

Lassiter Research Project

July 19, 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's married 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 this report, the spelling "Lassiter" will be used unless directly quoting from a source.

RESULTS SUMMARY

- Expanded DNA Coverage of Elizabeth's genome by collecting DNA from six more descendants of Archibald and Elizabeth.
- Used the additional DNA to further confirm evidence of Archibald Lassiter's father as John Lassiter.
- Hypothesized that Lemuel Lassiter (b. 1820) may be the son of Archibald and Elizabeth rather than Archibald's distant cousin.
- Reviewed documentary research of Lemuel Lassiter (b. 1820) to strengthen the argument that Lemuel Lassiter's parents were Archibald Lassiter and Elizabeth.
- Noticed that Lassiter matches who had intermarriages with the family of Jonathan Woodall showed stronger DNA with the test-takers than other matches.
- Followed the migration pattern of Jonathan Woodall and confirmed it was a similar migration pattern that the Lassiter family followed.
- Identified fifteen matches through the greater Woodall family that supported a familial relationship between the Woodalls and Lassiters.
- Hypothesized that Jonathan Woodall was the father of Elizabeth but noted more research would need to be done to confirm or deny this hypothesis.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Two previous phases of research have been completed on this research objective. The past phases successfully identified Archibald Lassiter's actions as early as 1797 along with likely siblings and parents for Archibald. These steps prepared research to investigate more possibilities for Elizabeth's parents. Confirming Archibald's location in 1797 in Screven County, Georgia, led to a discussion of a possible birth range for both him and Elizabeth. This analysis 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 lived before 1797, research focused on the identity of Archibald Lassiter's father. Analyzing two possible fathers for Archibald, Tobias Lassiter and John Lassiter, showed 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.

Increasing DNA Coverage

The previous phase of research on this project concluded that progress would most likely not happen until more DNA was collected from descendants of Archibald and Elizabeth. At the point of the last phase, there were three total test-takers whose DNA were available for analysis. These test-takers together accounted for only 4.297% of Elizabeth's DNA. This phase of the research project began with a large outreach to descendants of Archibald and Elizabeth asking for access to their DNA results. Six more descendants of Archibald and Elizabeth provided their DNA for the project, resulting in nine total test-takers, and accounting for 16.2% of Elizabeth's DNA (see Figure 1).

Figure Hidden for Privacy

Figure 1. DNA Coverage for Elizabeth, the Wife of Archibald Lassiter

*Note: the calculations for this analysis were done using Paul Woodbury's article on *Legacy Tree Genealogists*.¹

Confirming Archibald's Father

The previous phase of the research project had concluded that Archibald's father was John Lassiter of Burke County, Georgia. Analyzing the new test-taker's DNA confirmed this conclusion as eleven more DNA matches between 15 and 44 cM were identified as descendants of John Lassiter. This is significant evidence for an ancestor 6 generations away from the test-takers, like John Lassiter is (see Attachment 1). A way to further confirm these relationships would be to have these test-takers and DNA matches transfer their DNA to GEDmatch so that their segment data could be analyzed and confirmed that they all are sharing segments passed down through John Lassiter.

¹ Paul Woodbury, "Covering Your Bases: Introduction to Autosomal DNA Coverage," published 2020; *Legacy Tree Genealogists* (<https://www.legacytrees.com/blog/introduction-autosomal-dna-coverage> : accessed 22 January 2022), paragraph 6.

Lemuel Lassiter (b. 1820)

Another significant finding from the analysis of the new test-takers was the number of matches identified who descended from Lemuel Lassiter (b. 1820). Based on online family trees, the descendants of Lemuel Lassiter (b. 1820) should be about eighth cousins with the test-takers. That is a very distant relation; eighth cousins, for the most part, only have a .24% chance of showing up on a test-taker's match list.² However, the thirty-nine matches through Lemuel Lassiter share about 22 cM on average (range 10-60 cM) with the descendants of Archibald Lassiter. Why is this? There are a few possibilities:

1. Lemuel Lassiter (b. 1820) is a child of Archibald and Elizabeth.
2. Lemuel Lassiter (b. 1820) is a nephew/brother of Archibald and of the pedigree of Lemuel Lassiter (b. 1820) that keeps appearing online is not accurate.
3. These high matches through Lemuel Lassiter (b. 1820) may be an indication of Elizabeth's family. Perhaps Elizabeth is a Lassiter too, but through Lemuel Lassiter's line? Perhaps she is related through his wife?

