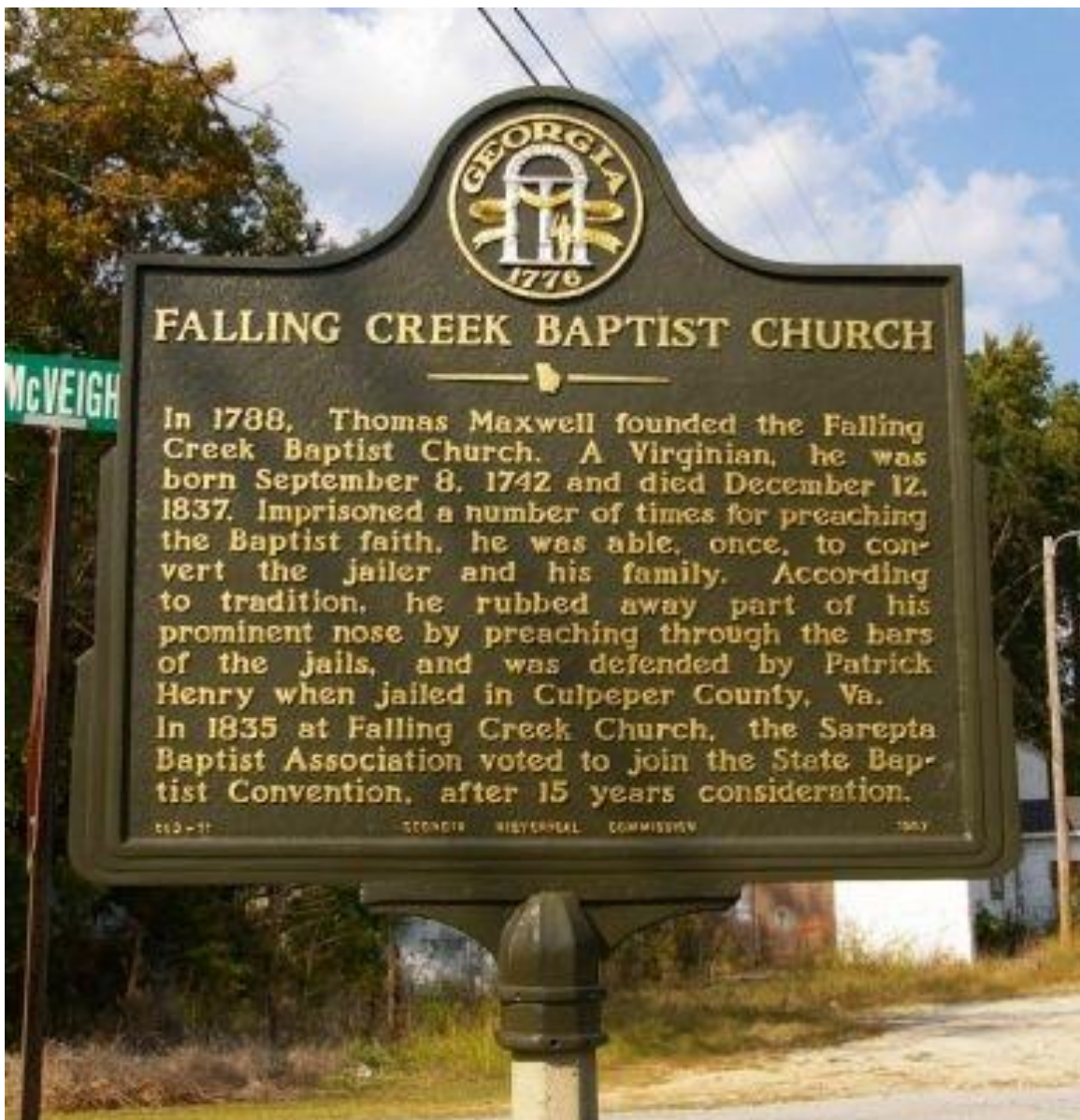


Isaac Suttle

Frontier Baptist Preacher



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Isaac Suttle, Frontier Baptist Preacher

Introduction

The following article is a summary of all of the public and private records that have been located concerning Isaac Suttle, his wife Sarah, and their children. Hopefully, the article succeeds in placing the lives of our subjects into historical perspective. It also is hoped that the following material will be of interest to other researchers as well as the direct and collateral descendants of the subjects. The author invites comments, questions, corrections, and suggestions for further research from all readers. The name Suttle, of English origin, is spelled variously in the original records as Suttle, Suttles, Settle, Settles, Subtle, etc. The spelling Suttle is used because most descendants use it today. Alternative spellings are used when citing specific original records. It should be noted that, because research on Isaac Suttle and his ancestry is continuing, adopting the standard genealogical numbering system for the entire Suttle family is not practical. Instead, the simple approach of assigning the number one to our subject is adopted.

The story of Isaac Suttle is typical of the many pioneers who settled the Georgia backcountry in the decade following the Revolution. Born in Virginia, he was just a small boy when his family joined the general migration down the Great Wagon Road, evidently tarrying in the Carolinas during the Revolutionary War, before settling in Wilkes County, Georgia by 1786. When Isaac was about 23 years old, he struck out on his own. Isaac chose the newly-formed Elbert County, where he soon courted and married Sarah, the widow of James Meredith. It was there in Elbert County that Isaac began his long career as a Baptist preacher. Over little more than a decade, Isaac gradually acquired and operated a significant plantation. Eventually, Isaac sold out and moved to Clarke County, where he oversaw the management of the plantation of his wife Sarah's former husband. Circa 1817, Isaac once again pulled up stakes and brought his family to the newly opened lands of Cahawba County, Alabama Territory. Isaac devoted most of his energies to preaching and establishing Baptist churches in the new territory. He was instrumental in establishing and growing the Mulberry Baptist Association. At more than 70 years of age, Isaac accompanied some of his married children to Lauderdale County, Mississippi where he died in 1842. It is indeed unfortunate that neither a record of his precise death date nor the location of his burial has been found. However, it is clear that Isaac Suttle left a long and lasting legacy in the records of the numerous Baptist churches that he served in Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi.

The Early Years

1. **Isaac Suttle**, born circa 1767 probably in Fauquier County, Virginia, was the son of William and Margaret (Harbin) Suttle.¹ It is presumed that Isaac received at least some formal schooling as he was literate as an adult. It also is presumed that he accompanied his parents as they migrated down the Great Wagon Road through the Carolinas into Georgia. Exactly when that migration began and how long it lasted is uncertain as no record has been found of the family in either North or South Carolina. The belief that the family migrated slowly, staying for a time in North Carolina, then moving onto South Carolina for another period, and finally settling in Georgia is based upon the place of birth of Isaac's younger siblings as recorded in later census schedules. First, his brother William reported that he was born circa 1771 in North Carolina.² Second, his brother Micajah reported that he was born circa 1784 in South Carolina.³ And third, his sister Nancy reported that she was born circa 1791 in Georgia.⁴

From the foregoing census schedules, it appears that Isaac Suttle was born in Virginia, moved with his parents to North Carolina as a very young boy, moved again with his parents to South Carolina likely as a young adolescent, then moved with his parents to Georgia just as he was reaching the age of majority. The first record of his father William Suttle in Georgia is the 1786 Tax Digest for Captain Black's Militia District in Wilkes County.⁵

Starting Life in Elbert County

As the Georgia frontier filled with settlers, distances to the county courthouse became more inconvenient. Elbert County was created from the western portion of Wilkes County on December 10, 1790. At the very first meeting of the Superior Court held in January 1791, the justices recorded that the first grand jury returned an indictment against James Meredith for murdering his son-in-law Jasper Smith.⁶ A trial was held, the jury returned a verdict, and the judges of the Superior Court pronounced sentence.

¹ Reese, William Emmett, *The Settle-Suttle Family*. Thomasson Printing Company, Carrollton, Georgia, 1974. (Hereinafter cited as *Settle-Suttle Family*.)

² 1850 Census, Perry Beat, Perry County, Alabama, Page 1. All Alabama census schedules at the Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama.

³ 1850 Census, Stones District, Dekalb County, Georgia, Page 20. All Georgia census schedules at the Georgia Department of Archives and History, Morrow, Georgia.

⁴ 1850 Census, Stones District, Dekalb County, Georgia, Page 16.

⁵ Office of the Ordinary, Wilkes County, Georgia, Tax Digests, 1787. Georgia Department of Archives and History, Morrow, Georgia.

⁶ Elbert County, Superior Court Minutes, 1790-1800, Page 5. Georgia Department of Archives and History, Morrow, Georgia. (Hereinafter cited as *Elbert Superior Court Minutes*.)

“That you James Meredith be remanded where you came and be there closely confined untill the twenty second day of February next then to be taken out by the proper officer and carried out to a place of execution at Thomas Carter’s Plantation near where the Court is now held to be arrected for the purpose and between the Hours of twelve and two o’clock in the afternoon of that day then and there to be hanged by the neck untill you are Dead and the Lord have Mercy on your Soul.”

The condemned promptly made his last will and testament in which he named his wife Sarah, and his daughters Rebeckah, Patty, Nancy, Molly, and Sally. The will, dated January 13, 1791, was admitted for probate May 19, 1791 with the widow Sarah Meredith and William Moore as executors and James Almond as surety.⁷ Some time later that spring or early summer, Isaac Suttle married Sarah, the widow of James Meredith. Unfortunately, no record of their marriage has been found, although it is presumed to have taken place in Elbert County. Because the extant marriage records begin there in 1804, either the first record book has been lost or no marriages were recorded during that early period. No evidence yet has been found to indicate whether or not Sarah was the mother of any of the five daughters. Assuming that she was the mother of at least the four younger girls and that the four girls were born circa 1782, 1784, 1786, and 1788, then Sarah probably was born circa 1762.

As her husband, Isaac took over the responsibility of administering the significant estate of Sarah’s late husband as well as raising the four daughters. On August 2, 1791, Sarah Suttle, Isaac Suttle, and William Moore filed a return for James Meredith estate.⁸ Isaac claimed expenses of £13.4s.8p for traveling to and from North Carolina three different times. In his will, James Meredith provided that his widow Sarah would have the use of one fifth of his real estate during her lifetime and that his four youngest daughters, Patty, Nancy, Molly, and Sally, would inherit the real estate at her death. At the time of his death, James Meredith owned considerable real estate. On July 3, 1790, James had purchased a tract of land from Elijah Clarke, Sr. and his wife Hannah for £10 sterling.⁹ The large tract of 1,725 acres was situated on the north side of the Apalachee River in that portion of Franklin County that became the new Jackson County in 1796, became the new Clarke County in 1801, and since 1875 has been in Oconee County.

In his will, James Meredith further provided that his executors would keep his personal estate together for the support of his widow and four daughters and for educating his daughters. After the daughters married or reached the age of twenty-one years, then all of his personal estate was to be shared equally by lot between his widow and four

⁷ Probate Records, Elbert County, Georgia, Court of Ordinary Estate Records, 1791-1796, Page 5. (Hereinafter cited as Elbert Probates.) Inferior Court, Elbert County, Georgia, Miscellaneous Records, 1791-1833, Page 1. Elbert County Courthouse, Elberton, Georgia.

⁸ Elbert Probates, 1791-1796, Page 40.

⁹ Land Records, Franklin County, Georgia, Deed Book C (1786-1792), Page 56. Franklin County Courthouse, Carnesville, Georgia.

daughters. James Meredith also made two bequests to his oldest daughter Rebecca. First, he forgave the account due him by her late husband Jasper Smith on condition that Rebecca provided a full release to the executors of any claims that she and her deceased husband's estate may have. Second, he bequeathed

“...one Negro Wench Named Sarah Which I lent to her or her late Husband While in N^o Carolina. Provided that, upon Demand She Shall and Do peacebly Deliver to my Executors or Either of them a Negro Woman Slave Named Luce or Lucy and Her Children Also Jane Sarah Grais Which was likewise lent them or one of them in Carolina.”

In spite of the fact that Isaac accepted the role of executor over the significant James Meredith estate located in nearby Franklin County, he continued to reside in Elbert County. On February 4, 1792, Isaac Suttles sold four slaves that had belonged to James Meredith in order to settle the claim of James Almond against the estate.¹⁰ The four slaves were identified as a man named York, a wench named Sary, a boy named Bob, and a girl named Ede. Isaac signed the bill of sale which was witnessed by Thomas Harbin and John Brawner. On the same day, Isaac Suttle paid £160.2s to James Almond to settle his claims against the estate.¹¹ On August 11, 1792, Isaac purchased the same four slaves in his own name from James Almond for £175. With no evidence found to the contrary, it is presumed that the four slaves were a family.

On June 9, 1792, Absalom Baker and his wife Mary sold a tract of land to Isaac Suttle for £50.¹² The tract of 150 acres was adjacent to the lands of James McCleskey and William Webb and originally had been granted to Baker in 1788. The deed was witnessed by James McCleskey, Justice of the Peace. On September 30, 1793, Hugh McDonald and his wife Helen sold a tract of land to Isaac Suttle for £40.¹³ The tract of 157 acres was situated on a branch of Falling Creek adjacent to the lands of David McCleskey, William Webb, Jesse Dodd, and Isaac's other tract. John Cunningham witnessed the deed.

A disagreement arose between the executors of the estate of Jasper Smith and the executors of the estate of James Meredith, which was heard by the Superior Court on Thursday, July 6, 1794.¹⁴ After hearing the case, the jury found for the plaintiff in the amount of *“three hundred pounds to be discharged by delivering the following negros Luce Sarah Also Grace Jane.”* John Spurs acknowledged himself as security for the stay of the levy and received satisfaction in full for the judgment. Isaac Suttle signed the acknowledgement. Apparently, Isaac had to go to court to recover the slaves for the

¹⁰ Land Records, Elbert County, Georgia, Deed Book A, 1791-1793, Page 67. Elbert County Courthouse, Elberton, Georgia. (Hereinafter cited as Elbert Deeds.)

¹¹ Elbert Deeds, Book A, 1791-1793, Page 105.

¹² Elbert Deeds, Book A, 1791-1793, Page 106.

¹³ Elbert Deeds, Book B, 1793-1795, Page 86.

¹⁴ Elbert Superior Court Minutes, Page 37.

estate as specified in the James Meredith will. On February 21, 1795, Isaac Suttle of Elbert County sold a slave to Thomas Shannon for £25.¹⁵ The young slave was a “*negro girl named Alse about 8 or 9 years old of a yellowish complexion.*” Isaac signed the bill of sale which was witnessed by Leroy Pope and James McCleskey, Justice of the Peace. Thomas Shannon was a resident of Wilkes County, so he recorded the bill of sale there. In 1795, an election was held to select the delegate to the Constitutional Convention. The name Isaac Suttles appears on the list of voters for that election in which William Barnett was selected.¹⁶

On January 8, 1798, Isaac Suttles of Elbert County purchased a tract of land from Nicholas Tuttle of Jackson County for \$200.¹⁷ Unfortunately, the deed does not record the acreage or the location of the tract. The earliest extant tax digest for Elbert County unfortunately is not dated.¹⁸ A notation in the catalog evidently made by Archives staff indicates that the date of the tax digest is believed to be between 1794 and 1806. The tax digest indicates that Isaac Suttles of Captain Barnett’s District was assessed for thirteen slaves and 380 acres of land on the waters of Falling Creek. That seems to indicate that the tax digest was taken soon after Isaac had purchased his first three tracts of land and that his third tract contained approximately 73 acres. Isaac also was assessed for the 1,725 acres of land that belonged to the James Meredith estate that then was located in Jackson County. Because Isaac purchased another 200 acres of land the following year, it seems that the subject digest was made for the 1798 tax year. It is unclear from the tax digest how many of the slaves were owned by Isaac directly or were part of the James Meredith estate.

