The Hams:

Early Settlers of Farmerville, Union Parish, Louisiana

by Timothy Dean Hudson

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Introduction

The notes describe the families of William and Reuben Ham, apparently brothers among the earliest settlers of eastern Union Parish, Louisiana. William arrived there in February 1837 with the first group of settlers from south-central Alabama who made the trek by steamboat via New Orleans into the north Louisiana frontier. The lives of the Ham brothers and those of their sons reveal how early pioneers sometimes made quick fortunes as cotton farmers using slave labor before watching their finances collapse in the years after emancipation. This underscores the fragility of slave-based wealth and the unevenness of the postwar recovery, even within extended families.

William and Reuben Ham left an indelible mark on Union Parish, with numerous descendants making their lives there since their arrival in the parish's formative years. Yet while William and his two sons became prominent citizens during the antebellum era, a public scandal prompted Reuben to relocate to Mississippi in the late 1840s, leaving his young son behind in William's care.

Despite Reuben's departure, William's household expanded both in size and economic ambition. Over the three decades after their arrival in 1837, William Ham and his sons—Hillory Herbert Ham [Sr.] and Reuben James Ham—built one of the largest planting operations in Union Parish. They accumulated about 3000 acres of land cultivated by more than fifty-two enslaved workers. William raised his nephew, Hillory Herbert Ham [Jr.]—known variously as *"Hillory H. Ham Jr.," "H. Hub Ham,"* and *"Hubbard Ham"*—to distinguish him from his elder namesake first cousin. After the Civil War, Hubbard acquired a portion of William Ham's old farm and established his own farming operation on the land where he had grown up.

The trajectory of William and his two sons reflects a dramatic reversal of fortune, as their antebellum prosperity proved short-lived. Although they thrived financially during the antebellum era, their reliance on slave labor left them in a precarious position after the demise of chattel slavery in 1865. While many enslaved workers on Union Parish farms maintained strong ties with their former owners due to years of proximity and familiarity, the evidence suggests that most of those enslaved by the Hams left in the late 1860s to seek better working conditions elsewhere. Insufficient labor to cultivate their lands left the bulk of the Ham acreage idle, and their massive planting operation soon fell into disrepair.

These structural pressures coincided with personal complications; Reuben died in 1867, and William Ham in 1868. An individual crisis faced by William's older son, Hillory H. Ham, compounded these challenges further. Instead of assuming control of his family's financial situation and providing vital stability, he developed a documented struggle with alcohol that

impaired his ability to manage his affairs. Hillory ceased work as a farmer, physically mistreated his wife, and eventually abandoned her and his children.

These events caused Hillory H. Ham's children to transition from their position among the financial elite of Union Parish to homelessness, from growing up on their family's profitable plantation in the antebellum era to eking out a living as sharecroppers in the 1880s, 1890s, and early 1900s. Although some of Hillory's children eventually recovered and managed to obtain their own farms, others struggled financially for their entire adult lives.

The lives of the other Union Parish Hams were far less dramatic. Although the premature death of Reuben James Ham in 1867 left his two young daughters in a difficult financial situation, they endured through the Reconstruction years, married, and established successful farms with their husbands in the late 1870s. Hubbard Ham, William Ham's nephew, successfully navigated the transition to leasing a portion of his acreage to sharecroppers during the Reconstruction Era. He became a successful farmer and prominent citizen.

The Hams of Union Parish followed widely divergent pathways from the mid-nineteenth century into the twentieth century. While they lived among the financial elite in the 1840s and 1850s, their reversal of fortunes saw them struggle to navigate the 1870s. Some regained economic stability in the 1880s and 1890s, while others remained trapped in the sharecropping system well into the twentieth century. Their story offers a revealing case study in how the end of slavery reshaped family fortunes across the rural South.

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Reuben Ham of Culpeper County, Virginia

On 28 January 1790, Reuben Ham married Elizabeth Pembleton in Culpeper County, Virginia [1]. Elizabeth's maiden name may have been *"Pendleton,"* as both spellings—Pembleton and Pendleton—appear in Culpeper County records. Reuben and Elizabeth remained residents of Culpeper County for several years, with Reuben paying property taxes there in 1791–1792. Madison County was created from Culpeper in December 1792, and he paid taxes there between 1793–1803. The tax list for the latter year shows Ham assessed only for one horse and his own poll tax [2].

Reuben Ham left Madison County, Virginia in late 1803 or early 1804. No records have yet been located documenting his whereabouts between 1803 and 1809, the year in which he appears in Elbert County, Georgia [3]. He lived there and in Oglethorpe County, Georgia until his death in the mid-1820s [4]. Apprenticeship records of Reuben's orphaned son, Wesley Pendleton Ham, tie him back to Culpeper County, Virginia [5].

No known records conclusively prove the identities of any other children of Reuben Ham of Culpeper County, Virginia. In particular, documentation is lacking to identify any of his children by Elizabeth Pembleton.

The surviving fragments of William Ham's original tombstone in Wards Chapel Cemetery near Farmerville, Union Parish, Louisiana list him as *"Born in Culpepper"* [sic] County, Virginia on 8 January 1801. Reuben Ham is the only man with that surname documented in the Culpeper region at that time.

The name of William's second son provides a second clue to his father's identity. William's eldest son, Hillory Herbert Ham, was undoubtedly named for Butler County, Alabama's first physician, Dr. Hillory Herbert, who arrived there in January 1819.

William's second son was Reuben James Ham. William's wife, Clarenda, is documented as the daughter of James Seale, so Reuben J. Ham's middle name likely comes from his maternal grandfather [6]. This suggests that *"Reuben"* was the name of his paternal grandfather, as this was a common naming pattern among early nineteenth-century Southern families.

An additional clue comes from the proximity of Reuben Ham (4 Jan 1805–29 Apr 1880) to William Ham in Union Parish. When the scandal of the mid-1840s prompted Reuben to leave Union Parish and for Holmes County, Mississippi, he appears to have left his young son—Hillory Herbert Ham [Jr.]—with William to raise. Additional circumstantial evidence comes from DNA matches between the descendants of William and Reuben. This suggests that William and Reuben were brothers.

Although inconclusive, these pieces of circumstantial evidence point toward Reuben Ham and Elizabeth Pembleton/Pendleton as the parents of William and Reuben Ham of Union Parish, Louisiana.

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William Ham & Clarenda Seale: Vital Statistics

William Ham *"Billy"*

born: 8 Jan 1801, Culpeper County, Virginia
married: 1827–1828, Butler County, Alabama
died: May 1868, Farmerville, Union Parish, Louisiana
buried: Wards Chapel Cemetery
parents: probably Reuben Ham and Elizabeth Pembleton of Culpeper County, Virginia
religion: Methodist Protestant

Clarenda Seale

born: November 1811, Fairfield District, South Carolina
died: 30 May 1897, near Farmerville, Union Parish, Louisiana
buried: Wards Chapel Cemetery
parents: James Seale (1769–1860) and his wife Rachel (1770/1774–1820/1839)
religion: Methodist Protestant

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Children of William Ham & Clarenda Seale

Union Parish records conclusively prove that William and Clarenda Ham had only two surviving sons and no daughters [1]. This proves that H. Hub Ham (1834–1889) who lived in their 1850 household and who bought a portion of William's old plantation in 1868, was ***not*** their son. All evidence indicates that the latter man was William Ham's nephew.

The known children of William Ham and Clarenda Seale:

1. **Hillory Herbert Ham** [Sr.] (Apr 1828/Feb 1829–12 Apr 1889) married Isabella Ann Robinson (15 Sep 1828–28 May 1860) and Samantha Elvyann Scarborough (15 Sep 1842–6 Apr 1922).
2. **Reuben James Ham** [Rube] (1830/1831–Jan/June 1867) married Narcissus V. D. Pace (12 Aug 1830–18 Nov 1899).

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William Ham & Clarenda Seale: Life Story

William Ham was born in Culpeper County, Virginia on 8 January 1801 [1]. As described in the previous section, he was possibly the son of Reuben Ham and Elizabeth Pendleton, who married in Culpeper County on 28 January 1790. Details of his early life are unknown prior to about 1827, when he married Clarenda Seale, the daughter of James Seale and his wife Rachel.

Clarenda's birth occurred about November 1811 near the Wateree River in Fairfield District, South Carolina. James and Rachel Seale's next child was Cynthia, born about the year after Clarenda, probably in late 1812. The sisters married about the same time, with Cynthia marrying David Ward. The sisters spent their lives living on adjoining farms in Alabama and later, Louisiana.

As the federal government made the lands of southwestern Montgomery County available for sale about 1828 or 1829, William and Clarenda moved with three of her married sisters from northwestern Butler County north into that region. Settlers found the farmland there quite desirable and others began moving there. The influx of settlers led the Alabama Legislature to put this region into Lowndes County in February 1830. Clarenda's father joined them in Lowndes in 1832, as well as two of her younger brothers, James Hayden and Thomas Jefferson Seale. Between 1830 and 1835, William Ham accumulated a large farm located near Fort Deposit in southern Lowndes County.

As new land markets opened up in the west in the mid-1830s, William and Clarenda decided to join a group of south Alabama settlers to migrate to the Ouachita Valley of northern Louisiana. They sold their Lowndes County farm in December 1836, and the group left Lowndes County in mid-January 1837, led by Col. Matthew Wood and his son-in-law, former Butler County, Alabama Sheriff John Taylor. Clarenda's sister Cynthia and her husband David Ward accompanied them on the initial trip. Due to the very short duration of their journey westward, they made the trip by steamboat down the Alabama River to Mobile, then took the Inner Passage to New Orleans, where they boarded another steamboat destined for Bayou D'Arbonne in north Louisiana.

Clarenda and Cynthia's brother James Hayden Seale may have traveled with them in early 1837, although he could have waited until the fall to make the trip. William Ham and David Ward purchased adjoining farms south of Bayou D'Loutre on 14 February 1837 from the Ouachita Land Office in Monroe. When the Louisiana Legislature carved off this region from Ouachita on 13 March 1839 to form a separate parish, their farms thereafter lay in central Union Parish, a few miles east of the parish seat of Farmerville.

