

## KIZIAHS IN CAMDEN, SOUTH CAROLINA, 1794-1823

Research by Wanda Tucker, 20 Feb 2023

The following documents were found in the collection of Essie May Keziah Outen of Union County, South Carolina, who collected Keziah documentation for thirty years. Her notes stated that they came from “Keziah papers,” or from a chest belonging to Thomas W. Keziah born about 1815, son of John Keziah born about 1775. John was the son of Dunning and Macy Keziah.

Many of these documents are receipts for debts and payments to establishments in Camden, South Carolina, a major trading and commercial center, largely established by Joseph Kershaw beginning about 1758.

William Keziah, Dunning and Macy Keziah’s youngest son, also appears in these documents. John appears on the censuses of 1800 and 1810 in Lancaster District, South Carolina, which neighbored Kershaw County, where Camden was located. William is not on either census.

Dunning Keziah, Sr., John and William’s father, is assumed to have died before 1800, when he is missing on the census. At his death he was probably living on land he acquired in 1785 with Macy on Cane Creek in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, near the border with South Carolina. Though the deed was in Mecklenburg, but Dunning appeared on the census in Lancaster County, South Carolina in 1790 as Dunnan Cashilaw.

Mecklenburg County, South Carolina Deed Book 12, p536

I believe, but can’t definitively prove, that Macy Keziah was with William wherever he was in 1800, when he is missing from the census at age twenty, and that she appears with John in 1810, when he is enumerated with a wife aged 26-44, and **another woman aged 45+** in his household. Where Macy and William might have been in 1800 is explored here.

In a previous article, I addressed Macy’s dismissal from her church in NC in 1782. This probably happened because she and Dunning moved to the land at Cane Creek. The pastor of the church who signed the dismissal, Samuel Bonds, moved to South Carolina, and in 1798 was a preacher at Lower Fork of the Lynches church, later known as Gum Branch. This church still exists today. I think it is possible that following the death of Dunning, Macy and her young son William born in 1780, sought out people she knew from her church, who were now in South Carolina.

John Keziah owned land in Lancaster County, South Carolina, on Hanging Rock Creek. This is further down towards Camden, about 25 miles south of the land on Cane Creek on the border of NC. Camden proper is about 20 miles south of Hanging Rock Creek. When William Keziah comes into the picture, it is on a receipt for the purchase of a sow, pigs and hogs on Sanders Creek, about six miles northeast of Camden.

Gum Branch Baptist Church is about 27 miles east of Camden, and about twenty miles from the head of Sanders Creek.

With all of that established we can go to the documents and trace the history of John and William to some degree in Camden.

This first document details purchases at the mercantile in Camden belonging to Zach. Cantey and Duncan McRae [McRa]. It is dated 1794:

**Mr. John Keziah**

To McRa Cantey Hoy Dr

**1794**

<b>Dec 5</b>	For 3 yds Elastic cloth @ 11/8 1 ½ yds velvet	___	2..2..6
	“ 2 Doz ct buttons @ 4/ 1 Dozs Ditto 1/2		..9..2
	“ 3 yds Linnen @ 4/.(9) 1 yd Drogheda 3/.		..15..
	“ 1 Stick Twist 6 <sup>?</sup> (17) 1 Hatt 11/8 1 Hand ks 3/		..15..2
	“ 6 needles 3 <sup>?</sup> 1 pair hose 5/6 1p scissars 2/		.. 7..9
		.....	4..9..7
<b>April 11</b>	“ 2 ½ yds velvet @ 8/ 1 ½ doz buttons @ 1/.....		1..1..6
<b>July 11</b>	“ /2 doz brass thimbles @ 4 <sup>?</sup> -----		..2..
			£5..13..1
	Int on the above to June 1800		2 . 2 . 7
			£ 7. 15. 8
	By 15 Bushels Corn @ 2/4 / 1.15		
	By Cash -----2..		<u>3..15</u>
			£ 4.0 8

NOTE: The above receipt and all to follow in this document were transcribed from copies of the originals by Wanda Tucker.

Note that the dates of purchase are pretty close together, only three months apart in one case. John lived twenty miles north of town, but according to the Mouzon map of South Carolina made in 1775, John’s land on Hanging Rock Creek would have been on the trading path from the Catawba Nation in North Carolina, straight down to Camden. John’ neighbor, James Ingram, is actually shown on Hanging Rock Creek in this early map.

