley** during her life my Negro man **Harry** & his wife **Nance** also all of my household & Kitchen furniture, one first choice of my horses, saddle & bridle, two cows, what hogs & sheep I have & also the Plantation, all of the above she is to have during her life.*

Second

*To my youngest son **Henry N. Riley** I give my negro Boy **Dock** & the plantation on which I live at the death of his mother.*

Third

*It is my will that all the rest of my negroes, Viz. **Alsy, Raz, Dick, Lige, Alfred, Margaret & Phill** together with every other article of property I may die possessed of except the above legacies be sold by my Executors & all of my just debts be paid out of the same. When all my debts are paid out of the remainder I give to my Daughter **Susan Griffin** & her husband **Robt F. Griffin** two hundred dollars. To my Grand Son **Early Fawcett**, two hundred dollars – this will make all of my first children equal or nearly so. what may be remaining from the foregoing sale, after my debts & the above cash legacies are paid, I wish to be equally divided between my children **Wm M. Riley, James Riley, Susan Griffin, Temperance Blanks**, & my Grand Son **Early Fawcett**.*

*At the death of my Wife **Nancy Riley** I wish all the property left to her not otherwise disposed of to be sold & equally divided between all of my heirs, as the law would divide it.*

*I appoint my two sons **William M. & James Riley** my Executors to carry out this will.*

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal this thirty first day of January 1844

*/s/ **Peter Riley***

Executed in our presence &

*We signed as witnesses in the
presence of each other*

John Kimbrough
John C. Hightower
James T. Mathis

*Georgia Greene County
Court of Ordinary January Term 1845*

*Personally appeared in open Court **John Kimbrough, John C. Hightower, & James T. Mathis** the
three subscribing witnesses to the foregoing will of **Peter Riley** Dec^d who being duly sworn say that
they saw the within named **Peter Riley** sign seal & heard him declare the same as his last will &
Testament & that they all believed him to be of perfect sound mind & memory at the time of his
signing the same & that they all subscribed their Names as witnesses thereto in the presence of the
Testator.*

Sworn to in open Court 13 Jany 1845.

John Kimbrough
John C. Hightower
James T. Mathis

W. L. Strain Clk.



♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

1845 Inventory of the Estate of Peter Riley

[Greene County GA Inferior Court Records \(1841-1851\), p. 116](#)

[Greene County GA Estate Records, LDS Film #5778161, Images #345-347](#)

Peter Riley's Appraisement 16 Jan^y 1845; Approved 8 March 1845

Greene  Cty
Georgia  An inventory and appraisement of the personal & perishable propperty of Peter
Riley Decd

One negro woman named Alsy appraisd_at.....	\$330
1 negro Girl named Peggy Ditto	300
1 man Rasbury	650
1 man Elijah	700
1 boy Alferd.....	330
1 Boy Phill	450
1 man Dick.....	700
1 Lot of plough hoes.....	5
1 Lott of tools.....	2.50
5 axes & Grindstone	3
2 axes Broad & chop	2
2 Iron wedges & frow	1
7 swingletrees [singletrees] & stretchers.....	3
1 Lott of Irons.....	1.50
1 Log Chain & 1 fifth chain	2
3 Grubing hoes	1.50
1 pair of steelyards.....	1.50
1 Lott of weding hoes	1.50
1 Crow bar & pitchfork.....	1.25
2 pair of pough [plough] gear.....	2
1 cross cut saw & Gin Brush50
1 cutt saw	5
2 Ploughs75
4 Plough stocks & 1 harrow stock.....	2.75
4 clevises 2 halter chains	1.25
1 Saddle & saddle Bags.....	6

1 Gin Ban [Band?]	2.50
1 cutting Box	.50
2 Syths & cradles	2.50
1 Road waggon & gear	25
2 Bee Gunns	1
1 spining wheel	1
1 Lot of Leather & 1 raw hide	2
1 Lot of Peas	10
1 Lot of oats	4
1 Lott of Shoe tools	1
1 Shot Gun & Pouch	5
1 Bay hors Jack	45
1 Black horse Tom	40
1 Blind horse Tobe	10
1 mule Kitt	30
1 no horned cow	6
1 red & white cow	7
1 Brindle cow	6
4 yearlins	9.50
1 Large Bell	1.25
70 barrels of corn moore or less @ \$2 pr Barrel	140
30 Bushels of Potatoes moore or less 25 cts pr bro	7.50
1 Pen of shucks	2
4000 pounds of fodder moore or less at 50 cts pr rwt	20
Cotton seed	15
1 sett of running Gear of a Gin	15
1 Cotton Gin	25

We do certify upon oath that as far as was produced to us by the Executors the above as foregoing contains a true appraisement of the Estate of Peter Riley deceased to the best of our Judgement & understanding this sixteenth day of Jan 1845.

B. Kimbrough
W^m T. Gaston
John C. Hightower



Appraisers

*I do hereby certify that the above appraisers were sworn to perform their duty as appraisers
according to law this sixteenth day of Jan 1845*

Robt. F. Griffin J.P.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

The above is a verbatim transcription of the original appraisement made from the estate papers,
and this did not include a total dollar value. In the version recorded in the probate books, they
included after the above inventory: *"Amt. of appraisement \$3937.25."*

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Notes

Early Life in Orange County, North Carolina

1. 1820 Greene County GA Federal Census, Capt. Talley's District, p. 217, line #14: Peter Riley. 1830 Greene County GA Federal Census, p. 274a, line #15: Peter Riley. 1840 Greene County GA Federal Census, p. 28a, line #10: Peter Riley. The 1830 and 1840 censuses place Peter's birth between 1770 and 1780, whereas the 1820 census places it in 1775 or earlier. Combined these records place Peter Riley's birth between 1770 and 1775.
2. [Orange County NC Will Book D, p. 365](#); [LDS Film #4088834, Orange County NC Original Wills, Image #1569](#) (Will of Jacob Riley, dated 31 August 1812).
3. Kars, Marjoleine. *Breaking Loose Together: The Regulator Rebellion in Pre-Revolutionary North Carolina*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2002, pp. 179–218.
4. [North Carolina Revolutionary War Pay Vouchers, 1779–1782, LDS Film #4341913](#), Images #327–330 (Receipt stating that "I purchased from Mr Jacob Riley twelve Bushels of Oat," Orange County, certified 19 January 1782)
5. [North Carolina State Archives, Orange County Marriage Bonds, LDS Film #102458844, Image #945](#): Peter Riley bond to marry Elizabeth Woods, 21 July 1795.
6. 1820 Greene County GA Federal Census, Capt. Talley's District, p. 217, #14: Peter Riley.
7. "Raleigh Register and North-Carolina State Gazette" (Raleigh, NC), July 9 (p. 3, column 3) and 23 (p. 1, column 4), 1804.
8. [1805 Greene County GA Tax Digest, LDS Film #8134236, Image #399](#), Capt. Dawson's District, p. 4, #5: John Riley; #6: Peter Riley. John Riley paid taxes of \$1.71¼ on 100 acres of 3rd Quality land on the waters of the Ogeechee River adjoining Flippen and granted to Barnett, one white poll, and four slaves. Peter Riley paid taxes of 93¾¢ on one white poll and two slaves.
9. [Orange County NC Deed Book 11 \(1803–1805\), pp. 290–291](#) (Jacob Riley "Senr" to Peter Riley, 28 November 1804).
10. [Greene County GA Deed Book 4 \(1803–1808\), pp. 371–372](#) (Peter Riley to Jesse Grimes, 25 October 1805).
11. 1810 Orange County NC Federal Census, p. 126a/816, line #23: Peter Riley; #24: Jacob Riley.
12. [Orange County NC Will Book D, p. 365](#); [LDS Film #4088834, Orange County NC Original Wills, Image #1569](#) (Will of Jacob Riley, dated 31 August 1812).
13. "The Star" (Raleigh, NC), 23 July 1813 (p. 1, column 2); July 22 (p. 1, column 2) and 29 (p. 2, column 1), 1814.
14. [Orange County NC Deed Book 16 \(1817–1818\), pp. 274–275](#) (Peter Riley to William Brown, 27 July 1816).