In 1838, William Ham paid taxes on six enslaved people slaves that he brought with him from Alabama, as well as a herd of twenty-six horned cattle [2]. He became an active participant in

building the new parish, with the Union Parish Police Jury—the local governing body—appointing Ham as *"Captain of Patrol"* of his locality, with all men eligible for militia duty required to report to him.

The Police Jury also appointed Ham to serve as a road commissioner to lay out the path of several of the earliest roads constructed in the Farmerville vicinity. He served as overseer for several roads, tasked with maintaining the roads by organizing road crews from local male residents. In September 1841, he was one of the men appointed to locate one-half acre of land to serve as a *"public burying ground,"* now the location of the Farmerville City Cemetery. They were tasked with *"erecting an episcopal Methodist Church,"* now the Farmerville Methodist Church [3].

The Police Jury took steps to establish public education soon after the parish's 1839 creation by appointing public school commissioners. Louisiana still operated under the academy system, and the commissioners soon established the Union Male and Female Academy. On 8 March 1841, the Louisiana Legislature incorporated the Academy, appointing eighteen parish farmers as corporation members, including William Ham [4]. It is possible that Ham's sons, Hillory and Reuben, attended the Academy.

The population of Union Parish, Louisiana increased dramatically during the 1840s, primarily driven by the availability of good farmland. The economy of the entire region focused on cotton production, and this depended on adequate transportation of baled cotton down the Ouachita River toward the New Orleans markets. During the early 1840s, steamboats could only make their way up Bayou D'Arbonne to Farmerville during periods of high water. As a result, the leading farmers pressured local officials to secure funding from the Louisiana Legislature to clear Bayou D'Arbonne of obstructions to navigation.

On 26 February 1847, the Legislature approved a measure that appropriated $2500 to improve navigation on Bayou D'Arbonne. To let out bids and overseer the project's completion, they appointed seven local influential farmers to serve as commissioners, including William Ham [5].

Between 1837 and mid-1860s, William Ham accumulated an extensive plantation of roughly two thousand acres of land that lay a few miles east of Farmerville, extending from the Wards Chapel Road south to the modern Louisiana Highway 2 that runs from Farmerville toward Sterlington. He developed an extensive planting operation on his property. By 1860, he had over six hundred acres cultivated by his enslaved workers.

In 1850, Ham owned a total of twenty-six, and in 1860, he and his two sons were listed as the owners of fifty-two enslaved people. During the 1850s, Ham's plantation produced annually over

2700 bushels of corn, between 40 and 50 bales of cotton, and a variety of other produce and farm goods of various sorts.

Records do not indicate how William Ham managed to acquire his enslaved workers. No records show him purchasing slaves. He did acquire a few from his father-in-law, but by 1850 Ham already owned far more than James Seale. He may have inherited them, although the records show that his presumed father, Reuben Ham, was a man of rather meager means.

The Civil War had a devastating effect upon William Ham and his family. Although they belonged to the upper-class of Union Parish society prior to the war, they were among the very few Union Parish citizens who based their financial standing almost entirely upon enslaved labor.

Although the Hams were among the largest slaveholders in Union Parish, none of their enslaved people took the surname *"Ham"* after the end of chattel slavery in 1865, a pattern sometimes associated with strained or negative relationships. This contrasts with numerous other formerly enslaved people in Union Parish who did choose the surnames of their former owners. This may suggest that the Hams did not treat their enslaved people well.

The antebellum lifestyle enjoyed by the Hams did not survive during the postwar era. Although some of their former slaves remained on their massive plantation as sharecroppers in the years immediately following the war, most moved on after a few years, leaving the bulk of the Ham's fields idle.

William and Clarenda had only two children who survived early childhood, Hillory Herbert Ham [Sr.] and Reuben James Ham [6]. Reuben died sometime in early 1867, leaving two young daughters. William himself died in May 1868, leaving Hillory as the family patriarch. By 1870, Hillory had the responsibility of supporting a total of eleven children by two marriages, his widowed mother and sister-in-law, plus two nieces. The combined Ham property holdings in the latter 1860s included three thousand acres of land, plus an array of valuable farm equipment and vehicles.

As a widowed woman, Clarenda continued to maintain her household for a while, taking charge of her eldest three grandchildren, the children of Hillory's first wife. She even increased the size of her farm by purchasing additional land. Thus, during the early 1870s, it briefly appeared that the Hams might manage to survive the economic depression that engulfed the South during Reconstruction.

Had Hillory H. Ham [Sr.] taken firmer control of the family's affairs, he could have stabilized their financial situation, even managing to thrive during the 1870s as many of his first cousins did.

However, Ham failed to seize the moment, turning instead to alcohol to cope with the drastic changes wrought by the War. His crop production decreased significantly each year after 1867. He failed to properly maintain his farming operation or his mother's, so they gradually decreased in value. Whatever the root cause of his problems, they clearly had a devastating financial effect upon his entire extended family for years to come—his wife, children, mother, and also his fatherless young nieces, in whom one would expect him to take active an interest.

Hillory became physically abusive to his wife, Samantha Elvyann Scarborough, and in 1874, he abandoned her and their children. He then sold his old plantation of one thousand acres for a pittance.

By the late 1870s, Clarenda could not depend upon her son for any support, and her grandchildren were either unable or unwilling to support her. The old Ham plantation lay idle and had significantly decreased in value. Nearing seventy years of age, Clarenda left her home and moved in with her youngest brother, Thomas Jefferson Seale, who lived south of Farmerville near Downsville. She lived with him until his death in 1893, when she moved back to her former neighborhood east of Farmerville to live with her niece, Tom's daughter Mollie Seale Kennedy.

Clarenda Seale Ham died at Mollie's house on 30 May 1897 at the age of about eighty-six years [7]. She was buried beside William in the Wards Chapel Cemetery.

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Hillory Herbert Ham [Sr.]

Hillory Herbert Ham [Sr.] (Apr 1828/Feb 1829–12 Apr 1889) was the eldest surviving child of William Ham and Clarenda Seale [1]. He is the elder of two men with the same name who lived in eastern Union Parish, Louisiana during the latter half of the nineteenth century, with the younger man born in 1834. They are documented as relatives, believed to have been first cousins [2]. The pair were named after Dr. Hillary Herbert (2 Dec 1788–19 Dec 1854), an early settler, the first physician, and first Circuit Court Clerk of Butler County, Alabama.

The son of William Ham was known throughout his lifetime as *"Hillory H. Ham Sr."* to distinguish him from his younger namesake cousin, who was known variously as *"Hillory H. Ham Jr.," "H. Hub Ham,"* or merely by the nickname of *"Hubbard Ham"* [3]. The designations of *"Sr."* and *"Jr."* were used to distinguish the elder from the younger man, as was common during that era.

Hillory married in Union County, Arkansas on 9 January 1851 to Isabella Ann Robinson (15 Sep 1828–28 May 1860), daughter of Leggett Robinson (c1783–14 Jan 1851) and his wife, Elizabeth. During the 1850s, Hillory accumulated large land holdings, with his farm valued at $4800 by 1860. He and Isabella had three children born in the 1850s, but she became ill in mid-1859. The condition that plagued her is unknown, but she died on 28 May 1860 from *"Inflamation"* [4]. She was buried in the Wards Chapel Cemetery, and Hillory paid for an elaborate above-ground bricked vault over her grave.

Six months after Isabella's death, on 15 November 1860, Hillory married Samantha Elvyann Scarborough (15 Sep 1842–6 Apr 1922), daughter of Noah Scarborough (c1808–1881/1882) and Samantha Fowler (19 Nov 1819–28 Nov 1905). They settled on his farm a few miles east of Farmerville.

In the late summer of 1861, Hillory H. Ham organized a company of men for the war effort in Farmerville. He reportedly outfitted them using Ham family money, together with assistance from the Union Parish Police Jury and possibly other local planters. The men chose the moniker *"Stars of Equality"* and elected Ham their captain on October 13th.

A few days later, the men left Farmerville headed towards Monroe, probably making the journey by steamboat down Bayou D'Arbonne and the Ouachita River. The newspaper there described them as *"very fine, able-bodied men."* On Tuesday morning, October 22nd, they boarded railroad cars in Monroe headed east towards Jackson, Mississippi. There, they took the railroad south to Camp Moore, the Louisiana Confederate training camp located on the New Orleans–Jackson railroad line a short distance north of Lake Pontchartrain.

After drilling during November, the unit officially entered the Confederate service at Camp Moore on December 11th, with Ham still serving as captain. The Confederate officials designated them as Company E, 19th Louisiana Infantry Regiment. On December 16th, they boarded railroad cars headed towards New Orleans, passed through the city and on to Camp Roman. They remained there until mid-January, anticipating orders for the regiment to be sent north to meet General Grant's Federal army moving south across Tennessee.

On 9 January 1862, Hillory H. Ham resigned his commission as captain in the Confederate army and returned home to Union Parish [5]. The reason behind his resignation immediately before the regiment was deployed to Corinth, Mississippi is unclear. He reportedly felt obligated to return to Union Parish due to his father's poor health and to maintain the Ham planting operations.

Ham's former company participated in many of the bloodiest battles ever fought on American soil. The 19th Regiment fought at Shiloh on April 6–7, participating in the infamous attack upon the Hornet's Nest. In that action, the regiment lost about one-fifth of its men. They fought at the Siege of Jackson, Mississippi in July 1863, in particular repulsing a Federal attack on the 12th. They later saw action at Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, and throughout the Atlanta Campaign during the summer of 1864. That winter, the men saw heavy fighting at the Battle of Nashville in December 1864. Finally, they participated in the Siege of Spanish Fort in the spring of 1865.

According to statements in the early 1900s, Hillory H. Ham worked for the Confederate Post of Farmerville after his resignation from the Confederate Army. The Post was commanded by Henry Regenburg, a native of Denmark and local attorney. Ham must have thought highly of Regenburg, for after Regenburg's 1867 death, Ham named his next son *"Henry Regenburg Ham."*

Betweeen 1862 and 1865, Ham collected conscripts for the Post of Farmerville and helped to track down criminals and escaped slaves who established hide-outs in the piney hills of southwestern Union Parish during the chaos of the war. He kept his fields in cultivation, producing large amounts of corn for the Confederate Army, as well as supplying meat and other goods for the war effort [6].

