

**Samuel Albritton**  
**of**  
**Pactolus, Pitt County, North Carolina,**  
**Son of James, Grandson of Peter, & Great-grandson of James Albritton Sr.**  
**by Timothy Dean Hudson**

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### Samuel Albritton & Tabitha Bell

Samuel Albritton was born in Pitt County, North Carolina on 23 April 1783 [1], the eldest son of James Albritton. Born in 1761 on the south side of the Tar River along Cow Swamp, in the early 1780s, James moved across the river and settled near his uncle on Grindle Creek. It is not clear where Samuel's birth occurred, on the Cow Swamp plantation of his grandfather, Peter Albritton Sr., or on Grindle Creek. In any case, he had no memory of living south of the river and spent his life on his Grindle Creek farm. About 1797, James Albritton died prematurely when Samuel was only about fourteen. This perhaps contributed to the especially close relationship Samuel had with his uncles, Adam, Joel, and Luke Albritton, all of whom had plantations that adjoined or lay close to Samuel's. The records do not record the identity of Samuel Albritton's mother [2].

Samuel Albritton joined the Great Swamp Baptist Church on 25 June 1803 at the age of twenty, with his baptism held at "*Mr. Clark's mill*" [3]. Several months later, on 1 September 1803, Samuel married Tabitha Bell (13 Aug 1787–24 Aug 1865), with their marriage ceremony apparently held at the Red Banks Baptist Church. On August 1<sup>st</sup>, just one month prior to her marriage, Tabitha joined Red Banks Church, together with Samuel's aunt, Elizabeth Albritton Moyer. Tabitha and Elizabeth Moyer were baptized later that day, after services held at the Red Banks Meeting House [4]. Tabitha Bell Albritton was the daughter of Benjamin Bell [5], presumably one of his younger children [6].

On 27 July 1805, the Great Swamp Baptist Church charged Samuel Albritton "*for drinking and racing*," and at the same church conference, they charged William Barrow with "*drinking and fighting*." After a trial that same day, the Great Swamp Church excommunicated both men [7].

Eighteen months later, at the Red Banks Church conference held on 18 December 1806, the clerk recorded this entry:

*Sisters Elizabeth Adams & Tabitha Albritton to be Cited to Conference to Give Satisfaction for their Non attendance by Br Smith*

Neither Tabitha Albritton nor Elizabeth (Betsy) Adams attended the Red Banks Church conferences in January, February, March, or April 1807, with the church repeatedly appointing "*Br Smith*" to "*cite them*" to attend the next church conference. At the conference held on 9 May 1807, the clerk recorded

*Elizabeth Adams & Tabitha Albritton not present They were both Excluded for non attendance & Neglecting to hear the Church.*

Tabitha Albritton is not mentioned further in the surviving minutes Red Banks Baptist Church, suggesting she did not later request that the church restore her to full fellowship [8]. After the

division of the Baptists over the question of missions between the 1810s and the latter 1820s, both the Great Swamp Baptist Church and the Red Banks Baptist Church affiliated as Primitive Baptist Churches. Given that Samuel and Tabitha's youngest son, Benjamin Bell Albritton, served as a Free Will Baptist minister his entire life, it seems probable that Samuel and Tabitha attended another Baptist church, possibly one that followed the Free Will movement.

Perhaps because his father died when he was only about fourteen years old, Samuel Albritton began engaging in various business and civic affairs at an unusually young age. He first witnessed a legal transaction at the mere age of eighteen years [9]. In late 1805, at the age of twenty-two, Samuel signed a petition to annex the northern portion of Pitt County to Martin County, along with forty-three men living north of the Tar River. They petitioned the North Carolina General Assembly:

*Gentlemen your petitioners Humbly beg leave to represent to you the great inconvenience they labour [sic] under at this time in consequence of their Local stuations [sic] living at the distance of Eighteen or Twenty Miles from their Court House and divided from the seat of their County by the waters of Tar River [,] Trantrass Creek and Flat Swamp which often prevents your petitioners from attending to their public duty in s<sup>d</sup> County on account of the overflowing of the above Creek and swamp and in the winter they are often completely frozen over. When should in your wisdom pass act to annex them to the County of Martin they would not have to have more than Eleven or Twelve Miles to Transact any of there [sic] public business and that on a pleasant Road without any waters to interrupt there [sic] passage...Therefore your petitioners Humbly pray that you would take their case into consideration and grant them relief by annexing them to the County of Martin and as in duty bound they will ever pray.*

Samuel Albritton signed the petition along with his brother-in-law, Allen Moore, the husband of his sister, Nancy, and several of their neighbors, including Thomas Daniel, a son-in-law of John Cason, and James Barrow and Samuel Barrow, also Cason relatives. The General Assembly failed to approve the petition to adjust the county lines [10].

In January 1812, Samuel signed another petition to the North Carolina General Assembly, along with his three uncles, Adam, Joel, and Luke Albritton, and one hundred three other Pitt County residents. They protested the planned bridge across the Tar River at Washington in Beaufort County, some twenty miles downstream from their plantations. The Pitt County residents feared that the traffic and commotion from the bridge would frighten off the fish that annually swam up the river from the Pamlico Sound to spawn, damaging their ability to catch fish on the Tar. Despite their objections, the General Assembly approved a bill to incorporate the company to build the bridge [11].

Samuel Albritton performed additional civic service in his local region, serving in 1815 as one of the commissioners appointed by the Pitt County Court to divide the real estate of a neighbor,

Henry Harrington Sr. This man's son, Henry Harrington Jr., later married Samuel's daughter [12]. On 20 August 1816, the Pitt County Court appointed Samuel as a commissioner along with his uncles, Joel and Luke, to divide the real estate of another deceased man in the community, William Kinsaul [13]. A dozen years later, Samuel Albritton served as a commissioner along with his uncle, Joel Albritton, to divide the lands of his neighbor, Thomas Carney, who had died in 1826 [14].

