

John Murphey of Butler County, Alabama, Part 3: Establishing his earliest Origins and Family Relationships

Written by Charles F. Murphey, Senior – July, 2013

Edited and Annotated by Wilda Murphy

Chapter 1: Introduction

My ancestor is John Murphey of Butler County, Alabama. Prior to migrating with his family to Alabama, John Murphey can definitively be traced back to Jones County, Georgia. For an extensive treatment of John Murphey in Jones County, please refer to my earlier paper, "Establishment of the Origin of John Murphey of Butler County, Alabama, as Jones County, Georgia, and his History therein" (hereafter referred to as "John Murphey, Part 1") as found at the link below:

<http://theusgenweb.org/al/butler/pioneers/murphy/murpheyjohn-ga.htm>

In that paper, I demonstrated that there was only one John Murphey living in Jones County from 1807 until he left in 1815 to move to Alabama. His first recorded deed in Jones County specifically names his origin as Hancock County, Georgia. Please see my paper entitled "John Murphey of Butler County, Alabama: His documented History in Georgia prior to Migrating to Jones County, Georgia" (hereafter referred to as "John Murphey, Part 2") for events when John lived within Hancock County, Georgia, from 1794 through 1807. This link will take you to this paper:

<http://alabamahoming.com/murpheyjohn-in-hancock-ga.pdf>

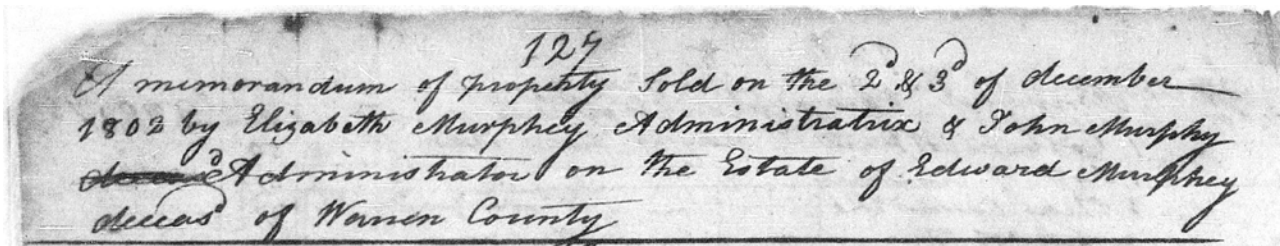
Having now tracked John Murphey of Butler County, Alabama, back to his father, I am writing this paper to document my research and further expand the story of John's adult life in Hancock and Jones Counties, Georgia. Of great importance is the fact that John's siblings and in-laws have now been identified and will be revealed with some details. These findings explain some of the facts found in the timelines presented in my two earlier papers covering John Murphey's adult life in Georgia. This paper also provides segue to a fourth paper which will discuss the life of John's father as evidenced through recently uncovered documents. That paper's resultant timeline for John's father will further illuminate John's childhood.

Chapter 2: Two Questions that led to the Identity of John's Father

In Chapter 12 of [John Murphey, Part 2](#), I raised the question of the origin of John Murphey's close relationship with the family of Samuel Wilson Sr. Then in Chapter 14, I pointed out that this Wilson family connection had led me to an investigation of the people involved in the Quaker settlement established as Wrightsborough Township in Georgia. Found among the short list of names within the original petition for land in the new Wrightsborough Township to a Council held in the Council Chamber at Savannah on Tuesday the 7th of February 1769 are the names of Samuel Wilson and Edward Murphey. Further study uncovered a number of documents that indicated an ongoing relationship between the Samuel Wilson and Edward Murphey families from Wrightsborough to old Wilkes County, and eventually to Warren County, Georgia.

This is where the second question raised in the last paragraph of Chapter 8 in [John Murphey, Part 2](#) plays a defining role. I had pointed out that our John Murphey had become a wealthy man with 4 slaves in the time between the 1794 and 1804 Hancock County Tax Lists. How did this acquisition of wealth come about? Although it could have been through hard work alone, I had always speculated (although not stated in that paper) that it could have been due to an inheritance from his father's estate. So finding documentation where a John Murphey is named as securing 4 slaves prior to 1804 in a will or estate sale would be important evidence.

Edward Murphey dies in Warren County about 1802 without a will. However, court documents of Edward's estate sale, as seen in the film capture below from the Warren County Court of Ordinary, reveal that Edward's administrators are named as his widow Elizabeth, and a John Murphey, who can be assumed to be his eldest son according to the usual custom.



Among the court documents for the estate of Edward Murphey is the list of “buyers” associated with items purchased at his estate sale held on the 2nd and 3rd of December, 1802. Estate sales records are extremely valuable for establishing relationships as the buyers were often limited to family, including in-laws, and close friends. Heirs did not really have to pay for their purchases, but rather had credits to buy items from the estate. The sales set values on property and then conveyed title. The result was an equitable distribution of property to descendants and cash generation to pay off creditors. This partial list of buyers and their associated purchases, along with the purchase prices, at the Edward Murphey estate sale in December of 1802 appears below from filmed records of the Warren County Court of Ordinary.

John Murphey To Negro man Peter	700
Elizabeth Murphey do Luimina	506
James Murphey Negro Boy Tim	480
Elizabeth Murphey Girl Mary	321
John Murphey do Child Fran	283
Sally Murphey do woman Polly	728
Rich ^d Whitbread To Negro woman	1307
Elizabeth Murphey do Sylvia	345
do do 10 head of Geese	575
do do Lot of Wood & Cradle	150
do do Spinning Wheel	150
Allen Beechcom hand saw & Sawing Machine	125
David Robertson To 7 th Bus of Hye	650
Elizabeth Murphey 2 pair of Shanks	2
John Spurlock 2 Books	150
Allen Beechcom To Land warrant 29 th	225
North Eiland 1 Negro Wom ⁿ & Child	500
Elizabeth Murphey do Cloe & do	590
John Murphey negro Venus	366
Allen Beechcom Weed Head	1

We see on this list that this same John Murphey who is named administrator of Edward Murphey's estate attends the estate sale and acquires 3 slaves named Peter, Fan and Venus. While this doesn't add up to 4 slaves, the key is in recognizing that another buyer listed as "Sally Murphey" is none other than John's young wife, who later in life appeared more formally as "Sarah Murphey" in the many surviving documents from Butler County, Alabama. Her purchase of the 1 slave named Nolly in December of 1802 now can be added to John's 3 slaves to fully account for the 4 slaves seen in John Murphey's entry a year and half later in the 1804 Hancock County Tax List. The value for these 4 slaves totals \$2077, a huge sum in 1802. This wealth further explains the ability of John to act as surety for a \$1500 bond for Robert Wilson in the guardianship of his son, Levi Wilson, on August 7th, 1803, as seen in Chapter 12 of [John Murphey, Part 2](#). So it appears that the documents pertaining to this estate sale hold great promise in tying John Murphey of Butler County to Edward Murphey in a father-son relationship. The roster of other buyers also appears to have great value in explaining other people's relationships with the family of Edward Murphey.

No matter how well these estate sale documents appear to account for some known facts in the life of our subject, John Murphey, it could still be just coincidental. It was at this point that I decided to again turn to Y-DNA evidence to prove, or disprove, that Edward Murphey was in my paternal line.

Chapter 3: Comparison of My Y-DNA with a Documented Descendant of Edward Murphey

From the study of genetics, it is known that the Y-chromosome is what defines a male, as women only have X-chromosomes. DNA in the Y-chromosome is handed down basically unchanged, copied from father to son over many generations, pointing all the way back to the original "Genetic Adam". Every so many generations a small difference, known as a mutation, occurs to differentiate that man's sons. By looking at certain marker locations within the Y-chromosome, we can count the number of times the same pattern is repeated and can use these values to assess the degree of genetic closeness or relatedness between males. A number can then be calculated to state the statistical average of the number of generations back from two males to a common ancestor. This number is known as the MRCA which is short for "Most Recent Common Ancestor". DNA analysis has advanced quickly over the last 20 years, such that any male may present a cotton swab sample of his cheek cells and the distinctive marker locations within his Y-chromosome can be assessed for comparison with other males having known family histories.

I had previously run Y-DNA tests to compare my DNA with direct descendants from William Murfey Sr. of Edgefield County, South Carolina, and from Nicholas Murphey of Augusta, Georgia. As revealed in my previous paper, those results proved that I did not share a common paternal ancestor with them. The Y-DNA test counts the number of "repeats" of specific genetic code patterns in each of 46 marker locations along the Y-DNA strand. In the previous two comparisons, my Y-DNA did not match counts with either of the two documented descendants in 14 varying marker locations out of the 46 markers mapped, thus yielding results in the MRCA calculation of "0" – meaning that we did not share a common ancestor within 25 generations. In order to prove that Edward Murphey was in my paternal line, I would need to locate a documented descendant from him and then compare our Y-DNA.

While Edward Murphey died without a valid will (also known as “dying intestate”) and so did not have any named heirs, Edward did have minor (under the age of 21) children who were named in guardianship proceedings captured in documents from the Warren County Court of Ordinary. On the 10th of August, 1803, John Horne was named as the guardian of the eldest orphan, Ambrose Murphey (born September 5, 1783). Working on Ancestry.com, I found a very complete Family Tree for the descendants of Ambrose Murphey indicating living male descendants. The Family Tree originator, Sally Murphey Heard, put me in contact with Lee Murphey, who agreed to offer a Y-DNA sample for comparison with mine. Lee’s lineage and the history of the Edward Murphey family branch which stayed in Georgia have been well documented in a book entitled “Memoirs of Jerome B. Pound, Bound To Me By Ties Of Blood”, copyrighted in 1949 by Jerome B. Pound. I was fortunate to purchase a copy of this excellent Murphey family reference online from an historical bookseller.

This is Lee Murphey’s lineage back to Edward Murphey:

Edward Murphey marries daughter/step-daughter of Ambrose Holliday, Elizabeth Holliday ->
Ambrose Murphey marries Sarah Horne, daughter of his guardian John Horne, 12 Feb. 1805 ->
Ambrose Murphey Jr. marries Sarah Ann Peurifoy on 14 Dec. 1843 ->
Thaddeus E. Murphey marries Alice Hammond ->
Julian Clay Murphey marries Fanny Ross Plant on 10 Apr. 1906 ->
Julian Clay Murphey Jr. marries Emily V. Boswell on 25 July 1936 ->
Lee Murphey, donor of Y-DNA

I will show evidence in another paper that Edward Murphey was married first to another woman prior to Elizabeth Holliday, so that John Murphey had a different mother than the named orphans of Edward Murphey. That fact does not impact the male Y-DNA which is passed exclusively from father to son. Lee’s lineage can be compared to my prospective lineage back to Edward Murphey.

Charles F. Murphey Senior's Proposed Lineage:

Edward Murphey marries Mary (Smith?) in South Carolina prior to 1769 ->
John Murphey (of Derriso Creek and of Butler Co., AL) marries Sarah (Wilson or Beckham?) ->
Wilson Murphey marries Ann (Unknown) ->
John Murphey marries Celia Ann Gafford ->
Virgal Wilson Murphey marries Evie Greenwood on July 16, 1898 ->
Jasper F. Murphey marries Tennie O. Smith ->
Clifford W. Murphey marries Sarah A. Bernhardt ->
Charles F. Murphey Sr., author of this paper and donor of Y-DNA

Below are the 46 marker Y-DNA test results comparing the Y-DNA marker counts. Please look at the top two lines to compare Lee Murphey’s Y-DNA to Charles Murphey’s. The check marks indicate a perfect match in the counts at each Y-DNA marker location. Dashes indicate that no repeats exist at those marker locations and can also be used to determine the similarity of a genetic match.

Lee Murphey
Paternal Lineage Test
 HAPLOGROUP: R1B

[Results](#) | [Matches](#) | [Map](#) | [Haplogroup](#) | [Tree](#)

Lee Murphey has a documented direct paternal line of 6 generations to Edward Murphey

Matches

Your test results are lined up with everyone else's--see where and how closely you match.

You could be close to a meaningful family connection! The list below is sorted by how close your DNA matches (MRCA). The closest matches are at the top. Click the person's name and contact your match through our secure email system. Your address stays private.

[Download Matches](#)

MRCA	DYS19a	DYS19b	DYS385a	DYS385b	DYS388	DYS389I	DYS389II	DYS390	DYS391	DYS392	DYS393	DYS426	DYS437	DYS438	DYS439	DYS441	DYS442	DYS444	DYS445	DYS446	DYS447	DYS448	DYS449	DYS452	DYS454	DYS455	DYS456	DYS458	DYS459a	DYS459b	DYS460	DYS461	DYS462	DYS463	DYS464a	DYS464b	DYS464c	DYS464d	DYS464e	DYS464f	GGAT1B07	YCAIIa	YCAIIb	Y-GATA-A10	DYS 635	Y-GATA-H4		
Lee Murphey	14	-	11	15	12	13	29	25	11	13	13	12	16	12	12	14	18	12	12	13	25	18	29	30	11	11	17	16	9	10	10	13	11	24	15	15	16	17	-	-	10	19	23	15	23	12		
Charles Forrest Murphey	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Joseph Leonard*	11																																															
Alan Endres*	12																																															
Steven Hopkins*	13		14																																													
Caitlin Gannon*	13																																															
Donald Sherman*	13																																															
Anonymous 453712 *	14																																															
Daniel Robert McMann	14			14												17																																
Harold Lee Smith	19			14												17																																
Thomas Earl McBride	19			14												17																																

Since the number of repeats in all 46 Y-DNA marker locations matches exactly, I can conclusively state that Lee and I share a common male ancestor. These results are so close that the MRCA (Most Recent Common Ancestor) is calculated as being just one generation back, suggesting that Lee and I could have had the same father. In actuality, it shows that the male Y-DNA passed down to us from our common ancestor has been persistent and has not mutated in any of the successive generations down our two separate branches. Since Lee is a descendant of Edward Murphey and I am related to Lee, then my ancestor, John Murphey of Butler County, Alabama, must have also been related to Edward Murphey. By studying our family lineages previously shown, the earliest common paternal ancestor that Lee and I could have possibly shared would have been the documented father of orphan Ambrose Murphey Sr., and the proposed father of John Murphey of Butler County, Alabama, that being Edward Murphey.