After the War ended, Hillory H. Ham continued his cultivating his fields, but he appears to have never fully adjusted to the changes wrought by the conflict. Before 1865, the vast Ham plantations operated by Hillory and his father and brother were among the largest producers of cotton and corn in the parish. However, they had relied almost exclusively upon enslaved labor, and the end of chattel slavery radically altered farm labor across the South. To compound these changes, Hillory's brother Reuben died in early 1867, followed by William Ham's death in 1868.

Although in 1860 Hillory H. Ham appeared poised to follow in his father's footsteps as one of the wealthiest planters of Union Parish, he failed to seize the moment. He resorted to alcohol rather than stabilizing his family's farming operation by making the transition to the new sharecropping system as did many of his relatives and neighbors.

Each year after 1867, Hillory's crop production decreased, and he failed to properly maintain his farming operation or his mother's, causing them to gradually decrease in value. Whatever the root cause of his problems, they had a devastating financial effect upon him and his extended family for the rest of their lives—including his wife, children, mother, and also his fatherless young nieces, in whom one would expect him to take an active interest. By the mid-1870s, Hillory H. Ham was bankrupt, and he began to sell off his lands.

Ham's alcoholism turned him into a cruel and sometimes violent person. Although the details of the charges against him are unknown, he was convicted of assault and battery in Union Parish in 1874 or 1875. The Louisiana Governor pardoned him in December 1875 [7].

As his alcoholism worsened, Hillory H. Ham became physically abusive towards his wife, Samantha Elvyann Scarborough. His great-grandchilden claimed that as his life began to spiral out of control due to his alcoholism, he took out his frustrations upon Elvyann. On 29 February 1876, she petitioned the Union Parish District Court to grant them a divorce, alleging that Hillory H. Ham

> *…has repeatedly been guilty of outrages towards her person by beating, and whipping her, that he has violently choked her until the blood would freely flow from her nose, that that he has assaulted her with a pistol and beat her with a stick and with his fist, and has often used abusive and insulting language to her, such as was calculated and intended to bring shame and reproach on her good name in the community in which they lived and among her best friends, and that all of this has been done without any good cause.*

She stated that he had abandoned her and their children in 1874 and provided no support to them. Ham refused to respond to her petition, and the judge granted their divorce on 18 March 1876 [8].

Exactly one month after Judge Thomas C. Lewis granted their divorce, Hillory hired Farmerville attorney G. H. Ellis to petition the Parish Court for custody of his and Elvyann's eldest son, Matthew Addison Ham, who was then fourteen years old. Ham stated that Elvyann wished to keep their younger children, but that he *"wishes to keep the said Mathew A.,"* and that this arrangement *"is perfectly agreeable to all parties."* On that day, Hillory H. Ham appeared in court and signed his oath as natural tutor—Louisiana legal term for *"guardian"*—to his son, while his elder half-brother, Hillory Crawford Ham, was appointed his undertutor [9].

Without Hillory's support, Elvyann Scarborough Ham had no financial means to care for her children by herself. She had numerous relatives in the region, and she divided up her children,

sending the older ones to live with her siblings and parents, while keeping the youngest ones with her on her sister's farm. They all lived near one another, but in separate households until the early 1880s. Incidentally, Matthew Addison Ham did not remain with his father, despite Hillory's pledge to *"take charge of and controle"* of the boy. In 1880, Matthew lived with Elvyann's sister and brother-in-law, Betty Scarborough and Jack Ward. Hillory lived nearby in the household of his eldest son, Crawford Ham, and worked as a carpenter [10].

Hillory H. Ham paid his poll tax in Union Parish in 1880 and 1881, but not in 1882, 1883, or 1884. In late 1884 or early 1885, Hillory apparently built a house on vacant government land, for in 1885, he paid taxes on that improvement and his poll tax. This was a standard requirement after filing a homestead application on a tract of vacant government land.

In December 1883, Elvyann Scarborough Ham filed a homestead application on a 40-acre tract of vacant government land that adjoined her parents' farm. It appears that she planned to stabilize her family's situation and live there with her children rather than spread among her relatives. Elvyann paid taxes on her improvements on public land in 1884, 1885, and 1886, while Hillory only paid his poll taxes in 1886, 1887, and 1888. Since there is no evidence that Hillory ever filed a homestead application himself, and his paying paid taxes on improvements on public land in 1885 suggests that he may have built the house for his ex-wife and their children [11].

Hillory Herbert Ham [Sr.] died on 12 April 1889 in Union Parish. He was buried in the Wards Chapel Cemetery, either beside or on top of Isabella's remains inside her above-ground bricked tomb. Due to his family's financial situation, no marker was ever erected for him [12].

Isabella's tombstone remained standing until the 1960s, when it cracked and fell to the ground in pieces. Either in the 1950s or 1960s, the top of their vault also cracked, exposing the bones. For many years, their graves became a macabre attraction to local citizens due to the exposed bones. Some years after the top of the vault cracked, the cemetery association decided to demolish the damaged vault and bury the bones underground.

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Children of Hillory Herbert Ham [Sr.]

Hillory Herbert Ham [Sr.] (Apr 1828/Feb 1829–12 Apr 1889) was married twice and had children by both of his wives. The known children of Hillory Herbert Ham and Isabella Ann Robinson include:

1. **Hillory Crawford Ham** [Crawford] (19 Jun 1852–23 Jan 1910) married about 1875 to Frances Elizabeth Walker [Fannie] (29 May 1854–10 Mar 1925), daughter of William Wesley Walker (6 Jan 1825–17 Apr 1914) and Frances Elizabeth Barron (12 Nov 1829–7 Aug 1908). Crawford and Frances Ham are buried with all four of their children in the Hasley Cemetery, West Monroe, Ouachita Parish, Louisiana.
2. **Clarenda Jane Ham** [Janie] (25 Oct 1854–23 Jul 1902) married on 16 or 18 June 1873 in Union Parish, Louisiana to Matthew Addison Scarborough (4 Jun 1850–19 Mar 1931), son of Noah Lewis Scarborough (c1808–1881/1882) and Samantha Fowler (19 Nov 1819–28 Nov 1905). Clarenda Jane Scarborough is buried in the Taylor/Liberty Hill Cemetery. Matthew A. Scarborough is buried in the Carlsbad Cemetery, Carlsbad, Eddy County, New Mexico.
3. **Isabella Independence Ham** (4 Jul 1858–20 Feb 1936) married between 1870 and 1877 in Union Parish, Louisiana to Henry Archer Roye (28 Jan 1855–3 Nov 1925), son of John D. Roye (23 Mar 1822–22 May 1890) and Kittie Minerva (1825–8 Sep 1886). Isabella and Henry Roye are buried in the Farmerville City Cemetery, Farmerville, Union Parish, Louisiana.

The known children of Hillory Herbert Ham (Sr.) and Samantha Elvyann Scarborough include:

4. **Matthew Addison Ham** [Dick] (Dec 1861–23 Mar 1930) married on 9 April 1885 in Union Parish, Louisiana to Henrietta Jane Russell [Helen, Etta, Jennie, Janie] (19 Mar 1868–9 Mar 1942). Dick and Helen Ham are buried in the Taylor/Liberty Hill Cemetery, Farmerville, Union Parish, Louisiana.
5. **Nancy Alice Ham** (Mar 1863–1910) married 8 January 1880 in Union Parish, Louisiana to William Jackson Roan (1 Dec 1859–26 May 1904). They are buried in the Taylor/Liberty Hill Cemetery, Farmerville, Union Parish, Louisiana.
6. **William J. Ham** (Oct 1865–aft. 1900).
7. **Mary T. Anna Ham** [Anna, Mittie] (Nov 1867–13 Dec 1900) married on 7 April 1884 in Union Parish, Louisiana to William Pinckney Boatright [Will] (10 Nov 1857–8 Feb 1901). Anna and Will Boatright are buried in the Hamburg City Cemetery, Hamburg, Ashley County, Arkansas.

8. **Henry Regenburg Ham** (6 Aug 1868–17 May 1947) married on 28 May 1896 in Union Parish, Louisiana to Daisy A. Elkins (21 Apr 1878–28 Jul 1946). Henry married on 27 April 1902 in Union Parish, Louisiana to Betty Gertrude Towns (19 Feb 1882–23 Apr 1957). Henry and Betty Ham are buried in the Union-Sadie Cemetery, Sadie, Union Parish, Louisiana. Daisy Elkins Skates is buried in the Hasley Cemetery, West Monroe, Ouachita Parish, Louisiana.
9. **John Hubbard Ham** (14 Mar 1870–2 Jan 1913) married on 19 December 1895 in Union Parish, Louisiana to Lillie Saphronia Elkins (4 Mar 1876–2 Nov 1911). John H. Ham is buried in the Drew Cemetery near West Monroe, Ouachita Parish, Louisiana, while Lillie is buried in the Mount Nebo Cemetery, eight miles south of Farmerville, Union Parish, Louisiana.
10. **Bettie Ham** (c1872–aft. 1880) lived with her mother in 1880. It is not known if she died young or married.
11. **Rosa Etta Ham** [Rosie] (Jun 1874–7 Dec 1934) married in Union Parish, Louisiana on 29 December 1901 to Amos G. McLemore (24 Nov 1856–28 Sep 1927). Rosa and Amos McLemore are buried in the Riverview Cemetery in Monroe, Ouachita Parish, Louisiana.
12. [unknown] **Ham**. The 1900 and 1910 federal census records indicate that Elvyann had a total of nine children during the fourteen years that she and Hillory lived as a married couple. Given that she gave birth to a child about every two years during their marriage, her unknown, ninth child may have been a twin to one of her other children. The child died young.

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Reuben James Ham

Reuben James Ham [Rube] (1830/1831–Jan/Jun 1867) was the second surviving child of William Ham and Clarenda Seale [1]. He is likely named after his grandfathers, Reuben Ham and James Seale.

Reuben J. Ham was born near Fort Deposit, now in southern Lowndes County, Alabama. It was a settlement that had formed at the site of a fort built by Gen. Andrew Jackson during the Creek War of 1813–1814. Reuben moved with his parents to what is now eastern Union Parish, Louisiana in February 1837, and he grew up there during the 1840s and 1850s.

