



## THE GEORGIA GENEALOGIST

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### **Fraudulent Records, Confirmation Bias, and Common Sense in Genealogical Research**

*Physician and minister to the Cherokee Indians Rev. Elizur Butler, the Creek Indian Sam Moniac family of Alabama, and a white Butler family from southwest Georgia are victims of fraudulent marriage records, a lack of common sense, and abandonment of the GPS.*

Most serious genealogists strive for accuracy and integrity in their research and are troubled by bogus genealogies, particularly when we encounter records deliberately fabricated and used as evidence to support kinships. The fabrication of undocumented kinships affects all population groups, but American Indians appear to be among the most adversely impacted. For generations some non-natives hoping to reap the benefits in some way via federal and state grants or opportunities designed for these groups have used counterfeit lineages and gone to extraordinary lengths to give credibility to them. To perpetuate these desired kinships, analyses of information contained in records and of the records' physical condition is either not done or succumbs to the confirmation bias of the researcher.

How, then, should we address these issues when we uncover them?

The Code of Ethics affirmed by the Board for Certification of Genealogists® is clear about the appropriate response we should have when confronted with inaccurate genealogies and fraudulent records we uncover:

**“To Protect the Public:** I will not publish or publicize as a fact anything I know to be false, doubtful or unproved; nor will I be a party, directly or indirectly, to such action by others.”<sup>1</sup>

**“To Protect the Profession:** I will participate in exposing genealogical fraud; but I will not otherwise knowingly injure or attempt to injure the reputation, prospects, or practice of another genealogist.”<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Board for Certification of Genealogists®, *Genealogy Standards*, fiftieth-anniversary edition (Nashville, TN: Ancestry, 2014).: accessed 2 November 2025).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

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Elizabeth Shown Mills, CG<sup>®</sup>, CGL<sup>™</sup> wrote, "...we would be derelict and unreliable if we ignored an erroneous interpretation or false records that we have encountered."<sup>3</sup> When we find duplicitous records and genealogy, we have a professional and an ethical *obligation* to correct the misinformation. How do we implement this correction and fulfill this obligation? We determine the truth, write it, and publish it.

## BACKGROUND

A genealogist of the Georgia state-recognized Creek Indian tribe asserts a white man<sup>4</sup> Elisha Butler from Decatur, Mitchell and Butler Counties, Georgia, was a Cherokee Indian.<sup>5</sup> Elisha's descendants joined this state-recognized tribe after the tribal genealogist's research asserted the claim in a book she authored.<sup>6</sup> The Adeline Butler was the inferred wife of the southwest Georgia Elisha Butler's son Jesse.<sup>7</sup> The author not only merges the identities of this Elisha Butler with physician and Presbyterian minister Rev. Elizur Butler

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<sup>3</sup> Elizabeth Shown Mills, "Re: May I have your permission to quote you in this case study? Elizabeth Shown Mills [email for private use,] to Yvonne Mashburn Schmidt, email, 27 Sept. 2021; Moniac Case Study, Mashburn Schmidt Research Files; privately held by Yvonne Mashburn Schmidt, CG, [Yvonne@TheGeorgiaGenealogist.com], Vidalia, Georgia. The client provided permission to use these families in this case study in a Letter of Agreement for this project. See "Letter of Agreement," 2 July 2014, page 2, paragraph 3; held by Mashburn Schmidt [Yvonne@TheGeorgiaGenealogist.com], Vidalia, Georgia.

<sup>4</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Baker County, Georgia, population schedule, District 10, page 37A (stamped), dwelling 15, family 15, Elisha Butler household, images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 20 Aug. 2021); *Ancestry* citing NARA film M19; roll: 17, Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.

Also, Dr. Christina "Peggy" Venable, *The Survival of The Lower Muskogee Creek Tribe Tama Tribal Town* (Whigham, Georgia: Fleet Fawn Publishing, 2012), p. 190.

<sup>5</sup> Prior research," Client research file, Burns, Alton Paul [address withheld for privacy]; provided to Mashburn Schmidt, genealogist, per Letter of Agreement, 2 July 2014; held by Mashburn Schmidt [Yvonne@TheGeorgiaGenealogist.com], Vidalia, Georgia. These deep southern Georgia counties were Creek Indian territory, not Cherokee.

<sup>6</sup> Venable, *The Survival of The Lower Muskogee Creek Tribe Tama Tribal Town* (Whigham, Georgia: Fleet Fawn Publishing, 2012), 190. Dr. Venable cites as evidence for this ancestry as "Baldwin County, Alabama, Marriage Licenses, and Mitchell County Courthouse." These marriage records were transcribed in the book *Marriage Records of Baldwin County Alabama, 1800-1900* by Dess L. and Tom Sangster. See Dess L. Sangster and Tom Sangster, compilers and editors, *Marriage Records of Baldwin County Alabama, 1800-1900*, (Bay Minette, Alabama: Baldwin County Historical Society, 1992), pp. 84, 90. This marriage record *was not* included in the transcriptions; the author owns a copy of the book. For a digitized version of the record see Baldwin Co, AL, "Alabama County Marriages, 1711-1992," digital images, *FamilySearch.org* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939Z-YCSX-W4?cc=1743384&wc=3LJ6-ZNL%3A1586877301>: accessed 2 Nov. 2025), film 004539243 (no IGN provided) > image 267/1059, Jessie Butler and Adline Eliz. Moniac, 7 Nov. 1836; citing Marriage Licenses, June 1810-March 1836, Probate Court, Bay Minette.

<sup>7</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Mitchell Co., GA, pop. sched., Camilla, p. 50 (penned), dwell. 347, fam. 353, line 23, Jesse Butter household, images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed: 27 November 2025); *Ancestry* citing NARA film M653, roll 131.

whose life work was attending to the physical and spiritual needs of the Cherokees,<sup>8</sup> but also merges the identities of Adeline Butler and Eliza Moniac, daughter of Creek Indian Samuel Moniac of Alabama. The erroneous identity of the white female has become Adeline Eliza and has paved the way to eligibility for Creek tribal enrollment of these descendants.<sup>9</sup> One early Baldwin County, Alabama, marriage record has been used as evidence to support these consolidated identities.<sup>10</sup> At least descendant questioned whether his ancestors had indeed been the Indian families the author claimed. He wrote:

...I seek accurate knowledge concerning my heritage. I'm finding contradictory things. An example of this is an 1860 census Mitchell Co. Georgia, which has Jesse Butler at 27 years old and Adeline at 19, Benjamin 3, Henry 10...Jesse [would have been] 3 years old in 1836 when he got married in Alabama.<sup>11</sup>

Record scrutiny and analyses resolve the question regarding these identities. Elisha Butler of southwest Georgia was not the same man as Rev. Elizur Butler. Samuel Moniac's daughter Eliza Moniac of Baldwin County, Alabama, was not the same person as Jesse Butler's wife Adeline of Mitchell County, Georgia. This marriage record is not the sole marriage record in this volume with inconsistencies;<sup>12</sup> several fictitious records exist to advance a false narrative of Native ancestry and mislead others.<sup>13</sup>

## ELIZA MONIAC AND ADELINE BUTLER IDENTITIES

### Census Records

Census records are the most used genealogical record sets but probably the least analyzed. The family of Samuel and Susan Moniac was enumerated in 1860 Baldwin County, Alabama, with their daughter Eliza Moniac born about 1848.<sup>14</sup> Eliza was also enumerated with her family in 1870 in Escambia County,

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<sup>8</sup> Venable, *The Survival of The Lower Muskogee Creek Tribe Tama Tribal Town* (Whigham, Georgia: Fleet Fawn Publishing, 2012), 190.

<sup>9</sup> "Prior research," Client Research File – Burns, supplied by Alton Paul Burns, 2 July 2014.

<sup>10</sup> Venable, *The Survival of The Lower Muskogee Creek Tribe Tama Tribal Town* (Whigham, Georgia: Fleet Fawn Publishing, 2012), 190.

<sup>11</sup> "Prior research," Client Research File – Burns, supplied by Alton Paul Burns, 2 July 2014.

<sup>12</sup> Baldwin Co, AL, "Alabama County Marriages, 1711-1992," digital images, *FamilySearch.org* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939Z-YCSX-W4?cc=1743384&wc=3LJ6-ZNL%3A1586877301>: accessed 2 Nov. 2025), film 004539243 (no IGN provided) > image 267/1059, Jessie Butler and Adline Eliz. Moniac, 7 Nov. 1836; citing Marriage Licenses, June 1810-March 1836, Probate Court, Bay Minette.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, images 265 and 266, Mack and Moniac marriage and Mitchell and Hollinger marriage, respectively.

<sup>14</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Baldwin Co., AL, pop. sched., Stockton, p. 44 (stamped), dwell. 382, fam. 287, Samuel Moniac household, images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 25 Nov. 2025); *Ancestry* citing NARA film M653, roll 1.

Alabama.<sup>15</sup> Corresponding census records for 1860 and 1870 place Jessie Butler's wife Adeline in Mitchell County, Georgia, during this same period.<sup>16</sup> Even though duplicate enumeration is not uncommon, surely the distance of about 205 miles between Escambia County, Alabama, and Mitchell County, Georgia, within several days<sup>17</sup> would prompt further research and inspection. Other conflicts abound.

- In 1860 Baldwin County, Alabama, Eliza's birth year was about 1848.<sup>18</sup> In 1870 Escambia County, it was recorded as about 1850.<sup>19</sup> In 1860 and 1870 Mitchell County, Georgia, Adeline Butler's birth year was about 1841 and 1839, respectively.<sup>20</sup> These birth years in comparison to the 1836 date of marriage<sup>21</sup> cannot be ignored; at 3 or 5 years old, certainly Adeline was not a bride.
- In both census records, Adeline's place of birth was recorded as Georgia, not Alabama.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> 1870 U.S. census, Escambia Co., pop. sched., Jack's Spring, Canoe P.O., p.137 (stamped), dwell. 14, fam. 14, line 17, Samuel Moniac household, images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 25 Nov. 2025); *Ancestry* citing NARA film M593, roll 15.

<sup>16</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Mitchell Co., GA, pop. sched., Camilla, p. 50 (penned), dwell. 347, fam. 353, line 22, Jesse Butter household, images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 25 Nov. 2025); *Ancestry* citing NARA film M653, roll 131.

Also, 1870 U.S. census, Mitchell Co., GA, pop. sched., 10<sup>th</sup> Dist., Camilla, p. 62 (penned), Jesse Butler household, images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed: 3 Feb. 2026); *Ancestry* citing NARA film M593, roll 166. The surname in this record is mis transcribed as *Butter*.

<sup>17</sup> "Driving Distance between Escambia Co., AL, and Mitchell Co., GA," 2026, NASA, *Google Maps*<sup>®</sup> ([https://www.google.com/maps/dir/Mitchell+County,+Georgia/Escambia+County,+AL/@30.9760379,-86.9872654,8z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m13!4m12!1m5!1m1!1s0x88ed9e8380f87ae5:0x88ffe4d624e52608!2m2!1d-84.1857115!2d31.2230067!1m5!1m1!1s0x88905ed579638dcd:0xf634cd491da7fc31!2m2!1d-87.1422895!2d31.1394734?entry=ttu&g\\_ep=EgoyMDI1MTIwOS4wIKXMDSoKLEwMDc5MjA2N0gBUAM%3D](https://www.google.com/maps/dir/Mitchell+County,+Georgia/Escambia+County,+AL/@30.9760379,-86.9872654,8z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m13!4m12!1m5!1m1!1s0x88ed9e8380f87ae5:0x88ffe4d624e52608!2m2!1d-84.1857115!2d31.2230067!1m5!1m1!1s0x88905ed579638dcd:0xf634cd491da7fc31!2m2!1d-87.1422895!2d31.1394734?entry=ttu&g_ep=EgoyMDI1MTIwOS4wIKXMDSoKLEwMDc5MjA2N0gBUAM%3D): accessed 2 Jan. 2026).

<sup>18</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Baldwin Co., AL, pop. sched., Stockton, p. 44 (stamped), dwell. 382, fam. 287, Samuel Moniac household, images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 25 Nov. 2025); *Ancestry* citing NARA film M653, roll 1.

<sup>19</sup> 1870 U.S. census, Escambia Co., pop. sched., Jack's Spring, Canoe P.O., p.137 (stamped), dwell. 14, fam. 14, line 17, Samuel Moniac household, images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 25 Nov. 2025); *Ancestry* citing NARA film M593, roll 15.

<sup>20</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Mitchell Co., GA, pop. sched., Camilla, p. 50 (penned), dwell. 347, fam. 353, line 22, Jesse Butter household, images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 25 Nov. 2025); *Ancestry* citing NARA film M653, roll 131.

Also, 1870 U.S. census, Mitchell Co., GA, pop. sched., 10<sup>th</sup> Dist., Camilla, p. 62 (penned), Jesse Butler household, images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed: 3 Feb. 2026); *Ancestry* citing NARA film M593, roll 166.