As these options would place Lemuel Lassiter's descendants anywhere from fourth to eighth cousins, these relationships are far enough to make it difficult to prove a relationship with cM values alone. The large number of matches found with an average of 22 cM indicates a relationship closer than eighth cousins, but documentary research should be consulted to determine the exact relationship.

Documentary Evidence of Lemuel Lassiter's Father

Is there any documentary evidence that Lemuel Lassiter could be the son of Archibald Lassiter? Lemuel Lassiter's birthdate is reported in online trees as 1820, so he would be expected to have a spot in the 1830 census with the Archibald Lassiter family. The 1830 census for Archibald Lassiter's household shows one male ten to fourteen years old and one male five to nine years old.³

² Mercedes, "What is an Eighth Cousin," *Who Are You Made Of* (<https://whoareyoumadeof.com/blog/what-is-an-eighth-cousin/> : accessed 8 July 2022).

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

Previously, it has been assumed that these spots represent the two youngest sons of Archibald that had been identified: Thomas Lassiter (b. abt 1812) and William Lassiter (b. abt 1821). However, further analysis shows that perhaps Thomas did not live in the household of Archibald currently.

According to the 1860 census, Thomas Lassiter's oldest child was born in 1832.⁴ However, Thomas' marriage record to Lucinda Moore shows that they did not get married until 1835.⁵ Researchers have hypothesized that perhaps Thomas was married before his marriage to Lucinda Moore, which would explain the birth of Thomas' first child. To support this, in 1830, the household directly above Archibald Lassiter's was the household of Thomas Lassiter.⁶ The household of Thomas Lassiter in 1830 only consists of two people: one male 15-20 and one female 15-20. This supports that the son of Archibald, Thomas Lassiter, lived in a separate household in 1830.

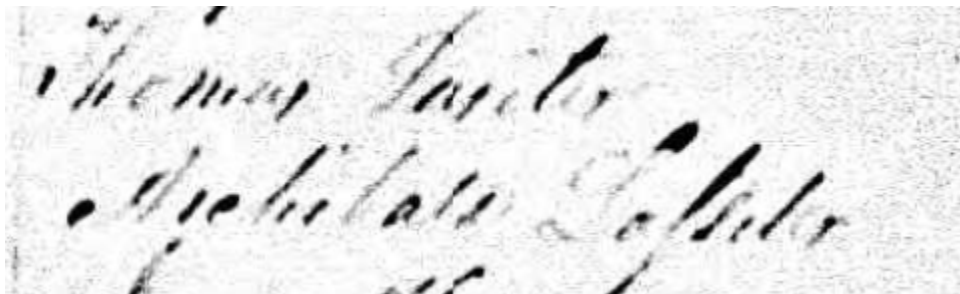


Figure 2. Thomas Lassiter and Archibald Lassiter in the 1830 Census

This opens the spot in the 1830 census for a 10–15 year old male in Archibald's household. The reported birthdates for Lemuel Lassiter range from 1816 to 1820 which would put him right in this age range in 1830. Along with that, Lemuel Lassiter married Malinda Caroline Mason in 1839 in Benton County, Alabama.⁷ Malinda's father was James Mason, whose estate record in 1851 names all

⁴ 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.

⁵ "Alabama, County Marriage Records, 1805-1967", Thomas Lassiter & Lucinda Moore, 15 January 1835, Jefferson County, Alabama; database with images, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 8 July 2022), image 160 of 264; citing FHL microfilm #001299236.

