

MAHALA FAULK FOWLER

RESEARCH REPORT

prepared by Jessica Horne Collins | histortree.com

Last Updated: 23 Apr 2020

BACKGROUND

Mahala Faulk was born 26 October 1828¹ in Alabama.² She married James Fowler on 8 January 1844 in Pike County, Alabama.³ Many family trees state Mahala's parents were Philip Faulk and Elizabeth Soles, citing a biological sketch in *Notable Men of Alabama, Volume 1* for Joseph Warren Harris, the son of Philip and Elizabeth's daughter Mary Ann.

The purpose of this research project is to prove or disprove Mahala Faulk Fowler was the daughter of Philip Faulk and his wife Elizabeth of Pike County, Alabama.

ANALYSIS OF JOSEPH WARREN HARRIS BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

A biographical sketch of Joseph Warren Harris appears in Joel C. DuBose's *Notable Men of Alabama, Volume 1*. The sketch includes much information about Harris's Faulk family, including a maiden name for Philip Faulk's wife Elizabeth, a timeline of their migration from North Carolina, and birthdates for Philip Faulk and his children.⁴

Harris's descent from Philip and Elizabeth Faulk can be verified by census enumerations and his parents' marriage record,⁵ but the biographical sketch does not provide sources for the Philip Faulk family information.

¹ Louisiana Genealogical & Historical Society, *Be It Known and Remembered: Bible Records*, 5 vols. (Baton Rouge : Louisiana Genealogical & Historical Society, 1960-67; 1992), 2:110.

² Four censuses agree on Mahala's birthplace:

1850 U.S. census, Leake County, Mississippi, population schedule, Beat 2, p. 23 (penned), p. 12 (stamped), dwelling 150, family 165, Mahala Fowler in J S Fowler household; digital image, *Ancestry.com*

(https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/8054/4200047_00028/3457099 : accessed 23 Apr 2020); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 376.

1860 U.S. census, Jackson Parish, Louisiana, population schedule, Jackson, Brooklin Post Office, p. 71 (penned), dwelling 446, family 446, Mahallie A E Fowler in James S Fowler household; digital image, *Ancestry.com*

(https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/7667/4231222_00425/38260747 : accessed 23 Apr 2020); citing NARA microfilm publication M643, roll 411.

1870 U.S. census, Jackson Parish, Louisiana, population schedule, Ward 5, Brooklin, p. 7 (penned), p. 478 (stamped), dwelling 54, family 54, M Fowler in James Fowler household; digital image, *Ancestry.com*

(https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/7163/4269415_00465/32631447 : accessed 23 Apr 2020); citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 514.

1880 U.S. census, Jackson Parish, Louisiana, population schedule, Ward 5, enumeration district (ED) 37, p. 28B (penned), p. 232 (stamped), dwelling 240, family 240, Mahaley Fowler in Jas. S Fowler household; digital image, *Ancestry.com*

(<https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/6742/4241370-00786/6692656> : accessed 23 Apr 2020); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 454.

³ "Alabama County Marriages, 1809-1950," database with images, *FamilySearch*

(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VRJB-83D> : accessed 23 Apr 2020), entry for James Fowler and Mahalay Faulk, 8 Jan 1844; citing Pike, Alabama, United States, County Probate Courts, Alabama.

⁴ Joel C. DuBose, ed. *Notable Men of Alabama*, 2 vols. (Atlanta: Southern Historical Association, 1904), 1:305; digital image, *Google Books* (<https://play.google.com/store/books/details?id=9CXMvfjLgEoC> : accessed 25 Mar 2020).

⁵ Joseph Warren Harris was the son of Edward Harris and Mary Ann Faulk:

"Alabama County Marriages, 1809-1950," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VRJB->

Both volumes of *Notable Men* are biographies of living Alabama political figures with DuBose credited as editor. The sketches were likely submitted by the featured men or were published with their knowledge. Therefore, the information in Harris's sketch was probably written by Harris who would have heard his Faulk family history from his mother. Harris's biography also includes a photograph, further suggesting he was the informant.

Most interestingly, the sketch contains specific birthdates for Philip Faulk and his children—information not included for Harris's paternal family. It is doubtful Harris memorized and included the birthdates of his Faulk grandfather, aunts, and uncles but not his Harris family. This information may point to the existence of a Faulk family Bible as a source for Harris's sketch. Such Bible records have not been found for the Philip Faulk family.