<sup>21</sup> Baldwin Co, AL, "Alabama County Marriages, 1711-1992," images, *FamilySearch.org* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939Z-YCSX-W4?cc=1743384&wc=3LJ6-ZNL%3A1586877301>: accessed 2 Nov. 2025), film 004539243 (no IGN provided) > image 267/1059, Jessie Butler and Adline Eliz. Moniac, 7 Nov. 1836; citing Marriage Licenses, June 1810-March 1836, Probate Court, Bay Minette.

<sup>22</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Mitchell Co., GA, pop. sched., Camilla, p. 50 (penned), dwell. 347, fam. 353, line 22, Jesse Butter household, images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 25 Nov. 2025); *Ancestry* citing NARA film M653, roll 131.

Also, 1870 U.S. census, Mitchell Co., GA, pop. sched., 10<sup>th</sup> Dist., Camilla, p. 62 (penned), Jesse Butler household, images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed: 3 Feb. 2026); *Ancestry* citing NARA film M593, roll 166.

- In both census records, Eliza was identified as *Indian*<sup>23</sup> and Adeline as *white*.<sup>24</sup>
- Adeline was not referred to as Eliza in either census record.<sup>25</sup> Eliza Moniac was not enumerated with the name *Adeline*, or any variation of this name, in any census record; she was always enumerated as *Eliza* or *Elisa*.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Mitchell Co., GA, pop. sched., Camilla, p. 50 (penned), dwell. 347, fam. 353, line 22, Jesse Butter household, images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 25 Nov. 2025); *Ancestry* citing NARA film M653, roll 131.

Also, 1870 U.S. census, Mitchell Co., GA, pop. sched., 10<sup>th</sup> Dist., Camilla, p. 62 (penned), Jesse Butler household, images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed: 3 Feb. 2026); *Ancestry* citing NARA film M593, roll 166.

<sup>24</sup> After marriage, Eliza was enumerated as white. Monroe Co., AL, “Alabama, Select Marriage Indexes, 1816-1942,” index, Eliza Moniac and John Madison, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 17, Aug. 2-21); citing Marriages, vol A-B, Judge of Probate, Monroeville.

Also, 1880 U.S. census, Monroe Co., AL, pop. sched., Mount Pleasant, (ED) 145, p. 7 (penned), p. 274C (stamped), dwell. 67, fam. 67, John Madison household; images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 22 Aug. 2021); *Ancestry* citing NARA film T9, roll 24.

<sup>25</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Mitchell Co., GA, pop. sched., Camilla, p. 50 (penned), dwell. 347, fam. 353, line 22, Jesse Butter household, images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 25 Nov. 2025); *Ancestry* citing NARA film M653, roll 131.

Also, 1870 U.S. census, Mitchell Co., GA, pop. sched., 10<sup>th</sup> Dist., Camilla, p. 62 (penned), Jesse Butler household, images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed: 3 Feb. 2026); *Ancestry* citing NARA film M593, roll 166. Adeline disappeared after the 1870 census. A broad search for Adeline in death and marriage databases in Mitchell and surrounding counties on *Ancestry.com* and *FamilySearch.org* yielded no results, and identified records for her children yielded no clues.

Three books by Max Tatum were checked: Max L. Tatum, compiler, *Mitchell County, Georgia Marriage Records* and *The First 50 Years*, and *Marriage Records of Eight Georgia Counties, Vols. 1, 2*, (no publishing place: self-published, n.d.); *FamilySearch.org* (accessed 1 Jan. 2021) > Catalog > Place, Search for “Georgia Mitchell County, Georgia, Baker County, Georgia, Georgia, Thomas County, Vital Records, Marriages. Surrounding Baker County’s courthouse flooded in 1925 and 1929, and a storm in Thomas County caused record losses. See “Georgia Courthouse Disasters,” *Access Genealogy* (<https://accessgenealogy.com/georgia/georgia-courthouse-disasters.htm> : accessed 20 Aug. 2021), Baker, Thomas Counties.

<sup>26</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Baldwin Co., AL, pop. sched., Stockton, p. 44 (stamped), dwell. 382, fam. 287, Samuel Moniac household, images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 25 Nov. 2025); *Ancestry* citing NARA film M653, roll 1.

Also, 1870 U.S. census, Escambia Co., pop. sched., Jack's Spring, Canoe P.O., p.137 (stamped), dwell. 14, fam. 14, line 17, Samuel Moniac household, images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 25 Nov. 2025); *Ancestry* citing NARA film M593, roll 15.

Also, 1880 U.S. census, Monroe Co., AL, pop. sched., Mount Pleasant, (ED) 145, p. 7 (penned), p. 274C (stamped), dwell. 67, fam. 67, John Madison household; images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 22 Aug. 2021); *Ancestry* citing NARA film T9, roll 24.

Also, 1900 U.S. census, Monroe Co., AL, pop. sched., Precinct 1, Mount Pleasant, (ED) 155, p. 11A (stamped), dwell. 188, fam. 188, Eliza Madison household, images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 22 Aug. 2021); *Ancestry* citing NARA film T623, roll. 32.

- Eliza Moniac did not marry Jesse Butler; she married John Madison, 29 May 1873, Monroe County, Alabama.<sup>27</sup>
- In both the 1860 and 1870 census records, Eliza Moniac was enumerated as “ind” and “I”, respectively, indicating Native American ethnicity.<sup>28</sup> In corresponding census records, Adeline Butler was enumerated as “W” indicating white and not Native American.<sup>29</sup>

These two women were enumerated in different states at the same time, under different names, with conflicting birthplaces. They married different men. One was Native American; the other was white. They were not the same person.

### Eastern Cherokee Applications

An Adeline Moniac did exist. She was the daughter of Jim Moniac and Mary Ann Williams and the *granddaughter* of Samuel Moniac and Susan Moniac, with a birth date of about 1876.<sup>30</sup> She filed a 1906 Eastern Cherokee application.<sup>31</sup> Eliza Moniac also filed an application and named her husband John

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<sup>27</sup> Monroe Co., AL, “Alabama, Select Marriage Indexes, 1816-1942,” index, Eliza Moniac and John Madison, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 17, Aug. 2-21). This record has not been digitized on *Ancestry* or *FamilySearch*. This marriage is confirmed by Eliza’s Eastern Cherokee Application. See Elisa Moniac, application 6324, “Eastern Cherokee Applications of the U.S. Court of Claims, 1906-1909,” digital images, *Fold3.com* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/221324223>: accessed 18 Aug 2021), browse > Content Provider Name > Allen County Public Library > Eastern Cherokee Applications > Applications > M > Ma > Madison, Elisa, application 6324; citing RG 123, Eastern Cherokee Census Rolls, compiled 1835 – 1884, Eastern Cherokee Applications of the U.S. Court of Claims, 1906-1909, NARA microfilm publication M1104, roll 65.

<sup>28</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Baldwin Co., AL, pop. sched., Stockton, p. 44 (stamped), dwell. 382, fam. 287, Samuel Moniac household, images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 25 Nov. 2025); *Ancestry* citing NARA film M653, roll 1.

Also, 1870 U.S. census, Escambia Co., AL, pop. sched., Jack's Spring, Canoe P.O., p.137 (stamped), dwell. 14, fam. 14, line 17, Samuel Moniac household, images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 25 Nov. 2025); *Ancestry* citing NARA film M593, roll 15.

<sup>29</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Mitchell Co., GA, pop. sched., Camilla, p. 50 (penned), dwell. 347, fam. 353, line 22, Jesse Butter household, images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 25 Nov. 2025); *Ancestry* citing NARA film M653, roll 131.

Also, 1870 U.S. census, Mitchell Co., GA, pop. sched., 10<sup>th</sup> Dist., Camilla, p. 62 (penned), Jesse Butler household, images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed: 3 Feb. 2026); *Ancestry* citing NARA film M593, roll 166.

<sup>30</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Mitchell Co., GA, pop. sched., Camilla, p. 50 (penned), dwell. 347, fam. 353, line 22, Jesse Butter household, images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 25 Nov. 2025); *Ancestry* citing NARA film M653, roll 131.

Also, 1870 U.S. census, Mitchell Co., GA, pop. sched., 10<sup>th</sup> Dist., Camilla, p. 62 (penned), Jesse Butler household, images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed: 3 Feb. 2026); *Ancestry* citing NARA film M593, roll 166.

<sup>31</sup> Adeline Moniac, application 6314, “Eastern Cherokee Applications of the U.S. Court of Claims, 1906-1909,” digital images, *Fold3.com* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/260/221324271/>: accessed 18 Aug 2021), browse > Content Provider Name > Allen County Public Library > Eastern Cherokee Applications > Applications > M > Mo > Moniac, Adeline, application 6314; citing RG 123, Eastern Cherokee Census Rolls, compiled 1835 – 1884, Eastern Cherokee Applications of the U.S. Court of Claims, 1906-1909, NARA microfilm publication M1104, roll 65.

Madison, her parents Sam Moniac and Susan "Susie" Marlow, grandparents, and birthplace.<sup>32</sup> Both applications were rejected because the families were Creek, not Cherokee.<sup>33</sup>

### Eastern Cherokee application of Elisa (sic) Madison<sup>34</sup>

The image shows two pages of a handwritten application form. The left page is the front side, and the right page is the back side. The form is titled "Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C." and "I hereby make application for such share as may be due me of the fund appropriated by the Act of Congress approved June 30, 1866, in accordance with the terms of the Court of Claims of May 15, 1866, and May 18, 1866, in favor of the Eastern Cherokees. The evidence of identity is herewith submitted."

**Front Page:**

- 1. State full name: English name *Ms. Elisa Madison*; Indian name *Moniac*
- 2. Residence: *Hardee County Alabama*
- 3. Town and post office: *Mount Pleasant*
- 4. County: *Hardee*
- 5. State: *Alabama*
- 6. Date and place of birth: *Baldwin County Alabama*
- 7. By what right do you claim to share? *I claim through my father Sam Moniac through my Father Sam Moniac.*
- 8. Are you married? *Married John Madison*
- 9. Name and age of wife or husband: *I do not know her age.*
- 10. Give names of your father and mother, and your mother's name before marriage.  
Father—English name: *Sam Moniac*; Indian name: *Moniac*  
Mother—English name: *Ms Susan Moniac*; Indian name: *Moniac*  
Maternal name: *Miss Susan Marlow*
- 11. Where was they born?  
Father: *Sam Moniac Baldwin County Ala*  
Mother: *Baldwin County Alabama*
- 12. Where did they reside in 1861, if living at that time?  
Father: *Baldwin County Alabama*  
Mother: *Baldwin County Alabama*
- 13. Date of death of your father and mother—  
Father: *1861*; Mother: *1861*

**Back Page:**

- 14. Were they ever entitled for annuities, land, or other benefits? *If so, state when and where they were entitled*
- 15. Name all your brothers and sisters, giving ages, and if not living, give date of death:  
(1) *Samuel E. Moniac* *deceased*  
(2) *Martha Moniac* *deceased*  
(3) *John Moniac* *deceased*  
(4) *James Moniac* *deceased*  
(5) *Richard Moniac* *deceased*  
(6) *Mary Moniac* *deceased*
- 16. State English and Indian names of your grandparents on both father's and mother's side, if possible:  
Father's side: *Sam Moniac*; Mother's side: *John Marlow*  
*My-Ellet Moniac*; *Susan Marlow*
- 17. Where were they born? *Moniac's came from North Alabama*  
*Marlow's came from England*
- 18. Where did they reside in 1861, if living at that time? *All dead in 1877*
- 19. Give names of all their children, and residence, if living; if not living, give date of death:  
(1) English name: *John Moniac*; Indian name: *John Moniac*; Residence: *My Moniac*; deceased  
(2) English name: *My Moniac*; Indian name: *My Moniac*; Residence: *My Moniac*; deceased  
(3) English name: *My Moniac*; Indian name: *My Moniac*; Residence: *My Moniac*; deceased  
(4) English name: *My Moniac*; Indian name: *My Moniac*; Residence: *My Moniac*; deceased  
(5) English name: *My Moniac*; Indian name: *My Moniac*; Residence: *My Moniac*; deceased  
(6) English name: *My Moniac*; Indian name: *My Moniac*; Residence: *My Moniac*; deceased
- 20. Have you ever been entitled for annuities, land, or other benefits? *If so, state when and where they were entitled*

Eliza Moniac and Adeline Butler were not the same woman.

### ELISHA BUTLER AND REV. ELIZUR BUTLER

Elisha Butler is easily found in census records. In 1830, he was enumerated in Decatur County, Georgia.<sup>35</sup> In 1840, he was enumerated in adjacent Thomas County, Georgia.<sup>36</sup> Between 1850 and 1860, adjacent

<sup>32</sup> Elisa Moniac, application 6324, "Eastern Cherokee Applications of the U.S. Court of Claims, 1906-1909," digital images, *Fold3.com* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/221324223> : accessed 18 Aug 2021).

