
A Family for William Kesey of Pennsylvania, Ohio, and California

By Pam Pracser Anderson, CG

Biographical clues from an undocumented county history help locate original records that prove family relationships.

William Kesey of Lower Lake, Lake County, California, died in 1886.¹ His family members were unknown. A county history published five years before his death does not identify family but tells of his activities in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and California.² Records for Kesey in those places help identify William's parents, siblings, and a grandparent.

WILLIAM KESEY IN A CALIFORNIA COUNTY HISTORY

County histories from the 1800s and early 1900s are not always reliable. However, they may provide clues to forgotten information. A biographical sketch of William in an 1881 county history reports, in unusual detail, that he lived in Pennsylvania and Ohio before moving to California:

1. William Kesey was born in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, on 22 February 1819.
2. About 1839–40, twenty, William went to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, where he worked as a cabinetmaker for one year.
3. He returned to Franklin County about 1840.
4. About 1845–46, William went to “Wyandotte, Ohio,” where he worked for one year.
5. He returned to Franklin County in 1846.

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1. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007602558>), digital film 007602558, image 1341, Lake Co., Calif., Superior Court, Probate records, 1867–1940, case no. 237, p. 2031, William Kesey, petition for letters of administration, 18 October 1886. “That said William Kesey died at the County [Lake County] and State [California] aforesaid on or about the 28th day of September 1886.” *Find A Grave* (<https://www.findagrave.com>), memorial 17713606, digital image, 27 January 2007, by “Judy,” gravestone for William Kesey (Lower Lake Cemetery, Lower Lake, Lake Co., Calif.), died 27 September 1886 at age sixty-seven years, seven months, and five days.

2. *The History of Napa and Lake Counties, California* (San Francisco: Slocum and Bowen, 1881), 252.

6. William returned to Ohio with his father in 1847 and clerked in a store until February 1849.
7. He arrived at Sutter's Fort in California on 19 September 1849.
8. William moved to Sacramento City, California, in 1851.³

THREE POSSIBLE FATHERS IN FRANKLIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

If he were born in 1819, William would have appeared in census records as a boy under ten in 1820, a boy ten to fourteen in 1830, and a man twenty to twenty-nine in 1840. About 1839–40, twenty-year-old William went to Lancaster County, where he worked as a cabinetmaker for one year. He returned to Franklin County in 1840.⁴ Three Franklin County Kesey households had a male William's age.

John Keasey or Kasey in Metal Township

In 1820 John Keasy, over forty-five, headed a household in Metal Township, Franklin County, with two boys under ten, two teenage boys sixteen to eighteen, three girls under fifteen, and a woman twenty-six to forty-four—probably John's wife.⁵ William may have been one of the boys under ten. In 1830 John Kaysey, likely the man fifty to fifty-nine, led a household comprising a boy ten to fourteen, a teenage boy fifteen to nineteen, a man thirty to thirty-nine, a girl five to nine, and two girls ten to nineteen.⁶ In 1840 John Keasey Sr., probably the man sixty to sixty-nine, headed a household with a man twenty to twenty-nine, a teenage girl fifteen to nineteen, and a woman twenty to twenty-nine.⁷

An 1850 orphans' court record lists John Keasey Sr.'s heirs, including "John Keasy oldest son of said John Keasy," who was probably the twenty-something man in the 1840 household. William was not an heir.⁸ John Sr. was not William's father.

3. *The History of Napa and Lake Counties, California*, 252.

4. Chambersburg, the county seat of Franklin County, is one hundred miles west of Lancaster, the county seat of Lancaster County. Franklin and Lancaster counties are separated by Adams and York counties.

5. 1820 U.S. census, Franklin Co., Penn., population schedule, Metal Twp., folio 84 (stamped), John Keasy household; microfilm publication M33, roll 101, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Washington, D.C.

6. 1830 U.S. census, Franklin Co., Penn., Metal Twp., fol. 240 (stamped), John Kaysey household; NARA microfilm M19, roll 151.

7. 1840 U.S. census, Franklin Co., Penn., Metal Twp., fol. 353 (stamped), John Keasey household; NARA microfilm M704, rolls 457–58.

8. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/005534535>), digital film 005534535, images 456–58, Franklin Co., Penn., Orphans' Court, docket F:288–92, John Keasey, partition of real estate, April term 1850; Franklin County Archives (FCA), Chambersburg.

Alexander Kesey or Casey in Montgomery Township

In 1820 Alex^r Casey's household in Montgomery Township, Franklin County, included three boys under ten, four girls under fifteen, and a man and a woman twenty-six to forty-four—probably Alexander and his wife.⁹ One of the boys under ten may have been William. In 1830 Alexander Kesey, probably the man fifty to fifty-nine, headed a household comprising a boy under five, a boy ten to fourteen—perhaps William—two girls ten to nineteen, and a woman forty to forty-nine—probably Alexander's wife.¹⁰

If William lived in Franklin County between 1840 and 1847, he could have lived on his own or in another household. However, in 1840 Alexander Kesey or Casey did not live in Franklin County or in neighboring Lancaster County.¹¹ As neither William nor Alexander lived in Franklin County after 1830, it is unlikely Alexander was William's father.

Peter Kesey or Keasey in Antrim Township

Peter Kesey was not found in Franklin County in 1820.¹² His 1830 household in Antrim Township, Franklin County, included two boys ten to fourteen, a girl five to nine, a teenage girl fifteen to nineteen, a woman seventy to seventy-nine, and a man and a woman forty to forty-nine—probably Peter and his wife.¹³ One of the boys ten to fourteen may have been William. In 1840 Peter Keasey's Antrim

9. 1820 U.S. census, Franklin Co., Penn., pop. sch., Montgomery Twp., p. 340 (penned), Alex^r Casey household.

