

SAMPLE APPLICATION

Please use as a guide for a well-done and complete application.

June 19, 2017

Amy Belcher
Communications Director
Alabama Dept. of Agriculture and Industries

Dear Amy,

Please find enclosed our application for the Alabama Bicentennial Century Farm program. I hope I have included sufficient information. Two of the homes' interiors were not accessible at the time photos were made and rather than hold up the application, I hope you can perceive the age of the homes from the exterior shots.

A copy of the page in the Tract Book from the Secretary of State office is included to show the date of purchase of the original 1817 parcel. I have also added a plat map identifying the original 380 acres in the original 1817 parcel and the current size of the farm today.

I have included a few copies of old photos that I thought you might find interesting. Also, I have added an additional report to more fully explain the relationships between the Harrisons-Wallace-Cates families.

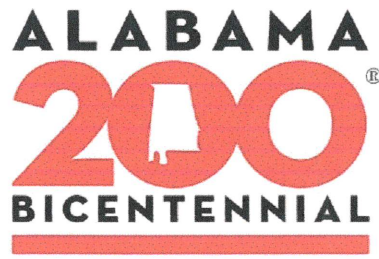
Our true goal in acquiring this recognition is for my daddy, Eric O. Cates, Jr., who for almost 100 of these 200 years, has lovingly cared, supported, and worked this land.

Please let me know if you are in need of additional information. I used my contact info on the form so you may more readily contact me even though my brother actually owns that original parcel as shown on the form.

