

THE  
**FREE**  
FAMILY

From Germany to Pennsylvania,  
South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama

**Wanda Tucker**

The Free Family from Germany to Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama  
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Dedicated to my Grandmaw, Louise Williams Hart

For her stories, her talents, and the best grape KoolAid ever made

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## INTRODUCTION

The tracing of the Free family throughout the early 1700s through the mid-1800s has presented some unique challenges. The name of one ancestor, Jacob Free, was so commonly used by the various lines of the family that separating the groups proved difficult. On the other hand, the repetition of certain names down through the lines is one of the few means of tracing the family. Other means, such as tracing collateral families has also been valuable, since Dunker Baptists, as the original Frees were, rarely maintained marriage, birth, or death records.

Land records and census records were invaluable resources in tracing the earliest of the Jacob Frees. In 1790, there are three Jacob Frees in Orangeburg, and a Jacob Frey in Newberry. Not all are related, as I will show. Where exactly they lived is shown by their land records and by those of their neighbors.

In determining the structure of this document, I considered how to best arrange the information for a clear understanding of the family. After long consideration, I decided to follow a chronological timeline, with stories and/or asides appearing as needed within it. Some segments are broad time periods and some are narrow. More detail is added in where it is available. Some of the sections are simply land records which are necessary to explain the family relationship from the first family members down to the present day, which was my original goal.

Every family member is not accounted for, but the information contained here is sufficient, I believe, for almost any family member to trace their line back to the first Frees in South Carolina.

NOTE: When tracing a family this far back in the past in an area within which they arrived before good records were kept, absolute definitive proof of relationships, such as birth records, death records, marriages, etc. sometimes just does not exist. This doesn't mean the relationships can't be established; just like solving a crime where there is only circumstantial evidence, the available records can produce the story. It is just not as cut and dried as is sometimes the case in areas where there were more paper records. But, if you read this treatise from beginning to end, I believe you will find that my conclusions, based on the extant record, are sound.

NOTE: Links to documents that are viewable online at [familysearch.com](http://familysearch.com) are included in the text. An account at [familysearch.com](http://familysearch.com) is free, and may be required to view some documents.

## FIRST, A SYNOPSIS

The Free Family arrived in South Carolina from Pennsylvania around 1750. Lawrence Free and his wife Mary, along with sons Adam and Jacob (and probably Thomas) settled in and around the Fairfield area. Records strongly suggest that Lawrence Free's brother Jacob came to South Carolina with the family. There are land grants for Lawrence and Jacob Free *on the same date* in 1761. Lawrence had a son Jacob, also. From land records, it is obvious there were two men of this name operating around Lawrence in this time period, as we will see. This is important; many researchers have conflated the two men.

As I give you the information to determine the identities of the Jacob Frees in South Carolina, some form of shorthand for each man is necessary. The following is a list of the Jacob Frees, their approximate birth years, and a "title" by which I will refer to each of them:

- Lawrence Free's brother, born about 1708 – **"Lynches Creek" Jacob Free**
- Lawrence Free's son, born about 1739 – **"Lexington" Jacob Free**
- Adam Free's son, born about 1770-75 – **"Fairfield" Jacob Free**
- "Lynches Creek" Jacob Free's son, born about 1756 – **"Barnwell" Jacob Free**
- "Lexington" Jacob Free's son, born about 1783 – **"Alabama" Jacob Free**

It could be helpful to make a note of these monikers to keep handy as you read along.

### Lawrence Free's Brother Jacob DID NOT Die in Pennsylvania in 1750

There is much confusion concerning Lawrence Free's brother Jacob, who arrived with him on the ship *Princess Augusta* in 1736. There is a will for a Jacob Free in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in 1750. There is a church record stating that he was 42 years old that year, which makes him the correct age to be Lawrence's brother, who was born about 1708.

Trinity Lutheran Church Records, Lancaster, PA, 1730-67, Vol 1, p 433

If Lawrence's brother died in Pennsylvania, of course he could not have gone to South Carolina. But, importantly, there are multiple possible Free men in Pennsylvania men this could have been other than Lawrence Free's brother. The assumption that this man *must* be Lawrence's brother is simply incorrect. We have to take a look at the other men this could be.

There is a Jacob Free, who immigrated in 1739, whose age fits the timeframe to be the man who died in 1750, records show:

**Name:** Jacob Frey  
**Arrival year:** 1739  
**Arrival Place:** Philadelphia  
**Primary Immigrant:** Frey, Jacob

**Source Publication Code:** 1873

**Annotation:** Date and port of arrival or date and place of naturalization. Place of embarkation, name of ship, and other information may also be provided.

**Source Bibliography:** ESHLEMAN, H. FRANK. Historic Background and Annals of the Swiss and German Pioneer Settlers of Southeastern Pennsylvania, and of Their Remote Ancestors. Lancaster, PA: n.p., 1917. Reprinted by Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, 2006.

The Names of Foreigners Who Took the Oath of Allegiance to the Province and State of Pennsylvania, 1727-1775 shows the Jacob Frey who arrived in Pennsylvania in 1739 as thirty years old. That makes this man born about 1709, which would match the approximate age of the man who died in 1750 in PA.

Names of Foreigners Who Took the Oath of Allegiance to the Province and State of Pennsylvania, 1727-1775, Ancestry.com. Available at:  
<https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/48365/images/ForeignersAllegiance-001860-194?ssrc=&backlabel=Return&rc=314%2C632%2C429%2C659%3B428%2C633%2C522%2C658%3B865%2C638%2C981%2C664%3B305%2C1120%2C419%2C1146%3B302%2C1281%2C416%2C1308%3B415%2C1282%2C504%2C1307%3B300%2C1442%2C414%2C1469&pId=313061>  
(Accessed 9 Jul 2021)

There is another Jacob Free who arrived in PA in 1722:

|                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Name:              | Jacob Frey   |
| Arrival year:      | 1722         |
| Arrival Place:     | Pennsylvania |
| Primary Immigrant: | Frey, Jacob  |

Source Publication Code: 1031.8

Annotation: Date and port of arrival or date and place of naturalization. Span indicates period between last mention of emigrant in country of origin and first mention of his residence in the New World. "Surname, ..." indicates a variation of a surname.

Source Bibliography: BURGERT, ANNETTE KUNSELMAN. Eighteenth Century Emigrants from German-Speaking Lands to North America. Publications of the Pennsylvania German Society, 16/19. Birdsboro, PA: The Pennsylvania German Society. Vol. 1: The Northern Kraichgau. 1983. 461p.

If this man arrived with a namesake son born about 1708-09, the child would have been too young to be counted on arrival. This is *yet another* possibility for the identity of the man who died in 1750.

Another man, Johannes Free, arrived in Pennsylvania in 1717. One of *his* children could be Jacob who died in 1750.

There are other Frees who arrived in surrounding Maryland and New York who could account for Jacob who died in 1750, also. There are many possibilities for the identity of the man who died in 1750 other than the Jacob who arrived in 1736 with his brother Lawrence.

Moreover, the records in South Carolina for the Jacob Frees confirm *beyond doubt* that there are TWO men by that name associated with Lawrence Free in 1750-60s South Carolina. Since there are two, the only logical conclusion is that one of them is Lawrence's brother, as I will show by the records. Some have suggested that the Jacob who arrived in South Carolina with Lawrence Free was his nephew, George Jacob, the son of Jacob who died in 1750. This is incredibly unlikely, as the records also show. We will come to that in the chronology of the story.



The Free Family history unfolds in this area until Lawrence's wife Mary Free, now widowed and remarried to Jacob Ingleman, was tried, convicted, and tortured for witchcraft in 1792. This story includes Mary's son Adam and her grandson Jacob. Adam's brother Jacob is not named as a part of the witchcraft tale, nor is Thomas Free, another brother.

Another group, the Frey's, also arrived in South Carolina around this time, but came through Charleston. This family appears unrelated to the Pennsylvania group, although they ended up living very near each other. It is possible they were related farther back, in the Palatine area of Germany where they all came from.

From the records, there are no fewer than six Jacob Free/Freys in South Carolina by 1790. Four are listed on the census; one researchers suspect existed because of an article written from witchcraft documentation and land records which shortly follow the census. However, the article is incorrect and the land records *could* belong to another Jacob Free, which I will address. The sixth Jacob is too young to be named in the 1790 census.

To understand the family relationships between the men, we must identify and track them all. This document will sort out the Jacob Frees, and where the descendants of each ended up. Only one of them appears to be unrelated to Lawrence Free.

A timeline of events appears at the end of this document. This timeline is very important in establishing the identities of the various Jacob Frees in South Carolina. With the dates of land grants, land sales, deeds, birth records, etc. as found throughout this document, there is simply no other way than what is presented here to explain exactly who each of the Jacob Frees are. I invite you to try it for yourself.

**NOTE:** As we go along, names that are important to notice are highlighted in **bold**.

## THE FREES ARRIVE IN PENNSYLVANIA, 1736

The Free family arrived in Pennsylvania on the ship Princess Augusta in 1736, from the Palatinate area of Germany. Women and girls and males under 16 were not named on the ship's manifest. The manifest gives the older males ages:

Jacob Free, 28 (born 1708)  
Lorance Free, 24 (born 1712)  
Nicholos Free, 48 (born 1688)  
Hendrick Free, 17 (born 1719)

Pennsylvania German Pioneers, A Publication of the Original Lists of Arrivals In the Port of Philadelphia From 1727 to 1808, by Ralph Beaver Strassburger, LL.D., President of the Pennsylvania German Society, and Edited by William John Hinke, PH.D., D.D, In Three Volumes, Volume 1, 1727 - 1775, published by Pennsylvania German Society, Norristown, Pennsylvania, 1934

McGinnis Schulze, Lorine. Olive Tree Genealogy. Available at:  
[https://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/ships/pal\\_augusta1736.shtml](https://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/ships/pal_augusta1736.shtml) (Accessed 9 Jul 2021)

As earlier addressed, some researchers believe that Jacob Free died in Pennsylvania in 1750, but I will prove that is not the case.

### From Pennsylvania to South Carolina

According to most sources, Lawrence Free arrived in South Carolina about 1748:

In his introduction to the history of the Baptists in South Carolina, Morgan Edwards stated that "In 1748 a few Tunker baptists from Connecocheague came into the northwest parts about the waters of Santee." He amplified this statement in Part IV, which "Treats of the Tunker-baptists in South Carolina": "About the year 1748 Michael Millers, Jacob Canomore, Lawrence Free, with their wives arrived hither from Connecocheague."

The Brethren in the Carolinas: The History of the Church of the Brethren in the District of North and South Carolina. Roger E. Sappington. Duke University Library, 1971  
Available at:  
[https://archive.org/stream/brethrenincarloio1sapp/brethrenincarloio1sapp\\_djvu.txt](https://archive.org/stream/brethrenincarloio1sapp/brethrenincarloio1sapp_djvu.txt) (Accessed 9 Jul 2021)

In 1752, the first land record for a Free family member shows up in a record in South Carolina. This is in the area that will eventually be Fairfield County.

Free, Lawrence, Plat For 200 Acres On Broad River. Date: 9/28/1752  
People in this record:  
Free, Lawrence; Hamelton, John; Hunter, George  
Places in this record:  
Broad River  
Topics in this record:  
Record details:

Date: 9/28/1752  
Series: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series) (S213184)  
Document type: Plat  
Images: Online  
Identifiers:  
Archives ID: Series: S213184 Volume: 0006 Page: 00305 Item: 01

South Carolina Department of Archives and History. 8301 Parklane Rd. Columbia, South Carolina  
29223. <https://scdah.sc.gov/>  
South Carolina Land Plats Vol. 6, p305

**LAND RECORDS ESTABLISH THE APPROXIMATE AGE OF  
“LYNCHEs CREEK” JACOB FREE**

A Jacob Free land record appears in the same area of South Carolina shortly after Lawrence Free's.

Free, Jacob, Plat For 200 Acres On Broad River. Date: 10/3/1755

People in this record:

De Brahm, William; Free, Jacob; Hamelton, John; Hart, William

Places in this record:

Beaver Dam Creek; Broad River

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 10/3/1755

Series: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series) (S213184)

Document type: Plat

Images: Online

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213184 Volume: 0006 Page: 00117 Item: 01

South Carolina Archives

South Carolina Land Plats Vol. 6, p117

This Jacob Free was necessarily born before about 1734 to be twenty-one in 1755, and most men didn't acquire land until they were twenty-five or so. Twenty-one would be considered early.

We know Adam Free was the oldest son of Lawrence Free because he was named "heir apparent" in a deed by Lawrence giving him land.

**Lawrance Free to Adam Free** Enfeofment. This Indenture made the twenty second day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty three...Between Lawrance Free of Craven County in the Province of South Carolina Planter of the one part and **Adam Free son and heir apparent of the said Lawrance Free** of the other part...in consideration of the natural love and affection...doth give, grant...that Plantation or tract of land containing one hundred acres of land originally granted unto the said Lawrance Free the fifth day of December one thousand seven hundred and sixty... In Witness whereof the said Lawrance Free hath hereunto set his Hand and Seal the day and year first above written. Lowrance Free (LS) Mary (mark) Free Witnesses: Frederick Genrick (sp?) Zoukfainer (Abstracted by Wanda Tucker)

Charleston, South Carolina Deed Book E3 p381

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSK3-NYQL?i=209&cat=361547>

Primogeniture, the practice of giving precedence in inheritance by birth order was in effect in the Southern colonies until after the Revolution.

Baird, R. W., Bob's Genealogy Filing Cabinet. Available at:

<https://genfiles.com/articles/primogeniture-succession/> (Accessed 9 Jul 2021)

Encyclopedia.com. Available at: <https://www.encyclopedia.com/social-sciences-and-law/law/law/primogeniture> (Accessed 9 Jul 2021)

One's "heir apparent" was one's eldest son, unless they had died before you. Since Adam was the eldest, born in 1737, "Lexington Jacob Free" *could not* be old enough to have acquired this land. The 1755 land record *must be* for "Lynches Creek" Jacob.

We know Adam Free was born before about 1737. The following is contained in the Appendix; Statistics of South Carolina by Robert Mills of South Carolina:

"This district lies in a region temperate and salubrious...The evidences of the favorable character of the climate are in many instances of longevity, which have been and are now found in the district. The following are the most conspicuous: Mr. Watts is said to have died many years ago aged 126 years; Mr. and Mrs. Helms...; **Adam Free is 89 years of age...**"

Statistics of South Carolina, including a view of its natural, civil, and military history, general and particular, by Robert Mills of South Carolina. P.A., Engineer and Architect. Published in Charleston, 1826. p545

Adam Free is stated to be 89. This material was published in 1826, making Adam born 1737 or earlier. This means that any other *son* of Lawrence Free must have been born *after* Adam. This proves Lawrence's son "Lexington" Jacob Free was born after 1737.

### **Eliminating Another Possible Candidate**

It is highly improbable that the Jacob acquiring land in 1755 is George Jacob Free, the son of Jacob who supposedly died in 1750, as some have suggested. According to the will of the man who died in Pennsylvania, George Jacob was the third child in birth order. The eldest daughter was of age and married. The younger three children were under age, less than eighteen. So George Jacob could have been at the oldest about sixteen, and could have been even younger than that.

Ancestry.com. Pennsylvania, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1683-1993. Available at: [https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8802/images/005534204\\_00080?usePUB=true&\\_phsrc=xYT1035&\\_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&pId=2098712](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8802/images/005534204_00080?usePUB=true&_phsrc=xYT1035&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&pId=2098712) (Accessed 9 Jul 2021)

Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Will Book I, p140

In 1755, Jacob Free got 200 acres of land in South Carolina. Land was granted in that time period based on the number of people in the household. For example, Lawrence Free petitioned for and was granted 400 acres, based on having six children:

"The Petition of Lawrence Freigh for land by virtue of Family right...Read the petition of Lawrence Freigh humbly setting forth...the the petitioner came from Pennsylvania and sat down on the North side of Broad River where the Petitioner hath built a house, cleared and planted, the ground and where family now is, that the petitioner has a family consisting of a wife and six children for whom nor yet for himself has any land been assigned him by virtue of said Right, and therefore he humbly prays his Excellencies and their Honors, that an order may issue to said Survey General to lay out to said petitioner 400 acres of land so improved by him as aforesaid and that he may have a grant for the same, and the Petitioner as in duty bound shall ever pray. Ch'Town the 31 day of August, 1752"

WikiTree.com. Available at: <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Free-244> (Accessed 17 Jul 2021)

A married man received 100 acres. Each child merited 50 additional acres. When Jacob Free received 200 acres, he was a married man with two children. It seems very unlikely that George Jacob, who would have been at most about twenty years old, could have already been a married man with two children. From other records, the Free family generally appears to have married later than age eighteen.

\*\*\*\*\*

The older Jacob's associations with Adam Free and others of that family also imply that he is Lawrence Free's brother. The timing of his arrival in South Carolina is one clue, as is the proximity of the land grants. Also, the memorials for Lawrence's property from 1752 and Jacob's property from 1755 were filed and signed on the exact same date, 16 Mar 1762, in Charleston. It was necessary to travel from wherever your land was to Charleston to file memorials, so the two men went there together.

South Carolina Memorials Book 14, pp139-140

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLV-PQQS-D?i=84&cat=284315>

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLV-PQQ7-F?i=85&cat=284315>

Naming patterns which appear in both family lines also supports this theory. The totality of the evidence is what we have. There is plenty of evidence to support that Lawrence Free's brother Jacob came to South Carolina with him which we will get to in due course. And there is that one piece of evidence that is irrefutable.

### **Eliminating Jacob Frey in Newberry County, South Carolina**

A John Jacob Frey appears about this same time in neighboring Newberry County. This Jacob Frey can be eliminated as being a member of the Fairfield Free family with a few pieces of information.

John Jacob Frey arrived in Charleston, South Carolina in 1752 with a wife and no children:

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Name:                    | John Jacob Frey  |
| Arrival year:            | 1752   |
| Arrival Place:           | Charleston, South Carolina   |
| Primary Immigrant:       | Frey, John Jacob   |
| Family Members:          | Wife   |
| Source Publication Code: | 4570.31  |
| Source Bibliography:     | LEE, JANICE GARTMAN. "Upton Passenger List." In Lexington Genealogical Exchange, vol. 4:2 (1985), pp. 52-56. |

Ancestry.com. *U.S. and Canada, Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s-1900s* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc, 2010

John Jacob must have had a son shortly after his arrival, or as a small child he simply was not counted, as we will find his marriage shortly.

John Jacob Frey received land grants in Newberry in 1754.

Frey, John Jacob, Plat For 100 Acres On Cannons Creek. Date: 9/16/1754

People in this record:

Frey, John Jacob; Hamilton, John; Hunter, George; Srinier, John Frederick

Places in this record:

Cannons Creek

Also: Broad River

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 9/16/1754

Series: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series) (S213184)

Document type: Plat

Images: Online

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213184 Volume: 0009 Page: 00442 Item: 03

South Carolina Archives

Freys, John J., Land Grant For 100 Acres On Cannons Creek. Date: 1/9/1755

People in this record:

Freys, John J.

Places in this record:

Cannons Creek

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 1/9/1755

Series: Colonial Land Grants (Copy Series) (S213019)

Document type: Land Grant

Images: Available at SCDHAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213019 Volume: 0006 Page: 00204 Item: 000

South Carolina Archives

Simon Rudelhuber/Reitlehuber appears about the same time.

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Name:              | Simon Rudelhuber  |
| Arrival year:      | 1752  |
| Arrival Place:     | Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  |
| Primary Immigrant: | Rudelhuber, Simon   |
| Family Members:    | Wife; Child George 10; Child Gaspar 4; Child Simon 8; Child Mary Sibella 10; Child Elizabeth 15 |

Source Publication Code: 9080.58

Annotation: Date and port of arrival. It is hypothesized that the immigrants originally were transported from Rotterdam on the ship Neptune. The ship Edinburgh served to transport them from Philadelphia to Charles Town, SC. Extracted from the South Carolina Gazette, Source Bibliography: SWEENEY, HALE. "List of Petitioner Immigrants from the Ship Edinburgh." In Lexington Genealogical Exchange (Lexington County Genealogical Association, Lexington, SC), vol. 4:1 (1985), pp. 13-15.

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| Household Members: | Name       |
|                    | Rudelhuber |

Elizabeth Rudelhober  
Gaspar Rudelhober  
George Rudelhober  
Mary Sibella Rudelhober  
Simon Rudelhober  
Simon Rudelhober

Source Citation

Place: *Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*; Year: 1752; Page Number: 14

Source Information

Ancestry.com. *U.S. and Canada, Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s-1900s* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc, 2010.

Original data: Filby, P. William, ed. *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s-1900s*. Farmington Hills, MI, USA: Gale Research, 2012.

Simon Riterhover was granted land on Cannons Creek in 1754. This land is eventually in Newberry County.

Riterhover, Simon, Land Grant For 300 Acres On Cannons Creek. Date: 9/3/1754

Click for images

People in this record:

Riterhover, Simon

Places in this record:

Cannons Creek

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 9/3/1754

Series: Colonial Land Grants (Copy Series) (S213019)

Document type: Land Grant

Images: Online

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213019 Volume: 0006 Page: 00139 Item: 000

South Carolina Archives

Simeon Reitelhuber deeded 88 acres of this land to Jacob Frey, his son-in-law, in 1788.

Newberry County, South Carolina Deed Book E, p26

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS73-947L-7?i=19&cat=472605>

Jacob Frey, Jr. married Simon's daughter Elizabeth.

There is a death record for a John Frey in Charleston in 1772. This appears to be the John Jacob who arrived in 1752, leaving his son to be the man who married Elizabeth Rudelhober.

Name: Jno Frey  
Probate Date: 19 Jan 1772



Probate Place: Charleston, South Carolina , USA  
Inferred Death Year: Abt 1772  
Inferred Death Place: South Carolina, USA

Author: *South Carolina. Probate Court (Charleston County)*; Probate Place: *Charleston, South Carolina*

John Jacob Frey died in 1799 in Newberry, leaving a wife, Elizabeth, seven daughters, most who were unmarried, and son Jacob.

Newberry County, South Carolina Will Book C, p31

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939L-JFLF-R?i=481&cc=1919417&cat=448459>

In 1818, the legatees of this will sold 300 acres of the land he left them to Peter Dickard.

Newberry County, South Carolina Deed Book N, p145

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLK-J96H-T?i=316&cat=472605>

In 1819, the land at Crims Creek was sold by the legatees to John Kibler.

Newberry County, South Carolina Deed Book M p432

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLK-J9DH-7?i=218&cat=472605>

Jacob Frey, Jr. (III) did not participate in either land sale. He does not appear in any census following his father's death. He appears to have vanished from the record.

## BACK TO THE FREES IN FAIRFIELD, SOUTH CAROLINA

**Thomas Owen** came to South Carolina with Lawrence Free from Pennsylvania, and acquired land around the same time as Jacob Free.

**Owen, Thomas**, Land Grant For 250 Acres On Wilkinsons Creek. Date: 11/5/1755

People in this record:

Owen, Thomas

Places in this record:

Wilkinsons Creek

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 11/5/1755

Series: Colonial Land Grants (Copy Series) (S213019)

Document type: Land Grant

Images: Available at SCDAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213019 Volume: 0006 Page: 00418 Item: 000

South Carolina Archives

Thomas Owen's association with the Free family continued, which I will come to later.

In 1761 "Lynches Creek" Jacob Free was granted on Beaver Dam Creek. This is the land that was platted for him in 1755.

**Free, Jacob**, Land Grant For 200 Acres On Beaver Dam Creek. (1 Page) **Date: 12/5/1761**

People in this record:

Free, Jacob; Hart, William

Places in this record:

Beaver Dam Creek

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 12/5/1761

Series: Township Grants [Documents Omitted from Copy Series] (S213016)

Document type: Land Grant

Images: Available at SCDAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213016 Volume: 002G Page: 00228 Item: 000

South Carolina Archives

This is the memorial for the above land, mentioned earlier as occurring on the same date as Lawrence Free's.

**Free, Jacob**, Memorial For 200 Acres On Beaver Dam Creek. **Date: 3/16/1762**

People in this record:

Free, Jacob; Hort, William

Places in this record:

Beaver Dam Creek

Also: Broad River

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 3/16/1762

Series: Memorial books (Copy Series) (S111001)

Document type: Memorial

Images: Available at SCDAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S111001 Volume: 0014 Page: 00139 Item: 004

South Carolina Archives

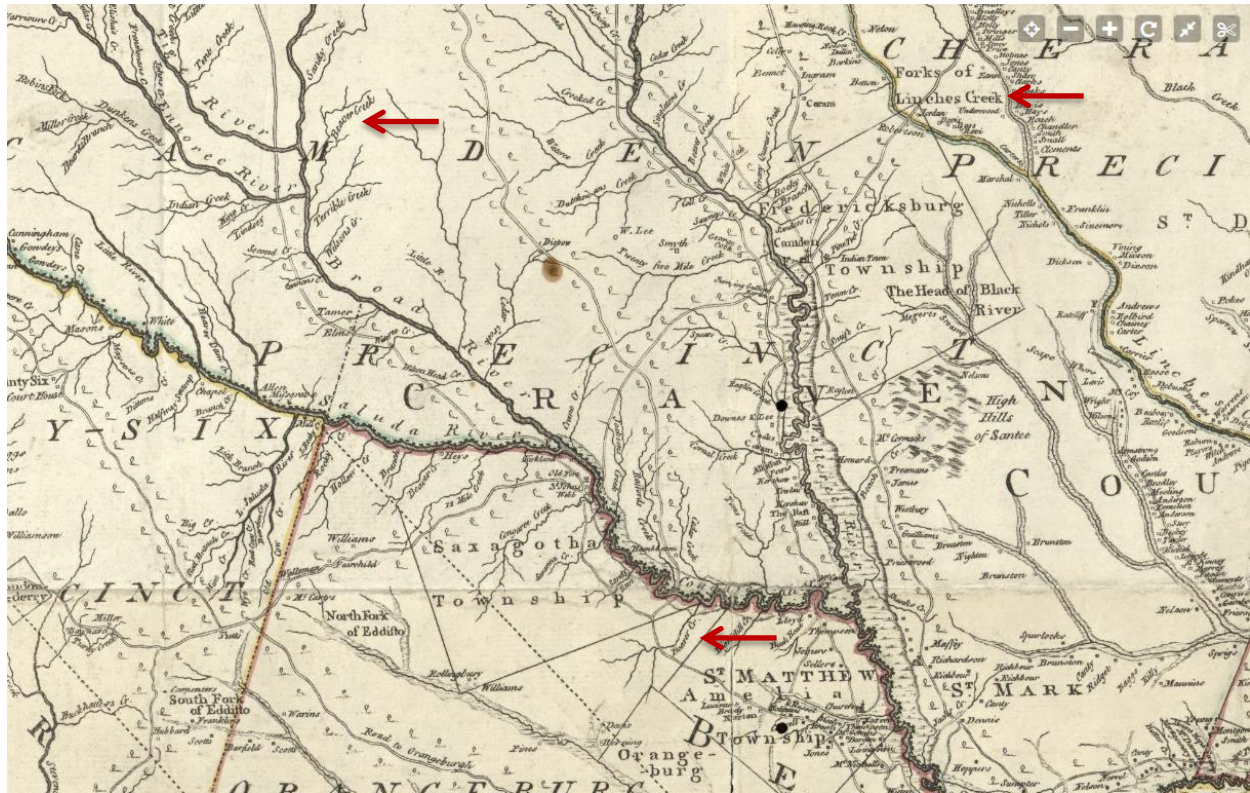
Jacob and his wife Magdalena almost immediately disposed of this property. In a sale by “lease and release,” John Wagener purchased the 200 acres on 23 and 24 Sep 1762. This sale is outlined in the later memorial filed by Wagener. I was unable to locate the original lease and release documents. Lease and release was a legal way to avoid paying taxes on the property for a time.

South Carolina Memorials Book 11, p102

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS7S-Z7JT?i=374&cat=284315>

NOTE: In my opinion, the fact that Mary Magdalena Free is variously named on documents as Mary, Magdalena, or Mary Magdalena may be attributed to the education level and language acuity of the writer of the document in question. The Frees were native German speakers; their accents were probably difficult to understand for some. My feeling is that Mary Magdalena used *both* her names, but the choice of how to write it came from the scribe for each document.

It is difficult to place this land on a map, but later evidence confirms its location in Fairfield County. Today, “Beaver Creek” adjoins the Broad River in Fairfield. There is no “Beaver Dam Creek” there on modern maps. The 1772 James Cook map of South Carolina shows two Beaver Creeks on the Broad River, one in the Fairfield area, and one south of Saxagotha Township, marked on the map below. There is no Beaver Dam Creek shown on the Broad. A land transaction we will get to in 1772 confirms that this land is on the northernmost Beaver Creek. A third arrow on the map shows Lynches Creek, the area where Jacob later lived.



Cook, James, Fl, Thomas Bowen, and H Parker. *A map of the province of South Carolina with all the rivers, creeks, bays, inlets, islands, inland navigation, soundings, time of high water on the sea coast, roads, marshes, ferrys, bridges, swamps, parishes, churches, towns, townships, county, parish, district, and provincial lines.* [London Sold by H. Parker, 1773] Map. <https://www.loc.gov/item/74692124/>

### More Land for the Frees in Fairfield

Lawrence Free received the grant for his 1752 plat in 1761. Part of this land was the piece Lawrence later deeded to his son Adam, naming him “heir apparent.”

**Free, Laurence**, Land Grant For 400 Acres On Wilkinsons Creek And Broad River. (1 Page)

**Date: 12/5/1761**

People in this record:

Free, Laurence

Places in this record:

Broad River; Wilkinsons Creek

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 12/5/1761

Series: Township Grants [Documents Omitted from Copy Series] (S213016)

Document type: Land Grant

Images: Available at SCDHAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

South Carolina Archives

Below is the memorial for the above land. "Lynches Creek" Jacob's land was about eight miles NE of this grant. Memorials had to be filed with the court in Charleston in this time period, so the two men would have probably traveled the 150 mile journey together.

Free, Lawrence, Memorial For 400 Acres On Wilkinsons Creek. **Date: 3/16/1762**

People in this record:

Free, Lawrence

Places in this record:

Broad River; Wilkinsons Creek

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 3/16/1762

Series: Memorial books (Copy Series) (S111001)

Document type: Memorial

Images: Available at SCDAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S111001 Volume: 0014 Page: 00140 Item: 001

South Carolina Archives

In 1762 there was a memorial for land for Jacob Free at Cedar Creek. This appears to be Lawrence Free's brother "Lynches Creek" Jacob again. He may have purchased this land with the proceeds from the sale of his 5 Dec 1761 grant to John Wagener. When the Cedar Creek land was sold in 1763, Jacob's wife **Mary** is named in the deed. Much later, when this Jacob dies about 1791, his wife **Mary Magdalene** is an executor along with his son Jacob, implying that this is indeed "Lynches Creek" Jacob's land in 1762.

There are two Cedar Creeks on the 1772 Cook map, one is near Little River on the Broad River, and the other is further south on the Congaree River. This land is on the Broad.

**Free, Jacob**, Memorial For 100 Acres On **Cedar Creek**, Craven County, Summarizing A Chain Of Title To A Grant To John Lee Of Aug. 1, 1758. Date: 12/23/1762

People in this record:

Free, Jacob; Lee, John

Places in this record:

**Cedar Creek**

Also: **Broad River**; Craven County

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 12/23/1762

Series: Memorial books (Copy Series) (S111001)

Document type: Memorial

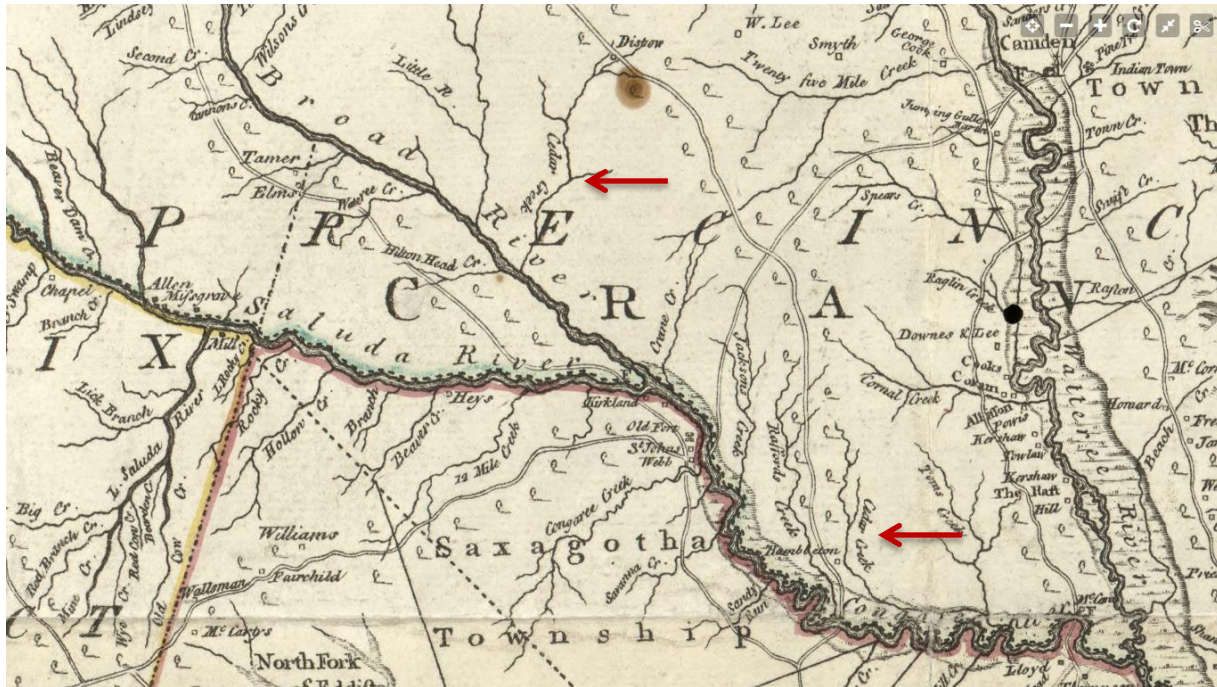
Images: Available at SCDAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S111001 Volume: 0006 Page: 00025 Item: 003

South Carolina Archives





Cook, James, Fl, Thomas Bowen, and H Parker. *A map of the province of South Carolina*

Lawrence Free also memorialized yet more land in 1762. There is more than one Rocky Creek in South Carolina, but only one Wilkinsons Creek, which is in Fairfield where he originally arrived. Presumably this land is on the Rocky Creek near Wilkinsons Creek.

**Frygh, Laurence**, Memorial For 150 Acres On Rocky Branch. Date: 3/16/1762

People in this record:

Free, Laurence; Frygh, Laurence

Places in this record:

Broad River; Rocky Creek

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 3/16/1762

Series: Memorial books (Copy Series) (S111001)

Document type: Memorial

Images: Available at SCDHAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S111001 Volume: 0014 Page: 00139 Item: 002

South Carolina Archives

On 22 May 1764, Lawrence sold this piece of land to Anthony Funderbury. The Funderburk family was another group who migrated from the Pennsylvania area with the Frees and other Germans.

The Claret Book of Murder and Mayhem In Lancaster, Kershaw and Chesterfield Counties, Compiled by Miles Gardner 2004, p29

There is another memorial for “Lynches Creek” Jacob Free on Beaver Dam Creek in 1762.

**Free, Jacob**, Memorial For 200 Acres On Beaver Dam Creek. Date: 3/16/1762

People in this record:

Free, Jacob; Hort, William

Places in this record:

Beaver Dam Creek

Also: Broad River

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 3/16/1762

Series: Memorial books (Copy Series) (S111001)

Document type: Memorial

Images: Available at SCDAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S111001 Volume: 0014 Page: 00139 Item: 004

South Carolina Archives

## LAWRENCE FREE'S BROTHER JACOB MOVES TO...LYNCHE'S CREEK

For whatever reason, "Lynches Creek" Jacob Free did not remain in the Fairfield, South Carolina with the rest of the Free family for very long. I suspect religion and slavery may have played a role which I will address later on. Regardless of the reason, by 1763, Jacob had begun to divest himself of his land in Fairfield.

### Lawrence Free's Brother Jacob Begins His Departure

In 1763, "Lynches Creek" Jacob sold land in the Fairfield area. We can assume this is him because the deed names wife *Mary*. This land is in the area around Little River, where we will later find "Lexington" Jacob Free, Lawrence's son. The land being sold here was purchased by "Lynches Creek" Jacob from John Lee 27 July 1762, as seen previously. The land was on Cedar Creek.

**Jacob Free to Anthony Duesto** ~ Release in Fee, South Carolina ~ This Indenture made the eighth day of February...in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty three Between Jacob Free of Craven County and Province aforesaid Planter of the one part and Anthony Duesto of the aforesaid County and Province of the other part. Whereas in and by one Indenture bearing date the twenty seventh day of July in the year of our Lord 1762 and made between John Lee of the said County and Province Planter...and...Jacob Free...the said John Lee for the consideration money therein mentioned did...sell...that tract of land containing one hundred acres on a branch of the Broad River called Cedar Creek...plat thereof bearing date the first day of August 1758...now this Indenture witnesseth that the said Jacob Free and Mary his wife for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred and thirty pounds...doth grant sell and transfer unto the said Anthony Duesto...tract of land containing one hundred acres...in witness whereof the said Jacob Free and Mary his wife to these presents their hands and seals have set the day and year above written. Jacob Friis (LS) Mary (X) Free (her mark) (LS) Signed sealed and delivered in the presence of Joseph Kershaw, Sam. Kelly

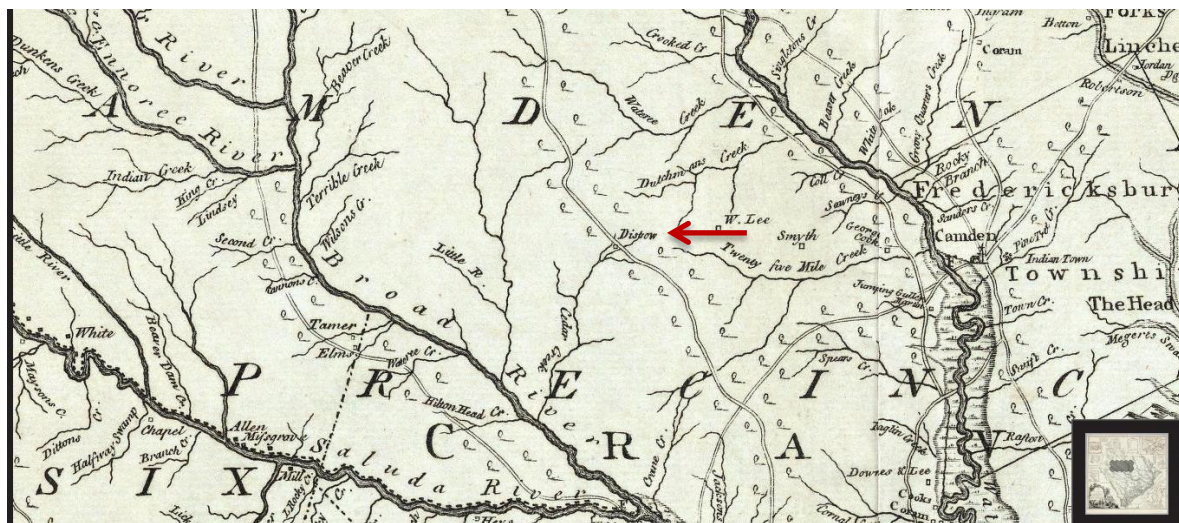
South Carolina Berkly County ~ Joseph Kershaw personally came and appeared before me who being duly sworn declareth the he was present and did see Jacob Free and Mary his wife sign...that Sam'l Kelly together with himself signed their names as witnesses thereto...Sworn before me this 5<sup>th</sup> June 1764 Jacob Motte, Public Register. Recorded 9<sup>th</sup> June 1764 & Exam'd by Fenwicke Bull (Abstracted by Wanda Tucker)

Charleston, South Carolina Deed Book B3, p 491

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSK3-F9ZW-J?i=438&cat=361547>



James Cook's 1772 map of South Carolina shows Distow at the head of Cedar Creek. This tells us where the land above was located. Lynchers Creek can be partially seen top right.



Cook, James, Fl, Thomas Bowen, and H Parker. *A map of the province of South Carolina*

The name Anthony Duesto will reappear associated with the Frees later on. It is an interesting tale which ties in to later descendants of “Lexington” Jacob Free.

The next chronological record found for “Lynchers Creek” Jacob Free appears in 1764, in the area of Lynchers Creek, South Carolina. This area is about 30-40 miles northeast of the head of Cedar Creek, where the land sold to Anthony Duesto/Distow was located.

**Free, Jacob**, Memorial For 100 Acres On **Lynchers Creek**, Craven County. Date: 7/18/1764

People in this record:

Free, Jacob

Places in this record:

Lynchers Creek

Also: Craven County; Turkey Creek

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 7/18/1764

Series: Memorial books (Copy Series) (S111001)

Document type: Memorial

Images: Available at SCDAAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S111001 Volume: 0006 Page: 00291 Item: 002

South Carolina Archives

Lynchers Creek today is in Lancaster County, South Carolina, and that is the county where later records are found for this man. Land records for Jacob Free in the area continue until December 1774. He accumulated considerable land in the Lynchers Creek area in the ten years he was there. The family then moved south to Barnwell County, South Carolina. More records are found for Jacob Free in Lancaster

County in 1794, when part of his estate is sold by his son, Jacob, Jr. and Mary Magdalena, Jacob, Sr.'s wife, who are stated in the documents as being "of Orangeburg," which is what Barnwell was known as at the time. Those records will be introduced later.

Some sources state that a daughter of Jacob Free, Mary, married Lewis Faile in *Barnwell* in 1774. Lewis came from Johnston, North Carolina, before 1774, and lived the rest of his life in the Lynches Creek area. I have not found a marriage record for them, but I think it is most likely that they were married in Lancaster County *before* the Free family left for the Barnwell area, and the family connection to Barnwell led to the assumption they married there. Records indicate that Jacob Free was in the Lynches Creek area until at least 1780, when he is found on a Petit Jury list.

Lewis and Mary Free Faile had four children; John, Jacob, William, and Catherine. Mary was widowed in 1812 and never remarried. She was buried on the old family homestead in the Flat Creek area of Lancaster.

The Claret Book of Murder and Mayhem In Lancaster. Gardner. p29

**LAND RECORDS FOR LAWRENCE FREE'S SON  
"LEXINGTON" JACOB IN FAIRFIELD**

In 1765 and 1766 there was another plat, grant, and memorial for Jacob Free in the Fairfield area. This is Lawrence Free's **son**, "Lexington" Jacob Free.

**Free, Jacob**, Plat For 100 Acres In Craven County. Date: 5/20/1765

[**Barnaby Pope's** land appears on the plat for this land]

People in this record:

**Free, Jacob; McGraw, Edward**; Pearson, John; Troup, John

Places in this record:

Craven County; **Little River**

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 5/20/1765

Series: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series) (S213184)

Document type: Plat

Images: Online

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213184 Volume: 0008 Page: 00179 Item: 01

South Carolina Archives

**Free, Jacob**, Land Grant For 100 Acres In Craven County. Date: 6/3/1766

People in this record:

Free, Jacob

Places in this record:

Craven County

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 6/3/1766

Series: Colonial Land Grants (Copy Series) (S213019)

Document type: Land Grant

Images: Available at SCDAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213019 Volume: 0013 Page: 00358 Item: 000

South Carolina Archives

This is the memorial for the above land.

**Free, Jacob**, Memorial For 100 Acres On Little River, Craven County. Date: 6/25/1766

People in this record:

Free, Jacob; McGraw, Edward

Places in this record:

Broad River; Craven County; Little River

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 6/25/1766

Series: Memorial books (Copy Series) (S111001)

Document type: Memorial

Images: Available at SCDAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S111001 Volume: 0009 Page: 00066 Item: 003

South Carolina Archives

That this is a **second Jacob**, not Lawrence's brother, is proven later by the **sale** of this land, which we will come to. Even though this land is *near* the Cedar Creek land owned by "Lynches Creek" Jacob Free, this is NOT the same man. Two Jacob Frees appear on the 1790 census in Barnwell, and one appears at Lexington, not far from this land. The two in Barnwell are "Lynches Creek" Jacob and his son Jacob, for whom records are found in that area after his father died. The Jacob at Lexington in 1790 must therefore be Lawrence's **son**.

The purpose of listing all of these land transactions is to firmly establish the Free family in Fairfield, and to understand the separate branch of the family that split off to Lynches Creek. Lawrence and his sons Jacob and Adam all stayed in or near Fairfield until at least the 1790 census, while "Lynches Creek" Jacob ended up in Barnwell by about 1780.

We have also established that John Jacob Frey and family of Newberry appear to be unrelated to the Frees of Fairfield, although they certainly may have known of each other, given how close their land is.

## THE DEATH OF LAWRENCE FREE

In 1771, it appears Lawrence Free had died, because Mary Free acquired property. She could not have done so if her husband were living. These parcels were likely inherited from Lawrence, although we find no extant will or probate.

**Free, Mary**, Plat For 150 Acres In Craven County. Date: 10/13/1771

People in this record:

Bremar, John; Ellison, Robert; Flinton, Edward; **Free, Adam**; Free, Mary; **Owens, Thomas**

Places in this record:

Craven County

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 10/13/1771

Series: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series) (S213184)

Document type: Plat

Images: Online

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213184 Volume: 0015 Page: 00213 Item: 02

South Carolina Archives

**Free, Mary**, Memorial For 150 Acres In Craven County. Date: 6/13/1772

People in this record:

Flinton, Edward; Free, Adam; Free, Mary; Ogilvie, James; **Owens, Thomas**

Places in this record:

Craven County

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 6/13/1772

Series: Memorial books (Copy Series) (S111001)

Document type: Memorial

Images: Available at SCDAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S111001 Volume: 0011 Page: 00255 Item: 003

South Carolina Archives

## THE STARNES FAMILY ARRIVES IN FAIRFIELD

Also in 1771, a new addition to our story named Peter Starnes acquired land in the Fairfield/Lexington area, near “Lexington” Jacob Free’s 1766 land on Little River.

**Starnes, Peter**, Plat For 600 Acres In Craven County. Date: 7/22/1771

People in this record:

Ard, John; Bremar, John; Elliott, Samuel; Marpole, John; **Mcgraw, David**; Porcher, Isaac; Porcher, Samuel; Stark, Robert; Starnes, Peter; Tiberley, Isaac; Winn, Richard; **Woodard, Thomas**

Places in this record:

Craven County; Mill Creek; **Morrisons Creek [actually Morris Creek]**

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 7/22/1771

Series: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series) (S213184)

Document type: Plat

Images: Online

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213184 Volume: 0021 Page: 00088 Item: 01

South Carolina Archives

When Peter Starnes died in 1791, his will named daughter **Thamar FREE**, born about 1752. A transcript of this will appears in a later chapter. There is not a birth record for Thamar, but all of her siblings had birth records in Connecticut at the same church prior to the family moving into South Carolina, so her birth is assumed to have occurred shortly after they arrived.

Ancestry.com. *Massachusetts, U.S., Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011

Thamar married “Lexington” Jacob Free born about 1738, the “boy next door” to her family.

### The Starnes Family and Their Role in Religion

Some more information about the Starnes family is helpful in understanding later members of the Free family, where they went, and what they did. Religion plays a big role in both families.

Shubael Stearns/Starnes, Peter Starnes’s brother, was born in Boston, but the family moved to Tolland, Connecticut, by 1716, where Shubael, Sr., their father, became one of the town proprietors. Peter would have been about six years old at that point. Peter married Hannah Stinson in 1736 in Tolland, and most of his children were born there. Thamar who married Jacob Free was not; she is not found in the extensive church records documenting the births of children in Tolland, so we can place her birth sometime after the family left Tolland about 1754.

Ancestry.com. *Connecticut, U.S., Town Marriage Records, pre-1870 (Barbour Collection)* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006.  
Original data: White, Lorraine Cook, ed. *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records. Vol. 1-55*. Baltimore, MD, USA: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1994-2002.

Ancestry.com. *Connecticut, U.S., Town Marriage Records, pre-1870 (Barbour Collection)*

Available at:

[https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1062/images/VBMDUSACT1634\\_0044-0332?treeid=68901442&personid=102146999588&usePUB=true&phsrc=xYT1082&phstart=saccessSource&usePUBJs=true&pId=428133](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1062/images/VBMDUSACT1634_0044-0332?treeid=68901442&personid=102146999588&usePUB=true&phsrc=xYT1082&phstart=saccessSource&usePUBJs=true&pId=428133) (Accessed 17 Jul 2021)

Shubael Stearns became an ordained minister in CT, and with others inspired by the “Great Awakening,” formed a “Separate” church:

“Stirred deeply by George Whitefield's preaching in that year, he, along with other advocates of the Great Awakening, left the Congregational fold and formed a "Separate" church. For six years this church grew steadily under Stearns's leadership, but the Connecticut Separates and their leader encountered some serious obstacles: Stearns became deeply involved in a crusade to secure the Connecticut General Assembly's recognition of the Separate churches' right to exist, but petitions of 1746 and 1748 were "resolved in the negative" in both houses. In turning down the petition of 1748 the Assembly insinuated that Stearns and the other 324 people who had signed it were revolutionaries, although the document plainly denied that the signers had any intention of promoting revolution. The petition did, however, assert for every Christian an "unalienable Right, in matters of ye worship of God, to Judge for himself as his Conscience Receives the Rule from God." All they wanted, claimed the petitioners, was the religious toleration guaranteed them in the Toleration Act, which Parliament had passed in the reign of William and Mary.”

In 1754, Shubael, Peter, and their families moved into the Virginia backcountry, but soon found that there weren't enough people there to evangelize, so they moved on to the Sandy Creek area of Guilford County, NC, where Shubael began his ministry in earnest:

“Shortly after their arrival at Sandy Creek in November 1755, the Separate Baptists established Sandy Creek Baptist Church. From this base of operations the Separate Baptists, making emotional appeals for people to be saved and preaching a diluted Calvinistic theology, formed churches throughout North Carolina and then fanned out into Virginia, South Carolina, and Georgia. Led by Stearns, seven of the Separate churches in North Carolina and Virginia organized the Sandy Creek Baptist Association about 1760. As new churches were constituted, the association grew larger. The Sandy Creek church itself grew from 16 to 606 members in less than fifteen years.”

*Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, 6 volumes, edited by William S. Powell. Copyright ©1979-1996 by the University of North Carolina Press

Morgan, D. T. Stearns, Shubal, Jr. NCPedia. Available at:

<https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/stearns-shubal-jr> (Accessed 17 July 2021)

**Daniel Marshall**, who married Shubael and Peter's sister Martha, became a preacher, and moved with a small congregation to the Broad River area of South Carolina in 1760. Philip Mulkey, another of the Shubael Stearns Separate Baptists, moved on to found a church at Fairforest in 1762. Marshall moved to the area near Abbeville and Edgefield.

Lawrence Free and his family in South Carolina were “Dunker Baptists,” a branch that was also considered to be “separate” Baptist like the churches founded by Shubael Stearns and his acolytes. While

the Dunkers generally met in member's homes, they may have shared "meeting houses" with the other Separates. The meeting houses were used by various groups, and were the centers of activity in the area. The association of the Free and Starns families probably came about through religion.

Peter Starns moved his family south around the time that the Sandy Creek Baptist Association was formed in 1760. Several churches associated with the Sandy Creek Association formed near where the Free families in South Carolina lived, including Lynches Creek and Little River, where Peter Starns eventually lived. The church at Lynches Creek was pastored by Daniel Marshall's brother-in-law, Henry Ledbetter. The church at Little River was pastored by Jacob Gibson, who was baptized at Lynches Creek by Ledbetter and ordained at Little River by 1771. "Lexington" Jacob Free's 1766 land grant bordered several Gibsons. Solomon McGraw, an early member of the Little River Church, was witness to the deed wherein Jacob Free sold this land to another church member, Jesse Fort, in 1792.

South Carolina Baptists, 1670-1805 by Leah Townsend, Ph.D., Florence, South Carolina, 1935.  
Pp.136-137

### **The Regulators of North and South Carolina**

The Regulator Movement in North Carolina greatly affected Shubael Stearns church. One of his neighbors in North Carolina was Herman Husband, well-known for his support of the Regulators. Stearns was also sympathetic to the Regulation, but he wasn't always:

"From 1765 to 1771, Stearns's paternalistic and somewhat authoritarian leadership and the rapid increase in church membership in the North Carolina lowcountry and the Virginia Tidewater regions negatively influenced the Association. The relationship of many Sandy Creek Baptists with the Regulator Movement was more problematic, however. Stearns threatened participants with excommunication, but then changed his position when Regulators threatened him."

*NorthCarolinahistory.org: An Online Encyclopedia*, "Shubal Stearns (1706-1771)" by J. Timothy Allen, <http://northcarolinahistory.org>

Allen, J. T. North Carolina History Project. Available at:  
<https://northcarolinahistory.org/encyclopedia/shubal-stearns-1706-1771/> (Accessed 17 Jul 2021)

The political turbulence associated with the North Carolina Regulators may have contributed to Peter Starns and family moving south to the Broad River area.

