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## Hiram Cochran, Freedman of Abbeville County, South Carolina

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By Nancy A. Peters, CG, CGL

*Tracing Southern African American ancestry back through Reconstruction presents challenges. Identifying a formerly enslaved person's owner might or might not point to parents and kin. Without family records or stories, private sources can be a dead end. Name changes, county record losses, effects of voter suppression, illiteracy, and lack of education all limit the usual value of public sources for families divided and dispersed by slavery.*

Scarce recorded surnames for enslaved people and surname variability for freedmen and their kin are particular challenges in African American genealogical research. Enslaved people carried surnames as early as the 1600s, but their record-keeping enslavers rarely recorded those names.<sup>1</sup> After Emancipation a freedman might choose his father's first name or last name; the surname of a former owner, prominent person, or local white family; a religious name; or any other name. Reasons for name choice were many and complex.<sup>2</sup> Postwar federal or local officials sometimes supplied a surname, usually that of the freedman's most recent owner.<sup>3</sup> Some newly freed people changed names several times.<sup>4</sup>

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1. For slave surnames, see Herbert G. Gutman, *The Black Family in Slavery and Freedom, 1750–1925* (New York: Vintage Books, 1976), 230–56. Also, Leon F. Litwack, *Been in the Storm So Long: The Aftermath of Slavery* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1979), 247–51.

2. Franklin Carter Smith and Emily Ann Croom, *A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your African-American Ancestors: How to Find and Record Your Unique Heritage* (Cincinnati, Ohio: Betterway, 2003), 108–11. Also, Elizabeth Regosin, *Freedom's Promise: Ex-Slave Families and Citizenship in the Age of Emancipation* (Charlottesville, Va.: University Press of Virginia, 2002), 57–60. For freedmen living in northwestern South Carolina and multiple surnames within a family, see W. J. Meggison, *African American Life in South Carolina's Upper Piedmont, 1780–1900* (Columbia, S.C.: University of South Carolina Press, 2006), 237–39.

3. Dee Parmer Woodtor, *Finding a Place Called Home: A Guide to African-American Genealogy and Historical Identity* (New York: Random House, 1999), 177. Also, Litwack, *Been in the Storm So Long*, 250.

4. Smith and Croom, *Discovering Your African-American Ancestors*, 110–11. Also, “Changing Names,” *Facing History and Ourselves* (<https://www.facinghistory.org/reconstruction-era/changing-names>).

In African American research genealogists look beyond names. Clues lurk in details of birth and death, marital status, family composition, color, occupation, religion, education, socioeconomic status, property, neighbors, and associates. Social context plus deep dives into county, state, and national records helped identify a South Carolina freedman and his last enslaver.

#### STARTING POINT

Descendants knew little about Hiram Cochran. In 1870 Hiram, a carpenter born about 1824–25, lived in Smithville Township, Abbeville County, South Carolina, with his four apparent children, all surnamed Cochran—Enoch, twelve and a farm laborer; Louisa, ten; Jane, eight; and W[illia]m, five. All in the household were “Black” and South Carolina-born. The census lists no woman in the household.<sup>5</sup>

In 1880 twenty-year-old laborer Enoch Cochran, the older boy in Hiram’s 1870 household, lived in Due West Township, Abbeville County, with his wife Lucy, daughter Lela, and brothers William Cochran, fifteen, and Zeb Cochran, eight. All in the household were black, born in South Carolina, and of South Carolina-born parents. Lela’s birth in December 1879 suggests Enoch and Lucy had recently married, possibly in 1878–79.<sup>6</sup> Hiram is absent and does not appear in South Carolina or elsewhere in 1880, nor in any subsequent federal census.<sup>7</sup>

In 1932 Enoch “Cochrane” died and was buried in Due West. Dr. W. L. Pressly of Due West attended him and signed the death certificate. Enoch’s father, Hiram Cochrane, was Virginia-born; and his mother was unknown. Daughter-in-law Lucy Cochrane of Due West provided the certificate information but perhaps did not know Hiram’s origin.<sup>8</sup> Family tradition says Enoch belonged to Mt. Lebanon African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in Due West and that he was likely buried in its cemetery.<sup>9</sup> Enoch’s daughter, Katie Norma Cochran, predeceased him and was buried there in 1925.<sup>10</sup>

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5. 1870 U.S. census, Abbeville Co., S.C., population schedule, Smithville Twp., p. 15, dwelling/family 115, Hiram Cochran; microfilm publication M593, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Washington, D.C., roll 1481.

6. 1880 U.S. census, Abbeville Co., S.C., pop. sch., Due West Twp., enumeration district (ED) 10, p. 218C, dwell./fam. 16, Enoch Cochran; NARA microfilm T9, roll 1217.

7. “U.S. Federal Census Collection,” *Ancestry* (<http://search.ancestry.com/search/group/usfedcen>), broad searches for First Name = Hiram, Last Name = Cochran, Birth Year = 1825 +/- 10, Gender = Male, Race = Black and Mulatto.

8. “South Carolina Death Records, 1821–1965,” *Ancestry* (<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=8741>) > 1925–1949 > 1932 > Abbeville > image 263, S.C., Certificate of Death no. 19659 (1932), Enoch Cochrane.

9. Anthony Cochran to author, letter, received 19 April 2012; author’s files. Anthony Cochran is Enoch Cochran’s great-grandson.

10. “South Carolina Death Records, 1821–1965,” *Ancestry* > 1925–1949 > 1925 > Abbeville > image 139, S.C., Certificate of Death no. 7017 (1925), Katie Norma Cochran, born in 1895, daughter of Enoch Cochran and Lucy Williams.

## HIRAMS IN POST-WAR ABBEVILLE

Censuses—scrutinized for surname variables among newly freed men—revealed possible candidates for Hiram. Hiram Cromer, a black or mulatto man born between 1816 and 1830, lived in the adjacent townships of Smithville and Long Cane.<sup>11</sup> Table 1, correlating information about him in Abbeville County's 1870–1910 censuses, suggests a single freedman named Hiram with two surnames.

IDENTITY	1870 <sup>a</sup>	1880 <sup>b</sup>	1900 <sup>c</sup>	1910 <sup>d</sup>
Name	Hiram Cochran	Hiram Cromer	Hiram Cromer	Hirum Cromer
Residence	Smithville Twp.	Smithville Twp.	Long Cane Twp.	Long Cane Twp.
Color	Black	Mulatto	Black	Black
Birth year	1824–25	1824–25	Jan. 1830	1816–17
Birthplace	S.C.	S.C.	S.C.	S.C.
Parent's birthplace	[Not asked]	S.C./S.C.	S.C./S.C.	S.C./S.C.
Occupation	Carpenter	Farmer	Farmer	Farmer
Land owner	No property	[Not asked]	Yes, no mortg.	Yes, no mortg.
Literacy	None	Read only	Read & write	Read & write
Household composition	4 children b. 1858–65	Wife Elizabeth 4 sons b. 1874–80 step-dau. b. 1862–63, a servant	Wife Elizabeth 4 children b. 1880–87	Wife Elizabeth 3 children b. 1880–91
Marital status	[Not asked]	Married	Married 30 yrs.	Married 40 yrs.