Now when the DNA results are viewed in context with the Warren County Court of Ordinary documents pertaining to Edward Murphey's estate, placing John Murphey in the administrator position commonly filled by the eldest son and as a big purchaser at Edward's 1802 estate sale with the acquisition of 4 slaves, one is left with the conclusion that Edward Murphey is the most obvious fit in the role as Most Recent Common Ancestor. Referring to the list of buyers at Edward Murphey's 1802 estate sale, we see that Elizabeth, Edward's widow, acquired 5 slaves at the estate sale, demonstrating her strong relationship to Edward Murphey as his widow and the mother of his orphaned children. This also shows the relative strength of John Murphey's relationship to Edward, when you place Elizabeth's 5 slaves against the 4 acquired by John and his wife, Sally/Sarah. This again argues in favor of John Murphey's position as Edward's eldest son. Furthermore, the timing of this acquisition of exactly 4 slaves in 1802 between John Murphey's listings in the 1794 Hancock County Tax List (with 0 slaves) and the 1804 Hancock County Tax List (with 4 slaves) fits perfectly. In conclusion, we can be confident that Edward Murphey is the father of the same person known as John Murphey of Derriso Creek and of Butler County, Alabama, and use that fact as basis for further investigations.

Chapter 4: Edward Murphey's Neighbors and In-Laws

The fact that Edward Murphey's eldest orphan was named Ambrose Murphey allows the possibility that this choice of first name may reflect the name of the father of either Edward Murphey or his wife Elizabeth. I did not have to look far to identify the namesake of Ambrose. The man behind this particular relationship had been a familiar name in documents concerning Edward Murphey over many years. Just like Edward Murphey and Samuel Wilson, Ambrose Holliday was listed in 1769 among the earliest grantees of land within the new Quaker community established as Wrightsborough Township. "Abrose Holiday" or Ambrose Holliday is also found listed directly above Edward Murphey's entry in the 1801 Warren County Tax List taken about a year before Edward's death, as shown below.

Name	Land Area	Tax
Ambrose Holliday	1 11 200	3 21 42
Ambrose Holliday	100	P 21 21
Ambrose Holliday	100	P 21 21
Ambrose Holliday	15	P 21 3 15
Ambrose Holliday	150	P 21 31 55
Ambrose Holliday	201	P 21 42
Ambrose Holliday	100	P 21 21
Edward Murphey	1 12 65	P 21 13 65
Edward Murphey	35	1 61 56 35
Edward Murphey	100	P 21 21
Edward Murphey	300	P 21 63

It is an unfortunate but curious fact that prior to March 29, 1802, Ambrose Holliday died intestate shortly after Edward Murphey did the same, possibly indicating a rather quick and unexpected death. Ambrose's widow, Margaret Holliday, then passed away soon afterwards in early 1803. Unlike her husband, Margaret was able to leave a Last Will and Testament which has proven invaluable in defining relationships among the various "in-laws". Below is the abstract of Margaret Holliday's will from records of the Court of Ordinary, Warren County, Georgia.

Last Will & Testament of Margaret Holliday, widow of Ambrose Holliday, on March 11th, 1803 Warren Co. GA, Will Book "A", pg 72

I give to my daughter Sarah, \$300 out of moneys due me from the estate of my late husband along with all household furnishings and stock; to my daughter **Elizabeth Murphey**, \$300 in consequence of her friendship and tenderness to me in my declining years; \$1 each to son Dennis Lindsey and wife Lucy, to son **Elijah Warthen** and wife Nancy, to son William Batie and wife Rebecca. Balance from estate of my late husband after the above legacies to be equally divided between my sons James, John, Edward and Samuel Harville; to the heirs of my late son, Joseph, \$1.

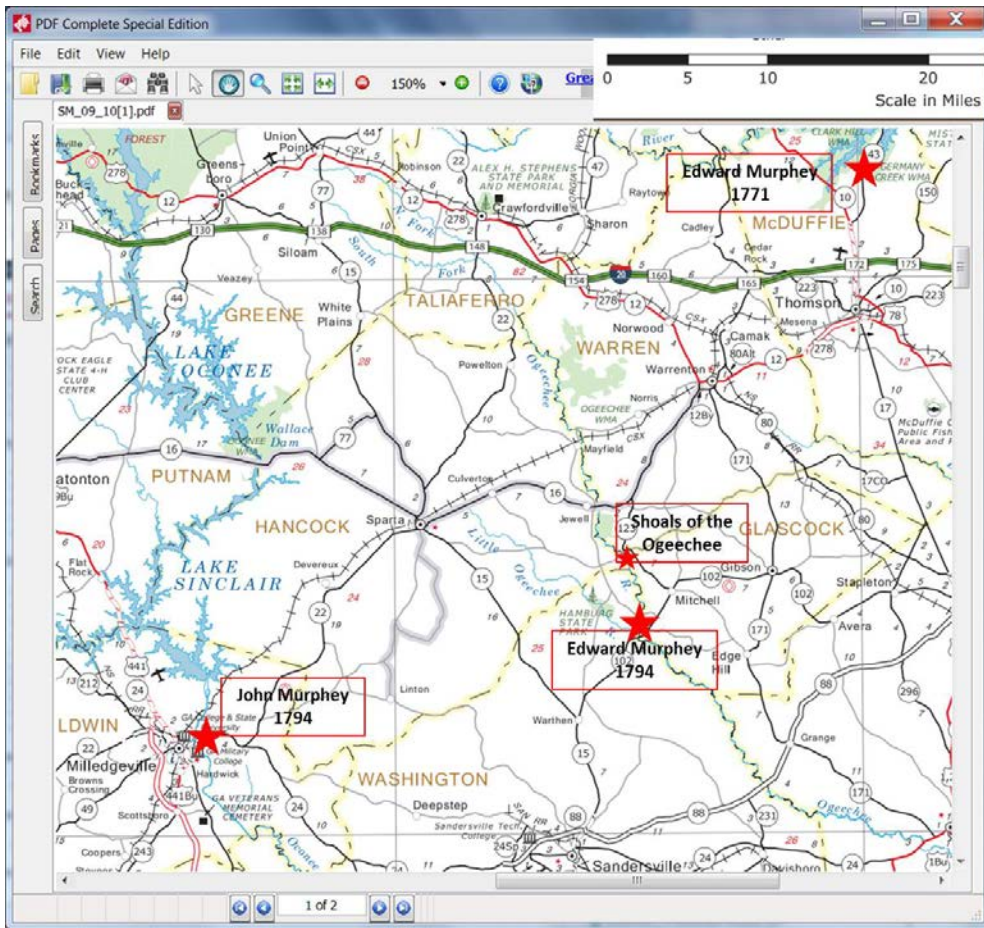
Witnesses: Thomas Abbott, Polly Abbott & **Solomon Beckcom** (Note: Executors are James Harville and **Solomon Beckcom**)

The graphic of Margaret Holliday's full will from records of the Court of Ordinary, Warren County, Georgia, is shown below for completeness.

(72)
In the Name of God Amen - I Margaret Holliday of the State of Georgia and County of Warren being weak of Body yet sound of memory and Understanding and calling to mind the uncertainty of death and the uncertainty of the time it may happen, have thought fit to make this my last Will and Testament disannulling and revoking all others made or said to be made by me heretofore, I first I give and bequeath my Soul to God who gave it to me Hoping & trusting in his mercifull Acceptance of the same, Item I desire my body may be buried in a decent manner without pomp or shew of Vanity, Item I give to my Daughter Sarah three hundred dollars out of moneys due me from the Estate of my late husband and my household furniture of every kind with my stocks also in Addition extra of said money - Item I give to my Daughter Elizabeth Murphey three hundred Dollars in consequence of her friendship & Tenderness to me in my declining years Item I give to my Son Dennis Lindsey and his wife Lucy one Dollar. Item I give to my Son Elijah Warthen and his wife Nancy one Dollar - Item I give to my Son William Bate and his wife Rebecca one Dollar
Item I give and bequeath the Ballance whatever it may be arising to me from the Estate of my late husband after the above legacies being discharged to be Equally divided between my Sons Namely James Harwill & John Harwill, Edward Harwill and Samuel Harwill
Item I give to my Son Joseph (deceased) or to his heirs and all of which legacies to be discharged by my Executors after they have collected and received the same into their possession and have and do appoint my Son James Harwill and Solomon Beckcom as my Lawfull Executors to this my last will and testament signed Sealed and Acknowledged this eleventh day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and three in the presence of us
Test
Thomas Abbott
Solomon Beckcom
Polly ^{her} Abbott
Mark
her
Margaret M Holliday
Mark

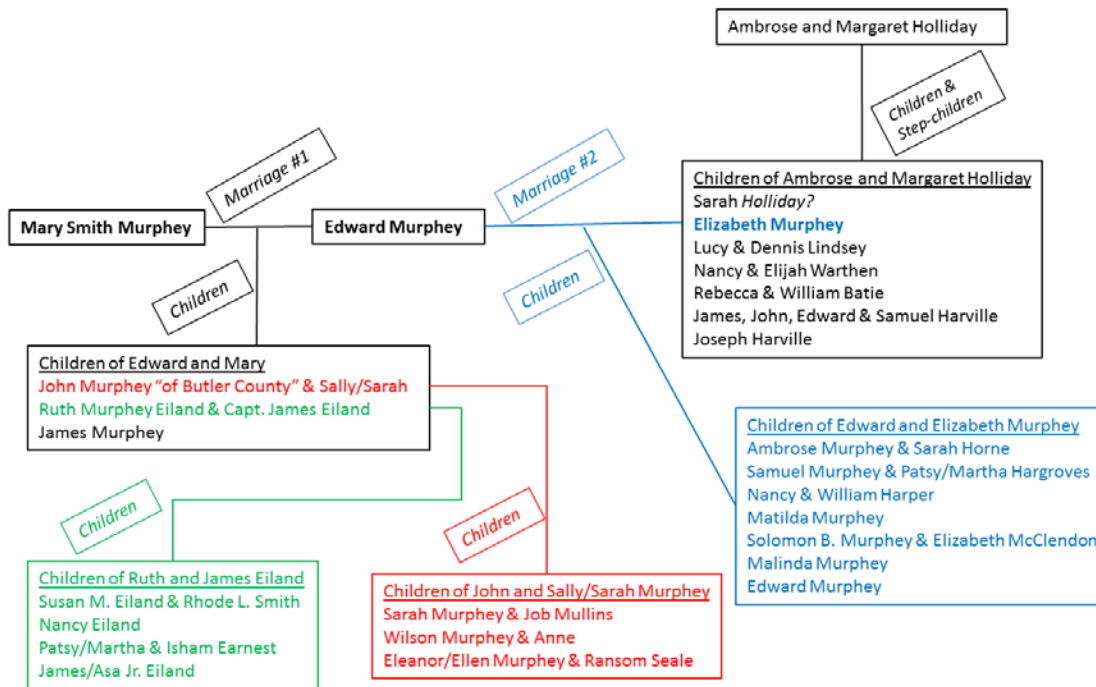
From Margaret Holliday's will, it is documented that Edward Murphey's widow, Elizabeth Murphey, was the daughter of Ambrose Holliday's wife. Edward Murphey was not named as he had already died and left Elizabeth Murphey as a widow. According to custom, Margaret refers to the living husbands of her daughters as "sons" instead of sons-in-law. The exception appears to be the men of the Harville family who all appear to named "sons", most likely being Margaret Holliday's offspring from a previous marriage. Indeed, this scenario is presented in a number of Holliday family trees found on Ancestry.com. So, this previous marriage leads to the possibility that Ambrose Holliday was not Elizabeth's biological father but instead her step-father.

On the same day in 1803 that John Horne was named guardian of Edward Murphey's oldest orphan Ambrose, guardianship of the remaining orphans was assigned to Elizabeth Murphey,



Richard Warthen acquired land located about 8 miles south from Hamburg which had been granted to Robert Wicker in 1787 and established “Warthen’s Store” there. This settlement of “Warthen” served as the seat of the Washington County Court until 1796 when the capital moved to a more central location. The first small, hand-hewn log jail in the County still stands today as seen in the picture below from the website of the Washington County, Georgia, Historical Society. In 1807, Aaron Burr, third Vice-President of the United States under President Thomas Jefferson, spent the night in this same jail while the officers in charge of him were entertained in the home of Richard Warthen. Aaron Burr had been arrested in Mississippi for treason against the United States and was being carried to Richmond, Virginia, to stand trial, where he was eventually acquitted.