Even though a married man with children, Samuel Albritton served in Cobb's Regiment, Pitt County Militia during the War of 1812, originally enlisting the rank of ensign. However, when the Pitt County Militia elected officers in November–December 1814, the men elected Samuel as the regiment's 2<sup>nd</sup> Major [15]. He continued to serve as an officer in the Pitt County Militia even after the end of hostilities with Great Britain, holding the rank of Major for the next decade. He resigned his commission as Major of the Pitt County Militia in November/December 1824 [16].

Samuel Albritton spent his life on the plantation his father purchased in 1784 on Grindle Creek north of the Tar River in the modern Pactolus community. His farm adjoined or lay near those of his uncles, Adam, Jonathan, Joel, and Luke Albritton, the same location where Samuel's great-uncle, James Albritton Jr., had lived between about 1760 and his death about 1795 [17]. While the will of Samuel's father had clearly left him the 250-acre tract that James had purchased in 1784, that of his grandfather, Peter Albritton Sr., left Samuel and his siblings a one-seventh interest in a 160-acre tract on Grindle Creek formerly owned by Peter's brother, James Albritton Jr. In July 1799, the Pitt County Court divided the tract and put Samuel and his siblings into possession of their 23½-acre share of it [18]. Although Samuel's uncles and aunts immediately sold their portion of the land to Samuel's uncle, Joel Albritton [19], Samuel and his sisters retained their interest in the tract until 6 May 1817, when they sold it to Joel for \$93 [20].

Like his uncles, Samuel Albritton developed a large planting operation on his Grindle Creek plantation, utilizing a limited amount of slave labor. He owned six slaves in 1810, eight in 1820, and eight in 1830 [21]. Samuel and Tabitha apparently inherited their slaves, as the records do not show them purchasing any from nonfamily members. On 30 December 1821, Samuel did purchase three slaves from his brother-in-law, John Bowers Jr., the husband of his sister, Susannah. Samuel paid \$700 for

*...three Certain negroes named Charity an [sic] one negro Boy named Garrard and one named Jim...*

Presumably, Garrard and Jim were Charity's sons [22]. These are probably slaves that Susan had inherited from her father, James Albritton.

We have scant detailed information about the slaves owned by Samuel and Tabitha. At least one of their slaves belonged to a local church. On 11 May 1828, the Briery Swamp Primitive Baptist Church met at van Norden's Mill, and at the conference following services, when the clerk "*opened the doors for the reception of members,*" the church received "*Cealy, property of Major Sam'l Albritton.*" At the same time, the church also received "*Bess, property of James Albritton,*" Samuel's first cousin [23]. In December 1831, Samuel's executor sold Tabitha "*one negro woman named Charity one Boye [sic] named Simon*" for \$330 [24]. Samuel had obtained legal possession of Charity back in 1821 from his brother-in-law, possibly a woman originally owned by his father, James Albritton. A decade after Samuel's death, his estate owned adult slaves named Miles, Marina, Smithy, Faribee, Adaline, Harriot, and Reddick, as well as a boy also named Miles [25].

Samuel maintained a very close relationship with his paternal uncles Adam, Joel, and Luke Albritton for the duration of his life. In particular, Samuel and Adam Albritton engaged in numerous business ventures together. On 23 December 1817, they served as security on a loan of \$3000 that Thomas Adams obtained from Amos Evans. To indemnify Adam and Samuel, Thomas Adams mortgaged to them two tracts of land totaling 1000 acres and seven slaves. Adams presumably failed to fully repay the Albrittons, and on 7 May 1819, for \$1000 the three jointly sold a twenty-one-year-old female slave, Rosy, and her two young children, Violet and Anaky, to Archibald Adams. Rose (or Rosy) and her daughter, Violet, aged five in May 1819, were among the slaves that Thomas Adams had mortgaged to the Albrittons back in December 1817, while Rose's daughter, Anaky, had been born in December 1817 [26].

On 2 May 1818, Adam and Samuel Albritton, together with Richard Baldree and Thomas Carney, paid \$100 for a 10-acre tract of land on the north bank of the Tar River [27]. The high value of that ten acres suggests it may have served as a river landing with warehouses or some type of mill. A few months later, on August 4<sup>th</sup>, for \$1428, Adam and Samuel purchased the old 300-acre plantation where Archibald Adams Sr. "*lived untill [sic] his death,*" located on the south side of the Tar River [28]. We have no precise record of what Samuel and his uncle did with this property, but in the latter 1820s or possibly in 1830, Samuel and Adam Albritton sold a tract of land south of the Tar River to Lewis Edwards [29]. With this transaction, they may have disposed of part of the old Archibald Adams Sr. place [30].

On 27 September 1819, Adam and Samuel Albritton paid £750 to Jordan Anderson for a total of 498 acres. Samuel and Adam sold 420 acres of that tract a few months later, on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, for \$1260, with the stipulation that

*One acre reserved to us the s<sup>d</sup> Adam & Samuel Albritton for the use of the Mill...*

This land lay in southwestern Pitt County on Hardee's Run and Little Run near where Adam's brother-in-law and Samuel's uncle, Gardner Moye, lived [31].

