George Adam Keller
1821 - 1900
And How His Family Came to be Established in
Northern Chatham County

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Abstract

George Adam Keller was born into a family of planters in northwest Chatham County in 1821 and continued the tradition, cultivating crops, especially rice, and livestock, all the while building up his land holdings, such as with the purchase of Drakies plantation in 1871. He probably bought Coldbrook plantation in 1852 and was active in the Democratic Party, the County Road Commissioners, and served as clerk of the North Salem Baptist Church for almost 50 years. He had at least 17 children by his first wife Martha and subsequently Mary, and died at Coldbrook in 1900, a well-respected gentleman planter.
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CHAPTER I

The Kellers Before Coldbrook

Before George Adam Keller was born to John Adam and Levicy Keller on the 19th day of August in 1821, the Keller family had been established in the area for some time. The first George Adam Keller (great-grandfather of the Coldbrook George Adam Keller, the focus of this paper) probably immigrated from South Carolina in the late 1740s. He is reported to have had property in the Goshen district of Effingham County in August of 1789. This is probably where he resided as the Georgia Gazette for June 19, 1794 reported: "DIED.....At Goshen, Mr. George Adam Keller." In his will, however, the only property mentioned was a lot in Trustees Gardens (no.) of which he left 1/2 to his grandson, John Adam Keller and the other half to Ellen(?) Griffin. As executors of his will he appointed his "Son George Paul Keller and Mary my Daughter..." The lot which he had given to his grandson was described as being bounded "West by the Common of Savannah (later East Broad Street—see Map 1) North by Wright Street...East by a Lot of... Cary and South East by ________..." Problems arose concerning the property, however, as the lot was put under notice in the Georgia Gazette to be sold "...by public outcry, at the Courthouse...under an execu-
Map 1: 1805, for Lachlin McIntosh (1941 tracing, GRP).

Notice that the lot marked "Est of Keller" is shown as being in lot no. 5 rather than 7.
tion against John Robertson and George Kellar, as the property of the latter. George Adam died about three weeks after the scheduled sale. Apparently, the property was saved because in January, 1800, the eastern "halfpart" of the lot was advertised as being for sale by the executors of his estate. By this time, his son George Paul had died leaving Mary and her husband John Robertson as executors.

George Paul Keller died two years after his father on February 21, 1796 at his plantation ("Salem"). Surviving him were his wife Catherine and their four children, (John) Adam, Paul, Mary, and Catherine. George Paul had probably been living there as early as 1788. During the Revolutionary War, he was apparently growing crops, perhaps at his plantation, because in 1785, he was paid by the U.S. government for "Forage and provision supplied for use of the troops."

At Sálem, George Paul was growing rice and other crops by at least 1796 (see Appendix I). In March of that year, rice from George Paul's plantation was sold to his brother-in-law's company, John Robertson & Co. In March, 1797, a marriage between the widow Catherine and Benjamin Langley was "...agreed upon and with God's permission...." Catherine claimed a fifth of her late husband's plantation and through Langley sold it to William Holzendorf. At about this time Catherine's two sons John Adam and Paul were 15 and 10 years old.
At about the age of 24, John Adam was involved in an unfortunate incident: according to a contemporary newspaper account, on a road north of Savannah, he got into an argument with a Mr. Camillus Wilkins, whereby, the former, according to a witness, struck Wilkins on the head with the "pole" of an axe with Wilkins dying a few days later in "excruciating agonies."\(^{25}\) (for newspaper articles on this see Appendix II) In spite of the earlier "incident" with Wilkins, John Adam was probably at work on his plantation not too long after, as in October of 1811, he advertised for a runaway slave named Jacob probably "...lurking around Savannah or its vicinity."\(^{26}\) Life was probably fairly productive for John Adam and his wife Levicy\(^{27}\) and by probably the late 1820\(^{s}\), they had brought into the world five children: John P. was born in 1815\(^{28}\) with Stephen coming the next year.\(^{29}\) Margaret, the only girl, was born around this time.\(^{30}\) Thomas, the youngest son was probably born around 1824 or 1825.\(^{31}\) George Adam Keller, the next youngest son was a small child when Thomas was born.
CHAPTER II

Events Surrounding George's (b.1821) Youth

George Adam Keller, namesake of his great-grandfather, the immigrant from South Carolina, was born in 1821 into a prosperous plantation family. His father John Adam with his brother Paul and William Harrison (as Road Commissioners) advertised in the Daily Georgian on December 7, 1829 to have built for them along "...the new Road (probably the New Monteith Road), leaving the Augusta Road at the ten mile stone and running by Col. Harrison's..." six "Trunks", or gates for regulating the water levels in the rice fields.

Three of the Trunks must be one by three feet in the clear, with a piece in the middle, and the plank put on cross-wise, the other three to be one foot square in the clear—all the timber and plank to be of Cypress and the plank to be two inches thick and twenty feet long. The Trunks must be put one foot under the top of the earth, and covered with clay when it can be had, or earth if clay cannot be obtained, close up to the ends of the Trunks.

This would point to Salem plantation, which John Adam and his brother and two sisters had received from his father's estate, as possibly extending from the Augusta Road at the 10 mile stone along the New Monteith Road up past "Col. Harrison's" (see Map 2).
The next year, Paul, Harrison, and Peter G. Hyrne advertised to have ten more trunks built on the New Monteith Road.

The following excerpts are from the "Notice" appearing in the Daily Georgian on June 15 and 16, 1830:

...eight of said trunks shall be twenty feet long, twelve inches square on the outside, to be made of cypress plank two inches thick and put at least one foot below the surface of the Road, covered with clay, if convenient, if not, solid earth, one to be thirty feet long, of the same dimensions as above stated, One twenty feet long, three feet by one on the outside—the plank that covers the trunk is to rest on three inch cypress joists, and to be laid length-wise with the Road and covered...The contractor can cut cypress from the adjacent swamps.

John Adam Keller died on February 9th, 1830 when his son George Adam was 8 years old. At that time, the family owned 22 slaves, most of which were probably taking care of and harvesting the rice and other crops. John Adam had died without a will, leaving the fate of the estate undecided for the next 8 years. Records from the estate's administration (see Appendix III) shows that in 1831, $646.45 was received for 46 tons of rice; in 1832, $170.58 for rice and $179.92 for 8 bales of cotton; in 1833, $327.62 for an unknown quantity of rice and $35.11 for 1 bale of cotton. A severe decline in production took place, further being shown by no records of crop sales for the next three years. By 1837, probably all cultivation at the plantation had ceased, as for that year, the slaves were being hired out, with almost half of the $922.00 received from the fledgling Central Rail Road & Banking Company of Georgia.
Map 2:

key

a. Augusta Road
b. Louisville Road
c. Old Monteith Road
d. New Monteith Road
e. Harrisons
f. Ulmers (Coldbrook?)
g. Mrs. Harrisons
h. Monteith
i. Threadcraft
j. Bryans
k. Richmond
l. Morton Hall
m. Mulberry Grove
n. Drakies
o. Colerains
p. Black Creek
q. Cherokee Hill
r. Timber Landing
s. 10 Mile Stone
Map 2: 1816, McKinnon map of Chatham County, detail (1916 tracing by W.F. Brown).
During most of this time, George and his younger brother Thomas were off at boarding school.\textsuperscript{48} On July 23rd, 1834, "Tuition for 2 children" was paid (\$32.87)\textsuperscript{49} and the next day, "Board for...(them)...for 6 months (for \$100.52)" appears.\textsuperscript{50} The last record for the boys' board appears on December 1, 1837; "N Zettler board of Geo & Thos..(\$)101.50"\textsuperscript{51} George would have been 16. An interesting note is an entry for December 23, 1835 for "Hats" for the two boys for a total of 50 cents.\textsuperscript{52} Were these Christmas presents for John and Levicy Kellers' youngest sons?

