

Introduction

Who was James Seale?

James Seale was born in Cumberland County North Carolina, but moved with his parents into what is now Fairfield County South Carolina when he was an infant. Except for a few years in which he lived in Wilkes County Georgia, Seale remained in Fairfield County (then Fairfield District) until he was about 51 years old. In the late fall or winter of 1820 – 1821, James Seale moved his family to Butler County Alabama. Seale lived in Butler County between 1821 and 1832, then moved a short distance north into southern Lowndes County, where he lived until about 1836. At that time he moved into Autauga (now Elmore) County, where he farmed for about 16 years. In 1852, at about the age of 83, James retired back to Butler County, and apparently lived near his sons Anderson and Ransom until his death in 1860.

James Seale was a farmer, or *planter*. He made numerous land transactions between the time of his first marriage at about the age of 23 and his retirement at 83. Seale was also a slaveowner, owning a few adult slaves for much of his life. He was an extremely generous and fair father, going out of his way to avoid showing favoritism towards one child over another. James Seale regularly advanced money and property to each of his eleven children who survived to adulthood, as well as to the children of his two daughters who preceded him in death. He was absolutely meticulous in his bookkeeping, carefully recording the value of gifts made to his children. Seale kept notes of each gift (or *advancement*, as he called them) made to his children and its value, and these records were left to his executors with his will at his death. He wrote in his will:

And be it now fully known and understood and I hereby expressly will direct and declare that such of my above named children as have received any advances from me heretofore and for which I have their receipt shall bring such advancements into hotchpotch and such money so advanced to them shall be so accounted for as that no one of my said nine children under this decree of my said will shall receive any more than another.

Seale's executors were his two eldest sons, and they followed their father's directive. The final distribution of James Seale's estate in 1862 is one of the most fastidious I have seen as far as detailing the precise amounts of money previously given to each of the heirs so as to make everything totally fair.

One of James Seale's granddaughters who knew him in her youth gave this physical description of him:

'He was a man of distinguished and dignified bearing, made a striking appearance when dressed in his satin breeches, gold buckles on his shoes, with his snowy white hair.' He always carried a gold headed walking cane which contained a dagger that could be removed by unscrewing the head of the cane...

My Connection to James Seale

I am a "double" descendant of James Seale, in that I descend from both his daughter Clenda Seale Ham and also her sister Cynthia Seale Ward (my parental grandparents were distantly related). I grew up listening to my grandfather talk about his great-grandmother Cynthia, and in 1980 at the age of 16, I began searching for more information on James Seale and his forebears.

Purpose of these Notes

I have been involved in genealogical research for the past 20 years. I have found that the Seale family is far more frustrating to research than most families are. In searching for information on James Seale's family, one repeatedly finds that the factual information uncovered from official government records made by James Seale during his lifetime does not match the claims of the published books on his family. One of my primary purposes in preparing and distributing these notes is to publicly correct the many erroneous published statements about James Seale. At least five published works on the James Seale family contain numerous incorrect statements. In recent years, the proliferation of the internet has caused much of this erroneous information to be posted online, tremendously increasing the dissemination of these errors. I frequently encounter online Seale researchers who authoritatively send me their **proven** information on James Seale. But in the final analysis, their material turns out to be the same old erroneous stories I have been trying to correct for 20 years.

I hope that by compiling the following material, I will make a small contribution towards presenting a detailed and **accurate** description of the life of James Seale, one that corrects some of the numerous inaccuracies of prior works on Seale and his family.

Description of these Notes

In the sequel I present all information I have been able to glean on James Seale and his family. All conclusions I state are based upon my interpretation of factual records made during James Seale's lifetime or immediately following his death, including deed, probate, census, federal land purchases, etc. Transcriptions of each of these records are also found below.

Acknowledgements

I have worked with numerous cousins in my Seale research. In particular, I worked closely for many years with Col. Ronald Sellers and his wife, Mamie Sellers, and also Mrs. Elizabeth Panek. We freely exchanged information and ideas, and they greatly contributed to my knowledge of James Seale's family. However, any errors in the following notes are entirely my responsibility.

Chronology of James Seale's Life

- 13 Feb 1769 James Seale was born in Cumberland County North Carolina. The location of his father's, Charles Seale's, farm was in the portion of Cumberland that became Moore County in 1784.
- 1769/1770 Land was surveyed for Charles Seale in Craven County South Carolina on Sawney's Branch of the Wateree River in the fall of 1769, and this land was granted to him in the spring of 1770. Thus, presumably James Seale moved with his father to South Carolina as an infant.
- 1770 – 1783 James Seale grew up in old Craven County South Carolina, a part of Camden District. This area became Fairfield County in 1785, then in 1800 became Fairfield District.
- 1783/1784 Following the death of James Seale's grandfather Anthony Seale, Jr. in Prince William County Virginia in 1781 and the end of the Revolution, there was a general movement of the Seale family into Wilkes County Georgia. Four of old Anthony's children moved there about 1783 or 1784. The State of Georgia granted Charles Seale land in October 1785, but he sold it in November 1785. Charles Seale had left Wilkes County by 1786, presumably returning to South Carolina.
- Sept 1784/1786 James Seale was present at the marriage of his sister Lydia Seale to Abraham Peavy (Peevy) in Wilkes County Georgia. Lydia stated the marriage was in September 1784, whereas James said September 1786.
- 1784 – c1790 Abraham Peavy lived in Wilkes (later Warren) County Georgia between 1785 and 1793. Since James Seale stated that he lived with Abraham and Lydia following their marriage, he must have remained in Georgia with them for several years after his father returned to South Carolina. It is uncertain exactly when James returned to South Carolina, but he was back there by 1791.
- c1792/1793 James Seale married for the first time to a woman named Rachel. He lived in Fairfield County at the time, so the marriage probably occurred there. Descendants claimed in the early twentieth century that Rachel's maiden name was *Kelley*, but absolutely no evidence has been found to verify this.
- c1792 – 1820 James and Rachel Seale farmed and raised their children in Fairfield County/District South Carolina.
- 1820/1821 James Seale left Fairfield District South Carolina and moved to Butler County Alabama, where his sister Lydia Seale Peavy had settled in about 1818 or 1819. He bought a farm from the government in September 1821, located a few miles from Greenville, Alabama.
- 1821 – c1831 James Seale lived on his farm near Greenville, in Butler County Alabama.
- c1832 – c1836 James Seale lived in southern Lowndes County, just a short distance north of his previous farm in Butler County. His daughters Elizabeth Seale Kelley, Mary Seale Bates, Matilda Seale Parmer, Clarendia Seale Ham, and Cynthia Seale Ward had all settled in the portion of Butler County that became southern Lowndes County in 1830. James Seale followed his daughters to Lowndes in about 1831 or 1832.

James Seale

- 1835 – 1837 James Seale moved from Lowndes into Autauga (now Elmore) County Alabama. This was about the same time that six of his children left Lowndes Co AL and moved to northern Ouachita Parish Louisiana. James Seale lived in Autauga for the next 16 or 18 years, remaining an active farmer well into his 80s.
- 26 Jan 1842 James Seale married a widow, Hannah Ivey, in Lowndes County Alabama. Hannah and James had a prenuptial agreement by which all of his property would go to his children and all of her property to her heirs.
- 1851 – 1853 James and Hannah leave Autauga County and retire back to Butler County, apparently living with James' sons Ransom, Anderson, or William Seale for the rest of their lives.
- 14 Feb 1859 Hannah Seale dies in Butler County Alabama at the age of about 75 years.
- 4 Feb 1860 James Seale died in Butler County Alabama, apparently while residing with his son Ransom Seale. According to a descendant, he was nine days short of being 91 years old.

Residences of James Seale

James Seale lived in the following locations during his lifetime:

Cumberland County North Carolina (1769)

James was born there in 1769 but moved to SC in late 1769 or early 1770 with his parents. His family was one of the earliest white families to settle in Cumberland County, arriving in about 1753 or 1754. His maternal grandfather James Muse, Sr. had died there in 1758. In the early 1760s, James Seale's grandmother and uncle, Sophia Pope Muse Morrison and Thomas Muse, apparently left and moved to Craven County SC. When Charles and Lydia Muse Seale moved from Cumberland to SC in 1769/1770, they left behind many relatives; Lydia's brother James Muse, Jr. remained and sided with the Tories during the Revolution (while her brothers Thomas and Daniel fought as patriots), and Charles' brother William Seale and sister Dorothy Seale Stribling and her husband Francis Stribling remained in Cumberland County. The portion of Cumberland County in which the Seales and Muses lived was cut off into Moore County in 1784.

Craven County/Camden District South Carolina (c1769/1770 – c1783/1784)

James Seale drew up here. Old Craven County was technically discontinued in 1769 and the region became Camden District. In 1785, Camden District was subdivided into counties, and the Wateree River region on which Charles Seale lived was in Fairfield County. In 1800, the local government structure of South Carolina changed again, with the old counties now becoming districts. So this same region was known as Craven County, Camden District, Fairfield County, and Fairfield District between 1769 and 1820.

Wilkes County Georgia (1783/1784 – c1790)

In 1781, James Seale's grandfather Anthony Seale, Jr. died in Prince William County VA and the American Revolution came to an end. These events apparently precipitated a general movement of old Anthony's children into Wilkes Co GA. James' uncle Anthony Seale III moved from VA to GA. Joining Anthony Seale III there were his siblings Thomas Seale and Francis and Dorothy Seale Stribling, who left Cumberland Co NC for GA, and Charles Seale, who moved to GA from SC. This move took place in 1783 or 1784. James Seale apparently moved to Georgia with his father at this time. Charles Seale returned to SC in late 1785, but James Seale appears to have remained there with his sister Lydia Seale Peavy for a while, according to his sworn statement many years later. It is not known how long James remained in Georgia with Lydia. He does not appear to be living in his father's household in 1790, so he possibly remained in Georgia until then. He was back in SC by 1791.

Fairfield County/District South Carolina (c1791 – 1820)

James Seale lived in Fairfield County, later District, between 1791 and 1820. He may have not remained in Georgia with his sister very long, so perhaps he even lived here in the latter 1780s with his father. This is the same area of South Carolina, around the Wateree River, in which he had spent his life since infancy, but the county and district designations had changed. Fairfield was created in 1785 from old Craven County. James Seale bought land in Wilkinson County Georgia in 1811, but if he ever moved there it was for only a short time.

He was residing in Fairfield in January 1811, and then every year between October 1812 and 1820, he is found as a resident of Fairfield. So if he actually moved to Georgia again, it must have been only for the growing seasons of 1811 and possibly 1812.

Butler County Alabama (1821 – c1832)

James Seale left South Carolina in the fall or winter of 1820. He bought land in Butler Co AL in 1821, and remained there until about 1832, when he moved about 6 miles north to a new plantation in southern Lowndes County Alabama.

The region we know as Butler County Alabama was occupied by the Creek nation until the Creek War of 1813 – 1814. After their defeat by General Andrew Jackson, the Creeks deeded the central portion of present-day Alabama to the United States in the Treaty of Fort Jackson. A large area of land centered on the current Georgia – Alabama state line remained under Creek control, although the Creeks gave the whites the right to pass through this region on the *Federal road*. Whites poured into present-day Butler and surrounding counties in 1817, many from Fairfield District South Carolina. In fact, so many former residents of that area moved into south-central Alabama then that the name of *Fairfield* was originally chosen for the county name. However, this was changed following the Indian attacks of 1818. A group of renegade Indians attacked the Ogly and Stroud families in their cabin on 13 March 1818, shooting Mr. Ogly, tomahawking Mrs. Stroud, and butchering five young children. The neighborhood families rushed to the newly constructed Fort Bibb for protection, and on March 20th, a group of five men, including Captain William Butler, left Fort Bibb for Fort Dale, then under construction. They were attacked, with Captain Butler brutally killed, scalped, and his body mutilated. During much of the growing season of 1818 the area families lived under fear of more Indian attacks, but by October the Indians had left the area. The citizens chose *Butler* as the name of the county, in honor of the bravery exhibited by Captain Butler. This and other information on the history of Butler County is found in *History of Butler County*, by John Buckner Little, first published in 1885.

James Seale was *not* a resident of Alabama during the Indian attacks on the Butler County area in 1818, as claimed by many published reports. He remained in Fairfield District South Carolina until the fall of 1820. However, his sister Lydia Seale Peavy may well have experienced that situation. She and her husband were living there by 1820, but I am uncertain of the exact date they moved there from Georgia. Another resident of Butler County by 1820 was James Craig, the neighbor of James Seale in Fairfield District.

Lowndes County Alabama (c1832 – c1835/1837)

James Seale remained in Lowndes only a few years. He and six of his children bought adjoining plantations there in the early 1830s; many of them left Alabama for northern Louisiana in the spring of 1837. Sometime between 1835 and 1837, James moved northeast again, this time into Autauga County. He lived in what later became Elmore County.

Autauga County Alabama (c1835/1837 – 1852)

James Seale lived in Autauga County for about 17 years. I do not know why he chose to move there; he had no children living in that area. His farm was located in the portion of Autauga that later became Elmore County, quite close to the state capitol in Montgomery. He moved to Autauga County with his second wife, Rebecca, but she died in late 1839 or early 1840. He married again to Hannah Ivey in 1842; they lived in Autauga County for the next ten years.

Butler County Alabama (1852 – 1860)

James and Hannah Seale lived in Butler County Alabama between about 1852 and their deaths. It appears they lived with or near James' eldest son Ransom Seale.

Vital Statistics and Personal Information

□ Dates of Birth and Death

James Seale was born in about the year 1769, and I use 13 February 1769 as his birthdate. He died 4 February 1860. The proof of these dates is as follows:

- On 14 Feb 1860, Ransom and Anderson Seale petitioned the Butler County Alabama Probate Court that their father James Seale had died on 4 Feb 1860. Since their petition was just ten days after his death occurred, there can be no doubt as to the accuracy of the date (Butler Co AL Probate Book 4, p. 105).
- The 1850 Autauga Co AL Census gives James Seale's age as 81 years, placing his birth in about 1769 (see the last section for the census listing).
- Miss Ida Carrie Seale, great-granddaughter of James Seale, began collecting information on the Seales in the early 1900s. She published three editions of a book on the Seale family entitled *Seales and Allied Families*. In the third edition published in 1954, she states

Had he [James Seale] lived nine days more, he would have been ninety-one years old at the time of his death.

As I will indicate below, Miss Seale's work is filled with inaccuracies, so it is perhaps illogical for me to accept this unattributed and unproved statement of hers. However, I think such a statement is more likely to be accurate than a date or even a name, in many cases. If the statement is correct, counting nine days forward from his date of death and subtracting 91, we arrive at a date of birth of 13 February 1769.

In her works, Miss Ida Carrie gives James Seale a date of birth of 1773, and a death date of 1864. She also makes incorrect statements regarding the order of death of James' third wife, Hannah Seale, and his son Ransom Seale. Later Seale researchers took Miss Seale's information as correct without any attempt to verify or document it. More recent books by Smith, Graf, and Kuehl (listed below) republished these incorrect dates and numerous other inaccuracies. However, the records listed above prove that James Seale's life span was between 1769 and 1860.

□ Parents

James Seale was the son of **Charles Seale** (1729 – 1798) and **Lydia Muse Seale** (c1730/1735 – 1799). The proof of James' parentage follows: James Seale is listed as one of the children and heirs of Charles Seale in a deed made by Charles' children to their brother Daniel Seale in 1798 (Fairfield Co SC Deed Book M, pp. 162 – 163, transcribed in a later section). Lydia Muse was the wife of Charles Seale long before and long after James Seale's date of birth. On 30 Mar 1758, when Lydia's father James Muse, Sr. wrote his will, he named "Charles Ceal" one of his executors, and he also named "Liddy Ceal" as one of his daughters (Cumberland Co NC Deed Book 1, p. 241). Then on 18 Nov 1792, Sophia Morrison, the widow of James Muse, Sr., deeded two slaves to "Lidda Seale" of Fairfield County SC (Fairfield County SC Deed Book K, pp. 74 – 75). The deeds were witnessed by Thomas, Joshua, and Daniel Seale, proven sons of Charles Seale. These records verify that Lydia Muse was the wife of Charles Seale in 1758 and she was still alive in 1792. Since James Seale was born in 1769, I consider this proof that he was the son of Lydia Muse Seale.

□ Grandparents

James Seale's grandparents and sources for further information on their ancestry is given below.

1. **Anthony Seale, Jr.** (c1695 – 1781), James' paternal grandfather.
For information on him, I highly recommend the Graf and Sprouse books listed below, both fully documented. The Kuehl book also contains much information on Anthony Seale, Jr. and his family.
2. **Anne Bristow** (c1700 – c1790), James' paternal grandmother.
Her father John Bristow was born in England, and the following work has information on her father's family: *John Bristow of Middlesex County, Virginia and Descendants Through Ten Generations*, by Gordon Bryon Woolley, Vantage Press, no date. There is a Bristow Family Association that may have more details on the life of John Bristow.