On 21 February 1821, the Pitt County Court accepted Samuel Albritton as the security on the bond of Nelson James as "*Guardian to the Heirs of Miller James dec<sup>d</sup>*." On the same day, Samuel and his uncle, Joel Albritton, were

*...further bound as securities for sundry debts by the said Nelson James to sundry persons amounting in the whole to four hundred dollars.*

To secure his guardian's bond and indemnify the Albrittons, Nelson James mortgaged two tracts of land to them, one for 100 acres and the other for 94 acres, both on the north side of Grindle Creek [32]. Nelson James presumably failed to pay his debts and satisfy his guardian bond, and on 8 January 1822, for \$935, he sold Samuel and Adam Albritton the two tracts of land he had mortgaged to Joel and Samuel Albritton the previous year. In addition to the 100-acre tract on Mill Branch, Nelson James sold Samuel and Adam Albritton "*as much Dirt & Timber as the Mill Requires...*" Although Samuel's uncle, Joel, was a party to the original mortgage in February 1821, he only witnessed the two deeds made in January 1822 [33]. We do not know Nelson and Miller James' precise connection to Samuel Albritton, but they were perhaps relatives of Samuel's first cousins, Henry and Clifton James, son of Mary Albritton James, the sister of Samuel's father.

During the 1820s, Samuel Albritton participated with his uncle, Adam, in multiple transactions of different varieties, including:

**27 Aug 1822** – for \$400, Samuel and Adam Albritton sold a male slave, James, to John S. Easton to hold in trust for Sally Hardee, to be held under her own separate control and not that of her husband, John Hardee [34].

**29 Jan 1824** – in 1822 or 1823, Samuel Albritton served as security on a promissory note made by Lewis Hatton for \$90, while his uncle, Adam, served as Hatton's security on several other notes that totaled \$119. To indemnify the Albrittons and guarantee his payment, on this day Lewis Hatton mortgaged to Samuel's youngest uncle, Luke Albritton, a total of 190 acres of land, as well as

*...Five Head of Cattle, three Horses, Thirteen Sheep, two Sows, & thirteen pigs, twenty Two Shoats, one chair & Harness, one still, one set of Blacksmiths Tools, twenty five Barrels of corn, one thousand pounds of fodder, and all the House Hold and Kitchen furniture now owned and in the possession of the Said Lewis [Hatton].*

Hatton failed to pay his notes, and Luke Albritton seized two tracts of land that Hatton had mortgaged and sold them on August 20<sup>th</sup> to raise \$200, with Samuel Albritton witnessing the transaction [35].

**5 Mar 1824** – Samuel Albritton and his uncles, Adam and Luke Albritton, all jointly signed a note for \$310.50. They made a payment of \$283.55 on 1 April 1827, but as of 25 May 1829, the balance of \$95.35 remained unpaid. Although Samuel was not involved in the settlement of the outstanding portion of the note, on 25 May 1829, Adam Albritton mortgaged four of his male slaves, Simon, Pompey, Samuel, and Greene, to secure payment of that and a few other debts [36].

**28 Aug 1826** – in 1826, Samuel Albritton served as security on several notes signed by his neighbor, Samuel Stone, that totaled \$100.10. As collateral to secure his payment of the notes and indemnify Albritton, on this day Stone mortgaged a 9¾-acre tract of land adjoining the lands of Adam Albritton to Samuel Albritton [37].

**26 Feb 1827** – Samuel and Adam Albritton sold a 180-acre tract of land in Pitt County on Hardees Run on the south side of the Tar River to William Little, to hold “*in trust for the sole separate & exclusive use & benefit*” of Ellender James (Ellen), “*free from the control debts or engagements*” of her husband, Allen James. As payment, the Albrittons accepted \$450 “*in Notes of hand*” [38]. To fulfill the terms of the trust, on 6 February 1829, William Little and Ellen James made two additional transactions involving Adam and Samuel Albritton [39].

**latter 1820s** – in the latter 1820s or possibly 1830 or early 1831, Samuel Albritton sold land on Pocosin Swamp to his brother-in-law, Allen Moore, husband of his sister, Nancy [40].

In addition to his business endeavors with his uncle, Adam Albritton, Samuel remained quite active in witnessing legal transactions throughout his adult life, beginning when he was merely eighteen. The table in a later section shows the known Pitt County transactions witnessed by Samuel Albritton.

Samuel Albritton died on 27 August 1831 at the age of forty-eight, an even shorter lifespan than usual for the generally short-lived male Albrittons of his family [41]. Like his father, Samuel apparently had some notice of his impending, premature demise, for he left a will that named his youngest uncle, State Senator Luke Albritton, a mere five years his senior, as his executor [42]. In his will, Samuel left Tabitha a lifetime estate in both his lands and his slaves, and after her death he left his land to his two sons, James B. and Benjamin B. Albritton, and divided his slaves among his children [43].

Tabitha Bell Albritton appears to have maintained a close relationship with her brother, James Bell, who remained in Pitt County until the latter 1810s. In his September 1817 will, James wrote,

*I give to my Sister Tabitha Albritton twenty dollars to her and her heirs forever.*

He also made a very substantial bequest for the education of Tabitha's eldest daughter [44]. Tabitha must have been her parents' youngest child, for by the time of Samuel's death, most of her own relatives had either died or moved away. Thus, after being widowed at the age of only forty-four, her husband's uncles and her own elder children helped her continue raising her younger children and managing her husband's plantation for the next three decades.

By 1840, Tabitha Albritton's children had all married, and she lived alone in her house on her plantation with seven slaves, apparently a couple and their five young daughters. Three of the slaves were engaged in agriculture. Tabitha's married daughter and her husband, Hannah and Calvin Moye, living next to her in a separate household with their children [45]. On 24 January 1846, Tabitha sold 200 acres of Samuel's land to John S. Daniel, the husband of Levina Albritton Daniel [46]. Levina was Samuel Albritton's first cousin, the daughter of Joel Albritton [46].