Levicy remarried on September 5, 1836 to Jeremiah Zipperer.\textsuperscript{53} The next year, George's oldest brother John P. applied for the guardianship of he and Thomas.\textsuperscript{54}

The estate of John Adam Keller was distributed to the heirs in June, 1838.\textsuperscript{55} George (through his oldest brother's guardianship) received "...the Eastern moiety or halfpart of the Good Hope Tract (probably the extreme western part of Drakes\textsuperscript{56})...twenty head of cattle & the following slaves named Rachel (whowill appear later), ony, Rose, and Joe..."\textsuperscript{57}

By 1824, the Salem Baptist Church had been built on property that was bought from George's father\textsuperscript{58} as in January, 1824 the trustees of the church were commissioned to wait on (John) Adam Keller to procure a deed for the lot "...on which the Salem Meeting House Stands."\textsuperscript{59} John and Paul's wives were charter members of the church,\textsuperscript{60} and many years later, George would become very active in the church's functions.\textsuperscript{61}
CHAPTER III

1840-1860: Emergence of George as a Planter

The first appearance of George in a newspaper occurred in a notice in the Daily Georgian on February 25, 1841.62 He is listed as a defaulter of "...Beat Companies at the Parades of the 1st, 2d, 3d, and 4th days of February, 1841.63 "Private" George Keller, not yet 21, was in the third Beat Company, 1st Regiment.64 The next year, he joined his older brother Stephen F. at a meeting of the "...Democracy of Old Cherokee Hill assembled in their strength, at their usual place of meeting (Peter White's, near Cherokee Hill)..."65 George was on a committee (with Stephen) to select a candidate for the Legislature more favorable to the agricultural vote.66 After "...three cheers for our candidate (G. P. Harrison67)...there was no further business before the meeting, we adjourned to shoot for a fine beef, which was done in a real marksman-like manner."68 In 1843, at a "Democratic Republican Meeting", George introduced a resolution that "...a Committee of Seven be appointed by the Chair, to draft a preamble and resolutions expressive of the meeting."69 After shooting for the "beef", it was agreed that there should be a "...renewed determination to oppose Whiggery, i.e. a Bank, a Tariff for Protection, Distribution, &c..."70
Twelve years later, in 1855, the Democratic Nominating Committee reported George as being on the committee to nominate candidates for the next Legislature.71 A few days later, on September 29, 1855, the Daily Morning News issued a notice appointing the following men "...to preserve the peace and good order on the day of the election, and to cooperate with any committee that may be appointed by the opposite party for the same purpose."72 George's name is centered below the two columns of names.73

On October 5, 1844, George married Martha J. Wisenbaker of Effingham County.74 Father Sweat, minister of the Salem Baptist Church75 (later North Salem), performed the service at "Bethel Bap. Church"76 (see Map 3). As to where George and his bride lived is not certain, it was possible that they lived on the Good Hope tract that was given him from his father's estate in 1838.77 By 1850, the couple had four children: Georgetta Williams (b. 1845),78 Adarine (b. about 1846),79 Manton (probably born 1848),80 and Gertrude (b. 1849).81

In December, 1848, George A. Keller bought a tract of land called "Rocky Comfort" on the Chatham-Effingham County Border.82 In the same deed, John Ulmer bought the adjacent "Creek field", which depended on it's supply of "back water" from the former property.83 The wording of the deed-agreement suggests that both were using the area for the cultivation of rice. It is doubtful that this tract could have been the Coldbrook plantation (The family of Philip Ulmer had lived there through
most of the first half of the nineteenth century). The last Ulmer to be buried at the Coldbrook family plot was in 1838, although the plantation could have been sold while still retaining the plot, a practice not uncommon.

In 1852, George made several land acquisitions starting with the purchase of 214 acres in Effingham County for $267.50 from the executors of the Rev. Lewis Myers' estate (see Map 4). At the end of the year, he sold the same tract to Gottlieb Dasher for a modest profit of $32.50. Earlier, in the summer of 1852, he had made a major land purchase of 1900 acres

Map 3: 1864, by C. Suetter (in Atlas of the Civil War) The arrow indicates where George and Martha could have been married in 1844 not far from Savannah.
(about 3 square miles) from his oldest brother John P., for $510, an excellent price even for then. The tract was described as being "...fourteen Miles from Savannah in Cherokee Hill District...(see Map 5)"; which, if on the New Monteith Road, this could have been the acquisition of Coldbrook.

Map 4: 1852, Anonymous (from Deed Book S-207, Effingham County Courthouse, tracing).

A month and a half later, in September, 1852, George bought from his next oldest brother 425 acres in Effingham County for $500.00. The land was described as being "...about fifteen miles from Savannah...", very likely extending his property from around the Augusta Road to at least a mile across the county line along the New Monteith Road.

On February 17, 1855, the Agricultural Club of Chatham and Effingham Counties was formed with George as Secretary and Stephen F. as the executive committee. It was formed for the advancement of agriculture, horticulture, and stock domest-
cation and was to have its first annual fair on November 1, 1855 in a "grove" on the Monteith Road "...between the 12 and 13 Mile stones." The annual fairs of the club would take place for the next three years and would be a popular affair. The Daily Morning News for November 1, 1855, reported that the fair was very good for a "first effort" and that it "...embraced blooded stock of all kinds, products of the soil, and not a few of the finer arts...of the ladies." The reporter, on arriving at the event, found himself "...appointed Chairman of the Committee on Fowls. While we appreciated the compliment, we very much distrusted our ability to discharge the duty assigned us." An interesting excerpt from the newspaper article is the following:

Premiums for worsted work, Mary Annis Keller, ten years old. The articles exhibited by this little girl were a pin cushion and two table mats, wrought with worsted crewel on velvet. There having been no premium offered for this kind of embroidery, the Secretary of the Club, Mr. G. A. Keller, individually awarded to Miss K a five dollar gold medal.

Also at the fair was shown a bible belonging to Mr. Bolzias, one of the original Salzburghers, and a sheet iron swan which had been on top of the church. The artifacts were owned by Captain Daniel Remshart.

At the 2nd Annual Fair of the Chatham and Effingham Agricultural Club, George Keller won an award of $3 for "the best acre of Peas (31 bushels)." George's wife Martha received awards for best quilt and coverlet, for "Turkeys and Fowls," and for the "greatest variety homemade Soap (or Soup)."
Map 5

detail of the 1875 map of Chatham County by Platen.

key

a. New Monteith Road
b. Old Monteith Road
c. Augusta Road
d. Louisville Road
e. Central of Georgia Rail Road
f. Savannah & Charleston Rail Road
g. Keller
h. G. A. Keller
j. G. A. Keller
k. Drakies
l. Isla Island
m. 10 Mile Station

(certain ones)
(milestones are indicated along the New Monteith Road and part of the Augusta Road)
Plate 1: George A. Keller's plantation house, Coldbrook.