*Sources:* a. 1870 U.S. census, Abbeville Co., S.C., population schedule, Smithville Township, p. 15, dwelling/family 115, Hiram Cochran; microfilm publication M593, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Washington, D.C., roll 1481.  
 b. 1880 U.S. census, Abbeville Co., S.C., pop. sch., Smithville Twp., enumeration district (ED) 16, p. 10, dwell./fam. 67, Hiram Cromer; NARA microfilm T9, roll 1217.  
 c. 1900 U.S. census, Abbeville Co., S.C., pop. sch., Long Cane Twp., ED 15, sheet 22, dwell. 345, fam. 351, Hiram Cromer; NARA microfilm T623, roll 1514.  
 d. 1910 U.S. census, Abbeville Co., S.C., pop. sch., Long Cane Twp., ED 18, sheet 2A, dwell./fam. 20, "Hirum" Cromer; NARA microfilm T624, roll 1446.

In 1880 Hiram Cromer, a farmer born about 1824–25, lived with his wife Elizabeth, four sons ages six years to three months, and stepdaughter, Martha Valentine, seventeen. All household members were mulatto, except a thirteen-year-old black family servant, William Cowan. All were born in South Carolina of South Carolina-born parents.<sup>12</sup> The eldest son's age suggests Hiram and Elizabeth had

11. For a township map, see William P. Bullock, *Official Topographical Map of Abbeville Co., South Carolina* (n.p.: P. L. Grier, 1895). The townships of 1895 were those of 1870.

12. 1880 U.S. census, Abbeville Co., S.C., pop. sch., Smithville Twp., ED 16, p. 10, dwell./fam. 67, Hiram Cromer.

married by 1874. Martha's surname and relationship imply Elizabeth had previously married a man named Valentine.

In 1900 and 1910 Hiram and Elizabeth reported having married in 1870. In 1910 each reported being in a second marriage. Hiram's second marriage accounts for the different family compositions of the Hiram Cochran and Hiram Cromer households. Table 1's 1880 variance in Hiram's reported color can be explained by enumerator instructions. Census takers in 1870 and 1880 were to record as mulatto "all persons having any perceptible trace of African blood." Appearance often determined color assignments and led to inconsistent reporting.<sup>13</sup>

Abbeville County's 1880 agricultural schedule supports Hiram Cromer's identity as a land-owning farmer in Smithville Township. He raised cotton, wheat, corn, and oats on 103 acres.<sup>14</sup>

Did freedman Hiram start a second family using the Cromer surname while his son, Enoch Cochran, lived nearby in Due West? Without further research, conflating the two Hiram's is premature.

Local, state, and national records show nonwhite Hiram's with other surnames in post Emancipation Abbeville County. Tables 2 and 3 summarize the findings for those men. Consistent data in table 1 suggests a single Hiram; data in table 2 refutes it. At least two Hiram's of color born about 1825 lived in the Smithville Township area, but they differ in a number of ways:

- Hiram Cochrell, a colored male age twenty-one or more, registered to vote in Cochran's election precinct of the 1st registration precinct in September 1867. Hiram Cromer, a colored male age twenty-one or more, registered in Abbeville Courthouse election precinct of the 2nd registration precinct in February 1868. Although one man could register in different precincts under different names, doing so is unlikely. An elector typically registered where he lived.<sup>15</sup> Local officials running the precincts likely knew the eligible registrants. The voter registration record evidence suggests Hiram Cochrell and Hiram Cromer were distinct individuals.

13. See Minnesota Population Center, University of Minnesota, "1880 Census: Instructions to Enumerators," *IPUMS USA* (<https://usa.ipums.org/usa/voliii/inst1880.shtml>). For reporting color by appearance only, see Smith and Croom, *Discovering Your African-American Ancestors*, 20–21 and 92.

14. "U.S., Selected Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850–1880," *Ancestry* (<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1276>) > South Carolina > Agriculture > 1880 > Abbeville > Smithville > image 3, 1880 U.S. census, Abbeville Co., S.C., agricultural sch., Smithville Twp., ED 16, p. 5, Hiram Cromer.

15. Acts of Congress established statewide elections for the former Confederate states. See U.S., *Statutes at Large*, vol. 15 (Boston: Little, Brown, 1869), 2–4 ("An Act to amend an Act entitled 'An Act to incorporate a National Military and Naval Asylum for the Relief of the totally disabled Officer and Men of the Volunteer Forces of the United States,'" 21 March 1866). *Ibid.*, 14–16 (19 July 1867). In S.C., voter registration proceeded under orders of the commanding general of the Second Military District, which held registrations in 1867 and 1868. Some original record books relating to the registrations survive at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SCDAH), Columbia. See Pamela White, "From the Archives," *South Carolina Historical Magazine* 84 (January 1983): 53.

Table 2  
**Timeline for Freedman Hiram of Abbeville County, 1865–80**

RECORDS	HIRAM COCHRELL (var. COCKREL)	HIRAM COCHRAN	HIRAM CROMER
1865–67 state tax books	--	--	Capitation tax 1865 and 1867 Abbeville Co. <sup>a</sup>
1867 Nov. Freedmen's Bureau	--	--	Greenwood freedmen's school donation <sup>b</sup>
1867–8 voter registration	Cothran's Precinct <sup>c</sup>	--	Abbeville CH Precinct <sup>d</sup>
1868 S.C. agri. sch. <sup>e</sup>	--	--	--
1869 militia enrollment (males 18–45 only) <sup>f</sup>	--	--	--
1869 S.C. pop. sch.	2nd Battalion (age 21+ with 4 ch. 6–16) <sup>g</sup>	--	--
1869 September deed	--	--	Mortgaged 415 acres in Ruff track, rec. 15 April 1875 <sup>h</sup>
1870 U.S. pop. sch.	--	Smithville Twp. (b. 1825 with 4 ch. 5-12)	--
1870 U.S. agri. sch.	--	--	--
1871 Oct. newspaper ad	--	--	Abbeville Co. cotton press <sup>i</sup>
1872 June–Oct. jury	--	--	Abbeville Co. <sup>j</sup>
1874 Dec. deeds	--	--	Abbeville Co. Hawthorne tract <sup>k</sup>
1875 May–Oct. foreclosure	--	--	Abbeville Co. lost Ruff track <sup>l</sup>
1876 Jan. deed	--	--	Elizabeth Cromer buys land lost by Hiram Cromer <sup>m</sup>
1878–79 crop liens index	--	To J. E. Todd of Due West, crop lien <sup>n</sup>	To Abbeville merchant Philip Rosenberg <sup>o</sup>
1880 Feb. crop liens index	--	--	To Abbeville merchants Rosenberg and Barnwell crop liens for supplies <sup>p</sup>
1880 U.S. pop. sch.	--	--	Smithville Twp. (b. 1825) with wife Elizabeth and 4 children 0–6
1880 U.S. agri. sch.	--	--	Smithville Twp. 103 acres