Mouzon, Henry, and Robert Sayer And John Bennett. *An accurate map of North and South Carolina, with their Indian frontier, shewing in a distinct manner all the mountains, rivers, swamps, marshes, bays, creeks, harbours, sandbanks and soundings on the coasts; with the roads and Indian paths; as well as the boundary or provincial lines, the several townships, and other divisions of the land in both the provinces.* London, Printed for Robt. Sayer and J: Bennett, 1775. Map. <https://www.loc.gov/item/gm71002153/>.

This receipt is to Mr. Thomas Broom in 1796:

Sir, please let the bearer Mr. John Keziar have three pounds credit in your stoar on my acct and youle oblige Mr. Thos Broom Yours \_\_\_ Wm. Sutton Jany 1796

Another document in Camden for John Keziah, was for money received by Thomas Broom.

Received 7<sup>th</sup> November 1800 of **John Keziah** two pounds three shillings in part of his Note to McRa Kanty for Them(?) f23C(?) Thomas Brom

Broom was a partner with Duncan McRae and Zach. Cantey in the mercantile:

“A few years prior to A. D. 1800, this group of families, connected by blood or marriage, came to Camden from Elkton, Md. Thomas Broom came in Oct., 1794, a widower, with a daughter, Frances, then a child of six or seven. It has been stated that he had been at Camden previously as a Revolutionary soldier with Lee's legion, or perhaps with Col. Washington. He brought with him on his return a stock of goods worth £1,600, and established a mercantile business in Camden in partnership with Zach. Cantey and Duncan McRae.”

[http://www.genealogytrails.com/scar/kershaw/historic\\_camden2.htm](http://www.genealogytrails.com/scar/kershaw/historic_camden2.htm)

From these documents, it is clear John Keziah was in Camden proper by 1794, doing some sort of work or business. In 1796, Wm. Sutton owed John money, which he paid with a credit in Thomas Broom's mercantile. But what's really interesting is, while William Sutton originally had land near Camden, on Twenty Five Mile Creek, by 1796 he had long been on Lemon Creek/Swamp, almost 100 miles south near Barnwell:

Sutton, William, Plat For 200 Acres On Branch Of Twenty Five Mile Creek, Camden District, Surveyed By Josiah Cantey. Date: 11/15/1784

Sutton, William, Plat For 164 Acres On Waters Of Lemons Swamp, Orangeburgh District, Surveyed By John Milhous On January 3, 1786. Date: 2/15/1792

Sutton, William And John Sutton, Plat For 410 Acres On Lemmons Swamp, Orangeburgh District, Surveyed By John Walker. Date: 11/22/1796

South Carolina Archives

There are two William Suttons on the South Carolina census in 1790, one in Richland and one in Orangeburg. In 1800, only the man in Orangeburg remains. It's possible there was another missed on the 1800 census, but it could be that John may have been travelling for work. Was John a blacksmith, or some other type of tradesman? Or was he a hat maker, shoe maker, or some other type of tinker or trader? What exactly John was doing is unknown, but the goods he was purchasing may be a clue. The dozens of buttons and thimbles, and the yardage of material may have been for resale to more remote homes. Why else might John need two dozen brass thimbles? Of course, this is all pure speculation.

In 1799, William Kiziah appeared on a purchase of sows, pigs and hogs. This is the first document found for him. His brother John witnessed the transaction. William would have been not quite nineteen years old. He was born 16 Apr 1780 (date from the Commonplace Book of Presley Hargett):

This day bought from Joshua Harp two blue sowes and six pigs and all my property of houghs in the woods on **Sanders Creek** To **Wm Kicsia** the ?th day of Fubueary **1799** Witness present **John Kicsia** (his mark)

In 1790, Joshua Harp was in Ann Arundel, Maryland. In 1800, Harp appears in Lancaster District, South Carolina. By 1810, Harp has moved to Newberry District, South Carolina.

The next document found references sows and pigs again. John Keziah had possession of some belonging to Elizabeth Presley. This is interesting, because Andrew Presley and wife Elizabeth sold property in Camden District in 1779, and were referred to in the deed as “of Mecklenburg.” But this document is signed by Thomas Creighton, who was found in Lancaster District, South Carolina in 1790, and Kershaw District, South Carolina in 1800 and 1810. He also appears on deeds in Kershaw in the time period. Thomas Creighton is not ever found in NC.