In 1850, Tabitha lived on her plantation with her widowed daughter, Hannah Moye, and Hannah's three children. Tabitha's other surviving children all lived nearby [47]. Sometime during the 1850s, Tabitha ceased to maintain her own household, and by 1860, she had moved in with her daughter, Tabitha Albritton Harrington [48].

By the 1850s, ownership of most of Samuel and Tabitha Albritton's slaves had passed to their married daughters, Lydia Short, Tabitha Harrington, and Elizabeth Moore. In 1850, Tabitha was listed as the owner of only one male slave, aged between fifty-five and fifty-eight years, and in 1860, she was listed as the owner the same man, by then listed as aged seventy years [49].

Tabitha Albritton wrote her will on 8 April 1857, at that time

*...being of sound mind but weak in body and mindful of the uncertainty of human life.*

She left bequests to her "dearly beloved" married daughters Lydia Short, Tabitha Harrington, and Elizabeth Moore, and to her "dearly beloved" and "trusty son," Benjamin B. Albritton, but she did not mention her adult children who predeceased her or their children. She left her lands to her granddaughter, the daughter of Benjamin B. Albritton, giving him and his wife a lifetime estate in the lands, undoubtedly a reflection of the financial problems he experienced in the 1840s [50]. The family Bible of Benjamin B. Albritton recorded that "*Tabitha Albritton Departed this Life August the 24 1865,*" some eight years after she wrote her will [51]. Benjamin filed her will with the Pitt County Court the following November and qualified as her Executor [52].





### Children of Samuel Albritton & Tabitha Bell

Tabitha Albritton's will proves the names of her children alive in April 1857, while the family Bible of her son compared with census records implies the names all of Samuel and Tabitha's children. Unfortunately, a widely disseminated history of the Albritton family published in 2007 contains utterly inaccurate information on the names of their sons and should be disregarded [53].

The documented children of Samuel Albritton and Tabitha Bell include:

1. [Drusilla Albritton](#) (5 Jan 1805–1805/1810)
2. [Lydia Albritton](#) (12 Aug 1806–14 Nov 1857) married Luke Short (c1795–c1859)
3. [Tabitha B. Albritton](#) (12 Dec 1809–18 Dec 1886) married Henry Harrington Jr. (1804/1806–4 Jan 1870)
4. [Hannah Albritton](#) (c1812–1850/1857) married Calvin Moye (1790/1800–1845/1850)
5. [James B. Albritton](#) (20 Nov 1814–16 Apr 1840) married Penelope Moore [Penny] (1811/1813–1880/1884)
6. [Benjamin Bell Albritton](#) (4 Dec 1816–20 Sep 1899) married Catherine Hatton (29 May 1818–11 Feb 1888)
7. [Elizabeth Eleanor Albritton](#) (28 Nov 1819–14 Jul 1862) married Enoch Moore (c1814–Sep 1875)

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Pitt County, North Carolina Transactions Witnessed by Samuel Albritton			
Date	Description of Transaction	Deed Bk	Page
26 May 1801	For £127 10s, James & William Barrow sell <i>"one Negro Boy Named Cain"</i> to Jacob Moore.	P	120
12 Jan 1805	For £75, Jacob Harris sells Thomas Adams a 25-acre tract of land on Mill Swamp.	Q	246
5 Dec 1806	For \$100, Willie Daniel sells <i>"a Certain Negro girl named Charity about the age of Two Years and Six months old"</i> to Lanier Daniel.	R	328
6 May 1811	For \$150, Thomas and Sarah Ames sell Abraham Congleton a 100-acre tract of land on the south side of Briery Swamp.	S	107
14 Sept 1812	For \$400, Sarah Cason sells 200 acres to Henry Cason originally owned by James Albritton Sr. and Jonathan Albritton.	T	255
15 Feb 1816	For \$250, Matthew [illegible] (James?) sells <i>"one Negro woman by the Name of Elvy"</i> to Adam Albritton.	T	187
3 Mar 1819	For \$500, James Langley sells a <i>"Negro Girl by the name of Eliza..."</i> to John Tucker.	BB	334
9 Nov 1819	For \$1960, Robert R. Gwattney sells Amos Evans Sr. a 245-acre tract of land on the north side of Tar River.	BB	94
25 Apr 1820	For \$97.50, Luke Albritton sells Samuel Stone a 9¾-acre tract of land on Grindle Creek adjoining Adam Albritton.	BB	118
2 May 1820	For \$1500, Kinchen Cobb sells Josiah Griffin a 243-acre tract of land between Ready Branch and Forbes Branch, on the south side of Tar River.	BB	124
Jan 1821	For \$500, Robert Hatton sells Luke Albritton <i>"three negroes one negro woman and two Children named Eade, Sela, Judy..."</i>	BB	298
24 Sept 1822	For <i>"the Natural Love and affection which he hath and beareth unto...his son..."</i> , James Barrow gives Beazar Barrow a 100-acre tract of land on the north side of Grindle Creek.	CC	169
16 Oct 1822	For \$450, James Barrow sells Beazar Barrow <i>"Two negroes Slaves named Bristor and Cuff, Bristor about Thirty Two &amp; Cuff about Nine Years of age..."</i>	CC	186
25 Apr 1823	For \$500, Archibald Adams sells James Tyer a 300-acre tract of land on the east side of Little Contentnea Creek and northwest side of Long Branch.	DD	12
16 Jan 1824	For \$250, Samuel Moore of Jefferson County, Ga sells William Moore of Pitt County, North Carolina a 43½-acre tract, Lot #2, in the division of the lands of Richard Moore, deceased, among his heirs.	CC	430
21 Jan 1824	For \$80, Samuel Moore, attorney in fact for Caswell Moore and Clemmy Barrow, <i>"widow"</i> of William Barrow, sell Shaderack Rogers two tracts of land, both 6½-acre tracts, drawn in the division of the lands of James Stewart Moore, deceased.	CC	483
3 Feb 1824	For \$785, Lewis Hatton sells Floyd Hodges a 157-acre tract of land on the north side of Tar River.	CC	365
20 Aug 1824	For \$200, Luke Albritton sells two tracts of land belonging to Lewis Hatton to Thomas Langley in order to pay Hatton's notes on which Adam and Samuel Albritton were securities.	DD	156
1 Nov 1824	For \$647.50, Samuel & Mary Hudleburg sell Allen Blount land on Little Contentnea Creek.	CC	456
12 Aug 1826	To complete terms of an earlier transaction, Franklin Gorham sells Samuel Ralston his interest in <i>"a negro woman named Unice a Negro man named Sam and a negro man named Reubin..."</i>	DD	350
11 Dec 1826	For \$100, John James sells John Whichard a 100-acre tract of land on Little Beaver Branch, Great Beaver Branch, and Horse Pen Pocosin.	EE	44
	For \$150, John James sells John Whichard a 220-acre tract of land on the north side of Grindle Creek, on <i>"Bair Branch."</i>	EE	55
	For \$150, John and Margaret James sell John Whichard a 276-acre tract of land on the north side of Grindle Creek adjoining the lands of Luke Albritton.	EE	57
27 Oct 1828	For \$100, Adam Albritton sells Thomas Albritton a 225-acre tract of land on the north side of Grindle Creek, adjoining the lands of Matthew James, deceased, and Adam Albritton.	EE	325