Plate 2: The attic of the Colbrook plantation house. Notice the Roman numerals carved on the rafters—pointing to a probable pre-1800 date.
Plate 3

View of old inland rice swamps at Coldbrook plantation taken from area of old trunk, or gate for regulating water level (according to Joe Pittman, October 31, 1986).
At the third fair in 1857, George won a prize for "Inland Rice" with Martha winning for chickens and "Best Coverlet". Both continued to win awards at the 4th fair the next year.

Times were apparently productive for the gentleman planter and his family on the Coldbrook plantation. An article appearing in the Daily Morning News on August 12, 1859, read:

FINE SWEET POTATOES - We received yesterday from Mr. Geo. A. Keller, a sample of this year's crop of Sweet Potatoes, grown on his farm at Calebrook, in Chatham County, fourteen miles from the city. They are by far the largest and finest potatoes we have seen this season, and might, we think, safely challenge the State to produce their equals. Mr. Keller is a public spirited, practical farmer who spares neither labor nor pains for the promotion of the agricultural interests of our section. His success should encourage others to imitate his example.

That same year, in September, George's uncle Paul died. From his estate, in 1859, George received two slaves—Charles... 26 Years (worth) $1200" and "Emma... 17 (years old) $1050. A note in Paul's will appeared for November 6 (or 16) for a purchase of property from the estate for the sum of $41.65. Since it was a family purchase, he probably got a good deal and added onto his plantation.

On the eve of the Civil War in 1860, George and Martha had 8 children (Manton had died in 1853): Georgetta (15), Adarine (about 13), Gertrude (10), Estella (8), George A. Jr. (5), Lamar (3), Paul (2), William (W.W.-4mos.), Laura (11). The 1860 Census of Chatham County lists the value of George's real estate at $8,000 and $17500 for personal property. This last figure represented mostly slaves—probably 25.
CHAPTER IV

The Civil War and Afterwards

George, in his early 40s during the Civil War, did not actively serve.¹¹⁹ Instead, he opted for the Home Militia where he eventually became a captain in the 9th Company for Chatham County.¹²⁰ He also served as a Confederate Justice of the Peace.¹²¹ George's younger brother Thomas served in the 2nd Georgia Battalion with the Calvary¹²² and in Company A of the Effingham Hussars.¹²³

In early 1862, as Louis Manigault, another rice planter, reported, "Upon the entrance of the Enemy into Savannah River... Most of the Planters upon Savannah River...removed their Negroes to places of safety in the Interior..."¹²⁴ It is very possible that this could have happened at Coldbrook even though it was an inland plantation.

When Sherman's army approached Savannah in December, 1864, the citizens were terrified by the thought of what the Yankees might do to them.¹²⁵ One woman in Savannah told a New Yorker that the Yankees would cut off fingers to get the rings that adorned them or would tear earrings off women's ears.¹²⁶ One could imagine what was going on at Coldbrook as the Union forces (a division¹²⁷) came down Monteith Road.¹²⁸
According to stories, when the Yankees came to Coldbrook, Mrs. Keller, whose husband George was off fighting, told the officers that she was pregnant and asked them if they would spare the house for that reason. The men complied although, as Sally Keller Hagood, a great-granddaughter of George, relates, they burned the rice barn and stole the cattle. Mrs. Hagood tells that when a soldier picked up little I.W. Keller, George's youngest son at the time, he bit the Yankee ("the story varies"). Also, when the soldiers took the horses, George Jr. stole it back from them - he would have been 9 years old.

Life around Coldbrook must not have easy after the war. Many had lost everything in the conflagration. The Kellers probably came out better than most. Even though the rice barn had been destroyed, the stock taken, and the slaves freed, the plantation house had been saved. Louis Manigault described what he saw on the Augusta Road in March, 1867:

Some six miles from Savannah we came in sight of the Charleston and Savannah Rail Road, which had not been touched since the advance of Sherman's army but the twisted and ruined Rails remained as left by the Yankees...

The production of rice in the Old South was the hardest hit of the money crops and it was the slowest to recover. The absence of a forced slave labor had a great effect on production, as would have been expected, but rice depended on slave labor more than the other major crops. Rice production in Georgia was only
Map 6: 1864, Military movements north of Savannah December 8th to 11th, 1864. Plate 71-10 from The Official Atlas of The Civil War.

about half of what it had been 10 years before.\textsuperscript{141} The really large planters sharply dropped off in number.\textsuperscript{142} George Keller, however, in July, 1871, bought Drakies plantation and the south half of Isla Island (see Map 5-1), with a total area of 1,800 acres.\textsuperscript{143} The tracts were bought from Henry Jackson for $5500.\textsuperscript{144} Three years earlier, George had sold several tracts which had been given him to execute by the will of his wife's father, Christian Wisenbaker.\textsuperscript{145} The tracts, of which there at least six, were sold to Charles McLeod for $5,229.\textsuperscript{146} According to Mrs. Hagood, George had bought Drakies with his wife's money and this seems to have been the case.\textsuperscript{147} With the acquisition of Drakies and Isla Island, George would be a major rice producer.

In the summer of 1867, George had a mule stolen from him at
when Sherman arrived in December, 1864.

how the estimated 12,000 Confederate troops were entrenched around Savannah.

Map 7: 1865. Sketch (from old county maps by W. W. Wharton). This map shows

...
the "Market." not an extraordinary occurrence. But, he offered a "$50 Reward" for the return of the mule,"...and the capture of the thief; or $25 for the return of the mule."  

In January, 1868, George A. Keller was found in default for missing a meeting of the Road Commissioners for Chatham County, which he would serve with for at least five more years. The Savannah Morning News for December 10, 1872, reported that George had been appointed to a special committee to offer resolutions to honor a newly deceased member. The next year, on December 4, Messrs. Helmy, Ulmer, and Geralds petitioned to the Board of County Commissioners to open a public road through the land of a Mr. Keller (George?) and to open a public landing. The petitioners were refused. After this, no record of George A. Keller are found in association with The Road Commissioners until 1885 (perhaps this was George Jr.).

In 1870, at the age of 49, the value of George's real estate was listed as being worth $12,000 and for personal property, $2,000. The family had added three more children since 1860; Georgia V. (b. 1863), Israel Walthour (I.W.-b. about 1864), and Iola Lee (b. 1865), for a total of 11 children at home (Lamar and Paul are not listed - perhaps they are at boarding school?).

In that year, George is listed as being noticed to meet by the Democratic Executive Committee, and on November 16, 1870, he is reported by the Savannah Morning News as being part of a committee from his militia district to nominate candidates for the next meeting of legislature. The July 2, 1876 Savannah
Morning News printed a letter from several of the county districts to the people (with George listed for his, the 8th dis.163) It discusses an upcoming vote on whether the old law of fencing in crops and not animals, should be changed.165 They argued that it was a tradition from "time immemorial" to fence in crops.166 It's a little ironic that eight years later, one of George's cows was run over by a train.167 The following is his sworn statement for the June term of Superior Court for 1885:168

I lost such a cow and I owned such a cow on or about Sept 1st or 4th 1884 value of said cow being $25,00 but Mr. Williams (section chief) and I agreed on $20.00 My cow was killed beyond Montleth Station. I have lost cattle there before My cattle range at Large the road is not fenced any where along their I did not see ______ cow havent seen her since I Keep - My Milking cows pend. up those are my valuable cattle.