a. South Carolina Comptroller General, tax record books, Abbeville District, 1865, box 2, folder 7 (freedmen's lists), p. 127, col. 2, Hiram Cromer; series S126129, South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SCDAH), Columbia. Ibid., 1867, box 2, folder 4 (individuals not making returns), p. 139, Hiram Cromer; series S126026.

b. *Records of the Field Offices for the State of South Carolina, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865–1672*, microfilm publication M1910 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration [NARA]), roll 35, frames 749–50, Abbeville Field Office, "School Fund."

c. S.C. Secretary of State, Voter registrations reported to the military government (1867–8), box 1, Abbeville Co., 2nd Reg. Precinct, Cothrans Precinct, Duplicate Registry of Voters, 'C' surnames, Hiram Cochrell; series S213102, SCDAH. Back cover attestation dates entries 24 September 1867.

d. Ibid., 1st Registration Precinct, Abbeville Courthouse Election Precinct, Duplicate Registry of Voters, 'C' surnames, Hiram Cromer; series S213102, SCDAH. Entries on page dated February 1868.

e. S.C. Dept. of Agriculture, Office of the Commissioner, State agri. census sch., 1868, Abbeville Co.; microfilm roll CN663, SCDAH. Page search found no Hiram Cochran, Cromer, or Cockrell.

(Table 2 sources continue on next page.)

*Sources for table 2, concluded*

f. "Record and Image Search," *South Carolina Department of Archives and History* (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>); Search options: Full name (First letters) = Coch, Cock, or Cromer; and Series=Militia Enrollments of 1869 (S192021). Negative for Hiram.

g. South Carolina, Secretary of State, South Carolina State population census schedules, 1869, microcopy publication no. 17 (Columbia: SCDAH, n.d.), roll CN657, for Abbeville, p. 64, Hiram Cockrel.

h. Abbeville Co., S.C., Register of Mense Conveyances, Abstracts of burned conveyances, 1817–82, book 1:92; microfilm roll D0647, SCDAH.

i. "Clarkson's Cotton Press," *Abbeville Press and Banner* (Abbeville, S.C.), 26 October 1871, page 2, col. 4.

j. "Our Court," *Abbeville Press and Banner*, 19 June 1872, page 2, col. 1.

k. Abbeville Co., S.C., deed book 2:236–37, conveyance, Wm. H. Parker to Hiram Cromer, 9 December 1874; microfilm roll C5661, SCDAH. *Ibid.*, 2:103, conveyance, Hiram Cromer to B. H. Weems, 25 December 1874.

l. Abbeville Co., S.C., Court of Common Pleas Journal 1 (1873–77): 25357; microfilm roll D0409, SCDAH. Also, "Sheriff's Sale," *Abbeville Press and Banner*, 6 October 1875, page 3, col. 8.

m. Abbeville Co., deed book 2:499–501, conveyance, Laurence P. Guffin, Sheriff, to Elizabeth Cromer, 4 January 1876; microfilm roll C5661, SCDAH. Tract was bounded by lands of G. W. Cromer on Long "Cain" Creek.

n. Abbeville Co., Clerk of Court, Index to Liens, 1878–79, unpag., arranged by first letter of surname, 'C' surnames, entry for Hiram Cochran, 11 January 1879; Abbeville Co. Administration Complex, Abbeville.

o. *Ibid.*, entries for Hiram (var. Hyran) Cromer, 5 March 1878, 13 March 1878, 28 January 1879.

p. *Ibid.*, 1880, entries for Hiram Cromer, 9 February 1880, 28 February 1880.

- In 1869 Hiram Cockrel, a colored male twenty-one or more, was enumerated in the 2nd Battalion with two colored males and two colored females ages six to sixteen. This family is consistent with Hiram Cochran's 1870 Smithville Township household. No other records for Hiram Cockrel (variant Cochrell) appear in Abbeville County in any time period. Freedman Hiram of the 1868 voter registration, the 1869 state census, and the 1870 federal census are probably the same man. Analysis of neighbors supports a single individual.<sup>16</sup> Cockrel may have been a surname of historic familial significance to Hiram or a name consistently misheard or misrecorded by the registrar.<sup>17</sup> Abbeville County's federal censuses include no one surnamed Cockrel or variants of any age or race.<sup>18</sup>

16. Ten household heads appear near Hiram in 1869 and 1870: A. H. "Guss" Morton (white landowner), Shilo Fisher, Reuben Burton, David Phropheh [Prophet], Henry Fisher, John Pressly, Wash Worton [Washington Wharton], Richie Calvin, James J. Devlin (white landowner), and Isaac Morton. See *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007834339>), digital film 007834339, images 80–83, 1869 S.C. census, Abbeville Co., pp. 64–67. Also, 1870 U.S. census, Abbeville Co., S.C., Smithville Twp., pp. 12–25.

17. For freedmen adopting owners' surnames, see Gutman, *The Black Family in Slavery and Freedom*, 253.

18. "U.S. Federal Census Collection," *Ancestry* (<http://search.ancestry.com/search/group/usfedcen>), broad search with negative results for Lived In = Abbeville County, South Carolina; Last Name = Cockrel and Cockerall and Cochrell.