⁶ 1830 U.S. Census, St. Clair, Alabama, population schedule, page 231, line 2, Thomas Jasiter; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 8 July 2022) citing NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 4. **Document 1**

⁷ *FamilySearch.org*, profile for Lemuel Samuel Laster, database (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 14 June 2022).

his children and their spouses, which confirms this relationship and Malinda's husband as Lemuel Lassiter.⁸ Archibald Lassiter attended James Mason's estate sale. No DNA connection has been found between Archibald Lassiter and James Mason, meaning they were most likely associates. If Archibald's son married James Mason's daughter, that would explain how they were associated with one another.

Another piece of evidence that Lemuel Lassiter was the son of Archibald and Elizabeth Lassiter is that when the Lassiter family relocated to Saline County, Arkansas, Lemuel Lassiter also moved to Saline County at this time.⁹ Along with that, the proposed parents of Lemuel Lassiter from online family trees are Lemuel Lassiter (b. 1795) and Mary Ann Parker.¹⁰ When researching this couple, the will of Lemuel Lassiter (b. 1795) listed his children but did not list Lemuel Lassiter (b. 1820).¹¹ This provides further evidence that the parents for Lemuel Lassiter (b. 1820) found on online family trees are incorrect. Future research could do more documentary work to confirm this hypothesis using land, probate, court, and tax records from the various counties both Lemuel Lassiter and Archibald Lassiter lived in. All this documentary evidence in addition to the DNA evidence is strong evidence that Lemuel Lassiter was the son of Archibald and Elizabeth Lassiter.

Woodall Connection

Of the thirty-nine DNA matches found descending from Lemuel Lassiter, eighteen of them descend from Lemuel's daughter Nancy Laster. That means forty-six percent of the matches found

⁸ Patti Fowler, (pattirfowler@gmail.com), to Allison Kotter, e-mail, 1 December 2021, "Benton County Alabama Records", attachment IMG_3327.jpg; privately held by Allison Kotter, (allisonroad1996@gmail.com), Ringgold, Georgia.

⁹ 1860 U.S. Census, Davis, Saline, Arkansas, population schedule, Post Office: Belfast, page 64, dwelling 400, family 400, entry for Lemuel Laster; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 8 July 2022) citing FHL microfilm 803050. **Document 2**

¹⁰ Public Member Trees, "McDowell Williams Rideout Family Tree", family tree by FCampbell49; database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/40075014/recent> : accessed 8 July 2022); sourced data for family of Lemuel Lassiter.

¹¹ "Georgia, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1742-1992", Pike County, Georgia, Record of Wills, Vol CoD, 1844-1912, entry for Lemuel Lasiter, 10 Apr 1863; digitized microfilm images, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 8 July 2022), image number 163. **Document 3**

through Lemuel are through his daughter Nancy. That is an odd find. There could be multiple reasons:

1. More of Nancy's descendants have tested and have built trees making them easy to identify.
2. Nancy had more children than her siblings, making it more likely that her descendants would be found.
3. Certain segments that were passed to Nancy and her descendants just happen to be the same segments that were passed to the test-takers in this project.

While these are possibilities, they seem unlikely when looking at the data. Nancy did have eight children, some of Nancy's siblings had nine children, making it so that she does not stand out in how many descendants she would have. As for the segment argument, that would be more likely if this project was not using multiple test-takers from multiple lines. However, the ten matches who descend through Nancy come from four test-takers who all come from independent lines of Archibald's descendants. This is a stronger indication that there is another explanation here.

Something to notice as well is that many of the matches descending from Nancy share multiple segments with the test-takers. This contrasts with the other Lemuel Lassiter descendants who mostly share one segment. Could the matches descending through Nancy be sharing DNA with the test-takers from two different places? Nancy's husband was Joshua Woodall, and perhaps the family shares DNA with the Woodall line as well?