On January 8, 1799, James McCleskey sold a tract of land to Isaac Suttles for \$250.¹⁹ The tract of 200 acres was located on the waters of Falling Creek adjacent to the lands of Francis Webb, John Wingfield, Isaac Ford, and MacDonald. With that purchase, Isaac had increased his land holdings to four tracts containing approximately 580 acres. On January 17, 1799, Isaac Suttles sold one of his tracts of land to John King for \$150.²⁰ The tract, located along Still House Branch, a tributary of Falling Creek, included the improvements where John King then lived. Isaac signed the deed, which was witnessed by Usurey Allmond and Hugh MacDonald. Because the size of the tract was not given in the deed, it is not possible to know for sure which part of the four tracts that Isaac sold.

¹⁵ Land Records, Wilkes County, Georgia, Deed Book NN, 1795-1796, Page 38. Wilkes County Courthouse, Washington, Georgia.

¹⁶ McIntosh, John H., *The Official History of Elbert County, 1790-1935*. Cherokee Publishing Company, Atlanta, Georgia, 1968.

¹⁷ Elbert Deeds, Book E, 1798-1799, Page 9.

¹⁸ Office of the Ordinary, Elbert County, Georgia, Tax Digests. Georgia Department of Archives and History, Morrow, Georgia.

¹⁹ Elbert Deeds, Book E, 1798-1799, Page 124.

²⁰ Elbert Deeds, Book E, 1798-1799, Page 139.



Elbert County

On July 15, 1800, Isaac Suttle sold one of his remaining tracts of land to William Suttle for \$250.²¹ It is unclear whether William was Isaac's brother or father, both of whom resided nearby in Elbert County. The tract of 200 acres was the same tract that Isaac had purchased from James McCleskey the previous year. One wonders why Isaac sold that tract to his kinsman at a twenty-five percent loss. Perhaps the transaction was part of a larger unrecorded business arrangement. Isaac signed the deed which was witnessed by Thos. Forston, Justice of the Peace.

The 1803 Lottery Act established the process whereby Georgia would open, survey, and distribute the lands recently ceded by the Creek Indians.²² Land districts were established in three new counties and 4,580 lots were surveyed. The Act charged the justices of the

²¹ Elbert Deeds, Book F, 1799-1800, Page 154.

²² Graham, Paul K., *1805 Georgia Land Lottery, Persons Entitled to Draw*. The Genealogy Company, Decatur, Georgia, 2005.

Inferior Courts of the various counties to compile a list of eligible drawers from May 1803 to March 1, 1804 along with the number of draws to which each person was entitled. Those entering the lottery were required to pay 12½ cents per draw to the justices for the privilege. William Suttles, Sr. as well as his four sons, Isaac, Jesse, Micajah, and William, as residents of Elbert County, participated in the lottery. All white male citizens over 21 years of age with a wife and legitimate minor children were entitled to two draws. When the lottery was held in 1805, Isaac drew two blanks.

The Falling Creek Baptist Church, founded in 1788, is located about three miles south of Elberton on Highway 77. Isaac Suttle apparently joined the church sometime during the 1790s. Unfortunately the early church records no longer are extant, but it is presumed that Isaac became a believer during the Second Great Awakening which began circa 1790 and continued for about fifteen years. Sometimes called the Great Revival, it was characterized by a series of revivals and camp meetings that planted the revivalist tradition deep into the Southern character.²³ Isaac Suttle was ordained into the ministry by Reverend William Davis at Falling Creek.²⁴ By 1803, Reverend Suttle was serving the Dove's Creek Baptist Church located about four miles west of Elberton.²⁵ Dove's Creek sent Edmund Shackleford and Isaac Suttle as their messengers to the Sarepta Association meeting held on the Saturday before the fourth Sunday, October 1804 at the Falling Creek Meeting House.²⁶ It is presumed that, in accordance with the custom of the times, Isaac continued to be a member of and attend services at Falling Creek while serving the church at Dove's Creek as preacher.

On December 3, 1804, Isaac Suttles, planter, sold a tract of land to his brother William for \$300.²⁷ The 100-acre tract was adjacent to lands of B. Andrews, Jas. Almond, Sr., John Almond, Jesse Suttles, Henry Brawner, and B. Andrews. Isaac signed the deed which was witnessed by Thomas B. Scott and William Stewart. Isaac probably sold the last of his land holdings with that sale, as he was not assessed for any land in Elbert County in any later tax digests. If true, then the indeterminate tract that Isaac sold in 1799 was a combination of more than one tract and contained 280 acres.

Moving to Clarke County

Migration into what became Clarke County began in earnest circa 1790. In 1802, the

²³ Boles, John B., *The Great Revival, 1787-1805*. The University Press of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, 1972.

²⁴ Mercer, Jesse, *History of the Georgia Baptist Association*, privately printed at Washington, Georgia, 1838. Special Collections Department, Mercer University Library, Macon, Georgia.

²⁵ Marshall, Charlotte, et al, *History of the Sarepta Baptist Association, 1799-1999*. Privately printed, 2006. Special Collections Department, Mercer University Library, Macon, Georgia.

²⁶ Sarepta Baptist Association Minutes, 1799-1849. Special Collections Department, Mercer University Library, Macon, Georgia.

²⁷ Elbert Deeds, Book Q, 1816-1818, Page 11.

first extant tax digest indicates that a total of 863 persons filed returns. While some of those undoubtedly were single, most were heads of families. The tax digest also lists 1,143 slaves. Because only five persons reported as many as twenty slaves, most slave holders owned only a few. The new county grew steadily, but not rapidly. In 1805, 1,108 persons filed returns for real and personal property including 1,699 slaves. The most significant growth was in Athens, the future home of the University of Georgia, and Watkinsville.

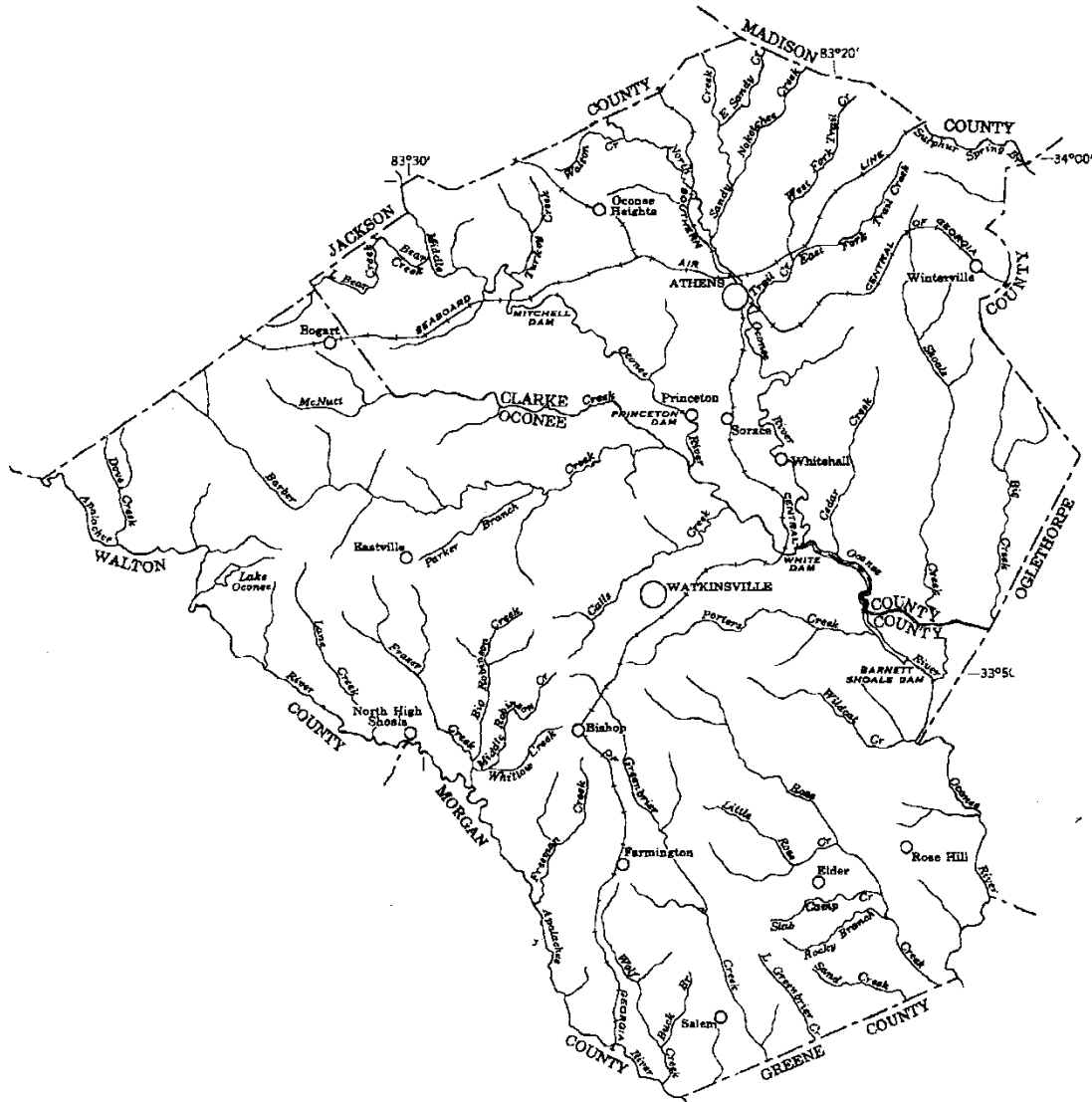
Soon after selling his land in Elbert County, Isaac Suttle pulled up stakes and moved to Clarke County. It is presumed that Isaac traveled back to Elbert County to participate in the land lottery. In 1805, Isaac Suttle was assessed for seven slaves and 1,725 acres in Captain Phillip's Militia District.²⁸ His total tax bill was \$5.03 and 1¼ mills. Apparently, Isaac was living on and managing the James Meredith plantation. The following year, Isaac Suttles again was assessed for the same land and seven slaves and his total tax bill amounted to \$4.90. Soon after his arrival in Clarke County, Isaac Suttle served Freeman's Creek Baptist Church as minister. The church sent William Wright and Isaac Suttle as messengers to the Georgia Baptist Association meeting held October, 12-15, 1805 at Powell's Creek in Hancock County.²⁹ The Association granted Freeman's Creek Church permission to join another association.

The 1807 Land Lottery completed the distribution of the surveyed lots in Baldwin and Wilkinson Counties.³⁰ The land was ceded by the Creek Indian Nation to the United States for the use of the state of Georgia by treaty signed at Washington, DC on November 14, 1805. The first two land lotteries opened a vast area for settlement between the Oconee and Okmulgee Rivers as the Indian frontier was pushed further west. All Georgia citizens who had drawn a blank ticket in 1805 were eligible to draw. This time Isaac Suttle, a resident of Captain Butler's Militia District in Clarke County, was the fortunate drawer for Lot 131 in District 9 of Wilkinson County. Isaac had not moved, only the militia captain had changed. For some unknown reason, Isaac did not take the necessary steps to gain title to that land. As a result, the lot reverted back to the state and eventually was sold. Also in 1807, the state capital was moved and the legislature met for the first time at Milledgeville in Baldwin County. A large migration of government officials, businessmen, as well as new settlers flooded the newly opened territory, but Isaac did not join them.

²⁸ Office of the Ordinary, Clarke County, Georgia, Tax Digests, 1802-1814. Georgia Department of Archives and History, Morrow, Georgia. (Hereinafter cited as Clarke Tax Digests.)

²⁹ Minutes of the Georgia Baptist Association. Special Collections Department, Mercer University Library, Macon, Georgia. (Hereinafter cited as Georgia Association Minutes.)

³⁰ Lucas, Silas Emmett, *The Second or 1807 Land Lottery of Georgia*. Georgia Genealogical Reprints, Vidalia, Georgia, 1968.



Old Clarke County

In 1807, Isaac Suttles paid his taxes in Captain Butler's Militia District, which was located in the extreme southernmost tip of the old county not far from the village of Salem. That year, Isaac paid 38¼ cents in taxes as agent for Joel Lambeth, but the relationship between the two men has not been discovered. Isaac also paid \$3.51¾ in taxes for 862½ acres of land and six slaves. Apparently, Isaac and Sarah had distributed half of the Meredith plantation to two of her daughters who simply neglected to record the deeds. The Georgia Association convened its annual meeting at Ebenezer in Wilkes County on Saturday, October 8, 1808.³¹ Messengers Isaac Suttle and Nipper Adams represented Holland's Springs Church located across the Apalachee River in Morgan County.

³¹ Georgia Association Minutes.

As the four youngest daughters of James Meredith came of age and married, it became time for Isaac and Sarah Suttle to distribute the legacies due each of them under the terms of her late husband's will. It is presumed that the four daughters, Patty, Nancy, Molly, and Sally, were named in their father's will in the order of their birth. Patty, or Patsy, Meredith married James Faulkner, who died testate in Elbert County in 1808 or early 1809. Sometime previous, Isaac Suttle gave James and Patsy Faulkner a 200-acre tract of land in Elbert County in lieu of their undivided fourth interest in her late father's plantation in Clarke County, but no deed recording that gift or the subsequent sale of that tract has been found. In return for the land in Elbert County, James promised to provide a deed of relinquishment for his interest in the Meredith Plantation, but failed to do so before his death. Isaac Suttle sued the estate and heirs of James Faulkner to provide the promised deed of relinquishment.³² On October 29, 1816, the heirs of James Faulkner, deceased conveyed all of their undivided interest in the James Meredith plantation to Isaac Suttles.³³ The heirs were John Faulkner of Jasper County and Lewis Phipps and his wife Patsy, John Faulkner, and James Faulkner of Elbert County. The Superior Court had issued a judgment against the heirs, who dutifully deeded their interest to Isaac.³⁴

The second daughter, Nancy Meredith, married Zachariah Faulkner and later moved to Jasper County. On May 4, 1811, Zachariah Faulkner and his wife Nancy sold their interest in the James Meredith Plantation to Isaac Suttles for \$500.³⁵ Zachariah signed the deed, while his wife Nancy made her mark. The deed was witnessed by Solomon Gross and James McKleroy.

The third daughter, Molly or Polly Meredith, married Buckner Eaves April 22, 1808 in Clarke County.³⁶ Because both Molly and Polly are common nicknames for Mary, it is presumed that her formal name was Mary. The fourth daughter, Sally Meredith, married Henry Clift. On December 27, 1808, Henry Clift and his wife Sally and Buckner Eaves and his wife Polly sold their interests in the Meredith plantation to Isaac Suttles in right of his wife Sally for one dollar.³⁷ The tract of land contained 400 acres. Only Henry Clift signed his name, as the other three parties made their mark. The deed was witnessed by Jabez Butler and Isaac's son John Suttles.

³² Jasper County, Georgia, Superior Court Case Files, *James Faulkner, John Faulkner, Patsy Fipps, and Lewis Fipps vs. Isaac Suttle*. Georgia Department of Archives and History, Morrow, Georgia.

³³ Land Records, Clarke County, Georgia, Deed Book K, Page 281. Clarke County Courthouse, Athens, Georgia. (Hereinafter cited as Clarke Deeds.)

³⁴ Returns of Administrators and Guardians, Elbert County, Georgia, Book L, 1816-1821, Page 98. Elbert County Courthouse, Elberton, Georgia.

³⁵ Clarke Deeds, Book G, Page 243.

³⁶ Marriage Records, Clarke County, Georgia, Book A-1, Page 2. Clarke County Courthouse, Athens, Georgia.

³⁷ Clarke Deeds, Book F, Page 58.