Chapter 5: Returning to Edward Murphey’s Estate Sale – Allen Beckham and the “Regiment of Refugees”

Knowing now that Edward is John Murphey’s father and recognizing that estate sale records are valuable in identifying blood and in-law relationships as well as friends of the family, a promising course of action would be to return to Edward Murphey’s estate sale records to explain facts that could not be explained otherwise. Already these estate sale records have described how the John Murphey living along Derriso Creek came into possession of four slaves in the time period between the 1794 and 1804 Hancock County Tax Lists. So, let’s look again at the same small excerpt from Edward Murphey’s estate sale records presented earlier in Chapter 2.

John Murphey To Negro man Peter	700
Elizabeth Murphey do Luimina	506
Jamus Murphey Negro Boy Tim	480
Elizabeth Murphey Girl Mary	321
John Murphey do Child Fran	283
Sally Murphey do woman Holly	728
Rich ^d Whitbread To Negro woman	307
Elizabeth Murphey do Sylvia	345
do do 10 head of Geese	5 75
do do Lot of Wool & Cradle	1 50
do do Spinning Wheel	1 50
Allen Beckcom hand saw & sawplate	1 25
David Robertson To Bus of Nye	6 50
Elizabeth Murphey 2 pair of Shucks	2
John Spurlock 2 Books	1 50
Allen Beckcom To Land warrant set	2 25
North Island 1 Negro Woman & Child	500
Elizabeth Murphey do Cloe & do	590
John Murphey negro Venues	366
Allen Beckcom Wood Head	1

We see that Allen Beckham was a buyer at Edward Murphey's estate sale. This is important! Below is the abstract that I created from the microfilm image of John's first recorded deed of purchase in Jones County (also presented in Chapter 1 of [John Murphey, Part 2](#)):

Abstract for buying land in Lot 114 of District 10:

Jones County, Georgia, Deed Book A, pages 111 and 112

November 3, 1807 - From Samuel Kitchens, yeoman of Wilkinson County, Georgia, to **John Murphey, farmer of Hancock County, Georgia**, for \$100 sells 202.5 acres known as lot 114 in District 10 of Baldwin County, now Jones County, Georgia, originally granted to said Kitchens in 1807, lying on the waters of Cedar Creek, adjoining lots 115, 107, 113 and 129.

Signed: Samuel Kitchen

Witnesses: **Allen Beckcom** and Robert Rutherford

Sworn to A. Devereaux J.J.C. by **Allen Beckcom**: November 9, 1807

Recorded : November 5, 1808

Allen Beckham was one of the witnesses to this deed, which typically indicates that he was a friend of the purchaser, that is, John Murphey. Prior to finding the document of Edward Murphey's estate sale, I could not define any connection between the two men. Now, we can demonstrate that Allen Beckham had been a friend of the Murphey family in Warren County, Georgia, prior to 1802. Digging into the deed books of Warren County, we can find even more evidence that the Beckham family was closely associated with Edward Murphey's in-laws. And going back even further in Georgia records, we will see that a strong Beckham-Murphey relationship existed between several generations of the families. To explicitly name the members of the Beckham family, please refer to the family tree below, as shown by a number of online researchers on Ancestry.com.

Simon (born 1728 in VA; died 1785 in GA) and Susannah McMillian Beckham

Children commonly listed:

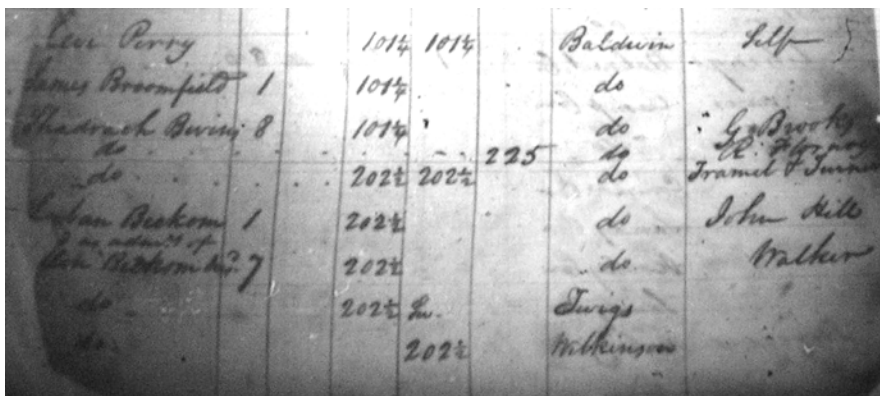
1. Allen Beckham (born 1755 in Granville Co., NC; died Oct. 25, 1809 in Baldwin Co. GA) His wife is often shown as Charlotte Newsome (*CFM Note: In my previous paper, it was pointed out that Samuel Wilson Sr.*

was married later in life to Ann Newsome. I believe that this points to an in-law relationship between the Wilsons and Beckhams, creating another point of contact between the Murpheys and Beckhams)

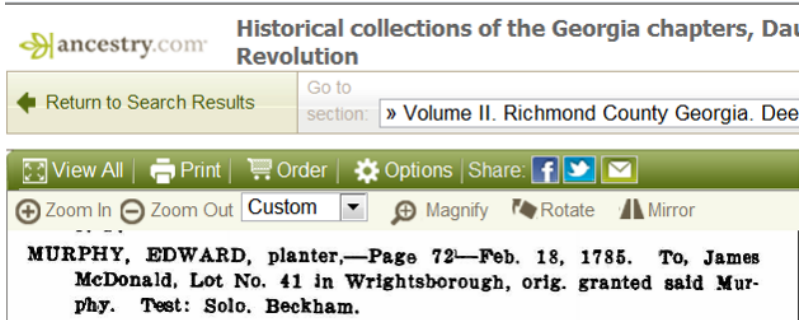
2. Samuel Beckham (born Nov. 24, 1760 – twin to Solomon below; died Nov. 2, 1825 in Baldwin Co., GA, from the Samuel Beckham Family Bible owned by Mrs. Pensacola Musgrove of Atlanta, Georgia.)
3. Solomon Beckham (born Nov. 24, 1760 – twin to Samuel above; died 1838 in Pike Co., GA)
4. Sherwood Beckham (born about 1760; died 1837)
5. Laban Beckham (born: 1770 in Georgia and confirmed in the 1850 Federal Census of Pike Co., GA; died 1854; shown as Administrator of Allen Beckham Estate in 1810 Jones County Tax List)
6. **Sarah Beckham (born about 1770 – which fits the birth year of John Murphey’s wife Sally/Sarah)**

We just saw in the previous chapter how Allen Beckham’s brother, Solomon Beckham, was obviously held in high esteem by Margaret Holliday by being named as an executor in her Last Will and Testament. In Warren County Deed Book C, p 318, there is a deed of sale dated September 13th, 1800, from Elijah Warthen to Dennis Lindsey where “Allen Beccom” (or Allen Beckham) is a witness, signifying friendship with Dennis Lindsey. In this case, it would be reasonable to assume that since Elijah Warthen and Dennis Lindsey were brothers-in-law (to each other and to Edward Murphey as well), Allen was familiar with and friends with Elijah Warthen too. An interesting name in the Beckham family tree is that of the youngest daughter of Simon Beckham. Her birth year certainly qualifies her as a candidate for John Murphey’s wife Sally/Sarah. Worthy of note, I have found no information for Sarah Beckham related to her marriage, just as I have found no documentation of John Murphey’s marriage. It is obvious that the Murphey-Beckham family relationship must have been strong to account for the naming of John Murphey’s grandson, the eldest son of John’s youngest daughter Eleanor/Ellen Murphey Seale, as “Allen Beckham Seale”. Could it be that Allen Beckham was John Murphey’s brother-in-law?

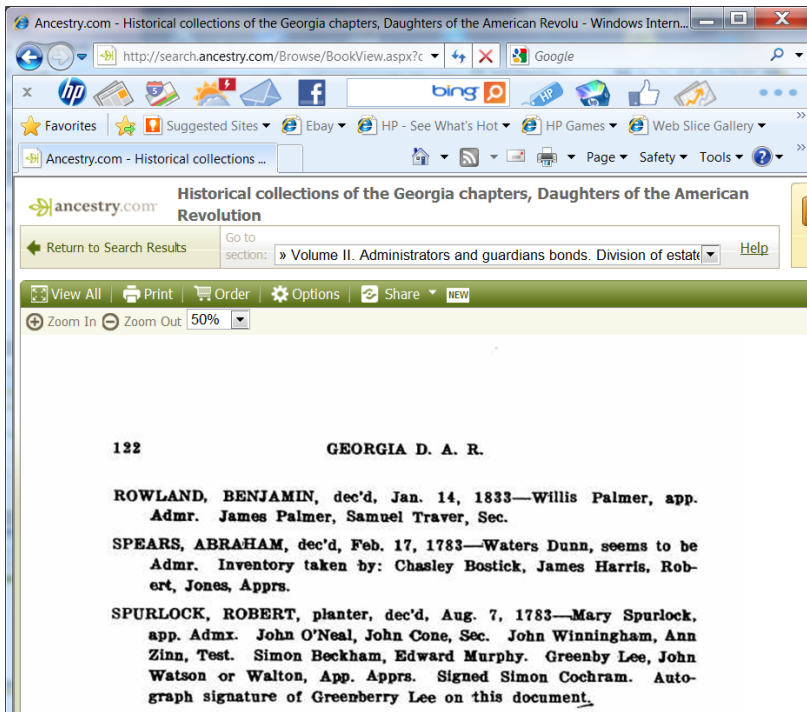
Below is an image of the film record showing part of the 1810 Baldwin County Tax List where Laban Beckham is listed as administrator of the estate of “Allen Beckom, dec’d”, or Allen Beckham, deceased. This document agrees perfectly with Allen’s death being reported as October 25, 1809 in Baldwin County, Georgia.



Solomon Beckham also witnessed Edward Murphey’s deed of sale in 1785 of Town Lot Number 41 in Wrightsborough recorded in Richmond County, Georgia, as seen below in this online reference from the “Historical collections of the Georgia chapters, Daughters of the American Revolution”:



We find below in the same records that Edward Murphey, along with Simon Beckham (father of Allen and Solomon Beckham) and Colonel Greenberry Lee, had been an appraiser of the estate of Capt. Robert Spurlock in 1783.



And finally, we can document an even earlier connection between the Beckham family and Edward Murphey that harkens back to the time of the Revolutionary War where Simon and Edward served with Ambrose Holliday as well as Samuel and John Wilson, as seen in this series of Revolutionary Land Grants below:

Account of **Bounty Land Certificates** issued to persons claiming as **Refugees**, or Citizens, by resolve or Act of the 19th & 20th August 1781, by his Honor Governor Houstoun in the year 1784, Continued Columns: Persons Claiming, Quantity mentioned in each Certificate, Vouchers of such Claim to being entitled, No. [of certificate], Persons taking up such Certificates for themselves or others.

28 Feb. 1784

Ambrose Holliday, 250 ac., Greenbury Lee, Col., 415, Ambrose Holladay
 John Wilson, Capt., 250 ac., Greenbury Lee, Col., 423, John Wilson
 Samuel Wilson, 250 ac., Greenbury Lee, Col., 431, John Wilson for Samuel Wilson
 Edward Murphy, 250 ac., Greenbury Lee, Col., 433, John Wilson for Edward Murphey
 Simon Beckham, 250 ac., Greenbury Lee, Col., 434

This listing above is incredibly important as it points to a seminal event in the lives of these surviving soldiers of the American Revolutionary War. We also see a strong sense of trust between Edward Murphey and John Wilson as John applies for Edward's Bounty Land Certificate. This listing further suggests that Captain John Wilson is related to Samuel Wilson. This is due to the level of trust exhibited, that both came from the same geographical area and served under the same General Greenberry Lee as well as sharing the same last name. That this relationship between John Wilson and Edward Murphey was deep is demonstrated in the document below where John Wilson (along with John Rushin) stepped up in 1802 to provide \$6000 security for John and Elizabeth Murphey in the administration of Edward Murphey's estate.

1802 Feb 24. Elizabeth Murphey made Application for Letters of Administration of the Estate of Edward Murphey deceased. Granted in Open Court June 1 1802 Securities { 6000 } John Rushin John Wilson J. Weatherby

The closeness bred between the Murphey and Wilson families by the fathers (Edward Murphey and Samuel Wilson Sr.) predated the close relations between the sons (remembering John Murphey acting as Surety for Robert Wilson in his guardianship over Levi Wilson in Hancock County in 1803). We see a connection born out of the threat of death for not only these men, but also their families who were placed at risk as they took refuge deep into Indian Territory, probably in the frontier area of South Carolina. These strong family connections were forged during Edward Murphey's time as a Revolutionary War Soldier in the so called "Regiment of Refugees", when its members had removed their families from Georgia in order to keep them safe from the British and Tory soldiers. Below is an excerpt from the "Roster of Revolutionary Soldiers in Georgia Vol. I" compiled by Mrs. Ettie Tidwell McCall, which lists Captain Robert Spurlock's name as well as others who figured prominently in the lives of the Murphey family.

