

## Lassiter Research Project Phase 2

20 January 2022

### OBJECTIVE

The objective of this research project is to continue to use documentary research and DNA evidence to identify one of the parents of Elizabeth, wife of Archibald Lassiter. A deed named Elizabeth with her husband Archibald Lassiter in St. Clair County, Alabama, in 1829. The 1860 census enumerated Elizabeth as born about 1782 in Virginia.

### LIMITATIONS

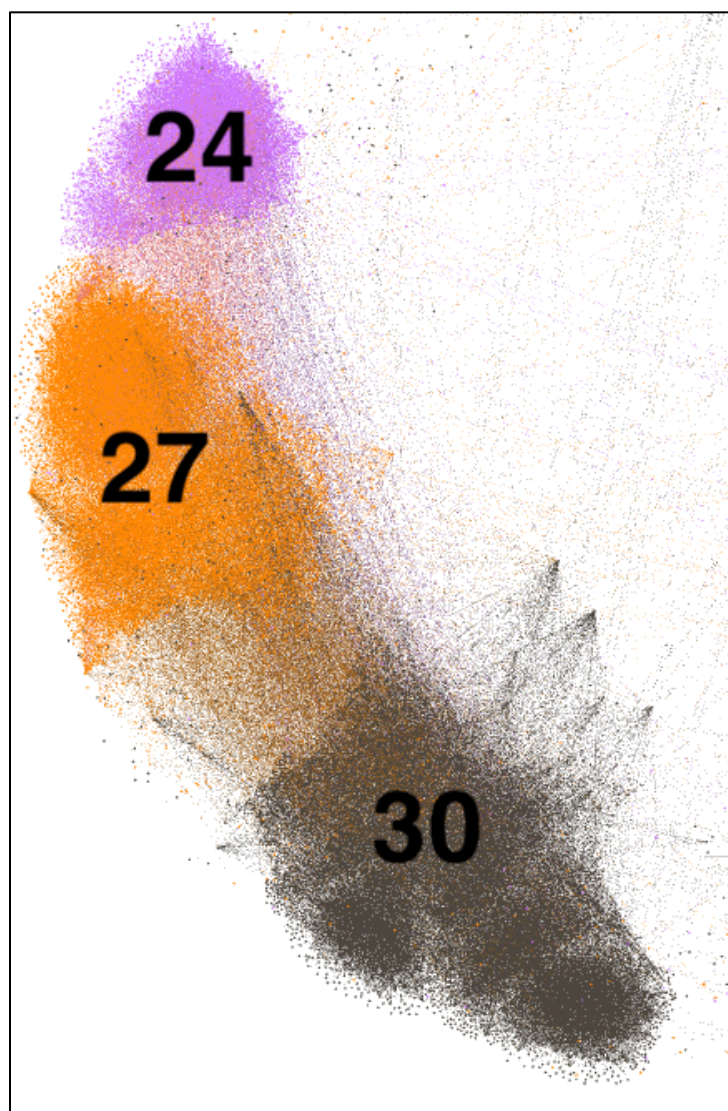
- The test-taker is 5 generations from the research subject and autosomal DNA (atDNA) will be applicable. However, 4th-6th cousins may not share very much DNA with the test-taker. This could make verifying the exact relationship between the test-taker and a DNA match difficult.
- The community of the research subject also appears to have pedigree collapse. This means there may be multiple most recent common ancestors (MRCAs) between a match and the test-taker.
- For the pedigree triangulation in this project, pre-built trees on *Ancestry.com* were primarily used. These are prone to error. While some family trees of DNA matches were manually built, many were only partially built due to the time constraints.
- Y-DNA is not useful in this case as it is not an unbroken paternal line.
- This project was limited to 20 hours of research.
- This phase of the research project was limited to online records.
- The time period and location of this project does not have an abundance of records, especially for females, like Elizabeth, the wife of Archibald Lassiter.
- Elizabeth and Archibald's surname Lassiter is spelled and indexed many ways in the records such as: Lassiter, Lasiter, Laster, Lasseter, Laseter, Lester, Lister, Losseler, Lassater, Lasater, Laster, etc. For the paper, the spelling "Lassiter" will be used unless directly quoting from a source.

## RESULTS SUMMARY

- Discovered an original image of Archibald Lassiter's Land Plat in Screven County, Georgia, in 1797
- Found a deed in Screven County, Georgia, of Archibald Lassiter and his wife Elizabeth selling land to John Smith
- Identified multiple court cases in St. Clair County, Alabama, between Archibald Lassiter and members of his FAN club
- Confirmed that Archibald Lassiter in Screven County, Georgia, was the same individual as Elizabeth's husband
- Concluded that Archibald Lassiter was born between 1771-1776
- Concluded that Elizabeth was born between 1771-1790, with an estimation that she was born near the middle of that range
- Hypothesized that Archibald Lassiter and Elizabeth were married around 1797 near Screven County, Georgia
- Compared two possible fathers for Archibald Lassiter: Tobias Lassiter of Greene County, Georgia, and John Lassiter of Burke County, Georgia
- Reasoned that John Lassiter was the more likely father of Archibald Lassiter based on documentary evidence and DNA evidence
- Discussed potential reasons why cluster 30 has not shown Elizabeth's parents
- Summarized the concept of DNA coverage and how to increase it for Elizabeth

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A [previous research project](#) successfully made progress toward discovering the parents of Elizabeth, the wife of Archibald Lassiter. Reviewing previous documentary research showed the Lassiter family moved throughout the early 1800s from Georgia to Arkansas. A network graph identified cluster 30 as the most likely cluster to have descendants of Elizabeth's parents. The most likely cluster to have descendants of Archibald's parents was cluster 27 (see Figure 1).



**Figure 1. Network Graph of Tester 1's Ancestry Matches<sup>1</sup>**

A process of reviewing DNA matches and triangulating pedigrees of the matches in cluster 30 showed that many matches descended from a common group of founder ancestors from Charles City, Virginia. These couples consisted of, but are not limited to, Robert Lassiter (1635-1745) & Prudence (1648), Francis Roundtree (1676-1746) & Susan Ames (1683-1749), Robert Wynne (1622-1675) & Mary Sloman (1616-1675), Robert Bolling (1646-1709) & Jane Rolfe (1650-1676), and John Kennon (1620-1654) & Elizabeth Blair Bolling (1626-1705). William Clack and Elizabeth Twitty were a couple that descended

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<sup>1</sup> Network Graph for Tester 1, completed by Allison Kotter, October 2021, privately held by Allison Kotter (Ringgold, Georgia); Ancestry data showing 34 clusters with matches ranging from 10 cM - 1300 cM.

from these ancestors that may have been Elizabeth's parents, but lacking evidence for the couple made for an uncertain hypothesis. Overall, to conclude Elizabeth's parents' identity, more research and DNA testing needed to be conducted.<sup>2</sup>

## NEW DOCUMENTS FOR ARCHIBALD LASSITER

This phase of the research started by conducting an in-depth look at records for each county Archibald Lassiter lived in. Understanding Archibald Lassiter's actions throughout his life increases the chance of finding interactions between him and Elizabeth's family. The documents found in this phase of the research have increased the known friends, associates, and neighbors (FAN club) of Archibald Lassiter. This led to finding more records about Archibald, but not all records are pertinent to the current research objective. The new records found for Archibald are:

1. An image of Archibald Lassiter's 1797 Land Plat in Screven County, Georgia.<sup>3</sup>
2. An entry in the Screven County, Georgia, deed index for land sold by Archibald Lassiter to John Bryan in 1805 (this original deed is not available online, the county has been contacted asking for access to this deed book).<sup>4</sup>
3. An 1808 deed between Archibald Lassiter and John Smith in Screven County, Georgia (this deed lists Elizabeth Lassiter as the wife of Archibald Lassiter).<sup>5</sup>
4. An 1810 registration of Archibald Lassiter's livestock marks and brands in Pulaski County, Georgia.<sup>6</sup>
5. An 1819 court case in St. Clair County, Alabama, between James Thomason and Archibald Lassiter and Wm G. Gibson.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Allison Kotter, "Lassiter DNA Research Project"; 19 November 2021; digital copy held by Allison Kotter, Ringgold, Georgia.

