
Aaron Strickland's North Carolina Origin

By Laurel T. Baty, CG

Records that should exist, but do not, need not be barriers. Thorough research and multiple comparisons can surmount such roadblocks.

When research subjects appear far from their birthplaces and without parental candidates, determining parentage may seem impossible. Analyzing records created soon after a migration and studying associates may reveal origins, however. Aaron Strickland illustrates the challenges and methods to overcome them.

Aaron is easily traced from Alabama, where he died, to Georgia, where he married. Backtracking to his birth, however, led to conflicting, misleading, missing, and puzzling records. Analysis, tabulation, and platting revealed Aaron's origin, siblings, and father. These processes also showed that two records—an estate partition and a judge's order—that helped answer the questions were rooted in misunderstanding and should not exist.

AARON STRICKLAND IN GEORGIA AND ALABAMA

Aaron had no obvious tie to Stricklands in Georgia or Alabama. Born in North Carolina in 1808–9, he married Susan Byrd on 25 August 1833 in Houston County, Georgia.¹ Susan, daughter of William and Nancy (Rogers) Byrd, was born in 1815–20 in Gates County, North Carolina. She died in Houston County

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1. For Aaron's birth, see 1850 U.S. census, Russell Co., Ala., population schedule, Beat 3, fol. 25v, dwelling 356, family 356, Aron Strickland household; National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) microfilm M432, roll 14. Also, 1860 U.S. census, Russell Co., Ala., pop. sch., Southern Division, p. 75, dwell. 573, fam. 555, Aron Strickland household; NARA microfilm M653, roll 22. For his marriage, see *Ancestry* (<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=4766>) > Georgia, Marriage Records from Select Counties, 1828–1978 > Houston > Marriages, Book A, 1833–1852 > image 42, for Houston Co., Ga., Marriage Book A:51, Strickland-Byrd, 25 August 1833.

before January 1837.² Aaron and Susan had one daughter, Susan Mary.³ Daniel Strickland, age eighteen in Aaron's 1850 Alabama household, might have been his son, born perhaps to a previous wife.⁴ Daniel appears in no other known record, including Aaron's father-in-law's will.⁵

Aaron consistently associated with William Byrd. Aaron's earliest Houston County record predates by a few months his marriage to William's daughter. On 20 March 1833 both men bought items at an estate sale.⁶ William witnessed Aaron's land purchase in Houston County on 28 December 1833 and its sale in 1835.⁷ Aaron headed no household in 1840, when he perhaps lived in William's household in Russell County, Alabama.⁸ In 1841 Aaron witnessed William's

2. For Susan's birth, see 1820 U.S. census, Gates Co., N.C., pop. sch., p. 139, William Byrd; NARA microfilm M33, roll 84. Also, 1830 U.S. census, Houston Co., Ga., p. 283, William Byrd; NARA microfilm M19, roll 18. Susan was one of two females under age ten in 1820 and the female age ten to fifteen in 1830. For her death, see F. L. Cherry, *The History of Opelika and her Agricultural Tributary Territory* (Opelika, Ala.: Genealogical Society of East Alabama, 1996), 250. Rev. Cherry's original manuscript, written in 1881, is available at the Alabama State Archives, Montgomery. For Susan's mother's maiden name, see *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1726957>) > North Carolina, County Marriages, 1762–1979 > Gates > Marriage Bonds, 1778–1868, vol A–D > image 582, for Gates Co., Marriage Bonds, Bird-Rogers, 17 October 1814.

3. *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1925446>) > Alabama Probate Records, 1809–1985 > Russell > Wills 1838–1873 vol 1–2 > images 150–51, for Russell Co., Record of Wills 2:7–8, William Byrd Senr, will of 28 August 1850, probated on 4 January 1851. Also, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1978117>) > Alabama Estate Files, 1830–1976 > Russell > Byrd, William (1847) > image 39, for Susan M. and Isaac Baker's receipt "fulfilling the last Will of William Byrd," 8 March 1851, in Russell Co., William Byrd Probate file. Susan Strickland married Isaac A. Baker on 21 or 22 January 1851 in Russell County, Alabama. Also, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1743384>) > Alabama, County Marriages, 1809–1950 > 007316787 > image 404, for Russell Co., Marriage Record White (1847–1855), p. 380, Baker-Strickland, marriage license 18 January 1851. The license was not returned, but Susan's obituary provides a marriage date of 22 January 1851. See Susan M. Baker obituary, *Alabama Christian Advocate*, Birmingham, Ala., 6 March 1902, page 14, col. 3. Also, Baker-Strickland marriage notice, *Palmetto State Banner*, Columbia, S.C., 25 February 1851, page 3, col. 5. The marriage notice, giving a marriage date of 21 January 1851, names Susan as Aaron's daughter.

4. 1850 U.S. census, Russell Co., Ala., pop. sch., Beat 3, fol. 25v, dwell./fam. 356, Aron Strickland household.

5. Russell Co., Ala., Record of Wills 2:7–8, William Byrd, 28 August 1850.

6. Houston Co., Ga., Appraisements and Sales Book A:242–45, Orrin Stephens's estate sale, 20 March 1833; Court of Ordinary, Perry, Ga.; microfilm 160/2, Georgia Archives (GA), Morrow.

7. Houston Co., Deed Book F:426, Kerzey to Stricklin, 28 December 1833; Superior Court, Perry; microfilm 295,961, Family History Library (FHL), Salt Lake City. Also, *ibid.*, F:634, Strickland to Pearce, 18 November 1835.

8. 1840 U.S. census, Russell Co., Ala., p. 15, Wm. Byrd; NARA microfilm M704, roll 15. The household includes a five-to-ten-year-old girl who may have been Aaron's daughter Susan. All males in the household are ten or older and appear to match William's known sons, suggesting Daniel was not Aaron's son.

land purchase there.⁹ In 1843, as a county resident, he bought his own land.¹⁰ In 1857 Aaron purchased land in Russell County.¹¹ In 1881, when Aaron's daughter sold the land via a warranty deed, it lay in Lee County.¹² No deed records Aaron's transferring the land to her.¹³

Aaron may have died about 1866. In his late fifties in August 1864, he was mustered into Company D of the Russell County Reserves.¹⁴ Enumerators for Alabama's 1866 census recorded all household heads and "the whole number of the members belonging to his or her family, how many were lost in the service during the late war, died of sickness or were killed in battle, or were disabled by wounds." Separately they enumerated white inhabitants by township.¹⁵ They sent two copies of each census to the state. All four survive for Russell County.

9. Russell Co., Ala., Deed Book D:222–23, Guerry to Byrd, 8 February 1841; Courthouse, Phenix City, Ala.; FHL microfilm 1,302,117.

10. *Ibid.*, E:173, Shepherd to Strickland, 3 January 1843.

11. Russell Co., Deed Book J:481, Duffie to Strickland, 5 February 1857; FHL microfilm 1,302,121, item 1. Aaron purchased 165 acres in Sections 24 and 25, Townships 18 and 19, Range 29 "commencing at the Opelika Rail Road, passing Joseph Howmacks[?] lands and Running east and northeast to Mrs. Cooks lands then North Factory Road, then running west with the Factory Road to the Sallas lands, then south to corner at a pond, then west [to] Mrs. Mary Sallas dower lands line then south to the Opelika Rail Road to the commencing corner."