The British had had enough of the North Carolina Regulation in May of 1771, and the movement culminated in the Battle of Alamance. The area around the Sandy Creek Church cleared out fast:

"Following the destruction, Governor Tryon issued a Regulator Pardon for those who surrendered their arms; but for the unrepentant, he ordered their farms and homes to be burned. At Sandy Creek, 1,300 took the oath. Regarding the oaths, one Regulator confided to a Moravian that it was not safe to stay "because some asked the governor for pardon, and others had not done so, so their lives were not safe from each other." The following year membership in the Sandy Creek Church plummeted from 606 to 14. The exodus from the Piedmont contributed to Baptist growth in western North Carolina, Tennessee, and South Carolina. Not only did Regulators and Sandy Creek Baptists establish churches in other parts, their beliefs also planted the seeds for common people to revolt against Great Britain during the American Revolution."



*NorthCarolinahistory.org: An Online Encyclopedia*, “Sandy Creek Baptists” by Lloyd Johnson, <http://northcarolinahistory.org>

Johnson, L. North Carolina History Project. Available at: <https://northcarolinahistory.org/encyclopedia/sandy-creek-baptists/> (Accessed 17 Jul 2021)

There are two accounts of the Regulator Movement in North Carolina. One was attributed to Herman Husband. The other was attributed by some to Shubael Stearns:

“There are two contemporary accounts of the movement. The more important of these two is An Impartial Relation of the First Rise and Cause of the Recent Differences in Public Affairs in the Province of North Carolina, 1770, pages 104. This work, on what seems very good grounds, is usually attributed to Hermon Husband. It is a well-written statement of the first part of the struggle. It contains many documents and is usually reliable. It is reprinted in Wheeler's History of North Carolina, II, 301-331. The other book is A Fan for Fanning and a Touchstone for Tryon, by Regulus, Boston, 1771. The author of this work is unknown. It has been ascribed to Husband, but the internal evidence is against such a view. Governor Swain thought it was written by Shubal Stearns, a Baptist preacher from New England, who was living in Orange in 1771. It is not nearly so exact a statement of facts as the Impartial Relation, being characterized by wordy complaints against Tryon and the other officers. It was reprinted in the North Carolina University Magazine, Vol. VIII, 193 and 289.”

The Regulators of North Carolina (1765-1771). John Spencer Bassett, 1867-1928. Washington: Govt. Print. Off., 1895

Bassett, J. S. The Regulators of North Carolina (1765-1771): Electronic Edition. Available at: <https://docsouth.unc.edu/nc/bassett95/bassett95.html> (Accessed 7 Aug 2021)

The Regulators of North Carolina and the Regulators in South Carolina had different aims, but were certainly related. The South Carolina Regulators were mostly well-off land owners and planters who were angry that the British had not established any courts in the backcountry, and lawlessness was rampant. There were no courts in any of the districts or counties of South Carolina in the 1760s and early 1770s. The nearest court was in Charleston. Banditti (gangs of bandits) ran amok in the backcountry. In an interesting twist to this story, “Lynches Creek” Jacob Free sold land to one of the most notorious bandits of the era **Anthony Duesto**, in 1763, as previously seen. On 18 Mar 1766, Duesto was convicted of highway robbery by a Charleston court. He was pardoned for this crime in April 1767. Duesto would later be charged with the murder of his step-father and hanged.

Anthony Duesto was tied to the **Starns** family. Two of the Starns brothers were found as members of a gang of banditti with Duesto, charged with robbery in 1770.

Indictment Of **Anthony Distoe**, Noah Roundtree, James Nowland, **Levi Starn**, **Ebenezer Starn**, **Nimrod Killcrease**, Arnold Russell, James Cain Sr., Drury Morris, And Roger Martin For Robbery (1 Page) Date: 10/19/1770

People in this record:

Cain, James; Distoe, Anthony; Killcrease, Nimrod; Martin, Roger; Morris, Drury; Nowland, James; Roundtree, Noah; Russell, Arnold; Starn, Ebenezer; Starn, Levi

Places in this record:

Topics in this record:

Robbery

Record details:

Date: 10/19/1770

Series: Criminal Journals (S145002)

Document type: None

Images: Available at SCDAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S145002 Volume [1st Year]: 1769 Page: 00082 Item: 04B

### South Carolina Archives

Both Levi and Ebenezer Starns are named as sons of Peter Starns in his will in 1791. Both men were released from jail after about a year, since no prosecutor had appeared before the court to try them, and they were unable to pay their fines. Moving from North Carolina to South Carolina had not prevented the family from being caught up in Regulator activity, if that was the goal.

There may be a bit more than meets the eye in the “outlaw” aspects of this story. It appears from some accounts that the “bandits” were harboring runaway slaves.

“Reports accused bandits of stealing slaves, but one suspects that some runaways voluntarily sought refuge with the gangs. Clearly, escaped slaves were making their way inland. During the 1760s, the *South Carolina Gazette* reported 49 slaves captured in the backcountry. The number rose to 132 during the 1770s, or about 8 percent of all captured slaves. A runaway notice of 1767 offered £100 for a slave who had escaped from a Savannah River plantation “and was seen...on Savannah River in company with Timothy Tirrell, George Black, John Anderson, Anthony Distow, Edward Wells and others, all horse thieves.” Several months later, Regulators captured two members of the same gang, along with four “stolen” slaves. In 1770 an inland planter advertised for a “very sensible and smart” young slave who was “supposed to be enticed away or stolen by some villain or villains.”

"Ordering the Backcountry: The South Carolina Regulation," by Rachel N. Klein. *The William and Mary Quarterly* 38, no. 4 (1981): 661-80

Klein, R. N. Ordering the Backcountry: The South Carolina Regulation. Available at:

[https://www.jstor.org/stable/1918909?read-now=1&refreqid=excelsior%3A2ef07ec213ad095ebaa1d225dc905205&seq=17#page\\_scan\\_tab\\_contents](https://www.jstor.org/stable/1918909?read-now=1&refreqid=excelsior%3A2ef07ec213ad095ebaa1d225dc905205&seq=17#page_scan_tab_contents) (Accessed 7 Aug 2021)

The Dunkers and Quakers that the Frees and Starnes were associated with were against slavery, so it would make perfect sense that they conspired to liberate people from slavery, or at least abetted their escape. It would also make sense that the people in favor of keeping people captive would label the liberators as “outlaws.”

**Thomas Owens, Jr.**, son of the Thomas Owens who arrived in South Carolina with Lawrence Free about 1750, and a neighbor of Lawrence Free’s widow Mary Free in 1771, was accused of burning Anthony Duesto’s house to the ground in 1767.

From the *South Carolina Gazette* of May 9, 1768: The Grand Jurors of the body of the province of South Carolina present, as a grievance that Thomas Bond, a J. P. of Amelia Township, is a person unworthy of that dignity; on information of Moses Kirkland. When these presentments were

taken into consideration process was issued requiring Bond to come in, plead to, and answer the presentment.' The same paper, mentioning the prisoners at the Charles-Town Court, remarks: **Thomas Owen, Jun.** convicted of willfully burning the house of **Anthony Distoe**, pleaded his Majesty's pardon.' Distoe, or Duesto, was of Orangeburgh District.

O'Neill's Bench and Bar, Vol. II, page 343

Salley, A. S. (1898) The History of Orangeburg County, South Carolina, From Its First Settlement to the Close of the Revolutionary War Available at:

<http://genealogytrails.com/scar/orangeburg/history5.html> (Accessed 17 Jul 2021)

Regulators would punish criminals by whipping them or burning down their houses. Although only John and James Owens are named in the Regulator Pardon of 1771, we can thus assume that Thomas Owens, Jr. was probably a Regulator, too.

“Ordering the Backcountry: The South Carolina Regulation,” Rachel N. Klein. pp. 661–680

Klein, R. N., “Ordering the Backcountry: The South Carolina Regulation.” JSTOR. Available at:

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/1918909> (Accessed 17 Jul 2021)

There was considerable backlash against the Regulator movement, even amongst people who were generally in agreement with their position. Many people were against the violent nature of the movement:

“The angriest response to the Regulators came from within the backcountry. Early in 1769 a group of men who called themselves “Moderators” organized themselves in opposition to the uprising. Like their rivals, leading Moderators were prosperous, commercially oriented settlers. They were not adverse to demands laid out in the remonstrance, but they resented the Regulators’ increasingly precipitous use of violence. A truce between Moderators and Regulators, negotiated by leading backcountry men on March 25, 1769, signaled the end of the Regulator movement.”

“Ordering the Backcountry: The South Carolina Regulation,” Rachel N. Klein. pp 661-680

South Carolina Encyclopedia. Available at:

<https://www.scencyclopedia.org/sce/entries/regulators/> (Accessed 17 Jul 2021)

There are lists of known Regulators; some are known from the pardons they received after the War of the Regulation. Many of these names are found on the grants of land to both “Lynches Creek” and “Lexington” Jacob Frees.

The area around Cedar Creek and Little River, South Carolina was a hotbed of Regulator activity. Some of the known Regulators who are found in this area are Thomas Woodward, David McGraw, Edward McGraw, Sr., Edward McGraw, Jr., and Barnaby Pope. These names are found on the grants for both “Lynches Creek” and “Lexington” Jacob Frees. They are also found on the grant for Peter Starns, whose daughter married “Lexington” Jacob. Woodward, Pope, and Edward McGraw, Sr. were considered to be “leading men” in the era. The Andrews family was heavily involved in the Regulation; Owen Andrews witnessed Peter Starns’ will in 1791. Three of Starns’ daughters married McGraw men.

There was another group of Regulators in the Lynches Creek/Lynches River area. This may account for Jacob Free moving there. He may have known people there who were associated with the Regulators at Cedar Creek.

The pardon of the South Carolina Regulators came on 31 Oct 1771. Shubael Stearns died at Sandy Creek, North Carolina 20 Nov 1771.

The South Carolina Regulators, Richard Maxwell Brown. The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press. 1963

## “LYNCHEs CREEK” JACOB FREE LAND TRANSACTIONS

In 1772, there is a memorial for the land “Lynches Creek” Jacob Free sold to John Wagener in 1762. It’s not surprising that it took ten years for a memorial to be filed since Wagener would have had to travel all the way to Charleston to do it.

**Wagener, John**, Memorial For 200 Acres On Broad River, Craven County, Summarizing A Chain Of Title To A Grant To Jacob Free Of Dec. 1, 1761. Date: 1/10/1772

People in this record:

**Free, Jacob; Free, Magdalene**; Harth, William; Wagener, John

Places in this record:

Beaver Dam Creek

Also: Broad River; Craven County

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 1/10/1772

Series: Memorial books (Copy Series) (S111001)

Document type: Memorial

Images: Available at SCDHAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S111001 Volume: 0011 Page: 00102 Item: 001

South Carolina Archives

South Carolina Memorials Book 11, p102

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS7S-Z7JT?i=374&cat=284315>

At the end of 1772, there is a plat for Jacob on Lynches Creek.

**Free, Jacob**, Plat For 100 Acres On Lynches Creek. Date: 12/10/1772

People in this record:

Bremar, John; Cain, Patrick; Free, Jacob

Places in this record:

Craven County; **Lynches Creek**

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 12/10/1772

Series: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series) (S213184)

Document type: Plat

Images: Online

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213184 Volume: 0015 Page: 00213 Item: 01

South Carolina Archives

Dead Pine Branch is mentioned on the original plat for the land above, and can be viewed at the South Carolina Archives online. In 1773, this land was memorialized.

**Free, Jacob**, Memorial For 100 Acres On **Dead Pines Branch**, Craven County. Date:

7/14/1773

People in this record:

Free, Jacob

Places in this record:

Lynches Creek

Also: Craven County; **Dead Pine Creek**

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 7/14/1773

Series: Memorial books (Copy Series) (S111001)

Document type: Memorial

Images: Available at SCDAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S111001 Volume: 0012 Page: 00298 Item: 003

South Carolina Archives

There is no grant found for this land at the SC Archives, which leads me to conclude that it may have been a purchase using the money from the sale of the Fairfield land to John Wagener.

There is another deed mentioned in 1772 which includes both “Lynches Creek” Jacob Free and John Wagener. This deed shows locations Beaver Dam Creek and Reedy Branch. This confirms that the land at Beaver Dam Creek was actually on what is today Beaver Creek, as Reedy Branch intersects Beaver Creek about 10 miles NW of Winnsboro, Fairfield County, South Carolina.

**Moberly, Clement**, Memorial For Two Tracts On Broad River, Craven County, One For 200 Acres Summarizing A Chain Of Title To A Grant To Jacob Free Of Dec. 1, 1761, And One For 100 Acres Summarizing A Chain Of Title To A Grant To John Wagener Of Oct. 12, 1770. Date:

1/10/1772

People in this record:

**Free, Jacob; Free, Magdalena**; Hearsh, William; Moberly, Clement; Wagener, John

Places in this record:

**Beaver Dam Creek**; Broad River; Craven County; **Reedys Branch**

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 1/10/1772

Series: Memorial books (Copy Series) (S111001)

Document type: Memorial

Images: Available at SCDAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S111001 Volume: 0011 Page: 00102 Item: 002

South Carolina Archives

### **“Lynches Creek” Jacob Free, Hatter?**

It is interesting to speculate about *why* exactly “Lynches Creek” Jacob Free moved first from the area near Cedar Creek in Fairfield to Lynches Creek and then on to Barnwell. One possible explanation is Regulator

activity in South Carolina in this era. Perhaps Jacob didn't want to get caught up in the conflict. Another possibility is his contact with Joseph Kershaw, who witnessed his 1763 land sale to Anthony Duesto. Kershaw had established a large trading post at Camden, and may have been "recruiting" people to the area.

SCIWAY, South Carolina's Information Highway. Available at: <https://www.sciway.net/south-carolina/camden.html> (Accessed 9 Jul 2021)

In one of the deeds of sale of Jacob Free's land at Lynches Creek, his son Jacob is referred to as a "hatter." Hat makers were very important tradesmen in Colonial America, and would have been beneficial members of a trading community. Sons usually followed the trades of their fathers, and so Jacob Free, Sr. may well have been a hatter, too. Joseph Kershaw might have talked him into relocating to his bustling trading community. His mercantile there would have provided many opportunities for a hat-maker.

### **"Lynches Creek" Jacob Free Deeds in Barnwell**

The first land record for Jacob Free in the Barnwell area doesn't come until 1785.

**Free, Jacob**, Plat For 200 Acres On Cattels Creek, Orangeburgh District, Surveyed By George Renerson. Date: 4/7/1785

People in this record:

Free, Jacob; Funickes; Renerson, George

Places in this record:

Cattle Branch; North Edisto River; Orangeburg District

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 4/7/1785

Series: State Plat Books (Charleston Series) (S213190)

Document type: Plat

Images: Available at SCDHAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213190 Volume: 0002 Page: 00156 Item: 001

South Carolina Archives

There is another plat in the same area in 1786.

**Free, Jacob**, Plat For 430 Acres In Orangeburgh District, Surveyed By William Piper. Date: 3/7/1786

People in this record:

Bumgardner; Free, Jacob; Hartrog, John; Piper, William; Shuler, George

Places in this record:

Orangeburg District

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 3/7/1786

Series: State Plat Books (Charleston Series) (S213190)

Document type: Plat

Images: Available at SCDAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213190 Volume: 0011 Page: 00112 Item: 001

South Carolina Archives

Sometime between the last land deed for Jacob Free in the Lynches Creek area in 1774 and this one in 1785, the family had relocated. Jacob Free was named on a Petit Juror list in Camden in 1780, so it is safe to assume they left after that, narrowing the time period further.

Name: **Jacob Free**  
Gender: M (Male)  
State: South Carolina  
County: Camden District  
Town: East Side of the Wateree  
Residence Year: 1780  
Household Remarks: He is on the Petit Jury List for the "District of Camden".  
Source Citation  
Document: *Jury Lists, 1778, Acts #1078 [at SC Archives]*; Page Number: 9; Family Number: 47

The Revolutionary War was burning hot in the area around Camden in 1780, so that may have been a factor in the Frees move to Barnwell. On 29 May 1780, the British crushed American forces at Waxhaw Creek, and on 16 Aug, the Patriots were again defeated at Camden. For the normally pacifistic Dunker Baptists, this may have been too close to home.

In 1789, there was a survey for **Jacob Free, Sr.** in the Barnwell area. The fact that he was now named as "Sr." would imply that his son Jacob, Jr. had reached maturity. On modern maps, we can place this land as right by the 1785 land at Cattle Creek.

**Free, Jacob Sr.**, Plat For 150 Acres On Cow Castle Swamp, Orangeburgh District, Surveyed By Wettenhall Warner. Date: 5/25/1789

People in this record:

Free, Jacob Sr.; Mills; Sandel; Warner, Wettenhall

Places in this record:

Cow Castle Creek; Four Hole Swamp; Orangeburg District

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 5/25/1789

Series: State Plat Books (Charleston Series) (S213190)

Document type: Plat

Images: Available at SCDAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213190 Volume: 0024 Page: 00343 Item: 002

South Carolina Archives

Son "Barnwell" Jacob's arrival at the age of majority is borne out by this land record for **Jacob Free, Jr.** in 1791. This is the only record where Jacob Free appears designated as "Jr." This would suggest to me that Jacob, Sr. was alive as of this date. We know he died shortly after, as coming records show.



**Free, Jacob Jr.**, Plat For 700 Acres In Orangeburgh District, Surveyed By Robert Brown. Date:  
5/16/1791

People in this record:

Brown, Robert; Free, Jacob Jr.

Places in this record:

Orangeburg District

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 5/16/1791

Series: State Plat Books (Charleston Series) (S213190)

Document type: Plat

Images: Available at SCDAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213190 Volume: 0027 Page: 00051 Item: 001

South Carolina Archives

## “LEXINGTON” JACOB FREE MOVES TO...LEXINGTON

While the activity of the “Lynches Creek” Free family was ongoing, “Lexington” Jacob Free had moved about 30 miles away from the area around Little River Baptist Church in Fairfield County to the Lexington, South Carolina area, where he is found on the 1790 census, although it is called Orangeburg District.

He platted land on Scots Branch, near Hollow Creek, in 1789. This land was surveyed for him on 4 Jul 1788, according to the original plat.

**Free, Jacob**, Plat For 222 Acres On Scots Branch, Orangeburgh District, Surveyed By William Wright. Date: 2/5/1789

People in this record:

Free, Jacob; Green, Drury; Inman, Benjamin; **Keajiller, George; Oswolt**; Spence; Wright, William

Places in this record:

Saluda River

Also: **Hollow Creek**; Orangeburg District; Scotts Branch

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 2/5/1789

Series: State Plat Books (Charleston Series) (S213190)

Document type: Plat

Images: Available at SCDAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213190 Volume: 0024 Page: 00084 Item: 001

South Carolina Archives

“Lexington” Jacob was living in this area in 1790, as shown by his neighbors on the census, which include many Oswolts and George Keasler from the plat above. Another important neighbor is **Hugh Brit**, who we will come to later.

It could be speculated that this is yet another Jacob Free; however the Jacob in the Little River Baptist Church area sold his land there to Jesse Fort in 1792 as we will get to in a bit. The Gibsons, who founded the church, the McGraws and Starns, Jacob’s relatives, and William Kirkland and James Andrews who were associated with the Regulator Movement in the Little River area were all enumerated in Fairfield in 1790. Jesse Fort was also found. Everyone except the Starns appeared on the same page as neighbors, but Jacob Free was not there. We know he is somewhere and has not died because of the upcoming land sale in 1792. We know from other information that he was later associated with the Lexington area. It is logical to believe the man enumerated in the Lexington area of Orangeburg in 1790 is the man from Little River. Also, there is signature evidence that proves this is the same man, as demonstrated in the “Handwriting on the Wall” section of this book.

## THOMAS FREE IN CHESTER COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

The only record I have ever found for **Thomas Free** is in the area of Beaver Creek Baptist Church on the 1790 Census at Chester, South Carolina. This is the church founded by Lawrence Free, Jacob Cannamore, Michael Miller about 1748-50. Hans Waggoner arrived sometime around 1758, and the church was constituted in 1759:

“A number of Tunkers, originally from French Creek in Pennsylvania, but immediately from Connecocheague, settled in the neighborhood of Beaver Creek about 1748, and by July, 1759, had associated for religious purposes. They had no minister at first, though by 1754 **David Martin** had come among them, being ordained on September 28, 1770, by Daniel Leatherman and Nicholas Martin. 531 Though still without a meeting house, the congregation had increased by 1772 to twenty families with fifty baptized members. John Pearson assisted David Martin in the work, the same John Pearson who was a member of the Sabbatarian Broad River Church and a person of consequence in the region. 532 His letters written in 1764 from Broad River to his son Philip, a deputy surveyor, exemplify the spirit of earnest evangelism then winning the region.”

South Carolina Baptists, 1670-1805 by Leah Townsend, Ph.D.

Genealogy Trails. Available at: [http://genealogytrails.com/scar/baptist\\_churches9.htm](http://genealogytrails.com/scar/baptist_churches9.htm)  
(Accessed 17 Jul 2021)

It is of note that in the lines of Thomas Free and “Lexington” Jacob Free, the given name “Martin” persists well into the twentieth century. Also, several family members down through the generations became Baptist ministers and church founders.

Thomas Free was almost certainly a son of Lawrence Free. From later records we know that Thomas’s son Simeon was born after 1771. That would mean Thomas was born at the latest about 1753 or so, which would disqualify all the sons of Lawrence Free from fathering him. Remember, “heir apparent” Adam Free, the eldest, was born about 1737.

Thomas Free’s line of descendants can be traced through the repetition of multiple family names, among them of course Martin, but also Simeon, Lafayette, and Jacob. This occurs across the family lines of “Lexington” Jacob and Adam Free, as well. For more on that, see “Naming Patterns,” a later chapter.

There is only one known record for Thomas, the census at Chester, South Carolina in 1790. His son Simeon appeared on that census as under age 16. He is the only child in the household.

|   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| Name:                                     | Thomas Free             |
| Home in 1790 (City, County, State):       | Chester, South Carolina |
| Free White Persons - Males - Under 16:    | 1                       |
| Free White Persons - Males - 16 and over: | 1                       |
| Free White Persons - Females:             | 1                       |
| Number of Household Members:              | 3                       |

Year: 1790; Census Place: *Chester, South Carolina*; Series: *M637*; Roll: *11*; Page: *181*; Image: *118*;  
Family History Library Film: *0568151*

Thomas appears to have lived very near land that was granted to “Lynches Creek” Jacob Free in 1761, and sold in 1772 (see timeline at the end of this document). Whether there was other land or Thomas lived and worked at Fort Wagoner is unknown. The Free family had several blacksmiths in the line; perhaps Thomas was the village smith and supported himself that way. There is no knowing; it just appears from the extant records that Thomas never owned land.

### **The Battle Of Mobley’s Meeting House**

Thomas also lived very near **Mobley’s Meeting House**, the site of a Revolutionary War skirmish between Loyalists and Patriots. Interestingly, there is confusion in this story, and the Meeting House is sometimes referred to as “**Gibson’s Meeting House**,” which would be the site where “Lexington” Jacob Free and the Starns and McGraw families lived. Dunkers and Quakers, being pacifists, were often accused of being Loyalists, when they were actually just unwilling to engage in the fighting.

Lewis, J. D., Mobley’s Meeting House. Available at:  
[https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_mobleys\\_meetinghouse.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_mobleys_meetinghouse.html) (Accessed 15 Jul 2021)

Lewis, J. D., Gibson’s Meeting House. Available at:  
[https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution\\_gibsons\\_meetinghouse.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_gibsons_meetinghouse.html) (Accessed 15 Jul 2021)

From information about Mobley’s Meeting House and Gibson’s Meeting House, I believe that the two were related sites, and that has led to the confusion. I found the following comment at the SC Picture Project online from Pelham Lyles, the director of the Fairfield County Museum:

Pelham Lyles says  
May 1, 2020

“As the director of the Fairfield County Museum...The information in the narration in the above text attributing the Revolutionary skirmish to Gibson’s meeting house is a much-repeated mistake. Rev. Jacob Gibson’s Meeting House was located near this site, but as Rev. Gibson also traveled to other community meeting houses, the actual site of the skirmish was at Mobley’s Meeting House, about 14 miles north of Little River Baptist beside Little River in the Blair Community.”

SC Picture Project. Available at: <https://www.scpictureproject.org/fairfield-county/little-river-baptist-church.html> (Accessed 15 Jul 2021)

Additionally, there are extant minutes of the Little River Baptist Church from the time after the Revolution. One entry addresses Mobley’s settlement:

2<sup>ly</sup> two Deligates from  
Mobleys settlement  
apply to this church  
for to know whether  
they might be considered  
as a constituted body.  
Brother’s David Andrews

& Henry Crumpton was appointed to go & see.”

“September the the 22<sup>th</sup> 1798

The upper Branch of this Church called Mobleys Settlement was considered as a constituted body by the revd. Wm Woodward.”

“September 10<sup>th</sup> 1808 the Church met after worship proseed to Business. Three Churches Enter into a coraspondant Union Little River Church, Fairfield Church and Brother Woottens Church.

*Little River Baptist Church, Fairfield County, South Carolina, 1794-1820 Minutes & Membership rolls.* Prepared by Lee Ann Gerhart (descendant of Izett Long). In loving memory of Russell Puricelli (wife Marjorie descendant of Rev. Jacob Gibson) who provided copies of minutes, edits, and encouragement. He passed away Dec 5, 2000

Rootsweb. Available at: <http://sites.rootsweb.com/~scfairfi/lrbc.htm> (Accessed 17 Jul 2021)

The presence of Thomas Free near Mobley’s Meeting House and “Lexington” Jacob Free near Gibson’s Meeting House suggests a tie between the two men, again related to religion, which was clearly a driving factor in the Free family.

\*\*\*\*\*

Thomas Free’s neighbors on the 1790 census included Ephraim Lyles, Isaac Wagoner, and many Arterberrys. Research from an Arterberry descendent was very helpful in locating the area where Thomas Free lived.

Thomas’s son Simeon appeared in this same area in 1800, when he purchased land from Aaron Gosa. The Gosa family is important to the story as it continued in Edgefield County, South Carolina later.

## JACOB FREE DEED IN FAIRFIELD, 1789

In Fairfield County, South Carolina on 10 Dec 1789, Jacob Ingleman and Mary Free sold a piece of land to a Jacob Free. Most researchers have assumed this was Adam Free's son, "Fairfield" Jacob. We don't really know exactly when he was born. To be buying land in 1789, we must assume this man to be at least twenty-one years old, meaning he would have been born in 1768 or earlier.

In light of a later deed which provides further evidence, I am uncertain whether the 1789 deed is tied to "Fairfield" Jacob or "Lexington" Jacob Free. When this land is sold by Jacob Free in 1811, it is transferred to George Reddish "**of Edgefield.**" By that time, "Lexington" Jacob and his family have gotten land in the Abbeville/Edgefield area, as evidenced by land records we will get to. That and another land sale that is almost simultaneous to this one, give evidence that this is could be "Lexington" Jacob rather than "Fairfield" Jacob. Available evidence can point us either way.

In light of the 1792 witch trial of Mary Ingleman, in which both her son Adam and her grandson Jacob Free testified against her, the fact that the following deeds are back-to-back in the deed book and the first deed, while executed in 1789, was not recorded until 1799 seems noteworthy. Also, the dates in the deed are somewhat muddled; Glickley to Ingleman in 1796, then to Jacob Free in 1789 is odd, but that is what was written.

This Indenture made the tenth day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine between Jacob Ingleman of the county of Fairfield and state of South Carolina and Mary his wife and Jacob Free of the same county and state of the other part...for and in consideration of the sum of sixty pounds to him paid by the said Jacob Free...fifty acres in Craven County on a branch of the Broad River called Pole Branch and bounded to the N.E. on land laid out for Michael Easter S.E. on land laid out for Adam Free being the N.E. or upper part of a tract of one hundred acres originally granted to John Glickly...conveyed to said Ingleman by lease and release bearing the date 23<sup>rd</sup> day of July 1796...In witness with our hands and seals the day above written. Jacob Ingleman, Mary (her mark) Ingleman. Witnesses: C. D. Bradford, George Free.

George Free made oath that he saw Jacob Ingleman and Mary his wife sign...before me 18<sup>th</sup> Jan'y 1799 S. W. Yongue, C.C. Recorded 19<sup>th</sup> Jan'y 1799 (Abstracted by Wanda Tucker)

Fairfield County, South Carolina Deed Book M, p13

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKW-V334-D?i=149&cat=207758>

Placing this next deed here is out of chronological order, but as I stated, they are back to back in the deed book. It appears the deeds were written out and recorded in the book on the same date in 1799.

In Fairfield County, South Carolina, on 5 Apr 1796 Adam Free sold 100 acres of land to his son George Free.

This indenture made the fifth day of April one thousand one hundred and ninety six between Adam Free of Fairfield County and State of South Carolina...and George Free, for and in consideration of the sum of 100 pounds...100 acres more or less on Owens Mill Creek...on Jacob Free's line...the said Adam Free has hereunto set his hand and affixed his seal the date above

mentioned. Adam (F) Free (his mark)(seal) Margaret Free (seal) Witnesses: J. Dansby, William Free

Fairfield County ~ William Free maketh oath that he saw Adam Free sign seal and deliver this release to George Free...Jacob Dansby witnessed the same with him, deponent. Sworn Jany 18<sup>th</sup> 1799 before Saml. W. Yongue. Wm. Free. Recorded 19<sup>th</sup> Jany 1799 (Abstracted by Wanda Tucker)

Fairfield County, South Carolina Deed Book M, p14

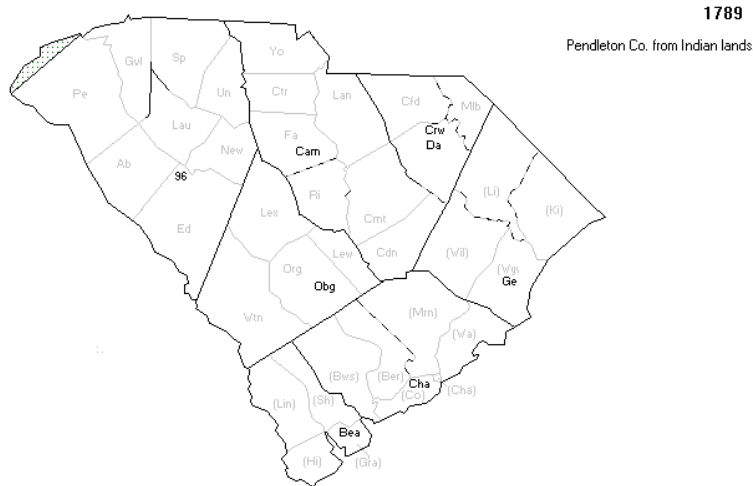
<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKW-V33W-S?i=150&cat=207758>

The origin of this land is not stated in the deed, but it must be either land given to Adam by his father Lawrence in 1763 or land granted to Mary Free after Lawrence died. In an 1803 transaction shown further along, the amount of land granted Mary is stated to be 100 acres, but the only grant I can find on record for her is for 150 acres. I don't think this is another piece of land; rather, I think the 1803 document doesn't state the correct original grant amount. There are fifty missing acres, which I will address in a moment. I can't find a document where the land came into Adam's possession, so I assume it happened when Mary Free died, leaving no will I can locate. Documentation proves she died after 1802. Because I assume Adam didn't acquire Mary's land until *after* she died, I think the land in the above transaction to George is from the Lawrence Free land grant of 1763.

NOTE: **William Free** witnessed the 1796 deed above. It doesn't seem likely that this is the illegitimate son of Adam Free's daughter Mary, who was Adam's apprentice, as he would only be nine or ten years old. This William is probably another son of Adam Free. He never appears in any census I can locate.

## THE VARIOUS JACOB FREES ON THE 1790 CENSUS

On the 1790 census, there were three Jacob Frees listed in Orangeburg District, South Carolina. There was also a Jacob Fry listed in Newberry. The Newberry Jacob is the man addressed earlier, whose family came into South Carolina through Charleston. All of the other three are the related men we have discussed. It is only possible to determine where in South Carolina they actually lived by looking at land records of their neighbors on the census. Orangeburg District covered a lot of area in 1790. The counties weren't officially solidified until 1800. Some counties were enumerated, such as Fairfield and Lancaster, but the counties which would eventually divide Orangeburg District were not.



Map of US. Available at: <https://www.mapofus.org/southcarolina/> (Accessed 9 Jul 2021)

Jacob Free, Sr. (“Lynches Creek” Jacob) is enumerated in the Barnwell area at Cow Castle Swamp, where he migrated to from Lynches Creek.

|   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| Name:                                     | <b>Jacob Free</b>          |
| Home in 1790 (City, County, State):       | South Carolina, Orangeburg |
| Free White Persons - Males - 16 and over: | 4                          |
| Free White Persons - Females:             | 1                          |
| Number of Slaves:                         | 1                          |
| Number of Household Members:              | 6                          |

Year: 1790; Census Place: *Orangeburg, South Carolina*; Series: *M637*; Roll: *11*; Page: *418*; Image: *251*; Family History Library Film: *0568151*

We can place this Jacob Free at Cow Castle Swamp using land records of his census neighbors. One of these was Henry Moura/Moora. The Weavers are nearby Jacob Free, Sr. as well.

**Moora, Henry**, Plat For 178 Acres On Cow Castle Swamp, Orangeburgh District, Surveyed By George Renerson. Date: 9/23/1786  
 People in this record:  
 Moora, Henry; Renerson, George; **Weaver**



Places in this record:

Cow Castle Creek; Four Hole Swamp; Orangeburg District

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 9/23/1786

Series: State Plat Books (Charleston Series) (S213190)

Document type: Plat

Images: Available at SCDAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213190 Volume: 0016 Page: 00183 Item: 002

South Carolina Archives

John Moora is one household away from Jacob Free, Sr. in 1790. Numerous Shulers also appear on the same census page.

**Moora, John**, Plat For 596 Acres On Cow Castle Swamp, Orangeburgh District, Surveyed By George Renerson. Date: 10/13/1786

People in this record:

Barr, Jacob; Keller, Dolly; Moora, John; Renerson, George; **Shouler, Nicholas**

Places in this record:

Cow Castle Creek; Four Hole Swamp; Orangeburg District

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 10/13/1786

Series: State Plat Books (Charleston Series) (S213190)

Document type: Plat

Images: Available at SCDAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213190 Volume: 0016 Page: 00212 Item: 001

South Carolina Archives

These land records easily place Jacob Free, Sr. on Cow Castle Creek in Barnwell in 1790. His son, Jacob, Jr. ("Barnwell" Jacob) is also in the area, but appears about 40 miles further west, nearer the present-day town of Barnwell.

|   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| Name:                                     | <b>Jacob Free</b>          |
| Home in 1790 (City, County, State):       | South Carolina, Orangeburg |
| Free White Persons - Males - Under 16:    | 1                          |
| Free White Persons - Males - 16 and over: | 2                          |
| Free White Persons - Females:             | 5                          |
| Number of Slaves:                         | 1                          |
| Number of Household Members:              | 9                          |

Year: 1790; Census Place: *Orangeburg, South Carolina*; Series: *M637*; Roll: *11*; Page: *271*; Image: *168*; Family History Library Film: *0568151*

Ambrose Pellom is next-door to Jacob, Jr. near Barnwell on the census, and Silas Rawls appears four households away.

**Pellom, Ambrose**, Plat For 545 Acres On Squirrel Branch, Orangeburgh District, Surveyed By David Squier. Date: 10/4/1792

People in this record:

Kelly, John; Maxwell; Pellom, Ambrose; **Rowls, Silas**; Squier, David; Warner, Wettenhall

Places in this record:

Colston Branch; Little Salkehatchie River; Orangeburg District; Squirrel Creek

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 10/4/1792

Series: State Plat Books (Charleston Series) (S213190)

Document type: Plat

Images: Available at SCDAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213190 Volume: 0031 Page: 00038 Item: 001

South Carolina Archives

“Lexington” Jacob Free, Lawrence’s son, appears in the Hollow Creek area of Lexington.

|   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| Name:                                     | <b>Jacob Free</b>          |
| Home in 1790 (City, County, State):       | South Carolina, Orangeburg |
| Free White Persons - Males - Under 16:    | 3                          |
| Free White Persons - Males - 16 and over: | 2                          |
| Free White Persons - Females:             | 5                          |
| Number of Household Members:              | 10                         |

Year: 1790; Census Place: *Orangeburg, South Carolina*; Series: *M637*; Roll: *11*; Page: *390*; Image: *237*; Family History Library Film: *0568151*

His neighbors included Mathias Oswald, Sr. and Jr., and many other Oswalds. This land record for Mathias Oswald is on Twentymile Creek, which is about three miles from Little Hollow Creek, where Jacob acquired his land in 1785. “Lexington” Jacob’s son Martin would one day marry an Oswald.

**Oswald, Mathias**, Plat For 250 Acres In Bartley County. Date: 3/12/1773

People in this record:

Boyd, John; Bremar, John; Murphey, John; Oswald, Mathias; Swint, John

Places in this record:

Berkeley County; Saluda River; **Twenty Mile Creek**

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 3/12/1773

Series: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series) (S213184)

Document type: Plat

Images: Online

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213184 Volume: 0021 Page: 00237 Item: 02

South Carolina Archives

George Keasler/Keasiler also appears a few houses away from Jacob Free at Lexington. Note that Mathias Oswolt also appears on this plat, which names Hollow Creek.

**Keasiler, George**, Plat For 136 Acres On Branches Of **Holler Creek**, Orangeburgh District, Surveyed By William Wright. Date: 12/13/1792

People in this record:

Keasiler, George; Oswolt, John; **Oswolt, Mathias**; Oswolt, Michael; Wright, William

Places in this record:

**Hollow Creek**; Orangeburg District; Saluda River

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 12/13/1792

Series: State Plat Books (Charleston Series) (S213190)

Document type: Plat

Images: Available at SCDAAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213190 Volume: 0031 Page: 00081 Item: 002

South Carolina Archives

**Elisha McGraw** was a few houses away from “Lexington” Jacob Free on this census. Elisha appears to have been a son of William McGraw and Esther Parr, of the McGraws at Little River where Jacob Free lived (see will of Peter Starns, below). When Jacob sold his land there in 1792 the deed was witnessed by Solomon McGraw, a son of Edward McGraw, Sr. (named in his will in 1784). We will come to that deed in a bit.

Elisha McGraw witnessed a land purchase by William McGraw from Jacob Ingleman in 1785 in Fairfield. The land he purchased was half of a grant originally made to John Glickley in 1774, and sold by him to Ingleman. The remaining 50 acres was sold by Jacob Ingleman and Mary to Jacob Free in 1789, making William McGraw and either “Lexington” or “Fairfield” Jacob Free neighbors. Remember, this is the deed where I can’t prove which one of them it was.

Fairfield County South Carolina Deed Book I, p 211

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKW-N7MV-1?i=441&cat=207758>

Elisha also witnessed Simeon (son of Thomas) Free’s land purchase in 1800, as we will see. The McGraw family was deeply connected to the Free families of Fairfield. Their names appear not only with the Thomas and Jacob lines, but with Adam Free and his family, too. David McGraw appears on Peter Starns’ 1771 land record in the Little River area. Several of Starns’ daughters married McGraw men. David McGraw, Jr. witnessed Starns’ will in 1791.

Another very important neighbor of Jacob Free at Lexington in 1790 is **Hugh Brit**. His name followed Jacob to Abbeville, SC, where we next find them in 1800. This is helpful in establishing that Jacob in Abbeville is the same man found in Lexington.

### **Summarizing the 1790 Census Information**

So, to tie up some loose ends, the above information accounts for the four Jacob Free/Frey men on the 1790 census.

According to most Free researchers there should be another Jacob Free, a son of Adam Free, born about 1775. However, whatever the reason, "Fairfield" Jacob Free was never shown on any census I can locate.

**NOTE:** A new name, Simeon Free, has entered the record here. There are several more in the family lines. To distinguish them, I will give them each the following moniker, if you want to copy this page and keep it handy to use for reference as you read.

- Thomas Free's son, born about 1775 – **"Old Man" Simeon Free**
- Martin Free's son born about 1811 – **"Wandering" Simeon Free**
- Lewis Free's son born about 1810 – **"Settled" Simeon Free**
- "Old Man" Simeon Free's son born about 1811 – **"Alabama" Simeon Free**

## MARY FREE, BOUND OVER FOR BASTARDY, FAIRFIELD 1791

In the June 1791 term of the Fairfield County court, Mary Free, along with several other women, was bound over to a guardian on a charge of bastardy.

In the presentment of this grand jury for Fairfield County ordered that letters...to this magistrate to have the following persons bound over to next court for Bastardy that is to say to John Cooks Esq. to bind over Priscilla Seigler Mary Rhoda and Elizabeth Dayley to Hugh Milling Esq. to bind over Mary Free...

Fairfield County, South Carolina Minutes of the County Court of Fairfield, 1791-1799, June 1791 (no page numbers)

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS42-G37G-4?i=44&cat=396628>

In the January 1792 term of the court, several men including Hoziah Frost, Peter Larrows, and William Lathan were brought in for bastardy charges but none of the women in those cases were named. We can't know if one of these men was the father of Mary's child, or not.



**PETER STARN'S WILL IN FAIRFIELD**

In 1791, Peter Starns left a will recorded at Fairfield.

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN, The Twenty Eighth of December 1789 I, **Peter Starns** of South Carolina Campden District being weak in Body and knowing it is appointed for all men to dy, do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament, and first and principally of all I recommend my Soul into the Hands of God, that gave it, and my Body I recommend to the Earth to be Buried at the Descretion of my Friends, and as touching what World Goods it has pleased God to blefs me with I give, Devise and Dispose of in manner & form following, That is to say, FIRST, It is my desire that all my just debts be paid without Trouble or Suits of Law. ITEM. I give and Bequeath unto *my well beloved Wife* **Margaret Starns** one Feather Bed & Furniture Two Cows and Calves all my Swine. One horse, Saddle and Bridle, the Horse the choice of any that is of my Property, One Iron pot, Two Spinning Wheels a large one , and a small one, One plow and Gears, and a third part of the Remainder of all moveables of my whole Estate to her and her heirs for ever. Also I lend to her the use of my Plantation whereon I now dwell and the premises thereon during her Widowhood, and the remainder of the moveables if she sees cause to keep it together, ITEM. *I have six of my Eldest Children four sons and two daughters Viz. My Four Sons* **Charles Starns Ebenezer Starns, Levi Starns & Joel Starns**, *my two Daughters* **Rhoda McGraw and Thamar Free**. I have already bestowed on them such Legacies as I have ability to do, and as so I give and bequeath unto each and every of them one Shilling Sterling mony to them and their Heirs for ever ITEM. *My two younger Sons* **Joshua Starn** and **Peter Starns** I give and Bequeath unto them the Remainder part of movables, and One hundred and Sixteen Acres of Land where on I now live to be equally divided between them, to them and their Heirs for ever, beginning at **Edward McGraws** West corner and running a West Line to **Col. Hunters** line and **Joshua** to have the part where I now live, and if either of my two younger Sons mentioned should dy the other shall have the part left to the Two and if they should both Dy before they come of Age to receive their Inheritance, that Legacies bequeathed to them should be equally divided by lawful Sale, and the forementioned Land containing one hundred and Sixteen Acres be sold for to be equally divided, and *one half of the mony divided between my Six Children and the other half Equally between my wifs Two sons* **Arthur Pharr** and **John Pharr** and as for *movables to be divided, between my Daughter* **Thamar Free**, and *my Wifes Three Daughters,* **Mary Arwin, Esther McGraw and Margaret McGraw**, and I appoint **John Pharr** to act as an Executor, with my Wife, **Margaret Starns**, Executrix, to this my Last Will and Testament, and do hereby disallow, avow, and make void all other Wills, ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last Will and Testament. In Witnefs whereof I hereunto set my Hand and Seal, the Day & Year above written. Signed, Sealed and

Acknowledged

in the presence of us - - - -

*David McGraw Jr.*

Owen Andrews

Elisha Hunter

**Peter Starns** (Seal)

Proved 13<sup>th</sup> September 1791  
1791 D. Evans C C.

Recorded in Will Book #1 Page 125 Sept 20<sup>th</sup>

South Carolina Will Transcripts, 1782 – 1868. Dept. of Archives and History. Archives and Publications Division. 1980.

Ancestry.com. South Carolina, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1670-1980. Available at: [https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9080/images/007649562\\_00058?treeid=68901442&personid=102146999588&usePUB=true&phsrc=xYT1084&phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&pId=540311](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9080/images/007649562_00058?treeid=68901442&personid=102146999588&usePUB=true&phsrc=xYT1084&phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&pId=540311) (Accessed 17 Jul 2021)

As previously noted, Peter's will named his daughter, Thamar Free, and other daughters who married McGraws. His will also named his wife Margaret's sons, Arthur and John Pharr [Parr], and daughters Mary Arwin, Esther McGraw, and Margaret McGraw. Starns had remarried the widow of Arthur Parr. From the Memoir of Enoch Parr, we know that "Arthur [Parr] was killed at Hillsborough, NC, leaving a widow and six children."

"Memoir of Enoch Parr," *Indiana Magazine of History*, Volume 22, Issue 4, pp 371-453

"Memoir of Enoch Parr". JSTOR. Available at: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/27786272?seq=1> (Accessed 17 January 2021)

Esther [Parr] McGraw, named in the will, is stated by most researchers to have married William McGraw. Their son, Corzine, lived by George Free in Fairfield in 1811 (see later deed). Remember **Elisha McGraw**, another brother, witnessed William's land purchase from Jacob Ingleman in 1785. This may be the land where Corzine is living, possibly having inherited it. Corzine's brother William McGraw went to Alabama with "Old Man" Simeon Free and others about 1835. "Lexington" Jacob Free's son, "Alabama" Jacob, and "Alabama's" son Adam ended up in...Alabama.

**THE ABSOLUTE PROOF THERE WERE TWO JACOB FREES IN  
FAIRFIELD, SOUTH CAROLINA IN THE 1760s**

As I promised, now we finally come to the evidence which proves *without question* the existence of two Jacob Frees who were with Lawrence Free when he arrived in Fairfield.

In 1791, **Jacob Free, Jr.** acquired land in the Barnwell area. It is notable that he was referred to as Jr., as stated before. His father “Lynches Creek” Jacob, Sr. was presumably still living as of this date.

**Free, Jacob Jr.**, Plat For 700 Acres In Orangeburgh District, Surveyed By Robert Brown. Date:  
5/16/1791

People in this record:

Free, Jacob Jr.

Also: Brown, Robert

Places in this record:

Orangeburg District

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 5/16/1791

Series: State Plat Books (Charleston Series) (S213190)

Document type: Plat

Images: Available at SCDHAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213190 Volume: 0027 Page: 00051 Item: 001

South Carolina Archives

**On 18 Sept 1792, “Barnwell” Jacob Free and Mary Magdalene Free, both of Orangeburg, sold land at Lynches Creek, South Carolina as the executors of Jacob Free.**

This indenture made this eighteenth day of Sept in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety two between Mary Magdalen Free and Jacob Free Ex<sup>x</sup> and Ex<sup>or</sup> of the estate of Jacob Free both of Orangeburgh District & State of S<sup>o</sup>. Carolina of the one part and Amos Hough of the county of Anson & State of North Carlina...twenty pounds sterling money to them in hand...a certain tract of parcel of land lying in the County of Chesterfield...on the dead pine a branch of Big Lynches Creek...patent bearing the date the nineteenth day of March anno 1773...Mary Magdalen (III) Free’s mark. Jacob Free. Witnesses John Hough, James McDonald, Abraham Hough’s mark.

Personally appeared John Hough...did see Mary Magdalen Free and Jacob Free sign seal and deliver...sworn to and signed before me 12<sup>th</sup> day of August 1794...Richard Bellis J.P.  
(Abstracted by Wanda Tucker)

Lancaster County, South Carolina Deed Book B, p 308



Almost simultaneous to the above sale, **on 4 Oct 1792, “Lexington” Jacob Free in the Little River area in Fairfield, South Carolina sold the land he acquired in 1766 to Jesse Fort.** The deed *specifies* that the **seller Jacob Free** is the same man who was originally granted the land.

This indenture made the fourth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety two...between **Jacob Frie** of the county of \_\_\_\_\_ and the state of South Carolina **and Jesse Fort of the County of Fairfield**....for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred pounds...**one hundred acres originally granted to this Jacob Frie**, by a grant bearing date the third day of June in the year of our Lord 1766...bounded on land laid out to Edward McGraw...Jacob Free his (J) mark. Witnesses: Solomon McGraw (his mark), Ailse Snelgrove (her mark). (Abstracted by Wanda Tucker)

Fairfield County South Carolina Deed Book I, p 9

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKW-NQ1J-9?i=338&cat=207758>

**The sale above occurred *after* the death of “Lynches Creek” Jacob Free. The man selling land to Jesse Fort *must* be the son of Lawrence Free. “Lynches Creek” Jacob *must* be Lawrence’s brother.**

“Lynches” Jacob had a son, “Barnwell” Jacob, but this can’t possibly be him, either, because Jacob Free is on the census Lexington *at the same time* that Jacob Free, Jr. is on the census in Barnwell in 1790. Note in the deed above that although the land in question here was in Fairfield, the county where “Lexington” Jacob Free lives was left blank. He no longer lived in Fairfield; the counties of South Carolina were changing almost constantly in those days, and Lexington probably didn’t even have a name at that time. It certainly was not used as a county in the census; residents were counted as in Orangeburg. Recall that all of “Lexington” Jacob Free’s prior neighbors around the Little River Baptist Church were enumerated in **Fairfield County** in 1790, but Jacob was **not**. He was in Orangeburg/Lexington.

So we have now proved with certainty that when Lawrence Free came to South Carolina, he was accompanied by both his **brother** Jacob, and his **son** Jacob.

NOTE: Another reason why the deed might be so particular in stating “this Jacob Free” was selling the land is the existence of the *other* Jacob Free in Fairfield, Adam Free’s son, who was probably rather notorious in 1792, having just testified against his own grandmother for witchcraft!

## THE WITCH TRIAL OF MARY FREE INGLEMAN, 1792

There is no way to know for sure, of course, but the goings-on in Fairfield around this time may have had something to do with Jacob Free's move to Lexington. His father-in-law had just died, and in 1792, his mother was accused of witchcraft. Although it is more likely it was "Fairfield" Jacob, Adam's son, who testified, it appears at least plausible that one of her accusers was Jacob's son, "Alabama Jacob," as we will see. Which grandson testified is in doubt, at the least.

On 10 Nov 1792, the South Carolina Gazette published an account of a court case being brought in regards to a witch trial in Fairfield. The case was brought by Mary Free Ingleman, Jacob's mother, who was one of the victims of the "trial." Mary sought redress for being tried and tortured by several neighbors. One of these, John Crossland, was said to have "fled west" to avoid paying his fines, but instead only went as far as Lexington County, South Carolina, according to a descendant. In 1800, Crossland is enumerated back in Fairfield County on the census.

Fairfield Genealogy Society. Available at:

[http://fairfieldgenealogysociety.org/Members\\_Only/Families/Free/Documents/The%20Fairfield%20County%20Witch%20Persecution%20of%201792.pdf](http://fairfieldgenealogysociety.org/Members_Only/Families/Free/Documents/The%20Fairfield%20County%20Witch%20Persecution%20of%201792.pdf) (Accessed 9 Jul 2021)

Thomas Hill was chosen to be the judge of the trial. Thomas Hill had land on Cedar Creek and Harmon Creek. This was in the area near "Lexington" Jacob Free's Little River land in Fairfield. This episode was probably a while in the making, and "Lexington" Jacob Free could have been one of Mary Free Ingleman's "associations" with the area that got her into trouble.

### The Gifted Brethren in Lexington, South Carolina

From some accounts of the event, it could be surmised that maybe Jacob himself was suspected, along with other family. Moving into the Lexington area could contribute to that idea.

"In 1792 Fairfield County was across Broad River from **Lexington County** (an arm of Richland County now separates them), where a generation earlier a bizarre cult called the **Gifted Brethren** practiced incredible excesses, deifying three of its leaders as God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost. This bizarre group practiced hypnosis and before it was broken up its leaders hanged or banished for the murders they committed, many of the "gifted" members had come to be considered witches. Colonial records suggest that **Mary Ingelman** was a native of Lexington or a member of a family who had lived there and it seems possible that the imputation of witchcraft followed her when she moved to Fairfield, about 20 miles from the headquarters of the Gifted Brethren. In any case, she was the principal one of the accused, the others being an old Mr. Harding and his wife and an old crone named Sally Smith."