<sup>3</sup> Screven County, Georgia, vol. A, p. 145, entry for Archibald Lassiter, 7 October 1797; "Land plats, 1794-1912", digital images, FamilySearch.org (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 27 December 2021), image 86 of 463; citing FHL microfilm 008153667. **Document 1**

<sup>4</sup> Screven County, Georgia, General Deed Index, entry for Archibald Lasiter, 3 December 1805; "General index to deeds and mortgages, 1794-1906; deeds and mortgages, 1794-1910", digital images, FamilySearch.org (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 22 December 2021), image 119 of 507; citing FHL microfilm 007896488. **Document 2**

<sup>5</sup> Screven County, Georgia, Deed Book L, entry for Archibald Lasiter, 10 March 1808, pg 328; "General index to deeds and mortgages, 1794-1906; deeds and mortgages, 1794-1910", digital images, FamilySearch.org (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 22 December 2021), image 190 of 512; citing FHL microfilm 008539545. **Document 3**

<sup>6</sup> "Marks and brands 1809-1887, and, estray records 1825-1866, 1877-1919", Pulaski County, Georgia; digitized microfilm images, FamilySearch.org (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 16 December 2021); entry for Archibald Lassiter, 28 May 1810; citing FHL microfilm 008188915, image 14 of 146. **Document 4**

<sup>7</sup> St. Clair County, Alabama, "Court minutes, 1819-1826", p. 31-34, 21 September 1819, *James Thomason vs. Archibald Lasiter & Wm. G. Gibson*, image 357-359; digital images, FamilySearch.org ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) : accessed 27 December 2021); citing FHL microfilm #008356564. **Document 5**

6. The original 1824 court case between the State of Alabama and Archibald Lassiter and Burrell Green for their public disturbance.<sup>8</sup>

These records will be discussed in the next section.

## ARCHIBALD LASSITER'S HEADRIGHT RECORD

In the previous phase of research, it was unclear whether a 1797 headright record for Archibald Lassiter in Screven County, Georgia was a match for the husband of Elizabeth. The previous report stated:

To obtain this headright, Archibald would have to be a free adult male (21 years old).<sup>9</sup> He would receive 200 acres of land on his own head-right, 50 acres for each additional family member (including slaves) for up to 1000 acres. The current birth range for Archibald, based on census records, is 1771-1780.<sup>10</sup> Authored sources, such as unverified family trees, report Archibald's birth year as 1775.<sup>11</sup> If this birth year is correct, he would have been 22 at the time he received this land. With the current estimate of his wife Elizabeth's birth year being 1782, she would have been 15 at the time of receiving this land. It is unlikely that she would have been married at 15, and if they were, they certainly did not have many children at this point, with the couple being so young. So to have 900 acres, Archibald would have had to have 13 slaves. It is possible as the family is found to have slaves in later census years, but other sources should be found to corroborate this record.<sup>12</sup>

In the current phase of the research, two very important documents have shown that evidence is strong for the Archibald Lassiter in the 1797 Screven County headright record to be the same individual as Elizabeth's husband.

The first of these records was a tax list in 1809-1810 that lists Archibald Lassiter. This tax list clearly shows Archibald Lassiter was taxed for land that he owned in both "Scriven and Pulaski County, Georgia" (see Figure 2).<sup>13</sup> This indicates that the Archibald Lassiter in Pulaski County, Georgia, was the same man as the Archibald Lassiter in Screven County, Georgia.

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<sup>8</sup> St. Clair County, Alabama, "Court minutes, 1819-1826", p. 212-213, 11 October 1824, *State vs. Archibald Lassiter & Burrell Green*, image 669; digital images, *FamilySearch.org* ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) : accessed 27 December 2021); citing FHL microfilm #008356564. **Document 6**

<sup>9</sup> Georgia Archives University System of Georgia: Virtual Vault, "Headright and Bounty Plats: About this Collection," *Georgia Archives* (<http://www.vault.georgiaarchives.org> : accessed 15 November 2021), paragraph 3.

<sup>10</sup> 1830 U.S. Census, St. Clair, Alabama, population schedule, page 231, line 3, Archilall Losseler; digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 17 September 2021) citing NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 4. **Document 4**

1840 U.S. Census, Benton County, Alabama, population schedule, page 50, line 24, Archey Lassater; digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 17 September 2021) citing FHL microfilm 0002332. **Document 5**

<sup>11</sup> *FamilySearch.org* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 18 November 2021), database, profile for Archibald Lassiter, (L5R2-MJZ).

<sup>12</sup> Allison Kotter, "Lassiter DNA Research Project," p. 4; 19 November 2021; digital copy held by Allison Kotter, Ringgold, Georgia.

<sup>13</sup> "Georgia, Tax Digests, 1787-1900," 1809-1810, Capt Lassiters District, image 123 of 650, entry for Archibald Lasiter, *FamilySearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 27 December 2021); citing FHL microfilm 008153290. **Document 7**

Archibald Lassiter	1809	202½	1	21	3690	Screven
do	1810	1900				do
do		900				Pulaski
do		202½	1	21	3690	

Figure 2. 1809-1810 Georgia Tax Digest for Archibald Lasseter (Screven and Pulaski Co)

Along with that, a deed for Archibald Lassiter in Screven County in 1808, specifically names his wife as Elizabeth:

“This indenture made...between **Archibald Laseter & Elizabeth his wife** of the county of Screven...and John Smith of the said State and county...”<sup>14</sup>

While there is a possibility that another Archibald Lassiter had a wife named Elizabeth, no other records indicate this is so. This deed provides excellent evidence that this is the same Archibald Lassiter who sold land with his wife Elizabeth in an 1829 deed in St. Clair County, Alabama.<sup>15</sup> The Screven County deed also provides evidence that Elizabeth and Archibald were married by 1808.

This phase of the research project has confirmed that the Archibald Lassiter who received a land headright in 1797 in Screven County, Georgia, is the same man who later lived in Pulaski County, Georgia, and St. Clair County, Alabama.

## BIRTH OF ARCHIBALD LASSITER AND ELIZABETH

Identifying Elizabeth’s location before her marriage to Archibald could lead to finding Elizabeth’s parents. One place to start would be to understand when and where Archibald and Elizabeth got married. They likely lived near their parents prior to their marriage. To find out approximately when and where Archibald and Elizabeth got married, their birth dates and places need to be understood.

<sup>14</sup> Screven County, Georgia, Deed Book L, entry for Archibald Lasiter, 10 March 1808, pg 328; "General index to deeds and mortgages, 1794-1906; deeds and mortgages, 1794-1910", digital images, *FamilySearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 22 December 2021), image 190 of 512; citing FHL microfilm 008539545. **Document 3**

<sup>15</sup> St. Clair County, Alabama, Deed records, v. A, 1823-1832, vol. A, p. 407, entry for Archa Laster to Lewis S. & Jas D. Riggs, 28 December 1829; "Land records (St. Clair County, Alabama), 1823-1918; index, 1819-1903", digital images, *FamilySearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 15 November 2021), image 355 of 632; citing FHL microfilm 008134415.

