Hannah Elliott
(c1784–1859)

of

Perquimans County, North Carolina,

Portsmouth, Virginia, &

Lowndes, Autauga, & Butler Counties, Alabama

Daughter of Dempsey Elliott & Rachel Smith

Wife of Willis Roberts, David Higginbotham, Elijah Ivey, & James Seale

by Timothy Dean Hudson

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Introduction

Hannah Elliott was born about 1784 in North Carolina [1]. Her later life in south-central Alabama is relatively well documented, including marriages to Elijah Ivey and James Seale. The currently identified evidence confirms she had one son, Alfred Roberts (c1806–29 Nov 1850), who predeceased her without leaving heirs [2].

Despite these documented facts, Hannah's origins and family relationships remain difficult to reconstruct because of significant gaps in the surviving records. However, a careful analysis of indirect evidence reveals kinship networks, migration patterns, and marital transitions that clarify her family connections and personal circumstances. Hannah Elliott's story demonstrates how indirect evidence can illuminate the experiences of widowed women in the early American South.

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Family Background in Perquimans County, North Carolina

Evidence from guardianship records, estate files, census enumerations, and later Alabama records indicates that Hannah was the daughter of Dempsey Elliott and Rachel Smith, a Quaker couple who obtained a marriage bond in Perquimans County, North Carolina on 17 February 1780 [1]. Dempsey died about 1805, and although Perquimans County has not suffered a significant records loss, a document identifying all of his heirs is not available.

The absence of direct evidence naming Hannah's parents necessitates reliance on indirect evidence to identify her place within the Elliott family.

At Hannah's death in 1859, she had no surviving children and her *"heirs at law"* were collateral relatives: Foster Elliott of Iowa, Dempsey Elliott of Bastrop, Morehouse Parish, Louisiana, and *"Margaret Wife of ____ Smith who lives in Portsmouth in the State of Virginia"* [2]. Federal census enumerations show that Dempsey was born about 1802, and Margaret was born about 1798–1801, the wife of James T. Smith, a carpenter [3]. Margaret Elliott had married James Smith in Perquimans County in 1824 [4].

Perquimans guardianship records prove that the younger Dempsey and Margaret were siblings, both children of Dempsey Elliott and Rachel Smith. These records also show that Foster Elliott served as the administrator of Frederick Elliott, another son of Dempsey and Rachel who died in 1825 [5]. Foster was older than Dempsey Jr. and Margaret, with his tombstone in Polk County, Iowa placing his birth in 1787 [6].

On 10 January 1806, Hannah Elliott married Willis Roberts in Perquimans County, North Carolina [7]. Two years later, on 11 August 1808, the Perquimans Court apprenticed Vachel Elliott *"orphan of Demsey Elliott Desc^{d}"* to Willis Roberts until Vachel reached the age of twenty-one. The Court ordered Vachel to *"behave his s^{d} master"* and charged Willis to *"teach and instruct or cause to be instructed the s^{d} Vachel Elliott in the Art & Mystery of a Taylor"* [8]. The apprenticeship is significant because it placed Vachel, an acknowledged son of Dempsey Elliott, in the household of Willis Roberts, Hannah's husband, thereby connecting Hannah with another proven child of Dempsey and Rachel.

Taken together, these North Carolina and Alabama records establish a consistent kinship pattern indicating that Dempsey Jr., Margaret, Frederick, Vachel, Foster, and Hannah were siblings and the children of Dempsey Elliott and Rachel Smith.

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Married Life in North Carolina & Virginia

Little is known about Hannah's husband, Willis Roberts, reflecting the sparse documentation available for non-landholding men in early nineteenth-century Perquimans County. On 29 May 1809, Willis made several purchases at the estate sale of Hannah's grandmother, Hannah Elliott, the widow of Joseph Elliott who had died in 1788 [1].

The 1810 census enumeration of Willis's household includes a young male of Alfred's age, together with a young female who may have been a daughter who died young. The household also contains a male aged ten to sixteen, likely Hannah's brother Vachel Elliott, who had been apprenticed to Willis in 1808. The household composition supports the kinship analysis outlined in the previous chapter [2].

There are no later records of Willis Roberts in Perquimans County, North Carolina, although a man by that name did serve in the North Carolina Militia during the War of 1812 [3]. The available evidence does not reveal whether Willis died young in Perquimans County, or if Hannah and Willis migrated elsewhere prior to his death.