Reuben J. Ham married in Union Parish, Louisiana on 29 September 1852 to Narcissus V. Davenport Pace (12 Aug 1830–18 Nov 1899), daughter of James and Ellen Pace. During the 1850s, Reuben and Narcissus made multiple purchases of land adjoining the plantations of his father and brother a few miles east of Farmerville. By 1860, they had acquired substantial acreage on which they had expanded the Ham planting operation.

After the Civil War began in early 1861, Reuben J. Ham originally joined the company of soldiers his brother formed in mid-1861, later designated as Co. E, 19th Louisiana Infantry Regiment. He perhaps accompanied them south to Camp Moore. On a roster of this company published in the Farmerville newspaper in September 1898, Reuben was listed as *"Dr. Reubin Ham,"* with the notation that he was *"discharged for want of physical ability"* [2].

This strange phrase suggests that Reuben suffered from some type of physical impairment. Since his name does not appear on the official Confederate records of the 19th Louisiana Regiment, he must have been discharged as the unit entered the service at Camp Moore in December 1861. No other records indicate that he was disabled or physically impaired in any way. Moreover, no other records suggest he was a medical doctor of any sort, so the *"Dr."* that preceded his name on the roster is unclear.

Reuben *"…Departed this life absent from home"* in 1867, sometime prior to June 4th. The circumstances behind his death away from home are unknown [3]. He was presumably buried in the Wards Chapel Cemetery, but his family never placed a marker to his memory.

After Reuben's death, Narcissus remained a widow for thirty-two years, making her home with her daughters after they both married in the early 1870s. She died on 18 November 1899 after a brief illness that turned into pneumonia. Her family buried her in the Farmerville Cemetery [4].

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Children of Reuben James Ham

Reuben James Ham and Narcissus Pace had four known children:

1. **Clarenda Elizabeth Ham** [Clara] (9 Sep 1853–29 May 1941) married on 27 September 1871 in Union Parish, Louisiana to William H. Maroney [Bill] (c1840–17 Jul 1874), son of Samuel Lee Maroney (c1814–1862) and Martha L. Officer (23 Jun 1822–10 Jan 1910). Clarenda married on 12 December 1876 to Alexander Lane Pace [Alex] (21 Jun 1850–19 Mar 1931), son of Thomas Pace (15 Nov 1802–aft. 1880) and Matilda F. Davis (14 Mar 1812–aft. 1880). Alex and Clarenda Pace are buried in the Farmerville Cemetery, Farmerville, Union Parish, Louisiana.
2. **Anna E. Ham** (1 Jul 1855–28 Jun 1860) was buried in the Wards Chapel Cemetery near Farmerville.
3. **Martha Ham** [Mattie] (30 Aug 1856–13 Dec 1916) married about 1875 to Charles Price Maroney (29 Dec 1850–30 Nov 1918), the son of Samuel Lee Maroney (c1814–1862) and Martha L. Officer (23 Jun 1822–10 Jan 1910). Charles was born in Union Township, Webster County, Missouri. Mattie and Charles lived in north/central Union Parish near Oakland. They are buried in the Springhill Cemetery, Oakland, Union Parish, Louisiana.
4. **W. J. Ham** (c1859–1860/1867) died sometime between 26 July 1860 and 4 June 1867. Probably named *"William James Ham,"* the 1860 federal census is the only record of his existence.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Reuben Ham:

Union Parish, Louisiana vs. Holmes County, Mississippi

Reuben Ham is a shadowy figure, and solid documentation about his life is lacking. The evidentiary record is silent regarding Reuben until late 1842, when he married in Union Parish, Louisiana. The Ham surname is not common and the fact that William Ham gave the name *"Reuben"* to his second son, suggests that Reuben and William were closely related, perhaps brothers.

An 1843 public scandal regarding an alleged adulterous affair by his wife appears to have prompted Reuben to quietly disappear from the region. The timing of his disappearance makes it seem likely that he was the father of the young relative that William Ham raised, *"Hillory H. Ham Jr."* or *"H. Hub Ham,"* better known as *"Hubbard Ham."*

Reuben Ham (4 Jan 1805–29 Apr 1880), a native of Virginia, settled in Holmes County, Mississippi by the latter 1840s and lived there until his death in 1880. Documentation that he is the identical man who left Union Parish, Louisiana after 1843 is lacking, but the timing of the Louisiana disappearance and Mississippi appearance is circumstantial evidence that they are the same. The Virginia birthplace of the Reuben who settled in Holmes County, Mississippi gives further credance to this hypothesis.

The lack of documentary evidence leaves three overlapping hypotheses in play here:

1. Reuben Ham of Union Parish, Louisiana of 1842–1843 is the same man who settled in Holmes County, Mississippi by the latter 1840s.
2. Reuben Ham was a brother of William Ham, another son of Reuben Ham and Elizabeth Pembleton who married in 1790 in Culpeper County, Virginia.
3. Reuben Ham of Union Parish, Louisiana was the father of Hubbard Ham, also known as *"Hillory H. Ham Jr."* and *"H. Hub Ham,"* the young relative raised by William Ham.

While all three hypotheses certainly appear to be correct, the evidentiary record is too vague to make this claim with absolute certainty. An additional piece of supporting evidence that ties Reuben Ham of Holmes County, Mississippi to William Ham of Union Parish, Louisiana is DNA matches between their descendants. Specifically, there is a 16 centimorgan connection between a descendant of Reuben Ham through his documented son George B. Ham, and one of William's descendants through his documented son, Hillory H. Ham [Sr.].

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Reuben Ham of Union Parish, Louisiana

Reuben Ham arrived in Union Parish, Louisiana sometime prior to 4 December 1842, when he married Frances Edwards [1]. Concrete evidence to verify Reuben's family background and precise biological connection to William Ham is lacking. However, various pieces of circumstantial evidence suggest that he may have been William's younger brother and the father of Hillory Herbert Ham [Jr.] (Hubbard Ham), the young close relative that William and his wife raised.

Nothing is known of Reuben's early life with certainty. If he were Hubbard's father, then he must have lived in Alabama during the mid-1830s when Hubbard was born.

On 2 October 1843, Reuben Ham hired the legal firm of Downs & Richardson to file the following petition on his behalf against his wife in the Union Parish District Court:

> *To the Honorable the Judge of the Seventh Judicial District Court holding sessions in and for the Parish of Union, State of Louisiana.*
>
> *The petition of Reuben Ham a resident of the Parish of Union State aforesaid with respect represents that on the ---- day of November in the year 1842, he married in your said Parish Frances Edwards a resident thereof beleaving* [sic] *her to be a chaste and virtuous woman flattering himself with the enjoyment of much happiness with her he was disposed to cherish and protect her as a dutiful and affectionate husband but that to his great unhappiness and mastification* [sic] *he discovered after his marriage that the said Frances Edwards was pregnant and had conceived and had had communications with some other male previous to their marriage as she had not had with your petitioner previous to that time. And that his said wife was delivered of a child on the 17th of April 1842* [sic–should be 1843] *sound, perfect in form and capable of Living.*
>
> *Petitioner avers that his said wife was in the habit previous to her marriage as petitioner has since learned of having communication with Benjamin Robinson and others in your said Parish all of which was unknown and entirely unsuspected by petitioner at the time of the obliation* [obligation] *of his marriage and for sometime afterwards.*
>
> *Petitioner avers that the said Frances Edwards has acknowledged and admitted the fact and that said Robinson is the father of the child born since his marriage.*
>
> *Petitioner further avers that his wife the said Frances Edwards in violation of the sanctity of her marriage vows and in disregard of the duties of a good and faithfull* [sic] *wife has committed adultery since her marriage with your petitioner with the said Robinson and others on divers occasions all of which was at the time without the knowledge or slightest intimation of your petitioner.*
>
> *Petitioner avers that the bad conduct of said Frances Edwards and her pregnancy was concealed and unknown to your petitioner before his marriage and that to remain bound to such a woman in the bonds of matrimony is contrary to the feelings of an honorable man is repugnant to law and justice and would destroy his happiness forever.*

Wherefore petitioner prays that the said Frances Edwards be duly cited to answer this complaint and that upon a final hearing they be separated bed & board and that the Bond of matrimony between them be forever dissolved and severed according to equity and law in such cases made and provided and for general relief in the premises, &.

On 7 November 1843, John V. Robertson filed Frances Edwards Ham's response to her husband's petition:

Frances Edwards the wife of Reuben Ham who herein prays to be authorised [sic] *by this Honorable Court to appear defend herself in the said actions for answer saith that in so far as the petition of the said Plff. sets forth the fact of intermarriage between the said parties the same is true. But for further answer she says that during the whole period of their cohabition* [cohabitation] *she acted to her said husband as true and faithful fond and affectionate wife. That the child which she bore was born several months after the said marriage and within the bonds of matrimony she utterly denies that any period since her said marriage that she has been untrue to her said husband or ever violated the sanctity of her marriage vows, but on the contrary, has ever been true and constant and in the hope of future reconciliation and restoration to her rights and duties as wife of the Plff. she prays that this Honorable will dismiss the petition of the Plff with costs of this suit and that a proper allowance be made her suitable to the condition of her said husband and for general relief in the premises.*

Two days later, on November 9th, District Court Judge E. K. Willson dismissed the case at Reuben Ham's cost by order of Ham's legal counsel [2].

This public lawsuit was salacious for that era, and it undoubtedly brought Reuben public humiliation and shame. Although he ordered his attorney to dismiss his petition for a divorce, it seems unlikely that he would have continued to live with Frances as his wife.

There is no trace of Reuben Ham in Union Parish after this court action of 9 November 1843, nor has he been located elsewhere in Louisiana, Arkansas, or Texas. He appears to have permanently slipped away from the region.

This disappearance makes Reuben Ham the prime candidate as the father of Hillory Herbert Ham [Jr.] (3 Sep 1834–16 Mar 1889), the man known as *"H. Hub Ham"* and *"Hubbard Ham."* Hub was the relative that William Ham and his wife raised in the 1840s and 1850s.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Reuben Ham of Holmes County, Mississippi

Reuben Ham (4 Jan 1805–29 Apr 1880) settled in Holmes County, Mississippi by the latter 1840s [1]. In 1850, he worked as an overseer, living in the household of John W. Taggart [2]. He appears to have moved from Holmes to nearby Leake County in the mid-1850s, for on 13 September 1856, he paid $650 for a 160-acre tract of land there [3]. A thin strip of Attala County separates Holmes from Leake County, so he only moved a short distance. If Ham actually settled on his new property in Leake County, it apparently did not suit him. He returned to Holmes County by 13 January 1860, when he sold his land in Leake for $800 in cash [4].