12. Lee Co., Ala., Deed Book BB:321–22, Baker to Byrd, 11 January 1881; Courthouse, Opelika. For Lee County's formation, see Acts of the Session of 1866–7, of the General Assembly of Alabama, Held in the City of Montgomery, Commencing on the Second Monday in November 1866 (Montgomery: Reid and Screws, 1867), 50–53, "An Act to create a new county of portions of Chambers, Tallapoosa, Macon and Russell to be called the county of Lee." The Bakers were living in Polk County, Georgia, when they sold 165 acres in Sections 24 and 25, Townships 18 and 19, Range 29 "commencing at the Opelika Rail Road going to Joseph Hammacks land and running east and North East [to] Mr. Cropps land, then North to Factory Road, then running west with the Factory Road, to the Sallas land, then south to the corner to a point, then west to the Mary Sellers dower Land line, then south to the Opelika Rail Road to the commencing point."

13. The author searched two counties' deed indexes for Baker and Strickland and read all relevant deeds: Russell Co., General index to deeds and mortgages (direct), 1836–1887; FHL microfilm 1,845,692. Also, *ibid.*, General index to deeds and mortgages (reverse), 1836–1887; FHL microfilm 1,845,848. Also, Lee Co., Direct and indirect index to deeds and mortgages, 1867–1898; FHL microfilm 1,033,471.

14. Muster roll of Co. D, Russell County Reserves, 13 August 1864, for Aaron Strickland (age 59); Confederate Alabama Militia and Home Guard Unit Files, 1860–1914, SG029236; microfilm reel 21, Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH), Montgomery.

15. For enumerator instructions see Acts of the Session of 1865–6, of the General Assembly of Alabama, Held in the City of Montgomery, Commencing on the 3d Monday in November 1865 (Montgomery: Reid and Screws, 1866), 108–11, "An Act to provide for taking the census of the State of Alabama for the year 1866, as ordered by ordinance of the Convention of 1865."

Aaron appears only on the two recording Civil War deaths.¹⁶ In the township enumerations Jane King appears in his place. Households on each side of her match those on the Civil War death schedules.¹⁷ No Russell or Lee County probate record exists for Aaron.¹⁸ Nor does he appear in Alabama's 1867 voter registrations.¹⁹

STRICKLANDS IN HOUSTON COUNTY, GEORGIA

Stricklands were scarce in Houston County, where none headed a household in 1830 or 1840.²⁰ Just one record links Aaron directly to another Strickland there.²¹ Letters at the Perry, Georgia, post office on 1 April 1836 included one for "Riley Strickland or Aaron Strickland."²² Aaron submitted a Houston County tax return in 1835. Riley defaulted in the same tax district.²³

16. *Ancestry* (<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1576>) > Alabama State Census, 1820–1866 > 1866 > Russell > images 194 and 272, for 1866 Alabama state census, Russell Co., white pop. sch., pp. 51 and 40, Aaron Strickland. Aaron's household contained one male 60–70, one female 20–30, and one male under 10. The census notes one soldier from the household was killed during the war. The census returns, signed by J. A. Dodson and undated, should reflect inhabitants as of 1 April 1866.

17. *Ibid.* > images 54 and 126, for Township 18, Range 29 East, unnumbered, and p. 53, Jane King. Her household includes one male under 10 and one female over 20. Differences between the enumerations suggest they were taken at different times. For example, 6 percent of the household heads enumerated in Township 18, Range 29, where Aaron owned land, were missing from the census recording Civil War deaths, and composition of 17 percent of the households changed between the enumerations.

18. The author searched for Strickland in all indexed volumes for 1860–1885 at *FamilySearch* > Alabama Probate Records, 1809–1985 > Russell. Also, *FamilySearch* > Alabama Estate Files, 1830–1976 > Russell. Lee County probate records are not digitized. The author examined all indexed probate volumes for 1860–85 at the courthouse. Also, Lee Co., Estate Case Files, Stow, Rachel–Thompson, James N.; ADAH microfilm LGM269.

19. The author read all voter records for Russell and Lee counties for Strickland. See "1867 Alabama Voter Registration Records Database," database and images, *Alabama Department of Archives and History* (<http://www.archives.alabama.gov/voterreg/index.cfm>)

20. 1830 U.S. census, Houston Co., Ga., all pages read for Strickland; NARA microfilm M19, roll 8. Also, 1840 U.S. census, Houston Co., Ga., all pages read for Strickland; NARA microfilm M704, roll 43.

21. Davine V. Campbell and William R. Henry, *Land Records of Houston County, Georgia, 1822–1840*, 5 vols. (Warner Robins, Ga.: Central Georgia Genealogical Society, 1991–94). Also, William R. Henry, *Wills and Inferior Court Minutes of Houston County, Georgia, 1827–1855* (Warner Robins, Ga.: Central Georgia Genealogical Society, 1987). Also, *ibid.*, *Miscellaneous Estate Records of Houston County, Georgia, 1824–1834* (Warner Robins, Ga.: Central Georgia Genealogical Society, 1988). The author also examined indexes of all digitized Houston County probate volumes through 1850 for Strickland. See *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1999178>) > Georgia Probate Records, 1742–1990 > Houston.

22. "A List of Letters," *Macon Weekly Telegraph*, Macon, Ga., 14 April 1836, page 3, col. 5.

23. Houston Co., 1835 Tax Digest, Terry's district, pp. 232–33, Aron Strickland and William "Bird," and p. 236, Riley Strickland. The author read all pages of the Houston Co. tax digests for 1829, 1831, 1837, and 1839; GA microfilm 156/1. Intervening years do not survive.

Riley died in Houston County by late 1837; his probate record names no other Strickland. Joseph Culpepper applied for letters of administration on Riley's estate. Containing only personal property, it was appraised on 9 February 1838.²⁴ Riley's unnamed widow was the only Strickland purchaser.²⁵ Culpepper died before 10 February 1847, but his estate records show no Strickland tie.²⁶ Houston County's 1837 tax records, however, link Aaron indirectly to a third Strickland:

- Aaron filed a tax return for one poll in Terry's district.²⁷
- Riley Strickland did the same in Bateman's district.²⁸
- Blackburn Strickland, also in Bateman's district, defaulted on filing a return.²⁹

Riley and Aaron paid taxes in different districts in 1837, but they lived near one another. Riley's estate administrator, Joseph Culpepper, owned land near Aaron and paid his 1837 tax near Riley.³⁰

"Blackburn" Strickland was Blackman Strickland, who lived in Randolph County, Georgia, in 1840.³¹ In 1837, while living in Houston County, he purchased land in Randolph County.³² By 1850 Blackman, born in North

24. Letters of administration on the estate of Riley Strickland, legal notice, *Macon Weekly Telegraph*, 11 December 1837, page 4, col. 6. Also, *FamilySearch* > Georgia Probate Records, 1742–1990 > Houston > Administration and guardian bonds 1830–1851 > images 104–5, for Houston Co., Administrators and guardian bonds 1830–1851, pp. 145–46, Letters of administration on the estate of Riley Strickland, 27 December 1837. For the appraisal, see *ibid.* > Appraisements and sales 1834–1858 vol A–B > image 69, for Houston Co., Appraisements and Sales A:100, inventory of Riley Strickland's estate, 9 February 1838.

25. *FamilySearch* > Georgia Probate Records, 1742–1990 > Houston > Appraisements and sales 1834–1858 vol A–B > image 76, for Houston Co., Appraisements and Sales A:113–14, sale account for Riley Strickland estate, 10 February 1838.