WILLIAM CANDLER, b. Ireland, 1735; d. Richmond (now McDuffie), Co., Ga. 1787. Served as Colonel of a Regiment known as the "Regiment of Refugees of Richmond Co., Ga." Served at Siege of Augusta, Kings Mt., and Siege of Savannah. Mar. ELIZABETH ANTHONY (dau. of JOSEPH ANTHONY, *Rev. Sol.* of Va. and Ga., and his wife, Elizabeth Clark). She mar. (2) Cornelius Dysart.

Children:

1. Mary, mar. MAJOR IGNATIUS FEW, b. Md., 1748 (a brother of WILLIAM and BENJAMIN FEW, all three *Rev. Sols.* of Ga.).
2. HENRY, *Rev. Sol.*, mar. Miss Oliver.
3. JOSEPH, a *Rev. Sol.*
4. WILLIAM, a *Rev. Sol.*, mar. Miss Guthrie.
5. JOHN, a *Rev. Sol.*
6. Charles, d. y.
7. Amelia.
8. Falby.
9. Elisabeth, mar. John A. Devereux.
10. Mark Anthony, mar. (1) —; (2) Lucy White.
11. DANIEL, b. Columbia Co., Ga., 1779; d. there 1816. Mar. 1779, Sarah Slaughter (dau. of SAMUEL SLAUGHTER, of Va. and Ga., a *Rev. Sol.* A brother, REUBEN SLAUGHTER, also a *Rev. Sol.*, of Baldwin Co., Ga.).

Field Officers of the "Regiment of Refugees," Richmond Co., Ga., at the organization 1780: COL. WILLIAM CANDLER; LIEUT. COL. DAVID ROBESON; MAJOR JOHN SHIELDS (killed in battle); ADJ. JOHN McCARTHY; and REV. LOVELESS SAVAGE, Chaplain. Some of the Line Officers were: CAPT. ROBERT SPURLOCK; CAPT. EZEKIEL OFFUT; CAPT. ABRAHAM AYERS; CAPT. JOHN SHACKELFORD; FREDERICK STALLINGS; CAPT. JAMES STALLINGS; LIEUT. EDMUND MARTIN; LIEUT. JAMES MARTIN. This was the only Ga. Regiment distinguished as "Refugees." So called because the families of all the men were in refugeeship in less dangerous parts of the country.

From a family tree on Ancestry.com, Capt. Robert Spurlock's son was John Spurlock, whose name is seen above in our excerpt as having purchased items at Edward Murphey's estate sale. Another familiar name in this list of the "Regiment of Refugees" is William Candler, who was instrumental in the founding of Wrightsborough Township and then became Colonel of the Regiment, so that he was obviously known by Edward Murphey, being one of the first grantees in the Wrightsborough community. And we know that it is the son of William Candler, John K. Candler, who sued John Murphey in 1803 over a land boundary dispute that threatened the loss of his home on Derriso Creek in Hancock County, Georgia. John delayed payment of the \$55 judgment until just before his property was auctioned on the Hancock County Courthouse steps. This lawsuit was the subject of Chapter 9 in my previous paper, [John Murphey, Part 2](#).

John Murphey To Negro man Peter	700
Elizabeth Murphey do Luimina	506
James Murphey Negro Boy Tim	480
Elizabeth Murphey Girl Mary	321
John Murphey do Child Fan	283
Sally Murphey do woman Polly	728
Rich ^d Whitehead To Negro woman	307
Elizabeth Murphey do Sylvia	345
do do 10 head of Geese	575
do do Lot of Wool & Cradle	150
do do Spinning wheel	150
Allen Beekcom hand saw & winglet	125
David Robertson To 1/2 Bus of Hye	650
Elizabeth Murphey 2 pair of Shoes	2
John Spurlin 2 Boots	150
Allen Beekcom To Land warrant	225
Ruth Eiland 1 Negro Wom ⁿ & Child	500
Elizabeth Murphey do Cloe & do	590
John Murphey Negro Venus	366
Allen Beekcom Wood Head	1

Referring once again above to the same excerpt from Edward Murphey's estate sale, it is the remaining names of the slave purchasers which now really brew excitement. These are James Murphey and Ruth Eiland. I believe that James and Ruth were John Murphey's younger siblings. The reasoning is that these people were purchasers of high value items from Edward's estate and so were most likely family. In the case of James Murphey, the surname clearly demonstrates a familial relationship. James has been difficult to track conclusively due to his name being so common. Nonetheless, this James can be identified as a witness to Edward and Elizabeth Murphey's deed of sale for property in Oglethorpe County, Georgia, dated January 23, 1798. And while Ruth Eiland's purchase of two slaves may argue a family relationship, I will spend some time in the next chapter to lay out further evidence supporting the argument that she was John's sister. Though the name of "Ruth Eiland" was listed in Edward Murphey's estate sale documents, the evidence indicates that her maiden name was "Ruth Murphey".

Chapter 6: Presenting the Case that Ruth Eiland is Sister to John Murphey of Butler County, Alabama

In [John Murphey, Part 2](#), I discussed the first deed of purchase executed by John Murphey of Butler County, Alabama, in Hancock County, Georgia, which was witnessed by Isa Ilands (Isaiah Eiland) and W. Hutchinson. This is reproduced below:

Hancock County Deed Book B, Page 421 – 8th March 1797

Josiah Greer of Laurens County, South Carolina to **John Murphe** of Hancock County for thirty pounds sterling for a tract of land in Hancock County and waters of Derriso Creek containing 107 acres bounded eastwardly by Graves' land, southwardly by Seaborn Jones' land and westwardly by Call's land, same granted to said Josiah Greer on 10th February 1797. Signed: Josiah Greir

Wit: Isa Ilands (CFM Note: Isa is short for Isaiah, so it is "**Isaiah Eilands**") and W. Hutchinson (CFM Note: William Hutchinson)

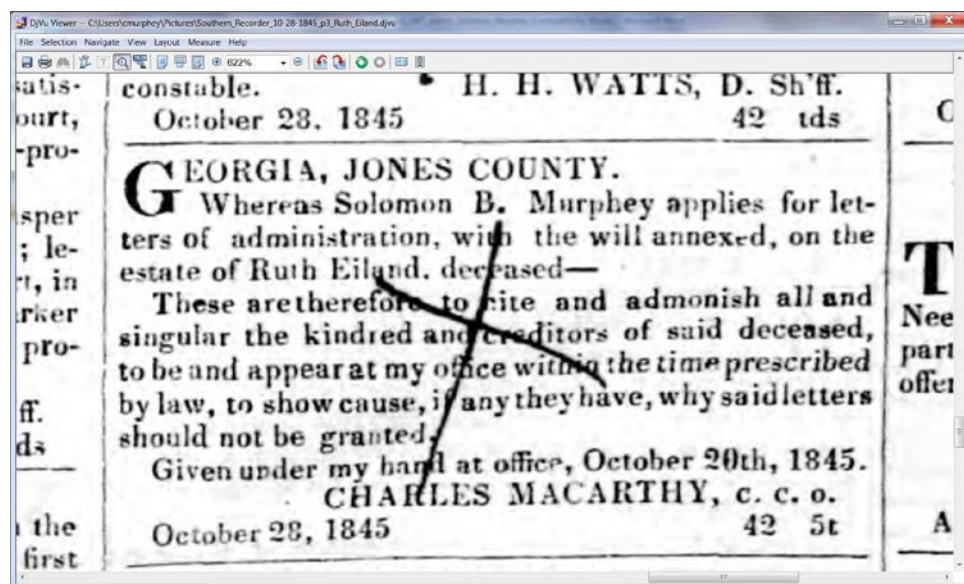
Personally came before me and being duly sworn, said he was present and saw Josiah Greir sign and seal the within Indenture, and acknowledged the same to be his act and Deed and William Hutchinson was also present, and subscribed as a witness with himself. Signed: Joel McClendon J.P.

Sworn to before me this 18th March 1797. Signed: **Isa Eilands** (CFM Note: Isa is short for Isaiah)

Registered the 5th October 1797

This is the first land deed identified with our John Murphey and so its witnesses bear particular scrutiny for having a trusted relationship with John. However, I could not explain the relationship with Isaiah Eiland in my previous paper and concluded at that time that Isaiah came to be a witness for John Murphey just by living nearby in the same Militia District (Capt. Rogers) as documented in the 1794 Hancock County Tax List. The Hancock County Road Orders posted on June 7, 1802, February 3, 1806 and January 5, 1807, all confirmed that Isaiah Eiland continued to live near John Murphey while John maintained residence on his Derriso Creek property. However, with the new revelations from Edward Murphey's 1802 estate sale documents, the fact that Ruth Eiland came to acquire the slave Lydia and her child indicates that the Eiland family was more than just close friends with the Murpheys. This argues that Ruth Eiland was an heir to Edward Murphey's estate and so probably one of Edward's daughters. If she had married into the Eiland Family, this would make Isaiah Eiland an "in-law" to John Murphey and so would explain the trusted relationship leading to his witnessing of John's 1797 Deed of Purchase.

Corroborating evidence that Ruth Eiland was a daughter to Edward Murphey and sister to John Murphey is found in who is chosen as administrator of Ruth's estate. Please see the excerpt below captured from page 3 of the Southern Recorder published on October 28, 1845:



Referring back to Chapter 3 of this paper, we see that Solomon B. Murphey is none other than one of the named orphans of Edward Murphey! To repeat the listing of Edward's orphans in decreasing order of age, they are Ambrose Murphey (born September 5, 1783), followed by Samuel, Nancy, Matilda, **Solomon** (born about 1796), Malinda and Edward. In 1845, Solomon B. Murphey was about age 49 and living as a farmer in adjoining Wilkinson County, Georgia, as evidenced by his 1830, 1840, 1850 and 1860 Federal Census listings.

Below is the film capture of Solomon Murphey's family entry in the 1850 Federal Census of Wilkinson County, Georgia. Comparing Solomon's listing to the names above of Edward

Murphey's orphaned children, we see him applying many of these same names to his own children, namely Solomon (after himself), Malinda, Matilda and Edward (also his father's name) providing further verification that we are looking at the right Solomon Murphey, that is, the orphaned son of Edward Murphey. On the next census page and appended below, Solomon also recycled the name of James Murphey, which was an older brother's name, as we proposed from reviewing the buyers in Edward Murphey's 1802 estate sale.

SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in the Milledgeville Sub-division in the County of Rockdale State of Georgia enumerated by me, on the 19 day of Oct 1850. John P. Deas Ass't Marshal.

Dwellings-house included in the order of valuation. From the numbered valuation.	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	DESCRIPTION.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate owned.	Place of Birth. Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Whether within the Year (1850) Married within the Year (1850) Attended School within the Year (1850) the number of years the person has attended school.			Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.	
		Age.	Sex.	Color, or (Inhabitants.)				10	11	12		
654, 654	Solomon B. Murphey	57	m		Farmer	9000	Geo					
	Elizabeth	46	f				Geo					
	Watermill	26	m		Attorney at Law		Geo					
	Walter C.	19	m		Farmer		Geo			1		
	Solomon B.	15	m		"		Geo			1		
	Malinda	15	f				Geo			1		
	Matilda	10	f				Geo			1		
	Rebecca	10	f				Geo			1		
	Allie	5	f				Geo			0		
	Edward M.	7	m				Geo			1		
654, 654	James Murphey	9	m				Geo					

As another tidbit of interest, we see Solomon's wife listed as "Elizabeth". Found in the January 12, 1819, edition of the Georgia newspaper "The Reflector" was the announcement of the marriage on "Wednesday, the 29th of December (1818) ... Mr. Solomon B. Murphey to Miss Elizabeth M'Clendon". Referring back to the beginning of Chapter 6, John Murphey's deed of purchase for his Derriso Creek property was filed by Joel P. McClendon, J.P. This same Joel McClendon is the father of Elizabeth and the father-in-law to Solomon B. Murphey.

The fact that Solomon B. Murphey, a farmer from another county, becomes the administrator for the estate of Ruth Eiland cannot be explained by just coincidence. The logical explanation is that Solomon Murphey is related by blood to Ruth and so was trusted enough to assume such an important position in the disposition of her estate. And what was that familial relationship? We know that Solomon B. Murphey was named as one of Edward Murphey's orphaned children and have proven by Y-DNA analysis that our own John Murphey is a son of Edward Murphey, making John and Solomon brothers. So, just as John and Solomon's relationship can be explained as siblings, so can the relationship with Ruth Eiland be explained. Combining Solomon's administration of Ruth's estate along with the position of Ruth Eiland as a big buyer in Edward Murphey's estate sale, Ruth can be confidently identified as a sister to both Solomon and our own John Murphey.

In conclusion, I would like to share one titillating piece of information that I have found in several family trees posted online by Eiland family genealogists. They have sometimes described Ruth Eiland as "Ruth M. Eiland". I have not found any period documentation to support this naming, but if we assume that it came from a reliable source, could it have stood for "Ruth Murphey Eiland"? After presenting the evidence in this chapter, I believe that indeed is the truth and that Ruth Eiland's maiden name was Ruth Murphey.