This evidentiary void, common among landless families in the early nineteenth century, creates a two-decade gap in Hannah's life beginning in 1810. The surviving records provide no evidence of Hannah's whereabouts until the latter 1820s.

Hannah reemerges in Portsmouth, Norfolk County, Virginia on 3 January 1829, when she married David Higginbotham (1770/1780–late 1834/Jan 1835). Her brother-in-law, James T. Smith, served as Higginbotham's security on the marriage bond [4]. How long Hannah had lived in Portsmouth before marrying Higginbotham remains unknown.

David Higginbotham had previously married Patsy, and they had one surviving child, William Francis Higginbotham (1825–24 Mar 1889) [5]. The 1830 census of David's Portsmouth household reflects their blended family, with young males in the age brackets of both Hannah's son Alfred and David's son William. There is also a young female aged between five and ten years who may have been one of their daughters [6].

David Higginbotham died sometime between late 1834 and mid-January 1835. On 19 January 1835, Hannah relinquished her right to administer his estate in favor of James M. Binford. She again appeared before the Court on 17 August 1835 and filed an account for the support of her stepson [7]. Hannah purchased several modest household furnishings and utensils at Higginbotham's estate sale, including a bed for $1.00, bedstead for $1.25, a *"Beaureau"* for $4.75, table @ 75¢, *"Cubboard"* @ $1.50, six *"flag chairs"* for $1.00, and an oven for $1.00 [8].

Hannah may have remained in Portsmouth into 1836, but her care of her stepson William F. Higginbotham apparently ended by February 1837, when the Court appointed William Higginbotham, presumably David's brother, as the boy's guardian [9]. Soon afterward, Hannah permanently disappears from records along the eastern seaboard and next appears in Alabama.

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Migration to Alabama

With her second husband deceased and her stepson assigned a new guardian, family ties likely prompted Hannah to join her son Alfred in Lowndes County, located in southern Alabama's Black Belt. He had migrated there by December 1832, when he paid $350 for a half-acre lot in the *"Town of Lowndesborough"*—now Lowndesboro. He settled in the village, and over the next decade, he made additional purchases of town lots in both Lowndesboro and nearby Hayneville [1].

In July 1835, Alfred Roberts purchased a tract of vacant public land in the nearby countryside and sold it the following year to Samuel Ivey, a son of Elijah Ivey [2]. Although Alfred's relationship to the Iveys is unclear, this demonstrates that he was already interacting with them soon after his arrival in Lowndes County. Upon her arrival in south-central Alabama, Hannah entered a community that included members of the Ivey and Seale families, long-standing family networks that shaped the rest of her life.

Hannah married Elijah Ivey (c1754–26 Jan 1840) in Lowndes County on 19 December 1839 [3]. At their marriage, Hannah was about fifty-five and Elijah about eighty-five.

Apparently a South Carolina native [4], Elijah Ivey served in the South Carolina militia during the Revolutionary War [5]. Ivey later spent several decades in Fairfield District, living there from the 1790s until the mid-1820s [6].

While in South Carolina, Ivey was well acquainted with James Seale (13 Feb 1769–4 Feb 1860). In May 1791, James Seale bought several kitchen utensils at the estate sale of Henry and Nancy Ivey, possibly Elijah's parents [7]. On 2 November 1804, Elijah Ivey bought a 275-acre tract of land in Fairfield that adjoined property of James Seale, and they remained neighbors for the next seventeen years [8]. Hannah's marriage to Elijah Ivey placed her within this long-standing Ivey–Seale neighborhood network, a social context that may help explain her later marriage to James Seale.

Elijah Ivey continued to reside in Fairfield District through the mid-1820s. In August 1824, he sold a 240-acre tract of land. He remained there for another year, for his wife, Susannah, relinquished her dower rights to that property on 3 December 1825 [9]. Ivey then moved to Alabama and settled in the area that became Lowndes County upon its creation in 1830 [10].

Elijah Ivey's wife died soon after 1825, and he married twice more over the next decade. By the time he signed his will on 17 October 1839, he was again a widower, as the will made no mention of his spouse [11]. He and Hannah married two months after he signed his will.

Elijah Ivey died on 26 January 1840, just six weeks after their marriage–*"his death having been occasioned by a fall from a horse"* [12]. It does not appear that Hannah received any portion of his estate.