3. **James Muse, Sr.** (c1700/1710 – 1758), James' maternal grandfather.
James Muse Sr. was the son of Thomas Muse, Sr. (c1665 – 1732), and Thomas was the son of John Muse (1633 – 1723), possibly born in England. The genealogy of this family is carefully detailed in the work *A Southern Legacy: Descendants of John Muse of Virginia*, compiled by Roger David Chambers in collaboration with Lou Andrews Murphy and Robert T. Muse, 1994. This work is extremely well-researched and fully documented. It is by far the best source of information on the Muse family ever published.
4. **Sophia Pope** (c1700/1710 – post-1792), James' maternal grandmother.
She was the daughter of Humphrey Pope, Jr. and his wife, Amy Veale. Sophia's paternal grandparents were Humphrey Pope, Sr. and Elizabeth Hawkins. Her maternal grandfather was Morris Veale. I do not believe that a thoroughly researched, well-documented work on the Pope family has ever been published. However, in 1999 Mrs. Lou Andrews Murphy wrote a fascinating paper on the Pops which documents Sophia's line back two generations.

□ **Location of Birth**

The 1850 census lists James Seale's birthplace as North Carolina. This matches the known residences of Charles Seale during this time period. Charles Seale had moved to Cumberland Co North Carolina in about 1754 from Prince William County Virginia, along with his wife Lydia Muse's father James Muse, Sr. and her brother James Muse, Jr. Charles Seale lived in Cumberland County between about 1754 and 1769. The area in which he farmed lies in what is now Moore County, created out of Cumberland in 1784. Charles was granted land in Cumberland the final time on 22 Dec 1768, less than two months before James Seale's birth. But on 5 Sept 1769, an order was given for a tract of land to be surveyed for Charles Seale in Craven County South Carolina, where Lydia's relatives had moved in the 1760s. This land was granted to Charles Seale on 24 Jan 1770.

Thus, the available records indicate that James Seale was born in Cumberland County North Carolina, but shortly after his birth his parents moved to Craven County South Carolina, later Fairfield District South Carolina.

□ **Slaves**

Throughout most of his adult life, James Seale owned slaves. He never owned very many, going from 5 in 1810 to 16 in 1850. Both of James Seale's grandfathers James Muse, Sr. and Anthony Seale, Jr. owned a few slaves, but James' father Charles apparently did not own any for most of his life. In 1755, Charles Seale did pay taxes on one "negro", but in 1767 he did not pay taxes on any slaves. Charles Seale did not own any slaves in 1790, nor did he pay taxes on any in 1792. In this same year, James' grandmother Sophia Pope Muse Morrison gave two slaves to James' mother, Lydia Muse Seale.

I have found no records that show James Seale purchasing or selling a slave. In fact, since his father did not own slaves except in 1755, I am unsure of precisely how James acquired his slaves. Perhaps he inherited them through Rachel's family. Although he does not appear to have ever sold any of his slaves, he did frequently give titles of slaves to his children. Deeds exist that show he gave slaves to his daughters Mary, Matilda, Elvira, and to the heirs of his deceased daughter Elizabeth; other records suggest he gave slaves to his other children as they came of age and married. Many times slave deeds were not recorded, so he could well have made many more slave deeds to other children.

Here are the slaves James Seale owned at various times in his life:

Year	Males	Females
1800	Slaves not listed	
1810	5 slaves (sex not given)	
1820	1 male slave under 14 1 male slave 14 – 26	4 female slaves under 14 2 female slaves 26 – 45
1830	1 male slave 10 – 24 1 male slave 24 – 36	3 female slaves under 10 3 female slaves 10 – 24 1 female slave 24 – 36 1 female slave 36 – 55

1840	2 male slaves under 10 1 males slave 36 – 55	2 female slaves under 10 3 female slaves 10 – 24 1 female slave 24 – 36
1850	1 slave aged 55 1 slave aged 43 1 slave aged 27 1 slave aged 18 1 slave aged 14 1 slave aged 6, mulatto 1 slave aged 4 1 slave aged 1, mulatto	1 slave aged 65 1 slave aged 47 1 slave aged 22 1 slave aged 20 1 slave aged 18 1 slave aged 13 1 slave aged 9 1 slave aged 11/12

The references for the censuses prior to 1850 are given in the final section below. The 1850 data above comes from the 1850 Autauga Co AL Census, Slave Schedule, p. 169, taken on 4 Nov 1850, which lists "James Seals" as the owner of the above slaves.

At his death, James Seale owned fifteen slaves. The estate was inventoried ten days after his death, on 14 February 1860:

Slaves belonging to James Seale's Estate, 14 Feb 1860

Name	age	\$\$
Peter	53	100
Cherry	53	400
Ellick	25	1700
George	23	1900
Caroline and her two children	34	2400
Julia	3	
Suck	18 mos.	
Major or Toby	13	1300
Marion or Matt	10	1000
Sharletter [Charlotte]	22	3400
and her four children		
Jane	8	
Laura	5	
Wade	3	
Jesse	18 mos.	
Elixur (?) "a girl"	16	1400

At the estate sale, each of these slaves were bought by one of James Seale's children or grandchildren, so the slaves all remained within the family. Between February and December, James' slave Caroline had a baby:

Sale of James Seale's Slaves, 14 Dec 1860

Name	age	Purchaser	\$\$
Peter	52	Wm. Grant	110
Cherry	53	Ransom Seale	170
Ellock	25	Ransom Seale	1500
George	23	William Ham	1900
Caroline and her three children	34	Ransom Seale	2505
Julia	3		
Suckey	2		
Solomon	2 weeks		
Major	13	Anderson Seale	1125
Marion	11	John W. Seale	800
Charlotte and her three children	23	Robert Steen	2691
Laura	5		
Wade	3		
Jesse (female)	2		

Jane	9	William Ham	1370
Eliza and her child	16 7 mos.	William Grant	1700

Indeed, James Seale's slaves were all purchased by his sons, son-in-laws, or grandchildren, and thus they remained in the family. However, James Seale's family now lived in locations spanning three states and hundreds of miles. Thus, his estate sale has an example of the incredible human tragedy of chattel slavery. Notice that on the inventory, Jane was listed as the child of Charlotte. But at the estate sale, Jane was taken from her mother and sold to James Seale's son-in-law William Ham, whereas Charlotte and her younger children went to Robert Steen, the grandson-in-law of James Seale. The tragedy is that William Ham lived in Union Parish Louisiana, whereas Robert Steen resided in Butler County Alabama. So very possibly a 9 year old little girl was taken from her mother and moved hundreds of miles away. If Jane actually ever made it to Louisiana, with the opening of the War Between the States at this time, one wonders if Jane ever saw her mother again. There is the possibility that with the opening of the war, no one came from Louisiana for Jane. Several years after the war, as late as 21 December 1867, Cynthia Seale Ward's heirs in Union Parish Louisiana still had not collected their money from Anderson Seale. But I find it tragic that such a situation *could* have occurred, and for all we know it did.

□ Removal from South Carolina to Alabama

James Seale lived in Fairfield District South Carolina until at least the fall of 1820. He first bought land in Butler County Alabama in July or September 1821, so I believe the move took place in the fall or winter of 1820/1821. The published reports of how James Seale and his family spent the summer of 1818 in Fort Dale or Fort Bibb, huddled down in fear of being massacred by Indians are, according to the records presented below, pure fiction. Indeed, James Seale and his family were living safely on their plantation near the Wateree River in South Carolina in the summer of 1818. Similarly, James' future son-in-law Ephraim Parmer bought land in Butler County in November 1818 while still a resident of Georgia, so he apparently did not experience these bloody events, either. Now James Seale's sister Lydia Seale Peavy may well have endured the Indian attacks; she and her husband moved there from Georgia *by 1820*, before James arrived. But I have been unable to determine precisely when the Peavys arrived. James's future son-in-law David Ward arrived in Butler County in 1818, so he may have experienced them.

As late as 1794, all of Charles Seale's children except for Nancy lived in Fairfield County South Carolina. But by 1818, James was the only Seale left, and he departed the state in 1820 or early 1821, leaving his uncle, Thomas Muse, and possibly other relatives of his mother's family. Historical records show that the population of the eastern seaboard remained stationary in the early 1800s due to the westward expansion. The following quote perhaps gives the motivation for why the Seales gradually moved westward out of Fairfield District (*Westward Expansion*, by Ray Billington, p. 305):

The principal expelling force was the worn-out soil of the seaboard. Successive plantings of tobacco for more than a century, primitive agricultural methods, and the temptation normal in staple producing areas to "butcher" or "mine" the soil, left a monument of exhausted fields, gullied hillsides, and declining crops. Nor did the spread of cotton planting relieve the situation...for high prices after the War of 1812 encouraged successive plantings, and the shallow humus soils were quickly washing away by the heavy southern rains once they were loosened by the plow. The whole country, one traveler complained, 'is a scene of desolation that baffles description...farm after farm...worn out, washing and gullied; so that scarcely an acre could be found in a place fit for cultivation.' Another commented upon the 'dreary and uncultivated wastes, a barren and exhausted soil, half-clothed negroes, lean and hungry stock, houses falling to decay, and fences wind shaken and dilapidated.'

□ Education

James Seale signed his name to every deed he made during his lifetime. Several samples of his own signature survive; I find his handwriting confident, not the unsure, "wobbly" handwriting one sees at times from people of that era. Thus, I think it clear that he had some type of education. According to the deed of Charles Seale's heirs in 1798, Charles and Lydia Muse Seale saw to it that 6 of their 7 sons had enough education to sign their own names (only their eldest son Anthony made his mark to the deed), yet none of their daughters could write. I wonder who could have taught Charles and Lydia's sons. If their daughters could not write, could Lydia? They were living in Cumberland County North Carolina and Craven County South Carolina between 1754 and 1780, then considered the western "frontier". I doubt there were organized schools in either of these locations.

James' wife Rachel also could not sign her name. Interestingly enough, James Seale must have followed this scheme with his own children: each of his sons could not only write, but were fairly well-educated for the time. His son Ransom certainly was, and James Seale's grandson Ransom Seale was the Butler County Clerk of the Circuit Court from 1873 until 1885. James' son James Hayden Seale was a lawyer in New Orleans and north Louisiana. But apparently none of James' daughters could sign their names.

□ **Religion**

I have found no record that indicates the religion, if any, of James Seale. His son Anderson was a Primitive Baptist, but nearly all of the rest of James' children were Methodist. His daughter Matilda Seale Parmer was buried in a Methodist Cemetery in Butler County, and his son Thomas Jefferson Seale and daughters Clarendia Seale Ham and Cynthia Seale Ward were all buried in Methodist Church cemeteries in Union Parish Louisiana. Clarendia and Cynthia's families helped found a Methodist Protestant Church in the area of Union Parish in which they settled. The church still has James Seale's son-in-law David Ward's name: Wards Chapel Church. None of this proves anything, but it does strongly suggest that James Seale's children had strong Methodist beliefs (Methodist Protestant, rather than Methodist Episcopal). So I suspect that James Seale was a Methodist.

Plantations

James Seale was a *planter*, or farmer, for much if not all of his life. He continued to grow large amounts of produce on his farm in Autauga County until he was several years past 80. Seale must have been an industrious farmer, for he certainly lived better than others of that period. He was never wealthy, but for most of his adult life he owned fairly large plantation and a small number of slaves. Although he did own slaves, he was what is known as a *small slaveowner*, meaning he never owned more than 20 slaves (as was the case with about 80% of Southern slaveowners).

In September 1821 when he bought his first land in Butler County Alabama, he paid \$99.70¼ for the 80 acres: 70¼¢ in change, and \$99 from the Bank of South Carolina. I was not aware that people kept their money in banks in that era! In 1839 when James and his second wife Rebecca Seale sold their Lowndes County plantation of about 700 acres, he received \$4800 for it. I cannot imagine why 700 acres was sold for such a huge sum. I would assume this indicates James Seale turned the government land he bought between 1829 and 1835 into a valuable plantation in a very short amount of time. Another possibility was the economy. The first financial crisis in United States history was the Panic of 1837. The value of a dollar could have drastically fallen, and perhaps that explains the huge sum James received for his old plantation.

James Seale owned plantations in four distinct locations throughout his life. His farms in Fairfield District South Carolina were rather large towards the end of his years there. There are numerous records that show James purchasing land in Fairfield, but relatively few of his selling it. In fact, there is only one recorded deed in which James Seale sells land in South Carolina. This is unfortunate, as it would help to pinpoint his date of departure from that state by knowing when he sold his plantation there. The known land records of Seale are given in the following chart. Except where otherwise noted, all the lands described below were on land drained by the Wateree River. Also, all of the purchases Seale made on Sike's Creek identified it as "...a branch of Sawney's Creek." This is the same location in which James Seale's father first bought land when he moved from North Carolina in 1769.

James Seale's Fairfield County/District South Carolina Plantations 1792 – 1820							
Date bought	\$\$	acres	Bought from	Water courses	Adjoining landowners	Date sold	Sold to
4 June 1792 4 shillings, 3 pence		89	State of SC	Thorntree branch	James Craig, John Havis, Robert McCant, John Briant		
1799/1800	?	50	Robert Ward	Cedar ford, a prong of Dutchman's Creek		pre 1812	John Grant
18 Mar 1800 5 shillings		25	Hezekiah Ford	Dutchman's Creek	William Ferguson		
7 July 1800	?	115	State of SC	Dutchman's Creek	James Barkley, William Berry, Cior Ford		
5 Oct 1802	50	50½	Jesse Havis	Thorntree Creek	John Bryant, ? Armstrong		
?	?	100	?	"on the head" of Trouble Creek, Waters of Broad River, in Fairfield District		5 Oct 1803	Henry McCoy
29 Jan 1807	207.50	200	James Campble	Sike's Creek	Edward McGraw, John Copeland		
7 Feb 1807	46	91	James Craig	Thorntree Creek Granted Jas. Craig	James Seale, John Smith, Thomas Traps		
10 Sept 1807	200	462	Benjamin Mitchell	Bear Creek	James Randolph Granted Benj. Mitchell	9 Jan 1809 \$300	William Wilson, Jr.
9 June 1810	42	84	James Craig	Sike's Creek	Granted to James Craig		
16 Nov 1813	39	78	James Craig	Sike's Creek Granted to James Craig	James Seale, James Craig		
25 Nov 1815	314	419	Robert W. Craig	Sike's Creek Granted to James Craig	James Lawhorn, Zachariah L. Nettle		
15 Apr 1817	51.50	103	James Craig	Sike's Creek Granted to James Craig	James Craig James Seale		
14 Apr 1818	97.25	194.5	James Craig	Sike's Creek Granted James Craig	James Seale, Mrs. McCants, Elijah Seale		
5 Oct 1818	?	148	State of SC	Dutchman's Creek	Abner Ross, James Craig, James Seale, Abraham Ferguson, Richard B. Harrison		

It is clear that James Seale's main plantations were the three on Thorntree Creek, Dutchman's Creek, and Sike's Creek. There are no recorded deeds in Fairfield County in which he sells any of these farms. The total acreage he purchased at these three locations was:

Thorntree Creek, 1792 – 1807:	230.5 acres
Dutchman's Creek, 1799 – 1818:	338 acres
Sike's Creek, 1807 – 1818:	<u>1078.5 acres</u>
Total Acreage:	1647 acres

James Seale first bought land in Butler County Alabama in 1821. He bought at least 240 acres from the government, possibly 400 acres. He could have purchased other land from individuals, but the deeds of Butler County before 1853 are no longer extant. Thus, we also have no way of knowing exactly when Seale sold his Butler County plantation. He began purchasing land in what would soon be southern Lowndes County in 1829, yet he remained a resident of Butler County until 1831. By 1832, James Seale had left Butler County, leaving his three eldest sons and his sister.

James Seale's Butler County Alabama Government Land Purchases 1821 – 1831			
Date bought	Acres	\$\$	Description
10 Sept 1821	160	?	NE¼, Section 17, Township 10, Range 14
10 Sept 1821	160	?	SW¼, Section 17, Township 10, Range 14 (relinquished 28 Mar 1825)
10 Sept 1821	160	191.82	NW¼, Section 17, Township 10, Range 14
10 Sept 1821	80	\$99.70 25	E½ of SE¼, Section 18, Township 10, Range 14

James Seale owned a plantation in Lowndes County near those of his daughters Elizabeth Seale Kelley, Mary Seale Bates, Matilda Seale Parmer, Clenda Seale Ham, and Cynthia Seale Ward. His younger sons James H. Seale and Thomas J. Seale also bought adjoining tracts of land from the government. Seale bought the following land in present-day Lowndes County from the government. He apparently lived there between 1832 and about 1836. At that time, most of his Lowndes County children moved to north Louisiana, and James left Lowndes and settled in Autauga County. He retained ownership of his Lowndes plantation until 1 October 1839, when he sold it to Robert Burt. All save the last purchase in 1837 was for land originally purchased from the government by Seale. Notice that he paid \$550 for 440 acres of land between 1829 and 1835, he paid his son James H. Seale \$1600 for his 160 acres in 1837, yet he sold almost all of it to Burt in 1839 for \$4800. The dollar must have been very deflated due to the Panic of 1837 in order for Seale to obtain this exorbitant sum.