On the same day, Isaac and Sally Suttles and Henry and Sally Clift sold their interests in a portion of the James Meredith plantation to Buckner Eaves and his wife Polly for one dollar.³⁸ That portion of the plantation contained 200 acres situated along the bank of the Apalachee River. Isaac and Henry signed the deed, while their wives made their marks. The deed was witnessed by Peter Williamson, Jabez Butler, and John Suttles. Unfortunately the extant 1808 tax digest for Captain Butler's District is very short, thus indicating that pages from it are missing. The name Isaac Suttle does not appear on the extant list. In March 1808, John Harvey, Lewis C. Davis, William Wright, Nipper Adams, David Montgomery, and Isaac Suttle, all ministers of the gospel, approved the constitution of the Sandy Creek Baptist Church in present day Morgan County.³⁹

In 1809, Isaac Suttle was assessed in Captain Butler's District for 400 acres of land. Because that page of the tax digest is torn, his number of slaves and tax liability are not known. On April 5, 1809, Isaac attended the sale of the estate of his deceased step son-in-law James Faulkner. At the sale, Isaac purchased two barrels of corn for \$5.00.⁴⁰ On June 2, 1809, seven arbiters were impanelled to hear a dispute between Richard Jones of Morgan County and Absalom Ecols of Clark County, who each pledged a bond of \$1,000 to be forfeited if either man refused to abide by the ruling of the arbiters.⁴¹ The dispute concerned the legal title to a girl slave named Nancy, but the exact nature of the dispute was not recorded. The seven arbiters, Daniel Bankston, Randolph Burney, William Talbert, John McCoy, Davis Gresham, Isaac Suttles, and James C. Steel, met at the house of John McCoy on June 6 and heard the testimony of both sides. After considering the matter, the majority of the arbiters awarded the slave girl to Richard Jones.⁴² Because six of the arbiters signed their decision, it is presumed that Daniel Bankston, who did not sign, was the lone dissenter among the arbiters.

On August 12, 1809, Isaac Suttles was received as preacher by the Mars Hill Baptist Church for a term of one year.⁴³ The church is located about three miles northwest of Watkinsville in present day Oconee County. The Georgia Association convened its annual meeting at Fort Creek in Hancock County on Saturday, October 13, 1810.⁴⁴ Messengers Isaac Suttle and Edmund Brantley represented Holland's Spring Church.

³⁸ Clarke Deeds, Book K, Page 135.

³⁹ Minutes of the Forty-Sixth Annual Session of the Appalachian Baptist Association, September 14-16, 1880. Georgia Department of Archives and History, Morrow, Georgia.

⁴⁰ Elbert Probates, Volumes L-F, 1804-1809, Page 190.

⁴¹ Land Records, Morgan County, Georgia, Deed Book B, Page 397. Morgan County Courthouse, Madison, Georgia. (Hereinafter cited as Morgan Deeds.)

⁴² Morgan Deeds, Book B, Page 398.

⁴³ Reid, Frances West, *Mars Hill Baptist Church, 1799*, Page 10. Heritage Papers, Athens, Georgia, 1966. (Hereinafter cited as *Mars Hill*.)

⁴⁴ Georgia Association Minutes.

The churches south of the Oconee River petitioned to be dismissed from the association so that they could form a new association. The association granted their petition and appointed a committee to assist them. The committee together with messengers from twenty-four churches convened at Rooty Creek in Putnam County on Saturday, November 10, 1810.⁴⁵ The new Oakmulgee Association was founded on the principles of the Georgia Association. It was decided unanimously to divide the association into districts and a committee consisting of Brethren Mosely, Flournoy, Suttles, and Denson were appointed to compose the districts. The churches in Morgan County as well as Freeman's Creek were assigned to the second district. On November 17, 1810, the church at Mars Hill selected Isaac Suttles for preacher another year.⁴⁶

In 1810, the militia captain for the district again changed. Isaac Suttles was assessed in Captain McKneeley's District for 400 acres of land and nine slaves and paid \$3.875 in taxes that year. Alexander Husson sued Isaac Suttle for the payment of a debt. On January 22, 1810, a jury heard the case and found for the plaintiff.⁴⁷ The court ordered Isaac Suttle to pay \$28.56 plus interest and the cost of the suit. Unfortunately, the minutes neither record the nature of the debt nor why Isaac had not previously paid his debt.

A sheriff sale was announced for the first Tuesday of September 1810 at the county courthouse in Athens.⁴⁸ In addition to several diverse pieces of real estate owned by various tax defaulters, one cow and calf and one sow and two shoats were to be auctioned. The sow and shoats were to be sold, "*as they run at the plantation of Isaac Suttles, levied on as the property of Henry Clift at the instance of Stevens Thomas.*" Apparently, Henry Clift (Isaac Suttle's step son-in-law) kept some of his livestock on Isaac's plantation.

The Oakmulgee Association convened its annual meeting at Sugar Creek Meeting House in Morgan County August 31, 1811.⁴⁹ Messengers I. Suttle and O. Weaver represented the Holland's Spring Church. In 1811, as a resident of Captain McNeeley's Militia District, Isaac Suttles was assessed \$3.37½ in taxes for 350 acres of land and seven slaves. Apparently Isaac had sold 50 acres of land, but no record of that sale has been located. The year 1811 was a busy one for Isaac Suttle in that he purchased two tracts of land and sold four tracts of land.

⁴⁵ Oakmulgee Baptist Association Minutes. Special Collections Department, Mercer University Library, Macon, Georgia. (Hereinafter cited as Oakmulgee Association Minutes.)

⁴⁶ *Mars Hill*, page 11.

⁴⁷ Clarke County, Georgia, Inferior Court Minutes, Book 1807-1811, Page 212. Clarke County Courthouse, Athens, Georgia. (Hereinafter cited as Clarke Inferior Court Minutes.)

⁴⁸ *Foreign Correspondent & Georgia Express*, Volume III, Number 111, published Saturday, August 4, 1810 at Athens, Georgia. Georgia Department of Archives and History, Morrow, Georgia. (Hereinafter cited as *Georgia Express*.)

⁴⁹ Oakmulgee Association Minutes.

1. On March 20, 1811, Isaac Suttles purchased a tract of land at a sheriff's sale.⁵⁰ Isaac purchased the tract of 920 acres with the highest bid of \$6.50. The tract had been part of a larger tract previously owned by Micajah Williamson. Sheriff Samuel Jackson signed the deed.
2. On August 16, 1811, Isaac Suttles and his wife Sally sold a tract of land to James Henson for \$300.⁵¹ The tract of 107¼ acres had been part of the larger tract that James Meredith had purchased from Elijah Clarke. Isaac signed the deed while Sally made her mark. The deed was witnessed by P. Williamson and R. Burney. Based upon the 1812 Tax Digest, that sale left Isaac owning only about 243 acres of the Meredith plantation.
3. On the same day, Isaac Suttles and his wife Sally sold a tract of land to Middleton Mapp for \$1,000.⁵² The tract contained 468 acres and also had been part of the larger tract that James Meredith had purchased from Elijah Clarke. Again, Isaac signed his name and Sally made her mark on the deed which was witnessed by P. Williamson and R. Burley. According to the tax digest that year, Isaac owned 350 acres. It thus is curious that Isaac apparently sold land that he did not own, if the tax digests are to be believed.
4. On November 5, 1811, Isaac Suttles sold a tract of land to Drury Spullock, Owen Spullock, and James Spullock for one dollar.⁵³ The tract had been part of a larger tract of 920 acres that had been granted to Micajah Williamson and then, after his death, sold at public auction to Isaac Suttles just seven months earlier. Isaac signed the deed which was witnessed by Peter Williamson and John Suttle. It is unfortunate that the deed does not state the size of the tract or specify the metes and bounds in sufficient detail to calculate the acreage. The deed also provides no hint of an explanation as to why Isaac sold for just one dollar. Perhaps Isaac owed money and conveyed the land to satisfy his debt.
5. On November 5, 1811, Isaac Suttle sold a tract of land to Peter Williamson for one dollar.⁵⁴ The tract was part of the original Micajah Williamson grant of 920 acres. Isaac Suttle signed the deed, which was witnessed by John Suttles and James Spullock. Again, it is unfortunate that the deed does not state the size of the tract or specify the metes and bounds in sufficient detail to calculate the acreage. The deed also provides no hint of an explanation as to why Isaac sold for just one dollar. Perhaps Isaac conveyed the land to satisfy a debt.

⁵⁰ Clarke Deeds, Book K, Page 98.

⁵¹ Clarke Deeds, Book G, Page 234.

⁵² Clarke Deeds, Book G, Page 236.

⁵³ Clarke Deeds, Book G, Page 216.

⁵⁴ Clarke Deeds, Book K, Page 134.

In 1812, Isaac Suttles resided in Captain Martin's Militia District. Isaac paid \$3.48½ in taxes for 287 acres of land and nine slaves. William Clift filed a suit against Isaac Suttle to collect a debt. On January 28, 1812, a jury heard the case and found in Clift's favor.⁵⁵ The court ordered Isaac to pay \$50 plus interest and costs. Judge Abraham Ramey signed an order for the sheriff to collect a total of \$55.33 plus interest from that date from Isaac.⁵⁶ Sheriff John Selman noted on the reverse of the order that he received \$56.75 in full payment on May 25, 1812. On March 19, 1812, Isaac Suttle served on a jury to hear the suit of James Thelings against David Meriwether in the Superior Court.⁵⁷

On May 25, 1812, Isaac Suttles served on the grand jury.⁵⁸ On June 5, 1812, the local newspaper published the presentments of the Grand Jury.⁵⁹ Among the various presentments the Grand Jury complained that several solicitors had neglected to prosecute persons impeached in behalf of the State. They also presented a grievance that the last legislature passed a law authorizing the Inferior Court to levy a tax for the purpose of bridge building. Isaac Suttle served on that Grand Jury and joined the minority in protest of that last presentment.

The annual meeting of the Oakmulgee Association began September 5, 1812 at Shoal Creek in Randolph County.⁶⁰ Isaac Suttle and Edmond Brantley were messengers from Holland's Spring Church. The Association appointed I. Suttle and E. Talbot as messengers to the Sarepta Association. On December 24, 1812, Isaac Suttles sold a tract of land to his son-in-law Graves Eaves for \$500.⁶¹ The tract of 50 acres was part of the tract that Isaac has purchased at the sheriff's sale the previous year. Isaac Suttle signed the deed as did witnesses Peter Williamson and Jesse Suttle.

In 1813, Isaac Suttles again was assessed in Captain Martin's District. That year he paid \$3.31¼ in taxes for 150 acres of land and nine slaves. The church at Holland's Spring was not represented at the annual association meeting in 1813. In 1814, Isaac Suttles, as a resident of Captain Martin's District, paid \$3.37½ in taxes for 200 acres of land and nine slaves. The annual meeting of the Oakmulgee Association was held September 3-6, 1814 at Fishing Creek in Baldwin County.⁶² Isaac Suttle was not a messenger from any

⁵⁵ Clarke Inferior Court Minutes, Book 1810-1817, Page 68.

⁵⁶ Clarke County Inferior Court Records, Record Group 129-2-2, Box 2. Georgia Department of Archives and History, Morrow, Georgia.

⁵⁷ Clarke County Superior Court Minutes, Book 3 (1811-1812). Georgia Department of Archives and History, Morrow, Georgia. (Hereinafter cited as Clarke Superior Court Minutes.)

⁵⁸ Clarke County Superior Court Minutes.

⁵⁹ *Georgia Express*, Friday, June 5, 1812.

⁶⁰ Oakmulgee Association Minutes.

⁶¹ Clarke Deeds, Book K, Page 488.

⁶² Oakmulgee Association Minutes.

church, but apparently attended the meeting as he was appointed to attend the next meetings of the churches in the first, third, and fourth districts.

The Clarke County Grand Jury of September 1814 published the following in the local newspaper.⁶³

“That from the representations of the Solicitor General to this Body we discover that there are certain offences which are daily growing more frequent, and which cannot be punished on account of certain acts of the Legislature which require that no bill of indictment shall be preferred, without the prosecutor’s name being signed thereto...By these means all offences which are injurious to civilized society by their immorality and bad example but which do not operate to individual injury, escape punishment, among which are the following offences, to wit: The murder of slaves, the murder of bastard children, riots, affrays, retailing of spiritous liquors without license, public menaces, living in adultery and fornication and many others. For these the state’s officer has generally to persuade some person to be the prosecutor, and his prosecutions are in many cases unsuccessful...We recommend our Representatives in the next Legislature to exert themselves in the application of such remedy as the evil admits of. We have also been informed that the following offences are not indictable by the laws of this state, viz, profane swearing, sabbath breaking, and gambling with negroes: We earnest recommend that proper exertions be used to obtain the passage of laws for the punishment of such offences...Stevens Thomas, Foreman, Isaac Suttles, John Williams, Lewis Paulett, Richard W. Oats, Daniel Ramey, John Foster, White Rossiter, Stephen Hester, Williamson C. Reese, John Mayne, Joseph Smith, Charles Broach, Nicholas Baker, Joshua Elder, Thomas Hill, James Caldwell, William M. Strong, Samuel Hester, James Meriwether. Sterling Elder, Clk. 24 September 1814.

On November 25, 1814, Isaac Suttle attended the Littleton Mapp estate sale.⁶⁴ Isaac paid \$1.50 for a three horse harrow and \$1 for a saw. As a resident of Captain Arnold’s Militia District in 1815, Isaac Suttles paid \$5.12½ in taxes for 500 acres of land and thirteen slaves. On August 8, 1815, Isaac Suttles sold a tract of land to Jeremiah Reeves for \$300.⁶⁵ The 200-acre tract had been part of the Micajah Williamson grant. Isaac signed the deed which was witnessed by Jno. Swift and Lewis C. Davis. On August 21, 1815, Anna Mapp and John F. Mapp of Morgan County, Georgia sold their undivided

⁶³ *Athens Gazette*, published at Athens, Georgia Thursday, September 29, 1814. Georgia Department of Archives and History, Morrow, Georgia.

⁶⁴ Estate Records, Unbound, 1797-1949, Clarke County, Georgia. Georgia Department of Archives and History, Morrow, Georgia.

⁶⁵ Clarke Deeds, Book L, Page 177.

interest in the James Meredith plantation to Isaac Suttles for \$2,000.⁶⁶ Isaac signed the deed which was witnessed by Seaborn J. Saffold and George Chatfield.

Isaac Suttle and Othneil Weaver represented Holland's Spring Church at the annual meeting of the Oakmulgee Association held at Fellowship in Morgan County September 2-5, 1815.⁶⁷ The Association appointed a committee of twelve, including Brother Suttle, to convene at Providence to settle a matter of difficulty between the churches at Providence and Murder Creek. Brethren Suttle and Nichols were selected as messengers to attend the next meeting of the Sarepta Association. Brother Suttle also was selected to preach the introductory sermon at the next association meeting. However, Reverend Suttle did not attend the next association meeting, although the church at Holland's Spring had selected him as messenger. On September 16, 1815, Isaac Suttles was granted a letter of dismissal from Mars Hill.⁶⁸ Apparently, Isaac had served as pastor of Mars Hill from 1809 until his dismissal.

