

The Michael Keller Family

A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON A
CONFUSING FAMILY AS THEY
ESTABLISHED THEMSELVES
BETWEEN THE SANTEE RIVER
AND THE FOUR HOLES SWAMP

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Voyaging on the *Cunliffe*

- ▶ The family of Michael Keller arrived in South Carolina on the *Cunliffe* in Sep 1752, and Michael Keller soon petitioned the Council for land and bounty. His petition was heard and approved Thursday A.M. 7th December 1752 .

"The Petition of Michael Keller humbling setting forth That the petitioner arrived here in the ship Cunlif, Cap't Joseph Cleater, Comm'r, bound from Rotterdam to this place and on the Encouragement that is given here to foreign Protestants and is discharged from the ship and is desirous to settle in this province. That he has six children viz Hans Mich'l aged 22 years, Jacob 17 years, Barbara 16, Frederick aged 14, and Maria aged 11 years and never had any Land granted to him, prays to lay out 350 acres of land free of charges and that he may have his most Gracious majestys Provision Bounty. Michael Keller. The prayer thereof was granted."

The Keller confusion begins

- ▶ The enumerated children of Michael Keller, *Cunliffe* immigrant:
 - ▶ Hans Mich'l aged 22 years
 - ▶ Jacob 17 years
 - ▶ Barbara 16
 - ▶ Frederick aged 14, and
 - ▶ Maria aged 11 years
- ▶ No matter how many times you count them . . . This is five children and no wife is mentioned. And yet, his "prayer" for 350 acres was granted, when such grants were 50 acres for each household member. There is an unnamed sixth child, who also does not appear in later records.

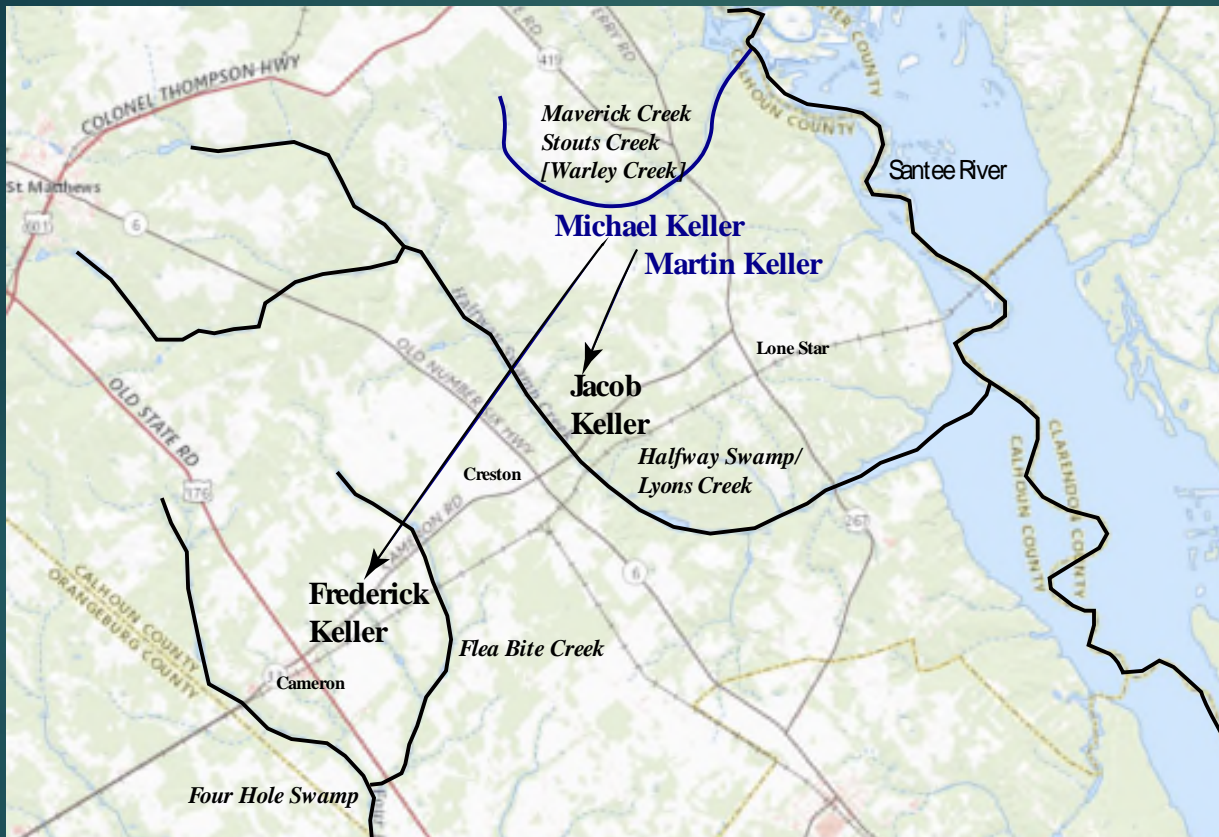
Another relative, Martin Keller, was on the *Cunliffe*