James Seale's Lowndes County Alabama Plantation 1831 – 1837			
Date bought	Acres	\$\$	Description
26 Nov 1829	80	100	E½ of SW¼, Section 22, Township 13, Range 16
26 Nov 1829	80	100	E½ of NW¼, Section 22, Township 13, Range 16
10 June 1831	82.125	102.66	W½ of SW¼, Section 3, Township 12, Range 16
4 Oct 1832	40	50	NW¼ of SW¼, Section 27, Township 13, Range 16
29 Nov 1833	41.17	51.46	SE¼ of SE¼, Section 4, Township 12, Range 16
25 June 1835	80	100	W½ of NW¼, Section 27, Township 13, Range 16
25 June 1835	40	50	NW¼ of NE¼, Section 27, Township 13, Range 16
6 Jan 1837	160	1600	E½ of SW¼, Section 27, Township 13, Range 16

Seale lived in the portion of Autauga County that is now Elmore County. There is no record of his purchasing much land there. Since Autauga County has apparently lost no records, the deeds of purchase must not have been recorded. There is also no recorded deed in which James Seale sells his Autauga County plantation. However, records show that he was living there until about 1852, when he returned to Butler County.

James Seale's Autauga County Alabama Plantation 1837 – 1852			
Date bought	Acres	\$\$	Description
30 Nov 1844	60	73.88	E½ of SW¼, W½ of SE¼, Section 25, Township 20, Range 16
9 Apr 1845	50	50	SE¼ of NE¼ of Section 31, Township 20, Range 17
3 Jan 1850	40.5	100	SW¼ of SE¼ of Section 30, Township 20, Range 17

The 1850 census gives this data for James Seale's plantation:

1850 Autauga County Alabama Census, Agricultural Schedule	
Pine Flat Beat 6 November 1850, p. 277	
#13 James Seal, farmowner	
Value of farm: \$1200	value of livestock: \$600
130 acres of improved land	
130 acres unimproved land	
Value of farming implements and machinery: \$50	livestock:
	4 horses
	2 asses/mules
	9 milch cows
	2 working oxen
	20 other cattle
	20 sheep
	60 swine
Farm production during the year 1849 included:	
500 bushels of Indian corn	
60 bushels of oats	
9 400-pound bales of ginned cotton	
40 pounds of wool	
50 bushels of peas/beans	
20 bushels Irish potatoes	
200 bushels of sweet potatoes	
200 pounds of butter	
2 tons Hay	
Value of homemade manufacturers: \$200	
Value of animals Slaughtered: \$1__ (cannot read)	

Wives

Based upon the ages of his eldest children, James Seale first married about 1792 or 1793. Of the incredibly many land transactions in which he was involved during his life, only three mention the name of his wife: deeds dated 1802 and 1809 give his wife's name as **Rachel**, and an 1839 deed names his wife as **Rebecca**. We know that he married on 26 January 1842 to **Hannah**, with whom he spent his life from the age of 73 years until he was 90. Hannah died on 14 February 1859, and James died almost exactly a year later, on 4 February 1860.

James Seale's great-granddaughter Ida Carrie Seale began collecting information about James and his family in the early years of this century. She corresponded with numerous descendants of James' sons Ransom, Anderson, and William Seale and his daughter Mary Seale Bates, and obtained a lot of information from them. Miss Ida Carrie published her work in the book *Seales and Allied Families*, of which there were three editions. As I point out in below, **numerous** statements made in Miss Ida Carrie's work are inaccurate, mainly dates of events and the names of James Seale's children.

In the final edition of her book, published in 1954, Miss Ida Carrie makes these statements regarding James Seale:

Married three times, but names of two wives are unknown. The wife Rachel Kelly of North Carolina was the mother of all of his children.

Her statement about Seale having three wives matches the known records of James Seale mentioned above, which show him married to women named **Rachel**, **Rebecca**, and **Hannah**.

Rachel

Deeds of Fairfield District South Carolina prove that James Seale's wife in 1802 and 1809 was named "Rachel". These two are the *only* records I have found to indicate she even existed! Miss Ida Carrie claims that Rachel was the mother of all James Seale's children. Although I have been unable to find any documentation to support this claim, I do believe it is correct. James had too many children born at regular intervals between 1794 and 1820 for Rachel to have been his second wife or for her to have died before about 1820. Moreover, I believe her claim is the type of simple statement that could be passed down through the years and not become distorted.

If correct, James must have married Rachel about 1792 or 1793. According to the 1800, 1810, and 1820 censuses, Rachel was born between 1770 and 1774. According to the census information for several of her children in 1880 and 1900, she was born in South Carolina. It is very difficult to estimate when Rachel died. The age of James Seale's wife on the 1800, 1810, 1820, and 1830 censuses is the same, so it is very possible that Rachel lived until after 1830. In any case, she was dead by 1839, when James Seale's wife was named *Rebecca*.

Rachel's Maiden Name was Kelley

Miss Ida Carrie Seale stated without question that Rachel's maiden name was **Kelly** (probably more accurately, **Kelley**). I assume that this was family tradition told to her by a descendant of James Seale, for she gave no documentation of this claim. In fact, it wasn't worded as a claim at all, more a statement of fact. I have carefully searched through the deeds and estates of Fairfield County South Carolina, but thus far I have found no records of a Rachel Kelley Seale.

I think it very plausible that Rachel was a Kelley. Indeed, there are many Kelleys in Fairfield closely associated with James Seale and his family, in particular, John Kelley. John Kelley owned a plantation in Fairfield near James Seale's, and Kelley witnessed many of Seale's deeds. John Kelley appears to have been the right age for a sibling of Rachel's, but so far I have been unable to locate his father.

John Kelley was also related to James Seale through marriage: James' eldest daughter Elizabeth Seale married Elisha Kelley, and Elisha Kelley was the son of John Kelley of Fairfield County SC. This is proved by the estate papers of John Kelley in Fairfield County in 1843 (Fairfield Co SC Estate Papers, Apt. 79, File 114). If John and Rachel were siblings, that would mean that James' daughter Elizabeth married her first cousin Elisha Kelley. This was not at all unusual in that era.

Or Was it?

Miss Ida Carrie Seale included a list of James Seale's children in her books. She had fairly accurate knowledge of four of his children, Ransom, Anderson, and William Seale and Mary Seale Bates. The males were James Seale's eldest sons, all of whom settled in the same approximate location in Butler County. Mary Seale Bates lived in southern Lowndes County, a short distance from her brothers. Of the remaining children, even Matilda, who also remained in Alabama, Miss Ida Carrie's information is incorrect. Her sources knew the other son's names were "James" and "Thomas", and they knew the names "Matilda", "Cynthia", "Clarenda", and "Elvira" were his daughters, but her book switched their husband's names, combined several daughters into one, gave incorrect locations of their residences, added several additional daughters to the list, etc. But at the very least, almost all of the given and married names of his daughters appear in her list.

The one glaring omission regards James Seale's eldest daughter **Elizabeth Seale Kelley**. She died long before her father, between 1833 and 1835. Census records indicate she married Elisha Kelley, the son of James Seale's Fairfield District SC neighbor John Kelley. Miss Ida Carrie makes no mention of either Elizabeth Seale or the fact that one of James' daughters married a Kelley.

I wonder if perhaps the family tradition of the Kelley connection became mangled over time, as did so many of the other family traditions Miss Ida Carrie related. Perhaps instead of James Seale marrying a Kelley, the tradition should have been that his eldest daughter Elizabeth married a Kelley. Until further evidence is uncovered, I think we need to consider the possibility that Rachel was not a Kelley.

Rachel McFaden?

In 1791, James Seale bought property at several estate sales in Fairfield District SC along with his uncle, Thomas Muse, and step-grandfather, John Morrison. This was a year before he was granted land by the state of South Carolina. Since we don't know the exact date of his marriage to Rachel, he *could* have already been married to her in 1791. However, based upon the approximate birth dates of his children, it appears he did not marry until about 1792 or 1793.

James Seale bought a box at the estate sale of William McFaden, which was recorded on 6 March 1791. William McFaden's widow Ann McFaden was the administrator, but another purchaser at the sale was Rachel McFaden. Rachel McFaden bought, among other items, a horse. It is very likely that Rachel McFaden was the daughter of William and Ann McFaden.

James Seale was probably unmarried at this time, and apparently Rachel McFaden was an unmarried woman with whom he was certainly acquainted. Could James Seale's wife Rachel actually be Rachel McFaden?

Rebecca

James Seale moved from Lowndes County to Autauga County Alabama between 1835 and 1837. On 1 Oct 1839, he sold his large Lowndes County plantation (Lowndes Co AL Deed Book 4, pp. 30 – 31), and his wife **Rebecca Seale** released her dower rights to the land. By the time the 1840 census was taken, James Seale was only living with a younger white male (almost certainly his unmarried son Thomas J. Seale) and his slaves. Thus, apparently Rebecca died between 1 Oct 1839 and mid-1840. Nothing further is known about Rebecca.

Hannah

James Seale married **Hannah Ivey** on 26 January 1842 in Lowndes County Alabama. According to the 1850 census, Hannah was born about 1784 in North Carolina. She had one son, Alfred Roberts, born about 1805 in North Carolina. On 19 December 1839, Hannah had married Elijah Ivey, a Revolutionary War veteran. Elijah Ivey had written his will on October 17th, two months before they married. He died on January 25th or 26th at the age of 82 as a result of falling from a "bucking horse", just six weeks after he married Hannah. He was buried in the Ivey Family Cemetery near White Hall, Lowndes County Alabama. His will was filed with the Lowndes County Alabama Probate Court on 3 February 1840 (Lowndes Co AL Will Book B, pp. 78 – 80). I do not know if Hannah received any property from his estate, as she was not mentioned in his will. Elijah Ivey was born in England in 1759, but came to the colonies at the age of 17 to fight in the Revolution. According to his pension application, he and two brothers enlisted in the South Carolina militia of Fairfield District (this is not technically correct – Fairfield District did not exist until 1800). He served throughout the war, and was present at the Battle of Eutaw Springs (Revolutionary War Pension Application #S15188). James Seale bought property at the estate sale of Henry Ivey in Fairfield County in 1791, so presumably Seale and Ivey were acquainted in South Carolina.

Elijah and Hannah's marriage license listed her name as Hannah **Haginbottom**. It is not clear whether Haginbottom was Hannah's maiden name, or if she married a Mr. Haginbottom after Alfred Robert's father died. If Haginbottom was another married name, then Hannah was married at least four times, to a Roberts, then a Haginbottom, to Elijah Ivey, and finally to James Seale. I do not know anything further about Hannah's life before 1842, when she and James married.

Hannah's son **Alfred Roberts** was born about 1805 in North Carolina. He married **Elizabeth L. ____ ? ____** by about 1846, and they were living in Union Parish Louisiana in 1850 with their daughter Louisa Roberts, born about 1847. Their family was enumerated on 23 August 1850, but Alfred Roberts died on November 29th. When his widow Elizabeth L. Roberts notified the court of his death and was appointed his administrator on December 23rd, she said he died "leaving at his death no decendants or collateral relations. Your petitioner his wife being the only surviving heir..." (Union Par LA Succession Book H – 1, pp. 18 – 25). On 26 March 1851, Elizabeth gave Isaac A. R. Vanhook her power of attorney to act as her agent in settling the affairs of her husband's estate (Union Par LA Deed Book D, pp. 373 – 374). The estate was settled rather quickly, as Elizabeth's final account was accepted by the court and she was discharged from her bond as Alfred Robert's administrator on 12 April 1851. On 5 May 1851, James and Hannah Seale made the following deed (Autauga Co AL Deed Book DF, p. 74; the original spelling and punctuation appears below just as in the original):

I **James Seals** and **Hannah Seals** his wife have this day for and in consideration of many Good reasons and causes transfered released and relinquished...to our beloved Child **Elizabeth L. Roberts** of Union Parish Louisiana all our write title and Interest in and to **Alfred Roberts** Estate late deceased in Union Parish Louisiana to her owne use and benefit...

Elizabeth L. Roberts returned to Butler County Alabama by 11 November 1853, when Isaac A. R. Vanhook sold her 40 acres of land in Union Parish Louisiana (Union Par LA Deed Book F). This is the last record of Elizabeth in Louisiana, and I do not know why Vanhook would be selling her land in Louisiana after she had left the state. There was no land listed on Alfred Robert's inventory in 1850, although the 1850 census indicated he owned real estate valued at \$250. Perhaps Roberts' land had not yet been purchased from the government, and Vanhook was merely ensuring that Elizabeth L. Roberts had proper title to her husband's old farm in order for her to sell it.

James and Hannah lived in Autauga County for the first ten years of their married life. About 1852, they retired back to Butler County and lived near James' sons Ransom and Anderson Seale for the rest of their lives. Hannah wrote

her will on 26 October 1857, naming her daughter-in-law Elizabeth L. Roberts her only legatee (see below for a transcription of the entire will). The wording of the will suggests that James and Hannah had a sort of prenuptial agreement:

...I **Hannah Seale** a wife of **James Seale Senr...** do give grant bargain sell transfer and convey until the said **Elizabeth L. Roberts** all of the separate Estate of the said **Hannah Seale** which was secured to her by marriage contract with the said **James Seale...**

Does "marriage contract" mean an agreement, or does it merely refer to the Alabama laws regarding property owned by a woman before her marriage?

Hannah Seale died on Valentine's Day, 1859. On 16 May 1859, Richard H. Williams presented her will before the Butler County Probate Court and was appointed administrator of her estate. He stated that he had married Elizabeth L. Roberts and that

...said **Hannah Seale** left no children surviving her but her heirs at law [are] one **Dempsey Elliott** over twenty one years of age residing at Bastrop Morehouse Parish in the State of Louisiana, **Foster Elliott** who is over 21 years of age and resides in the state of Iowa but what Post office petitioner does not know, **Margarett Smith** wife of _____ **Smith** who lives in Portsmouth in the State of Virginia....

These heirs must have been nephews and a niece or cousins.

Children of James and Rachel Seale

As with nearly every other aspect of his life, published works on James Seale give very inaccurate information about his children. In fact, to my knowledge, **every published work on James Seale's family contains an erroneous listing of his children**. This incorrect information appears to have originated with the books of Miss Ida Carrie Seale. James Seale had at least eleven children born between about 1794 and about 1820. All of his children followed their father to Alabama in 1820. The elder children lived their lives in Alabama, but the five youngest ones moved to northern Louisiana just before the Panic of 1837. Since Miss Ida Carrie Seale was only in contact with descendants of James Seale's children who remained in Alabama, it is natural that information on the younger children who moved to Louisiana would contain errors. She also apparently had no knowledge of James' daughter Matilda who lived most of her adult life in Lowndes County, for information on her is also incorrect in her works. The data in Miss Ida Carrie's books has been reprinted repeatedly in the past fifty years, compounding the dissemination of inaccurate material. Ironically, Miss Ida Carrie had the probate clerk in Butler County research the family of James' cousin Thomas Seale, but she did not bother to have him look up James Seale's will or his estate records!

James Seale wrote his will in 1853 at the age of 84, just after he and Hannah retired back to Butler County to live with or near his sons Ransom and Anderson. It was filed with the probate court ten days after his death and recorded (Butler Co AL Will Book 1, pp. 143 – 146). He names nine children then living and two deceased daughters who had married and left children of their own. James Seale's children were again named in the court proceedings following his death in 1860 (all of these estate records are transcribed below). These factual records made by James and his sons before and soon after his death obviously contain an accurate listing of his children. In addition, it appears from census records that James had several daughters who died young, without leaving heirs. They are included below as possible daughters.

According to statements made by James Seale's grandchildren in the early 1900s to Miss Ida Carrie Seale and recorded in her books, Rachel was the mother of all of James Seale's children. Although no definitive evidence has yet been found to support this family tradition, it appears to be correct (see the discussion on James' wives above).