10. 1830 U.S. census, Franklin Co., Penn., Montgomery Twp., fol. 420 (stamped), Alexander Kesey household.

11. Negative search results for Alexander Casey/Kesey. See *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008067839>), digital film 008067839, images 8–10, Franklin Co., Register of Deeds, Grantee Index 1784–1963, vol. C; Register and Recorder's Office and Archives (RROA), Chambersburg. Ibid. (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008067857>), digital film 008067857, images 14–20, Grantor Index, 1784–1953, vol. C. Ibid. (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008067843>), digital film 008067843, images 198–203, Grantee Index 1785–1963, vol. K. Ibid. (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008067865>), digital film 008067865, images 19–39, Grantor Index, 1785–1963, vol. K. Ibid. (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/005534556>), digital film 005534556, images 49–66, Index to wills, vols. A–Z, 1784–1952. Ibid., images 145–57.

12. "1820 United States Federal Census," census, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7734/>), negative search results for Peter Kesey, and variants, in Franklin County, Pennsylvania.

13. 1830 U.S. census, Franklin Co., Penn., Antrim Twp., fol. 391 (stamped), Peter Kesey household. For history of Franklin County, see "Franklin County-6th Class," *Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission* (<http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/di/IncorporationDatesForMunicipalities/IncorporationDatesMap.htm>). Antrim was incorporated in May 1741 while part of Lancaster County. Franklin County was formed from Cumberland County 9 September 1784. The Borough of Greencastle was incorporated 25 March 1805 from Antrim. For history of Lancaster County, see "Lancaster County-3rd Class," *Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission* (<http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/di/IncorporationDatesForMunicipalities/pdfs/lancaster.pdf?catid=36>). Lancaster County was formed 10 May 1729 from part of Chester County.

household included no men twenty to twenty-nine, a teenage girl fifteen to nineteen, and probably Peter and his wife, fifty to fifty-nine.¹⁴ William, between twenty and twenty-nine, may have boarded with an unknown family in 1840. These census records do not support Peter as William's father, although other records say he was.

Peter Kesey, a shoemaker, first appears in Antrim Township in 1814.¹⁵ In April 1815 "Peter Kesey of Franklin County and Antrim Township Cordwainer [applied] for four acres of Wood Land in Washington Township . . . [T]his deponent . . . lived within two or three miles of the same premises for Several years."¹⁶ Peter Casey, a shoemaker, lived in Washington Township in 1821 and in 1825–27.¹⁷ In 1837 he purchased two acres in Antrim and paid taxes in 1837–39.¹⁸ He was taxed as a tenant in Antrim from 1841–43.¹⁹ In 1842 Peter and William Casey were peddlers in Antrim. The septennial records are alphabetical, so a father-son relationship is not established.²⁰ In 1843 Peter left two saddles, two bridles, one wagon, one horse, and one set of harnesses in trust to cover debts owed to George H. Davidson of the borough of Greencastle in Franklin County.²¹

14 1840 U.S. census, Franklin Co., Penn., Greencastle, fol. 161 (stamped), Peter Keasy household.

15. "Pennsylvania, U.S., Septennial Census, 1779–1863," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2702/>) > Franklin > 1814 > image 13, Franklin Co., Antrim Twp., Septennial census, box 1026, 1814, unpaginated, alphabetized, p. 2 of "K" surnames, line 4, Peter Keassy; Record Group 7, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), Harrisburg. The septennial census, conducted every seven years from 1779 to 1863, was a tax record.

16. "Pennsylvania, U.S., Land Warrants and Applications, 1733–1952," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2350/>) > Franklin > 1815 > images 111–12, Franklin Co., Antrim Twp., Land warrants and applications, Peter Kesey, 26 April 1815. Colin Waters, *A Dictionary of Old Trades, Titles and Occupations* (1999; reprint, Newbury, Berkshire, England: Countryside Books, 2000), 75. "Cordwainer" is probably *cordwainer*, a shoemaker.

17. "Pennsylvania, U.S., Septennial Census, 1779–1863," *Ancestry* > Franklin > 1821 > image 185, Franklin Co., Washington Twp., Septennial census, box 1026, 1821, p. 3 of "C" surnames, line 13, Peter Casey; PHMC. Franklin Co., Washington Twp., Board of County Commissioners, Tax Records, 1818–1831, unpaginated, alphabetized, Peter Kesey, 1821, 1825, 1826, 1827; Microfilm Group MG-4, rolls 2225–2226; Pennsylvania State Archives (PSA), Harrisburg.

18. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008067883>), digital film 008067883, images 259–60, Franklin Co., Deeds, 1784–1883, Deed book 17:251–52, Francis and Elizabeth Dunn to Peter Kesey, sale, 27 March 1837, recorded 3 May 1837; RROA. Franklin Co., Antrim Twp., Board of County Commissioners, Tax Records, 1835–1840, Peter Kesey, 1837, 1838, 1839; Microfilm Group MG-4, roll 2170; PSA.

19. Franklin Co. Antrim Twp., Board of County Commissioners, Tax Records, 1841–44, Peter Kesey, 1841, 1842, 1843; Microfilm Group MG-4, roll 2171; PSA.

20. "Pennsylvania, U.S., Septennial Census, 1779–1863," *Ancestry* > Franklin > 1842 > image 8, Franklin Co., Antrim Twp., Septennial census, box 1026, 1842, p. 2 of "C" surnames, lines 7–8, William and Peter Casey; PHMC.

21. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008067884>), digital film 008067884, images 414–15, Franklin Co., Deeds, 1784–1883, Deed book 19:86–87, Peter Kesey to George H. Davidson, sale, 11 January 1843, rec. 12 January 1843; RROA.

Census, land, and tax records in Franklin County support the theory that Peter and William Kesey lived there until at least 1843. Peter owned land and was consistently taxed as a shoemaker with one or two cows and a horse in Antrim Township from 1814–43, except 1821 and 1825–27. In those periods he was taxed in adjacent Washington Township.²² He was never taxed in two townships at the same time, suggesting that Peter was the Antrim and Washington man.

WILLIAM, SARAH, AND PETER KESEY IN OHIO

William Kesey allegedly moved to “Wyandotte, Ohio,” in the spring of 1845, where he worked one year. He returned to Franklin County and lived there until 1847, when he moved to Ohio with his father and clerked in a store until early 1849.²³ If Peter traveled to Ohio with William before 1847, his disappearance from Antrim in 1844 is consistent with the sale of his personal property and appearance in Ohio. On 1 January 1848 Wm Kesey was named on a list of letters remaining at the Upper Sandusky Post Office in Wyandot County, Ohio, suggesting he lived there in 1847.²⁴

In 1848 Sarah Kesey and Samuel Pew obtained a marriage license in Seneca County, Ohio.²⁵ In 1850 Peter Kasey lived in Tiffin, Seneca County, with Samuel and Sarah J. Pugh. Peter and Sarah were reportedly Pennsylvanians. Peter was born about 1788–89, and Sarah about 1824–25.²⁶ Sarah’s birth year aligns with the females in Peter Kesey’s 1830 and 1840 households born between 1821 and 1825. Peter’s birth year is consistent with the birth range of 1781–90 from the 1830 and 1840 censuses.

Four-month-old William K. Pugh lived with Samuel’s family in Ohio in 1850.²⁷ He was likely Samuel and Sarah’s child, born about 1850, possibly named for Sarah’s brother, William. Birth dates and locations, residences, and naming traditions suggest Sarah J. Pew or Pugh was Peter Kesey’s daughter and William’s sister.

22. Franklin Co., Antrim Twp., Board of County Commissioners, Tax Records, 1809–1844, Peter Kesey, 1814–43, except 1821, 1825–27; Microfilm Group MG-4, rolls 2167–2171, PSA. *Ibid.*, Washington Twp., Board of County Commissioners, Tax Records, 1805–1831, Peter Kesey, 1821, 1825–27; Microfilm Group MG-4, rolls 2225–2226, PSA.

23. *The History of Napa and Lake Counties, California*, 252.

24. “List of Letters,” *Democratic Pioneer* (Upper Sandusky, Ohio), 7 January 1848, p. 3, col. 1.

25. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/004257781>), digital film 004257781, image 262, Seneca Co., Ohio, marriage records, 1846–1850, vol 3:154, Pew-Kesey, license 7 November 1848.

26. 1850 U.S. census, Seneca Co., Ohio, pop. sch., Tiffin, fol. 438v (stamped), dwell./fam. 247, Samuel Pugh household; NARA microfilm M432, roll 728. For another source for Sarah’s birth, *Find A Grave*, memorial 69027005, 27 April 2011, memorial, by “ProgBase,” Sarah J. Pew (Greenlawn Cem., Tiffin, Seneca Co., Ohio). No gravestone image.

27. 1850 U.S. census, Seneca Co., Ohio, pop. sch., Tiffin, fol. 438v (stamped), dwell./fam. 247, Samuel Pugh household.

WILLIAM AND PETER KESEY IN CALIFORNIA

Thirty-year-old William Casey, reportedly born in “Kentucky,” had moved to California by 1850.²⁸ He arrived at Sutter’s Fort on 19 September 1849. He moved to Sacramento City, California, in 1851 and lived there until 1853, when he left for Los Angeles, California.²⁹

Peter eventually joined William in Sacramento, Sacramento County. He died there, allegedly on 23 October 1852.³⁰ Peter’s death was reported in California and Ohio newspapers. Both claim he died on 26 October at his son’s residence near Sacramento City. He was sixty-six years and fifteen days old. He was formerly of Greencastle, Franklin County, Pennsylvania, and late of Tiffin, Ohio.³¹ Peter’s age places his birth on 11 October 1786, a year consistent with census records. Both notices confirm former residences in Pennsylvania and Ohio. His death in October 1852 is the same month and year recorded in his cemetery record.

William Kesey of Lower Lake, forty-four, Pennsylvania-born, and single, registered for the Civil War draft in 1863.³² His grandson, William T. Kesey of Lakeport, California, said William married Margaret B. Adams on 26 May 1864 in Lower Lake.³³ James A. Kesey, William and Margaret’s son, died in 1949. His wife, Sarah, verified James’s parents were William Kesey and Margaret Adams.³⁴ In 1867

28. 1850 U.S. census, El Dorado Co., Calif., pop. sch., Cosumnes River, fol. 338r (stamped), dwell./fam. 10, Wm. Casey household; NARA microfilm M653, roll 72.

29. *The History of Napa and Lake Counties, California*, 252. “In 1852 he lost all his city property by fire, and all his farm products by flood. In 1853 he went to Los Angeles.” Although the census was taken in July, the Kesey residence may have been in transition due to displacement by fire and flood. “California, U.S., State Census, 1852,” *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1767/>), negative search results for William and Peter Kesey by surname variants, given names, and birth states. Wm Casey, age forty, born in Pennsylvania, lived in Placer County in 1852, which is about fifty miles northwest of Sacramento, the nearest large city. He may have been William Kesey.