26. *Ibid.* > image 199, for A:356–57, distribution of Joseph Culpepper's estate, 10 February 1847. Joseph left nine heirs: widow Margaret Hughs, formerly Culpepper; daughters Emily Moore, Elinor Hargrove, Ann Eliza Hargrove, and Martha Jane Holmes; and sons—all minors—Joseph John, Sampson William, James Baskin, and Robert Malory.

27. Houston Co., 1837 Tax Digest, Terry's district, pp. 6–7, Aron Strickland. William Byrd, who left Houston County in January 1837, does not appear on the 1837 tax list. For the date see Cherry, *The History of Opelika*, 250.

28. Houston Co., 1837 Tax Digest, Bateman's district, pp. 126–27, Riley Strickland.

29. *Ibid.*, p. 132, Blackburn Strickland.

30. *Ibid.*, pp. 126–27, Joseph Culpepper for 536 acres in the 13th district, lot 19, and Riley Strickland. Aaron owned lot 110 in the 13th district, although he sold it in late 1835. See Houston Co., Deed Book F:634, Strickland to Pearce, 18 November 1835. For proximity of the lots, see "Georgia's Virtual Vault: County Maps," *Georgia Archives* (<http://cdm.georgiaarchives.org:2011/cdm/landingpage/collection/cmf>) > County Maps > *Houston County Map* (Milledgeville, Ga: Secretary of State, 1867).

31. 1840 U.S. census, Randolph Co., Ga., p. 260, Blackman Strickland; NARA microfilm M704, roll 49.

32. Randolph Co., Ga., Deed Book C:363–64, Willoughby to Strickland, 1 December 1837; Courthouse, Cuthbert, Ga.; FHL microfilm 271,216.

Carolina in 1807–8, had settled in Alabama.³³ His age is in range for a brother of Aaron Strickland. Blackman's unique name appears in Sampson County, North Carolina.³⁴

STRICKLAND SIBLINGS IN SAMPSON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

In 1841 Blackman and other heirs of Autry Strickland petitioned for a division of Autry's land in Sampson County, North Carolina:

Moore_[s], Jonathan, Isaac, Daniel, Mason, Blackman, Anna and Sally are the brothers and sisters of said Autry and your petitioners Franklin and Anne the only children of Joanna sister to the said Autry. That the said Joanna is dead intestate leaving no issue but your said Petitioners. That your Petitioners Anna and Sally are respectively married to the other petitioners Josiah Jackson and Rufus Vann.³⁵

A later list names Aaron and Riley among Autry's heirs and omits Mason:

There being Nine Heirs (viz) Moore Strickland_[s], Daniel Strickland_[s], Blackman Strickland_[s], Rufus Van & wife_[s], Aaron Strickland_[s], Isaac Strickland_[s], Josiah Jackson & wife_[s], Jonathan Strickland and the Heirs of Riley Strickland dec^d.³⁶

The second list is correct:

- Autry left two tracts—212 acres on Seven Mile Swamp and 165 acres on Little Orchard. The nine heirs received equal shares—about twenty-four acres of the Seven Mile Swamp land and about eighteen acres of the Little Orchard land.³⁷ See figure 1 for the 165-acre tract. Absent a deed, the court sold part of Blackman's share. Adjoining landowners included Aaron but not Mason.³⁸

33. 1850 U.S. census, Barbour Co., Ala., pop. sch., Division 23, p. 216, dwell. 4, fam. 5, Blackman Strickland household; NARA microfilm M432, roll 1.

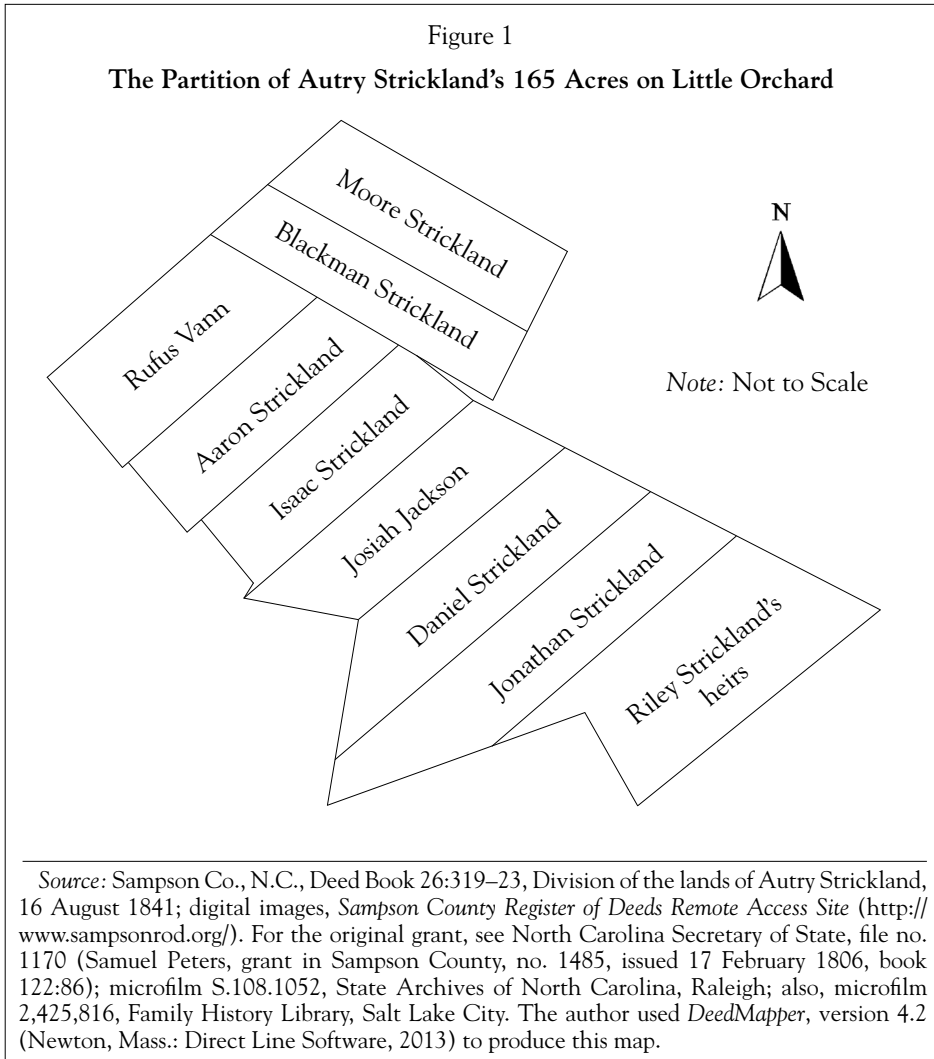
34. *Sampson County NCGen Web* (<http://www.ncgenweb.us/sampson/>) > Court Records > Estates and Wills > Moore Strickland, for "Estate records of Moore Strickland," transcribed by Jeanie Blanton Trimble, 2009. The transcription misidentifies Autry Strickland's estate as that of Moore Strickland.

35. *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1911121>) > North Carolina, Estate Files, 1663–1979 > Sampson County > S > Strickland, Autry (1841) > images 2–4, for Moore Strickland and others, petition for division, July term 1841, in Sampson Co., N.C., "Strickland, Autry," estate file, 1841.