- ▶ Martin Keller's petition was heard by the Council on Thursday A.M. 7th December 1752:
- ▶ "The Petition of Martin Keller humbly setting forth That he petitioner shipt himself at Rotterdam on board the ship Cunlif, Cap't Joseph Cleater, Commander, bound from thence to this place. The petitioner is discharged from the ship and desires to live in this province, where as yet not any land has been given him, prays to lay out 50 acres of land free of charges and that he may have his most Gracious majestys Provision Bounty. Cha's Town, the 5 day of Decem'r 1752. Martin Keller. The prayer thereof was granted."

Michael's Land on Maverick Creek



- ▶ In 1753 a 350 acre plat was filed for Michael Keller, on Maverick Creek bounding NW on John Koneith and SW on John Riddlesperger. Peter Fauré was surveyor.
- ▶ In 1754 a 350 acre grant was given to "Martin Keller" on Maverick Creek.
- ▶ A long series of SCDAH records for other landowners confirms that it was Michael, not Martin, who received the 350 acre grant.



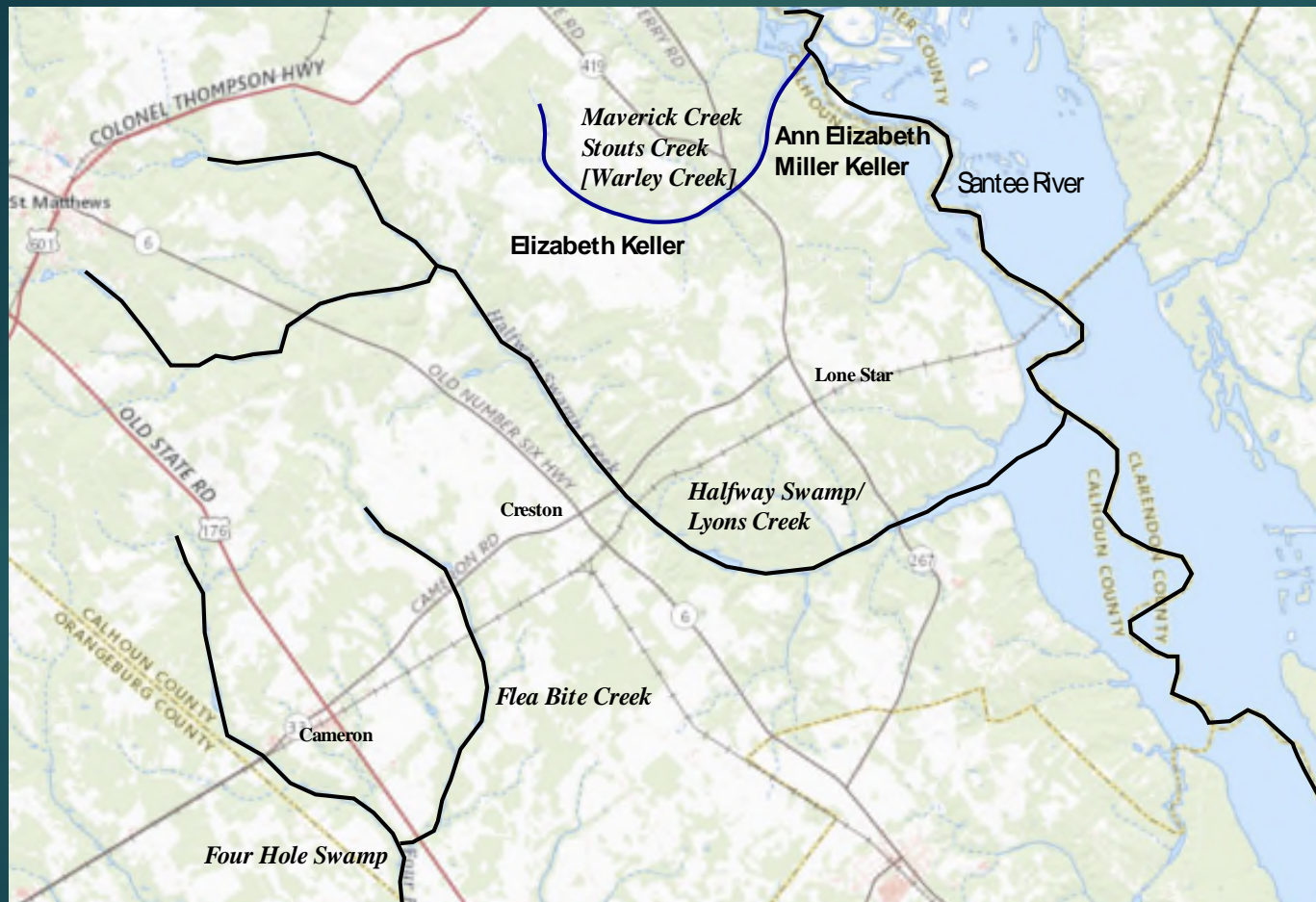
The Keller Landscape

The 1773 Landscape



Elizabeth Keller on Maverick Creek

- ▶ In 1773 A Henry Coon Memorial stated that he acquired a 50 acre tract granted to Ann Elizabeth Miller on 13 Aug 1756, noting that Miller married Michael Keller. We don't know which Michael Keller.
- ▶ In 1757 Elizabeth Keller was mentioned in a Maverick Creek plat for Moses Kirkland (a surveyor and land speculator), with land "surveyed for" her bounding SE on Kirkland's land. Kirkland's plat also bounded NW on Peter Crim, SW on John King. This property would have been near the confluence of Maverick Creek and the Santee River.