*The Witches of Fairfield, S.C.*, Lee R. Gandee. Fate Magazine, January 1970

Esoteric Columbia [blog]. Available at: <https://esotericcolumbia.blogspot.com/2016/07/the-witches-of-fairfield-sc.html> (Accessed 17 Jul 2021)

It doesn't appear to me from available records that Mary Ingleman ever lived in the Lexington area, but it is possible that her second husband Jacob Ingleman did. That is somewhat unclear. There is a Jacob Ingleman, who may be the son of Jacob Ingleman from an earlier marriage, on the census at Orangeburg in the Lexington area in 1790. Mary Free was probably almost sixty years old when she married Jacob, so

it stands to reason that he had been married before, too. Jacob Engleman appears to be a fairly young man with a small family.

|   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| Name:                                     | <b>Jacob Engleman</b>      |
| Home in 1790 (City, County, State):       | Orangeburg, South Carolina |
| Free White Persons - Males - Under 16:    | 1                          |
| Free White Persons - Males - 16 and over: | 1                          |
| Free White Persons - Females:             | 2                          |
| Number of Household Members:              | 4                          |

Year: 1790; Census Place: *Orangeburg, South Carolina*; Series: *M637*; Roll: *11*; Page: *408*; Image: *246*; Family History Library Film: *0568151*

The census shows Engleman lived next door to Ulrick Meyer, Bartholomew Gartman, Philip Gartman, John Gartman Sr. and Jr., Jacob Booser, George Drehr, Christopher Oswaald, Henry Oswaald, and Valentine Gable.

The Oswalt/Oswald family is all around “Lexington” Jacob Free on the census in 1790. Henry Drehr is a few houses away, next door to Hugh Brit.

If Jacob Ingleman’s son lived in Lexington that ties the family into the area before “Lexington” Jacob Free ever moved in. A later land transaction shows Jacob Free in Lexington as a neighbor of Catherine Keasiller [Keasler], along with Valentine Gable, Philip Gartman, and Christopher and Mathias Oswald. Jacob Free and Jacob Engleman (Jr.) were neighbors in Lexington, as this document makes clear.

South Carolina Plats Book 45, p41

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS21-8SMG-7?i=582&cat=473383>

The Gifted Brethren cult in Lexington is a bizarre and strange tale of its own. When the leaders were caught and tried for their crimes, Jacob Wieber was hanged. People in this time in history were very superstitious and religious, and witchcraft was the explanation for all kinds of unexplainable phenomena.

*History’s Lost Moments: The Stories Your Teacher Never Told You, Vol III*, by Tom Horton. Trafford Publishing, North America and International, 2012

Horton, T. *History’s Lost Moments: The Stories Your Teacher Never Told You, Vol III*. Available at:

[https://books.google.com/books?id=54B\\_BuWTnbQC&pg=PA75&lpg=PA75&dq=The+Gifted+Brethren+south+carolina&source=bl&ots=QZFhgWnVL2&sig=wQOb42qSMzuXtqbgEAXRZNY8s2w&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjsoq\\_j05rfAhXnrVQKHAXwCmkQ6AEwDXoECACQAQ#v=onepage&q=The%20Gifted%20Brethren%20south%20carolina&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=54B_BuWTnbQC&pg=PA75&lpg=PA75&dq=The+Gifted+Brethren+south+carolina&source=bl&ots=QZFhgWnVL2&sig=wQOb42qSMzuXtqbgEAXRZNY8s2w&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjsoq_j05rfAhXnrVQKHAXwCmkQ6AEwDXoECACQAQ#v=onepage&q=The%20Gifted%20Brethren%20south%20carolina&f=false) (Accessed 17 Jul 2021)

We are fortunate that we have a firsthand account of the illegal trial of Mary Free Ingleman. Philip Edward Pearson was a young boy in Fairfield at the time, and was witness to the goings-on. He later wrote an account of it, which ended up in the hands of Lyman C. Draper, a great collector of history. The Lyman C. Draper Collection contains all manner of fascinating historical material. The full handwritten account of the witch trials by Philip E. Pearson is included for reference at the end of this document.

Lyman C. Draper Manuscripts, Volume 24, Series VV, Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah. Philip Edward Pearson, "Superstition, apparition, witchcraft."

### **The Account of the Witch Trial of Mary Free Ingleman by Philip Edward Pearson**

Philip E. Pearson practiced law in South Carolina and served as the Solicitor of the South Carolina Middle Circuit which included Fairfield County. He later moved to Metagorda, Texas. Before he did, he sold his account of the witch trial.

Fate Magazine published an article based on Pearson's story in 1970, based on the material found in Pearson's document. The following is from that publication, as written by Lee R. Gandee:

"Mary Ingelman was accused by Rosy Henley and her sister of having placed a spell on them. Of the two Rosy was the worse affected and the evidence suggests that she was psychically disturbed -- if not actually possessed by devils. The manuscript reads: "Lying in her bed she could not be prevented by the utmost exertions of four strong men from rising up and clinging to the ceiling. They were both bitten on the neck and shoulders and stuck over with pins and splinters. Their case was dreadful . . ."

Pearson makes it clear that he believed the levitations occurred. In fact, a wizard not brought to trial, one Joe Fairs of Lower Fairfield, was accused of affecting two of Drury Walker's daughters in the same manner. Pearson said, "It took four strong men to prevent her (the worse afflicted one) from rising out of her bed to the ceiling. Sometimes she would rise up the wall, slide across the ceiling and descend the opposite wall without injury. There was no doubt as to these phenomena at Walker's."

For a circuit court lawyer to risk his reputation by making such a statement indicates he had complete confidence in the truth of those who reported these levitations. He also must have believed persons still living could and would verify his claim.

Aside from the levitations of the Henley and Walker sisters, the most unusual phenomena occurred in the case of Willing Haw "alias Martha Holley." She testified that after Mary Ingelman bewitched her she ". . . put up (vomited) balls of hair with pins sticking out, was all over the neck and shoulders stuck full of pins and splinters and deprived of all peace and comfort . . ."

The other testimony reads like all testimony in witch trials for as far back as records go. Adam Free, Mary Ingelman's son by a previous marriage, testified that his mother once asked him for one of his cows. When he refused Mary immediately cast a spell on it causing it to spring up convulsively, fall and break its neck.

His son, Jacob Free, testified that his grandmother once turned him into a horse and rode him to Pearson's apple orchard on Broad River six miles from his home. The manuscript relates quaintly, "While she was filling her bag with apples, his eye was attracted by the beautiful red apples that hung over him. He put up his long horse head to obtain a stealthy supply and while he was attempting to do so, she drove a punch into his cheek from the effects of which he did not soon recover."

However, it remained for Isaac Collins to accuse Mary Ingelman of consorting with Satan. "He testified that on one occasion he took his trusty rifle and went out on a deer hunt around McTyre's old field. He saw a deer and tried several times to fire at it but the rifle would not fire. He suspected witchcraft so he removed the ball, split it and inserted a sliver of silver. The then fired; the deer vanished; in its place a large black cat appeared with its front leg wounded and the cat limped away.

"A day or two later he was plowing corn and became thirsty. He went to a spring near the field and while he was resting there Mary Ingelman came up with her arm in a sling and told him that he was to blame for her injury and that she would not forget it.

"He testified that after that she turned him into a horse and rode him to a grand convention of witches. Where, he could not say, but he thought somewhere in North America; and on the way the Devil rode up by her side and observed, 'Mother Ingelman, you have a splendid horse.'

"'Ah,' she said, 'This is that rascal Collins!'"

Faced with this accusation Mary Ingelman offered no defense, nor did any of the others to the charges made against them. They were adjudged guilty and sentenced to be punished.

As punishment they first were tied by the wrists and hanged to joists in the building where they were flogged, the newspaper account says, brutally. They were taken down, "then placed with their feet to a bark fire and confined there until the soles popped off." After this torture they were released and allowed to crawl away. The Hardings and Mary Ingelman escaped further abuse but Sally Smith was found some distance from the Hill plantation by a vindictive man who "cast her down and placed a pine log across her neck. She could not stir and the next day was relieved by a benevolent person passing along the path."

Despite this treatment none of the four victims died as a direct result of it and the witch-hunters began to consider action against Hezekiah Hunt and his wife, Mourning Hunt, who were strongly suspected.

Evidently the group felt that public opinion protected them. Of the four only Mary Ingelman attempted to have anyone brought to justice for the outrages committed upon her. In all Camden District she found only one magistrate who would issue a warrant for anyone's arrest. He was The Rev. William Yongue, a Presbyterian minister, so shocked by the circumstances that he ignored public opinion. He issued a warrant for the arrest of John Crossland who was tried in the County Court, found guilty of aggravated assault and sentenced to be fined five pounds. He never paid it but fled "the far west," which in 1792 meant Georgia or Alabama. Pearson expressed some sympathy for him saying that ". . . other better-informed men than Crossland also participated . . ." and were not punished.

Early in the account Mr. Pearson referred to Mrs. Ingelman as ". . . the dreadful old Mary Ingelman" but apparently this was intended as irony. In concluding his account he wrote: "Some persons now living may remember the great witch Mary Ingelman. She was a remarkably neat, tidy and decent old lady. She was of German extraction and probably a native of Germany. Her conversation was pleasant, entertaining, instructive; her manners mild, simple and agreeable. Her knowledge in pharmacy was considerable and her application of simples in the cure of country complaints was the result of much observation and gratuitous practice. . . ." He added that she was a pious old soul and that when her spirit left this earth it probably went to a better place.

In Salem, Rebecca Nurse was described in much the same way and Rebecca Nurse was put to death. Being a "remarkably neat, tidy and decent" person is no protection, nor is benevolence and piety when a community falls under the spell of a witch-hunt.

In Salem horror and excess brought about its own reaction. In Fairfield the delusion was broken by a wise minister, "Preacher Woodward," who announced that he would preach on witchcraft and thus attracted a huge crowd. The crowd was keyed to a high pitch of expectancy and the minister began by admitting that sorcery and magic exist, that indeed there are witches. However, he declared with mock seriousness, people should not imagine that old or ugly women were witches. What woman with supernatural powers would use them to make herself ugly or old, he asked the congregation. Rather, he said, suspect beautiful girls of witchcraft, since with a look and

a few words murmured in a certain way they can draw boys away from their families, turn them first into lackeys and at last into lifelong toilers. Wizards, he averred, are not to be found among old, broken men but among the young and handsome who with a touch and a murmur can deprive a girl of her senses and turn the most lissome and carefree maiden into a servant and a household drudge.

The tension broke. The crowd laughed and the Fairfield witch-hunt was over. No more did Rosy Henley and the Walker girl rise to the ceiling. No more did William Haw 'put up balls of hair with pins sticking out.' Witchcraft and laughter cannot coexist."

*The Witches of Fairfield, S.C.*, Lee R. Gandee

We have the benefit of details not known to Mr. Gandee when he wrote this article about the witch trial. A descendent of John Crossland found that he only "fled" as far as Lexington County, and census info tells us he returned to Fairfield before 1800.

The "wise Preacher Woodward" was probably William Woodward, who showed up in this narrative earlier as the minister associated with the Little River Baptist Church near where "Lexington" Jacob Free owned land, approving the church at Mobley's Settlement in 1798.

There is a glaring and **very** important error in the "Fate Magazine" story when it is compared to the original hand-written Pearson document:

"The other testimony reads like all testimony in witch trials for as far back as records go. Adam Free, Mary Ingelman's son by a previous marriage, testified that his mother once asked him for one of his cows. When he refused Mary immediately cast a spell on it causing it to spring up convulsively, fall and break its neck.

**His son, Jacob Free**, testified that his grandmother once turned him into a horse and rode him to Pearson's apple orchard on Broad River six miles from his home."

In the original, Pearson merely states that Mary Ingleman's **grandson Jacob** testified against her. It is NEVER stated that he was specifically Adam Free's son. "Lexington" Jacob Free also had a son, "Alabama" Jacob, as proven by later documents as I will show. "Alabama" Jacob Free would have been about fifteen years old in 1792.

Almost immediately after the trial, which occurred right in the area where "Lexington" Jacob lived, he sold his land there to church member Jesse Fort.

*Little River Baptist Church, Fairfield County, South Carolina, 1794-1820 Minutes & Membership rolls*, Prepared by Lee Ann Gerhart

There are only *two* land records for a Jacob Free that could possibly be Adam Free's son Jacob, as we will address in due course.

## THE LAST DOCUMENT FOR “LYNCHEs CREEK” JACOB FREE

On 26 Nov 1794, “**Barnwell**” **Jacob Free, Jr.** and his mother **Mary Magdalene** sold a second piece of land at Lynchess Creek to Hugh McManus. This land was originally conveyed to Jacob Free, Sr. by Thomas, Mary, and James McManus. This is the deed in which Jacob Free, Jr. is named as a “hatter.”

This Indenture made this twenty sixth day of November in the year of our lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety four between Jacob Free son and one of the heirs of the estate of Jacob Free dec'd. of the State of South Carolina Hatter of the one part and Hugh McManer of the County of Chesterfield and the State aforesaid of the other part...in consideration of the sum of one hundred pounds...once certain tract of parcel of land lying and being with the District of Lancaster on both sides Big Lynchess Creek...containing two hundred acres the said being conveyed to Jacob Free dec'd by Thomas McManer, Mary McManer and James McManer...whereof the said Free hath hereunto set his hand and seal the date above written. Jacob Free (seal) Mary (her mark) Magdalene Free. Witnesses: Robert Walsh (his mark), William Jsom (sp?) (his mark)

South Carolina Chesterfield District. Personally appeared...Robert Walsh...saw Jacob Free and Mary Magdalene Free sign...did see Wm. Jsom sign...Robt. (X) Walsh(his mark) sworn and subscribed before me the fifth of May 1796 James Blakeney J.P.  
(Abstracted by Wanda Tucker)

Lancaster County, South Carolina Deed Book G, p153

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLV-PQWL-R?i=227&cat=472451>

This is the last document in the Lancaster County/Lynchess Creek area for Jacob Free and family.



*Hat-maker.*

## THE WILL OF JOHN LANGFORD, 1796; WITNESSED BY “LEXINGTON” JACOB FREE

John Langford’s will was proved in Newberry County, South Carolina 29 Feb 1796.

**Langford, John** Of Newberry County, Will Typescript (Mss Will: Estate Record Book A, Page 382) (1 Frame). Date: 2/29/1796

People in this record:

Carter; Cotton, Joseph; **Free, Jacob**; Langford, Anne; Langford, Asa; Langford, Jacob; Langford, John; Langford, William

Places in this record:

Buffalo Creek

Also: Newberry County

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 2/29/1796

Series: South Carolina Will Transcripts (Microcopy No 9) (S108093)

Document type: Will (Typescript)

Images: Online

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S108093 Reel: 0018 Frame: 00587 Item: 000

South Carolina Archives

Newberry County South Carolina Wills Book A, p382

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939L-JF52-Y?i=217&cc=1919417&cat=448459>

Langford had been a minister at Cloud’s Creek Baptist Church. He was retired by 1793.

South Carolina Baptists, 1670-1805 by Leah Townsend, Ph.D.

Jacob Free witnessed Langford’s will. It is after much consideration that I have come to understand this was “Lexington” Jacob Free. There is so much evidence of Jacob moving from church to church that it is logical to think that he was a visitor to a former minister of a church in his neighborhood. The name is also spelled “Lankford,” and others of that name are found in Abbeville, which is where Jacob was in 1800. Also, there is evidence presented in the “Handwriting on the Wall” chapter to come that is very persuasive that this is “Lexington” Jacob.



## “BARNWELL” JACOB FREE LAND

“Barnwell” Jacob Free, Jr. the latter continued to acquire land in the Barnwell area, after his father’s death and the sale of the land in the Lynches Creek area.

**Free, Jacob**, Plat For 870 Acres On Georges Creek, Orangeburgh District, Surveyed By James Thurston. Date: 8/10/1799

People in this record:

Corbitt, Joseph; Free, Jacob; Newman; Thomson; Thurston, James; Toney, Benjamin

Places in this record:

**Georges Creek**; Orangeburgh District; **Salkehatchie River**

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 8/10/1799

Series: State Plat Books (Columbia Series) (S213192)

Document type: Plat

Images: Available at SCDAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213192 Volume: 0037 Page: 00342 Item: 002

South Carolina Archives



## **ADAM FREE'S DAUGHTER MARY INDENTURES HER ILLEGITIMATE SONS**

In 1797, Mary Free, married by then to John Spillar, indentured her two illegitimate sons to her father Adam Free.

This Indenture made the second day of May in the year of our lord one thousand and seven hundren and ninety seven; witnesseth that Mary Spillar of Fairfield County and State of South Carolina...doth put place and bind her two sons John Free and William Free as apprentices with Adam Free of the said county and state planter...until the said John Free and William Free shall come to be of the age of twenty one years...in witness whereof the said Mary Spillar hath hereunto set her hand and seal...Mary Spillar (seal) Signed sealed and delivered in the presence of Benj. May J.P. Recorded 21<sup>st</sup> July 1797 (Abstracted by Wanda Tucker)

Fairfield County, South Carolina Deed Book K, p462

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKW-NQ11-Y?i=804&cat=207758>

Again we can only speculate as to who the father of these two boys might have been as there is no record, bastardy case or otherwise, to prove who he was.



## FREES IN THE 1800 CENSUS

Sometime between the 1790 and 1800 censuses, “Lexington” Jacob Free moved from Lexington to Abbeville, South Carolina. The clues to knowing this is the same man are there as you will see as we move along.

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Name:                                       | <b>Jacob Free</b>         |
| Home in 1800 (City, County, State):         | Abbeville, South Carolina |
| Free White Persons - Males - Under 10:      | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Males -10 thru 15:     | 2                         |
| Free White Persons - Males - 45 and over:   | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - 16 thru 25:  | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - 45 and over: | 1                         |
| Number of Household Members Under 16:       | 3                         |
| Number of Household Members Over 25:        | 2                         |
| Number of Household Members:                | 6                         |

Year: 1800; Census Place: *Abbeville, South Carolina*; Series: *M32*; Roll: *47*; Page: *30*; Image: *65*;  
Family History Library Film: *181422*

Note that Jacob Free is over 45, making him born before 1755. This is a clue to his identity, as we think that Adam Free’s son “Fairfield” Jacob was only about 28-29 years old at this date. We know that “Barnwell” Jacob Free, Jr. was in Barnwell and “Lynches Creek” Jacob, Sr. was deceased. Jacob Frey of Newberry we dispensed with earlier. Of the early Jacobs in South Carolina, “Lexington” Jacob is the only one this could be.

Another helpful clue tying Jacob in Lexington in 1790 to Jacob ten years later at Abbeville is **Hugh Brit**. On the 1790 census at Lexington, Brit was one of Jacob Free’s neighbors. He is shown as a neighbor on this land record at Hollow Creek.

Senterfits, Henry, Plat For 200 Acres On Waters Of Holle Creek, Orangeburgh District, Surveyed  
By William Wright. Date: 5/8/1790

People in this record:

**Brit, Hugh**; Kofman, Christopher; Oliphant, Dr.; Senterfits, Henry; Wright, William

Places in this record:

**Hollow Creek**; Orangeburg District; Saluda River

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 5/8/1790

Series: State Plat Books (Charleston Series) (S213190)

Document type: Plat

Images: Available at SCDHAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213190 Volume: 0027 Page: 00112 Item: 002

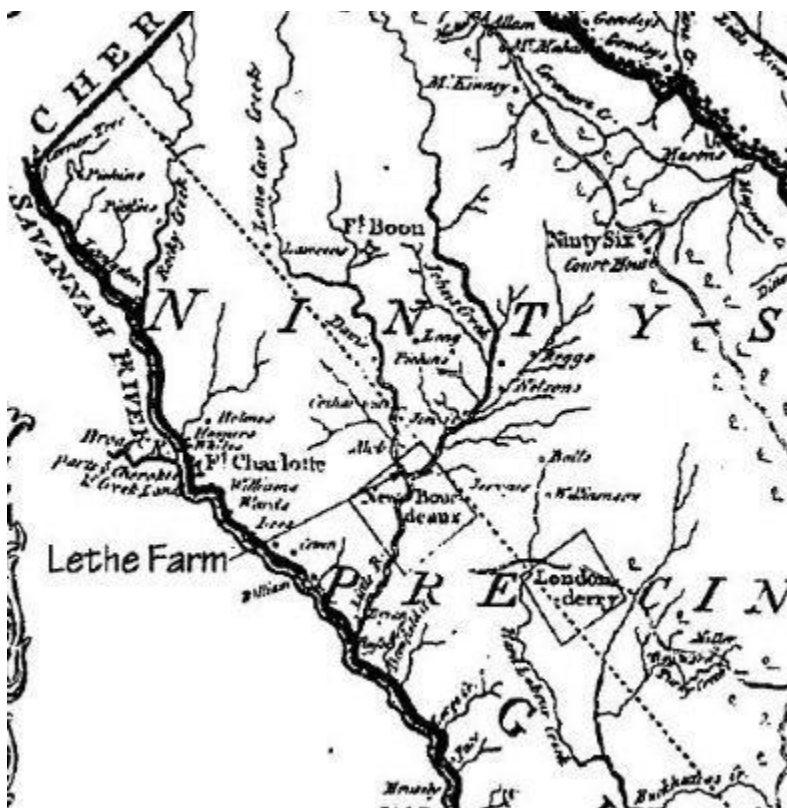
South Carolina Archives

The original plat showing Hugh Brit’s land on the deed above can be viewed online at the SC Archives.

When “Lexington” Jacob Free purchased land in Edgefield in 1804 (deed shown later), the deed named **Hugh Brit** as his neighbor. These two men probably moved west together. Edgefield and Abbeville were adjacent counties at the time.

Looking at “Lexington” Jacob’s neighbors on the 1800 Abbeville census, and land records from the time period leads me to conclude that **Hillsborough Township** was the area where Jacob had moved. Peter Moragne, one of the founders of the town of New Bordeaux within the larger township, appears three households away from Jacob on the 1800 census at Abbeville. Delishaw (De Le Howe) and Gillabow (Guillebeau) names also appear very close by, and are associated with the formation of the township. This area was on the line between Abbeville and Edgefield counties.

This is an early map of the area around New Bordeaux.



The Historical Marker Database. Available at: <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=51286> (Accessed 13 Jul 2021)

Next door to Jacob Free at Abbeville in 1800, **Lewis Free** appears.

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| Name:                                    | <b>Lewis Free</b>         |
| Home in 1800 (City, County, State):      | Abbeville, South Carolina |
| Free White Persons - Males - Under 10:   | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 25: | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - Under 10: | 1                         |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Free White Persons - Females - 16 thru 25: | 1 |
| Number of Household Members Under 16:      | 2 |
| Number of Household Members:               | 4 |

Year: 1800; Census Place: *Abbeville, South Carolina*; Series: *M32*; Roll: *47*; Page: *30*; Image: *65*;  
Family History Library Film: *181422*

Lewis Free never appears on another document with Jacob Free. Many people have thus refused to credit that Lewis is Jacob's son. Later in this document, I will outline the naming patterns in multiple Free family lines and other information which clears up any doubt that these two men are father and son. Lewis was born in 1775 according to census information. Even without the information tying Jacob Free at Abbeville to "Lexington" Jacob Free and confirming him as the same man, the Jacob on the Abbeville census was born before 1755. The likelihood that the two men are brothers is very low. The *totality* of the information, what I have already outlined and what is to come, confirms that "Lexington" Jacob Free is Lewis Free's father.

Lewis Free married a woman named Cheriah, according to the one document we have with her name, a church record. I will address Cheriah and her history in the "Mystery of Cheriah Free" chapter.

Abraham Free appeared just a few houses away from Jacob and Lewis Free in 1800. From the census at Lexington in 1790, this would appear to be the other man over age 16 listed with Jacob. Abraham was most likely Jacob's oldest son.

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| Name:                                      | <b>Abraham Free</b>       |
| Home in 1800 (City, County, State):        | Abbeville, South Carolina |
| Free White Persons - Males - Under 10:     | 2                         |
| Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44:   | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - Under 10:   | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44: | 1                         |
| Number of Household Members Under 16 :     | 3                         |
| Number of Household Members Over 25 :      | 2                         |
| Number of Household Members:               | 5                         |

Year: 1800; Census Place: *Abbeville, South Carolina*; Series: *M32*; Roll: *47*; Page: *31*; Image: *66*;  
Family History Library Film: *181422*

Abraham Free was found in Abbeville again in 1810 with children the appropriate age to be the same family. In 1820, the family had vanished. I was unable to determine where they went.

In Barnwell, Jacob Free, Jr. and John Free appeared on the census. There are no other Frees in the area; this leads me to wonder if some of the four males over 16 listed in the household of Jacob Free, Sr. in 1790 might have been hired or indentured men rather than family.

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| Name:                                      | <b>Jacob Free</b>        |
| Home in 1800 (City, County, State):        | Barnwell, South Carolina |
| Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 25:   | 1                        |
| Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44:   | 1                        |
| Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 15: | 2                        |
| Free White Persons - Females - 16 thru 25: | 1                        |
| Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44: | 1                        |

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Number of Slaves:                     | 2 |
| Number of Household Members Under 16: | 2 |
| Number of Household Members Over 25:  | 2 |
| Number of Household Members:          | 8 |

Year: 1800; Census Place: *Barnwell, South Carolina*; Series: *M32*; Roll: *47*; Page: *56*; Image: *113*;  
 Family History Library Film: *181422*

Notably, there were slaves in this Jacob Free's household. This is one of the ways to distinguish which branch of the family this man comes from. Some Frees had slaves, others did not, and religion seems to be the reason.

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| Name:                                      | <b>John Free</b>         |
| Home in 1800 (City, County, State):        | Barnwell, South Carolina |
| Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 25:   | 1                        |
| Free White Persons - Females - Under 10:   | 3                        |
| Free White Persons - Females - 16 thru 25: | 1                        |
| Number of Household Members Under 16:      | 3                        |
| Number of Household Members:               | 5                        |

Year: 1800; Census Place: *Barnwell, South Carolina*; Series: *M32*; Roll: *47*; Page: *56*; Image: *114*;  
 Family History Library Film: *181422*

John Free was probably Jacob Free, Jr.'s brother. He was a young man with a new family, but with three children under the age of ten, he was probably at least twenty-five years old. There were no under-16 males to account for John on the 1790 census in either Jacob Jr.'s or Sr.'s households, but depending on the date the census was enumerated, John was probably listed as over 16. The census data doesn't exclude John as a son of Jacob.

Although we know they are present from land and other court records, all the remaining Frees, including Adam, "Fairfield" Jacob, and George in Fairfield are missing from the census in 1800.

## “OLD MAN” SIMEON FREE ENTERS THE RECORD

Meanwhile back in Fairfield on 21 Nov 1800, “**Old Man**” **Simeon Free** bought eighty acres of land from **Aaron Gosa**. The land was described as “where **Aaron Gosa, Jr.** now lives...on McClures Creek, a branch of Beaver Creek of Broad River. **William Yongue’s** line, **John Starns** line. Witnesses: William Yongue and **Elisha McGraw**.”

Fairfield County, South Carolina Deed Book N, p301

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKW-V3Q9-D?i=406&cat=207758>

“Old Man” Simeon Free appears to be the son of Thomas Free who was listed as under age 16 in Thomas’s household in 1790. The land above is very near the area where Thomas was found on the census. Extensive study of Thomas’s neighbors allowed me to place him on the map.

A plat map developed and provided to me by Robert Atteberry, a descendant of the Arthurburys of the Chester area of South Carolina, gave wonderful clues as to where Thomas and Simeon lived. Robert’s blog is extensive, and contains a wealth of Atteberry/Arthurbury information. The plat maps he created show many Arthurburys in Chester County, South Carolina, but also included many of the people found around Thomas Free in 1790.

Chapter 20 – Charles Arthurbury of Chester County. Available at:

<https://williamatterburyimmigrant.com/2020/07/21/chapter-20-charles-arthurbury-of-chester-county/> (Accessed 17 Jul 2021)

Also notice that **Elisha McGraw**, mentioned earlier as the son of Jacob Free’s Little River neighbor William McGraw (son of Esther Parr, step-daughter of Peter Starns), was a witness to “Old Man” Simeon’s land purchase. As previously noted, Elisha was a witness when William McGraw (it is unclear if this was Sr. or Jr.) purchased land from Jacob Ingleman in Fairfield in 1785, and Elisha’s brother William, Jr. went to Alabama with Simeon Free. The McGraw family is tightly tied multiple lines of the Frees.

I was unable to locate a document showing when the land Simeon bought was acquired by Aaron Gosa, Sr., but there is a plat in the correct area from 1793 for Read Evans and Robert Craig which shows “Gossy land.” Land belonging to Robert Coleman was nearby.

Camden District South Carolina Plat Book E, p420

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS42-XKKQ?i=658&cat=396665>

Members of the Coleman family would eventually own “Old Man” Simeon’s land.

“Old man Simeon Free lived at the head of McClures Creek years ago, but he and all of his children moved to the west. The children of Wiley and Hiram Coleman own all of the Henderson and Free land.”

History of Fairfield County, South Carolina by William Ederington. Willo Publishing Company, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 1902

History of Fairfield County, South Carolina, Ederington, W. Available at:  
<https://archive.org/details/historyoffairfieoeder> (Accessed 13 Jul 2021)

Later there is another important connection in Edgefield County, South Carolina between the Frees, the Gosas, and another family, the Keziahs, one of whom married Lewis Free.



## SLAVERY AND THE FREE FAMILY LINES

One thing that distinguishes “Lexington” Jacob Free and his line is the fact that they never appear to have owned slaves. The Dunker Baptist faith, similarly to the Quakers, was against slavery. They were also pacifists, which accounts for the fact that none of the Frees appeared to fight in the Revolution.

It is possible there was something of a schism in the family over slavery. After arriving in South Carolina, it appears that some members of the family broke with the Dunker proscription against slavery.

*“It was considered good, and also concluded unanimously, that no brother or sister should have negroes as slaves; and in case a brother or sister had such he or she was to set them free.”* This had the effect of barring members from Communion and even disfellowshipping those who persisted in retaining slaves. Again the issue was similarly reflected in the minutes of the 1713 Conference held at Coventry, Pennsylvania.

But how did the Dunkers feel about having slaves or negroes in full membership status? The first mention is found in the 1835 Conference minutes from Cumberland County, Pennsylvania: *“It is considered, that inasmuch as the gospel is to be preached to all nations and races, and if they come as repentant sinners, believing in the gospel of Jesus Christ, and apply for baptism, we could not confidently refuse them.”*

Sidelights of Brethren History, by Ankrum Freeman. Elgin: Brethren Press, 1962, p. 91-92

Lawrence Free’s *brother* “Lynches Creek” Jacob and Jacob’s son Jacob, who ended up in the Barnwell area by 1790, were listed on the census as slave owners. When Adam Free apparently lost his wits for a while about 1807 (more about that later), he gave everything he owned, including a slave girl, to his son George, who for his part was shown as having 16 slaves on the 1820 census. Susannah Free, the widow of Adam’s son James is shown with one slave in her household in 1810. Her husband’s estate inventory in 1811 identifies the slave as a man named Dick. When “Old Man” Simeon Free died in Greene, Alabama in 1860, his inventory reported eighteen slaves. Young Adam Free provided slaves to the overseer of the roads in

Mixed court records (Lawrence County, Alabama), 1818-1950, Box 273, Folder 32

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C91H-H9PH-8?i=826&cat=1419991>

These Free family lines were apparently unmoved by their religion’s prohibition against slavery.

Meanwhile, Lawrence’s *son* “Lexington” Jacob and his son Jacob, and their families on down, until the Civil War abolished the practice, are **never** shown to have owned slaves in any record.

Further, Lewis Free, a descendant of the “Lexington” line of Jacob Frees, was shown as a founding member of the Providence Baptist Church in Habersham County, Georgia, in 1825. This church’s members felt so strongly about the institution of slavery that the church felt it necessary to issue a proclamation that its members could have “fellowship” with others who didn’t oppose the “Benevolent Institute of the day,” slavery:

*“On September 11, 1837, the church in conference passed this resolution: "Resolved that difference of opinion concerning the Benevolent Institute of the day ought not to destroy our fellowship one for the other as Christians, and that every individual ought to be left to the free*

exercise of his own judgment. No power on earth having just right to compel any to contribute or withhold contrary to their own free will.””

Habersham County Churches-Providence Baptist Church. Available at:  
<http://thegagenweb.com/gahabersham/church/providence.htm> (Accessed 14 Jul 2021)

It is apparent from the above that the topic of slavery was a contentious one in the group. One can only imagine it was contentious among the Frees. The “Lexington” Jacob line had several members who were either ministers or elders of their churches, and appears more “connected” to religion in general.

All of this information is important for understanding how the lines of the Free family dispersed and changed after coming to the South Carolina area. As their religious and social beliefs changed, the family scattered.

## MIGRATING WITH THE CHURCHES

When considering why Jacob and Lewis Free might have migrated to the Abbeville area, I considered one very plausible reason. Religion as we have seen played a large role in some branches of the Free family. The early members of the Free family were Dunkers. The Dunker Baptist movement began in Germany in 1708. The name “Dunker” came from their belief in full-immersion baptism. They were more formally known as the German Baptist Brethren. War, famine, and religious disputes led many Germans, including Dunkers, to come to colonial America in the early 1700s.

Gordon, R. J., Little Dunker Church, Who are the Dunkers? 1998. Available at: <https://www.cob-net.org/antietam/dunkers.htm> (Accessed 28 Jul 2021)

While they were originally Dunker Baptists, the South Carolina Frees gradually assimilated into the “New Light” Baptist tradition spread by Shubael Stearns. Stearns founded “New Light Baptist” **Sandy Creek Baptist Church** in North Carolina, in Guilford. His ministry was built there in conjunction with his brothers Peter and Ebenezer, along with Rev. Daniel Marshall and Joseph Breed.

Morgan, D. T. Stearns, Shubal, Jr. 1994. <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/stearns-shubal-jr> (Accessed 28 Jul 2021)

In order that the churches spread, these men separated and moved away from Sandy Creek. Recall that Peter Starns, Shubael’s brother and Jacob Free’s father-in-law, assisted in the formation of the church at Little River, where Jacob Free lived until about 1789, and prior to that was probably at Broad River where Lawrence Free had settled in 1760 with Daniel Marshall, before Marshall moved on to the Edgefield area.

Marshall founded a church at Big Stevens Creek in Edgefield in 1762, about 30 miles south of where Jacob and Lewis Free are found in 1800. The churches at Fairforest, Little River of Broad, Lynches Creek, Bush River, Buffalo and Big Stevens Creek constituted the Congaree Association.

“Marshall continued for some years as minister of Big Stevens Creek Baptist Church. In 1772 he was assisted by his son Abraham Marshall, and by Benjamin Perry, Saunders Walker and John Herndon.

At that time the church was a member of Congaree Association, having been dismissed from the Sandy Creek “Separate” Association; however, the “Separate” peculiarities of service were retained.”

The Historical Marker Database. Available at: <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=12860> (Accessed 18 Jul 2021)

The sects of “New Light” or “Separate” Baptist churches were set in opposition to the Church of England in the Colonies by their very existence. This led to the churches banding together and eventually melding into the widespread Baptist church network across the South.

The Congaree association met at Fairforest in September of 1776 with delegates from all of these churches.

South Carolina Baptists, 1670-1805 by Leah Townsend, Ph.D. p159

South Carolina Baptists, 1670-1805, Townsend, L. Available at: <http://docshare04.docshare.tips/files/27025/270255287.pdf> (Accessed 18 Jul 2021)

In 1800, Jacob and his son Lewis (and possibly Abraham) are found in Abbeville, SC. This is near Big Stevens Creek Baptist Church. Jacob certainly knew Daniel Marshall from the church and through his brother-in-law Peter Starns, and likely re-connected with Marshall when he went to the area near his church in Edgefield.

Jacob could have attended the church at Buffalo Creek, which was only few miles away from him. One of Jacob's near neighbors in 1800 was Drury Brazeal. Brazeal's brother Enoch was the founding pastor of Buffalo Baptist Church. Brazeal got land in the area in 1784.

Brazeal, Drury, Plat For 150 Acres In **Hillsborough Township**, Ninety Six District, Surveyed By Patrick Calhoun. Date: 8/28/1784

People in this record:

Brazeal, Drury; Calhoun, Patrick; David, John; Pierce, Samuel

Places in this record:

Hillsboro Township; Ninety Six District

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 8/28/1784

Series: State Plat Books (Charleston Series) (S213190)

Document type: Plat

Images: Available at SCDAAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213190 Volume: 0003 Page: 00006 Item: 001

South Carolina Archives

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State of SOUTH-CAROLINA.

| Counties.        | Churches             | Af. Con.   | Ministers.           |            |
|------------------|----------------------|------------|----------------------|------------|
| 1 Abbeville,     | Buffalow Creek,      | Ge.        | <i>Enoch Brazeal</i> | 27 2-10    |
| 2                | Hogskin Creek,       |            |                      | 30 2-8     |
| 3                | Lower Rocky River,   | Ge.        |                      | 26 2-10    |
| 4                | Redbanks, little Sa- | Ge.        | <i>Joseph Thomas</i> | 60 2-10    |
|                  | Inda River,          |            | <i>Henry King</i>    |            |
| 5                | Rocky River,         | G. G. 1790 | Nathaniel Hall       | G. 16 2-10 |
| 6                | Savannah River,      |            |                      |            |
|                  | Love's Ferry,        | 1790       | Lewis Skelton * (a)  | 30 2-10    |
| 7 Beaufort dist. | Coofahatchie Creek,  | C. 1759    | <i>Levi Youmans</i>  | 61 3-10    |
| 8                | Ewhaw Creek.         | C. 1745    | <i>John Coldwire</i> | 101 2-10   |

The universal register of the Baptist denomination in North America, 1790-1793 and part of 1794. John Asplund

The universal register of the Baptist denomination in North America, 1790-1793. Asplund, J. Available at: <http://baptiststudiesonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Ashplund-Universal-Register-1794.pdf> (Accessed 14 Jul 2021)

Jacob's grandson, Lewis Lafayette Free, became a well-known Baptist minister. Jacob Free's other grandson Martin Free (son of Martin) was also a moderator/preacher at **Hightower Baptist Church** in Lumpkin County, Georgia.

Hightower Baptist Church Minutes Part 2: 1868-1877. Transcribed and contributed by Barbara E. McDonald. Available at:

[https://sites.rootsweb.com/~galumpki/church/HightowerChart\\_Part2a.htm?ga=2.199026799.1524637176.1612367930-1974958494.1612367930](https://sites.rootsweb.com/~galumpki/church/HightowerChart_Part2a.htm?ga=2.199026799.1524637176.1612367930-1974958494.1612367930) (Accessed 28 July 2021)

**Elisha Free**, the son of Lewis Free and Cheriah, represented Salem Church in Habersham County at the Georgia Baptist Association (see document below). This was sometime prior to 1840. The document is undated.

On the same State of the Churches document, **Solomon Tatum**, father of **Mary Ann Tatum** who married **Lewis Lafayette Free**, represented Naucoochy Church in Habersham. Mary Ann's mother was Susannah Trotter. Susannah's brother-in-law **Benjamin West** who married her sister Thursey, represented Amy's Creek Church. **Edward Williams** and his son **Etheldred**, whose family who intersect the Frees in my line ("Lexington" Jacob) several generations later, represented Chechero Church in neighboring Rabun County. **Frederick Canup**, another of the founders of Providence Baptist Church is still representing it at this point. Elijah **Sutton** is with Canup. **Irena Sutton** married "Settled" Simeon Free. The **Chastains** are found representing Macedonia Church. In 1850, **Polly Chastain**, born 1800, is found living in the household of **William Williams**, Edward Williams' son. Macedonia is the church where **Simmie Free** (descendant of Martin b. 1787) and his line are later found.

This document is a Who's-Who of the Frees and collateral families.

**A TABLE SHOWING THE STATE OF THE CHURCHES.**

Ministers' Names in SMALL CAPITALS; Aseentees marked thus \*

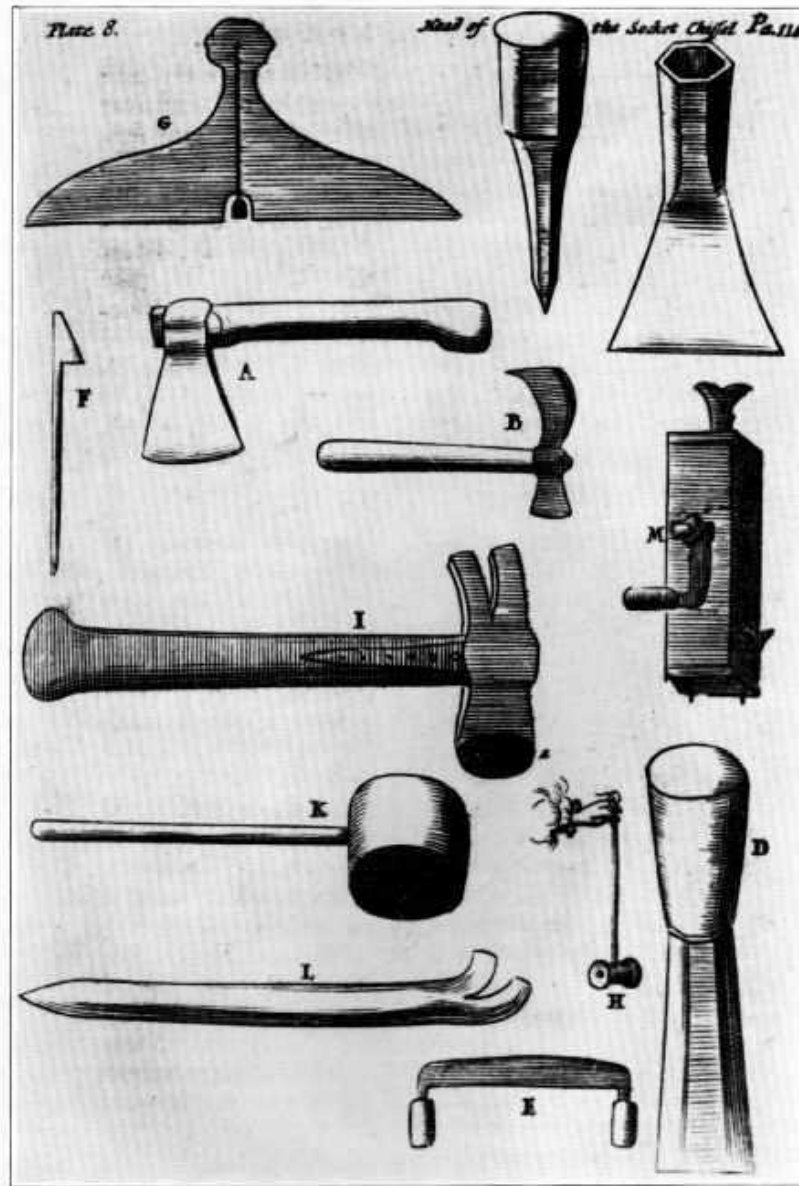
| CHURCHES and COUNTIES.     | DELEGATES' NAMES.                                       | Meeting days | Baptized | Restored | Received | Dismissed | Excom'd. | Deceased | Total | Preachers | Contributions |          |
|----------------------------|---|--------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|-------|-----------|---------------|----------|
| Antioch, Habersham County. | JOHN SUGGS, John Nix, Abel Taylor,                      |              | 3        | 0        | 0        | 6         | 0        | 0        | 40    | 1         | \$1 50        |          |
| Amy's Creek, do            | S. Sisk, Benjamin West, Gabriel Sisk, Sen'r.            |              | 4        | 0        | 3        | 1         | 1        | 0        | 30    | 0         | 1 31 1/2      |          |
| Bethlehem, do              | Dozier Sutton, Wm. Wellbanks, Nathan Hanks,             |              | 1        | 3        | 0        | 3         | 6        | 0        | 24    | 0         | 1 50 1/2      |          |
| Blue Creek, do             | Thomas Moore, Wm. Henderson, Lazarus Wood*              |              | 3        | 2        | 0        | 3         | 2        | 0        | 1     | 34        | 0             | 1 00     |
| Camp Creek, do             | Henry Davis, Stephen Cobb, Wm. S. Meeks,                |              | 2        | 1        | 0        | 1         | 2        | 1        | 04    | 24        | 0             | 1 75     |
| Choastoh, Union County.    | Little Ingram, Joseph Souther, John Souther*            |              | 2        | 0        | 3        | 2         | 5        | 4        | 0     | 34        | 0             | 1 15 1/2 |
| Chechero, Rabun do         | Edward Williams, Etheldredge Williams,* David G. Love,* |              | 4        | 0        | 1        | 3         | 1        | 0        | 0     | 12        | 0             | 50       |
| Highwassee, Union, do      | J. D. Franks, Nathaniel Hogan, John Kirby,              |              | 1        | 6        | 0        | 12        | 1        | 0        | 0     | 30        | 0             | 1 50     |
| Ivy Log, do do             | ELISHA HUNT, ELISHA HEDDEN, Joseph Patterson,           |              | 4        | 2        | 0        | 1         | 0        | 0        | 0     | 18        | 2             | 1 50     |
| Macedonia, do do           | JEHU CHASTAIN, ABNER CHASTAIN, Jackson Hughes,          |              | 3        | 3        | 0        | 12        | 2        | 0        | 1     | 57        | 2             | 2 50     |
| Mud Creek, Habersham do    | William Grant, Henry Tankersley, Willis R. Ivey,        |              | 4        | 5        | 0        | 7         | 6        | 0        | 2     | 35        | 0             | 1 50     |
| Mount Zion, do do          | Ruffin Giun, John Weaver, Moses Shierly,                |              | 2        | 2        | 1        | 5         | 0        | 2        | 0     | 37        | 0             | 1 00     |
| Naucoochy, do do           | Solomon Tatum, Benjamin Cleveland, John Lovelady,*      |              | 3        | 0        | 0        | 0         | 2        | 0        | 0     | 22        | 0             | 1 50     |
| Providence, do do          | JAMES WEST, FREDERICK CANUP, Elijah Sutton,             |              | 2        | 2        | 4        | 1         | 11       | 2        | 0     | 50        | 3             | 1 25     |
| Salem, do do               | Elisha Free, William L. Crous, Alfred Hicks,            |              | 4        | 1        | 1        | 4         | 5        | 0        | 0     | 20        | 1             | 1 00     |
| Stekoah, Rabun do          | JAMES C. GARRARD, William J. Gains,* Jeremiah Webb,     |              | 1        | 2        | 0        | 1         | 4        | 0        | 0     | 38        | 1             | 1 00     |
| Timson's Creek, do do      | Jeremiah York, Andrew McClure,* Hiram Gaines,*          |              | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0         | 2        | 0        | 0     | 21        | 0             | 1 00     |
| Tiger, do do               | William Watts, B. V. Sherly, Joseph Williams,           |              | 4        | 3        | 1        | 3         | 6        | 1        | 1     | 22        | 0             | 1 50     |
| Totals,                    |   |              | 32       | 11       | 41       | 62        | 11       | 7        | 558   | 10        | 24 00 1/2     |          |
|                            |   |              |          |          |          |           |          |          |       |           | 37 1/2        |          |

By individuals,

## MORE JACOB AND LEWIS FREE RECORDS IN ABBEVILLE

Jacob and Lewis Free appear in court records of estate sales in Abbeville in the 1800s. On 4 Apr 1800, Jacob Free is found in Abbeville at an estate sale for John Bennett. He purchased a frying pan and a dutch oven. In 1805, Lewis Free was a buyer at another estate sale, for John Stanfield. He purchased a hand saw and a drawing knife.

Abstracts of old Ninety-six and Abbeville District Wills and Bonds, as on file in the Abbeville, South Carolina, Courthouse. Compiled by Willie Pauline Young, Abbeville, South Carolina, 1950





**ANOTHER DAUGHTER OF ADAM FREE INDENTURES  
AN ILLEGITIMATE CHILD, FAIRFIELD, 1801**

Rachel Free, another of Adam's daughters, indentured her daughter Elizabeth to Adam and Margaret Free in 1801.

This Indenture made the 24<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year of our lord 1801 between Rachel Free of Fairfield District and State of South Carolina single woman of the one part and Adam Free and Margaret his wife...witnesseth that the said Rachel Free hath put placed and bound...her daughter Elizabeth Free unto the said Adam Free and Margaret his wife until she comes of age...and teach or cause the said Elizabeth Free to be taught how to spin and also give her one years schools and at the expiration of the said term give her one cow and calf. In witness whereof the said Rachel Free hath herunto set her hand and seal the day and year above. Rachel (X) Free (seal). Before me Benjamin May J.P. Recorded 4<sup>th</sup> Octo 1804. (Abstracted by Wanda Tucker)

Fairfield County, South Carolina Deed Book O, p283

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS7S-99LT-R?i=145&cat=207758>

Again, we can only speculate as to who the father of Elizabeth Free might have been.



## MARY FREE INGLEMAN IN FAIRFIELD, SOUTH CAROLINA, 1801-1802

Mary Free Ingleman appeared in court to release dower rights to all of her deceased husband's property in Fairfield in September 1801. These rights entitled her to a life-time interest in the land after Jacob Ingleman's death. It appears she did not sign them away when Jacob originally sold the property, hence the need for the payment to her, even though Jacob Ingleman had been dead for several years. A 1794 transaction which I will explain in a bit stated that Ingleman was deceased, so we know he died earlier than that.

I would think John A. Tharp was merely a representative for Barker in this matter.

Know all men by these present...Mary Englemon widow wife of Jacob Englemon lately deceased in consideration of the sum of thirty dollars...by John A. Tharp...release and forever quit claim unto the said Tharp...all manner of dower and right whatsoever which I the said Mary Englemon now have may might should or of right ought to have or claim...to lands, tenements, etc. belonging to the said Jacob Engleman my late husband at any time during the converture between him and me...situate on Owens Mill Creek now in the possession of John Barker or elsewhere, and also all manner of action or actions writ and writs of dower whatsoever so as neither I the said Mary Engleman no other person for me or in my name any manner of dower writ or action of dower or any tight or title of dower... whereof I have set my hand and seal this 23<sup>d</sup> of Sept 1801. Mary (X) Ingleman, (her mark) (seal). Witnesses: Jacob A. Tharp, Roady Tharp (her mark), Edmond Swaney (his mark). Sworn and subscribed this 5 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1801 before Ja<sup>s</sup> McMorris J. P. Recorded 5<sup>th</sup> Oct 1801 (Abstracted by Wanda Tucker)

Fairfield County, South Carolina Deed Book N, p344

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKW-V3QM-G?i=428&cat=207758>

I found another deed dated Jan 1802 (no day), between John Barker and John Glazier which showed the chain of custody of two pieces of land originally owned by Jacob Ingleman. This 1802 deed conveyed several pieces of land all at once, for the princely sum of one thousand dollars.

Fairfield County, South Carolina Deed Book O p157

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS7S-99KT-G?i=83&cat=207758>

A synopsis of this deed is as follows: fifty acres of the land was originally granted to John Young in 1740. It was conveyed by him to Jacob Ingleman on 30 Jan 1776. In the same 1776 conveyance was mentioned another tract of fifty acres granted to Robert Ellison 20 Oct 1772, sold by him to John Young, and then conveyed by Young to Jacob Ingleman for a total of 100 acres transferred in 1776. Jacob Ingleman then conveyed the 100 acres of land to William Holley the younger on 25 Dec 1784, and William Holley and Naomi his wife conveyed it to John Barker on 1 Jun 1793.

Another 200 acre piece of land in this 1802 document was stated to have been originally granted to Jacob Ingleman, seized by John Winn, late the sheriff of Fairfield County, and sold to Minor Winn 26 Dec 1793. Winn then sold it to John Barker on 22 Feb 1794.



So to summarize, the 1802 deed between John Barker and John Glazier included 300 acres of land that had all belonged to Jacob Ingleman at some point. One thousand dollars for 300 acres seems very high; this must have been some of the most desirable land in the county. In 1800, John Barker is listed on the census with six slaves; John Glazier is listed with six slaves, also. They must both have been farming fairly large operations.

The paper trail for all of this is somewhat unclear. Of all of the transactions stated in the 1802 document, I was only able to locate the document of sale of two hundred acres by Minor Winn to John Barker in 1794. This deed states that the land was seized from Jacob Ingleman by writ of fieri fascias. That means it was taken by the court in payment of a debt, but it doesn't state to whom. The land was sold at auction and Minor Winn was the highest bidder. It also states in this deed that Jacob Ingleman is deceased as previously noted.

It isn't surprising that the early documents before 1785 are missing, but the 1 Jun 1793 transfer of land to John Barker by William Holley should be in the deed books. The fact that it isn't is interesting.

The end result of all of this was that John Barker was in possession of a large amount of land that appears to have been legally encumbered by dower rights. Mary Free Ingleman held the dower rights to it, and the first document in September 1801 above did not appear to satisfy the law, because just after the deed where Barker is selling the two parcels that had passed through the hands of Jacob Ingleman, another payment to Mary Ingleman for her release of dower rights appeared. Maybe the first release was not specific enough about which lands it applied to, or maybe the courts felt more money was due to Mary Ingleman.

