HAZEN KIMBALL: SAVANNAH FACTOR

1767 - 1819

A Research Paper

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

For History 300

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Hazen Kimball, a prominent Savannah merchant, was a native of Concord, New Hampshire. The son of John and Anne Kimball, he owned his own mercantile establishment here in Savannah. Kimball was active in many aspects of society. He served as both Treasurer and Secretary Pro Tem of the Chamber of Commerce; he was a member of the New England Society of Georgia; and, he was a member of the Savannah Library Society, just to mention a few. Upon his death, because he never married, his brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews all received portions of his estate as his lawful heirs.
Hazen Kimball was born in Concord, New Hampshire in 1767. Born to John and Anne Kimball, he had three brothers, John, Benjamin and Samuel, and three sisters, Anna, Elizabeth and Sarah. Because he was only eleven years of age when the Revolutionary War began, Kimball was too young to have played any real significant role in the War for American Independence.

Before coming to Savannah, sometime between the years of 1800 and 1804, Hazen served as Private Secretary to the U. S. Secretary of State under John Adams, second President of the United States. After coming to Savannah he entered into a co-partnership with Mr. Alma Woodruff. This firm went by the name "Kimball & Woodruff" and sold goods received from ships in port as well as buying goods to supply the ships leaving port. Later, "the co-partnership of Kimball & Woodruff [was] dissolved by mutual consent on November 9, 1804."5

Sometime after his arrival in Savannah Hazen purchased a one-third interest in the brig "Eagle." On March 10, 1804 the following advertisement appeared in a local Savannah newspaper:

All who have claim against the prize Bon Pere', captured by the U. S. Brig Eagle and brought into this port in 1799 are requested to present them immediately to Hazen Kimball, agent for captors.
Upon his death, this one-third interest he had in the Brig Eagle was valued at $1,000.00. 8

After the co-partnership with Mr. Woodruff was dissolved, Hazen Kimball went into business for himself. He was considered a "factor" 9 and, as in his previous business venture, he would sell merchandise that was delivered to the port of Savannah. Some of the many items he sold included cotton, rum, pipes, hay, soap, "hum-hums", etc. 10 Kimball also advertised when ships were leaving port, usually "for freight or passage." For example, an ad appeared in the Columbian Museum and Savannah Advertiser in 1807: "For New York, The Schooner ISLEY, for freight or passage." 11 In September of 1807, Kimball advertised that he would "receive and forward orders for fruit trees at nursery of Daniel Smith and Co. in Burlington, New Jersey." 12 The diversity of the goods he sold suggests that Kimball had extensive business contacts throughout the United States.

Hazen Kimball might have had an active and prosperous business, but he still found time and energy to give to the various civic organizations in Savannah. In the last ten to twelve years of his life, Kimball devoted much of his time to such organizations as the Chamber of
Commerce, Savannah Library Association and the New England Society of Georgia. For several months throughout those last years of his life, Kimball was elected to the "monthly committee of the Chamber of Commerce." In 1810 his position in the Chamber advanced; he was elected to serve as Treasurer for the ensuing year, and, in 1812, he served as Secretary Pro Temp of the Chamber.

Not only was Hazen Kimball active in the Chamber, but he devoted time to several other civic organizations as well. In February of 1810, Kimball was "elected to the committee for examining the reports of the Treasurer and Librarian" of the Savannah Library Society. 16 1810 seemed to be a busy year for Mr. Kimball. In March, at a meeting of the New England Society of Georgia, he was elected as an "Assistant". Later in the month of March, in his capacity as Secretary Pro Temp, Kimball requested that the members of the Georgia Agricultural Society attend "an adjourned meeting for the election of officers." 18

Although Mr. Kimball was quite busy during 1810, he seems to have found time to take a little "vacation". In August of 1810, the following appeared in a local Savannah newspaper:

Hazen Kimball informs those who may have business with him, during his absence, that Mr.
Barna McKenzie will attend to such orders as may be left to him.19

In 1811, Hazen sold tickets here in Savannah for a lottery to be held in Liberty County, Georgia. The purpose of this lottery was "to raise $1,500.00 to enclose the burial ground of the Midway Church in Liberty County."20 In 1818 Kimball was chairman of a committee that met on January 24th to discuss the possibility of ridding the city of "Change Bills":

...it was resolved by those present that they would not, after the first day of February next receive any bill under the denomination of One Dollar; and that a committee be appointed to call upon the citizens generally, for their signatures to the above Resolution.21

On July, 1, 1819 (15 days before his death), Kimball served on a committee to arrange a 4th of July Party to commemorate the gaining of American Independence.22

Although Kimball was actively involved in certain aspects of society, he was negligent in others. For example, for the years 1807 and 1808 Hazen Kimball neglected to file tax returns. His name appeared in a list following this announcement:

Tax returns for 1807 will be received from the following defaulters until the 5th February next when the digest will be positively closed and transmitted to the Comptroller General's Office.23
As stated above, his name appeared on a similar list of defaulters for tax returns in 1808 as well. Finally, in August of 1810 his name appeared in an announcement advising all defaulters that the tax digest had been closed and all defaulters were "deemed" defaulters to the Clerk of the Inferior Court."  