Mr. John Kesiah Elizabeth Presley has \_\_\_\_\_ before me that a sow and pigs that is in your possession is her property. Nov 21 1800 Tho<sup>s</sup> Creighton

In 1790, John and Andrew Prestley, III appear in Lancaster County, South Carolina. Andrew, Jr., Elizabeth’s husband, Andrew Presley, Jr., died before 1790. So Elizabeth probably returned from Mecklenburg to Lancaster after Andrew died, to where her children lived.

In 1800, John and Charles Presley appear in Kershaw County, South Carolina. All are married with families. Charles Presley married Mary “Polly” Keziah, the daughter of Dunning and Macy Keziah, so she is on the 1800 census with Charles.

#### **A CONNECTION TO THE BERTIE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA TUSCARORA**

Another receipt from 1800 shows the name Dempsey Cain.

Mr John Kiziah acct with McRa Cantey Co  
Ried July 30<sup>th</sup> 1800 a Note for Seventeen dollars thirty cents when paid will be in full of the accounts for them Dempsey Cain

According to Tuscarora researcher Deborah Cavel-Greant, Dempsey Cain was from a Tuscarora-associated family from Bertie County, North Carolina. Cain left a will in Kershaw County, in 1802, stating he was leaving on a journey, and leaving items to his brothers and sisters. It is unknown where he went, but he was never heard of again.

Kershaw District, South Carolina Will Book C, p434

A chain of wills proves Dempsey’s connection to the Bertie family. One of the brothers named in Dempsey’s will was Absalom. Elisha Cain of Bertie County was married to a woman named Martha Blake. This is known because her father Benjamin left a will in 1783, naming his daughter Martha CAIN, and “two grandchildren, Absalom and Sarah Cain, the children of Elisha Cain.”

Orange County, North Carolina Wills Book A, p275

Elisha Cain was the son of William Cain, Jr., who was named in the 1732 will of his father, William Cain, Sr., in Bertie County, North Carolina. Elisha was named in William Cain, Jr.’s 1757 will in Edgecombe, North Carolina. Only the “EI” is visible; there is damage to the will. Edgecombe formed from Bertie in 1741.

Edgecombe County, North Carolina Will Book A, p59

At some point Elisha moved to Chatham County, North Carolina. He sold a town lot in what would become Pittsboro, North Carolina to his son Dempsey in 1799. At that time, Dempsey was in Lexington County, South Carolina. The deed was witnessed by Thomas Bell.

Chatham County, North Carolina Deed Book K, p520

Thomas Bell is mentioned in Dempsey Cain's will in Kershaw, as being the man in whose hands the above lands were held.

Two major Indian trails ran through Lexington in the time period, the Cherokee Path, and the Occaneechi Path. The paths ran through Camden, and over to Lexington, so Cain was probably following these routes.

With the chain of wills and deeds, it was easy to connect Dempsey Cain back to the family in Bertie County, North Carolina.

### **BACK IN LANCASTER COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA**

Another receipt in 1810 reads:

April th 13 Day 1810

Sir please to let the bearer have that ballance of fish that you owe me In so doing you will oblige your friend James Cragg John kixiah

John Keziah sold his land on Hanging Rock Creek in Lancaster to James Hawkins Cassells 1814. The deed names neighbors James Ingram, George Miller, and James Nicholas. I was unable to find the deed when John bought the land.

Lancaster, South Carolina Deeds, Book H, p192

This land can be located on a modern map, using the place names and neighbors in the deed of sale. Neighbor James Ingram's land was in Hanging Rock and Beaver Creeks:

Ingram, James, Plat For 200 Acres On Hanging Rock And Beaver Creeks, Camden District, Surveyed By Josiah Cantey. Date: 8/2/1784

South Carolina Archives

George Miller's plat for land on Hanging Rock Creek in 1784 shows James Ingram as his neighbor. The remaining boundaries of the land are shown as vacant:

Miller, George, Plat For 300 Acres On Branch Of Hanging Rock Creek, Camden District, Surveyed By Josiah Cantey. Date: 7/20/1784

People in this record:

Cantey, Josiah; Ingram, James; Miller, George

Miller, George, Plat For 205 Acres On Branch Of Hanging Rock Creek, Camden District, Surveyed By James Bredin. Date: 2/4/1791

People in this record:

Bredin, James; Cousar, James; Miller, George; Nickles, James

South Carolina Archives

The third neighbor, James Nicholas, is mentioned in the two deeds below. The land owned by John Keziah was described as “part of a tract of land which was conveyed to William Baskin. A plat for Baskin appears at the South Carolina Archives:

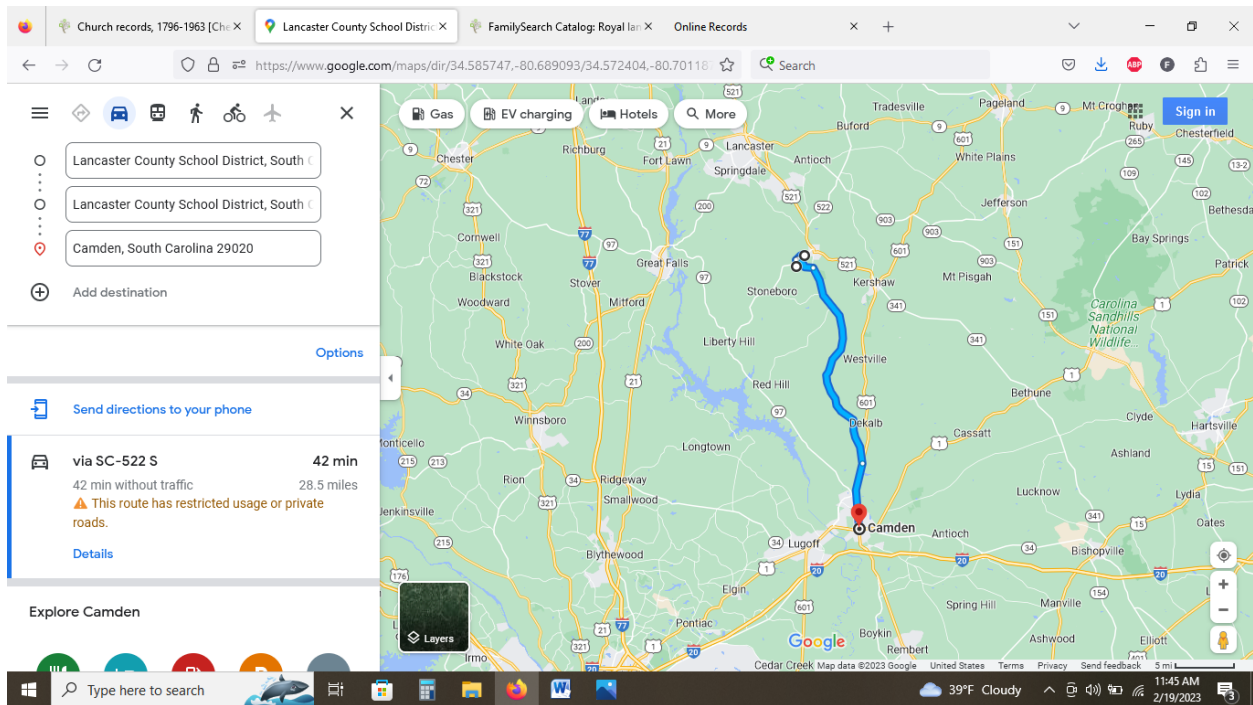
Baskin, William, Plat For 130 Acres On Branch Of Hanging Rock Creek, Camden District, Surveyed By Samuel Kelly. Date: 5/27/1794

People in this record:

Baskin, William; Ingram, Alexander; Ingram, James; Kelly, Samuel; Miller, George; Nickls, James

With all this information, it is very easy to pinpoint about where the land John Keziah owned would have been.

This map shows John’s land and Camden, about 20-25 miles south:



The land must have been right on the Lancaster/Kershaw County border in 1810. John is enumerated in Lancaster County; George Miller is enumerated in Kershaw. On a section of the census in Kershaw County, George Miller is named as the owner of a cotton gin, producing 150 bales annually. It must have been good farmland in the area.

There are receipts naming John's neighbors at Hanging Rock Creek found in the documents collected by Essie May Keziah Outen.