Chapter 7: Identifying Ruth Eiland's Husband & Children

*A memorandum of property
1802 by Elizabeth Murphey
Administrator on
deceas of Warren County*

Dennis Lindsey	D	To 1 Bedstead & furniture	28	
do do		To do	30	50
James Murphey	D		87	
Dennis Lindsey	D		9	
Dennis Lindsey	D	To 2 Trunks	10	50
do do		To 1 Chest	3	
John Murphey	D	1 Chest	7	50
Dennis Lindsey	D	To 1 Table		50
do do		To 7 Chairs	3	50
do do		To 2 Spinning Wheels	5	50
do do		To 1 Lot of Pewter	8	
do do		To 1 Lot of Leatherware	5	
William Earnest	D	To 1 Rifle Gun	8	
Dennis Lindsey	D	To 1 Shot Gun	7	50
do do	D	To Ladies Saddle & Saddle	7	50
Matthew Mims	D	To 1 Saddle	11	25
Dennis Lindsey	D	To 1 Chest & Blanket	3	75
John Murphey	D	To Looking Glass	3	50
Dennis Lindsey	D	To Basket of sundries	7	75
Daniel Simpson	D	To 1/2 of Saddle Traps	4	12 1/2
Elijah Warthen	To	2 axes & gouging hoes	5	
John Spurlock	D	2 axes & foot ad	3	25
Absalom Eiland	To	1 Lot of Tools	5	75
Facot Thomas	To	piece of Blue Cloth	7	50
Absalom Eiland	To	1 plow	1	25
Simon Satter	To	1 plow	3	
Simon Satter	To	1 Bars share plow	4	
John Murphey	1	Cutter plow	2	50
John Baker	1	Cutter do	2	
Dennis Lindsey	To	Lot of Tools	2	
Dennis Lindsey	To	Lot of Cookery	11	50
Allen Beethorn	Lot	of Brass Knives	4	50
Elijah Warthen	To	an aggon Saddle	1	25
Dennis Lindsey	To	Loom & Flay	5	

Please see above another excerpt from the Edward Murphey estate sale records. We can now recognize a number of the names in the estate sale listing as family members and in-laws: John and James Murphey, Dennis Lindsey and Elijah Warthen. We also see that Ruth Eiland was accompanied by another Eiland, Absalom, who participated in the estate sale. On page 6 of the 1794 Hancock County Tax List (below), Absalom was shown to be quite wealthy, owning 7 slaves as well as a number of landholdings on Buffalo and Derriso Creeks and in Washington County on the Oconee Island and along Spring Creek.

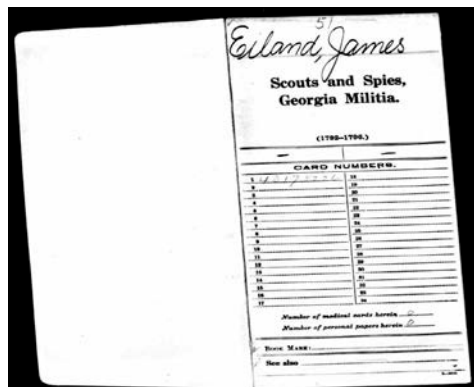
brothers, John and Isaiah Eiland, received land grants in Georgia in 1784. I have only been able to find a few documents related to James and Joseph in Hancock County starting later in 1794. As seen above, Absalom is listed as living in Captain James Eiland's Militia District in the 1794 Hancock County Tax List. The location of James Eiland's residence can be confirmed as being near Absalom's residence on Buffalo Creek from the following deed of sale. As documented in the Hancock County Deed Book A, on the 30th of August, 1797, James Eiland sold to Francis Trawick 100 acres in Hancock County located at the "head of Fort Creek which ... empties into Buffalo...formerly was occupied by Joseph Rogers and after by James Eiland". As seen below in the lower part of the image from the 1796 Hancock Tax List, James Eiland's listing with 100 acres on "Buffalow" Creek is found directly above Francis Trawick's entry. This is likely the same property described in the deed of sale quoted just previously.



On this same 1796 Tax List page are found multiple lines pertaining to Absalom Eiland, and directly below Absalom is listed the other candidate being considered, Joseph Eiland (written as "Jos'h Eilands"). Note that Isaiah Eiland's land is not found on this page, as he was located on the Oconee River close to John Murphey on Derriso Creek with both falling into a different Militia District of Hancock County. It is also interesting to note that Absalom lists 107 acres located along Derriso Creek adjoining "B. Catchings" (Benjamin Catchings). The close proximity of Benjamin Catchings to John Murphey's property is proven in the 1802 Road Orders and 1804 Hancock County Tax List. (See [John Murphey, Part 2](#), Chapter 7.) This means that Absalom's Derriso Creek property is physically located very close to John Murphey's residence. Could this be just a coincidence?

I was not able to find a Bounty Land Grant for James Eiland, which could mean that James was too young to have served in the Revolutionary War. The only military service record I could find for James is shown below, where he was listed as a scout or spy who served between 1792 and 1796. This also fits with his role as captain for his militia district as noted in the 1794 and 1796 Hancock County Tax Lists. Being a scout also testifies to James being comfortable in interacting with Indians as he scouted the "backcountry". John Murphey was also confident being in the

proximity of Indians as evidenced by his early immigration to Alabama in 1815 with his 14-year old son, Wilson. Did James Eiland and John Murphey sojourn into Indian Territory together? Unfortunately, I have seen no extant records to answer that question.



There are several documents naming orphans which can be traced back to James Eiland. In an April 21, 1801, deed of purchase found in Hancock County Deed Book E, page 177, Robert Owsley was "to him in hand paid by Absalom Eiland for Suaner (*CFM note: Susanna*), Nancy, Paty (*CFM note: Patsy, nickname for Martha*) and James Eiland (*CFM note: James later named in documents as 'Asa Jr.'*)", \$300 for 115 acres located in Washington County. The children's names can be supposed to be in order of decreasing age according to the usual custom. Absalom Eiland then also witnessed the same 1801 deed along with a Steven Parker. This has been interpreted by Eiland genealogists that a brother or son of Absalom's had recently died. Later, in 1809, Absalom and Enoch Eiland are supposed to have posted bond and appraised the estate of a James Eiland, although I have not been able to locate or investigate any of these 1809 source records even after placing several enquiries to Eiland family genealogists. Orphans reportedly named in these later documents were Nancy, Patsy and Asa (Jr.). Susanna's supposed marriage earlier in 1809 would explain her name being omitted from this list. Should these documents be uncovered, I do not believe that they will point to James Eiland's death as being in 1808 or 1809. In addition to the deed above dated April 21, 1801, my evidence is in several other documents which support a death date for Captain James Eiland of 1800 or early 1801. Later, I will show a timeline of the birthdates of Ruth's children such that her last child was born no later than October, 1800, again indicating James Eiland's probable date of death being just a few months prior or after that date.

An important fact to consider is that Ruth and Absalom Eiland are known to have attended Edward Murphey's estate sale on December 2nd and 3rd of 1802. This suggests to me that her husband was already deceased by this time as several Eiland family genealogists write that Ruth and her orphaned children lived with their guardian, Absalom Eiland, immediately after their father's death. So, I believe that Absalom took the place of Ruth's dead husband to escort Ruth to the sale. Furthermore, Ruth Eiland's registration prior to March, 1804, for the 1805 Georgia Land Lottery implies her widowhood by that time. Her registration just two years later in 1806 for the 1807 Georgia Land Lottery clearly states Ruth Eiland as a "widow".

Now is the time to dive into the registrations for the 1805 Land Lottery to see what it reveals about Ruth Eiland and her relationship to the orphans of Joseph and James Eiland. Recognizing which group of orphans are Ruth's children will then reveal Ruth's dead husband's identity. First, I will describe the rules to register for the 1805 Lottery, with particular attention paid to the bolded items immediately below:

Eligible Drawers

The following categories of people were entitled to draws in the 1805 Land Lottery.

Participants had to be white, a United States citizen, and a resident of Georgia for one year prior to the land lottery law passed in May 1803.

White male, 21 years old – One Draw

White male, 21 years old with wife and legitimate children under age 21 – Two Draws

White female, widowed, with legitimate children under age 21 – Two Draws

Orphan family, whose parents were both deceased, or whose father was deceased and mother remarried – One Draw

We also know according to Paul K. Graham's book entitled "1805 Georgia Land Lottery, Persons Entitled to Draws", that "the residence of participants reflects their location between May 1803 and 1 March 1804, and not where they resided during the lottery in the summer of 1805." This means that these registrations occurred about a year after Edward Murphey's estate sale held on December 2nd and 3rd, 1802. Now, let us see all registrations with the Eiland surname in Hancock County for the 1805 Land Lottery:

Registration Number	Name	County	Draw(s)
203	Ruth Eiland	Hancock	B B
223	Absalom Eiland	Hancock	B B
224	Orphans of Joseph Eiland	Hancock	B
225	Isaiah Eiland	Hancock	B B

The meaning of the "B" in the Draws column indicates that a blank ticket was drawn in the lottery resulting in no land being won. So from the above registrations three truths become apparent; 1) Ruth is widowed with children since she is registered as a female and had 2 draws, 2) the orphans of Joseph Eiland do not belong to Ruth since the fact that they have a draw in their own name means that their mother is either dead or remarried and it is known that Ruth never remarried and 3) since the "Orphans of James Eiland" have no registration, their interests are being covered by their widowed mother's two draws. All of this clearly points to Ruth being the widow of James Eiland.

Now let us investigate the 1807 Land Lottery by looking into those registrations conducted in late 1806. The rules to register are slightly different, being:

Eligible Drawers

Every free white male person, 21 years old, resident of the state 3 years, shall be entitled to 1 draw;

Every free white male, resident of the state for three years, 21 years of age, and having a wife or legitimate child or children under 21 years of age, entitled to 2 draws;

All widows entitled to 1 draw;

All free white females more than 21 years of age, residents of state 3 years, and unmarried, entitled to one draw;

All families of children, resident of state 3 years, with father dead, entitled to 1 draw, or with both parents dead entitled to 2 draws.

In case of a single orphan 1 draw only is permitted.

Below is a composited chart showing all 1806 registrations for the 1807 Land Lottery with the Eiland surname in Hancock County, along with John Murphey's registration, and their drawing results.

Militia District	Name	County	Draws	County won	Lot #	District #
Capt. Candler	John Murphey	Hancock	B B			
Capt. Candler	Ruth Eiland "widow"	Hancock	W	Wilkinson	12	9
Capt. Candler	Isaiah Eiland	Hancock	B W	Wilkinson	309	13
Capt. Pinkston	Absalom Eiland	Hancock	B W	Baldwin	56	9
Capt. Pinkston	Orphans of Joseph Eiland	Hancock	B			
Capt. Pinkston	Orphans of James Eiland	Hancock	W	Baldwin	131	6
Capt. Pinkston	Enoch Eiland	Hancock	B B			
Capt. Pinkston	Asa Eiland	Hancock	W W	Wilkinson	253	14
				Wilkinson	208	10

(Please note the Asa Eiland registered above is not the orphaned Asa Jr., documented son of James Eiland. We will see later that Asa Jr. has not reached 21 years of age by 1806. However, I do believe that Asa Jr. was so named to differentiate him from this registrant, his older supposed uncle or cousin.)

From the above we can get several pieces of additional information. Here we see Ruth Eiland specifically named as a "widow" in the official registration. The same designation as "widow" carried into the naming of Ruth as a winner in the lottery. Since records of the Hancock County registrations for the 1807 Land Lottery have survived, they stand in the stead of a census to place people in specific areas and we see that Ruth was now living in the same area, Capt. Candler's Militia District, as Isaiah Eiland and John Murphey. Please see the reference book "Land Lottery List of Hancock County, Georgia, 1806" by Martha Lou Houston for these detailed registration lists arranged by Militia District. The Lottery results are from "The Second or 1807 Land Lottery of Georgia" by Silas Emmett Lucas, Jr.

In view of the requirements for the registration of orphaned children between the 1805 and 1807 Land Lotteries and the fact that no other Eiland widow was listed, we can derive that Joseph Eiland's orphans either had no living mother or were left with a mother who had remarried, both of which cases disqualify Ruth Eiland as their mother. Also, even without the reference of guardianship orders, we can add the evidence of the April 21, 1801, deed of purchase to deduce that Absalom Eiland was indeed granted guardianship over the orphans of James Eiland in view of the fact that both Absalom and the orphans registered in Capt. Pinkston's District.

It can now be stated that Ruth Eiland was the widow of the deceased James Eiland, but is he the same man who was listed as the Captain of the Hancock County Militia District along "Buffalow" Creek in the 1794 and 1796 county tax rolls? The piece of evidence proving that Ruth was the wife of **Captain** James Eiland is found on Ancestry.com in the capture below showing Ruth Eiland's winning registration in the 1832 Georgia Cherokee Land Lottery from Jones County as "widow of soldier":

Georgia Cherokee Land Lottery, 1832 about Davis's	
Name:	Ruth Eiland
Number:	218
District:	25th DISTRICT, THIRD SECTION, CHEROKEE
Residence:	Davis's
County:	Jones
Comment:	widow. of soldier.; granted previous to the first day of January, 1838

Save This Record
 Attach this record to a person in your tree as a source record, or save for later evaluation.

Source Information:
 Ancestry.com. *Georgia Cherokee Land Lottery, 1832* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2000.
 Original data: Smith, James F.. *The Cherokee Land Lottery, Containing a Numerical List of the Names of the Fortunate Drawers in Said Lottery*. New York, USA: 1838.