COURT RECORDS

In the absence of Bible records confirming relationships in the Harris sketch, Pike County court records were searched for documents stating a relationship between Philip and Elizabeth Faulk and Mahala Faulk Fowler.

Probate Records

Philip Faulk resided in Pike County, Alabama, from at least 1830 through 1860;⁶ he also patented land in the county.⁷ No will or probate case files for Philip Faulk were found in Pike County.

⁴[S2](#) : accessed 23 Apr 2020), entry for Edward Harris and Mary Ann Faulk, 10 Jan 1843; citing Pike, Alabama, United States, County Probate Courts, Alabama.

1850 U.S. census, Pike County, Alabama, population schedule, p. 340 (penned), p. 172 (stamped), dwelling 479, family 479, Joseph Harris in Edward Harris household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/8054/4191538-00345/16642374> : accessed 23 Apr 2020); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 13.

⁶ Philip Faulk appears on four U.S. censuses in Alabama:

1830 U.S. census, Lowndes County, Alabama, p. 18 (penned), line 11, Phillip Faulk; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/8058/4409667_00525/1017799 : accessed 23 Apr 2020); citing NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 3.

1840 U.S. census, Pike County, Alabama, p. 55 (penned), p. 385 (stamped), line 11, Philip Faulk; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/8057/4411215_00784/1286911 : accessed 23 Apr 2020); citing NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 6.

1850 U.S. census, Pike County, Alabama, population schedule, p. 287 (penned), p. 145 (stamped), dwelling 126, family 126, Phillip Faulk household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/8054/4191538-00291/16640151> : accessed 23 Apr 2020); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 13.

1860 U.S. census, Pike County, Alabama, population schedule, Western Division, Orion Post Office, p. 151 (penned), p. 151 (stamped), Phillip Faulk, dwelling 1007, family 1007; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/7667/4211194_00151/12470340 : accessed 23 Apr 2020); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 21.

⁷ Bureau of Land Management, "Land Patent Search," database, *General Land Office Records* (https://gloreCORDS.blm.gov/details/patent/default.aspx?accession=AL2140_487&docClass=STA&sid=53sj3flx.yud : accessed 25 Mar 2020), entry for Philip Faulk, Pike County, Alabama, no. 2489.

Ibid. > *General Land Office Records* (<https://gloreCORDS.blm.gov/details/patent/default.aspx?accession=0604-087&docClass=MW&sid=qtgrsjpy.fs0> : accessed 25 Mar 2020), entry for Philip Faulk, Pike County, Alabama, no. 4407.

Ibid. > *General Land Office Records* (https://gloreCORDS.blm.gov/details/patent/default.aspx?accession=AL2140_487&docClass=STA&sid=53sj3flx.yud : accessed 25 Mar 2020), entry for Philip Faulk, Pike County, Alabama, no. 8849.

Ibid. > *General Land Office Records* (<https://gloreCORDS.blm.gov/details/patent/default.aspx?accession=0674-172&docClass=MW&sid=yomisjgm.jhi> : accessed 25 Mar 2020), entry for Philip Faulk, Pike County, Alabama, no. 41002.

Deed Records

Philip Faulk did not conduct any Pike County land transactions with Mahala and her husband James Fowler, but Philip did sell land to two sons:

Philip Faulk Land Sales in Pike County, Alabama

DATE	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	PRICE	DESCRIPTION
5 Jul 1852 ^A	Phillip Faulk & Elizabeth, his wife, of Pike County	Timothy S. Faulk of Pike County	\$75	NW1/4 of NE1/4 of Section 4, Township 10, Range 21, containing 40 acres
28 Dec 1852 ^B	Philip Faulk & Elizabeth his wife, of Pike County	Phillip M. Faulk of Pike County	\$150	S1/2 of SE1/4 of Section 33, Township 11, Range 31, containing 80 acres

^APike County, Alabama, “Deed records v. E (p. 777-end) – H (p. 1-334) 1850-1853,” *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSL6-YQZT-G?i=452&cat=73280> : accessed 23 Apr 2020); citing Pike County, Alabama, Deed Book G, p. 354-355.