30. “Sacramento City Cemetery, 1849–2000,” database, *Cemeteryrose* (<http://www.cemeteryrose.org/sites/default/files/page-files/CemeteryIndex.pdf>) > image 407, p. 14, Peter Kesey, 23 October 1852. *Find A Grave*, memorial 139748059, 8 December 2014, memorial, by “Little Orange in the Big Apple,” Peter Kesey (Sacramento City Cem., Sacramento, Sacramento Co., Calif.). No gravestone image.

31. “Died,” Peter Kesey obituary, *Sacramento Daily Union* (Sacramento, Calif.), 26 October 1852, p. 2, col. 6. “Peter Kesey,” *Seneca Advertiser* (Tiffin, Ohio), 10 December 1852, p. 3, col. 2.

32. “U.S., Civil War Draft Registration Records, 1863–1865,” *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1666/>) > California > Northern > Vol 2 of 7 > image 201, Lake Co., Northern district, 17th Sub-district, November & December 1863, no. 11, William Kesey.

33. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007499194>), digital film 007499194, images 618–20, California State Library (Sacramento), Pioneer index file (California), 1906–1935, entry for William Kesey, Kesey-Adams, marriage 26 May 1864; informant William T. Kesey, June 1958.

34. *Ibid.* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007615014>), digital film 007615014, image 220, Lake Co., Records of Deaths, 1949–1957, vol. 6:215, death certificate, reg. no. 1751, James A. Kesey, 27 January 1949; Department of Public Health, Vital Records, Sacramento.

William, a forty-seven-year-old carpenter born in Pennsylvania, registered to vote in Lake County.³⁵

In 1870 William, a fifty-seven-year-old carpenter born in Pennsylvania, lived in Lower Lake with forty-year-old Margaret born in Kentucky.³⁶ Ten years later Pennsylvania-born William was enumerated in Lower Lake as a sixty-one-year-old head of a household composed of his wife, Margaret, fifty, born in “Missouri;” his son James, fourteen, born in California; and his mother-in-law Elizabeth Adams, eighty-three, born in Kentucky.³⁷ Elizabeth’s daughter Margaret Kesey—the former Margaret Adams—was the final administratrix of William’s 1887 estate.³⁸

Peter’s children, William and Sarah, were born in Pennsylvania. Other family members likely lived there as well.

PETER KESEY’S FAMILY IN ANTRIM TOWNSHIP, FRANKLIN COUNTY

Sarah Kesey, Peter’s Wife

In 1830 Peter Kesey’s household included a woman forty to forty-nine.³⁹ His 1840 household included a woman fifty to fifty-nine.⁴⁰ These women were likely Peter’s wife, born between 1781 and 1790, and of child-bearing age when William and Sarah were born.

A death notice on 3 January 1842 stated: “DIED. On 19 instant [December 1841], of apoplexy, Sarah Kesey, consort of Peter Kesey, of Green Castle.”⁴¹ After his wife died, Peter moved to Ohio with a son and daughter. William’s sister Sarah was likely named after her mother.

Mary (Kesey) Conrad, Peter’s Daughter

Tax records reveal Peter Kesey lived in Antrim Township by 1814. An unsourced history maintains the Conrad family moved from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, to Antrim in 1813.⁴² The families probably crossed paths. In 1830 Peter Kesey’s household included a teenage girl fifteen to nineteen, likely a daughter born between

35. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/005030328>), digital film 005030328, image 473, Lake Co., Voting registers, 1867–1890, Great Register of the County of Lake [for 1882] (Lower Lake, Calif.: J. H. Baccus), 13, entry 617, William Kesey, registered 6 May 1867.

36. 1870 U.S. census, Lake Co., Calif., pop. sch., Lower Lake, fol. 429v (stamped), dwell. 527, fam. 403, William Kesey household; NARA microfilm M593, roll 73.

37. 1880 U.S. census, Lake Co., Calif., pop. sch., Lower Lake, ED 49, fol. 11r (stamped), dwell./fam. 21, William Kesey household; NARA microfilm T9, roll 66.

38. *FamilySearch*, digital film 007602558, image 1399, Lake Co., Superior Court, Probate records, 1867–1940, case no. 237, p. 2075, William Kesey, final account, 1 June 1887.

39. 1830 U.S. census, Franklin Co., Penn., Antrim Twp., fol. 391 (stamped), Peter Kesey household.

40. 1840 U.S. census, Franklin Co., Penn., Greencastle, fol. 161 (stamped), Peter Keasy household.

41. “Died,” Sarah Kesey obituary, *Chambersburg Times* (Chambersburg, Penn.), 3 January 1842, p. 2, col. 6.

42. Carl E. Robinson and Amos W. Strite, comp., *The History and Genealogical Records of the Strite and Allied Families of Lancaster, Dauphin, and Franklin Counties, Pa. and Washington County, Md.* (Hagerstown, Maryland: Amos Strite, 1963), 7.

1811 and 1815.⁴³ The history says Mary Ann Kaisey married Jacob Conrad about 1836, probably in Antrim Township.⁴⁴ Mary and Jacob had at least six children from about 1837 to 1855.⁴⁵ Mary died in Antrim on 12 April 1859, age forty-four years, two months, and twenty-three days.⁴⁶ Born in 1815, Mary would have been Peter's eldest child.