The court found in favor of George.169

Before that, in 1877, one year after the call to the people not to vote for a law requiring the fencing in of livestock rather than crops,170 George A. Keller shot and killed a cow that wandered onto his property.171 The owner Harkless Simmons brought suit asking for damages of three times the value of the cow ($30), saying that although the cow came into Keller's enclosure, it was not protected by a "lawful fence."172 George lost the case.173

George's daughter Gertrude was married to Robert Saussy at Coldbrook on September 19, 1872.175 Gertrude died January 26, 1875.176 She had had typhoid fever and her death was "unexpected."177 Robert had probably died by 1880 for, in that year,
the two young sons of he and Gertrude, Gordon (7 in 1880)\textsuperscript{178} and Hugh (5)\textsuperscript{179} were living with George A, Keller and his family at Coldbrook.\textsuperscript{180}

After George bought Drakies plantation in 1871, he made several smaller land transactions.\textsuperscript{181} The years 1877 and 1880 brought the acquisitions of two large land tracts.\textsuperscript{182} In the first deal, on October 25 of that year, he bought the "Camp", containing 771 acres, from Henry Young (in trust for Louis Manigault) for $1500, with \( \frac{1}{4} \) of an acre reserved for a burial plot.\textsuperscript{183} The "Camp" was located near the 10 Mile Stone on the Augusta Road Road\textsuperscript{184} and it first got its name when it was used by the Manigaults and their workers in 1854 "...on account of the Cholera then raging on our River."\textsuperscript{185} The whole plantation "...was there in Camps..."\textsuperscript{186} In the land buy of 1880, George bought the Blair tract consisting of 1,930 acres for $2,500 with the land encompassing the remaining area between the New Monteith and Augusta Roads\textsuperscript{187} that he did not already own (see Map 5-between a & c). George Keller continued to buy and sell smaller tracts during the early 1880s.\textsuperscript{188}

In January, of 1883, he bought another important, yet smaller tract - Richmond plantation on the Savannah River (in Map 5, Richmond and Kew is shown just below where the Savannah and Charleston R.R. crosses the Savannah River).\textsuperscript{189} This must have been fairly desirable rice land because for its 312 acres, George Keller paid $3,750.\textsuperscript{190} The next month, he mortgaged the property to his son George Jr., to whom he owed $5,000.\textsuperscript{191} The debt was
subsequently cancelled and in September of the same year, George sold a half interest in the plantation to another rice planter, Daniel Zipperer, for $1,487, which was almost $400 less than half of what the former originally paid for Richmond. The next year, George sold the remaining half interest to Zipperer for $1,200. With the buying and selling of Richmond plantation, George Keller had lost more than $1,000, a large amount for a period of less than two years.

George's wife, Martha J. died on December 18, 1886 at the age of 63. She had given birth to 14 children as George's wife, with all but two still living at that time. A little over a month later, at the age of 65, George gave an ammount of money totaling $4,010.20 to nine of his children.

Apparently not content to remain to remain single, George remarried in 1888—the ceremony took place on April 11, and his new wife was 22 year old Mary E. Jarrells of Effingham County. The had three children: George Peeples Keller (b. February, 1889), Flossie M. (b. September, 1890), and Bessie L. (b. April, 1893). In August, 1893, a severe hurricane hit Savannah probably damaging Drakies and Isla Island plantation along with their rice crops.

RUIN TO THE RICE

Nobody will suffer heavier losses by the storm than the rice planters. The damage to the planters of Georgia and South Carolina by the storm will mount high up into the thousands. The rice crop of this season was said to be very fine and the harvesting had just begun.
George, throughout the latter half of the nineteenth century, had remained active at NorthSalem Baptist Church in the capacity of Church Clerk, a position he assumed in January, 1850.²⁰²

He served actively without a break until July, 1896, when he presented his resignation and asked to be relieved of his duties, because of his enfeebled condition. The church formally declined to accept his resignation. Another member of the church was elected 'to take charge of the books and attend to all the business of the Clerk's Office, thereby acting as Clerk pro tem, until Brother Keller ceased to be with us, Brother William H. Oliver then to become permanent Clerk of the Church without further election, and these formal resolutions end with three simple words - 'we love him'. What an encomium!²⁰³

George Adam Keller died on September 6, 1900²⁰⁴ at the age of 79*, "...one of the oldest and best known planters in this section of Georgia."²⁰⁵

*For the last will and testament of George Adam Keller (d. 1900), see Appendix IV.
Endnotes

1 North Salem Baptist Church, Keller burial ground, tombstone inscription.

2 Hagood, Sally Keller. Telephone interview, November 3, 1986.

3 Georgia Gazette 13 August 1789, p. 2, c. 2.

4 Georgia Gazette 19 June 1794, p. 3, c. 1.

5 Chatham County, Georgia, Probate Court. Will of George Adam Keller, 1794, microfilm roll #K1 - 56-58.

6 Ibid.

7 Ibid.

8 John Robertson dealt in many things, ranging from slaves to 'securities': Columbean Museum & Savannah Advertiser 30 August 1796, p.3, c. 3; 28 April 1797 p.3, c.3; Georgia Gazette 17 February 1791, p.2, c. 1; 7 July 1791, p.2, c. 1.

9 Georgia Gazette 29 May 1794, p.2, c. 1.

10 See Endnote 4.

11 Columbean Museum & Savannah Advertiser 31 January 1800, p.4, c. 1.

12 Ibid.

13 Mary has probably married John Robertson since 1794 as the latter would have probably been an executor of George's will through Mary (See Endnote 6).

14 See Endnote 12.

15 George Paul Keller's wife Catherine, in a deed-agreement, stated "...Salem whereon my late husband resided..." Chatham County, Superior Court Reference Room (hereafter referred to as S.C.R.R.). Deed Book Q, folio 430.

16 Ibid.

17 The Gazette of the State of Georgia 31 July 1788, p.2, c.2.

19 Chatham County, Probate Court. Administration of George Paul Keller, 1796, #12.

20 Ibid.

21 Chatham County, S.C.R.R. Deed Book Q, folio 430.

22 Ibid.

23 Ibid.

24 North Salem Baptist Church, Keller burial ground, tombstone inscriptions.

25 Columbian Museum & Savannah Advertiser 9 July 1806, p.3, c. 3.

26 Republican & Savannah Evening Ledger 22 October 1811, p.2, c. 2.

27 An index for the 1820 Census of Georgia, for Chatham County, listed a "J.A." Keller although I couldn't find the entry in that census. 1850 Federal Census of Georgia, Chatham County.

28 North Salem Baptist Church, Keller burial ground, tombstone inscriptions.


30 No dates could be located for Margaret. An entry for 1837 states that she had recently come-of-age. Chatham County Probate Court. Administration of John Adam Keller, 1830-1838, #45, microfilm roll K1 499-549.