36. Sampson Co., Deed Book 26:319–23, division of Autry Strickland's lands, 16 August 1841; digital images, *Sampson County Register of Deeds Remote Access Site* (<http://www.sampsonrod.org/>); also, FHL microfilm 553,549.

37. *Ibid.*

38. Sampson Co., Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions (1839–1843), 17 May 1842, unpaginated, Bright S. Herring vs. Blackman Strickland, 17 May 1842; microfilm C.087.3003, item 2, State Archives of North Carolina (SANC), Raleigh. For the deed's absence, see Sampson Co., Deed Books 26–28 (1839–1844), author's reading of all pages for sale of Blackman Strickland's land.



- Of the nine inheritances, only Isaac's disposal of his share is recorded. The adjoining landowners' names—W. C. Dudley, Joanna "Stricklin," and Daniel "Stricklin" for one tract; and William C. Dudley and Blackman Strickland for the other—suggest Isaac sold both his and Jonathan's shares.³⁹ That Joanna held Riley's share shows she was his living widow, not a deceased sister.
- Benjamin F. Strickland, born in North Carolina in 1833–34, and Aaron Strickland, born in Georgia in 1836–37, apparently were Riley and Joanna's children, identified as Franklin and Anne in the petition. Joanna and the

39. Sampson Co., Deed Book 36:111–12, Strickland to Wilson, 3 September 1852.

children lived in Moore Strickland's 1850 household.⁴⁰ Joanna's age (ten years older than Moore) and the petition's naming her and the children show they were not Moore's heirs.⁴¹ Moore was alive when Isaac's deed named Joanna as a landholder.⁴²

Subsequent transfers of the 165-acre sections refer to heirs Josiah Jackson and Riley, Moore, and Blackman Strickland.⁴³ When William A. Jackson mortgaged Riley and Moore's shares in 1866, he noted "the deed of which lands were destroyed by the Yankees and not registered."⁴⁴

Pointing to an earlier generation, Moses Cox, one of Daniel Strickland's creditors, mentioned his "Interest in the Daniel Strickland Land in the lott he drew from his Father Isaac Stricklands Lands."⁴⁵ William A. Jackson referred to the shares Moore and Riley had "in the division of the lands of Isaac Strickland decd."⁴⁶ Did the land belong to Autry or Isaac?

THE SIBLINGS' FATHER

Fire and war destroyed Sampson County's early probate records, pre-1867 marriage records, and pre-1877 tax rolls. Other sources confirm that Autry's nine heirs were Isaac's children.⁴⁷ Of the ten siblings, eight were males.

40. 1850 U.S. census, Sampson Co., N.C., pop. sch., Northern Division, fol. 407v, dwell./fam. 715, Moore Strickland household; NARA microfilm M432, roll 644. For Benjamin's middle initial, see Sampson Co., Deed Book 35:442, Strickland Report of Dower, 17 September 1863. Jennie was the widow of B. F. Strickland. Also, *FamilySearch* > North Carolina, Estate Files, 1663–1979 > Sampson County > S > Strickland, B. F. (1863). Also, *ibid.* > (1865).

41. Under the law of coverture, a married woman's identity merged with her husband's and she became a *feme covert*. See E. H. Bennett, ed., *The Law of Infancy and Coverture by Peregrine Bingham* (Burlington, Vt.: Chauncey Goodrich, 1849), 181.

42. Sampson Co., Deed Book 33:186, Bennett and Jones to Moore Strickland, 26 February 1854. Also, 1860 U.S. census, Sampson Co., N.C., mortality schedule, Northern Division, p. 4, line 14, Moore Strickland, age 50; NARA microfilm T655. Moore, a married pauper, died of palsy.

43. For Riley and Moore, see Sampson Co., Deed Book 36:65–66, Jackson to Wilson, 7 December 1866. For Josiah Jackson, see *ibid.*, 63:362, Tew to Hinson, 9 December 1871. For Blackman, see *ibid.*, 63:150–51, Wilson to Hinson, 25 December 1874.

44. Sampson Co., Deed Book 36:65–66, Jackson to Wilson, 7 December 1866.

45. Sampson Co., original wills, Moses Cox (1857); SANC; FHL microfilm 1,578,983. For Cox as creditor, see Sampson Co., Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions (1846–1851), 16 November 1846, unpaginated, Moses Cox vs. Daniel Strickland; SANC microfilm C.087.30004, item 2. Also, "Moses Cox vs. Daniel Strickland," *The North Carolinian*, Fayette, N.C., 17 July 1847, page 1, col. 4. The legal notice states, "Daniel Strickland has absconded." For the sale of Daniel's land, see Sampson Co., Deed Book, 63:48–49, Cox to Hinson, 17 November 1869.

46. Sampson Co., Deed Book 36:65–66, Jackson to Wilson, 7 December 1866.

47. For the losses, see *Guide to County Records in the North Carolina State Archives*, 12th ed. rev. (Raleigh: North Carolina Office of Archives and History, 2009), 301–4. Also, "Court House Damaged by Fire," *Sampson Democrat*, Clinton, N.C., 5 May 1921, page 2, col. 2.

Isaac headed the only large Sampson County Strickland household in 1800–30.⁴⁸ The children's ages and sex correspond to Autry's heirs. See table 1.

Enumerator error caused the omission of the 1810 Strickland heirs' household. Two Isaac Stricklands, born about ten years apart, lived in Sampson County from at least 1808 through 1840.⁴⁹ Their associates distinguish them:⁵⁰

- The elder Isaac associated with the Westbrook family. He was a road hand under Joseph Vick in 1800 and Joseph Westbrook in 1802–3.⁵¹ Isaac's 1800 neighbors served on the same crews.⁵² He witnessed a deed to Moses Westbrook in 1807.⁵³ In 1810 Isaac purchased items at William Westbrook's estate sale.⁵⁴ In 1811 Isaac Strickland exchanged adjacent thirty-three-acre parcels with Moses Westbrook.⁵⁵ Despite Isaac's proximity to Moses, he was not enumerated near Moses in 1810.⁵⁶ In 1815, however, they paid taxes in the same district.⁵⁷
- The younger Isaac became a constable in Captain Draughon's District in 1809. In 1810 he served as a poll keeper there, along with John Tew and John

48. An interrelated web of Stricklands lived in Sampson County. Sorting them out is beyond this article's scope. For a discussion of these families, see Forrest D. King, "Descendants of Mathew Strickland (1648–1696) through Four Generations," *The North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal* 34 (May 2008): 111–42; (August 2008): 219–52; and (November 2008): 293–326, particularly 296–9.

49. The younger Isaac Strickland lived in Capt. Godwin's district. See 1820 U.S. census, Sampson Co., N.C., pop. sch., Capt. Godwin's District, p. 304, "Isaack Stricklin Jur"; NARA microfilm M33, roll 85. Also, 1830 U.S. census, Sampson Co., N.C., p. 165, Isack Strickling; NARA microfilm M19, roll 125. Also, 1840 U.S. census, Sampson Co., N.C., p. 37, Isaac Strickland; NARA microfilm M704, roll 371.

50. Abstracts of Sampson County Court minutes from 1784–1830 provide an excellent finding aid for these unindexed records. See Oscar M. Bizzell and Virginia L. Bizzell, comps., *A Portrait of Eighteenth Century Sampson County as Revealed by Sampson County Court Minutes, 1784–1830* (Clinton, N.C.: Sampson County Historical Society, 1990).