Local records provide additional connections between the Kesey and Conrad families. In 1837 Peter Kesey purchased two acres in Antrim Township bounded on one side by Mrs. Conrad.⁴⁷ In 1843 Peter Kesey left personal property in trust to cover debts owed George H. Davidson. Davidson was possibly kin. Four years later in 1847 Jacob and Mary named a son George Davidson Conrod.⁴⁸ Mary was most likely Peter's daughter and William's older sister.

An Unidentified Kesey Male Born about 1816–20

In 1830 Peter Kesey's household included two boys ten to fourteen.⁴⁹ One was likely William; the other was probably born in Antrim Township about 1816–20. A search for other Keseyes in Antrim census and tax records between 1837 and 1843, when he would have turned twenty-one, revealed no candidates.⁵⁰ Presumably the other boy died or left the area before 1840.

PETER KESEY'S BROTHER, A POSSIBLE SISTER, AND A MOTHER

Thomas Kesey, William's Uncle

Peter may have had a brother, Thomas. Thomas Kesey probably married Elizabeth before the birth of Lydia Ann, their first known child, born in 1819 in

43. 1840 U.S. census, Franklin Co., Penn., Greencastle, fol. 161 (stamped), Peter Kesey household.

44. Robinson and Strite, *The History and Genealogical Records of the Strite and Allied Families*, 22.

45. 1850 U.S. census, Franklin Co., Penn., pop. sch., Antrim Twp., fols. 932v–933r (stamped), dwell. 470, fam. 505, Jacob Conrad household; NARA microfilm M432, roll 782. 1860 U.S. census, Franklin Co., Penn., pop. sch., Antrim Twp., fol. 24 (stamped), dwell. 848, fam. 841, Jacob Conrod household; NARA microfilm M653, roll 1111.

46. John F. W. Pflueger, *Tombstone Inscriptions of Franklin County, Pennsylvania* (Chambersburg, Penn.: Petticoat Press, 1986), 7:110. Mary Conrod, "wife of Jacob Conrod." Also, *Find A Grave*, memorial 31103915, digital image, 3 November 2008, by "Oz," gravestone for Mary Conrod (Cedar Hill Cem., Greencastle, Franklin Co., Penn.), died 12 April 1859.

47. *FamilySearch*, digital film 008067883, images 259–60, Franklin Co., deed book 17:251–52, Francis and Elizabeth Dunn to Peter Kesey, sale, 27 March 1837, rec. 3 May 1837.

48. *Find A Grave*, memorial 31103926, digital image, 3 November 2008, by "Oz," gravestone for George Davidson Conrod (Cedar Hill Cem., Greencastle, Franklin Co., Penn.), died 3 February 1865. 49. 1840 U.S. census, Franklin Co., Penn., Greencastle, fol. 161 (stamped), Peter Kesey household.

50. Franklin Co., Antrim Twp., Board of County Commissioners, Tax Records, 1841–1844. Also, "1840 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8057/>), negative search results for a male Kesey and variations, born between 1816 and 1820.

Greencastle.⁵¹ Thomas and Peter were taxed in Antrim Township in 1822–23.⁵² In July 1824 Thomas Kesey’s log house and blacksmith shop in Greencastle, Antrim Township were sold in a sheriff’s sale.⁵³ Thomas, in his forty-fifth year, died in August 1833 near Liberty in Frederick County, Maryland, of “bilious fever.”⁵⁴ The administration of Thomas’s estate acknowledges that Peter Keasy received \$30.30 “in a power of attorney which he exhibited from Lydia Ann the only child and representative of Thomas Keasy decd . . . residing in Ohio as per recpt. of said Peter Keasey dated Nov 16th 1840.”⁵⁵

Peter appears on Antrim’s tax lists before Thomas, suggesting Peter was older. Thomas’s obituary confirms he was born about 1788–89, a few years after Peter. Living together in the same place and time, Thomas may have been Peter Kesey’s younger brother and William’s uncle.

Mary (—?—) Kesey

In January 1834 Peter Kesey witnessed Mary Kesey’s renunciation as the administrator of her son Thomas’s estate.⁵⁶ Elizabeth must have predeceased him. Otherwise, as his widow she would have been granted the right to administer his estate.⁵⁷ Mary Kesey’s husband—presumably Peter and Thomas’s father—likely died before 1833 because he was not named administrator of Thomas’s estate.⁵⁸ That task was left to Mary, a duty she turned down. Phineas Eaches finalized the administration of Thomas’s estate in January 1841.⁵⁹

51. *German Reformed Evangelical Zion’s Church of Greencastle, Pennsylvania* (Chambersburg: Franklin County Historical Society), 7, 18–19. Lydia Ann Kasay was born 16 May 1819 to Thomas and Elizabeth Kasay. Jacob Kaesey was born 6 November 1821 to Thomas and Elizabeth Kaesey. “Ann Eliza Kesay (Kiesy)” is also listed as a member of the same church in 1819. Her relationship is unknown.

52. Franklin Co., Antrim Twp., Board of County Commissioners, Tax Records, 1819–1827, Peter Keasy and Thomas Keasy, 1822, 1823. Thomas was taxed on two houses and lots.

53. “Sheriff’s Sales,” *Weekly Franklin Repository* (Chambersburg, Penn.), 13 July 1824, p. 3, col. 2. Notice lists Thomas Kesey property. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008067873>) digital film 008067873, images 97–98, Franklin Co., Grantors Index, 1787–1919, vol. S. Negative search results for the property Thomas Kesey sold by the sheriff.

54. “Died,” Thomas Kesey obituary, *Franklin Telegraph* (Chambersburg, Penn.), 27 August 1833, p. 3, col. 5.