31 Thomas' birth date was estimated by referring to the 1850 Federal Census For Georgia, Effingham County.

32 Daily Georgian 5 December 1829, p.2, c. 6; 7 December 1829, p. 3, c. 5.


34 See Endnote 32.

35 Chatham County, Probate Court. Administration of John Adam Keller, # 45, microfilm roll K1 499-549.

37 Hyrne has here replaced John Adam Keller, who died on February 9, 1830 (See Endnote 39).

38 Daily Georgian 15 June 1830, p.3, c. 1; 16 June 1830, p. 3, c. 4.

39 North Salem Baptist Church, Keller burial ground, tombstone inscription.

40 Listing under "Mrs. Adam Keller"; 1830 Federal Census of Georgia, Chatham County, and; C.C. Probate Court, Administration of John Adam Keller, #45, 1830-1838, microfilm roll K1 499-549.

41 See Endnote 35.

42 Ibid.

43 Ibid.

44 Ibid.

45 Ibid.

46 Ibid.

47 In November, 1837, the Central Rail Road & Banking Co. of Georgia was advertising for contractors for grading roadbed segments – up to 60 miles away from the city of Savannah in 3 mile sections "...excavating, and embanking, clearing, and grubbing..." Daily Georgian 11 November1837, p. 1, c. 2.

48 See Endnote 35.

49 Ibid.

50 Ibid.

51 Ibid.
52 Ibid.
53 Effingham County Courthouse, Georgia. Marriage Book 3: 1832 - 1850, p. 32.
54 See Endnote 35.
55 Ibid.
56 A deed conveyed in 1858 refers to "...part of the original Cuthbert tract (Drakes) and Known as the Good Hope "place":" Chatham County S.C.R.R. DeedBook 3R, folio 114.
57 See Endnote 35.
58 Lain, Earl. "Brief History of North Salem Baptist Church," undated flyer.
59 Ibid.
60 Ibid.
61 Ibid.
62 Daily Georgian 25 February 1841, p. 3, c. 3.
63 Ibid.
64 Ibid.
65 Daily Georgian 17 August 1842, p. 2, c. 3.
66 Ibid.
67 "Brigadier-General George Paul Harrison had the peculiar distinction of having a son in the Confederate Army holding the same rank that he did...General Harrison was born in Savannah, in 1814; died in that city in 1887...He was a prominent citizen of the State prior to the War between the States, and engaged in rice planting on the Savannah River, owning what is known as 'the Monteith Plantation.' He represented Chatham County several times in the General Assembly...While on a visit to his plantation at Monteith, he was captured by the Federals and held a prisoner until near the close of the war...General Harrison was a son of Colonel William Harrison (and Mary Keller Harrison)." - paraphrased from book by: Northern, William J., editor, Men of Mark in Georgia v. III, The Reprint Company, Publishers, Spartanburg, S.C., 1974, p.141 (See Endnote 36).
68 See Endnote 65.
69 Daily Georgian 30 August 1843, p. 2, c. 5.
70 Ibid.
73 Ibid.
74 Chatham County, Probate Court, Index to Marriages, 1806 - 1851. p. 117.
75 North Salem Baptist Church, "Minutes Book I".
76 See Endnote 74.
77 See Endnote 74. Bethel was formed "...as an arm to Salem Church," from: North Salem Baptist Church,"Minutes Book I".
78 See Endnote 1.
79 Interpolated from the 1850 Federal Census of Georgia, Chatham County, and the 1860 Federal Census of Georgia, Chatham County.
80 This is conjectural but seems to fit: North Salem Baptist Church, Keller burial ground, tombstone inscription, 1850 Federal Census of Georgia, Chatham County.
81 1850 Federal Census of Georgia, Chatham County.
82 Effingham County Courthouse. Deed Book R, folio 135.
83 Ibid.
84 Many sources.
85 Hulsey, Joe. personal communication, 12 November, 1986.
86 Many sources.
87 Effingham County Courthouse. Deed Book S, folio 207.
88 Effingham County Courthouse. Deed Book S, folio 208.
89 Chatham County, S.C.R.R. Deed Book 3J, folio239.
90 Ibid.
91 This is speculation of course, but the entrance to Coldbrook is at mile stone 14.
Effingham County Courthouse. Deed Book W, folio 154.

Ibid.

"Good Hope" would probably be on the east side of Augusta Road, judging from the fact that it was bounded on the east by George P. Harrison who lived on that part of Drakies in 1858: Chatham County, S.C.R.R. Deed Book 3R, folio 114.

Article abstract from Daily Morning News 24 October 1855, p. 2, c. 3, Savannah Newspaper Digest.

Ibid.

Ibid.


Ibid.

Daily Morning News 1 November 1855, p. 2, cols. 2 & 3.

Ibid.

Mary Annis Keller was the daughter of Stephen F. and Eliza L. Keller. Stephen was an older brother of George A. Keller. 1850 Federal Census of Georgia, Chatham County.

See Endnote 100.

Ibid.

Ibid.


Ibid.


Daily Morning News 8 December 1858, p. 1, c. 4.


North Salem Baptist Church, Keller burial ground. Tombstone inscription.

Chatham County, Probate Court. Will of Paul Keller, 1859, #71, microfilm roll K1 964-1000.

Ibid.
Ibid.

See Endnote 80.

1860 Federal Census of Georgia, Chatham County.

Ibid.

George A. Keller had 25 slaves at the start of the Civil War (according to Sally Keller Hagood, telephone interview, November 3, 1986.

See Endnote 120.


See First Part of Endnote 120.

M.s. Collection #169, Box 21, Fldr. 4, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah.


Ibid.

A division during that time was probably around 4,000 men. Larry Habits, personal communication, Nov. 8, 1986.


Hagood, Sally Keller. telephone interview, November 3, 1986.

Mrs. Hagood was the daughter of Hubert Keller, son of George Adam Keller, Jr.
132 Ibid.
133 Ibid.
134 Ibid.
135 Ibid.
136 Ibid.
137 See Endnote 128 (p. 5).
139 Ibid.
140 Ibid.
141 Ibid.
142 Ibid.
144 Ibid.
145 Effingham County Courthouse. Deed Book V, folio 150.
146 Ibid.
147 See Endnote 129.
149 Ibid.
152 Ibid.
153 *Savannah Morning News* 4 December 1873, p. 3, c. 2.
154 Ibid.
George A. Keller, Jr. was born in 1855 (See Endnote 129). There is a danger from about 1875 and after of "George A. Keller" (as entered in newspapers, documents, etc.) being George Sr. or George Jr. Sometimes this information is given, but more often not.

Savannah Morning News 29 January 1885, p. 4, c. 1.

1850 Federal Census of Georgia, Chatham County.

See Endnote 111.


See Endnote 157.

Savannah Morning News 30 July 1870, p. 3, c. 2.

Savannah Morning News 16 November 1870, p. 2, c. 1.

The 8th District in Chatham County is in the northern area and extends from the Ogeechee River on the West to the Savannah River on the East.

Savannah Morning News 2 July 1876, p. 3, c. 2.

Ibid.

Ibid.


Ibid.

Ibid.

See Endnote 164.


Ibid.

Ibid.
Robert and Gertrude Saucy had lived in the city.

Savannah Morning News

Savannah Morning News 24 September 1872, p. 2, c. 5.


Ibid.