Hannah's son Alfred Roberts appears to have moved from Lowndesboro to Hayneville in the 1830s. He had married Elizabeth L. in the early 1830s, and in 1840, Roberts' household included an older and younger female—presumably the widowed Hannah and Elizabeth. It also included three young men in their twenties, possibly an indication that Alfred operated a business on his town lots in Hayneville [13].

On 26 January 1842, Hannah married James Seale in Lowndes County, Alabama [14]. Soon afterward, she left Lowndes and joined Seale on his farm in nearby Autauga County.

While Hannah established a new household with James Seale in Autauga County, her son Alfred and daughter-in-law Elizabeth pursued opportunities farther west in Louisiana. By the mid-1840s, they had settled in Union Parish, Louisiana, the same location where five of James Seale's children had also settled. Alfred and Elizabeth's small household was enumerated there on 23 August 1850 and included their only surviving daughter, Louisa, born about 1847 [15].

Tragedy struck later that year when Alfred died on 29 November 1850 *"after a lingering illness of eight months"* [16]. Louisa also died that fall between August and December [17].

Elizabeth L. Roberts acted promptly to settle her husband's affairs. She petitioned the Union Parish District Court regarding Alfred's death on 23 December 1850, and they ordered an inventory of his estate. When filed on December 30th, it indicated that Roberts had made improvements on public land valued at $150, but he had not yet purchased the land from the government [18]. To secure their investment, on 21 January 1851 Elizabeth traveled to nearby Monroe, Louisiana and paid $50.50 in cash for a 40.4-acre tract of land located about ten miles northeast of Farmerville, Louisiana [19].

The District Court appointed Elizabeth as the administratrix of Alfred's estate, and she held a sale of his property on 8 February 1851. However, on March 26th, she gave her power of attorney to local lawyer Isaac A. R. Vanhook to act as her agent in finalizing her husband's estate. Vanhook completed his work in a few weeks, and the District Court accepted her final account on 12 April 1851 [20].

The probate proceedings did not account for Hannah's surviving inheritance rights as Alfred's mother, which gave her a legal claim to half of his estate. On 5 May 1851, Hannah and James Seale *"…have this day for and in consideration of many Good reasons and causes…"* gave [21]:

> *…to our beloved Child Elizabeth L. Roberts of Union Parish Louisiana all our write* [sic] *title and Interest in and to Alfred Roberts Estate late deceased in Union Parish Louisiana to her owne* [sic] *use and benefit…*

Soon afterward, Elizabeth joined her mother-in-law in Butler County, Alabama. On 11 November 1853, her attorney Isaac A. R. Vanhook sold her a 40-acres tract of land that adjoined her existing property in Union Parish [22]. The transaction was probably made to secure the improvements Alfred had made on public land there prior to his death. Elizabeth apparently later disposed of the property, for she spent the remainder of her life in Alabama.

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Final Years at Butler Springs, Alabama

Hannah and James Seale remained on their Autauga County farm until late 1851 or 1852, when they moved to Butler County to live near his three sons. James Seale prepared and signed his will soon after their arrival. According to their marriage contract, he and Hannah acquired no community property, leaving them each free to dispose of their individual assets as they chose. James's 1853 will made no mention of Hannah [1].

She did not prepare her will until 26 October 1857, when she stated:

> *…I Hannah Seale a wife of James Seale Senr for and in consideration of the sum of five dollars to me in hand paid by Elizabeth L. Roberts the Daughter in law of the said Hannah Seale and for and in consideration of the natural Love and affection of the said Hannah Seale for the said Elizabeth L. Roberts…have this day given granted and by these presents do give grant bargain sell transfer and convey until the said Elizabeth L. Roberts all of the separate* [sic] *Estate of the said Hannah Seale which was secured to her by marriage contract with the said James Seale…*

Elizabeth was Hannah's only legatee [2].

Three months after Hannah made her will, on 28 January 1858, Elizabeth married Richard H. Williams [3]. Williams was a mechanic and carpenter, and he and Elizabeth settled in Lowndes County near Hayneville [4].