## Birth of Archibald Lassiter

Exact birth dates in this time period are rarely found. However, using the sources known about Archibald Lassiter can lead to a range of birth years to help narrow down his marriage date.

- In 1797, Archibald Lassiter received a headright land record in Screven County, Georgia.<sup>16</sup> In order to obtain this headright, Archibald had to be a free adult male (21 years old).<sup>17</sup> Therefore he was born before 1776.
- In 1820, the census lists Archibald as over 21 years old.<sup>18</sup> This would mean he was born before 1799, which is already estimated from the headright land record.
- In 1830, the census lists Archibald as 50-59 years old.<sup>19</sup> This would mean he was born between 1771-1780. The 1840 census also provides the range 1771-1780.<sup>20</sup> Combining that with the headright land record gives a birth range of 1771-1776.
- In 1850, the Alabama Census only provides that he was older than 21, which is already estimated through the other sources.<sup>21</sup>

Analyzing these records leads to a birth range of 1771-1776 for Archibald. Figure 3 shows a visual of the overlap in the timeline of the records discussed above.

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<sup>16</sup> "Georgia, Headright and Bounty Land Records, 1783-1909", database with images, *FamilySearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 20 September 2021), entry for Archibald Lasseter, 4 September 1797, Screven County, Georgia, image 432 of 596; citing FHL microfilm 005187201.

<sup>17</sup> Georgia Archives University System of Georgia: Virtual Vault, "Headright and Bounty Plats: About this Collection," *Georgia Archives* (<http://www.vault.georgiaarchives.org> : accessed 15 November 2021), paragraph 3.

<sup>18</sup> 1820 Alabama Census, St. Clair, Alabama, population schedule, image 10 of 15, page 2 of image, line 5, entry for A. Laster household; digital image, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 17 September 2021); citing Alabama Department of Archives & History (Montgomery, Alabama).

<sup>19</sup> 1830 U.S. Census, St. Clair, Alabama, population schedule, page 231, line 3, Archilall Losseler; digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 17 September 2021) citing NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 4.

<sup>20</sup> 1840 U.S. Census, Benton County, Alabama, population schedule, page 50, line 24, Archey Lassater; digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 17 September 2021) citing FHL microfilm 0002332.

<sup>21</sup> 1850 Alabama Census, Benton, Alabama, population schedule, image 64 of 228, page 2 of image, line 15, entry for Archibald Lasseter household; digital image, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 17 September 2021); citing Alabama Department of Archives & History (Montgomery, Alabama).



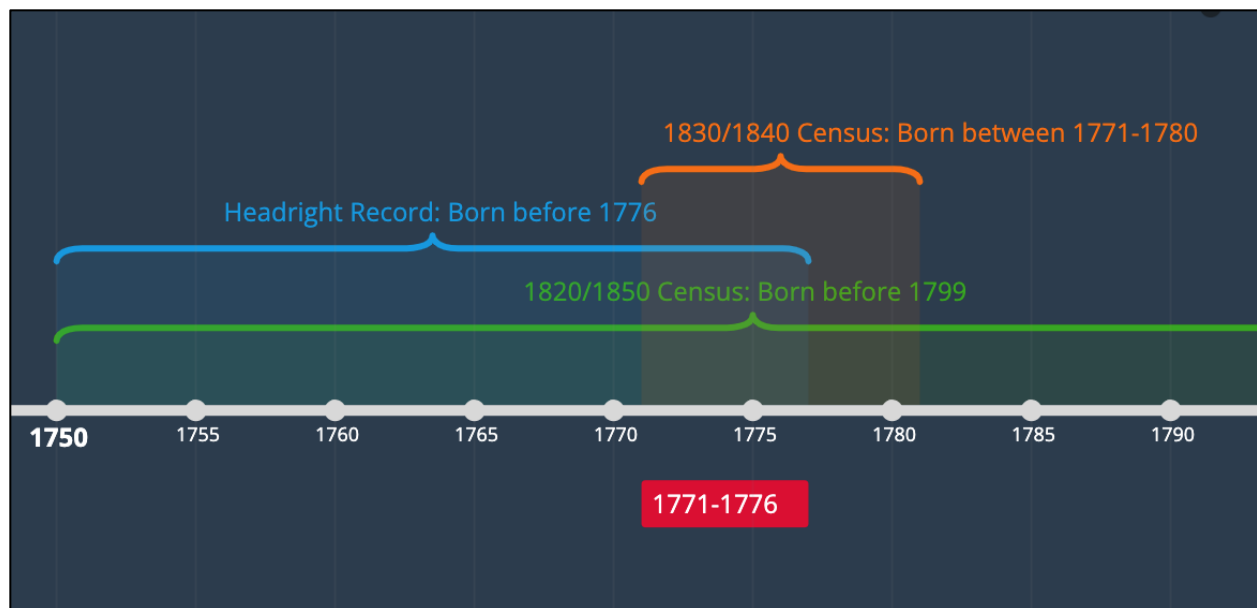


Figure 3. Possible Range of Birth for Archibald Lassiter<sup>22</sup>

### Birth of Elizabeth

The same correlation of records can lead to a birth year range for Elizabeth:

- In 1830, the census lists the oldest female in the household of Archibald Lassiter as being born from 1771-1780. Typically, the oldest female in the household of a man in the early census records was that man's wife, in this case, Elizabeth.<sup>23</sup>
- In 1840, the census lists the oldest female in the household of Archibald Lassiter as being born from 1781-1790. This is a decade later than the range given in the 1830 census.<sup>24</sup>
- In 1850, the Alabama State census lists the oldest female as older than 21 years old, which would simply mean being born before 1829, which has been established through the other records.<sup>25</sup>
- In 1860, the census lists Elizabeth's birth year as 1782, and her birthplace as Virginia.<sup>26</sup> 1782 fits in the range given in the 1840 census, but not in the range given in the 1830 census.

<sup>22</sup> TimeGraphics for Archibald Lassiter, completed by Allison Kotter, January 2022, privately held by Allison Kotter (Ringgold, Georgia); visual made with *TimeGraphics* showing possible birth range for Archibald Lassiter.

<sup>23</sup> 1830 U.S. Census, St. Clair, Alabama, population schedule, page 231, line 3, Archilall Losseler; digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 17 September 2021) citing NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 4.

<sup>24</sup> 1840 U.S. Census, Benton County, Alabama, population schedule, page 50, line 24, Archey Lassater; digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 17 September 2021) citing FHL microfilm 0002332.

<sup>25</sup> 1850 Alabama Census, Benton, Alabama, population schedule, image 64 of 228, page 2 of image, line 15, entry for Archibald Lasseter household; digital image, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 17 September 2021); citing Alabama Department of Archives & History (Montgomery, Alabama).

<sup>26</sup> 1860 U.S. Census, Davis, Saline, Arkansas, population schedule, Post Office: Turin, page 556, dwelling 20, family 20, entry for Elizabeth Laster; digital image, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 17 September 2021) citing FHL microfilm 803050.