1807 October 13<sup>th</sup> Recievd for John Kizziah by the hand of Mr. John Clanton three dollars  
**George Miller**

Rievd of John Kiziah 8 Dollars 25 Cents the full of his acct Novm. 4<sup>th</sup> 1807 **George Miller**

February 17<sup>th</sup> (no year) Sirs ---- Please to pay John Cusiah 50 Cents & this Shall be your Receipt  
**Mr. John Ingram** ----- Wm. Pressley

William Presley mentioned in the last receipt may have been the son of Charles Presley and Mary "Polly" Keziah, John Keziah's sister. That William was born about 1796; when John Keziah sold his Lancaster County land, William would have been about 18 years old. That would date the above to some extent.

This next receipt is very interesting. In it, John Keziah paid David Miller for teaching a scholar.

Received of John Kesiah by assign(?) to David Miller four dollars & a half it being for teaching one scholar nine months in the year 1810 ----- May 20<sup>th</sup> ----1811 Wm. L Connill

Presumably, this is for the education of one of John's children, probably his son William, born 1798. This birth date was on a paper listing John Keziah's children found in Thomas W. Keziah's chest (Thomas was the youngest son of John and Sarah Helms Keziah; his birth date was not found on the list, and is only estimated to be about 1815).

David Miller, the teacher, doesn't appear on the census in either Lancaster or Kershaw Counties in 1810. But in 1820, David appears in Kershaw with a large family. Unfortunately, the census is alphabetical, so I can't tell who he lives near. It would be logical to conclude, however, that he is related to the George Miller who was John Keziah's next-door neighbor.

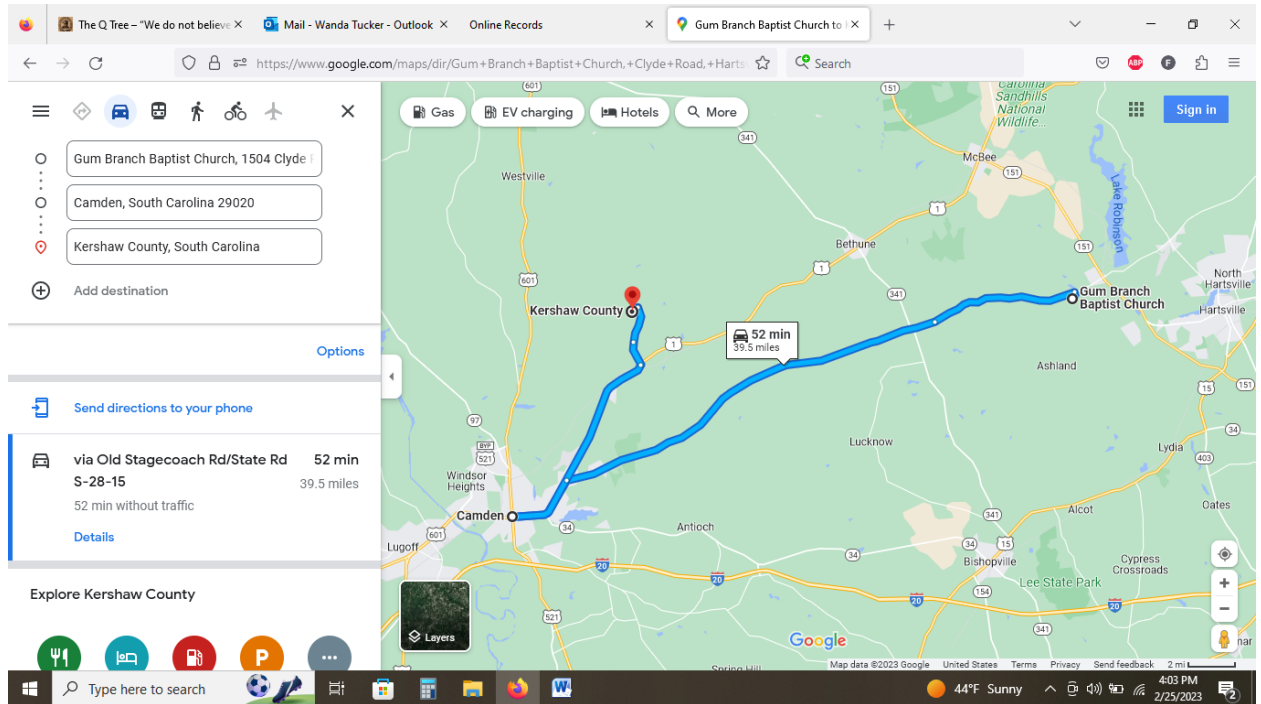
### **MACY KEZIAH'S PASTOR'S CHURCH NEAR CAMDEN, SOUTH CAROLINA**