State of South Carolina ~ Know all men by these present that I Mary Ingleman of the District of Fairfield and State aforesaid widow and relict of Jacob Ingleman late of the same District and state deceased in consideration of the sum of seven dollar to me in hand paid by John Glazier if the same District do release...all my interest and estate and all my rights and claims of dower of in or to the two hundred acres of land...witness my hand and seal this fourth day of October in the year of our lord one thousand eight hundred and two. ..Mary Ingleman (her mark) (seal). Signed sealed & delivered in the presence of John Pearson, J.Qu.

South Carolina Fairfield District ~ Before me John Pearson, Esquire one of the Justices of the Quorum of the district of Fairfield personally appeared Tho<sup>s</sup> Owen and made oath that he did see John Barker sign seal and as his act deliver...to John Glazier therein and to and for the uses and purposes therein mentioned and did also see \_\_\_\_\_(should be Mary Ingleman, but it is a blank space) sign seal and as her act and deed deliver the within written relinquishment of her claims to the premises in the annexed conveyance mentioned to the said John Glazier and that he this deponent and Philip R. Pearson did at the same time together with himself & in presence subscribe his name as a witness to the annexed conveyance and within written relinquishment. Thomas Owen. Sworn before me this 17<sup>th</sup> day of Jan<sup>y</sup> 1802. Jn Pearson J. Qu (Abstracted by Wanda Tucker)

Fairfield County, South Carolina Deed Book O p160

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS7S-99KT-N?i=84&cat=207758>

Later, in 1831, John Glazier would name John Free as his son-in-law in his will. This is probably not Mary Free's illegitimate son; George Seigler's 1820 will named that John Free as a son-in-law. I am uncertain who the John in Glazier's will could be. Is he possibly another son of George Free?

### **An Explanation of Dower Rights**

Women had the right to expect that they would be financially taken care of when their husband died, so they had what was called the right of dower:

“Dower is a different concept than *dowry*, which refers to the possessions that a wife brings into her marriage. It is also separate from a widow's right to her late husband's personal property. *Dower* refers to a widow's interest in her husband's real estate. Incidentally, that is where the term *dowager* comes from, meaning a widow with a dower interest in property.

A husband was legally bound to support his wife during their marriage. Dower was designed to continue that support after his death. Specifically, the widow acquired a one-third interest in whatever real estate her late husband owned. She had a right to one-third of the usage, income, and enjoyment of the land — and that right to income was protected from claims by her husband's creditors.

A wife could not inherit the land of her husband unless it was specifically devised to her in his will — in the absence of such a provision land was inherited by the husband's bloodline. Her dower interest was not ownership of the land but rather a life estate in one-third of its use and profits. Title to the land passed directly to the husband's heir at his death, subject to the wife's dower. She was effectively a tenant of whichever heir inherited the land.

Dower was merely theoretical until the wife became a widow. That is, while her husband was alive her dower interest had no value because it only came into existence when he died and she became a widow.”

Baird, R. W., Bob's Genealogy Filing Cabinet. Available at:  
<https://genfiles.com/articles/dower-and-curtesy/> (Accessed 18 Jul 2021)

One can only imagine Mary Free Ingleman's feelings at this time in her life. Many of the names in these documents also appear in witch trial document written by Philip Edward Pearson. Mary's grandson Jacob Free accused her of changing him into a horse and riding him to “Pearson's orchard,” which is undoubtedly at least a relation of the Justice of the Quorum mentioned here. The Philip Pearson who witnessed her relinquishment of rights was probably witch trial documentarian Philip Edward Pearson's father. William Holley was probably related to “Martha Holley alias Willing Haw,” as it was written in the original Pearson document. An “alias” for a woman in those times was her maiden name. A William Holley appeared on the page with the Inglemans and Frees on the 1790 census, as did Willinghams. The William Holley involved in Mary's release of dower was probably the son of William and Martha Holley, since his wife is named “Naomi” not Martha. Many of these people were related to Mary's tormentors and torturers. How must she felt about them having possession of her land?

Who knows where Mary lived in 1802. ALL of the Frees are missing from the 1800 census in Fairfield. She may have been in George's or Adam's households. She doesn't appear with her daughter's husband John Spillars' family. She was very old by then, probably in her late eighties, and may have never fully recovered from her witch trial ordeal.

These are the last records I have found for Mary Free Ingleman. It is unknown if she left a will, and where her own property might have gone, although there are indications of who might have inherited in other documents as we have seen. We can discern from an upcoming document that she was deceased by 24 Dec 1803.

## “LEXINGTON” JACOB FREE LAND IN EDGEFIELD, 1802-1805

On 13 Aug 1802, **Hugh Britt**, Jacob Free’s neighbor on the 1790 census at Orangeburgh/Lexington had a plat for 124 acres on Dry Creek in Edgefield District, South Carolina.

**Britt, Hugh**, Plat For 124 Acres On Dry Creek, Edgefield District, Surveyed By Amos W. Satcher.

Date: 8/13/1802

People in this record:

Britt, Hugh; Burgess, Joseph; Champion, Henry; Fortner, John; Satcher, Amos W.; Stalnaker, Adam

Places in this record:

Dry Creek; Edgefield District; Little Saluda River

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 8/13/1802

Series: State Plat Books (Columbia Series) (S213192)

Document type: Plat

Images: Available at SCDAAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213192 Volume: 0039 Page: 00058 Item: 001

South Carolina Archives

One of the neighbors shown on the plat is **Adam Stalnaker**. This name appears on two deeds for “Lexington” Jacob Free in Edgefield in 1804, each made and recorded on the same dates with the same witnesses.

State of South Carolina Edgefield District ~ **Adam Stalnaker** to **Jacob Free** ~ Know all men by these present that Adam Stalnaker and Elizabeth his wife...in consideration of the sum of forty dollars to us paid by Jacob Free...about 30 acres...situated on the waters of **Mine Creek** being part of a tract of land granted to Charles Fralic...beginning at Samuel Lewises line...to **Eleazer Tharps** line thence on said Tharps line to **Hugh Britts** line. Witness our hands and seals this third day of December one thousand eight hundred and four, Adam Stalnaker (seal) Elizabeth (X) Stalnaker (her mark) Witnesses: Samuel Lewis, Elijah (H) Haddock (his mark) Nancy (N) Lewis (her mark).

Personally came before me Samuel Lewis...on his oath that he was present and saw Adam Stalnaker sign the within deed...and also saw Elijah Haddock...sworn before me this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May 1805 Samuel Lewis. Isaac Foreman J.P. Recorded the 5<sup>th</sup> of November 1805 (Abstracted by Wanda Tucker)

Edgefield County, South Carolina Deed Book 26, p217

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS73-SSXK-2?i=474&cat=472168>

State of South Carolina Edgefield District ~ **Benjamin Melton** and Sarah his wife to **Jacob Free**, about 40 acres on the waters of **Mine Creek, SC**, being part of a tract of land originally granted to Rolan Williams...**Adam Stalnaker’s line**, Bibby Bush’s line...witness our hands and seals the third day of December in the year of our lord one thousand eight hundred and four,

Benjamin Melton (his mark), Sarah (A) Melton (her mark). Witnesses: Elijah Haddock (his mark), Nancy (her mark) Lewis.

Personally came before me Samuel Lewis...saith on his oath that he was present and saw Benjamin Melton assign...and also Elijah Haddock...sworn to before me this 16 day of May 1805. Samuel Lewis, Isaac Forman J.P. Recorded the 5<sup>th</sup> of November 1805 (Abstracted by Wanda Tucker)

Edgefield County, South Carolina Deed Book 26, p209

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS73-SSXK-5?i=470&cat=472168>

The association between these two men is further evidence that “Lexington” Jacob, with land at Hollow Creek (Lexington area) in 1790 and the Jacob in Abbeville/Edgefield in 1800 are the same man.

The **Tharp family** also appears on deeds around the Free family in Fairfield, so Eleazer Tharp in the deed above was likely an acquaintance of “Lexington” Jacob Free as well. Eleazer first appeared on a census I can find in 1810 in Edgefield, but he was listed as over 45 years old. It is unknown where he was prior to 1810, but he is listed at the South Carolina Archives as having a Revolutionary War file, and as a neighbor of Atha Thomas on a land record in Ninety-Six District in 1793.

## FREE RECORDS IN FAIRFIELD AND LEXINGTON 1803-1806

Mary Free, now relict of John Spillars, deceased apprenticed her son James Spillars to her brother James Free on 31 August 1803. He was to learn James Free's trade, which is not stated in this indenture. His will in 1811 included a stall and blacksmith tools, so he may have been a blacksmith.

Fairfield County, South Carolina Deed Book O, p320

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS7S-99LT-9?i=164&cat=207758>

Adam Free sold 30 acres of Mary Free Ingleman's grant to "Fairfield" Jacob Free, Adam's son on 24 Dec 1803. It is unlikely this was either "Lexington" Jacob Free or his son "Alabama" Jacob. "Lexington" Jacob was making land acquisitions in Edgefield in this time period, and "Alabama" Jacob was most likely there with him. It is *possible* however that this is "Alabama" Jacob, who would be at least around 26 years old, which could lead one to speculate that it is entirely possible that "Fairfield" Jacob Free *never existed*; that Adam Free didn't have a son Jacob. I don't think that is true, but I have to at least admit the possibility. The evidence for him is just not very strong. The witnesses to this deed were both strongly associated with the "Lexington" Jacob and Thomas Free lines.

South Carolina Fairfield District. Know all men by these presents that I **Adam Free** and **Margaret Free** of the State and district aforesaid for and in consideration of the sum of ten pounds...paid by **Jacob Free** of the said state and district...thirty acres of land...being the NW part of one hundred acres of land originally granted to Mary Free on Wilkesons Creek and by Mary Free conveyed to Adam Free and by him sold and conveyed to Jacob Free and separated from the remaining part of land...as witness our hands and seals this 24<sup>th</sup> day of December in the year of our lord 1803...Adam (A) Free (his mark) (seal), Margaret Free (her mark) (seal).  
Witnesses: **Edward McGraw, James Free**

Fairfield District. Before me personally appeared James Free...Edward McGraw signs his name as a witness. Sworn to before me this 29<sup>th</sup> Octr. 1804 James McMorries. Recorded 4<sup>th</sup> March 1805 (Abstracted by Wanda Tucker)

Fairfield County, South Carolina Deed Book P, p210

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS7S-99L3-W?i=390&cat=207758>

As an aside here, Adam Free's mark in this document bears a remarkable resemblance to a hat, but later documents show that it was probably meant to be an 'A'. See the chapter "The Handwriting on the Wall" for an analysis of various Free family signatures.

The missing 50 acres of Mary Free's land grant seems to have somehow passed to Philip Pearson, although I find no record of when or how. There is a deed in 1804 involving Philip Pearson and Adam Free. Adam purchased 2 acres and one fifth from Pearson, being **the "north west track of fifty acres originally granted to Mary Free, situate on the waters of Wilkinsons Creek."** Owens Mill Creek and Wilkinson's Creek are the same body of water. The apparent reason for the sale to Adam of the small amount of land is that it contained his distillery. A plat is included showing the land and a statement with it reads "represents 2 1/5 acres including Adam Free's **distillery** sold and set apart to him the 15<sup>th</sup> day of Oct 1803."

Fairfield County, South Carolina Deed Book P, p8

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS7S-99LD-1?i=290&cat=207758>

Pearson's son Philip Edward Pearson was a child in Fairfield during Mary Free Ingleman's witch trial and wrote the account of it many years later, which is why we have the details. Perhaps the land was given by Mary to Pearson in exchange for legal help following the witch trial. With no record, we just don't know.

There is a plat in the Hollow Creek area of Lexington in 1806 which reveals that "Lexington" Jacob Free sold at least part of his land there to a Keasiller. The plat states that the neighboring land of Jacob Free was "now Keasiller." George Keasiller [Keasler] was one of Jacob's neighbors on the 1790 census, as were many Oswalds. Possibly Jacob sold all or some of his land here to George Keasiller. It is also possible a daughter married into the Keasiller family, and Jacob deeded land to her husband.

**Keasiller, Catherine**, Plat For 144 Acres On Beaver Dam Creek, Orangeburgh District,  
Surveyed By Alexander B. Stark. Date: 10/23/1806

People in this record:

**Free, Jacob; Gables, Valentine; Gartman, Philip;** Keasiller, Catherine; Keasiller, George;  
**Oswald, Christopher; Oswald, Mathias;** Spence, James; Stark, Alexander B.

Places in this record:

Beaver Dam Creek; Orangeburg District; South Saluda River

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 10/23/1806

Series: State Plat Books (Columbia Series) (S213192)

Document type: Plat

Images: Available at SCDAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213192 Volume: 0045 Page: 00041 Item: 001

South Carolina Archives

## **“Lexington” Jacob Free Sells Land at Mine Creek; Edgefield 1807**

“Lexington” Jacob Free sold part of the land he owned at Mine Creek in 1807.

South Carolina, Edgefield District ~ Know all men by these present that **Jacob Free** for and in consideration of the sum of forty dollars to Andrew Gamelin, about 30 acres...the same more or less on the waters of Mine Creek being part of a tract of land granted to Charles Fralic and by him conveyed to Adam Stalnaker and by the said Adam Stalnaker conveyed to the said Jacob Free...Samuel Lewis's line...at a branch of Dry Creek...Eleazer Tharp's line...Andrew Gamelin's line...(formerly Hugh Brit's) for 30 acres more or less ...witness my hand and seal this 31<sup>st</sup> day of January one thousand eight hundred and seven. Jacob (X) Free (his mark). Witnesses: Samuel Lewis, William (H) Haddock (his mark), Asa Lewis

Personally came before me Samuel Lewis and being duly sworn saith on oath...did see Jacob Free sign, seal and deliver the within deed...and also William Haddock and Asa Lewis...sworn to before me this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August 1807. Thos. Swearingin. Recorded 6<sup>th</sup> Feby 1849 (Abstracted by Wanda Tucker)

Edgefield County South Carolina Deed Book 3E, p 535

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLK-68XT?i=276&cat=472168>

It seems noteworthy that this deed was not recorded until 1849. One wonders what would have prevented that. Was the deed just misplaced? A later deed refers to the forty acre property Jacob bought from Benjamin Melton being sold to Jonathan Weaver, but that sale appears to have never been recorded. There were many sheriffs' sales, etc. in Edgefield in the 1820s to 1840s and the land records for that time are confused because of this. Land was auctioned on the courthouse steps, and deeds seem to have slipped through the cracks even when they were just straight sales. Jonathan Weaver bought up a lot of land in the Edgefield area.

We will come to the deed that details the sale of the forty acres along with more land by “Lexington” Jacob Free's son, “Alabama” Jacob in Edgefield in 1823.

When “Lexington” Jacob sold the thirty acres above, it appears Hugh Brit had moved to Georgia, where he was in Madison County in 1820. The deed above states that the land is on Andrew Gamelin's line, “formerly Hugh Brit's.” It appears Andrew Gamelin had purchased the land that belonged to Brit prior to purchasing Jacob Free's land.



## FREE RECORDS IN FAIRFIELD, 1807 - 1809

Around this same time back in the Fairfield/Chester area, the Frees remaining there had some land transactions. James Free bought some land near Aaron Gosa. From the land records available, it appears this land would be near the Fairfield-Chester County border. On the deed when "Old Man" Simeon Free purchased his land from Aaron Gosa in 1800, the land was on William Yongue's line.

State of South Carolina ~ Fairfield District ~ Thomas Malon to **James Free**, in consideration of two(?) hundred dollars...122 acres originally granted to **Jacob Dove**, bounded by lands of **Aaron Gosa**, Philip Young, Reuben Henning, James Packs, and [Dennis] Crosby's land...in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 8<sup>th</sup> October 1807. Thomas Malon (seal)  
Witnesses: **William Free** and W.F. Pearson.

Personally appeared W.F. Pearson who maketh oath that he saw Thomas Malone sign seal and deliver...and that this deponent and William Bele(sp?) subscribed the same...sworn to this 15 Nov 1808. W.F. Pearson. Before me Abner Ross J.Q. (Abstracted by Wanda Tucker)

Fairfield County, South Carolina Deed Book S, p 57

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLV-G3XY-H?i=232&cat=207758>

The grant to Jacob Dove appears to have actually been for 100 acres, and perhaps was resurveyed. This land was on Beaver Creek, which is near McClures Creek where Simeon Free's 1800 land was. "Old Man" Simeon and James Free were "friends" as stated in James' will a bit later on.

Further south in Fairfield, Adam Free deeded some land to his son George Free.

This indenture made the twentieth day of October in the year of our lord one thousand eight hundred and seven between Adam Free of Fairfield District and State of South Carolina of the one part and George Free...for and in consideration of the sum of two hundred dollars...all that plantation or tract of land containing ten acres more or less...on Owens Mill Creek it being a South part of a tract of land originally granted to said Adam Free...bounding George Free...in witness whereof I have thereunto set my hand and seal date above written. Adam (A) Free (his mark) Witnesses: Isaac Dansby, James Free, William Free.

South Carolina Fairfield District ~ Personally appeared Isaac Dansby and made oath that he did see Adam Free sign...and that this deponent William Free and James Free subscribed their names as witnesses...Isaac Dansby. Before me 11<sup>th</sup> Sep 1809 Philip E. Pearson J. Q. Recorded 15<sup>th</sup> Oct(?) 1809 (Abstracted by Wanda Tucker)

Fairfield County, South Carolina Deed Book S, p244

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLV-G3XV-6?i=323&cat=207758>

### Adam Free's "Great Mental Derangement"

Adam Free, having sold the land to George above, within months executed a deed of gift, giving his land, a slave girl, cattle, tools, and all person property to George Free.

The State of South Carolina ~ To all Christian people unto whom this writing shall...I Adam Free of Fairfield District and state aforesaid Blacksmith send greeting...for and divers goods causes and valuable considerations me hereunto moving have given and granted...unto George Free...all the plantation or tract of land coherson(sp?) I now live...containing twenty eight acres more or less comprised of part of the original survey part granted to Lawrence Free part to Mary Free and part to Thomas Owen and conveyed to me by Frizzell McTyre, situate on Wilkinsons Creek...bounding Northeastward on Philip Pearson, James Rogers and Nathaniel Holly, Northwestward on George Reddish and George Free...Southwestward on George Free and Nicholas Ringer and Southeastward on Philip Pearson...also the following personal property...my negro girl Sylvia, seven head of cattle...blacksmith tools...five beds and furniture...goods and chattels household stuff kitchen utensils plantation tool and substance whatsoever to have and to hold...the said stock goods and chattels and personal property whatsoever of me the said Adam Free unto the said George Free...by virtue of these presents as also by the gift of one dollar in the name of all the rest of the premises in witness whereof I the said Adam Free have hereunto set my hand and seal the 12<sup>th</sup> day of December anno domini 1807. Adam (A) Free (his mark) Witnesses: Geo. B. Pearson, Wm. H. Furnney

State of South \_\_\_ Fairfield District ~ Before me William Cato one of the Justices of the said district personally appeared William H. Furney duly sworn...that he was present and did see Adam Free the within sign seal...this deponent and George Pearson...subscribe their names as witnesses, Willam H. Furney. Wm. Cato J.P. Recorded 19<sup>th</sup> April 1808. (Abstracted by Wanda Tucker)

Fairfield County, South Carolina Deed Book R, p 277

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLV-G3FD-D?i=155&cat=207758>

It didn't take long for Adam to rescind the gift to George. On 18 Aug 1809, Adam stated that giving his son his entire estate was done at a time when Adam "labored under great mental derangement," and that since he had come to his "right mind," he wanted his estate divided among "all his children, share and share alike."

Fairfield County, South Carolina Deed Book S, p 234

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLV-G3XV-H?i=319&cat=207758>

One can only speculate what "great mental derangement" could have come upon Adam Free to cause him to give up all his possession to his son, and then to change his mind less than two years later. "Young Adam" Free, Adam's son may have left home about this time and gone to Lexington. We will get to the evidence for that in a bit. Could it have been the passing of his mother, Mary Free Ingleman? Perhaps Adam felt guilty about the state she lived in after having she was tortured and he testified against her. Or maybe it had nothing to do with either. We can only speculate two hundred plus years down the road.

### **"Old Man" Simeon Free and Philip Yongue Deed**

There was a land transaction in Fairfield in 1809 involving Simeon Free in the McClures Creek area. William Yongue transferred 65 acres to Simeon Free and Philip Yongue. This transaction is mentioned in a deed in 1818, but I was unable to locate the original document. The abstract of the 1818 deed appears later in this document in date order.

Why Philip Yongue and “old Man” Simeon would own land together is a mystery. Were they brothers-in-law? Business partners in some venture? Or was it merely that when William Yongue wanted to sell, his two neighbors had to pool their money to buy him out? We can’t know for certain.

## FREES IN THE 1810 CENSUS

We can learn some interesting things about the reliability of census information from the 1810 census in South Carolina. Not one Jacob Free is found on the census, but we know there are several there. Adam's son Jacob is certainly old enough to be on the census. "Barnwell" Jacob Free, Jr., the son of "Lynches Creek" Jacob should be found in Barnwell. "Lexington" Jacob is missing, but I think it is very likely he is deceased. "Alabama" Jacob, the son of "Lexington" who was born about 1785 should be enumerated. Yet, none of these men appear in South Carolina. Another Free is also missing. Adam's son George is not enumerated in Fairfield. Most of these men reappear in 1820.

Lewis Free is still found in Edgefield, as is Abran (Abraham) Free. Using this census, I identified the following children of Lewis. The names in bold remained in the Abbeville/Edgefield area after Lewis and Cheriah Free moved to Georgia about 1823 with their daughter Katherine and their younger children. "Settled" Simeon went to Georgia, too.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Name:                                      | Lewis Free  |
| Home in 1810 (City, County, State):        | Abbeville, Abbeville, South Carolina                                      |
| Free White Persons - Males - Under 10:     | 4 [ <b>James b. 1800; George b. 1806; Isaac b. 1807</b> ; Simeon b. 1810] |
| Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 15:   | 1 [ <b>Thomas W. b.1797</b> ]   |
| Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44:   | 1   |
| Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44: | 1   |
| Number of Household Members Under 16:      | 5   |
| Number of Household Members Over 25:       | 2   |
| Number of Household Members:               | 7   |

Year: 1810; Census Place: Abbeville, Abbeville, South Carolina; Roll: 60; Page: 108; Image: 00061; Family History Library Film: 0181419

Adam Free appears in Fairfield. James Free does not appear but his wife Susannah does as head of household. This would indicate that James has died, or perhaps was incapacitated. "Old Man" Simeon Free is her neighbor.

George Reddish, who is shown as a neighbor in the deed of gift from Adam Free to George Free in 1807 is found in Edgefield. This is interesting, in that it shows that there was travel and overlap between those areas. George figures in an upcoming land record involving Jacob Free in Fairfield.

Martin Free, a son of "Lexington" Jacob appears in Lexington. He is enumerated as age 26-44, with a woman age 26-44 in the household. There is another older woman, age 45+, who I believe is probably his mother, possibly Thamar Starns Free. In the transcription of this census, the transcribed missed Martin, whom I have added in brackets.

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| Name:  | <b>Martin Free</b>        |
| Home in 1810 (City, County, State):          | Lexington, South Carolina |
| [Males 26-44]                                | 1                         |
| [Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44     | 1]                        |
| Free White Persons - Females - Under 10:     | 2                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44:   | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - 45 and over : | 1                         |
| Number of Household Members Under 16:        | 2                         |
| Number of Household Members Over 25:         | 2                         |

Number of Household Members: 4

Year: 1810; Census Place: *Lexington, South Carolina*; Roll: 61; Page: 75; Image: 00133; Family History Library Film: 0181420

From Martin's neighbors the widow Keisler (Keasiller), Philip Gartman, and Michael Oswald, we know he is very near or even on some of the land purchased there by his father Jacob in 1789. Remember that the 1806 plat for Catherine Keasiller, George's widow, shows that at least some of Jacob Free's land in Lexington passed at some point to a Keasiller. I suspect that Jacob only sold a part of the land, and that Martin is living on the remainder. Martin Free married Elizabeth Oswald/Oswalt, so Michael Oswald is probably a relative.

In February 1865, during the Civil War, advancing federal troops destroyed pre-1839 records of the clerk of court; the destruction included deeds and virtually all probate records. If "Lexington" Jacob left a will here, or a deed passing any this land to Martin or Thamar, it is gone.

There is more evidence that Martin is the son of Jacob Free upcoming.

## JACOB FREE DOCUMENTS IN FAIRFIELD, 1811

There are several records in 1811 in Fairfield involving a Jacob Free. They are dated very close together, but would appear to be for two different men. This first one is the sale of the land acquired by Jacob Free from Jacob Ingleman in 1789.

South Carolina Fairfield District ~ Know all men by these present that I Jacob Free of Fairfield...inconsideration of the sum of three hundred dollars...unto **George Reddish of Edgefield District**, sixty acres more or less, part of a tract laid out from Jacob Ingleman to Jacob Free, 1789 and comprised in a plat and conveyance from James Free dec'd...in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal Jacob () Free (his mark) Witnesses: David R. Coleman, W.F. Pearson

Personally appeared before me Wm. Pearson who made oath that he saw Jacob Free sign seal and deliver...and that David R. Coleman and this deponent subscribed thereunto as witnesses. Sworn to this **18<sup>th</sup> day of Feby 1811** W.F. Pearson. J. Beaty J.P. Recorded 7<sup>th</sup> April 1811 (Abstracted by Wanda Tucker)

Fairfield County, South Carolina Deed Book U, p2

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS73-992T-8?i=9&cat=207758>

Remember, in 1800 "Lexington" Jacob moved to Abbeville, and in 1804 bought land in the Edgefield area. The man buying this property is George Reddish of **Edgefield**. It is interesting to note that in the above document where it is stated Jacob Free made "his mark," there is a blank space. Was Jacob actually present, and did he just not sign? This is an indicator that this was either "Lexington" or "Alabama" Jacob Free. But there is evidence that contradicts that in the next deed. I think the above is "**Fairfield Jacob Adam Free's son**."

Note that there are sixty acres in this transaction, but only fifty were transferred from Jacob Ingleman to Jacob Free in 1789. The other ten acres must be the ones "comprised in a plat" from James Free, who was deceased by this date (will proved 26 Apr 1811). I have been unable to locate the document of that land transfer.

In March 1811, there is another deed for Jacob Free in Fairfield. Note that his wife, **Margaret**, released dower rights.

This Indenture made this first day of March one thousand eight hundred and eleven between **Jacob Free** of South Carolina Fairfield District of the one part and John Findley of said district of the other part...in consideration of the sum of four hundred dollars...one certain tract of land in said district containing by resurvey one hundred and forty seven acres...**Thos H. May's** line...John Findley's line... **George Free's** line...Lewis Fant's line...**Philip Pearson's** line, **Cazin (Corzine) McGraw's** line...in witness whereof I have signed sealed and delivered this deed...Jacob (/) Free (his mark (seal) Witnesses: Sham Findley, Abner Nelson

State of South Carolina Fairfield District ~ Before me James Rogers J.Q. personally appeared Sham Findley who being duly sworn deposes that he was present and did see the within Jacob Free sign seal...and deliver...that he did see Abner Nelson subscribe...Sworn this **7<sup>th</sup> day of March A.D. 1811**. James Rogers J.Q.

I James Rogers one of the Justices of the Quorum...do hereby certify...**Margaret Free the wife of the within named Jacob Free**...separately examined by me did declare that she does freely and voluntarily without compulsion...renounce release and forever relinquish unto the written Jacob Fendley...all her interest in and claim of dower...given under my hand and seal this 7<sup>th</sup> day of March 1811 Margaret (+) Free (her mark). James Rogers J.Q. Recorded 10<sup>th</sup> November 1821 (Abstracted by Wanda Tucker)

Fairfield County, South Carolina Deed Book CC, p198

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLV-P3DR-C?i=562&cat=207758>

There is information in this deed which actually *proves* that this 1811 deed at least is “Alabama” Jacob Free son of “Lexington” Jacob, not “Fairfield” Jacob, Adam’s son. **Margaret Free** released her dower rights to this land. A later 1823 deed in **Edgefield** for “Alabama” Jacob also names his wife **Margit**, who releases dower rights. The man in 1823 is definitely “Alabama” Jacob, who is listed on the 1820 Edgefield census as age 26-44, far too young to be “Lexington” Jacob.

It seems logical to think that if Margaret released dower on this Fairfield land, then she would have also done so when Jacob sold the other land there ten days earlier, if that man was the same person. That she did not is the best evidence that these two deeds, so close together in date, are actually for two *different* men. Margaret was married to “Alabama” Jacob. If “Fairfield” Jacob had a wife, she didn’t release dower when he sold the property 18 Feb 1811. This does seem to prove that “Fairfield” Jacob owned the 1789 Ingleman land.

I can’t find any record of either man being granted, buying or inheriting this 147 acre parcel of land. Judging from the neighbors listed, it is possible this was land inherited when Mary Free Ingleman died. She had a memorial for 150 acres in 1772. This is just one mystery which the available documents do not solve.

## MARTIN FREE'S FIRST RECORD IN LEXINGTON

Also in 1811, we have the first land record where **Martin Free**, son of "Lexington" Jacob appears. He is listed as a neighbor in a deed at Lexington for Jacob Weaver. Henry Weaver is also a neighbor.

**Weaver, Jacob**, Plat For 126 Acres On Little Hollow Creek, Lexington District, Surveyed By David King. Date: 4/4/1811

People in this record:

**Free, Martin**; Huzlor; King, David; **Oswalt, Samuel**; Weaver, Jacob; **Weever, Henry**

Places in this record:

Lexington District; Little Hollow Creek; Saluda River

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 4/4/1811

Series: State Plat Books (Columbia Series) (S213192)

Document type: Plat

Images: Available at SCDAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213192 Volume: 0043 Page: 00035 Item: 001

South Carolina Archives

On the 1790 census, Henry Weaver was a few houses away from Jacob Free. Jacob Weaver in the deed above was too young to have been on the 1790 census, as was Samuel Oswalt, but other Oswalts are Jacob's near neighbors. This is yet more evidence that Martin Free was living where his father's land was at Lexington. Naming patterns and other evidence confirms that Martin Free and Lewis Free were brothers, although Lewis remained in the Abbeville area. Both men ended up in Georgia. Martin was born about 1787, and so when "Lexington" Jacob Free left the Abbeville/Edgefield area, Martin went with him back to the Lexington area.



## THE DEATH OF JAMES FREE, 1811

In April 1811, James Free's will was proved in Fairfield. He named his four children, Sarah, William, Robert, and Seinthea, and his wife Susannah. His friend "Old Man" Simeon Free was an executor along with Susannah.

In the name of God Amen

I James Free of the State of South Carolina being of sound mind and memory though weak of body do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say I will that my stall and blacksmith tools be sold by my executors for the purpose of paying my debts. I give to my loving wife Susanah all the rest of estate both real and personal of whatever kind soever the same may be: for the term of her natural life of widowhood. That after her death or marriage I will and desire that my sold estate be equally divided between my four children, Sarah, William, Robert, and Seinthea shear and shear alike, and in case either of the said children shall die before they come to full age, it is my will and desire that the survivor or Survivor of them shall; have the whole of my estate divided among them in the Manner above states...and I do nominate constitute and appoint my Friend Semion Free, and wife Susanah, my executors to this my last will and testament disannulling all former wills by me made declaring this to be my last...In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the fourth day of March Eighteen hundred and nine (1809)

Signed sealed published and  
declared in the presence of  
us D.R. Coleman  
Robert Coleman  
Rach. (X) Gosa (her mark)

James (X) Free (his mark)(seal)  
Proved the 26<sup>th</sup> day of April 1811  
Jno. Buchanan J.C. D.  
Recorded 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 1812

Fairfield County, South Carolina Estate Records Book 5, p535

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939L-N32G-G?i=638&cc=1911928&cat=52987>

James' inventory shows cattle and a flock of geese, one slave named Dick, and various household and farm goods. There is no indication of how much land he owned, so we only have the one deed shown previously as evidence for that.

Fairfield County, South Carolina Estate Records Book 5, p422

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939L-N3LS-S?i=581&cc=1911928&cat=52987>

The fact that Simeon is named as James' *friend* in the will confirms that they were not brothers. Simeon can NOT be a son of Adam Free, as some have speculated before. Cousins, yes; brothers, no.

### **"Old Man" Simeon Free and Susannah Free, and Their Children**

One issue that has to be addressed is the relationship between Simeon and Susannah Free. After the death of James Free, Susannah had many more children. The father of these is assumed by most to be "Old Man" Simeon Free, and I agree. The families moved together to Greene County, Alabama about 1835. The first son born after the death of her husband was named Simeon ("Alabama" Simeon). It's hard to determine whether this child was James' or Simeon's son. The second son was named Thomas,

presumably after “Old Man” Simeon’s father. Susannah maintained her own household in the 1820 and 1830 censuses, and was named as a widow in her estate, which clarifies that she had not remarried. Susannah may not have remarried simply to maintain her independence, or in order to keep control over James’ estate and property.

### **SIMEON FREE, PHILIP YONGUE JOINT LAND RECORD, FAIRFIELD 1818**

In 1818, a deed in Fairfield shows the sale of land by Philip Yongue and “Old Man” Simeon Free to Richardson Mayo. This is half of the tract that passed from William Yongue to them in 1809:

The State of South Carolina ~ Know all men by these present that we **Phillip Yongue** and **Simeon Free** both of District of Fairfield and State aforesaid in consideration of the sum of thirty dollars to me paid by **Richason Mayo** of the same place...all that plantation or tract of land containing thirty two acres and a half being the half of sixty five acres of land conveyed by William Yongue to the said Phillip Yongue and the said Simeon Free the third day of August one thousand one thousand eight hundred and nine and being the part of said sixty acres of land whereon the said Wm. Yongue formerly lived and where the said Richason Mayo now lives...South by Allen Coleman’s land west by the said tract of land conveyed by John Gresham to Phillip Yongue north and E’ly Simeon Frees land and is part of a tract of land granted to Joseph Rogers situate in Fairfield District on the branches of McClures Creek...witness our hands and deals this third day of January in the year of our lard one thousand eight hundred and eighteen...**Phillip (Y) Yongue (his mark)** Signed sealed and acknowledged in the presence of Henry A. Coleman, D. R. Coleman

South Carolina Fairfield District ~ Personally came Henry A. Coleman before me and subscribing...made oath that he was present and saw the within named Simeon Free and Phillip Yongue sign seal and deliver...that he together with David R. Coleman in the presence of each other witnessed...sworn to and subscribed this third day of January 1818 Before me Henry A. Coleman. D. R. Coleman 22 January 1818 (Abstracted by Wanda Tucker)

Fairfield County, South Carolina Deed Book Z, p33

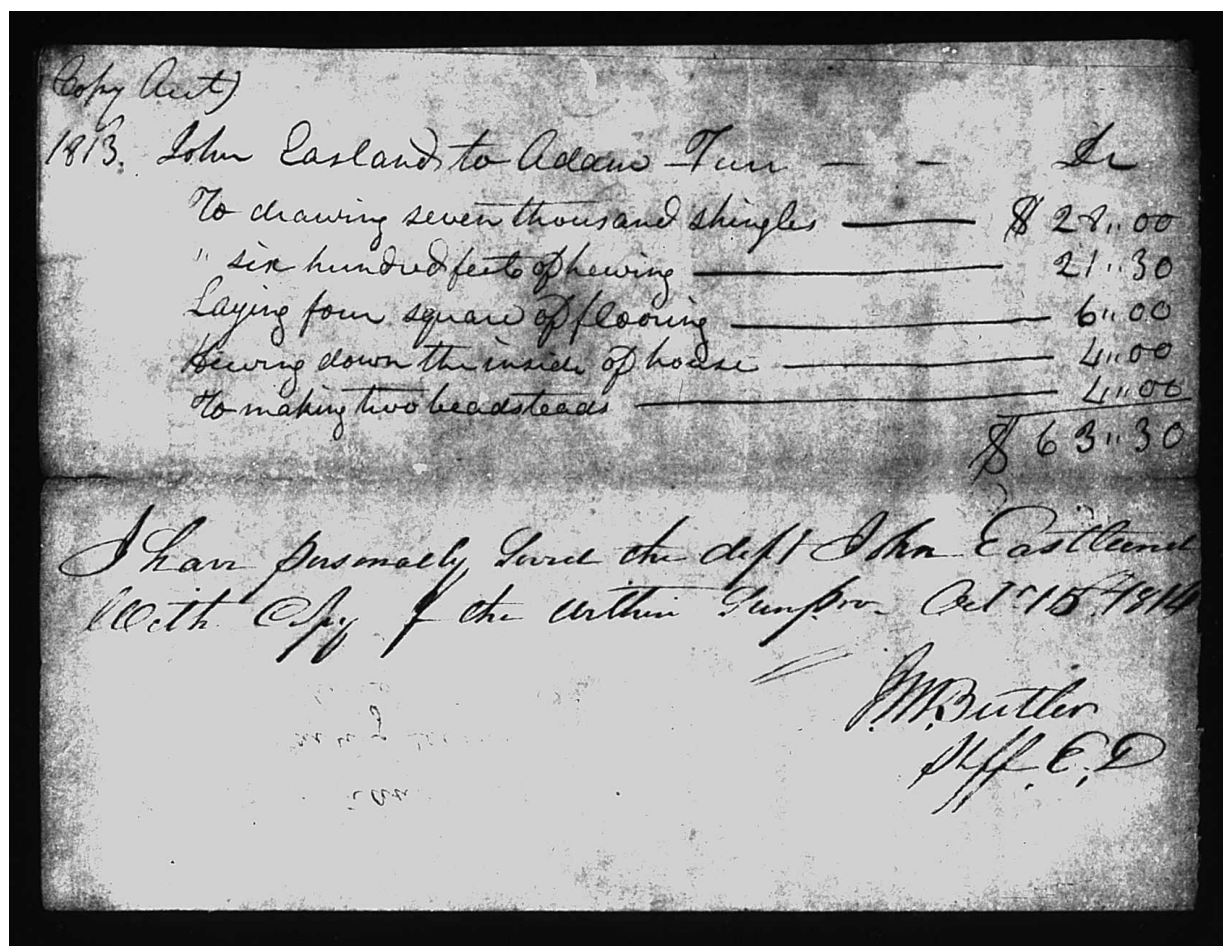
<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS73-9WRF-L?i=490&cat=207758>

It is interesting to me that “Old Man” Simeon, while named as an “owner” of the land in question, did not sign this deed. He apparently kept his half of the land, and the transaction was accepted without his signature. In this deed Richason Mayo is said to be living on the land, where William Yongue *formerly* lived. The land appears to have been divided off for his homestead.

**“YOUNG” ADAM FREE, EDGEFIELD, 1814**

The almost-decade between the death of James Free and the 1820 census yielded very little information about the Free family. It seems that the families had settled down at least for a while where they were. Sometime between the land sale in March 1811 and the 1820 census, “Alabama” Jacob Free went back to the Edgefield County area. “Young” Adam Free, born about 1795 went with him. From land records of neighbors there we can prove “Alabama” Jacob is on the forty acres of land “Lexington” Jacob purchased from Benjamin Melton in Edgefield in 1804. A deed showing that land included in a sale is forthcoming.

There is a record in Edgefield that enables us to narrow down the date when “Young” Adam Free was there. In 1814, Adam filed a petition in Edgefield District against **John Eastland** for the amount of \$63.30 for work performed. The work included drawing 7000 shingles, six hundred feet of hewing, laying four square of flooring and some other work. The document showing the work is dated 1813.



Edgefield County, South Carolina Petitions and Decrees in Summary Process, D1916, no. 1598, several pages

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C373-PSB1-2?i=33&cat=2426344>

This file contains several pages, including this one summoning what appear to be three witnesses. One of the witnessed was Samuel Oswalt. Remember, the Oswalts appear on the Jacob Free documents at

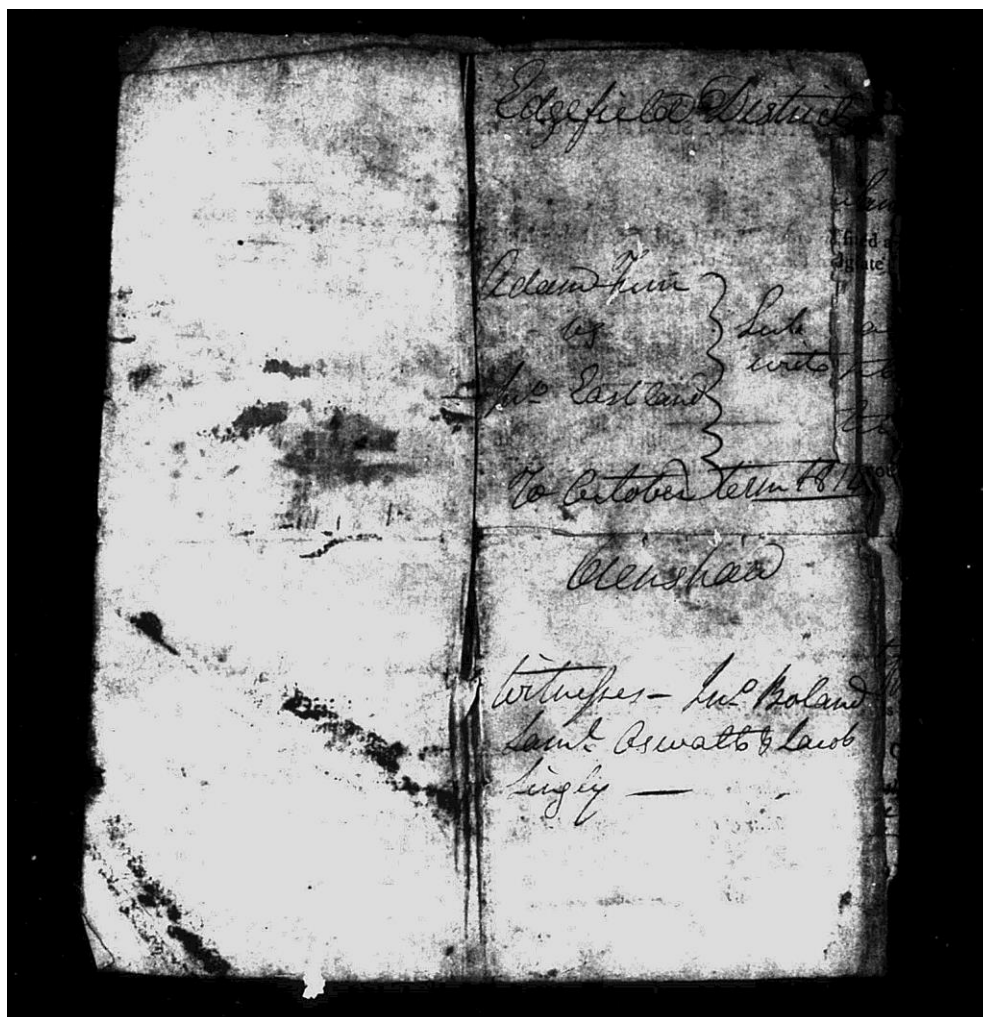
Lexington, near Martin Free there in 1810. Another of the witnesses, John Boland, is also on the 1810 Lexington census. I can't locate the third man on the census.

The interesting thing about this is they are summoned from the courthouse at Newberry County. The Lexington courthouse was at Granby (just south of Cayce on modern maps) until 1818.

Carolana, A History of Lexington, South Carolina. Available at:  
[https://www.carolana.com/SC/Towns/Lexington\\_SC.html](https://www.carolana.com/SC/Towns/Lexington_SC.html) (Accessed 25 Jul 2021)

There was a makeshift courthouse in Newberry in the home of Colonel Robert Rutherford as early as 1785. By 1801, they had completed construction of their fifth courthouse. Either of these courthouses would have been convenient to the Little Hollow Creek area where these people lived.

J. Clamp and E. Greisser, Court Houses of Newberry County Newberry County, South Carolina. Available at: [http://genealogytrails.com/scar/newberry/court\\_houses.htm](http://genealogytrails.com/scar/newberry/court_houses.htm) (Accessed 25 Jul 2021)



Edgefield County, South Carolina Petitions and Decrees in Summary Process D1916, no. 1598, several pages

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C373-PS5Q-D?i=34&cat=2426344>

**Samuel Oswald** had a plat for land in **Lexington** in 1813. **John Eastland** is listed as his neighbor, though he is missing from both the 1810 and 1820 censuses.

**Oswald, Samuel**, Plat For 255 Acres On Little Hollow And Little Horse Creeks, Lexington District, Surveyed By David King. Date: 1/23/1813

People in this record:

**Eastland, John**; Finch, Barbara; Kennymore, Michael; King, David; **Oswald, Michael**; **Oswald, Samuel**; Saltzer, Christopher; Warner, Thomas

Places in this record:

Hollow Creek; Lexington District; Little Hollow Creek; Little Horse Creek; Saluda River

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 1/23/1813

Series: State Plat Books (Columbia Series) (S213192)

Document type: Plat

Images: Available at SCDHAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213192 Volume: 0043 Page: 00287 Item: 002

Likewise, Eastland platted land in 1813, with Oswald listed as a neighbor.

**Eastland, John**, Plat For 740 Acres On Little Hollow And Little Horse Creeks, Lexington District, Surveyed By David King. Date: 1/23/1813

People in this record:

**Eastland, John**; King, David; Martin, William Jr.; **Oswald, Samuel**; Rall, George; **Weaver, Henry**

Places in this record:

Lexington District; Little Hollow Creek; Little Horse Creek; Twelve Mile Creek

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 1/23/1813

Series: State Plat Books (Columbia Series) (S213192)

Document type: Plat

Images: Available at SCDHAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213192 Volume: 0043 Page: 00299 Item: 000

From this information it is apparent that Adam Free spent some time in Lexington with his family there, including Martin Free, prior to moving on to Edgefield.

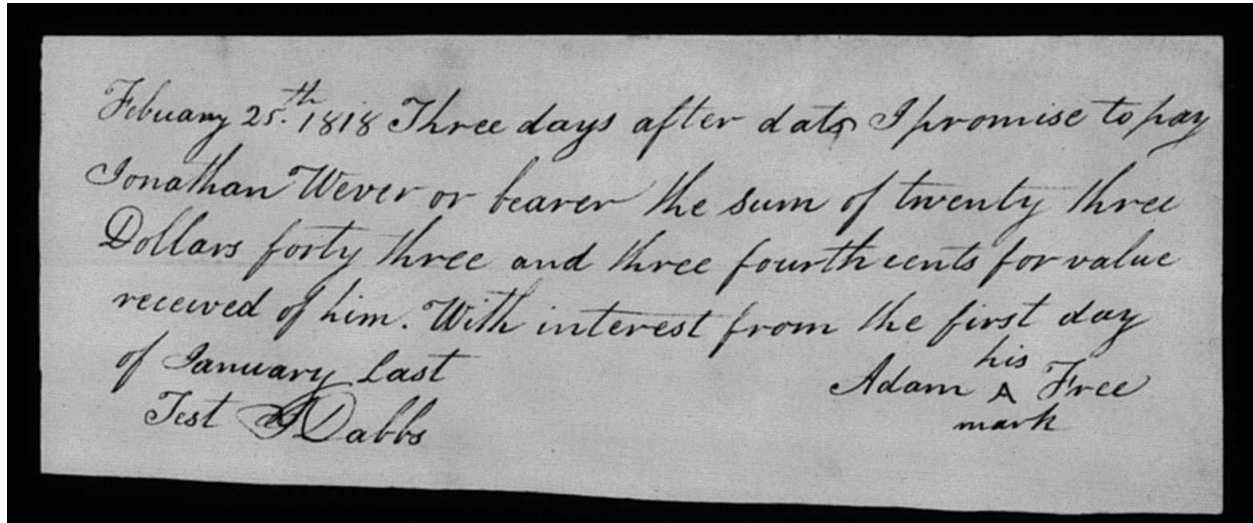
Adam Free from the documents above was born about 1795 according to later census documents. On the 1800 census in Abbeville with "Lexington" Jacob, there is a male under ten who could be Adam; however there is another possible man who this could be in an upcoming census record. There is also a male age 10-15 on the 1810 census with Adam Free in Fairfield, who would fit the age to be this younger Adam.

Adam is later found with "Alabama" Jacob Free in Alabama records as we will find. There is evidence to support that Adam born 1795 could be either the son of "Lexington" Jacob Free, or Adam Free's son. I can say that it seems that the ambitious George Free in Fairfield was pretty intent on getting all the land from



Adam he could; if he was Adam the elder's son, "Young" Adam may not have had much reason to stick around.

"Young" Adam worked for "Alabama" Jacob's next door neighbor in Edgefield in 1818. This Edgefield document again links these two men together. In the 1820 Census, Jacob Free in Edgefield lived next door to Jonathan Weaver. In 1818, Adam Free received something of "value" from Jonathan Weaver in the amount of \$23.43  $\frac{3}{4}$  cents. Adam's mark was an 'A,' which means he had at least some education.



February 25<sup>th</sup> 1818 Three days after date I promise to pay  
Jonathan Weaver or bearer the sum of twenty three  
Dollars forty three and three fourth cents for value  
received of him. With interest from the first day  
of January last  
Test J Dabbs  
Adam <sup>his</sup> Free  
mark

Edgefield, South Carolina Court of Common Pleas, Petitions and decrees, D1920, no. 2237-2364  
1800-1840, no. 2342, several pages

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-J38J-YZ7C?i=829&cat=2426344>

Adam defaulted on the debt, whatever it was, and Weaver took him to court.

Again in 1819, Adam Free defaulted on a debt and was sued in court, this time by Aaron Allen for twenty-nine dollars for "value received." What this was exactly is again unspecified. Adam seemed to be borrowing money, or getting goods on loan without paying those loans back.

Edgefield County, South Carolina, Petitions and decrees, D1919, no. 2001-2236 1800-1840, Roll  
2160, several pages

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-J38V-JLFJ?i=480&cat=2426344>

This Adam and Jacob eventually went together to Alabama, further tying them together. There is more about this coming up.

## FREES IN THE 1820 CENSUS

### Edgefield and Abbeville Counties, South Carolina

“Alabama” Jacob Free is in Edgefield in 1820, where the census shows him with one male child under ten and two girls under ten.

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| Name:  | <b>Jacob Free</b>         |
| Home in 1820 (City, County, State):                | Edgefield, South Carolina |
| Enumeration Date:                                  | August 7, 1820            |
| Free White Persons - Males - Under 10:             | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44:           | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - Under 10:           | 2                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44:         | 1                         |
| Number of Persons - Engaged in Agriculture:        | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Under 16:                     | 3                         |
| Free White Persons - Over 25:                      | 2                         |
| Total Free White Persons:                          | 5                         |
| Total All Persons - White, Slaves, Colored, Other: | 5                         |

1820 U S Census; Census Place: *Edgefield, South Carolina*; Page: *113B*; NARA Roll: *M33\_118*;  
Image: *202*

“Young” Adam Free on the Edgefield census is also married with a young family. His age in this census is either wrong, or later census data is incorrect, as he is reported as age 16-18 here, but later censuses place his date of birth in 1795. I tend to believe the 1820 census is wrong, as 4 children under the age of ten would be too many to belong to an 18-year-old man. Adam is about twenty-five.

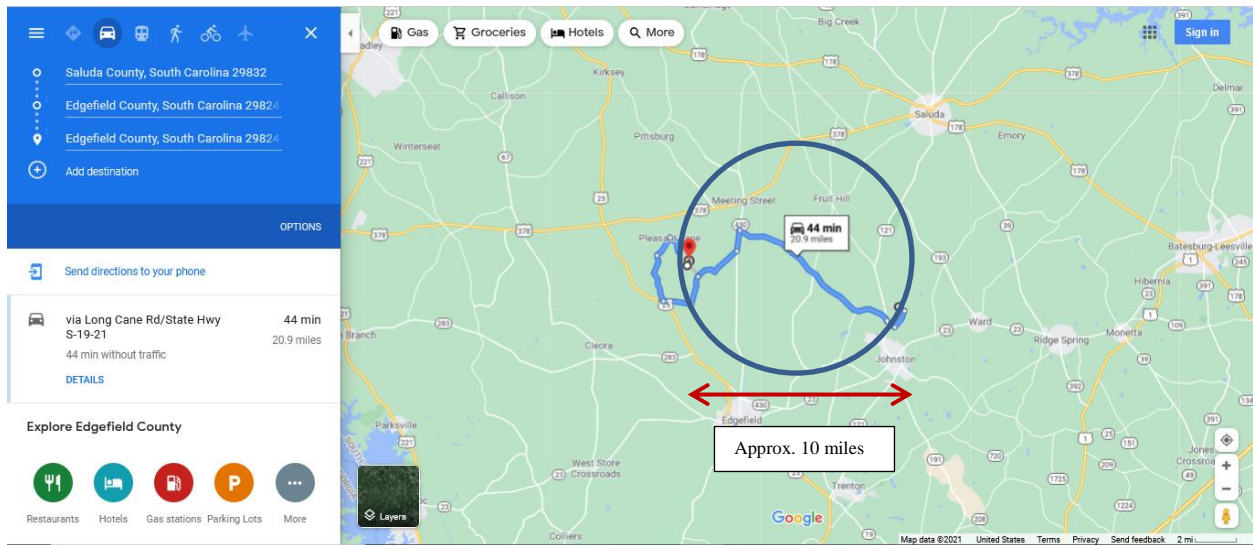
|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| Name:  | <b>Adam Free</b>          |
| Home in 1820 (City, County, State):                | Edgefield, South Carolina |
| Enumeration Date:                                  | August 7, 1820            |
| Free White Persons - Males - Under 10:             | 3                         |
| Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 18:           | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - Under 10:           | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - 16 thru 25:         | 1                         |
| Number of Persons - Engaged in Agriculture:        | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Under 16:                     | 4                         |
| Total Free White Persons:                          | 5                         |
| Total All Persons - White, Slaves, Colored, Other: | 5                         |

1820 U S Census; Census Place: *Edgefield, South Carolina*; Page: *105A*; NARA Roll: *M33\_118*;  
Image: *193*

Careful scrutiny of the land records for neighbors of both Jacob and Adam Free on the 1820 census reveals that they actually lived very close together, despite being listed pages apart on the census. I am including a map showing where they lived, because this is actually a very good lesson on how where people appear on a census doesn't necessarily reflect how closely they lived to each other.