Georgia Farmer

1. [Greene County GA Deed Book GG \(1818–1821\), p. 82](#) (Thomas Ware to Peter Riley, 22 May 1817; witness: Joseph Riley). [Talbot County GA Annual Returns \(1828–1841\), p. 235](#) ("Joseph Riley admr The Estate of John Riley Deceast," filed 1 September 1838). The Talbot County return filed by Joseph Riley includes a payment to "Joseph Riley a Legatee." Since John Riley was Peter's older brother, this proves that Joseph Riley was Peter's nephew.
2. Krakow, Kenneth K. *Georgia Place-Names: Their History and Origins*. Macon, GA: Winship Press, 1975, p. 188.
3. "Georgia Journal" (Milledgeville, GA), July 20 (p. 3, column 6) and 27 (p. 4, column 6), and August 3 (p. 4, column 4), 1819
4. Greene County GA Inferior & Ordinary Court Minutes (1816–1828), p. 137 ("Greenesboro Monday 4th September 1820"); p. 140 ("On the petition of Lewis Moseley it is ordered that Samuel Hall, Jacob Riley, John Akins, Alexander Hall and Peter Riley...").
5. "Georgia Journal," 25 February 1828, p. 1, column 4.
6. [Greene County GA Estray Book \(1822–1835\), LDS Film #7951518, Image 480](#). "Georgia Journal," 11 May 1829, p. 4, column 5.
7. 1820 Greene County GA Federal Census, Capt. G. Woodham's District, p. 252, line #3: Robert Brook. [1822 Greene County GA Tax Digest, LDS #8191031, Image #671](#), Capt. Garrett Woodham's District (Militia District #161), #12: Robert Brooks, 1 white poll, 1 slave, 103½ acres Quality 3 land on Richland Creek, granted to Thompson, adjoining Scott; Early County Lot #192, District 14; Appling County Lot #366, District 9; tax: \$1.31¼.
8. [Greene County GA Administrators & Guardians Bonds \(1812–1858\), p. 130](#) (Jacob Riley and Susannah Brooks, bond of administrators of "Robert Brooks late of this County deceased," 12 January 1824).
9. [Greene County GA Sales, Inventories & Appraisements of Estates Books I–J \(1823–1831\), pp. 100–101](#); [Greene County GA Estate Records, LDS Film #5764286, Images #664–670](#) (Robert Brooks Estate, Inventory and Estate Sale, 1824).
10. [Greene County GA Returns & Divisions of Estates \(1822–1829\), p. 223](#) ("The Estate of Robert Brooks dec^d, To Jacob Riley Administrator," filed with Greene County Court 2 December 1825). This account shows several amounts received in 1824, including "Peter Rileys a/c" of \$15.00.
11. [Greene County GA Marriage Licenses Book A \(1817–1829\), p. 246](#) (License for Robert F. Griffin to marry Susannah Brooks, 8 September 1824; the precise date on which the marriage was solemnized was not recorded).

12. [Greene County GA Administrators & Guardians Bonds \(1812–1858\), p. 161](#) (Robert F. Griffin, bond as guardian of Peter R. Brooks, “*orphan of Robert Brooks decd*,” 6 November 1826; security: Peter Riley).
13. Lucas, The Rev. Silas Emmett, Jr. *The Fourth or 1821 Land Lottery of Georgia*. Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1986, p. 190. Peter Riley registered for the lottery as a resident of Tallys District, Greene County, and he drew Lot #120, Section/District 6, then in Houston County. Tax records referenced in the next section on Peter Riley’s slaves show Riley paying taxes on this tract between 1822 and 1828.
14. Georgia Secretary of State, Surveyor General, Land Grants, 1821 Land Lottery, Houston County, Districts 5–6, p. 100 (State of Georgia to Peter Riley, Lot #120, 3 January 1826).
15. [Crawford County GA Deed Book B, pp. 138–139](#) (Peter Riley to David Avera, 25 November 1833). Peter sold the exact land granted to him in the 1821 Land Lottery, Lot #120, District 6, Houston County (now Crawford).
16. [North Carolina State Archives, Orange County Marriage Bonds, LDS Film #102458844, Image #946](#): Peter Riley bond to marry Nancy Finley, 18 January 1830.
17. 1830 Greene County GA Federal Census, p. 274, line #15: Peter Riley.
18. [Talbot County GA Annual Returns \(1828–1841\), p. 235](#) (“*Joseph Riley admr The Estate of John Riley Deceast*,” filed 1 September 1838). The Talbot County return filed by Joseph Riley includes payments to “*Joseph Riley a Legatee*” and to “*2 of the Heirs of Thomas Riley a Legatee*.” Since John Riley was Peter’s older brother, this proves that Thomas Riley was Peter’s nephew.
19. [Greene County GA Original Wills, LDS Film #5764274, Images #504–508](#) (Will of Thomas Riley, “*declared by him by word of mouth*,” 21 November 1830). Identified as “*The Nuncupative Will of Thomas Riley deceased*,” the will began: “*The last will and testament of Thomas Riley late of Greene County deceased, who died on the twenty first day of November in the year eighteen hundred and thirty at his own residence in said County...*”
20. [Greene County GA Appraisements, Sales & Divisions of Estates Book K \(1831–1841\), pp. 1–3](#) (“*Inventory & appraisal of the Estate of Thomas Riley decd*,” filed 20 January 1831; appraisers: A. Hutcherson, James Smith, Peter Riley).
21. [Greene County GA Appraisements, Sales & Divisions of Estates Book K \(1831–1841\), pp. 15–23](#) (Thomas Riley Estate Sale, conducted 21 February 1831; filed 5 April 1831).
22. [Greene County GA Marriage Licenses \(1829–1849\), p. 46](#) (William Askew to “*Cynthia*” Riley, 3 January 1831). The license was issued on the same day that Justice of the Peace George Hall certified that he solemnized the marriage.
23. [Greene County GA Deed Book NN \(1839–1842\), p. 22](#) (Peter Riley to William Askew, 24 December 1836).
24. [Greene County GA Deed Book MM \(1830–1840\), p. 57](#) (Thomas Mallory to William Riley, September 1836). Greene County GA Tax Digests, LDS #8191032:
 [1834: Image #335, Capt. Hutcherson’s District](#) (Militia District #163), #14: Peter Riley, 1 white poll, 8 slaves, 194 acres Quality 2 Greene County land on Richland Creek, adjoining “*Lewis*,” tax: \$2.98½
 [1837: Image #401, Capt. Winslett’s District](#) (Militia District #160), #10: Peter Riley, 0 white polls, 9 slaves, 475 acres Quality 2 Greene County land on Richland Creek, adjoining “*Mallery*,” tax: \$4.00
 This shows that in 1834, Riley still owned only his 194-acre farm in Militia District #163 that he had purchased in 1817 and sold in 1836. By September 1836, he had bought new property adjoining the lands of Thomas Mallory and John Kimbrough, while the 1837 tax digest shows it was a 475-acre tract located in Militia District #160. The deed in which Peter purchased his new 475-acre farm was not recorded in the Greene County deeds.
25. 1840 Greene County GA Federal Census, p. 28b–29a, #10: Peter Riley.