What is interesting about this hypothesis is that there are other examples of descendants of Archibald and Elizbeth marrying within the Woodall family where more DNA seems to be shared. Lemuel Lassiter had another daughter, Sarah Laster, whose daughter Martha married a Woodall. For context, excluding Nancy and Sarah's descendants, the other children of Lemuel Lassiter show, on average, two matches per child. However, through Nancy there are eighteen matches, and through Sarah there are fourteen matches. Three of the matches through Sarah are through her son Ernest, and eleven are through Sarah's daughter Martha who married a Woodall.

Figure 3. DNA Matches through Lemuel Lassiter (b. 1820)

Another example is from Archibald and Elizabeth's son, John Washington Lassiter. John had a lot of children, so a lot of DNA matches have been found through his line. However, there is only about one DNA match for each of John Washington Lassiter's grandchildren. This is except for John Washington's grandson, Jonathan P. Moore, who married a Woodall. Where the other grandchildren are only, on average, sharing one descendant with the test-takers, there are seven matches with the test-takers through Jonathan P. Moore's descendants. Segment data would be crucial in confirming that some of these matches are matching the test-takers through the Woodalls as opposed to the Lassiters.

Jonathan Woodall

Documentary Evidence

To test the hypothesis that matches through Nancy Lassiter could be sharing DNA through the Lassiters and another family, research was conducted on Nancy's husband Joshua Woodall. Nancy Lassiter married Joshua Woodall (b. 1849).¹² The 1850 census infers that Joshua Woodall's father was Abraham Woodall (b. 1817).¹³ Abraham moved his family to Saline County, Arkansas, around 1860, the same time the Lassiter's moved there.¹⁴ Prior to Abraham having his own

¹² "Arkansas, County Marriages Index, 1837-1957", Joshua Woodall and M. Lassiter, 17 October 1886, Grant County, Arkansas; database index, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 8 July 2022); citing FHL microfilm #1287322. **Document 4**

¹³ 1850 U.S. Census, Yalobusha County, Mississippi, population schedule, North of the Yalobusha River, page 444A, dwelling 963, family 963, entry for Abram Woodall; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 14 June 2022); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 382. **Document 5**

¹⁴ 1860 U.S. Census, Calvert, Saline, Mississippi, population schedule, Belfast, page 579, dwelling 169, family 169, entry for Abram Woodall; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 14 June 2022); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 50. **Document 6**

household, past researchers have noted him as one of the sons of Jonathan Woodall and Elizabeth Baker.¹⁵

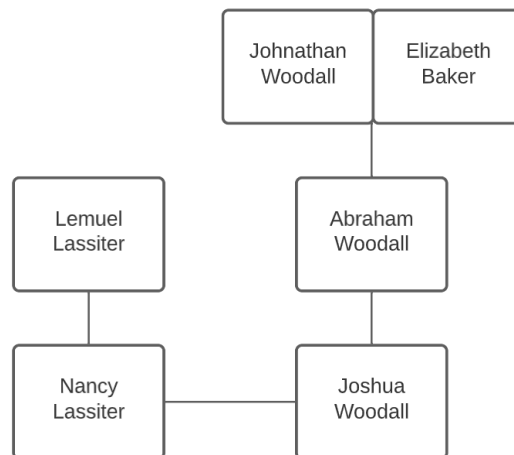


Figure 4. Joshua Woodall tree to Jonathan Woodall and Elizabeth Baker

In 1830, Abraham would have still been living with his parents. It appears his mother was widowed, as the household of Elizabeth Woodall was in Jefferson County, Alabama, in 1830, with a spot for Abraham.¹⁶ Jefferson County neighbors St. Clair County, Alabama, and is two counties west from Calhoun/Benton County, Alabama, both counties where the Lassiter family lived at this time.



¹⁵ Public Member Trees, "England Family Tree", family tree by Leslee Ballard; database, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/18846134/family?cfpid=721501759&fpid=722070736> : accessed 8 July 2022); sourced data for family of Abraham Woodall.

¹⁶ 1830 U.S. Census, Jefferson County, Alabama, population schedule, page 177, line 22, Elizabeth Woodall; digital image, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 June 2022) citing NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 1.