Thank you for all the assistance you have provided,



Ann Cates Boutwell



~~~~ **OWNERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM** ~~~~

Date: 6/15/2017

County: Butler County

**Section I – Basic Information**

Name: Ann Cates Boutwell

Farm Name: Persimmon Ridge Farms

Address: 173 Pletcher Street  
Prattville, Alabama 36067

Telephone Number: 334-312-6122

E-mail: aboutwell1953@gmail.com

Current Acreage of Farm: Approx. 2000 acres

Location of Farm: Approx. 6 miles north of Greenville, AL on New Searcy Road, Cates Lane,  
and Barganier Lane

Township, Range, Section T11N R14E Sec13

Year originally acquired by your ancestors: 1817

## Section II - Current Use of Farmland

1. Crops or livestock produced on the farm today: Timber
2. Number of generations living on the farm today: One (Jean Cates Blackmon)
3. Name of individual operating the farm today and their relationship to the current owner:

Eric O.Cates III, Self

4. List of Structures, if any, remaining on the farm (houses, barns, outhouses, windmills, silos, etc.) Please list approximate year each structure was built.

1. Abandoned 1902 house (former home of Josiah Seaborn Cates on the original 1817 homestead). Log corn crib currently on display at Old Farm Day site, Sandcut Road, Greenville, AL.
2. 1915 House, currently used as a hunting camp house (former home of Eric O. Cates, Sr.).
3. 1902 Restored house on Barganier Lane (former home of George Henry Harrison).
4. Barn and utility sheds adjoining 1902 restored house.

**PLEASE ENCLOSE PHOTOS OF STRUCTURES** (*On Photo Paper, processed at Walmart, Walgreens, CVS, etc. NOT Copy Paper*) Photos submitted will be kept on file at the Department of Agriculture & Industries for historical purposes & **WILL NOT** be returned. Please provide at least 2 photos (from different angles) of the exterior of each structure and a photo of the interior that reflects age of the structure. Use the sample application as a guide to explain details of each structure. Please label the back of each photo with your last name.

## Section III- Current Ownership

Name of Current Owner & Spouse: Eric O. Cates, III owns original 1817 homestead. ( The entire farm acreage has been divided between the four children and grandchildren of Eric O. Cates, Jr.)

Address: 3403 Creekwood Drive  
Vestavia Hills, Alabama 35243

Phone Number: 205-914-1575

Year you acquired land: 2004

Your relationship to the original owner: Great-great-great grandson

**Section IV – History of Owners**

Original Landowner and/or Spouse: **Jonathan & Barbary Wallace Harrison**

Date Acquired and Acreage: August 27, 1817, 380 acres

Crops and Livestock produced: Cotton, corn, sugarcane, milk cows, hogs, chickens

Other Information: Jonathan was born in NC in 1789 and died in Butler County in 1871. Barbary was born in SC in 1802 and died in Butler County in 1888. They had 17 children. He continued to purchase land during his lifetime and owned a large amount of acres. At his death, the land was divided between his children.

Next Owner of Land and/or Spouse: Daniel & Siddle Barganier Harrison

Relationship to Previous Owner: Son

Date Acquired and Acreage: 1871

Crops and Livestock produced: Cotton, corn, sugarcane, milk cows, hogs, chickens

Other Information: Daniel was the 15th child of Jonathan & Barbary Harrison. He was born in 1842 and died in 1909. Siddle was born in 1840 and died in 1899. They had three children. He paid Jonathan \$500 in 1870, a year prior to Jonathan's death, for the 380 acres in the original homestead, becoming owner at Jonathan's death.

Next Owner of Land and/or Spouse: Josiah Seaborn & Lula Hinson Cates

Relationship to Previous Owner: Neighbor & related through the Wallace side of family.

Date Acquired and Acreage: 10/27/1900, 126 acres of the original 1817 homestead.

Crops and Livestock produced: Cotton, corn, sugarcane, milk cows, hogs, chickens

Other Information: Josiah was born in 1864 and died in 1955. Lula was born in 1870 and died in 1957. They had three children. They originally owned land and lived on the Old Federal Road. Josiah purchased the Daniel Harrison farm and built a new house on the site in 1902 so his three children could attend the Searcy School.

\*If more than three previous owners exist, please attach corresponding information on additional sheets.

PLEASE RETURN FORM TO: Alabama Century & Heritage Farm Program,  
1445 Federal Drive, Montgomery, AL 36107-1123

**RETURN APPLICATION AS SOON AS IT IS COMPLETE. APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE  
ACCEPTED AFTER: AUGUST 25, 2017**