1. Elizabeth Seale

- born: c1794, Fairfield Co SC
- married: c1818, Fairfield Dist SC to **Elisha Kelley**
- died: 1833 – 1835, Lowndes Co AL
- children:
 - (a) **Alfred Kelley**, born 1815 – 1830, died after 1860
 - (b) **James Kelley**, born 1815 – 1830, died between 1835 and 1838, Lowndes Co AL

- (c) **John Kelley**, born 1815 – 1830, died after 1860
- (d) **Elisha Kelley**, born c1833, Lowndes Co AL and died after 1860

Elizabeth and Elisha Kelley had four sons alive in 1835, Alfred, John, James, and Elisha. James Seale gave these sons a slave in 1835, but the deed was lost. By 1838, James Kelley had died, and James Seale left the slave to the surviving three sons of Elizabeth Seale Kelley. Elisha Kelley remarried and was living in Butler Co AL in 1850. He was a son of John Kelley of Fairfield Dist SC who lived near James Seale in SC and who witnessed several deeds of James Seale.

2. Mary Seale

- born: c1796, Fairfield Co SC
married: 1824, Butler Co AL to **Balam B. Bates**
died: between 14 Aug 1860 and 6 Jan 1862, Lowndes Co AL
children:
- (a) **Thomas W. Bates**, born 1832, died 1916; married 1854 to **Emily Rencher**.
 - (b) **Martha Bates**, married **John W. Parmer**
 - (c) **Rachel Elizabeth Bates**, born c1832, married **Simeon Kearn** or **Kern**
 - (d) **Cicero Bates**, born c1834, died after 1862
 - (e) **James Jefferson Bates**, born c1837, died after 1862

Balam and Mary Seale Bates lived in southern Lowndes Co AL.

3. [daughter] Seale

- born: 1794 – 1800, Fairfield Co/Dist SC
died: 1810 – 1853, unknown

The 1800 and 1810 census listing of James Seale's household shows a female born between 1794 and 1800 living with him, apparently his daughter. She was not listed in James Seale's household on the 1820 census, so if indeed his daughter, she apparently either died or married between 1810 and 1820. She was certainly dead, leaving no surviving heirs, before James wrote his will in 1853.

4. Ransom Seale

- born: c1799, Fairfield Dist SC
married: 1825, Butler Co AL to **Eleanor Murphy**
died: 17 Mar 1862, Butler Co AL
children:
- (a) **Susan Seale**, born about 1827, married **John Clark**
 - (b) **Allen Beckham Seale**, born 1830, died 1914 in Texas; married **Elizabeth Stallings**, **Mary Jane Mims**
 - (c) **Amelia/Parmelia Seale**, born 1832, married **Henry Watts**, **Robert Steen** or **Stein**
 - (d) **John Wilson Seale**, born 1833, died 1897, Melrose, Texas; married **Adeleide Ptyomy**, **Grace Stallings**, **Eugenia Morgan**
 - (e) **Lydia Seale**, born about 1837, married **Robert Stallings**,
 - (f) **Abigail Seale**, born about 1839, married **William Freeman**
 - (g) **Francis Marion Seale**, born about 1842
 - (h) **Mary M. Seale**, born about 1844
 - (i) **Clara Seale**, born about 1846

Ransom Seale served as a sergeant in a regiment of the Alabama Mounted Volunteers during the Creek Indian War, 1836 – 1837. He moved to Union Par LA in 1837 or 1838 with his younger siblings and bought land there. However, by 1840 he had returned to Butler Co AL. He later also owned property in Wilcos County. It appears that his father lived with him between 1853 and 1860 in Butler County. Ransom and Anderson Seale were the executors of James Seale's will.

5. [daughter] Seale

- born: c1800, Fairfield Dist SC
died: 1810 – 1853, unknown

The 1800 and 1810 census listing of James Seale's household shows a female born about 1800 living with him, apparently his daughter. She was not listed in James Seale's household on the 1820 census, so if indeed his daughter, she apparently either died or married between 1810 and 1820. She was certainly dead, leaving no surviving heirs, before James wrote his will in 1853.

6. Anderson Seale

- born: c1802, Fairfield Dist SC
married: (1) 1824, Butler Co AL to **Mary Armstrong**
(2) 13 May 1872, Butler Co AL to **Jane Rodgers/Rogers**
died: 21 Dec 1889, Butler Co AL
children:
- (a) **Charles Seale**, born 1830, died after 1890, Montgomery Co TX
 - (b) **Cornelius Hampton Seale**, born 1832, died 1918; married **Victoria Gafford**
 - (c) **Reuben H. Seale**, born 1834, died c1901; married 1857 to **Elizabeth Mecatty Hughes**
 - (d) **James Knowlin Seale**, born 1836, died 1904; married 1867 to **Frances Elizabeth Bloxon** and 1870 to **Mary Elizabeth Gillespie**
 - (e) **Elias Allen Seale**, b. 1838, married 1860 to **Mary Frances Conner**
 - (f) **Henry Oliver Seale**, born 1839, died 1913; married 1865 to **Susan Henderson**
 - (g) **Martha E. Seale**, born 1842, married **Odum Cox, Mr. Griffin, Mr. Moates**
 - (h) **George Herbert Seale**, born 1843, married 1864 to **Hettie C. Cheatham**
 - (i) **Melissa Amanda Seale**, born 1849, married 1866 to **William Henderson**, and later to **Wilson Murphy**

Anderson Seale lived his adult life in Butler Co AL. He and Ransom were the co-executors of their father's will. Anderson was a Primitive Baptist, whereas most of the other children of James Seal were Methodists.

7. Matilda Seale

- born: 1 Apr 1805, Fairfield Dist SC
married: (1) 1821/1822, Butler Co AL to **Ephraim Parmer**
(2) 28 Jan 1858, Lowndes Co AL to **William Grant**
died: 15 June 1872, Lowndes Co AL
buried: Bethel Methodist Cemetery, Butler Co AL
children:
- (a) **James Seale Parmer**, died in Upshur Co TX
 - (b) **Rowan J. H. F. Parmer**, born 1824, died 1911; married to **Martha Hamilton**
 - (c) **Benjamin W. Parmer**, born about 1825, died 1852; married about 1848 to **Mary Ann Hamilton**
 - (d) **Hillory G. Parmer**, born 1827, died 1908; married 1847 to **Nancy D. Wood**
 - (e) **Mary K. Parmer**, born 1827, married 1849 to **Samuel T. Ewing**
 - (f) **Clinton D. Parmer**, born 1831, died 1873; married 1854 to **Ellen A. Oliver**
 - (g) **Turner Pamer**, born about 1833, died 1850 – 1853
 - (h) **Amanda Parmer**, born about 1838, married 1854 to **John E. Lassiter**

Ephraim Parmer was one of the early settlers of Butler Co AL, purchasing land there for the first time in November 1818. Matilda Seale was his second wife, and after his death in 1853, she had a nasty court battle with the heirs of his first wife over various property given to her by her father. She and Ephraim lived in southern Lowndes Co AL for most of her adult life.

8. William Henry Seale

- born: 28 Mar 1807, Fairfield Dist SC
married: 16 Nov 1826, Butler Co AL to **Rulincy Hilson**
died: 16 Apr 1904, Butler Co AL
buried: William Seale Cemetery, Butler Co AL
children:
- (a) James Seale
 - (b) **Wilson Murphy Seale**, born 1829, died 1910; married 1875 to **Salina Yeldell**
 - (c) Delina Seale
 - (d) **Thomas Jackson Seale**, born c1836, married 1859 to ?
 - (e) **Sariah Safronia Seale**, born 1836, died 1924; married to **James Smith**
 - (f) **Liddia Seale**, born 1839, died 1926; married **Cornelius Waller**
 - (g) **Ransom Seale**, born 1841, died 1885; married 1874 to **Mary Amanda Hartsfield**
 - (h) **William Henry Seale, Jr.**, born 1843, married to **Lucinda Restacha Armstrong**
 - (i) **Mary Seale**, born 1846/1848, married **William Conway**
 - (j) **California Seale**, born 1849, married **Hosea Holcombe**

9. [daughter] Seale

- born: 1800 – 1810, Fairfield Dist SC
died: 1810 – 1853, unknown

The 1810 census listing of James Seale's household shows a female born between 1800 and 1810 living with him, apparently his daughter. She was not listed in James Seale's household on the 1820 census, so if indeed his daughter, she apparently either died or married between 1810 and 1820. She was certainly dead, leaving no surviving heirs, before James wrote his will in 1853.

10. Clarendra Seale

- born: Nov 1811/1812, Fairfield Dist SC
married: c1827, Butler Co AL to **William Ham**
died: 30 May 1897, near Farmerville, Union Par LA
buried: Ward's Chapel Cemetery, Union Par LA
children:
- (a) **Hillory Herbert Ham**, born about 1828, died 1889; married in 1851 to **Isabella Ann Robinson** and in 1860 to **Samantha Elvyann Scarborough**
 - (b) **Reuben James Ham**, born 1830 – 1831, died 1867; married in 1852 to **Narcissus V. D. Pace**

Clarendra's obituary in the Farmerville, Union Parish Louisiana *Gazette* states that she was born in November of 1812. However, the 1850 – 1880 censuses indicate she was born in the year 1811. Clarendra and William Ham lived in southern Lowndes Co AL near her sisters Mary, Matilda, and Cynthia until 1837, when they moved to northern Ouachita Parish (now Union) Louisiana along with her siblings Cynthia, Elvira, Ransom, James, and Thomas Seale. William Ham became one of the larger land and slaveowners of Union Parish. William Ham died in 1867 and Clarendra had a difficult time managing his huge plantation without slave labor. Her son Reuben James Ham also died in 1867, and her son Hillory Herbert Ham became an alcoholic and lost his large plantation. Since her grandchildren could not provide for her, Clarendra lived with her youngest brother Thomas J. Seale in Union Par LA between about 1875 and his death in 1893. Following his death, she lived with her niece, Molly Seale Kennedy.

11. Cynthia Seale

- born: c1813, Fairfield Dist SC
married: c1827, Butler Co AL to **David Ward**
died: 27 Mar 1857, near Farmerville, Union Par LA
buried: Ward's Chapel Cemetery, Union Par LA
children:
- (a) **Mary Ward**, born about 1828, died 1860 – 1867; married 1845 to **Derril B. Carter** and in 1853 to **Azor Slawson**
 - (b) **Elijah Hubbard/Herbert Ward**, born 1830, died 1887; married 1852 to **Permelia L. Lee** and in 1870 to **Mrs. Annis Sawyer Goyne**
 - (c) **Jane Rachel Ward**, born about 1832, died 1870; married about 1849/1850 to **Benjamin Franklin Hall** and about 1854 to **John R. Aulds**
 - (d) **John Thomas Ward**, born 1835, died 1883; married 1854 to **Sarah Ann Elizabeth Scarborough**
 - (e) **Julia Annis Ward**, born about 1841, died 1860 – 1867; married 1853 – 1860 to **George Defee**
 - (f) **James Madison Ward**, born about 1845, died between 1860 and 1867
 - (g) **David Washington Ward**, born about 1845, died between 1850 and 1860
 - (h) **William Henry Ward**, born 1848 – 1850, died 1868 – 1870; married 1868 to **Nancy L. Scarborough**

Cynthia and David Ward lived in southern Lowndes Co AL in 1830 on a farm adjoining those of Cynthia's sisters Clarendra, Mary, and Matilda. In 1837, they moved to northern Ouachita Parish (now Union) Louisiana with her siblings Clarendra, Elvira, Ransom, James, and Thomas. In 1841 they left Louisiana and settled in Tennessee for a year, but ultimately returned to Union Parish. Her death date was recorded in the family Bible of her grandson.

12. James Hayden Seale

- born: 18 Mar 1814, Fairfield Dist SC
married: 30 Nov 1842, Ouachita Par LA to **Sarah Jane Mobley**
died: 1865 – 1870, Jackson or Ouachita Par LA
children:
- (a) **Mattie May Seale**, born c1843 and died at age 3
 - (b) **Amanda E. Seale**, born c1845, Union Par LA; married **William T. Theobalds** and they adopted one daughter

James H. Seale bought a farm in southern Lowndes Co AL near his sisters and father in 1832. He served as a private in the Alabama Militia during the 1836 Creek Indian War in Alabama. James H. Seale sold his farm in Lowndes County to his father in 1837 when he was preparing to leave Alabama for Louisiana. He was actively involved in the affairs of Union Parish when it was created in 1839. He removed the stumps from the courthouse square in Farmerville, and he dug the first well in the town of Farmerville. He served as Farmerville's first postmaster and was twice elected as the second sheriff of Union Parish. But in 1846, Jackson Parish was created from a part of Union, and Seale's farm lay in what became Jackson Parish, so he had to resign as Union Parish Sheriff. He was a lawyer and between 1846 and

1850 he lived in New Orleans. By 1850 he was the Clerk of Court of Jackson Parish. In 1861 he raised a company of soldiers to fight against the invasion of the South by Lincoln, and this company elected him captain. He took his company south to train at Camp Moore in Tangipahoa Parish, and they were later sent to man the fort on Island No. 10 on the Mississippi River in southern Missouri. This was a protracted seige, and apparently Seale's health suffered during this time. He resigned following the fall of Island No. 10. He was alive in 1865, but died shortly afterwards, reportedly from the effects of his service to the Confederate States of America. James H. Seale had only one daughter who survived to adulthood, but this daughter had only one adopted child; thus Seale has no legitimate blood descendants.

13. Thomas Jefferson Seale

- born: 9 Feb 1816, Fairfield Dist SC
married: 16 Dec 1845, Autauga Co AL to **Aletha Connell**
died: 4 July 1893, near Downsville, Union Par LA
buried: Mount Nebo Methodist Cemetery, Union Par LA
children:
- (a) **Thomas Elmore Seale**, born 4 Nov 1846, Autauga Co AL
 - (b) **Walker Harrison Seale**, born 13 January 1848, died 28 July 1848, Autauga Co AL
 - (c) **Laney Elizabeth Seale**, born 1 Sept 1849, Autauga Co AL; married c1866 to **Henry Archer**
 - (d) **Franklin Morrow Seale**, born 23 Aug 1851, Jackson or Union Par LA
 - (e) **Winfield Scott Seale**, born 23 June 1853, Union Par LA
 - (f) **Archibald Newton Seale**, born 12 June 1855, Union Par LA, married 18 Feb 1891 to **Lula A. Wilson**
 - (g) **Frances Clorandia Isabelle Seale**, born 12 June 1857, Union Par LA, married 15 Jan 1873 to **Freeman Francis Miles**
 - (h) **Amanda Seale**, born 28 Sept 1859, died 9 Nov 1859, Union Par LA
 - (i) **Mary Josephine Seale**, born 27 Nov 1862, died 21 April 1940; married 15 April 1886 to **Daniel Norwood Kennedy**

Thomas J. Seale followed his married siblings to Louisiana in 1837. He bought some of the very first town lots in Farmerville, the parish seat, when they were first offered for sale, and he was mentioned as performing various duties for the local government in 1837 and 1838. But Thomas and Ransom decided to return to Alabama by 1840, and Thomas is believed to be the younger male living with the widowed James Seale on the 1840 Autauga Co AL census. He married in 1845 and remained in Autauga County until early 1850, but was living with his brother James H. Seale in Jackson Parish in 1850. He bought a plantation in southern Union Parish near Downsville and lived there the rest of his life. In the 1870s, his widowed sister Clarendia Ham moved in with him; after his death, Thomas's youngest daughter Mollie Kennedy took care of Clarendia.

14. Elvira Seale

- born: c1820, Fairfield Dist SC
married: 15 Nov 1837, Autauga Co AL to **Adam Bynam Cooper**
died: 1844 – 1849, Farmerville, Union Par LA
children:
- (a) **John Lafayette Cooper**, born c1838, died after 1859
 - (b) **Willis M. Cooper**, born c1840/1842, died Jan – May 1879, Union Par LA; married **Catherine M. ?**
 - (c) **Perry Francis Cooper**, born c1845, died after 1860

Elvira and Adam Bynam Cooper moved to Union Parish Louisiana shortly after their marriage. Like his brothers-in-law William Ham, David Ward, James H. Seale, and Thomas J. Seale, Adam was quite active in the affairs of Union Parish. He appears to have been a lawyer, but this is not certain. Elvira died young, leaving three children. After Elvira's death, Adam remarried to Nancy Goyne and had two daughters, both of whom died young.

Published Works on the Seale Family

Many different researchers have studied and published books on the Seale family in the past 60 years. I believe the first Seale family researcher was Miss Ida Carrie Seale, great-granddaughter of James Seale. Her interest began back in the 1910s. Miss Ida Carrie published three editions of her book *Seales and Allied Families* between about 1940 and 1954. Next, Mr. Oswald M. Smith in the 1960s published a Seale book that contained much of Miss Ida Carrie's material,

plus additional information from the Carolinas and Virginia. With the 1980s came many more Seale books. Below is a list of those Seale books with which I am familiar.