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## Notes

1. [Benjamin B. Albritton Family Bible](#) (Pitt County Genealogical Quarterly, Vol. V, No. 2, May 1998, pp. 19–20). The Bible of Rev. Benjamin B. Albritton contained entries for the birth and death of his father:  
*Samuel Albritton was Bornd April the 23 day 1783*
2. For documentation of James Albritton as Samuel's father, see the article:  
[Children of James & Joel, Sons of Peter Albritton Sr.](#)  
 Additional details on the lives of Samuel's father and grandfather are found in these articles:  
[James Albritton's 1784 Purchase on Grindle Creek](#)  
[James Albritton Son of Peter Peter Albritton Sr.](#)
3. Great Swamp Primitive Baptist Church Records, Manuscript Collection #857, East Carolina Manuscript Collection, J. Y. Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC.
4. Red Banks Primitive Baptist Church Minutes (Greenville, NC), Z. Smith Reynolds Library Special Collections and Archives, Wake Forrest University, Winston-Salem, NC (LDS Film #007419989, Image #31). [Benjamin B. Albritton Family Bible](#) (Pitt County Genealogical Quarterly, Vol. V, No. 2, May 1998, pp. 19–20). The Red Banks Church clerk recorded this entry regarding the Albrittons' marriage:  
*1803 Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel Albritton & Tabitha Bell was Married [sic]*  
 The Bible of Rev. Benjamin B. Albritton contained entries for the birth and death of his mother:  
*Tabitha Albritton the wife of Samuel was Born August the 13 1787*  
*Tabitha Albritton Departed this Life August the 24 1865*
5. Jones County GA Will Book B, pp. 393–396 (Will of James Bell, written 6 September 1817, probated 15 April 1822). Pitt County NC Deed Book Q, pp. 59–61 (Commissioners appointed to divide lands of Benjamin Bell, May 1805). James Bell wrote his will in September 1817, when he still lived in Pitt County. He named his sisters Tabitha Albritton and Elizabeth Adams, and brothers William Bell, John Bell, Kinchen Bell, and Benjamin Bell. Taken together with the 1805 land division that identifies William, John, Kinchen, Benjamin, and James as the elder Benjamin Bell's sons, the will of James Bell proves that Tabitha and Elizabeth were daughters of Benjamin Bell, even though they did not receive any of their father's lands in the division. Benjamin Bell died in the early 1790s, but the records do not clearly prove the identity of his wife. In 1800, the household headed by Penelope Bell is not his widow, for records prove that she was the widow of Balaam Bell. For verification of this, see 1800 Pitt County NC Federal Census, p. 285, line #7: Penelope Bell, and Pitt County NC Deed Book AA, pp. 224–225 (Calvin and Susanna Moye to Allen Blount, 4 May 1818). Calvin and Susanna Moye of Greene County North Carolina sell 22½ acres,  
*...it being one fourth part of a tract of land given from William Turnage dec<sup>d</sup> to the four heirs of Balaam Bell dec<sup>d</sup>, excepting & reserving to Penelope Bell wife of the said Balaam Bell dec<sup>d</sup> (now Penelope Deans) the same right given during her natural life.*  
 This proves that Penelope Bell Deans was the widow of Balaam Bell, not of Benjamin Bell.
6. 1790 Pitt County NC Federal Census, p. 454/31, column 2, line #13: Benjamin Bell. "The North-Carolina Journal" (Halifax, NC), 18 May 1795, p. 4, column 1. Benjamin Bell's 1790 household in Pitt County included two males aged 16 or above, five males under sixteen, three females, and sixteen slaves. On 28 April 1795, Benjamin Atkinson, Administrator of the Estate of Benjamin Bell, deceased, advertised an estate sale planned for May 22<sup>nd</sup>, at which he would sell the "dwelling house of the said Benjamin Bell, deceased, all the perishable part of the estate..." This indicates that Benjamin Bell died between 1790 and 1795.
7. Great Swamp Primitive Baptist Church Records, Manuscript Collection #857, East Carolina Manuscript Collection, J. Y. Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC.
8. Red Banks Primitive Baptist Church Minutes (Greenville, NC), Z. Smith Reynolds Library Special Collections and Archives, Wake Forrest University, Winston-Salem, NC (LDS Film #007419989, Images #39, 40).
9. Pitt County NC Deed Book P, p. 120 (James & William Barrow to Jacob Moore, 26 May 1801; witnesses: W<sup>m</sup> Barrow, Samuel Albritton). Samuel appeared in Court a year later, May 1802, and swore that he witnessed the transaction.
10. North Carolina General Assembly Session Records, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, NC, November–December 1805, Box 3, Petition to annex the northern portion of Pitt County to Martin County (petition signed by Samuel Albritton, Allen Moore, Thomas Daniel, and James and Samuel Barrow).
11. North Carolina General Assembly Session Records, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, NC, November 1811–January 1812, Box 3, (1812 Petition against Washington Bridge). "The Raleigh Minerva" (Raleigh, NC), 25 December 1812, p. 3, column 4, #97.
12. Pitt County NC Deed Book AA, pp. 427–429 (Pitt County Commissioners divide lands of Henry Harrington, 8 December 1815). The commissioners included Richard Baldree, Samuel Albritton, and Benjamin Moore.
13. Pitt County NC Deed Book AA, p. 178 (Pitt County Commissioners divide lands of William Kinsal, 20 August 1816). The commissioners included "Wyot Moye," Luke Albritton, Joel Albritton, and Samuel Albritton).