Not only was Kimball lax about his tax returns, he also failed to report for jury duty. The first time this occurred was in 1808, when his name appeared in a list with the following announcement attached, written by M. Whitley, Clerk, Chatham County:

...having been duly summoned by the Coroner of Chatham County to attend him as jurors on several inquests lately held, and they have made default, 

Are hereby notified, that unless they do severally come forward and file their excuses (if any they have), with the Clerk of the Superior Court of this County within ten days...executions will be issued against them.  

This incident occurred again in 1810 when Kimball was summoned by the Sheriff to serve as a juror, then subsequently defaulted. He, along with others, was fined $20.00 unless they could show just cause for such default within thirty days. Again, in April of 1810 he was fined $20.00 for jury default. For all his neglect, Kimball still managed to be appointed constable, along with Jonathon
Meigs, for Captain Pemberton's District. The bond required by all appointed was $40.00.\textsuperscript{29}

As befits a man of his wealth\textsuperscript{30} and position in society, Hazen Kimball owned several slaves and several pieces of property. Kimball appears in the Deed Records of Chatham County, Georgia for the first time in 1805. For the consideration of $350.00 Kimball sold to Robert and John Bolton "Lot Numbers 257, 258, 259 and 260 for one-half of the Georgia Republican Printing Press, sold at auction.\textsuperscript{31} Kimball doesn't appear again in the public records of Chatham County until June of 1810 when he sold a negro man named Hammett to Jonathon Meigs (who served with him as constable) for $450.00. This negro was sold to Hazen Kimball on December 30, 1809 by Abraham Richards.\textsuperscript{32}

In the latter years of his life Kimball was active not only in civic organizations, but in the buying and selling of property as well. In March of 1812 Hazen bought a negro woman, born on the "Island of Domingo", named Catin from John Gilbert.\textsuperscript{33} A year later in 1813 Kimball bought from Richard Leake a negro man of about 27 years of age, named Quaille, for the consideration of $500.00. Interestingly, on the face of this document he transfers his interest in said property to a Mrs. Teresa Pine for
a consideration of $400.00. Kimball doesn't appear again in the Deed Records until 1816. In January Kimball bid on the Courthouse steps for the following described property: "Lot 16, Jackson Ward, lately in the South Common, 90 feet in length, 65 feet in depth." This property was sold by the Mayor and Alderman of the City of Savannah and was valued at $1,500.00. Kimball was the highest bidder and was directed to pay the City Treasurer the sum of $232.00. The ground rent for the property was set at $55.68 per annum, the first payment being due on April 3, 1816.

In May of 1817, Kimball purchased Lot 30, Elbert Ward for a consideration of $680.00 from Thomas Gibbons, Executor under the Will of Patrick McKinley. The ground rent for this property was $28.39 per annum. Incidentally, Kimball bought this property at public auction on the Courthouse steps by being the highest bidder. In August of 1817, Hazen Kimball, along with George Glen, sold to Samuel M. Bond for the consideration of $900.00 "Lot 30, Elbert Ward." This property was 90 feet by 90 feet and had a yearly ground rent of $78.39. This was originally purchased by James Gaffney. Later in the month, Kimball bought the Eastern one-half of Lot 15, Warren Ward for a consideration of $1,800.00, from Alfred Cuthbert.
special interest, on April 7, 1819, Kimball sold to Gardner Tufts a negro man named Morris for a consideration of $690.00. The interesting part is that eight days later Hazen Kimball bought for $690.00 from Gardner Tufts a negro slave named Morris. Did he sell this slave to avoid paying taxes on him or was Gardner Tufts dissatisfied with the sale? A month later he sold a negro slave named Boston, aged approximately 30 years, to Jacob P. Henry. Finally, in July of 1818 Hazen Kimball sold to Josiah Penfield for a consideration of $2,050.00 an undisclosed piece of property.

In December of 1806, Hazen Kimball, along with Eli Wainwright applied for Letters of Administration of Prosper Hubbard, deceased. Later, in 1807, in an ad published by Thomas Burke, Clerk of the Court of Ordinary, in a local Savannah newspaper, appeared the following:

Hazen Kimball has made an application for Letters of Administration of the estate and effects of Prosper Hubbard, as creditor.