<sup>33</sup> Ibid. Also, Adeline Moniac, application 6314, "Eastern Cherokee Applications of the U.S. Court of Claims, 1906-1909," digital images, *Fold3.com* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/260/221324271/>: accessed 18 Aug 2021).

<sup>34</sup> Elisa Moniac, application 6324, "Eastern Cherokee Applications of the U.S. Court of Claims, 1906-1909," digital images, *Fold3.com* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/221324223> : accessed 18 Aug 2021).

<sup>35</sup> 1830 U.S. census, Decatur Co., GA, pop. sched., p. 7 (penned), Elisha Butler, images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 4 Feb. 2026); *Ancestry* citing NARA film M19, roll 17.

<sup>36</sup> 1840 U.S. census, Thomas Co., GA, pop. sched., Jones, p. 39 (penned), p. 310 (stamped), Elisha Butler, household, images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 19 Aug. 2021); *Ancestry* citing NARA film M704, roll 51.

Also, Thomas County was created from Decatur in 1825. See *The Newberry Library*, "Atlas of Historical County Boundaries," database online, *Newberry.org* (<https://publications.newberry.org/ahcb/statelist.html>: accessed 11 Jan. 2026) > Georgia > View Index of Counties and Equivalents, scroll to Decatur County.

Baker and Thomas Counties boundaries were also fluid.<sup>37</sup> On 21 December 1857, Mitchell County was created from Baker.<sup>38</sup> In 1850, North-Carolina-born Elisha and wife Holland Godwin<sup>39</sup> were enumerated with inferred son Jesse in Baker County, Georgia.<sup>40</sup> Rev. Elizur Butler resided in the old Cherokee Nation in north Georgia, north Alabama, and the western Cherokee Nation in Arkansas at the same times Elisha Butler resided in southwest Georgia. A timeline comparison of the two men is below.

#### Residence Comparison by Date & Time for Elisha Butler and Rev. Elizur Butler

Elisha Butler			Rev. Elizur Butler		
Date	Residence	Event	Date	Residence	Event
Abt. 1799	North Carolina <sup>41</sup>	Birth	11 June 1794	Norfolk, Litchfield Co., Connecticut <sup>42</sup>	Birth
			29 Oct. 1820	Sharon, Litchfield County, Connecticut. <sup>43</sup>	Married Esther Post <sup>44</sup>
			10 Jan. 1821	Brainerd Mission, Brainerd, Tennessee. <sup>45</sup>	Arrived for mission work

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<sup>37</sup> *The Newberry Library*, “Atlas of Historical County Boundaries,” database online, *Newberry.org* (<https://publications.newberry.org/ahcb/statelist.html>: accessed 11 Jan. 2026 > Georgia > View Index of Counties and Equivalents, scroll to Baker County).

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*, scroll to Mitchell County.

<sup>39</sup> Cook County, Georgia, “Georgia Deaths 1914-1927,” digital images, *FamilySearch.org* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3VY-DXSD-L?view=explore&cc=1320969&lang=en&groupId=TH-567-11221-4465-64> : accessed 4 Feb. 2026), entry for Alexander Butler, 27 Oct. 1922; citing Georgia Death Certificates, 1922, no. 25510, image 1210/1498, no IGN no., film 2320109, Georgia Department of Public Health and Vital Statistics, Atlanta.

<sup>40</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Baker County, Georgia, population schedule, District 10, page 37A (stamped), dwelling 15, family 15, Elisha Butler household, images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 20 Aug. 2021); *Ancestry* citing NARA film M19; roll: 17.

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>42</sup> “Connecticut, U.S. Town Birth Records, pre-1870, (Barbour Collection), index and abstracts, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 21 Aug. 2021); citing White, Lorraine Cook, editor, *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records*, Vol. 1-55, (Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1994-2002), Elizur Butler, 11 June 1794, Norfolk, CT., Vol. 2, p. 38.

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid.*, Elizur Butler of New Marlboro and Esther Post of Canaan, 29 Oct. 1820, Sharon, CT, Vol LR20, p. 380.

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>45</sup> Dr. Emmett Gordon Starr, “Presbyterian Missionary Work Began Back in 1803,” 22 April 1951, images, *The Tahlequah Star-Citizen* (OK); *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/659678030/?terms=Elizur%20Butler&match=1> : accessed 22 Aug. 2021); citing printed edition, p. 5, col. 1. This article was first printed and referenced as the newspaper name on this site in the *Cherokee County Democrat*, which later merged with the Star. Dr. Starr’s work and is recognized as the foundation of Cherokee families, history, and genealogy.

1824	Decatur Co., Georgia <sup>46</sup>	Taxed	7 May 1825	Creek Path, Alabama <sup>47</sup>	Assigned to mission
			1 May 1826	Turnip Mtn., Georgia <sup>48</sup>	Arrived at Hawaii mission
			21 Nov. 1829	“ 49	Wife died
1830	“ 50	Enumerated	14 Aug. 1830	“ 51	Married Lucy Ames
1832	“ 52	Land lottery fortunate	7 May 1831	Old Cherokee Nation <sup>53</sup>	Arrested

<sup>46</sup> Decatur Co., GA, “Georgia, Tax Digests, 1787-1900,” images, *FamilySearch.org* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS45-T4JZ?view=index&cc=4130006&lang=en&groupId=:> accessed 7 Jan. 2026), IGN 007900661, page 10, image 16/552, Captain Hawthorn’s District, Elisha Butler, 1824; citing Decatur County Tax Digest, 1824, Georgia Court of Ordinary, Bainbridge.

<sup>47</sup> “Cherokee Mission, Arrival of Mr. Potter and Dr. Butler,” *The Mission* (Hancock, Georgia), 1 Oct. 1821, *Georgia Historic Newspapers* (<https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/lccn/sn89053279/1821-10-01/ed-1/seq-2/#words=Butler+Dr> : accessed 9 Jan. 2026), image 2, p. 66, col. 1; University of Georgia, Digital Library of Georgia, GALILEO.

Also, Creek Path was near today’s Red Hill Village in Marshall County, Alabama. “A Brief History of Marshall County,” *Marshall County Alabama Online* (<https://www.marshallco.org/history.html> : accessed 22 Aug. 2021).

<sup>48</sup> Dr. Emmett Gordon Starr, “Presbyterian Missionary Work Began Back in 1803,” 22 April 1951, images, *The Tahlequah Star-Citizen* (OK); *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/659678030/?terms=Elizur%20Butler&match=1> : accessed 22 Aug. 2021); citing printed edition, p. 5, col. 2.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> 1830 U.S. census, Decatur Co., GA, pop. sched., p. 7 (penned), Elisha Butler, images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 44 Feb. 2026); *Ancestry* citing NARA film M19, roll 17.

<sup>51</sup> Dr. Emmett Gordon Starr, “Presbyterian Missionary Work Began Back in 1803,” 22 April 1951, images, *The Tahlequah Star-Citizen* (OK); *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/659678030/?terms=Elizur%20Butler&match=1> : accessed 22 Aug. 2021); citing printed edition, p. 5, col. 2.

<sup>52</sup> James F. Smith, *The Cherokee Land Lottery, containing a numerical list of the names of fortunate drawers in said lottery, with an engraved map of each district* (1938; reprint, Vidalia, Georgia; Genealogical Reprints, 1968), p. 138, land lot 108, Elisha Butler. Decatur Co., Georgia.

Also, Decatur County is approximately 39 miles from Mitchell County. “Driving Distance between Decatur Co., GA and Mitchell Co., GA, 2026, NASA, *Google Maps*<sup>®</sup> ([https://www.google.com/maps/dir/Mitchell+County,+GA/decatur+co,+ga/@31.2785537,-84.1932246,8.69z/data=!4m13!4m12!1m5!1m1!1s0x88ed9e8380f87ae5:0x88ffe4d624e52608!2m2!1d-84.1857115!2d31.2230067!1m5!1m1!1s0x88ed221afd292aa3:0x11785d0472eaa0bd!2m2!1d-84.5222189!2d30.8720058?entry=tu&g\\_ep=EgoyMDI1MDUwMy4wIKXMDSoASAFQAw%3D%3D](https://www.google.com/maps/dir/Mitchell+County,+GA/decatur+co,+ga/@31.2785537,-84.1932246,8.69z/data=!4m13!4m12!1m5!1m1!1s0x88ed9e8380f87ae5:0x88ffe4d624e52608!2m2!1d-84.1857115!2d31.2230067!1m5!1m1!1s0x88ed221afd292aa3:0x11785d0472eaa0bd!2m2!1d-84.5222189!2d30.8720058?entry=tu&g_ep=EgoyMDI1MDUwMy4wIKXMDSoASAFQAw%3D%3D) accessed 8 Jan. 2026)

<sup>53</sup> “Domestic,” *The Federal Union* (Milledgeville, Georgia), 15 Sept. 1831; *Georgia Historic Newspapers* (<https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/lccn/sn86053071/1831-09-15/ed-1/seq-2/#date1=01%2F01%2F1831&nottext=&date2=12%2F31%2F1831&words=arrest+arrested+ARRESTED+Butler&searchType=advanced&sequence=0&index=0&proxdistance=5&rows=12&ortext=&proxtext=&andtext=butler+arrested&>

		drawer residing in Decatur Co., Ga	Sept. 1831	Gwinnett Co., Georgia <sup>54</sup>	Indicted
			15 Sept. 1831	“ <sup>55</sup>	Sentenced
			22 Sept. 1831	“ <sup>56</sup>	Incarcerated
			14 Jan. 1833	“ <sup>57</sup>	Pardoned/Released
1840	Thomas Co., Georgia <sup>58</sup>	Enumerated	10 June 1839	Dwight Mission, Arkansas <sup>59</sup>	Arrived
1850	Baker Co., Georgia <sup>60</sup>	Enumerated	4 Feb. 1857	Van Buren, Arkansas <sup>61</sup>	Died

[page=1](#) : accessed 4 Feb. 2026); citing printed edition, p. 2, col. 4; University of Georgia, Digital Library of Georgia, GALILEO.

<sup>54</sup> “Indictment for Samuel Worcester, Elizur Butler, and Other Defendants;” Sept. 1831; *DocsTeach.org* (<https://www.docsteach.org/documents/document/worcester-v-georgia-indictment> : accessed 4 Feb. 2026); Appellate Case File Number 1705; Case File for Worcester v. Georgia; Appellate Jurisdiction Case Files, 1792-2010; Records of the Supreme Court, Record Group 267; NARA, Washington, DC.

<sup>55</sup> “Guilty Verdict and Sentencing for Worcester, Butler, and Others;” 15 Sept. 1831. *DocsTeach.org* (<https://www.docsteach.org/documents/document/worcester-v-georgia-verdict> : accessed 4 Feb. 2026); Appellate Case File Number 1705; Case File for Worcester v. Georgia; Appellate Jurisdiction Case Files, 1792 - 2010; Records of the Supreme Court, Record Group 267; NARA, Washington, DC.

<sup>56</sup> “Georgia U.S. Central Register of Convicts,” images, 22 Sept. 1831, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 10 Jan. 2021), line 455, image 24/194, schoolteacher Elizur Butler born in Connecticut, crime: for Illegal Residence; citing Inmate Administration—Central Register of Convicts, 1817–1976. Series 21/3/27. Georgia Archives, Morrow.

<sup>57</sup> *Cherokee Phoenix and Indians Advocate* (New Echota, GA), 26 Jan. 1833, image 3; *Georgia Historic Newspapers* (<https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/lccn/sn83020874/1833-01-26/ed-1/seq-3/#date1=01%2F01%2F1833&nottxt=&date2=12%2F31%2F1833&words=BUTLER+Butler&searchType=advanced&sequence=0&lccn=sn83020874&index=0&proxdistance=5&rows=12&ortext=&proxtext=butler&andtext=&page=1> : accessed 4 Feb. 2026); citing printed edition, p. 3, col; University of Georgia, Digital Library of Georgia, GALILEO.

<sup>58</sup> 1840 U.S. census, Thomas Co., GA, pop. sched., Jones, p. 39 (penned), p. 310 (stamped), Elisha Butler, household, images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 19 Aug. 2021); *Ancestry* citing NARA film M704, roll 51.

<sup>59</sup> Dr. Emmett Gordon Starr, “Presbyterian Missionary Work Began Back in 1803,” 22 April 1951, images, *The Tahlequah Star-Citizen* (OK); *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/659678030/?terms=Elizur%20Butler&match=1> : accessed 4 Feb. 2026); citing printed edition, p. 5, col. 3.

<sup>60</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Baker County, Georgia, population schedule, District 10, page 37A (stamped), dwelling 15, family 15, Elisha Butler household, images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 20 Aug. 2021); *Ancestry* citing NARA film M19; roll: 17.