14. Pitt County NC Deed Book EE (incorrectly indexed as Book DD), pp. 209–212 (Pitt Commissioners divide the lands of Thomas Carney, 5 February 1828). The commissioners included Lanier Daniel, James Perkins, Thomas Shivers, Samuel Albritton, and Joel Albritton.
15. Compiled Military Service Record, Samuel Albritton (ensign and major), Pitt County Regiment (Cobb's), North Carolina Militia, War of 1812. North Carolina General Assembly Session Records, Nov–Dec 1814, Box 3, Pitt County Militia Officer election (Lt. Col. Benjamin C. Dupree, 1<sup>st</sup> Major Samuel Vines, 2<sup>nd</sup> Major Samuel Albritton).
16. North Carolina General Assembly Session Records, Nov 1824–Jan 1825, Box 6, Resignations (Samuel Albritton resigned as Major of Pitt County Militia).
17. [James Albritton's 1784 Purchase on Grindle Creek](#). This article presents a complete discussion and documentation that Samuel Albritton's plantation was that purchased by his father in 1784.
18. Secretary of State Records, State Archives of North Carolina, New Bern District Criminal Action Papers, DSCR 206.326.5 (State of North Carolina vs. James Hopkins, 1803). Pitt County NC Deed Book O, p. 469 (Pitt County Commissioners divide lands of "*Peter Albritton, Decd.*" 1 July 1799). The 1803 case involved James Hopkins' alleged theft of a slave, Tony, who belonged to "*Adam Albritton Executor of the last Will & Testament of James Albritton, deceased.*" We presume that the James Albritton who named Adam as his executor was the son of Peter Sr. and father of Samuel, and not Peter's brother (the man modern researchers refer to as James Albritton Jr.). This document does not definitively prove this, as it does not specify precisely *which* James Albritton named Adam as his executor. Evidence indicates that both Peter's brother, James Albritton Jr., and Peter's son, James Albritton, died in the mid-1790s, with the elder man perishing around 1795 and the younger in 1797 or 1798. Peter had acquired a portion of his brother's lands by 1798, when he wrote his own will, suggesting that the estate of James Albritton Jr. had been administered and settled by 1798. On the other hand, Peter's son and Samuel's father, James Albritton, died about 1797 or 1798 leaving five young children. Thus, depending on the guidelines of his will, the settlement of his estate would have continued until his children had reached adulthood. For these reasons, we *presume* that Adam Albritton served as the executor of the will of his brother, James Albritton, rather than of Adam's uncle by that name.
19. Pitt County NC Deed Book O, pp. 335–336 (Adam, Jonathan, and Luke Albritton, Betsy and Gardner Moye, and Mary and Matthew James to Joel Albritton, 22 July 1799).
20. Pitt County NC Deed Book AA, pp. 70–71 (Samuel Albritton, John & Susannah Bowers, Abel & Dorothy Moore, and Allen & Nancy Moore to Joel Albritton, 6 May 1817; witnesses: Luke Albritton, Peter Albritton). This deed provides the sole documentation that Samuel Albritton, Susannah Albritton Bowers (wife of John Bowers), Dorothy Albritton Moore (wife of Abel Moore), and Nancy Albritton Moore (wife of Allen Moore) were children of James Albritton, son of Peter Albritton Sr. The document describes the land as "*the property of Peter Albritton decd.*" but does not mention their precise relationship to him. A comparison of the land description given here with the July 1799 division of the lands of Peter Albritton Sr. verifies that they describe the identical tracts of land. Of the two witnesses, Luke Albritton was clearly the youngest son of Peter Albritton, Sr., and Peter Albritton must be James Albritton's youngest son, as no other man by this name is known to have lived in Pitt County during this period. It is unclear why Peter did not sign the document himself as James Albritton's heir, but rather waited until January 1839 to sell his interest in the land his father inherited. Given that Peter was still a minor in May 1817, the siblings may have believed that the signature of Peter's guardian (probably his older brother, Samuel) would have sufficed. Two decades later, after Peter Albritton had emigrated from Pitt County and settled in Georgia, he sold his interest in the tract belonging to his father to Howell Albritton, son of Joel (Pitt County NC Deed Book II, p. 402).
21. 1810 Pitt County NC Federal Census, p. 240b, line #16: Samuel Albritton. 1820 Pitt County NC Federal Census, p. 509, line #13: Samuel Albritton. 1830 Pitt County NC Federal Census, p. 84, line #26: Samuel Albritton Sr. In 1820, Samuel Albritton's household included three male slaves under fourteen, two males aged 14–26, one male aged 26–45, one female slave under fourteen, and one female slave aged 45 and above. His 1830 household included the same slaves aged ten years older: three male slaves aged 10–24, three male slaves aged, respectively, 24–36, 36–55, and 55–100, one female slave aged 10–24, and one female slave aged 55–100.
22. Pitt County NC Deed Book CC, p. 501 ("*John Bowers Junr*" to Samuel Albritton, 30 December 1821).
23. Briery Swamp Primitive Baptist Church Records (#1016), East Carolina Manuscript Collection, J. Y. Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC. James Albritton is believed to be the son of Jonathan Albritton, the younger brother to James Albritton, father of Samuel.
24. Pitt County NC Deed Book II, p. 149 (Luke Albritton, "*Executor of Samuel Albritton decd.*" to Tabitha Albritton, 9 December 1831).
25. Pitt County NC Deed Book II, p. 362 (Benjamin B. Albritton mortgage to William Clark to secure payment of a note due to Howell Albritton, 7 April 1841). Samuel's son, Benjamin B. Albritton, mortgaged his interest in the named slaves "*as a distribute of Samuel Albritton decd. which said interest is subject to the life Estate of Tabitha Albritton widow [sic] of said Samuel Albritton.*"