If Elizabeth was born in 1782 as the 1860 census reports, she would have been 15 at the time of the headright land record. It is unknown if Archibald Lassiter and Elizabeth had married by the time of the headright record. Currently, the earliest known date of Archibald and Elizabeth as husband and wife is 1808.<sup>27</sup> It is possible that Elizabeth was a second wife to Archibald. While it is possible Elizabeth married at 15, it is unlikely. Census records are notorious for being inaccurate about age due to unreliable informants providing the age of a person. The birth year of 1782 may not be completely accurate for Elizabeth, depending on the informant for the census. If she was the informant for the census, perhaps she was reporting a younger age as she got older. The range 1771-1780 from the 1830 census may be the most accurate as it was when she would have been the youngest, and therefore most likely to tell her true age. However, who was providing the information for the census records is unknown, and perhaps they did not know her true age.

As Elizabeth has both the range of 1771-1780 and 1781-1790 for her birth, it is possible that she was near the middle of those ranges. Perhaps she was born in 1780 and would therefore sometimes be in the later age range depending on what time of year the census enumerator would come to the household. If she was born in 1780, she would have been around 17 at the time of the headright record, which is a more likely age for marriage. Elizabeth was likely born about 1780-1782. The following figure shows a visual of the ranges in the various records discussed above.

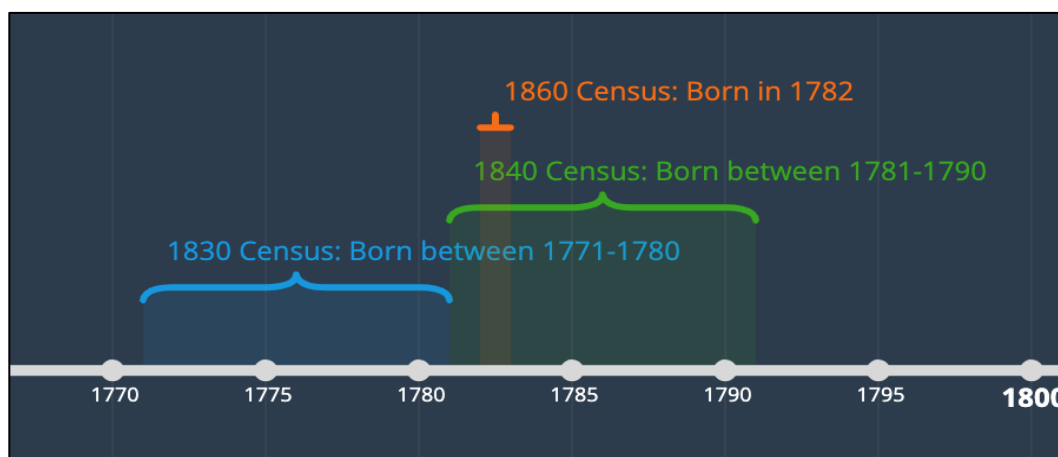


Figure 4. Possible Range of Birth for Elizabeth<sup>28</sup>

<sup>27</sup> Screven County, Georgia, Deed Book L, entry for Archibald Lasiter, 10 March 1808, pg 328; "General index to deeds and mortgages, 1794-1906; deeds and mortgages, 1794-1910", digital images, *FamilySearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 22 December 2021), image 190 of 512; citing FHL microfilm 008539545. **Document 3**

<sup>28</sup> TimeGraphics for Elizabeth completed by Allison Kotter, January 2022, privately held by Allison Kotter (Ringgold, Georgia); visual made with *TimeGraphics* showing possible birth range for Elizabeth.

## MARRIAGE OF ARCHIBALD LASSITER AND ELIZABETH

The 1797 headright record granted to Archibald Lassiter is an indication of when he started to live separate from his parents. Perhaps this would be because he married and was ready to start a family of his own. Given the birth range of 1771-1776 for Archibald, he would have been anywhere from 21-26 at the time of this record. According to a study on historical southern marriage patterns, the average age of marriage for men at this time in the south was 26.<sup>29</sup> Therefore, Archibald would have been right around the age for marriage at the time of this headright record.

Elizabeth's birth range, 1780-1782, would put her age from 15-17 at the time of the 1797 headright record. According to the study on historical southern marriage patterns, the average age of marriage for women at this time in the south was 20.<sup>30</sup>

The first inferred child for Archibald and Elizabeth is John Washington Lassiter, who was born around 1802.<sup>31</sup> These facts together would indicate that Archibald and Elizabeth married around 1797-1802. In 1797, Archibald received the land headright in Screven County, Georgia, but it is unknown where he lived previously. It is possible he was from Screven County, but it is also possible he moved there for the headright.

There is a large lack of records available for women in the time period of this research project. Therefore, the best way to learn about where Archibald and Elizabeth may have been prior to the 1797 land headright is to discern who Archibald Lassiter's parents were and where they were from.

## FATHER OF ARCHIBALD LASSITER

Family historians don't agree on who Archibald Lassiter's father was. Most report either Tobias Lassiter or John Lassiter as the father of Archibald Lassiter.<sup>32</sup> In 1795, John Lassiter was living in Burke County, Georgia, a county directly to the north of Screven County, Georgia.<sup>33</sup> The other commonly

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<sup>29</sup> J. David Hacker, Libra Hilde, and James Holland Jones, "The Effect of the Civil War on Southern Marriage Patterns," (Rice University: The Journal of Southern History, 2010), paragraph 8; online article, NCBI (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov> : accessed 19 January 2022).

<sup>30</sup> J. David Hacker, Libra Hilde, and James Holland Jones, "The Effect of the Civil War on Southern Marriage Patterns," (Rice University: The Journal of Southern History, 2010), paragraph 8; online article, NCBI (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov> : accessed 19 January 2022).

<sup>31</sup> 1850 U.S. Census, St. Clair County, Alabama, population schedule, District 39, page 164A, dwelling 368, family 368, entry for John Lassiter; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 11 December 2021) citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 14.

<sup>32</sup> *WikiTree.com*, profile for Archibald (Lassiter) Laster (1775-1831), profile manager Sean McClendon, biography section discusses conflicting fathers; collaborative family tree (<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Lassiter-731> : accessed 19 January 2022).

<sup>33</sup> "Georgia, Headright and Bounty Land Records, 1783-1909", database with images, *FamilySearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 20 September 2021), entry for John Laseter, 4 April 1785, Burke County, Georgia, image 405, 407, 409, 411 of 596; citing FHL microfilm 005187201. **Document 8**

hypothesized father for Archibald Lassiter is Tobias Lassiter, was first found in Georgia in 1803 in Greene County, Georgia.<sup>34</sup> The following map shows the proximity of Greene County, Burke County, and Screven County, Georgia.