Reuben Ham lived in Holmes County in 1860, again working as an overseer [5]. He married on 20 January 1861 in Holmes County to Elizabeth Ann Frizzell [Eliza] (30 Mar 1835–14 Jan 1929), a native of Russellville, Logan County, Kentucky and the daughter of William Frizzell and Barbara Graham. Eliza was three decades younger than Ham.

On 14 June 1861, just a few months after his marriage, Reuben Ham paid $300 cash for an 80-acre tract of land in Holmes County [6]. They farmed for the next nineteen years. In 1870, they lived near her widowed father with their two surviving children [7].

Reuben Ham died in April 1880 at the age of seventy-five years. He was buried in the Franklin Cemetery about seven miles from the county seat of Lexington. Elizabeth Ann Frizzell Ham outlived her husband by nearly a half-century. Upon her death in 1929, she was buried in the Charleston Cemetery, Charleston, Tallahatchie County, Mississippi with her daughter and son-in-law.

As described earlier, no concrete documentation verifies that the Reuben Ham of Union Parish in 1842–1843 was William's brother, nor that he was the man who settled a few years later in Holmes County, Mississippi. The identical given names and timing do suggest this, and further supporting evidence is provided by the DNA match described earlier between the descendants of William and Reuben Ham. Finally, Reuben's disappearance from Union Parish after late 1843 makes it likely that he was the father of Hillory Herbert Ham [Jr.], known as *"Hubbard Ham,"* the young man raised by that William Ham.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Presumed & Documented Children of Reuben Ham

Reuben Ham who was in Union Parish, Louisiana in 1842–1843 appears to have been married at least twice. Reuben Ham (4 Jan 1805–29 Apr 1880) who lived in Holmes County, Mississippi beginning in the latter 1840s was married at least once. As described earlier, our hypothesis is that they are the same man and the son of Reuben Ham and Elizabeth Pembleton of Culpeper County, Virginia.

If correct, then Reuben Ham was married three times. Proof that they are the same man is lacking and merely implied by circumstantial evidence.

Reuben Ham's first wife is unknown. The presumed son of Reuben Ham and his first wife:

1. **Hillory Herbert Ham** (Jr.) [Hub] (3 Sep 1834–16 Mar 1889) married in Union Parish, Louisiana on 18 December 1866 to Louisa J. Dean (c1848–1 Apr 1879), daughter of Josiah Deanes (c1800–8 Oct 1851) and Sarah Ann Taylor (c1808/1811–1870/1880). H. Hubbard Ham married on 28 December 1880 in Lincoln Parish, Louisiana to Minnie F. Jordan (10 Nov 1857–4 Feb 1905), daughter of Elizabeth ? (c1827–aft. 1880).

The documented children of Reuben Ham and Elizabeth Frizell:

2. **J. R. Ham** [male] (7 Aug 1862–22 Oct 1862) was on an old cemetery listing of the Franklin Cemetery, Holmes County, Mississippi.
3. **George B. Ham** (8 Feb 1866–15 Sep 1906) married on 19 December 1889 in Holmes County, Mississippi to Mary M. Williams (26 Nov 1868–23 Dec 1935), daughter of Jefferson Winston Williams Sr. (13 Dec 1827–5 Feb 1897) and Julia Virginia Horton (12 May 1842–8 Feb 1920). George B. Ham is buried in the Franklin Cemetery, Holmes County, Mississippi.
4. **Elizabeth Ruth Ham** (7 Dec 1867–2 Sep 1952) married on 9 June 1894 in Holmes County, Mississippi to Jefferson Winston Williams Jr. (6 Jul 1870–1937), son of Jefferson Winston Williams Sr. (13 Dec 1827–5 Feb 1897) and Julia Virginia Horton (12 May 1842–20 Feb 1920). Elizabeth and Jeff Williams are buried in the Charleston Cemetery, Charleston, Tallahatchie County, Mississippi.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Hillory Herbert Ham [Jr.]

Hillory Herbert Ham [Jr.] (3 Sep 1834–16 Mar 1889) was the younger of two close relatives with this name who lived in eastern Union Parish, Louisiana. To distinguish him from his older cousin, he was known throughout his life as *"H. Hub Ham", "Hillory H. Ham Jr.," "H. H. Ham Jr.,"* or *"Hubbard Ham."*

Hubbard Ham was raised by William Ham and Clarenda Seale [1]. He is documented as a relative, but concrete documentation of Hub's parents is lacking [2]. He is likely William Ham's nephew, the son of Reuben Ham who left Union Parish in late 1843 and moved to Holmes County, Mississippi following a scandal involving Reuben's wife. Reuben was likely William's brother, but this is not known with certainty.

Hubbard was not enumerated on the 1860 federal census, a common occurrence for young men who worked seasonally and lived with relatives only temporarily. In the summer of 1861, he enlisted in the *"Phoenix Rifles,"* a company of men from Union Parish raised for Confederate military service. They trained in Union Parish in early 1861 before heading south to Camp Moore just north of Lake Pontchartrain where they officially entered the Confederate service on September 29th. The unit became Co. C, 17th Regiment Louisiana Infantry.

Hub Ham was present for duty for the next year, probably seeing action with his unit at the Battle of Pittsburg Landing (Shiloh) on 6–7 April 1862. His unit joined the garrison of Vicksburg in May 1862 and remained there for the next year. Hub was absent from duty, sick in the hospital in July and August 1862, but again present between September and December. By the end of the year, he served as his company's drummer.

Hub's regiment helped repulse Gen. William T. Sherman's attempt to capture Vicksburg by land at the Battle of Chickasaw Bayou on December 26–29, 1862, they being the first of the Confederate troops to engage the enemy. The 17th Regiment garrisoned the fortifications at Vicksburg until May 1863. His unit saw heavy fighting at the Battle of Port Gibson on May 1st, when the Confederates attempted to stop the progress of Gen. U. S. Grant's as he began to ensnare Vicksburg. Hub Ham participated in the Siege of Vicksburg and was sick in the hospital at the surrender on July 4th. After the soldiers were officially exchanged in July 1864, Hub rejoined his regiment at Shreveport before they moved to Pineville. They spent the remainder of the war there, garrisoning the forts guarding the Red River approach from the south or operating near Bayou Cotile and Mansfield [3].

Hub returned to Farmerville after the War. On 18 December 1866, he married Louisa J. Dean (c1848–1 Apr 1879), daughter of Josiah Deanes (c1800–8 Oct 1851) and Sarah Ann Taylor (c1808/1811–1870/1880). A few days later, on December 27th he bought his own farm nearby

[4]. Two years later, after the death of William Ham in 1868, Hub decided to sell his farm and buy a portion of the elder Ham's old farm. Hub sold his own farm on 24 October 1868 [5]. He then bought 280 acres from William Ham's estate and lived there the rest of his life.

Hub and Louisa J. Ham had three surviving children before her death on 1 April 1879. He remarried on 28 December 1880 in Lincoln Parish, Louisiana to Minnie F. Jordan (10 Nov 1857–4 Feb 1905).

In contrast to Hillory H. Ham [Sr.], his elder cousin, Hub Ham appears to have lived as a model citizen. He became an industrious farmer, supporting his family in a modest but comfortable standard of living. On 10 October 1883, he surprised the citizens of Farmerville by bringing a wagon load of *"fine melons"* to sell in town. Watermelons that late in the season proved a rarity, especially at the end of a very dry season [6].

Ham was politically active and apparently harbored aspirations for public office. In November 1870, he ran for Union Parish Sheriff, although he only received eleven votes in a close race dominated by Sheriff John M. Lee and James Edwards [7]. He is likely the man who ran for sheriff in 1878 [8].

In 1885, as the State prepared to execute Perry Melton and his son for the murder of their neighbor, the sheriff constructed the gallows inside the two-story Farmerville jail. Hub Ham was one of the men selected to witness the hanging that occurred at 1:37 p.m. on Friday, 19 June 1885.

During the late 1880s, Democrats in Louisiana fractured between Gov. Samuel D. McEnery—a Bourbon Democrat charged with ignoring Lottery corruption—and Gov. Francis T. Nicholls—a reformer not aligned with the Lottery ring who promised to eliminate corruption. As the two men vied to become the Democratic nominee for the 1888 gubernatorial election, Gov. Nicholls made a campaign stop in Farmerville on November 5th. Hubbard Ham supported Gov. Nicholls in this contest, with Ham serving as a vice president of the Reception Committee that planned the events for Nicholls's campaign stop [9].

H. Hub Ham died in March 1889 at only fifty-four years of age. He was buried in the Taylor/Liberty Hill Cemetery, with his grave located under the large magnolia tree in the center of the cemetery.

After Hub's death, Minnie continued to operate his old farm with the assistance of her stepson. In 1900, Minnie, her three children, and her stepson Burt Ham lived on Hub's old farm. Minnie remarried on 17 January 1902 in Union Parish to Mack Henry Stancil (17 Feb 1842–2 May 1909).

A terrible tragedy occurred on Friday night, 4 February 1905 in which Minnie Ham Stancil was accidentally killed by her youngest son, Palmer Ham. Farmerville's newspaper published this description of the incident [10]:

A Terrible Mistake

News reached Farmerville Saturday morning of a terrible tragedy which occurred Friday night at the residence of Mr. Mack Stancil who lives about eight miles east of town, resulting in the killing of Mrs. Stancil by her son, Palmer Ham.

It seems that young Ham, who is about 16 years of age and another boy of his own age were out in the yard playing and observing a light in the field back of the house they became frightened and ran into the house and asked Mr. Stancil where the gun was as they thought some one was prowling around the place. Young Ham secured the gun and went out the back door and around the house and in the meantime Mrs. Stancil had gone out the back way and was standing on the back gallery watching the light, which was evidently only someone passing by. The boy came up within about 30 feet and discovered his mother standing on the gallery and thinking that she was some prowler, raised his gun and fired without saying a word. When the gun fired she screamed and Mr. Stancil, recognizing his wife's voice went in search of her and found her at the door-steps stone dead.