On January 19, 1816 Hazen Kimball executed his Will. In the preamble he states that he is the son of John and Anne Kimball. In Item I he states that the funeral be as least expensive as is possible. He also designates that he be buried in a "coffin made of pine."
of his Last Will and Testament he made his bequests: to his mother he left the painting of himself; to his brother, John Kimball, he left the sum of $200.00 and relinquished any monies that John might owe him at the time of his death; to his sister Anna, Kimball left "a heart pin fit with pearls"; his sister, Elizabeth Morrell, was to receive a pin and the sum of $100.00; his brother, Samuel Ayer Kimball, was to receive all his books of a public or official nature. He also made bequests to his nieces and nephews. In Item V, Kimball designates that:

...one-half of [his] estate not disposed of above be given to [his] parents, or either of them, the other one-half to be given to [his] brothers and sisters.

Lastly, he appoints Barna McKinne, Jonathon Meigs and Almer Woodruff (his early business partner) Executors of his Will.

Interestingly enough, on March 1, 1817 Kimball revokes his previous Will. He stated that if he died intestate (without a will) he wished his property to be distributed to his brothers Benjamin and Jonathon and his sisters in the following percentages:

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<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jonathon</td>
<td>6/20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benjamin</td>
<td>2/20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anna</td>
<td>2/20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth</td>
<td>3/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah</td>
<td>3/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nieces and nephews</td>
<td>4/20</td>
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</tbody>
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He also indicated that $100.00 be invested "in the best and approved treatise" or books on conveyancing and selecting and to give same to my brother Samuel in full of his proportion." He then estimated his estate to be worth $20,000.00 to $25,000.00.

As an afterthought, Kimball directed that the Bill of Sale in his possession from "Mrs. T. Payne for her two negro women Sophia and Lucy and her two children and of Quaille, bought by R. Leake, bought for an paid by her are to be given upon her paying whatever may be due from her on my books." In the event of her death, he intended that the negroes become a part of his "absolute estate", to be distributed among his heirs at his death.

Hazen Kimball died on July 16, 1819. He was fifty-two years old. Because he never married, the bulk of his estate was left to his brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews. When he revoked his previous will and gave an indication as to how he wished his estate to be distributed, he never had it witnessed; therefore, it could not be considered a will and he, for all intents and purposes, was considered to have died intestate. Kimball was buried in Laurel Grove Cemetery in Lot Number 453.
The obituary published in the Darien Gazette described Hazen Kimball as being "a man of excellent talent and a benevolent heart." Like the previous obituary, the one published by the Columbian Museum and Savannah Gazette described Kimball as one of the "brightest ornaments of society" and stated that he acquired his "extensive fortune without stooping to meanness." The obituary in the Darien Gazette ended as follows:

Heaven to his spirit and
Peace to his ashes

From all indications, it appears that Hazen Kimball, Savannah factor and native of Concord, New Hampshire would be sorely missed by not only friends and relatives, but business acquaintances as well.
FOOTNOTES

1. Index to Wills, Estates and Administrations, Office of the Clerk of the Probate Court of Chatham County, Georgia. These Wills, etc., are contained on microfilm. Kimball's Will, as well as the administration of his estate, may be found on pages 236-273.

2. The earliest reference found locally for Kimball was in the Georgia Gazette for 2 October 1800 (page 2, column 3). I was not able to read the page that this reference was contained on, so the exact date of his arrival in Savannah is sketchy.

3. Darien Gazette, 26 July 1819 (page 3, column 3).

4. Columbian Museum and Savannah Advertiser, 5 May 1804 (page 1, column 1).

5. Columbian Museum and Savannah Advertiser, 10 November 1804 (page 3, column 3).

6. Index to Wills, Estates and Administrations, Office of the Clerk of the Probate Court of Chatham County, Georgia, 1 January 1820; appraisal of the Estate of Hazen Kimball.

7. Columbian Museum and Savannah Advertiser, 10 March 1804 (page 2, column 5).

8. Index to Wills, Estates and Administrations, Office of the Clerk of the Probate Court of Chatham County, Georgia, 1 January 1820; appraisal of the Estate of Hazen Kimball.


10. In most of the Savannah newspapers Kimball would advertise goods that he just received for sale. One such ad appeared in the Columbian Museum and Savannah Advertiser, 2 April 1806 (page 3, column 5).

11. Columbian Museum and Savannah Advertiser, 2 May 1807 (page 3, column 2).

13. Columbia Museum and Savannah Advertiser; 3 April 1807 (page 3, column 3); Republican and Savannah Evening Ledger, 8 May 1810 (page 3, column 3).