- ▶ In 1771 Elizabeth Keller signed a memorial by Mathias Sciprit [Syphrett] bounding SW on Conrad Beck and David Merkely, NW on Merkley and Peter Beck, NE on Henry Garrick and SE on Conrad Holman. This was in an area between Maverick Creek and Halfway Swamp.



Elizabeth
Keller

John and George Keller on Maverick Creek

- ▶ In 1773 John Keller filed a plat for 200 aces in Amelia Township with a chain of title to John Frederick's grant of 1752 with neighbors Garrett Fitzpatrick, John Pine, Mary and Michael Taylor, and J. G. Walker.
- ▶ John Keller then appears in the 1790 census with two males under the age of 16 and a woman of his own age living near Fredrick Pine, Andrew Irick, Jacob Hover, Martin Irick, and Jacob Rumph.
- ▶ A single reference has been found to George Keller, in the 1810 census, where he is listed as a male 26-45 with two women of the same age range and three children. Proximity to the Pine and Houser families and other evidence suggests that he may be a son of John Keller.

Barbara Keller Near Maverick Creek

- ▶ Barbara Kellar [Keller] appears in the 1790 census. She could be the original *Cunliffe* immigrant of that name but her household included a male under 16 and a male over 16, suggesting that she was the widow of one of the immigrant males.
- ▶ Barbara's census neighbors include Gasper Vaults and Andrew Houser, Senr., who were adjacent, and Adam Keabler, John Watt, John Cupsted, John Hover, John Hackle, John Whetstone and Adam Whetstone. Some of the same families were on "True Love" or "Joiner" Creek immediately north of Maverick Creek, as reflected in a 1774 plat for Peter Keiger that listed Michael Keller as an adjacent landowner.

Martin Keller on Maverick Creek



- ▶ Martin Keller acquired a grant for 50 acres on Maverick Creek adjacent "old Martin" (Michael) Keller and John Riddlesperger.
- ▶ The plat was filed in 1753.
- ▶ The land was granted in 1754.

