

DUNNING KEZIAH, HEALER

Research by Wanda Tucker, 18 January 2023

Essie May Keziah Outen researched the Keziahs and other families for decades. Among her files was the following receipt:



The above reads:

Andrew Mathews to Dunning Kaziah for Nursing of his Wife for the sum of 3 dollars(?)

The last word appears to be dollars, but it is very faint.

There is no date on this document. In order to determine whether this is Dunning Keziah, Sr. or Jr., I attempted to locate Andrew Mathews in proximity to one or the other of them.

In 1790 and 1800, while Dunning Keziah, Sr. was in Mecklenburg (see tax documents section for evidence), an Andrew Mathews appears on the census there. But also, when Dunning Keziah, Jr. was in Mecklenburg in 1820, a younger Andrew Mathews appears.

Dunning Keziah's land deal with wife Mascey places him in the southernmost part of Mecklenburg County as it existed in 1785. The land is on Cane Creek, which can be seen on modern maps. The creek runs down into South Carolina, which makes sense of the fact that Dunning, Sr. was enumerated in Lancaster County, South Carolina, on the 1790 census. Clear Creek, where Dunning, Sr. was in the militia in 1766, is about 30 miles north of this land. It would appear that Dunning, Sr. was living in the Clear Creek area before he purchased this land in 1785 (see tax documents section).

On the Wikitree page for John Reed/Reid is found:

John Reed and his wife lived on 30 acres of land that Frederick Kiser had filed a claim on in 1780. December 15, 1787 John Reid filed a warrant for a tract of land:

...a tract of land containing 70 acres lying and being in the County of Mecklenburg; joining his own place, on the South corner George Tucker and old Peter Kiser's sons and Frederick Kiser and **Andrew Mathews**. A patent for the land was issued to John Reed December 19, 1790.

Here is the original of the above patent. It is for land on Meadow Creek:

State of North Carolina
No 999. Knowye that we have granted unto John Reid Seventy Acres of Land in
our County of Mecklenburg on meadow creek a branch of rock creek
Beginning at a black oak by a road and runs North fifteen wide by four
poles to a post oak near George Tuckers line then North Sixty five
East fourteen poles to a post oak by a path then North twenty East
forty poles to a post oak then South sixty East one hundred and
twenty poles crossing the creek to a black oak about twenty poles to a post
oak marked for a corner then South fifteen East eighty poles to a black
oak on his own line then to the Beginning to hold to the said John Reid his
heirs and assigns forever dated the 20th day of Nov 1792
J. Glasgow Secretary Alex Martin

Document can be viewed online at:

<https://nclandgrants.com/grant/?mars=12.14.87.3884&qid=865200&rn=31>

Meadow Creek and Clear Creek are in the same area of Mecklenburg County, NC, within 15 miles of each other.

So, we can place Dunning Keziah, Sr., in proximity to Andrew Mathews prior to Dunning's 1785 land purchase. Can we place Dunning, Jr. in proximity to Andrew Mathews, Jr.?

On the 1820 census of Mecklenburg County, NC, Andrew Mathews appears on page 30. From land records of neighbors on the census, it appears that Mathews lived near 12 Mile Creek, where his father's original land was acquired in 1799. 12 Mile Creek is near Clear Creek and Meadow Creek, but comes into fairly close proximity to Cane Creek further to the south.

Based on available information, I am unable to conclude with certainty whether the "nursing" receipt belongs to Dunning Keziah, Sr. or Jr. It is possible for it to refer to either man. However, given social mores of the times, I would guess that the "nurse" was Dunning, Jr., as it was later in time.