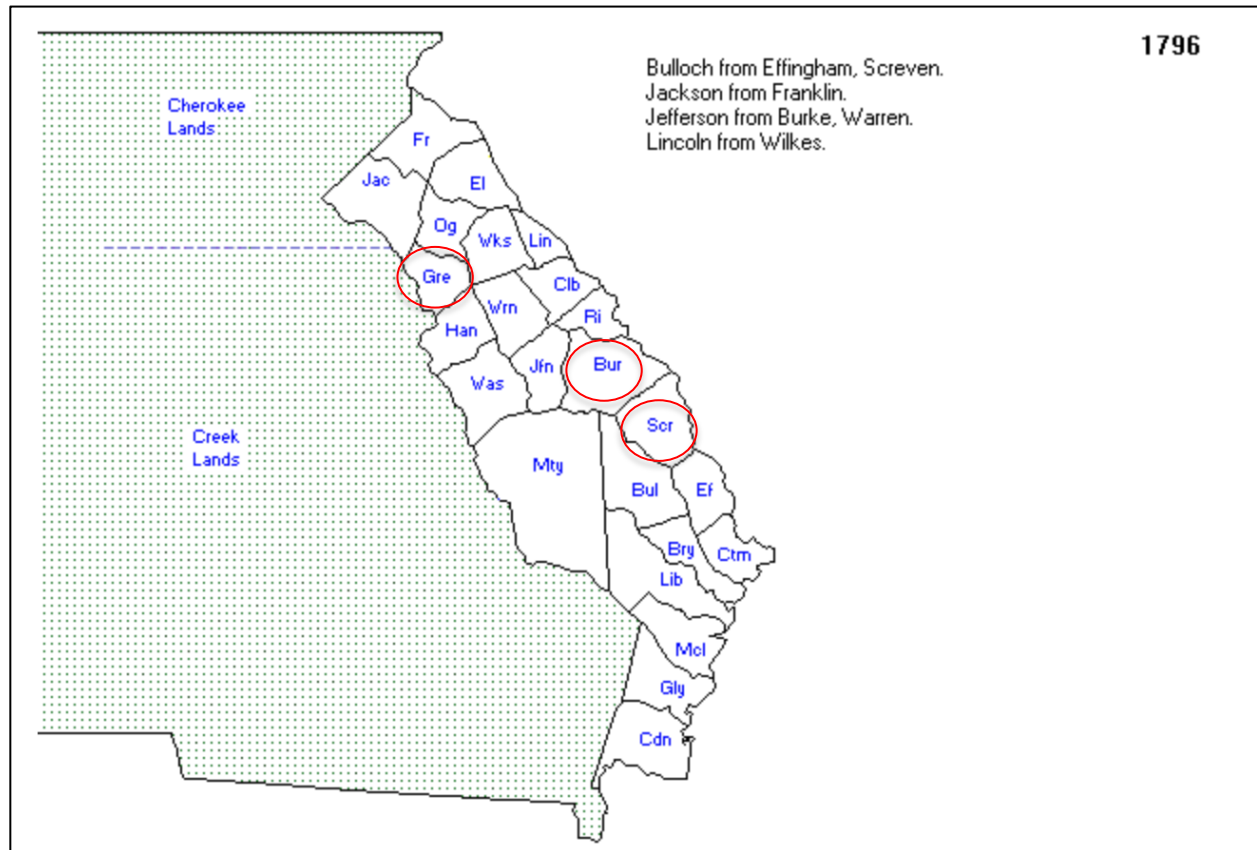


Figure 5. Map of Georgia Counties in 1796<sup>35</sup>

Based on location alone, it would seem most likely that Archibald Lassiter was the son of John Lassiter rather than Tobias Lassiter. Further documentary evidence ties Archibald Lassiter to John Lassiter. This section of the report will contain a discussion of the possibility of each of these men as Archibald Lassiter's father.

<sup>34</sup> "Georgia Probate Records, 1742-1990", Greene County, Georgia, Inventories and appraisements 1798-1808, vol E; digitized microfilm images, *FamilySearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 29 December 2021); entry for letters granted to Benjamin Laster on estate of Tobias Lasiter, 24 November 1803; citing FHL microfilm 005756656, image 100 of 479.

<sup>35</sup> "Clarendon County, South Carolina," *Google Maps* (<http://www.maps.google.com>: accessed 13 January 2022).

## Tobias Lassiter – Greene County, Georgia

The following abstract of the 1804 will for Tobias Lassiter names his children as Benjamin Lassiter, Jesse Lassiter, John Lassiter, Hardy Lassiter, Christianna Lassiter, and Rebekah Lassiter:

“I Tobias Lassetter of the county of Green, and state of Georgia...bequeath to my son Benjamin Lassetter one featherbed and furniture...I bequeath to my son Jesse Lassetter one featherbed and furniture...I give to my son John Lassetter one featherbed and furniture...I give and bequeath to my son Hardy Lassetter the tract of land whereon I now live...allowing my daughter Christianna Lassetter a residence on the same during her life or so long as she may remain single. I likewise give to my son Hardy Lassetter a negro woman named Kate, and in case this Kate should bear a child to live to the age of two years my desire is that my daughter Christianna Lassetter may be possessed of it, and in case this Christianna should die without an heir of her body then the said child to be sold and the money to be equally divided between the three eldest brothers and their sister. Namely, Benjamin Lassetter, Jesse Lassetter, John Lassetter, and Rebekah Lassetter...and the remaining part of my estate that is not already given away in legacies to be sold and equally divided amongst all my children...”<sup>36</sup>

While it is possible that Archibald was a child who was simply not mentioned in the will, his absence in the will most likely indicates that he was not a child of Tobias Lassiter. Tobias Lassiter specifically listed his three eldest sons as Benjamin Lassiter, Jesse Lassiter, and John Lassiter. Benjamin Lassetter was born in 1778 according to his tombstone, Jesse Lassetter was born between 1781-1790 according to census records, and John Lassetter was born between 1781-1790 according to the 1840 census.<sup>37</sup> As the birth range for Archibald Lassiter is 1771-1776, if he was a son of Tobias Lassiter, he would have been listed as one of the three eldest sons. Documentary evidence does not show that Archibald Lassiter was the son of Tobias Lassiter.

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<sup>36</sup> “Georgia Probate Records, 1742-1990,” Greene County, Georgia, Will of Tobias Lassier, 1804; digitized microfilm images, *FamilySearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 15 January 2022), image 768 of 1297; citing FHL microfilm 005764273. **Document 9**

<sup>37</sup> *Find A Grave*, memorial page for Benjamin Lassiter (12 December 1778 - 23 August 1869); database with images ([www.findagrave.com/memorial/59040936](http://www.findagrave.com/memorial/59040936); accessed 19 January 2022), Find A Grave Memorial #59040936; citing Saint Paul Methodist Church Cemetery, Whitesburg, Carroll County, Georgia; photo included.

1830 U.S. Census, Fayette County, Georgia, population schedule, page 192, line 14, Josse Lanter; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 22 January 2022); citing NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 17.

1840 U.S. Census, Fayette County, Georgia, population schedule, Capt Simms District, page 213, line 30, Jesse Lafuter; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 22 January 2022); citing NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 41.

1840 U.S. Census, Troup County, Georgia, population schedule, District 735, page 367, line 14, John Lassetter; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 22 January 2022); citing NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 51.

As for DNA evidence, Ancestry ThruLines has generated Tobias Lassiter as the father of Archibald Lassiter.<sup>38</sup> However, in the previous report, the common mistakes of Ancestry ThruLines were discussed as the tool relies solely on Ancestry member's family trees, and not on documentary sources.<sup>39</sup> One-hundred and thirty-seven DNA matches with Tester 1 were found to have Tobias Lassiter in their tree through Ancestry ThruLines. However, only eight of these matches appeared in the same cluster as the descendants of Archibald Lassiter (see Figure 6). This means they are probably related to Tester 1 through a different line in her family tree, or through multiple lines in her tree.