- ***Seales and Allied Families***, by Miss Ida Carrie Seale, third edition, 1954.
See below.
- ***Seale and Kindred Families***, by Oswald M. Smith, Jr., c1965.
This small book contains some serious mistakes regarding the children of James Seale's father Charles Seale and several grossly inaccurate transcriptions of South Carolina records. In particular, his transcriptions of Fairfield District SC deeds should be **ignored** due to their inaccuracy. This book is the first to my knowledge to publish information on Anthony Seale, Jr. from Prince William County VA, although it is not clear if Mr. Smith himself researched this line or obtained this data from another source. There is a lot of interesting information in this book, but given the inaccurate transcriptions and resulting incorrect claims, a serious Seale researcher should be wary of this book.
- ***The Seale Family of Old Virginia***, by Deborah A. Sprouse, Edgewood Press, Edgewood, MD, 1981.
This is a very nice little book, well researched and documented. It is somewhat more abbreviated than the Graf work listed below, but still very nice.
- ***The Seale Family from the Northern Neck of Virginia to Greene County, Alabama***, by Joyce Ellison Graf, Gateway Press, Baltimore, 1984.
This is an **excellent** work. Mrs. Graf presents a thorough analysis of the early generations of the Seale family, primarily concentrating on James Seale's grandfather Anthony Seale, Jr. and great-grandfather Anthony Seale, Sr. Mrs. Graf does not make any claim to have thoroughly researched our James Seale or his family, and she includes the incorrect material on his family originating with Miss Ida Carrie's works. In her chapter on James' father Charles Seale, she confuses him with his nephew Charles, the son of the elder Charles' brother William. But still, hers is the most accurate Seale book I have seen.
- ***A Seale Anthology***, by Nancy L. Kuehl, Twin City Publishing Co., Nacogdoches, TX, 1985.
This is an interesting work due to its enormity. Probably more Seale information is in these two volumes than any other. Unfortunately, the section on James Seale contains numerous errors, the same ones found in Miss Ida Carrie's books; Ms. Kuehl states that she did not research James Seale's line herself. The section on Charles Seale's family also contains many errors.

For some reason, it seems that most people believe the printed word is the absolute truth. So once inaccurate statements are in print, they are accepted as entirely valid and repeated over and over again in subsequent works. Perhaps this is natural, but the perpetuation of the errors on James Seale's family has occurred repeatedly over the past half-century. All of the works listed above, except for Sprouse's, which does not cover James' family, contain the same factual errors originally printed in Miss Seale's books nearly sixty years ago.

Serious Published Errors Concerning James Seale's Family

Here is a list of the main errors found in the works listed above. I have documented evidence that shows each one is incorrect; this evidence is described in detail in these notes

- ◆ James Seale's date of birth is given as 1773 and date of death is 1864.
- ◆ The list of children of James Seale is very inaccurate, with incorrect names and incorrect dates
- ◆ James Seale did **not** live in Alabama during the Indian attacks in the Butler County area in 1818 as claimed by Miss Ida Carrie and the stories by other great-granddaughters that she published in her books. James remained in Fairfield District South Carolina until the fall or winter of 1820
- ◆ Charles Seale of Moore County North Carolina was **not** James Seale's brother; Charles of Moore was actually James' **first cousin**, as he was the son of James Seale's Uncle William Seale. The extant records show that Charles and Lydia Muse Seale did **not** have a son by the name of *Charles* who survived to adulthood.
- ◆ There is **no actual evidence** that James Seale's father Charles was a Revolutionary War soldier, despite there being a DAR line established on him (in fact, many of my cousins are DAR members based upon the purported Revolutionary service of Charles Seale!). There **was** a man by the name of *Charles Seale* who fought for the patriots during the Revolution, but he served from Cumberland (later Moore) County, North Carolina, whereas our Charles Seale was living in South Carolina between late 1769 and 1783. This soldier was almost certainly our Charles Seale's nephew, the son of his brother William Seale. William Seale remained in Cumberland/Moore County after his siblings left for SC and GA, and his sons William Jr., Charles, and Anthony Seale lived there until around 1800.

- ◆ James Seale's brother Joshua Seale was **not** born in 1765, and he was **not** a Revolutionary War soldier. He was born in 1775 in South Carolina, as verified by both the 1850 census (listed below) and the 1860 census. His descendant Mrs. Emma Seale Gentry, who personally knew and befriended Miss Ida Carrie Seale, told me she believes these claims to a result of someone's active imagination.

Miss Ida Carrie Seale's Work

In the 1910s, James Seale's great-granddaughter, Miss Ida Carrie Seale, began collecting information on James Seale and his family. She corresponded with many of his descendants, including some of James' grandchildren who knew him in their childhood. Miss Seale published her information in *Seales and Allied Families*, with three editions printed between 1940 and 1954. Her work is truly a gem, as it gives us vivid eyewitness accounts of James Seale's appearance, his exact age at his death, and other personal recollections of his grandchildren. Few families were fortunate enough to have someone in the early part of the twentieth century prepare such a work at a time when genealogy was still in the dark ages. For this, I think all Seale descendants owe Miss Ida Carrie a great deal of gratitude.

Unfortunately, Miss Seale did not have access to the modern genealogical libraries we do today, and apparently she did not know the value of documenting family tradition by the use of courthouse records. She did seek help from the Butler County probate clerk in trying to prove the parentage of Thomas Seale of Butler County, but apparently never asked him to consult James Seale's will or his estate records there. Of course, she did not have the opportunity to study census records in that era, either.

Instead, Miss Seale relied primarily upon the information she was sent by James Seale's descendants, in other words, family tradition and family history passed down through the years. Since the passage of time clouds memories and distorts dates and other important facts, it is not a surprise that much of the information on James Seale and his children in her book contains errors. Miss Ida Carrie was only in contact with the descendants of James' children who remained in Alabama, although five of his eleven children permanently moved their homes to Louisiana 23 years before his death. As a result, practically every statement made in her books about James Seale's Louisiana children is incorrect, including even their names.

In her works, Miss Ida Carrie Seale included many statements, without attribution, that appear to be family tradition. We cannot of course now verify these statements in any way, and given the known inaccuracies in her works, it is difficult to know how much faith to place in them. However, in my opinion, sometimes general statements can be retold from generation to generation and not forgotten or confused, unlike facts such as specific dates, names of relatives who moved away and are long dead, etc., frequently are.

Here are excerpts from Miss Ida Carrie's section on James Seale (I have retained the spelling and punctuation of the original work):

James Seale, son of Charles Seale sr. and Lydia Muse, was born in North Carolina in 1773. Died 1864 in Butler County, Alabama; buried on the plantation near Butler Springs; Married three times, but names of two wives are unknown. The wife Rachel Kelly of North Carolina was the mother of all of his children. He was a young man when his father moved from Moore County N.C. to Fairfield county, S.C. From there he went to Georgia where he registered in 1791 as agent to sell slaves for Peter Seale. About 1818 he his children joined a caravan, all in covered wagons bound for Alabama, they being among the first settlers in Butler County, near what is now the town of Greenville. Later James and one of his sons were in the party who selected the site for the town...

Had he [James Seale] lived nine days more, he would have been ninety-one years old at the time of his death. One of his granddaughters who remembered him well left the following description of him. "*He was a man of distinguished and dignified bearing, made a striking appearance when dressed in his satin breeches, gold buckles on his shoes, with his snowy white hair.*" He always carried a gold headed walking cane which contained a dagger that could be removed by unscrewing the head of the cane...He died a short time before his third wife, and several years after his son, Ransom...

Based upon the documented evidence presented in these notes, we see that nearly every statement above contains errors. Specifically,

- James Seale was born in 1769, **not 1773**
- James Seale died in 1860, **not 1864**
- James' father Charles Seale was **never** called "Charles Seale, Sr." in any record I have found, and there is no evidence that James had a brother by the name of "Charles Seale, Jr."
- Charles Seale never lived in Moore Co NC, although his plantation in Cumberland lay in the portion of that county that was cut off into Moore County in 1784. But when Charles Seale lived in North Carolina, it was still Cumberland County.

- Charles Seale moved to Craven County South Carolina in late 1769; Fairfield County (and later, District) was not formed until 1785 (I am being overly picky about listing this as an error; the local county/district names in early South Carolina changed frequently and are very difficult to understand).
- James Seale was still living in Fairfield District South Carolina in 1820. He moved to Butler County Alabama in late 1820 or 1821. He was continually found living in Fairfield District SC until 1820, so he was **NOT** a resident of Butler County during the Indian attacks of 1818.
- James Seale died almost exactly one year **after** his third wife and two years **before** his son, Ransom.

Georgia Records

The first members of the Seale family to move to Georgia were Francis and Dorothy Seale Stribling. They left Cumberland County North Carolina and settled in Wilkes County Georgia between 1775 and 1778. In 1781, the patriarch of the Seale family, Anthony Seale, II, died in Prince William County Virginia, and in 1782, the American Revolution (more of a civil war for the Muses and Seales) was essentially over. These events precipitated the departure of James' uncle, Anthony Seale, III, from Prince William County Virginia in about 1783 or 1784. At about the same time, Anthony III's brother Thomas Seale left Cumberland County North Carolina, and James' father Charles Seale departed from old Craven County, now Camden District, South Carolina. The brothers Anthony III, Thomas, and Charles Seale all joined the Striblings in Wilkes County Georgia. Anthony and Dorothy settled near what would become the county line between Wilkes and Lincoln Counties in 1800, whereas Thomas and Charles established residence in what would become Warren County in 1793. Charles, Thomas, Enoch, and Jarvis Seale were all listed near one another on the 1785 Wilkes County Tax list. Enoch was James' brother, and Thomas was probably the brother, but perhaps the son, of Charles Seale; Jarvis was the son of Anthony Seale, III, the first cousin of James Seale.

Although we have no way of knowing for certain, probably James Seale moved with his father from South Carolina to Georgia at the age of about 14 or 15. In October 1785 the State of Georgia granted land in Wilkes County to Charles and Enoch, but for some reason, they both sold their land the next month and returned to South Carolina by 1786. While they had been away, the old county designations in South Carolina had changed; old Craven County, now Camden District, was subdivided in 1785, with the Wateree River area on which the Seales lived now in Fairfield County, Camden District.

The 1785 tax list indicates that Charles, Enoch, Thomas, and Jarvis Seale were neighbors in Wilkes County. Also listed near them were many Peavy families. In 1785 there was no Abraham Peavy on the Wilkes County tax list, but he was found on the tax returns for the years 1786, 1787, and 1790 – 1793 (the lists for 1788 and 1789 are not extant). About 1794, Abraham Peavy left this area and moved to Hancock County with his brother-in-law Thomas Seale. It appears that Abraham and Lydia Seale Peavy moved back to Warren County by about 1804 and by 1817 had moved to Morgan County Georgia. Abraham and Lydia moved to the Butler County Alabama area in between 1817 and 1820.

Abraham Peavy died on 15 August 1837 in Butler County Alabama. For the purpose of obtaining a widow's pension on Abraham's Revolutionary War military service, his widow Lydia Seale Peavy made a deposition on 21 June 1839 and stated that she had married Peavy in September 1784. To assist his sister in this regard, James Seale made this deposition dated 6 September 1841 (spelling and punctuation are given below as they appeared in the original):

Personally appeared before me **Wm. T. Struly** a Justice of the Peace for said County **James Seale Sr.** who being duly sworn saith that he is personally acquainted with **Abraham Peavy** late of said County and **Lydia Peavy** his wife and he also says that he was present at the marriage of the said **Abraham Peavy to Lydia Seale** (now **Lydia Peavy**) and that he is the Brother of the said **Lyid Peavy** and recollect the marriage from the fact of having boarded with them soon after their marriage which marriage was in September Seventeen Hundred and Eighty Six.

The discrepancy is unfortunate, as no other record exists of the Peavy – Seale marriage. Does one believe the woman who was married then but could not write her name, or her apparently much better educated brother who was present at the wedding and lived with her and her new husband afterwards?

In his 1832 pension application, Peavy states that John Seale served in the army with him during the Revolution, and John Seale made an affidavit to this effect. I believe that this was Anthony Seale, III's son John Seale. In any case, it appears that the Seale and Peavy families were acquainted prior to Charles Seale's settling near them in Wilkes County

Georgia about 1783 or 1784. I have not seen any record of the Peavys in the Craven or Fairfield County area, though, so I believe it likely that Lydia Seale became well acquainted with Abraham when her father moved to Georgia.

If James was correct and the marriage was in 1786, then his statement indicates that he remained in Wilkes County after his father had returned to South Carolina. James was apparently not living in his father's household in 1790 in Fairfield County, for there were only 3 males listed, 1 over 16 (apparently Charles) and 2 under 16 (apparently James' younger brothers Joshua and Daniel). He was also not listed in a household by himself, as was his brother Elijah. James may well have remained in Wilkes County with his sister until 1790. The first record of his in Fairfield County (later District) South Carolina is dated 1791, and the records transcribed below indicate that he was living there continually between 1791 and 1820.

Miss Ida Carrie Seale states that James Seale was in Georgia in 1791, where he registered to sell slaves for Peter Seale. I have not found record of this, and since we have proof that James lived in Fairfield County in 1791, I question the validity of her statement. Peter Seale does not appear on *any* of the numerous extant tax lists for Wilkes County Georgia between 1785 and 1805, nor does this name appear on a single deed there recorded between 1783 and 1806. I am not aware of any man by the name "Peter Seale" associated with Anthony Seale, Jr.'s descendants.

The only record I have found of a James Seale in Georgia in these early days of the state is the following:

1787 Wilkes Co GA Tax Digest, District C **James Seal**, 100 acres of land in Wilkes County, 1 poll

I do not know the identity of this man; I actually believe there was a mistake in recording the given name of the taxpayer; I think it should have been "John Seale". There are no early deeds of a James Seale in Georgia, and he was not found on any other Wilkes County tax digest between 1785 and 1805, nor in any of the recorded deeds. District C was in the eastern portion of Wilkes County, near the area that Anthony Seale III and Dorothy Seale Stribling settled in 1783. Anthony had a son by the name of John Seale, and this John is found on the Wilkes County tax lists of District C in 1785 and several in the early 1790s; he was granted land in District C in 1788. I believe this was a clerical error and "James" should have been "John". In any case, this was *not* our James Seale: the subject of these notes was only 18 years old in 1787, and poll taxes were not collected on white males until they reached the age of 21 years.

Finally, on 31 January 1811, James Seale bought 202½ acres of land in "Wilkson" County Georgia from Jordon Ginn of Jackson County Georgia. The land was described as being in the 13th District and lot #192, originally granted to Jordon Ginn. There was never any Georgia county by this name; undoubtedly this should have been *Wilkinson* County. The lot number indicates that Ginn "drew" this land in one of the Georgia land lotteries. I do not know if James Seale ever moved to Georgia and lived on this land. If so, he remained on for one or two growing seasons, as by 31 October 1812, he bought land in Fairfield, and was found there continually through the year 1820.

Fairfield County/District South Carolina Records 1791 – 1820

In this section, I have transcribed all known records of James Seale in Fairfield County, later Fairfield District, South Carolina between 1791 and 1820. I have photocopies of the originals of each of the following records in my possession. In the following transcriptions, I have used the spelling and punctuation of the original documents, however arcane they may be. The surname *Seale* is spelled in a variety of ways in the original records, and I have always used whatever spelling the clerk making the record used.

□ **19 May 1791**

Event: **James Seal and Thomas Muse** were listed as purchasers at the estate sale of **Henry and Nancy Ivey** of Fairfield County, which was recorded on this date:

Jas. Seal	Forks, Ladle & Iron	12.	[12 shillings]
	Frying pan	5.6	[5 shillings, 6 pence]
Thos. Muse	Shoe Tools	8.	[8 shillings]
	Frow & drawing Knife	11.6	[11 shillings, 6 pence]
	Cooper Ware	6.	[6 shillings]
	Wheel _____ ? _____	16.	[16 shillings]

Other information about this estate:

14 Feb 1791 **Thomas Muse** appointed administrator of the estate
25 Mar 1791 **John Morrison, Canon Cason**, appraisers, certified the accuracy of the inventory
19 May 1791 **Thomas Muse** bought property at the estate sale

Reference: Fairfield County SC Estate Record Book 1, p. 106.

Comments:

- Thomas Muse was the brother of Lydia Muse Seale, and thus was James Seale's uncle.
- John Morrison is believed to be the second husband of Sophia Pope Muse, and so he was the step-grandfather of James Seale.
- In 1842 James Seale married the widow of Elijah Ivey; Elijah had a brother named Henry, presumably this same man.

6 Mar 1792

Event: **James Seal** was listed as a purchaser at the estate sale of **Wm. McFaden** of Fairfield County, conducted by **Ann McFaden**, adminix., which was recorded on this date:

Thos. Muse	1 Rifle gun	4.2.	[4 pounds, 2 shillings]
Rachel McFaden	1 Grey Mare	8._.	[8 pounds]
	1 ____?	.16.	[16 shillings]
John Morrison	1 Brill		
	1 Stak (?)		
	1 Crib of Corn	4.19._	[4 pounds, 19 shillings]
James Seal	1 Box	_.4.8	[4 shillings, 8 pence]

Other information about this estate:

12 Feb 1791 **John Morrison**, one of the appraisers of the estate, was paid 18 shillings, 8 pence.

Reference: Fairfield County SC Estate Record Book 1, p. 138 – 139.