Description:
 Listing of persons granted parcels of land from ""Cherokee Land"" in 1832 [Learn more...](#)

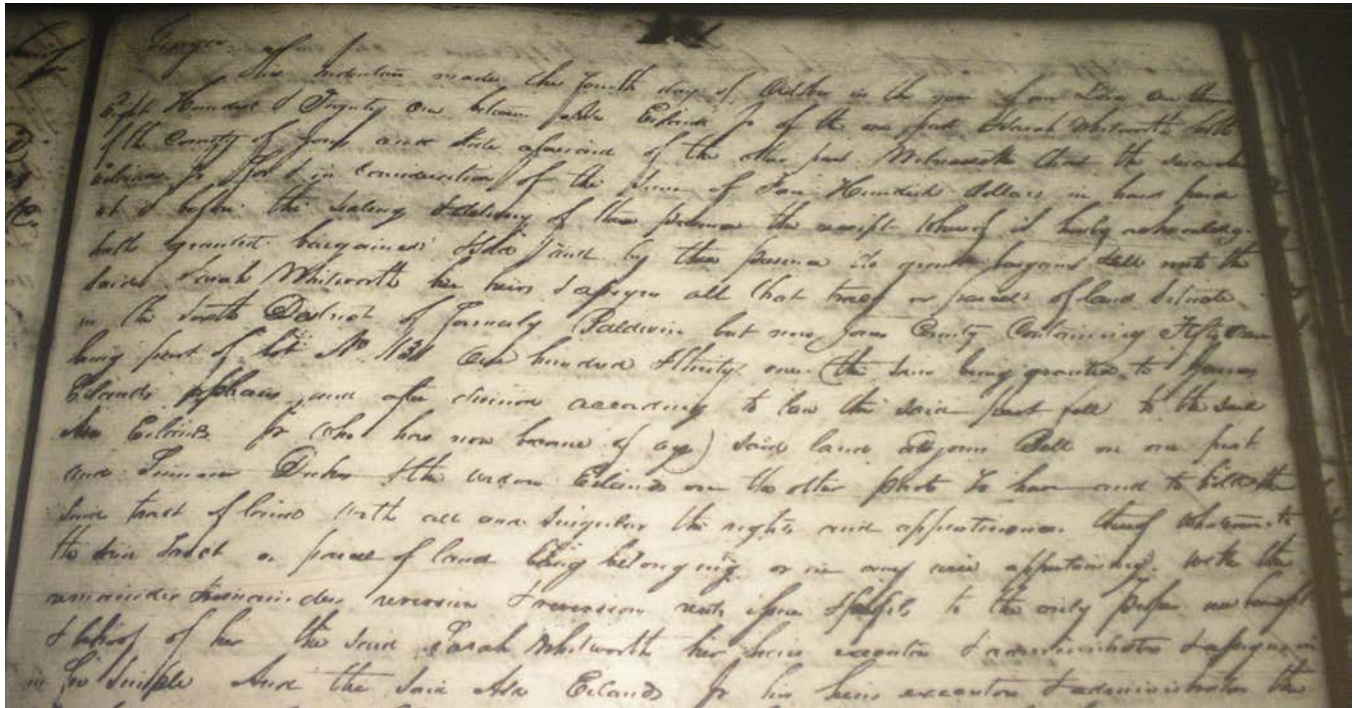
Returning to the timing of James Eiland’s death, James must have died unexpectedly (as indicated by his dying intestate) sometime after he executed his deed of sale in Hancock County on August 30, 1797, and prior to Absalom Eiland's deed of purchase on behalf of James’ orphaned children on April 21, 1801. Based upon the birthdates of James’ orphans (to be shown later), I have proposed a death date for James of 1800 or early 1801. With the background information from Eiland family genealogists that Ruth and her orphaned children lived with their guardian, Absalom Eiland, immediately after their father’s death, we can account for why it was Absalom who escorted the widowed Ruth Eiland to Edward Murphey’s estate sale on December 1st and 2nd of 1802. This guardianship role also argues that Absalom was either the orphans’ uncle or grandfather. Furthermore, Ruth Eiland’s registration prior to March, 1804, for the 1805 Georgia Land Lottery implies her widowhood by that time. Her registration in 1806 for the 1807 Georgia Land Lottery clearly states Ruth Eiland as a “widow”.

Chapter 8: Final Evidence Proving that Ruth Eiland is Mother to James Eiland’s Orphans

Confirming the analysis of the Lottery registrations, Ruth can be proven to be the widow of James Eiland and the mother of his orphans in a deed of sale for part of the land won by James Eiland’s Orphans in the 1807 Land Lottery. The land lots granted in the Lotteries were all 202½ acres in size. As seen in the chart shown previously in Chapter 7, James Eiland’s Orphans won Lot 131 in District 6 of what was then Baldwin County, Georgia, in the 1807 Land Lottery. This area soon was redistricted into the newly created Jones County. A key discovery proving the relationship of Ruth Eiland to the orphans of James Eiland is found in a deed of sale from Asa Eiland Jr. to Sarah Whitworth.

Asa Jr. is the orphan previously listed in the 1801 records as “James Eiland”, but reported by other researchers as listed in the 1809 records as “Asa”, the youngest child of Captain James Eiland. Directly below is an abbreviated transcription of the deed from the original film records. An image from the original court documents is shown directly under it for comparison.

“This Indenture made this fourth day of October in the year of our Lord 1821 between Asa Eiland Jr. ... and Sarah Whitworth both of the County of Jones for and in consideration of \$400 sell all that tract of land situated in the 6th District of formerly Baldwin but now Jones County containing 50 acres **being part of Lot No. 131** one hundred thirty one (the said being granted to **James Eiland’s Orphans** and after division according to the law, the said part fell to the said Asa Eiland Jr. **who has now become of age**) said land adjoins Bell (CFM note: James Bell) on one part and Simeon Dickes & the **widow Eiland** on the other part...”



Just to dispel any doubts that we have the right people, below we see a screen capture from the 1816 Jones County Tax List with the entry for “Rutha Eilands” living on 101¼ acres (which is one-half of the original 202½ acres won in the 1807 Land Lottery), which clearly states that the land was originally granted to “Eiland’s orphans” and located on Wolf Creek. She is also shown with 3 slaves at this time. There can then be no doubt that Ruth Eiland is the “widow Eiland” referred to in Asa Eiland Jr.’s 1821 deed of sale who is living on one-half of the original lot won by James Eiland’s Orphans, proving that she is their mother and the wife of the deceased Captain James Eiland.

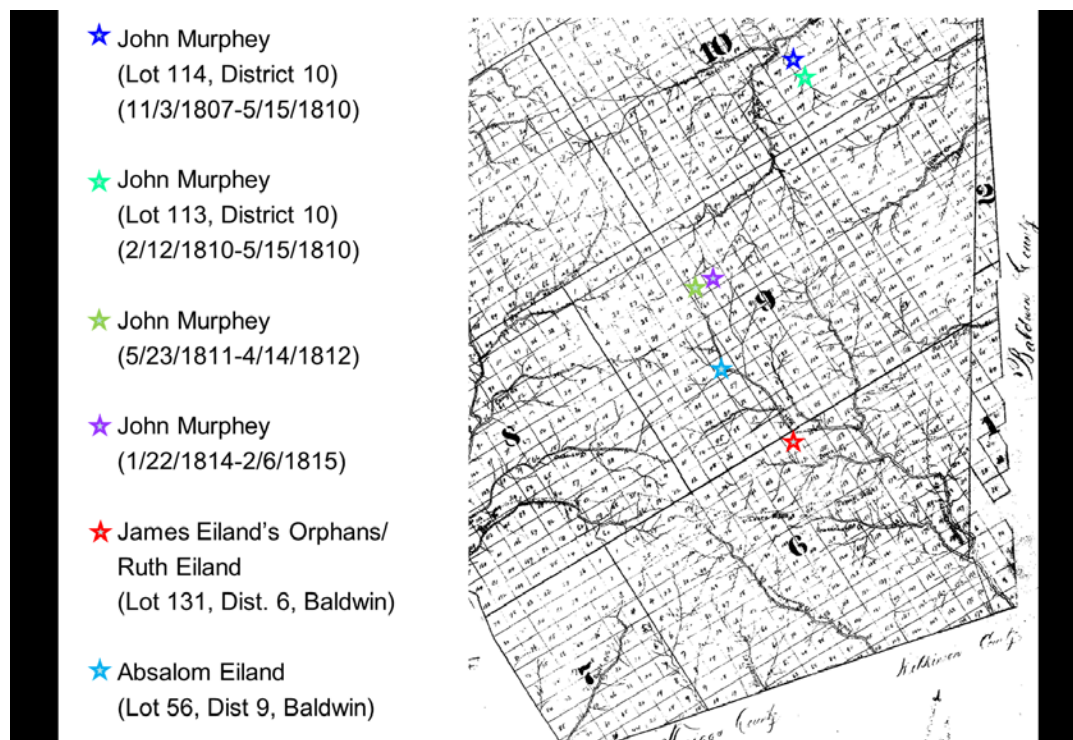
Composited with the column labels, this image can be found at this Ancestry.com link: <http://search.ancestry.com/Browse/view.aspx?dbid=1729&path=Jones.1816.34>

	Only Slaves	Lands	Qualities	Counties	Grantee	Watercourses	Adjacencies	\$ cont. m. 1816
Joseph & Benjamin Friend	2	Stock in trade			\$3,000			10,000
Burrell Mories	1	95	2	Jones	Powell	Wolf	Jones	2,500
Allen J Whalley	1	5						1,875
Henry Marsh	1	10	202½		Little		Low	2
		405	0	Laurence	Thaw	Longlash & oona	Phillips	4,247¾
as Trustee for Selah Moffett		202½	0	Jones		Buck Creek Dist'n 8 211		0,152
Rutha Eilands	3	101¼	0		Eilands orphans	Wolf	Wolfe	1,064
James Horton	1	150	2				Parmer	1,000

Furthermore, the above deed of sale clearly states that as of October 4, 1821, Asa Eiland Jr. “has now become of age”. I contend that this indicates his birthdate being just prior to October, 1800, which comfortably falls prior to the deed of purchase dated April 21, 1801, when Absalom acted on behalf of James Eiland’s orphans and the young Asa Jr. was named as “James Eiland”. In the next chapter, I will build a timeline for Ruth Eiland and include the birth years for some of her children. This proposed birth year of 1800 for Asa Eiland Jr. fits well with the other evidence discussed in that chapter.

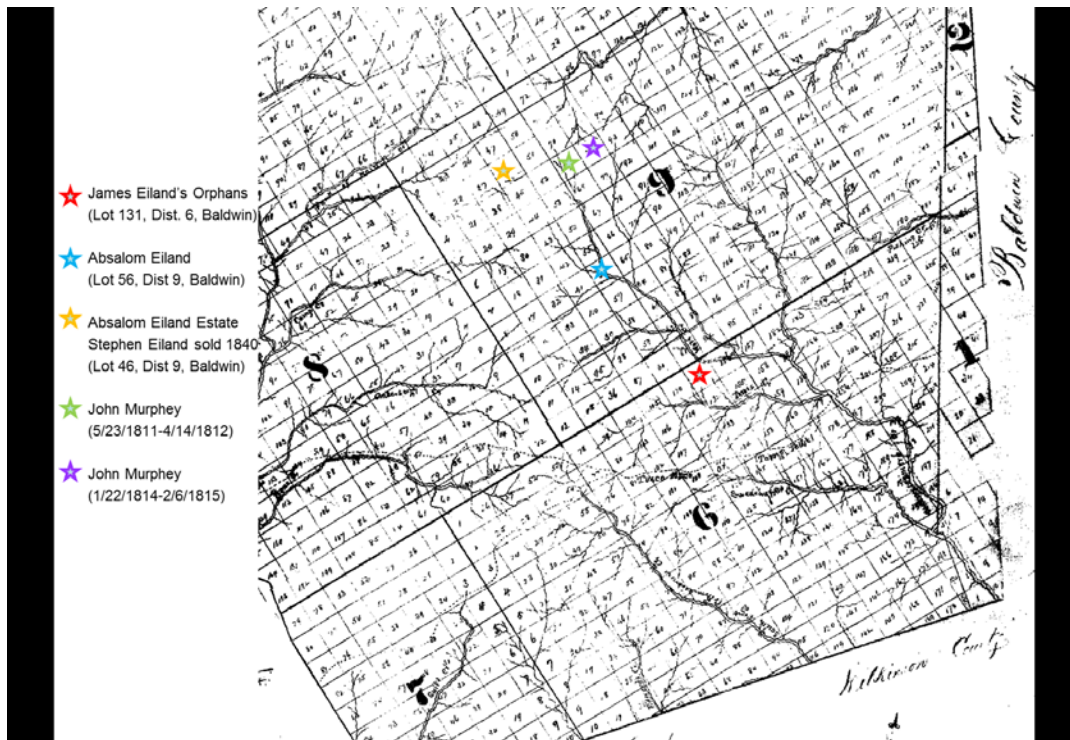
At this point, I would like to share further research showing the location of John Murphey’s various landholdings in Jones County, Georgia, over the years of 1807 through 1815 as defined by his deeds of record in the Jones County Courthouse. Abstracts of those deeds can be seen in chapter 7 of my previous paper [John Murphey, Part 1](#). Please refer to the maps shown below where we can also see where Absalom Eiland and the Orphans of James Eiland won land in the 1807 Land Lottery, which was later redistricted to Jones County. Those lots granted were:

Absalom Eiland	Lot 56	District 9
Orphans of James Eiland	Lot 131	District 6



We know from the 1811 Jones County Tax List that Absalom, his son Stephen, Ruth Eiland and John Murphey were all living in Jones County along Wolf Creek, which corresponds with the mapped lot locations above. So by 1811, John was only 2.5 miles from Absalom Eiland’s lot and about 5 miles away from his sister, Ruth Eiland. (I neglected to include the map’s scale in the graphic, but the reader can count each side of the square 202 ½ acre lots as being just over a half-mile in length.) Focusing on the properties located on Wolf Creek, the map is enlarged below to see more detail. I have also included a property located in Lot 46 of District 9, being 152.5 acres with a mill, sold later in 1840 by Stephen Eiland as an administrator of Absalom Eiland’s estate. I don’t know if this land was owned by Absalom prior to 1815 while John Murphey was still living in Jones County, but we can see that lot was just a mile from John’s holdings after 1811. The map shows how closely co-located were the land parcels held by family members. As

reported in my previous paper on John Murphey in Jones County ([John Murphey, Part 1](#)), the timing of John's move to Jones County is November or December of 1807, which coincides with the timing of Absalom's and Ruth's move after being granted their lots in the Land Lottery.