Minnie was buried beside Hubbard Ham in the Taylor/Liberty Hill Cemetery.

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Children of Hillory Herbert Ham [Jr.]

Hillory Herbert Ham [Jr.] (3 Sep 1834–16 Mar 1889) married twice and had children by both of his wives. Since Ham died prematurely, leaving four minor children, there are extensive court records related to his guardianship of his children [11].

Hubbard Ham and his first wife Louisa J. Dean (c1848–1 Apr 1879) had three surviving children:

1. **Ellora H. Ham** (13 Dec 1871–16 Oct 1955) married on 15 September 1888 in Union Parish, Louisiana to Charles Wesley Hayes (23 Jul 1865–25 Mar 1924), son of William Arnett Hayes (18 Nov 1838–26 Apr 1916) and Flora R. Parker (14 Sep 1839–14 Nov 1903). Ellora and Charles Hayes are buried in the Taylor/Liberty Hill Cemetery, Farmerville, Union Parish, Louisiana.
2. **Ambrose Ham** (4 Oct 1874–13 July 1946) married on 11 January 1893 in Union Parish, Louisiana to Mattie Woodall (26 May 1878–19 Jun 1964), daughter of Robert Henry Woodall (5 Jan 1856–3 Feb 1943) and Alice Walker Meeks (27 Feb 1861–22 Dec 1933). Ambrose and Mattie Ham are buried in the Taylor/Liberty Hill Cemetery, Farmerville, Union Parish, Louisiana.
3. **James Herbert Ham** (28 Aug 1876–14 Nov 1905) petitioned the Union Parish District Court to emancipate him on 30 November 1895 [12]. He married on 20 January 1904 in Franklin Parish, Louisiana to Eva Mae Thorn (9 Mar 1885–2 Apr 1977). The circumstances of his premature death are unknown.

Hubbard Ham and his second wife Minnie F. Jordan (10 Nov 1857–4 Feb 1905) also had three surviving children:

4. **Minnie Lou Ham** (3 Feb 1882–5 Sep 1960) married in Union Parish, Louisiana on 11 November 1900 to George Allen Albritton (2 Apr 1881–4 Nov 1927), son of William Arnett Albritton (28 Nov 1856–29 Mar 1927) and Sarah Catherine Taylor (2 Nov 1863–21 Dec 1928). Minnie married a Mr. Feist after George's death. George A. Albritton is buried in the Taylor/Liberty Hill Cemetery. Minnie is buried in the Forest Park Cemetery, Houston, Harris County Texas, Section 31 Sunnyside [13].
5. **Clara E. Ham** (Aug 1883–22 Oct 1936) married in Union Parish, Louisiana on 10 September 1903 to William Clarence Reeves [Willie, Will] (31 Mar 1883–12 Dec 1960), son of Newton Calvin Livingston Reeves (1 Oct 1844–22 Jan 1920) and Martha Ann Mathews (27 Aug 1847–

15 May 1933). Clara and Willie farmed near Marion until the latter 1920s, when they moved to the Town of Prescott, Nevada County, Arkansas. In 1930, Willie worked as a grocery store clerk in Prescott. Clara and Willie are buried in the De Ann Cemetery, located on the western edge of Prescott, Nevada County, Arkansas.

6. **Palmer Herbert Ham** [Hubbard] (10 Sep 1888–25 Jun 1959) was only a few months old when his father died in March 1889. While all sources agree that Palmer's birth occurred on September 10th, they differ widely regarding the year. All records contemporary with his youth give his birth in 1888, and it appears that like his sister, later in life, he attempted to portray himself as younger than his chronological age [14]. This is a pattern not uncommon among early twentieth-century Southerners seeking to appear younger for employment or social reasons.

   After the accidental death of his mother in 1905, Palmer appears to have remained near his older sister, Minnie. In 1910, he boarded in the house that adjoined hers near Farmerville.

   Palmer Ham married in Union Parish, Louisiana on 12 February 1911 to Rosa Lou Brantley (3 Sep 1891–10 May 1978), daughter of Martin Batte Brantley (25 Aug 1853–14 Jun 1932) and Louisa Annette Roan (9 Aug 1856/1857–9 Aug 1950).

   After their marriage, Palmer and Rose farmed near Farmerville until about 1927, when they moved to Monroe, where he worked for one year as a Monroe policeman and five years as a West Monroe policeman. He then became a special investigator for the Missouri-Pacific Railroad Commission and the regional Federal Court [15]. In 1940, he lived in Monroe and worked as the proprietor of a Boarding House Oak Street. Palmer and Rose returned to Farmerville in March 1946, and he worked as the town's night marshal.

   In 1947, Palmer and Rose moved to Lake Charles, where their son took a position as a chemist at an oil refinery, while Palmer took a position as a guard at the refinery. Palmer died in Calcasieu Parish in 1959, but he was buried in the Alexandria Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Rapides Parish, Louisiana.

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Another William & Reuben Ham in Union Parish, Louisiana

Sometime in the early 1860s, William Henry Ham (Sep 1825–6 Nov 1902) settled in Union Parish a few miles northwest of Farmerville in the Zion Hill community. Census records indicate that both he and his parents were born in Georgia. Nothing is known of Ham's family background. In particular, his whereabouts prior to his arrival in Union Parish in the early 1860s is unknown.

In the early 1900s, veterans of Co. H, 31st Louisiana Infantry made affidavits stating that Ham enlisted with the others in early 1862 and served throughout the war, including during the Siege of Vicksburg. These statements are incorrect, as his name does not appear on any of the surviving muster rolls of the 31st Regiment in 1862 and 1863, nor does he appear on the list of soldiers captured at the capitulation of Vicksburg on 4 July 1863. William H. Ham must have enlisted in Co. H, 31st Regiment after July 1863, a period for which there are no muster rolls. Many soldiers enlisted in late 1863 and 1864 while the unit was on parole awaiting exchange following their surrender at Vicksburg [1].

William H. Ham married in about 1862 to Naomi Caroline Miller (26 Aug 1829–1 Apr 1880), the widow of Abner J. Glaze (c1823–c1861). Ham's marriage is reported as occurring on 23 February 1862, but no known source verifies this date. In 1870, William and Naomi owned no real estate and the census enumerator only listed his personal estate as $150.

Sometime during the 1870s, William and Naomi moved north and settled near the modern village of Lockhart near the Arkansas state line. Naomi died there of pneumonia in April 1880 and was buried in the Beech Grove Cemetery. William married on 23 January 1881 in Union County, Arkansas to Almira Bertha Childers (19 May 1853–Feb 1935). They bought a farm in southern Union County near Hillsboro and lived there until William's death in 1902. He was reportedly buried beside Naomi in the Beech Grove Cemetery near Lockhart, Union Parish, Louisiana.

William and Naomi Ham had three surviving children:

1. **Aletha Mae Ham** [Letha] (8 Feb 1863–2 Feb 1937) married William J. Risinger (2 May 1859–7 Jul 1926) and moved to Texas. Letha and Willie Risinger are buried in the Bradley Springs Cemetery, Shelby County, Texas.
2. **Ruben Duguid Ham** (18 Aug 1864–19 Jul 1931) married on 13 February 1896 in Union County, Arkansas to Elizabeth Catherine Coleman (5 Feb 1873–28 Aug 1951). Ruben and Lizzie Ham are buried in the Cane Creek Cemetery near Strong, Union County, Arkansas.

3. **Emma A. Ham** (24 Apr 1866–17 Mar 1882) was buried in the Beech Grove Cemetery near Lockhart beside her mother.

No known evidence suggests that William Henry Ham of northwestern Union Parish, Louisiana and Hillsboro, Union County, Arkansas had any connection to William and Reuben Ham who had settled east of Farmerville in the l830s and 1840s. They lived in different regions of the parish, but the common name of *"Reuben"* may suggest a possible connection.

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The 1876 Divorce:
Hillory Herbert Ham [Sr.] & Samantha Elvyann Scarborough

In early 1876, Hillory Herbert Ham's second wife Samantha Elvyann Scarborough hired Farmerville attorney W. K. Rutland to file a divorce petition for her before Union Parish Court Judge Thomas Charles Lewis, III. Rutland filed her suit on 29 February 1876, and it recounts a remarkably sad story of physical abuse and cruelty she had suffered from her husband:

To the Honorable the Judge of the Parish Court in and for the parish of Union State of Louisiana.

The petition of Samantha E. Scarborough a resident of your said parish with respect shows that she intermarried with Hilory [sic] *H. Ham who is also a resident of your said parish about 15th of November AD 1860 in this parish of Union. She avers that the said marriage has been both disagreeable and unfortunate and that the conduct of the defendant her said husband towards her has been unkind and cruel and totally repugnant to the marriage covenant and has permanently destroyed the happiness of your petitioner. It is avered that he has repeatedly been guilty of outrages towards her person by beating, and whipping her, that he has violently choked her until the blood would freely flow from her nose, that that he has assaulted her with a pistol and beat her with a stick and with his fist, and has often used abusive and insulting language to her, such as was calculated and intended to bring shame and reproach on her good name in the community in which they lived and among her best friends, and that all of this has been done without any good cause.*

She avers that she has even been a dutiful and a prudent wife and careful and mindful of his interests and wishes but that notwithstanding all this he has abandoned her and for more than two years has failed to contribute to the support of your petitioner, his wife, and her large family of helpless children the issue of her marriage with the defendant and that she by her own exertion and with the assistance of her own relatives have to bear the burden of feeding and clothing and educating the same.

She avers that without the unrewarded assistance of her friends that her said children would suffer for the absolute necessities of life and would be paupers upon the charity of the world.

She avers that her said husband has indulged in many excesses, and in habitual intemperance and has involved the community and made it insolvent.