<sup>61</sup> “Death of Dr. Butler,” 24 March 1857, *The Richmond Dispatch* (VA), images, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/80609457/?terms=elizur%20Butler&match=1> : accessed 4 Feb. 2026); citing print edition, page 1, col. 1.

Gwinnett County, Georgia is the farthest south in Georgia that we can place Rev. Elizur Butler.<sup>62</sup> Today, Gwinnett County is about 262 miles from Decatur County where Elisha Butler was taxed in 1824<sup>63</sup> and enumerated in 1830.<sup>64</sup> The distance between Van Buren, Arkansas, and Decatur County, Georgia, is about 775 miles.<sup>65</sup> The 1830 historical Georgia map helps visualize the geographic areas and current approximate 270 miles distance between Gwinnett and Decatur Counties.<sup>66</sup>

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<sup>62</sup> Indictment for Samuel Worcester, Elizur Butler, and Other Defendants;” Sept. 1831, *DocsTeach.org* (<https://www.docsteach.org/documents/document/worcester-v-georgia-indictment> : 4 Feb. 2026); Appellate Case File Number 1705; Case File for Worcester v. Georgia; Appellate Jurisdiction Case Files, 1792-2010; Records of the Supreme Court, Record Group 267; National Archives, Washington, DC.

<sup>63</sup> Decatur Co., GA, “Georgia, Tax Digests, 1787-1900,” images, *FamilySearch.org* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS45-T4JZ?view=index&cc=4130006&lang=en&groupId=:> accessed 7 Jan. 2026), IGN 007900661, page 10, image 16/552, Captain Hawthorn’s District, Elisha Butler, 1824; citing Decatur County Tax Digest, 1824, Georgia Court of Ordinary, Bainbridge.

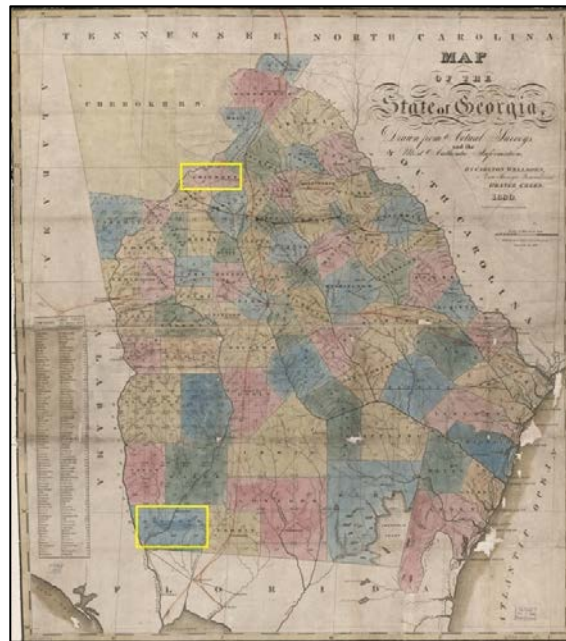
<sup>64</sup> “Driving Distance between Gwinnett and Decatur Counties, Georgia,” 2026, NASA, *Google Maps*<sup>®</sup> (<https://www.google.com/maps/dir/Gwinnett+County,+GA/Bainbridge,+GA/@32.4288277,-85.5675969,8z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m1!3!4m1!2!1m5!1m1!1s0x88f59d45cf8d985d:0x5aae88810e065f7d!2m2!1d-84.0167423!2d33.9190653!1m5!1m1!1s0x88ed18e6367094ff:0x738278de52d958a8!2m2!1d-84.5754699!2d30.9037995> : accessed 29 Aug. 2021).

Also, 1830 U.S. census, Decatur Co., GA, pop. sched., p. 7 (penned), Elisha Butler, images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 44 Feb. 2026); *Ancestry* citing NARA film M19, roll 17.

<sup>65</sup> “Driving Distance between Van Buren, Arkansas and Decatur County, Georgia,” 2026, NASA, *Google Maps*<sup>®</sup>: (<https://www.google.com/maps/dir/Van+Buren,+AR/Bainbridge,+GA/@33.137074,-93.9549186,6z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m1!3!4m1!2!1m5!1m1!1s0x87cbb4fff872105f:0x11f579b74cfcf4fa!2m2!1d-94.348268!2d35.436756!1m5!1m1!1s0x88ed18e6367094ff:0x738278de52d958a8!2m2!1d-84.5754699!2d30.9037995> : accessed 4 Feb. 2026).

<sup>66</sup> Wellborn, Carlton, Orange Green, and William Hoogland. *Map of the state of Georgia, drawn from actual surveys and the most authentic information*, 1794 or 1795-1832, map, *Library of Congress* (<https://www.loc.gov/item/2011588001/> : accessed 4 Feb. 2026); Library of Congress Geography and Map Division Washington, D.C.

## 1830 Georgia Map<sup>67</sup>



Even though Elisha Butler of the 720<sup>th</sup> District, Decatur County was a fortunate drawer in the 1832 Georgia land lottery in the 14<sup>th</sup> District, Second Section, land lot 108, Cherokee County, Georgia,<sup>68</sup> no evidence found indicated he relocated; he was later enumerated in these southwestern Georgia counties.<sup>69</sup> A deed for the lottery land sale was found in Cherokee County, Georgia.<sup>70</sup>

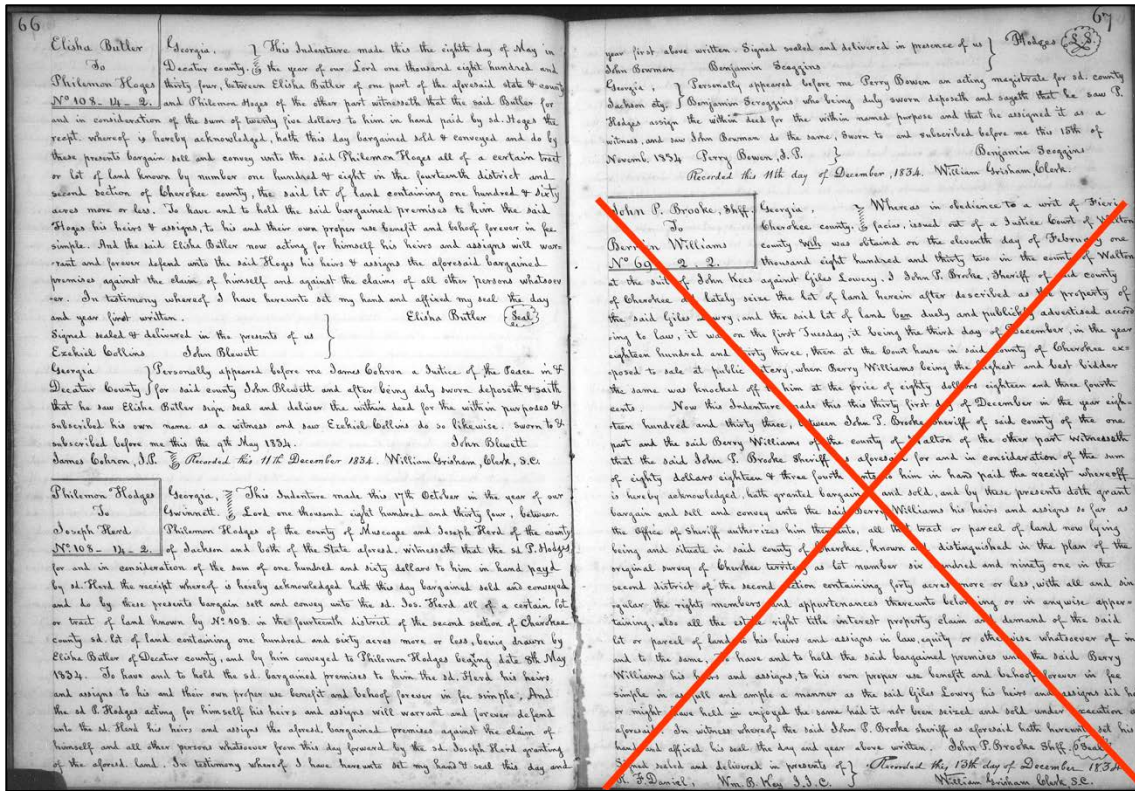
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<sup>67</sup> Ibid.

<sup>68</sup> James F. Smith, *The Cherokee Land Lottery, containing a numerical list of the names of fortunate drawers in said lottery, with an engraved map of each district* (1938; reprint, Vidalia, Georgia; Genealogical Reprints, 1968), 186.

<sup>69</sup> 1840 U.S. census, Thomas Co., GA, pop. sched., Jones, p. 39 (penned), p. 310 (stamped), Elisha Butler, household, images, *Ancestry.com* (accessed 19 Aug. 2021); *Ancestry* citing NARA film M704, roll 51.

<sup>70</sup> Cherokee County, GA, "Deeds and Mortgages, 1833-1836," Elisha Butler of Decatur County, Georgia, to Philemon Hoges [Hodges], No. 108-14-2, 8 May 1834, *FamilySearch.org* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKJ-GSXL-Y?view=explore> : Feb 5, 2026), image 411/616; citing Book B, pp 66-67, IGN 008152124, Superior Court, Canton.



If Rev. Elizur Butler was in Alabama in 1825, was arrested and served in the penitentiary 1831-1833 in Gwinnett County, Georgia, was in Arkansas in 1839 and died there in 1857, he was not the same man as Elisha Butler who was taxed in Decatur County in 1824, enumerated in 1830 in Decatur County, the fortunate drawer in the 1832 Georgia land lottery while residing in Decatur County, enumerated in 1840 and 1850 in Thomas and Baker Counties, Georgia, respectively. To merge these two men into a single identity is an unfounded, illogical, and astonishing error.

MARRIAGE RECORDS ANALYSES

Genealogists not only analyze information contained in records but also the record condition. The author hired Steven Drexler, Diplomate ABFDE, an expert document examiner and owner of Drexler Document Laboratory, LLC., to view and analyze these records that were held at the Baldwin County, Alabama,

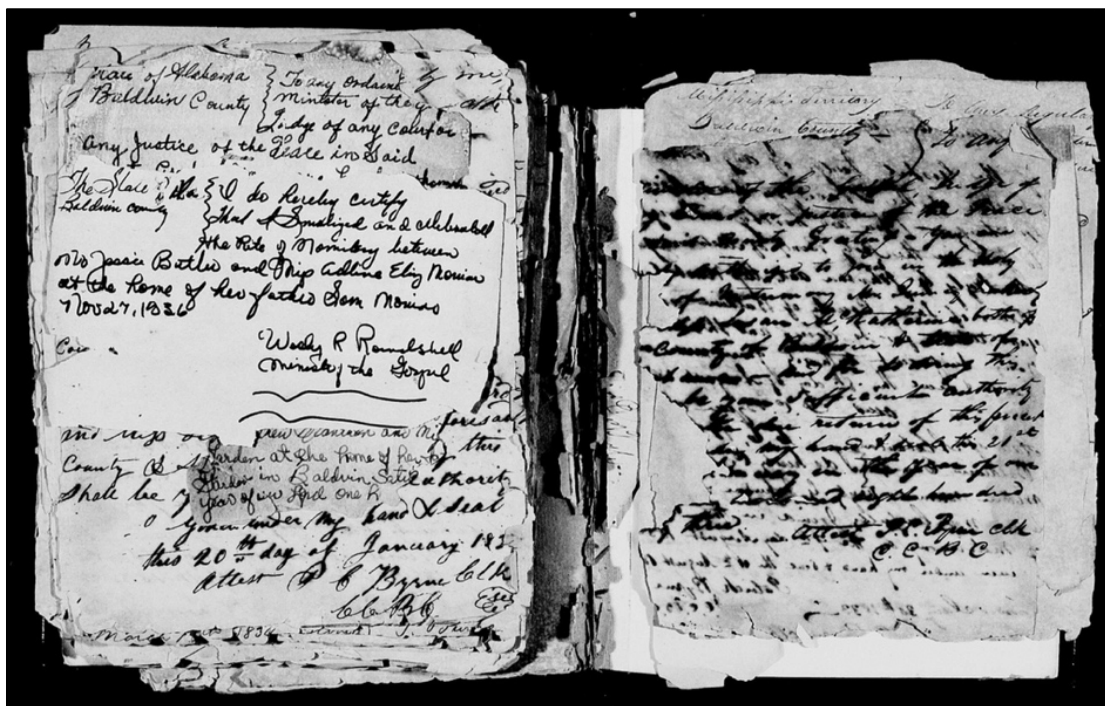
<sup>71</sup> Cherokee County, GA, "Deeds and Mortgages, 1833-1836," Elisha Butler of Decatur County, Georgia, to Philemon Hoges [Hodges], No. 108-14-2, 8 May 1834, *FamilySearch.org* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKJ-GSXL-Y?view=explore> : Feb 5, 2026), image 411/616; citing Book B, pp 66-67, IGN 008152124, Superior Court, Canton. (*Ibid* for this citation was not used, because this graphic was on a different page.)