Jacob J. Keller and his son Aaron on Maverick [Stouts, Warley] Creek

- ▶ Apparent successors to Martin were Jacob J. Keller and his son Aaron. In 1849 Aaron filed a plat for land that appears to be the same as that originally granted to Martin Keller, although the drainage was then known as “Stowts” or “Stouts” Creek.
- ▶ Jacob was born 30 Apr 1771. He married Christina Houser on 30 Jul 1799 at St. Matthews Lutheran Church.
- ▶ Their son Aaron was baptized 17 Nov 1799 at St. Matthews Lutheran Church. (Ahem.)
- ▶ Son Martin Andrew was baptized 11 Jun 1809, his name adding weight to the inference that Jacob was a son of Martin Keller.
- ▶ On 10 Sep 1841 this Jacob Keller was buried at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, aged 70 years, 4 months, 10 days.

St Matthews Lutheran Church



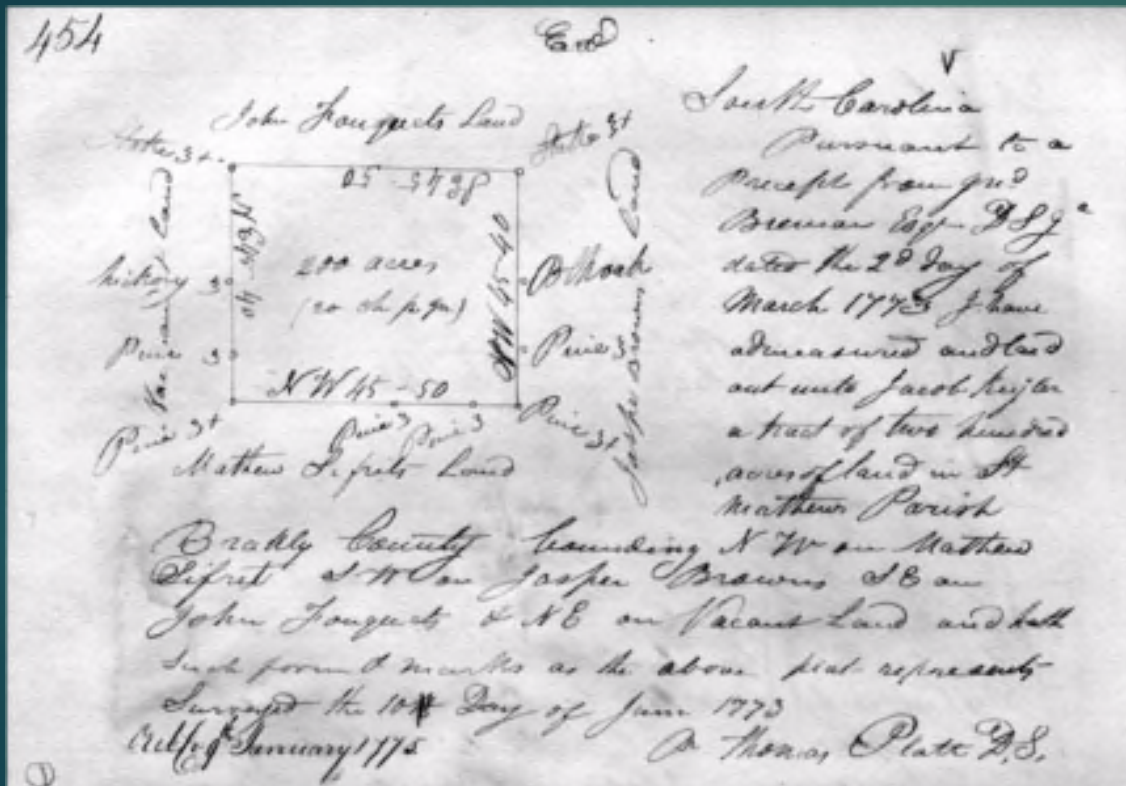
And so, the Maverick Creek Kellers

- ▶ Michael, the original immigrant, and his family
- ▶ John Keller and George, possibly his son
- ▶ Ann Elizabeth Miller Keller, wife of Michael [I or II?]
- ▶ Barbara Keller, possible widow of one of Michael I's sons
- ▶ Martin Keller with his son Jacob J. Keller, and his sons Aaron and Martin Andrew