- Hiram Cochran mortgaged his cotton crop in January 1879 to pay rent to J. E. Todd of Due West. The lien was filed on 10 March 1879 and the payment was to be twenty-seven hundred pounds of seed cotton. See table 2. The lien suggests Hiram was a tenant farmer on land of J. E. Todd, a prosperous white farmer in Due West.<sup>19</sup> In 1880 Todd had 650 acres under cultivation and a farm worth ten thousand dollars, more than other Due West farmers.<sup>20</sup>
- Hiram Cromer placed liens on his crops for supplies and guano between 13 March 1878 and 27 January 1879. He was indebted to Philip Rosenburgh, a Polish merchant who kept a general store in Abbeville Town.<sup>21</sup> Hiram Cromer's wife, Elizabeth, owned land on Long Cane Creek, part of a tract adjacent to G. W. Cromer that Hiram had mortgaged in 1869 and lost for non-payment in 1875. Elizabeth bought back part of the land in 1876 at a sheriff's sale. This was almost certainly the land Hiram Cromer cultivated, for which he needed supplies. That Hiram Cromer rented land from J. E. Todd in Due West as a Cochran is implausible because he owned land on Long Cane Creek, seventeen miles distant. The 1879 Due West tenant farmer Hiram Cochran and the 1879 Long Cane Creek land-owning farmer Hiram Cromer were distinct individuals.

Tables 1 and 2 contain records of two freedmen named Hiram Cochran, a.k.a. Hiram Cockrel (or Cochrell) and Hiram Cromer. Both were black males born about 1825 in South Carolina living in the Smithville Township area. Hiram Cochran, Enoch's father, moved from Smithville to Due West before January 1879 and became a tenant farmer. Hiram Cromer—economically more successful—bought land on Long Cane Creek adjacent to G. W. Cromer in Long Cane Township, married second Elizabeth (possible surname Valentine), and had children during the 1870–90s. Hiram Cromer is not in the 1870 U.S. census, due probably to enumerator oversight.<sup>22</sup>

Comparison of multiple, independent records reveals that Hiram Tucker, Hiram Franklin, and Hiram Miles are distinct from Hiram, father of Enoch, and from Hiram Cromer, land owner of Long Cane Creek. See table 3. Tucker, Franklin, and Miles were younger men, worked for local landowners, and had identified wives.

19. 1880 U.S. census, Abbeville Co., S.C., pop. sch., Due West Twp., ED 10, p. 10, dwell./fam. 2, J. E. Todd. For the land, see "Sale Day," *Abbeville Press and Banner* (Abbeville, S.C.), 8 September 1875, page 3, col. 6. Also, "Estate Sale," *Abbeville Press and Banner*, 8 November 1882, page 3, col. 1.

20. "U.S., Selected Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850–1880," *Ancestry* > South Carolina > Agriculture > 1880 > Abbeville > Not Stated > image 4, 1880 U.S. census, Abbeville Co., S.C., agric. sch., Smithville Twp., ED 10, p. 7, J. E. Todd.

21. 1880 U.S. census, Abbeville Co., S.C., pop. sch., Abbeville, ED 1, pp. 12–13, dwell. 90, fam. 116, Geo. A. Visanska household. For the store, see "P. Rosenberg and Co's.," *Abbeville Press & Banner*, 17 March 1880, page 3, col. 5.

22. Estimates of the 1870 U.S. census undercount range widely from below 10 percent for whites to upwards of 35 percent for Southern blacks. For one estimate of 1870 Southern whites, see J. David Hacker, "New Estimates of Census Coverage in the United States, 1850–1930," *Social Science History* 37 (Spring 2013): 93–94. For a focused study of blacks in 1870 North Carolina, see Richard Reid, "The 1870 United States Census and Black Underenumeration: A Test Case from North Carolina," *Histoire Sociale/Social History* 28 (November 1995): 487–99.

Table 3

**Other Persons of Color Named Hiram in Abbeville County, 1865–80**

NAME	RECORDS
Hiram Pressly	A person of color found in only one Abbeville Co. record: 1865 S.C. State tax book <sup>a</sup>
Hiram Baskin	A person of color found in only one Abbeville Co. record: 1866 S.C. State tax book <sup>b</sup>
Hiram Tucker	1866 S.C. State tax book <sup>c</sup> 1867 freedman's labor contract (wife Elvira) with Malinda R. Hampton, employer <sup>d</sup> 1870 U.S. census of Anderson Co., b. 1841, with apparent wife Elvira <sup>e</sup>
Hiram Franklin	1868 freedman's labor contract with Jas. A. Agnew, employer <sup>f</sup> 1870 U.S. census in Abbeville, b. 1835, with apparent wife Leah <sup>g</sup>
Hiram Miles	1866 S.C. State tax book <sup>h</sup> 1867 freedman's labor contract with Miller and Benson, employees <sup>i</sup> 1880 and 1910 U.S. census in Abbeville, b. 1833-42, wife Sarah E. Miles <sup>j</sup>

a. South Carolina Comptroller General, Tax record books, Abbeville District, 1865, box 2, folder 4 (N–P), p. 84 left and right, Hiram Pressly; series S126129, South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SCDAH), Columbia. Hiram, a person of color, paid two dollars in capitation tax (all males between 21 and 60). Hiram Pressly's tax may have been paid by his possible employer, Dr. J. L. Pressly (p. 83). Hiram is listed adjacent to other persons of color named Pressly.

b. *Ibid.*, 1866, box 3, folder 3 (A–B), p. 12 left and right, Hiram Baskin. Hiram, a person of color, paid one dollar in capitation tax (all males between 21 and 50). Hiram Baskin's capitation tax may have been paid by his possible employer, J. H. Baskin (p. 12). Hiram is listed adjacent to another person of color, Henry Baskin.

c. *Ibid.*, folder 6 (H–K), p. 51 left and right, Hiram Tucker.

d. *Records of the Field Offices for the State of South Carolina, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865–1872*; microfilm publication M1910, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), roll 34, Abbeville Field Office (S.C.), labor contracts (1867), M. R. Hampton.

e. 1870 U.S. census, Anderson Co., S.C., population schedule, Hall Twp., p. 547r, dwelling/family 128, Hiram Tucker; NARA microfilm M593, roll 1482.

f. *Records of the Field Offices . . .*, Abbeville Field Office, labor contracts (1868), Jas. A. Agnew; NARA microfilm M1910, roll 34.

g. 1870 U.S. census, Abbeville Co., S.C., pop. sch., Cokesbury Twp., p. 115v, dwell./fam. 33, Hiram Franklin; NARA microfilm M593, roll 1481.

h. S. C. Comptroller General, Tax record books, Abbeville Dist., 1866, box 3, folder 3 (A–B), p. 11 left and right, Hiram Miles.

i. *Records of the Field Offices . . .*, Abbeville Field Office, labor contracts (1867), Miller and Benson; NARA microfilm M1910, roll 34.

j. 1880 U.S. census, Abbeville Co., S.C., pop. sch., Diamond Hill Twp., enumeration district (ED) 9, p. 9, dwell. 72, fam. 76, Hiram Miles; NARA microfilm T9, roll 1217. Also, 1910 U.S. census, Abbeville Co., S.C., pop. sch., Diamond Hill Twp., ED 12, sheet 19A, dwell. 282, fam. 283, Hiram Miles; NARA microfilm T624, roll 1446.