On this census, Adam Free is very near Alexander Bean. Bean had a land grant on Turkey Creek, as did Drury Mathis, who was also close to Adam (see records at SC Archives). Jacob Free’s land in Edgefield (sold in 1823) was stated as on Rocky Creek, and the forty acres mentioned in the deed were originally platted as on Mine Creek. The original land grant for that however, which was to Joseph Lewis, was platted as on the waters of Turkey Creek. All of these watercourses are very close together, and which was referenced on the plats depended mostly on whom the surveyor was, and which landmarks they were familiar with and used.

All of the deeds used a different landmark creek, but we can draw a circle around the area that contains them all. These landmarks are shown on the map below. Using the distance key on this map, Adam and Jacob were enumerated living at most about ten miles apart, maybe closer. Soon after this census, they were in Alabama on adjacent land, as we will see.



Google Maps. Available at: <https://www.google.com/maps> (Accessed 1 Aug 2021)

A William Free is on the page with Jacob Free in Edgefield in 1820, listed as age 26-44.

|  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Name:  | <b>William Freel [Free]</b> |
| Home in 1820 (City, County, State):                | Edgefield, South Carolina   |
| Enumeration Date:                                  | August 7, 1820              |
| Free White Persons - Males - Under 10:             | 1                           |
| Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44:           | 1                           |
| Free White Persons - Females - Under 10:           | 2                           |
| Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44:         | 1                           |
| Number of Persons - Engaged in Agriculture:        | 1                           |
| Free White Persons - Under 16:                     | 3                           |
| Free White Persons - Over 25:                      | 2                           |
| Total Free White Persons:                          | 5                           |
| Total All Persons - White, Slaves, Colored, Other: | 5                           |

1820 U S Census; Census Place: *Edgefield, South Carolina*; Page: *113B*; NARA Roll: *M33\_118*; Image: *202*



This William could be the son of Mary Free Spillars Powell born about 1787. That William's will in 1841 shows that he owned land in Crawford, Georgia, although he died in Fairfield. Edgefield would have been a stop along the way to Crawford.

Fairfield County, South Carolina Will Book 19, p40

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C9P1-LH2S?i=36&cat=448850>

William was married to Judith Seigler. Judith died very shortly after William, and their children gave William J. Alston power of attorney to sell the family property in Fairfield. They all went to Crawford. Some went on to Alabama.

[https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/68901442/person/102227949800/media/70bba0ea-24a5-4040-a533-6004c63124ee?\\_phsrc=xYT2005&usePUBJs=true](https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/68901442/person/102227949800/media/70bba0ea-24a5-4040-a533-6004c63124ee?_phsrc=xYT2005&usePUBJs=true)

Records in William Free's Bible give his wife's maiden name and date of birth, along with William's and the children's.

NOTE: I painstakingly removed highlighter markings from this copy of this Free family Bible page copy.

5

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## FAMILY RECORD.

| BIRTHS.   | DEATHS.   |
|---|---|
| <p>Geo. Free<br/>William Free was<br/>Born April 18<sup>th</sup> the 1787</p> <p>Judith Siglan his<br/>wife was Born<br/>August 28<sup>th</sup> the 1788</p> <p>George Free June<br/>24<sup>th</sup> the 1811 Lemione</p> <p>Le Free was Born<br/>January 4 1813 Mala<br/>Chio of Free January<br/>8<sup>th</sup> the 1816</p> <p>David W free<br/>Born July 29 1819</p> <p>Isiah K free<br/>Born July 9 1822</p> | <p>Geo. Gia free De-<br/>parted January 12 1814</p> <p>My Mother Departed<br/>Mary Powell<br/>January 7<sup>th</sup> the 1840</p> <p>James Findmon of W<br/>was De-<sup>parted</sup> Feb<sup>ruary</sup><br/>the Daughter 15-1861<br/>of David Free and Getson<br/>She was born the 16<sup>th</sup><br/>of August 1862</p> <p>Judith Kiriak. Free<br/>Dearthy. Min. Free<br/>Departed this life<br/>Feb<sup>ruary</sup> the 11 1864</p> |

Lewis Free is still in Abbeville in 1820. His family has grown to include many children, including nine boys.

|  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Name:  | <b>Lewis Free</b>                    |
| Home in 1820 (City, County, State):                | Abbeville, Abbeville, South Carolina |
| Enumeration Date:                                  | August 7, 1820                       |
| Free White Persons - Males - Under 10:             | 3                                    |
| Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 15:           | 4                                    |
| Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 25:           | 2                                    |
| Free White Persons - Males - 45 and over:          | 1                                    |
| Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 15:         | 1                                    |
| Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44:         | 1                                    |
| Free White Persons - Females - 45 and over:        | 1                                    |
| Number of Persons - Engaged in Agriculture:        | 2                                    |
| Free White Persons - Under 16:                     | 8                                    |
| Free White Persons - Over 25:                      | 3                                    |
| Total Free White Persons:                          | 13                                   |
| Total All Persons - White, Slaves, Colored, Other: | 13                                   |

1820 U S Census; Census Place: *Abbeville, Abbeville, South Carolina*; Page: 48; NARA Roll: *M33\_118*; Image: 61

### **Lexington County, South Carolina**

Lewis's brother Martin Free remains in Lexington. He also has a large family.

|  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Name:  | <b>Martin Frie</b>                   |
| Home in 1820 (City, County, State):                | Lexington, Lexington, South Carolina |
| Enumeration Date:                                  | August 7, 1820                       |
| Free White Persons - Males - Under 10:             | 1                                    |
| Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 18:           | 1                                    |
| Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 25:           | 1                                    |
| Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44:           | 1                                    |
| Free White Persons - Females - Under 10:           | 3                                    |
| Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 15:         | 2                                    |
| Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44:         | 1                                    |
| Free White Persons - Females - 45 and over:        | 1                                    |
| Number of Persons - Engaged in Agriculture:        | 2                                    |
| Free White Persons - Under 16:                     | 6                                    |
| Free White Persons - Over 25:                      | 3                                    |
| Total Free White Persons:                          | 10                                   |
| Total All Persons - White, Slaves, Colored, Other: | 10                                   |

1820 U S Census; Census Place: *Lexington, Lexington, South Carolina*; Page: 45; NARA Roll: *M33\_121*; Image: 90

## Fairfield County, South Carolina

In Fairfield, Adam Free the elder appears to be living with his son George Free. There are two men over 45 years old. George seems to have quite the operation going, with 16 slaves and someone involved in “manufactures.”

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| Name:  | <b>George Free</b>        |
| Home in 1820 (City, County, State):                | Fairfield, South Carolina |
| Enumeration Date:                                  | August 7, 1820            |
| Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 25:           | 3                         |
| Free White Persons - Males - 45 and over:          | 2                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 15:         | 2                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - 16 thru 25:         | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - 45 and over:        | 1                         |
| Slaves - Males - Under 14:                         | 6                         |
| Slaves - Males - 14 thru 25:                       | 4                         |
| Slaves - Females - Under 14:                       | 3                         |
| Slaves - Females - 14 thru 25:                     | 3                         |
| Number of Persons - Engaged in Agriculture:        | 11                        |
| Number of Persons - Engaged in Manufactures:       | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Under 16:                     | 2                         |
| Free White Persons - Over 25:                      | 3                         |
| Total Free White Persons:                          | 9                         |
| Total Slaves:                                      | 16                        |
| Total All Persons - White, Slaves, Colored, Other: | 25                        |

1820 U S Census; Census Place: *Fairfield, South Carolina*; Page: 53; NARA Roll: *M33\_118*;  
Image: 256

Others who lived in Fairfield in 1820 included Isaac Free, presumably a son of Adam, and William Free, Mary Free’s illegitimate son.

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| Name:  | <b>Isaac Free</b>         |
| Home in 1820 (City, County, State):                | Fairfield, South Carolina |
| Enumeration Date:                                  | August 7, 1820            |
| Free White Persons - Males - Under 10:             | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 15:           | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 25:           | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44:           | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44:         | 1                         |
| Number of Persons - Engaged in Agriculture:        | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Under 16:                     | 2                         |
| Free White Persons - Over 25:                      | 2                         |
| Total Free White Persons:                          | 5                         |
| Total All Persons - White, Slaves, Colored, Other: | 5                         |

1820 U S Census; Census Place: *Fairfield, South Carolina*; Page: 60; NARA Roll: *M33\_118*;  
Image: 263

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| Name:  | <b>William Free</b>       |
| Home in 1820 (City, County, State):                | Fairfield, South Carolina |
| Enumeration Date:                                  | August 7, 1820            |
| Free White Persons - Males - Under 10:             | 2                         |
| Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44:           | 2                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - Under 10:           | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44:         | 1                         |
| Number of Persons - Engaged in Agriculture:        | 1                         |
| Number of Persons - Engaged in Manufactures:       | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Under 16:                     | 3                         |
| Free White Persons - Over 25:                      | 3                         |
| Total Free White Persons:                          | 6                         |
| Total All Persons - White, Slaves, Colored, Other: | 6                         |

1820 U S Census; Census Place: *Fairfield, South Carolina*; Page: 60; NARA Roll: *M33\_118*; Image: 263

Isaac Free married Rebecca Parker in Crawford County, Georgia in 1841. He was in Crawford by 1830, where he appeared on the census.

|                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Name:           | Isaac Free             |
| Gender:         | Male                   |
| Marriage Date:  | 1 Mar 1840             |
| Marriage Place: | Crawford, Georgia, USA |
| Spouse:         | Rebecca Parker         |
| Spouse Gender:  | Female                 |

Ancestry.com. *Georgia, U.S., Marriage Records From Select Counties, 1828-1978* [database online]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2013. Original data: County Marriage Records, 1828–1978. The Georgia Archives, Morrow, Georgia.

Susannah Free and “Old Man” Simeon Free are near each other in 1820. Rachel Gosa, who witnessed James Free’s will, is also close by them.

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| Name:  | <b>Susannah Frie</b>      |
| Home in 1820 (City, County, State):                | Fairfield, South Carolina |
| Enumeration Date:                                  | August 7, 1820            |
| Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 15:           | 2                         |
| Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 18:           | 2                         |
| Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 25:           | 2                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - Under 10:           | 2                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 15:         | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44:         | 1                         |
| Number of Persons - Engaged in Agriculture:        | 3                         |
| Free White Persons - Under 16:                     | 5                         |
| Free White Persons - Over 25:                      | 1                         |
| Total Free White Persons:                          | 8                         |
| Total All Persons - White, Slaves, Colored, Other: | 8                         |

1820 U S Census; Census Place: *Fairfield, South Carolina*; Page: *41*; NARA Roll: *M33\_118*;  
Image: *242*

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| Name:  | <b>Simeon Frie</b>        |
| Home in 1820 (City, County, State):                | Fairfield, South Carolina |
| Enumeration Date:                                  | August 7, 1820            |
| Free White Persons - Males - Under 10:             | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 25:           | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Males - 45 and over:          | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - Under 10:           | 2                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 15:         | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - 16 thru 25:         | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - 45 and over:        | 1                         |
| Number of Persons - Engaged in Agriculture:        | 2                         |
| Free White Persons - Under 16:                     | 4                         |
| Free White Persons - Over 25:                      | 2                         |
| Total Free White Persons:                          | 8                         |
| Total All Persons - White, Slaves, Colored, Other: | 8                         |

1820 U S Census; Census Place: *Fairfield, South Carolina*; Page: *41*; NARA Roll: *M33\_118*;  
Image: *242*

## “ALABAMA” JACOB FREE SELLS THE “MELTON” FORTY ACRES, EDGEFIELD, 1823

In 1823, Jacob Free appears selling land in Edgefield in a transaction that includes the forty acres his father “Lexington” Jacob bought from Benjamin Melton in 1804. Those forty acres were part of a tract originally granted to Rolan Williams, who owned over a thousand acres in the area from various grants; however there is a total of 150 acres in the 1823 sale. I traced the history of the additional 110 acres of land, which was stated to have been originally granted to Joseph Lewis. Lewis sold 200 acres of the original 246 acre grant to William Smith 20 Jun 1796.

Edgefield County, South Carolina Deed Book 13, p537

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS73-SSXP-3?i=616&cat=472168>

William Smith sold the land to Bowling Dees sometime before 1801. Although I could not find the original deed from Smith to Dees, I know it happened because Joseph Lewis failed to have his wife Mary release her dower rights when he sold the land to Smith, and there is a document dated 7 Apr 1801 wherein Bowling Dees paid Mary twenty dollars for her one-third dower portion of “sixty-six and two thirds of an acre.” This would equate to Dees having bought 200 acres. This deed was witnessed by John Rotten and J. Wever. Those names will appear again in this chain of evidence.

Edgefield County, South Carolina Deed Book 21, p78

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKW-JXMH?i=43&cat=472168>

Bowling Dees ended up in Georgia. I could find no deed in which Dees sold the land to Jacob Free or anyone else. In this time period in Edgefield, many people were defaulting on property, which was then seized and sold on the courthouse steps. This may be how “Lexington” Jacob Free or his son “Alabama” Jacob acquired the land, but I can find no record of it.

In any event, in 1823 “Alabama” Jacob sold 110 acres plus the 40 acres from 1804 to Jonathan Weaver. The deed specifically separates out the forty acres, as it doesn’t appear on the plat of the Joseph Lewis land. As in the last deed for him in Fairfield, his wife Margit/Margaret released her dower rights.

Jacob Free to Jonathan Weaver Deed ~ South Carolina Edgefield District ~ Know all men by these present that I Jacob Free of State and District aforesaid for and in consideration of one hundred dollars...by Jonathan Weaver of the State and District aforesaid ...sell and release unto the said Jonathan Weaver all that tract or parcel of land containing one hundred and fifty acres more or less the said land was granted to Joseph Lewis and surveyed for Samuel Whitney the 15<sup>th</sup> January 1789 situate...on the waters of Rocky Creek waters of Savannah River bounded by lands held by William Martin David Hill and Jonathan Weaver and John Rotten having such shape and form as the plat represents **except forty acres more of less** sold to Jonathan Weaver...as witness my hand and seal this seventh January in the year of our lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty three...Jacob (.+) Free (his mark)...signed sealed and delivered in the presence of us Thomas Herin Thomas W. Free Mary J Brenan

State of So. Carolina Edgefield District ~ I Thomas Dozier do hereby certify...that Marget Free the wife of...Jacob Free did this day appear before me and upon being privately and separately examined by me did declare that she does freely voluntarily and without any compulsion...relinquish unto the within named Jonathan Weaver...all her right and claim of

dower...Margit (+) Free (her mark) given under my hand and seal this seventh day of January 1823 Thomas Dozier J.Q.

South Carolina Edg'd. District ~ Personally appeared Thomas Herrin before me...duly sworn saith...he did see Jacob Free sign...and also did see Thomas W. Free and Mary J Brenan with him subscribe their names...sworn to this 7<sup>th</sup> January 1823 ~ Thomas Herin. Thomas Dozier J.Q. Recorded 7<sup>th</sup> January 1823 (Abstracted by Wanda Tucker)

Edgefield County, South Carolina Deed Book 39, p 343

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS73-SQZY?i=180&cat=472168>

It is my belief that Thomas W. Free who witnessed this deed was the son of Lewis Free. He and three other sons of Lewis stayed in the Abbeville/Edgefield area until about 1870-1880 as we will see. "Settled" Simeon Free, Lewis Free's son, named a son Thomas W.

William Free, "Old Man" Simeon Free's son, named his son born 1847 in Greene County, Alabama Thomas W., too.

NOTE: In the scan of this document at Familysearch.com, the far right edge is obscured. The date at the end of line seven on page two is 1789. The name of the creek at the end of line eight is Rocky Creek. I called the Edgefield Archives and they checked it for me.

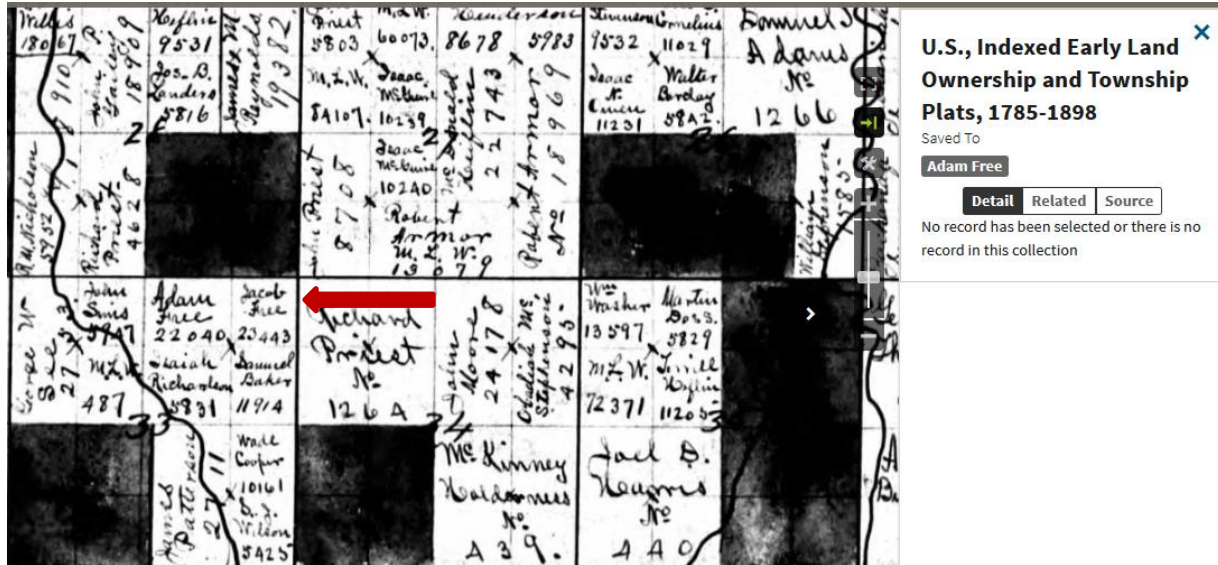
NOTE: The original 40 acre deed to "Lexington" Jacob was stated to be on "Mine Creek." Remember, waterways might not have even adjoined property, and were often used only for reference. Land at Mine Creek, Rocky Creek, Turkey Creek, and Dry Creek are all described as adjacent in various documents. The plat of the original grant to Joseph Lewis shows no water feature at all, and was stated as being on Turkey Creek. The original plat can be found at the SC Archives

It is notable that Jonathan Weaver is the same man involved in the court dispute with "Young" Adam Free in 1818. This clearly shows another connection between these Free men in Edgefield.



**“ALABAMA” JACOB FREE AND “YOUNG” ADAM ARRIVE IN ALABAMA**

Sometime shortly after this land sale, Jacob and Adam Free left South Carolina for Alabama, where they appear on a plat in the Huntsville Meridian in the northern part of Alabama.



National Archives and Records Administration (NARA); Washington, D.C.; *Township Plats of Selected States*; Series #: T1234; Roll: 2  
 Ancestry.com. *U.S., Indexed Early Land Ownership and Township Plats, 1785-1898* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.

The full plat map can be viewed here:

[https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2179/images/30656\\_100073-00470?pId=102223](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2179/images/30656_100073-00470?pId=102223)

One more item for this branch of the family that I will note here is the naming pattern. Adam named a son Adam Lafayette, born in 1834. The name Lafayette occurs in most of the family lines. Adam named another child born 1831 Isaac Jackson. One of Lewis Free’s daughters, Katherine, named her son James Jackson. A chart of all of these name repetitions is forthcoming.

## LEWIS AND MARTIN FREE MOVE INTO GEORGIA, 1825-1830

Lewis Free had moved with his family to Habersham County, Georgia by 1825. We know they were there by then as Lewis, his wife Cheriah, and their daughter Katherine were listed as founding members of Providence Baptist Church 14 Sept 1825. A transcription of these minutes is all that is left of them. I searched for the original; the only possible copy I found was at the Mercer University Library in Macon, Georgia. I was told the microfilm containing the minutes was lost to damage.

Habersham County Churches-Providence Baptist Church. Contributed by Kim Gordon. Available at:  
[http://sites.rootsweb.com/~gahaber2/church/providence.htm? ga=2.172870755.1524637176.1612367930-1974958494.1612367930](http://sites.rootsweb.com/~gahaber2/church/providence.htm?ga=2.172870755.1524637176.1612367930-1974958494.1612367930) (Accessed 27 Jul 2021)

Many people believe that Cheriah Free was a Native American woman. It is highly probable she was. She was not Cherokee, though, as many have thought. She was a Tuscarora. There is much more about her in "The Mystery of Cheriah Free" chapter.

In 1825, Martin Free (Lewis's brother) purchased 250 acres of land in Hall County, Georgia from George Shaw. This was land originally drawn in the Georgia Land Lottery by John England.

This indenture made and entered into this twenty second day of January in the year of our lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty five between George Shaw of the State of Georgia County of Jackson of the one part and Martin Free of the County of Hall and State aforesaid of the other part...in consideration of the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars...that tract of parcel of land situate...in the County of Hall...known as lot no. 87...drawn in one of the late land lotteries by John England...in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year above written. George Shaw. Test. J.C. DePriest, W.A. Martin J.J. C. Recorded 8<sup>th</sup> November 1825 David H. McCleskey Clk. (Abstracted by Wanda Tucker)

Hall County, Georgia Deed Book B, p57

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKJ-Y7K6-9?i=36&cat=254906>

In 1827, Lewis Free participated in the Georgia Land Lottery. His draw was in Habersham County, not far from the land his brother Martin had bought in 1825.

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Name:               | <b>Lewis Free</b>  |
| County:             | Lee  |
| Captain's District: | Suttons  |
| Number:             | 278  |
| District:           | 4  |
| Lottery Date:       | 1827   |
| Source:             | REPRINT of OFFICIAL REGISTER of LAND LOTTERY OF GEORGIA<br>1827; 46th DAY'S DRAWING-April 28.HABERSHAM. page 142 |

Ancestry.com. *Georgia Land Lottery, 1827* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 1997.

## THE DEATH OF “BARNWELL” JACOB FREE, 1828

Meanwhile, “Barnwell” Jacob Free, the son of Lawrence’s brother “Lynches Creek” Jacob, died in Barnwell. His will was proved on 4 Aug 1828, and named his wife Lacy, and children John Gabriel, Jacob Edmund, Mary the wife of Starling Jeter, and Nancy the wife of David Collins. The will also provided \$200 for the support of Jacob’s brother Christian “for and during his natural life.” Jacob’s friend Matthew Maye was appointed his sole executor, and the will was witnessed by L. O’Bannon, B. H. Brown, and Julius M. Robison.

Barnwell County, South Carolina Wills, Book C p44

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939L-JDYF-3?i=440&cc=1919417&cat=391698>

Jacob’s wife is enumerated as “Lucy” Free on the 1830 census at Barnwell. His brother John is also counted with his family.



## THE FREES IN FAIRFIELD SOUTH CAROLINA, 1825-1830

There is a series of land transactions in Fairfield from 1825 through 1828 involving “Old Man” Simeon Free, William Free, and Susannah Free in Fairfield that sheds some interesting light onto the family’s relationships. First in 1825, William Free bought some land.

The State of South Carolina ~ Know all men by these presents that I Richardson Mayo of Fairfield District...in consideration of the sum of eight hundred dollars to me paid by William Free of the same place...sell and release...tract of land whereon I now live containing two hundred and twenty eight acres more or less...Simeon Frees corner on the Widow Gossas land...to a stake on the Widow Free’s land...George Perry’s land...on Ned’s Branch...to Allan Colemans boundary...on Robert Colemans land...then on his line to Simeon Frees land...Having such shape form and marks as the above mentioned lines together with the plat on the deed from John Grisham to Philip Yongue also the description laid down in the deed of conveyance from Simeon Free and Philip Yongue to the said Richardson Mayo for thirty two acres bearding date the third day of January 1818...situate in Fairfield District on McClures Creek of Beaver Creek...in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 7<sup>th</sup> day of January in the year of our Lord 1825. Richardson Mayo (LS) Signed sealed and acknowledged in the presence of us Wiley Coleman, Simeon Free

Personally came Wiley Coleman before me and made oath...saw the within named Richardson Mayo sign...he together with Simeon Free in the presence of each other witnessed...sworn to the 7<sup>th</sup> of January Wiley Coleman. Before me D. R. Coleman J.Q.

The State of South Carolina ~ I David R. Coleman a justice of the Quorum do hereby certify that Lucy Mayo the wife of the within named Richardson Mayo...after being privately and separately examined...she does freely...release...all her right and claim of dower...Lucy (X) Mayo (her mark) Given under my hand and seal this 15<sup>th</sup> day of January 1826 D. R. Coleman J.Q. Recorded 16<sup>th</sup> of April 1828 (Abstracted by Wanda Tucker)

Fairfield County, South Carolina Deed Book II, p9

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKW-JTMJ?i=9&cat=207758>

### The Death of Adam Free, Fairfield, South Carolina, 1825

In 1825, a document filed in Fairfield by Adam Free revokes a will that he wrote in 1808. This will would have been written during the time between the document in 1807 giving his land and personal goods to George Free, and the document rescinding that transfer. This document in 1825 may be referring to the 1807 document itself, but it references a certified copy of the will filed in the ordinary office of Fairfield District. I was unable to locate that copy.

State of South Carolina Fairfield District ~ Whereas I Adam Free of the distract and State aforesaid sometime in the year of our lord one thousand eight hundred and eight, did make and execute in due form form of our law a certain will and testament of real and personal property containing sundry donation and bequest and devises which said will and testament reference therein the original as well as a certified copy in the ordinary office of Fairfield District will more fairly and satisfactorily appear now be it known to all whom it may concern and to whom these present may come that I the said Adam Free being of sound mind and memory do hereby and by

these present revoke annul and disallow the operation of the said will and testament as above alluded to and all parties and claims of the same as fully and comprehensively as if the said instrument of writing or will testament had never been made. In testimony whereof I hereunto set my hand and affix my seal this fourteenth day of Septer in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty five. Signed sealed published and declared in the presence of Daniel D. Fenly, Robert F. Poole, Charles Free ~ Adam (A) Free (his mark)(seal)

So. Carolina Fairfd District ~ Personally appeared before me W. G. Danl. Findley and made oath that he saw the within named **Adam Free Sen.** Sign seal and deliver the within instrument to of \_\_\_\_\_? And Robt. Poole & Charles Free subscriber as witnesses with him. Daniel D. Fenly. Sworn to before me this 5<sup>th</sup> Nov 1825 John Davis W. G. Recorded 12<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1825 (Abstracted by Wanda Tucker)

Fairfield County, South Carolina Deed Book GG, p6

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKW-JBMS?i=18&cat=207758>

This is the last evidence I found for Adam Free in Fairfield. The most interesting thing about it is that Adam is referred to as "Sen.," presumably "Senior." We know that "Young" Adam Free has departed Fairfield by this point, and that he eventually moved to Alabama with "Alabama" Jacob. This is the best evidence I have that "Young" Adam Free was the son of Adam Free. He was clearly close to his cousin "Alabama" Jacob.

### **William Free Sells the 1825 Mayo Land to Susannah Free**

In 1827, William Free sold the land he bought from Richardson Mayo in 1825 to Susannah Free.

The State of South Carolina ~ Know all men be these presents that I William Free of Fairfield...in consideration of the sum of eight hundred dollars to me paid by Susannah Free widow of the same place...sell and release unto the said Susannah Free...land containing two hundred & twenty eight acres...purchased of Richardson Mayo & the place he formerly lived on...In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 26<sup>th</sup> day of December in the year of our Lord 1827...William Free (LS) Signed...in the presence of us Rob't. R. Coleman Solomon Coleman

South Carolina Fairfield District ~ Personally came Solomon Coleman before me...& made oath that he was present...saw the within named William Free sign...he together with Robert R. Coleman...witnessed the due execution thereof...Solomon Coleman. Sworn to the 10<sup>th</sup> day of January 1828 before D. R. Coleman J. Q. Recorded 16<sup>th</sup> April 1828 (Abstracted by Wanda Tucker)

Fairfield County, South Carolina Deed Book II, p10

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKW-JR1W?i=10&cat=207758>

Susannah Free sold this land purchased from William Free along with the land she inherited when her husband died to Daniel Kerr in 1828. She also sold almost all of her household goods in the same transaction.

The State of South Carolina ~ This Indenture made the 13<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year of our Lord 1828 between Susannah Free widow of the first part and Daniel H. Kerr of the second part...in consideration of the sum of five hundred dollars...sell and release...tract of land lately purchased by William Free of Richardson Mayo...containing two hundred and twenty eight acres more or less...William Free deed conveyed and transfer...to the said Susannah Free...also one other tract of land whereon she now lives...containing one hundred and twenty two acres which she holds and claims a life estate in under the will of James Free dec'd. her late husband...as is particularly set forth in the deed of conveyance from Thomas Malone to James Free dated the 8<sup>th</sup> day of October...1807 and adjoins the Mayo tract on the North...together with all her stock of horned cattle hogs & also all her household and kitchen furniture and plantation tools with the exception of one feather bed and furniture only – The aforesaid two tracts of land situate in Fairfield District on McClures Creek a branch of Beaver Creek...In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year above written. Susannah (X) Free (her mark) Signed...in the presence of D. R. Coleman Solomon R. Coleman

South Carolina Fairfield District ~ Personally came Solomon R. Coleman...and made oath that he was resent and saw...Susannah Free sign...that he together with David R. Coleman...witnessed the due execution thereof. Solomon R. Coleman. Sworn to the 24<sup>th</sup> day of April 1828 before me D. R. Coleman J. Q. Recorded 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 1828 (Abstracted by Wanda Tucker)

Fairfield County, South Carolina Deed Book II, p11

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKW-JR1W?i=10&cat=207758>

This would ordinarily lead me to conclude that Susannah was remarrying or moving in with a relative, but she is in her own household on the 1830 census. From all appearances, she never remarried. What she was probably doing was preparing to move to Alabama. When William sold her the land, he was probably doing the same thing. Susannah may not have originally planned to go. From the recording dates of all of the foregoing deeds, along with the date on this deed, I would assume the decision to leave Fairfield was made about 1828, and all their affairs were being tidied up for the move. You will notice the transactions involving William and Susannah Free are one right after the other in the deed book.

I don't know what to conclude about the parentage of the William Free in the deeds above. Both "Old Man" Simeon Free and his wife Jemima, and James Free and Susannah had sons almost the same age named William. Ordinarily, I would think the deeds were between mother and son, but these families were so enmeshed this may well be Simeon's son William. And if Simeon's branch of the family was planning to leave for Alabama, but Susannah's originally was not, then the transactions make more sense that way.

## FREES IN THE 1830 CENSUS

### Fairfield County, South Carolina

“Old Man” Simeon Free, Susannah Free, and William Free all live next to each other on the 1830 census in Fairfield. This William Free must be the illegitimate son of Mary Free, who would be about 43 years old.

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Name:   | <b>Simeon Free</b>        |
| Home in 1830 (City, County, State):                     | Fairfield, South Carolina |
| Free White Persons - Males - 15 thru 19:                | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Males - 20 thru 29:                | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Males - 50 thru 59:                | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - 15 thru 19:              | 2                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - 20 thru 29:              | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - 40 thru 49:              | 1                         |
| Slaves - Males - Under 10:                              | 2                         |
| Slaves - Males - 10 thru 23:                            | 1                         |
| Slaves - Females - 10 thru 23:                          | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Under 20:                          | 3                         |
| Free White Persons - 20 thru 49:                        | 3                         |
| Total Free White Persons:                               | 7                         |
| Total Slaves:   | 4                         |
| Total - All Persons (Free White, Slaves, Free Colored): | 11                        |

Year: 1830; Census Place: *Fairfield, South Carolina*; Series: *M19*; Roll: *169*; Page: *411*; Family History Library Film: *0022503*

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Name:   | <b>Susanna Free</b>       |
| Home in 1830 (City, County, State):                     | Fairfield, South Carolina |
| Free White Persons - Males - 5 thru 9:                  | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Males - 15 thru 19:                | 2                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 14:              | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - 15 thru 19:              | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - 20 thru 29:              | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - 40 thru 49:              | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Under 20:                          | 5                         |
| Free White Persons - 20 thru 49:                        | 2                         |
| Total Free White Persons:                               | 7                         |
| Total - All Persons (Free White, Slaves, Free Colored): | 7                         |

Year: 1830; Census Place: *Fairfield, South Carolina*; Series: *M19*; Roll: *169*; Page: *411*; Family History Library Film: *0022503*

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Name:   | <b>William Free</b>       |
| Home in 1830 (City, County, State):                     | Fairfield, South Carolina |
| Free White Persons - Males - 5 thru 9:                  | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 14:                | 2                         |
| Free White Persons - Males - 40 thru 49:                | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - Under 5:                 | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 14:              | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - 30 thru 39:              | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Under 20:                          | 5                         |
| Free White Persons - 20 thru 49:                        | 2                         |
| Total Free White Persons:                               | 7                         |
| Total - All Persons (Free White, Slaves, Free Colored): | 7                         |



Year: 1830; Census Place: *Fairfield, South Carolina*; Series: *M19*; Roll: 169; Page: 399; Family History Library Film: 0022503

Three sons of George Free are in Fairfield in 1830; Charles, Nathaniel, and Daniel.

### **Lexington County, South Carolina**

There is one Free family left in Lexington in 1830. Jesse Free is enumerated with a young family and only one child, a girl age 5-9. An older woman, age 60-69 may be his mother or mother-in-law. Martin Free had a woman age 45+ in his household in 1820, and he did not in 1830, when he was found in Georgia, so it is possible this is Thamar Starnes Free, "Lexington" Jacob's widow.

Jesse himself would have been born between 1791 and 1800. I am not certain, because I have located no other records for this man, but due to the name Jesse being repeated in the Martin Free line, it is probable this is a brother. That would mean he was another son of "Lexington" Jacob Free. Given the timing of Jesse's birth, around the year Jacob sold his Little River property to Jesse Fort, Jacob may have named this son after him.

On the 1800 Abbeville census, there is a male under ten who could be this Jesse. That would be further confirmation that "Young" Adam Free later associated with "Alabama" Jacob Free was a son of Adam Free not "Lexington" Jacob, and that he went to Alabama with his *cousin* not his *brother*, as we have previously discussed. There is just not a lot to go on here, but I believe Jesse Free is the child under ten on the 1800 census with "Lexington" Jacob Free.

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Name:   | <b>Jesse Free</b>         |
| Home in 1830 (City, County, State):                     | Lexington, South Carolina |
| Free White Persons - Males - 30 thru 39:                | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - 5 thru 9:                | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - 30 thru 39:              | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Females - 60 thru 69:              | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - Under 20:                          | 1                         |
| Free White Persons - 20 thru 49:                        | 2                         |
| Total Free White Persons:                               | 4                         |
| Total - All Persons (Free White, Slaves, Free Colored): | 4                         |

Year: 1830; Census Place: *Lexington, South Carolina*; Series: *M19*; Roll: 171; Page: 349; Family History Library Film: 0022505

After 1830, I found no records for Jesse Free in any state. There is record loss for Lexington, so any other records for him there are gone.

### **Edgefield County, South Carolina**

In Edgefield, a James Free born between 1791 and 1800 appears next door to John Rotten, who witnessed Jacob Free's land sale in 1823. Jonathan Weaver who bought that land is one page away, near an elderly Sarah Martin. This James is too old to be James the son of "Old Man" Simeon Free and Susannah Free, the widow of James Free. Their son James was born about 1809 according to census data. There is no other known James from Fairfield of an age appropriate to match this man. There is also a George Free born between 1801 and 1810, and T. [Thomas] W. Free born between 1791 and 1800 living in Edgefield in 1830. Lewis Free had sons on the 1810 census who appear to match up with these men. Another son,



Isaac, finally shows up on the census in Edgefield in 1850. He was born about 1810. This accounts for all the sons of Lewis Free shown on the 1810 census.

These are the only Frees left in Edgefield in 1830.

### Lawrence County, Alabama

Adam Free was in Lawrence County, Alabama in 1830 with his family. Jacob Free, who lived next to him, is missing. I presume he has died, but he may have gone further west, and was not enumerated on a census.

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Name:   | <b>Adam Free</b>  |
| Home in 1830 (City, County, State):                     | Lawrence, Alabama |
| Free White Persons - Males - Under 5:                   | 3                 |
| Free White Persons - Males - 5 thru 9:                  | 2                 |
| Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 14:                | 1                 |
| Free White Persons - Males - 30 thru 39:                | 1                 |
| Free White Persons - Females - 5 thru 9:                | 1                 |
| Free White Persons - Females - 30 thru 39:              | 1                 |
| Free White Persons - Under 20:                          | 7                 |
| Free White Persons - 20 thru 49:                        | 2                 |
| Total Free White Persons:                               | 9                 |
| Total - All Persons (Free White, Slaves, Free Colored): | 9                 |

1830; Census Place: *Lawrence, Alabama*; Series: *M19*; Roll: *1*; Page: *260*; Family History Library Film: *0002328*

### Greene County, Alabama

A William Free born between 1801 and 1810 is in Greene County, Alabama in 1830. William has married and has one male child under five. I can't determine conclusively from available information who this William is. He could be the son of "Old Man" Simeon Free and Jemima, or of James Free and Susannah. These men were of similar age, with one remaining in Fairfield in 1830.

|   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Name:   | <b>William Tree [William Free]</b> |
| Home in 1830 (City, County, State):                     | Greene, Alabama                    |
| Free White Persons - Males - Under 5:                   | 1                                  |
| Free White Persons - Males - 20 thru 29:                | 1                                  |
| Free White Persons - Females - 15 thru 19:              | 1                                  |
| Free White Persons - Under 20:                          | 2                                  |
| Free White Persons - 20 thru 49:                        | 1                                  |
| Total Free White Persons:                               | 3                                  |
| Total - All Persons (Free White, Slaves, Free Colored): | 3                                  |

Year: *1830*; Census Place: *Greene, Alabama*; Series: *M19*; Roll: *2*; Page: *402*; Family History Library Film: *0002329*

### Habersham County, Georgia

Lewis Free and his family are enumerated on the 1830 census in Habersham County, Georgia.

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Name:   | <b>Lewis Free</b>  |
| Home in 1830 (City, County, State):                     | Habersham, Georgia |
| Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 14:                | 2                  |
| Free White Persons - Males - 15 thru 19:                | 1                  |
| Free White Persons - Males - 20 thru 29:                | 1                  |
| Free White Persons - Males - 50 thru 59:                | 1                  |
| Free White Persons - Females - 50 thru 59:              | 1                  |
| Free White Persons - Under 20:                          | 3                  |
| Free White Persons - 20 thru 49:                        | 1                  |
| Total Free White Persons:                               | 6                  |
| Total - All Persons (Free White, Slaves, Free Colored): | 6                  |

Year: 1830; Census Place: *Habersham, Georgia*; Series: *M19*; Roll: *18*; Page: *58*; Family History Library Film: *0007038*

The children accounted for on the above census are Elisha born about 1808, "Settled" Simeon born about 1810, Martin born about 1816, and Ebenezer born about 1820.

Bethuel Free, one of Lewis's sons born about 1804 is also found on the 1830 census in Habersham County in his own household.

Katherine Free, Lewis's daughter, appears uncounted on the 1830 census. She never married, although she did have children.

### Hall County, Georgia

Martin Free, the son of "Lexington" Jacob Free born about 1787, is in Hall County, Georgia in 1830. Hall County was adjacent to Habersham County.

|   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Name:   | <b>Martin Fra [Martin Free]</b> |
| Home in 1830 (City, County, State):                     | Hall, Georgia                   |
| Free White Persons - Males - Under 5:                   | 1                               |
| Free White Persons - Males - 5 thru 9:                  | 2                               |
| Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 14:                | 1                               |
| Free White Persons - Males - 40 thru 49:                | 1                               |
| Free White Persons - Females - Under 5:                 | 1                               |
| Free White Persons - Females - 5 thru 9:                | 1                               |
| Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 14:              | 2                               |
| Free White Persons - Females - 15 thru 19:              | 2                               |
| Free White Persons - Females - 40 thru 49:              | 1                               |
| Free White Persons - Under 20:                          | 10                              |
| Free White Persons - 20 thru 49:                        | 2                               |
| Total Free White Persons:                               | 12                              |
| Total - All Persons (Free White, Slaves, Free Colored): | 12                              |

Year: 1830; Census Place: *Hall, Georgia*; Series: *M19*; Roll: *18*; Page: *123*; Family History Library Film: *0007038*

### **“OLD MAN” SIMEON FREE SELLS THE MCCLURES CREEK LAND, FAIRFIELD, 1833**

In 1833, “Old Man” Simeon Free sold the land on McClures Creek that he originally bought in 1800 from Aaron Gosa.

The State of South Carolina ~ Know all men by these presents that I Simeon Free of Fairfield District...in consideration of five hundred and eighty seven dollar and 50/100 paid by Isaiah Mobley and Nathan Mobley...two hundred and thirty acres the place thereon I now live situate in Fairfield District on McClures Creek...resurvey thereof made in the year (1820) and also a plat made by said D. R. Coleman at the same time for ninety-six acres adjoining to the above...on Grubbs line...on Robert McCreight...R.R. Coleman land...Wiley Coleman’s land...and Widow Free’s land...to Richard Crosby...to E. Grubbs land...in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this eighteenth day of October in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred & thirty three...Simeon Free (LS) Signed...in the presence of us Isaac Coleman D.R. Coleman

South Carolina Fairfield District ~ Personally came Isaac Coleman before me and made oath...saw Simeon Free sign...together with D. R. Coleman...Isaac Coleman. Sworn to the 18<sup>th</sup> day of October 1833 before me D. R. Coleman J. Quo.

The State of South Carolina ~ I David R. Coleman a Justice of the Quorum do hereby certify that Jemima the wife of the within named Simeon Free did this day appear before me and after being privately and separately examined...she did freely...release and forever relinquish...right and claim of dower... Jemima Free (her mark) Given under my hand and seal this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of December 1833 D. R. Coleman J. Quo. Recorded February 21<sup>st</sup> 1835 (Abstracted by Wanda Tucker)

Fairfield County, South Carolina Deed Book LL, p391

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSR7-YZB5?i=198&cat=207758>

Note that this sale includes an accumulation of land. There were eighty acres in the 1800 deed, and this deed incorporates an additional ninety-six acres. That adds up to 176 acres. I have not found any record of when the ninety-six acres or the additional fifty-four acres shown in this sale were acquired. It is possible the land was inherited when his father Thomas died. I have not found a will or any land record for Thomas Free.

Also note that Susannah Free is still referred to here as “Widow Free.” This is yet more evidence that she never did remarry.

In 1834, Bethuel Free, son of Lewis Free, bought fifty acres of land in Hall County, near his uncle Martin Free in the Twelfth District.

This Indenture made and entered into this twenty third day of August in the year of our lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty four between Andrew Nichols of the State of Georgia and Hall County of the one part and Bethuel Free of the same place...in consideration of the sum of fifty dollars...land situate .... on the waters of Bell or Nicholson Creek being a part of lot number (134) according to the plan of said Twelfth District of Hall County...fifty acres more or less...in witness whereof the said Andrew Nichols... set his hand and affixed his seal ... Andrew (+) Nichols (his mark) assigned and acknowledged in the presence of Jesse Windsor, Jr. Henry Morgan John Miller J.P. Recorded January 28<sup>th</sup> 1835 (Abstracted by Wanda Tucker)

Hall County, Georgia Deed Book D, p255

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLX-LQ7S?i=141&cat=254906>

## SUSANNAH DODSON FREE'S ESTATE, GREENE COUNTY, ALABAMA 1858

Susannah left a will in Greene County, Alabama in 1858. Her exact date of death is listed in the probate as 28 Jul 1858. The administrator of the will was "Alabama" **Simeon Free, Jr.** This would seem to indicate that he was the son of "Old Man" Simeon Free, Sr., but there is no mention of Sr. in Susannah's will. Simeon *could* have been known as "Jr." only to differentiate him from the older man, as sometimes happened.

The will was contested by William Free, Jr. (this must be the son of William, son of James and Susannah) Sarah Free Malone, widow of Robert Malone, and William Free, Jr. were ordered into court to show cause as to why the will produced by Simeon Free, Jr. should not be admitted to probate. All of the children of Thomas Free, deceased, both adults and minors, were also so ordered. This included Elizabeth and Peggy, both over 21 years old, and James, Sarah, Calvin, Frances, Littleton, Jane and Eliza. There were many other witnesses called.

"Alabama" Simeon Free, Jr. himself visited the attorney and asked him to come to Susannah to write her will. The attorney was too busy to go to her, so Simeon directed him on what the will was to say. She then apparently signed it. This will begins by outlining property due to Susannah from her brother William Dodson of Mississippi, recently deceased. This "property" was actually nine slaves, which at that time would have constituted thousands of dollars. She leaves all of her estate to Simeon Free, Jr., with five dollars each to her other children and grandchildren.

Reading the witness testimony reveals that Susannah had lived with Simeon Free, Jr. for the final five years or so of her life. She was a widow when she died, having apparently never remarried after James' death in 1811.

James Free, son of "Old Man" Simeon Free testified for the children contesting the will. He stated that he and "Alabama" Simeon Free had married sisters, but that he was otherwise *unrelated* to the parties, and would not benefit from the outcome. He testified that Susannah was "fickle minded and of raving disposition." Although James states he is "unrelated" to the parties, he is most likely the half-brother of some of Susannah's children.

It is also stated in the file that Susannah came to Alabama with her "sons John and Simeon." Neither John nor "Alabama" Simeon is mentioned in James Free's 1811 will, so they were born after he died. I am unable to determine what happened to John.

It is also mentioned that Susannah went back to South Carolina for four years before returning to Alabama. She also went to Mississippi, probably to her brother, and lived for a year. After that, she lived with her various children until the last five years with "Alabama" Simeon. Susannah was quite a traveler, and must have been something of a "free spirit."

The jury found that Susannah was of "sound mind" at her death, and upheld her will.

One excellent piece of information is found in the estate file; all the ages of Susannah Free's children are listed. **Sarah** was about age 57 in 1858; **William** Free, Jr. was about 55; **Simeon Free, Jr.** was 46; **Robert** was about 52; **Cynthia**, wife of Robert Mobley was about 50; **Elizabeth**, wife of Alfred Mabry was about 42. Susannah's son **Thomas Free** was stated to have died several years earlier in Pickens

County, Alabama, leaving several children: Elizabeth, wife of Harrison Foster of Portotoc, Mississippi; Peggy, wife of Franklin Hudgins; and all the children listed previously still under age 21.

It is further stated that Susannah Free had a daughter **Mourning**, wife of Isaac Mabry, who died about 1840 in South Carolina, leaving Amanda (deceased); Ephraim, about 21; William, about 19; and Susan, about 17 (if Mourning died in 1840, then Susan's birth may have killed her). An infant daughter of Amanda is also stated, name unknown.

All of this information makes it quite apparent that Susannah had children *after* the death of James. It doesn't completely clarify whether or not Simeon, Jr. was the legitimate son of James Free. Simeon, John, Thomas, Elizabeth, and Mourning were not named in James Free's 1811 will, and it is highly doubtful Susannah had quintuplets just after James' death.

This sixty-page estate record is a wealth of information about this family and the workings of the court at the time. A whole family tree is outlined within it.

Greene County, Alabama, Estate Case Files, 1820-1915, Estate case files #1172-1197, Lawson, Elija (cont.) - Hobson, Imogene (folder 1 of 4), 1820-1915. Case file #1172

Familysearch. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9RRB-88K?cc=1978117&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AVNTV-8Y1> (Accessed 25 July 2021)

## THE ESTATE OF SIMEON FREE, SR., GREENE COUNTY, ALABAMA 1860

In “Old Man” Simeon Free will in Green County, Alabama in 1860, Simeon’s son **James Free** is the executor, and there is no mention of “Alabama” Simeon Free, Jr. “Old Man” Simeon is stated by a witness, Isaiah Mobley, to have died 5 May 1860 at about age 92, making him born about 1768. This conflicts with earlier census data, which would put his birth about 1772. I tend to trust the earlier data, which would have been given by Simeon himself.

Other children named in the will included **Susan Lewis**, and **Elizabeth**, wife of Jonathan May; granddaughter **Pelina**, daughter of **William Free**, wife of John B. Davis is also named. William himself must be deceased and is not otherwise named. William S. Lewis is mentioned a couple of times in the estate file; on the 1850 census, Susan Lewis, age 22 and son William S. age 9, are living with “Old Man” Simeon, age 78. Elizabeth Free, age 27, is also in the household.

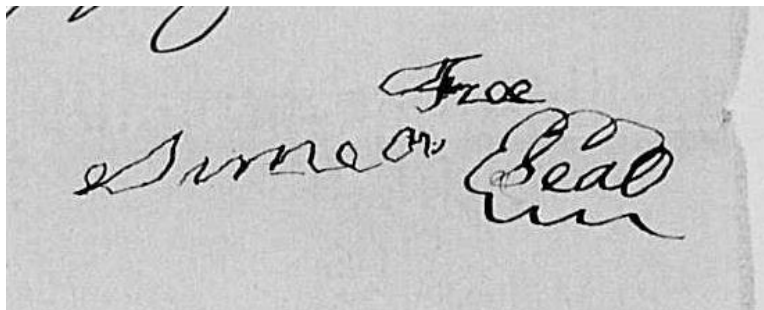
A note by Isaiah Mobley in the file dated 9 Mar 1863 lists the heirs and stated that James Free had died intestate. His headstone shows his death as 13 July 1862. James was married to Nancy Cockrell.

Another note from Isaiah names his wife as **Nancy Free**, who is presumably another daughter of “Old Man” Simeon.

The signature on the original will appears to be in Simeon’s own handwriting.

Greene County, Alabama, Estate Case Files, 1820-1915, Estate case files #1579-1622, Kirksey, R. B. W. (cont.),- Haywood, William D., 1820-1915. Case File #1620

Familysearch. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9RT2-257?personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AVNTV-62N> (Accessed 25 July 2021)

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The signature reads "Simeon Free" in a fluid, connected script. The word "Simeon" is written on the lower line, and "Free" is written on the upper line, with the two words overlapping. The ink is dark and the handwriting is clear.

## THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL – SIGNATURES

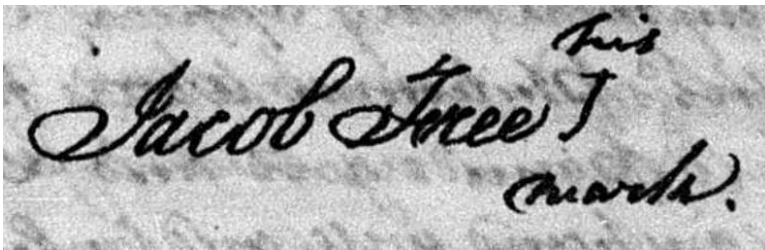
Most documents I find from the early American colonies don't have original signatures. They usually are written by someone other than the person attesting, and the signature is written out by them as well. The attester will make "their mark," which I have found in almost all cases is a simple 'X'.

There are so many Jacob Frees that understanding and believing that the various documents can be assigned to one or the other of them is a daunting prospect. However, at least one Jacob and possibly another left a telltale mark to prove who he was. Other Frees left similar evidence which I will explore here.

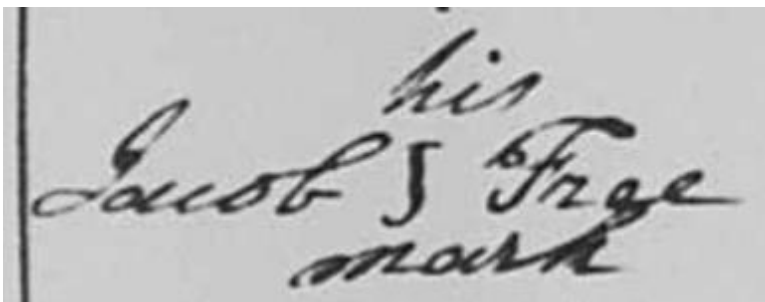
### "Lexington" Jacob Free

In the case of "Lexington" Jacob Free, however, I find an amazing and extremely helpful exception to the rule.