55. Franklin Co., Orphans’ Court, probate file no. 2961, Thomas Keasey, administration account, 16 November 1840; FCA.

56. *Ibid.*, file no. 2961, Thomas Keasey, renunciation of administration, 13 January 1834.

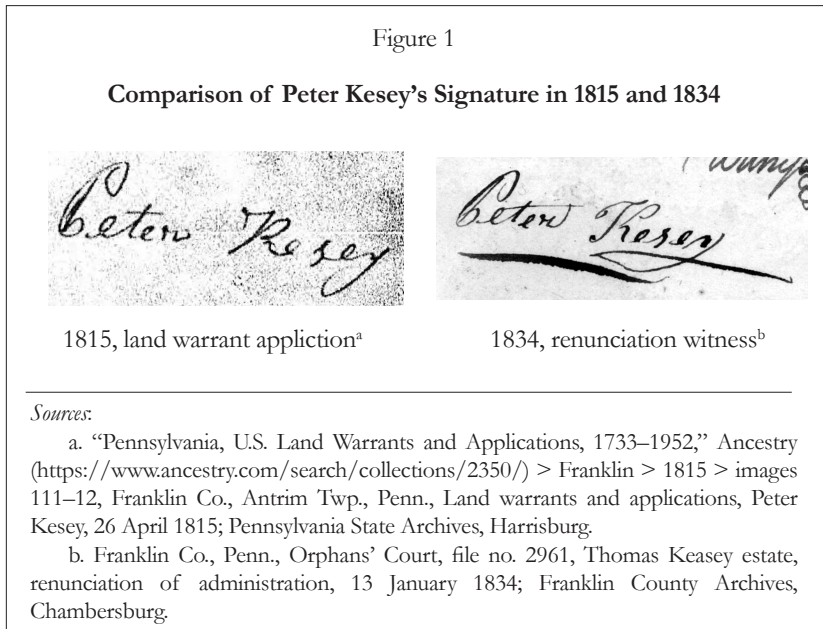
57. *A Digest of the Laws of Pennsylvania, from the Year One Thousand Seven Hundred to the Tenth Day of July, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy-Two; Originally Compiled by John Purdon, Esq.*, 10th ed., rev. 2 vols. (Philadelphia: Kay & Brothers, 1873), 1:410, III. 27b. Letters of administration for an intestate’s estate are granted first to the widow, if any.

58. *Ibid.*, 1:410, III 27(g). Males are preferred over females in granting letters of administration.

59. Franklin Co., Orphans’ Court, probate file no. 2961, Thomas Keasey, administration account, 22 January 1841

Mary Kesey of Antrim Township died about April 1848, while Peter was living in Ohio. Eaches administered Mary's estate in March 1849. Her administration says Mary Conrad was paid for "washing."⁶⁰ Mary Conrad was likely Mary's granddaughter, Peter's daughter, and Jacob Conrad's wife.

Peter Kesey's signature appears on two known documents—the 1815 land warrant application and Mary's 1834 renunciation. These nearly identical signatures connect Peter to Thomas and Mary.



Mary Mowen, Peter's Sister and William's Aunt?

George Mowen of Antrim Township died in May 1830. His will, written a year earlier, instructed George's two nephews, Jacob and George Cooter, to deliver to his wife Polly "one third of the income of [his] plantation." She was allowed to occupy a room upstairs and downstairs in his plantation house. Jacob and George were to divide his plantation equally between them.⁶¹ Mary or Mrs. Mowen purchased more

60. Franklin Co., Orphans' Court, probate file no. 5014, Mary Kesey, administration account, 5 March 1849. The first line in the account indicates letters of administration were granted to Phineas Eaches on 28 April 1848.

61. *Ibid.*, file no. 2628, George Mowen, will, 11 May 1829, proved 8 May 1830. "Behind the Name," *Behind the Name* (<https://www.behindthename.com/name/polly>). Polly is a nickname for Mary.

than fifty items from George Mowen's estate. George and Jacob Cooter bought numerous items.⁶²

In 1830 Jacob Cutter, age thirty to thirty-nine, and George Cutter, twenty to twenty-nine, were enumerated directly below Mary Mowen, fifty to fifty-nine.⁶³ They were undoubtedly George Mowen's nephews. George Mowen, probably the man over forty-five, led an 1820 household that comprised a women twenty-six to forty-four, probably Mary.⁶⁴ In 1814 and 1821 George Mowen appeared as a farmer subject to tax in Franklin County.⁶⁵

After her husband died, Mary Mowen apparently moved to Baltimore County, Maryland. In 1834 Mary Mowen of Baltimore County conveyed two acres in Antrim Township to Nancy Conrad of Antrim. The two acres were

part of a larger tract the right of which was vested in George Mowen dec^d who by his last will and testament [*sic*] did devise all his real estate unto Jacob Cooter and George Cooter, who by their deed of conveyance dated day of did therein transfer and convey the said above described two acres to Mary Mowen.⁶⁶

The Cooters' two-acre conveyance to Mary Mowen has not been found.⁶⁷

"Lady" Nancy Conrod was subject to tax in Franklin County in 1842.⁶⁸ She may have bought Mary's two acres. Her relationship, if any, to Jacob Conrad, Peter's daughter's husband, is unclear.