Men of color Hiram Pressly and Hiram Baskin appear in a single record—a South Carolina tax. See table 3. No additional information is known. Possibly state tax officials simply applied surnames Pressly and Baskin—names of planters who paid the taxes.<sup>23</sup>

#### IDENTIFYING HIRAM'S LAST OWNER

The identity question is resolved. Because Hiram Cochran a.k.a. Hiram Cockrel had the care of young children, worked as a carpenter in 1870, and likely was in Abbeville County before Emancipation, his owner probably had lived near Smithville. Economic necessity and familial attachments kept freed people on the land. Hiram had both.<sup>24</sup>

Abbeville County courthouse fires in 1872 and 1873 destroyed conveyances and other records, but probate records survive from 1785.<sup>25</sup> Estate papers—particularly wills, inventories, and sale lists naming or describing enslaved people—of the landowners who lived near freedman Hiram could identify his previous owner.

Hiram's 1870 surname might mean his owner was a Cochran, a prominent slave-holding family in Abbeville County. Cochran estate files created in Abbeville District between 1796 and 1864, however, mention no enslaved Hiram or Enoch.<sup>26</sup> If a Cochran bought or sold Hiram in Abbeville District, no record survives.

Smithville's white, land-owning household heads enumerated within fifty dwellings of Hiram Cochran in 1870 were Sam R. Lomax, Wm. A. Lomax, Guss Morton, Joel Lites, and Wm. Devlin.<sup>27</sup> Only one of their estate files and those of

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23. For anecdotal evidence of South Carolina planters paying the 1865 capitation tax of newly freed people, see Michael P. Johnson and James L. Roark, *Black Masters: A Free Family of Color in the Old South* (New York: W. W. Norton, 1986), 312–13. For evidence from Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties, see Meggison, *African American Life in South Carolina's Upper Piedmont*, 235 and 236n14. For freedmen's surnames as an "artifact" of record-keeping officials, see Woodtor, *Finding a Place Called Home*, 177.

24. Walter Edgar, *South Carolina: A History* (Columbia, S.C.: University of South Carolina Press, 1998), 379. Edgar claims that by spring 1866 the majority of newly freed South Carolinians lived on or near the plantation where they had been enslaved. Supporting Edgar, Meggison's data for South Carolina's upper piedmont shows that in 1870 most newly freed people lived within ten to fifteen miles of the plantations where they had been enslaved. See Meggison, *African American Life in South Carolina's Upper Piedmont*, 235–36.

25. Bryan F. McKown, *Destroyed County Records in South Carolina, 1785–1872* (Columbia, S.C.: SCDAAH, 1996), 5.

26. For the index to Cochran estates, see Abbeville Co., S.C., Probate Court, Index to estate papers, 1782–1958 (books C–D), Cochran, fol. 19r–v; SCDAAH microfilm AB001. No Hiram or Enoch appears in nineteen Cochran estate files. For South Carolina's fluctuating county/district designations, see Michael E. Stauffer, *The Formation of Counties in South Carolina*, ed. Judith M. Andrews (Columbia, S.C.: SCDAAH, 1994), 2–5.

27. 1870 U.S. census, Abbeville Co., S.C., pop. sch., Smithville Twp., p. 15, dwell./fam. 115, Hiram Cochran; p. 9, dwell./fam. 67, Sam R. Lomax; p. 10, dwell./fam. 75, Wm A. Lomax; p. 12, dwell./fam. 89, Guss Morton; p. 14, dwell./fam. 107, Joel Lites; and p. 17, dwell./fam. 129, Wm Devlin.

other local white slave owners—that of Philip Cromer—mentions an enslaved man or boy named Hiram.<sup>28</sup>

Philip Cromer's probate shows that members of the Cromer family owned Hiram, his wife Nancy, and five children from at least September 1859, when Philip bequeathed them to his wife Dorothy Ann Cromer.<sup>29</sup> The Cromers lived five miles east of Abbeville, where Philip owned 440 acres on John's Creek, a Long Cane Creek tributary.<sup>30</sup> Hiram apparently became freedman Hiram Cromer who owned land on Long Cane Creek adjacent to G. W. Cromer, Philip's brother and neighbor.<sup>31</sup> That eliminates Philip as Hiram Cochran's owner.

Abbeville District testator Benjamin Chiles also can be eliminated as Hiram's former owner.<sup>32</sup> Benjamin bequeathed a Negro Hiram to his son-in-law William P. Sullivan in 1822.<sup>33</sup> Hiram was probably at least age six—born before 1816—because enslaved children requiring a mother's care were normally named with her. Benjamin's Hiram was at least eight years older than the subject Hiram.

#### *Frazier Slaveowners*

In his 20 August 1842 will, James Frazier of Cedar Springs, a township adjoining Smithville and Long Cane on the south and west, directed, "I further give and bequeath to my beloved wife as aforesaid during her natural life to be disposed of by will as she may make as aforesaid the following young negro slaves Hiram, Caroline, and Julia Ellen children of Violet." James also bequeathed to his wife

28. Abbeville Co., Probate Court, Robert Devlin estate (1863), box 162, package 4371; microfilm roll AB080, SCDAAH. Ibid., Abram Lites estate (1859), box 148, package 4185; microfilm roll AB073. Ibid., *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/004752864>), digital film 004752864, images 158–65, Thomas W. Morton estate (1845), box 174, package 3290. Ibid. (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/004752848>), digital film 004752848, images 601–609, Lucinda Morton estate (1855), box 142, package 4003. Ibid., Index to estate papers, 1782–1958 (book L–M), Lomax, p. 27 recto/verso; microfilm roll AB002, SCDAAH. No Hiram or Enoch appears in thirteen Lomax estate files in 1825–63. Ibid. (book N–Q), Pressley, p. 14 recto/verso. Twelve Pressley estate files from 1806–67 were examined and no Hiram or Enoch was found.

29. Abbeville Co., Probate Court, Philip Cromer estate (1859), box 149, package 4221; microfilm roll AB074, SCDAAH. The will, 21 September 1859, and inventory, 29 November 1859, include "negros Hiram his wife Nancy with their children Margaret, Ben, Mary, Jimmy, Joseph."

30. For their residence, see "Obituary," *Abbeville Banner*, 29 September 1859, page 2, col. 4. For land ownership, see "Executor's Sale: Estate of Philip Cromer," *Abbeville Banner*, 27 October 1859, page 3, col. 1.