Below are three examples of documents which I have previously referenced as belonging to "Lexington" Jacob. Take a look and see if you, too, would concur with my conclusion. The **name itself** in each case is written by the person scribing the document, but the **mark** is made by **Jacob Free**.

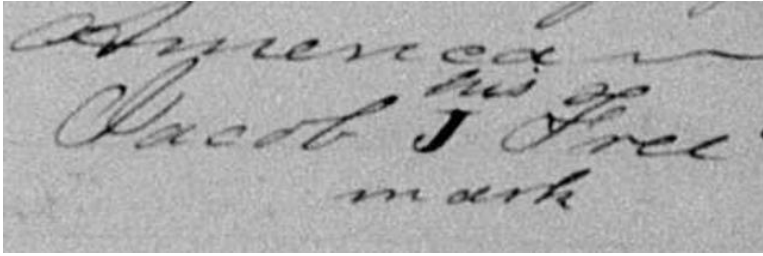


Jacob Free land sale to Jesse Fort, 1792  
Fairfield County South Carolina Deed Book I, p 9



Jacob Free signs John Langford's will 1796  
Newberry County South Carolina Wills Book A, p382





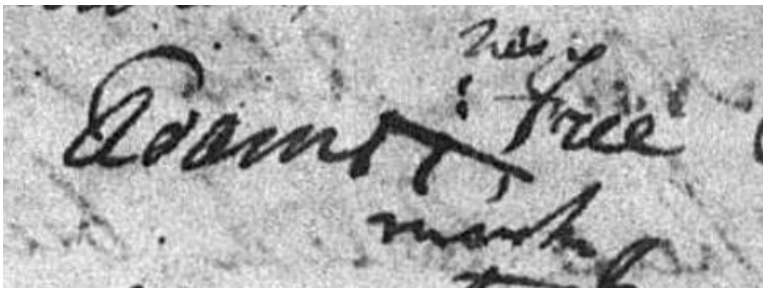
Jacob Free to Andrew Gamelin 1807  
Edgefield County, South Carolina Deed Book 3E, p 535

Unlike so many of the era, this Jacob Free appears to have been semi-literate, at least enough so to write a letter 'J' for his mark rather than an 'X.' As we will see, other sales of land by a Jacob Free do not have this mark.

### Adam Free

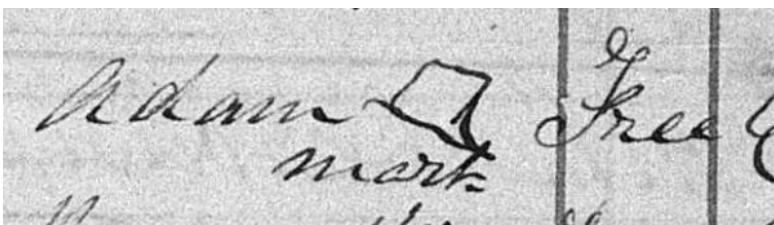
Adam Free, "Lexington" Jacob's brother, also signed with a letter other than 'X.' I found this in multiple documents.

This one looks like an 'F'.



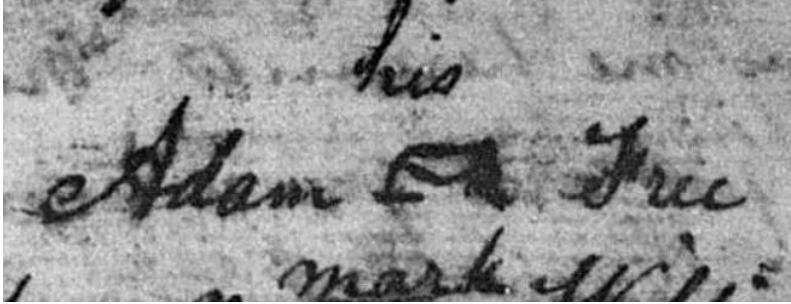
Adam Free to George Free, 1796  
Fairfield County, South Carolina Deed Book M, p14

Hard to say if this one is an 'F' or an 'A', but using the next as an example, I would guess 'A'.



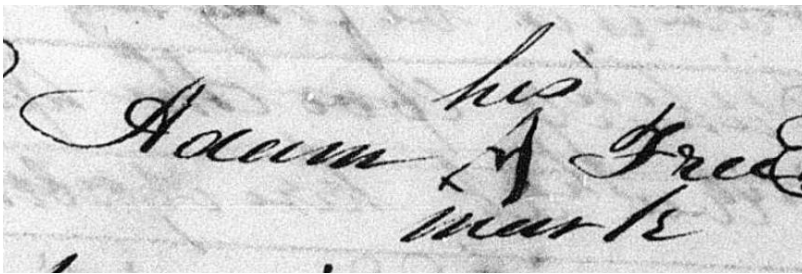
Adam Free to Jacob Free, 1803  
Fairfield County, South Carolina Deed Book P, p210

This one looks like an 'A'.



Adam Free to George Free, 1807  
Fairfield County, South Carolina Deed Book R, p277

This is definitely an 'A'.

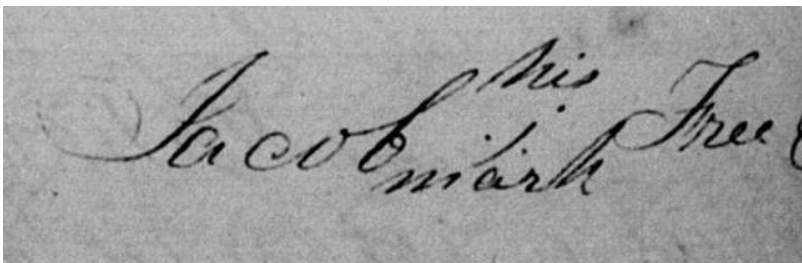


Adam Free's will, 1825  
Fairfield County, South Carolina Deed Book GG, p6

This last letter 'A' is different enough to make me wonder if Adam, as old as he was, needed help to "make his mark" in this case.

#### **"Alabama" Jacob Free**

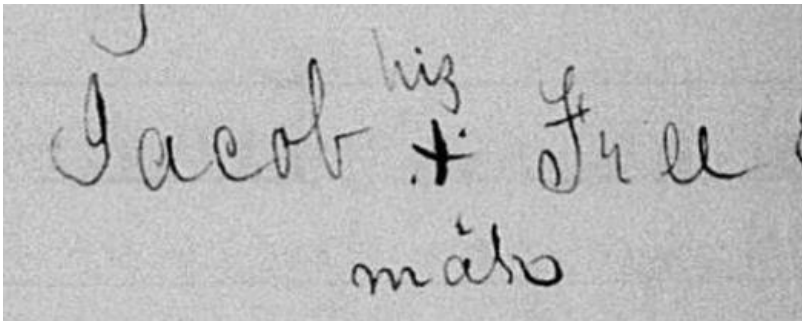
"Alabama" Jacob Free appears in Fairfield County selling a piece of property that his father probably inherited when Mary Free Ingleman died.



Jacob Free to John Findley, 1811  
Fairfield County, South Carolina Deed Book CC, p198

In 1823, this same man sold another piece of his father's property in Edgefield. It doesn't look like much at first, but notice the little 'dots' around the mark. They are similar in both cases. It is unusual, but I

believe it is part, or all, of his mark. I know for certain this is the same person; otherwise I would not give the dots much credence.

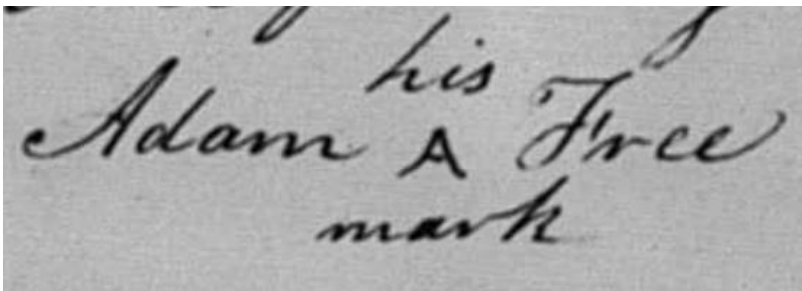


his  
Jacob .+ Free  
mark

“Alabama” Jacob sells “Lexington” Jacob Free land, 1823  
Edgefield County, South Carolina Deed Book 39, p343

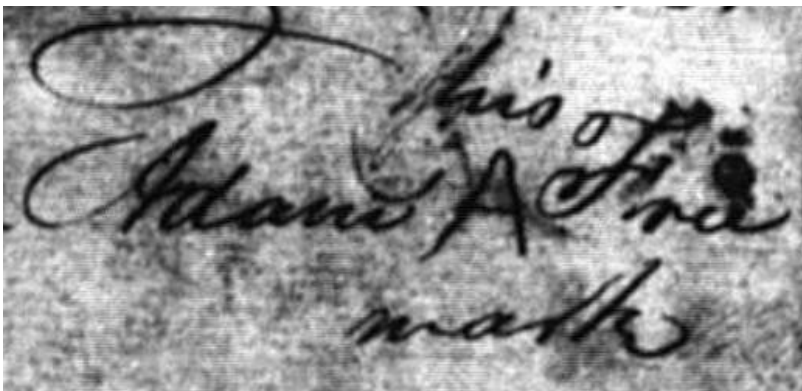
### “Young” Adam Free

When “Young” Adam Free went down to Lexington when he was around eighteen years old, he got involved in a legal dispute over getting paid for doing some work. Later, he defaulted on some debts in Edgefield. Because of that we have signatures to compare. It is evident that he, too, had the literacy to sign with a letter ‘A’ rather than just an ‘X’ or other mark.



his  
Adam A Free  
mark

Adam Free promise to pay Jonathan Wever, 1818  
Edgefield County, South Carolina Petitions and Decrees, 2342



his  
Adam A Free  
mark

Adam Free, promise to pay Aaron Allen, 1819  
Edgefield County, South Carolina Petitions and Decrees 2160

I found no documents with signatures for “Young” Adam in Lawrence County, Alabama.

**“Lynches Creek” and “Barnwell” Jacob Frees**

I likewise found no document for “Lynches Creek” Jacob Free containing a mark or signature. Documents for him don’t appear to exist. I also found no document for “Barnwell” Jacob that bore a “mark.” There are several extant documents, but none of his signatures appear to have been written by him; all look like the handwriting of the scribe of the document, even his will.

**THE FREE FAMILY LINES IN IN THE CENSUSES OF 1840-1900,  
IN GEORGIA, ALABAMA, AND SOUTH CAROLINA**

I have traced the Free family lines in some detail until about 1830. At that point, there were many descendants of Lawrence Free and his brother Jacob, and their children. Rather than trace them all, I have elected to list all Free heads of household from these lines in the area where they were. Research can easily be continued by others in those individual families. Each category is done somewhat differently, in whatever way enables the families to be most easily identified.

**Northeastern Georgia and North Carolina**

From 1830 forward, the Martin Free group and the Lewis Free group remain in Georgia. Lewis Free's descendants are blocked in gray, and Martin Free's in aqua. "Wandering" Simeon Free is identified as being of Lexington, South Carolina as a result of the 1860 census in which he stated he was born in 1810 in Lexington District, South Carolina. This is somewhat unique information, as the county or district of birth is rarely provided on a census.

I combined all the northeast Georgia counties into one category because all of these families are closely related, and I wanted to show that. I included "Wandering" Simeon and his family's North Carolina censuses here because he is related to both lines, and they have contact later. It has been incorrectly stated by some researchers that the Frees in this area are not related. All of these lines descend from "Lexington" Jacob Free.

Habersham, Hall, Lumpkin, and Banks County Georgia bordered each other at some point, and some were formed from the lands in another. Cherokee County, North Carolina is only fifty miles away from Lumpkin County, Georgia.

| Year  | Name                  | County       |           |
|---|-----------------------|--------------|-----------|
| 1840  | Elisha Free           | Habersham    |           |
|   | Martin Free (b. 1816) | Habersham    |           |
|   | Ebenezer Free         | Habersham    |           |
|   | Lewis Free            | Habersham    |           |
|   | Simeon Free (1810)    | Habersham    |           |
|   | Bethuel Free          | Hall         |           |
|   | Sarah Free (widow?)   | Hall         |           |
|   | Martin Free (b. 1787) | Lumpkin      |           |
|   | 1850                  | Elisha Free  | Habersham |
|   |                       | Lewis Free   | Habersham |
| Simeon Free (b. 1810)                           |                       | Habersham    |           |
| Martin Free (b. 1816)                           |                       | Habersham    |           |
| Catherine Free                                  |                       | Habersham    |           |
| Martin W. Free, Jr. (b. 1822)                   |                       | Hall         |           |
| Elizabeth Free (sister of Martin W.)            |                       | Lumpkin      |           |
| "Wandering" Simeon Free (son of Martin b. 1787) |                       | Cherokee, NC |           |

|      |   |   |
|------|---|---|
| 1860 | Martin Free (1816)<br>Elisha Free<br>Lewis Lafayette Free (son of Simeon b. 1810)<br>Irena Free (widow of Simeon b. 1810)<br>Malachi Free (son of Elisha) | Habersham<br>Habersham<br>Habersham<br>Habersham<br>Habersham                             |
| 1860 | No Frees are in Hall County in 1860   |   |
|      | Martin W. Free, Jr. (b. 1822)<br>"Wandering" Simeon Free (son of Martin b. 1787)<br>Martin Free (b. 1787)   | Auraria, Lumpkin<br>Cherokee, NC<br>Fannin  |
| 1870 | Martin Free (1816)<br>Lewis Lafayette Free<br><br>Katherine Free<br>Irena Free (widow of Simeon b. 1810)  | Batesville, Habersham<br>Cool Springs,<br>Habersham<br>Batesville, Habersham<br>Habersham |
|      | Martin W. Free, Jr. (b. 1822)<br>Martin Free (b. 1787)<br>"Wandering" Simeon Free (son of Martin b. 1787)   | Lumpkin<br>Lumpkin<br>Macon, NC   |
| 1880 | Martin Free (1816)<br>Lewis Lafayette Free<br>Irena Free(widow of Simeon b. 1810)   | Batesville, Habersham<br>Batesville, Habersham<br>Habersham                               |
|      | Martin W. Free, Jr. (b. 1822)<br>"Wandering" Simeon Free (son of Martin b. 1787)<br>Margaret Free (TN) (Simeon's wife)                                    | Auraria, Lumpkin<br>Banks District 284  |

The 1890 census was destroyed by a fire at the Commerce Department in Washington, DC on 10 January 1921. There are no remaining records for any of these counties for that year.

|      |  |  |
|------|--|--|
| 1900 | Martin Free (1816)<br>Lewis Lafayette Free<br>Margaret Free (TN)<br>Lafayette Free (1853 NC) | Batesville, Habersham<br>Batesville, Habersham<br>Cornelia, Habersham<br>Deep Creek, Habersham |
|------|--|--|

## Greene County, Alabama

Susannah Free is missing from Greene County in 1840. We know she travelled back to South Carolina for a time, so she may have been there. There is no woman of the age to be her in any of the Free households listed.

| Year | Name                  | Age                                |
|------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1840 | Simmons (Simeon) Free | 40-49 [age appears to be an error] |
|      | Simeon Free           | 50-59                              |
|      | Jas Free              | 20-29                              |

| Year | Name         | Age | Birthplace     |
|------|--------------|-----|----------------|
| 1850 | Robert Free  | 44  | Alabama        |
|      | James Free   | 41  | Alabama        |
|      | Simeon Free  | 40  | Alabama        |
|      | Simeon Free  | 78  | Alabama        |
|      | William Free | 51  | Alabama        |
|      | William Free | 45  | Alabama        |
| 1860 | R. Free      | 53  | South Carolina |
|      | S. M. Free   | 30  | Alabama        |
|      | Wm. Free     | 55  | South Carolina |
|      | Sim Free     | 48  | South Carolina |
|      | J. Free      | 50  | South Carolina |

Note: Beginning in 1870, there are many black families with the last name Free in Greene County. There are also several women who may have been widowed in the Civil War.

| Year | Name           | Age | Birthplace     |
|------|----------------|-----|----------------|
| 1870 | Eva Free       | 63  | South Carolina |
|      | Robt. Free     | 62  | South Carolina |
|      | Elizabeth Free | 28  | Alabama        |
|      | Simeon Free    | 58  | South Carolina |
|      | Cicily Free    | 35  | Alabama        |
| 1880 | Simeon Free    | 69  | South Carolina |
|      | Thos. Free     | 32  | Alabama        |
|      | Robert Free    | 75  | South Carolina |

Note: The 1890 census was destroyed by a fire at the Commerce Department in Washington, DC on 10 January 1921. There are no remaining records for Greene County, Alabama for that year.

|      |                            |    |                |
|------|----------------------------|----|----------------|
| 1900 | Mrs. E. E. Free<br>(widow) | 79 | South Carolina |
|------|----------------------------|----|----------------|

### Lawrence County, Alabama

Although I would expect to find him there, “Young” Adam Free is not on the 1840 census in Lawrence County. I could find him on no census for that year anywhere. He reappears in 1850.

| Year                     | Name           | Age   |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|-------|----------------|
| 1840                     | Wiley Free     | 20-29 |                |
|                          | Thomas Free    | 20-29 |                |
|                          | Allen Free     | 20-29 |                |
| Year                     | Name           | Age   | Birthplace     |
| 1850                     | Adam Free      | 55    | South Carolina |
|                          | Allen Free     | 33    | South Carolina |
|                          | Thomas R. Free | 31    | South Carolina |
|                          | John Free      | 24    | Georgia        |
| 1860                     | A. L. Free     | 25    | Alabama        |
|                          | J. W. Free     | 34    | South Carolina |
| 1870                     | I. A. Free     | 35    | Alabama        |
|                          | Pinckney Free  | 25    | Alabama        |
|                          | Wiley W. Free  | 50    | South Carolina |
|                          | Ellen          | 47    | Alabama        |
| 1880                     | J. T. Free     | 26    | Alabama        |
|                          | Icey Free      | 40    | Alabama        |
|                          | L. D. Free     | 20    | Alabama        |
| 1890 – No records remain |                |       |                |
| 1900                     | John T. Free   | 51    | Alabama        |
|                          | Joseph J. Free | 37    | Alabama        |
|                          | Lo. D. Free    | 44    | Alabama        |
|                          | Walter F. Free | 35    | Alabama        |

### Fairfield County, South Carolina

The Frees left in Fairfield by 1840 appear to include only William, Mary Free’s illegitimate son, and two sons of George Free. The identity of the older Charles Free is unknown.

| Year | Name         | Age   |
|------|--------------|-------|
| 1840 | Charles Free | 30-39 |
|      | Nathan Free  | 30-39 |
|      | William Free | 50-59 |
|      | Charles Free | 40-49 |



| Year | Name         | Age | Birthplace     |
|------|--------------|-----|----------------|
| 1850 | Charles Free | 45  | South Carolina |
| 1860 | Charles Free | 57  | South Carolina |

NOTE: Beginning in 1870, there are many black families in Fairfield with the last name Free. The 1870 census for Charles Free shows the black Free family next door *included* with his family, since the last name was the same. It appears these people who were slaves owned by Charles Free took the Free name, and continued to live exactly where they had been. Charles Free appeared on an 1860 slave schedule as the owner of nine slaves. There are eight members of this family next door to Charles in 1870. It is unknown who the ninth person was. They were probably still working for Charles, although now as free people. This is extraordinary enough that I am including a screenshot of the census so you can see it.

This also was done with the next family down the page, the Harrisons, and their former slaves now free people living next door. I wondered whether these people actually consented to the names, or was this just a lazy census taker assigning a name to them.

| Year | Name         | Age | Sex | Occupation    | Value  | Birthplace     |
|------|--------------|-----|-----|---------------|--------|----------------|
| 1870 | Louisa       | 25  | F   | keeping house |        | South Carolina |
| 1870 | Louisa       | 1   | F   |               |        | South Carolina |
| 1870 | Free Charles | 74  | M   | Farmer        | \$1000 | South Carolina |
| 1870 | Carriol      | 51  | F   | keeping house |        | South Carolina |
| 1870 | Isaac        | 18  | M   | St. home      |        | South Carolina |
| 1870 | Isabella     | 16  | M   | Farm laborer  |        | South Carolina |
| 1870 | Concetta     | 13  | F   | St. home      |        | South Carolina |
| 1870 | Isiah        | 48  | M   | Farm laborer  |        | South Carolina |
| 1870 | William      | 21  | M   | Farm laborer  |        | South Carolina |
| 1870 | Maria        | 16  | F   | Farm laborer  |        | South Carolina |
| 1870 | John         | 14  | M   | Farm laborer  |        | South Carolina |
| 1870 | Julia        | 12  | M   | Farm laborer  |        | South Carolina |
| 1870 | Franklin     | 8   | M   |               |        | South Carolina |
| 1870 | Isaac        | 3   | F   |               |        | South Carolina |
| 1870 | Martha       | 15  | F   | Farm laborer  |        | South Carolina |

Year: 1870; Census Place: Township 13, Fairfield, South Carolina; Roll: M593\_1496; Page: 240B

| Year | Name         | Age | Birthplace     |
|------|--------------|-----|----------------|
| 1870 | Joseph Free  | 31  | South Carolina |
|      | George Free  | 22  | South Carolina |
|      | Charles Free | 74  | South Carolina |

I wondered if the freed family who were enumerated in the 1870 census actually kept the last name Free, or, as I previously stated, did the name just get “assigned” to them by a lazy census taker. That question was answered in 1880. I found eight of the original nine people from 1870 still with the last name Free, and five of them still lived next door to, and probably worked for, Charles Free. They were Sallie, Frank, Irena, Dianna, and John Free. Two of the black Harrison family are neighbors, too, and may have been working for Charles as well. The white Harrison family has vanished from the area.

|      |                |    |                |
|------|----------------|----|----------------|
| 1880 | Charles Free   | 79 | South Carolina |
|      | Joseph F. Free | 42 | South Carolina |
|      | Nathan Free    | 26 | South Carolina |
|      | Eli Free       | 36 | South Carolina |
|      | George W. Free | 47 | South Carolina |

1890 – No records remain

|      |                |    |                |
|------|----------------|----|----------------|
| 1900 | Joseph Free    | 63 | South Carolina |
|      | Nathan Free    | 54 | South Carolina |
|      | George N. (W.) | 66 | South Carolina |
|      | William Free   | 23 | South Carolina |

### **Barnwell County, South Carolina**

| Year | Name  | Age                      | Birthplace     |
|------|---|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1840 | John G. Free                                  | 20-30                    |                |
|      | (30-40 male in this household – unidentified) |                          |                |
|      | John Free                                     | 70-79                    |                |
|      | Henry Free                                    | 20-29                    |                |
|      | Jacob Free                                    | 30-39 (age may be error) |                |
| Year | Name  | Age                      | Birthplace     |
| 1850 | Allen Free                                    | 22                       | South Carolina |
|      | Milly Free                                    | 40                       | South Carolina |
|      | John G. Free                                  | 33                       | South Carolina |
|      | Jacob E. Free                                 | 30                       | South Carolina |
| 1860 | Jacob E. Free                                 | 39                       | South Carolina |
|      | Milly Free                                    | 50                       | South Carolina |
|      | Allen F. Free                                 | 36                       | South Carolina |

As in the other counties previously accounted for, in 1870 black Free families appear in Barnwell.

|      |                 |    |                |
|------|-----------------|----|----------------|
| 1870 | Henry Free      | 60 | South Carolina |
|      | Jacob E. Free   | 49 | South Carolina |
|      | Henry Free, Jr. | 22 | South Carolina |
|      | Allen Free      | 43 | South Carolina |
|      | Matthew Free    | 33 | South Carolina |
|      | C. Allen Free   | 25 |                |
| 1880 | C. B. Free      | 28 | South Carolina |
|      | Albert Free     | 34 | South Carolina |
|      | Matthew Free    | 45 | South Carolina |
|      | Fred Free       | 27 | South Carolina |
|      | Jacob Free      | 60 | South Carolina |
|      | W. D. Free      | 30 | South Carolina |

1890 – No records remain

|      |                |    |                |
|------|----------------|----|----------------|
| 1900 | Annie Free     | 44 | Florida        |
|      | Elijah D. Free | 29 | South Carolina |
|      | Lewis R. Free  | 37 | South Carolina |

### **Edgefield County, South Carolina**

It is my conclusion that the two Free men remaining in Edgefield in 1840 are the children of Lewis Free.

| Year | Name           | Age   |                |
|------|----------------|-------|----------------|
| 1840 | Isaac Free     | 30-39 |                |
|      | George Free    | 30-39 |                |
| Year | Name           | Age   | Birthplace     |
| 1850 | George Free    | 45    | South Carolina |
|      | Thomas W. Free | 53    | South Carolina |
|      | Isaac Free     | 40    | South Carolina |
| 1860 | George Free    | 54    | South Carolina |
|      | J. F. Free     | 26    | South Carolina |
| 1870 | George Free    | 64    | South Carolina |

1880-1900 – No Free family members remain in Edgefield.

### **Abbeville County, South Carolina**

I think it is probable that the Frees remaining in Abbeville in 1840 are related to “Lexington” Jacob Free. It is possible James is a son of Lewis Free, who had many children, some of whom are unidentified. John appears to be the son of Mary Free. He married Nancy Seigler. I don’t think he knew his actual age.

| Year | Name      | Age   |                |
|------|-----------|-------|----------------|
| 1840 | J. Free   | 40-49 |                |
|      | Jas. Free | 50-59 |                |
| Year | Name      | Age   | Birthplace     |
| 1850 | John Free | 65    | South Carolina |
| 1860 | John Free | 70    | South Carolina |

1870-1900 – No Free family members remain in Abbeville.



**Enumerating the Census**

## NAMING PATTERNS

One of the first ways I recognized that the Frees in Lumpkin, Hall, and Habersham Counties of Georgia, and of Greene and Lawrence Counties in Alabama were all related was the striking naming patterns within the family. Below is a synopsis of the families, with the name repetitions bolded for emphasis. Not all descendants are included, only those that show the pattern.

### The Adam Free Line

- 1 – **Adam** Free b. 1737
  - 2 – **James** Free b. abt. 1763
    - 3 – Sarah Free married Robert Malone
      - 4 – **Lafayette** Malone b. abt. 1848
    - 3 – **William** Free b. 1803
      - 4 – **James** Free b. 1829
        - 5 – **George** Free b. 1884
  - 2 – **George** Free b. abt. 1772
  - 2 – **Jacob** Free b. abt. 1775
  - 2 – **Isaac** Free b. abt. 1785
  - 2 – **Mary** Free b. abt. 1768
    - 3 – **John** Free b. abt. 1785
    - 3 – **William** Free b. abt. 1787
      - 4 – **Isaac** Free b. abt. 1807
  - 2 – **Adam** Free b. 1795
    - 3 – **Allen** Free b. abt. 1817
    - 3 – **Thomas R.** Free b. abt. 1819
      - 4 – **George** b. abt. 1850
    - 3 – **Jacob W.** Free b. abt. 1826
    - 3 – **Isaac Jackson** Free b. abt. 1831
    - 3 – **Adam Lafayette** Free b. abt. 1834

### The “Lexington” Jacob Free Line

- 1 – **Jacob** Free b. abt. 1739
  - 2 – **Lewis** Free b. abt. 1775
    - 3 – **Thomas W.** Free b. abt. 1797
    - 3 – **James** Free b. abt. 1799
    - 3 – **George** Free b. abt. 1806
      - 4 – John F. Free b. abt. 1735
        - 5 – **Lawrence** b. 1859
      - 4 – **Lewis** Free b. abt. 1840
      - 4 – **George W.** Free b. abt. 1845
    - 3 – Katherine Free b. abt. 1806
      - 4 – **James Jackson** Free b. abt. 1835
        - 5 – **Thomas C.** Free b. abt. 1865
    - 3 – **Isaac** Free b. abt. 1807
      - 4 – **William** b. abt. 1833
      - 4 – **James** b. abt. 1836
    - 3 – **Simeon** Free b. abt. 1810

- 4 – **Lewis Lafayette** Free b. abt. 1837
- 4 – **James E.** Free b. abt. 1858
  - 5 – **James Bailey** Free b. 1866
    - 6 – **Martin D.** Free b. 1891
    - 6 – **James Lafayette** Free b. 1905
      - 7 – **James Fate [Lafayette]** Free b. 1937
  - 5 – **Thomas W.** Free b. abt. 1867
  - 5 – **Simeon A.** Free b. abt. 1871
  - 5 – **Martin** Estes Free b. 1877
- 4 – John **Bailey** Free b. 1845
  - 5 – Albert **LaFayette** Free b. 1874
- 2 – **Mary** Free b. abt. 1787 m. John George Oswald, Sr.
  - 3 – **Martin** Oswald b. abt. 1812
  - 3 – **Simeon** Oswald b. abt. 1833
- 2 – **Martin** Free b. abt. 1787
  - 3 – **Simeon** Free b. abt. 1810
    - 4 – **William** Free b. abt. 1837
    - 4 – **John P.** Free b. abt. 1841
    - 4 – **Jesse Lafayette** Free b. abt. 1853
      - 5 – **Simmie L.** Free b. abt. 1892
        - 6 – **Louis** Free b. abt. 1916
- 3 – **Martin** Free b. abt. 1822
- 3 – **Jacob** Free b. abt. 1823 (died aboard ship returning from the CA Gold Rush)

#### **The “Lynches Creek” Jacob Free Line**

- 1 – “Lynches Creek” **Jacob** Free b. abt. 1708
- 2 – “Barnwell” **Jacob** Free b. abt. 1756
  - 3 – **John** Gabriel Free b. about 1804
  - 3 – **Jacob** Edmond Free b. abt. 1820
- 2 – **John** Free b. abt. 1776

Later in this line there is an **Allen** Free and a **Lewis** Free. I am uncertain whose children they were.

#### **The Thomas Free Line**

- 1 – **Thomas** Free b. abt. 1740
- 2 – **Simeon** Free b. abt. 1768
  - 3 – **William** Free b. abt. 1805
    - 4 – **Thomas W.** Free b abt. 1847
  - 3 – **James** Free b. abt. 1810
  - 3 – **Simeon** Free b. abt. 1811
    - 4 – Eleanor Free b. abt. 1838 married William H. Lee
      - 5 – **Simeon** Lee Free b. abt. 1868
    - 4 – **Thomas** Free b. abt. 1842
- 3 – **Thomas** Free b. abt. 1813
  - 4 – **James** Free b. abt. 1839

Looked at all together in this manner, the relationship between all of these family lines becomes clear.

## THE MYSTERY OF CHERIAH FREE, WIFE OF LEWIS FREE

### Čè•ri? (pronounced Cher•eye•uh) Means Wild Cherry in Skarù•re?, the Tuscarora Language

When I began to research Cheriah Free, wife of Lewis Free, I had many questions. Other researchers had, with little evidence, named her as a child of a man named John Cale Cucklemaker (or Cuchamucha) Casiah/Keziah who married Elizabeth Marie Calais Duneleaux, whose own stories were filled with myths and folk tales. They were supposed to have married about 1775. In my conversations with Deborah Cavel-Greant, a leading Keziah researcher, she has stated that this story cannot be related to her Keziah family for many reasons. Other researchers have also debunked much of this legend.

Estes, R. The Legend of Cucklemaker, an Indian Chief. 2012 Available at:  
<https://nativeheritageproject.com/2012/09/01/the-legend-of-cucklemaker-an-indian-chief/>.  
(Accessed 29 Jun 2021)

I wanted to find the real Cheriah, as much as was possible anyway, given the dearth of available evidence about women, and even more so, about Native Americans in the time period. So determined was I in this quest that I even put aside my former skepticism of DNA testing for genealogy, it turns out with good reason! There is more about that in a bit.

It appears to be only oral history that Cheriah was also known as Kizziah as a first name. There is some precedent however of the line of Keziah women using their last name as their first name, however, so at some point Cheriah may have done the same.

I have scoured records for any instance of her name and it only appears once that I can find. In 1825, Lewis Free and Cheriah were listed charter members of Providence Baptist Church in Habersham County, Georgia. Her name was spelled “Cheriah.” This is an unusual name. A search of the first name only Cheriah from 1700 to 1900 at Familysearch.com yields **one** result for a **Cheriah Dale**, born 1858 in Paintsville, Johnson County, Kentucky. She is identified as **Indian**, and she turns out to most likely be Seneca, which is important. The Seneca and Tuscarora languages are related.

I continue to search for the original document from which the typescript listing founding members of the Providence church was made. The typed list has a least one obvious error, where the name ‘Jesse’ is transcribed as ‘Jepe.’ This made me think of other possible misspellings. However, information about the possible origins of the name “Cheriah” have come to light, as we will see later, giving some clarity and putting to rest the possibility that it had some other spelling.

The only possible microfilm copy of the church record I found was located at the Mercer University/Tarver Library in Macon, Georgia, but I have been informed by them that it has been lost to damage.

Most researchers of Cheriah Free seem to agree that her last name was Keziah, or some approximation of it. Given that I have found a family of Keziahs to which she could belong, evidence that people in her family and others around her were associated with the Frees, and with DNA to back it up, I believe the oral history is correct. There is a great deal of circumstantial evidence which I will lay out in detail. Direct proof of her lineage does not seem to exist.

For now, just know that Cheriah's mother was **Winney Keziah**, a daughter of **Sandifer Keziah**, and read on for the evidence.

### **A Short List of Important Names**

Telling this story is complex. There is no one simple way to connect Cheriah Keziah Free, her mother Winney and grandfather Sandifer to the Free family. There is no marriage record; Dunkers nor Indians kept written ones. The only way to show how they connect is in the land records, censuses, wills, etc. that the government kept, and the names associated with them all. Taken altogether, it is compelling evidence.

The names you will see include: Kilcrease/Killcrease/Gilchrist; Stearns/Starns/Starnes; Calliham/Callihan; Goza/Gosa; Blackwell; Pace; and Reynolds. There are a handful of others, but these are the most important.

### **The Story My Grandmaw Told**

I have my own "family history" of Cheriah Free from my Grandmaw Louise Williams Hart, her descendant. She told it something like this:

"My many-times great-grandmother was an Indian who was orphaned. So that she wouldn't be taken away with the others, she was taken in by the Frees."

Since my family lived in Northeastern Georgia, I always assumed that "taken away" referred to the Cherokee Trail of Tears. But since I couldn't locate anyone in my Free family tree of the appropriate age/location to have escaped that terrible event, I assumed the story to be a fable. That is, until I began to research Cheriah Free.

In early North Carolina, there were Tuscarora Indians living in and around Bertie County. There was a war from 1711-13 between these Tuscarora and the white settlers who had come into their territory:

"The wanderings of Christoph von Graffenried and John Lawson in Tuscarora territory proved to be the flash point. The two men were taken hostage by the Tuscarora in September 1711, and Lawson was subsequently put to death. The brutal and swift English response soon developed into the full-scale Tuscarora War, during which successive expeditions of whites and non-Tuscarora Indians from South Carolina in 1712 and 1713 took on Hancock's forces."

"In early 1713 South Carolina sent James Moore at the head of another expedition of whites and Indian allies aimed at destroying the Tuscarora. The last great stand of the Tuscarora took place at Fort Neoheroke on 20–23 Mar. 1713."

Parramore, T. C., Tuscarora Indians, 2006. Available at: <https://www.ncpedia.org/american-indians/tuscarora> (Accessed 29 Jun 2021)

By the end of the war, about a thousand women and children had been taken captive, with many sent to Jamaica as slaves. This fact is important when we get to the DNA evidence.

The following is a quote about the Tuscarora in the Bertie area of North Carolina:



“The Tuscarora sold the land in the 1770s in order to leave and migrate to New York. Those deeds and related legislative petitions are the only reason we have records of their names. The tribe did in fact leave, leaving only a few “old families” behind. They returned a final time to take those families with them in the very early 1800s. They declared that any who did not migrate were no longer in the tribe.”

Estes, R. The Legend of Cucklemaker, an Indian Chief

By 1831, the Tuscarora had ceded all their tribal lands in North Carolina.

This story of what happened to the Tuscarora, and their eventual exit from the Carolinas, sounds an awful lot like the story my grandmother told of her ancestor not wanting to be “taken away with the others.”

A group of eight related Tuscarora family members, living in the Bertie County area about 1750, chose the surname “Keziah,” according to Deborah Cavel-Greant:

“From the few available records we can only surmise that the eight chose to adopt a single surname by or around the mid-1750s. The name they chose is the Skù-rarę word **Kčę́ heh** meaning “my nuclear family”. The closest pronunciation in English is kuh-chúnh-huh but there is no way to render it exactly into English, which accounts for the 50 different spellings of the name.”

Unknown Tuscarora (abt. 1690-abt.1765). Profile manager Deb Cavel. Available at: <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Tuscarora-1> (Accessed 29 Jun 2021)

The “List of Eight” Keziahs includes Dunning, Rebecca, Cornelius, Sarah, Sandifer, John, William, and Nicholas.

It is from this “List of Eight” that Cheriah Keziah descends. DNA evidence proves it, as we will see. But she is unlikely to be a child of any John Keziah, “Cuchamucha” or otherwise, as I will show.

### **John Keziah**

There was a member of the “List of Eight” named John Keziah. It has been suggested by some researchers that John Keziah was in the Abbeville/Edgefield area of South Carolina prior to being in Mecklenburg, North Carolina, but I could find no concrete evidence to support that. I searched court and land records for the area extensively, but found nothing for John Keziah in that part of South Carolina.

This first land records for John Keziah are found in another area of South Carolina in the early 1770s, under yet another misspelling of the family name. There is a plat, grant, and memorial found for John “Cashy” in Craven County on Rocky Creek.

**Cashy, John**, Plat For 200 Acres In Craven County. Date: 12/5/1772

People in this record:

Bremar, John; Cashy, John; Miller, Andrew; Rodger, Jasper; Turner, Alexander

Places in this record:

Craven County; **Rocky Creek**

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 12/5/1772

Series: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series) (S213184)

Document type: Plat

Images: Online

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213184 Volume: 0014 Page: 00027 Item: 01

South Carolina Archives

South Carolina Land Plats Vol. 14 p27

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLV-23WV-B?i=314&cat=473383>

**Cashy, John**, Land Grant For 200 Acres In Craven County. Date: 12/8/1774

People in this record:

Cashy, John

Places in this record:

Craven County

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 12/8/1774

Series: Colonial Land Grants (Copy Series) (S213019)

Document type: Land Grant

Images: Available at SCDAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213019 Volume: 0034 Page: 00224 Item: 000

South Carolina Archives

South Carolina Royal Land Grants Vol. 34, p224

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS7S-1BSK?i=139&cat=473372>

**Cashy, John**, Memorial For 200 Acres On Rocy Creek, Craven County. Date: 5/31/1775

People in this record:

Cashy, John; Miller, Andrew; Rogers, Jasper

Places in this record:

Craven County; **Rocky Creek**

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 5/31/1775

Series: Memorial books (Copy Series) (S111001)

Document type: Memorial

Images: Available at SCDAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S111001 Volume: 0013 Page: 00496 Item: 003

South Carolina Archives

South Carolina Memorials Vol. 13 p496

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLV-PSDG-B?i=583&cat=284315>

By his neighbors and other information, I can determine that this is the Rocky Creek in the Waxhaws area of South Carolina near the North Carolina border. John acquired more land in this area later.

A record for John Keziah is found in Bute County, North Carolina (formed in 1764 from what was once Bertie) in 1777. John must have returned home from the land in South Carolina, at least for a brief period.

Account of Sale of Estate of William Baker, dec'd Recorded May Court 1777. Thomas Sherrod, Sheriff. Mentions: **John Keziah**, John Mullins, Theophilus Bass, Henry Hill, Jr.

Bute County Records; Source book page # p. 53 Record book, page # WB-2, p. 139. Murphy and related family excerpts, Warren & Bute Co. NC 1764-1779 from "Warren Co. NC Records, Vol. 1 Abstracted Records of Colonial Bute Co. NC, 1764-1779 & Bute Co. Marriages, by Mary Hinton Kerr, 1967; extracted by Mark A. Murphy, 22 Feb 2002

Murphy, M. A., Murphy and related family excerpts, Warren & Bute Co. NC 1764-1779, 2002.  
Available at:

<http://freepages.rootsweb.com/~freshnup/genealogy/markmurph/text/11.1.28M.txt>. (Accessed 9 Jul 2021)

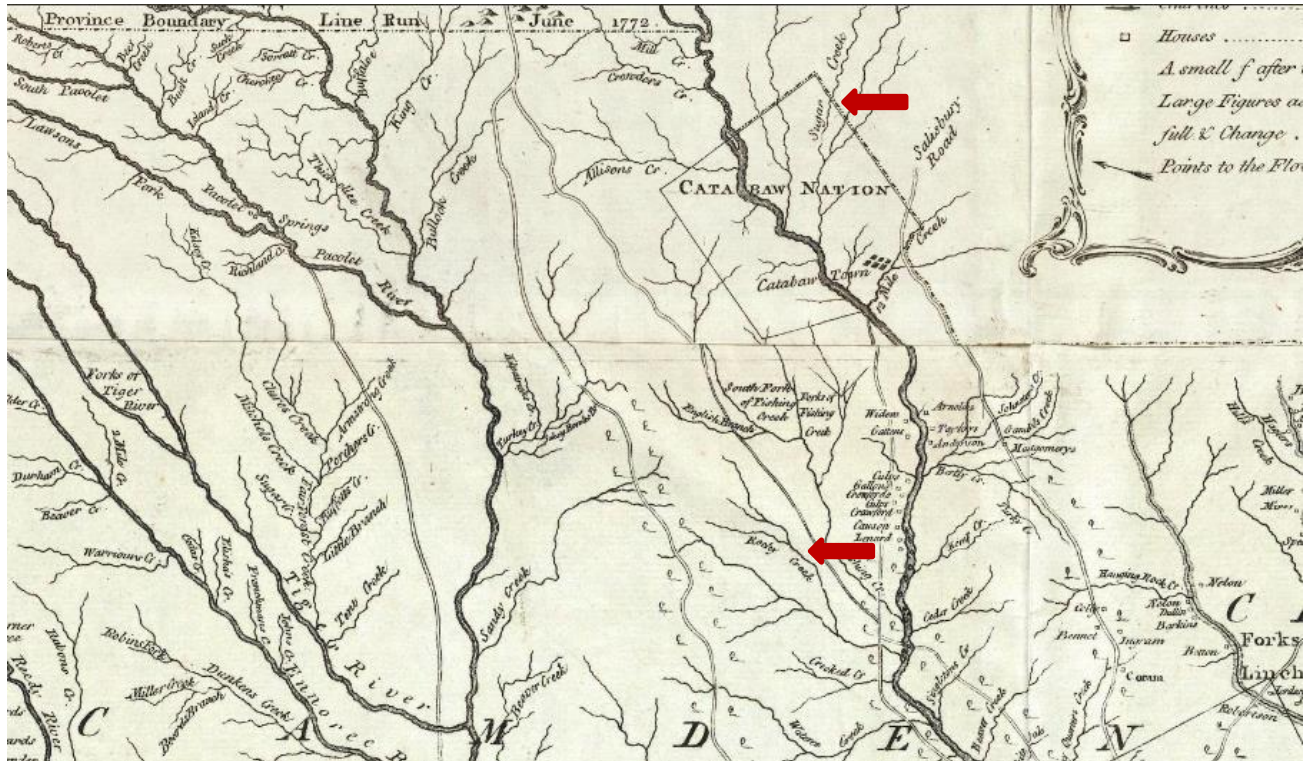
The next record found for John Keziah is in Mecklenburg, North Carolina, 13 Oct 1778.

Thomas Polk to John Lemon for 70 pounds, 100 acres on Shugar & alpine Creeks adj Wm Patterson & **JNO KESIAH**; Being part of a March 4, 1775 patent to the Grantor. Wit Ezekial Polk & Neel Morrison. Proven at Feb Court 1827 by Wm B. Alexander who proved the handwriting of Ezekial Polk, test Isaac Alexander, CMC Reg 5 Apr 5 1827

Mecklenburg County North Carolina Deed Book 21, p 113

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-99D6-F9QD-Q?i=363&cat=168633>

Sugar Creek, named in the deed above, runs from the Mecklenburg area of North Carolina into the Waxhaws area of South Carolina. The Great Road to Charleston, found in a land plat for John Keziah in 1777 appears near there on James Cook's 1773 Map of South Carolina. The arrows show Sugar Creek, and Rocky Creek from John's earlier grant.



Cook, James, Fl, Thomas Bowen, and H Parker. *A map of the province of South Carolina*

In 1778 the residents of Mecklenburg Co petitioned the General Assembly of North Carolina over their concern that large quantities of land were being given to individuals and pledged as bounty to the Officers and Soldiers of the Continental Army. They were afraid that, "Among Other Evils it is very Probably it May draw Uppon Us the Displeasure of the Indians"... This petition was signed by many residents including... on March 22th 1778. Francis Newel, **John Kazer**, Daniel Winchester, William Winchester.

The Winchesters are associated with other members of the Keziah family as well.

There is a list of public officials of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina 1775 to 1785 naming John. These people were "militia officers, tax assessors, tax collectors, justices of the peace, road overseers, jurors and other public officers appointed for the different CAPTAIN'S COMPANIES....."

KELIAH, JOHN, tavern keeper and constable.

A Samuel Keliash also appears on this list. It is unknown exactly how he is related to John.

THE MECKLENBURG COUNTY MILITIA, NORTH CAROLINA.

The following valuable matter was sent by Mrs. L. D. Childs, of Columbia, South Carolina, chairman of the Magazine Committee of that state. It was printed in the *Charlotte Observer*, North Carolina, by Mr. Brevard Nixon, some years ago. A copy of that paper cannot now be obtained.

"At the July session of 1777, of the court of Mecklenburg County, the following order appears:

"Whereas by an act of the General Assembly of the State, the justices of the peace of the county of Mecklenburg are authorized and required to lay out the said county into districts and to appoint assessors in each district, respectively, for the purpose of laying a tax on the inhabitants thereof:

It is therefore ordered by the court that the several districts shall be bounded and commensurate with each and every Captain's company within this county, and each and every constable appointed for this county shall have his duty separately and within the bounds and limits of the same."

After this order, the tax assessors, tax collectors, constables, justices, over-seers, jurors and other public officers were appointed from the different *captains' companies*. The following is a partial list of militiamen in the county from 1775 to 1785, including only those who served in a public capacity and of which record is made on the minutes of the court.

Kairns, Alexander, collector ('83); Kairns, Daniel; Keliash, John, tavern keeper, constable; Keliash, Samuel; Kennedy, David; Kennedy, James, constable (1780); Kennedy, Joseph, doctor, tavern keeper; Kerr, James; Kerr, John; Kerr, Joseph; Kerr, Robt., assessor (1781), constable; Kilpatrick, John; King, John; Kinnon, James; Knox, James; Knox, Matthew, constable ('77 and '78); Knox, Samuel, assessor (1778), captain (1781 to 1785); Kyzer, George.

(To be Continued.)

The American Monthly Magazine, edited by Mrs. Elroy M. Avery, Vol. XXXI, July-Dec 1907, National Society D.A.R., Washington, D.C, 1907

A deed from George Grier of the Province of South Carolina to John "Kelloh" of the Province of North Carolina on 28 Mar 1777 shows John also owned land in on the Catawba River in the Waxhaws area of South Carolina. This is near the border with North Carolina. The original plat for this land shows that the Great Road to Charleston ran directly through it, which would be pretty convenient for a tavern keeper.

Charleston City South Carolina Register of Mesne Conveyance Book 5H, p348

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSK3-NSRH-Q?i=513&cat=361547>

South Carolina Plat Book 8, p451

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLV-21MF?i=259&cat=473383>

Given the fluidity of the boundary lines between the counties, John Keziah is unlikely to have been moving around. It is more likely he associated with the government in the county that was closest to him and his family, or the boundaries changed.

By 1790 the Keziah family had grown to include three adult John Cashias: John b abt 1740, John Jr. b 1769 in Spartanburg SC, and Sandifer Keziah's son John, b 1755, all seen on the 1790 census. The 1790

Census in Spartanburg South Carolina showed John Casiah, household of one male 16+. This is the son of either Sandifer or John Keziah.

|   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Name:                                     | <b>John Casiah</b>          |
| Home in 1790 (City, County, State):       | Spartanburg, South Carolina |
| Free White Persons - Males - 16 and over: | 1                           |
| Number of Household Members:              | 1                           |

Year: 1790; Census Place: *Spartanburg, South Carolina*; Series: *M637*; Roll: *11*; Page: *32*; Image: *38*; Family History Library Film: *0568151*

The others, including Sandifer, John, and Jonathan, were in Rutherford, North Carolina.

|   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| Name:                                     | <b>Jno Caziah</b>          |
| Home in 1790 (City, County, State):       | Rutherford, North Carolina |
| Free White Persons - Males - Under 16:    | 2                          |
| Free White Persons - Males - 16 and over: | 1                          |
| Free White Persons - Females:             | 2                          |
| Number of Household Members:              | 5                          |

Year: 1790; Census Place: *Rutherford, North Carolina*; Series: *M637*; Roll: *7*; Page: *131*; Image: *84*; Family History Library Film: *0568147*

|   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| Name:                                     | <b>Sandifer Kizzia</b>     |
| Home in 1790 (City, County, State):       | Rutherford, North Carolina |
| Free White Persons - Males - Under 16:    | 2                          |
| Free White Persons - Males - 16 and over: | 2                          |
| Free White Persons - Females:             | 2                          |
| Number of Household Members:              | 6                          |

Year: 1790; Census Place: *Rutherford, North Carolina*; Series: *M637*; Roll: *7*; Page: *145*; Image: *91*; Family History Library Film: *0568147*

The counties of Rutherford, North Carolina and Spartanburg, South Carolina shared a border; therefor it seems likely the John Casiah in Spartanburg was also near North Carolina. Online land records for some of his near neighbors suggest that he was near Bucks Creek, South Carolina in 1790, which is right on the North Carolina border.

After finding all this information, it was beginning to be obvious to me that there was something of a problem with the idea that John Casiah/Kezzia was Cheriah Keziah Free's father. He appears to have stayed pretty close to the area around Mecklenburg and Waxhaws of South and North Carolina. I could not find what I call the "*intersection point*." I discovered this term as used by investigators of crimes against people. There has to be a point at which the perpetrator of the crime *intersects* with the victim. Finding that point is often the solution to "whodunit" in a crime. In genealogy, it is the solution to where two people could have met to be married, make a land deal, etc. Without an intersection point, it is difficult to prove any relationship.

In the case of Cheriah Kezziah, if her father was indeed John Casiah/Kezziah, I could find no evidence that John had been anywhere near where she lived or where Lewis Free, her eventual husband, or his



family was found. Cheriah was born between 1771 and 1775 (confirmed by census data), and married Lewis Free before 1800, where they are then found on the census in Abbeville, South Carolina with two children under ten. John Keziah doesn't ever appear to have been in that area of South Carolina.

But there was evidence that *other* Casiah/Keziah were in the Abbeville/Edgefield, South Carolina area prior to and in the same general time period as Lewis Free. There is strong evidence that one of them, Sandifer Keziah, is Cheriah Keziah's grandfather, and that her mother, Winney Keziah remained there until after 1800.

### **Sandifer Keziah in Edgefield County, South Carolina**

Sandifer Keziah/Casiah was another of the "List of Eight" Keziahs. Sandifer Keziah was in the Edgefield County, South Carolina area from about 1772 to 1774. He received two land grants there, one for 305 acres, and another for 95 acres. The evidence that he was actually present in the area of the grants comes from the memorials he filed himself in Charleston, South Carolina.

The plat for 300 acres for Sandifer found at the SC Archives. There is an error in this listing; on the original plat itself it is stated to be for **305 acres**.

**Kaziah, Saudifort**, Plat For 300 Acres In Granville County. Date: 12/23/1772

People in this record:

Bremar, John; Eastley, Stan; Goode, William; Kaziah, Saudifort; **Kilcres, Benjamin**; Mitchel [Robert]; Waring; **Williams, Charles**

Places in this record:

Stephens Creek; Turkey Creek

Also: Granville County

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 12/23/1772

Series: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series) (S213184)

Document type: Plat

Images: Online

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213184 Volume: 0017 Page: 00388 Item: 02

South Carolina Archives

South Carolina Land Plats Vol. 17, p388

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3Q2-Y38L-K?i=504&cat=473383>

"**Starns land**" is also seen on the original plat. Since the Starns are associated with the Frees, this is important.

The grant for 305 acres is also found at the SC Archives.

**Kaziah, Landefort**, Land Grant For 305 Acres In Granville County. Date: 6/23/1774

People in this record:

Kaziah, Landefort

Places in this record:

Granville County

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 6/23/1774

Series: Colonial Land Grants (Copy Series) (S213019)

Document type: Land Grant

Images: Available at SCDAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213019 Volume: 0031 Page: 00023 Item: 000

South Carolina Archives

South Carolina Land Grants Vol 31, p 23

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSR8-Z97L-M?i=378&cat=473372>

Here is the memorial for the 305 acres at the SC Archives.