Judge Gordon Saucy (1874–1952) was a Mayor of Savannah, Judge of the Court of Ordinary of Chatham County, state port pioneer, and agriculturalist. M. s. Collection #1276, Saucy Family Papers, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah.

Hugh Saucy, according to Sally Keller Hagood, died from injuries sustained on a football game. telephone interview, November 3, 1986.

1880 Federal Census of Georgia, Soundexed.

Chatham County, S.C.R.R., Deed Book 4(0), folio 438, Deed Book 4S, folios 40 and 41, and Deed Book 4U, folio 328. Effingham County Courthouse R.R., Deed Book W, folios 225, 255, and 308.

See Endnotes 183 & 187.


See Endnote 124, p. 12.

Ibid.

Ibid.


Chatham County, S.C.R.R., Deed Book 5H, folio 334, Deed Book 6E, folio 371, Deed Book 5D, folio 36; and Effingham County Courthouse R.R., Deed Book X, folios 497 & 498.


Ibid.


Chatham County, S.C.R.R., Deed Book 5L, folio 297.

See Endnote 189.
Chatham County, S.C.R.R., Deed Book 5(0), folio 198.

Savannah Morning News 20 December 1886, p. 2, c. 4; North Salem Baptist Church, Keller burial ground, tombstone inscription.

Manton (probably a son of George A. Keller) died in 1853 at the age of 4 - See Endnote 115; Gertrude L. (Sauccy) died of typhoid fever in 1875 - See Endnote 176.

This is a handwritten manuscript penned by George A. Keller on February 1, 1887. Ms. Collection #1276, Saucy Family Papers, Folder 19. Georgia Historical Society, Savannah.

Effingham County Courthouse, Marriage Book 7 (1887-1891); and North Salem Baptist Church, Keller burial ground, tombstone inscription.

Federal Census of Georgia, Soundexed.

Savannah Morning News 28 August 1893, p. 1, c. 6.

Ibid. A.C. Ulmer, husband of Adarine (Keller), in the hurricane of August, 1893, drowned on Hutchison Island where he had property. According to reports, the island had been a "broad sheet of water." Savannah Morning News 29 August 1893, p. 1, cols. 3 & 4.

See Endnote 58.

Ibid.

Savannah Press (Evening) 6 September 1900, p. 1, c. 4.

Ibid.


Chatham County, Georgia. Probate Court. Administration of George Paul Keller, 1796, #12; Administration of John Adam Keller, 1830-1838, #43; Will of George Adam Keller, 1794, #9; Will of Paul Keller, 1859, #71; Index to Marriages, 1806-1851. Superior Court Reference Room, Deed Books: Q-430, 3K-114, 3K-239, 4L-195, 4Q-438, 4S-40, 4S-41, 4U-328, 6V-101, 4Z-371, 5H-334, 6E-371, 5D-36, 4G-319, 4G-320-1, 5L-297.

Chatham County Jail Book, 1805-1815, 42a, handwritten ledger, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah.


Columbian Museum & Savannah Advertiser 30 August 1796, p.3, c.3; 28 April 1797, p.3, c.3; 31 January 1800, p.4, c.1; 9 July 1806, p.3, c.3.

Daily Georgian 5 December 1829, p.2, c.6; 7 December 1829, p.3, c.5; 15 June 1830, p.3, c.1; 16 June 1830, p.3, c.4; 11 November 1837, p.1, c.2; 25 February 1841, p.3, c.3; 17 August 1842, p.2, c.3; 30 August 1843, p.2, c.5.


Federal Census of Georgia, Chatham County, for 1830, 1850, 1860, 1880 (Soundexed), and 1900 (Soundexed).

Federal Census of Georgia, Effingham County, for 1850.
Gazette of the State of Georgia, The 31 July 1788, p.2, c.2.

Georgia Gazette 13 August 1789, p.2, c.2; 17 February 1791, p.2, c.1; 7 July 1791, p.2, c.1; 29 May 1794, p.2, c.1; 19 June 1794, p.3, c.1.


Georgia Republican 18 July 1806, p.3, c.3.

Georgia Republican & State Intelligencer 15 July 1806, p.3, cols. 2 & 3.


Hagood, Sally Keller. Telephone interview, November 3, 1986.

Hulsey, Joe. Personal communication, November 12, 1986.

Index to Judgements, Book 1, 1782 - 1868. Georgia Historical Society, Savannah.


Judgement Docket - City Court, 1801-1808. handwritten ledger, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah.


Lain, Earl. "Brief History of North Salem Baptist Church," undated flyer.

Ms. Collection #169, Box 21, Fldr. 4; and Muster & Pay Roll, dated October 31, 1862. Georgia Historical Society, Savannah.


North Salem Baptist Church, Chatham County. "Minutes Book 1"; and tombstone inscriptions in the Keller burial ground.


Republican & Savannah Evening Ledger 22 October 1811, p.2, c.2.

Savannah Morning News 2 November 1857, p.2, c.4; 30 July 1870, p.3, c.2; 16 November 1870, p.2, c.1; 24 September 1872, p.2, c.5; 4 December 1873, p.3, c.2; 27 January 1875, p.3, cols. 1 & 2; 2 July 1876, p.3, c.2; 29 January 1885, p.4, c.1; 20 December 1886, p.2, c.4; 28 August 1893, p.1, c.6; 29 August 1893, p.1, cols. 3 & 4.

Savannah Newspaper Digest, for years 1855, 1868.

Savannah Press (Evening) 6 September 1900, p.1, c.4.

Saucy Family Papers, Collection #1276, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah.

Appendix I
(taken from the administration papers of George Paul Keller)

An Inventory of The Estate of George Paul
Kellar Deceas'd Taken the fifth Day of July 1796

1 Negro fellow ___ Drs 200
1 Ditto Ditto Pompey 130
1 Ditto Ditto Sambo 300
1 Ditto Ditto July 330
1 Ditto Ditto Toney 300
1 Ditto Ditto areh 350
1 Ditto Ditto Dick 30
1 Negro Wench For ___ 110
1 Ditto Ditto Sarah 250
1 Ditto Ditto Wench + Child 320
1 Ditto Ditto Sally + Child 340
1 Negroe Boy Jacob 200
1 Girl Sue 180 Drs 1 Ditto Else 100 Drs 280
1 Girl Cloe 200
___ head of Cattle (taped)
1 Cart 20 Drs 1 Wagon 40 Drs 60
1 Bay horse Docter 40 Drs 1 Mare Jenny 65
25 Drs
1 Bay Mare Little Jenny 18 Drs
I horse Snip 15 Drs 33
1 Riding Chair & harness 35
13 head of Sheep 20 Drs 1 Muskett 23.50
3 1/2 Drs
(taped over)
Eight (?) Hogs 12 Drs 2 hand Mills 6 Drs 18
1 Lott of Tools Chizells augers 
& 2 handsaws 13
3 Whip Saws 6 Drs 3x Cutt Ditto 3 Drs 9
3 Ploughs Rings & Chains & 1 Grind Stone 3.50
1 Mans Saddle 4 Drs 1 Side Saddle 5 Drs 9
1 Boys Saddle (?) 75
To Amount Brought forward
____ (taped over) ______