## The Harrison – Wallace - Cates Families

Within a couple of miles of the Old Federal Road in Butler County, Alabama, three families settled, purchasing land as early as 1817. Each family originated in Virginia, and over generations, immigrated, in various routes, to North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and then into Alabama in its early statehood. It is unknown if these families were acquainted prior to arriving in Alabama, but once settled, their families became forever intertwined.

Within a six square mile area these pioneering families built homes, farmed, socialized and created community among themselves. Transportation was difficult, therefore, proximity was a major factor in finding a mate.

Jonathan bought his first 380 acres in Butler County in 1817. Over the years, he purchased additional acreage. Jonathan Harrison (1789-1871), married Barbary Wallace (1802-1888), daughter of Abram Wallace who owned land nearby. Barbary's brother, Seaborn Wallace, married Seana Harrison, sister of Jonathan. Farming provided for Jonathan, Barbary and their 17 children!

Their fifteenth child, Daniel Harrison (1842-1909), purchased the original 1817 homestead in 1870 from his father, Jonathan, who died in 1871. Daniel was married to Sadie (Siddie) Barganier Wilburn and they built a house on the land they farmed. They had three children.

Another son, King Seaborn Harrison (1832-1876), the ninth child, lived and later owned some of the Jonathan Harrison land in Section 14 T11N R14E. He married Henriette Routen (1835- ) and they had eleven children.

King Seaborn's fourth child, George Henry Harrison (1860-1942) married Emma Jane Barganier (1861-1945) and they had three children. He built a house in 1902 on land once owned by Jonathan Harrison and continued to farm on the land of his ancestors.

George Harrison's daughter, Vera Inez Harrison (1890-1964) married Eric Obie Cates, Sr. (1889-1955). Vera and Eric had two sons, Eric O. Cates Jr. (1918- living) and Aubrey Edwin Cates (1920-2001). They built a home around 1915 also on the original 1817 homestead. Vera's brother, Simeon Orby Harrison, married Eric Sr.'s sister, Katie Cates.

Eric O. Cates, Sr.'s father was Josiah Seaborn Cates (1864-1855) who in 1900 purchased the Daniel Harrison farm, on the original 1817 homestead. He and his wife, Lula Hinson Cates (1870-1957) built a new house on the site and raised three children, of which, Eric O. Cates, Sr was one. Josiah Seaborn's mother was Martha Wallace, a niece of Barbary Wallace and a daughter of Seaborn and Seana Harrison Wallace, children of Abram Wallace. Josiah's middle name "Seaborn" probably came from this family relationship.

Aubrey Edwin "Tap" Cates and his wife, Christine also lived on the original 1817 parcel. They were predeceased by a son, Aubrey Edwin "Buster" Cates, Jr., in 1980. The land they owned was inherited by his nephew and nieces.

Eric O. Cates, Jr. joined the US Army and was stationed at Fort Bragg in Fayetteville, NC. He met Louise Braswell (1923-2013) from Goldsboro, NC and they were married in 1945. For the first time since 1817, a family descendant married outside the small farming community in Butler County and it was in NC, that he found his bride! Eric had purchased the George Harrison land and between World War II and the Korean War, Eric and Louise lived in the George Harrison home.

On returning from the war in Korea, Eric, Jr. and Louise built a house on the King Seaborn Harrison home site. In addition to the Jonathan Harrison, King Seaborn Harrison, George Harrison and the Josiah Seaborn Cates land, Eric, Jr. purchased more farm land.

All of this land has been passed down to Eric, Jr and Louise's children and grandchildren. Eric O. Cates, III has restored the home of George Harrison, his great grandfather. His sister, Jean Cates Blackmon, has built a home on land that originally belonged to Jonathan Harrison, her great-great-great grandfather. All of the children are involved in the business of growing trees.

The seventh and eighth generations, Eric O. Cates, Jr.'s grandchildren and great-grandchildren, enjoy hunting and recreating on the land that came into the family 200 years ago.

George Harrison family



George Harrison

Vera Harrison  
Married

Josiah Seaborn Cates family



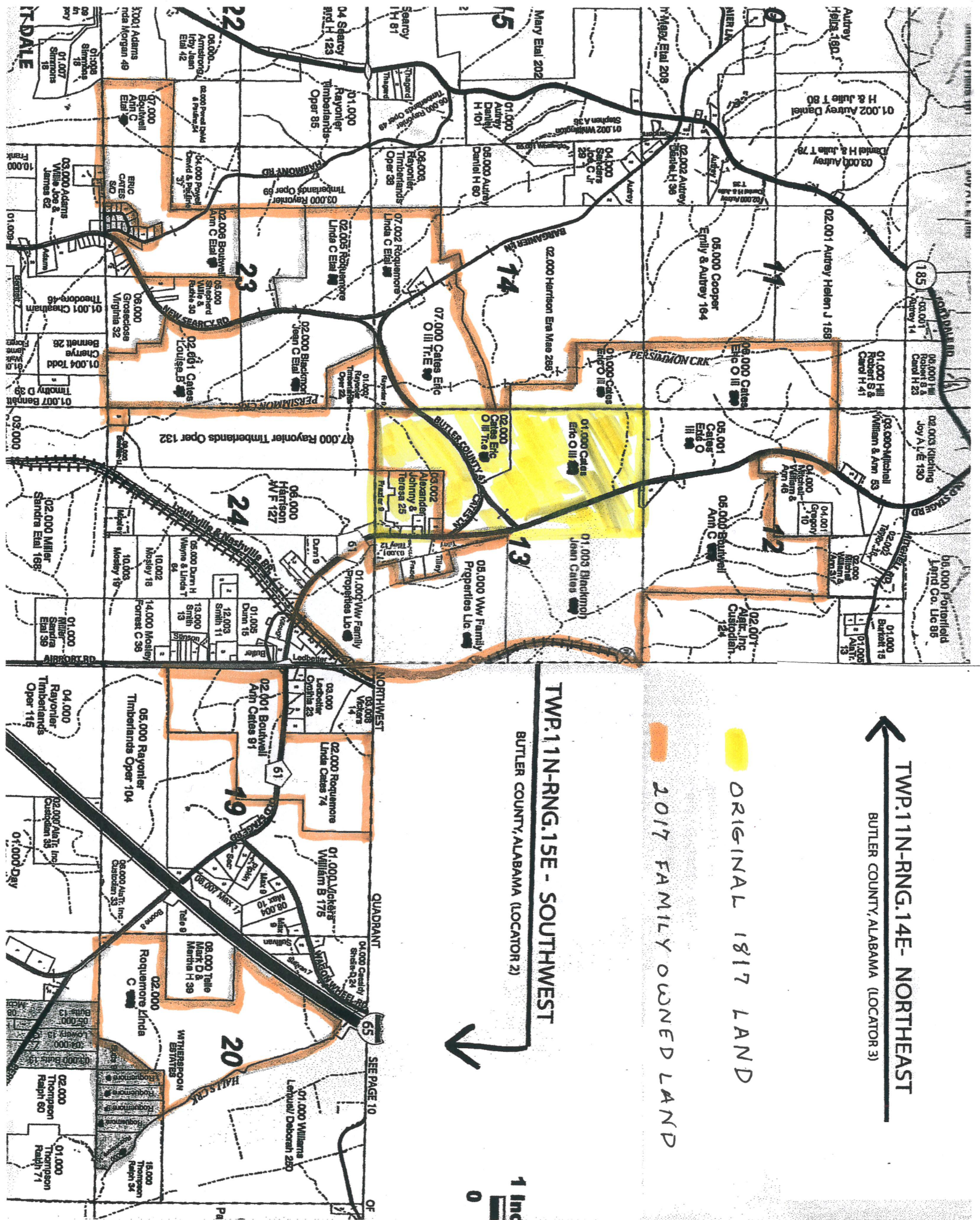
Erie O. Cates, Sr.  
Married



TWP.11N-RNG.14E- NORTHWEST  
BUTLER COUNTY, ALABAMA (LOCATOR 3)

ORIGINAL 1817 LAND  
2017 FAMILY OWNED LAND

TWP.11N-RNG.15E - SOUTHWEST  
BUTLER COUNTY, ALABAMA (LOCATOR 2)











**Eric O. Cates, Jr.**

E.O. Cates, Jr. (right) checks out  
one of first fields of bahia grass  
in Butler County.



E.O. Cates, Sr. (right) examining  
benefits of planted kudzu.



