Figure 5. Proximity of Jefferson County, Alabama, to St. Clair and Calhoun County¹⁷

Elizabeth Baker Woodall's husband was Jonathan Woodall, who died in 1826, which would support that she was a widow in 1830.¹⁸ He was buried in St. Clair County, Alabama. Authored sources show that Jonathan was born in 1754 in Buckingham, Buckingham, Virginia, and that he married Elizabeth Baker in 1795 in Greene County, Georgia.¹⁹ The will of John Woodall in Wilkes County, Georgia, in 1796, also mentions Jonathan Woodall as the son of John Woodall.²⁰ At the time, Wilkes County was a few counties north of Burke County, where Archibald Lassiter is thought to be from.

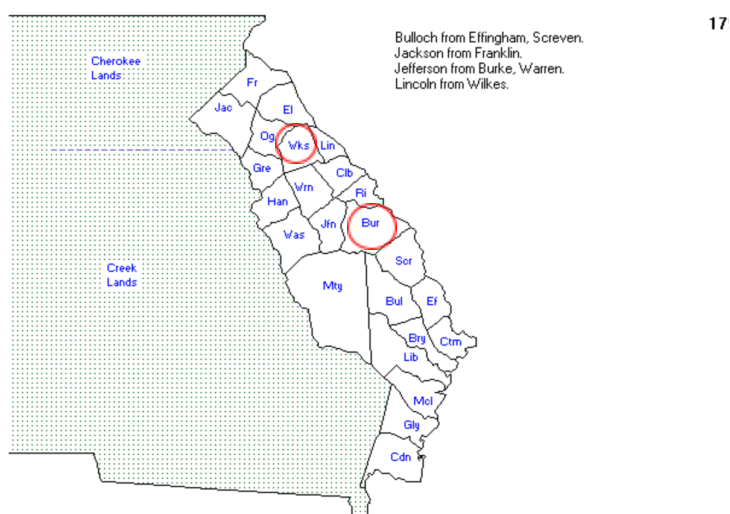


Figure 6. Proximity of Wilkes County, Georgia, to Burke County²¹

¹⁷ FamilySearch Research Wiki, Jefferson County, Alabama, Genealogy, digital-topo-maps.com, 2005.

¹⁸ Find A Grave, memorial page for Jonathan Woodall I (1754-1826); database with images (www.findagrave.com/memorial/20440568: accessed 14 June 2022), Find A Grave Memorial #20440568; citing Springville Cemetery, Springville, St. Clair County, Alabama; photo included with detailed inscription. **Document 8**

¹⁹ Public Member Trees, "England Family Tree", family tree by Leslee Ballard; database, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/18846134/family?cfpid=721501750&fpid=722070736> : accessed 8 July 2022); sourced data for family of Jonathan Woodall.

²⁰ "Georgia, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1742-1992", Wilkes County, Georgia, Will Books, 1791-1819, entry for John Woodall, 25 May 1796; digitized microfilm images, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 8 July 2022), image number 184. **Document 9**

²¹ MapsofUS.org, Interactive Map of Georgia County Formation History, 1796.

The following table follows the timeline of the Woodall family and compares it to the timeline known for Elizabeth, the wife of Archibald Lassiter.

Table 1. Migration Patterns of the Woodall and Lassiter Families

Woodall Family	Elizabeth Lassiter
1754 - Jonathan Woodall born in Virginia ^a	
	1782 - Elizabeth born in Virginia ^b
1795 - Jonathan Woodall married in Greene, GA (at age 41) ^c	
1796 - Jonathan Woodall mentioned in the will of John Woodall, Wilkes Co, GA ^d	1797 - Archibald Lassiter headright record in Screven Co, GA ^e
1812 - Jonathan Woodall taxed in Franklin Co, TN ^f	1816 - Lassiter family rumored to have gone and stayed with family in Tennessee ^g
1826 - Jonathan Woodall buried in St. Clair Co, AL ^h	1819 - Archibald Lassiter family appears in St. Clair Co, AL ⁱ
1860 - Abraham Woodall (son of Jonathan) moves to Saline Co, Arkansas ^j	1860 - Elizabeth Lassiter moves to Saline Co, Arkansas ^k
<p>a. Public Member Trees, "England Family Tree", family tree by Leslee Ballard; database, <i>Ancestry</i> (https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/18846134/family?cfpid=721501750&fpid=722070736 : accessed 8 July 2022); sourced data for family of Jonathan Woodall.</p> <p>b. 1860 U.S. Census, Davis, Saline, Arkansas, population schedule, Post Office: Turin, page 556, dwelling 20, family 20, entry for Elizabeth Laster; digital image, <i>Ancestry</i> (http://www.ancestry.com : accessed 17 September 2021) citing FHL microfilm 803050.</p>	