Hannah Seale died on Valentine's Day, 1859 [5]. The next day, Thomas Mitchell Griffin Traweek, a wheelwright of Monterey—a small community located near Butler Springs—charged James Seale $15 for building a *"pine coffen & case,"* almost certainly for Hannah's body [6]. Also on February 15th, Monterey merchant Jonathan Miles Yeldell charged the account of James Seale $8.30 for thirteen yards of woven fabrics and eight yards of ribbon, including:

- 5 yards of *"Alpacca"* – a fine fabric commonly used for women's dresses and mourning attire.
- 6 yards of *"Bleaching"* – a bleached white cotton cloth often used for undergarments and household linens.
- 2 yards of *"Sea Island"* – a high-quality cotton fabric.

These fabrics and ribbon were probably used to make Hannah's funeral dress [7].

On 16 May 1859, Richard H. Williams filed Hannah's will with the Butler County Probate Court, which appointed him as the administrator of her estate since she had not herself appointed an executor. He had an inventory and appraisal completed of Hannah's very modest property, which consisted primarily of furniture valued at $60 [8].

Elizabeth died in Lowndes County between 1860 and 1870, bringing the documented story of Hannah's final heir to a close [9].

Hannah Elliott's story stretched from Perquimans County and Portsmouth on the eastern seaboard to the Black Belt of southern Alabama. It illustrates how women with limited property rights relied on kinship networks, migration, and remarriage to adapt to changing circumstances during the early American republic.

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Notes

Introduction

1. 1850 Autauga County AL Federal Census, *"Pine Flatt Beat,"* p. 48b, Dwelling #710, line #9: *"Hannah Seals"* – age: 66; born: *"N.C."*
2. Evidence that Hannah was the mother of Alfred Roberts comes from these three documents:
   Union Parish LA Succession Book H-1 (1850–1852), pp. 18–25: Succession of Alfred Roberts, petition filed 23 December 1850: *"The petition of Elizabeth L. Roberts of the Parish of Union…represents unto your honor that Alfred Roberts of the said Parish departed this life about the 29th day of November 1850 leaving at his death no descendants nor collateral relatives. Your petitioner his wife being the only surviving heir…"*
   Autauga County AL Deed Book Volume 11/DF, p. 74: *"James Seals and Hannah Seals his wife…in consideration of many Good reasons and causes"* gave *"to our beloved Child Elizabeth L. Roberts…all our write* [sic] *title and Interest in and to Alfred Roberts Estate late deceased…,"* 5 May 1851.
   Butler County AL Will Book 1, pp. 126–128; Butler County AL Estate Files, LDS Film #7651368, Images #580–583: Will of Hannah Seale *"a wife of James Seale Senr,"* signed 26 October 1857. Hannah's only legatee was *"Elizabeth L. Roberts the Daughter in law of the said Hannah Seale."*