Archives and Probate Office and provide an opinion as to their authenticity.<sup>72</sup> The analyses of the digitized records by artist Rus Schmidt and Drexler's supporting analyses of the originals are below.

### Digitized Marriage Records

This marriage record book originally was an intact bound volume of Baldwin County, Alabama, marriage records. The pages are now torn loose from the binding. A torn piece of paper containing information for a marriage record dated 27 November 1836, between a Jesse Butler and Adline (*sic*) Eliza Moniac seems to have been placed over another record of this volume and then digitized; only a portion of the record underneath can be seen.<sup>73</sup>

#### Jessie Butler Marriage<sup>74</sup>



#### Clerk's Signature

The court clerk's signature is missing. A sample signed by P [?] Byrne can be seen on the record underneath the torn sheet.<sup>75</sup>

<sup>72</sup> Mr. Drexler's CV and credentials can be found on his website:

<https://www.drexdoclab.com/qualifications.html>. His report is available from the genealogist upon request.

<sup>73</sup> Baldwin Co, AL, "Alabama County Marriages, 1711-1992," digital images, FamilySearch.org (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939Z-YCSX-W4?cc=1743384&wc=3LJ6-ZNL%3A1586877301>: accessed 2 Nov. 2025), film 004539243 (no IGN provided) > image 267/1059, Jessie Butler and Adline Eliz. Moniac, 7 Nov. 1836; citing Marriage Licenses, June 1810-March 1836, Probate Court, Bay Minette.

<sup>74</sup> Ibid.

<sup>75</sup> Ibid.

The handwriting on this torn piece of paper is inconsistent with the handwriting in other unaltered records found in this volume.<sup>76</sup>

Because the bleed-through in the marriage record volume is heavy, making the records difficult to read, another example of the same clerk's handwriting was located. Patrick Byrne also was the Baldwin County Inferior Court Clerk when this security bond was recorded - 3 Dec. 1836.<sup>77</sup> Comparison between handwriting of Patrick Byrne on the marriage record dated 29 November 1836, and the probate record entry 7 days later shows distinct differences.<sup>78</sup> Below is a side-by-side comparison of these two records.

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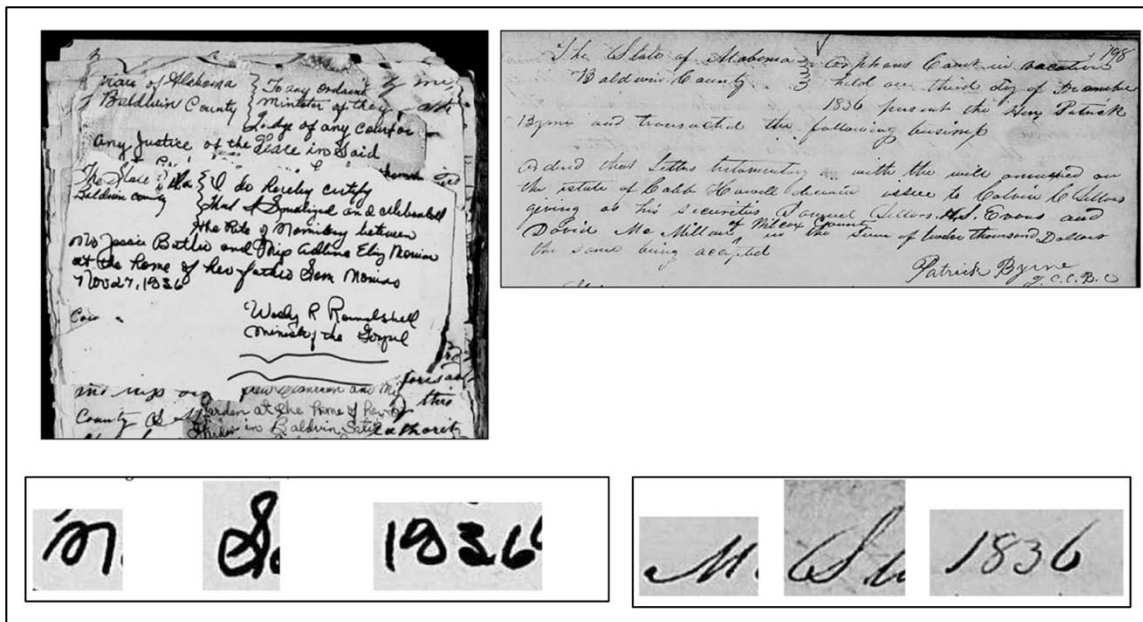
<sup>76</sup> Ibid., Also, images 266, 268/1059.

<sup>77</sup> Security bond for the estate of Cobb Howell," 3 Dec. 1836, images, *FamilySearch.org* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GB3T-ZVQ?i=128&wc=M6DJ-I29%3A220032901%2C220073201&cc=1925446> : accessed 20 Aug. 2021), IGN 005176197 > Catalog > Alabama, Baldwin County > Probate Minutes 1822-1928 > Notes > Records online > Browse > Baldwin > Minutes 1822-1856, vol. A1-B2 > page 198, image 129/459; citing Orphans Court Minutes, vol. A1, 1822-Dec. 1844, Baldwin County, Alabama courthouse, Bay Minette.

<sup>78</sup> Ibid. Also, Baldwin Co, AL, "Alabama County Marriages, 1711-1992," digital images, FamilySearch.org (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939Z-YCSX-W4?cc=1743384&wc=3LJ6-ZNL%3A1586877301>: accessed 2 Nov. 2025), film 004539243 (no IGN provided) > image 267/1059, Jessie Butler and Adline Eliz. Moniac, 7 Nov. 1836; citing Marriage Licenses, June 1810-March 1836, Probate Court, Bay Minette.

Sample of Handwriting for Jessie Butler marriage record (left)<sup>79</sup>

Sample of Handwriting for Cobb Howell probate record, Inferior Court (No Clerk); Patrick Byrne (right)<sup>80</sup>



The comparison of individual letters in each record shows a pronounced difference in writing. Even though the probate record bleed-through is not as severe as that of the marriage record, no doubt should exist that the Butler marriage record and the probate record signed by Byrne were written by different individuals using different writing instruments at different times. Obvious differences exist in the paper, pen, and handwriting.

<sup>79</sup> Baldwin Co, AL, "Alabama County Marriages, 1711-1992," images, [FamilySearch.org](https://familysearch.org) (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939Z-YCSX-W4?cc=1743384&wc=3LJ6-ZNL%3A1586877301>: accessed 2 Nov. 2025), film 004539243 (no IGN provided) > image 267/1059, Jessie Butler and Adline Eliz. Moniac, 7 Nov. 1836.

<sup>80</sup> Baldwin County, AL, "Security bond for the estate of Cobb Howell," 3 Dec. 1836, images, [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org) (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GB3T-ZVQ?i=128&wc=M6DJ-J29%3A220032901%2C220073201&cc=1925446>: accessed 20 Aug. 2021), FHL film 005176197 > Catalog > Alabama, Baldwin County > Probate Minutes 1822-1928 > Notes > Records online > Browse > Baldwin > Minutes 1822-1856, vol. A1-B2 > page 198, image 129/459.

## Wesley R. Roundshell [?] Identified Minister of the Gospel Who Performed the Marriages<sup>81</sup>

An extensive search was undertaken for the minister who performed the marriage - Wesley R. Roundshell. This search included spelling variations such as *Roundsball*, *Roundsbell*, *Roundsfell*, *Roundsville* and was done in Georgia, Alabama, and for the entire domestic U.S., with no results for this name.<sup>82</sup>

### Paper

The appearance of this digitized torn piece of paper is inconsistent with the appearance of the older paper of other unaltered records and does not show the normal wear and bleed-through seen on adjacent pages in this volume. Papers produced between 1830 and 1840 were generally known as rag papers made from different materials such as linen, hemp, cotton.<sup>83</sup> About 1840, ground wood pulp became popular as a raw material used in paper production.<sup>84</sup> The raw materials used to produce paper caused deterioration of the support foundation over time.<sup>85</sup>

“Most papers produced from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century become brittle between 20-50 years and are present in about 25-50% of research library collections.”<sup>86</sup>

Use of this type of paper in this marriage volume would explain its severe deterioration.

The torn paper placed in this volume over this record has not deteriorated at the same rate as the original paper.<sup>87</sup> This lack of deterioration indicates that it was not produced from the same raw materials at the same time. Although Drexler could not examine the paper directly, Baldwin County Archivist Felicia Anderson confirmed it was rag paper.<sup>88</sup>

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<sup>81</sup> This surname appears to be both Roundshell, Roundsbell, or Roundsball in records.

<sup>82</sup> Using the search and wildcard features, a broad search in Alabama, Georgia, and the domestic U.S. (without limitations) was conducted for Wesley R. Roundshell on *Ancestry.com* and *FamilySearch.org* with no results. The questionable records addressed in this case were the only records in this marriage volume where he is named.

<sup>83</sup> “Session 4: Caring for Paper Collections, Inherent Device: Materials,” *Northeast Document Conservation Center* (<https://www.nedcc.org/preservation101/session-4/2inherent-vice-materials>: accessed 20 Aug. 2021), Paper.

<sup>84</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>85</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>86</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>87</sup> Baldwin Co, AL, “Alabama County Marriages, 1711-1992,” images, *FamilySearch.org* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939Z-YCSX-W4?cc=1743384&wc=3LJ6-ZNL%3A1586877301>: accessed 2 Nov. 2025), film 004539243 (no IGN provided) > image 267/1059, Jessie Butler and Adline Eliz. Moniac, 7 Nov. 1836.

<sup>88</sup> Felishia Anderson, Archivist, Baldwin Co., Alabama, Archives, phone conversation after her inspection of the loose pages, with Yvonne Mashburn Schmidt, genealogist, Vidalia, GA, 24 Aug. 2021, notes privately held by genealogist. Felisha confirmed the paper was rag paper.

## **Ink**

Artist Rus Schmidt<sup>89</sup> examined these digitized marriage records and drew this conclusion. “The ink bleed-through indicates the ink used in the older records probably contained iron.<sup>90</sup> Either the newer records were written with ink made from materials other than iron or they are not old enough for the ink to saturate the paper and cause bleed-through.<sup>91</sup>

“The pen used in the original records was probably a flat-tipped quill pen. On the down stroke, these pens create a wide line, and on the upstroke, the line is angled and thinner. In the newer record placed over the original, the writing instrument has a round-tipped nib rather than the flat tipped. This record was written with a different writing instrument than the unaltered records.”<sup>92</sup>

Experts agree with this ink composition assessment.

“[Iron-gall ink] was the predominant type of writing ink...used as early as the fifth century and was common from the 12th century well into the 20th century. Iron gall ink is made by mixing tannic acid with an iron salt. Both high acidity within the ink (leading to acid hydrolysis of the paper) and oxidation of excess iron compounds present in the ink make it very damaging to the support (usually paper). In extreme cases the ink actually "eats through" the support.”<sup>93</sup>

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<sup>89</sup> Rus Schmidt [Vidalia, GA], informal interview by Yvonne Mashburn Schmidt, CG, 18 Aug. 2021, regarding the marriage record for Adline Eliz Moniac and Jesse Butler; notes held by genealogist [Vidalia, GA], 2021. Rus earned his Bachelor of Science undergraduate degrees from Murray State University with majors in English and History and a Minor in Art. He holds a M.Ed. from the University of Montevallo with a Major in Secondary Education and Minor in Educational Leadership and Art. He has attended advanced workshops, seminars, and art courses related to his art field of study. According to Schmidt, an examination of the original pages could confirm the type of ink and paper. Rus Schmidt is the genealogist’s husband.

<sup>90</sup> Ibid.

<sup>91</sup> Ibid.

<sup>92</sup> Ibid.

<sup>93</sup> “Session 4: Caring for Paper Collections, Inherent Device: Materials,” *Northeast Document Conservation Center* (<https://www.nedcc.org/preservation101/session-4/2inherent-vice-materials>: accessed 20 Aug. 2021), Ink and pencil.

## Film Date

Another inconsistency also exists. The microfilm date of this record set is 30 March 1992.<sup>94</sup> An earlier abstract of these same marriages was published in 1961 and does not include these three marriage records.<sup>95</sup> These fraudulent records were created and inserted into this marriage volume between 1961 and 30 March 1992.

## Other Fraudulent Records

Other fraudulent records in this volume involve marriages between Mack and Moniac,<sup>96</sup> Mitchell and Hollinger,<sup>97</sup> and Grantham individuals.<sup>98</sup> These have similarly torn pages placed over older records. None of these records were included in the Thomas 1961 abstracts.<sup>99</sup> Other than these four records, the remainder of the marriage records in this volume appear to have been unaltered. The Grantham marriage record contains very little information and was not submitted for professional analysis.