51. Sampson Co., Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Minutes (1794–1800), unnumbered pages, entries not always consecutive, 12 May 1800; SANC microfilm C.087.30001. *Ibid.*, Minutes (1800–1808), 87–88 (4 May 1802), and 127 (8 February 1803); SANC microfilm C.087.30001, item 2.

52. 1800 U.S. census, Sampson Co., N.C., Fayetteville, pp. 502–3 for Burchet Lee, Peter Lee, Joseph Vick, Isaac Strickling, Bartholomew Gainey, and Moses Westbrook; NARA microfilm M32, roll 32.

53. Sampson Co., Deed Book 14:501–2, Williams to Westbrook, 5 January 1807.

54. *FamilySearch* > North Carolina Estate Files, 1663–1979 > Sampson County > W > Westbrook, William (1810) > images 6–9, for sale of William Westbrook Sr.'s property, 23 February 1810 in Sampson Co., estate files, William Westbrook (1810).

55. Sampson Co., Deed Book 16:119–20, Stricklin to Westbrook, 9 March 1811. Also, *ibid.*, 308–9, Westbrook to Strickland, 9 March 1811.

56. 1810 U.S. census, Sampson Co., N.C., p. 477, Moses Westbrook; NARA microfilm M252, roll 42.

57. Sampson Co., 1815 Tax Digest, Lee's district, pp. 36–37, Isaac Strickland and Moses Westbrook; County Settlements with the State, Tax Lists Rutherford-Wayne 1876–1830, box 8; Treasurers' and Comptrollers' Papers; SANC.

Table 1
The Senior Isaac Strickland's Household in Three Censuses

NAME ^a	BIRTH ^b	1800 ^c	1820 ^d	1830 ^e
Isaac	1775–80	1775–84	1775–94	1771–80
Wife	1775–84	1775–84	1775–94	Deceased?
Daughter	1795–1800	1791–1800	1795–1804	
Autry	1805–10		1805–10	Deceased?
Anna	1804–5 ^f		1795–1804	1801–10
Riley	1805–10		1805–10	1801–10
Blackman	1807–8 ^g		1805–10	1801–10
Aaron	1808–9 ^h		1805–10	1801–10
Jonathan	1811–15 ⁱ		1811–20	1811–15
Moore	1813–14 ^j		1811–20	1811–15
Sarah	1814–15 ^k		1811–20	1815–20
Daughter	1811–20		1811–20	
Isaac	1815–18 ^l		1811–20	1811–15
Daniel	1819–22 ^m			1816–20

Note: See text for explanation of the household's omission from the 1810 census.

a. For the names, see Sampson Co., Deed Book 26:319–23, division of Autry Strickland's lands, 16 August 1841; digital images, *Sampson County Register of Deeds Remote Access Site* (<http://www.sampsonrod.org/>); also, FHL microfilm 553,549.

b. Birth years not otherwise documented are calculated from the 1800, 1820, and 1830 censuses.

c. 1800 U.S. census, Sampson Co., N.C., Fayetteville, p. 503, Isaac Strickling household; microfilm M32, roll 32, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

d. 1820 U.S. census, Sampson Co., N.C., pop. sch., Capt. Westbrooks District, p. 288, Isaac Stricklin household; NARA microfilm M33, roll 85.

e. 1830 U.S. census, Sampson Co., N.C., p. 206, Isack Strickling household; NARA microfilm M19, roll 125.

f. 1850 U.S. census, Sampson Co., N.C., population schedule, Northern Division, fol. 407r, dwelling/family 707, Josiah Jackson household; NARA microfilm M432, roll 644.

g. 1850 U.S. census, Barbour Co., Ala., pop. sch., Division 23, p. 216, dwell. 4, fam. 5, Blackman Strickland household; NARA microfilm M432, roll 1.

h. 1850 U.S. census, Russell Co., Ala., pop. sch., Beat 3, fol. 25v, dwell./fam. 356, Aron Strickland household; NARA microfilm M432, roll 14.

i. 1840 U.S. census, Sampson Co., N.C., p. 8, Jonathan Strickland; NARA microfilm M704, roll 371.

j. 1850 U.S. census, Sampson Co., N.C., pop. sch., Northern Division, fol. 407v, dwell./fam. 715, Moore Strickland household.

k. 1850 U.S. census, Johnston Co., N.C., pop. sch., District 12, fol. 82r, dwell./fam. 1247, Rufus Vann household; NARA microfilm M432, roll 635.

l. 1850 U.S. census, Sampson Co., N.C., pop. sch., Northern Division, fol. 396v, dwell./fam. 556, Isaac Strickland household. Also, 1860 U.S. census, Sampson Co., N.C., pop. sch., Mingo, p. 87, dwell. 650, fam. 602, Isaac Stricklands household; NARA microfilm M653, roll 913.

m. 1850 U.S. census, Watauga Co., N.C., pop. sch., Northern Division, fol. 132r, dwell. 362, fam. 366, Daniel Stricklin household; NARA microfilm M432, roll 648. Also, 1860 U.S. census, Watauga Co., N.C., pop. sch., Valle Crucis, p. 6, dwell. 47, fam. 40, Daniel Strickland household; NARA microfilm M653, roll 917.

McCorquodale.⁵⁸ All three men were enumerated near one another in 1810.⁵⁹ Isaac became a road overseer in 1813, and several of his 1810 neighbors served under him.⁶⁰ He, McCorquodale, Tew, and George Draughon paid tax in Captain Godwin's District in 1815.⁶¹

The elder Isaac was the ten siblings' father. Only one Isaac Strickland was enumerated in 1810. The absence of young children in his household shows he was the younger man, not the heirs' father.⁶²

Financial disaster struck Isaac's family shortly before his death. His son, Daniel, was indicted for forgery. Isaac and Moore Strickland posted a thousand-dollar bond to secure Daniel's court appearance. Forfeiting the bond, Daniel did not appear.⁶³ Isaac, already deep in debt, owned about 900 acres.⁶⁴ The Sampson County sheriff sold at least 705 acres, in three tracts, to pay Isaac's debts.⁶⁵

Isaac died in 1840. Alive on 1 May 1840, he headed no 1840 household.⁶⁶ On 16 August 1841 Isaac's son Moore Strickland described Isaac as "Deced."⁶⁷

58. Sampson Co., Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Minutes (1808–1813), unnumbered pages, 9 May 1809, 21 May 1810; SANC microfilm C.087.30001, item 3.

59. 1810 U.S. census, Sampson Co., N.C., pp. 487–8, John Tugh, Esq., Isaac Stricklin, and John McCorquodale.

60. Sampson Co., Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Minutes (1808–1813), unnumbered pages, 17 May 1813. Also, 1810 U.S. census, Sampson Co., N.C., pp. 488–9, Osburn Holly, Jacob Lockamy, and John Jackson.

61. Sampson Co., 1815 Tax Digest, Godwin's district, pp. 64–65, Isaac Strickland; pp. 60–61, George Draughon; pp. 62–63, John McCorquodale; and pp. 68–69, John Tew.

62. 1810 U.S. census, Sampson Co., N.C., p. 488, Isaac Stricklin.

63. Sampson Co., Superior Court Minute Docket (1832–1852), unpaginated, 29 April 1839, State vs. Daniel Strickland; SANC microfilm C.087.30007, item 2. Daniel's case file does not survive. See Sampson Co., Superior Court Criminal Action Papers (1823–1869, broken series); call no. C.R.087.326.1, SANC. Many years are missing.