Family Background in Perquimans County, North Carolina

1. Perquimans County NC Original Marriage Bonds, LDS Film #5355864, Images #860–861: *"Demey Elliott"* to Rachel Smith, 17 February 1780. Perquimans County NC Marriage Bonds, p. 27; LDS Film #7718509, Image #17: *"Demey Elliott"* to Rachel Smith, 17 February 1780.
2. Buter County AL Estate Record Book 3, pp. 355–356: Estate of Hannah Seale, filed 16 May 1859.
3. The federal census enumerations were:
   1850 Norfolk County VA, Portsmouth, p. 169a, Dwelling #691, lines:
   #24: James T. Smith–age: 49; occupation: Carpenter; birthplace: Virginia
   #25: Margaret Smith–age: 52; birthplace: North Carolina
   1850 Morehouse Parish LA, *"Wards No3 & 4,"* p. 407a, Dwelling #262, line #38: Dempsey Elliott–age: 48; occupation: *"Tailor;"* birthplace: *"N.C."*
   1860 Portsmouth City, Virginia, Jefferson Ward, p. 244/107, Dwelling #884, lines:
   #10: James T. Smith–age: 54; occupation: *"Carpt;"* birthplace: *"Va"*
   #11: *"Margt Smith"*–age: 57; birthplace: *"NC"*
   1860 Morehouse Parish LA, Bastrop, p. 326/2, Dwelling #11, line #2: *"Dumsey Elliott"*–age: 56; occupation: *"Taylor;"* occupation: *"La."*
   1870 Morehouse Parish LA, *"Town of Bastrop Ward 4,"* p. 227b, Dwelling #29, line #13: *"Dempsy Elliot"*–age; 68; occupation: *"Tailor;"* birthplace: *"North Carolina"*
   Portsmouth lay in Norfolk County, Virginia until 1 March 1858, when it was separated from the county government and chartered as an independent city. Norfolk County lies in Virginia's the southeastern tip, putting it in proximity to Perquimans County, North Carolina
4. Perquimans County NC Marriage Bonds, LDS #5355865, Images #240–241: James Smith to *"Margrett"* Elliott, 29 May 1824. Perquimans County NC Marriage Bonds, p. 27; LDS Film #7718509, Image #52: James Smith to *"Margrett"* Elliott, 29 May 1824.
5. Virginia Death Register (1853–1896), LDS Film #4225417, Image #592, year ending 31 December 1868, deaths in Portsmouth, VA: #132: *"Margaret A. Smith;"* died 5 July 1868; white female; cause of death: Consumption; age: 67; parents: *"Dempsey & Rachel Elliott."* Birthplace: *"Perquimmones County NC;"* spouse: James T. Smith; informant: Margaret A. Williams, daughter. Perquimans County NC Probate Case Files, LDS Film #7383967:
   #157: Bond of Thomas Harrell as guardian of *"Frederick Elliott"* orphan of *"Demsy Elliott,"* 13 February 1816
   #159: Bond of Thomas Harrell as guardian of *"Margret Elliott"* orphan of *"Demsy Elliott,"* 13 February 1816
   #161: Bond of Thomas Harrell as guardian of *"Demsy Elliott"* orphan of *"Demsy Elliott,"* 13 February 1816
   #219: Account of Foster Elliott, administrator of the Estate of Frederick Elliott, deceased, February 1826
   #226: Bond of Foster Elliott as administrator of the Estate of Frederick Elliott, 8 August 1825.
6. Greenwood Friends Cemetery (Douglas Township, Polk County IA), tombstone of *"Foster Elliott"* (12 Oct 1787–2 Oct 1865), Section O, Row 8, Lot 14.
7. Perquimans County NC Marriage Bonds, LDS Film #102471847, Images #947–948: Willis Roberts to Hannah Elliott, 10 January 1806. Perquimans County NC Marriage Abstracts To 1868, LDS Film #102471845, image #95: Willis Roberts to Hannah Elliott, 10 January 1806.
8. Perquimans County NC Apprentice Bonds and Records, LDS Film #7641015, Image #1493–1494: Apprentice Bond of Vachel Elliott *"orphan of Demsey Elliott Desca"* to Willis Roberts, 11 August 1808.

Married Life in North Carolina & Virginia

1. Perquimans County NC Will Book C (1762–1794), pp. 374–376: Will of Joseph Elliott, signed 16 February 1785, filed April 1788 with Perquimans County Court. Perquimans County NC Inventory & Account of Sales (1809–1833), pp. 2–3: *"Account of Sales of The Estate of Hannah Elliott Decs^d on the 29th of May 1809."* Joseph Elliott named his wife, Hannah, and son, Dempsey. The purchasers at Hannah Elliott's estate sale in 1809 included Willis Roberts, Foster Elliott, and Rachel Elliott, Hannah's mother.
2. 1810 Perquimans County NC Federal Census, p. 964, line #15: Willis Roberts.
3. Compiled Military Service Record, Willis Roberts, private, 5 Regiment (Atkinson's), North Carolina Militia, War of 1812.
4. Norfolk County VA Marriage Bonds (1824–1829), p. 218; LDS Film #7724889, Image #233: David Higginbotham bond to marry *"Mrs. Hannah Roberts a widow,"* 3 January 1829; security: James T. Smith. Norfolk County VA Marriage Records (1706–1850), p. 154; LDS Film #7718492, Image #160: David Higginbotham to *"Mrs. Hannah Roberts (widow),"* 3 January 1829.
5. Norfolk County, Virginia Marriage Records, William F. Higginbotham to Mary Frances Lee, 28 July 1864; groom's parents; David & Patsy Higginbotham.
6. 1830 Norfolk County VA Federal Census, Portsmouth, p. 343a, line #23: David Higginbotham.
7. Norfolk County VA Minute Book 25 (1835–1837):
   - p. 1: *"At a Court held for Norfolk County on the e19th day of January 1835."*
   - p. 2; *"Hannah Higginbotham by her note in writing having relinquished her right to administer on the estate of her decd. Husband David Higginbotham in favor of Jas. M. Binford…"*
   - p. 87: *"At a quarterly session Court begun and held for the County of Norfolk at the Courthouse on the 17 August 1835."*
   - p. 88: Audit of David Higginbotham estate filed. Also, the account of *"Hannah Higginbotham agt. of the estate of D. Higginbotham for support of Francis Higginbotham son of sd. D. Higginbotham amtg to $37.00."* The court ordered the account paid by the administrator out of funds in his hands.
8. Norfolk County VA Appraisements Book 6 (1830–1836), p. 186: Appraisement of Estate of David Higginbotham, 26 January 1835; *"Account Sales of the Estate of David Higginbotham Decd.,"* filed with Norfolk County Court on 18 August 1835. The actual date of the estate sale was not given.
9. Norfolk County VA Guardians Bonds (1835–1840), p. 42: William Higginbotham guardian of *"Wm Francis Higginbotham orphan of David Higginbotham,"* 20 February 1837; security: Samuel Higginbotham.