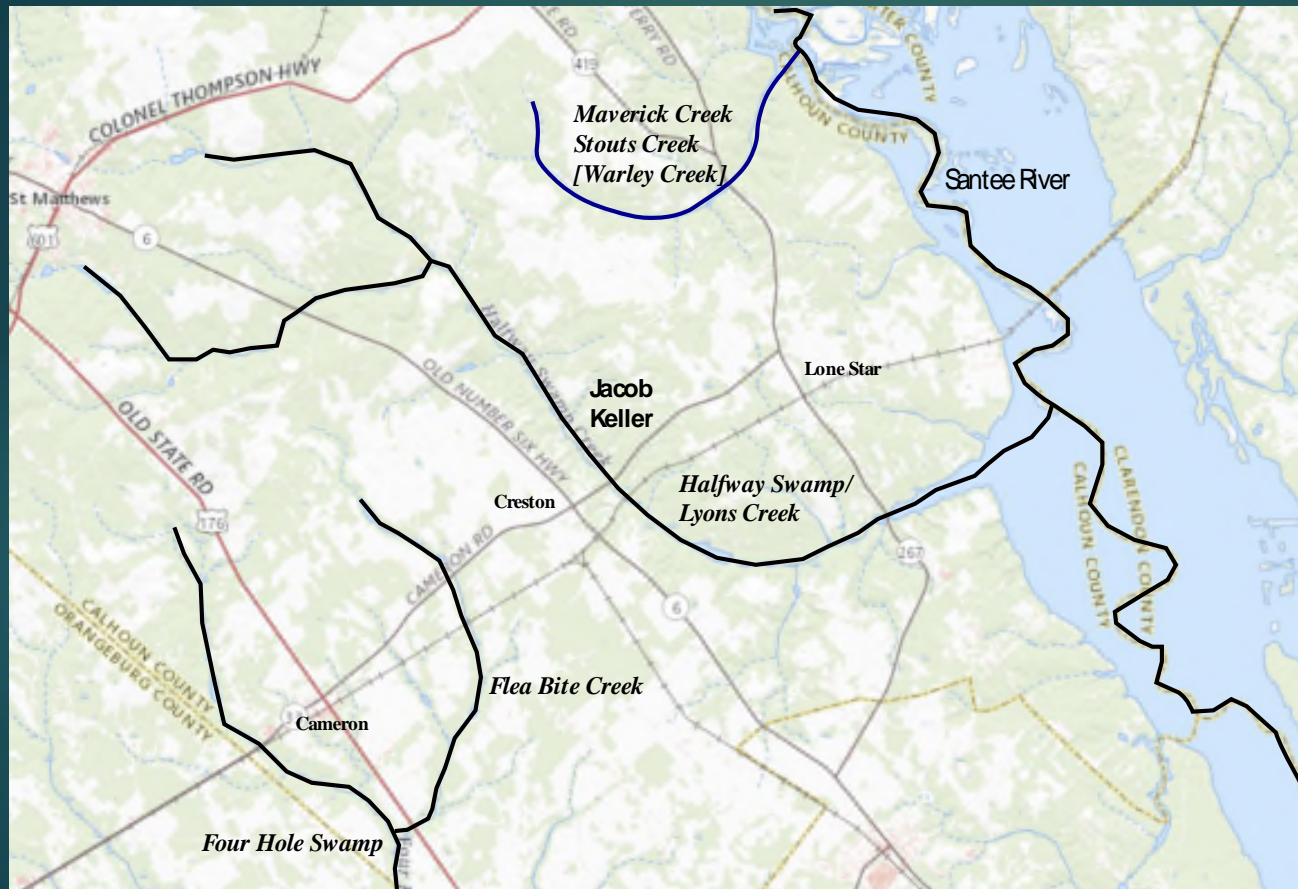
Moving Southwest: Jacob Keller Gets Land of His Own

- ▶ A 1769 plat for John Rost [Rast] shows that Jacob Keller owned land between Flea Bite Creek and Halfway Swamp. Rast's plat bounded SW on Jacob Hickler [Haigler], NW on Jacob Watts and Jacob Kallers [Keller]. This was surely the immigrant Jacob.
- ▶ A 1773 plat for Jacob Keyler [Keller] for 200 acres on Lyons Creek [Halfway Swamp] bounded NW on Mathew Sifret, SW on Jasper Brown, SE on John Fouquet, and NE on vacant land. This property was located east of Halfway Swamp, and apparently NE of the modern intersection of Hwy. 33 and Old Six at Creston.
- ▶ Mathew Sifret also appears in a 1771 memorial by Mathias Sciprit (Syphrett/Syfrett/Sifret) for 100 acres bounded SW on Conrad Beck and David Merkley, NW on Merkley and Peter Beck, NE on Henry Garrick and SE on Conrad Holman and Mathias Seifrits. It was signed 22 Oct 1771 by Elizabeth Keller.