64. Sampson Co., Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions (1835–1839), 22 May 1839, unpaginated, various judgments against Isaac Strickland Sr. covering several consecutive pages; SANC microfilm C.087.3003, item 1.

65. Sampson Co., Deed Book 26:33–34, Thomson (sheriff) to Jackson, 19 November 1839. *Ibid.*, 27:278–79, Thomson (sheriff) to George H. Daughtry, 21 November 1843. Also, *ibid.*, 26:221–24, Chesnutt (sheriff) to West, 16 February 1841, two deeds. The sale occurred on 19 October 1840. The two deeds to Willis West, containing identical land descriptions, represent a clerk's error. Court records indicate registration of a deed for 108 acres, likely the missing deed. See Sampson Co., Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions (1839–1843), 18 February 1841, unpaginated, two deeds from Chesnutt (sheriff) to Willis West recorded; SANC microfilm C.087.30003, item 2.

66. Sampson Co., Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions (1839–1843), 19 May 1840, unpaginated, West vs. Strickland; SANC microfilm C.087.30003, item 2. Also, 1840 U.S. census, Sampson Co., N.C., all pages read for Strickland. Only two Isaac Stricklands were enumerated. See *ibid.*, p. 37, Isaac Strickland, age 60–69, and, p. 36, Isaac Strickland Jr., age 20–29.

67. North Carolina Secretary of State, land grants file no. 1553 (Moore Stricklin, grant in Sampson County, no. 2102, issued 29 December 1843, book 149, p. 78); SANC; SANC microfilm S.108.1053; FHL microfilm 2,425,817. Moore requested 100 acres but was only granted 9¼ acres. Isaac's land was not mentioned in the plat of the grant.

Sampson County holds no probate record for Isaac, who likely left no property.⁶⁸

AUTRY'S 212-ACRE TRACT

Land connects the senior Isaac to Autry and his siblings. In 1841 Moore Strickland's share of Autry's land was two tracts totaling forty-two acres. By 1847 Moore reportedly held 212 acres "adjoining the lands of Mrs. Mary Bizzel, Mrs. Edith Ellis, John Hudson & others on the waters of the Seven mile swamp." A judge ordered the sheriff to sell this land to pay Moore's debts.⁶⁹ No surviving deed records Moore's acquiring 212 acres or the sheriff's selling it.⁷⁰

Moore's alleged 212 acres was the Seven Mile Swamp tract partitioned among Autry's heirs in 1841. Josiah Denning sold 250 acres on Seven Mile Swamp to John Hudson on 9 September 1844.⁷¹ The description of Moore's 212 acres in 1847 names Hudson as a neighbor but not Denning. Figure 2 shows that Denning's eastern border resembles the western border of Autry's heirs' land.

Only one deed records Autry purchasing land—the 169 acres on Little Orchard—yet his estate contained 377 acres.⁷² Autry likely died about 1830.⁷³ His heirs petitioned to divide his land over a decade after his death. How did he acquire the 212 acres later attributed to his brother Moore Strickland? The tract's division implies Autry held a clear title, but did he?

Moore and Autry's father, Isaac, had owned this land. Most of Isaac's neighbors bordered Autry's 212 acres.⁷⁴ Figure 3 shows Isaac's 206 acres superimposed

68. Although two estate files exist for Isaac Strickland, neither is for the estate of Isaac Strickland Sr. See *FamilySearch* > North Carolina Estate Files, 1663–1979 > Sampson County > S > Strickland > for, Sampson Co., estate files, Isaac Strickland [Jr.] (1852) and Isaac Strickland [son of Isaac Sr.] (1866). Also, Sampson Co., Record of Estates (1837–43), all pages read for Strickland; SANC microfilm C.087.50001.

69. Sampson Co., Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions (August 1846–May 1851), 17 November 1847, unpaginated, Daniel B. Baker vs. Moore Strickland, levy on land; SANC microfilm C.087.3004, item 2.

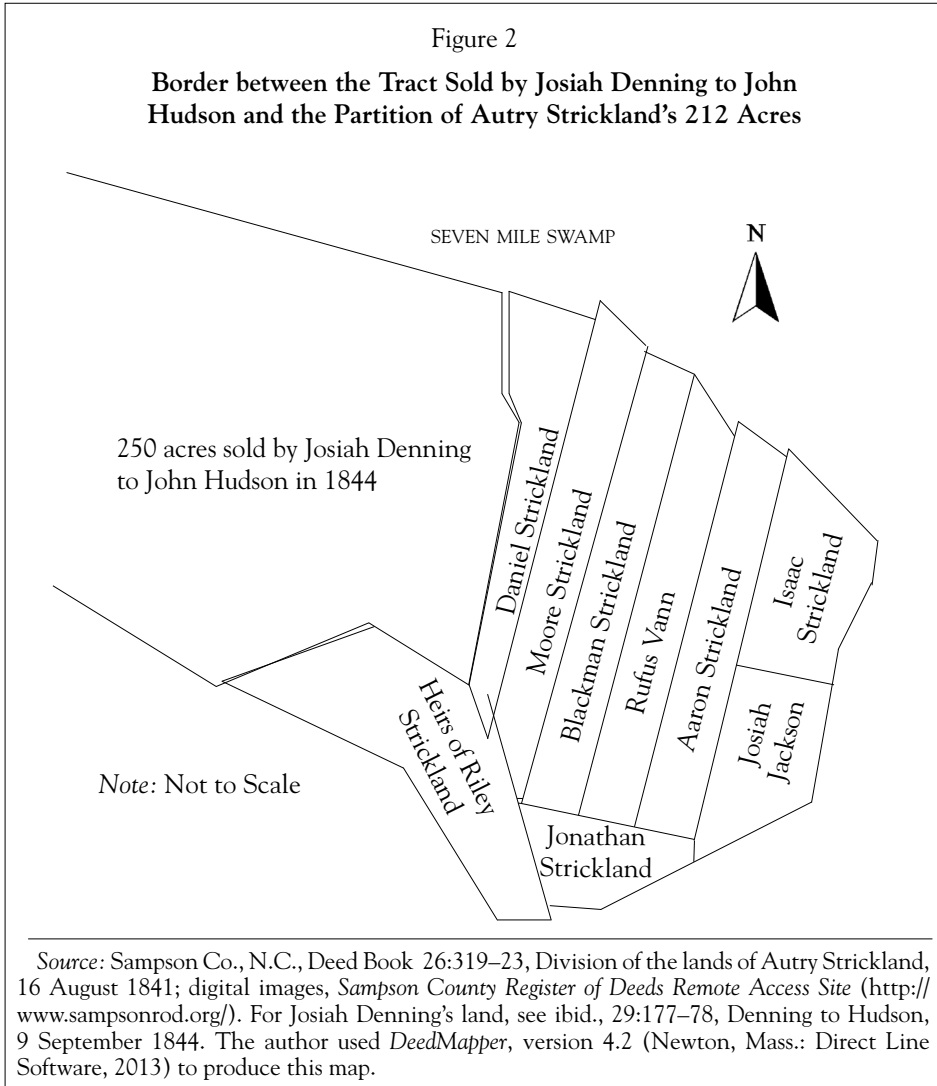
70. *Sampson County Register of Deeds Remote Access Site* > Scanned Index Books (Imaged Index) > 2-Land (Inception of County – 1977) > Grantor/ Grantee > Inception of County – 1940 > for Strickland and Chesnutt. The online index to deeds does not include all conveyances recorded in the deed books, omitting bills of sale and other transactions not involving real property. Also, the author read Deed Books 29–30, recorded from 18 July 1847 through 7 November 1851, for Strickland and Chesnutt.