- c. Public Member Trees, "England Family Tree", family tree by Leslee Ballard; database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/18846134/family?cfpid=721501750&fpid=722070736> : accessed 8 July 2022); sourced data for family of Jonathan Woodall.
- d. "Georgia, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1742-1992", Wilkes County, Georgia, Will Books, 1791-1819, entry for John Woodall, 25 May 1796; digitized microfilm images, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 8 July 2022), image number 184. **Document 9**
- e. "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.
- f. Transcribed by Betty Givens Moore, "Franklin County, Tennessee, Tax and Voter Registration List, 1812," 'Ansearchin' News, vol. 18, (issue 4): pg 158, image 10 of 80; image copy, *Tennessee Genealogical Society* (<http://www.tngs.org> : accessed 30 June 2022). **Document 10**
- g. Patti Fowler, (email address privately held), to Nicole Dyer, e-mail, 2 August 2021; privately held by Nicole Dyer, Arizona.
- h. *Find A Grave*, memorial page for Jonathan Woodall I (1754-1826); database with images (www.findagrave.com/memorial/20440568: accessed 14 June 2022), Find A Grave Memorial #20440568; citing Springville Cemetery, Springville, St. Clair County, Alabama; photo included with detailed inscription.
Document 8
- i. Mrs. C. P. McGuire, *Early St. Clair County, Alabama records*, "Members of 1st Jury to Serve in St. Clair County" (Birmingham, Alabama: compiled by author), page 6; digitized manuscript images, *FamilySearch.org* (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 7 December 2021); image 7 of 110.
- j. 1860 U.S. Census, Calvert, Saline, Arkansas, population schedule, Post Office: Belfast, page 579, dwelling 169, family 169, entry for Abram Woodall; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 8 July 2022) citing FHL microfilm 803050. **Document 6**
- k. 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.

The migration routes between the two families are interesting and supports that the Woodalls and Lassiters were kin of some kind. Another note from this timeline is that Jonathan Woodall did not marry Elizabeth Baker until he was 41 years old, if the dates reported on online trees

are correct. That is odd for that point in time. Elizabeth Lassiter was born around 1782, when Jonathan Woodall would have been 28. Could she be his daughter from a first marriage?

According to Jonathan Woodall I's gravestone, he had land in Roebuck, Alabama, which is in Jefferson County, Alabama.²² Jefferson County neighbors St. Clair County, Alabama. Aside from his gravestone, no original records of Jonathan Woodall Sr. in St. Clair or Jefferson County were identified during this phase of the research.²³ The land described on his tombstone was patented by Jonathan Woodall's son,²⁴ but no probate has been found indicating that land was passed down from Jonathan Woodall Sr.

A few years after Jonathan's death, multiple Woodall men patented land right next to each other in St. Clair County, Alabama.²⁵ These appear to be Jonathan Woodall's sons. Of particular interest is that the land they patent just happens to be two sections away from the land owned by Archibald Lassiter. Could a family connection have brought them to St. Clair? These patent files can be ordered from the National Archives and they often have witness statements from associates of the family confirming their ownership of the land. This may be a good option to see if the Lassiters could have witnessed for the Woodalls at this point in time.