Jacob Keller's Plat



- ▶ Jacob Keller's 200 acre property was granted in 1775.
- ▶ This property seems to have been the initial foundation of the properties of the Keller family on Halfway Swamp or Lyons Creek, near what is today Creston.



Jacob
Keller

The Jacob Keller Household in 1810

- ▶ In the 1810 census Jb Keller's household was enumerated as consisting of two males born before 1765 with younger family members including a male age 16-25 and therefore born in about 1785-94. They were adjacent Jo. Keller and near Go. Rast, Jn. Rast, C. Beck, Mr. Waltz, Fak. Mintz, Go. Barber, Fk. King, Gaspr. Barber, Js Tool, Cl. Holman. William Keller, who will appear as a head of household in the next census, was born 1793 and is probably the adolescent here.
- ▶ Jacob Waltz owned land immediately south of Conrad Holman on Boggy Gully, tributary of Lyons Creek. Frederick King owned land near Conrad Holman and George Kitts on Halfway Swamp/Lyons Creek.

William and Christina Keller's Family

- ▶ William Keller was among the founding members of Shady Grove Methodist Church, built on land donated by Adam Holman. Other members include Melchior Holman, Cummings Keller, and Henry Ott, Sr.
- ▶ William Keller married Christianna Kennerly, daughter of Thomas Kennerly, Jr., and Anne Keitt, thus tying himself to the Kennerly, Kitt/Keitt, and Holman families of Halfway Swamp.
- ▶ Christina Keller joined Shady Grove Church in 1818.
- ▶ In 1818 William Keller was listed in the St. Matthews Parish tax list with 200 acres of taxable land and 9 enslaved persons. It is very likely that this 200 acres was the parcel granted to Jacob "Keyler" in 1775.
- ▶ In 1820, William Keller was 27 years old. The census shows his household with two males 26-56, one male under 10 (William Russell Keller), one female under 10, one female over 45 (apparently Christiana misclassified) and 11 enslaved persons.
- ▶ In 1826 and 1831 William Keller was a manager of elections in St. Matthews Parish



Shady Grove UMC

William's Family Grows

- ▶ William Keller, Sr. was listed in the 1830 census with 1 male < 5 [?], 1 male 5-9 [?], 1 male 10-14 [William Russell], 1 male 30-39 [William Keller Sr], 1 female under 5 [Virginia Kennerly Keller], 1 female 5-9 [Ellen W. Keller], 1 female 20-29 [?], 1 female 30-39 [Christiana Kennerly Keller], and 20 enslaved persons. The adult male 26-45 years old living with William in the 1820 census has either moved out or died.
- ▶ The 1840, 1850, and 1860 censuses also document the William Keller Family. Neighbors remain broadly consistent with those in 1820, and also with those of the earlier Jacob Keller family.
- ▶ John Keller, who lived nearby, is not known to have left descendants. William made up for it with his abundant family.

