

Several members of John's former slaves changed their testimony from loyalty at one time to disloyalty several years later. All this must have delayed the proceedings. Witnesses describing John and Mary (the wife referred to them as an old couple with snow white hair. In 1862, he was only 68 and she was 63.)

William Read, Savez's father, was born in Montgomery County, Tennessee on Jan. 8, 1811, moved to Alabama with his family in 1822, and on to Mississippi in 1828 when eleven years old. The next we know of him is his marriage to Maria Louisa Dotson on Oct. 6 1836 in Madison County, Mississippi.

Yazoo County lists William Read as a white resident in the 1840 census. There is also a listing of William Read as an original landowner of Yazoo County property in 1833. Family tradition is that William's son, Savez, was born in Yazoo County at a place called Savez. Today it looks to be little more than a cross road, Savez a score, Savez much more.

William and Maria Louisa's children were:
Charles William Read 1840-1890
John William Read 1834-1898
Joseph Brown Read 1844-1919
Elizabeth Catherine Read 1846-ca 1884
William George Read 1849-1909

John became a Presbyterian minister to the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians in Oklahoma. He lived in Wapanucka, Oklahoma. Joe lost a leg during the war, yet traveled shortly afterwards to Nova Scotia with a relative. He returned and went to Philadelphia to Jefferson Medical College and became a physician. He moved to Texas and practiced medicine at the college in Sherman and also at Texas A & M. At the end of his life, widowed and in poor health he retired from his practice and moved to Jackson, Mississippi, living with Katie Dotson, the widow of a cousin. Bettie, we are told by one of her descendants, wrote children's books. She was married to Robert Westcott "Frank" Hall, who was the brother of Rosa Hall, Savez's wife. When Rosa died in 1878, the Halls took in Savez's three children and cared for them. Savez's youngest was the same age as her baby and Bettie nursed them both. You can find all the children listed together in the 1880 census for Lowndes County. Robert W. Hall lost an arm during the war. He was a judge, a Baptist minister, and even organized two Baptist orphanages. William, the youngest son of William and Maria Louisa, at 15 became a courier at the battle of Champion Hill or Baker's Creek with the F. M. Cockrell Brigade. He lived nearby and volunteered his services. However, I couldn't find any official record in the National Archives of his military service. He tried farming briefly after the war and in the 1870 census he and his mother were living together in Hinds County. Shortly thereafter he moved to Texas and became a druggist in Lampasas, he also was a salesman for a drug company traveling throughout the state.