Briefly tracing Jonathan Woodall back in time did not find any further evidence of a familial relationship between the Woodalls and the Lassiters. The earliest record currently identified for

²² Find A Grave, memorial page for Jonathan Woodall I (1754-1826); database with images (www.findagrave.com/memorial/20440568; accessed 14 June 2022), Find A Grave Memorial #20440568; citing Springville Cemetery, Springville, St. Clair County, Alabama; photo included with detailed inscription. **Document 8**

²³ See Research Log.

²⁴ Jefferson County, Alabama, Land Patent, accession AL0870..320, document 12051, entry for John J. Woodall, 20 March 1837; "U.S. General Land Office Records, 1776-2015", digital images, *Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management: General Land Office* (<http://www.glorecord.blm.gov> : accessed 8 July 2022); citing Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records. **Document 11**

²⁵ St. Clair County, Alabama, Land Patent, accession AL1270..205, document 5864, entry for John J. Woodall, 30 July 1833; "U.S. General Land Office Records, 1776-2015", digital images, *Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management: General Land Office* (<http://www.glorecord.blm.gov> : accessed 8 July 2022); citing Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records. **Document 12**

St. Clair County, Alabama, Land Patent, accession AL1240..339, document 4498, entry for Johnathan Woodall, 14 October 1834; "U.S. General Land Office Records, 1776-2015", digital images, *Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management: General Land Office* (<http://www.glorecord.blm.gov> : accessed 8 July 2022); citing Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records. **Document 13**

Jonathan Woodall is a record of Jonathan witnessing for land his brother, Joseph Woodall, bought in Wilkes County, Georgia, in 1795.²⁶ As no record of Jonathan has been found prior to this date, no evidence of a first marriage that Elizabeth could have been born through has been identified either.

DNA Evidence

DNA research on the multiple test-takers have identified fifteen Woodall matches that are in the same genetic network as Archibald and Elizabeth's descendants (see Attachment 2).

There is most likely more, but only the surnames Woodall and Pledge were quickly searched through the test-taker's match lists and only matches with well-built trees were analyzed. These fifteen matches have an average of 18 cM. When compared to an expected relationship if Jonathan Woodall was the father of Elizabeth, all relationships were found to be within one standard deviation of the mean for the expected relationship. The following table shows the names of the matches, the number of identified Lassiter matches they are sharing DNA with (over 20 cM), their cM, the expected relationship for the hypothesis, the likelihood of the relationship being correct based on the shared cM project, how many standard deviations from the mean, and if the relationship has significant entries on the shared cM project (meaning over 1000).

Table 2. Woodall Matches tested with Hypothesized Relationship of Jonathan Woodall as Father of Elizabeth

Matches	# of Identified Lassiter Matches	cM	Expected Relationship	% Likelihood	# of Standard Deviations	Sig Entries
Match 1	3	37 cM	4C1R	50%	1 SD	Yes
Match 2	1	21 cM	5C	58%	1 SD	Yes

²⁶ Wilkes County, Georgia, "Plats of land grants, 1783-1794", Deeds v. D, 1787-1821, p. 223, entry for Joseph Woodall, 7 December 1795; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<http://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 30 June 2022), image 147 of 631; citing FHL microfilm #008153374. **Document 14**

Match 3	2	23 cM	4C1R	57%	1 SD	Yes
Match 4	2	11 cM	4C1R	62%	1 SD	Yes
Match 5	1	10 cM	5C	62%	1 SD	Yes
Match 6	2	21 cM	5C2R	58%	1 SD	No - 242
Match 7	1	27 cM	6C	56%	1 SD	No - 441
Match 8	2	10 cM	5C1R	62%	1 SD	No - 975
Match 9	2	18 cM	5C1R	59%	1 SD	No - 975
Match 10	2	19 cM	6C1R	59%	1 SD	No - 441
Match 11	4	21 cM	6C1R	58%	1 SD	No - 441
Match 12	6	21 cM	7C	58%	1 SD	No - 258
Match 13	2	14 cM	7C1R	61%	1 SD	No - 330
Match 14	2	14 cM	7C1R	61%	1 SD	No - 330
Match 15	2	10 cM	7C	62%	1 SD	No - 258
Match 16	2	10 cM	7C	62%	1 SD	No - 258

These numbers do seem to support the hypothesis, however with such small cM values, it is hard to put a lot of weight on these values alone. There are a few reasons why, even if Jonathan Woodall is Elizabeth's father, that DNA matches would be hard to find.