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Spinning Wheels &amp; 3 pair of Cards</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Small &amp; 3 Large Iron Potts</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Pair of Smoothing Irons</td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Silver tea Spoons &amp; 1 table Ditto</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Lott Crockery Ware</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Feather Bed &amp; Bedstead</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Mattress(?)</td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Blanketts 7 Drs 10 Hoes 3 Drs</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Peg Sheets &amp; 2 pair of Pillow Cases</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total** 4043.25

William Holzendorf
John Hersman
Carles Cope
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 March</td>
<td>By Cash Receivd from Messrs J. Robertson &amp; Co. for Rice Sold from the Estate</td>
<td>Drs 332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 April</td>
<td>By Cash Receivd for 1 P of Oxens</td>
<td>85.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>By Cash Receivd for three Steers</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 15th</td>
<td>By Ditto...Ditto for 4 Calves</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>By Ditto...Ditto for 2 Head of Sheeps</td>
<td>(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>By Ditto...Ditto for Seed Potatoes</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>By Ditto...Ditto for Ballance On Rice</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 July</td>
<td>By Ditto...Ditto from John Igle in full of Acct.</td>
<td>Drs 14.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1796 The Este of G.P. Kellar To Mrs Catharine Kellar Drs

18 March To Cash paid for funeral Expenses & a
    Coffin for Mr Kellar  Drs 23_
10 May  To Cash paid for a negroe fellow & a Blankett  293_
20th   To Cash paid for Publishing the Citation for
    the Estate                2_
    To Cash paid for Letters of Administration
    & appraismant                     6_
  June  To Cash paid for Negro Cloath(?)for the Estate  26_
    (taped over)               
  7th   To Cash paid the Docter for Physick for Adam Kellar  4_
  15th  To Cash paid for 6 Hoes for the Estate             6_
  20th  To Cash paid for 5 Bushells Salt for the Estate   4_
  4 July To Cash paid for Sundry Cloaths for herself     30_
  5th   To Cash paid for Sundry Cloaths for Adam Kellar   37_
  7th   To Cash paid for Sundry Cloaths for Polly Kellar  21_
  1 August To Cash paid for the funeral Expences of a Child 8_
          Cash paid for 6 Chairs and One Table        ?
  Sepr 1 To Cash paid for Taxes for the Est the 1795     ?
  5th   To Cash paid for the Hire of a Dutch Girl       19_
1797 1 Jan To Cash paid for Taxes for the Est 1796      10_
  4 Feb  To Cash paid for Boarding Writing Paper
          Books Pencillis and Schooling of Adam Kellar  43_

Dollars 555_
Appendix II

The following three items are from Savannah newspapers published in July, 1806 concerning John Adam Kellar's alleged murder of Camillus Wilkins on June 23, 1806:

from the Columbian Museum & Savannah Advertiser
July 9, 1806, p.3, c.3 (partly condensed and abstracted):

COMMUNICATION

ON Monday afternoon, the 23d June, as Mr. Camillus Wilkins was returning home from Savannah, he met with John Adam Kellar on the road, and agreeable to the evidence of a Mrs. Hall, a person present, a difference arose betwixt said Kellar and Mr. Wilkins, when shocking to relate, Kellar without any or very little provocation, took up a large axe and struck Mr. Wilkins with the pole of it on the forehead, which fractured his skull in a dreadful manner. Mr. Wilkins remained speechless after he received the blow until the Friday Evening following, when he died in the most excruciating agonies. He has left a disconsolate widow to lament his untimely end... The above murderer, in order to escape that justice which certainly awaits him, went from this state to secret himself in South Carolina, and was assisted by two men who live in Cherokee Hill District, by the names of Benjamin Langley and Joseph L. Bridger, a vagrant...(but as soon as they found out that they were going to be indicted for aiding in the escape, Bridger "immediately" went to South Carolina and brought him back) "...hoping it might be thought that Kellar voluntarily gave himself up...Said Kellar is safely lodged in this Gaol...and it is sincerely hoped he will meet the fate he deserves.

1Benjamin Langley was John Adam's father-in-law, marrying George Paul Keller's widow in 1797 (see notes 21 & 22 in the main text). Catherine Langley was George Adam Keller's (b. 1821) grandmother on his father's side.

2No record was found showing him to be in the C.C. jail, Chatham County Jail Book 1805-1815, 42a, G.H.S.
from the Georgia Republican & State Intelligencer,
July 15, 1806, p.3, cs.2 &3:

Messrs. EVERITT & McLEAN

I observed a publication in the 'Columbian Museum' of the 9th instant, stating that I assisted John Adam Kellar in making his escape from this state, &c. which, I will prove to be FALSE. - When an individual is thus dragged before the public - when his character is assailed by one who remains behind the curtain, and who dares not come forward with his name, it is base, it is ungenerous, it is cowardly. I will endeavor to rob this base character who thus stabs me in the dark, of his concealment - then will I make him account for his assertions, then will I hold him up to public view.

On Friday next, I shall offer sufficient proof to convince every candid man of my innocence - and prove that the writer alluded to is a base villain, and I would fain rob me of my reputation, which is as clear to me as my life, if it was in his power. Monster in human shape, forget not that thou art accountable to thy God!

Josh. L. Bridger
from the *Georgia Republican*, July 18, 1806 (p. 3, c. 3):

**State of Georgia, Chatham County**

Personally appeared before me, John A. Keller, who being duty (?) sworn, deposeth and saith, that he met Joseph L. Bridger, the 30th of June, in South Carolina, the day on which the warrant was issued against the said Bridger, and this deponent saith that Bridger gave him no assistance in making his escape to South Carolina in any manner or wise whatever, further thus deponent saith not.  

JOHN A. KELLER

Sworn to before me, this 16th day of July, 1806

P. MCKENTY, J.P.

I now leave the public to judge of my innocence, fully persuaded that the base (?) attempt of a synonymous (sic) writer will have no effect with them; and that his assertions will be considered as the offspring of a slanderous bread (sic).

JOSEPH L. BRIDGER

---

2 John Adam Keller, in his sworn statement seems to be (to the author) giving credence to the charge of murdering Paul Wilkins, although no record was found showing a judgement against the former. Index to Judgements, Book 1, 1782-1868, and Judgement Docket-City Court 1801-1808, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah.
### Appendix III