Comments:

- Thomas Muse was the brother of Lydia Muse Seale, and thus was James Seale's uncle.
- John Morrison is believed to be the second husband of Sophia Pope Muse, and so he was the step-grandfather of James Seale.
- Despite repeated attempts by numerous researchers over the past 30 years to locate information on James Seale's wife Rachel, not one piece of evidence has been found to verify that she was "Rachel Kelly", as claimed by Miss Ida Carrie Seale in her books. As indicated above, for a few reasons I question that Rachel's maiden name was actually "Kelly" (or "Kelley"). I don't know the connection between the Seale and Muse family and the McFaden one, if any, but I wonder if perhaps James' wife Rachel were Rachel McFaden? This date, 1791, is shortly before the approximate date they must have married.

□ **11 May 1792**

Event: A South Carolina State Plat is issued to **James Seal** for 89 acres of land:

South Carolina. I do hereby Certify for **James Seal** a tract of Land containing Eighty Nine Acres (Surveyed for him the 5th of July 1792) Situate in the District of Camden in Fairfield County on Thorntree Creek of the Wateree River & hath such form marks buttings & boundings as the above plat Represents...

Reference: SC State Plats, Vol. 28, p. 227. South Carolina Surveyor General **F. Bremar** signed the plat.

□ **4 June 1792**

Event: The State of South Carolina grants **James Seal** 89 acres of land

situated in the District of Camden in Fairfield County on Thorntree branch of the Wateree River Bounded NW by **James Craigs** Land, NE by **John Havis**...SW by **John Briants & Robert McCants**...

Reference: SC State Grants, Vol. 30, p. 320. Gov. **Charles Pinkney** signed the grant.

□ **1792**

Event: **James Seal** was listed on the Fairfield County SC Tax List, page 34:

#3 Seal, James

0 slaves
89 acres 3rd Quality Land
state tax: 10 pence
county tax: (land not taxed)

'D.E.' [I don't know what this means]"

Also listed were **Charles Seal, Anthony Seal, Enoch Seal, Thomas Seal, Thomas Muse.**

Reference: Fairfield County SC 1792 Tax List, p. 34, available on microfilm from the South Carolina State Archives.

□ **23 July 1794**

Event: **James Seal** and his uncle **Thomas Muse** were mentioned in the court minutes of Fairfield County on this date:

State vs. Thomas Hines & Thomas Muse

Ordered that the recognizance so far as related to **Thomas Muse** be discharged on his paying the Costs of the prosecution of **Hines**

Ordered that **James Seal** be allowed the sum of seven shillings for wintering an estray cow or heifer.

Reference: Fairfield County SC County Court Minutes, 1791 – 1799, Frames 74 – 76.

□ **11 Sept 1798**

Event: **Charles Seal** of Fairfield County sells 50 acres of land to **Elias Jones** of the same residence for £50 Sterling. The land was in Fairfield County

...on Sawneys Creek, waters of Wateree River beginning at said Creek at...**Jerrigans** line...thence up the Creek the various Courses to the Beginning concluding the land lying on the south side of sd. Creek...it being part of a Tract granted to **John Wilson** by grant dated 3th July 1774 & conveyed from **John Wilson** unto **Charles Seal** by Deed bearing date the _____ [blank] 1787...

Reference: Fairfield Co SC Deed Book M, p. 18 – 19.

Witnesses: **Richd. Camble, James Seale**

Fairfield County; **James Seale** maketh Oath that he did see the within named **Charles Seale** sign Seal and deliver the within to **Elias Jones** as his Act and Did for the Uses purposes therein mentioned...Sworn to before me 2 Jany 1798, **Chas. Pickett, J. P.** Recorded 23d Jany 1799

Comments:

- This is the last known record of Charles Seale in his lifetime. According to the following deed of Charles' heirs, he was dead by Oct 22nd.
- Elias Jones was the son-in-law of Charles Seale; the deed of Charles' heirs names Elias Jones as the husband of Charles Seale's daughter Charity.

□ **late 1798**

Event: The heirs of **Charles Seale** give 50 acres of land to **Daniel Seale**; the surname was spelled "Seal" through this record:

...whereas **Charles Seal** late of the County and State aforesaid planter deceased was at the time of his death seized...of...a Certain plantation or tract of Land Containing fifty acres being the undivided Maiety (?) or full half part of a tract of one hundred acres of Land situate in the County aforesaid on Sauney's Creek, bounded SW on Hardy Tree **Johnstons** Land the other sides on vacant Land when surveyed originally Granted to **John Willson** 31st August 1774 and by him sold Conveyed to **Charles Seal** which said fifty acres is situate on the north side of Sauney's Creek... and whereas the said **Charles Seal** Lately died intestate within the County and state aforesaid whereby the aforesaid fifty acres of Land Came decended [to] **Anthony Seal, Thomas Seal, Enoch Seal, James Seal, Elijah Seal, Joshuah Seal, Robert Dickinson** on **Nancy** his wife, **Elias Jones** and **Charity** his wife, **Abraham Peevy** and **Lydia** his wife, and **Daniel Seal** the Children and Coheirs of the said **Charles Seal** deceased and Whereas it was the dying request of the said **Charles Seal** that his son **Daniel Seal** should have and enjoy the whole of the aforesaid tract of fifty acres of Land without th_?_let [word or words extend into the binding and cannot be read] hindrance or Molestation of the remainder of his said Children or any of those. Now know ye that we the said **Anthony Seal, Thomas Seal, Enoch Seal, James Seal, Elijah Seal, Joshuah Seal, Robert Dickinson** on **Nancy** his wife, **Elias Jones** and **Charity** his wife, **Abraham Peevy** and **Lydia** his wife for and in Consideration of the dying request of the said **Charles Seal** as well as the sum of ten dollars to us paid by the said **Daniel Seal** all our right title claim or interest which we or any or within of us may have in Law

or equity of in or to the aforesaid fifty acres of Land... To have and to hold all and singular the premises before mentioned unto the said **Daniel Seal**...Witness our hands and seal this [blank] day of [blank] in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety eight and XXIII Year of American Independence.

/ s/ **Anthony X Seales** [made his mark]
Thomas Seal
Enoch Seal
James Seal
Elijah Seal
Joshua Seal
Robert X Dickinson [made his mark]
Nancy X Dickinson [made her mark]
Elias X Jones [made his mark]
Charity X Jones [made her mark]
Abraham X Peevey [made his mark]
Lydia X Peevey [made her mark]

Fairfield County; **Shadrck Griges** Maketh oath that he was present when the within named **Anthony Seal, Thomas Seal, Enoch Seal, James Seal, Elijah Seal, Joshua Seal, Robert Dickinson, Nancy Dickinson, Elias Jones, Charity Jones, Abraham Peevy, lidia Peevy** sign seal and Deliver the within as the act and deed for the use and purpose therein mentioned....Sworn to before me this 9th January 1800

/ s/ **Charles Puckett, Esq.** / s/ **Shadrck Griges**

State of Georgia, Hancock County; We do hereby Certify that **Thomas Seal & Abraham Peevy** did assign the within Indenture as their act & deed for the purpose therein Contained also **James Mase (? Mitchel)** made oath before us that he saw **Lidy Peevy**, wife of **Abraham Peevy**, sign seal & deliver the within Indenture as act & deed of purpose therein Contained. Certified this 19th day of October 1799.

/ s/ **John Mitchel**
Jas. Mitchel

State of No. Carolina, Moore County; **John Mathis & Corneluis Doud** Came Before me Justice for said County & Made oath that the said **Robert & Nancy Dickson** signed the within Conveyance sworn to this 22nd Oct 1798. [justice signature illegible]

Recorded 18th January 1800

Reference: Fairfield Co SC Deed Book M, p. 162 – 163.

Witnesses: **Alex Crumpton, Robt. McCants, Corn Doud, Shadrck Griggs, John Mathews**

Comments: Charles Seale was clearly alive on 11 Sept 1798 when he sold 50 acres to his son-in-law Elias Jones. Unfortunately, the day and month were left blank on this deed, with only the year 1798 written on it. The witness statement of Robert and Nancy Dickinson in Moore Co NC was dated 22 Oct 1798. If correct, this would place Charles Seale's death between September 11th and October 22nd, 1798. However, the witness certification of Thomas Seale, Abraham Peevy, and Lydia Peevy in Hancock Co GA was not made until 1799, and the deed was not recorded in Fairfield County until Jan 1800.

□ **1799/1800**

Event: **Robert Ward** sold 50 acres of land to **James Seale**. The deed burned in the house of **James Seale** in the year 1810, and was apparently never recorded. The land sold was described as

a Certain tract of Land or plantation where he the said **Robert Ward** then Lived Lying and being on Ceder ford a prong of duchmans Creek Containing fifty acres which formerly Belonged to **William Brian** and where **John Grant** now lives at the time of this deed being made we Cannot so well recolect but to the best of our knowledge has been twelve or thirteen years ago. Sworn to Before me this thirty first day of October 1812.

Reference: Fairfield Co SC Deed Book V, pp. 229.

Witnesses: **William Berry, Lucy Berry**

□ **18 Mar 1800**

Event: For 5 shillings, **Hezekiah Ford** of Fairfield District SC sells to **James Seal** of Fairfield 25 acres of land

...in the District of Camden on waters of Dutchmans Creek...bounded SE by **William Ferguson** & all other sides vacant...originally granted... to **William Bryan** on the 5th day of November 1792...

Reference: Fairfield Co SC Deed Book LL, p. 243. Deed not recorded until 3 Sept 1834.

Witnesses: **Wm. Witherspoon, Wm. Berry**

Comments:

- William Berry swore to Ford's signature on the deed on 13 Sept 1800.

□ **19 June 1800**

Event: A South Carolina State Plat is issued to **James Seal** for 115 acres of land:

South Carolina. I do hereby certify for **James Seal** a tract of land containing One hundred and fifteen acres (Surveyed for him the 14th of January 1800) Situate in the District of Camden Fairfield County on the Drains of Dutchman Creek waters of Wateree River And hath such form and marks, buttings and boundings as the above plat represents...

Reference: SC State Plats, Vol. 38, p. 5.

□ **7 July 1800**

Event: The State of South Carolina grants **James Seal** 115 acres of land

...Surveyed for him the 14th of January 1800, Situate in the district of Camden in Fairfield County on the drains of Dutchman's Creek, waters of the Wateree River. Bounded by lines running NE & W by **James Barkley's** land, NW and SW by **William Berry's**, SE & SW by **Cior Ford's**, NE & E by vacant Land...

Reference: SC State Grants, Vol. 46, p. 467. Lt. Gov. **John Deaylon** (?) signed the grant.

□ **5 Oct 1802**

Event: **Jesse Havis**, planter of Fairfield District sells 50½ acres of land to **James Seal**, planter for \$50:

...on the waters of Thorntree Creek Waters of the Wateree River on the road from **John Bryants** Mill to the Crospathes Neav (?) **Armstrongs**...

Reference: Fairfield Co SC Deed Book Q, p. 240 – 241.

Witnesses: **Austin Saal** (?) [his mark], **John Runnald** [his mark]

□ **26 Oct 1802**

Event: **Jesse Havis**, planter of Fairfield District SC for \$210 sells 210 acres of land in Fairfield District to **Eligh Seal** (written variously as **Eligia**, **Elijh**, **Eliga**, **Eligia**), planter

...on the waters of Dutch man's Creek being Parte of a tract of land Granted to ___?___ **Havis** baring Date..." 2 Mar 1795 "...unto the **Eliga Seal** his hairs and assigns for Ever...

Fairfield District. Personaly appeared **James Seal Senr.** before me and made oath that he Saw **Jesse Havis** Sign Seal and Deliver the within Conveyance for the use and purposes the erein [sic] mentioned and that he with **Rachel Seal** in the presence of Each other witnessed the Due Execution there of. Sworn to before me this 24th Day of Novr. 1818.

/ s/ **Almer Ross**

/ s/ **Jas Seale**

Reference: Fairfield Co SC Deed Book Z, pp. 570 – 572.

Witnesses: **James Seal, Rachel X Seal** [her mark]

Comments:

- James Seale signed his name to the document, whereas Rachel made her mark to it.
- This deed is the earliest record I have that proves James Seale's wife was named *Rachel*.

□ **5 Oct 1803**

Event: **James Seal**, planter of Fairfield County sells land to **Henry McCoy**, planter. For \$50, Seale sold

one hundred acres originally granted to **Moses Hendricks** bearing date..." 9 Oct 1784 "...the land lying & being on the head of trouble Creek Waters of broad river in fairfield Destrict bounded on old surveys and all other sides vacant at the time of the survey being made...

Reference: Fairfield Co SC Deed Book O, p. 428 – 429.

Witnesses: **Jesse Havis, Joseph McDanal, Christopher Anderson**

□ **29 Jan 1807**

Event: **James Campble** and his wife **Suthey** (?) of Fairfield District sell land to **James Seal** of Fairfield District. For \$207.50, the **Campbles** sold 200 acres of land located

“on a branch of Sawney’s Creek Waters of Wateree River Cauled Sokes (or Sakes) Creek Bounded SW on **Edward McGraws** Land and all other sides said to be vacant Land...was Granted to **John Copeland** on...” 2 May 1803

Reference: Fairfield Co SC Deed Book S, p. 34 – 35.

Witnesses: **Richd. Campbell, Book Pilgreen, Peter Smith**

□ **7 Feb 1807**

Event: **James Craig** and his wife **Jane** of Fairfield District sell land to **James Seale** of Fairfield District. For \$46, the **Craigs** sold 91 acres of land located

on Thorn Tree Creek a branch of Wateree River...being a part [of] a Tract of Six hundred and forty acres originally Granted to **James Craig**... beginning at a black Oak Corner of **James Seale** and **John Smith** and runing west on a Line of **John Smiths** thirty four chains to a Red Oak thence South East forty three chains to a Chesnut. Thence North East nineteen chains to **Thomas Traps** Line then along **Traps** Line North East ten chains to **James Seals** Line, then along **James Seals** Line NW twenty Chains to the Beginning...

Reference: Fairfield Co SC Deed Book S, p. 33 – 34.

Witnesses: **James Kennedy, James Britnate** (?)

□ **13 June 1807**

Event: **Enoch Seal** of Fairfield District sells land to **Adam** or **Amos Arledge** of Fairfield District. For \$40, **Seal** sold 60 acres of land, a portion of 500 acres originally granted to **Enoch Seal**

...on thorn tree Creek waters of Wateree River...beginning at a red oak **Enoch Seal’s** Corner and **Amos Arlege** Corner...

Reference: Fairfield Co SC Deed Book X, pp. 283 – 285.

Witnesses: **Richard Campbell, James Seal, Book Pillgreen**

□ **10 Sept 1807**

Event: **Benjamin Mitchel** of Fairfield District and his wife **Patsy** sells land to **James Seale** of Fairfield District. For \$200, the **Mitchells** sold 462 acres of land “on the drains of Bear Creek Waters of Wateree River...” (no precise description of the 462 acres was given in the deed)

...Personally appeared **Daniel Seal** and after being duly Sworn on the holy Evangelist says that he was personally present with **Elisha Jones** the other Subscribing witness and says they both did see the within named **Benjamin Mitchell** sign seal and deliver this deed of conveyance to the within named **James Seal** for the purposes within mentioned. Sworn to this 11 Day of June Anna Domino 1808

/ s/ **Daniel Seal**

Reference: Fairfield Co SC Deed Book S, pp. 30 – 31.

Witnesses: **Elisha Jone** [sic], **Daniel Seale**

□ **9 Jan 1809**

Event: For \$300, **James Seal** of Fairfield District SC, planter, sells 462 acres of land to **William Wilson, Junior** of the same residence, planter, situated in Fairfield District SC and

on the Drains of bear Creek, Waters of the Wateree Creek [sic – should be River] Bounded by a line running NE by **James Randolph** all other sides by Vacant Land first orriginally granted unto **Benjamin Mitchel**...the said **Benjamin Mitchel** did Legally transfer the above Land unto the said **James Seale** by another deed...

/ s/ **James Seal**

South Carolina Fairfield District. I do hereby Certify unto all whom it may Concern that I **Rachel Seal** the wife of the within named **James Seal** did this day appear Before me and when being privately and Separately Examined by me did declare that She does freely voluntarily and without any Compulsion Dread or fear of any person or persons whomsoever renounced release and forever relinquish until the within named **William Wilson Junr.** His heirs and assigns all her right and Claim of dower...to... the premises within mentioned and released. Given under my hand and seal at Vauxhall (?) this forth ninth (?) day of January one thousand Eight hundred and Eleven 1811.