71. Sampson Co., Deed Book 29:177–78, Denning to Hudson, 9 September 1844.

72. *Ibid.*, 26:57, Peters to Strickland, 20 August 1829. Also, *ibid.*, 26:319–23, Division of lands of Autry Strickland, 16 August 1841.

73. 1830 U.S. census, Sampson Co., N.C., p. 206, Isack Strickling. Autry appears in no known record after his 1829 purchase of land.

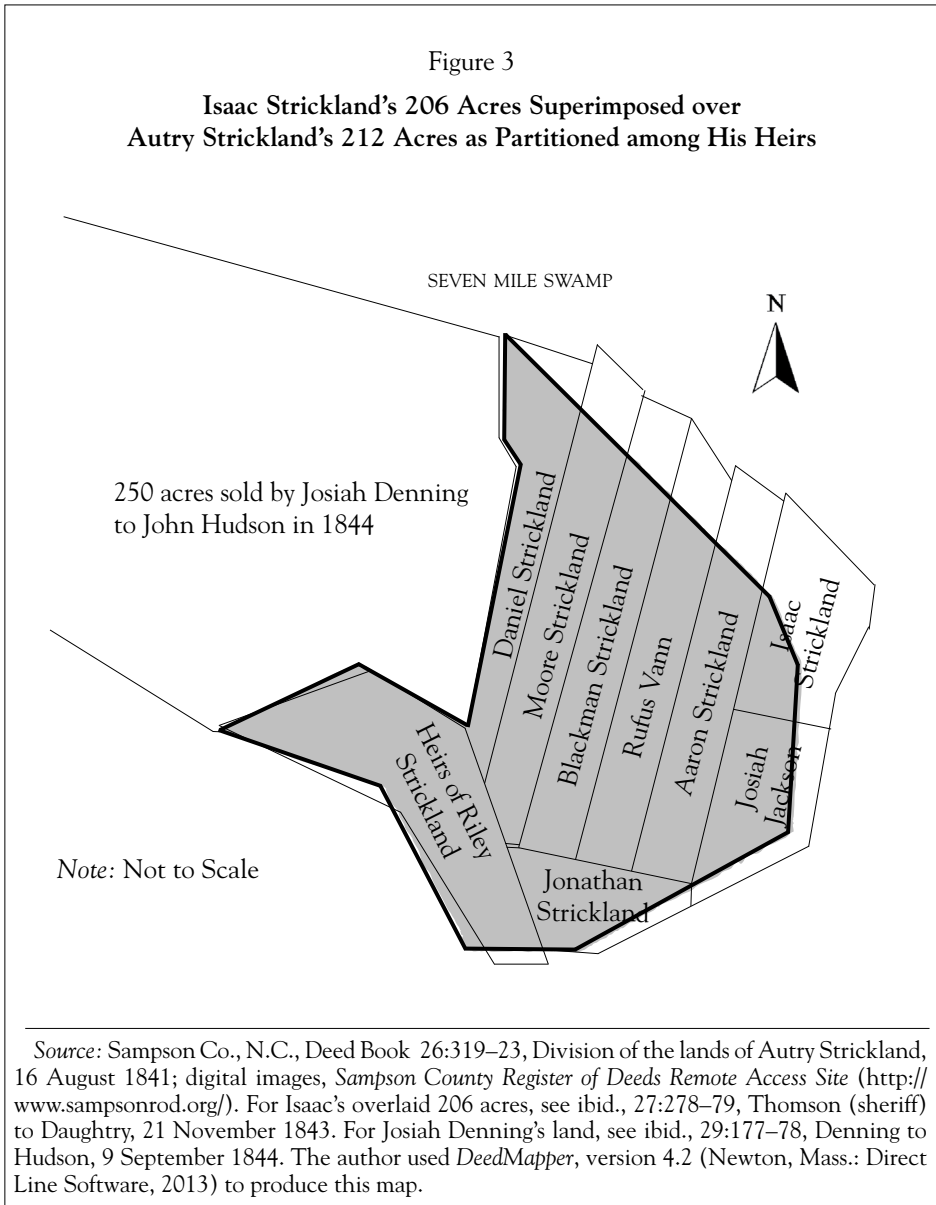
74. For Isaac's neighbors, see Sampson Co., Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions (August 1835–1839), 22 May 1839, unpaginated, various judgments against Isaac Strickland Sr. For Autry's neighbors, see Moore Strickland and others, petition for division, in Sampson Co., estate files, Autry Strickland (1841).



over Autry's partitioned 212 acres.⁷⁵ A plat of two parcels that Isaac purchased in 1815 resembles the 206 acres the sheriff sold to pay Isaac's debts.⁷⁶ It also resembles Autry's 212 acres partitioned among his siblings.

75. Sampson Co., Deed Book 27:278–79, Thomson (sheriff) to Daughtry. Although the deed is dated 21 November 1843, the sale had occurred on 19 August 1839. For Daughtry's ownership at his death, see *ibid.*, 35:245, Division of George H. Daughtry's Lands, February 1862. The land description of lot 1 mentions "the old Denning line."

76. *Ibid.*, 17:111–2, Grantham to Strickland, 27 November 1815. For fifty acres previously sold to Isaac Williams (not included in the sale), see Sampson Co., Deed Book 12:345–46, Williams to Williams, 25 July 1800.



The sheriff sold Isaac's land in lots with different configurations from Isaac's purchases. Four years lapsed between the sheriff's selling Isaac's 206 acres, on 19 August 1839, and his making the deed, dated 21 November 1843. In 1841 Isaac's children perhaps believed the land was theirs, as part of Autry's or Isaac Sr.'s estate. Apparently learning otherwise, the siblings made no deed disposing

of shares of Autry's 212 acres.⁷⁷ Six years later Moore Strickland's creditors perhaps believed he owned that land, leading a judge to order a sale that could not occur.

GEORGIA MIGRATION

Aaron was the first sibling to leave North Carolina for Georgia. Riley and Blackman were in Sampson County in 1833, when Aaron appeared in Houston County. Riley left Sampson County in late 1834 and Blackman left in late 1836, consistent with their Houston County appearances. See table 2.

Hinnant Byrd also migrated to Houston County from Sampson County about 1833. He sold land in Sampson County in 1832 and bought land in Houston County in early 1833.⁷⁸ In 1845 Hinnant and his brother Nathan, both of Houston County, gave Curtis Thompson power of attorney to help settle their father's Sampson County estate.⁷⁹ No known records link the Sampson County Byrds and Stricklands, but Hinnant's migration suggests Aaron's relocation was part of a community movement.

Other than the deed recording the division of Autry Strickland's land, no known record connects Aaron Strickland of Georgia and Alabama to Sampson County. Aaron bought and sold no land, witnessed no deeds, and appeared in no court record.⁸⁰ Other men had his name:

- Aaron Strickland of Wayne County, North Carolina, sold Sampson County land in 1808.⁸¹ He was too old to be Autry's brother.
- A younger Aaron, son of Riley, was too young to be Autry's brother.⁸²

77. *Sampson County Register of Deeds Remote Access Site* > Scanned Index Books (Imaged Index) > 2-Land (Inception of County – 1977) > Grantor/ Grantee > Inception of County – 1940 > read for Stricklands and their brothers-in-law Josiah Jackson and Rufus Vann.