In 1816, Isaac Suttles paid \$4.62½ in taxes as a resident of Captain Arnold's District for 300 acres of land and twelve slaves. On December 10, 1816, Isaac and Sarah Suttles sold a tract of land to Barton Thrasher for \$1,100.⁶⁹ The tract of 300 acres had been part of the Meredith Plantation. Isaac signed the deed, his wife Sarah made her mark, and John Butler and Elam Ward signed as witnesses. On Christmas Day of 1816, Isaac Suttles sold a tract of land to James Nicholson for \$800.⁷⁰ The tract contained 107¾ acres. Isaac Suttle signed the deed and William Hester and Tapley Hinson signed as witnesses. A critical review of the various tax digests cannot be reconciled with the recorded deeds. It seems evident that at least some of the deeds never were recorded. Further complicating the matter is the disappointing fact that many of the recorded deeds do not provide the acreage or sufficiently detailed metes and bounds to calculate the acreage. In any event, soon after that last sale, Isaac and his family together with the families of his married children left Georgia for greener pastures in Cahawba County, Alabama Territory.

Pioneering on the Alabama Frontier

The land from which Cahawba County was formed had been part of the Mississippi Territory since 1798. Territorial laws did not apply there, however, because that area was part of the Creek Indian Nation then regarded as a sovereign entity. General Andrew Jackson defeated the Creeks and their allies and brought the Creek War to an end at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in the early spring of 1814. The Treaty of Fort Jackson, signed August 9, 1814, required the Creeks to cede much of their territory and move east of the

⁶⁶ Clarke Deeds, Book K, Page 282.

⁶⁷ Oakmulgee Association Minutes.

⁶⁸ *Mars Hill*, Page 13.

⁶⁹ Clarke Deeds, Book K, Page 309.

⁷⁰ Clarke Deeds, Book K, Page 290.

Coosa River. On June 29, 1815, the Mississippi Territorial Legislature established Monroe County encompassing most of the land affected by the treaty and opening a vast domain for settlement. Almost immediately the inflow of pioneering families began as a trickle, but soon turned into a flood. By the end of 1816, the population had increased to the point that the northern portion of Monroe County was cutoff to form Montgomery County. Early in 1817, Congress split the Mississippi Territory into two parts. The western part was admitted as the state of Mississippi, while the eastern portion became the new Alabama Territory.⁷¹

Sometime during 1817, Isaac Suttle, his family, and the families of his son John and daughter Margaret moved to what was then Montgomery County, Alabama Territory. At the time, there were only seven counties in Alabama Territory, all of which had been created by the Mississippi Territorial Legislature. At their first session held at St. Stephens on February 7, 1818, the new Alabama Territorial Legislature created Cahawba County from part of Montgomery. The surrounding area was filling rapidly with settlers. In 1819, Alabama became the twenty-second state. In 1820, Cahawba changed its name to Bibb, in honor of William Wyatt Bibb, the only governor of Alabama Territory and first governor of the state, who had died that July after falling from his horse.

Late in 1817, the Mississippi Society for Baptist Missions dispatched Thomas Mercer and Benjamin Davis to the Creek Nation to determine what could be done to introduce the gospel and establish schools among them.⁷² Arriving at Tuckabatchee, the missionaries obtained the permission of Big Warrior, the head chief of the Upper Creeks, to preach and to establish a school. Tuckabatchee was a major Creek town located on the west bank of the Tallapoosa River south of Tallassee in present Elmore County. The town was the site of the Creek annual council where Tecumseh made his famous speech in September 1811 urging the Creeks to take up arms against the whites. The missionaries then moved to a settlement fifteen miles east where they preached to a mixed crowd of Creeks, whites, and African Creeks. On November 12, 1817, they baptized seven African Creeks who formed the first church in the Creek Nation.⁷³ On March 20, 1818 from St. Francisville, Louisiana, Reverend James A. Ranaldson wrote to the Corresponding Secretary, in part⁷⁴

“Our society has been formed on missionary ground. There are pressing

⁷¹ Abrams, Ulysses Huey, *A History of Early Bibb County, Alabama, 1820-1870*. Privately printed, 1981. (Hereinafter cited as *Early Bibb County*.)

⁷² Minutes of the Mississippi Baptist Association, 1817. Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

⁷³ *History of American Missions to the Heathen from their Commencement to the Present Time*, Page 379, Worcester, Massachusetts, 1840 and Rev. J. S. Murrow, *Beginnings of Baptist Indian Missions*, The Baptist Home Mission Monthly, Volume XIV, Number 1, January 1892. Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

⁷⁴ *American Baptist Magazine and Missionary Intelligencer*, Volume 1, Page 4. Published at Boston, Massachusetts, 1817. Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

demands for active and general exertions. Four missionaries are already employed by the society for the term of three months; and one for a year. Rev. Isaac Suttle, whom I mentioned in my last, is appointed to preach in the African church recently formed in the Creek nation, for the current year. It is hoped that the present hostilities of the Seminoles will not defeat the object of his appointment.”

During that early period, transportation in Cahawba County was abysmal as there were no roads. The first pioneers followed Indian paths as best they could to select a particular plot on which to settle. From the beginning, the county court appointed groups of men to layout and mark new roads and other groups of men to construct and maintain the roads. On the third Monday of August 1819, the county court recorded,

“...on the suggestion of Littlepage Sims that Cornelius Latham, James Latham, Woodson Young, Isaac Suttles, William Latham, Cornelius Latham, Snr. and Samuel Smitherman be appointed Commissioners to view lay out and mark a road from William Lathams Waggon road where it leaves the Fort Jackson road the nearest and most practicable rout so as to intersect the Pleasant Valley Road that passes John Allens to the mouth of Cahawba.”⁷⁵

Isaac Suttle was one of the first Baptist ministers to preach the Gospel in central Alabama. He settled on land located within the early settlement on the headwaters of Oakmulgee Creek near the present village of Lawley. While he no doubt continued to farm in order to provide for his family, Isaac devoted much of his time to church affairs. On Saturday before the first Sunday in March 1819, the Rehobeth Baptist Church was constituted by Presbyters William Calloway and William Harrod upon the doctrine of the Primitive Baptist Church.⁷⁶ They selected Elder Isaac Suttle as their first pastor. Rehobeth was admitted to the Cahawba Baptist Association in 1819, but joined the Mulberry Baptist Association in 1828. The church is located about fifteen miles east of Centerville in Bibb County off US Highway 82 in Section 22 in the southeastern corner of the county. Isaac served Rehobeth as pastor and continued his membership there for many years.

Elder Moses Crowson’s preaching in the settlements in the upper Cahawba Valley led to the establishment of the first Baptist Church in old Cahawba County in 1817.⁷⁷ The energetic evangelist reached out to other communities and soon established an arm of the Cahawba Valley Church near the River Bend community. On July 10, 1819, Presbyters

⁷⁵ Commissioner’s Court of Roads and Revenues, Bibb County, Alabama, Meeting Minutes, 1818-1828. Bibb County Courthouse, Centerville, Alabama. (Hereinafter cited as Bibb Roads.)

⁷⁶ McCord, Howard F., *Baptists of Bibb County, A Denominational Salute to the People Called Baptists in Cahawba (Bibb) County, Alabama, 1817-1974*. Privately published by Howard F. McCord, 1979. (Hereinafter cited as McCord’s *Baptists*.)

⁷⁷ Boyd, Charles E., *Haysop, A Church, a Community, a People of Haysop Creek, Bibb County, Alabama*. Banner Press, Birmingham, Alabama, 1979. (Hereinafter cited as Boyd’s *Haysop*.)

William Calloway and Isaac Suttle established Enon Baptist Church.⁷⁸ The first members of the church were John Blake, Thomas Hargiss, Thadeus Perkins, Grief Johnson, Willis Davis, Patsey Blake, Rebekah Hargiss Susannah Armstrong, Moriah Fletcher, Suffey Jones, Polly Johnson, and Elizabeth Blake. In October 1819, the church unanimously chose Brother Isaac Suttle as their pastor and asked the clerk to write a letter informing him of his selection. Reverend Suttle accepted the invitation and thereafter appears on virtually every page of the church minutes through 1825, usually as moderator of the church meeting held after each monthly worship service. In April 1826, the church called on Isaac Suttle and Enoch Hays to ordain Brother John C. Summers at a subsequent conference. Enon Baptist Church is located about five miles northeast of Centreville on State Highway 25.

On July 31, 1819, Isaac Suttle together with Lewis C. Davis and William Harrod established Ebenezer Baptist Church at Bogle's Creek, now Stanton in Chilton County.⁷⁹ Elder Isaac Suttle was the first pastor and served them for about 20 years, although he was not a member. When the church was organized, a revival was held at which fifty were baptized, five of whom later became ministers. In 1825, another glorious revival was held after which Ebenezer became a strong church. In 1839, a third revival was held that continued for two years. No doubt Reverend Isaac Suttle played a key role in organizing and conducting the three revivals.

On Saturday before the fourth Sunday in October, 1819, the Cahawba Baptist Association met at Ebenezer Meetinghouse in Tuscaloosa County.⁸⁰ A committee of five, including Elders Suttle, Crowson, Orr, Holcombe, and Henry, with the moderator and clerk, were appointed to arrange the business of the Association and report on Monday. The Association requested Elders Holcomb, Blythe, and Suttle to occupy the pulpit on Sunday and for worship to begin at ten o'clock. Isaac Suttle and Enoch Little represented Rehobeth Church at the meeting. On Sunday, Elder Suttle spoke from Revelations, Chapter 7, Verse 14: "*These are they which come out of tribulation.*" At its November 1819 Term, the Orphan's Court appointed Isaac Suttle, William White, and Charles Murray to appraise the estate of Richard Bird, deceased.⁸¹

Presbyters William Calloway, William Harrad, Charles Crow, and Isaac Suttle organized the Okmulgee Baptist Church in Perry County on March 4, 1820.⁸² After public worship,

⁷⁸ Enon Baptist Church Records, Bibb County Baptist Association, Volume 1, July 1819 – March 1846. Special Collections Department, Samford University Library, Birmingham, Alabama.

⁷⁹ McCord's *Baptists*.

⁸⁰ Minutes of the Cahawba Baptist Association, 1819. Special Collections Department, Samford University Library, Birmingham, Alabama. (Hereinafter cited as Cahawba Association Minutes.)

⁸¹ Bibb County, Alabama, Orphans Court, Meeting Minutes, 1818-1834. Bibb County Courthouse, Centreville, Alabama. (Hereinafter cited as Bibb Orphans.)

⁸² Okmulgee Baptist Church Minutes, 1820-1848. Special Collections Department, Samford University Library, Birmingham, Alabama.

the membership convened. As their first order of business, they elected Brother Suttle to serve as Moderator. The Presbyters then examined the candidates for admission and,

“finding them united in Christian fellowship sound in the faith and we believe capable of keeping up Gospel discipline we therefore do constitute and pronounce them a gospel Church possessing full power and Church authority to carry into effect every part of the business of a church independent of any other Church.”

On the fourth Monday of July 1820, the county court appointed John Wilson, John Jones, William White, William Hunneycut, Daniel Harrison, Isaac Suttles, and Jesse Horn as commissioners to view, layout, and mark the most direct and practicable road from the Falls of the Cahawba River to the eastern county boundary so as to intersect the road leading to Fort Jackson at or near where it crosses the county line.⁸³ Falls of the Cahawba was the name of the county seat which later was changed to Centreville. It is difficult to know for sure whether the road still exists, but it is thought that it may be County Road 20 today.

Messengers Isaac Suttle and his son-in-law Graves Eaves represented Rehobeth Church at the next meeting of the Cahawba Baptist Association held at Mulberry Meetinghouse on the Saturday before the fourth Sunday in October 1820.⁸⁴ Isaac again was appointed to the committee that arranged the association business. Elders Calloway and Suttle were appointed to visit and communicate with the Alabama Association. Elders Suttle and Crow were appointed to attend the meeting scheduled for the following May at Ruhama Church in Jefferson County. In addition, Elders Suttle and Crow were appointed to attend the meeting the following August at Salem Church in Green County.

In October 1821, Messengers Isaac Suttle and Cornelius Autry represented Rehobeth at the Cahawba Association meeting held at Concord Meetinghouse in Perry County.⁸⁵ The meeting was opened on Saturday by Brother Suttle with prayer. Isaac was appointed to the committees to arrange the association business and handle the finances. Again, Brothers Calloway and Suttle were appointed to visit and communicate with the Alabama Association. On Sunday, Brother Suttle opened the service of the day from the Book of John, Chapter 17, Verse 24:

“Father I will that they also whom thou hast given me be with me where I am, that they may behold my glory which thou hast given me, for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.”

On Monday, a resolution was passed that divided the Association into three districts and appointed Isaac Suttle as the agent for the second district. The date and location of the

⁸³ Bibb Roads, 1818-1828.

⁸⁴ Cahawba Association Minutes, 1820.

⁸⁵ Cahawba Association Minutes, 1821.

next association meeting was selected and Brother Suttle was asked to preach the introductory sermon.

On October 24, 1821, the Orphans Court appointed Jesse Potter, Isaac Suttle, and John Wilson to appraise the estate of William Latham deceased.⁸⁶ The next meeting of the Cahawba Association was held at Canaan Meeting House in Jefferson County on the Saturday before the fourth Sunday in October 1822.⁸⁷ Isaac Suttle opened the meeting with a sermon from Isaiah, Chapter 35, Verse 8:

“And an highway shall be there and away, and it shall be called the ways of holiness – the unclean shall not pass over it, but it shall be for those the way-fairing men, though fools shall not err therein.”

Again a committee was appointed to arrange the business of the association consisting of the moderator, clerk, and Brothers Brown, Holcombe, Ryan, Crowson, and Suttle. Reverend Isaac Suttle and Cornelius Autry again represented Rehobeth Church. Elders Suttle, Crow, and Calloway organized Fellowship Baptist Church in Perry County in February 1822.⁸⁸

On February 3, 1823, the Commissioners Court appointed men throughout the county to superintend various county functions.⁸⁹ For Township 22, Range 11, situated in the southeastern corner of present day Bibb County, the court appointed Benjamin Caddell, John Suttle, and Isaac Suttle. Mulberry Baptist Church was established in 1818, about two miles northeast from present Maplesville in Chilton County.⁹⁰ The earliest church minutes have not survived, but it is presumed that Isaac Suttle may have helped to constitute the church. It is known that Isaac served the church as preacher from 1823 to possibly as late as 1827.

On Saturday, October 25, 1823, the Cahawba Association met at Salem Church near Greensborough.⁹¹ Reverend Isaac Suttle, his son John Suttle, and his son-in-law William Blake represented Rehobeth Church. It seems doubtful that Isaac attended the Baptist State Convention held at Greensborough on October 28, 1823, as he was not indicated as present in the minutes.⁹² He was, however, appointed one of the domestic missionaries

⁸⁶ Bibb Orphans.

⁸⁷ Cahawba Association Minutes, 1822.

⁸⁸ Holcombe, Hosea, *A History of the Rise and Progress of the Baptists in Alabama*. King and Baird Printers, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1840. (Hereinafter cited as Holcombe's *Baptists*.)

