

KEZIAH SNEAD KEYSER b. 1765 d. 1849 ALLEGHENY COUNTY VA

WIFE OF WILLIAM KEYSER b. 1755 d. 1837 BATH COUNTY VA

By Keith Vance

For me, it is speculation that Keziah's father was a Snead, as I can find no document giving corroborated proof of Keziah's father.

Here is the record I have gathered, giving reason to the possibility that Keziah's father is a "Snead".

- 1) James Fleming Keyser at the age of 91 wrote a letter to L. R. Beckner dated 15 Aug 1932 stating most the general facts concerning the life of William Keyser, his grandfather. The glaring inconsistency in the letter is James' reference to his grandfather as John instead of William. James never knew his grandfather and probably little of his grandmother considering their dates of death. In the letter James claims that his grandfather's wife's name was Sneed. Information similar to this is presented in "Keyser-Keysor Cousins" by Mary Keysor Meyer. Whether the name is "John William" or "William", our progenitor obviously went by "William."
- 2) James' sister's name was Elmira Snead Keyser, and their father is Fleming Keyser, son of William. Fleming represented Keziah in her pension application after William's death.
- 3) James' and Elmira's cousin is William Snead Keyser (b. 23 Sep 1829 d. 30 Jan 1914 Bath County VA), grandson of William and son of William Jr.
- 4) The relationship between William Keyser and Richard Snead appears stronger than friendship. I will not give all of the record here, but there are various recorded transactions and legal dealings in Bath County involving both men. As close as these two families were, I can find no record of marriages between their children. This fact of non-marriage gives some weight that they were related by blood.

On Nov 7, 1783, John Snead, Jr. (actually the third) and his wife Rebecca Pettus, transferred to William Keyser one hundred acres on Stoney Run in Hanover County.

On Jan 21, 1788, William and Kussey Keyser transferred to John Bowles this same 100 acres.

On Sept 4, 1788, John Snead transferred to Richard Snead a similar 100 acres on Stoney Run in Hanover County.

This land originally was owned by John Sr. or John Jr. and given to John Jr. or John III. It is difficult to determine from the records and the 1783 land transaction above. It would seem reasonable that some inheritance was being dealt with at Stoney Run for Keziah Snead Keyser and Richard Snead. Some researchers have Keziah and Richard and John Jr. as children of John Sr. and Jane Jackson. (See "The Johns and their many wives" below). John Sr. is believed to have died before 1782 and before the transfers above.

Richard appears to be the only Snead to venture to Bath County, a considerable distance, and he and his family are neighbors to William and Keziah Keyser. In the pension application proceedings of Keziah Keyser, Fleming Keyser presents a piece of paper in proof of relationships. On this paper are the names of the children of both William Keyser and Richard Snead and their birthdates. In other papers submitted, Fleming refers to Richard and William only as "neighbors".

Below is information less speculative concerning the Snead family and correction of various misinformation concerning William and Keziah Snead Keyser.

- 1) The family of John Snead Jr. (b. 1735 d. 1809-1812) is documented by his will dated 10 Sep 1793 and the chancery suit over his estate on 24 July 1812 in Hanover County Court. On page 109 of "The Sneads of Fluvanna" this John Jr. is referred to in the following paragraph. "The property of John Snead, a tidewater farmer of well above average land holdings, passed to his son and namesake, John Jr., who in 1782 was taxed for sixteen slaves, five horses, and twenty-one head of cattle."
- 2) The Keziah Snead who was born in 1761 and was daughter to John Snead Jr. married William Harris. They settled in Kentucky and their pension applications are sufficient to limit any doubt that this Keziah and the Keziah Harris name in the will of John Snead Jr. are one in the same. Many on-line family trees have our Keziah Snead Keyser in place of Keziah Snead Harris. This is obviously in error and I can find no source for the name William "Harris" Keyser.
- 3) The Richard Snead that is presented in John Snead Jr. will and Snead family suit is accepted as the same Richard involved in the Stoney Run property transaction and the same Richard living as neighbor of William and Keziah Keyser. Under my speculation that would make Keziah Richard's aunt. Some researchers record another Richard though, son of John Sr. and brother to Keziah, with their mother being Jane Jackson.

THE MANY JOHNS AND THEIR WIVES.

Many on-line family trees have the parents of John Jr of Hanover (b. 1735 d. 1809-1812) as John Sr. and Susannah Poindexter. "The Sneads of Fluvanna" do not present the wife of John Sr., only to recognize her in the following paragraph: "John Snead (1715-1782) may have married into one of the numerous Scottish families of Hanover. Such a marriage would account for the Scottish name of one of his sons, Archibald – a name now given for the first time to a Virginia Snead "

Such a name is surely "Jackson" as "Poindexter" I believe is Norman. The name "Jackson" is given to the grandson of Richard Snead of Bath, as "Samuel Jackson Snead", which is also the given name of the grandson of Samuel Jackson Snead, the great golfer Sam Snead. Richard Snead of Bath is Sam Snead's great-great grandfather.

The "Sneads of Fluvanna" make a distinction between the John of Hanover and the John of Goochland.

"William Snead, son of John, baptized in St. Peter's Parrish, New Kent, in 1690, was three years younger than his brother Henry and there were apparently two younger brothers, John and Samuel."

This William Snead is our progenitor as his son is John Sr. of Hanover (b. 1715 d. 1782). Many family trees now have William's younger brother John as the husband of Susannah Poindexter. His sons' settled in Goochland, William that married Catherine Sharp and John that married Sarah Woodram.

In 1735 the will of John Jackson was executed giving to John and Jane Snead (his daughter) 500 acres.

Difficulties with timelines.

Given Jane Jackson as the wife of John Sr. of Hanover, and Jane Jackson was 16 at the birth of John Jr., here is the timeline.

John Jr. b. 1735 (Jane age 16)

Archibald b. abt 1740 (Jane age 21)

Richard? b. abt 1760 (Jane age 41) a second Richard?

Keziah b. 1765 (Jane age 46)

The difficulty with the timeline above is obviously the twenty year gap.

An indirect timeline difficulty is the children of John Jr. and Jane Winn of the Snead family suit. Most public family trees have children credited to Jane Winn before her child bearing years.

Request for help.

All analysis, comments, leads, corrections, enlightenments, conjectures and facts are very much appreciated. Especially to any proof that the Richard of Bath and Richard son of John Jr. are one in the same. Also, comments and ideas to “Difficulties with timelines” are appreciated.

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Public Member Tree “All Americans-Cabell and Lincoln County West Virginia” 2/13/10