/ s/ **Rachel X Seal** [her mark]

Personally appeared before me **John Kelly, Junr.** And made oath that he saw **James Seal Senr.** sign seal and Deliver the within Conveyance for the uses and purposes therein Contained and that he with **George Watts** in the presents of Each other witnessed the due Execution thereof. Sworn before me this 15th January AD 1811.

/ s/ **John Kelly**

Reference: Fairfield Co SC Deed Book U, pp. 16 – 18.

Witnesses: **Geo. Watts, John Kelly**

□ **9 June 1810**

Event: For \$42, **James Craige** of Fairfield District and his wife **Jane** sells land to **James Seale** of Fairfield District. They sell a plantation of 84 acres situated

on Sikes (?) Creek, a branch of Sawney's Creek...being a part of a Tract of Six hundred and forty acres...originally...granted to **James Craige**...

Reference: Fairfield Co SC Deed Book V, pp. 235 – 236.

Witnesses: **Jos. W. Caldwell** (called "Dr. Joseph W. Caldwell"), **James Craig, Jr.**

□ **31 Jan 1811**

Event: For \$100, **Jordon Ginn** of Wrights Battaion, Jackson Co GA sells land to **James Seale Senior** of Fairfield District. He sells 202½ acres of land in the state of Georgia, described as

...being in the thirteenth District Wilkson County in the State of Georgia wich said tract or Lot of Land is known and Distinguished in the State Plain of said District by the number one hundred and ninety two originally Granted unto the said **Jordon Ginn**...

Personally appeared before me **John Kelly Jr.** and made oath that he saw **Jordon Ginn** sign, seal and deliver the within conveyance for the uses and purposes therein mentioned, and that he with **Eli Duke** in the presence of each other witnessed the due execution. Sworn to before [me] this 20th day of October 1812.

/ s/ **John Kelly**

Reference: Fairfield Co SC Deed Book V, pp. 228 – 229.

Witnesses: **John Kelly, Elias Duke**

□ **31 Oct 1812**

Event: **James Seale, William Berry, and Lucy Berry** made the following deposition:

Personally appeared **William Berry** and his wife **Lucy** and made oath that they and Each of them in the presence of Each other saw **Robert Ward** sign seal and deliver to **James Seal Senior** a deed of Conveyance for a Certain tract of Land or plantation where he the said **Robert Ward** then Lived Lying and being on Ceder ford a prong of duchmans Creek Containing fifty acres which formerly Belonged to **William Brian** and where **John Grant** now lives at the time of this deed being made we Cannot so well recolect but to the best of our knowledge has been twelve or thirteen years ago. Sworn to Before me this thirty first day of October 1812.

Abner Ross [justice of the peace] / s/ **William X Berry** [his mark]

/ s/ **Lucy X Berry** []

Personally appeared **James Seale** Before me and made oath that the deed within mentioned from **Robert Ward** to the Deponant was Burned in his house in the year 1810 and was recorded (?). Sworn to Before me this 31 Day of October 1812.

Abner Ross [justice of the peace] / s/ **James Seale**

Reference: Fairfield Co SC Deed Book V, pp. 229.

□ **16 Nov 1813**

Event: For \$39, **James Craig** of Fairfield District SC sells land to **James Seale** of Fairfield District. He sold 78 acres of land in Fairfield District,

...being part of a tract of Six hundred and forty acres Originally granted to said **James Craig** on Waters of Sixes Creek a Branch of Sawney's Creek, Waters of the Wateree... River Bounded on the NW and NE by **James Craig** Land and on the SW by **James Seale** Land...

Personally Came **Abraham Seal** before me and made oath that he saw **James Craig** ___?___ [Senior ?] sign seal and Delivered this deed of Conveyance to **James Seal Senr.** and that **James Barkley** witnessed the same Execution with him...

Reference: Fairfield Co SC Deed Book W, pp. 154 – 155.

Witnesses: **James Barkley, Abraham Seal**

□ **25 Nov 1815**

Event: **Robert W. Craig** of Fairfield District SC sells land to **James Seale** of Fairfield District. "...in consideration of the sum of three hundred and fourteen hundred Dollars" (\$314 ?), **Craig** sold **Seale** 419 acres of land in Fairfield District,

"...being part of a tract originally Granted to **James Craig**..." in 1804, and the land is "...on waters of Sinks Creek a Branch of Sawney's Creek of the waters of the Wateree river bounded...NE by **James Craig** Land, SE on ___?___ **Kinslow's** Land and SW on **James Lawhorn** and **Zachariah L. Nettle** Land..."

Reference: Fairfield Co SC Deed Book Y, pp. 174 – 175.

Witnesses: **Abraham Ferguson, Samuel W. Kennedy**

□ **15 April 1817**

Event: For \$51.50, **James Craig** of Fairfield District SC and his wife **Margaret** sells land to **James Seale** of Fairfield District. They sell 103 acres of land in Fairfield District,

"...being a part of a tract of Land originally Granted to **James Craig** on Sikes Creek a branch of Sawney's Creek, Waters of the Wateree River. Bounded on the SE by **James Seale's** land, & NW by **James Craig's** land..."

Reference: Fairfield Co SC Deed Book Y, pp. 377 – 378.

Witnesses: **Edward Sims, Zach. H. Nettles**

□ **14 April 1818**

Event: For \$97.25, **James Craig** of Fairfield District SC and his wife **Margaret** sells land to **James Seal** of Fairfield District. They sell 194.5 acres of land in Fairfield District,

"situate on Sikeses Creek a branch of the Wateree River granted to **James Craig** Beginning at a Spanish Oak corner **James Seal's** and running SE course to **Millones** line from thence to **Mrs. McCantses** line from thence to **Elijahs Seals** land..."

Reference: Fairfield Co SC Deed Book Y, pp. 377 – 378.

Witnesses: **William Cloud, Minor Grigg** (?)

□ **1 Oct 1818**

Event: A South Carolina State Plat is issued to **James Seal** for 148 acres of land:

"South Carolina. I do hereby certify for **James Seal** a tract of one hundred & forty eight acres of Land Surveyed for him the 28th of Sept. 1818 Situate in Fairfield District on a Branch Dutchman's Creek waters of the Wateree River Bounded SW on **Abner Ross'** land NW on land granted to **James Craig** NE on land granted to **James Seal** and **Abraham Ferguson**, and SE on **Richard B. Harrison's** land..."

Reference: SC State Plats, Vol. 45, p. 339.

□ **5 Oct 1818**

Event: The State of South Carolina grants **James Seal** 148 acres of land
“...surveyed for him the 28th of Sept 1818, situate in Fairfield District on a branch of Dutchman’s Creek waters of the Wateree River Bounded SW on **Abner Ross**’ land, NW on land granted unto **James Craig**, NE on land granted to **James Seal & Abraham Ferguson**, and SE on **Richard B. Harrison**’s land...”

Reference: SC State Grants, Vol. 62, p. 254.

□ **24 Nov 1818**

Event: **James Seale** swears that he and **Rachel Seale** saw **Jesse Havis** sign the deed referenced above dated 26 Oct 1802.

Reference: Fairfield Co SC Deed Book Z, pp. 571.

Comments: This record and the previous four prove that James Seale was in Fairfield District South Carolina in April 1817 and throughout the year 1818. His being on the 1820 census of Fairfield allows us to conclude with certainty that James Seale **remained in Fairfield District South Carolina** until after the 1820 census was completed. Given that he was a planter, this realistically means that he remained through the growing season of 1820. Thus, he moved to Alabama in the fall or winter of 1820.

□ **1820**

Event: **James Seale** is listed on the 1820 census of Fairfield District South Carolina.

Comments:

- This census is the last record I have found of James Seale in South Carolina.
- There is no deed recorded in Fairfield County SC of James Seale selling his plantation in Fairfield District South Carolina. I have seen speculation that only one-fourth of the deeds in South Carolina in this time period were ever recorded, as many did not want to pay the recording fee. Perhaps this explains why there is no record of the sale.

Alabama Records 1817 – 1857

In this section, I have transcribed all known records of James Seale in Alabama through 1856. In the following transcriptions, I have used the spelling and punctuation of the original documents, however arcane they may be. The surname *Seale* is spelled in a variety of ways in the original records, and I have always used whatever spelling the clerk making the record used.

Of particular importance are the numerous transactions between James Seale and the United States government regarding Seale’s land purchases. The various types of records and their purposes are rather quite complicated to fully understand, so I first give a brief explanation.

United States Government Land Sales to Citizens

Until about 1908, the United States government supported itself by the sale of land to its citizens. Once “new” land was obtained from the American Indians by purchase or conquest, it had to be surveyed, land offices set up, etc., so often settlers moving westward were legally “squatters”. Until 1820, land could be bought from the United States on credit. Title was given to the settler with only payment of the first “installment”, typically one-quarter of the value of the land. This policy created an incredible paper trail, and abuses of this system and the massive paperwork involved with cases of nonpayment caused Congress to change the system in 1820. Beginning in that year, purchases had to be made by cash. When a man went to buy land at the government land office, the legal record created was called a **Cash Entry** (“entry” probably coming from the fact that the official had to “enter” the settler’s name in the land tract book). The standard reference for these and other facts about early land purchases from the government is **History of Public Land Law Development**, by Paul W. Gates, United States Government Printing Office, 1968. This work can be found in any large library.

General Andrew Jackson's military victory against the Creek nation in 1814 opened up a vast area of present-day central Alabama to white settlement. On 4 August 1817, the first portion of this land was put on the auction block in the Georgia state capitol of Milledgeville. All land office records were later transferred to the Cahaba Land Office, which opened 10 October 1818 in Dallas County Alabama. Numerous Georgian men bid on and paid the first installments on their Alabama land, sight unseen. Many of these were engaging in land speculation and had no intention of moving westward. They merely held title to their land, and when demand for the land increased in a few years, they **assigned** it, or sold their rights and title to the land, to someone else. This resulted in an incredible amount of paperwork for the land offices, and created the need for documents called **Declarations** and **Relinquishments**.

□ **27 Aug 1817**

Event: **James Pinkston** of Hancock Co GA purchased four 160-acre tracts of land in what would later be Butler Co AL. **Pinkston** paid \$80 for each of the tracts, the first installment due on each of them. For each of the tracts of land, he paid \$76 in certificates of Mississippi Stock and \$4 cash.

Reference: Milledgeville, GA Receiver's Office Receipts #444, 445, 450, 451.

- **Receipt #444** – Pinkston bought the
 - ◆ SW¼ of Section 17 of Township 10, Range 14,
160 acres of land at \$2.00 per acre. There is now \$240.00 due.
- **Receipt #445** – Pinkston's \$80 payment "...is in full of the first instalment for..." the
 - ◆ NW¼ of Section 17 of Township 10, Range 14,
160 acres of land at \$2.00 per acre. There is now \$240.00 due.
- **Receipt #450** – Pinkston's \$80 payment "...is in full of the first instalment for..." the
 - ◆ NE¼ of Section 17 of Township 10, Range 14,
160 acres of land at \$2.00 per acre. There is now \$240.00 due.
- **Receipt #451** – Pinkston's \$80 payment "...is in full of the first instalment for..." the
 - ◆ SE¼ of Section 17 of Township 10, Range 14,
160 acres of land at \$2.00 per acre. There is now \$240.00 due.

Comments: James Pinkson sold this land to James Seale in 1821.

□ **8 Aug 1820**

Event: The first election was held in Butler County Alabama, an election for sheriff of the county. Several men closely connected to James Seale were on the list of voters, including **James Craig** (he owned an adjoining plantation to James Seale's in Fairfield District between 1800 and 1818), **Ephraim Palmer** [sic – Parmer] (he married James' daughter Matilda in the early 1820s), **Abraham Pivy** [sic – Peavy] (he was James Seale's brother-in-law), and **Elisha Ward** (his son David Ward married James Seale's daughter Cynthia in about 1827). The name of James Seale was **not** on the list of voters.

Reference: The original record is on file at the Alabama State Archives with the "Election Returns of Butler County 1820." The list was published in *Butler County in the Nineteenth Century*, by Marilyn David Hahn, 1978.

□ **11 July 1821**

Event: **James Seal** listed as purchasing government land in Butler Co AL in Section 18, Township 10, Range 14.

Reference: Cahaba, Alabama Land Office Register of Certificates, Book 304. The names were published in *Old Cahaba Land Office Records & Military Warrants, 1817 – 1853*, by Marilyn Davis Hahn Barefield, revised, 1986. However, these ledger books should match the records in the National Archives, and yet the Archives has no record of James Seale purchasing land in July of 1821. He purchased land

fitting this description in September 1821. I do not know if this was a recording error or possibly the original record that the Archives should have does not exist.

□ **10 Sept 1821**

Event: **James Seale**, Assignee of **James Pinkston**, declared that he had bought Pinkston's right to several tracts of government land purchased by Pinkston in 1817.

Reference: Cahaba, Alabama Land Office Declaration #1618, which reads:

"James Seale as Assignee of James Pinkston of Hancock Co GA do hereby declare my consent to the provisions of the act of Congress, passed..." 2 Mar 1821 "entitled *An act for the relief of the purchasers of the Public Lands, prior to the 1st day of July, 1820*; and request that I may have a further credit...on the balance (exclusive of interest accrued) due or to become due from me as Assignee on account of the purchase money of the following described tract of land, (the payment of which has not been completed) held by me and purchased of the United States, in the District of Lands offered for sale at Cahaba viz:"

		Original certificate surrendered	
27 Aug 1817	#331	1 Sept 1817	NE¼, Sec 17, Twp 10, Ran 14
27 Aug 1817	#333	1 Sept 1817	SW¼, Sec 17, Twp 10, Ran 14
27 Aug 1817	#334	1 Sept 1817	NW¼, Sec 17, Twp 10, Ran 14

Comments:

- ◆ The unlabeled columns in the table above were not labeled on the original document. The numbers in the second column do not match the receipt numbers from the Milledgeville Land Office, and their significance is unknown.
- ◆ James Seale signed his name to this declaration on 10 Sept 1821

□ **10 Sept 1821**

Event: **James Seale** of Butler County purchased 80 acres of government land.

Reference: Cahaba, Alabama Land Office Cash Entry #404. He bought the

- ◆ E½ of SE¼ of Section 18, Township 10, Range 14,

which was 79.76¼ acres of land, for which he paid \$1.25 per acre for a total of \$99.70¼, paid in full by:

"Planters & Mechanics Bank of S.C.	\$99.00
<u>Change</u>	<u>.70¼</u>
	\$99.70¼"

□ **28 Mar 1825**

Event: **James Seale** of Butler County signed a declaration regarding his consent to an 1824 act of Congress regarding his debt to the United States resulting from his being the Assignee of Pinkston.

Reference: Cahaba, Alabama Land Office Relinquishment #994:

"I James Seal of Butler Co. do hereby declare my consent to he provisions of the act of Congress, passed..." 18 May 1824 "entitled *An act to provide for the extinguishment of the debt due to the United States, by the purchasers of Public Lands...*an wishing to avail myself of the relief granted...I do hereby relinquish to the United States all my right and title to, and interest in the following described tract and legal subdivision of tract of land, (the payment of which has not been completed,) held by me and purchased in the District of Lands offered for sale at Cahaba

Purchased	Certificates of further credit	Land relinquished
27 Aug 1817	#3906; 1 Sept 1821	SW¼ Sec 17, Twp 10, Ran 14

"And request that the sums paid on account of the purchase money of said lands relinquished, be transferred and applied towards completing the payment of the following described tract...of land not relinquished, (the payment of which has not been completed) held by me and purchased as aforesaid viz:

Purchased: 27 Aug 1817

Certificate herewith surrendered: #3907, 1 Sept 1821 for the

- ◆ NW¼ of Section 17, Township 10, Range 14.

Comments: James Seale signed his name to this document on 28 March 1825.

□ **28 Mar 1825**

Event: **James Seale** paid his debt of \$111.82 to the United States government, the remainder due from him for 160 acres of land.

Reference: Cahaba, Alabama Land Office, Receiver's Office #1992:

“Received of **James Seal** assignee of **James Pinkston**” \$111.82, “which, together with the discount hereinafter stated and allowed... and the sum of \$80 heretofore paid on land relinquished, is in full of the balance due or to become due on the”

- ◆ NW¼ of Section 17, Township 10, Range 14.

containing 160 acres @ \$2.00 per acre, purchased 27 Aug 1817.

“amount due:	\$240
interest due on \$90 for 3 years, 6 months: \$18.90	
Total due:	\$258.90
Cash heretofore paid on land relinquished:	\$80.00
Discount on \$178.90	\$67.08
Due:	\$147.08
Cash in full as above stated:	\$111.82”

□ **26 Nov 1829**

Event: **James Seale** of Butler County purchased 160 acres of government land for \$200 in cash.