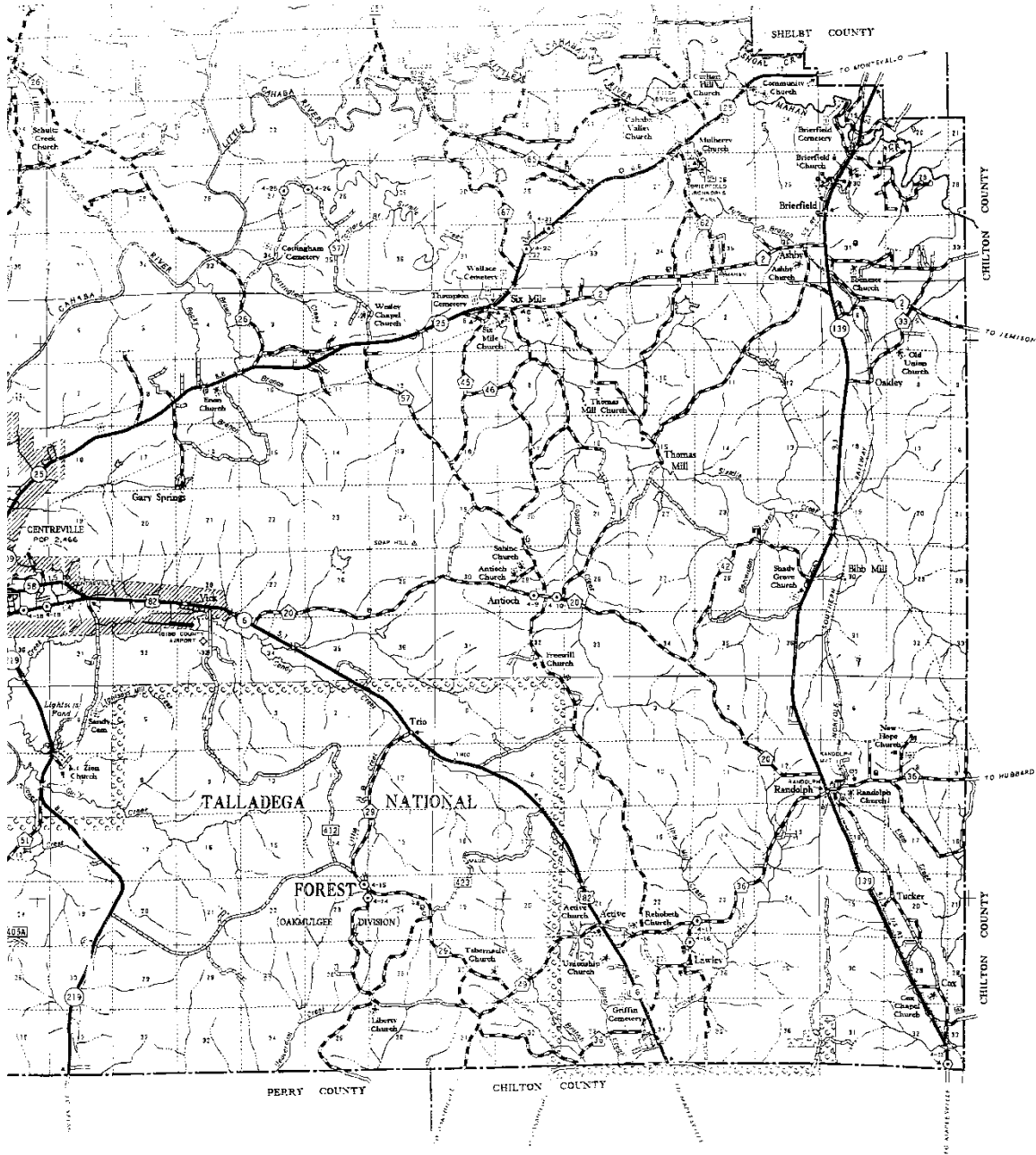
⁸⁹ Bibb Roads, 1818-1828.

⁹⁰ Abrams, Usysses H., *A History of Mulberry Baptist Church, 1818-1968*. Times Printing Company, Montevallo, Alabama, 1968.

⁹¹ Cahawba Association Minutes, 1823.

⁹² Minutes of the Baptist State Convention in Alabama, 1823. Special Collections Department, Samford University Library, Birmingham, Alabama.

for Middle Alabama, a task to which he evidently devoted much of his energies.



Southeastern Bibb County

On February 2, 1824, the Commissioners Court approved the petition of Isaac Suttle and others requesting a new public road commencing at the courthouse by way of Isaac Suttles and intersecting the state road at Richard Chandlers.⁹³ The court agreed with the

⁹³ Bibb Roads, 1818-1828.

petitioners and appointed Isaac Suttle, John Suttle, Cornelius Latham, Sr., Woodson Young, Benjamin Griffin, James Smelly, and Jesse Suttle, “to lay out said road agreeable to the prayer of the said Petitioners to the Greatest advantage to the inhabitants and as little prejudice as may be to enclosures &c.”

The next meeting of the Cahawba Association began on Saturday, October 23, 1824 at Bethel Meetinghouse in Tuscaloosa County.⁹⁴ The worship services on Sunday were closed with an exhortation and prayer by Elder Suttle. On Monday, Brother Suttle closed the meeting with prayer. Isaac Suttle and Isaac Dodson represented Rehobeth Church.

The paucity of churches and preachers in many areas of Bibb County was so acute that often hundreds of people, other than messengers, would attend the annual association meetings.⁹⁵ Many of the people traveled long distances and brought their entire families in covered wagons and set up a camp community nearby. Often the camp group asked that services continue after the adjournment of the association meeting. The spiritual atmosphere led to revival-type services, where preaching and exhorting continued day and night, resulting in numerous professions of faith and baptisms. Because the church structures generally were small, most of the services had to be conducted outdoors under the shade of the large trees.

For the first few years, there was harmony among the churches of the Cahawba Association. Although by about 1825, discord and dissension began to arise mostly over the Missionary Baptist movement. The advocates of the new movement insisted so strongly and the Old School Baptists resisted so strongly, that significant rifts began to appear both within individual churches as well as within the Cahawba Association. Plans for a new association of churches began that would allow churches who wanted to embrace the missionary spirit. Many church leaders thought that the removal of the Indians from the lands east of the Coosa River was imminent and would result in opening a vast new territory for white settlement and those pioneers would need to be served by new preachers and churches. To fill that need, the church would need to send missionaries to the newly opened territory.

The Cahawba Association annual meeting commenced on Saturday, October 22, 1825 at Oakmulgee Meetinghouse in Perry County.⁹⁶ Brother Suttle had been scheduled to deliver the opening sermon, but did not. Brothers Isaac Suttle, Isaac Dodson, and T. Haynes had been appointed to represent Rehobeth Church, but none of the three men attended the meeting. Rehobeth Church was not represented at the association meetings in 1826 or thereafter.⁹⁷

⁹⁴ Cahawba Association Minutes, 1824.

⁹⁵ Holcombe’s *Baptists*.

⁹⁶ Cahawba Association Minutes, 1825.

⁹⁷ Cahawba Association Minutes, 1826, 1827, and 1828.

In August 1826, the Commissioners Court appointed Joshua Welch, Enoch Latham, and John Smitherman to oversee the maintenance of the road, “*from the state road near Richard Chandlers, thence by Isaac Suttle’s mill, to where it intersects the Perry County Road.*”⁹⁸ It is believed that the old road has survived to become the present County Road 36 connecting the small villages of Randolph and Active. Isaac Suttle’s mill probably was located on Little Mill Creek. That road also passes Rehobeth Church, where Isaac was a member and is presumed to have lived nearby. In February 1827, Woodson Young petitioned the Commissioners Court for an alteration of the road around his fences.⁹⁹ The court agreed and appointed a jury consisting of Joab B. Lawhorn, John Lawhon, Benjamin Cadell, Isaac Suttles, Sr., John Allen, Enoch Spivy, and Isaac’s brother Stephen Suttles to proceed to make the alterations requested. In August 1828, the Commissioners Court appointed William Suttle, Isaac Suttle, and Enoch Spivy overseers of the road. In May 1829, the Commissioners Court appointed Isaac Suttle, Brooks Lawhon, and James Fitts to oversee the maintenance of the road.

The Mulberry Baptist Association was constituted on Saturday, November 15, 1828 from churches dismissed by the Cahawba and Mt. Zion Associations. Messengers from fifteen churches in Autauga, Bibb, Dallas, Perry, and Shelby Counties attended the first meeting held at Mulberry Meetinghouse in Bibb County.¹⁰⁰ Isaac Suttle, his son John Suttle, and John Hicks represented Rehobeth Church. Brother Isaac Suttle delivered the introductory sermon from Ephesians, Chapter 2, Verses 20 and 21. Brother Suttle was elected Moderator and presided at the meeting. On Monday morning, Moderator Suttle opened the session with singing and prayer, then called the roll and proceeded to business. The delegates adopted a constitution, abstract of principles, and rules of decorum. An opportunity was offered for churches recently formed to join the Association and two new churches joined the flock. The remainder of the meeting consisted entirely of procedural and administrative matters. Isaac signed the minutes as Moderator. The seventeen member churches included a total of 622 Baptists in fellowship.

Many of the early frontier churches whose very existence resulted from the effective evangelism of the early preachers now found themselves in the company of those who questioned the validity of evangelism. Enon’s early pastor, the sturdy Isaac Suttle, stood for evangelical principles so ardently against some opposing ministers that he was accused of embracing the heresy of Arminianism. Elder Holcombe stated that it was not Suttle’s principles that had changed, but that the hyper-Calvinists had so distorted the doctrine that they no longer represented historic Baptist practice.¹⁰¹ Whatever doctrinal differences existed between the two factions, under the skillful leadership of Elder Suttle and others, the Mulberry Association managed to grow and strengthen.

⁹⁸ Bibb Roads, 1818-1828.

⁹⁹ Bibb Roads, 1828-1832.

¹⁰⁰ Mulberry Baptist Association Minutes, 1828. Special Collections Department, Samford University Library, Birmingham, Alabama. (Hereinafter cited as Mulberry Association Minutes.)

¹⁰¹ Boyd’s *Haysop*.

No record of Isaac Suttle acquiring or disposing of any land in Bibb County has been found. It seems likely that Isaac did acquire land, cleared and farmed it with his slaves, but followed the rather common practice of many early pioneers in not bothering to formally record any deeds. It also seems likely that Isaac, Sarah, and their unmarried children all lived with one of their married children. While it remains uncertain whether Suttle's mill belonged to our subject or his son, it is presumed that the father and his slaves contributed to the construction, management, and operation of the mill.

Moving to Valley Creek

On June 9, 1828, the local newspaper noted a stray horse.¹⁰²

“Taken up by the subscriber living on the bend of Valley Creek in Perry Co., on the 1st instant, a bright chestnut sorrel horse. Isaac Suttle.

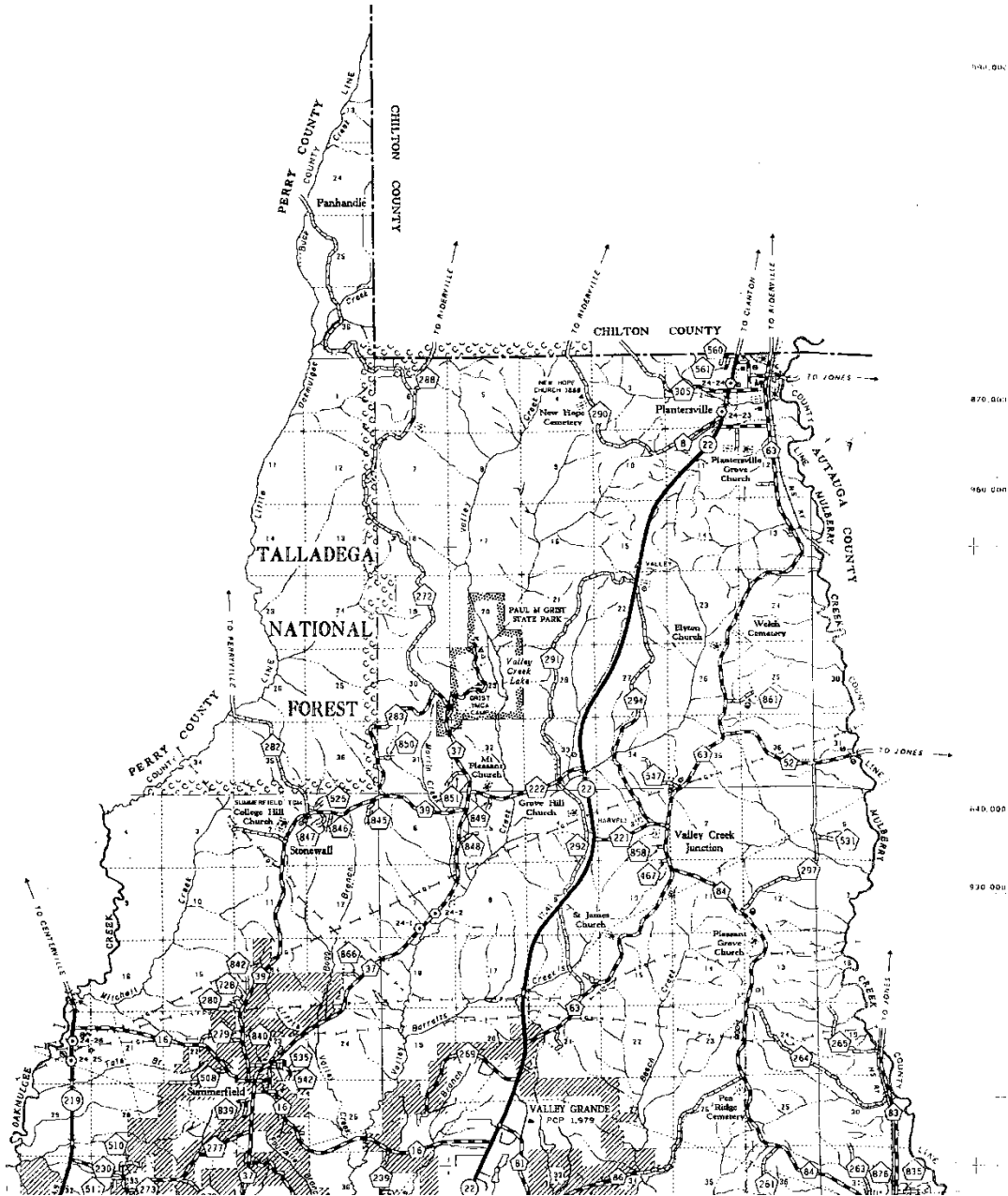
Apparently Isaac Suttle had moved to the Valley Creek neighborhood in Perry County. However, the Valley Creek neighborhood never was located in Perry County. In spite of the fact that the neighborhood always has been situated in Dallas County, the early lands records for that neighborhood were recorded in Perry County, not in Dallas County, perhaps because the courthouse in Perry County was more convenient. Even the census enumerator recorded the residents of the neighborhood in Perry County. Isaac's sons Isaac G. and James H. as well as his sons-in-law John Allen, William Blake, and Graves Eaves all owned land and lived in the neighborhood. Their patents and deeds also were recorded in Perry County. Township 19, Range 11 is situated south of Chilton County, east of the Talladega National Forest, and west of Mulberry Creek. John Allen was in Section 2, Isaac G. Suttle was in Section 13, James Harvey Suttle was in Section 26, William Blake was in Section 26, and Graves Eaves was in Section 34. It is presumed that Isaac Suttle, Sr. resided with his son James Harvey.

The second meeting of the Mulberry Association was opened on Saturday, September 12, 1829 at Harmony Meetinghouse in Autauga County.¹⁰³ The introductory sermon by Moses Crowson was followed by singing and prayer led by Isaac Suttle. Reverend Suttle was elected Moderator. On Sunday, the service was,

“lased with an appropriate and affecting address by bro. I. Suttle and we have abundant reason to hope their labours were not in vain in the Lord but that children of God were made to Rejoice and Sinners were instructed in the Way of Life.”

¹⁰² *Selma Courier*, published at Selma, Alabama, June 9, 1828. Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama.

¹⁰³ Mulberry Association Minutes, 1829.



Northeastern Corner of Dallas County

On Monday, the meeting was opened by singing and prayer led by Moderator Suttle. The messengers resolved

“that we as an association take into Consideration the subject of feet Washing and should examine the matter and endeavor to find whether it be a gospel or custom or private duty or whether it ought to be practiced as either and that the matter be discussed at our next Session.”

Isaac again signed the minutes as moderator. Rehobeth Church was represented by Isaac Suttle and John Hicks.