Financial Upheaval & Family Discord

1. [Orange County NC Deed Book 16 \(1817–1818\), pp. 274–275](#) (Peter Riley to William Brown, 27 July 1816).
2. [Greene County GA Deed Book GG \(1818–1821\), p. 82](#) (Thomas Ware to Peter Riley, 22 May 1817).
3. Details on Peter Riley’s slaves are given in a later section.
4. Govan, Thomas P. “Banking and the Credit System in Georgia, 1810–1860.” *Journal of Southern History*, Vol. 4, 1938, pp. 164–184.
5. [Greene County GA Probate Court Estate Records, LDS Film # 5764286, Image #632](#) (Promissory note of Robert Brooks and Peter Riley to William Armor, 8 February 1821).
6. Rousseau, Peter L. “Jacksonian Monetary Policy, Specie Flows, and the Panic of 1837.” *Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 62, 2002, pp. 457–458. Timberlake, Richard H. Jr. “Panic of 1837.” In Glasner, David (ed.). *Business Cycles and Depressions: An Encyclopedia*. New York: Garland Publishing, 1997, pp. 514–516.
7. Rousseau, pp. 477–483.
8. [Greene County GA Superior Court Proceedings Book LL \(1834–1838\), p. 531](#); LDS Film #8458689, Images #549, September Term 1837: “*Seymour & McKinley vs. Peter Riley, Assumpsit*.” [Greene County GA Superior Court Minutes, Vol. 8 \(1831–1839\), p. 463](#); LDS Film #8627953, Image #488, 14 March 1839: “*#13.145: Seymour & McKinley vs. Peter Riley, Assumpsit Settle, 14th September 1837.*”

9. Greene County GA Marriage Licenses Book A (1817–1829), p. 344 (William S. Robins to Sarah Williams, 23 October 1827). Greene County GA Will Book 4 (or F) (1817–1842), pp. 216–217 (Will of Irbane Leonard, written 18 July 18--, filed in court 18 May 1837). Irbane Leonard was a well-to-do bachelor. His first bequest was to *“the lawful children of William and Sally Robins born and to be born,”* leaving them four slaves. Temperance’s statement that William Robins owed her money suggests that he may have been a relative of the father of her son, Seborn Robins. William was the son of Sarah Robins, who in her will of 12 June 1849 dictated that her estate was to be divided among her children, including *“Thomas Robins orphan Children”* and *“William Robins orphan Children.”* This may be an indication that Thomas Robins was Seborn’s father. See [Greene County GA Will Book 5 \(1840–1877\), p. 96](#) (Will of Sarah Robins, written 12 June 1849, filed in court 1 July 1850).
10. [Greene County GA Superior Court Proceedings Book Z \(1838–1841\), pp. 97–99; LDS Film #8458690, Images #91–92](#), September Term 1838: *“Ezekiel Blanks & Wife vs. Peter Riley, Assumpsit; March Term 1839: Continued; September Term 1839: Settled.”* [Greene County GA Superior Court Case Files, LDS Film #8201397, Images #181–188](#): *“Ezekiel Blanks & wife vs. Peter Riley, Sept Term 1838.”* [Greene County GA Superior Court Minutes, Vol. 8/L \(1831–1839\), p. 463; LDS Film #8627953, Image #488](#), *“Georgia Greene County Thursday 14th March 1839. Ezekiel Blanks & Wife vs. Peter Riley, Assumpsit Settled.”* The Court Proceedings conflict with the Court Minutes as to what action the Court took on the case at the March 1839 Term. The Proceedings record that the case was continued until September, when it was settled, while the Minutes state that it was settled in March 1839.
11. Greene County GA Estate Papers, LDS Film #5764283, Image #516 (William Blanks Estate, 1824, Ezekiel Blanks to John G. Gaston, selling *“his proportionable [sic] part of Nancy Blanks Dower,”* 27 September 1839).
12. [Greene County GA Deed Book NN, p. 414](#) (Peter Riley to William M. Riley, 23 December 1841; witness: Robert F. Griffin, J.P.).
13. [Greene County GA Deed Book OO, p. 10](#) (Peter Riley to James G. Riley, 9 May 1842; witness: Robert F. Griffin, J.P.).
14. 1840 Perry County AL Federal Census, p. 276, line #29: Ezekiel Blanks; p. 285, line #8: *“W^m Seawall.”* William Seawall’s household consisted of an adult male/female couple, presumably him and his wife, together with thirty-two slaves, twenty-four males and eight females. All eight of the enslaved females were aged between ten and twenty-five years of age.
15. [Dallas County AL Deed & Mortgage Book J, p. 278; Union County AR Deed Book A, pp. 284–285](#) (William Seawall to Temperance Blanks, 1 October 1842).
16. [Greene County GA Will Book 5, p. 28 \(1840–1877\); Greene County GA Original Wills, LDS Film #5764274, Images #499–503](#) (Will of Peter Riley, signed 31 January 1844, filed in court 13 January 1845). [Greene County GA Inferior Court Records \(1837–1851\), p. 143](#) (Will of Peter Riley proved; appraisement ordered; William M. and James Riley qualified as executors, 13 January 1845). In his will, Peter Riley wrote, *“what may be remaining from the foregoing sale, after my debts & the above cash legacies are paid, I wish to be equally divided between my children William M. Riley, James Riley, Susan Griffin, Temperance Blanks & my Grand Son Early Fawcett.”*

Betrayal

1. Greene County GA Probate Court Estate Records, LDS Film # 5764289, Images #740–741 (Account of Samuel Caldwell Estate, payment to children of Littleton Caldwell as heirs of Samuel Caldwell, 3 February 1858). 1820 Greene County GA Federal Census, p. 224, Capt. Asten’s District, #8: *“Sam. Colwell.”*
2. [1822 Greene County GA Tax Digest, LDS #8191031, Image #660](#), Capt. Thomas Colquett’s District (Militia District #163), #9: Samuel Caldwell, 1 white poll, no slaves, 60 acres Quality 2 land on Beaverdam, Lot #60, 490 acres Quality 2 land in District 12 of Irwin County, Lot #178, 490 acres Quality 3 land in District 5 of Irwin County.
3. [Greene County GA Marriage Licenses Book A \(1817–1829\), p. 283](#) (Littleton Caldwell to Cynthia McHargue, 4 September 1825). Their license was obtained on September 1st, with the marriage performed by John N. Harris, justice of the peace, on the 4th.
4. Greene County GA Tax Digests, LDS #8188760:
 - 1827:** Image #202, Capt. Caleb Veazey’s District (Militia District #142), Defaulters, #3: Littleton Caldwell.
 - 1828:** Image #236, Capt. Leatham Rankin’s District (Militia District #141), #11: Littleton Caldwell, 1 white poll, 4 slaves, 202½ acres Quality 2 in District 10, Troup County; tax: \$2.07
5. Greene County GA Deed Book LL (1832–1832), pp. 131–132 (James C. King to Littleton D. Caldwell, 28 October 1831); pp. 366–367 (Robert G. Johnson to Littleton D. Caldwell, 9 November 1832).
6. Greene County GA Will Book 4/F (1817–1842), pp. 180–181 (Will of Littleton D. Caldwell, written 3 April 1833, filed with the Greene County Court 1 July 1833).
7. 1834 Greene County GA Tax Digest, LDS #8191032, Image #309, Capt. Caldwell’s District (Militia District #141), #16: Albert Jernigan *“Exorter To Littleton Colwell,”* 5 slaves, 188 acres Quality 3 Greene County land on Ogeechee, adjoining Perkins; tax: \$1.79.
8. [Greene County GA Marriage Licenses \(1829–1849\), p. 145](#) (Norwood H. Finley to Cynthia Caldwell, 1 January 1835).