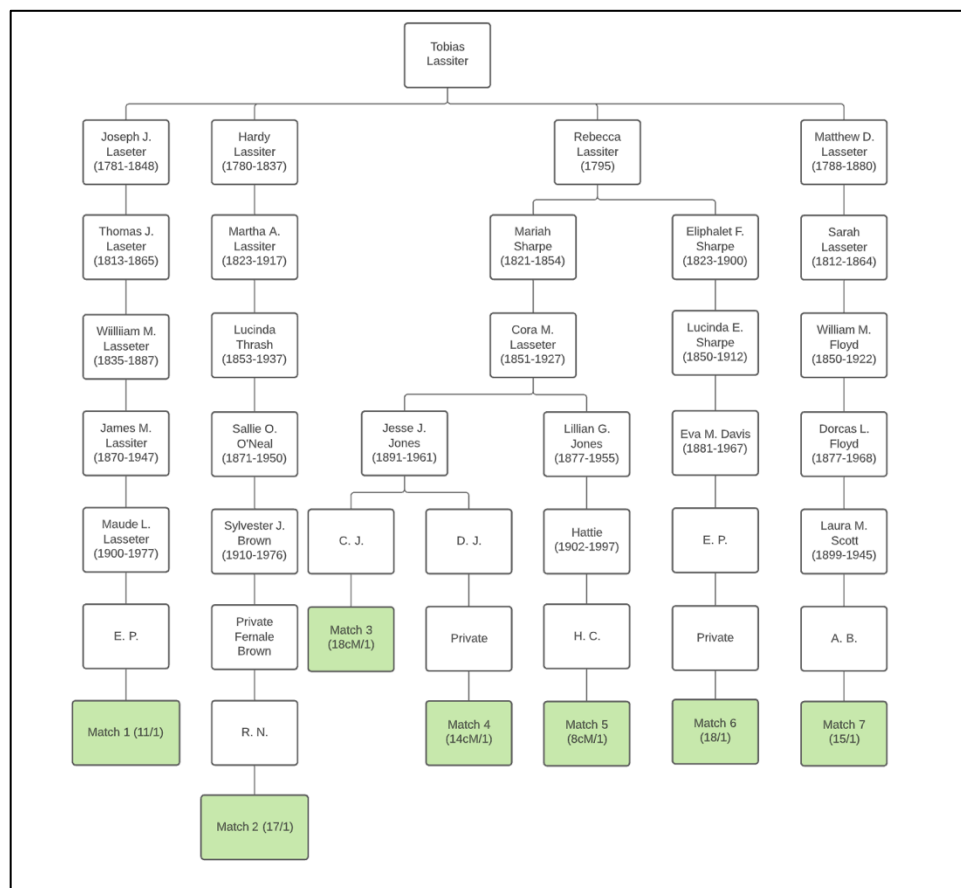


Figure 6. DNA Matches Between Tester 1 and Descendants of Tobias Lassiter

<sup>38</sup> Ancestry ThruLines Results for Tester 1, hypothesis for Archibald Lassiter as son of Tobias Lassiter, completed by AncestryDNA, (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-geneticfamily/thruLines/tree/1933332572:9009:66/for/2D3D41B9-C243-4658-A643-1CC4DAA0CBDB?> : accessed 19 January 2022).

<sup>39</sup> Allison Kotter, "Lassiter DNA Research Project," p. 11; 19 November 2021; digital copy held by Allison Kotter, Ringgold, Georgia.

These eight matches share an average of 14 cM with Tester 1. If Tobias Lassiter was the father of Archibald, then Tobias' descendants and Tester 1 would be around 5th cousins. The Shared cM Project by Blaine Bettinger estimates that 5th cousins share on average 25 cM. The Shared cM Project is a tool used to hypothesize family relationships based on the amount of shared DNA between two people. The Shared cM Project uses data from 60,000 DNA testers who have reported the amount of cM they share with known relatives.<sup>40</sup> While there does seem to be a relationship between the descendants of Tobias Lassiter and the descendants of Archibald Lassiter, the relationship is most likely more distant than fifth cousins.

### John Lassiter – Burke County, Georgia

Online family trees show that the spouse of John Lassiter was Martha Edwards and that the children of John Lassiter were Emery Benjamin Lassiter, Anna (Lasseter) Shewmake, and William Edward Lassiter.<sup>41</sup>

William Lassiter had a family bible that confirms that the names of his parents were John Lassiter and Martha.<sup>42</sup> Currently, only one page of this bible has been viewed, but a transcription found on William Edward Lassiter's *FamilySearch* profile, found that while he mentioned his parents, he named no siblings in the bible.<sup>43</sup> Future research should locate the original pages of the bible.

There was an Edward Lassiter who lived in Pulaski County, Georgia, at the same time as Archibald Lassiter. It is currently unclear if this Edward Lassiter was the same person as William Lassiter, a confirmed son of John Lassiter and Martha. It is possible that William Lassiter and Edward Lassiter were erroneously merged on *FamilySearch* as one person. With the records currently available, it seems unlikely they were the same man. William Lassiter's bible states he was born in 1795.<sup>44</sup> However, Edward Lassiter owned land in 1806, when William Lassiter would have only been 11.<sup>45</sup> Perhaps they were both sons of John and Martha

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<sup>40</sup> Blaine Bettinger, The Shared cM Project - Version 4.0 (March 2020), *DNA Painter* (<http://www.dnapiainter.com> : accessed 19 August 2021).

<sup>41</sup> *FamilySearch.org* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 29 December 2021), collaborative family tree, profile for John Lasseter, G338-CS3.

<sup>42</sup> "William Lasseter Sr's Family Bible", (Alexander, Georgia), column 1; digital images, *FamilySearch Memories* (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 3 January 2022); attached to William Edward Lassiter (PID: LH5J-51D), uploaded by RosemaryDoyle. **Document 10**

<sup>43</sup> *FamilySearch.org* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 29 December 2021), collaborative family tree, profile for William Edward Lasseter, LH5J-51D.

<sup>44</sup> "William Lasseter Sr's Family Bible", (Alexander, Georgia), column 1; digital images, *FamilySearch Memories* (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 3 January 2022); attached to William Edward Lassiter (PID: LH5J-51D), uploaded by RosemaryDoyle. **Document 10**

<sup>45</sup> Client to Allison Kotter, e-mail, 1 December 2021, "Burke County Records", attachment IMG\_3103001.jpg; privately held by Allison Kotter, (allisonroad1996@gmail.com), Ringgold, Georgia.

Lassiter. A future research project should compare William Lassiter and Edward Lassiter to conclude if they were the same man.

Edward Lassiter owned land in the same district as John Lassiter in Burke County, Georgia, in 1806.<sup>46</sup> At that time, Archibald Lassiter was directly south in Screven County.<sup>47</sup> In 1809 and 1810, Edward Lassiter and Archibald Lassiter were both taxed in Captain Lassiter's District in Pulaski County, Georgia.<sup>48</sup> Archibald was most likely the Captain Lassiter that the district was named after as he was listed in Captains of Districts in Pulaski County, Georgia, in 1809.<sup>49</sup> In 1816, a court case between Edward Lassiter and James L. Perry noted that Archibald Lassiter was the agent of Edward Lassiter.<sup>50</sup> This is direct evidence of a relationship between Archibald and Edward. They are also the only two Lassiters found in Pulaski County, Georgia, at this time, increasing the likelihood of a familial relationship.

Emery Lassiter, another reported son of John Lassiter, bought land in District 23 of Wilkinson County, Georgia, on 19 May 1808.<sup>51</sup> A year later, John Lassiter, of Burke County, bought land from Archibald Lassiter two districts over in District 21 of Wilkinson County, Georgia, on 25 March 1809.<sup>52</sup> The exchange of land in the same county during the same time period may indicate a relationship between John, Emery, and Archibald Lassiter.

Another connection between Archibald Lassiter and John Lassiter comes from their possible connection to the law. A land dispute between The Estate of John Lassiter and Archibald Lassiter in Pulaski County, Georgia, in 1818,<sup>53</sup> refers to John Lassiter as John Lassiter, Esq. Esq is short for esquire, which commonly refers to lawyers. It is unclear when the term esquire exclusively referred to lawyers, as it

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<sup>46</sup> Client to Allison Kotter, e-mail, 1 December 2021, "Burke County Records", attachment IMG\_3103001.jpg; privately held by Allison Kotter, (allisonroad1996@gmail.com), Ringgold, Georgia.