Wherefore she prays that she be authorized to prosecute this suit and stand in judgment herein and that her said husband Hilory [sic] *H. Ham be duly cited to answer hereto and that after a trial had hereon that she have Judgment in her favor dissolving the bonds of Matrimony heretofore existing between her and her said husband and for general relief and costs.*

W. R. Rutland
Atty for petitioner

Upon receipt of Samantha's petition, Union Parish Clerk of Court W. W. Heard issued a summons to Hillory Ham, ordering him to appear in court to answer within ten days of receipt of the summons. Union Parish Sheriff M. L. McFarland returned the writ with this report:

Recd. In office on the 29th day of Feby. A.D. 1876 and on the same day and date I made service by delivering a certified copy of the within citation together with a certified copy of petition to Hillory H. Ham in person at his domicile in this Parish about four miles from office.

Service & mileage 2.80

Hillory ignored his wife's petition and the summons, so Union Parish Court Judge Thomas C. Lewis issued his judgment two weeks later:

In this case by reason of the law and the evidence adduced on the trial hereon being in favor of the Plaintiff and against the defendant, the judgment by default not having been set aside after two judicial days, it is ordered adjudged and decreed that the said Plaintiff Samantha E. Scarborough wife be authorized to prosecute this suit and stand in judgment and that she have judgment against the Defendant Hilory [sic] *H. Ham dissolving the bonds of Matrimony heretofore existing between them and that defendant pay the costs of this Suit.*

Thus done read and signed in open court on this 18th day of March 1876.

Thos. C. Lewis
Parish Judge

This is one of the very few divorces granted in Union Parish, Louisiana during the nineteenth century [1].

Exactly one month after his divorce, Hillory hired Farmerville attorney G. H. Ellis to petition the court for custody of his eldest son by Samantha, Matthew Addison Ham, who was then fourteen years old. Ellis filed Ham's petition on April 18th:

To the Honl. The Parish Judge of Union Parish Louisiana.

The petition of Hillory H. Ham a resident of Union Parish La. With respect represents unto your Honl. Court that a judgment "a vinculo matromoni" has been rendered by your Honor in a suit where petitioners wife was plaintiff and petitioner was defendant petitioner represents that there are several minor children the lawful issue of petitioner and his said wife, that all of said children except Mathew A. Ham are living with their mother, that she wishes to keep the said minors and petition wishes to keep the said Mathew A. that said arrangement is perfectly agreeable to all parties – petitioner represents that said minor Mathew A. has no property, but a tutor should be appointed to supt. His education and take charge of and controle [sic] *him, and that petitioner is the natural tutor and entitled to said tutorship.*

Where fore petitioner prays that he be allowed to qualify as Natural Tutor and that letters of tutorship issue, and that Crawford Ham be appointed Under tutor…

Judge Thomas C. Lewis approved the petition, and Hillory H. Ham appeared before the Court to sign his oath as natural tutor to his son Matthew [2].

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Notes

Reuben Ham of Culpeper and Madison Counties, Virginia

1. Culpeper County VA Marriage Register (1781–1853), p. 54; LDS Film #7578850, Image #225: Reuben Ham to Elizabeth Pembleton, date of marriage: 28 January 1790.
2. 1803 Madison County VA Personal Property Taxes, LDS Film #7836233, Image #308, p. 15, line #5: *"Reubin Ham."*
3. Elbert County GA Marriage Records, 1809, LDS Film #4966920, Images #52–53: Reuben Ham to *"Jane Jourdan,"* license issued 24 May 1809, executed 1 June 1809. The marriage was executed by B. Pace, a Justice of the Peace, who wrote: *"This is to certify that I have Joined together in the Holly* [sic] *Estate of Matrimoney* [sic]*, Reuben Ham & Jane Jordan…"*
4. 1820 Oglethorpe County GA Federal Census, p. 181, line #23: Reuben Ham.
5. Elbert County GA Apprenticeship Records, LDS Film #4968004, Image #220: Wesley Pendleton Ham, *"a poore orphan…son of Reuben Ham Deceased,"* aged eight years, apprenticed for thirteen years to John Ashworth, 5 November 1827. The similarity of Wesley's middle name to the maiden name of Elizabeth Pembleton suggests that Reuben Ham of Culpeper County, Virginia is the same man who later moved to Elbert County, Georgia.
6. James Seale's will and estate records in Butler County, Alabama give multiple lists of his children. The lists are repetitive but consistent, and show that one of his daughters was Clarenda, the wife of William Ham:
   - Butler County AL Will Book 1, pp. 143–146;
   - Butler County AL Estate Case Files, LDS #7651368, Images #596–678
   - Butler County AL Estates Record B-4, pp. 105–107, 165–166, 574–575
   - Butler County AL Estates Record 5, pp. 131–134, 305–307
   - Butler County AL Probate Minutes 5, pp. 98–99, 165–167, 286, 634.
   - Butler County AL Probate Minutes 6-A, pp. 184–185, 218–224, 283–285, 287, 351, 376–380.

William Ham and Clarenda Seale: Vital Statistics

1. Union Parish, Louisiana Succession Book H, pp. 613–615: Estate of William Ham, final account filed 1 February 1877.

William Ham and Clarenda Seale: Life Story

1. Wards Chapel Cemetery (Farmerville, Union Parish LA), tombstone remnants of the original grave marker for William Ham (8 Jan 1801–May 1868).
2. Williams, E. Russ Jr. *Encyclopedia of Individuals and Founding Families of the Ouachita Valley of Louisiana From 1785 to 1850: Organized into Family Groups with Miscellaneous Materials on Historical Events, Places, and Other Important Topics, Part One A–K*, pp. 19–25. The 1838 Ouachita Parish Tax Assessment gives the neighborhoods in which the residents lived, identifying the Bayou Loutre community as distinct from the Pine Hills community.
3. Union Parish LA Police Jury Minutes, Book 1 (1839–1844). William Ham was mentioned in numerous sessions of the Police Jury, in particular those of:
   3 Jun 1839: appointed captain of patrol and to work on a road
   27 Sep 1841: appointed member of a committee to locate a burying ground and Methodist church
   5 Sep 1842: appointed overseer of what became the road from Farmerville to Port Union
4. Louisiana Legislature. "An ACT to incorporate the Union Male and Female Academy of the Parish of Union." *Acts Passed at the First Session of the Fifteenth Legislature of The State of Louisiana Begun and Held in the City of New Orleans, on the 4th day of January, 1841*. Approved 8 March 1841. The original act misspelled Ham's name, listing him as *"William Hamm."*
5. Louisiana Legislature. "An Act For the further improvement of the Bayou d'Arbon." *Acts Passed at the Second Session of the First Legislature of The State of Louisiana, Held and Begun in the City of New Orleans, on the 11th Day of January, 1847,* No. 194, pp. 143–144 (approved 28 April 1847).
6. Union Parish, Louisiana Succession Book H, pp. 613–615: Estate of William Ham, final account filed 1 February 1877.
7. *"The Gazette"* (Farmerville, LA), 2 June 1897, p. 3, column 2: *"Died."*

Hillory Herbert Ham [Sr.]

1. Union Parish, Louisiana Succession Book H, pp. 613–615: Estate of William Ham, final account filed 1 February 1877.
2. Union Parish LA Succession Book A-3, pp. 423–424: Tutorship of Minor Heirs of H. Hub Ham, Deceased, petition filed 19 September 1896 by Mrs. Minnie F. Ham. She proposed a family meeting consisting of *"relatives of said minors,"* including Matthew A. Ham, the documented son of Hillory H. Ham [Sr.].
3. 1850 Union Parish LA Federal Census, p. 357b, Dwelling #120, lines:
   #17: William Ham–age: 49; occupation: Farmer; birthplace: *"Va"*

#18: Clarenda Ham–age: 39; birthplace: *"S.C."*
#19: *"Hilliard Ham"*–age: 21; birthplace: *"Ala"*
#20: Reuben Ham–age: 19; birthplace: *"Ala"*
#21: *"Hubbard Ham"*–age: 15; birthplace: *"Ala"*

4. 1860 Union Parish LA Federal Census, Mortality Schedule, p. 498/4, line #1: *"I. A. Ham"*–age: 32; died in May 1860; cause of death: *"Inflamation;"* days ill: 360.
5. *"The Daily Picayune"* (New Orleans), p. 4, column 2). Compiled Military Service Records:
   - Hillory H. Ham, Captain, Co. E, 19th Louisiana Infantry (Confederate), Civil War.
   - James B. Landers, 1st Lieutenant, Captain, Co. E, 19th Louisiana Infantry (Confederate), Civil War.
   - Captions and Record of Events (Field and Staff), 19th Louisiana Infantry (Confederate), Civil War.
6. Louisiana Confederate Pension Application #8239, Samantha E. Ham (widow of Hillory H. Ham), Union Parish, filed 8 December 1909 and 1 September 1920.
7. *"The New-Orleans Times"* (New Orleans, LA), 22 December 1875, p. 8, column 4. The newspaper reported: *"The Governor has pardoned Willery H. Ham, convicted of assault and battery in Union parish…"* This is undoubtedly a typographical error and should be *"Hillery H. Ham."*
8. Union Parish LA Civil Suit #790: Samantha E. Scarborough, wife vs. *"Hilory H. Ham,"* husband, filed 29 February 1876; divorce granted 18 March 1876. Union Parish LA Suit Book 1875–1882, pp. 82–83: Samantha E. Scarborough, wife vs. *"Hilory H. Ham,"* husband, filed 29 February 1876.
9. Union Parish LA Succession Book A-2, pp. 60–61: Tutorship of Matthew A. Ham, filed and approved 18 April 1876.
10. 1880 Union Parish LA Federal Census,
    p. 393b: lines:
    #34: *"Hilory C. Ham"*–age: 27; married; occupation: carpenter
    #39: *"Hilory H. Ham"*–age: 52; relationship: Father; divorced; occupation: carpenter
    p. 400b: lines:
    #3: Noah Scarborough–age: 72; married; occupation: Farmer
    #4: *"Symantha"* Scarborough–age: 61; relationship; Wife; married; occupation: House Keeper
    #6: John Ham–age: 11; relationship: *"Gr. son"* [grandson]; occupation: *"works in farm"*
    #7: Anna Ham–age: 13; relationship: *"Gr. daughter"* [granddaughter]; occupation: *"works in farm"*
    #29: John J. Flowers–age: 33; married; occupation: Farmer
    #30: Frances Flowers–age: 27; relationship: Wife; married; occupation: House Keeper
    #32: Ella Ham–age: 36; relationship: sister in law; divorced; occupation: *"general work"*
    #33: Henry Ham–age; 11; relationship: Nephew; occupation: *"general work"*
    #34: Bettie Ham–age; 9: relationship: Niece
    #35: Rosa Ham–age: 6; relationship: Niece
    p. 409a: lines:
    #6: John T. Ward–age: 44; married; occupation: Farmer
    #7: Sarah E. Ward–age: 41; relationship: Wife; occupation: House Keeper
    #14: James Ward–age: 24; married; occupation: Farmer
    #15: Nancy Ward–age: 19; relationship: Wife; occupation: House Keeper
    #18: Mathew Ham–age: 18; relationship: Boarder; occupation: At School
    p. 409b: lines:
    #40: Mathew A. Scarborough–age: 30; married; occupation: Farmer
    #41: Clarenda Scarborough–age: 24; relationship: Wife; occupation: House Keeper
    #44: William Ham–age: 13; relationship: cropper; occupation: cropper