31. George Wesley Cromer was born and lived his entire life four miles east of Abbeville. See "An Old Man Gone: Death of George Wesley Cromer," *Abbeville Press and Banner*, 28 December 1892, page 5, col. 5. See table 2 for Hiram's land. For Cromer adjacent residences, see "A Bridge to Let to Contract," *The Independent Press* (Abbeville, S.C.), 24 February 1860, page 2, col. 7.

32. "Record and Image Search," *South Carolina Department of Archives and History* (<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/>), Search options: Full name = Hiram (Slave), Places = Abbeville District. The database does not include all South Carolina records, but its index covers 308,580 items maintained by the archives, including more than eleven thousand transcripts of wills from 1782 to 1855.

33. Will of Benjamin Chiles, 2 August 1822, proved 16 August 1822; Abbeville Co., Probate Court, Benjamin Chiles estate (1822), box 16, package 342; microfilm roll AB007, SCDAAH.

Charity, in lieu of her dower rights to his real estate, other enslaved persons during her life including “Violet and her daughter Eliza.”<sup>34</sup>

The 24 January 1843 inventory of James Frazier’s estate contains a “Boy Hiram” valued at \$200, “Girl Caroline” at \$125, and “Girl Eliza” at \$200. “Woman Violet” and her children Julia and an unnamed infant were appraised at \$600. Compared with older men—like Anthony, valued at \$500, and Hampton, at \$700—Hiram was not fully mature, consistent with his being about seventeen in 1842. The inventory names thirty-nine enslaved people.<sup>35</sup> The names in the will and inventory differ five months later, but Hiram, Violet, Eliza, Caroline, and Julia are on both lists.

In 1846 James Frazier’s widow, Charity, mentioned Hiram in her will: “I give and bequeath to my grand-daughter Sarah C. Frazier the young negroes Louisa Martha Rebecca and Hiram.” Charity owned twenty slaves in 1850. Among them was a black male, twenty-six.<sup>36</sup> The age is consistent with Hiram Cochran who was about twenty-one in 1846 and twenty-five in 1850. Charity died in 1853. When her executors refused to serve, her son, James W. Frazier, received letters of administration on the estate.<sup>37</sup>

Charity’s estate was inventoried on 20 November 1857, eleven years after she wrote her will. The enslaved people’s names on the will and the inventory differ, but Hiram, Violet (“Vilet”), Eliza, Julia, and Caroline (inventoried as “Woman” and listed with her unnamed child) appear on both lists.<sup>38</sup>

On 21 November 1857 David T. Oliver and Sarah C. Oliver attested that they had received the slaves Hiram, Louisa, and Martha from administrator James W. Frazier.<sup>39</sup> Other heirs also signed receipts:

- Antoinette Frazier, Charity’s granddaughter, received Henry, Julia, and Charles Bingley.<sup>40</sup>
- Jos. L. Pressly and Tallulah H. Pressly, Charity’s grandson-in-law and granddaughter, received Augustus, Eliza, and John Lewis.<sup>41</sup>
- Robt. Devlin and Lucretia S. F. Devlin, Charity’s son-in-law and daughter, received Caroline and Washington.<sup>42</sup>

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34. Will of James F. Frazier, 20 August 1842, proved 5 September 1842; Abbeville Co., Probate Court, James F. Frazier estate (1843), box 25, package 766; microfilm roll AB014, SCDAAH.

35. *Ibid.*, inventory of James Frazier estate, 24 January 1843.

36. “1850 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules,” *Ancestry* (<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=8055>) > South Carolina > Abbeville > Not Stated > image 64, Charity Frazier [unnumbered pages], col. 2; from NARA microfilm M432, roll 861.

37. Will of Charity Frazier, 16 May 1846, proved 25 August 1857; and petition of James W. Frazier, 25 August 1857; in Abbeville Co., Probate Court, Charity Frazier estate (1856), box 145, package 4102; microfilm roll AB072, SCDAAH.

38. *Ibid.*, inventory of Charity Frazier estate, 20 November 1857.

39. *Ibid.*, receipt of David T. Oliver and Sarah C. Oliver, 21 November 1857.

40. *Ibid.*, receipt of Antoinette Frazier, 21 November 1857.

41. *Ibid.*, receipt of Jos. L. Pressly and Tallulah H. Pressly, 21 November 1857.

42. *Ibid.*, receipt of Robt. Devlin and Lucretia S. F. Devlin, undated.

Charity willed that Violet and other slaves remain in her estate “in trust for my son James W. Frazier,” and at his death to go to her three granddaughters. However, Violet’s children—Hiram, Eliza, Julia, and Caroline—were separated, each going to a different owner.

#### HIRAM IN MISSISSIPPI?

On 12 November 1857 Sarah C. “Sallie” Frazier, James’s daughter and Charity’s granddaughter, married D. T. Oliver of Mississippi.<sup>43</sup> In August 1858 David T. Oliver purchased 640 acres in DeSoto County, Mississippi.<sup>44</sup> He and Sallie lived there in 1860. He was a farmer, twenty-four, born in Georgia, with land valued at eight thousand dollars, personal property worth eighteen thousand dollars, and twenty-four slaves living in six slave houses.<sup>45</sup>

Was Hiram taken to Mississippi to work on the Oliver farm and numbered among David’s twenty-four slaves in 1860? No evidence in Abbeville or DeSoto county records answers specifically, but evidence suggests he remained in Abbeville District.

David and Sarah Oliver could have sold Hiram to James W. Frazier or another relative in 1857, rather than pay to send him to Mississippi, or James could have retained him. Hiram had worked on the Frazier land for at least fifteen years and, with highly valued skills, was appraised at \$1,050 in 1857. Abbeville courthouse fires destroyed pre-1872 conveyances. If David sold the slaves and recorded the sale in Abbeville District, no copy survived the fires. DeSoto County conveyances include no record of David buying or selling human property.<sup>46</sup>

If Hiram went to Mississippi, he could have returned to Abbeville District with Sarah Oliver during the Civil War. Evidence supports that scenario.

David T. Oliver joined a Mississippi unit in 1861 and died in 1864 while in Confederate service.<sup>47</sup> He was, however, in Abbeville County in November 1863,

43. “Hymeneal,” *Abbeville Banner*, 3 December 1857, page 2, col. 6. Oliver is mistakenly called “H. T.” Oliver, possibly a copy error from the minister’s initials, “H. T.” Sloan.

44. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008201762>), digital film 008201762, image 503, DeSoto Co., Miss., Record of deeds P:207, Oliver to Oliver, 9 August 1858.

45. 1860 U.S. census, DeSoto Co., Miss., pop. sch., p. 84, dwell./fam. 619, D. T. Oliver; NARA microfilm M653, roll 581. Also, 1860 U.S. census, DeSoto Co., Miss., slave sch., p. 66, line 18, D. T. Oliver; NARA microfilm M653, roll 597.

46. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007902622>), digital film 007902622, image 59, DeSoto Co., Index to deeds, 1836–1876, negative search for slave conveyances with D. T. Oliver as a party. Also, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008201762>), digital film 008201762, image 22, DeSoto Co., Miss., Record of deeds, book O, 1856–57, index for ‘O’ surnames. *Ibid.*, image 386, Record of deeds, book P, 1857–60, index for ‘O’ surnames. Also, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008201761>), digital film 008201761, image 22, DeSoto Co., Miss., Record of deeds, book R, 1860–61, index for ‘O’ surnames. *Ibid.*, image 385, Record of deeds, book S, 1861–67, index for ‘O’ surnames.

47. *Fold3.com* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/271/80192378>), compiled military service record, David T. Oliver (2nd Lieut., Co. F, 22nd Miss. Inf.); from NARA microfilm M269, roll 306.

purchasing items from the estate of Robert Devlin, Charity Frazier's son-in-law and one of her legatees. He bought pots, pans, knives and forks, one lot of ladies books, a bed, a wash bowl, a fire screen, two plows, nineteen sheep, four hogs, seven chairs, and 742 bushels of corn.<sup>48</sup> David apparently had a home and use of land in Abbeville District. He likely did not intend to transport those items and livestock during the war to a Mississippi plantation. "Ladies books" suggests a female presence.

David was again in Abbeville District on 13 February 1864, when he executed his will before witnesses Geo. W. Pressly and H. T. Sloan. Because his estate was probated in Abbeville County in 1865 after Emancipation, the inventory included no human property. Appraiser Jos. L. Pressly was almost certainly Tallulah H. Frazier's husband and Charity Frazier's legatee. David owned about \$2,130 in personal property in South Carolina, including livestock and cotton. Sarah C. Oliver, co-executor of his estate, signed a bond on 26 October 1865 in Abbeville District.<sup>49</sup>

In DeSoto County, John C. Oliver petitioned on 22 February 1866 to administer David's estate. The petition specifies four points:<sup>50</sup>

- David Terrell Oliver, late of DeSoto County, died on 12 November 1864.
- David made a will on 13 February 1864 and appointed coexecutors John T. Oliver and Sallie Oliver.
- The will was admitted to probate in Abbeville County by Sallie Oliver, who qualified as executrix and gave bond in Abbeville's Court of Ordinary.
- Sallie resided in Abbeville County, "where deceased left Some property."

Hiram's last owners were David and Sallie (Frazier) Oliver of Mississippi. Sallie returned to South Carolina during the Civil War, probably to join her family at the Frazier plantation. David T. Oliver furnished a home for her in Abbeville District, including livestock and supplies. Three enslaved people, including Hiram, inherited from Charity Frazier's estate, either never left Abbeville County or returned there with Sallie during the war.

#### THE PRESSLY FAMILY CONNECTION

In 1885 Sallie Oliver sold to Joseph L. Pressly her interest in the "Cedar Spring Place"—920 acres in Cedar Spring Township on the waters of Long Cane Creek formerly owned by James Frazier. Sallie conveyed her interest from her father's estate and another interest she had from her sister Antoinette Frazier.<sup>51</sup>

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48. Abbeville Co., Probate Court, Robert Devlin estate (1863), box 182, package 4371, sale bill, 12 November 1863.

49. *Ibid.*, David T. Oliver estate (1865), box 172, package 4204; microfilm roll AB007, SCDAH.

50. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/005816395>), digital film 005816395, image 434, DeSoto Co., Probate Court, Final records, (1862–1866), February Term 1866, p. 187, estate of David Terrell Oliver, John T. Oliver, petition to probate will.

51. Abbeville Co., deed book 28:583, Oliver to Pressly, 29 August 1885; microfilm C5687, SCDAH.

Physician Joseph L. Pressly had married Tallulah H. Frazier, Sallie's sister, about 1853.<sup>52</sup> Joseph was the son of Dr. George W. Pressly and grandson of David Pressly.<sup>53</sup> Enoch Cochran was associated with James P. Pressly, Enoch's executor, and Dr. William L. Pressly, who provided medical services to Enoch and signed his death certificate.<sup>54</sup> James P. and Dr. William L. Pressly were brothers—sons of John L. Pressly, grandsons of Rev. James Patterson Pressly of Due West, and great-grandsons of David Pressly.<sup>55</sup> Joseph L. Pressly was a second cousin once removed to the brothers James P. and Dr. William L. Pressly. The Pressly family were leaders in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian (ARP) Church in Cedar Springs and Due West. Enoch Cochran's home church, Mt. Lebanon AME Church, was organized from African American members of the Due West ARP Church. Harry B. Pressly, formerly enslaved by the Pressly family, was Mt. Lebanon's first minister.<sup>56</sup>

#### HIRAM MURDERED?

Newspapers reported the murder of Hiram Cochran on 8 April 1874 in Anderson, South Carolina. Hiram went to visit his brother, Isham Cochran. James Walker was apprehended, tried, and sentenced to two years for the murder.<sup>57</sup> Anderson lies thirty miles northwest of Abbeville.

The murder victim was not Hiram, father of Enoch Cochran. In 1866 "Winnie Cochran (freed woman)" agreed to apprentice her sons, eleven-year-old Hiram

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52. "Mrs. Tallulah Frazier Pressly," *Abbeville Press and Banner*, 15 April 1919, page 4, col. 2. For estimated marriage year, see age of oldest child (five) in 1860 U.S. census, Abbeville Co., S.C., pop. sch., p. 74, dwell. 545, fam. 527, Joseph Pressly household; NARA microfilm M653, roll 1212. Also, 1900 U.S. census, Abbeville Co., S.C., pop. sch., Cedar Springs Twp., ED 9, sheet 10B, Joseph Pressly household; NARA microfilm T623, roll 1514. Joseph and "Lulah" Pressley were married forty-seven years, indicating marriage in 1852–53.

53. *Find A Grave* (<https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=10384644>), memorial 10384644, digital image by "GMG," 7 March 2011, of Joseph Lowry Pressly gravestone (Cedar Springs A.R.P. Church Cemetery, Abbeville Co., S.C.). For descendant charts of David Pressly family, see Nancy L. Pressly, *Settling the South Carolina Backcountry: The Pressly Family and Life Along Hard Labor Creek, 1787–1850* (Alpharetta, Ga.: BookLogix, 2016), appendix B, esp. pp. 210–12. Pressly's book, containing an extensive bibliography of original and derivative records, appears well researched.