<sup>47</sup> Screven County, Georgia, General Deed Index, entry for Archibald Lassiter, 3 December 1805; "General index to deeds and mortgages, 1794-1906; deeds and mortgages, 1794-1910", digital images, *FamilySearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 22 December 2021), image 119 of 507; citing FHL microfilm 007896488. **Document 2**

<sup>48</sup> "Georgia, Tax Digests, 1787-1900," 1809-1810, Capt Lassiter's District, image 123 of 650, entry for Archibald Lassiter, *FamilySearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 27 December 2021); citing FHL microfilm 008153290. **Document 7**

<sup>49</sup> Daughters of the American Revolution, Hawkinsville Chapter, *History of Pulaski County Georgia, 1808-1935: Official History*, "Chapter VIII: The War of 1812" (Atlanta, GA: Press of W.W. Brown Pub. Co., 1935), page 235.

<sup>50</sup> Lee G. Barrow, *Early Court Records of Pulaski County, Georgia 1809-1825*, "Grand Juror list, June 1809" (Southern Historical Press, 1994), pg 148.

<sup>51</sup> Wilkinson County, Georgia, Land Lottery Grants Index, 19 May 1808, District 23, entry for Emory Lassiter, 19 May 1808; "Land lottery grants, 1805-1860", digital images, *FamilySearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 18 December 2021), image 160 of 192; citing FHL microfilm 008152383. **Document 11**

<sup>52</sup> Pulaski County, Georgia, Deed records, v. E, 1816-1829, vol. E, p. 282-288, entry for est of John Lassiter vs Archibald Lassiter, 25 March 1809; "Deeds and mortgages, 1807-1920; index, 1807-1939", digital images, *FamilySearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 17 November 2021), image 164-167 of 627; citing FHL microfilm 007899034.

<sup>53</sup> Pulaski County, Georgia, Deed records, v. E, 1816-1829, vol. E, p. 282-288, entry for est of John Lassiter vs Archibald Lassiter, 22 October 1817; "Deeds and mortgages, 1807-1920; index, 1807-1939", digital images, *FamilySearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 17 November 2021), image 164-167 of 627; citing FHL microfilm 007899034.



originally was a general title of respect for higher ranked men in society.<sup>54</sup> John Lassiter may have been a lawyer, but he may just have been a wealthy and contributing man in his county, earning him the title “esquire”. In 1811, a court record in Pulaski County, Georgia, named Archibald Lasseter as a magistrate for the county.<sup>55</sup> A magistrate administers the law, usually in the lower courts. This was another highly respected profession,<sup>56</sup> showing that both John Lassiter and Archibald Lassiter had similar social rank. This provides evidence that they were of the same family, as their social status is consistent throughout the records.

Through multiple connections throughout the records, documentary evidence points to John Lassiter as the father of Archibald Lassiter.

DNA evidence points to a connection between John and Archibald. More DNA matches have been found between their descendants than between Archibald and Tobias’s descendants. John Lassiter’s currently known children are Emery Lassiter, Anna (Lassiter) Shewmake, and William Edward Lassiter. So far, eighteen DNA matches have been found between Tester 1, a direct descendant of Archibald, and the descendants of John Lassiter. The average amount of shared DNA between Tester 1 and the descendants of John Lassiter via the three aforementioned children is 20cM (see Attachment 1).

The DNA connection between Tester 1 and the descendants of John Lassiter is stronger than her connection with the descendants of Tobias Lassiter. This is based on both the amount of DNA matches found for each and the average amount of shared DNA. However, this does not prove Archibald’s relationship to John Lassiter and more documentary research and DNA analysis needs to occur to get to a place of genealogical proof. The lines of descent for each DNA match should be verified with documentary evidence. Other common ancestral couples between Tester 1 and the matches should be ruled out as the source of the shared DNA.

These DNA connections were found in cluster 27 of the network graph (see figure 1), which is the cluster hypothesized to belong to Archibald’s parents. Because these DNA matches form a genetic network, it’s likely that they all share a common ancestral couple. More pedigree triangulation of this cluster could locate additional evidence that John was the father of Archibald. Pedigree triangulation done in this phase

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<sup>54</sup> Katheryn A. Thompson, "Tussle Over Titles," published 8 January 2006; *ABA Journal* ([https://www.abajournal.com/magazine/article/tussle\\_over\\_titles](https://www.abajournal.com/magazine/article/tussle_over_titles)) : accessed 22 January 2022), paragraph 3.

<sup>55</sup> Lee G. Barrow, *Early Court Records of Pulaski County, Georgia 1809-1825*, "Grand Juror list, June 1809" (Southern Historical Press, 1994), pg 179.

<sup>56</sup> Judy G. Russell, "The language of the law. Part Latin, part Anglo-Saxon, all confusing," published 9 January 2021; *The Legal Genealogist* (<https://www.legalgenealogist.com/2012/01/09/esquire/>) : accessed 22 January 2021), paragraph 7.

of research relied on pre-built trees at Ancestry.com. The next phase of research could include manually building trees of the closest matches.

## STRATEGIES TO FIND PARENTS OF ELIZABETH

Archibald may have married Elizabeth in Screven County or Burke County, Georgia. The 1797 headright record places Archibald Lassiter in Screven County, Georgia. His relationship to the John Lassiter family indicates he may have been from Burke County, Georgia. To find Elizabeth's parents, looking in Burke and Screven County, Georgia, may be the best place to start.

As discussed in the previous report, the DNA analysis of cluster 30 of the network graph has led to an understanding of some founder ancestors who are most likely further back than Elizabeth's parents. As so many of the identified common ancestors in this cluster are ten or more generations back, there is a possibility that this cluster is referring to distant ancestors of Archibald, instead of Elizabeth.

There is a possibility that Tester 1 inherited very little DNA from Elizabeth. Blaine Bettinger, a prominent genetic genealogist, explains, "With each generation, you inherit less DNA from an ancestor until a certain point – approximately seven generations – you receive DNA from only some of the ancestors in every generation."<sup>57</sup> It is also important to remember that an equal amount of DNA from every ancestor is not necessarily passed down due to the random recombination of chromosomes during meiosis.<sup>58</sup> As Archibald and Elizabeth are five generations away from Tester 1, there is a high possibility that Tester 1 received a high concentration of DNA from Archibald's side of the family, and little to none from Elizabeth. A solution to this problem would be to collect DNA from more descendants of Archibald and Elizabeth. This could find a descendant who inherited more DNA from Elizabeth.

As for cluster 30, there are 1323 DNA matches in the cluster, with a range of 10 cM – 67 cM. Many of the higher matches in this cluster have been identified as direct descendants of Archibald Lassiter and Elizabeth. However, only 14% of these matches are above 20 cM, and most of these matches only share on one segment. This is concerning since studies have shown that around 40% of segments 10 – 20 cM can be traced back beyond 10 generations.<sup>59</sup> Pedigree triangulation for this project has focused on the higher matches in this cluster. Despite this, no clear common ancestor has been found. This could mean that

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<sup>57</sup> Blaine Bettinger, "DNA Solutions: Genealogical vs. Genetic Family Trees," published 18 May 2016; *Family Tree Magazine* (<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/index.html%3Fp=7832.html> : accessed 13 August 2019); citing Nicole Dyer, "Charts for Understanding DNA Inheritance," published 14 August 2019; *Family Locket* (<https://familylocket.com/charts-for-understanding-dna-inheritance/> : accessed 22 January 2022).