Samuel Bonds left North Carolina sometime after Macy's dismissal was written in 1782:

"So, we now know Samuel Bonds was in South Carolina as early as 1784 where church records list him as minister of Lynches Creek Lower Forks Baptist Church from 1795-1998. Per historical marker, and constituted in 1789, the church held early meetings at Lower Fork of Lynches Creek, Boggy Swamp and Witherinton's Mill. By 1798, the church was located as mapped below and its name was later simplified to **Gum Branch Baptist Church**. Of interest, Samuel Bonds proceeded Rev. James Hudson who was minister at Lower Lynches Creek in 1794. He was also listed as minister alongside Samuel Bonds in 1795. James is likely the son or close family member to Joachim Hudson who lived close to Samuel Bonds along Richardson Creek in Anson County NC."

<https://rockyrivernc.com/2016/01/22/pt-3-the-deeds-of-samuel-bonds/>

The red balloon on the map below is the head of Sanders Creek, where William was in 1799, in relation to Gum Branch Baptist Church:



From Sanders Creek to the church was about 22 miles. As we have already seen, John routinely traveled that far from his land at Hanging Rock Creek to Camden. I wondered how often people really got to go to church, back in the days when preachers were circuit riders, as in this case. How far did people travel to attend services? And what “other places” were the pastors traveling to? Were they churches Macy and/or William Keziah could have attended?

Black Creek immediately asked Mount Pleasant to give James Coleman a letter of dismissal, and on November 30, 1798, a presbytery consisting of Rev. Messrs. Samuel Bonds and David Cooper ordained him as pastor of the new church. Mr. Coleman, together with Charles Williams, secretary of the church, appeared at the Charleston Association meeting on 1799 and secured admission. Black Creek Church showed strong effects of revival. **In February, 1802, the congregation and agreed to permit their pastor to spend part of his time in other places, “but that he should Attend his Church the first Sabbath in Every Month and the day before which is their Day of Busyness.”** Meetings were opened and closed with singing and prayer, two discourses were often delivered on church business days and on the Sabbath, a door was opened for experience and baptism followed on the day or the next, after which the members returned to the church singing, and closed the service with the Lord’s Supper.”

South Carolina Baptists, Townsend, Leah



All of this does make me wonder if there were small branch churches, maybe even meeting in people's homes, which left no records and are completely unknown to us. Certainly, Macy and William Keziah don't appear in the church records of Gum Branch Church, which can be found at the link below. Looking over the church records, the church appears to have met no more than once monthly.

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSQH-N98F-G?i=152&cat=359695>

Is it possible that Macy Keziah reconnected with Pastor Samuel Bonds in South Carolina, many years after leaving his church in North Carolina? While not provable with the data available, it is certainly interesting to consider that she may have.

### **LATE RECORDS FOR JOHN KEZIAH IN CAMDEN**

John Keziah was in Mecklenburg, North Carolina by about 1818, when he purchased land from John Stancill.

Mecklenburg County North Carolina Deed Book 19, p84

But there are two receipts for John found paying Alexander McRae in 1822 and 1823. McCrae was found in Kershaw County, South Carolina in 1820. There was no man of that name in North Carolina at all on the census.

Rie<sup>d</sup> of Mr. John Keziah in full of his account with me up to this date Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> 1822 Alexr. McRae

Rie<sup>d</sup> of John Keziah three dollars in full of his account with me up to this date March 29 1823 Alexr. McRae

I am uncertain if this Alexander was related to Duncan McRae of the earlier receipts, but it seems logical that he was. But in either case, these receipts strongly suggest that John was still trading in the thriving commercial center of Camden, South Carolina, many years after he had moved to Mecklenburg.

By 1820, William Keziah is found on the census in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, too, as does Dunning Keziah, Jr., his other brother. There is no woman in any of these households whose age would suggest she could be Macy Keziah.