9. [Greene County GA Administrators & Guardians Bonds Book B \(1835–1851\), pp. 12–14](#); [Original Guardianship Bonds, LDS Film #7731074, Images #1044–1050](#) (Bonds of Norwood Finley, guardian to Augustus, Martha Ann, and Adaline Dennis Caldwell, “Minor & Orphan” children of Littleton D. Caldwell, 7 December 1835; securities: Peter Riley, Elijah Anderson).
10. Greene County GA Deed Book NN (1839–1842), pp. 112–113 (Albert Jernigan, “*Executor of Littleton D. Caldwell dec^d*, to Norwood “*Findley, who intermarried with the Widow of Littleton D. Caldwell dec^d Cynthia Caldwell*,” 28 January 1836). Jernigan sold Finley “*in right of his Wife her portion of her deceased Husbands Estate...*” Jernigan sold Finley the entirety of Caldwell’s land, 188.6 acres.
11. [1837 Greene County GA Tax Digest, LDS #8191032, Image #390](#), Capt. Caldwell’s District (Militia District #141), #6: Norwood H. Finley.
12. Greene County GA Deed Book MM (1830–1840), pp. 320–321 (Norwood and “*Synthia Findley his Wife*” to John Stephens, 19 November 1838).
13. [Greene County GA Inferior Court Records \(1837–1851\), pp. 78–79](#), LDS Film #8655720, Images #68–69 (Augustus Caldwell chose Albert Jernigan as guardian; Norwood H. Finley charged with “*mismanaging the property of his said wards*” and summoned “*to show cause if any he have why his said Letters of Guardianship Should not be revoked*,” 22 January 1841).
14. [Greene County GA Inferior Court Records \(1837–1851\), pp. 82–83](#), LDS Film #8655720, Images #70–71 (Norwood H. Finley “*has removed out of the limits of Greene County*,” 10 March 1841). “*Southern Recorder*” (Milledgeville, GA), March 16 (p. 3, column 7), 23 (p. 4, column 6), and 30 (p. 4, column 7), and April 6 (p. 4, column 2), 1841.
15. [Greene County GA Inferior Court Records \(1837–1851\), pp. 84–85](#), LDS Film #8655720, Images #71–72 (Letters of Guardianship of Norwood H. Finley as guardian of Adaline & Martha Caldwell revoked; appointed attorney to “*sue on the Guardian Bond of Norwood H. Finley, former Guardian of Adaline & Martha Caldwell*,” 3 May 1841).
16. [Greene County GA Superior Court Proceedings Book AA \(1842–1843\), pp. 244–251](#); LDS Film #8458691, Images #157–161, September Term 1842: “*The Justices of the Inferior Court &c. vs. Peter Riley of Greene Co & Elijah Anderson of Troup County*” [three cases]. [Greene County GA Superior Court Minutes, Vol. 9 \(1839–1843\), p. 463](#); LDS Film #8627953, Image #697, “*Greenesborough Monday 13th March 1843. The Justices of the Inferior Court for the use of &c. vs. Peter Riley*,” three cases. The court minutes recorded this statement by the defendant in all three cases: “*I confess Judgment [sic] to the Plffs. for Seven Hundred Dollars with Cost of Suit. Peter Riley.*”
17. [Greene County GA Administrators & Guardians Bonds Book B \(1835–1851\), p. 103](#) (Bond of Albert Jernigan as guardian of Augustus Caldwell, minor and orphan child of Littleton Caldwell, 22 January 1841); [pp. 108–109](#) (Bonds of Albert Jernigan as guardian of Martha and Adaline Caldwell, minor and orphan children of Littleton Caldwell, 3 May 1841).

The Latter Years

1. [Greene County GA Probate Court Estate Records, LDS Film # 5764286, Image #632](#) (Promissory note of Robert Brooks and Peter Riley to William Armor, 8 February 1821).
2. [Greene County GA Probate Court Estate Records, LDS Film # 5778161, Image #526](#) (“*Inventory & appraisement of the Estate of Thos Riley Dec^d*,” 20 January 1831; appraisers: A. Hutcheson, James Smith, Peter Riley).
3. [Greene County GA Probate Court Estate Records, LDS Film # 5778161, Image #332](#) (Promissory note of Peter Riley to William Armor, 12 February 1831).
4. [Greene County GA Probate Court Estate Records, LDS Film # 5778161, Image #298](#) (Promissory note of Peter Riley, William M. Riley, and John Kimbrough to Green Moore, 18 February 1843).
5. [Greene County GA Probate Court Estate Records, LDS Film # 5778161, Image #295](#) (Promissory note of Peter Riley to James Smith, 1 January 1844).
6. [Greene County GA Original Wills, LDS Film #5764274, Image #502](#) (Will of Peter Riley, signed 31 January 1844).
7. [Greene County GA Probate Court Estate Records, LDS Film # 5778161, Image #289](#) (Promissory note of Peter Riley to Daniel Perdue, 29 February 1844).
8. [Greene County GA Probate Court Estate Records, LDS Film # 5778161, Image #338](#) (Invoice from Dr. G. Johnson to Peter Riley, 14 April 1846).
9. [Greene County GA Probate Court Estate Records, LDS Film # 5778161, Image #318](#) (Peter Riley Order for Payment, 17 December 1844; signed: “*Peter Riley By John C. Hightower*”).
10. [Greene County GA Probate Court Estate Records, LDS Film # 5778161, Image #304](#) (John G. Gaston Invoice to Peter Riley and W. M. Riley, 27 December 1844).
11. “*The Southern Recorder*” (Milledgeville, GA), 13 December 1844 (p. 3, column 5), January 7 (p. 4, column 2), 14 (p. 4, column 1), 21 (p. 4, column 1), and 28 (p. 4, column 1), and February 4 (p. 4, column 1), 1845.
12. [Greene County GA Will Book 5, p. 28 \(1840–1877\)](#); [Greene County GA Original Wills, LDS Film #5764274, Images #499–503](#) (Will of Peter Riley, signed 31 January 1844, filed in court 13 January 1845). [Greene County GA Inferior](#)

- [Court Records \(1837–1851\), p. 143](#) (Will of Peter Riley proved; appraisement ordered; William M. and James Riley qualified as executors, 13 January 1845).
13. [Greene County GA Inferior Court Records Sales Book L \(1841–1851\), p. 116](#) (*"Peter Riley's Appraisement 16 Jan^y 1845"*).
 14. [Greene County GA Inferior Court Records Sales Book L \(1841–1851\), pp. 118–119](#) (*"Peter Riley's Sale 17 Jan^y 1845"*).
 15. [Greene County GA Inferior Court Records Sales Book L \(1841–1851\), p. 120](#) (*"Peter Riley's Sale Feb. 4 1845"*).
 16. *"The Southern Recorder,"* November 11 (p. 3, column 5), 18 (p. 4, column 5), 25 (p. 4, column 5), and 28 (p. 4, column 5), and December 5 (p. 4, column 5), 16 (p. 4, column 5), 19 (p. 4, column 5), and 30 (p. 4, column 2), 1845.
 17. [Greene County GA Returns on Estates Book N \(1835–1847\), pp. 324, 370](#) (Returns of Estate of Peter Riley, deceased by William M. and James G. Riley, Executors, filed March and July 1846).
 18. *"The Kosciusko Herald"* (Kosciusko, MS), 1 April 1910, p. 5, column 6. The obituary of *"Sarah A. Woodward"* identified her as the wife of James G. Riley and described her as:
Sister Riley was a devoted and a faithful follower of the Lord Jesus Christ for over 60 years. Was one of the pioneers of early Methodism in Attala county [sic], Miss. Many long years ago her home was the home of Methodist Itinerent [sic] preachers who always received a cheerful Christian greeting and made to feel at home and everything was provided for his rest and comfort that she could bestow.
 19. *"The Greensboro' Herald"* (Greensboro, GA), 9 September 1875, p. 1, columns 3–6.