54. Abbeville Co., Probate Court, Enoch Cochran estate (1935), will, 26 September 1932, proved 19 January 1935; box 343, file 8703; microfilm roll D3237, SCDAH. The file includes an invoice and disbursement to W. L. Pressly, MD, physician, for professional services.

55. For Rev. James Patterson Pressley's relationship, see *The Centennial History of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, 1803–1903* (Charleston, S.C.: Walker, Evans, & Cogswell, 1905), 299–304. For descent from David Pressley, see Pressly, *Settling the South Carolina Backcountry*, 210–13.

56. *Mount Lebanon African Methodist Episcopal Church* (Abbeville, S.C.: Press and Banner, 1987), inside front cover. Also, African Methodist Episcopal Church, *African Methodism in South Carolina: A Bicentennial Focus* (Tappan, N.Y.: Custombook, 1977). For formation of Mt. Lebanon, see Lowry Ware, *Due West: South Carolina's Oldest College Town* (Due West, S.C.: privately published, [1993]), eleventh page.

57. "Town and Country News: Homicide," *Anderson Intelligencer* (Anderson County Courthouse, S.C.), 16 April 1874, page 2, col. 5. Also, "Circuit Court," *Anderson Intelligencer*, 8 April 1875, page 3, col. 1.



and ten-year-old Isham, to John R. Cochran.<sup>58</sup> In 1870 Hiram Cochran, sixteen, and Isham Cochran, fourteen, lived in Hart County, Georgia, in the household of Winny Cochran, fifty-six. The children worked on a farm while Winny kept house. All household occupants were black and born in South Carolina.<sup>59</sup>

Isham's brother Hiram Cochran, murdered in 1874, apparently was Hiram apprenticed in 1866 and living in Hart County in 1870. Hart County, just west of the Savannah River, adjoins Anderson County, where the murder occurred.<sup>60</sup>

#### HIRAM FOUND

Mortality schedule indexes include a *white* male named "Hirman" Cochran of Due West Township who died in July 1879.<sup>61</sup> A correction obscures the field for "Color" and the forename and death date are incorrectly indexed. Hiram Cochran, a "married" black male, age fifty, died of consumption in Due West Township in January 1880. He was born in South Carolina to parents born in South Carolina.<sup>62</sup> Attending physician J. L. Miller lived in Due West.<sup>63</sup> Hiram was almost certainly the father of Enoch Cochran who lived in Due West Township in June 1880. Hiram died a few months before the federal census enumeration and one month after the birth of his grandchild, Enoch's daughter Lela Cochran. The five-year variance in birth year compared to the 1870 enumeration is reasonable.

Hiram's marital status remains uncertain. The census enumerator over-struck the tick mark in the "Married" column, perhaps indicating an error. On the population schedule he made no over-strikes in the marital status column; however, he failed to record many couples' marital status.

#### HIRAM'S MOTHER AND SIBLINGS

Violet, enslaved by the Frazier family from at least 1842 to 1857, was Hiram's mother. Violet's other children included Eliza, Caroline, Julia Ellen, and an unnamed infant born shortly before 24 January 1843. Violet was at least fourteen in 1825,

58. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007492048>), digital film 007492048, images 341–42, Hiram Cochran apprenticeship, 22 January 1866, Anderson District, S.C.; from *Records of the Field Offices for the State of South Carolina, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865–1872*, NARA microfilm M1910, roll 1481.

59. 1870 U.S. census, Hart Co., Ga., pop. sch., Dooley Militia District, p. 135, dwell. 1036, fam. 1009, Winny Cochran; NARA microfilm M653, roll 126.

60. For the proximity of Hart Co., Ga., to Anderson Co., S.C., see *South Carolina: Railroads*, map (Chicago: Rand McNally, 1900).

61. "U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules, 1850–1885," *Ancestry* (<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=8756>) > 1880 > South Carolina > Abbeville > image 16, for 1880 U.S. census, Abbeville Co., S.C., mortality sch., Due West Twp., p. 1, Hirman Cochran.

62. *United States Census Agriculture, Industry, Social Statistics and Mortality Schedules for South Carolina*, microcopy no. 2 (Columbia, S.C.: SCDAAH, 1971), roll 3, for 1880 U.S. census, Abbeville Co., S.C., mortality sch., ED 10, Due West Township, fol. 1r, Hiram Cochran.

63. 1880 U.S. census, Abbeville Co., S.C., pop. sch., Due West Village, ED 10, p. 3, dwell./fam. 15, J. L. Miller.

when Hiram was born, and still of child-bearing years in 1843, giving her a birth range of 1793–1811. In 1857 Violet was part of Charity Frazier's estate managed by her son, James. Charity left Violet in trust for James's use and at his death to her three granddaughters. Thus, Violet probably remained with James W. Frazier until Emancipation.<sup>64</sup> Hiram's sisters each went to a different owner in 1857—Eliza to Joseph L. and Tallulah H. Pressly, Caroline to Robert and Lucretia S. Devlin, and Julia to Antoinette Frazier.

No freedwoman named Violet can be definitely identified as Hiram's mother. Two black or mulatto women named Violet in Abbeville County in 1870 are of age to be Hiram's mother, but neither lived near him or had a connection to him.<sup>65</sup> By 1870 Hiram's mother might have died, migrated out of Abbeville County, or have been missed by the enumerator.

#### CONCLUSION

Records for three generations of Fraziers from Cedar Springs, Abbeville District, show they owned Hiram from 1842 through 1857. Hiram's last recorded owners were David T. and Sarah C. (Frazier) Oliver, Charity Frazier's grandson-in-law and granddaughter. The Fraziers also enslaved Hiram's mother, Violet, born in 1793–1811. Hiram had three enslaved sisters, Eliza, Caroline, and Julia Ellen, and another sibling born about 1842–43, name and sex unknown. The family was apparently separated in 1857, when Charity Frazier's estate was settled. Sufficient evidence exists to conclude that Hiram was Hiram Cochran a.k.a. Hiram Cockrel, father of Enoch Cochran.

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64. "1860 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules," *Ancestry* (<https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=7668>) > South Carolina > Abbeville > Not Stated > image 62, J. W. Frazier, p. 62, col. 2; from NARA microfilm M653, roll 1229. In 1860 J. W. Frazier enslaved a fifty-year-old black female, an individual who fits Violet's profile.

65. 1870 U.S. census, Abbeville Co., S.C., pop. sch., Indian Hill Twp., p. 48, dwell. 363, fam. 364, Violet Brady. *Ibid.*, Ninety Six Twp., p. 64, dwell./fam. 552, for Violet Childs in Beny Childs household.