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<sup>94</sup> Baldwin Co, AL, microfilmed information, "Alabama County Marriages, 1711-1992," images, *FamilySearch.org* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939Z-YCSX-YN?wc=3LJ6-ZNL%3A1586877301%26cc%3D1743384&lang=en&i=181&cc=1743384> : accessed 3 Feb. 2026), film 004539243 (no IGN provided), image 4/1059.

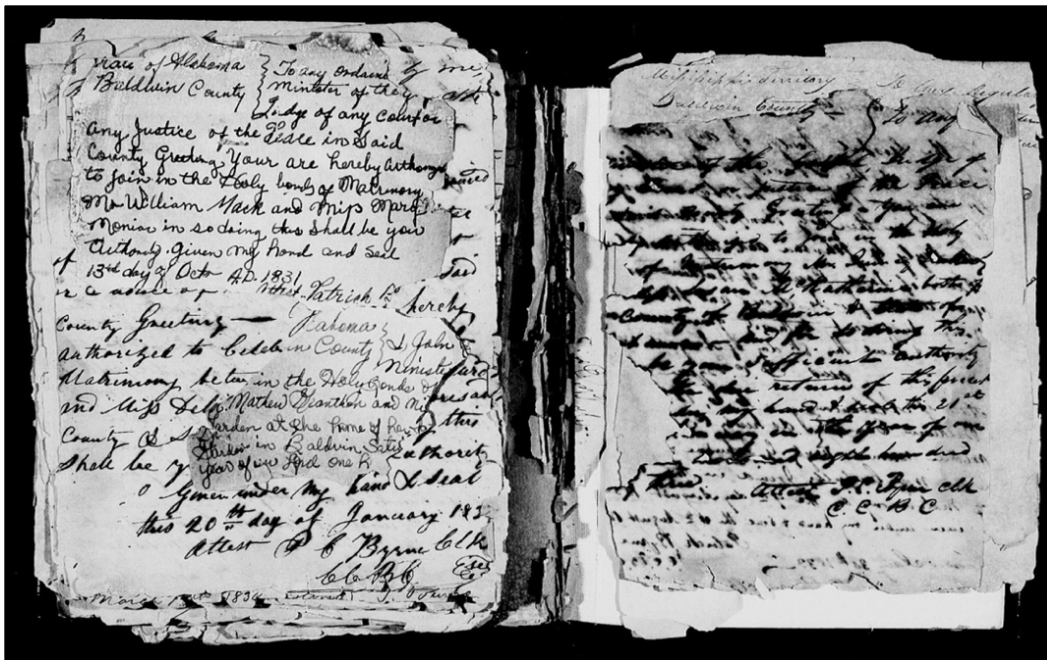
<sup>95</sup> Oliver U. Thomas, Jr., compiler, and Elizabeth Wood Thomas, *Baldwin County, Alabama, Marriages, 1810-1836* (Pass Christian, Mississippi: Willow Institute of Genealogy, 1961); *FamilySearch.org* (<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/viewer/438848/?offset=1&return=1#page=1&viewer=picture&o=info&n=0&q=> : accessed 5 Feb. 2026) > Catalog > Books > Search for *Baldwin County, Alabama, Marriages, 1810-1836*,

<sup>96</sup> Baldwin County, Alabama, "Alabama County Marriages, 1711-1992," images, *FamilySearch.org* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939Z-YCSX-W4?i=266&cc=1743384> : accessed 18 Aug. 2021), Marriages, 1809-1950, FHL film 004539243, William Mack and Mary Moniac, 13 Oct. 1831, image 265/1059.

<sup>97</sup> *Ibid.*, *FamilySearch.org* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939Z-YCSX-63?i=265&cc=1743384> : accessed 18 Aug. 2021), FHL film 004539243, John Mitchell and Mery Hollinger, 29 Nov 1836, image 266/1059.

<sup>98</sup> *Ibid.*, *FamilySearch.org* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939Z-YCSX-3Z?i=264&cc=1743384> : accessed 13 Jan. 2022), FHL film 004539243, Matthew Grantham marriage record.

<sup>99</sup> Oliver U. Thomas, Jr., compiler, and Elizabeth Wood Thomas, *Baldwin County, Alabama, Marriages, 1810-1836* (Pass Christian, Mississippi: Willow Institute of Genealogy, 1961); *FamilySearch.org* (<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/viewer/438848/?offset=1&return=1#page=1&viewer=picture&o=info&n=0&q=> : accessed 5 Feb. 2026).



Other than this marriage record, the only one found for William Mack during this time in Baldwin or surrounding areas was for a 20 Jan. 1832, marriage between William Mack and Martha Parris in the same volume and it appears to be genuine.<sup>101</sup> The only marriage record dated 13 Oct. 1831, was found in the 1961 abstracts for John Elden and Lucy Smith.<sup>102</sup> This Elden Smith marriage is not part of the digitized marriage volume.<sup>103</sup>

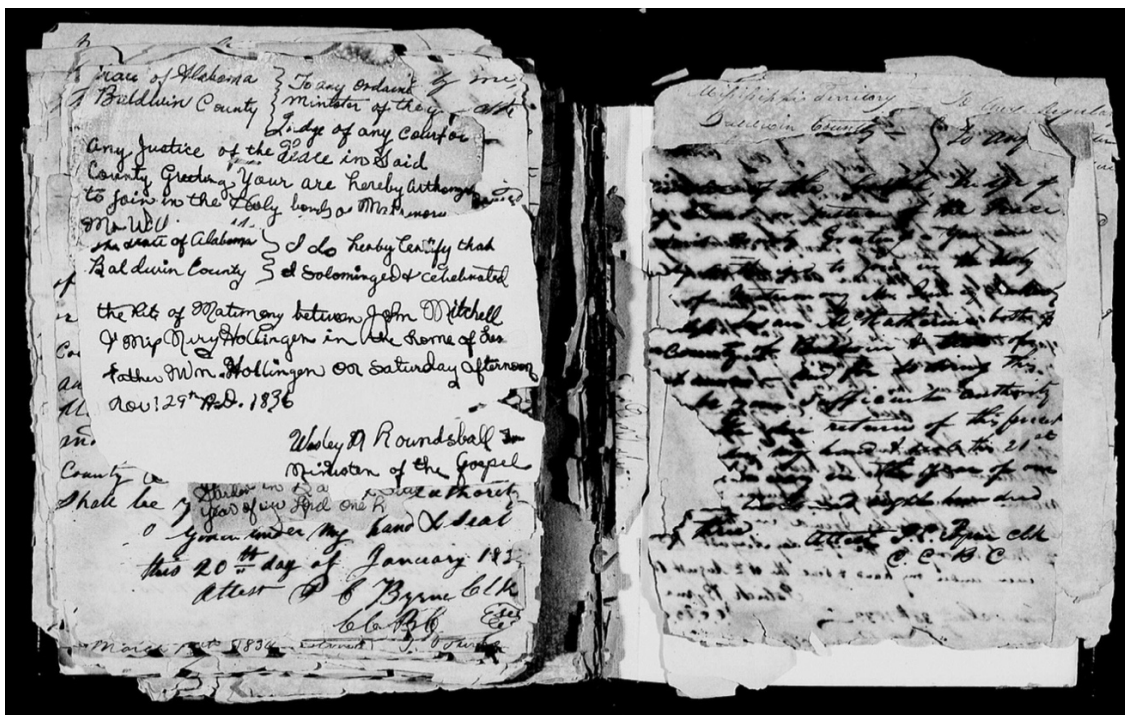
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<sup>100</sup> Baldwin County, Alabama, "Alabama County Marriages, 1711-1992," images, *FamilySearch.org* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939Z-YCSX-3Z?i=264&cc=1743384&lang=en> : accessed 18 Aug. 2021), Marriages, 1809-1950, FHL film 004539243, William Mack and Mary Moniac, 13 Oct. 1831, image 265/1059.

<sup>101</sup> *Ibid.*, *FamilySearch.org* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939Z-YCS6-P2?i=248&cc=1743384&lang=en> : accessed 18 Aug. 2021), FHL film 004539243, William Mack and Martha Parris, 20 Jan. 1832, image 249/1059.

<sup>102</sup> Oliver U. Thomas, Jr., compiler, and Elizabeth Wood Thomas, *Baldwin County, Alabama, Marriages, 1810-1836* (Pass Christian, Mississippi: Willow Institute of Genealogy, 1961); *FamilySearch.org* (<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/viewer/438848/?offset=1&return=1#page=1&viewer=picture&o=info&n=0&q=> : accessed 5 Feb. 2026), p. 73, image 4/4.

<sup>103</sup> "Alabama County Marriages, 1809-1950," images, *FamilySearch.org* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939Z-YCSJ-PW?i=2&cc=1743384> : accessed 18 Aug. 2021).



The marriage was recorded as Saturday afternoon, Nov. 29, 1836. 29 November 1836, was a Tuesday not a Saturday.<sup>105</sup>

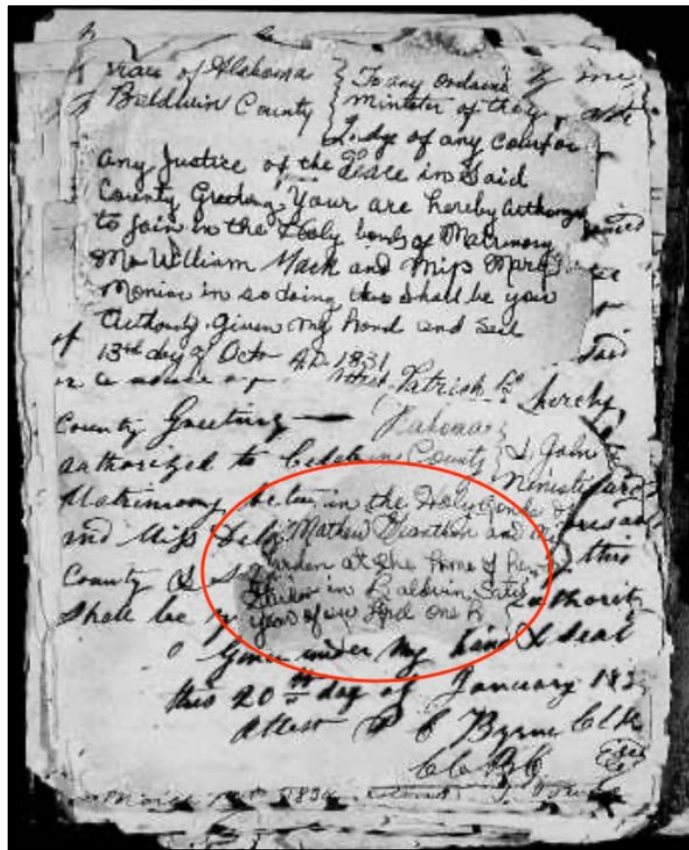
<sup>104</sup> Ibid., *FamilySearch.org*

(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939Z-YCSX-63?i=265&cc=1743384> : accessed 18 Aug.

2021), FHL film 004539243, John Mitchell and Mery Hollinger, 29 Nov 1836, image 266/1059.

<sup>105</sup> *Timeanddate.com* (<https://www.timeanddate.com/calendar/?year=1836&country=1> : accessed 30 Dec.

2021), Calendar for the year 1836. Thanks to Darcie Hind Posz, CG, for pointing out this discrepancy. Darcie Hind Posz, CG, Washington, D.C., "Re: Draft report from document examiner," Darcie Hind Posz [email for private use,] to Yvonne Mashburn Schmidt, email, 29 Dec. 2021; Moniac Case Study, Mashburn Schmidt Research Files; privately held by Yvonne Mashburn Schmidt, CG, [Yvonne@TheGeorgiaGenealogist.com], Vidalia, Georgia.



The handwriting, ink, and paper for these three marriage records all vary from the handwriting and ink in other records in this volume. No other record was found for John Mitchell and Mery or Mary Hollinger during this time in these areas.<sup>107</sup>

<sup>106</sup> Baldwin County, Alabama, "Alabama County Marriages, 1711-1992," images, *FamilySearch.org* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939Z-YCSX-3Z?i=264&cc=1743384&lang=en> : accessed 18 Aug. 2021), Marriages, 1809-1950, FHL film 004539243, Matthew Grantham and Miss [?] marriage, 13 Oct. 1831, image 265/1059.

<sup>107</sup> *Ibid.*, microfilmed information, *FamilySearch.org* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939Z-YCSX-YN?wc=3LJ6-ZNL%3A1586877301%26cc%3D1743384&lang=en&i=181&cc=1743384> : accessed 3 Feb. 2026), film 004539243 (no IGN provided), image 4/1059.

Also, Oliver U. Thomas, Jr., compiler, and Elizabeth Wood Thomas, *Baldwin County, Alabama, Marriages, 1810-1836* (Pass Christian, Mississippi: Willow Institute of Genealogy, 1961); *FamilySearch.org* (<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/viewer/438848/?offset=1&return=1#page=1&viewer=picture&o=info&n=0&q=> : accessed 5 Feb. 2026).