Chapter 9: Investigating Ruth Eiland's Timeline through Her Children's Records

Now is the time to look at Ruth Eiland's Last Will and Testament to identify her surviving children and gather more information. Ruth's will was filed in Jones County, Georgia, being written and signed on August 14, 1844, and proven on September 18, 1844. In an abstract of that will, Ruth mentions her daughter Susan as being the wife of Rhode L. Smith and Ruth's granddaughter is named as Nancy Adaline Lee, with Nancy's half-brother being Elijah Dickes. The document was witnessed by David and Stephen Slocumb and Jefferson E. Moore. There is a wealth of information here which will be exploited over this chapter to fill in the timeline of Ruth's life and that of her orphaned children.

We can track Rhode L. Smith and Susan/Susanna in federal census records from 1830 (in Columbus, Muscogee Co., Georgia), 1840 (in Ouchita Parish, Louisiana), 1850 and 1860 (both in Jackson Parish, Louisiana). The 1850 Census record from Jackson Parish, Louisiana, is shown below and lists "Rodell Smith" with his wife "Susana", along with their sons "B.F." and Stephen, who is noted as an idiot.

SCHEDULE I—Free Inhabitants in *Jackson* **in the County of** *Jackson* **State** *1857*
of Louisiana enumerated by me, on the *21st* day of *Nov* 1850. *McFowell* Ass't Marshal. *879*

Dwelling-house in order of visitation.	Family numbered in this order of visitation.	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	DESCRIPTION.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	VALUE OF ESTATE OWNED.		Place of Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year, (See 111) Married within the year, (See 112) Persons over 15 years of age who cannot read & write.			Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.
			Age.	Sex.	White, Colored, or Indian.		Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.		11	12	13	
		<i>Lewis J. Williams</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>m</i>		<i>Trainer</i>			<i>Mo</i>				
		<i>Delia</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>f</i>					<i>ga</i>				
<i>426 446</i>		<i>Mr. L. Robinson</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>m</i>		<i>Trainer</i>			<i>ga</i>				
		<i>James</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>f</i>					<i>ga</i>				
		<i>Pracy A.</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>"</i>					<i>ga</i>				
<i>427 447</i>		<i>Bedell Smith</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>m</i>		<i>Farmers</i>	<i>3000</i>		<i>ga</i>				
		<i>Suzanna</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>f</i>					<i>ga</i>				<i>Idiot</i>
		<i>Stephen</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>m</i>		<i>non</i>			<i>Ala</i>				
		<i>B. J.</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>"</i>		<i>Farmers</i>			<i>ga</i>				
		<i>Suzanna</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>f</i>					<i>ga</i>				
<i>428 448</i>		<i>Thomas B. Bell</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>m</i>					<i>La</i>				
		<i>James</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>f</i>					<i>Kent</i>				

The subsequent 1860 Census record from the same location is shown below, but with "Susan M." now living in the home of her son Benjamin (previously listed in the 1850 Census as "B.F."). Susan's son Stephen is listed as living with her and again noted as an idiot, which assures us that we are looking at the same people. These two census records consistently indicate a birthdate of about 1795 for Susan and list her birthplace as "Georgia", which we know from the research in this paper that at that time would correspond to the area that fell in Capt. James Eiland's Militia District along Buffalo Creek in Hancock County.

Page No. *2a*
SCHEDULE I—Free Inhabitants in *Jackson Parish* **in the County of** *Jackson* **State** *357*
of Louisiana enumerated by me, on the *20th* day of *Sept* 1860. *A. W. Wightman* Ass't Marshal.
 Post Office *Woodville*

Dwelling-house in order of visitation.	Family numbered in this order of visitation.	The name of every person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1860, was in this family.	DESCRIPTION.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male and female, over 15 years of age.	VALUE OF ESTATE OWNED.		Place of Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year, (See 111) Married within the year, (See 112) Persons over 15 years of age who cannot read & write.			Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.
			Age.	Sex.	White, Colored, or Indian.		Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.		11	12	13	
<i>162</i>	<i>162</i>	<i>Wright Whitford</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>M</i>		<i>Farmer</i>	<i>1800</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>N Carolina</i>				
		<i>Karah</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>f</i>		<i>Domestic</i>			<i>Id</i>				
		<i>Wm. H. G. Gottle</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>f</i>		<i>Domestic</i>	<i>1500</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>Georgia</i>				
		<i>Jouphome</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>f</i>					<i>Id</i>				
		<i>John</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>M</i>					<i>Louisiana</i>				
		<i>Thomas</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>M</i>					<i>Id</i>				
<i>163 163</i>		<i>Benjamin Smith</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>M</i>		<i>Farmer</i>	<i>10000</i>	<i>800</i>	<i>Alabama</i>				
		<i>Elizabeth V.</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>f</i>		<i>Domestic</i>			<i>N Carolina</i>				
		<i>Jane P.</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>f</i>					<i>Louisiana</i>				
		<i>Ada</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>f</i>					<i>Id</i>				
		<i>Suzanne B.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>M</i>					<i>Id</i>				
		<i>John M.</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>f</i>		<i>Domestic</i>			<i>Georgia</i>				
		<i>Stephen V.</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>M</i>					<i>Id</i>				<i>Idiot</i>
<i>164 164</i>		<i>Thomas G. Blum</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>M</i>		<i>Blacksmith</i>	<i>2500</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>Id</i>				

Fortunately, we have a photo of Susan M. Eiland Smith's gravestone that is located in the Smith Family Cemetery of Jackson Parish, Louisiana, to give us a more specific birth date and birth place. This photo can be found on the website FindAGrave.com with the link:

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gsr&GScid=2439693>



The inscription from both sides of the gravestone reads:

Susan M.

Wife of R.L. Smith

Born In Hancock Co. Ga.

Nov. 22, 1792

Died Nov. 13, 1861;

Aged 68 yrs 11 ms and 21 dys.

"As a wife devoted, As a mother affectionate, As a friend ever kind & true,

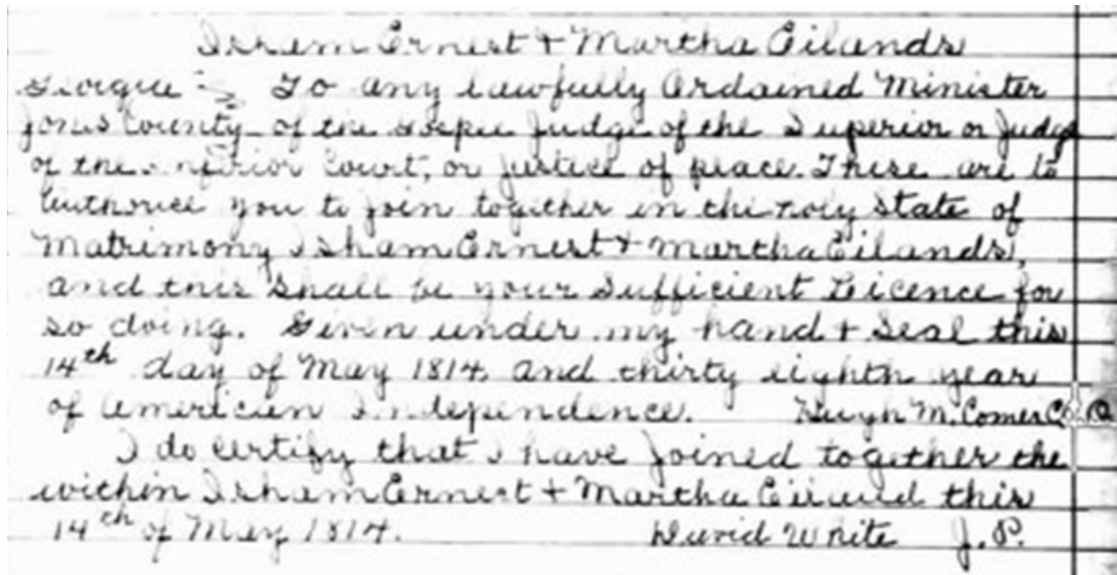
In life she exhibited all the Graces of a Christian, In death her redeemed spirit Returned to God who gave it".

According to a number of online accounts, Susan was supposed to have married Rhode L. Smith in Hancock County early in 1809, such that she was not listed in James Eiland's estate papers along with her 3 other orphaned siblings later that year. I have not found any documentation proving an 1809 marriage date but the timing does comfortably fit all other known facts. This 1809 dating would put her at age 17 when she married Rhode, who was about 29 years of age at the time. As stated previously, Susan, or Susanna, was listed in the April 21, 1801, deed of purchase found in Hancock County Deed Book E, page 177. In it, Robert Owsley was "to him in hand paid by Absalom Eiland for Suaner (*CFM note: Susanna*), Paty (*CFM note: Patsy*), Nancy and James Eiland (*CFM note: James later named as 'Asa Jr.'*)", \$300 for 115 acres located in Washington County, Georgia. If the children's names are in order of decreasing age, this would make Susan the first-born child. If Ruth Eiland's experience had been the same as her daughter's, Ruth would have been married at the age of 17 with a marriage in early 1792 to James Eiland. This would place Ruth Eiland's birth year as 1775.

I previously proposed the birthdate of Asa Jr. as being immediately prior to October, 1800, which comfortably falls prior to the deed of purchase dated April 21, 1801, when Absalom acted on behalf of James Eiland's orphans. Asa Jr. was the youngest of Ruth's children and so indicates the top range of her child-bearing years prior to her husband James Eiland's death proposed as between 1800 and early 1801. So, we can take a look at some interesting, but speculative,

information relating to Patsy Eiland, one of the two daughters “in the middle”. It is important for the reader to note that “Patsy” is actually the nickname for the more formal name of “Martha”.

That this story is quite tragic is foreshadowed by knowing that Ruth Eiland’s Last Will and Testament in 1844 mentions only one living child, Susan Smith. Several Family Trees on Ancestry.com point to an early marriage of a Martha Eiland to “Isham Ernest” in Jones County, Georgia, in 1814 and state that this Martha Eiland was also known as Patsy Eiland. Referring back to Chapter 8, we see that the time of the wedding corresponds with when Ruth and her children were known to be living in Jones County. After some investigation, I was able to find this record of the marriage on May 14, 1814, on page 19 of the “Jones County Marriage Book, 1811 - 1828”. An image of that document is displayed below. Again, if Martha/Patsy followed in her elder sister Susan’s footsteps, she would have been 17 years old at her marriage. This would put Martha/Patsy’s birth year as either late 1796 or early 1797. This fits perfectly within the time range of Ruth’s child-bearing years between Susan’s documented birthdate on Nov. 22, 1792, and Asa Jr.’s proposed birthdate prior to October, 1800.



Isham Ernest & Martha Eiland
George To any lawfully Ordained Minister
Jones County of the State of Georgia of the Superior or Judge
of the Superior Court, or Justice of Peace. There are to
witness you to join together in the holy state of
Matrimony Isham Ernest & Martha Eiland,
and this shall be your sufficient License for
so doing. Given under my hand & Seal this
14th day of May 1814 and thirty eighth year
of American Independence. Nathan M. Comer
I do certify that I have joined together the
within Isham Ernest & Martha Eiland this
14th of May 1814. David White J.P.

How Martha/Patsy and Isham met can be easily explained. A number of online Earnest Family Trees offer that John Jacob Earnest is father to Isham. John Jacob also had a brother, George. If you look at the 1794 Hancock Tax List (presented in Chapter 6 of this paper and repeated below) on the same page with the listing for Absalom Eiland, guardian for James Eiland’s orphans (Susan, Nancy, Patsy/Martha and Asa Jr.), you will find the names of George and Jacob Earnest also living along Buffalo Creek. The Earnest family is documented to remain physically close by Absalom Eiland’s home in Hancock County through the time of registrations for the 1807 Land Lottery. I have also seen Indian Depredation Claims that were filed by George Earnest and supported by Absalom Eiland’s widow, Nancy Eiland, in 1826, meaning that the Earnest and Eiland families had close ties and maintained contact at least through that year.