Migration to Alabama

1. The land transactions of Alfred Roberts come from these Lowndes County, Alabama deed books:
   - Deed Book 1 (1830–1834), p. 283: Nathan Fields to Alfred Roberts, 25 December 1832. Roberts buys a half-acre lot in the *"Town of Lowndesborough."*
   - Deed Book 1 (1830–1834), p. 360: Alfred Roberts to Rachael Coleman, 29 October 1833. On the same day, Elizabeth L. Roberts, wife of Alfred Roberts, relinquished her dower rights in the lot he had bought the previous year.
   - Deed Book 2 (1834–1837), p. 521: Alfred Roberts to John B. Lampkin, 15 September 1836. On the same day, Elizabeth L. Roberts, wife of Alfred Roberts, appeared before the county clerk to relinquish her dower rights. The Roberts sold town lots consisting of two acres, including *"the Dwelling House Now Occupied by Said Alfred Roberts, his Stables, Well, out Houses,…"*
   - Deed Book 2 (1834–1837), p. 537: George Gorhan to Alfred Roberts, 11 May 1835. Roberts bought lots in the town of Hayneville consisting of four acres.
   - Deed Book 2 (1834–1837), p. 556: Commissioners sell land to Alfred Roberts, 21 June 1836. Roberts bought 9.29 acres of town lots.
2. Cahaba, Alabama Cash Entry #23277: Alfred Roberts, 27 July 1835, W½ of SW¼ of Section 33, Townships 13, Range 16, 80.07½ acres @ $1.25/acre; cash payment: $100.09. Lowndes County AL Deed Book 2 (1834–1837), pp. 558–559: Alfred Roberts to Samuel Ivey, 24 October 1836. On this day, Elizabeth L. Roberts, wife of Alfred Roberts, appeared before the county clerk to relinquish her dower rights in the land.
3. Lowndes County AL Marriage Book 1, p. 278: Elijah Ivey to *"Hannah Haginbottom,"* 19 December 1839.
4. *"The Alabamian"* (Hayneville, AL), 13 February 1840. This paper published an obituary of Elijah Ivey: *"Died in the vicinity of this place, on the 26th January last, Mr. Elijah Ivey, an old and respectable citizen in the 84th year of his age. Mr. Ivey was a native of South Carolina from whence he emigrated about fourteen years ago…"* Although this article states he was a South Carolina native, numerous modern researchers claim without documentation that he was a native of England and immigrated to the colonies prior to the Revolutionary War. Without evidence to support them, these claims are questionable.
5. Revolutionary War Pension Application #S15188, Elijah Ivey, South Carolina.