Peter Riley's Slaves

1. [1805 Greene County GA Tax Digest, LDS Film #8134236, Image #399](#), Capt. Dawson's District, p. 4, #6: Peter Riley. Peter Riley paid taxes of 93¾¢ on one white poll and two slaves.
2. 1810 Orange County NC Federal Census, p. 126a/816, line #23: Peter Riley; #24: Jacob Riley.
3. 1820 Greene County GA Federal Census, p. 217, Capt. Talley's District, #14: Peter Riley.
4. [1822 Greene County GA Tax Digest, LDS #8191031, Image #661, Capt. Thomas Colquett's District](#) (Militia District #163), #23: Peter Riley, 1 white poll, 4 slaves, 197½ acres Quality 2 land on Richland Creek, adjoining Hill; 202½ acres pine land in Houston County, District 6, Lot #120. The tax record identified Riley's tract in Houston County as Lot #120, 6th District. His total tax was \$2.21.
5. Greene County GA Tax Digests, LDS #8191032:
 - [1824: Image #74, Capt. Garrett Woodham's District](#) (Militia District #161), #18: Peter Riley, 1 white poll, 5 slaves, 194 acres Quality 2 Greene County land on Richland Creek, adjoining *"T. Riley;"* 202½ acres pine land, Lot #120, District 6, Houston County; tax: \$2.51¼
 - [1825: Image #121, Capt. William S. Robin's District](#) (Militia District #163), #14: Peter Riley, 1 white poll, 5 slaves, 194 acres Quality 2 Greene County land on Richland Creek, adjoining *"Riley;"* 202½ acres pine land, Lot #120, District 6, Houston County; tax: \$2.51¼
- Greene County GA Tax Digests, LDS #8188760:
 - [1827: Image #169, Capt. Elijah Anderson's District](#) (Militia District #163), #17: Peter Riley, 1 white poll, 6 slaves, 184 acres Quality 3 Greene County land on Richland Creek, adjoining *"Lewis;"* 202½ acres Quality 3 land, Lot #120, District 6, Houston County; tax: \$2.67
 - [1828: Image #264, Capt. Elkanah Tulley's District](#) (Militia District #163), #10: Peter Riley, 1 white poll, 6 slaves, 204½ acres Quality 3 Greene County land on Richland Creek, adjoining *"Lewis;"* Lot #120, District 6, Crawford County; tax: \$2.85
6. 1830 Greene County GA Federal Census, p. 274, #15: Peter Riley.
7. Greene County GA Tax Digests, LDS #8191032:
 - [1834: Image #335, Capt. Hutcherson's District](#) (Militia District #163), #14: Peter Riley, 1 white poll, 8 slaves, 194 acres Quality 2 Greene County land on Richland Creek, adjoining *"Lewis;"* tax: \$2.98½
 - [1837: Image #401, Capt. Winslett's District](#) (Militia District #160), #10: Peter Riley, 0 white polls, 9 slaves, 475 acres Quality 2 Greene County land on Richland Creek, adjoining *"Mallery;"* tax: \$4.00

This shows that in 1834, Riley still owned only his 194-acre farm in Militia District #163 that he had purchased in 1817 and sold in 1836. By 1837, he had bought a new 475-acre farm located in Militia District #160.
8. 1840 Greene County GA Federal Census, p. 28b–29a, #10: Peter Riley.
9. [Greene County GA Will Book 5 \(1840–1877\), p. 28; Greene County GA Original Wills, LDS Film #5764274, Images #499–503](#) (Will of Peter Riley, signed 31 January 1844, filed in court 13 January 1845).
10. Details of Norwood H. Finley's forfeiture of his guardian's bonds and the subsequent lawsuit filed against Peter Riley as Finley's security on the bonds is given in an earlier section.
11. *"The Southern Recorder"* (Milledgeville, GA), 13 December 1844 (p. 3, column 5), January 7 (p. 4, column 2), 14 (p. 4, column 1), 21 (p. 4, column 1), and 28 (p. 4, column 1), and February 4 (p. 4, column 1), 1845.
12. [Greene County GA Inferior Court Records Sales Book L \(1841–1851\), p. 116](#) (*"Peter Riley's Appraisement 16 Jan^y 1845"*). [Greene County GA Probate Court Estate Records, LDS Film # 5778161, Images #345–346](#) (*"Peter Riley's*

Appraisement...An inventory and appraisement of the personal an perishable propperty [sic] of Peter Riley Decd," 16 January 1845).

13. [Greene County GA Inferior Court Records Sales Book L \(1841–1851\), p. 120](#) (*"Peter Riley's Sale Feb. 4 1845"*). [Greene County GA Probate Court Estate Records, LDS Film # 5778161, Image #340](#) (*"An account of Sale of the Negroes Belonging to the Estate of Peter Riley Decd Sold at public out cry on the 4 of Feb 1845"*). The original document gives the name of "P. E. Fawcett" who purchased Phil as "Peter E. Forset," and the name of "David Leslie" who purchased Alfred as "David Larsley."
14. Greene County GA Deed Book OO (1840–1848), p. 415 (John Brunt to Martha Fossett, 8 December 1845).
15. 1850 Greene County GA Federal Census, 162 Dist., p. 113a, Dwelling #606, line #39: Nancy Riley (age: 51; real estate: \$5000; born: "N.C."); #40: Henry Riley (age: 18; Farmer; born: "Ga"); #41: Dock Shirley (age: 16; Farmer; born: "Ga").
16. 1850 Greene County GA Federal Census, 167 Dist., p. 60, column 2, lines #30–32: Nancy Riley, slaveowner. Nancy was listed as owning three enslaved people of black "Colour:" males aged 65 and 8 and one female aged 52.
17. Muscogee County GA Deed Book G, p. 440 (Henry N. Riley mortgage to John T. Walker, 26 July 1855).
18. Muscogee County GA Deed Book G, p. 479 (Henry N. Riley and Dunwoody K. McGee mortgage to Alexander J. Robinson, 4 October 1855).

Peter Riley's Children

1. [Greene County GA Will Book 5 \(1840–1877\), p. 28](#); [Greene County GA Original Wills, LDS Film #5764274, Images #499–503](#) (Will of Peter Riley, signed 31 January 1844, filed in court 13 January 1845).