    This shows each of the children of Hillory H. Ham and Elvyann Scarborough living with one of their maternal relatives. John and Anna lived with their maternal grandparents, while Elvyann, Henry, Bettie, and Rosa lived with her sister, Frances Rhoyan Flowers. Matthew A. Ham lived in the household of his first cousin, James Addison Ward, but on the farm owned by his uncle, John T. Ward. Finally, William Ham lived in the household of his older half-sister, Clarenda Ham Scarborough.
11. New Orleans Land Office, Homestead Application #7768, *"Semantha E. Scarborough,"* filed 10 December 1883, cancelled 24 September 1894 (SW¼ of NW¼ of Section 20, Township 21 North, Range 2 East, 40.11 acres). Union Parish LA Tax Assessment Rolls, 1880–1897, Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, LA. In 1884 and 1885, Elvyann paid her taxes using her legal name as a divorced woman, *"Mrs. Elvyann Scarborough,"* while in later years, she paid them under the name of *"Mrs. Samantha E. Ham"* or *"Mrs. S. E. Ham."*
12. Louisiana Confederate Pension Application #8239, Samantha E. Ham (widow of Hillory H. Ham), Union Parish, filed 8 December 1909 and 1 September 1920. Samantha Elvyann Ham filed two applications. The 1920 application gave Hillory's death date as 12 April 1888, whereas her 1909 application gave it as 12 April 1889.

Reuben James Ham

1. Union Parish, Louisiana Succession Book H, pp. 613–615: Estate of William Ham, final account filed 1 February 1877.
2. *"The Gazette,"* 7 Septemberr 1898, p. 2, columns 4–5.
3. Union Parish LA Succession Book F, pp. 680–687: Succession of Reuben J. Ham, filed 4 June 1867.
4. *"The Gazette,"* 22 November 1899, p. 3, column 1.

Reuben Ham of Union Parish, Louisiana

1. Union Parish LA Marriage Book M (1839–1844), p. 28: *"Reuben Ham"* to Frances Edwards, 4 December 1842.
2. Union Parish LA Suit Book D, pp. 70–72: Reuben Ham vs. Frances Edwards, filed 2 October 1843. The petition states that Frances Edwards gave birth on 17 April 1842 after their marriage. This is an obvious mistake on the petition, and the birth must have occurred on 17 April 1843.

Reuben Ham of Holmes County, Mississippi

1. Franklin Cemetery (Franklin, Holmes County MS), tombstone of *"Reuben Ham"* (1805–1880). This grave marker is modern. Ham's exact dates of birth and death were published in an earlier cemetery survey. The new marker only gives the years of his birth and death.
2. 1850 Holmes County MS Federal Census, p. 280a, Dwelling #758, lines:
   #32: John W. Taggart–age: 37; occupation: Farmer; real estate; $1410; birthplace: *"S.C."*
   #39: *"Ruben Ham"*–age: 47; occupation: Overseer; birthplace: *"Ga"*
3. Leake County MS Deed Book M (1856–1857), p 82: Patrick W. Shoemaker and wife Lucinda to *"Ruben Ham,"* 13 September 1856. Ham bought the NW¼ of Section 24, Township 12 North, Range 7 East.
4. Leake County MS Deed Book O (1859–1862), pp. 70–71: Reuben Ham to R. A. Dennis, 13 January 1860. The deed was made in Holmes County, Mississippi. Ham sold the exact land he had purchased in 1856.
5. 1860 Holmes County MS Federal Census, Richland Beat, p. 831/123, Dwelling #851, lines:
   #28: S. D. Shackelford–age: 50; occupation; Planter; real estate: $17,500; personal estate: $102,017; birthplace: *"Miss."*
   #29: Reuben Ham–age: 54; occupation: Overseer; personal estate: $3170; birthplace: Virginia
6. Holmes County MS Deed Book Q (1861–1873), p. 5: John and Elias Morris to Reuben Ham, 14 June 1861. Ham bought 80 acres: W½ of NE¼, Section 30, Township 14, Range 4 East.
7. 1870 Holmes County MS Federal Census, Durant Dist, P.O. Durant, p. 47b/93:
   Dwelling #768, line #17: *"Wm Frizell"* –age: 62; occupation: Farmer; birthplace: England
   Dwelling #771, lines:
   #35: *"Rubin Ham"* –age: 65; occupation: Farmer; birthplace: *"Va"*
   #36: Eliza Ham–age: 35; occupation: Keeps House; birthplace: *"Ky"*
   #37: George Ham–age: 4; birthplace: *"Miss"*
   #38: Elizabeth Ham–age: 2; birthplace: *"Miss"*

Hillory Herbert Ham [Jr.]

1. 1850 Union Parish LA Federal Census, p. 357b, Dwelling #120, lines:
   #17: William Ham–age: 49; occupation: Farmer; birthplace: *"Va"*
   #18: Clarenda Ham–age: 39; birthplace: *"S.C."*
   #19: *"Hilliard Ham"*–age: 21; birthplace: *"Ala"*
   #20: Reuben Ham–age: 19; birthplace: *"Ala"*
   #21: *"Hubbard Ham"*–age: 15; birthplace: *"Ala"*
2. Union Parish LA Succession Book A-3, pp. 423–424: Tutorship of Minor Heirs of H. Hub Ham, Deceased, petition filed 19 September 1896 by Mrs. Minnie F. Ham. She proposed a family meeting consisting of *"relatives of said minors,"* including Matthew A. Ham, the son of Hillory H. Ham [Sr.].
3. Compiled Military Service Record, H. H. Ham, Sergeant, Private, Co. C, 17th Louisiana Infantry (Confederate), Civil War.
4. Union Parish LA Conveyance Book L, p. 391. H. Hub Ham land purchase, 27 December 1866.
5. Union Parish LA Conveyance Book M, p. 255. H. Hub Ham sold his farm, 24 October 1868.
6. *"The Monroe Bulletin"* (Monroe, LA), 17 October 1883, p. 1, column 5.
7. *"New Orleans Republican"* (New Orleans, LA), 1 December 1870, p. 5, column 4: *"Official: Compiled Returns of an Election Held in the parish of Union, State of Louisiana, for parish officers, on the seventh day of November, A.D. 1870…"* It is possible that the man who ran for sheriff was not Hub Ham but his first cousin, Hillory H. Ham [Sr.], but there is nothing to indicate that the elder man ever sought political office.

8. *"The Donaldsonville Chief"* (Donaldsonville, LA), 24 August 1878, p. 2, column 1. In an attempt to poke fun at Ham's surname, the editor wrote: *"Mr. Ham is a candidate for Sheriff in Union parish. If he has had eggsperience in political wirepulling, he may be able to save his bacon."*
9. *"The Daily Picayune"* (New Orleans, LA), 6 November 1887, p. 8, column 1: *"Nicholls: A Generous Welcome to Union Parish."*
10. *"The Gazette,"* 8 February 1905, p. 3, column 2: *"A Terrible Mistake."*
11. Union Parish LA Succession Books:
    Book X, pp. 604–613: Petition filed 13 May 1881.
    Book X, pp. 613–633: Petition filed 20 March 1889.
    Book A-2, pp. 57–59: Petition filed 30 November 1895.
    Book A-2, pp. 53–55: Petition filed 18 January 1890.
    Book A-3: pp. 423–424: Petition filed 19 September 1896.
    Book 2, pp. 292–295: Petition filed 6 February 1893.
    Book 10, p. 128: Petition filed 17 January 1925.
12. Union Parish LA Succession Book A-2, pp. 57–59: Emancipation of J. H. Ham, filed 23 November 1895.
13. Minnie's tombstone and death certificate give her date of birth as 3 February 1884, but the 1900 federal census gives her birth month as February 1882. The 1910 federal census places her birth about 1883, and the 1920 census puts it about 1882. Since she is older than her sister, Clara, who was born in August 1883, it appears that Minnie's tombstone and death certificate have the incorrect year of birth. She apparently portrayed herself as younger than her actual age.
14. These sources place Palmer's birth in the year 1888: 1900 and 1910 federal censuses, and his World War I draft registration. His World War II registration gives his birthdate as 10 September 1892, his death certificate gives his birth in 1896, and his tombstone was inscribed with his year of birth as 1897. The latter three are clearly impossible, given his father's date of death in March 1889.
15. *"The Gazette,"* 7 March 1946, p. 1, column 2: *"Palmer Hamm Now Night Marshal."*

Another William & Reuben Ham in Union Parish, Louisiana

1. Arkansas Confederate Pension Application #12759, Mrs. A. B. Ham, widow of W. H. Ham, filed 11 August 1914. Ham served in Capt. W. W. Farmer's Company, Co. H, 31st Regiment Louisiana Infantry. In her application, his widow states that Ham died at Hillsboro, Union County, Arkansas on 7 November 1902.

Appendix: 1876 Divorce of Hillory Herbert Ham [Sr.]

1. Union Parish LA Civil Suit #790: Samantha E. Scarborough, wife vs. *"Hilory H. Ham,"* husband, filed 29 February 1876; divorce granted 18 March 1876. Union Parish LA Suit Book 1875–1882, pp. 82–83: Samantha E. Scarborough, wife vs. *"Hilory H. Ham,"* husband, filed 29 February 1876.
2. Union Parish LA Succession Book A-2, pp. 60–61: Tutorship of Matthew A. Ham, filed 18 April 1876.

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