In 1830, it is presumed that Isaac and his wife Sarah were living with their son James H. Suttle in Perry County, because Isaac was not enumerated separately as a held of household and no one of suitable age was living with any of their sons or sons-in-law.¹⁰⁴ But again, the Valley Creek neighborhood was part of Dallas County, further indicating that the residents of that area wrongly considered themselves to be in Perry County. Both Isaac and Sarah are listed as between 60 and 70 years old placing their years of birth between 1760 and 1770. The household included seven slaves, three adults and four children under 10 years old, but their ownership is not indicated, although it is reasonable to presume that at least some, if not most, of them were owned by Isaac Suttle. Isaac and Sarah's oldest son John died intestate early in 1830. On September 6, 1830, the Probate Judge appointed his widow Elizabeth Suttles and her son-in-law John Cadell to administer the estate.¹⁰⁵ Elizabeth made her mark and John Cadell signed acknowledging their obligations as administrators. Isaac Suttle and his son Isaac G. Suttle also signed the acknowledgement as their bondsmen. At the estate sale held December 2, 1830, Isaac purchased two slaves that had belonged to his son.¹⁰⁶ Isaac paid \$600 for a woman named Rosa and \$150 for a child named Simion.

Isaac Suttle and S. W. Jefferson represented Rehobeth Church at the next meeting of the Mulberry Association held at Rehobeth Church, in Bibb County, on September 11-14, 1830.¹⁰⁷ Again, Isaac was elected Moderator and led the proceedings. Following their usual custom, the messengers conducted routine organizational business on Saturday, devoted Sunday to preaching and prayer, and then reconvened on Monday to consider more important issues. The session on Monday opened with singing and prayer led by Brothers Davis and Suttle. After debating the issue of foot washing that had arisen the previous year, the matter was referred to a committee. The following morning, the committee reported, "*We reffer our churches to our abstract of faith and to the Word of God.*" The delegates concurred and the custom of foot washing continued. Article Ten of the Abstract of Faith read, "*We believe that as our Lord and Master washed His disciples' feet, so ought we to wash one another's feet.*" In another matter, the delegates resolved that

"where a member or members of our order are living in their respective bounds holding a letter of dismissal from a Sister church they shall appoint Some of their members to Converse with and advise them to give

¹⁰⁴ 1830 Census, Perry County, Alabama, Page 62. All Alabama census schedules at Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama.

¹⁰⁵ Probate Records, Bibb County, Alabama, Administration Records, Book D, Page 1. Bibb County Courthouse, Centerville, Alabama. (Hereinafter cited as Bibb Administrations.)

¹⁰⁶ Bibb Administrations, Book D, Page 13.

¹⁰⁷ Mulberry Association Minutes, 1830.

their letter to some church which if they Refuse or neglect to do the church thus Sending shall give information to the church from whence they came of their neglect or refusal or any disorderly conduct they may have Knowledge of but if no such church Exist they shall proceed to deal with them as they would with members of their own church and if they should be Excommunicated and still refuse to give up their letters send their names to the next association to be minuted."

Brother Suttle was appointed to give the introductory sermon at the next association meeting.

Isaac Suttle and William Lloyd represented Elim Church in Perry County at the Mulberry Association meeting held at Chestnut Creek Church in Autauga County on September 10-13, 1831.¹⁰⁸ Isaac Suttle opened the meeting on Saturday with a sermon from Zachariah, Chapter 6, Verse 13. The delegates elected Isaac Suttle Moderator and asked him to preach again on Tuesday. The following question was proposed to the delegates, "*Is it good order for Baptist Churches to hold members in fellowship who belong to the Masonic Institution and who continue to attend their Lodges and Join in their funerals & processions?*" The Brethren replied, "*We think not.*"

Isaac Suttle and William B. Lloyd represented Elim Church at the Mulberry Association meeting that began Saturday, September 22, 1832 at Elim Meetinghouse in Perry County.¹⁰⁹ After the introductory sermon by Brother Robert Martin, Brother Isaac Suttle led the visiting delegates in singing and prayer. Brother Suttle was selected to serve as Moderator. After reading the rules of decorum, Isaac announced the Association organized and proceeded to business. Isaac opened the session on Monday morning with singing and prayer, followed by his calling the roll. Isaac Suttle was reimbursed \$10.50 for his expenses in visiting the Alabama Association. The Association

"Resolved that we submit to the Churches the following advice, whereas this Association has seen with feelings of the deepest mortification and regret the pernicious effects of the intemperate use of ardent spirits and as much scandal has been brought upon the Church of Christ, by some of those who profess to be his followers, by indulging in the immoderate use of Spiritous liquors, therefore it is seriously recommended to every member of our union who can conscientiously do so to abstain intirely from the use of Spirits of any kind, and that those who may think it absolutely necessary for the preservation of their health or may not think it their duty to make this reasonable sacrifice for the glory of our common Lord and for the peace and harmony of the churches, that they use it With the strictest regard to the rules of Temperance. it is further recommended to all our churches that if any of their members after Godly admonitions, to refrain from said habits of intemperance should they fail to do so to

¹⁰⁸ Mulberry Association Minutes, 1831.

¹⁰⁹ Mulberry Association Minutes, 1832.

exclude them from the fellowship of the church.”

Surprisingly, Isaac Suttle did not attend the Mulberry Association meeting in 1833 and the minutes are silent as to why.¹¹⁰ Isaac and William Lloyd represented Elim Church at the association meeting held at Ebenezer Church in Bibb County, Saturday, September 27, 1834, but neither man is mentioned further in the minutes.¹¹¹

On January 7, 1834, Isaac G. Suttle was appointed guardian of William Suttle his nephew and son of his deceased brother John Suttle.¹¹² Isaac Suttle, Sr. and John Cadell acted as sureties to guarantee the \$2,000 bond. On the same day, the Probate Judge appointed Isaac Suttle, Sr. to serve as guardian for his grandson Isaac T. Suttle another son of John Suttle.¹¹³ Isaac G. Suttle and John Lawhon acted as sureties for the \$2,000 bond. On September 1, 1834, Isaac Suttle, Sr. acknowledged to the court his having received \$613.62½ as guardian of Isaac T. Suttle for his share of his late father’s estate.¹¹⁴

The next meeting of the Mulberry Association was held at Ivy Creek Church in Autauga County, September 26-29, 1835.¹¹⁵ Isaac Suttle, John Welsh, and W. B. Lloyd represented Bethesda Church in Autauga County. On Saturday, Isaac delivered the introductory sermon from Timothy I, Chapter 4, Verse 16. Brethren E. Hays, Isaac Suttle, S. W. Apperson, John Welsh, and Theophilus Goodwin were selected to arrange the business of the meeting. No minutes for the Association meeting of 1836 have been located.

The Mulberry Association met at Mulberry Church in Bibb County, September 23-26, 1837.¹¹⁶ Elim Church in Perry County was represented by Isaac Suttle, his son Isaac G. Suttle, and W. T. Hightower. After the introductory sermon delivered by Elder Watson, Elder Suttle led the delegates in singing and prayer. Isaac again was appointed to the committee that arranged the meeting business, but is not mentioned further in the association minutes.

Apparently some difficulty had arisen the previous year between Calvary Church in Autauga County and Elim Church in Perry County, the exact nature of which was not recorded in the minutes. The Association had appointed a committee the previous year to look into the matter, but because a quorum of the committee did not appear at the

¹¹⁰ Mulberry Association Minutes, 1833.

¹¹¹ Mulberry Association Minutes, 1834.

¹¹² Bibb Administrations, Volume D, Page 148.

¹¹³ Bibb Administrations, Volume D, Page 149.

¹¹⁴ Bibb Administrations, Volume D, Page 179.

¹¹⁵ Mulberry Association Minutes, 1835.

¹¹⁶ Mulberry Association Minutes, 1837.

appointed time and place the matter had not been addressed as intended. The Association then considered the matter again in light of having a letter from Calvary Church in hand. After discussing the difficulty between the two member churches, the Association believed that,

“the Concission of Calvary Church was sufficient, and the Association therefore recommend the Said Churches to be at peace, and that no further strife exist between them, and the Association also recommend the Calvary Church to so modify the Record of the Church that every feature of harshness towards Brother I. Suttle be expunged from it.”

One can only wonder what the nature of that difficulty was, as the early records of Calvary Baptist Church have not been located. It may have stemmed from differences in opinion concerning missions and missionaries.

In 1838, I. Suttle, T. Goodwin, and J. Goodwin represented Ebenezer Church at the Mulberry Association meeting held at Shady Grove Meetinghouse in Dallas County.¹¹⁷ Surprisingly, Isaac is not mentioned further in the minutes. The Association next met at Cahawba Valley Church, September 21-23, 1839.¹¹⁸ The delegates appointed Brethren Hays, Suttle, and Watson to visit the Coosa River Association. Brother Suttle opened the Monday session with singing and prayer.

It is presumed that, in 1840, Isaac still was living with his son James H. Suttle in Perry County.¹¹⁹ Again it should be noted that the Valley Creek neighborhood actually was located in Dallas County, not Perry County. Apparently, Isaac’s wife Sarah had died since the last census, as no older female is included in the enumeration. Isaac erroneously is listed as between 50 and 60 years of age. If Isaac and Sarah were living elsewhere, they were not enumerated separately nor were they living with any of their other children.

The ministers and messengers assembled at Chestnut Creek Church, September 26-29, 1840 for the Mulberry Association meeting.¹²⁰ I. Suttle, G. W. Scroggin, A. B. Hill, D. M. Lloyd, T. Gantry, and A. Cooper represented Ebenezer Church. Brother Suttle was appointed to the committee for business arrangements. Brothers Prim, Hayes, and Suttle were appointed to visit the Coosa River Association. On Sunday, Brother Suttle delivered a sermon from Galatians, Chapter 40, Verse 5. The following resolution was introduced and adopted unanimously,

“Where as, the anty Slavery Convention at the North has had the

¹¹⁷ Mulberry Association Minutes, 1838.

¹¹⁸ Mulberry Association Minutes, 1839.

¹¹⁹ 1840 Census, Perry County, Alabama, Page 253.

¹²⁰ Mulberry Association Minutes, 1840.

unChristian impudence to publish and send to the Baptist of the South, an address which we are disposed to treat with the utmost Contempt and indignation, and do not at all thank them for there kindness. "Therefore -- Resolved, That we Recommend our Churches to Commit to the flames all such instruments as may be received by any one of them, and hope as these fanatics regard our Christian feelings, they will with hold all such instruments in future."

The minutes indicate that the Mulberry Association was well-conceived and skillfully guided during its first decade. No doubt, Reverend Isaac Suttle played a key role in nurturing its success. In 1840, the Mulberry Baptist Association had grown to include twenty churches with a total membership of 1,243. Again, no record has been found of Isaac either acquiring or disposing of any real estate in either Perry or Dallas Counties. From the meager evidence available, it seems most likely that Isaac lived with his youngest son James and assisted him in farming by supplying slave labor. Isaac also may have put one or more of his slaves out for hire to provide income.

Moving to Mississippi

Immediately after the last Mulberry Association meeting, in order to be near most of his married children and grandchildren, Isaac Suttle moved about 120 miles almost due west into Lauderdale County, Mississippi. He settled just over the state line near Alamucha about fifteen miles east from Meridian, now the county seat. Already living nearby were sons, Isaac and James, as well as daughters, Charity Allen and Margaret Bailiff. On October 31, 1840, Brother Suttle led the service at Salem Baptist Church, located about two miles east of Alamucha almost on the Alabama boundary.¹²¹ On January 2, 1841, Brother Suttle delivered the sermon and afterwards led the conference as moderator. Isaac was busy settling into his new home, getting involved in the affairs of his new church, and courting a member of the congregation.

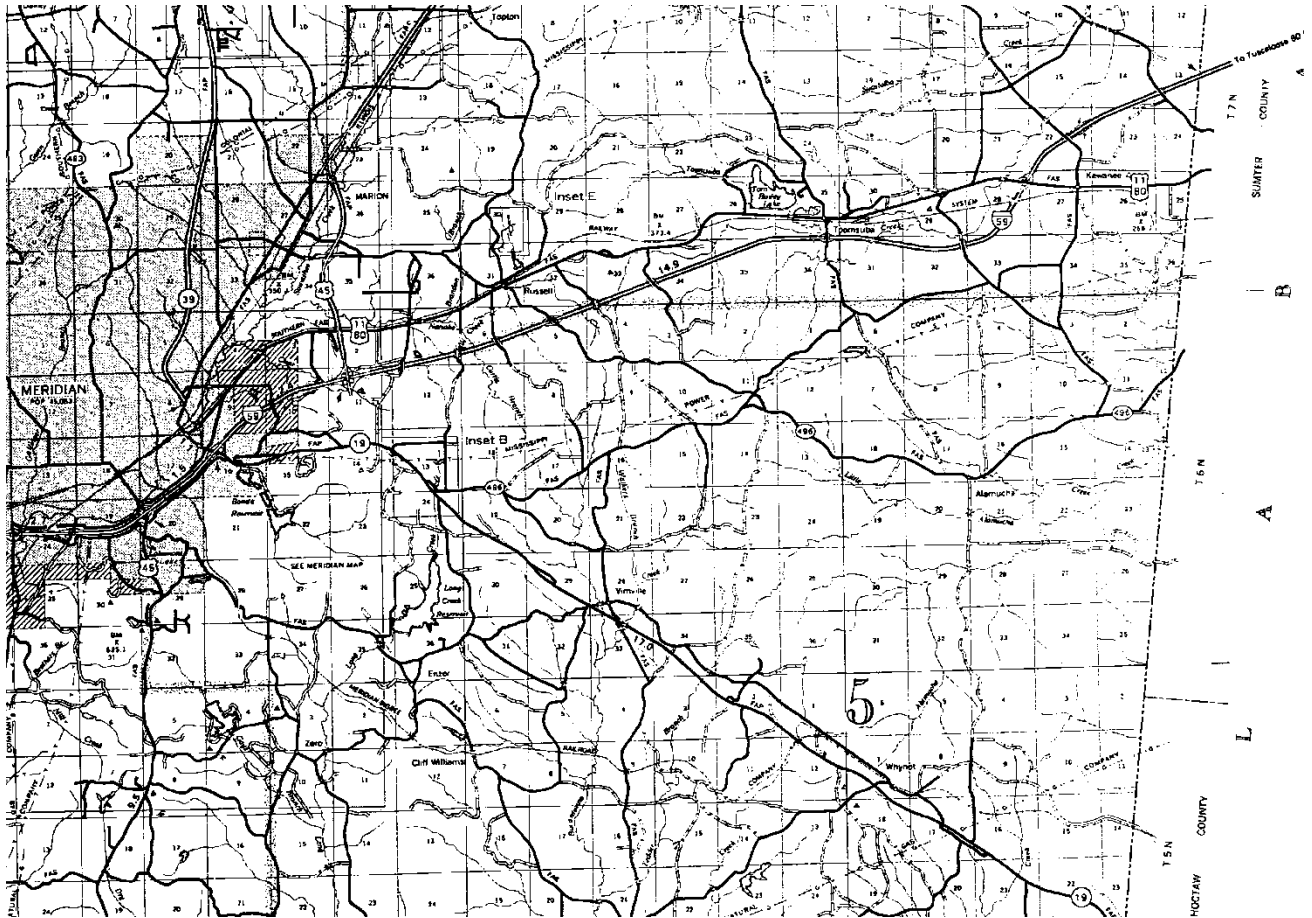
On January 7, 1841, the widower Isaac Suttle married Marcella Buxton, an original member of Salem Church.¹²² On February 10, 1841, Isaac Suttle purchased a tract of land from Thomas Smith and his wife Fanny.¹²³ The tract consisted of the NE¼ of Section 21, Township 6, Range 18 East, just southeast of Alamucha. At the time, Alamucha was a thriving town and the center of much of the settlement in Lauderdale County. It is presumed that Isaac and his new bride set up housekeeping on their new land and farmed the land with their slaves. On March 6, Brothers Suttle and Carter led the church services

¹²¹ Minutes of the Business Conferences of Salem Baptist Church of Lauderdale County, Mississippi, Book I, 1840-1857. Special Collections Department, Leland Speed Library, Mississippi College, Clinton, Mississippi. (Hereinafter cited as Salem Minutes.)

