

We're not sure where William and Maria Louisa were between 1840 and 1848. Were they still in Yazoo County or were they in Hinds County by then? If you have any information on this we'd love to know about it.

In 1848 William and Maria Louisa leased a cotton Plantation very near to John and Dicy's near Edwards, Mississippi. The family called it the "Downey Place". Savez was eight years old and his brother Joe was just four when they moved there. All the stipulations for managing and supplying a plantation were spelled out by the owner, Samuel Downey of North Carolina. These records are found today at the courthouse in Raymond. Many years later when Joe was writing about his brother, he mentioned the "Downing Place", getting the name not quite right, probably the way he heard it as a small boy. Directions were quite detailed as to how the slaves were to be handled, treated, clothed, fed and housed, what profits that were to be made and the portion that was to be passed on to the owner. Things evidently did not go right, because a year and a half later further court records are to be found listing the indebtedness of William and Maria Louisa to Samuel Downey. This must have been the status of things when William left for the gold fields.

The 1850 census records show the family as still living on the plantation. Even William's name remains there as head of household although he was at or near the gold fields by then.

The story that we were told recently by another man who is writing Savez's story is this: William's next younger brother, John D. Read had tuberculosis and was going to California for his health. Their father, John, wanted his oldest son to accompany John D. on the trip west. William was reluctant to go. For one thing, Maria was pregnant. He eventually reluctantly consented. We have no proof that this story is true.

We found this notice from *The Nashville Christian Advocate* for November 1, 1850.

My son William Red died July 6 in Nevada City, California of typhoid fever; brother John F. Read; born in Montgomery County, Tennessee, January 6, 1817; in 1822, with parents, John & Dicy Read, to Alabama; in 1837 married Mira L. Dedsom formerly of Nashville; left wife and five children.

(Signed) John Read, Hinds County, Mississippi

*The Nashville Christian Advocate* was a Methodist publication.

This came from, "Genealogical Abstract of Marriages and Deaths from *Nashville Christian Advocate 1846-1851*" Annie Sandifer Trickett 5809 Forest Lane, Dallas, Texas 75230-2633, 1985.