Reference: Seale made two separate transactions for the land:

- Cahaba, Alabama Land Office Cash Entry #4978 for the
 - ◆ E½ of SW¼ of Section 22, Township 13, Range 16, 80 acres of land @ \$1¼ per acre.
- Cahaba, Alabama Land Office Cash Entry #4979 for the
 - ◆ E½ of NW¼ of Section 22, Township 13, Range 16, 80 acres of land @ \$1¼ per acre.

Comments: This is the first land James Seale bought in what would become Lowndes County the next year. Although he remained a resident of Butler until at least 1831, this indicates he was planning to leave several years before he made the move.

□ **10 June 1831**

Event: **James Seale** of Butler County purchased 82 acres of government land.

Reference: Cahaba, Alabama Land Office Cash Entry #8365 for the

- ◆ W½ of SW¼ of Section 3, Township 12, Range 16,

which was 82.12½ acres of land @ \$1.25 per acre, for a total cash payment of \$102.66.

Comments: Due to the destruction of the early Butler County records, this is the last known record of James Seale in Butler County.

□ **4 Oct 1832**

Event: **James Seale** of Lowndes County AL purchased 40 acres of government land.

Reference: Cahaba, Alabama Land Office Cash Entry #13120 for the

- ◆ NW¼ of SW¼ of Section 27, Township 13, Range 16,

which was 40 acres of land @ \$1.25 per acre, for a total cash payment of \$50.

Comments: This record and the immediately preceding it indicate that James Seale planted a crop on his Butler County plantation for the last time in 1831 and then moved to Lowndes County.

□ **29 Nov 1833**

Event: **James Seale** of Lowndes County AL purchased 40 acres of government land.

Reference: Cahaba, Alabama Land Office Cash Entry #17200 for the
♦ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 4, Township 12, Range 16,
which was 41.17 acres of land @ \$1.25 per acre, for a total cash payment of \$51.46.

□ **25 June 1835**

Event: **James Seale** of Lowndes County AL purchased 120 acres of government land for \$150 in cash.

Reference: Seale made two separate transactions for the land:
➤ Cahaba, Alabama Land Office Cash Entry #22898 for the
♦ W $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 27, Township 13, Range 16,
80 acres of land @ \$1.25 per acre. Total paid in full: \$100.
➤ Cahaba, Alabama Land Office Cash Entry #22899 for the
♦ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 27, Township 13, Range 16,
40 acres of land @ \$1.25 per acre. Total paid in full: \$50.

Comment: This is the last record I have showing James Seale's residence as Lowndes County. By the fall of 1836, at least three of his children (Clarenda Seale Ham, Cynthia, Seale Ward, and James Hayden Seale) were making preparations to move west to Louisiana. They left Alabama in early 1837. Apparently by this time, James Seale had moved from Lowndes County to north a short distance to Autauga County Alabama.

□ **6 Jan 1837**

Event: **James H. Seale** of Lowndes County AL sells 160 acres of land situated in Lowndes County to **James Seales** of Autauga County AL for \$1600.

Reference: Lowndes Co AL Deed Book 2, p. 600. The land was described as
♦ E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 27, Township 13, Range 16,

Witnesses: **S. A. McMeans, Daniel Payne, David Ward, Josiah McMichael**

Comments:
➤ James H. Seale was of course the son of James Seale. James H. Seale was preparing to move to northern Louisiana with his brothers-in-law David Ward and William Ham.
➤ Daniel Payne was a neighbor of the Seales in Lowndes County who also moved with them to northern Louisiana in 1837.
➤ James H. Seale's farm adjoined that of his father James Seale; both had bought this land from the government in the early 1830s.

□ **19 Mar 1838**

Event: **James Seals** of Autauga County AL gives a slave women **Serena** and her children to his daughter **Mary Bates**:

...for the natural love and affection I bear my daughter **Mary Bates** and the Children [sic' heirs born of her Body have given and granted and by these presents do give and grant to the said **Mary** and her children now living and hereafter to be born of her Body a certain negro woman named **Serena** and her children now living and all her future increase forever...

Reference: Lowndes Co AL Deed Book 3A, p. 255. The document was signed as "James Seals".

Witness: **John Varner**

□ **19 Mar 1838**

Event: **James Seal** (also written as **James Seals** in the same document) of Autauga County AL makes a second deed of a slave woman to his grandsons **Alford, John, and Elisha Kelly**:

in consideration that I did sometime in the spring of 1835 make a certain deed of gift of a certain slave named **Mariah** and her children then living and all the increase to her of her body to my Grand Children **Alford Kelly, John Kelly, Elisha Kelly, and James Kelly** the latter now deceased which deed of gift has been lost or destroyed by accident and I still in consideration of my love for them and to supply the lost of said deed do hereby...give and grant to the said **Alford, John, and Elisha Kelly** now living the said **Mariah** and her children now living and all her and their future increase to my said Grand Children and their heirs forever...upon the condition however that said slaves and increase shall not be divided between my said Grand Children until the youngest of them _____?_____ to full age.

Reference: Lowndes Co AL Deed Book 3B, p. 334. The document was signed as "James Seals".

Witness: **John Varner**

Comment: Alford, John, Elisha, and James Kelley were the sons of Elizabeth Seale Kelley. According to the 1850 census, Elisha Kelley was born about 1833. This indicates Elizabeth Seale Kelley must have died between 1833 and the spring of 1835.

□ **1 Oct 1839**

Event: **James Seals Senr.** of Autauga County AL sells land to **Robert Burt** of Upson Co GA for \$4800. On 14 Oct 1839, **Rebecca Seals**, wife of **James Seals**, released her dower to the property:

Know all men by these presents that I **Rebeca Seals** wife of **James Seals** the grantor within named for and in consideration of the sum of one dollar to me in hand paid...I do hereby acknowledge...release...and forever quit claim to **Robt. Burt**... and assign all right title interest and claim to dower which I now have as wife of the said **James Seals** or may hereafter have as his widow in and to the lands...

Rebecca Seals made "hir mark" to the record.

On 14 Oct 1839, in Autauga Co AL:

I **Henry Lewis** Justice of the Peace of the County aforesaid do hereby certify that I have this day examined the above named **Rebecca Seals** wife of **James Seal** privately and apart from her said Husband and...she acknowledged that she signed sealed and delivered the foregoing instrument as her Voluntary act and deed freely without any threat fear or Compulsion of her said Husband...

Reference: Lowndes Co AL Deed Book 4, p. 30 – 31. The land sold was described as

- ◆ E $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$,
- ◆ W $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$,
- ◆ W $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
- ◆ E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$, all of Section 22, Township 13, Range 16, in Lowndes County Alabama,

and also

- ◆ N $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$, [it is not exactly clear whether this is the north $\frac{1}{2}$ or the north $\frac{1}{4}$]
- ◆ N $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$, [it is not exactly clear whether this is the north $\frac{1}{2}$ or the north $\frac{1}{4}$]
- ◆ W $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$,
- ◆ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$,
- ◆ E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$, all of Section 27, Township 13, Range 16, in Lowndes County Alabama,

and also

- ◆ N $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$, of Section _____ [not stated], Township 13, Range 16, in Lowndes County Alabama

Witness: **John Varner**

Comments:

- This is the only known record that mentions the second wife of James Seale by name. Since James Seale was living with only one son on the 1840 census, presumably Rebecca Seale died between the date of this deed and the time the 1840 census was taken.
- The total acreage sold by Seale was not stated.
- This plantation included all land bought by James Seale from the federal government between 1829 and 1835, and also what was sold to him by his son James H. Seale.
- This is one of the few records in which Seale is called "James Seale Senr", apparently to distinguish him from his son James H. Seale.

□ **25 Nov 1839**

Event: **James Seale** of Autauga County AL gives a slave to his daughter **Elvira Cooper**:

“...for and in consideration of the nachelor Love and affection which I Bare to my daughter **Elvira Cooper** wife of **A. B. Cooper** and for the further consideration of one dollar to me in hand paid by the **Elvira Cooper**...” **James Seale** gives **Elvira Cooper** and the “lawful heirs of her body above and not to **A. B. Cooper** hir husband and subject o his debts allreddy contracted nor debts that hea may hereafter contract nor subject to his disposal in no way whatever a certain negrow Girl named **Louisa** above Eleven years of age darke complected...”

Reference: Union Par LA Deed Book A, p. 193 – 194. The deed was recorded 18 Feb 1843 by Parish Judge John Taylor.

Witnesses: **J. D. Cooper, A. T. Cooper**

□ **19 Dec 1839**

Event: **Elijah Ivey** and **Hannah Haginbottom** were married in Lowndes County Alabama by William Rice. The license for their marriage was issued on 18 Dec 1839.

Reference: This original marriage license was among a group found in the attic of the Lowndes County Alabama courthouse in 1966. These marriages were published in various state genealogical periodicals in 1966 and have since been recorded in the courthouse marriages located in the Probate Judge’s office.

Comment:

- Elijah Ivey did not live long after his marriage to Hannah, for in only two years Hannah would marry James Seale.
- The records below show that Hannah had only one child alive in 1850, a son named Alfred Roberts, and at her death she left no children or grandchildren. The 1850 census indicates her son Alfred was born about 1805 in North Carolina. Thus, either Hannah married first to a Roberts, then a Haginbottom, then Elijah Ivey, and finally to James Seale, **or perhaps** “Haginbottom” was Hannah’s maiden name.

□ **5 Sept 1841**

Event: **James Seale** made the following sworn statement in order to help his recently widowed sister-in-law **Lydia Seale Peavy** obtain a widow’s pension on the Revolutionary War service of her late husband, **Abraham Peavy**:

Butler County Alabama

Personally appeared before me **Wm. T. Struly** a Justice of the Peace for said County **James Seale Sr.** who being duly sworn saith that he is personally acquainted with **Abraham Peavy** late of said County and **Lydia Peavy** his wife and he also says that he was present at the marriage of the said **Abraham Peavy** to **Lydia Seale** (now **Lydia Peavy**) and that he is the Brother of the said **Lyid Peavy** and recollect the marriage from the fact of having boarded with them soon after their marriage which marriage was in September Seventeen Hundred and Eighty Six.

I **William T. Struly** do Certify that I am personally acquainted with **Mr. James Seale** whose signature appears to the above affidavit and I can say that he is a man of undoubted veracity and truth.

Sept 6th 1841

Reference: National Archives Revolutionary War Pension Application of Abraham Peavy, #W10880. This original affidavit is included in the pension file, and it contains the original signature of James Seale.

□ **26 Jan 1842**

Event: **James Seals** and **Hannah Ivey** were married in Lowndes County Alabama by Alexander Taylor, J.P. The license for their marriage was issued on 22 Jan 1842.

Reference: This original marriage license was among a group found in the attic of the Lowndes County Alabama courthouse in 1966. These marriages were published in various state genealogical periodicals in 1966 and have since been recorded in the courthouse marriages located in the Probate Judge’s office.

□ **30 Nov 1844**

Event: **James Seale** of Autauga County AL purchased 60 acres of government land.

Reference: Cahaba, Alabama Land Office Cash Entry #36513 for the

◆ E½ of SW¼ and the W½ of SE¼ of Section 25, Township 20, Range 16,
which was 59.10 acres of land @ \$1.25 per acre, for a total of \$73.88.

□ **9 April 1845**

Event: **Thomas Lewis** of Autauga County AL sells 50 acres of land situated in Autauga County to **James Seals** of Autauga County AL for \$50.

Reference: Autauga Co AL Deed Book DE, p. 150 – 151. The land was described as

◆ SE¼ of NE¼ of Section 31, Township 20, Range 17,

a total of 50.5 acres of land. Thomas Lewis signed his name to the deed, and his wife Sarah Caroline Lewis released her dower freely on 21 Dec 1846.

Witness: **T. W. Nelson**

□ **8 Nov 1845**

Event: **James Seale** gave a slave woman named **Patience** and her children to his daughter **Matilda Parmer**:

I **James Seale** of Autauga County, for and in consideration of the love and affection I bear to my daughter, **Matilda Parmer** and the children, heirs born of her body, have given and granted...a certain negro woman named **Patience** and her children now living, and all her future increase forever...upon consideration however that said property shall not be divided among the said heirs until the youngest one shall be of full age, herein only intending the said **Matilda** to have a life estate in said Slaves, and that the same with all increase at her death shall vest absolute in the heirs of her body...

Reference: Alabama State Archives, Lowndes County Estate Records, Ephraim Parmer file.

Witness: **Morgan B. Hinkle**

□ **3 Jan 1850**

Event: **Thomas J. Seals** of Autauga County AL sells 40 acres of land to **James Seals** of the same residence for \$100. **Alethea Seale**, wife of **Thomas Seale**, relinquished her right of dower to the land.

Reference: Autauga Co AL Deed Book DE, p. 523. The land was described as

◆ SW¼ of SE¼ of Section 30, Township 20, Range 17,

a total of 40.5 acres of land. The deed was signed **Thos. J. Seale**, and his wife signed her dower relinquishment as **Alethea Seale**.

Witnesses: no witnesses listed

Comment: Thomas J. Seale was the youngest son of James Seale. He had moved to Louisiana with his brothers and sisters in the late 1830s, but he and his brother Ransom Seale returned to Alabama in early 1840. Thomas J. Seale was living with his father on the 1840 census, and in 1845, he married Aletha Connell. He was at this time preparing to leave Alabama and return to Louisiana. By mid-1850, Thomas and Aletha and their two young children were living with his brother James H. Seale in Jackson Parish Louisiana.

□ **5 May 1851**

Event: **James Seals** and his wife **Hannah Seals** gave their rights to the estate of her son **Alfred Roberts** to **Alfred Robert's** widow and **Hannah's** daughter-in-law, **Elizabeth L. Roberts**:

I **James Seals** and **Hannah Seals** his wife have this day for and in consideration of many Good reasons and causes transfered released and relinquished...to our beloved Child **Elizabeth L. Roberts** of Union Parish Louisiana all our write title and Interest in and to **Alfred Roberts** Estate late deceased in Union Parish Louisiana to her owne use and benefit... Witness this is considered a quit claim to Said Estate.

Reference: Autauga Co AL Deed Book DF, p. 74. The deed was signed as **James Seale**, and Hannah made "her mark" to the document, with her name written by the recording clerk as **Hannah Seals**.

Witnesses: **Jesse P. Tatum, J. L. R. Vanhook**

Comment: As her will written in 1857 indicates, Elizabeth L. Roberts was the daughter-in-law of Hannah Seale. The 1850 census indicates that Alfred and Elizabeth had a daughter, Louisa Roberts, born about 1847. Both Alfred and Louisa must have died between 23 Aug 1850, when the census in Union Parish was dated, and May 1851.

□ **26 July 1853**

Event: The personal property tax list of Butler County Alabama was completed. Tax payers included:

District No. 9

William Seales (no tax)
Anderson Seales (no tax)

District No. 11

Ransom Seals 1 clock, tax of 25¢
James Seales 1 clock, tax of 25¢
Allen Seals 1 white male between 21 and 45. tax of 50¢

Reference: This tax list was abstracted and published by Judy Atkins Taylor and Barbara Perdue Middleton for the Butler County Genealogical and Historical Society in about 1995. The original list is either in the Butler County courthouse or the Alabama State Archives.

□ **25 Oct 1857**

Event: **Daniel Seale**, the younger brother of **James Seale**, wrote a letter to his nephews **Andrew Jackson Seale** and **Jesse Seale**, sons of **Thomas Seale** who died in 1825, Greene County Alabama. **Daniel Seale** mentioned that he recently had a letter from **James Seale**:

Miss. Choctaw County October the 25 1857

Dear Nephew after my kind love to you and to Jesse and his family. I got your Letter sometime past and was glad to here from you all So from Jesse. I did not hurry myself about riting. We have been Sick mySelf and five of the negroes has been down Zac and his family but all on the mend. Your old Aunt has becum all most helpless and Sense less it takes two to take care of her. Lott's wife has Lately had a fine daughter. They are all well as Can Bee Expeded. Cotten Crops is Short. Corn is but midling. Cotten is down low and Every thing high. I got a Letter from your uncle **Joshua** in texas. They were all well and dooing well and well Satisfide and thought they wood make plenty to Live on and there Country very healthy. I got one from your uncle **James** and they were all well. I have nothing strange worth your notice. I want you both to rite to me from time and Let me know how you are gittin along and I will doo the Same. I will Stop I am in bad order for riting, my hand Shakes So bad and I remain your uncle and friend till till Death.

/ s/ **Daniel Seale**

to **AJ** and **Jesse Seale**

Reference: **A Seale Anthology**, by Nancy L. Kuehl, Twin City Publishing Co., Nacogdoches, TX, 1985, p. 354. Ms. Kuehl includes both a photocopy of the original letter and a transcription in her book. The letter was submitted to her by William J. Seale of Gloster, Mississippi.

Comment: Since he wrote this letter to his brother Daniel at the age of 88, this proves that James Seale remained in control of his mental and physical capabilities well into his old age