¹²² Marriage Records, Lauderdale County, Mississippi, Book A, Page 29. Lauderdale County Department of Archives and History, Meridian, Mississippi.

¹²³ Land Records, Lauderdale County, Mississippi, Deed Book G, Page 32. Lauderdale County Department of Archives and History, Meridian, Mississippi.

and the following conference.¹²⁴ On May 1, Salem Church officially received Reverend Isaac Suttle as a member.



Eastern Lauderdale County

At the July conference, Salem Church received into membership by experience, “*Bill, a black man Belonging to Brother Isaac Suttle.*”¹²⁵ On December 4, 1841, the members of Salem Church selected Isaac Suttle to serve as their pastor for the coming year. On June 4, 1842, the church appointed Brethren W. P. Carter, Isaac Suttle, and Lewis Spinks as presbyters to ordain H. P. Brunson. On September 3, the church again selected Isaac Suttle to serve as pastor for a second year and, with Brother H. P. Brunson, to represent Salem Church at the annual association meeting.

When he was 75 years of age, Isaac at last made his last will and testament.¹²⁶

¹²⁴ Salem Minutes.

¹²⁵ Salem Minutes.

¹²⁶ Probate Records, Lauderdale County, Mississippi, Probate File Box 29, Number 239. Lauderdale County Department of Archives and History, Meridian, Mississippi. (Hereinafter cited as Lauderdale

March 9th 1842

Mississippi, Lauderdale County

this is to certify that this is my last will and testament as follows,

first to my Gran Son Isaac H Suttle I give one negro buoy kname of Mat

Secondly I give to Lawcinda Suttle, the wife of J. H. Suttle one negro man by the name of Bob

Thirdly, and also all the rest of my negroes namely Edy and Bill and Penny and Simon and Meg and Martha and Simeon and my land and all other property to the use of J. H. Suttle untill all debts and demands against me is satisfied.

Then to be equally divided between Isaac G. Suttle and James H. Suttle and my wife Mysiler Suttle, and also to Mysiler Suttle her bed and bed Clothes and one horse extra.

4 and also of the above mentioned estate I give five dollars apiece to the Rest of my heirs when applied for, and witness where of I have set my hand and affix my Seal the 9th Mar 1842.

Isaac Suttle

William Carey

Thomas Ward

Both William Carey and Thomas Ward appeared before the Probate Judge to prove the will on October 26, 1842. Thus, it seems that Isaac Suttle died sometime in September or October 1842. He probably was buried at Salem Baptist Church, although no tombstone remains to mark his final resting place. The Choctaw Baptist Association met November 5 and 7, 1842 at the Christian Valley Church in Sumter County, Alabama.¹²⁷ As one of their first orders of business, the association adopted a resolution.

“Resolved, that the members of this Association, feel sensibly the loss we have sustained in the death of our venerable brother ELDER ISAAC SUTTLES and while we sympathize with his surviving family, and mourn with his numerous christian friends and Zion in general, under this afflictive dispensation, yet we bow humbly to the will of GOD, and doubt not that our loss is his eternal gain.

“Resolved, That notwithstanding elder Suttles had resided but a short time in this part of the Lord’s vineyard, yet his ministerial labours of near half a century, in our common cause, in which he was eminently successful in building up churches, in Georgia and Alabama, and in winning souls to Christ, (many of whom are now united with this body) and in which service he encountered difficulties and suffered privations of no ordinary character, and to be conceived of by none, but those accustomed to a frontier life, entitle him to this public testimonial of our feelings and

Probates.)

¹²⁷ Minutes of the Fourth Anniversary of the Choctaw Baptist Association, Held With the Christian Valley Church, Sumter County, Alabama, on the 5th & 7th November, 1842. Special Collections Department, Leland Speed Library, Mississippi College, Clinton, Mississippi.

regard.

“Resolved, That our Clerk be requested to procure from his friends (if practicable) an account of his life & labors, & keep it on file ready to be printed at a future time, with the history of our Association.”

Several attempts were made to have a brief history of the Choctaw Association published in the minutes.¹²⁸ Unfortunately, those efforts proved to be unsuccessful as no history ever was published with the meeting minutes. If the clerk did compile an account of Isaac’s life, it has been lost to history.

Isaac Suttle’s probate case file contains the original will as well as the executor’s bond, appraisal, sale, and several accounts. On December 5, James H. Suttle posted his bond in the amount of \$5,000 as executor of his father’s estate. Rolly Spinks, Cornelius Minon, and Andrew Eastis were his sureties. The three sureties also appraised the estate.

The following is and Inventory of the goods and chattles and personal Estate of Isaac Suttle Deceased as taken and Valued by the appraisers on the 24th December 1842. Viz.

<i>One Negro Woman Edy</i>	<i>54 Years of age</i>	<i>136.00</i>
<i>“ “ Man Bobb</i>	<i>52 “ “ “</i>	<i>300.00</i>
<i>” “ Man Bill</i>	<i>31 “ “ “</i>	<i>600.00</i>
<i>” “ Woman Penny</i>	<i>22 “ “ “</i>	<i>450.00</i>
<i>” “ Man Simon</i>	<i>18 “ “ “</i>	<i>700.00</i>
<i>” “ Girl Mialy</i>	<i>5 “ “ “</i>	<i>200.00</i>
<i>” “ Boy Matt</i>	<i>3 “ “ “</i>	<i>75.00</i>
<i>” “ Girl Martha</i>	<i>2 “ “ “</i>	<i>100.00</i>
<i>” “ Boy Simean</i>	<i>1 “ “ “</i>	<i>80.00</i>
<i>1 Sorrel Horse</i>		<i>30.00</i>
<i>1 Bay Horse</i>		<i>60.00</i>
<i>9 Head of Hoggs & 30 Piggs</i>		<i>45.00</i>
<i>1 Cow & Calf</i>		<i>8.00</i>
<i>1 Cow</i>		<i>5.00</i>
<i>1 Do</i>		<i>8.00</i>
<i>5 Yearlings</i>		<i>15.00</i>
<i>1 Cow with Calf</i>		<i>10.00</i>
<i>5 old Sheep & 5 Lambs</i>		<i>10.00</i>
<i>5000 Cotton @ \$150 per 100</i>		<i>75.00</i>
<i>300 Bushels Corn @ 3/--</i>		<i>112.50</i>
<i>3000 Fodder @ 4/--</i>		<i>15.00</i>
<i>1 Sett Smiths Tools</i>		<i>50.00</i>
<i>1 Lot Farming Tools</i>		<i>8.00</i>

¹²⁸ Leavell, Z. T. and T. J. Bailey, *A Complete History of Mississippi Baptists, From the Earliest Times*. Mississippi Baptist Publishing Company, Jackson, Mississippi, 1904. Leland Speed Library, Mississippi College, Clanton, Mississippi.

<i>1 Manns Saddle</i>	5.00
<i>1 Side Saddle</i>	8.00
<i>3 Axes and 1 log Chain</i>	8.00
<i>3 Beef hides</i>	4.00
<i>1 Lott of Kitchen Furniture</i>	<u>5.00</u>
	\$3,122.50

<i>Amount Brought Forward</i>	\$3,122.50
<i>1 Lott of water Vessels</i>	3.00
<i>2 Sadd Irons</i>	1.00
<i>1 Loom and gear</i>	4.00
<i>2 Spinning Wheels</i>	5.00
<i>2 Churnes & One Stone Jarr</i>	3.00
<i>1 pine Table</i>	2.50
<i>6 Common Chairs</i>	3.00
<i>1 pair And irons</i>	1.50
<i>1 Shot Gun</i>	4.00
<i>1 Lott Crockery & Glass Ware</i>	5.00
<i>1 Lott Books</i>	10.00
<i>1 Trunk</i>	3.00
<i>1 Beaurough</i>	16.00
<i>1 Wood Clock</i>	8.00
<i>1 Silver Watch</i>	20.00
<i>1 Bedd; Stead; Furniture</i>	35.00
<i>1 Do_; Do_; Do</i>	20.00
<i>2 Looking Glasses</i>	1.25
<i>1 pair Saddle Baggs</i>	<u>3.00</u>
	\$3270.75

We the undersigned appraisers do hereby certify the above to be a correct inventory of the goods and chattles and personal estate of Isaac Suttle deceased as come before us for valuation given under our hands and seals this 24th day of December AD 1842.

*Rolley Spinks
Cornelius Minon
Andrew Eastis*

<i>Debts due at death of Decedent</i>	
<i>1 Note on James H. Suttles for</i>	\$313.36
<i>1 Do on Isaac G. Suttles for</i>	175.00
<i>1 Do on Felix Broadhead (doubtful)</i>	<u>12.50</u>
	500.86

<i>Amnt of the hire of Simon & Edy for the year 1843 due 1st Janry 1844</i>	125.00
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------

*For the hire of Billy & Penny for year
1843 & due 1 January 1844*

170.00

The simple listings of the nine slaves in both the will and appraisement do not indicate particular family relationships. Edy and Bob probably were the children of York and Sara that Isaac had purchased from the James Meredith estate in 1792. Bill, Penny, or Simon may or may not be children of either Edy or Bobb. Mialy (or Meg), Matt, Martha, and Simeon may or may not be children of Bill, Penny, or Simon. The most valuable slave was Simon, then about 18 years old. Isaac had purchased Simon from his son's estate for \$150 in 1830. In twelve years, Isaac's investment had grown more than fourfold. Simon was the single most valuable legacy in the will, indicating that Isaac held his grandson in very high regard.

The appraisement demonstrates that Isaac continued to farm right up to the time of his death. Isaac kept pigs, cattle, and sheep as well as raised cotton and corn as his principal crops. It is presumed that one of the male slaves was the blacksmith, although Isaac may have had that skill as well. The listed furniture seems sufficient for no more than four or possibly five rooms in his house, namely a kitchen, two bedrooms, a parlor, and possibly a storage or work room for the loom, spinning wheels, and churns. One pair of andirons implies just one fireplace, presumably in the kitchen. Sadd irons, or flat irons, usually were made from cast iron, placed on hot coals, and used to smooth clothing. The lot of books indicates that Isaac was literate. No doubt Isaac owned a family bible, possibly among the other books. It seems odd that the appraisement includes no buggy, carriage, wagon, or vehicle of any kind. How did Isaac farm without a wagon? Did he and Marcella ride to church on horseback?

Four of Isaac's slaves were hired out for income. A year's hire for Simon, Edy, Bill, and Penny was worth \$295. Based upon their appraised value, their hire represented an annual return on equity of more than 15 percent.

*A List of Sale for a part of the Personal Property belonging to the Estate
of Isaac Subtle deceased sold on the 9 day of January 1843.*

<i>James H. Suttle</i>	<i>1 sorrel Hoarse</i>	<i>\$30.00</i>
<i>do do</i>	<i>1 Cow calf</i>	<i>4.00</i>
<i>Noah Barber</i>	<i>1 cow calf</i>	<i>7.00</i>
<i>do do</i>	<i>1 do do</i>	<i>2.50</i>
<i>James H. Subtle</i>	<i>4 yearlings</i>	<i>12.75</i>
<i>do do</i>	<i>10 head of Sheap</i>	<i>17.50</i>
<i>do</i>	<i>1 Cow</i>	<i>8.00</i>
<i>Misilla Subtle</i>	<i>3 Bacon Hoggs</i>	<i>8.00</i>
<i>James H. Subtle</i>	<i>1 Lot of stock hoggs</i>	<i>30.00</i>
<i>Isaac G. Subtle</i>	<i>1 Lot cotton more or less</i>	<i>2.00</i>
<i>Misilla Subtle</i>	<i>1 Lot of Ploughs</i>	<i>2.00</i>
<i>Isaac G. Subtle</i>	<i>1 Lot of Ploughs</i>	<i>3.50</i>
<i>Cord Miner</i>	<i>3 Hoes</i>	<i>1.00</i>
<i>Misilla Subtle</i>	<i>1 Hoe</i>	<i>.50</i>

<i>do do</i>	<i>1 axe</i>	<i>1.00</i>	
<i>Isaac G. Subtle</i>	<i>1 Lot of Tool</i>	<i>1.50</i>	
<i>Trippe Pope</i>	<i>1 Saddle</i>	<i>9.87½</i>	
<i>Isaac G. Subtle</i>	<i>1 Log chain</i>	<i>4.00</i>	
<i>Rolly Spinks</i>	<i>1 Lot of Hides</i>	<i>3.00</i>	
<i>Misilla Subtle</i>	<i>1 Lot of Pot ware</i>	<i>3.00</i>	
<i>A. Bell</i>	<i>1 do do</i>	<i>3.37½</i>	
<i>Misilla Subtle</i>	<i>1 Lot Water vessels</i>	<i>2.00</i>	
<i>do</i>	<i>1 pare of smothing irons Lome Gear</i>	<i>4.00</i>	
		<i>\$160.12½</i>	
<i>Pearson</i>	<i>1 Wheel</i>	<i>3.75</i>	
<i>Misilla Subtle</i>	<i>1 Wheel</i>	<i>.25</i>	
<i>Isaac G. Subtle</i>	<i>1 Chearn</i>	<i>.37½</i>	
<i>Silas Scarborough</i>	<i>1 Chearn</i>	<i>.25</i>	
<i>Joseph Smith</i>	<i>1 Tray</i>	<i>.25</i>	
<i>Misilla Subtle</i>	<i>1 Table</i>	<i>1.25</i>	
<i>do do</i>	<i>6 Chairs</i>	<i>3.00</i>	
<i>Henry Barber</i>	<i>1 pare hand Irons</i>	<i>2.00</i>	
<i>A. Spinks</i>	<i>1 Shot Gun</i>	<i>5.00</i>	
<i>N. Barber</i>	<i>1 Bucks Dictionary</i>	<i>2.00</i>	
<i>A. Spinks</i>	<i>1 Benadicks 2 Vol.</i>	<i>5.00</i>	
<i>do</i>	<i>1 History of the United States</i>	<i>1.00</i>	
<i>do</i>	<i>1 Concordance</i>	<i>1.00</i>	
<i>James H. Subtle</i>	<i>1 Bible 1 him Book</i>	<i>2.00</i>	
<i>Misilla Subtle</i>	<i>1 Lot of crockery</i>	<i>3.12½</i>	
<i>do do</i>	<i>1 Jar</i>	<i>1.00</i>	
<i>do do</i>	<i>1 Trunk</i>	<i>1.00</i>	
<i>do do</i>	<i>1 Beauuro</i>	<i>8.12½</i>	
<i>A. Bell</i>	<i>1 Clock</i>	<i>3.00</i>	
<i>James H. Subtle</i>	<i>1 silver Watch</i>	<i>13.37½</i>	
<i>Isaac G. Subtle</i>	<i>1 Feather Bead</i>	<i>20.00</i>	
<i>J. E. Trippe</i>	<i>1 Looking Glass</i>	<i>.37½</i>	
<i>Joseph Mathett</i>	<i>1 do do</i>	<i>.75</i>	
<i>Owen Culpepper</i>	<i>1 Pare sadle wallets</i>	<i>2.62½</i>	
<i>J. E. Trippe</i>	<i>25 Bush corn at 50</i>	<i>12.50</i>	
<i>C. Miner</i>	<i>25 Bush corn at --</i>	<i>.52</i>	
<i>J. E. Trippe</i>	<i>25 Bush corn at --</i>	<i>.51</i>	
<i>Misilla Subtle</i>	<i>25 Bush corn at --</i>	<i>.50</i>	
		<i>\$84.00</i>	<i>94.00</i>
<i>Misilla Subtle</i>	<i>660 Bush Corn at</i>	<i>.50</i>	
<i>Misilla Subtle</i>	<i>25 Bush corn at</i>	<i>.37½</i>	
<i>Isaac G. Subtle</i>	<i>25 Bush corn at</i>	<i>.50</i>	
<i>Misilla Subtle</i>	<i>25 Bush corn at</i>	<i>.37½</i>	
<i>S. Neuberger</i>	<i>25 Bush corn at</i>	<i>.50</i>	
<i>do do</i>	<i>25 Bush do at</i>	<i>.42</i>	

<i>Misilla Subtle</i>	<i>1 Stock Fodder</i>	<i>5.00</i>
<i>John M. Loe</i>	<i>1 do do</i>	<i>6.00</i>
<i>do do</i>	<i>1 do do</i>	<i><u>3.00</u></i>
		<i>\$16.67</i>
	<i>this amount added</i>	<i><u>254.12½</u></i>
		<i>\$270.79½</i>

The List of Sale was filed with the Probate Court by the executor James H. Suttle on February 6, 1843. Much of Isaac's estate was purchased by his widow Marcella and his sons Isaac G. and James H. Because neither their names nor their husband's names appear on the sale list, it is presumed that Isaac's daughters Margaret, Charity, and Rhoda did not attend the sale. The bay horse appraised at \$60 and one of the two beds were not sold, because they had been willed to the widow.