Both Sam Moniac and William Hollinger were identified as ancestors of the members of the Muscogee Nation of Florida during the Federal Recognition process of the Muscogee Nation of Florida.<sup>108</sup> The group provided as one piece of supporting evidence proving Creek ancestry, a 1906 Eastern Cherokee rejected application that was rejected because it was noted to be “A Creek Case.”<sup>109</sup> It is important to understand that these rejected applications do not prove Indian ancestry even if they are noted to be a Creek case.

#### **On-Site Analysis of the Records<sup>110</sup>**

Drexler inspected these marriage records at the Baldwin County, Alabama Archives. He was unable to examine the paper and ink:

“An examination of the paper and chemical and physical characteristics of the inks was prohibited due to the encasing of each page in a sealed protective sleeve.”<sup>111</sup>

Viewing the digital record gave no clue that the Butler and Mitchell marriage record were written on the front and back of same piece of torn paper. Drexler’s examination illuminates the mirrored images.

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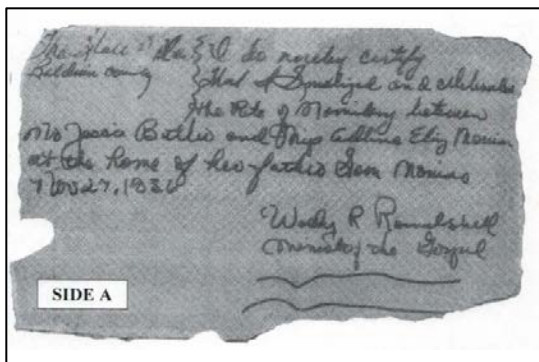
<sup>108</sup> Muscogee Nation of Florida, “1995 Petition Narrative,” U.S. Department of the Interior, Indian Affairs ([https://www.bia.gov/sites/bia.gov/files/assets/as-ia/ofa/petition/032\\_muscuf\\_FL/pet\\_narr/032\\_NARR\\_1995\\_PetitionNarr.pdf](https://www.bia.gov/sites/bia.gov/files/assets/as-ia/ofa/petition/032_muscuf_FL/pet_narr/032_NARR_1995_PetitionNarr.pdf): accessed 29 Aug. 2021) > Bureaus and Offices > Bureau of Indian Affairs > Programs and Services > Federal Acknowledgement > Register of Documented Petitions ..., Petition 032, p. 10.

<sup>109</sup> “Proposed Findings,” 29 Jan. 1981, U.S. Department of the Interior, Indian Affairs ([https://www.indianaffairs.gov/sites/bia.gov/files/assets/as-ia/ofa/petition/008\\_lowmus\\_GA/008\\_pf.pdf](https://www.indianaffairs.gov/sites/bia.gov/files/assets/as-ia/ofa/petition/008_lowmus_GA/008_pf.pdf): accessed 19 Aug. 2021), Bureaus and Offices > Bureau of Indian Affairs > Programs and Services > Federal Acknowledgement > Acknowledged or Denied Cases > Denied, Petition 008, Lower Muscogee East of the Mississippi – GA, p. 49.

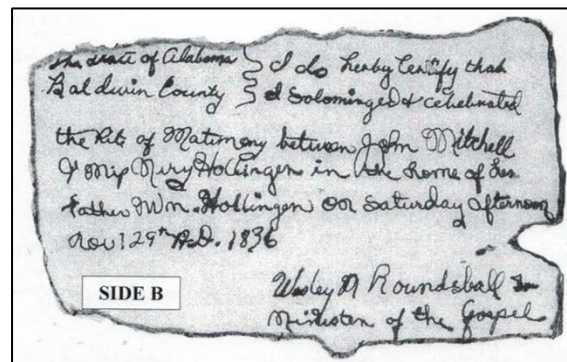
<sup>110</sup> Steven Drexler, Diplomat, ABFDE, Drexler Document Laboratory, LLC, [Info@DrexDocLab.com], “Document Examination Report, Baldwin County, Alabama, Marriage Records,” 6 Jan. 2022, to Yvonne Mashburn Schmidt, CG, [Yvonne@TheGeorgiaGenealogist.com]. This report is privately held by the genealogist.

<sup>111</sup> Ibid.

### Jessie Butler Marriage Record<sup>112</sup>



### John Mitchell Marriage Record<sup>113</sup>



#### Drexler Opinion:

“...The entirety of the randomly entered writings of the front and back of...[the Butler and Mitchell marriage records] are contained within the parameters of the torn page fragment. It is also noted that the date format of side A is inconsistent with the date format of side B.”<sup>114</sup>

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<sup>112</sup> Baldwin Co, AL, “Alabama County Marriages, 1711-1992,” images, *FamilySearch.org* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939Z-YCSX-W4?cc=1743384&wc=3LJ6-ZNL%3A1586877301>: accessed 2 Nov. 2025), film 004539243 (no IGN provided) > image 267/1059, Jessie Butler and Adline Eliz. Moniac, 7 Nov. 1836.

<sup>113</sup> *Ibid.*, *FamilySearch.org* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939Z-YCSX-63?i=265&cc=1743384> : accessed 18 Aug. 2021), FHL film 004539243, John Mitchell and Mery Hollinger, 29 Nov 1836, image 266/1059.

<sup>114</sup> Steven Drexler, Diplomat, ABFDE, Drexler Document Laboratory, LLC, [Info@DrexDocLab.com], “Document Examination Report, Baldwin County, Alabama, Marriage Records,” 6 Jan. 2022, to Yvonne Mashburn Schmidt, CG, [Yvonne@TheGeorgiaGenealogist.com].

### Drexler Comparison of Handwriting of Sides A and B of Fraudulent Records

Drexler determined that these two records were written by two different people. His examples clearly show the difference.

Side A, Jessie Butler Marriage Record<sup>115</sup>

Side B, John Mitchell Marriage Record<sup>116</sup>



Drexler Opinion:

“Based on the results of examinations and comparisons of the handwritten entries on the front and back of the Jessie Butler and John Mitchell marriages, the lack of evidence that the inking was produced by a nib style pen and the significant inconsistencies between the handwriting of side A

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<sup>115</sup> Baldwin Co, Alabama, “Alabama County Marriages, 1711-1992,” images, *FamilySearch.org* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939Z-YCSX-W4?cc=1743384&wc=3LJ6-ZNL%3A1586877301>: accessed 2 Nov. 2025), film 004539243 (no IGN provided) > image 267/1059, Jessie Butler and Adline Eliz. Moniac, 7 Nov. 1836.

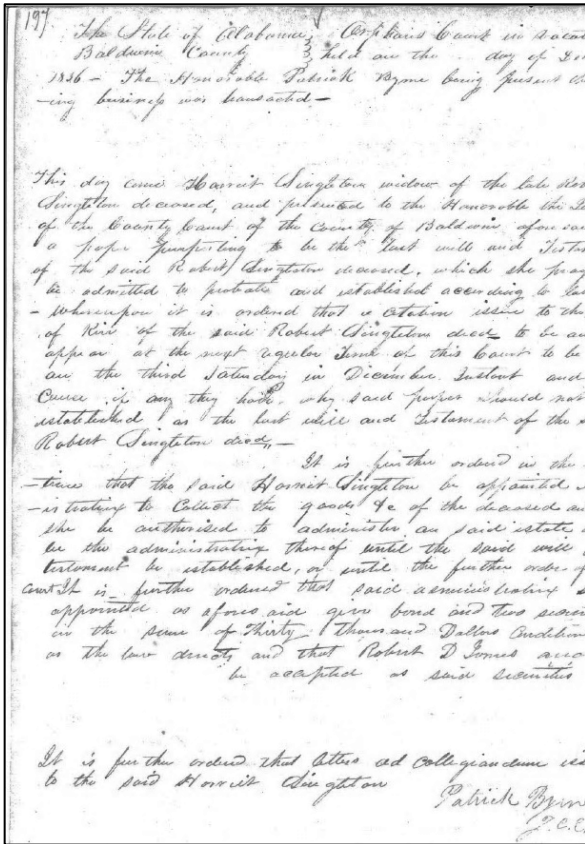
<sup>116</sup> Ibid., *FamilySearch.org* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939Z-YCSX-63?i=265&cc=1743384> : accessed 18 Aug. 2021), FHL film 004539243, John Mitchell and Mery Hollinger, 29 Nov 1836, image 266/1059.

and side B, it is my opinion that side A was written by a different author than side B and that [these items were] written sometimes after the recorded date and then fraudulently inserted into the record.”<sup>117</sup>

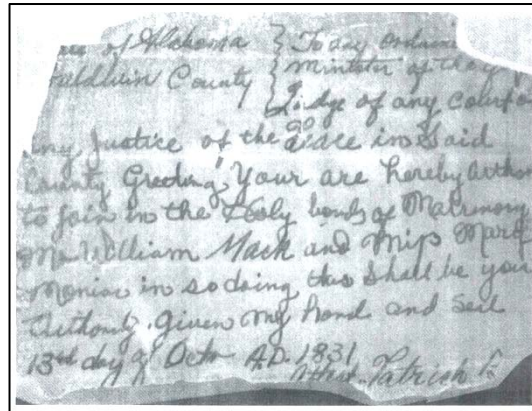
### Drexler Handwriting and Signature Comparisons of Court Clerk Patrick Byrnes

Drexler compared Patrick Byrnes’ signature with one taken from the adjacent page of the one previously discussed but also recorded in Dec. 1836.

**Authentic Patrick Byrnes Signature**<sup>118</sup>



**William Mack Marriage Record**<sup>119</sup>

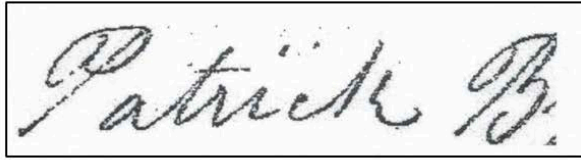


<sup>117</sup> Steven Drexler, Diplomat, ABFDE, Drexler Document Laboratory, LLC, [Info@DrexDocLab.com], “Document Examination Report, Baldwin County, Alabama, Marriage Records,” 6 Jan. 2022, to Yvonne Mashburn Schmidt, CG, [Yvonne@TheGeorgiaGenealogist.com].

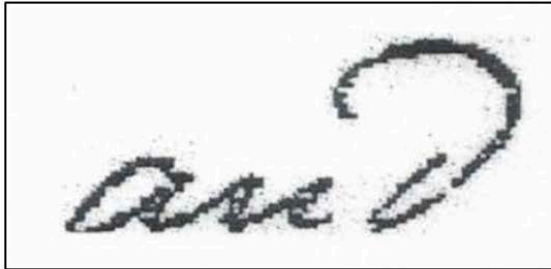
<sup>118</sup> Baldwin County, Alabama, “Harriett Singleton appointed administratrix of deceased husband Robert Singleton’s estate,” images, *FamilySearch.org* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GB3T-ZVQ?i=128&wc=M6DJ-J29%3A220032901%2C220073201&cc=1925446&lang=en> : accessed 5 Feb. 2026); citing Baldwin County Orphans Court Minutes, vol. A1, 1822-Dec. 1844, page 197; Probate Office, courthouse, Bay Minette.

<sup>119</sup> Baldwin County, Alabama, “Alabama County Marriages, 1711-1992,” images, *FamilySearch.org* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939Z-YCSX-3Z?i=264&cc=1743384&lang=en> : accessed 18 Aug. 2021), Marriages, 1809-1950, FHL film 004539243, William Mack and Mary Moniac, 13 Oct. 1831, image 265/1059.

**Genuine Byrne Signature in Probate Record<sup>120</sup>**

A clear, legible handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Patrick B." written with a dark ink on a light background.

**Fraudulent Byrne Signature in William Mack Marriage Record<sup>121</sup>**

A handwritten signature that appears to read "Patrick B." but is significantly less legible than the genuine signature, with some ink bleed-through and a slightly different cursive style.A close-up view of the word "and" from the genuine signature, showing the fine, consistent lines of a nib pen.A close-up view of the word "and" from the fraudulent signature, showing a much thicker, more irregular line quality, characteristic of a ballpoint or rollerball pen.

**Drexler Opinion:**

“Based on the results of examinations and comparisons of the handwritten entries of [the William Mack marriage] and other entries signed by Patrick Byrne and the lack of evidence that the inking was produced by a nib style pen, it is my opinion that [this marriage record] was not written by Patrick Byrne and that [it] was written sometime after the recorded date and then fraudulently inserted into the record.”<sup>122</sup>

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<sup>120</sup> Baldwin County, Alabama, “Harriett Singleton appointed administratrix of deceased husband Robert Singleton’s estate,” images, *FamilySearch.org* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GB3T-ZVQ?i=128&wc=M6DJ-J29%3A220032901%2C220073201&cc=1925446&lang=en> : accessed 5 Feb. 2026).