**Kaziah, Landiford**, Memorial For 305 Acre On Stephens Creek, Granville County. Date:

11/23/1774

People in this record:

**Hill, Mary**; Kaziah, Landiford; **Kilcies**; Mitchell; **Starn**; **Waring**; **Williams, Charles**

Places in this record:

Stephens Creek

Also: Granville County; Turkey Creek

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 11/23/1774

Series: Memorial books (Copy Series) (S111001)

Document type: Memorial

Images: Available at SCDAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S111001 Volume: 0013 Page: 00118 Item: 003

South Carolina Archives

South Carolina Memorials, Book 13, p118

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLV-PSDS-9?i=396&cat=284315>

### Free Connections to Sandifer Keziah

In a startling find, the “Starn” listed on the memorial above is none other than **Ebenezer Stern/Starn**. He is found as a neighbor on Stephens Creek in this deed.

Thomas, Joseph, Memorial For 150 Acres On Stephensons Creek, Granville County. Date:

7/26/1774

People in this record:

**Stern, Ebenezer**

Also: **Calleham, David**; **Robertson, Elisha**; Thomas, Joseph

Places in this record:



## **Stephens Creek**

Also: Granville County

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 7/26/1774

Series: Memorial books (Copy Series) (S111001)

Document type: Memorial

Images: Available at SCDAAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S111001 Volume: 0012 Page: 00520 Item: 001

South Carolina Archives

NOTE: The Elisha Robertson in this deed is probably a misspelling of *Robinson*; Elisha Robinson appears again several times.

There are two possible Ebenezer Starns the man in this memorial could be. Peter Starns had both a brother and a son Ebenezer. Ebenezer the brother died in Laurens County, South Carolina about 1789. His will named a son Ebenezer as well, who died in Laurens about 1850. It would appear neither of these men was in the Edgefield area. All of their land records are in Laurens. The most likely man in Edgefield is Peter Starns' **son**. This makes sense, as he is found on the 1770 robbery indictment with another son of Peter (Levi), and Nimrod Kilcrease, whose own family was always in the Edgefield area.

Since **Ebenezer Starns** is on the land record for **Sandifer Keziah**, we can assume the Frees and Keziahs may have known each other for many years before Lewis Free married Cheriah, maybe even before those two were born. There are more family connections which also confirm this.

Ebenezer Starns married **Elizabeth Callihan/Calliham** (in Ebenezer's will – daughter Elizabeth's grandfather is named as **David Callihan**). They ended up in Georgia eventually, which is where the will is found.

Wilkes County, Georgia Wills 1791-1804, p45

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-L93L-P525?i=100&cc=1999178&cat=147759>

David Calliham was listed as a neighbor on a plat in Edgefield in 1772.

Harris, James, Plat For 200 Acres In Ninety-Six District. Date: 3/31/1772

People in this record:

**Calliham, David**

Also: Bremar, John; Harris, James; Herrintory, John; Kirkland, Moses

Places in this record:

Ninety Six District; Savannah River; Stephens Creek

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 3/31/1772

Series: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series) (S213184)

Document type: Plat

Images: Online

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213184 Volume: 0015 Page: 00311 Item: 01

South Carolina Archives

David Calliham got his own land in Edgefield in 1774.

**Calliham, David**, Memorial For 300 Acres On Stevensons Creek, Granville County. Date:

11/20/1775

People in this record:

Calliham, David

Also: Abbensser; **Roberts, Elisha**; Yarberaf, Moses

Places in this record:

Granville County; **Stephens Creek**

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 11/20/1775

Series: Memorial books (Copy Series) (S111001)

Document type: Memorial

Images: Available at SCDAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S111001 Volume: 0002 Page: 00462 Item: 003

South Carolina Archives

Morris Calliham is found in Edgefield in 1773.

**Callingham, Morris**, Memorial For 100 Acres On Stephens Creek, Granville County. Date:

6/7/1773

People in this record:

Callingham, Morris

Also: Carter, Thomas; Sinkfield, Francis

Places in this record:

Granville County; **Stephens Creek**

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 6/7/1773

Series: Memorial books (Copy Series) (S111001)

Document type: Memorial

Images: Available at SCDAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S111001 Volume: 0012 Page: 00225 Item: 003

South Carolina Archives

On the 1790 census, Morris Callahan is listed in Orangeburg, one page away from "Lexington" Jacob Free in the Lexington, South Carolina area. Since Callahan is found with land and as a neighbor in the Chavous Creek area near Edgefield about 1772, this appears to be another case of moving back and forth between

the two places. On the 1790 Census, the neighbors between Morris Callahan and Jacob Free are clustered in the Clouds Creek and Chinquapin Creek area near Little Hollow Creek (Lexington), where Jacob was. Remember, “Lexington” Jacob witnessed John Langford’s will in the Cloud’s Creek area in 1796. According to researcher Deborah Cavel-Greant, some members of the Langford family also intermarried with the Tuscarora Indians.

The Callahams provides another connection between Jacob Free and the Callahan, Starns, and Kilcrease families. It appears that Morris Callahan went back to Edgefield, where he is found from 1800-1820. “Lexington” Jacob Free was in Abbeville/Edgefield in 1800 and his son was there in 1820. Morris Callahan died in Edgefield in 1823, leaving a will. **Abraham Killcrease** is mentioned in the file as a neighbor and buyer.

Also connecting the Frees, Starns, and Keziahs is **Charles Blackwell**. He is found as a neighbor to a woman named **Winney Keziah** on the 1790 census, and also as **Morris Callahan’s** neighbor in 1774.

**Calligham, Morris**, Memorial For 300 Acres Between Savannah And Stevens Creek, Ninety Six District. Date: 10/26/1774

People in this record:

**Blackwell, Charles**; Calligham, Morris

Places in this record:

Ninety Six District; Savannah River; **Stevens Creek**

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 10/26/1774

Series: Memorial books (Copy Series) (S111001)

Document type: Memorial

Images: Available at SCDAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S111001 Volume: 0013 Page: 00065 Item: 003

South Carolina Archives

When Charles Blackwell died in 1801 he named **Martin Gosa** as one of his administrators. This is a very important tie to the Free family.

Edgefield County, South Carolina Miscellaneous probate records, 1785-1868,

Boxes 34-35, packages 1221-1321. Apartment 34, Package 1257

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C95S-4QX9-J?i=339&cat=363944>

Martin was a son of **Aaron Gosa** of the Fairfield, South Carolina area, who sold “**Old Man**” **Simeon Free** his land in 1800. “Old Man” Simeon Free was “Lexington” Jacob Free’s nephew; he was a son of Thomas Free. **Rachel Gosa** witnessed **James Free’s** 1811 will in Fairfield.

There is another deed in 1804 from Mary Blackwell, widow of Charles, with Martin Gosa and wife Amy to Thomas Evans in Edgefield. Amy is presumed to be Charles’ daughter.

Edgefield South Carolina Deed Book 29, p72

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLK-XSVB?i=329&cat=472168>

Liptrap, J., Genealogy. Available at: <http://jliptrap.us/gen/goza.htm> (Accessed 30 Jul 2021)

### Another Land Grant for Sandifer Keziah in Edgefield

Another document for land for Sandifer Keziah is found at the South Carolina Archives. It appears to combine his 305 acres with a new 95 acre grant (see grant further below). The plat itself shows that this is indeed what occurred. The original shows the name **Charles Blackwell** in full.

**Karrah, Sandford**, Plat For 400 Acres In Granville County. Date: 2/1/1773

People in this record:

**Blackwell**; Bremar, John; Goode, William; **Karrah, Sandford**

Places in this record:

**Catfish Creek**

Also: Granville County; Savannah River

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 2/1/1773

Series: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series) (S213184)

Document type: Plat

Images: Online

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213184 Volume: 0017 Page: 00386 Item: 02

South Carolina Archives

South Carolina Land Plats Vol. 17, p386

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3Q2-Y36M-N?i=503&cat=473383>

This is the 95 acre grant that appears in the plat above.

**Kaziah, Sandford**, Land Grant For 95 Acres In Granville County. Date: 6/23/1774

People in this record:

Kaziah, Landford

Places in this record:

Granville County

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 6/23/1774

Series: Colonial Land Grants (Copy Series) (S213019)

Document type: Land Grant

Images: Available at SCDHAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213019 Volume: 0031 Page: 00029 Item: 000

South Carolina Archives

**Kaziah, Landiford**, Memorial For 95 Acres On **Catfish Creek**, Savannah River. Date: 11/23/1774

People in this record:

**Blackwell; Kaziah, Landiford**

Places in this record:

**Catfish Creek**

Also: Granville County; Savannah River

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 11/23/1774

Series: Memorial books (Copy Series) (S111001)

Document type: Memorial

Images: Available at SCDAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S111001 Volume: 0013 Page: 00118 Item: 004

South Carolina Archives

The 95 acres of land above is on Catfish Creek. In the 1790 Census, **Drury Pace**, a minister at the Big Stevens Creek Baptist Church, was found 28 people away from **Winney Keziah**. His land record on Catfish Creek is adjacent **John Killcrease** [mis-transcribed as Kelleree; see original plat at SC Archives].

**Pace, Drury**, Plat For 323 Acres On Catfish Creek, Ninety Six District, Surveyed By William Talbert. Date: 1/4/1787

People in this record:

Clear, Thomas; **Kelleree, John**; Pace, Drury; **Reynolds, William**; Talbert, William

Places in this record:

**Catfish Creek**

Also: Ninety Six District; Savannah River

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 1/4/1787

Series: State Plat Books (Charleston Series) (S213190)

Document type: Plat

Images: Available at SCDAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213190 Volume: 0020 Page: 00313 Item: 001

South Carolina Archives

Remember that Big Stevens Creek Church was originally established by **Daniel Marshall**, the pastor who came to South Carolina with the **Stearns/ Starns** family. "Lexington" Jacob Free, whose brother-in-law was Peter Starns, and Jacob's son Lewis Free would most certainly have known Pace, and could have attended this church, right in the area where **Winney Keziah** was found in 1790 and 1800.

The **Blackwell** listed in the above is Charles Blackwell.

**Blackwell, Charles**, Plat For 100 Acres In Granville County. Date: 2/18/1772

People in this record:

Blackwell, Charles; Bremar, John; Cunningham, David; Cunningham, Patrick

Places in this record:

Granville County; Savannah River

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 2/18/1772

Series: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series) (S213184)

Document type: Plat

Images: Online

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213184 Volume: 0013 Page: 00235 Item: 001

South Carolina Archives

Blackwell is listed as a neighbor in this deed.

Scott, William, Plat For 2,000 Acres In Granville County. Date: 5/29/1774

People in this record:

**Blackwell, Charles**; Bremar, John; **Butler, Thomas**; Crawford, Joel; Elliotte, William; Goode, William; **Robinson, Elisha**; Scott, William

Places in this record:

Granville County

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 5/29/1774

Series: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series) (S213184)

Document type: Plat

Images: Online

Identifiers:

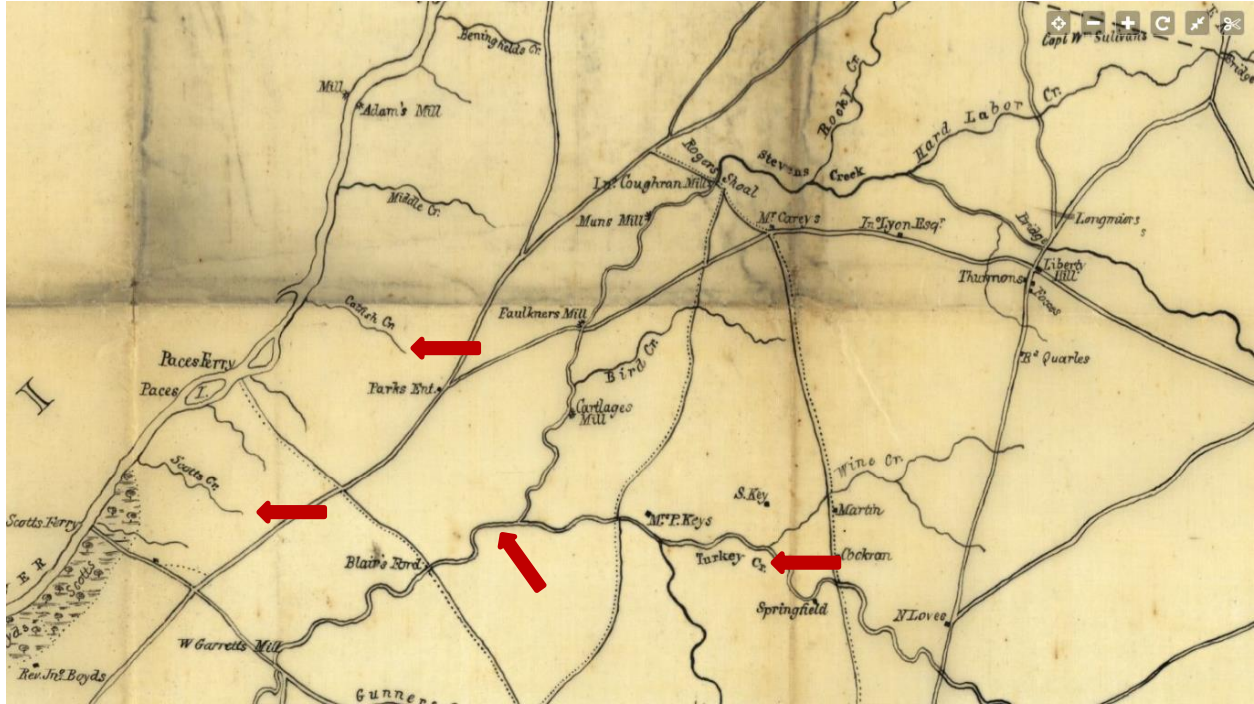
Archives ID: Series: S213184 Volume: 0019 Page: 00372 Item: 00

South Carolina Archives

### **Maps Showing Sandifer's Locations of Land Grants**

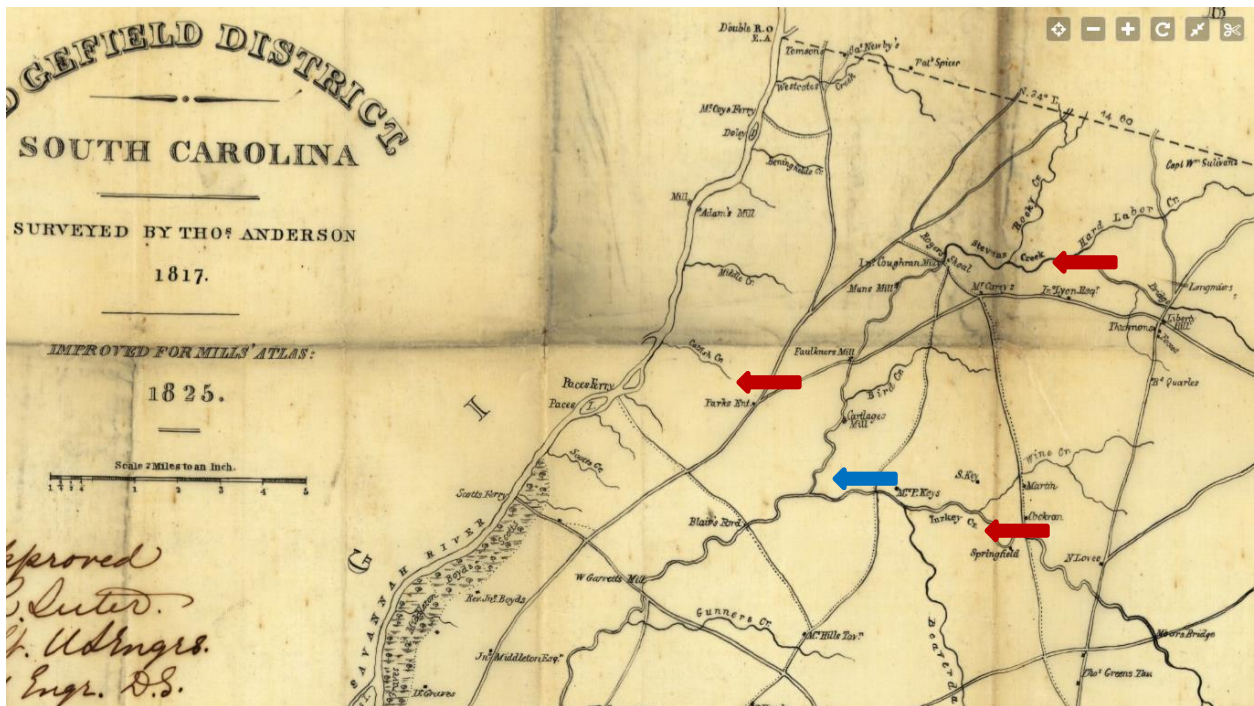
Sandifer's land on Turkey Creek and the land on Catfish Creek were very close to each other. On modern maps, Turkey Creek has been blended into Stevens Creeks, but on this 1825 map of Edgefield, Turkey Creek runs along near Catfish Creek and Scott Creek. See the arrows on the map below.





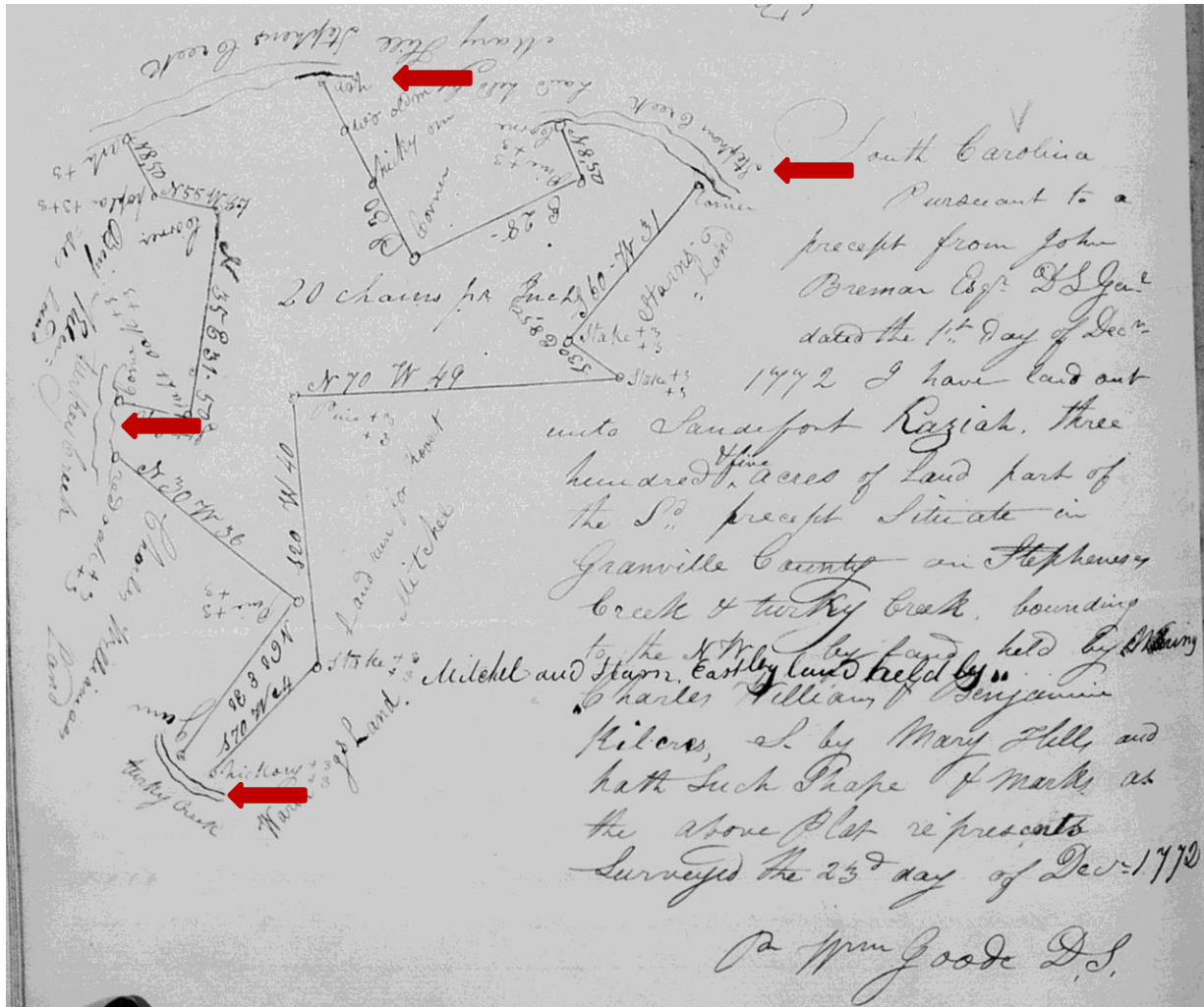
Mills, R. (1825) *Edgefield District, South Carolina*. [Map] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2007627436/>

This second view of the map shows the same area, but with the distance key visible. Catfish Creek and Turkey Creek are within two miles of each other.



Mills, R. (1825) *Edgefield District, South Carolina*

Looking at this plat of Sandifer's 305 acres, it is pretty clear where the land was located. The arrows on the map below mark both Stevens and Turkey Creek on the plat. The blue arrow on the map above shows where the land had to be for both those waterways to appear on the plat the way they do. The land is in the fork where the two bodies of water meet. See the plat below.

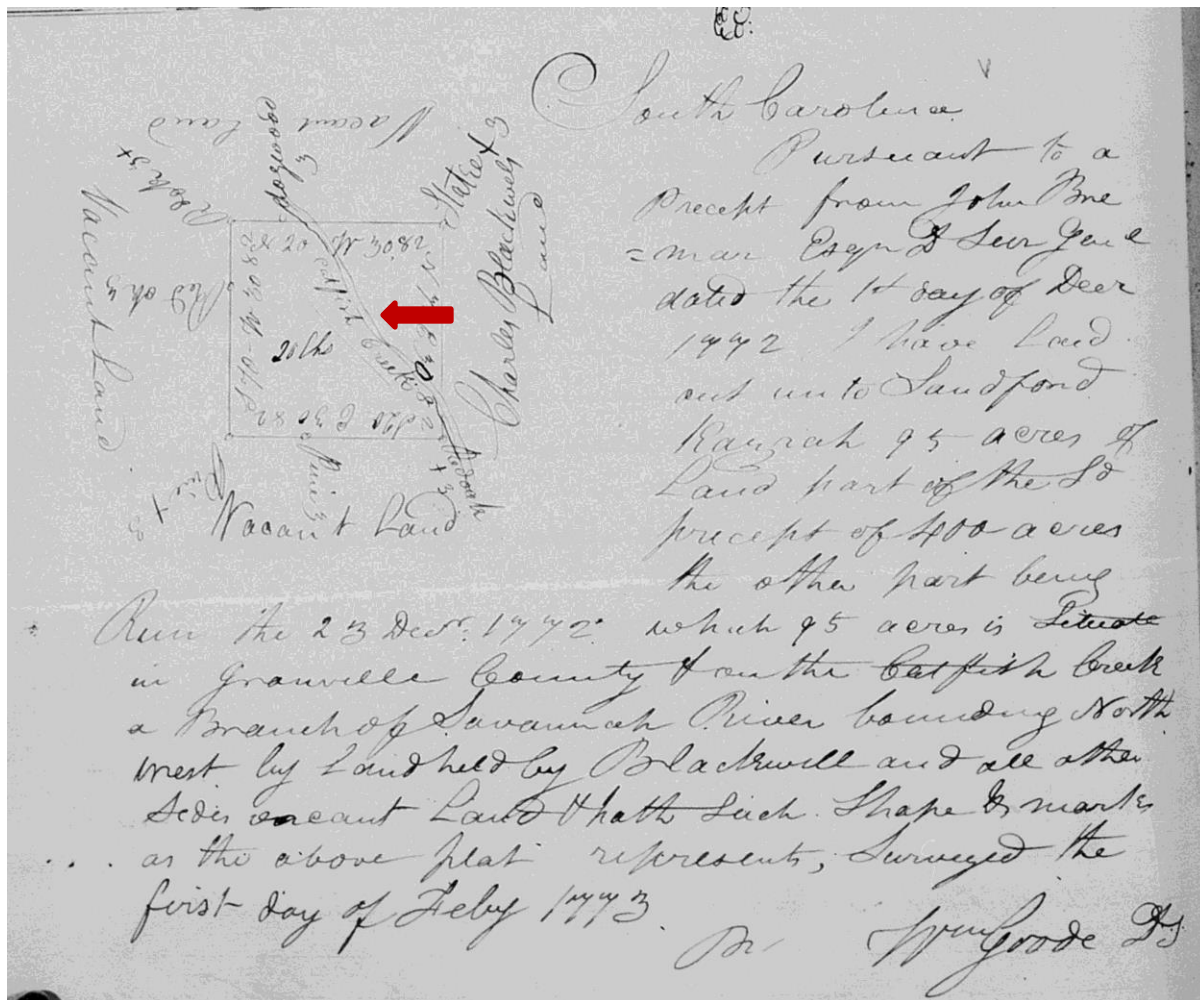


South Carolina Plats Vol. 17, p388

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3Q2-Y38L-K?i=504&cat=473383>

On the plat of the Catfish Creek land, the creek runs right through the middle. Catfish Creek was a short body of water running into the Savannah River. One can only imagine how swampy and inhospitable it may have been.





South Carolina Plats Vol. 17, p386

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3Q2-Y36M-N?i=503&cat=473383>

### Winney Keziah Appears on the Censuses of 1790 and 1800

**Winney Keziah** first appears on record in the census of 1790. From her neighbors land records, we can prove that she lived on the 95 acres of land granted to Sandifer Keziah on Catfish Creek. The land is transferred in 1805 by **William Reynolds**; whether he owned it while Winney lived on it is unknown. I continue to search for records to determine when the land changed hands. Recall that when Drury Pace platted land on Catfish Creek in 1787, one of the neighbors listed was William Reynolds; Reynolds may have already owned Sandifer Keziah's land at that time.

The significance for the names that appear in and around the land that belonged to **Sandifer Keziah** is clear. Of the men in the deeds I have cited, **Charles Blackwell, Elisha Robinson, and Thomas Butler** all appear on the same page of the 1790 Census at Edgefield with **Winney Keziah**.

**NOTE: Winney Keziah's** name is INCORRECTLY transcribed by Ancestry.com as *Kisiah Winney* in 1790. Every other name on the page is transcribed first name/last name, but the transcriber reversed hers, probably because Keziah was such a common woman's name.

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Name:                               | Kesiah Winney<br><b>[Winney Kesiah] TRANSCRIPTION ERROR</b> |
| Home in 1790 (City, County, State): | Edgefield, South Carolina                                   |
| Free White Persons - Females:       | 4   |
| Number of Household Members:        | 4   |

Year: 1790; Census Place: *Edgefield, South Carolina*; Series: *M637*; Roll: *11*; Page: *513*; Image: *332*; Family History Library Film: *0568151*

Note that the household only included females. This would support the “orphaned” part of my grandmother's story regarding our Native American ancestor “taken in” by the Free family.

Winney Keziah was on the last page of the census, so people on the first page are also probably her neighbors. These include **Zachariah Nobles, Obediah Henderson, Tom Oensby,** and **Isaiah Blackwell.**

**Edward Bussey** was Winney Keziah's next-door neighbor in 1790. He was listed as a neighbor on a land grant in the area in 1784. For the proximity of Scott Creek to Catfish Creek, see the map further below.

Harris, Benjamin, Plat For 260 Acres On Savannah River, Ninety Six District, Surveyed By William Evans. Date: 12/21/1784

People in this record:

**Bussay, Edward;** Evans, William; Harris, Benjamin; Stalling

Places in this record:

**Scott Creek**

Also: Ninety Six District; Savannah River

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 12/21/1784

Series: State Plat Books (Charleston Series) (S213190)

Document type: Plat

Images: Available at SCDAAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213190 Volume: 0009 Page: 00394 Item: 001

South Carolina Archives

Merriwether, Thomas, Plat For 250 Acres On **Scotts Creek**, Edgefield County, Ninety Six District, Surveyed By John Boyd On April 26, 1792. Date: 4/28/1797

People in this record:

Boyd, John; **Bussey, Edward;** Evans; Merriwether, Thomas; Scott, Samuel

Places in this record:

Edgefield County; Ninety Six District; Savannah River; **Scott Creek**

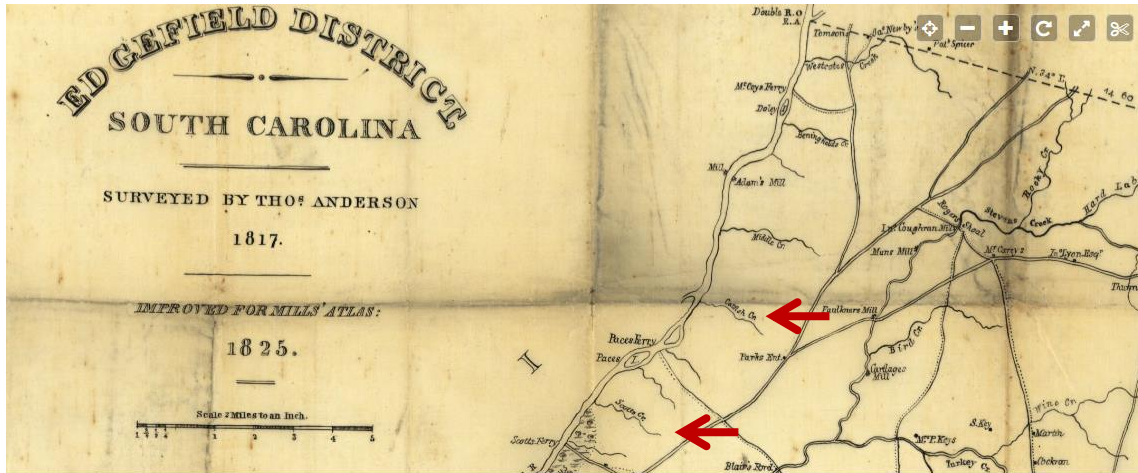
Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 4/28/1797  
 Series: State Plat Books (Columbia Series) (S213192)  
 Document type: Plat  
 Images: Available at SCDAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.  
 Identifiers:  
 Archives ID: Series: S213192 Volume: 0036 Page: 00071 Item: 005

South Carolina Archives

The plat for Benjamin Harris above shows Edward Bussey’s land to be just north of Scott Creek. From the 1825 Edgefield County, South Carolina map surveyed by Thomas Anderson, we can see that Scott Creek waterway is just to the south of Catfish Creek, where Sandifer Keziah’s 96 acres was located. Also note that “Pace’s Ferry,” likely referring to Drury Pace or his descendants, is between the two creeks on the Savannah River.



Mills, R. (1825) *Edgefield District, South Carolina.*

Winney Keziah appeared again in Edgefield in 1800, again mis-transcribed. This error is due to damage to the census page itself, but it is readable if you know what you are looking for.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Name:                                       | Winney Lorah   |
| Home in 1800 (City, County, State):         | <b>[Keziah] - TRANSCRIPTION ERROR</b><br>Edgefield, South Carolina |
| Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 15:  | 2  |
| Free White Persons - Females - 45 and over: | 1  |
| Number of Household Members Under 16:       | 2  |
| Number of Household Members Over 25:        | 1  |
| Number of Household Members:                | 3  |

**Source Information**

Ancestry.com. *1800 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2010. Images reproduced by FamilySearch.

It is of note that one female from 1790 is now missing from the household. This was Cheriah Keziah, who had married Lewis Free by about 1795.

Neighbors of Winney Keziah in 1800 included Joshua **Bussey**, James **Owensby**, **Zachariah Nobles**, and **Obediah Henderson**. All of these names were near her in 1790, which shows it is almost certain she was living on the same land in 1800. She had not moved.

The men in **bold** above, along with **Ebenezer Starns**, **Drury Pace**, **Arthur Killcras [Kilcrease]**, **Charles Williams**, and **George Blair** (the Blairs are another Winney Keziah neighbor) all appear on a Coffee Town [Cuffey Town] and Turkey Creek 1778-1779 Jury List.

1778-1779 Jury list South Carolina. Compiled by Gelee Corley Hendrix and Morn McKoy Lindsay. Baltimore Genealogical Publishing co., 1980. Transcribed for South Carolina Genealogy Trails by Dena Whitesell. Newberry District

“Cuffey Town” was probably a trading post:

“John Stevens maintained cow-pens near the crossing of the Cherokee Path, over Stevens Creek in 1715. The Cherokees called the Cherokee Path, “*Suwali-Nana*”. Stevens’ cow-pens lended the name for the creek. Likewise, cow-pens located on Cuffeytown Creek led to the creation of a trading post, probably called “Cuffey Town”, that was situated on the east side of the stream just above the bridge on U. S. Route 378, near Longmires, presently the Hollingsworth home. In 1756, George Bussey took up a 900-acre tract of land on Horn’s Creek below Stevens Creek. In the same year John Scott, formerly of Cuffeytown Creek, moved to Stevens Creek, where five years later he was made a justice of the peace. The Stevens Creek settlement was a fifteen-mile circle nearly surrounded on the south and west by Savannah River and Turkey Creek encompassing lower present-day McCormick County.”

Edmonds, B.F. McCormick County History. Available at: <https://mccormicksechamber.org/about/about-mccormick-county/history/> (Accessed 1 Aug 2021)

### **The Disposition of Sandifer Keziah’s Edgefield Land**

The land originally granted to Sandifer Keziah was sold by others who had acquired it. It wasn’t sold in whole; the 305 acre grant was owned by at least three people.

**Robert Killcrease**, Planter, to Benamin Cockram, Planter, both of Edgefield co SC for L 80, sold **100 acres** in the **fork of Stephens Creek & Turkey Creek** bounded by lands of **Benjamin Killcrease**, William Thomas, **Mary Hill** & Stephens Creek, it being part of 305 acres as shown by a plat surveyed by William Goode 24 Sept 1775 and by a plat of the **original grant of 305 acres granted to Sanford Keziah** 1 Dec 1772. S/ Robert (R) Killcrease. WIT: **Christopher Glanton**, John Glanton. Sworn by oath of Christopher Glanton **10 Aug 1789** before Benj. Tutt, J. P. (Abstracts by: GE Lee Corlely Hendrix, 3 Acorn Court, Greenville, SC 29609)

Edgefield County, South Carolina Deed Book 3, p293-298

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS35-ZSKS-S?i=424&cat=472168>

Note in the sale above that only 100 acres of the original 305 is being transferred. Another deed in Edgefield covers another 105 acres:

**Minor Killcrease to Christopher Glanton.** Minor Killcrease, son and heir of **John Killcrease** of Edgefield in consideration of 100 dollars to me paid...do grant bargain sale and release a plantation of land containing by estimation **105 acres** of land...**between Stephens and Turkey Creeks**...Coletisons line...Mitchels line...Thomas line...Shadrach Homes line...**part of a 305 acre tract being granted to Sanford Kesiah and by him transferred to John Killcrease dec'd, Father to the above named Minor Killcrease**...twenty ninth day of August one thousand one hundred and ninety eight. Minor Killcrease (his mark). Witnesses: Morris Calliham, John Killcrease. Sworn by Morris Calliham before Henry Key J.P., 31 Aug 1798. Recorded 14 Sep 1798. (Abstracted by the author, Wanda Tucker)

Edgefield County, South Carolina Deed Book 15, p465

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS73-M3SW-B?i=526&cat=472168>

In the second deed, Minor Killcrease is noted as having inherited this land from his father John. This leads me to assume that the 100 acres sold by Robert Killcrease was also inherited. I have been unable to determine the disposition of the remaining 100 acres of land, but it was probably inherited by another son or daughter of John Killcrease.

In 1805, the ninety-five acres of land originally granted to Sandifer Keziah was conveyed by **William Reynolds** to his son-in-law.

**William Reynolds** of the state of SC and county of Fairfield, unto my son-in-law Joseph Jennings, District of Edgefield, ninety-six acres land more or less granted to **Sandford Kesiah** and lying in the state aforementioned and District of Edgefield bounded on the north and northwest by Blackwells land and on the south by land granted to James Harris. Also one other tract or parcel...bounded on the northwest by Sandford Kesiah land...both the described tracts or parcels of land lies on Cat Fish Creek and waters of Savannah River...Witness my hand and seal this 7<sup>th</sup> day of Febry in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and five. Witnesses: John Searls, Francis Picket, Isaac Hawes.

Personally appeared John Searls and duly swore William Reynolds sign seal and deliver...sworn before me this 15 day of Jany 1806 John Longmire, J.P. Recorded 29<sup>th</sup> October 1810 (Abstracted by Wanda Tucker)

Edgefield County, South Carolina Deed Book 30, p223

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKW-J97L-6?i=117&cat=472168>

NOTE: the land has "grown" by an acre, but we can be sure this is the same land from the other details.



This deed begs the question, when was the 96 acres acquired by William Reynolds? Were Winney Keziah and the other women living on land owned by Sandifer Keziah or by Reynolds? Reynolds appears very near Winney Keziah on the 1790 census, but is not close by in 1800. This could be a quirk of the way the census was enumerated, however, so we don't really know.

Since the land being transferred in the deed includes "one other tract or parcel...bounded on the northwest by Sandford Kesiah land," it may be that Reynolds, shown as a neighbor in 1789 Drury Pace plat, *did not* own the original 95 acres belonging to Sandifer Keziah until much later. It is pure speculation on my part, but I believe it is entirely possible that after 1800, Winney Keziah and her daughters left the area, possibly headed to New York with the last few Tuscarora to leave the Carolinas. When she left, she could have sold the land to William Reynolds. There are no records showing how/when he got this piece of land that I can locate.

A marriage could be another solution to how and when William Reynolds got the 95 acres. John Kilcrease married Bathsheba Reynolds, daughter of William Reynolds, about 1740 in Brunswick, Virginia. The two families are linked by this marriage. Bathsheba had a brother William. This is almost certainly the William Reynolds who owned Sandifer's land in Edgefield. Sandifer could have sold the land directly to him, John Kilcrease could have willed it to him when he died, or he could have gotten it when Bathsheba passed. With available information, all I can say is he owned it and sold it in 1805.

Historical Southern Families, Vol XVI, p205. Boddie, John Bennett, Mrs. John Bennett Boddie. Reprinted for Clearfield Co., Inc. by Genealogical Printing Co., Inc. Baltimore, Maryland 1994

The Revolutionary War pension application of Fielding Reynolds, William's son, states that he came to Edgefield with his family and enlisted the year after they arrived. He enlisted in 1781, implying that the family got to Edgefield about 1780:

"Applicant states that he has no record of his age but that he was in the 15th or 16th year when he entered service which was (as before stated) in the year 1781. That he never did get a formal discharge; But that he has obtained a Certificate from his Colonel, which will be found annexed hereto and to which he begs leave to refer as evidence of what he has herein before stated. He also states that he was born in the State of Virginia in Caroline County. That he came to Edgefield District in the State of South Carolina in company with his father and family, and that the year following he Enlisted. That he lived in the said District of Edgefield, until the year 1822, when he removed to this State and settled in Dallas County where he has lived ever since."

Southern Campaigns Revolutionary War Pension Statements & Rosters  
<http://revwarapps.org/s17041.pdf> (Accessed 30 Sep 2021)

**William Reynolds** who is selling this land in 1805 is stated to be **of Fairfield**. In the 1800 census, there are William Reynolds age 45+ in both Edgefield and Fairfield, SC. In 1810 there is no William Reynolds in Edgefield, and only a younger William Reynolds in Fairfield, age 16 to 25. Did William Reynolds, Sr. sell his land in Edgefield after Winney Keziah died, and move to Fairfield? Or did he die unrecorded in Edgefield before 1810?

William Reynolds is listed as an appraiser for Christopher Glanton, who died intestate in 1800 in Edgefield. Remember, Christopher Glanton purchased most of the Sandifer Keziah 305 acres. This William Reynolds is most likely to be the owner of Sandifer's land. Morris Calliham was an administrator

along with Phebe Glanton, as was Jonas Homes. Nimrod Kilcrease married Mary Homes/Holmes, yet another connection between all these families.

William Reynolds, Jr. applied for letters of administration for William, Sr. in November 1813 in Fairfield, South Carolina. From information available, it is unclear if this is the William from Edgefield or another man. What is clear is that there was quite a bit of connection between the Edgefield and Fairfield areas of South Carolina, as seen in multiple cases.

Fairfield County, South Carolina Estate Records Book D p100

### **The Kilcrease Family**

The Kilcrease family name is spelled in a variety of ways, including Gilchrist, Gilcrest, Kilercrease, Kilcees, etc. As you may recall from earlier in this manuscript, two sons of **Peter Starns** ended up in Edgefield and in trouble with the law. Charged along with them were **Nimrod Kilcrease** and **Anthony Distoe** [Duesto].

The King Vs **Levy Starn, Anthony Distoe**, Noah Roundtree, James Nowland, **Ebenezer Starn, Nimrod Kilcrease**, Arnold Russell, James Cain, Drury Morris, And Roger Martin, Accused Of Robbery (1 Page) Date: 10/19/1770

People in this record:

Cain, James; Distoe, Anthony; Kilcrease, Nimrod; Martin, Roger; Morris, Drury; Nowland, James; Roundtree, Noah; Russell, Arnold; Starn, Ebenezer; Starn, Levy

Places in this record:

Topics in this record:

Robbery

Record details:

Date: 10/19/1770

Series: Criminal Journals (S145002)

Document type: None

Images: Available at SCDAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S145002 Volume [1st Year]: 1769 Page: 00081 Item: 04D

South Carolina Archives

Indictment Of **Anthony Distoe**, Noah Roundtree, James Nowland, **Levi Starn, Ebenezer Starn, Nimrod Killcrease**, Arnold Russell, James Cain Sr., Drury Morris, And Roger Martin For Robbery (1 Page) Date: 10/19/1770

People in this record:

Cain, James; Distoe, Anthony; Killcrease, Nimrod; Martin, Roger; Morris, Drury; Nowland, James; Roundtree, Noah; Russell, Arnold; Starn, Ebenezer; Starn, Levi

Places in this record:

Topics in this record:

Robbery

Record details:

Date: 10/19/1770

Series: Criminal Journals (S145002)

Document type: None

Images: Available at SCDAH building or by order. See *How to search* menu.  
Identifiers:  
Archives ID: Series: S145002 Volume [1st Year]: 1769 Page: 00082 Item: 04B

South Carolina Archives

**Robert Killcrease** was the man who sold Sandifer Keziah's land in Edgefield in 1789, and according to most sources was a son of Nimrod. The Killcrease family is found in South Carolina beginning in the 1750s, always around the same area near Long Canes and Stephens Creek. Nimrod Gilchrist (the original spelling of the name) arrived in South Carolina from Scotland about 1751. Most researchers think Nimrod had brothers who immigrated also, with some heading up north, and some heading south with Nimrod.

**Name:** Nimrod Gilchrist  
**Arrival year:** 1751  
**Arrival Place:** South Carolina  
**Primary Immigrant:** Gilchrist, Nimrod  
**Source Publication Code:** 9760  
**Source Bibliography:** WHYTE, DONALD. A Dictionary of Scottish Emigrants to the USA. Vol. 1. Baltimore: Magna Carta Book Co., 1972. 504p. 2nd pr., 1981.

**Source Citation**

Place: *South Carolina*; Year: *1751*; Page Number: *134*

**Source Information**

Ancestry.com. *U.S. and Canada, Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s-1900s* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc, 2010.

Original data: Filby, P. William, ed. *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s-1900s*. Farmington Hills, MI, USA: Gale Research, 2012.

Recall that Anthony Duesto, found with this same gang, first came into contact with the Frees in 1763 when he purchased land from "Lynches Creek" Jacob Free who ended up in Barnwell.

Charleston Deed Book B3, p 491

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSK3-F9ZW-J?i=438&cat=361547>

Another Kilcrease who appears on the plats with Sandifer Keziah is very important to proving that there is a connection from Sandifer to the Free family that we can trace. **Benjamin Kilcrease** is shown in the land sale of Sandifer's original grant by Robert Kilcrease in 1789. Benjamin appears on the plat for the 305 acres in 1772. On the same original plat, **Mary Hill's** land is also shown. In a search for Mary Hill at the South Carolina Archives, the following plat is found (Note: **John Duley** is mis-transcribed as Dutey).

**Hill, Mary**, Plat For 200 Acres In Granville County. Date: 1/13/1773

People in this record:

Bremar, John; **Dutey, John**; Goode, William; Harn, Ebenezer; Hill, Mary

Places in this record:

Granville County; **Stephens Creek**

Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 1/13/1773



Series: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series) (S213184)  
Document type: Plat  
Images: Online  
Identifiers:  
Archives ID: Series: S213184 Volume: 0015 Page: 00444 Item: 01

South Carolina Archives

Searching for John Duley at the SC Archives leads to a plat for John Logan.

Logan, John, Plat For 129 Acres In Granville County. Date: 6/4/1774  
People in this record:  
**Blair, George; Duley, John; Gilchrist, Benjamin;** Goode, William; Logan, John  
Places in this record:  
Granville County; **Turkey Creek**  
Topics in this record:  
Record details:  
Date: 6/4/1774  
Series: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series) (S213184)  
Document type: Plat  
Images: Online  
Identifiers:  
Archives ID: Series: S213184 Volume: 0016 Page: 00397 Item: 01

The “Benjamin Gilchrist” above is Benjamin Kilcrease. This is just one of the many ways the name was spelled. Sandifer Keziah, Mary Hill, John Duley, and Benjamin Kilcrease were all neighbors.

### **DNA Evidence Proves the Identity of Cheriah Keziah**

I have corresponded about the Keziah family with Deborah Cavel-Greant, who is a descendant and researcher of the family, and is very knowledgeable about the Native American traditions and history of the Tuscarora. Before my contact with Deb, I had speculated that Winney Keziah might have been an abandoned wife of Sandifer, but Deb set me straight on that! Tuscarora women raised their children, and no male would have been allowed to take her kids. A woman could kick a man out simply by leaving his things outside the door. Deborah suggested that Winney may have been another Keziah’s wife and widowed. While this is possible, the fact that in 1790 and 1800 Winney Keziah is clearly living on the 95 acre grant of land to Sandifer made me consider another possibility.

I believe Winney was Sandifer Keziah’s *daughter*. The Keziahs had a habit of taking the surnames of associates and neighbors as first names. William Winchester was a longtime associate of Sandifer Keziah. If Winney was his child, he may have named her Winchester for his friend William.

In any case, Winney is living in the correct area with other women at the correct time period to be Sandifer’s daughter. It is also possible she was the wife of another Keziah brother. There is simply not enough information from records *alone* to know with 100% certainty.

According to Deborah Cavel-Greant, many of the surnames of people living near Winney Keziah are either Tuscarora or people who married into the Tuscarora. Since their society was matriarchal, the men

followed the women. Some of the collateral names that Cavel-Greant cites are Harris, Renolds/Reynolds, Robison, Quarles, Langford, Presley, Melton, Parrot, Hill, and Dunn. If you have read this far you have seen many of these names associated with the Free family and Winney Keziah. Others of these names are found in Edgefield all around Winney in 1790 and 1800.

Since the records themselves could not prove whether Winney was a descendant of the Keziah or the widowed wife of one, Deborah suggested that, since many Keziah descendants had done DNA testing that was available for comparison, that I myself should have an autosomal test. In her extensive work with the family's DNA, she had discovered a genetic marker she dubbed the "Shave Spike." This spike was found in a line descended from one Francis Shave, Sr., who appears to have been one of the children of a Tuscarora kidnapped and shipped to Jamaica in 1711-13. There were up to 1000 of the original tribe in Bertie, North Carolina who were. Some of these descendants were sent to England to be servants for wealthy people, who thought it was "fashionable" to have a Native child trailing after them. Some however, became attached to and cared about their charges, and shipped them off to village families who adopted them. Working with historians, Cavel-Greant was able to prove that her Tuscarora family members descend from Francis Shave. From Deb's Francis Shave research page:

"I spent a couple of months reading British histories and contacted several historians who specialize in Black history in Britain, sharing the story of our discovery. The consistent answer I received was that without exception England's "Great Houses" (places like Highclere Castle where Downton Abbey was filmed) in the 18th Century were built, expanded and/or supported by the sugar trade out of Jamaica. And of course, the sugar plantations depended entirely on the slave labour of Africans and Native Americans. There were a dozen or more such Great Houses in Hampshire. One of them, Sopley Manor, in the village of Sopley, was less than half a mile from where the Shave family lived.

As my research developed, when I entered my Cavel/Shave cousin's DNA segments into my database they matched the descendants of my 4th g-grandfather Dunning Casiah, 3rd g-grandfather Enoch Smith, 4th g-grandfather William Barbee all of whom were descendants of a Tuscarora woman and a Sub-Saharan African man the Tuscarora rescued from a sinking Spanish ship off the North Carolina coast in 1646. The "Shave Spike" is found in descendants of all these families, but in no families unassociated with the original Tuscarora/Sub-Saharan couple."

Francis Shave, Sr. (abt. 1760-1802). Profile manager Deb Cavel. Available at: <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Shave-115> (Accessed 1 Aug 2021)

Cavel-Greant further stated that while ALL of her Tuscarora relations carried the Shave Spike, NONE of her other kin did.

This was enough to convince me, a DNA skeptic, to be tested. With the lack of records for both Native American women and for Dunker Baptists, I knew that I was unlikely to find any more paper records than I already had.

I awaited my DNA results with some trepidation. After all, this might be the only chance of ever finding a maiden name for Cheria Free. As I waited, I got a fascinating email from Deb about the name Cheria. I am sharing it with her permission. It is one of the most exciting emails I have ever gotten while studying genealogy:

Deborah Cavel-Greant

Mon 5/24/2021

Hi Wanda,

A lot of Tuscarora aligned themselves with the Quakers, not necessarily becoming Quakers, but the Quakers were the only settlers who treated them like human beings. The Quakers advocated for the Tuscarora, protected them, and stood up for them. They also married them. The Brits did everything they could to wipe out the Tuscarora men. So the women married European men when they had to. And remember while the men may have been European their wives may have been Tuscarora and it was the maternal clan that stuck together. The men followed the women. 😊

The Harris, Dun, Renolds/Reynolds, Melton, Quarles, Hills, Parrotts, Presleys, Goins, and Langfords are all Tuskie or intermarried Tuskie families. You can look at the old census/tombstone records in Bertie Co. and the tombstones in the cemetery where my g-granny Keziah Crouch is buried in Velma OK - she died in 1921 and was originally buried outside the cemetery because she was (shock!) not baptized! The surnames are the same. Those families stuck together.

I've been turning over the name Cheriah in my mind, over and over, like a tumbler drier. My Skarù•rę? is poor at best and I usually have to resort to the dictionary to make sure I have tenses right - there are 17 tenses! My grandmother spoke it with me as a child, but that's been a while! 😊 But that name just niggled at me. So I got busy and looked it up. There are only a handful of nouns in Skarù•rę?. Most words are made of a combination of morphemes and are - no kidding - 20-35 letters long.

Even names are very long and adults don't use their names on a day-to-day basis, we use nicknames or relationships. I'd get called cousin or niece or auntie. Traditionally no one would call you by your name, as that was considered disrespectful. Now people use names right, left and centre, but that isn't how it was done in the past. You were given your name by the Clan Matriarchy in ceremony. They chose it from a pool of clan names, based on your personality, your talents, your strengths, the role you were being trained to fill in the community. The only thing you *owned* was your name, everything else was held in common. When a person died, they were never referred to by their Clan name again, so most of those names have been lost to history.

But children have always had a name used until adolescence, 'baby name'. I'm betting that by the time your Cheriah was an adult the clan structure had degenerated so much there was not enough matriarchy left who knew the available names, who could do the rites and ceremonies needed to bestow adult names. Thus she carried her child's name into adulthood. Cheriah spelled in Skarù•rę? is Čè•ri - exactly the way it is pronounced in English, if you know how to read the Skarù•rę? alphabet. It means 'wild cherry'.

This (genealogy) is my PLAY! This is a holiday so I may just play today! 😊 Woo-hoo!

Cheerio!

Deb

Upon receiving this email, I commenced a search for any other woman named Cheriah in the United States between 1700 and 1900. I found only one, as previously noted; **Cheriah Dale**, born 1858 in Paintsville, Johnson County, Kentucky. She turned out to be a Seneca Indian. Seneca and Tuscarora

languages are related. I don't have a Seneca speaker to consult as to whether the words are the same or similar in their language.

Still, the name was only more "circumstantial" evidence of Cheriah's parentage. What would the DNA show?

Finally the day came and the DNA was in. I uploaded my results to Gedmatch.com, and notified Deb that she could take a look.

I HAVE the Shave Spike!

That was the almost immediate news from my newfound cousin, Deb. As she was able to more fully explore our relationship, it turned out we had shared relatives who were also Keziah descendants. I was a "Kizzie Cuzzin," as her family group of researchers was dubbed. Having searched for Cheriah Free's identity for fifteen-plus years, to say I was excited by this is the understatement of the century.

I have been and still remain a "skeptic" of using DNA as a random stab in the dark in genealogy. There *must be* documents to support DNA conclusions. Also, having a **known** descendant to compare DNA to, especially in the distant relationships, is a very useful tool. Deborah Cavel-Greant has a background in genetics, which enabled her to tease information from her families DNA profile that others simply won't find using DNA. This remains for me a "last ditch" for genealogical research, but when it works, oh, boy.