<sup>58</sup> "Recombination," ISOGG Wiki (<http://www.isogg.org/wiki/Recombination> : accessed 22 January 2022), paragraph 1.

<sup>59</sup> Louis Kessler, "Revisiting Speed and Balding," published 5 November 2017; *Behold Genealogy* (<https://www.beholdgenealogy.com/blog/?p=2338> : accessed 22 January 2022), paragraph 3.

cluster 30 includes descendants of a distant common ancestor of more than 10 generations. This common ancestor could be through Archibald or Elizabeth, therefore making it an unreliable cluster to identify Elizabeth's parents.

## DNA Coverage

To find a genetic cluster that would point to Elizabeth's parents, more DNA needs to be collected for descendants of Archibald and Elizabeth. Collecting more DNA of descendants of Elizabeth will increase the likelihood that her DNA will be represented in the analysis. The term for this in genetic genealogy is DNA coverage.<sup>60</sup> For example, if the objective of a project was to prove a test-taker's mother, and only the test-taker's DNA had been collected, then 50% of the DNA of the research subject (the test-taker's mother) would be covered in the analysis. In this case, Elizabeth is the third great-grandmother of the test-taker, Tester 1. That means an estimate of only 3.125% of Elizabeth's DNA could appear in this analysis. Adding in the DNA of Tester 1's niece and nephew, Tester 2 and Tester 3, covers about 4.297% of Elizabeth's DNA.

This phase of the research contacted twenty DNA matches who descend from various lines of Archibald and Elizabeth. The DNA matches who were contacted were all third-great-grandchildren of Archibald and Elizabeth, the same distance as Tester 1. These DNA matches were asked to share their DNA results on *Ancestry.com*, as it would increase the DNA coverage of Elizabeth for this project. Specifically, if all twenty DNA matches share their DNA results, then 45.57% of Elizabeth's DNA would be covered. This is significantly more than the 4.297% that is currently available for the analysis. Attachment 2 shows the connections between these DNA matches that have been contacted.

To increase the coverage of Elizabeth's genome, best practices would be to collect DNA from multiple descendants of each of her children. This would ensure that the analysis was not limited to DNA only passed through one child. Table 1 shows the increase of DNA coverage gained from the matches of the different children of Archibald and Elizabeth. Keep in mind that if DNA matches increase the DNA coverage of a research subject by more than 5%, it is highly suggested to collect that DNA.

**Table 1. Potential DNA Coverage Increase from 3G Grandchildren of Archibald and Elizabeth**

Heirs from child of Archibald and Elizabeth	DNA Coverage Increase (in %)
6 more matches descended from Nancy Lassiter	+ 12.94% DNA Coverage

<sup>60</sup> Paul Woodbury, "Covering Your Bases: Introduction to Autosomal DNA Coverage," published 2020; *Legacy Tree Genealogists* (<https://www.legacytree.com/blog/introduction-autosomal-dna-coverage> : accessed 22 January 2022), paragraph 6.

4 more matches descended from Mary Lassiter	+7.26% DNA Coverage
4 more matches descended from John Lassiter	+6.92% DNA Coverage
4 more matches descended from William Lassiter	+6.57% DNA Coverage
2 more matches descended from Jane Lassiter	+1.77% DNA Coverage
<b>Total Increase if All Matches Share Their DNA:</b>	<b>+41.28% DNA Coverage</b>

\*Formulas used for the calculations in Table 1 are from Paul Woodbury's article on DNA coverage from *Legacy Tree Genealogists*.<sup>61</sup>

The high potential of increase in DNA coverage for Elizabeth's genome is clear in Table 1. Contacting these DNA matches and gaining access to their DNA results should be a high priority for the next phase of the research project. If the DNA matches are not responding to messages through *Ancestry.com*, public databases could aide in finding these matches' physical addresses. Letters could then be sent requesting access to their DNA results.

## CONCLUSION

This phase of the research was successful in identifying Archibald Lassiter's actions as early as 1797. It was also successful in identifying likely siblings and parents for Archibald. These steps were crucial in preparing to more fully research Elizabeth's parents. Reviewing the research done in the previous phase showed the confusion around the Screven County, Georgia, land headright found for Archibald Lassiter. The new documents found in this phase of the research confirmed that this headright belonged to the same Archibald Lassiter that was Elizabeth's husband. Confirming Archibald's location in 1797 led to a discussion of a possible birth range for both him and Elizabeth. It was concluded that Archibald Lassiter was born between 1771-1776, and Elizabeth was born 1771-1790, with her more likely being born in the middle of that range (1780). These birth ranges supported the hypothesis that Archibald and Elizabeth got married around the time of the land headright in 1797 in Screven County, Georgia. To discover where Archibald and Elizabeth were before 1797, more research was done on the identity of Archibald Lassiter's father. Tobias Lassiter and John Lassiter were discussed as possible fathers for Archibald, with John Lassiter the more likely candidate according to both documentary and DNA evidence. More DNA analysis was done for Elizabeth's parents as well, but the results were inconclusive. The difficulties and strategies of discovering this intersection were discussed.

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<sup>61</sup> Paul Woodbury, "Covering Your Bases: Introduction to Autosomal DNA Coverage," published 2020; *Legacy Tree Genealogists* (<https://www.legacytree.com/blog/introduction-autosomal-dna-coverage> : accessed 22 January 2022), paragraph 10.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

- Collect DNA from more descendants of Archibald Lassiter and Elizabeth. 20 DNA matches who are at the same generational distance away from Archibald and Elizabeth as Tester 1 have been contacted, but none have shared their DNA yet. These matches should be recontacted on Ancestry, Facebook, and postal mail. Other DNA websites should be utilized to find more DNA matches.
- Locate the original images of the family bible of William Edward Lassiter. Correspondence with a descendant of William Edward Lassiter has stated that the Family History Library has this bible. Request images of the bible through the Family History Library Lookup Service. Research both William Lassiter and Edward Lassiter to determine if they were the same man.
- More in-depth study on the records of Archibald's suggested siblings may lead to more information about him and his family. The siblings' *FamilySearch* profiles could be a great starting place for each of them and are linked below:
  - William Edward Lassiter: <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/LH5J-51D>
  - Anna (Lassiter) Shewmake: <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/G3T1-V3J>
  - Emery Benjamin Lassiter: <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/G99H-XMF>
- Burke County, Georgia, had a destructive fire in 1856 that destroyed most county records before that point. The Burke County Genealogical Society (BCGS) should be contacted to find offline records that may exist for the county. It is possible the genealogical society has records to the time period the Lassiter's lived in the area and may have more information.
  - BCGS Location: 403 Old Herndon Road, Waynesboro, GA, 30830
  - BCGS Mailing Address: PO Box 1522, Waynesboro, GA, 30830
  - BCGS e-mail: [burke.archives@gmail.com](mailto:burke.archives@gmail.com)
  - BCGS phone: 706-554-2138
- Screven County, Georgia, had a destructive fire in 1897 that destroyed many county records before that point. The Screven County Genealogical Society (SCGS) should be contacted to find offline records that may exist for the county. It is possible the genealogical society has records to the time period the Lassiter's lived in the area and may have more information.
  - SCGS Location: 384 Penrose Drive West, Savannah, GA, 31410-1234
  - SCGS Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/132964813386374/>

Thanks for allowing us to research your family! We look forward to continuing as desired.

A.K./N.D.

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