^BIbid. > *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSL6-YQZV-B?i=585&cat=73280> : accessed 23 Apr 2020); citing Pike County, Alabama, Deed Book H, p. 52-53.

Twelve years earlier, Philip was indebted to Parker & White Merchants of Montgomery County, Alabama, for \$130; the indenture was recorded in Pike County on 8 Dec 1840.⁸ Settlement of the debt was not recorded, so it is likely Philip lost the pair of oxen used as collateral.⁹ Although these events occurred years apart, they may show Philip was of meager means and did not have property or possessions to warrant an estate settlement recorded by the court. A widower with adult children and no property, Philip may not have generated probate records.

CENSUS RECORDS

Philip Faulk and his household are easily found on US census records from 1830 through 1860, with the migration information provided in the Harris biographical sketch. Pre-1850 censuses only list the name of the head of the household; all other household members are reported as totaled numbers in male and female age ranges. Did a female Mahala’s age live in the Philip Faulk household in 1830 and 1840? Do the Philip Faulk households from these censuses contain members whose ages match the reported birthdates from the Harris biographical sketch?

⁸ Pike County, Alabama, “Deed Records v. A-B 1828-1842,” *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3S7-D9R1-F?i=487&cat=73280> : accessed 23 Apr 2020); citing Pike County, Alabama, Deed Book B, p. 301-302.

⁹ Ibid.

Faulk Birthdates from the Joseph Warren Harris Biographical Sketch

PERSON	BIRTHDATE
Philip Faulk	6 Aug 1796
Timothy S. Faulk	2 Oct 1815
William Warren Faulk	4 Sep 1820
Joseph Travis Faulk	1 May 1823
Mary Ann Faulk	7 Apr 1826
Mahala E. Faulk	26 Oct 1828
Sarah Ann Faulk	4 Aug 1831
Philip Marron Faulk	6 Jun 1833
Crockett H. Faulk	16 Jan 1837

Source: DuBose, *Notable Men of Alabama*, 1:305.

The following charts show members of the Phillip Faulk household on each census and match them to family members listed in the Harris biographical sketch:

Comparison of Phillip Falk Household in 1830 US Census for Lowndes County, Alabama to Faulk Family Members in Harris Biographical Sketch

Phillip Falk Household ^A	Possible Family Member(s)	Age on Enumeration Day ^B
1 male, age 30-39	Philip	33
1 female, age 30-39	Elizabeth	n/a
1 male, age 15-19		
2 males, age 10-14	Timothy S.	14
1 male, age 5-9	William Warren	9
	Joseph Travis	7
2 females, age < 5	Mary Ann	4
	Mahala E.	1

^A1830 U.S. census, Lowndes Co., AL, p. 18 (penned), line 11, Phillip Falk.

^BCalculated by subtracting age according to Harris biographical sketch (DuBose, *Notable Men of Alabama*, 1:305) from 1 Jun 1830 census enumeration date.

**Comparison of Philip Faulk Household
 In 1840 US Census for Pike County, Alabama
 to Faulk Family Members in Harris Biographical Sketch**

Philip Faulk Household^A	Possible Family Member(s)	Age on Enumeration Day^B
1 male, age 40-49	Philip	43
1 female, age 40-49	Elizabeth	n/a
1 male, age 15-19	Joseph Travis	17
2 females, age 10-14	Mary Ann Mahala E.	14 11
1 female, age 5-9	Sarah Ann	8
1 male, age 5-9	Philip Marron	6
1 male, age < 5	Crockett H. Faulk	3

^A1840 U.S. census, Pike Co., AL, p. 55 (penned), line 11, Philip Faulk.

^BCalculated by subtracting age according to Harris biographical sketch (DuBose, *Notable Men of Alabama*, 1:305) from 1 Jun 1840 census enumeration date.

Females in the correct age range for Mahala exist in the Philip Faulk household for both 1830 and 1840 censuses. The 1840 census enumeration aligns with reported birthdates for Faulk family members. The 1830 census has some mismatches, but these discrepancies can be explained by sons Timothy and William being a few months from birthdays which would have placed them in a higher age bracket. Even correcting for these errors, an additional male not identified in the Harris biographical sketch resides in the 1830 household in either the 10-14 or 15-19 age range. This male could be another child of Philip and Elizabeth, or he could be an extended family member, boarder, or hired worker. It may also be an error by the census enumerator during data collection or transcription.