15. Republican and Savannah Evening Ledger, 10 November 1812 (page 3, column 1).

16. Columbia Museum and Savannah Advertiser, 8 February 1810 (page 3, column 3).

17. Republican and Savannah Evening Ledger, 13 March 1810 (page 3, column 2).

18. Republican and Savannah Evening Ledger, 29 March 1810 (page 3, column 2).


20. Republican and Savannah Evening Ledger, 17 January 1811 (page 2, column 1).


22. Columbia Museum and Savannah Gazette, 1 July 1819 (page 3, column 1).

23. Republican and Savannah Evening Ledger, 19 January 1808 (page 2, column 2).

24. Republican and Savannah Evening Ledger, 5 November 1808 (page 4, column 1).

25. Republican and Savannah Evening Ledger, 4 August 1810 (page 2, column 2).

26. Republican and Savannah Evening Ledger, 30 August 1808 (page 3, column 3).
37. Deed dated 1 August 1817, recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Chatham County, Georgia, in Deed Record Book 2-H, Page 86.

38. Deed dated 9 August 1817, recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Chatham County, Georgia, in Deed Record Book 2-H, Page 102.

39. Deed dated 7 April 1818, recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Chatham County, Georgia, in Deed Record Book 2-H, Page 395.

40. Deed dated 15 April 1818, recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Chatham County, Georgia, in Deed Record Book 2-H, Page 396.

41. Deed dated 28 May 1818, recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Chatham County, Georgia, in Deed Record Book 2-H, Page 571.

42. Deed dated 24 July 1818, recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Chatham County, Georgia, in Deed Record Book 2-I, Page 4. The only reference to a piece of property contained in this deed was described as "property in aforementioned deed." I was unable to correctly discern the exact legal description of the property herein conveyed.

43. **Columbian Museum and Savannah Advertiser**, 24 December 1806 (page 3, column 4). This legal notice was published by Edward White, Clerk, Court of Ordinary, Chatham County, Georgia.

44. **Republican and Savannah Evening Ledger**, 18 August 1807 (page 4, column 4).

45. Will filed with the Clerk of the Probate Court of Chatham County, Georgia, Microfilm File Number K-1, Pages 236-273, filed for record 3 May 1816.

46. **Id.**

47. **Id.**

49. Will filed with the Clerk, Probate Court of Chatham County, Georgia, Microfilm File Number K-1, pages 236-273.

50. Id.

51. Id.

52. Marriages and Deaths, 1763 to 1820, Mary Hondurant Warren. Darien, Georgia: Heritage Papers. This gives an alphabetical list of marriages and deaths from the years 1763 to 1820.

53. Laurel Grove Cemetery, Savannah, Georgia, Chatham County, Georgia, General Index to Keepers' Records, 1832-1838. Volume II. Again, this index is in alphabetical order. Special remarks: Kimball's remains were removed from the old cemetery.

54. Darien Gazette, 26 July 1819 (page 3, column 3).

55. Columbian Museum and Savannah Advertiser, 20 July, 1819 (page 3, column 2).

56. Darien Gazette, 26 July 1819 (page 3, column 3).
27. Republican and Savannah Evening Ledger, 10 March 1810 (page 3, column 1). This announcement was issued in the February Term (1810) of the Inferior Court of Chatham County, Georgia, Job T. Bolles, Clerk.

28. Republican and Savannah Evening Ledger, 3 April 1810 (page 4, column 2).

29. Republican and Savannah Evening Ledger, 19 April 1808 (page 3, column 4). This announcement was run by the Inferior Court of Chatham County, Georgia.

30. In his Will Kimball estimated his estate to be valued at $20,000.00 to $25,000.00. Because he died intestate, the previous will having been revoked, an inventory was made of his estate. As stated before, these records are filed with the Clerk, Probate Court of Chatham County, Georgia, on microfilm, and are very difficult to read.

31. Deed dated 18 July 1805, recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Chatham County, Georgia, in Deed Record Book 2, Page 341. The property description in this Deed is difficult to read. There are no previous indications (that I could find) that Kimball had bought an interest in the Georgia Republican Printing Press.

32. Deed dated 21 June 1810, recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Chatham County, Georgia, in Deed Record Book 2-C, Page 607.

33. Deed dated 5 March 1812, recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Chatham County, Georgia, in Deed Record Book 2-D, Page 347.

34. Deed dated 21 January 1813, recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Chatham County, Georgia, in Deed Record Book 2-E, Pages 566-567.

35. Deed dated 3 January 1816, recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Chatham County, Georgia, in Deed Record Book 2-H, Page 104.

36. Deed dated 22 May 1817, recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Chatham County, Georgia, in Deed Record Book 2-H, Pages 81-82.
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