Each of Isaac's books was sold individually. Bucks Dictionary is presumed to be *A Theological Dictionary and the Struggle to Define American Evangelism* by Reverend Charles A. Buck first published in 1802. Benadick's is presumed to be *A General History of the Baptist Denomination in America* by David Benedict, published in two volumes in 1813. James H. Suttle purchased his father's bible and hymn book. The author hopes that the bible still may be stored away in some descendant's attic and eventually get published for the benefit of other descendants.

The executor next filed an additional inventory for his father's estate on August 5, 1844 in which was added \$93.00 for the rent of the land belonging to the estate. James filed a second supplemental inventory of the estate at the May 1845 Term of the Probate Court.

<i>To hire of Simon for year 1844</i>	<i>\$100.00</i>
<i>To hire of Bill for year 1844</i>	<i>100.00</i>
<i>To negro girl Penny for year 1844</i>	<i>70.00</i>
<i>To the rent of the land for year 1844</i>	<i><u>28.00</u></i>
	<i>293.00</i>

On April 15, 1846, the Probate Judge instructed the sheriff to summon James H. Suttle to court to provide his annual account on the estate on the second Monday of May. James appeared before the court and filed his account and one receipt. The account for the year 1845 was short and included only the proceeds from the hiring of three slaves, two men and one girl in the amount of \$270.00. The receipt was from Isaac T. Suttle acknowledging his receipt of \$1,156 as his full distributive share from the estate of his late father John Suttle of Bibb County and which had been in the hands of the late Isaac Suttle as his guardian. The receipt was signed by Isaac T. Suttle on May 8, 1846.

On December 24, 1846, James H. Suttle paid two distributions from his father's estate. Isaac G. Suttle signed his receipt for \$514.85 in cash and two slaves valued at \$836 acknowledging his full distributive share of his late father's estate. Samuel Knox signed his receipt for \$750.85 in cash and one male slave valued at \$600 acknowledging his full distributive share from the estate.

On May 10, 1847, James H. Suttle filed his final account on his father's estate.

<i>Debts due Deceased at his death</i>	
<i>1 Note on Isaac G. Suttles for</i>	\$175.00
<i>1 Do on Felix Broadhead for</i>	12.00
<i>1 Do on Executor for</i>	313.36
<i>For the hire of Simon & Edy for year 1843</i>	125.00
<i>For the hire of negroes & rent of land in 1844 as per inventory recovered</i>	298.00
<i>For rent of land in 1843 in inventory</i>	93.00
<i>To amount of inventory of sales in inventory of sales</i>	<u>270.70</u>
	1287.06
<i>To this sum add the appraised value of negros</i>	<u>2621.00</u>
	3928.06
	<u>2701.60</u>
	1226.46
<i>vouchers no 2 & 3</i>	<u>1226.46</u>
<i>Legacies to be paid to him</i>	35.00
	1191.46
 <i>disbursements viz</i>	
<i>To this sum paid Isaac G. Suttles as per voucher No. 1</i>	\$1256.00
<i>To R. McElro as attorney</i>	15.00
<i>To Clerk & Judges fee to be added</i>	
<i>Commission of Extr on \$3907.36 for managing & settling estate</i>	<u>8.89</u>
	\$1179.87

The careful reader will note that while the sums in the foregoing final account are not correct, the account eventually was accepted by the court. The executor also attached his affidavit to the account that reads in part

"..the remainder of said estate in his hands is to be divided between the following legatees viz Isaac G. Suttles, William Knox in right of his wife Misilla before Misilla Suttles widow of said Dec'd and this affiant James H. Suttles as the only surviving legatees of said Decd known to affiant..."

The careful reader also will note that the affidavit incorrectly names Marcella's husband. She married Samuel Know, who signed the receipt acknowledging her share of the estate, not William Knox. Samuel and Marcella Knox were living in Lauderdale County in 1850.¹²⁹ Marcella reported that she was 39 years old and a native of North Carolina. If her age is correct, then Isaac Suttle, when he was about 73 years old, married Marcella Buxton, when she was about 30 years old. The affidavit further states, in part

"...that in addition the foregoing sums to be ducted from said remainder in his hands out of said amount the sum of five dollars is to be paid

¹²⁹ 1850 Census, Lauderdale County, Mississippi, Page 375. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi.

allowing to the Will of said Decd to the following legatees of said Decd viz John Suttles, Burrel Eves, Graves Eves, Jesse Eves, William Blake, John Allen & John R Eves and charges himself with & is ready to pay when called for.”

It is clear that the affidavit does not list all of the then living heirs. John Suttles probably was one of the children of the Isaac's deceased son John. Burrell, Graves, Jesse, and John Eves were the children of Isaac's daughter Margaret. Why her children and not her husband were listed is puzzling. Also puzzling is why not all of her living children are not included. Also uncertain is why John Eves is listed separately from his brothers? Could he have been an afterthought? William Blake was the husband of Isaac's daughter Rhoda and John Allen was the husband of Isaac's daughter Charity. Why none of the heirs of Isaac's son Samuel are listed is uncertain. Perhaps they already had received their small inheritance or their whereabouts were not known. The Probate Court accepted the final account at its August 1847 Term.

The Children

Howard F. McCord, in his brief biographical sketch of Elder Isaac Suttle, identifies John, James Harvey, and Samuel as Isaac's only children.¹³⁰ William Emmet Reese, in his *The Settle-Suttle Family*, identifies only John, Isaac G., Charity, Samuel, and James Harvey.¹³¹ No record has been found that documents the birth date for the eldest son John as reported by Reese. One presumes that Reese obtained that birth date, which is consistent with the known year of Isaac and Sarah's marriage, from one of John's descendants. That John was the oldest son is supported by the fact that John witnessed several of his father's deeds, first appears on the tax digest of 1813 next to his father, moved with his father to Bibb County, Alabama, and resided nearby. In addition, Isaac acted as surety for the administration of his John's estate and as guardian to one of his children.

The second child was Margaret, who married Graves Eaves in Clarke County circa 1810. Graves purchased land from his father-in-law, moved to Bibb County in 1817 and settled near his father-in-law, moved again and settled next to his father-in-law in Perry County, was associated with his father-in-law in the affairs of Rehobeth Church, and named a son Isaac. Circa 1840, Margaret and her family moved to Lauderdale County, Mississippi and settled near her father. Moreover, her children are named in the affidavit attached to the final account of her father's estate.

The third child was Isaac G. Suttle, who was named in his father's will. Descendants have published on numerous genealogical websites that Isaac G. died in Lauderdale County, Mississippi circa 1871. However, because Isaac G. sold all of his land in Lauderdale County in 1863 and was not enumerated in the 1870 census, it is presumed that he died prior to 1870.

¹³⁰ McCord's *Baptists*.

¹³¹ *The Settle-Suttle Family*.

The fourth child was Charity who married a neighbor John Allen in Bibb County. John and Charity moved to Perry County about the same time and settled close to his father-in-law, sold out and moved to Lauderdale County, Mississippi, again settled near his father-in-law, and named a son Isaac. John Allen is named in the affidavit attached to the final account of his father-in-law's estate.

The fifth child probably was Samuel. His father performed his marriage ceremony and returned the license. Samuel lived near his father in Bibb County and moved with him to Perry County. However, it must be said that only scant circumstantial evidence implies that Isaac was his father. Descendants have published on numerous genealogical websites that Samuel died in Winston County, Mississippi circa 1838. However, no trace of him has been found in any records there. Samuel's name does not appear on any early tax lists, deeds, or probates. Because one of his daughters was married there and Samuel was not enumerated in the 1840 census, the published statements concerning his death may be true, but are not documented.

The sixth child was Rhoda, who married William Blake in Bibb County. William Blake was associated with his father-in-law in the minutes of the Rehobeth Baptist Church, lived close by in Bibb County, moved with his father-in-law to Perry County, settled nearby, and named a son Isaac. Also, family tradition handed down through William and Rhoda's progeny recalls that she was the daughter of a Baptist preacher. After moving to Coosa County in the 1830s, both William and Rhoda helped found and were prominent in the affairs of the Bethel Primitive Baptist Church. Finally, William Blake is named in the affidavit attached to the final account of his father-in-law's estate.

The seventh child was James Harvey, who was named in his father's will and acted as executor of his father's estate. There may have been other children, but that seems doubtful as no other likely candidates were associated closely with Isaac Suttle in Georgia, Alabama, or Mississippi. Further supporting the conclusion that the three daughters, Margaret, Charity, and Rhoda, were the daughters of Isaac and Sarah Suttle is the fact that neither they nor their husbands were associated in any records with any of Isaac's brothers, Jesse, Stephen, or William.

The children of Isaac and Sarah Suttle were:

2. i. John, born December 8, 1792 in Elbert County, Georgia. He married Elizabeth Meanor (or perhaps Manor) December 8, 1812.¹³² He died circa 1830 in Bibb County, Alabama.¹³³ He probably was buried at Rehobeth Church, but no tombstone there has been found. She married second Burton Rucker January 7, 1834.¹³⁴

¹³² Marriage Records, Morgan County, Georgia, Book A, Page 115. Morgan County Courthouse, Madison, Georgia.

¹³³ Bibb Administrations, Book D, Page 1.

¹³⁴ Bibb Marriages, Book C, Page 267.

3. ii. Margaret, born circa 1793 in Elbert County, Georgia. She married first Graves Eaves circa 1810 probably in Clarke County, Georgia. She married second Robert Bailiff March 9, 1839 in Perry County, Alabama.¹³⁵ She died in August 1856 in Lauderdale County, Mississippi.¹³⁶
4. iii. Isaac G., born circa 1794 in Elbert County, Georgia. He married Lurany Caddell July 29, 1826.¹³⁷ He probably died in Lauderdale County prior to 1870.
5. iv. Charity, born circa 1796 in Elbert County, Georgia. She married John Allen January 22, 1842 in Bibb County, Alabama.¹³⁸ She died prior to 1850 probably in Newton County, Mississippi. John Allen and his second wife Kezziah are buried at the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Newton County, Mississippi. Charity also may have been buried there without a tombstone.
6. v. Samuel, born circa 1800 in Elbert County, Georgia. He married Nancy McCormack October 16, 1823.¹³⁹ He died probably in Winston County, Mississippi prior to 1840.
7. vi. Rhoda, born circa 1804 in Elbert County, Georgia.¹⁴⁰ She married William Blake August 7, 1820 in Cahawba County, Alabama.¹⁴¹ She died October 1, 1875 and was buried at the Bethel Primitive Baptist Church at Equality, Coosa County, Alabama.¹⁴²
8. vii. James Harvey, born January 12, 1811 in Clarke County, Georgia. He married Lucinda Hicks July 30, 1828 in Bibb County, Alabama.¹⁴³ He died October 28, 1858 and was buried at the Fellowship Baptist Church in Jasper County, Mississippi.

¹³⁵ Marriage Records, Perry County, Alabama, Book B, License Number 1114. Perry County Courthouse, Marion, Alabama.

¹³⁶ Lauderdale Probates, File Box 31, Number 252.

¹³⁷ Marriage Records, Bibb County, Alabama, Book A&B, Page 123. Bibb County Courthouse, Centerville, Alabama. (Hereinafter cited as Bibb Marriages.)

¹³⁸ Bibb Marriages, Book A&B, Page 29.

¹³⁹ Bibb Marriages, Book A&B, Page 23.

¹⁴⁰ Ports, Michael A., *William Blake, Alabama Planter*. Alabama Genealogical Society Magazine, Volume 42, Spring/Summer 2010.

¹⁴¹ Bibb Marriages, Unrecorded Marriages.

¹⁴² Bethel Primitive Baptist Church Records. Special Collections Department, Samford University Library, Birmingham, Alabama.

¹⁴³ Bibb Marriages, Book C, Page 16.

Conclusion

While the story of Reverend Isaac Suttle is typical for an early nineteenth century Baptist preacher in the Deep South, it is intriguing mostly because so many records of him have survived. Isaac felt the call to preach and was ordained while living in Elbert County when that portion of Georgia was part of the frontier. Isaac continued to serve the churches first in Elbert County, then in Clarke County as the region filled with settlers and civilization sprouted. The pioneer spirit led Reverend Suttle to move his family to the newly-opened frontier in Cahawba County, Alabama Territory in 1817. There he established numerous churches, serving several of them as pastor. He founded and led the Mulberry Baptist Association and under his tutelage it grew and flourished. At the advanced age of about 73 years, Isaac moved to Lauderdale County, Mississippi to be nearer to most of his married children and his grandchildren. There he died after almost fifty years of ministering to numerous churches in Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi. No doubt, Isaac Suttle was a devout Baptist. Through both his ministry and his participation in various civic duties, Isaac singularly contributed to the civilization of both the Georgia and Alabama frontiers.

The foregoing presents all of the public and private records that have been found concerning the Reverend Isaac Suttle and his family. Hopefully, the author has succeeded in placing the life of our subject into historical perspective. The author would like to thank the staff of the many institutions that we have visited over the past thirty years for their patience, cooperation, and forbearance. Mention is due the staff of the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, DC, Library of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution in Washington, DC, Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives in Nashville, Georgia Department of Archives and History, Elbert County Courthouse, Franklin County Courthouse, Clarke County Courthouse, Jasper County Courthouse, Morgan County Courthouse, Alabama Department of Archives and History, Special Collections Department of the Samford University Library in Birmingham, Bibb County Courthouse, Perry County Courthouse, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Lauderdale County Department of Archives and History, Newton County Courthouse, Winston County Courthouse, and the Special Collections Department of the Leland Speed Library of Mississippi College in Clanton, Mississippi. Special mention is due our cousins Floy Metcalf of Anahuac, Texas, Lacy Eaves of Birmingham, Alabama, and Jim Eaves of Georgetown, Texas who generously shared their research.

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