DNA in combination with all the other documentation solves the mystery of Cheriah Keziah Free, at least for me. All of the collateral family connections between the Free, Keziah, Kilcrease, Gosa, Starns, Duesto, Reynolds, Calliham, and other family names, in combination with the land records and DNA make such a compelling case it is irrefutable in my mind. We have no marriage, birth or death records because they simply never existed. But we have a wealth of old information and new technology to confirm who Cheriah Keziah Free really was.

### **Finding Cheriah Keziah Free's Father**

It is unlikely that I will ever be able to confirm the identity of Cheriah's father. DNA is probably not accurate enough at this remove to identify him. But I went looking in my Ancestry DNA matches for candidates, of course. How could I resist?

The way Ancestry DNA works is it shows you matches of other people who have had their DNA tested with Ancestry. Some of these people have family trees that are publically available on Ancestry, and some are private. Other people have no tree posted at all. Most if not all trees have some errors, mine included. I use my tree as a sort of "depository" for information of all kinds until I can get to it. Some of it is wrong. One day I hope it is perfect.

Knowing there are errors in most every tree is why I have always been hesitant about DNA for genealogy, and this case is no different.

Knowing all of that, I set out to search the people who were associated with the Keziahs, and more specifically, Winney Keziah, in the trees I had DNA matches with. It is possible to search your matches for surnames found in other's trees, and that is where I started.

I suspect, simply based on what I know from everything you have read thus far, that Winney Keziah might have been a “country wife;” that is, the Indian wife of a white man, who may or may not be already married. Accepting that she was Sandifer Keziah’s daughter, and knowing that other women in the family changed their last names when they married, I think that either she had been married and changed her name *back* to Keziah after he died or left her (unlikely), *or* she never married but had children (more likely.)

Candidates narrowed based on the ages of her children.

Cheriah Keziah Free was born sometime between 1771 and 1775. She was listed as 16-25 years old on the 1800 census, and as 70-79 on the 1840 census, with consistent ages in between. Her husband Lewis Free was listed as 60-69 in 1840, and as 75 in 1750 after Cheriah had died. I think she was probably a year or two older than he, born about 1773.

Winney Keziah was listed in 1800 with two females age 10-15, making them born between 1785 and 1790. We don’t have any other information about those two girls.

I think it is entirely possible that Cheriah and the younger two girls had different fathers, as there is a long gap between them. Native American women practiced birth control, however, so Winney was in control. She may have had reasons not to get pregnant. Or there were pregnancies or children that didn’t survive.

I did find some family connections to names that were around Winney Keziah. However, and this is the problem I have with the utility of DNA in genealogy, there are multiple shared surnames in the family trees. For example, I show up as a fourth-sixth cousin of someone whose tree has the Kilcrease family in it, but also has Browns, Martins, Williamses, and Harrises, all of which are family names in my tree. So, am I related to them genetically because of the Kilcreases, or because of one or more of the others? I also showed matches to trees belonging to Reynolds descendants.

Unless and until I can find a DNA match to someone around Winney Keziah through more exact means, the mystery of who fathered Cheriah Keziah Free will remain.

## THE FREES OF NORTHEASTERN GEORGIA

### The Lewis Free/Cheriah Keziah Family Line

Lewis Free and Cheriah Keziah are my direct ancestors. After their marriage, they were in the Abbeville area until after 1820, when they last appeared on the census there. They then went to Habersham County, Georgia by 1825, where they were listed founding members of Providence Baptist Church as previously noted.

Lewis Free was a recipient of land in the 1827 Cherokee Land Lottery in Georgia.

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Name:</b>               | <b>Lewis Free</b>   |
| <b>County:</b>             | Lee   |
| <b>Captain's District:</b> | Suttons   |
| <b>Number:</b>             | 278   |
| <b>District:</b>           | 4   |
| <b>Lottery Date:</b>       | 1827  |
| <b>Source:</b>             | REPRINT of OFFICIAL REGISTER of LAND LOTTERY OF GEORGIA 1827; 46th DAY'S DRAWING-April 28.HABERSHAM. page 142 |

Ancestry.com. *Georgia Land Lottery, 1827* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 1997.

Lewis and Cheriah Free had a large family. Their known children included Nancy born about 1800, died 1880; Bethuel born about 1804; Katherine born about 1806, died 1876; Elisha born about 1808, died 1905; "Settled" Simeon born 1810, died 1858; Martin born 1816, died 1901; and Ebenezer born 1820, died 1893.

Nancy married John Mote. Lewis Free sold Mote 115 acres of land in Habersham County on 8 Mar 1832.

Habersham County, Georgia Deed Book M, p134

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4R-H923-5?i=337&cat=243413>

Bethuel Free is listed in Habersham County in 1830. He and Lewis are the only Free heads of household on the census there that year. Bethuel is found in Hall County in 1840. These were neighboring counties. After this census, Bethuel disappears from the record.

Katherine Free appears with Lewis and Cheriah on the Providence Baptist Church founding members list. She had at least one child, a son James Jackson Free, but she never married. She and James are found on the 1850 census living with William and Sarah Morrison. They were both enumerated as "inmate." This didn't mean what it means today; it simply meant that they were living in the same house, but were not **necessarily** related. Her sister Nancy Mote, and her brother Martin lived nearby. Lewis Free, age 75, was included as an "inmate" in Martin's home.

Katherine still lived with the Morrisons in 1870. I think Sarah was probably Katherine's daughter.

Elisha Free married Mary Crow in Habersham in 1830.

|       |                    |
|-------|--------------------|
| Name: | <b>Elisha Free</b> |
|-------|--------------------|

Spouse: Mary Crow  
Marriage Date: 30 Sep 1830  
Marriage County: Habersham  
Marriage State: Georgia

Ancestry.com. *Georgia, U.S., Compiled Marriages, 1754-1850* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 1997.

He received land in the 1832 Cherokee Land Lottery in Georgia.

Name: **Elisha Free**  
Number: 33  
District: SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT, FIRST SECTION, CHEROKEE  
Residence: Sutton's  
County: Habersham

Ancestry.com. *Georgia Cherokee Land Lottery, 1832* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2000.

Elisha served in the Civil War. He moved to Polk County in Northwestern Georgia after the war and lived there until he died after 1880.

Simeon Free born about 1810 has confused researchers for years. There are two Simeons of almost the same age in Habersham County. There is this man, "Settled" Simeon, son of Lewis Free, and another, "Wandering" Simeon, who was the son of Lewis's brother Martin. Some researchers have stated their belief that these men are unrelated! There is even more evidence than I have already presented that they are, which will be shown directly.

"Settled" Simeon married first Judy Harris 4 May 1834 in Habersham County.

Name: **Simeon Free**  
Spouse: Judy Harris  
Marriage Date: 4 May 1834  
Marriage County: Habersham  
Marriage State: Georgia

Ancestry.com. *Georgia, U.S., Compiled Marriages, 1754-1850* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 1997.

"Settled" Simeon was a "fortunate drawer" in the 1832 Georgia Cherokee Land Lottery.

Access Genealogy, 26<sup>th</sup> District, 2<sup>nd</sup> Section, Cherokee. Available at:  
[https://accessgenealogy.com/georgia/26th-district-2nd-section-cherokee.htm#lc\\_comments](https://accessgenealogy.com/georgia/26th-district-2nd-section-cherokee.htm#lc_comments)  
(Accessed 2 Aug 2021)

Simeon and Judy had the following known children: **Lewis Lafayette Free** born 1837, died 1809; Salina Lucinda Free born 1840, died 1914; and John Bailey Free born 1846, died 1921.

A child of **Lewis Lafayette Free** (my direct line) is important in showing the connection between the lines of Lewis Free and Martin Free in Habersham County, so I am including him here. **Martin Estes Free** was born 31 Aug 1877 and died 25 Jun 1947 in Habersham County. His name will come up again when we get to the Martin Free line.

According to the website findagrave.com, Judy Free is buried at Providence Baptist Church beneath an unreadable marker.

### **Judy J. Harris Free**

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Birth       | 1815<br>South Carolina, USA  |
| Death       | 1850 (aged 34–35)<br>Batesville, Habersham County, Georgia, USA                  |
| Burial      | Providence Baptist Church Cemetery<br>Batesville, Habersham County, Georgia, USA |
| Memorial ID | 174692067  |

Findagrave. Available at: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/174692067/judy-j.-free>  
(Accessed 2 Aug 2021)

“Settled” Simeon Free married second Irena Sutton. With Irena he had one known child, James E. Free born 1858, died 1935.

Simeon Free died in 1858. He is also buried at Providence Baptist Church.

### **Simeon Free**

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Birth       | 1810<br>South Carolina, USA  |
| Death       | 1858 (aged 47–48)<br>Batesville, Habersham County, Georgia, USA                  |
| Burial      | Providence Baptist Church Cemetery<br>Batesville, Habersham County, Georgia, USA |
| Memorial ID | 174692054  |

Findagrave. Available at: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/174692054/simeon-free>  
(Accessed 2 Aug 2021)

Lewis and Cheria Free’s son Martin was born about 1816. He is another one who has given many researchers headaches! There are again, two of similar age in the same place. The other in this case is another son of Lewis’s brother Martin. This family really liked their family names.

Lewis’s son Martin married Francis “Fanny” Smith 25 Mar 1838 in Habersham County.

|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Name:            | <b>Martin Free</b> |
| Spouse:          | Francis Smith      |
| Marriage Date:   | 25 Mar 1838        |
| Marriage County: | Habersham          |



Marriage State: Georgia

Ancestry.com. *Georgia, U.S., Compiled Marriages, 1754-1850* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 1997.

Martin is buried at Oakey Mountain Baptist Church in Habersham County.

### **Martin Free**

Birth 1816  
Death 1901 (aged 84–85)  
Burial Oakey Mountain Baptist Church Cemetery  
Clarkesville, Habersham County, Georgia, USA Show Map  
Memorial ID 33409063

Findagrave. Available at: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/33409063/martin-free>  
(Accessed 2 Aug 2021)

Ebenezer born 1820 is the last of Lewis and Cheriah's known children. He was a late baby; Cheriah would have been about 47 years old.

Ebenezer married Lucinda Hicks on 3 Nov 1839 in Habersham.

Name: **Mr Ebenezer Free**  
Gender: Male  
Marriage Date: 3 Nov 1839  
Marriage Place: Habersham, Georgia, USA  
Spouse: Lucinda Hicks  
Spouse Gender: Female

Ancestry.com. *Georgia, U.S., Marriage Records From Select Counties, 1828-1978* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2013.

Ebenezer died in Fannin County, Georgia in 1793.

### **Ebenezer Free**

Birth 22 Mar 1820  
Death 18 Mar 1893 (aged 72)  
Burial Dial Church of Christ Cemetery  
Dial, Fannin County, Georgia, USA  
Memorial ID 41416486

Findagrave. Available at: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/41416486/ebenezer-free>  
(Accessed at 2 Aug 2021)

## The Family of Martin Free and Elizabeth Oswald

Martin Free (b. 1787) married Elizabeth Oswald of Lexington County, South Carolina, on 20 Dec 1807.

The Heritage of Habersham County Georgia, 1817-2000. Habersham County Heritage Book Committee and County Heritage, Inc. Walsworth Publishing Co., Inc., 2001. p120

Martin and Elizabeth were living in Lexington in 1810 and 1820 according to census data. In 1830, they were in Hall County, Georgia.

The couple had twelve children, but not all of their names are known. Sally Free, born 1808 in Lexington, died 1899, never married but had ten children; Elizabeth Free, born about 1808, about whom little is known; "Wandering" Simeon, born about 1810 in Lexington, died after 1870, married Margaret Garland (more about this man later); Alpha, born about 1820; Martin W., Jr., born 11 May 1822, married Nancy Ann Cain; Jacob, born 1823, married Alpha Cain, died aboard ship returning from the California Gold Rush and was buried at sea. I know there are other children because of census data, but will leave it up to others to investigate them. We have the information we need here to demonstrate the relationship between Martin Free born 1787 and his children and Lewis Free and his descendants.

The Heritage of Habersham County Georgia, 1817-2000. p120

I will address here "Wandering" Simeon Free, born about 1810 in Lexington. Simeon really *was* a wanderer and moved all over the place. He and his family first appear in records in 1850 in Cherokee County, North Carolina on the census. Margaret Garland's mother Elizabeth lives with them. They have three children. They are still in Cherokee in 1860. In 1870, they are in Macon County, North Carolina, which adjoins Cherokee; it is unknown if they moved or the border did.

In 1880, Simeon and Margaret appear in Banks County, Georgia, which was formed using a part of several counties, including Habersham.

The descendants of "Wandering" Simeon Free that offer more proof of his family's connection to Lewis Free are his son **Jesse Lafayette "Fate" Free** born 1856 and grandson **Simmie Free** born 1892. Obviously there is name repetition again, but there is documentary evidence, too.

## **SIMMIE FREE, BORN 1892, HABERSHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA**

No Free family story could be complete without including Simmie Free.

To say Simmie Free was a character is an understatement. Simmie was born in Turnerville, Habersham County, Georgia, on 14 Jan 1892, at his grandfather's home. His own father never owned land, and had fifteen children, living to the age of 109. These are interesting statements that come from Simmie himself, when he was interviewed for "Foxfire Magazine" in the 1970s. The "Foxfire" articles were eventually collected into a series of books. Simmie's story appears in "Foxfire 3," published in 1975.

*Foxfire 3*. Edited by Eliot Wiggenton. Interviewers Ray McBride, Don MacNeil, and Gary Turner. Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, New York. 1975

Simmie was a well-known and notorious bootlegger during Prohibition. He was jailed multiple times for manufacturing liquor and for drunkenness; in one case he was sentenced to twelve months, served six and was released.

|                   |                               |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Name:             | <b>Semi Free</b>              |
| Conviction Place: | Rabun, Georgia, USA           |
| Crime:            | Manuf Liquor; Drunkenness (2) |
| File Number:      | 78573                         |

Ancestry.com. *Georgia, U.S., Central Register of Convicts, 1817-1976* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014. This collection was indexed by Ancestry World Archives Project contributors.

Simmie married Anna Coaley on 14 Mar 1915. The person who performed the marriage is a huge proof of the relationship between the descendants of Lewis Free and Martin Free. Simmie and Anna were married by Lewis Free's great-grandson **Martin E. (Estes) Free**, Simmie's third cousin.

MARRIAGE LICENSE.

State of Georgia, County of Habersham.

TO ANY JUDGE, JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, OR MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL :

You are Hereby Authorized to Join

*Simon Free* and *Anna Coaley*

in the Holy State of Matrimony, according to the Constitution and Laws of this State, and for so do shall be your license. And you are hereby required to return this License to me with your certificate of the fact and date of the marriage.

Given under my hand and seal, this *3* day of *March* 19*15*, 189*5*

*J. A. Robertson*

ORDINARY.

STATE OF GEORGIA, COUNTY OF HABERSHAM.

CERTIFI

I certify that *Simon Free* and *Anna Coaley* joined in matrimony by me, this *14* day of *March* 19*15*, Eighteen Hundred and Ninety-

Recorded *May 1* 19*15*, 189*5*

*Martin E. Free*  
*J. A. Robertson*, Ord.

Habersham County, Georgia Marriage Records, Vol. E

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C91X-5SM9-Z?cc=1927197&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQ28S-2DKZ>

Maybe it is just a Southern thing, but a third cousin is pretty close kin for us. I knew a lot of my third cousins growing up. So much of my heritage is Scottish; the clan mentality is prevalent across my line, and indeed in the South. Your relatives, even third or fourth cousins, were a part of your family. If I'd gotten to meet Simmie Free while he was living, I'd have been proud to call him my third cousin, too.

For me, this marriage license is a pretty clear piece of evidence of the relationship between these two families. And with everything that goes before it, it is really just icing on the cake.

**Rev. M. E. (Martin Estes) Free** is listed as a pastor of Providence Baptist Church in Habersham County in 1920. On 9 Oct 1875, his father Lewis Lafayette Free was ordained as a minister by this church. As previously discussed, this branch of the Free family was, by all appearances at least, the most religious.

The Heritage of Habersham County Georgia, 1817-2000. p38

When Simmie and his wife died, they were buried in the Macedonia Baptist Church Cemetery in Habersham County. All of Simmie Free's siblings who are buried in Habersham County are in the Macedonia Cemetery, along with their father Lafayette and mother Caroline Free. All of the Coalleys listed by Findagrave.com in Habersham County are buried in the Alleys Chapel Methodist Church Cemetery. It is apparent that this branch of the Frees and the Coalley family had other church associations, yet Simmie Free was married by Rev. Martin E. Free from Providence Baptist Church. The men were cousins; of that, I have no doubt at all.

### **Simmie Free's *Foxfire* Interview, 1973**

The following information comes from an interview published in *Foxfire 3* in 1975. First person information is the best, and Simmie was a talker!

Simmie Free got into lots of trouble. Six weeks after his marriage to Anna he had to serve eight months in jail in Gainesville, Georgia for making moonshine. After that, he worked on his father-in-law's orchard in Habersham County. He and Anna named their second son **Louis**.

Simmie and his family moved around a lot in North Carolina, with Simmie working in the wood industry, before moving back to Tiger, in Rabun County, Georgia. He worked for a while in an orchard, but he wanted something better than his 24 x 24 foot log cabin for his family, so he decided to make liquor. He made a deal with Mr. Duckett to build a house:

“I said, ‘By God, I can tell you in a few minutes what I want. I want enough lumber dressed and fixed up to build a six-room house! And,’ I says, ‘I want windows and doors.’

“He went in there and figured it up, county and everything and said ‘I’ll have it up there for day after tomorrow - \$1700 worth.’ That was a big debt. I knowed I could make it though. I was well and healthy, and I knowed how to do. And I went right ahead and got it and the upper piece of land the same way, and now we don’t owe a damned cent on nothin’. I paid some ever’ month or two. I just kept workin’, kept makin’ liquor. [The law] would come in and cut [my stills] up. And I’d run off and leave ‘em. I’d come back and just pitch right in and get me another still if I didn’t already have it – go in the woods and go right back to work.”

Simmie said his father taught him to make liquor when he was nine years old. Remember Adam Free’s land with the distillery on it, back in Fairfield, South Carolina? We can trace Simmie Free’s illicit trade all the way back to the family’s origins in America. Simmie was candid about spending time in jail for pursuing his trade; he seemed to view it as the cost of doing business!

*Foxfire 3*, pp26-29

Simmie worked as a veterinarian, with a reputation as the best in the county, but he never charged for his services. He said his father didn’t charge either. He also claimed to be able to remove warts and stop nose bleeds with a snap of his fingers. Having been to an old-time “wart witch” who really *did* remove a whole lot of warts from my hands by “magic” when I was a teen, I guess I believe him.

*Foxfire 3*, pp49-50

There is so much more to Simmie Free’s story. I highly recommend the *Foxfire* series, not only for his tale, but for all the knowledge and wisdom it contains. The Appalachian culture, like so many of the old ways, is slowly disappearing in our modern world. *Foxfire* preserves the stories, skills, and lifestyle of these hardy mountain people.



Simmie and Anna Coalley Free

## TIMELINE OF FREE, KESIAH, AND ASSOCIATED FAMILIES

The following is a timeline of the Frees, Keziahs and other associated people, starting with the Frees arrival in Winnsboro, South Carolina. The colors connect the documents which relate to the same land, or to each other:

1688 – Birth of **Nicholos Free**

1708 – Birth of “**Lynches Creek**” **Jacob Free**, son of Nicholos

1712 – Birth of **Lorance/Lawrence Free**

28 Sept 1752 – **Lawrence Free**, Plat for 200 (400) acres on Broad River

1754 – French and Indian War begins

1754 – Approximate date of birth of **Winney Keziah**

1755 – Birth of **John Keziah**

3 Oct 1755 – **Jacob Free**, Plat for 200 acres for on Broad River and Beaver Dam Creek – MOBLEY MEETING HOUSE AREA. **Neighbor William Hart** sells land to Clement Mobley 12 Dec 1766 – This is “Lynches Creek” Jacob Free

13 Jan 1756 – **Robert Kilcrease** Land Grant, 200 acres Granville (Edgefield) SC

5 Apr 1757 – **Nimrod Kilcrease** Land Grant, 300 acres Granville (Edgefield) SC

7 Apr 1757 – **John Kilcrease** Land Grant, 300 acres Granville (Edgefield) SC

1758 – Beginning of Cherokee War

1758 – **Sandifer Keziah** on Bedford County, VA military roster

20 Mar 1758 – **Lawrence Fry/Frigh** – Plat for 150 acres on Broad River

1759-60 – Phillip Mulkey moves with Joseph Breed (assistant to Shubael Stearns at Sandy Creek, NC) to Fairforest Creek, SC, and forms his church. **Peter Starns** accompanied them to the Broad River in SC

1760 – Little River Church constituted, with **five meeting houses**. One was Gibson’s meeting house. This was where Peter Starns, Shubael Stearns’ brother, moved at the same time

1760 – Rev. Daniel Marshall (associate of Shubael Stearns at Sandy Creek) moved with a group of followers to Beaver Creek in SC. This is the area in Fairfield where the Frees settled. He stayed until about 1762

1761 – End of Cherokee War

5 Dec 1761 – **Laurence Free**, Land Grant For 400 Acres On Wilkinsons Creek And Broad River.

5 Dec 1761- **Jacob Free**, Grant for 200 acres on Beaver Dam Creek – Mobley Meeting House area

16 Mar 1762 – **Jacob Free**, Memorial for 200 acres of land on Beaver Dam Creek by **William Hart** – Mobley Meeting House area

16 Mar 1762 – **Lawrence Free**, Memorial For 400 Acres On Wilkinsons Creek

16 Mar 1762 – **Laurence Frygh**, Memorial For 150 Acres On Rocky Branch

23-24 Sept 1762 – **Jacob Free and Magdalena his wife**, Lease and Release to John Wagener, land granted 1 Dec 1761 (this is the 5 Dec 1761 grant) (see 10 Jan 1772 memorial for John Wagener)

23 Dec 1762 – **Jacob Free**, Memorial for 100 acres on Cedar Creek on Cedar Creek, chain of title to John Lee [dated 27 Jul 1762 in the sale deed] GIBSONS MEETING HOUSE AREA. This is “**Lynches Creek**” **Jacob**

1763 – French and Indian War ends

8 Feb 1763 – **Jacob Friis** And Wife, Mary To **Anthony Duesto**, Deed Of Release [This is the land at Cedar Creek, 23 Dec 1762] Sold for 130 pounds. Signed by **Jacob Free** and wife **MARY**, witness **Joseph KERSHAW**. Gibsons Meeting House area. (Wife Mary also called Mary Magdalena, and Magdalena in other documents)

22 Aug 1763 - **Lawrence Friis** and wife to son and *heir apparent* Adam Free, 100 acres Enfeoffment and Plat

7 Mar 1764 – **Jacob Free**, Plat For 150 Acres In Craven County. [Lynches Creek]

22 May 1764 – Anthony Funderbury, Memorial For 150 Acres On Broad River, Craven County, Summarizing A Chain Of Title To A Grant To **Laurence Free** Of Dec. 1, 1761

20 Jun 1764 - **Jacob Free**, Land Grant For 100 Acres In Craven County [Lynches Creek]

18 July 1764 - **Jacob Free**, Memorial For 100 Acres On Lynches Creek, Craven County

1765 – Approximate beginning of War of the Regulation

20 May 1765 – **Jacob Free**, Plat for 100 acres on Little River- Gibsons Meeting House area – neighbors **Edward McGraw** and **Barnaby Pope** – This is “Lexington” Jacob

1766 – **Sandifer and Dunning Cashia** (sic), along with (Sarah Keziah's husband) William and (his father) Thomas 'Wynchester' are found serving in the **Mecklenburg Co. NC Militia** Commanded by Capt. Adam Alexander, Esq. Officers Lieut Charles Polk, Ensign Jas. Harris, Sergt. Thos. Macfaddon, Sergt William **Blair**, Sergt. Jno. Foard, Corporals Jno. Calberson

1766 – **Rev. Daniel Marshall** establishes a church at Stevens Creek, SC. He maintains ties with Beaver Creek

18 Mar 1766 – **Anthony Duesto** convicted by Charleston court of highway robbery

3 Jun 1766 – **Jacob Free**, Land Grant for 100 Acres in Craven County – Gibsons Meeting House area

25 June 1766 – **Jacob Free**, Memorial for 100 acres on Little River – Gibsons Meeting House area



Apr 1767 – **Anthony Duesto** pardoned for highway robbery conviction of 18 Mar 1766

28 Oct 1767 – **Obediah Kilcrease**, Land Grant, 100 acres Granville (Edgefield) SC

1768 – **Gibson’s Meeting House built** - under Little River Baptist Church

15 Jan 1768 – **Robert Kilcrease**, Land Grant, 200 acres Granville (Edgefield) SC

9 May 1768 – South Carolina Gazette - mentioning the prisoners at the Charles-Town Court, remarks: **Thomas Owen, Jun.** convicted of willfully burning the house of **Anthony Distoe**, pleaded his Majesty's pardon. Distoe, or Duesto, was of Orangeburgh District.

25 Mar 1769 – Truce between Moderators and Regulators signals the end of the Regulator movement in South Carolina

1770 – “Largely as a matter of convenience, the Sandy Creek Association was divided into three distinct bodies, the General Association of Virginia, the Sandy Creek in North Carolina, and the Congaree in South Carolina”

1770 – Little River Baptist Church (Gibson’s Meeting House) constituted

19 Oct 1770 – **Levy Starn, Ebenezer Starn, Nimrod Kilcrease, Anthony Distoe/Duesto**, et.al. charged with robbery, etc.

27-28 Feb 1771 – John Wagener to Clement Moberly, land originally granted to **Jacob Free** 1 Dec 1761 [5 Dec 1761] (see 10 Jan 1772 memorial for Clement Moberly)

14 May 1771 – **Adam Free**, Memorial For 100 Acres In Craven County, Originally Part Of A 400 Acre Tract, Summarizing A Chain Of Title To A Grant To Laurence Free Of Dec. 5, 1761

16 May 1771 – Battle of Alamance, North Carolina Regulators

22 Jul 1771 – **Peter Starns**, Plat For 600 Acres In Craven County on Morris Creek. Neighbors include: Ard, John; Bremer, John; Elliott, Samuel; Marpole, John; **Mcgraw, David**; Porcher, Isaac; Porcher, Samuel; Stark, Robert; Starnes, Peter; Tiberley, Isaac; Winn, Richard; Woodard, Thomas. Gibsons Meeting House area

13 Oct 1771 – **Mary Free**, Plat for 150 Acres In Craven County

20 Nov 1771 – Death of **Shubael Starns, Peter Starn’s** brother, in NC

10 Jan 1772 – **John Wagener**, Memorial For 200 Acres On Broad River (Beaver Dam Creek), Craven County, Summarizing A Chain Of Title To A Grant To **Jacob Free** Of 1 Dec 1761. Moberly’s Meeting House area

10 Jan 1772 - **Moberly, Clement**, Memorial For Two Tracts On Broad River, Craven County, One For 200 Acres Summarizing A Chain Of Title To A Grant To **Jacob Free** Of 1 Dec 1761 Moberly’s Meeting House area, And One For 100 Acres Summarizing A Chain Of Title To A Grant To John Wagener Of Oct. 12, 1770.

3 Apr 1772 – **Mary Free**, Land Grant For 150 Acres In Craven County

13 Jun 1772 - **Mary Free**, Memorial For 150 Acres In Craven County

16 Nov 1772 - **Judith Gibson**, Plat For 550 Acres In Berkly County. [neighbors **Jacob Frie** and **Jesse Ford**, other Gibsons and Samuel Porcher] Gibsons Meeting House area

10 Dec 1772 - **Jacob Free**, Plat For 100 Acres On Lynches Creek

23 Dec 1772 - **Saudifort Kaziah**, Plat For 300 Acres In Granville County. Neighbor **Benjamin Kilcrease**

1 Feb 1773 - **Sandford Karrah**, Plat For 400 Acres In Granville County [same land as 23 Dec 1772 plat, plus additional 95 acres]

2 Mar 1773 - **Jacob Free**, Memorial For 200 Acres On Great Lynches Creek, N.C., Summarizing A Chain Of Title To A Grant To James Mcmanus

19 Mar 1773 - **Jacob Free**, Land Grant For 100 Acres In Craven County

25 Mar 1773 - Robuck, James, Plat For 100 Acres In Craven County [neighbors Alleson, Robert; Bremar, John; **Free, Jacob**; Hennamore, Jacob; Hopkins, David; Robuck, James; Yarabrow]

23 Apr 1773 - **Jacob Free**, Plat For 400 Acres In Craven County

14 Jul 1773 - **Jacob Free**, Memorial For 100 Acres On Dead Pines Branch, Craven County

23 Jun 1774 - **Landefort Kaziah**, Land Grant For 305 Acres In Granville County. Neighbor **Benjamin Kilcrease**

23 Jun 1774 - **Sandford Kaziah**, Land Grant For 95 Acres In Granville County. Neighbor **Charles Blackwell**

23 Nov 1774 - **Kaziah, Landiford**, memorial For 305 Acre On Stephens Creek

8 Jul 1774 - **Jacob Free**, Land Grant For 400 Acres In Craven County

23 Nov 1774 - **Landiford Kaziah**, Memorial For 95 Acres On **Catfish Creek**, Savannah River. Neighbor **Charles Blackwell**

21 Dec 1774 - **Jacob Free**, Memorial For 400 Acres On Lynches Creek, Craven County

1775 - Approximate birth year of Cheriah Keziah Free

19 Apr 1775 - The "Shot Heard Round The World" at Lexington and Concord

1 Jul 1776 - At the instigation of British agents, the Cherokee attack along the entire southern frontier

4 Jul 1776 - Declaration of Independence

15 Jul 1776 - **Sandifer Keziah** enlists in Captain Womack's company of militia at Womack's Fort, Fincastle County, VA (now Sullivan County, TN)

17 Mar 1777 - George Grier to **John Killoh**, tract of land situate in the Waxhaws

1780 – Fielding Reynolds arrives in Edgefield County, SC, with his father **William Reynolds**

10 June 1780 – Battle of Mobley's Meeting House

25 Feb 1782 – **Sandifer Keziah** with George Barcher, L50 each as security for John Chambers to appear next court (Washington County, TN)

5 Aug 1782 – **John Kelliah** to Thomas Henderson, a tract of land situate in the Waxhaws

1788 - Death of Charles Coleman, executor Frances Coleman, Isaiah Coleman inherits the land on the plat map near where **Thomas Free** was found in 1790.

5 Feb 1789 - **Jacob Free**, Plat for 222 Acres on Scots Branch (Hollow Creek), Orangeburgh District – Neighbors: Green, Drury; Inman, Benjamin; **Keajiller, George; Oswolt**; Spence

10 Dec 1789 – Jacob Engleman to **Jacob Free**. Fifty acres on Broad River and Pole Branch, bordered N.E. by land of Michael Easter, S.E. by **Adam Free**.

1790 Census – **Thomas Free**, Chester County, SC - Neighbors are **Isaac Wagoner** (son of Hans Wagoner of Fort Wagoner), **Ephraim Lyles**, multiple **Arterberrys**

1790 Census – **Jacob Free**, Orangeburg County, SC (Lexington), neighbors are **George Keasler**, several **Oswalds**, Drury Green, and Benjamin Inman. **John Spillar** is also a neighbor. Spillar married Mary Free, Adam's daughter

1790 Census – **Sandifer Kizzia**, Rutherford County, NC

1790 Census – **Winney Keziah**, Edgefield County, SC

21 Jun 1790 – **Hugh Brit**, Plat For 228 Acres On Little Holle Creek, Orangeburgh District, Surveyed By William Wright.

1791 – Frances Coleman sells land inherited by Isaiah Coleman in 1788 to John Coleman. John appears directly adjacent **Wiley Coleman** in 1800. And John appears near “Old Man” **Simeon Free** on the 1810 Census

13 Sep 1791 – **Peter Starns** Of Camden County, Fairfield County Will Typescript. Will proved.

In 1792 – The witch trial of **Mary Free Ingleman**, exact date unknown

18 Sep 1792 – **Mary Magdalene Free** and **Jacob Free**, heirs of Jacob Free, sell 100 acres at Big Lynches Creek, from a grant dated 19 Mar 1773

4 Oct 1792 – **Jacob Free** sells 100 acres land (plat 1765) to Jesse Fort – This is “Lexington” Jacob – Gibson's Meeting House area

11 Nov 1794 – **Anthony Duesto** convicted of murder of his step-father, **Stephen Touchstone**

26 Nov 1794 – **Jacob Free**, son and one of the heirs of **Jacob Free**, 200 acres on Big Lynches Creek, conveyed by Thomas McManus to **Jacob Free** 2 Mar 1773. Also signed by **Mary Magdalene Free**

1795 – **Sandifer Keziah** sells land in Buncombe County, NC

1799 – **Sandifer Keziah** found on Kentucky tax records

21 Nov 1800 – **Aaron Gosa** to “Old Man” **Simeon Free**. In consideration of one hundred seventy five dollars, **eighty acres more or less** where **Aaron Gosa, Jr.** now lives. On McClures Creek. **William Yongue’s** line, **John Starns** line. Witnesses William Yongue and **Elisha McGraw**

1800 Census – **Jacob Free** and **Lewis Free** appear adjacent on census at Abbeville, SC. Abraham Free several names away

1800 Census – **Winney Keziah**, Edgefield, SC; missing one daughter from 1790

4 Apr 1800 - **Jacob Free**, buyer at an 1800 estate sale in Abbeville. He purchased a frying pan and a Dutch oven

1801 – Will of **Charles Blackwell**, Edgefield County, SC. **Martin Gosa** (son of **Aaron Gosa**) named as administrator

13 Aug 1802 – **Hugh Britt**, Plat For 124 Acres On Dry Creek, Edgefield District, Surveyed By Amos W. Satcher.

24 Dec 1803 – **Adam Free and wife Margaret** to **Jacob Free**, in consideration of the sum of ten pounds, thirty acres, part of 100 acres granted to **Mary Free** on **Wilkinsons Creek**, conveyed to Adam Free, and by Adam Free conveyed to Jacob Free. Witnesses **Edward McGraw** and **James Free**.

5 Mar 1804 – “**Lexington**” **Jacob Free** witnesses **John Langford’s** will in Newberry County

29 Oct 1804 – Mary **Blackwell**, **Martin Gosa** and Amy his wife to Thomas Evans

3 Dec 1804 – Adam Stalnaker to **Jacob Free**, 30 acres on the waters of **Mine Creek, SC**, adj. **Hugh Britt, Eleazer Tharp’s** line. Witness: Samuel Lewis, Elijah Haddock

3 Dec 1804 – Benjamin Melton to **Jacob Free**, about 40 acres on the waters of Mine Creek, SC, Adam Stalnaker’s line, Bibby Bush’s line.

3 Jan 1806 – **Lewis Free**, buyer at an estate sale in Abbeville

23 Oct 1806 – **Catherine Keasiller**, Plat For 144 Acres On Beaver Dam Creek, Orangeburgh District, Surveyed By Alexander B. Stark [**Jacob Free** listed as former neighbor]

31 Jan 1807 – **Jacob Free** to Andrew Gamelin, 30 acres on Dry Creek (land purchased in 1804 from Adam Stalnaker) Wit.: Samuel Lewis

12 Dec 1807 – **Adam Free** to **George Free**, everything he owns. Twenty eight acres of land adj. George Reddish, George Free, Nicholas Ringer, Philip Pearson, James Rogers, Nathaniel Holley.

1810 Census – **Lewis Free**, Abbeville, SC

1810 Census – “Old Man” **Simeon Free**, Fairfield, SC. Neighbors include John **Coleman**

1810 CENSUS – NO **JACOB FREE** IS LISTED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

1810 Census – **Martin Free**, Lexington, SC – neighbors: **Widow Keisler, Michael Oswalt**

18 Feb 1811 – **Jacob Free** of Fairfield to George Reddish, fifty acres, laid out from Jacob Engleman to Jacob Free, 1789. This is most likely “Fairfield” Jacob

1 Mar 1811 – **Jacob Free** to John Findley in consideration of \$400, 147 acres resurveyed. Thomas H. May’s line, George Free’s line, Philip Pearson’s line, Cazin (Corzine) McGraw’s line. **Margaret Free** releases dower rights, her mark.

1 Apr 1811 – **John A. Tharp**, Plat For 100 Acres On Pole Branch, Fairfield District, Surveyed By John A. Tharp For Bernard Buchannon On October 11, 1809. [**neighbor Jacob Free**]

4 Apr 1811 – **Jacob Weaver**, Plat For 126 Acres On Little Hollow Creek, Lexington District – neighbors: **Free, Martin**; Huzlor; King, David; **Oswalt, Samuel**; Weaver, Jacob; **Weever, Henry**

21 Jan 1812 – **James Free** of Fairfield District, Fairfield County Will [Will names “friend” “Old Man” **Simeon Free**, wife Susannah, children Sarah, William, Robert, & Seinthea. D. R. and Robert Coleman, witnesses]

1820 Census – **Lewis Free**, Abbeville, SC

1820 Census – **Jacob Free and Adam Free**, Edgefield County, SC census

1820 Census – **Martin Free**, Lexington, SC

3 Mar 1821 – Edmund Joiner, Plat For 81 Acres On **Beaver Creek**, Fairfield District, Surveyed By David R. Coleman On March 3, 1821 [neighbor is **SIMON FREE**]

7 Jan 1823 – EDGEFIELD DEED BOOK 39, p343 - **Jacob Free** to **Jonathan Weaver**, 150 acres on Rocky Creek, granted to **Joseph Lewis**, surveyed by Samuel Whitney 15 Jan 1789. Adj. **William Martin, David Hill**, Jonathan Weaver, **John Rotten**. Wit.; Thomas W. Free. **Margit Free** releases dower rights.

1 Jan 1824 – Enoch Grubbs, Plat For 480 Acres On Big And Little Hollow Creeks, Lexington District, Surveyed By John David Sharp. [**Martin Free neighbor**]

1827 Georgia Land Lottery – **Lewis Free**

4 Aug 1828 – “Barnwell” **Jacob Free** will

1824-1830 - **Adam and Jacob Free** appear together on an early map of Alabama, the Huntsville Meridian. The map was created by a surveyor named John Coffee, who began surveying the Meridian in 1819

1830 Census – a **James Free** is found in Edgefield, SC next door to John and William Rotton. **John Rotten** witnessed the 1823 Jacob Free land sale.

1830 Census – **George Free**, Edgefield, SC. Neighbors include Wiley and Allen Melton and Rebecca Attiway. (See 1807 land sale)

1830 Census – **Lewis Free**, Habersham County, GA

1830 – **Adam Free**, Lawrence County, Alabama

24 Sep 1832 – Enoch Grubbs, Of Fairfield District, Fairfield County Will. “Old Man” **Simeon and William Free**, witnesses

18 Oct 1833 – “Old Man” **Simeon Free** to Isaiah and Nathan Mobley, 230 acres on which I now live. Bounded by R.R. Coleman land, **Wiley Coleman’s land**, and **Widow Free’s** (widow of James Free) land. Witnessed by Isaac Coleman and D.R. Coleman

11 Aug 1841 – **William Free** of Fairfield District, Fairfield County Will [Filing date unknown. Gives wife Judith land at Seigler’s Branch, SC, and land at Crawford, GA]

1846 – **ISAAC FREE** on land at DRY CREEK in Edgefield, SC

28 Jan 1847 – Henry H. Hill sold land on Red Bank Creek, Edgefield County, SC, to J. L. Hill. **Isaac Free** is listed as a neighbor. By lands of James Attaway

THE ORIGINAL STORY OF MARY FREE INGLEMAN BY PHILLIP PEARSON

The following are pages from the manuscript by Phillip Edward Pearson collected by Lyman C. Draper. The original documents are owned by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. This manuscript is referenced there as Draper MSS 24vv. Lyman C. Draper copied the Pearson manuscript by hand.

Draper MSS  
24VV

1.

Superstition - Apparitions - Witchcraft.

[Written by the late Philip Edward  
Pearson, of Tallapoosa, Texas -  
a native of Fairfield District, S.C.  
- forming a part of a U.S.  
History of Fairfield, in possession  
of Dr. John H. Logan, formerly of  
Abbeville District, S.C. - now  
of Tallapoosa, Ala. Mr. Pearson,  
the writer, who died prior to Oct.  
1857, is represented to have  
been "an eminent lawyer,  
and for many years Solicitor  
of the Middle Circuit of S.C."  
- see O'Neall's History of South Carolina  
L.C.S.]

All nations, and peoples, in their  
unimproved condition, have  
their superstitious notions.

2.

In all countries, strange sights have been seen on the earth and in the air, and strange sounds and voices have been heard. Of these, many apparently well-attested instances, have been written and given to the world, and thousands of others, have only had a neighborhood & temporary currency. Why the spirits of the departed might not be allowed to appear, or commanded to do so, we know not, and therefore cannot reason about it.

Omens and dreams, and waking impressions, have been earnestly believed in from the earliest times, but



as these things, lie above or below our reason, they can only be spoken of conjecturally.

It is fortunate that the ghosts have gone to rest, & extraordinary voices have been expended in the winds.

Nothing is now said about omens; the fact of dreaming is only relied on to establish a theory in the philosophy of the human mind, and either incredible or unfashionable.

The belief in witchcraft had a stronghold on men's minds because it was supposed to come home to their business. There had always been witches and wizards in Fairfield.

4.)

In the old time they were comparatively harmless. They may have sailed thro' the air on brooms, or bestrode the necks of the horses at night. Almost all believed in them, but few suffered from them. But in 1792, they became spiteful and mischievous, damaging the cattle at a fearful rate, oppressing hysterical women, and riding stout men, to their great annoyance and discomfort. So far did they go in their injurious practices that they could no longer be borne with, and the people (that is, one

in twenty,) concluded to arrest them in their evil doings, and bring them, or some of them, to condign punishment. The parties accused were old man Hudring and his wife, Sally Smith, and the dreadful old Mary Ingelman. The three first had their evil hands on Rosy Heuley & her sister, and damaged many cattle in the eastern quarter of the county. Rosy was much more tormented than her sister, but both were greatly troubled. Lying in her bed, she could not be prevented, by the utmost

6.)

effortions of four strong men,  
from rising up and clinging  
to the ceiling; they were  
both bitten on the neck  
and shoulders, and stuck  
over with pins and splinters.  
Their case was, dreadful.  
The testimony was, duly  
made out, well authenti-  
-cated, and forwarded to the  
Bench of Witch Doctors  
appointed to preside on the  
Witch trial which was  
held at Thomas Hill, 5  
miles, only from the County  
capital. The testimony  
against the arch offender,  
Mary Ingelman, was, am-  
-ple and voluminous,  
for much of it was taken

down in writing. Adam Free testified against his mother, that when she asked him for a cow, and he refused, it shortly after sprang up with a convulsive bound, fell, and broke its neck. And that sometimes his cattle gave blood instead of milk. Jacob Free, the grandson of the prisoner, testified that on one occasion his grandmother turned him into a horse, and rode him six miles to Major Pearson's apple orchard on Broad river. Whilst she was filling her bag with apples, his eye was attracted by the beautiful red apples that

8.)

running over him. He put up his long horse-head to obtain a stealthy supply, & whilst attempting to do so, she drove a punch into his cheek, from the effects of which he did not soon recover.

Martha Holly, alias Willing Haw, testified that Mrs. Ingle-  
-man had greatly afflicted her. She put up balls of hair with pins sticking out, way all over the neck and shoulders, stuck full of pins and splinters, and deprived of all peace and comfort.

The chief witness was Isaac Collins. He testified that on

one occasion he took his  
 trusty rifle and went out  
 on a deer hunt around  
Mr Tyre's old field. He saw  
 a deer and snapped at it  
 several times. Wearing with  
 unavailing efforts to procure  
 venison, he drew his ball,  
 split it open, and inserted  
 in it a thin sliver of silver.  
 Ramming down his ball  
 so improved, he raised up  
 his piece and fired. Instead  
 of a deer, a black cat with  
 its fore leg shivered, hopped  
 off before him. Such is  
 the mighty power of the precious  
 metal. In a day or two, Jack  
 was engaged in plowing corn.  
 In the heat of the day, he

(10)

repaired to a delightful spring of water near the cornfield. When he arrived at the ~~Hot~~ spring, he found Mrs. Ingleman seated near it, with her arm in a sling. Collins enquired how she was, and the old witch replied "well, but for an injury to my arm". She held it up as best she could, and said to Collins, "This is your work". So it turned out that Mrs. Ingleman was the deer, the black cat, and again herself. Isaac testified further that Mrs. Ingleman turned him into a horse, and rode him to a grand witch convention. On the way the Devil rode up by



her side, and observed, "Mother, Ingleman, you have a splendid horse." "Ah," said she, "this is that rascal Collins." He said the witch convention was a splendid affair. He never could locate the place of meeting, but supposed it somewhere in North America.

The evidence was held more than sufficient. The accused could offer nothing in their defence, and were all convicted. According to the sentence they were severally tied up to the joists of the Shanty, in which they were

12.)

[whipped],  
tried, and then placed with  
their feet to <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ bark fire,  
and confined there until  
the soles popped off. Such  
was the result of this memo-  
-rable trial.

Sally Smith fared worse  
than the other convict, for  
after receiving her flogging  
and burning, in attempting  
to hobble home, she was  
overtaken by a party, who  
cast her down, and placed  
a pine log across her neck.  
She could not stir, and the  
next day was relieved by  
a benevolent person pas-  
-sing along the path. # For  
this flagrant outrage, May  
Inglis alone fought

legal redress. Mr. Yongue was the only magistrate in the county who would grant her a warrant. He was a Presbyterian Clergyman, unaffected by the folly of the hour, and indifferent to popular prejudice. The warrant was issued against Sam. Crossland, who had acted the part of Sheriff and Executioner. Crossland was convicted in the County Court, and fined five pounds, but to avoid the payment of it, made his way to the Far West. If a sense of justice ever visited his callous heart, he was well punished for his part in this shameful transaction.

14.)

There were others, concerned, better informed than Crossland, and who were more out of place in participating in an affair so scandalous to the man.

Preparatory to the witch trials John Errie proposed to raise the Devil, with a view to establish the reality of witchcraft, and to show the power sage man, provided with sorcery, had to subdue the Prince of the power of the air. He appointed a time, and the neighborhood were summoned to meet the Devil-master at the house of a Mr. Benjamin Owens about dusk

on a particular day. Crowds attended. After discoursing with profound wisdom on the nature and character of his Satanic Majesty, in all which learning Eric was au fait, he slipped his hand into his pocket took out a quantity of assafoetida, threw it into the edge of the fire. An odorous vapor immediately spread over the room, and so soon as the intensity of the stench made all present sensible of it, the magician cried out audibly "the Devil ~~has~~<sup>is</sup> come - don't you smell him? - He always comes with a dread

16.)

=ful odor: Run out, and you  
will all see him go up the Chim-  
=ney." The Chimney was a low  
structure. During the Scramble  
of the company to get out, &  
behold the sight, Eric  
threw some combustible prep-  
=aration into the fire, &  
the flame, burst up through  
the funnel of the chimney.  
Eric was at the great sight to  
improve his victory. "There",  
he said, as the flame, ascen-  
i=ded, "is the Devil himself  
- don't you see him - don't  
you see his club foot and  
his horns?" Almost all  
present were satisfied. They

saw the Devil in a column of fire, and noted his, <sup>strange</sup> foot and his horns.

Some persons now living may remember the great witch, Mary Inglesman. If there be any, they will remember that she was a remarkably neat, tidy and decent old lady. She was of German extraction, and probably a native of Germany. Her conversation was pleasant, entertaining and instructive; her manners mild, simple and agreeable. Her knowledge in pharmacy was considerable, and her application of simples in the cure of

18.)

country complaints was the result of much observation and gratuitous practice. How wicked people could have lain violent hands on this excellent old lady, can only be searched for in cavernous darkness, where perhaps it might not be safe to enter, and make the inquiry. She was pious, and has long since passed away, and it would not be hazarding much, to say that few, very few, pious spirits have ever been called from this world to a better.

Besides the above named witches, there were others strongly suspected, and Heze = Kiah Hunt and his wife



Mourning, were on the point of being taken up and subjected to the lash and the bark fire.

It is supposed that a sermon preached by D. Woodward, a Baptist minister, was mainly contributory in putting down this sinful and disgraceful folly. In the course of an eloquent and impressive address to his people, the Doctor took occasion to announce his firm belief in witchcraft. But, said the sage divine, the withered old women are not the witches. And I appeal to all experience for a solution of the difficulty, whether

the blooming young girls are not the true witches, and the potent sorcerers.

Beside, witches and sorcerers, there were persons, male and female, who had skill in the interpretation of dreams, and of pointing out the locality of stolen property, or articles lost by accident. A colored man residing on Slate Stone Branch was celebrated for his skill in discovering to the owner where he might obtain his lost chattels. Persons daily resorted to him, and he made a good living by the practice of his useful art. He gave very general satis-

The remainder of the seventy-one page document deals with other witchcraft stories and superstition, and is not directly relevant to the Frees and Mary Free Ingleman, so I have elected not to include it here.



## AFTERWORD AND THANKS

The stories of my grandmother have resonated in me all my life. My Grandmaw always told me I had “the Free-blue eyes” of her ancestors. She told me I had inherited the “Indian” traits of her Native American many-times great-grandmother, too. I cherish these memories so much. Uncovering the truth of some of it, the stories and lives of the real people my Grandmaw spoke of with such love, is one of the great passions of my life.

A dear friend who read this for me commented that it was such an undertaking to tie all of this together, how did I accomplish that? I do have a few tips for anyone who is researching a difficult family. “Difficult” can mean many things, but often it is a family whose religion, habits, and/or circumstances didn’t generate many of the records we want to find when researching. The Frees and the Keziahs were these types of people. But there were government, land and court records if you knew where to look.

Rule number one is, be persistent! It took seventeen years of research for me to find all of the documents and records I have on this family, but I really started learning about them fifty years ago at my Grandmaw’s knee. Learn to use the databases at Family Search online. There are videos out there on how to do it. There are literally tens of thousands of documents available online if you know how to use their site. Almost all of the documents referenced in this book were found there.

Second, if you find a document that has been abstracted, *always* try to access the original. People who abstract are human, and sometimes make errors. I won’t say which, but one abstract I found of a document that was pivotal in solving a mystery in this book, contained not one but *two* critical errors that changed the meaning of the document significantly. Since you know your family and what you are looking for, there may be details a person abstracting a document didn’t include that would be helpful to you. You’ll never know what you’re missing unless you look.

Collateral families are one of the most important factors in discovering the correct identity of your ancestors, especially when they have a common name! There were so many Jacob Frees that sometimes the only way to follow one was his neighbors. And when you research a collateral name more deeply, sometimes you get a real find. One example in this book would be finding that Martin Gosa was an administrator for Charles Blackwell’s will. Charles was a bit player, one of Winney Keziah’s neighbors, but he turned out to be very important. Martin Gosa was probably the pathway for Lewis Free to meet his future wife, Cheriah.

Remember, the smallest detail can make all the difference. In the two 1811 Fairfield deeds two weeks apart, both sales of land by a Jacob Free, the only way I figured out they were different men was the fact that in one deed wife Margaret released her dower rights, and in the other she didn’t. A small thing, but pivotal.

I wish you all happy hunting in online databases, dusty courthouses, and Grandma’s attics!

### Words of Thanks

I want to thank my friend Sue Ward for proofreading all of this. What a task that is. Also, for all her encouragement and help when I was at the end of my rope some days, I am grateful. Sometimes an “attagirl” is just what is needed to keep trying.

Deborah Cavel-Greant was amazing. She encouraged me to let go of my skepticism about DNA, and in this case, boy was she right! And her exposition about the origin of Cheriah Free’s name was one of the highlights of my research life. I am so glad I found my new cousin Deb.

Last, but most importantly, I have to thank my family. They may not know it, but they all paid a price for this writing. To my son Ty, who listened when he had no idea what I was on about; to my grandkids, who got “distracted Nanny” on a car trip, because I was thinking so hard about the 18<sup>th</sup> century; to my daughter who ignored the overgrown garden I hadn’t worked in for weeks while I compiled an index; I give you all my most heartfelt thanks. Without your patience, none of this would exist.

And to Randy, my “partner in crime” and life’s adventures; for all the late dinners, blank looks when you asked a question and I was living in the past, and hours of staring at a screen, I apologize. And thank you from the bottom of my heart for being you.

Wanda Tucker

23 January 2004 ~ 9 September 2021

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Wanda Tucker is an avid researcher, editor, and author of several genealogies. Wanda is especially excited to find the history of women, as the records can be so scarce. She is a mother of three and grandmother of two (so far!). She lives with her extended family in Hamilton, Montana. In her spare time she gardens extensively, loves to camp out in Big Sky Country, and dig for crystals.

The author's search for her heritage is the passion of her life, and their history resonates and lives on in her family.