William and Christianna's Brood

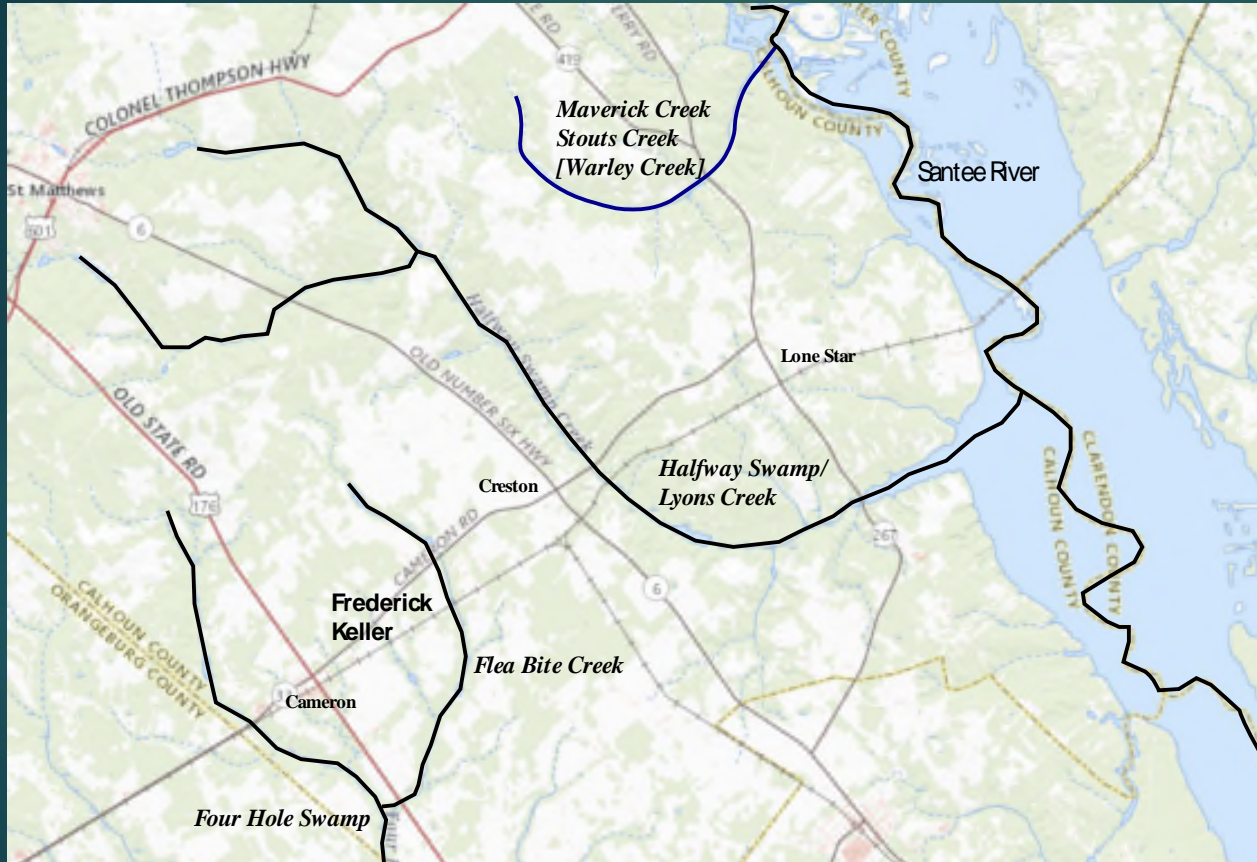
- ▶ The children of William and Christianna included:
 - ▶ William Russell Keller, who married Ann C. Shuler
 - ▶ Ellen W. Keller, who married Thomas Holman Wolfe
 - ▶ Virginia Kennerly Keller, who married Warren Adam Shuler
 - ▶ Sarah Ann Keller, who married Francis ("Frank") Pelzer
 - ▶ Martha Keller, who married William S. Prothro, Sr.
 - ▶ Mary A. Keller, who married Harvey Cogswell
 - ▶ Thomas Kennerly Keller, MD, who married Anna Florella Holman

Frederick Keller Land on Halfway Swamp

- ▶ 1789 plat for **Frederick Keller** for 176 acres adjacent Gasper Brown, Fuquet [John Fouquette], (Lyon's Creek, Creston area).
- ▶ 1789 Bounty grant to **Frederick Keller** for 17 acres adj. Gasper Brown, Frederick Keller, Mathew Sephait [Syphret]. This area is near the **Jacob Keyler** grant of 1773, a short distance NE of the modern intersection of Hwy 33 and Old Six on Halfway Swamp.
- ▶ However, no **Frederick Keller** appears in the census in the area immediately around modern Creston. The family in this area appears to derived from the **Jacob Keller** who obtained 200 acres there in 1773.

Frederick Keller on Flea Bite Creek

- ▶ In the 1790 census Frederick Keller appeared adjacent Daniel Kemmerlin and Henry Switzer, and near John Burchard, Jacob Beck, Adam Kirrick, Henry Kirrick, Barbarah Moorer, William Whetstone, John Zimmerman, and Rudy Murph. His household included 3 males over 16, 4 males under 16, and 2 females. His neighbors place him firmly in the area that became Cameron, in the fork between the Four Holes and Flea Bite Creek. This Frederick Keller does not reappear in the census.
- ▶ On 26 Jan 1809 Frederick Keller died, his age given as 67. He was buried from St. Matthews Lutheran Church. Despite a 5 year age discrepancy this is virtually certain to have been the Frederick, son of Michael, who immigrated on the Cunliffe.