The Estate of John Astell with Paul Astell Administrator

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td><strong>Cash paid by</strong> Auctioneer</td>
<td>15.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Amortelis</strong></td>
<td>2.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td><strong>David Hilt</strong> Auction for 1838</td>
<td>14.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Alex. Anderson</strong></td>
<td>10.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Edward Coppin</strong></td>
<td>28.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Messrs.</strong></td>
<td>14.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Messrs.</strong></td>
<td>17.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>A. Champion</strong></td>
<td>10.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>J.R. Hill</strong></td>
<td>2.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>James Walton</strong></td>
<td>2.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Messrs.</strong></td>
<td>7.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>McBride</strong></td>
<td>2.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Mr. Boghosian</strong></td>
<td>2.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Mr. Sunday</strong></td>
<td>8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Benjamin Wilson for Back</strong></td>
<td>11.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>James Bell Dovers</strong></td>
<td>8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Dovess for sundries</strong></td>
<td>39.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Champion &amp; Co.</strong></td>
<td>6.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Mr. Williams sundries</strong></td>
<td>1.96</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Mr. Rogers sundries</strong></td>
<td>1.55</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Dovers for 1834</strong></td>
<td>14.75</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Read Sunday Dovers</strong></td>
<td>10.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Tradesman for sundries</strong></td>
<td>5.90</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Mr. Harris</strong></td>
<td>2.95</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Messrs.</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Mr. Kelly &amp; Co.</strong></td>
<td>7.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Col. Astell &amp; Co.</strong></td>
<td>5.06</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Dovers for 1834</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Mr. Astell &amp; Co.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Mr. Astell &amp; Co.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Mr. Knapp</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Messrs.</strong></td>
<td>2.38</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>R.C. Wilson</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>W. Anderson</strong></td>
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</tr>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>26.70</td>
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*note-author has circled some entries.*
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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Amount due from...</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 24</td>
<td>For...</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 26</td>
<td>For...</td>
<td>$700.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 3</td>
<td>For...</td>
<td>$1,200.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 17</td>
<td>For...</td>
<td>$700.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 6</td>
<td>For...</td>
<td>$1,200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 26</td>
<td>For...</td>
<td>$700.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 16</td>
<td>For...</td>
<td>$1,200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 5</td>
<td>For...</td>
<td>$700.00</td>
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*Note: The table includes various amounts due for different dates and descriptions.*
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<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 23</td>
<td>12.5 paid for boat</td>
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<td>George</td>
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<td>Feb 6</td>
<td>Mr. Potts for one horse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 17</td>
<td>A. J. Redick for horse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 25</td>
<td>Paul Wilkins for horse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 7</td>
<td>Masr. Telford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 12</td>
<td>Mr. Chapman for children</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 17</td>
<td>Daniel Bell for horse</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>Mar 26</td>
<td>J. H. Maxwell</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 12</td>
<td>Russell for horse</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 17</td>
<td>for children's potatoes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Marcy</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 1</td>
<td>Paid for work</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 17</td>
<td>Lawyer's advice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 11</td>
<td>John O.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 14</td>
<td>Mary A.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 21</td>
<td>H. Lucas for bacon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 28</td>
<td>J. P. Roberts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 1</td>
<td>Mrs. Chapman</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 15</td>
<td>Margaret H.</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Paid for children's potatoes</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Paid for children</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
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<td>Paid for horse</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>Paid for horse</td>
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Total: $324.12
Report of Estate of (J. A. K.) by the

Freeholders appointed by the Court of

Ordinary filed 7 August 1886.

Edward A. Wilson

[Signature]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Balance of estate from last year.</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Paid to John P. Hillas for use of Stephen Hillas</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Paid to David Hillas State Stacks</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Paid to John P. Hillas for sundries</td>
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<tr>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
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</tr>
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<td>11</td>
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<td>14</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<td>16</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Paid to John P. Hillas for sundries</td>
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<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
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<td>22</td>
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<td>25</td>
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<td>28</td>
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<td>29</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
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Total: £92.28
*with Paul H. Keller, Administrator*

(1837)

By assignment of Philip Wimberly

$120.00

1. $100.00

2. $50.00

3. $100.00

of Nathan Wimberly to

for

of

of

of

$200.00

$100.00

$400.00

George:

Chatham County.

Before me personally

appeared Paul Keller, administrator on the estate

of John A. Keller deceased who being duly sworn deposes

that the inventory of account herein shown is

true to the best of his

knowledge and belief.


$45.45

$150.00

$100.00

$75.00

$25.00

$25.00

$15.00

$10.00

$25.00

$10.00

S. Keller

Isaac R. Jethro

Savannah, 1st January, 1838

$451.50

$700.33

$200.00

E. J. Middendorff

$922.00

$500.00
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<thead>
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<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>1834</td>
<td>Cash received for sale of rice</td>
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<tr>
<td>1834</td>
<td>Cash received for sale of barley</td>
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<td>1835</td>
<td>120.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1836</td>
<td>Balance of account</td>
<td>18.00</td>
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Total amount of debits: $2265.32

By balance to new account: $10.00

Errors excepted:
24 December 1836

Signed to before me:
6th March 1837

Examined of hand on
18th March 1837

Signature of S. Howland
children and of any other child or children born to me by her and I do hereby appoint her guardian of said children and of all the property real and personal to them given by this item of my Will and do hereby vest in her as such Guardian of said children full and unlimited power and authority to apply all rents issues and profits arising from the said property in this item of my will bequeathed to the joint use, benefit and advantage of herself and said children without the order of or accountability to, any Court or any person whatsoever. And is as much as I have by
State of Georgia,  Chatham County.

In the name of God; Amen;—

I George A. Keller of the County of Chatham and State of Georgia being of sound and disposing mind and memory, and intending to dispose of all my worldly possessions, while I have strength of mind and body so to do, do make declare and publish this as my last will and testament, hereby revoking all and any other wills, heretofore at any time by me made.

First:— I commit my soul to God who gave it, my body I direct shall be buried in our family burying ground at Salem Cemetery. My estate shall be disposed of as hereinafter directed.

Item 1st., I direct that all my just debts be paid by my executors hereinafter named.

Item 2nd., I give devise and bequeath unto my beloved wife, Mary E. Keller and unto each of our common children, George Peeples Keller, Flossie M. Keller and Bessie Ione Keller, and unto such other child or children as may hereafter be born to me by my said wife, Mary E. Keller, share and share alike, my present home and residence, known as Coldbrook and the entire tract of land whereto said residence stands to gether with all and singular the personal property now at my said home, such as household and kitchen furniture, farming utensils, horses cattle hogs sheep and poultry and generally all other property of any kind at said home at the time of my death; and in addition to said property at Coldbrook, I give devise and bequeath unto my said wife and said three children and unto such other child or children as my hereafter be born to me by my said wife, share and share alike all the lands of which I may die possessed lying on the Western side of the Florida Central and Peninsular Railroad in said County of Chatham and in the County of Effingham, and in as much as said children are of very tender years, and must be for many years almost entirely cared for by said Mary E. Keller, their mother, it is my wish that said Mary E. Keller be the Guardian of the persons and property of said three
by this item of my will given to my said wife her full and fair share of my estate, I direct that the property herein given to her shall be in lieu of all her right to Dower or to a year's support from my estate.

Item 3rd., I give devise and bequeath unto the following named persons, to-wit:— George A. Keller, Lamar Keller, W.W. Keller, Paul Keller, I.W. Keller, Georgia E. Keller, Adarene Ulmer, Ella Oliver, Jola Gilbert, Mattie B. Wells, and Gordon Saussy, all of whom save the last named, are my children by my former wife Martha J. Keller, and said last named is my grandson, who I direct shall take in place of his mother Gertrude Saussy, all the remainder of my estate, real and personal wherever found, share and share alike.

Item 4th., In order that each and every provision of this my will and testament shall be fully executed, I do hereby nominate and appoint my said wife Executrix and my said son Lamar Keller Executor of my last will and testament.

Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the 5th., day of March Anno Domini, 1898.

George A. Keller L.S.

Signed sealed declared and published by George A. Keller as his last will and testament in presence of us, the subscribers, who subscribe our names hereto in the presence of said testator at his instance and request and of each other, he signing in our presence and we signing in his presence as witnesses hereto.

Joe M. Lawrence
H.R. Castleberry
D.H. Clark.