6. Elijah Ivey's South Carolina residence during this era is documented by these federal census enumerations:
   1790 Orangeburg District SC, p. 395, line #33: *"Elijah Ivy"*
   1800 Fairfield District SC, p. 29, line #4: *"Elijah Ivy"*
   1810 Fairfield District SC, p. 181a, line #14: *"Elijah Ivy"*
   1820 Fairfield District SC, p. 149a/43, line #31: *"Elijah Ivey"*
7. Fairfield County SC Will Book 1 (1787–1792), p. 106: Estate Sale of Henry and Nancy Ivey, 19 May 1791. James *"Seal"* bought *"forks," "ladle & Iron,"* and a *"Frying pan"* at the estate sale. James's uncle, Thomas Muse, served as the administrator of the estate, and James's step grandfather, John Morrison, served as one of the appraisers.
8. Fairfield County SC Deed Book P (1804–1806), p. 288–289: Burnell Almond to Elijah *"Ivy,"* 2 November 180[-]; witness affidavit dated 29 March 1805. The last digit of the year is illegible, and it could have been made in any of the years 1801–1804, since Ford sold the 25 acres to James Seale in November 1800. It was likely dated 1804.
9. Fairfield County SC Deed Book GG (1825–1826), pp. 210–212: Elijah Ivey to James E. and Charles G. Graham, all residents of Fairfield District, South Carolina, 9 August 1824; Susannah Ivey relinquished her dower right in the land on 3 December 1825.
10. Revolutionary War Pension Application #S15188, Elijah Ivey, South Carolina. A sworn statement made 10 September 1836: Elijah Ivey *"now resides in Lowndes County Alabama and has resided there for the space of Ten years past; and that previous thereto he resided in Fairfield District S^{o} Carolina."*
11. Lowndes County AL Will Book B, pp. 78–80: Will of Elijah Ivey, signed 17 October 1839, filed with the Lowndes County Court on 3 February 1840.
12. *"The Alabamian"* (Hayneville, AL), 13 February 1840. Revolutionary War Pension Application #S15188, Elijah Ivey, South Carolina. Samuel Ivey made an affidavit on 23 April 1857 in which he stated that *"Elijah Ivey died in 1839 or early 1840, his death having been occasioned by a fall from a horse…"*
13. 1840 Lowndes County AL Federal Census, p. 226, line #28: A. Roberts. The only other white person in the household was a young female between ten and fifteen years. The lack of any young children matches the documented family structure of Alfred and Elizabeth L. Roberts. At his death in 1850, he had no surviving children.
14. Lowndes County AL Marriage Index, Loose Marriages (1840–1842); LDS Film #4254843, Images 112, 166: James Seale to Hannah Ivey, 26 January 1842. These marriages were not recorded in the regular marriage books, but the original marriage licenses were found in the old files in the courthouse in the spring of 1906.
15. 1850 Union Parish LA Federal Census, p. 369a, Dwelling #276, lines:
    #27: *"Alfred Robards"*–age; 45; occupation: Farmer; real estate: $250; birthplace: *"N.C."*
    #28: *"Elizabeth Robards"*–age: 36; birthplace: *"S.C."*
    #39: *"Louisa Robards"*–age: 3; birthplace: *"La"*
16. *"The Lowndes County Chronicle"* (Hayneville, AL), 13 February 1851, p. 2, column 1. The obituary states: *"Died, in Union parish, La., on the 29th of November last, after a lingering illness of eight months, ALFRED ROBERTS, formerly a resident of this town, aged about 4*[-] *years."* The last digit of his age is not clear. It appears to have been *"48,"* but it could have been *"40"* or *"43."*
17. Union Par LA Succession Book H–1 (1850–1852), pp. 18–25: Succession of Alfred Roberts, filed 23 December 1850. Elizabeth L. Roberts petitioned the Union Parish District Court regarding the death of her husband: *"Alfred Roberts of the said Parish departed this life about the 29th day of November 1850 leaving at his death no decendants nor collateral relatives Your petitioner his wife being the only surviving heir."* This proves that Louisa Roberts died between August and December 1850.
18. Union Parish LA Succession Book H–1 (1850–1852), pp. 18–19: Succession of Alfred Roberts, petition filed 23 December 1850; inventory completed 30 December 1850.
19. Monroe, Louisiana Cash Entry #11164, Elizabeth Roberts, 21 January 1851, 40.4 acres @ $1.25/acre, cash payment: $50.50; SW ¼ of SE ¼, Section 10, Township 21 North, Range 2 East.
20. Union Parish LA Succession Book H–1 (1850–1852), pp. 20–25: Succession of Alfred Roberts, Union Parish District Court appoints Elizabeth L. Roberts as administratrix of the estate, 15 January 1851; final account submitted and Elizabeth L. Roberts discharged as administratrix, 12 April 1851. Union Parish LA Conveyance Record D, pp. 373–374: Elizabeth L. Roberts gives power of attorney to Isaac A. R. Vanhook to act as her agent to settle the affairs of the estate of her husband, Alfred Roberts, 26 March 1851.
21. Autauga County AL Deed Book Vol. 11/DF, p. 74: James *"Seals and his wife Hannah Seals"* give their *"write title and Interest in and to Albred Roberts Estate late deceased in Union Parish Louisiana"* to Elizabeth L. Roberts, 5 May 1851.
22. Union Par LA Conveyance Record F, pp. [--]: Isaac A. R. VanHook of Union Parish, Louisiana to Elizabeth L. Roberts of Butler County, Alabama, 11 November 1853. Monroe, Louisiana Military Warrant #44154 (Act of 28 September 1850), Isaac A. R. Vanhook, 14 July 1853, 40.4 acres, NW¼ of SE¼ of Section 10, Township 21 North, Range 2 East; also Cash Entry #12767 for the additional 0.4 acres @ $1.25/acre for cash payment of $0.50.