[unknown daughter] Riley

1. 1810 Orange County NC Federal Census, p. 126a/816, line #18: Ralph Faucett; #23: Peter Riley.
2. 1820 Greene County GA Federal Census, p. 217, Capt. Talley's District, #3: Robert Brook; #12: Elmore Faucett.
3. [Greene County GA Marriage Licenses \(1829–1849\), p. 325](#) (Early P. Fossett to Martha Brunt, 29 September 1842; married by "Robert F. Griffin J.P.")
4. Pike County GA Will Book D (1876–1914), pp. 89–90 (Will of Patience Brunt, signed 20 July 1867, filed with Pike County Court 3 December 1883). Fossett Cemetery (Pike County, GA), tombstones of "John Brunt" (25 May 1804–28 Dec 1855) and "Patience Brunt" (16 Apr 1809–4 Oct 1883). In her will, Patience made a bequest to "my daughter Martha Ann (wife of Peter E. Fosset)."
5. Greene County GA Deed Book OO (1840–1848), p. 415 (John Brunt to Martha Fossett, 8 December 1845).
6. Greene County GA Deed Book PP (1847–1852), p. 64 (W. H. Brunt to Early "Faucett," 14 February 1848). Fossett purchased a 100-acre tract of land described only in chains, links and stakes.
7. Pike County GA Deed Book H (1846–1850), p. 463 (John Brunt to Peter E. Fossett, 18 January 1849). Both described as Pike County residents, Brunt sold Early 100 acres in Lot #169, 9th District originally in Monroe, now Pike County, and 30 acres in the adjoining Lot #170.
8. Pike County GA Deed Book K (1852–1856), pp. 9–10 (John Brunt to Early Fosset, 7 December 1850). Brunt sold a 100-acre tract of land in Lot #184, 9th District of Monroe (now Pike) County on the east side of the lot.
9. Pike County GA Deed Book L (1856–1866), pp. 135–136 (Green B. M. Blunt and P. E. Fosset, "Administrators of John Brunt late of said County deceased" to P. E. Fossett, 7 July 1856). The land sold was a 162½-acre tract in Lot #151, 9th District.
10. 1860 Pike County GA Federal Census, Slave Schedule, p. 16/108a, column 1, #16: "Peter E. Fossette," slave owner. Fossett was listed as the owner of fourteen enslaved people who lived in three "slave houses" on his farm, including males aged 44, 20, 20, 11, 6, and 2, and females aged 35, 30, 25, 9 (mulatto), 9, 7, 5, and 2, all described as having black complexion except for one.
11. Cornell, Nancy J. *1864 Census for Re-Organizing the Georgia Militia*. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2000, p. 500. The militia list for the 22nd Senatorial District, 505th Militia District of Pike County included "P. E. Fawcet," aged 47 year and ten months, a farmer born in Georgia.
12. Georgia, U.S. Civil War Correspondence, 1847–1865, 1-1-5 Petitions – Pike County, 24 August 1864, to Joseph E. Brown (governor). Petition regarding detail of Peter E. Fosset to return home to manage crops on the plantations, signed by Patience brunt, Martha A. Fosset, M. Brook, T. Kent.
13. Georgia Return of Qualified Voters, Pike County, Precinct No. 505, Williamsville, 22nd Election District, #2: Peter E. Fossett, white, residence in Georgia: 50 years; residence in Pike County: 17 years.

Susannah Riley

1. The 1850 enumeration of Robert F. Griffin's household in Greene County, Georgia gave North Carolina as Susan's birthplace and his as South Carolina. The 1880 enumeration of Peter R. Brooks' household in Attala County, Mississippi gave South Carolina as Susan's birthplace.

2. 1820 Greene County GA Federal Census, Capt. G. Woodham's District, p. 252, line #3: Robert Brook. His household consisted of one white male under the age of 10, one white male aged 16–26, one white male 26–45, one white female 16–26, and one female slaved aged 14–26. Two members of the household were engaged in agriculture.
3. [1822 Greene County GA Tax Digest, LDS #8191031, Image #671](#), Capt. Garrett Woodham's District (Militia District #161), #12: Robert Brooks, 1 white poll, 1 slave, 103½ acres Quality 3 land on Richland Creek, granted to Thompson, adjoining Scott; Early County Lot #192, District 14; Appling County Lot #366, District 9; tax: \$1.31¼.
4. Greene County GA Administrators & Guardians Bonds (1812–1858), p. 130 (Jacob Riley and Susannah Brooks, bond of administrators of "*Robert Brooks late of this County deceased*," 12 January 1824).
5. [Greene County GA Marriage Licenses Book A \(1817–1829\), p. 246](#) (License for Robert F. Griffin to marry Susannah Brooks, 8 September 1824; the precise date on which the marriage was solemnized was not recorded).
6. Greene County GA Administrators & Guardians Bonds (1812–1858), p. 161 (Robert F. Griffin, bond as guardian of Peter R. Brooks, "*orphan of Robert Brooks decd*," 6 November 1826; security: Peter Riley).
7. Greene County GA Deed Book JJ (1824–1828), pp. 176–177 (Jacob Riley "*administrator of the estate of the said Robert Brooks*" to Robert F. Griffin, 3 May 1825). The remaining one-third interest in the tract of land was reserved to Brooks' widow, who was by then Griffin's wife.
8. Greene County GA Deed Book NN, p. 414 (Peter Riley to William M. Riley, 23 December 1841; witness: Robert F. Griffin, J.P.); Deed Book OO, p. 10 (Peter Riley to James G. Riley, 9 May 1842; witness: Robert F. Griffin, J.P.); pp. 252–253 (John Cartwright to "*the Cartwright Manufacturing Company*," 10 June 1845; witness: "*Robert F. Griffin J.P.*"); pp. 254–255 (William T. Gaston to John Cartwright, 10 June 1845; witness: "*Robert F. Griffin J.P.*"); p. 334 (William T. Gaston to James G. Riley, 12 August 1843; witness: "*Robert F. Griffin J.P.*"); p. 335 (William T. Gaston to James G. Riley, 23 April 1846; witness: "*Robert F. Griffin J.P.*"). [Greene County GA Marriage Licenses \(1829–1849\), p. 325](#) (Early P. Fossett to Martha Brunt, 29 September 1842; married by "*Robert F. Griffin J.P.*").
9. "*Daily Chronicle & Sentinel*" (Augusta, GA), May 15 (p. 3, column 1) and 17 (p. 2, column 6), 1850. "*Weekly Chronicle & Sentinel*" (Augusta, GA), 29 May 1850, p. 4, column 4.
10. "*The Temperance Banner*" (Penfield, GA), August 7 (p. 2, column 6), October 2 (p. 3, column 5), and November 6 (p. 3, column 4), 1852. Penfield was a small Greene County village that formed shortly after 1829.
11. "*The Greensboro' Herald*" (Greensboro, GA), 9 September 1875, p. 1, columns 3–6.
12. Greene County GA Probate Court Estate Records, LDS Film # 5767959, Image #43 (Promissory note of Robert F. Griffin to James Smith, 30 December 1854).
13. "*The Temperance Banner*," 17 March 1855, p. 4, column 1. The notice advises that James Smith applied to be appointed Administrator of Robert F. Griffin's estate, dated 29 January 1855.
14. [Greene County GA Administrators & Guardians Bonds \(1812–1858\), p. 161](#) (Robert F. Griffin, bond as guardian of Peter R. Brooks, "*orphan of Robert Brooks decd*," 6 November 1826; security: Peter Riley).
15. Greene County GA Deed Book V (1876–1882), pp. 77–78 ("*Fransina Brooks*" to "*McCall Copelan & Co*," 9 February 1874; witnesses: "*Reuben A. Credille N.P.*," Peter R. Brooks).
16. [Greene County GA Returns & Divisions of Estates \(1822–1829\), p. 148](#); [Greene County GA Probate Court Estate Records, LDS Film # 5764286, Image #655](#) ("*Dr. the estate of Robert Brooks deceased to Jacob Riley Ad^{mr} and Susanah [sic] Brooks Ad^{mx}*," 7 December 1824). This account details a charge of \$37.00 for "*Boarding & clothing Peter R. & Elizabeth Brooks orphs of said Brook from the 14th February 1824.*"

Temperance Riley

1. Olive Branch Cemetery (Caledonia, Union County AR), tombstones of "[Temperance wife of W. E. Blanks](#)" (15 Apr 1802–6 Mar 1894) and "[W. E. Blanks](#)" (31 Aug 1805–25 Feb 1864).