Census records throughout Mahala’s later life report her birthplace as Alabama. Were there other households in Alabama with females in her age range for the 1830 and 1840 censuses? Could these females be Mahala? A list of Faulk households in Alabama was compiled for both census years and the number of females in Mahala’s age range was noted:

**1830 US Census for Alabama
 Number of Females in Mahala’s Age Range in Faulk Households**

HOUSEHOLD	COUNTY	NUMBER OF FEMALES, AGE < 5
Philip Falk	Lowndes	2
John Faulk	Monroe	0

^A1830 U.S. census, Lowndes Co., AL, p. 18 (penned), line 11, Phillip Falk.

^Bibid. > Monroe Co., AL, p. 99 (penned), line 12, John Faulk.

1840 US Census for Alabama
Number of Females in Mahala’s Age Range in Faulk Households

HOUSEHOLD ^A	COUNTY	NUMBER OF FEMALES, AGE 10-14
A Faulk	Barbour	0
H Faulk ^B	Barbour	1
James Faulk (with slaves)	Barbour	0
James Faulk (without slaves)	Barbour	0
Levin Faulh	Barbour	0
Lorenzo Faulk	Barbour	0
N Faulk	Barbour	0
R Faulk	Barbour	0
Right Faulk	Barbour	0
Thos Faulk	Barbour	0
William Faulk	Conecuh	0
Arnold Faulk	Pike	0
Charlotte Faulk	Pike	0
Jael Faulk	Pike	0
John Faulk	Pike	0
John S Faulk	Pike	0
Philip Faulk ^C	Pike	2
Timothy Faulk	Pike	0
Richard Faulk	Russell	0

^ASee author’s research log for negative search sources.

^B1840 U.S. census, Barbour Co., AL, p. 77 (penned), line 30, H Faulk.

^CIbid. > Pike Co., AL, p. 55 (penned), line 11, Philip Faulk.

Of the two Faulk households in Alabama in 1830, only the Philip Faulk household in Pike County contained females in Mahala’s age range. In 1840, two Faulk households in Alabama contained females in Mahala’s age range: the Philip Faulk household in Pike County and the H Faulk household of Barbour County.

OTHER OBSERVATIONS

Additional findings recorded during this research project suggest the Harris autobiographical sketch is accurate.

Matching Birthdate in James Fowler Family Bible

Vital records entered by Mahala’s husband James Fowler in their family Bible cite Mahala’s birthdate as 26 Oct 1828.¹⁰ This date matches the Harris biographical sketch. Entries in the Fowler Bible were probably made sometime between its publication date (1859) and the date of the final entry (1887). Therefore, Mahala’s birthdate was likely recorded by her husband while she was alive and able to provide an accurate date.

¹⁰ Louisiana Genealogical & Historical Society, *Be It Known and Remembered: Bible Records*, 2:110.

Although the birthdates recorded in the Fowler Bible and in the Harris sketch are both secondary information, they most certainly came from independent sources: Mahala in Louisiana during the late 1800s for the Fowler family Bible and an undetermined source, perhaps a Faulk family Bible, in Alabama in 1904, for the sketch. The agreement of these dates boosts the credibility of the Harris biographical sketch as an accurate summary of Faulk family history.

Another Faulk in Jackson Parish, Louisiana

By 1860, Mahala and husband James had moved their family to Louisiana; they appear in Brooklin, Jackson Parish, in that year's census.¹¹ W. W. Faulk and his family appear in Vernon, Jackson Parish.¹² The description of W. W.—born about 1820 in North Carolina, with a wife and children born in Alabama¹³—matches the William Warren Faulk described in the Harris biographical sketch.