26. Pitt County NC Deed Book AA, pp. 54–55 (Thomas Adams mortgage to Adam and Samuel Albritton, 23 December 1817); Deed Book AA, p. 382 (Adam Albritton, Thomas Adams, and Samuel Albritton to Archibald Adams, 7 May 1819).
27. Pitt County NC Deed Book AA, p. 233 (Eldridge Moore to Richard Baldree, Adam Albritton, Samuel Albritton, and Thomas Carney, 2 May 1818).
28. Pitt County NC Deed Book AA, p. 365 (Archibald Adams to Adam and Samuel Albritton, 4 August 1818).
29. Pitt County NC Deed Book FF, p. 338. Deed Book FF disappeared long ago from the Pitt County Courthouse, but the records are still referenced in the Index to Deeds. The entry in the index shows merely Adam and Samuel Albritton selling Lewis Edwards land on the south side of the Tar River. The index does not contain the dates of the transactions, but the bulk of the transactions recorded in Deed Book FF were between the latter 1820s and mid-1830s.
30. Adam and Samuel Albritton sold 180 acres of the Archibald Adams land on 26 February 1827 for \$450, but there is no record of their disposing of the remaining 120 acres of Archibald Adams' 300-acre plantation (see Pitt County Deed Book EE, pp. 411–413 [incorrectly indexed as Book DD]).
31. Pitt County NC Deed Book BB, pp. 52–53 (Jordan Anderson to Adam and Samuel Albritton, 27 September 1819); Deed Book BB, pp. 85–86 (Adam and Samuel Albritton to Robert P. Gwattney, 2 November 1819).
32. Pitt County NC Deed Book BB, pp. 265–266 (Bond of Nelson James as Guardian of Heirs of Miller James, 21 February 1821).
33. Pitt County NC Deed Book CC, p. 413 (Nelson James to Adam and Samuel Albritton, 8 January 1822; witnesses: L. Hatton, Joel Albritton); Deed Book CC, p. 418 (Nelson James to Adam and Samuel Albritton, 8 January 1822; witnesses: L. Hatton, Joel Albritton). On the same day, Nelson James sold a 100-acre tract of land to Adam and Samuel Albritton for \$900 (p. 413), and a 94-acre tract of land for \$35 (p. 418).
34. Pitt County NC Deed Book CC, pp. 99–100 (Adam and Samuel Albritton, John S. Easton, and John and Sally Hardee, 27 August 1822; witnesses: Luke Albritton, Hardee Smith).
35. Pitt County NC Deed Book CC, pp. 523–524 (Lewis Hatton mortgages to Luke Albritton to indemnify Adam and Samuel Albritton, 29 January 1824); Deed Book DD, pp. 155–156 (Luke Albritton and Lewis Hatton to Thomas Langley, 20 August 1824; witnesses: Samuel Albritton, Clifton James). Luke Albritton sold the 120-acre and the 70-acre tracts of land that Hatton had mortgaged to Samuel and Adam Albritton the previous January. Clifton James was Samuel Albritton's first cousin, the son of Mary James Albritton, sister to Samuel's father, James, and to Adam Albritton.
36. Pitt County NC Deed Book EE (incorrectly indexed as Book DD), pp. 435–436 (Adam Albritton to William Clark to indemnify Walter Hanrahan, 25 May 1829).
37. Pitt County NC Deed Book DD, pp. 348–349 (Samuel Stone to Samuel Albritton, 28 August 1826).
38. Pitt County NC Deed Book EE (incorrectly indexed as Book DD), pp. 411–413 (Adam and Samuel Albritton, William Little, and Ellen James, wife of Allen James, 26 February 1827).
39. Pitt County NC Deed Book EE (incorrectly indexed as Book DD), p. 391 (William Little to Godfrey Stancill, 6 February 1829); Deed Book EE (incorrectly indexed as Book DD), pp. 391–392 (Ellender James to William Little, 6 February 1829). In one document, Ellender James authorizes William Little to handle the money obtained from the sale of her land via the trust from Adam and Samuel Albritton in the subsequent sale of her 180-acre tract to Godfrey Stancill.
40. Pitt County NC Deed Book FF, p. 364 (Samuel Albritton to Allen Moore, land on "*Pocosin*"). Deed Book FF disappeared long ago from the Pitt County Courthouse, but the transactions recorded in it are still referenced in the Index to Deeds. The index merely gives the names of the grantors/grantees, the page number of Book FF on which the transaction was recorded, and the water course that drained the land sold. It does not give the dates of each individual deed referenced, but most occurred in the latter 1820s or early 1830s.
41. [Benjamin B. Albritton Family Bible](#) (Pitt County Genealogical Quarterly, Vol. V, No. 2, May 1998, pp. 19–20). The Bible of Rev. Benjamin B. Albritton records this entry: "*Samuel Albritton Departed this Life August the 27 day 1831.*"
42. Pitt County NC Deed Book II, p. 149 (Luke Albritton, "*Executor of Samuel Albritton decd.*" to Tabitha Albritton, 9 December 1831). This is book "*double I*" (as in the alphabetic letter following "H," not eleven).
43. Pitt County NC Deed Book HH, p. 481 (Benjamin B. Albritton to Robert Hatton, 28 April 1838); Deed Book II, p. 293 (Robert Hatton to Howell Albritton, 8 February 1839); Deed Book II, 362 (Benjamin B. Albritton mortgage to William Clark to secure payment to Howell Albritton, 7 April 1841); Deed Book KK, p. 38 (Howell Albritton to John S. Daniel, 8 February 1842). On 8 February 1839, Robert Hatton, the father of Samuel's daughter-in-law, Catherine Hatton Albritton, sold Howell Albritton the interest that Benjamin B. Albritton had in 150 acres  
*...of the lands whereon Samuel Albritton Lived and died on and it being the undivided share that Benj<sup>a</sup> B. Albritton was in title [sic-entitled] to by the will of his father...and the undivided piece or parcel of lands descended by Will to James B. Albritton & Benj<sup>a</sup> B. Albritton and is at this time undivided...*