William M. Riley

1. Greene County GA Deed Book MM (1830–1840), p. 57 (Thomas Mallory to William Riley, September 1836).
2. Greene County GA Deed Book NN (1839–1842), p. 104 (Martha Mallory to "*William Riley & Ann Riley his Wife*," 18 November 1840; witnesses: John Cartwright, James G. Riley).
3. Greene County GA Returns on Estates Book N (1835–1847), p. 181 (William M. Riley receipt to John Cartwright for share of Estate of Thomas Mallory in right of Ann, his wife, 21 February 1842; witnesses: Peter R. Brooks; "*Robt F. Griffin J.P.*"); p. 182 (William M. Riley receipt to John Cartwright "*of all which is coming to me under and by virtue of a deed of gift made by Martha Mallory*," 21 February 1842; witnesses: Peter R. Brooks; "*Robt F. Griffin J.P.*").
4. Greene County GA Deed Book NN (1839–1842), pp. 319–320 (William M. Riley mortgage to John Hall, 18 February 1842). To secure payment of his promissory note for \$1486.88 due 25 December 1842, Riley mortgaged several slaves to Hall.
5. Greene County GA Deed Book OO (1840–1848), pp. 253–254 (Robert F. Griffin to John Cartwright, 12 March 1845; witness: William M. Riley).

6. Pike County GA Deed Book J (1849–1852), pp. 389–390 (Robert F. McClendon to William M. Riley “*of the County of Decalb*” [sic], 19 November 1849); pp. 388–389 (William M. Riley of Pike County to J. G. Nunnally, 13 September 1850). Riley bought and sold a 95-acre tract of land in Lot #116, 9th District, originally Monroe but “*now Pike County*.”
7. DeKalb County GA Marriage Book A (1848–1856), p. 369 (James T. Riley to Anna James, 26 October 1856).
8. Texas Voter Registration, Rusk County, p. 300, LDS Film #8504520, Images #609–610: William M. Riley.
9. Oregon State Board of Health, Standard Certificate of Death, #1-1677-451, Multnomah County, Louisa Viola Harmon; birth: 13 Dec 1858; death: 3 Feb 1946; widowed; white female; spouse: Charles H. Harmon; birthplace: Lithonia, Georgia; father: Thomas Riley; mother: Anna James.
10. Compiled Military Service Record, James T. Riley, private, Co. H, 19th Regiment Texas Infantry, Civil War (Confederate).
11. Mountain View Cemetery and Mausoleum (Altadena, Los Angeles County CA), Sunrise Terrace, Lo 2809, family plot marker: “*Anna James Riley, Sarah G. Riley, T. Theodosia Riley*,” individual tombstones of “*Mother Anna James Riley*” (1840–1936) [grave 8], “*Sarah Georgia Anna Riley*” (1860–1946) [grave 9], and “*T. Theodosia Riley*” (1863–1961) [grave 7].
12. Eugene Pioneer Cemetery (Eugene, Lane County OR), Plot #147, tombstone of “*Susan L. Whitmore*” (1840–1874).

James Gray Riley

1. Compiled Military Service Record, James Riley, private, Dawson’s Co., 1st (Porter’s) Georgia Infantry, Creek War. Despite the label as the “*Creek War*,” this service was against the Seminoles in the latter 1830s. Military Bounty Land Warrant #30352, “*James G. Riley, Private in Captain Dawson’s Company, Georgia Volunteers, Seminole War*,” assigned to Joseph M. Thompson, 44.19 acres, SE¼ of NW¼ of Section 3, Township 15 North, patent issued 5 January 1854.
2. Index to Indian Wars Pension Files, 1892–1926, Sarah A. Riley (widow), Application #1563, Certificate #1643, Mississippi, filed 29 September 1892; soldier: James G. Riley; service: “*Dawson’s Co. Ga Vols (Creek war)*.”
3. Greene County GA Deed Book OO (1840–1848), p. 416 (John Brunt to “*Francis Rily*” [sic], 8 December 1845). Fossett Cemetery (Pike County, GA), tombstones of “*John Brunt*” (25 May 1804–28 Dec 1855) and “*Patience Brunt*” (16 Apr 1809–4 Oct 1883). There is no precise known source for the exact dates of birth and death for Mary Frances Brunt other than from family records.
4. Pike County GA Will Book D (1876–1914), pp. 89–90 (Will of Patience Brunt, signed 20 July 1867, filed with Pike County Court 3 December 1883). In her will, Patience made a bequest to “*my beloved grand children John T. Riley and James R. Riley*.”
5. [Greene County GA Marriage Licenses \(1829–1849\), p. 464](#) (James G. Riley to “*Sarah Ann Sims Woodard*,” 19 March 1848; married by “*Hinton Crawford M.G.*” Sources give conflicting dates of birth for her; see details below.
6. Jonathan and Elizabeth Woodard lived near James G. Riley in Greene County, Georgia in 1850, and in 1860, the widowed Elizabeth Woodard lived only a few households away from James G. Riley. Their precise dates of birth/death are found in a variety of online websites but otherwise unconfirmed. Find A Grave memorials for Jonathan and Elizabeth Brunt Woodard are posted in the Woodard Cemetery, Attala County, Mississippi, but this information is unconfirmed by photographs of actual tombstones.
7. “*The Choctaw Plaindealer*” (Ackerman, MS), 13 December 1912, p. 5, columns 3–4. The quotation comes from the 1912 obituary of James and Sarah Riley’s son, William W. Riley, written by lifelong friend, Frank Townsend. William and Frank’s fathers knew each other, so Townsend had a longtime connection with the Rileys. The date he gives for the Rileys’ arrival in Mississippi, Christmas Eve 1852, does not match the (unconfirmed) death year of Jonathan Woodard. He reportedly died three weeks after the family arrived in Attala County, but the year of his death is variously given as 1853 or 1854. It is possible that the Rileys made the trip in December 1852, while the Woodards made it in either 1853 or 1854.
8. Military Bounty Land Warrant #30352, “*James G. Riley, Private in Captain Dawson’s Company, Georgia Volunteers, Seminole War*,” assigned to Joseph M. Thompson, 44.19 acres, SE¼ of NW¼ of Section 3, Township 15 North, patent issued 5 January 1854. Columbus, Mississippi Land Office Cash Entry #39211, “*James W. Cole and James G. Riley of Attala County, Mississippi*,” NW¼ of SE¼, Section 25, Township 16 North, Range 8 East, 39.62 acres, patent signed 1 October 1859.
9. Attala County MS Deed Book C, pp. 293–294 (William T. and Sarah H. Gaston to James G. Riley, 1 December 1859). The Gastons sold Riley “*the interest which Jesse S. Kimbrough had in the Phoenix Mills, it being the one sixth interest in said mills and the*” E½ of NE¼ Section 4 “*less 10 acres off of east end of said eighth and*” W½ of NE¼ Section 4, Township 15 Range 8 East and SE¼ and E½ of SW¼ of Section 33 Township 16 North Range 8 East.
10. 1860 Attala County MS Federal Census, Slave Schedule, Township 16 R8, p. 159a/34, column 1, #24: J. G. Riley (owner of 21 slaves); column 2, #14: Elizabeth Woodard (owner of 10 slaves).