78. Sampson Co., Deed Book 22:327, Byrd to Watkins, 21 August 1832. Also, *ibid.*, 22:376–77, Byrd to Wadkins, 8 August 1832. Hinnant's land was on "the North Side of the Cabin branch." Also, Houston Co., Ga., Deed Book F:768, Morris to Bird, 12 January 1833; FHL microfilm 295,961. *Ibid.*, F: 769, Bowers to Bird, 23 January 1833. Hinnant bought lots 133–34 in the 9th district. Also, 1830 U.S. census, Sampson Co., N.C., p. 192, Hinton Byrd. Also, 1840 U.S. census, Houston Co., Ga., pop. sch., p. 380, Hinant Byrd.

79. Sampson Co., Deed Book 28:239–40, Byrd to Thompson, 20 December 1845.

80. Sampson Co., Record of Estates (1830–37), all pages read for Strickland; SANC microfilm C.087.50001. Also, *ibid.*, Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Session (1829–1835); SANC microfilm C.087.30002. Also, *ibid.*, Deed Books 21–23 (recorded 1825–1835). The author also read for Strickland *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1930242>) > North Carolina, Civil Action Court Papers 1712–1970 > Sampson > Civil action papers, 1790–1857 C.R.087.325.01. Also, *ibid.* > Civil action papers concerning land 1791–1881 C.R.087.325.21. Also, Sampson Co., Record of Appointment of Road Overseers, 1829–1835; box C.R.87.925.5; SANC.

81. Sampson Co., Deed Book 16:244–45, Strickland to Lee, 9 January 1808.

82. 1850 U.S. census, Sampson Co., N.C., pop. sch., Northern Division, fol. 407v, dwell./fam. 715, Moore Strickland household.

Table 2
Timeline of Three Strickland Brothers' Migrations

YEAR	SAMPSON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA	HOUSTON COUNTY, GEORGIA
1830	Blackman and Riley purchased items. ^a	No Stricklands enumerated. ^b
1833	Blackman and Riley purchased items. ^c	Aaron married. ^d
1834	Blackman and Riley purchased items. ^e	Aaron owned land. ^f
1835	Blackman found guilty. ^g	Aaron and Riley were taxed. ^h
1836	Blackman purchased items. ⁱ	Letter for "Riley Strickland or Aaron Strickland." ^j
1837	Blackman failed to appear in court. ^k	Riley died by November 1837. Aaron, Blackman, and Riley were taxed. Blackman purchased land in Randolph County. ^l

a. Sampson Co., N.C., Record of Estates (1830–33), p. 85, estate sale of Reddick Lee, 9 December 1830; microfilm C.087.50001, State Archives of North Carolina (SANC).

b. 1830 U.S. census, Houston Co., Ga., all pages read for Strickland; microfilm publication M19, roll 18, National Archives and Records Administration.

c. Sampson Co., Record of Estates (1833–37), p. 82, estate sale of Hannah Phillips, 3 December 1833; SANC microfilm C.087.50001.

d. *Ancestry* (<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=4766>) > Georgia, Marriage Records from Select Counties, 1828–1978 > Houston > Marriages, Book A, 1833–1852 > image 42, for Houston Co., Ga., Marriage Book A:51, Strickland-Byrd, 1833.

e. Sampson Co., Record of Estates (1833–37), p. 228, estate sale of Mary Westbrook, 25 October 1834.

f. Houston Co., Ga., Deed Book F:426, Kerzey to Stricklin, 28 December 1833; Superior Court, Perry; microfilm 295,961, Family History Library (FHL), Salt Lake City. *Ibid.*, F:634, Strickland to Pearce, 18 November 1835.

g. Sampson Co., Superior Court Minute Docket (1832–1852), unpaginated, 21 April 1835, State vs. Blackman Strickland; SANC microfilm C.087.3007, item 2.

h. Houston Co., 1835 Tax Digest, Terry's District, pp. 232–33, Aron Strickland, and p. 236, Riley Strickland; microfilm 156-1, Georgia Archives, Morrow, Ga.

i. Sampson Co., Record of Estates (1833–37), p. 490, estate sale of Rebecca Williford, 6 December 1836.

j. "A List of Letters," *Macon Weekly Telegraph*, Macon, Ga., 21 April 1836, page 4, col. 3.

k. Sampson Co., Superior Court Minute Docket (1832–1852), unpaginated, 7 April 1837, State vs. Strickland; SANC microfilm C.087.3007, item 2.

l. *FamilySearch* (familysearch.org/search/collection/1999178) > Georgia Probate Records, 1742–1990 > Houston > Administration and guardian bonds 1830–1851 > images 104–5, for Houston Co., Administrators and guardian bonds 1830–1851, pp. 145–146, letters of administration on the estate of Riley Strickland, 27 December 1837. Also, Houston Co., 1837 Tax Digest, Terry's District, pp. 6–7, Aron Strickland; Bateman's District, pp. 126–27, Riley Strickland, and p. 132, Blackburn Strickland. Also, Randolph Co., Ga., Deed Book C:363–4, Willoughby to Strickland, 1 December 1837; FHL microfilm 271,216.

Aaron, Blackman, and Riley Strickland appeared together in two places—Sampson County, North Carolina, and Houston County, Georgia. Riley died before 1841.⁸³ Furthermore, no census names Riley Strickland born between 1800 and 1810. Only one Blackman or Blackburn Strickland, born 1800 to 1810, appears in the census from 1830 to 1880—the resident of Houston County who bought land there in 1837.⁸⁴ Although several Aaron Stricklands lived in Georgia and North Carolina, only one lived in Houston County at the same time as Riley and Blackman. He married Susan Byrd in 1833, lived in the same tax district as Riley in 1835, and appeared with him as a letter's addressee in 1836.⁸⁵

CONCLUSION

Aaron Strickland's Georgia migration obscures his North Carolina origin. Marriage into another kinship group, and another migration, distanced him from his biological relatives. Only two of Aaron's many siblings followed him to Georgia. One brother died soon after arrival; Aaron and the other parted a few years later. Thorough research, assembled evidence, and resolved conflicts support the conclusion that Aaron and his brothers were sons of the senior Isaac Strickland of Sampson County, North Carolina.

83. For the death of the Sampson County Riley, see Sampson Co., Deed Book 26:319–23, Division of the lands of Autry Strickland, 16 August 1841. For the death of the Houston County Riley, see Letters of administration on the estate of Riley Strickland, legal notice, *Macon Weekly Telegraph*, 11 December 1837, page 4, col. 6.

84. “[U.S.] Census and Voter Lists,” *Ancestry*, search for Riley and Black* Strick* born 1800–1810. The author used a Soundex search for “Riley.” For the land purchase, see Randolph Co., Deed Book C:363–64, Willoughby to Strickland, 1 December 1837.

85. For the marriage, see Houston Co., Marriage Book A:51, Strickland-Byrd, 25 August 1833. For shared tax district, see Houston Co., 1835 Tax Digest, Terry's district, pp. 232–33, Aron Strickland and William “Bird,” and p. 236, Riley Strickland. For the shared letter see, “A List of Letters,” *Macon Weekly Telegraph*, 14 April 1836, page 3, col. 5.