1. In the last report it was explained that going this far back with a person's DNA is subject to random recombination. The test-takers may have inherited very little DNA from Elizabeth's side of the family. Collecting more test-takers for this phase of the project was essential in

finding these connections, but more test-takers could help solidify evidence or show that the hypothesis is wrong.

2. If the hypothesis that Elizabeth is a child through a first marriage for Jonathan Woodall, then the children of Jonathan Woodall that matches are being identified through are half siblings of Elizabeth. This would mean that not only are these matches multiple generations back but are also sharing less DNA than they would be if they came from a full sibling of Elizabeth.
3. During the research of this project, it became clear that little research has been done to complete the descendency research for Jonathan Woodall's family. Many family trees only show two sons for him and do not have his children and their children built out. This makes it harder for people submitting their DNA to know they have Woodall DNA as the research is not readily available. This would make it harder to identify Woodall matches.

Both preliminary documentary and DNA research seem to support the hypothesis that the father of Elizabeth Lassiter could have been Jonathan Woodall. More research will need to be done in both areas to make this a stronger conclusion.

Conclusion

At this point in the research, time had expired. The overall objective for this project and all its phases is to identify the parents of Elizabeth, the wife of Archibald Lassiter. Previous phases have confirmed the actions of Elizabeth and Archibald after their marriage but have not identified possible parents for Elizabeth. This project collected more DNA from descendants of Archibald and Elizabeth with the hope that more DNA from Elizabeth's side of the family would appear in the analysis. The additional DNA confirmed past conclusions on Archibald's side of the family and revealed some DNA connections that had not been completely explained. Many matches descending from Lemuel Lassiter (b. 1820), raised the question of if Lemuel Lassiter was a child of Archibald and Elizabeth as opposed to a distant cousin as online trees had hypothesized. The documentary evidence showed a close connection between Lemuel Lassiter and Archibald's family making it appear likely that Lemuel was Archibald's son. Another odd connection found was the number of matches found between members of the Lassiter family who married members of the

Woodall family. Looking more into this connection showed that the family of Jonathan Woodall and Archibald Lassiter seemed to follow very similar migration patterns throughout their lives. Multiple DNA matches from the various test-takers also supported a familial connection between the Woodalls and the Lassiters. Overall, a hypothesis was formed that Elizabeth's father was Jonathan Woodall. More research will have to be conducted to confirm or reject this hypothesis.

Future Research Suggestions

- Collect more DNA from Lassiter descendants to increase DNA coverage further than already covered.
- Ask these test-takers and DNA matches transfer their DNA to GEDmatch so that their segment data could be analyzed and confirmed that they all are sharing segments passed down through the hypothesized ancestors.
- Do a more in-depth look at records for Lemuel Lassiter to find direct evidence that he is the son of Archibald and Elizabeth Lassiter. This could include:
 - [Land records in St. Clair County, Alabama](#)
 - [Land records in Benton County, Alabama](#)
 - [Land records in Jefferson County, Alabama](#)
- Order patent files from the National Archives for the Woodall patents in St. Clair County, Alabama. These patent files often required witness statements, and the Lassiters may witness for the Woodalls showing an association between the two families. These records often cost \$50.00 a record and can take time to arrive in the mail. They can be ordered on the [National Archives website](#).
- Further research on Jonathan Woodall prior to 1795 to see if he had a wife or children prior to his marriage to Elizabeth Baker. This would best be done by looking in Buckingham County, Virginia, where he is rumored to be from. Research on his parents and siblings confirmed through his father's will can also help locate where he lived prior to Wilkes County, Georgia.
- Building trees for shared matches of the identified Woodall matches to find more connections between the Lassiters and Woodalls.

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

A.K. / N.D.

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