Final Years at Butler Springs, Alabama

1. Butler County AL Will Book 1, pp. 143–146; Butler County AL Estate Case Files, LDS #7651368, Images #598–600: Will of James Seale, signed 19 August 1853, filed with the Butler County Court on 12 March 1860.
2. Butler County AL Will Book 1, pp. 126–128; Butler County AL Estate Files, LDS Film #7651368, Images #580–583: Will of Hannah Seale, signed 26 October 1857; filed with the Butler County Probate Court 16 May 1859.
3. Lowndes County AL Marriage Record 3 (White), p. 209: Richard H. Williams to Elizabeth L. Roberts, 28 January 1858.
4. Lowndes County AL Federal Census enumerations:
   1850, Lowndes District, p. 106a, Dwelling #37, lines:
   #15: R. H. Williams–age: 39; Mechanic; no real estate; birthplace: Virginia
   #16: Mary E. T. Williams–age: 29; birthplace: *"S. Carolina"*
   1860, Northern Division, P.O. Hayneville, Ala, p. 491/5, Dwelling #45:
   #1: R. H. William [sic]–age: 49; Carpenter; real estate: $1400; birthplace: *"Va"*
   #2: E. L. William [sic]–age: 44; birthplace: *"SC"*
5. Butler County AL Estate Record 3, pp. 355–356: Estate of Hannah Seale, filed 16 May 1859. Butler County AL Estate Files, LDS Film #7651368, Images #585–595: Estate of Hannah Seale, filed 16 May 1859.
6. Butler County AL Estate Case Files, LDS #7651368, Image #670: Estate of James Seale, receipt of T. M. G. Traweek, 6 November 1861. 1860 Butler County AL Federal Census, *"Precinct No. 10,"* P.O. Monterey, p. 78/80, Dwelling #584, line #29: *"T. M. G. Traweek"*–age: 47; occupation: *"Wheel Wright;"* real estate: $1500; personal estate: $3000.
7. Butler County AL Estate Case Files, LDS #7651368, Image #658: Estate of James Seale, receipt of J. M. Yeldell, 1 January 1860. 1860 Butler County AL Federal Census, *"Precinct No. 10,"* P.O. Monterey, p. 83/81, Dwelling #593, line #35: *"J. M. Yeldell"*–age: 46; occupation: *"Planter & Merchant;"* real estate: $30,000; personal estate: $100,000.
8. Butler County AL Estate Record 3, pp. 355–356, 399: Estate of Hannah Seale, filed 16 May 1859. Butler County AL Probate Court Minute Book 4, pp. 162–163, 227–230, 344–345: Estate of Hannah Seale, final account filed 22 August 1859. Butler County AL Estate Files, LDS Film #7651368, Images #585–595: Estate of Hannah Seale, filed 16 May 1859.
9. 1870 Lowndes County AL Federal Census, Beat No. 1, P.O. Hayneville, p. 199a, Dwelling #41, lines:
   #13: Richard H. Williams–age: 59; Farmer; no real estate; birthplace: Virginia
   #14: Oscar A. Williams–age: 26; Farm Laborer; birthplace: Alabama
   The 1870 enumeration shows Richard living in a household with only his son, Oscar. This presumably indicates that Elizabeth died between 1860 and 1870. The 1850 enumeration shows Richard with his first wife, Mary E. Lloyd, to whom he married on 1 October 1840 [Lowndes County AL Marriage Record 1 (White) (1830–1848), p. 297].

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