James Fowler and William W. Faulk also patented land about three miles apart:

William W. Faulk and James S. Fowler Land Patents in Jackson Parish, Louisiana

NAME	DATE	PARISH	TOWNSHIP/RANGE	SECTION	ALIQUOTS
William W Faulk ^A	7 Dec 1859	Jackson	14N, 1E	20	S1/2 SW1/4
William W Faulk ^B	7 Dec 1859	Jackson	14N, 1E	29	N1/2 NW1/4
William W Faulk ^C	1 Sep 1860	Jackson	14N, 1E	30	NE1/4 NE1/4
James S Fowler ^D	1 Sep 1860	Jackson	14N, 1W	12	SE1/4 SW 1/4

^ABureau of Land Management, "Land Patent Search," database, *General Land Office Records* (<https://glorerecords.blm.gov/details/patent/default.aspx?accession=LA1190.341&docClass=STA&sid=51c0ei1u.rfh>: accessed 23 Apr 2020), entry for William W Faulk, Jackson Parish, Louisiana, no. 19456.

^BIbid.

^CIbid. > (<https://glorerecords.blm.gov/details/patent/default.aspx?accession=LA1220.386&docClass=STA&sid=51c0ei1u.rfh> : accessed 23 Apr 2020), entry for William W Faulk, Jackson Parish, Louisiana, no. 21653.

^DIbid. > (<https://glorerecords.blm.gov/details/patent/default.aspx?accession=LA1220.295&docClass=STA&sid=ildm1pbq.cjz> : accessed 23 Apr 2020), entry for James S Fowler, Jackson Parish, Louisiana, no. 21535

It is possible James and Mahala Faulk Fowler migrated with Mahala's brother William W. Faulk to Jackson Parish or one of the households joined the other based on their family connection.

CONCLUSION

No record explicitly states Mahala Faulk Fowler was the daughter of Philip Faulk. Like other Pike County, Alabama, marriage records of this time, Mahala and James Fowler's marriage license does not include vital statistics for the bride and groom. The record also does not include witnesses. Mahala married in 1844; therefore, she never appeared by name in a census within her father's household. Philip Faulk, an elderly

¹¹1860 U.S. census, Jackson Par., LA, pop. sch., Jackson, Brooklin P.O., p. 71 (pen.), dwell./fam. 446, James S Fowler household.

¹² Ibid. > Vernon Post Office, p. 119 (penned), dwelling 164, family 164, W W Falk; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/7667/4231222_00473?pid=38262674 : accessed 23 Apr 2020); citing NARA microfilm publication M643, roll 411.

¹³ Ibid.

widower without property, did not have a will or estate probated in Pike County court after his death. Neither did Philip buy or sell land with Mahala's husband James Fowler, implying a family relationship indirectly.

Without primary sources providing clues to Mahala's family of origin, an authored source was analyzed for its reliability and completeness. Information about the Philip Faulk family included in the biographical sketch of Joseph Warren Harris appears accurate. The specificity of birthdates within the sketch suggests its source was a now-lost Faulk family Bible. Mahala's birthdate within this sketch matches her birthdate as recorded in her husband's family Bible. The sources were most certainly independent: the Fowler Bible record was written in the late 1800s in Louisiana, and the biographical sketch was prepared in Alabama in 1904. The Harris biographical sketch also includes specific information about the Faulk family's migration from North Carolina to Alabama. The Philip Faulk household appears in the 1830 census in Lowndes County, Alabama, and in the 1840 census in Pike County, Alabama, as the Harris sketch claimed. The 1840 Philip Faulk household structure aligns exactly with reported birthdates in the Harris sketch. The 1830 household structure has some explainable differences.

Within the 1830 census, only one of the two Faulk households in Alabama reported a female within the correct age range to be Mahala: Phillip Falk of Lowndes County. For the 1840 census, two of nineteen Faulk households reported a female within the correct age range to be Mahala: Philip Faulk of Pike County and H Faulk of Barbour County.

Mahala and her husband James Fowler moved to Jackson Parish, Louisiana, by 1860. W. W. Faulk lived within three miles of their family. His age and birthplace recorded in the 1860 census matches that of William Warren Faulk, a son of Philip Faulk and Elizabeth Soles Faulk listed in the Harris biographical sketch. His given name of William can be verified by land patents he received in 1859-60 for property in Jackson Parish, Louisiana.

Based on these facts, it is reasonable to conclude Mahala Faulk Fowler was the daughter of Philip Faulk and his wife Elizabeth.

SUGGESTED FUTURE RESEARCH ACTIONS

- Conduct extensive search for a Philip Faulk family Bible.
- Research the H Faulk household of Barbour County, Alabama; determine the identity of the female in the 10-14 age category.