11. Compiled Military Service Records, J. G. Riley, 1st Lieutenant; J. R. Riley, private, Co. H, 1st (King's) Mississippi Infantry, State Troops, Civil War (Confederate).
12. *"The Choctaw Plaindealer"* (Ackerman, MS), 13 December 1912, p. 5, columns 3–4. Mississippi Confederate Pension Applications, LDS #5077452, Images #308–309, James R. Riley, Kosciusko, Attala Co., filed 14 September 1910.
13. *"The Kosciusko Herald"* (Kosciusko, MS), 1 April 1910, p. 5, column 6. The obituary gave her dates of birth as 27 July 1827 and death as 11 February 1910. Her death date matches that on her tombstone, but her tombstone gives her birth on July 17th, not the 27th. Her correct birthdate is not known.
14. Riley Cemetery (McCool, Attala County MS), tombstones of *"James G. Riley"* (19 Jan 1818–13 Dec 1883) and *"Mrs. S. A. Riley Wife of J. G. Riley"* (17 Jul 1827–11 Feb 1910). Her obituary referenced above gives her birth on July 27th.
15. Pike County GA Will Book D (1876–1914), pp. 89–90 (Will of Patience Brunt, signed 20 July 1867, filed with Pike County Court 3 December 1883). In her will, Patience made a bequest to *"my beloved grand children John T. Riley and James R. Riley."*
16. Compiled Military Service Records, John T. Riley, private, Co. B, 4th Mississippi Infantry, Civil War (Confederate).
17. Mississippi Confederate Pension Applications, LDS #5077452, Images #312–315, John T. Riley, Kosciusko, Attala County, filed 4 August 1919.
18. Stonewall Cemetery (Ethel, Attala County MS), tombstone of *"J. R. Riley"* (20 Jan 1848–18 Jan 1922). The 1850 federal census enumerations of his father in Greene County and of his grandfather, John Brunt, in Pike County, both give his age as three, as does his father's 1860 household in Attala County. James' 1900 census enumeration there gave his birth as January 1847. Moreover, family records give his mother's death on 25 March 1847, making it impossible for his birth to have been as late as January 1848. This shows that his birth year on his tombstone is incorrectly inscribed.
19. Compiled Military Service Records, J. R. Riley, private, Co. H, 1st (King's) Mississippi Infantry, State Troops, Civil War (Confederate).
20. Mississippi Confederate Pension Applications, LDS #5077452, Images #308–309, James R. Riley, Kosciusko, Attala County, filed 14 September 1910.
21. *"The Choctaw Plaindealer,"* December 6 (p. 5, column 1) and 13 (p. 5, columns 3–4), 1912. *"The Kosciusko Herald,"* 6 December 1912, p. 4, column 6. *"The Star-Ledger"* (Kosciusko, MS), 6 December 1912, p. 5, column 4.

Henry N. Riley

1. Muscogee County GA Deed Book G, p. 440 (Henry N. Riley mortgage to John T. Walker, 26 July 1855).
2. Muscogee County GA Deed Book G, p. 479 (Henry N. Riley and Dunwoody K. McGee mortgage to Alexander J. Robinson, 4 October 1855).
3. Compiled Military Service Records, Henry Riley, private, Co. B, Arsenal Battalion, Georgia Infantry (Columbus), Civil War (Confederate).
4. Georgia State Board of Health, Standard Certificate of Death #10268, Muscogee County; name: Peter P. Riley, white male, widowed; residence: 3300 3rd Ave.; birth: 6 – 6 – 1852; death: 1 May 1922; age: 69 yrs, 11 mos; cause of death: *"Paralisis [sic] in general;"* birthplace: Ga; father: *"Henry Riley;"* mother: *"Melvina Bell;"* informant: *"W. J. Vickery."* Burial: Linwood.
5. Georgia State Board of Health, Standard Certificate of Death #15189, Muscogee County; name: Nancy E. Vickery, white female, married; residence: 3300 3rd Ave.; birth: *"Oct 23: 1853;"* death: *"5/10th 1925;"* age: 71 yrs; cause of death: *"Enemia Poison;"* birthplace: Ga; father: *"Henry Riley;"* mother: *"Levina Bell;"* informant: *"W. J. Vickers."* Burial: Linwood.
6. Linwood Cemetery Records (Columbus, Muscogee County GA), LDS #8616591:
 - Image #19: *"Cemetery Record, Columbus, Ga. R. T. Simons, Sexton"*
 Interment: 12 January 1867; name: *"Jackson Riley;"* age: not given; cause of death: *"Small Pox;"* Nativity: *"unknown;"* Lot: *"Public Grounds;"* remarks: *"Resident."*
 Interment: 17 January 1867; name: *"Henry Riley Child of;"* age: *"4 weeks;"* cause of death: *"unknown;"* Nativity: *"Columbus;"* Lot: *"Old Cemetery;"* remarks: *"Resident."*
 - Image #30:
 Interment: 28 January 1869; Name: *"Mrs. Riley;"* age: not given; cause of death: *"confinement;"* born: Georgia; Lot: *"Old Cemetery;"* remarks: *"Non Resident."*
 - Image #31:
 Interment: 3 May 1869; Name: *"James Thomas child of H. Riley;"* age: *"4 Mo;"* cause of death: *"Measels [sic];"* born: *"Russell C^o Ala;"* Lot: *"851 O.C., Lot A;"* remarks: *"Non Resident."*
 - Image #88:
 Interment: 27 October 1873; Name: *"Henry Reiley;"* age: *"—years;"* cause of death: *"Dissenterry;"* Lot: 851 A2; remarks: *"Non Resident."*
 - Image #531:

Interment: 1 May 1922; Name: "Peter P. Riley;" age: "69 yrs 11mo;" cause of death: "Paralysis;" Nativity: "Columbus, Ga;" Lot: "lot 857, Sec 2;" remarks: "Res 3300 3rd Ave."

Image #728:

Interment: 11 May 1925; Name: "Nancy E. Vickery;" age: "71;" cause of death: "Enemia Posy;" Nativity: "resident;" Lot: "857, Sec 2;" remarks: "3300 3rd Ave."

Linwood Cemetery Card Files, LDS Film #8616601,

Image #269:

Name: "Henry Reily;" Interment: 10-27-73; Lot #851; Sec. A2; cause of death: "Disentery;" Nativity: "Ga;" age: not given.

Image #354:

Name: "Mrs. Riley;" Interment: 1-28-1869; "O.C." [Old Cemetery]; cause of death: "Confinnement;" age: not given.

Image #355:

Name: "Riley Henry Child of;" interment: 1-17-1867; Sec: "O.C." [Old Cemetery]; age: "4 mo."

Image #356:

Name: "Jackson Riley;" interment: 1-12-1867; Section: "Public Grounds;" cause of death: "Small Pox;" age: not given.

Image #357:

Name: "James Thomas Riley;" interment: 5-3-1869; Lot: 851; Sec: "2;" cause of death: "Measels;" age: "4 Mo."

Image #358:

Name: "Peter P. Riley;" interment: 5-1-1922; Lot #857, Sec. 2; cause of death: "Paralysis;" address: 3300 3 Ave.; age: 69.

Image #2023:

Name: "Nancy E. Vickery;" interment: 5-11-1925; Lot #857, Sec. 2; cause of death: "Enemia Poison;" address: 3300 3 Ave.; age: 71.

Image #2024:

Name: "W. J. Vickery;" interment: 10-18-1933; Lot #857, Sec. 2; cause of death: "Gangrene of Leg;" Place of Death: "Russell Co Ala;" age: 79).

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