Left (6)	Name	Age	Sex	Color	Free Land	County	Address	School	Learning	Other	Value	Other
	James Eiland											
	James Eiland				150	Franklin	Apple	Eiland				
	James Eiland				220	B.	B.		Self			
	William Eiland											
	William Carter				210	B.	B.		Self			
	James Carter				123	B.	B.		Self			
	James Carter				123	B.	B.		Self			
	William Eiland											
	George Earnest				200	B.	B.		Self			
	Isaac Earnest											
	Alfred Eiland											
	John Armstrong	2		100	700	B.	B.	Eiland				
	Est. Hill	1			300	B.	B.		Self			
	John Hill	1			240	B.	B.	Barrett				
	Thom. Vickers	2		1876	240	B.	B.		Self			
	George Martin											
	Abraham Eiland	7		129	129	B.	B.		Self			
	B.				529	B.	B.		Self			
	B.				130	B.	B.		Self			
	B.				77	B.	Barrett		Self			

A number of Earnest Family Trees also list a daughter being born by Martha/Patsy Eiland Earnest on November 17, 1817, although I have not been able to verify this as a fact. Additional information from ADAH (Alabama Dept. of Archives and History) is found on Ancestry.com which shows that Isham moves to Alabama by late 1818.

Earnest, Isom C. Ala. Terr.
 Lands, Entry Date: Oct. 8, 1818.
 See: U. S. Land Records, Receivers Office at
 Milledgeville, Ga., Aug. 4, 1817-Nov. 1818,
 and Cahawba, Ala, Dec. 1818, pp. 272, 275,

What is interesting is that we can document exactly where Isham Earnest is in Alabama with the 1830 Census and other documents. Please see below the 1830 Census of Butler County, Alabama, where "Isom Earnest" is listed on the same page as James Seale, father-in-law to John Murphey's daughter Eleanor/Ellen. From U.S. General Land Office records, Isham was granted land in Butler County in Township 11N – Range 14 E – Section 7 on January 1, 1822. Also from Land Office records and the 1830 Census, we know that a Jacob and a George Earnest live just to the north in Lowndes County, Alabama. They could possibly be cousins to Isham as they are too young to be the same as those listed in the 1794 Hancock Tax List, but it encourages speculation that John Murphey's early immigration with his family in 1815 to Butler County, Alabama, may have had some influence on his young niece, Martha/Patsy Eiland Earnest. Isham Earnest remarries in 1822 so we know that Martha/Patsy dies prior to that date. However, some of the Earnest Family Trees show that Isham's daughter born in 1817 was birthed in Butler County, suggesting that Martha/Patsy may have survived the relocation to again live close to her Uncle John Murphey.

Eiland as the Patsy Eiland mentioned in several court documents listing James Eiland's orphans, her birthdate can be reasonably placed as either late 1796 or early 1797.

An interesting connection is further found with Martha/Patsy's family moving to Butler County, Alabama, in 1818 and living just a few miles away from our subject ancestor, John Murphey. All of the official documentation found fits these dates and known places of residences so well that we are able to propose a defensible birth year for Ruth Murphey Eiland of no later than 1775. The birth year placed on John Murphey in my previous paper, [John Murphey, Part 2](#) was from 1765 to 1770. Now coupled with the fact that I have never seen John listed on any Tax Lists in Georgia prior to 1794, I find myself in agreement with Wilda Murphy that 1770 is the most appropriate birth year for him. And knowing that John was the eldest of Edward Murphey's children due to his role of administrator over his father's estate, a 1775 birth year for his younger sister Ruth is entirely in line. Now we will look at the Census records for more information on Ruth Murphey Eiland to see how the proposed birth year of 1775 fits those documents.

Chapter 10: Corroborating Ruth Eiland's Timeline through Census Records

Below is an image of page 61 from one district in the 1830 Census of Jones County, Georgia. Since the names are alphabetized, the record cannot be used to determine neighbors. From the deed of sale from Asa Jr. in 1821, it is known that all of Ruth's children are adults by 1830 and so I have not been able to identify the two children listed in her household. Ruth's age is listed as being "Of fifty and under sixty", placing her birth year from 1771 to 1780.

1830 Census of Jones County, GA
(p. 61 of 82)

Ruth Eiland
born between
1771-1780

The next Census we have is from Jones County in 1840, just 4 years prior to Ruth's death. It is interesting to see that on this same page is found the same Samuel Wilson who was listed as "Sam'l Wilson Junior" so many years prior in the 1794 Hancock County Tax List right above our

1806: James Eiland's Orphans register for 1807 Georgia Land Lottery in the same Hancock Militia District as Absalom Eiland
 1807: James Eiland's Orphans win Lot 131 in District 6 on Wolf Creek and I propose that they move there soon after
 1807: Ruth wins Lot 12 of District 9 in the new Wilkinson County, GA
 1809: Proposed date of marriage of Ruth's daughter Susan Eiland to Rhode L. Smith
 1811: Ruth Eiland on Jones County 1811 Tax List with no land noted (film image not shown in this paper)
 1814: Martha (proposed Martha is Ruth's daughter Patsy) marries Isham Earnest in Jones County, GA
 1816: Ruth Eiland on Jones County 1814 Tax List on ½ Lot won by James Eiland's Orphans on Wolf Creek
 1818, December: Isham Earnest in Alabama; proposed that Martha/Patsy survives the move to Butler County, Alabama, to live near Uncle John Murphey
 1821, October 4: Deed of Sale for 50 acres by Asa Jr. Eiland from his share of James Eiland's Orphans Lot 131 of District 6 on Wolf Creek, stating that Asa Jr. is now 21 years of age
 1830: Census in Jones County, GA, with Ruth Eiland age 50 to under 60
 1832: Ruth Eiland wins land in the new Cherokee County, GA, after registering as "Widow of Soldier"
 1840: Census in Jones County, GA, with Ruth Eiland age 60 to under 70
 1844, September 18: Ruth Eiland's Last Will and Testament proven in court, dating Ruth's death as being just prior

Chapter 11: Identifying Edward's Son James in Historical Documents

While I have not been able to consistently identify John's brother, James Murphey, in official records, there are two documents where we can. One is a Deed of Sale executed by Edward Murphey as abstracted below from "Oglethorpe Co., Georgia, deed books A - E, 1794 – 1809" by Michal Martin Farmer:

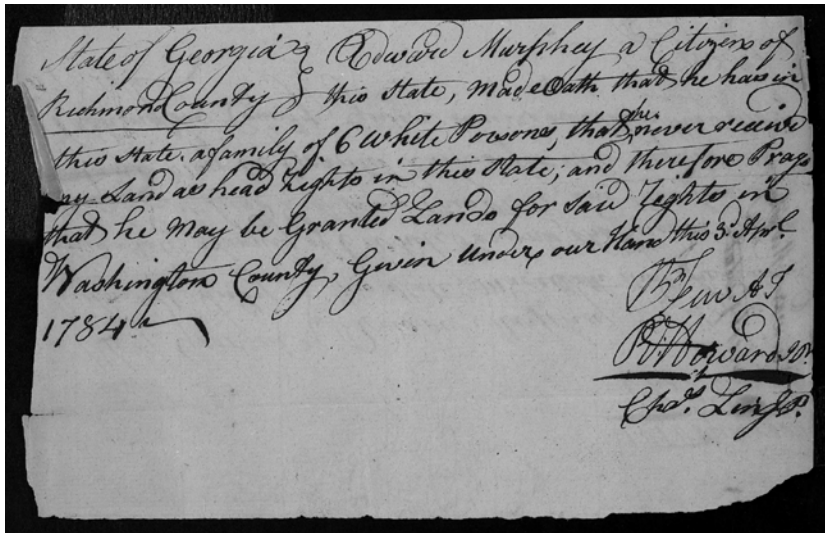
Oglethorpe Co., Ga. Deed Book B, 1795 – 1798, Page 226;
 23 January 1798, **Edward Murphey & Elizabeth, his wife, of Warren Co., Ga.**, to Robert Smith of Lunenburg Co., Va., for \$500, 300 acres in Oglethorpe Co., Ga., adjoining Robertson and **Wilson** (*CFM note: Samuel Wilson*), on Clouds Creek.
 (signed) Edward Murphey, Elizabeth (x) Murphey.
 Wit: **James (x) Murphey, Arthur Fort, J.P.**

We know that we are looking at the correct Edward Murphey as Edward is known to be living in Warren County at the 1798 date of this deed from the Warren County Tax Lists and as his wife's name is documented as Elizabeth in his estate sale documents in 1802. Furthermore, my research has confirmed that the "Wilson" named as adjoining Edward's property is none other than the same Samuel Wilson (Senior) whom I have tracked back with Edward Murphey as early settlers in the Quaker community of Wrightsborough, Georgia, in 1769. Unfortunately, as it pertains to James Murphey, all that this tells us is that he is at least 21 years old in 1798, placing his birth year prior to January, 1777. So, we are unable to say if Ruth is younger than James or vice versa.

The last piece of documented evidence for the elder children of Edward Murphey is a DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) listing of Revolutionary War soldiers' bounty grants:

MURPHY, EDWARD. Certificate of Jas. McNeil, Col., Mar. 15, 1784. Petitioner prays bounty in Washington Co. Also prays head rights in Washington Co. for six whites in family.

Below is the head rights filing dated April 3, 1784, as captured from a film of "Georgia Land and Warrants" found online on FamilySearch.org.



This confirms that Edward Murphey's family in April of 1784 consisted of 6 individuals. These members can be named as Edward Murphey, his second wife Elizabeth (daughter/step-daughter of Ambrose Holliday), and his children John (the eldest son and the subject of this paper), Ruth (born about 1775 who later becomes the widow of Capt. James Eiland), James (born prior to January, 1777), and baby Ambrose (named after his maternal grandfather) who was born on Sept. 5, 1783 just a few months before this petition was filed. Edward's petition stating that his family consists of six people in 1784 adds weight to the accuracy of my research which has identified Edward, his wife and four children from that period.

Nonetheless, questions still remain which would be best addressed by investigating John's father and constructing Edward Murphey's historical timeline. This will be done with yet another prequel paper focused on Edward.

Chapter 12: Conclusion

Having tracked John Murphey of Butler County, Alabama, back to his father, Edward Murphey, this paper has documented the most significant findings from my research to further expand the story of John's time in Hancock and Jones Counties, Georgia, with insights not previously possessed. Following up from questions posed at the end of my last paper [John Murphey, Part 2](#), I tracked the relationship between Samuel Wilson and Edward Murphey from Wrightsborough to Warren County, Georgia.

A document naming John Murphey as administrator for Edward Murphey's estate in Warren County became the first clue to fuel the hope that John's father could be definitively identified. Further encouragement was found when Edward Murphey's estate sale documents perfectly explained the acquisition timing and number of John's slaves as reported in the 1794 and 1804 Hancock County Tax Lists, but still this information could have been considered circumstantial.

Looking for proof of John's ancestry from what was written in my DNA, rather than on paper, led to another 46 Marker Y-DNA test. Sally Murphey Heard had composed a family tree

documenting the descendants of Edward Murphey's orphaned children who were named in court records. Sally referred me to Lee Murphey, a documented direct male descendant from Edward Murphey. Lee graciously agreed to participate in a Y-DNA test, which resulted in a perfect match with me, a documented direct male descendant of John Murphey of Butler, County, Alabama. This match confirms that this John was indeed Edward Murphey's son. And after many generations, we have now rediscovered and reconnected to John's then minor siblings who stayed in Georgia where their descendants still live today.

Since John's role as administrator reflected his status as the eldest son and since the list of buyers at Edward's estate sale included family and close friends, investigations were launched to account for a number of previously inexplicable relationships. Many of those names related to friendships dating back to Edward's service in the Revolutionary War while in the Georgia "Regiment of Refugees". Service in the "Regiment of Refugees" meant that Edward's family was hidden away in the backcountry during the course of the Revolutionary War. This fact provided an answer to a question which had been raised in my early investigations of John Murphey in Jones County, Georgia. That is, why did John Murphey always sign his deeds in Georgia with a mark instead of a signature? Now the answer is clear: John's education suffered when his early years were spent hiding with his mother and siblings in the backcountry during the tumultuous time of the Revolutionary War.

Edward Murphey's estate sale papers further allowed us to identify two previously unknown adult siblings to John Murphey, a sister Ruth and a brother James. While there is little documentation associated with James, Ruth Murphey has now been proven to be the wife and then the widow of Captain James Eiland while living in Hancock County, Georgia. This explained the close relationship with the Murphey and Eiland Families, as they were in-laws. Ruth's four children were identified along with birthdates for several such that it was possible to build a timeline for Ruth. We also saw that Ruth lived close by John Murphey after her widowhood, first along Derriso Creek and then in Jones County until John left Georgia to immigrate to Alabama in 1815. Tracking Ruth's daughter, Patsy, raised the possibility that Patsy and her husband Isham Earnest left Georgia to join her Uncle John Murphey in Butler County, Alabama. We also saw that when Ruth died in Jones County in 1844, it was her brother Solomon B. Murphey who took on the role as administrator of her estate.

Coming full circle, we can now confidently tell the story of the origins of John Murphey of Butler County, Alabama, as to when he was born, where he spent his early adult years and raised his own young family in Georgia. But as every story that has an ending is just the start of another story, it is now my plan to move back even further in time to tell the story of John's father, Edward Murphey, from the documents of his time. Therefore, this paper provides segue to yet another prequel paper focused on Edward. That paper's resultant timeline for John's father should also serve to illuminate John's childhood.