Peter Kesey's alleged brother Thomas died in Frederick County near Baltimore in 1833. Mary perhaps moved to be near relatives. On 27 April 1839 the orphans' court appointed Peter Kesey administrator of Mary Mowen's Franklin County estate. The

62. Franklin Co., Orphans' Court, probate file no. 2628, George Mowen, account list, 26 May 1830; FCA.

63. 1830 U.S. census, Franklin Co., Penn., Antrim, fol. 396v (stamped), Mary Mowen, Jacob Cutter, and George Cutter households; NARA microfilm M19, roll 151.

64. 1820 U.S. census, Franklin Co., Penn., pop. sch., Antrim, fol. 113v (stamped), George Mowen household; NARA microfilm M33, roll 101.

65. "Pennsylvania, U.S., Septennial Census, 1779–1863," *Ancestry* > Franklin > 1814 > image 15, Franklin Co., Antrim Twp., Septennial census, box 1026, 1814, p. 2 of "M" surnames, line 8, George Mowen. *Ibid.* > 1821 > image 15, 1821, p. 2 of "M" surnames, line 15, George Mowen.

66. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008067882>), digital film 008067882, image 266, Franklin Co., Deeds, 1784–1883, deed book 16:523, Mary Mowen to Nancy Conrad, sale, 20 November 1834, rec. 13 December 1834.

67. *Ibid.* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008067857>), digital film 008067857, images 99–103, Franklin Co., Deed index, 1784–1963, Grantor index, C, 1784–1953, fols. 100–3. Negative search results for Jacob and George Cooter/Couter to Mary Mowen between May 1830 and November 1834.

68. "Pennsylvania, U.S., Septennial Census, 1779–1863," *Ancestry* > Franklin > 1842 > image 8, 1842, p. 1 of "C" surnames, line 9, Nancy Conrod. Her occupation is listed as "Lady."

court “accountant pray[ed] a credit” for the payment of eighty dollars to Jeremiah Ducker, Mary’s administrator in Baltimore County. Ducker’s administration verifies eighty dollars was received from the administrator of the deceased in Pennsylvania.⁶⁹ Mary, born about 1771–80, was possibly Peter and Thomas’s sister.

RELATIONSHIP SUMMARIES

Brothers Peter and Thomas Kesey:

- Peter Kesey was born in 1786, a few years before Thomas, born 1788–89.
- Peter first appeared in Antrim, Franklin County in the 1814 septennial census five years before Thomas appeared in Antrim church records.
- Peter and Thomas were both taxed in 1822–23 in Antrim Township.
- Peter and Thomas owned land in Antrim.
- Peter’s children, born between 1815 and 1824, and Thomas’s children, born between 1819 and 1821, were of similar ages.
- Thomas’s 1824 sheriff’s sale indicates he owned a blacksmith shop and was employed in a craft like Peter, a shoemaker.
- Peter exercised power of attorney on behalf of Thomas’s only child, Lydia Ann, in 1840.
- Peter and Thomas were likely brothers.

Peter and Thomas, Mary Kesey’s sons:

- Peter witnessed administratrix Mary Kesey’s renunciation of Thomas Kesey’s estate.
- Peter’s nearly identical signature appears on an 1815 land warrant application and on Mary Kesey’s 1834 renunciation of administration of Thomas’s estate.
- Mary was named administratrix of Thomas’s estate because her husband died by 1833.
- Phineas Eaches administered the estates of Thomas and Mary Kesey.
- If Mary was Thomas’s mother, and Thomas and Peter were brothers, Mary would have been Peter’s mother and William’s grandmother.

69. Franklin Co., Orphans’ Court, administration index, no. 4283, letters granted to Peter Kesey for Mary Mowen, 27 April 1839; FCA. Also, *Ibid.*, administration account of Peter Kesey, 2 May 1840. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/103210145>), digital film 103210145, image 192, Baltimore Co., Md., Mary Mowen estate (1839), administration account, 6 January 1841; citing Maryland State Archives(MSA), series C263, box 83, folder 5, subfolder 6; MSA, Annapolis.

DNA EVIDENCE CONSIDERATIONS

Peter and Sarah Kesey likely had four children: Mary (Kesey) Conrad, an unnamed male, William Kesey, and Sarah (Kesey) Pugh. The fate of Peter Kesey's son, born between 1816 and 1820, is unknown. He possibly died. Sarah (Kesey) Pugh's line ended with her grandchildren, Raymond Pugh Bradley (1881–1954) and Chester Bradley (1884–1903).⁷⁰ No living descendants of Peter's brother, Thomas, are known.⁷¹

With only two independent lines, no sufficient DNA matches descending from these families have been identified. Therefore, DNA evidence is not available to support the conclusion for William Kesey's parental couple. Because at least three separate descendant lines cannot be triangulated, autosomal DNA was not used to help prove genetic relationships.

CONCLUSIONS

William Kesey's family has been identified. His parents were Peter and Sarah. His sisters were Sarah and Mary. William's father, Peter Kesey, was Thomas's older brother. Thomas was William's uncle. Brothers Peter and Thomas were Mary Kesey's sons. William married Margaret B. Adams.

In this case no genealogical records directly define family relationships. An unsourced county history presented clues for each connection. These clues led to evidence in records that prove the family relationships.