<sup>121</sup> Baldwin County, Alabama, “Alabama County Marriages, 1711-1992,” images, *FamilySearch.org* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939Z-YCSX-3Z?i=264&cc=1743384&lang=en> : accessed 18 Aug. 2021), Marriages, 1809-1950, FHL film 004539243, William Mack and Mary Moniac, 13 Oct. 1831, image 265/1059.

<sup>122</sup> Steven Drexler, Diplomat, ABFDE, Drexler Document Laboratory, LLC, [Info@DrexDocLab.com], “Document Examination Report, Baldwin County, Alabama, Marriage Records,” 6 Jan. 2022, to Yvonne Mashburn Schmidt, CG, [Yvonne@TheGeorgiaGenealogist.com].

## Drexler Comparison of Writing Instruments

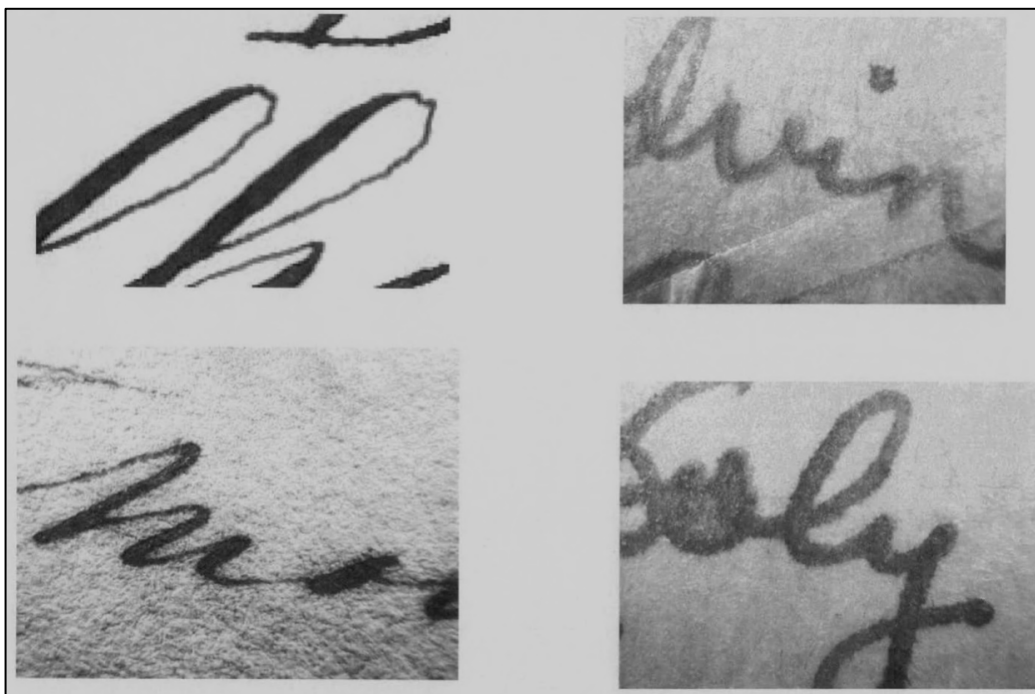
### Nib Tip Pen Example

Taken From Patrick Byrne Document<sup>123</sup>

### Questioned Writings

(top) Jessie Butler marriage<sup>124</sup>

(bottom) John Mitchell marriage<sup>125</sup>



Drexler opinion:

“...entries, front and back [of the fraudulent records], revealed heavy inking and a complete lack of shading (a variation in ink line intensity) that is indicative of nib tip pen writings. At that time, quill and metal nib style pens were the only ink writing instruments available...”<sup>126</sup>

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<sup>123</sup> Baldwin County, Alabama, “Harriett Singleton appointed administratrix of deceased husband Robert Singleton’s estate,” images, *FamilySearch.org* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GB3T-ZVQ?i=128&wc=M6DJ-J29%3A220032901%2C220073201&cc=1925446&lang=en> : accessed 5 Feb. 2026).

<sup>124</sup> Baldwin Co, Alabama, “Alabama County Marriages, 1711-1992,” images, *FamilySearch.org* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939Z-YCSX-W4?cc=1743384&wc=3LJ6-ZNL%3A1586877301>: accessed 2 Nov. 2025), film 004539243 (no IGN provided) > image 267/1059, Jessie Butler and Adline Eliz. Moniac, 7 Nov. 1836.

<sup>125</sup> *Ibid.*, *FamilySearch.org* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939Z-YCSX-63?i=265&cc=1743384> : accessed 18 Aug. 2021), FHL film 004539243, image 266/1059, John Mitchell and Mery Hollinger, 29 Nov 1836.

<sup>126</sup> Steven Drexler, Diplomat, ABFDE, Drexler Document Laboratory, LLC, [Info@DrexDocLab.com], “Document Examination Report, Baldwin County, Alabama, Marriage Records,” 6 Jan. 2022, to Yvonne Mashburn Schmidt, CG, [Yvonne@TheGeorgiaGenealogist.com].

Abundant evidence confirms that the client's Butler ancestors were not Native American. Why would anyone create a record merging these white families with Native families and then boldly insert these fraudulent records into this marriage book?

The answer could lie in a quest for Federal recognition.

These marriage records, the client's family, and petitions for Federal recognition<sup>127</sup> share a common thread – the unrecognized Creek tribes of Georgia, Florida, and Alabama, and members of the families who were the early leadership of the descendant groups. The documentation for the Georgia and Florida petitions was so similar, the Office of Federal Recognition requested clarification, and the response was:

In connection with the renewed ties among the Creeks and Creek descendants across the southeast during the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, the community at Bruce [FL] became entangled in various Creek descendants' recruitment organizations. The Muscogee Nation [FL] was included on the membership lists of these organizations, whose primary goal was to swell their numbers...Conflicts arose among these state-wide groups, and within a decade, the members of the Tribe retreated from the descendant organizations...<sup>128</sup>

BIA documents make it clear that an early goal in these tribes was to “swell [membership] numbers.”<sup>129</sup> Members paid dues.

The merging of identities of Elisha Butler of southwest Georgia and Rev. Elizur Butler gave support to the client's Cherokee Indian family story while providing the client admission to the Georgia Creek tribe. Fraudulent marriage records made it possible for members to connect to documented Creek lineages, become members, and pay dues. These records also gave validity to familial relationships of white members to the native descendants.

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<sup>127</sup> The applications for these groups contain excerpts of applications from other groups' applications.

<sup>128</sup> “Proposed Findings,” 1 Jan. 2006, U.S. Department of the Interior, Indian Affairs

([https://www.bia.gov/sites/bia.gov/files/assets/as-ia/ofa/petition/032\\_muscfn\\_FL/pet\\_narr/032\\_NARR\\_2006\\_MembershipMNF.pdf](https://www.bia.gov/sites/bia.gov/files/assets/as-ia/ofa/petition/032_muscfn_FL/pet_narr/032_NARR_2006_MembershipMNF.pdf): accessed 19 Aug. 2021), Bureau and Offices > Bureau of Indian Affairs > Programs and Services > Federal Acknowledgement > Acknowledged or Denied Cases > Denied, Petition 032, Lower Muscogee East of the Mississippi – GA, p. 4

<sup>129</sup> Ibid.

The current Georgia state-recognized group is administered by members of the same families who originally organized the Georgia, Florida, and Alabama tribes.<sup>130</sup> They applied for and received Federal and state grants, some specifically for Indians.<sup>131</sup> Some of these grants were investigated:

- \$85,000 from United Southeastern Tribes - withdrawn over questionable use and \$5000 repayment ordered.<sup>132</sup>
- \$75,000 Manpower Training.<sup>133</sup>
- VISTA mini grant to develop housing.<sup>134</sup>
- \$94,000 from the Georgia Department of Human Resources.<sup>135</sup>
- Save the Children grant for playground equipment.<sup>136</sup>
- A \$22,038 grant from the Department of Commerce for a feasibility study into manufacturing certain products.<sup>137</sup>
- A HUD Federal housing grant, claiming they were Federally recognized.<sup>138</sup> At the time, Georgia had not authorized the group as a housing authority.<sup>139</sup> The application stated 175 applicants were ready to relocate to the tribal land, and when interviewed no one had applied or cared to relocate;

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<sup>130</sup> “Proposed Findings,” 29 Jan. 1981, U.S. Department of the Interior, Indian Affairs ([https://www.indianaffairs.gov/sites/bia.gov/files/assets/as-ia/ofa/petition/008\\_lowmus\\_GA/008\\_pf.pdf](https://www.indianaffairs.gov/sites/bia.gov/files/assets/as-ia/ofa/petition/008_lowmus_GA/008_pf.pdf): accessed 19 Aug. 2021), Bureaus and Offices > Bureau of Indian Affairs > Programs and Services > Federal Acknowledgement > Acknowledged or Denied Cases > Denied, Petition 008, Lower Muscogee East of the Mississippi – GA.

<sup>131</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 63-64

<sup>132</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 20.

<sup>133</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>134</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>135</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 21.

<sup>136</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>137</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 63.

<sup>138</sup> Cited: *Times-Enquirer* (Thomasville, Georgia), 20 Jan. 1978, and HUD, 1977. Neither the Thomasville, Georgia public library, the Digital Library of Georgia, Georgia’s Virtual Vault, nor the Georgia Archives have a copy of the newspaper.

<sup>139</sup> “Proposed Findings,” 29 Jan. 1981, U.S. Department of the Interior, Indian Affairs ([https://www.bia.gov/sites/bia.gov/files/assets/as-ia/ofa/petition/010\\_crkeas\\_FL/010\\_pf.pdf](https://www.bia.gov/sites/bia.gov/files/assets/as-ia/ofa/petition/010_crkeas_FL/010_pf.pdf): accessed 22 Jan. 2022), pp. 62-64.

the McCormick families<sup>140</sup> were the only residents of the Tama tribal town.<sup>141</sup> The grant was rejected.

Even though Federal recognition has not been achieved for the Georgia group, it continues to be well-funded in recent years by both government and private money.<sup>142</sup>

## CONCLUSIONS

Traditional research, record analysis, and common-sense proves Elisha Butler of Decatur, Thomas, and Baker Counties, Georgia, was not the same man as Rev. Elizur Butler, missionary to the Cherokee Indians. The following information supports this conclusion:

- Information in census records for Elisha Butler
- Timelines for Rev. Elizur Butler and Elisha Butler
- Geographic distance vs time
- Marriages for Rev. Elizur Butler
- Wives' names
- Occupations – Elisha Butler was a laborer, probably in agriculture.
- Rev. Elizur Butler's place of birth – Connecticut vs Elisha Butler's place of birth – North Carolina.

Jesse Butler did not marry Adline Eliz Moniac. Adeline Butler was not the daughter of Samuel Moniac. She was likely the daughter of Isaac Welch and Rachel Akridge. Adeline Butler and Eliza Moniac were two different women. These conclusions are supported by the following:

- Information in census records
- Geographic locations
- Analysis of the marriage records and conclusions by the author, Rus Schmidt, and expert document examiner Steven Drexler. This analysis included, but was not limited to:

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<sup>140</sup> Dr. Venable a.k.a. Dr. Peggy McCormick, was married to Neal McCormick. Both were leaders in the tribes. Nadia Hassanein, "Native American Creek tribe preserves, teaches its heritage," images, *The Tallahassee Democrat* (FL), 27 Nov. 2019; *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.tallahassee.com/story/news/2019/11/27/native-american-heritage-month-hour-north-creeks-protect-heritage/1117183001/>: accessed 5 Feb. 2026); citing printed edition, pp. A1 and 3A, cols. 1-3.

<sup>141</sup> "Proposed Findings," 29 Jan. 1981, U.S. Department of the Interior, Indian Affairs ([https://www.indianaffairs.gov/sites/bia.gov/files/assets/as-ia/ofa/petition/008\\_lowmus\\_GA/008\\_pf.pdf](https://www.indianaffairs.gov/sites/bia.gov/files/assets/as-ia/ofa/petition/008_lowmus_GA/008_pf.pdf): accessed 19 Aug. 2021), p. 63.

<sup>142</sup> Lower Muscogee Creek Tribe, East of the Mississippi, "Return for Organization Exempt from Income Tax, Form 990 for period: ending December 2018-2022" tax return images, *CauseIQ.com* (<https://www.causeiq.com/organizations/lower-muscogee-creek-tribe,237366825/>: accessed 7 May 2025).

- Ink
- Handwriting instruments used
- Paper on which the marriage records were written
- Handwriting
- The published 1961 marriage record abstracts that do not include these marriage records.
- Eliza Moniac’s marriage record and her 1906 Eastern Cherokee application naming her husband and family.

These marriage records were likely fabricated to link white families—lacking documented Native ancestry but affiliated with descendant groups—to ancestral Native families, thereby supporting efforts to secure federal recognition for the state-recognized tribe.

The Baldwin County, Alabama, marriage records addressed in this study are fraudulent and have no evidentiary value. They should not be used to support a conclusion that these white families were Native American.