Frederick Keller

Near Flea Bite Creek and the Frederick Keller Family Cemeteries



The Frederick Keller Family Grows

- ▶ In 1810, Frederick is followed in the census by “Jb. And F. Keller.” The census neighbors of this Jacob and Frederick Keller identify them as successors of the earlier Frederick Keller, but they are too young to have been the immigrant Frederick. The household included one male born 1776-84 (probably Frederick Keller who married Catherine b. 1781) and Jacob.
- ▶ Frederick Keller was listed in the 1818 tax list with 236 acres of taxable land and 6 enslaved persons.
- ▶ In 1820 Frederick Keller was listed with his household adjacent Jacob Keller and Catherine Holman, while Jacob was listed with a separate household.
- ▶ A grave marker in “Keller Cemetery No. 1” shows that this Frederic Keller “died 6 Aug 1826, aged 44 yrs. And 9 mons.”

More of Frederick's Lineage

- ▶ In 1840 Frederick's widow Catherine is listed with her own household including a male 5-9 and a male 20-29 along with herself and 7 enslaved persons. She was adjacent her son Morgan Keller.
- ▶ Catherine Keller died 16 Dec 1880, aged 89 yrs, 10 mons. As indicated on her grave marker at Keller Cemetery No. 1
- ▶ In 1850 Morgan Keller is listed in the census at age 35, wife Frances 28. They were adjacent Warren Shuler and his wife Virginia Kennerly Keller Shuler, daughter of William Keller and Christiana Kennerly Keller.
- ▶ Their children in 1850:
 - ▶ John E aged 10,
 - ▶ William H. age 6,
 - ▶ Georgianna, age 4.

Jacob Keller on Flea Bite Creek

- ▶ As we noted in the 1810 census reference, a Jacob Keller lived with and later adjacent Frederick Keller of Flea Bite Creek.
- ▶ This Jacob Keller appears in the 1820, 1830, and 1840 censuses. The census indicates that he was born 1761-70.
- ▶ In 1830 a female 10-14 was in his household, so he may have had a daughter. There were also 15 enslaved persons. In 1840, there was a male 15-19, a female 5-9, and 18 enslaved persons.
- ▶ This is probably the Jacob Keller associated with Keller Cemetery No. 2, which is located across Hwy. 33 from Keller Cemetery No. 1. That cemetery holds Mary Magdalene Keller, presumably the Rast of that name who married Jacob as indicated in a penciled note in the St. Matthews Lutheran Church parish register.

And Some Leftovers:

Jb. Keller, Jn. Keller, and Fd. Keller

- ▶ The 1810 census lists three Kellers on Page 130 stamped [157]. The census neighbors of the Kellers of Page 130 of the 1810 census were (in order) Ann McDonald, Ce. Rush, Aw. Lintch, Jn. Bookhard, (Jb. Keller, Jn. Keller) Jn. Darsh, Jn. Neuler, Aw. Stillonger, Pr. Keibler or Kubler, Jn. Wilson, Dl. Geisstanner, Jb. Shoemaker, Js. Harsbowski, Js. Killingsworth, Js. Gibson (Fd. Keller), Gasper Burket, J. A. Hoofman [John Andrew Hoffman], Aw. Sellers, Wm. Karrick [Carrick, Garrick], Jo. Hair, Aw. Zigler, Go. Ziglar, Ts. Haslem, Cr. King, Jb. Ziglar [Zeigler], Wm. Roye, Jb Whitstone, Jo. Stifflemire, etc.
- ▶ None appear with separate households in the 1790 census, so they were presumably represented as younger males in Keller (or possibly other) households in that enumeration.

So, Where Are We?

- ▶ How many Jacobs? How many Fredericks? How many Elizabeths or Barbaras? These are questions that may be answerable but haven't been answered yet.
- ▶ We do know that we have three major Keller clusters derived from the Keller families on the *Cunliffe* in 1752:
 - ▶ Maverick Creek Kellers, descendants of Michael and Martin Keller
 - ▶ Halfway Swamp/Lyons Creek Kellers, probable descendants of immigrant Jacob Keller
 - ▶ Flea Bite Creek Kellers, probable descendants of immigrant Frederick Keller.



To Be Continued . . .