On 7 April 1841, Benjamin B. Albritton mortgaged to William Clark



*...all my right title and interest in the following negro slaves vizt. one negro man Miles, Marina, Smithy, Faribee, Adaline, boy Miles and Harriot and Reddick which said interest descended to the said Benjamin B. Albritton as a distribute of Samuel Albritton decd. which said interest is subject to the life Estate of Tabitha Albritton widdow [sic] of said Samuel Albritton...*

By 8 February 1842, Howell Albritton had obtained the interest of James B. Albritton in Samuel's lands, and he sold the 300-acres to John S. Daniel, described as

*...the Lands whereon Samuel Albritton lived and died on and that Tabitha Albritton have a life estate in a part of it given to her in the Last Will and Testament of the said Samuel Albritton decd...*

44. Jones County GA Will Book B, pp. 393–396 (Will of James Bell, written 6 September 1817, probated 15 April 1822).
45. 1840 Pitt County NC Federal Census, p. 382, line #29: Tabithy Albritton; #30: Calvin Moye. The slaves living in Tabitha's 1840 household included one male aged between thirty-six and fifty-five years, one female aged between fourteen and twenty-six years, and five females under fourteen years of age. Of these, three were engaged in agriculture.
46. Pitt County NC Deed Book LL, pp. 238–239 (Tabitha Albritton to John S. Daniel, 24 January 1846). Tabitha sold a 200-acre tract of land "*known as the Samuel Albritton tract or a part thereof.*"
47. 1850 Pitt County NC Federal Census, p. 57b, Household #933: Tabitha Albritton; pp. 60a–60b, Household #974: Tabitha Albritton. The 1850 census enumerator either visited Tabitha's household twice or otherwise obtained duplicate information on it.
48. 1860 Pitt County NC Federal Census, P.O. Greenville, pp. 31a/62–31b/63, Household #580: Henry Harrington. His household included "*Tibitha Harrington,*" aged 75, but this is undoubtedly Tabitha Albritton, with the census enumerator erring when he recorded her surname.
49. 1850 Pitt County NC Federal Census, Slave Schedule, Falkland District, p. 449, line #17: Tobitha Albritton; Parkers District, p. 525, line #41: Tabitha Albritton. 1860 Pitt County NC Federal Census, Slave Schedule, p. 520b/30, line #18: Tobitha Albritton.
50. [Pitt County NC Wills & Testaments Book 1, pp. 128–129](#) (Will of Tabitha Albritton, written 8 April 1857, probated November 1865).
51. [Benjamin B. Albritton Family Bible](#) (Pitt County Genealogical Quarterly, Vol. V, No. 2, May 1998, pp. 19–20).
52. [Pitt County NC Estate Files, Tabitha \(Tobitha\) Albritton, 1865, LDS Film #7384012, Images #744–748](#). Benjamin B. Albritton qualified as Tabitha's executor at the November 1865 Term of Pitt County Court.
53. Albritton, Bobby G. [Albrittons of the Second Millennium](#), Revised ed. Alpharetta, GA: Balbritt, 2004, pp. 65, 123–124. Despite having access to both the Benjamin B. Albritton family Bible and Pitt County deeds, Mr. Bobby G. Albritton makes totally inaccurate and undocumented statements about Samuel Albritton and his family, including fallacious statements regarding Samuel's parentage and the names of his children. In particular, Mr. Albritton inexplicably lists Matthew Albritton, born about 1805, as a son of Samuel and Tabitha. The documentary evidence given here clearly shows that Samuel and Tabitha only had two sons to survive early childhood, James B. and Benjamin B. Albritton. While the 1840 Pitt County household headed by Matthew Albritton causes confusion, Mr. Albritton's claim that Matthew was Samuel and Tabitha's son contradicts all known documentation, information preserved in the Benjamin B. Albritton Bible and Pitt County deed records.

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