

Excerpt from a chronological account of my ancestor, Thomas Newton Pettus' life:

1846- Late spring or early summer. Thomas N. Pettus, following the murder of his cousin Stephen Pettus in March, took the convicted slaves to Chambers City, Al. and sold them (the two slaves who accompanied the murderer who was executed).. On his return he charged Stephen Pettus' estate \$36 for trip expenses.

1846- October. Testimony of Thomas N. Pettus in court case, Mariah Campbell vs. S. P. Sutton. T. N. Pettus went with caravan of horses, carryalls (2 owned by Pettus and sold for \$75-80), to Alabama line. Made trip with A. C. Sutton, Horn, Ervin, Reeves & McGinty. Ervin owned 2 of the carryalls and one of these hauled two carryalls and one horse. Pettus owned one of the carryalls, one of the six or seven was second-hand. Pettus had his own horse along. Horn had his horse and a carryall. Sutton had a horse. Pettus didn't remember who the balance belonged to - Sutton or McElwee. Pettus knew nothing about Sutton until this trip [note: strange for him to say because A. C. Sutton was his first cousin]; Pettus had taken such trips, 2 or 3, gone from a month to six weeks with expenses from \$30 to \$50. He would not take a carryall to Georgia to sell for less than 10 or 15 dollars. Pettus has paid as high as \$16 for himself and horse to Alabama line for expenses. Was not with Sutton when he took a log cabin and does not know for a fact that he did... McElwee once furnished Pettus and Thorn with \$6 to go to Georgia, another time with \$33 when he started with the Stephen Pettus negroes and Jacob McElwee's own negroes. At the time witness sent an order for 50 clocks to Cheraw. McElwee gave him \$10 on expenses and A. C. Sutton paid \$30. During the existence of the co-partnership on the clocks and negroes between McElwee and Sutton witness has heard McElwee complain for the want of money. Horn and Pettus had furnished themselves out of clock money.

[I do not have any proof that T. N. Pettus personally crafted the carryall wagons. Maybe they were not built on his plantation, or by him. There is more than one reference that he sold the wagons to people traveling west.]