70. Sarah Pugh's line: for William Pugh, son of Sarah (Kesey) Pugh, see 1850 U.S. census, Seneca Co., Ohio, pop. sch., Tiffin, fol. 438v (stamped), dwell./fam. 247, Samuel Pugh household. Also, *Find A Grave*, memorial 69027006, memorial, 27 April 2011, by "ProgBase," Willie K. Pew (Greenlawn Cem., Tiffin, Seneca Co., Ohio), no gravestone image. Gravesite details: "s/o S.O. & S.J." For Cora Bell (Pugh) Bradley, daughter of Sarah, see 1880 U.S. census, Seneca Co., Ohio, pop. sch., Tiffin, ward 4, ED 204, fol. 227v (stamped), dwell. 52, fam. 56, Cora Bel Pew in Samuel Pew household; NARA microfilm T9, roll 1065. For children of Cora Bell (Pugh) Bradley, see 1900 U.S. census, Seneca Co., Ohio, pop. sch., Tiffin, ward 4, ED 104, fol. 156r (stamped), dwell. 174, fam. 177, Raymond Bradley and Chester Bradley in Perry and Cora Bradley household; NARA microfilm T623, roll 1320. For death of Chester Bradley before marriage, see "Three are Fatally Injured in Terrible Accident at Tiffin," *Times Recorder* (Zanesville, Ohio), 2 June 1903, p. 2, cols. 3–4. For Raymond Bradley without children, see 1930 U.S. census, Lucas Co., Ohio, pop. sch., Toledo, ED 48-214, 294r (stamped), dwell. 88, fam. 98a, Raymond and Ruth E. Bradley household; NARA microfilm T626, roll 1836. Raymond Bradley and Ruth married about 1917 and had no surviving children thirteen years later.

71. "Search," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/>). Negative search results for any Lydia born between 1814 and 1823 in Franklin Co., Penn. The only child of Thomas, Lydia Ann, living in Ohio when her father died, may have moved near her cousins in Tiffin, Seneca Co. "1840 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry*, negative search results for Lydia in Tiffin, Seneca Co., Ohio. "1850 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8054/>), negative search results for Lydia, married or single, and born 1818–1820 in Tiffin. Six women named Lydia were found, but none were Thomas's daughter.

GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY

*Descendants of Mary (—?—) Kesey**Generation One***1. Mary¹ (—?—) Kesey**, died about April 1848.⁷²

Mary had two known children:

- + 2 i. PETER² KESEY, born in October 1786 in Pennsylvania; died 23 October 1852 in Sacramento, Sacramento County, California; and married Sarah by 1814 in Antrim Township, Franklin County, Pennsylvania.⁷³
- + 3 ii. THOMAS KESEY, born about 1781–88; died in August 1833 in Frederick County, Maryland; and married Elizabeth (—?—) before 1819 in Antrim Township, Franklin County, Pennsylvania.⁷⁴

Generation Two

2. Peter² Kesey (Mary¹), born in October 1786; died 23 October 1852. He married **Sarah** about 1814 in Antrim Township, Franklin County, Pennsylvania. She was born about 1781–90 and died 19 December 1841 in Greencastle, Franklin County.⁷⁵

Peter and Sarah had four known children:

- 4 i. MARY³ KESEY, born 29 January 1815 in Antrim Township; died 12 April 1859 in Antrim; she married Jacob Conrad by 1836 in Antrim.⁷⁶
- 5 ii. MALE KESEY (possible), born about 1816–20 in Antrim Township. Died or moved by 1840.⁷⁷

72. Franklin Co., Orphans' Court, estate file, no. 5014, Mary Kesey, administration account, 5 March 1849; FCA.

73. For birth and death, *Find A Grave*, memorial 139748059, 8 December 2014, memorial, by "MockingbirdTales," Peter Kesey. For marriage, "Died," Sarah Kesey obituary, *The Chambersburg Times*, 3 January 1842, p. 2, col. 6.

74. For birth and death, "Died," Thomas Kesey obituary, *Franklin Telegraph*, 27 August 1833, p. 3, col. 5. For marriage to Elizabeth, *German Reformed Evangelical Zion's Church of Greencastle, Pennsylvania*, 7. Lydia Ann Kasay was baptized 24 October 1819, as the daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Kasay.

75. For Peter's birth and death, *Find A Grave*, memorial 139748059, 8 December 2014, memorial by "MockingbirdTales," Peter Kesey. For marriage and Sarah's death, "Died," Sarah Kesey obituary, *The Chambersburg Times*, 3 January 1842, p. 2, col. 6.

76. *Find A Grave*, memorial 31103915, digital image, 3 November 2008, by "Oz," gravestone for Mary Conrod (Cedar Hill Cem., Greencastle, Franklin Co., Penn.), died 12 April 1859. Mary died 12 April 1859, age forty-four years, two months, twenty-three days, giving her a calculated birth of 20 January 1815. Robinson and Strite, comp., *The History and Genealogical Records of the Strite and Allied Families of Lancaster, Dauphin, and Franklin Counties, Pa. and Washington County, Md.*, 7. This compilation offers no sources.

77. For birth year, 1830 U.S. census, Franklin Co., Penn., Antrim Twp., fol. 391 (stamped), Peter Kesey household.

- 6 iii. WILLIAM KESEY, born 22 February 1819 in Pennsylvania; died 27 September 1886 in Lower Lake County, California; and married Margaret B. Adams 26 May 1864 in Lower Lake, Lower Lake County.⁷⁸
- 7 iv. SARAH J. KESEY, born about 1824–25 in Pennsylvania; died in 1883 in Tiffin, Seneca County, Ohio. Samuel O. Pew and Sarah J. Kesey obtained a marriage license 7 November 1848 in Seneca County.⁷⁹

3. Thomas² Kesey (Mary²), born about 1781–88; died in August 1833 in Frederick County, Maryland; and married **Elizabeth (—?—)** before 1819 in Antrim Township, Franklin County. Elizabeth died between 1821 and 1834.⁸⁰

Thomas and Elizabeth had two known children:

- 8 i. LYDIA³ ANN KESEY, born 16 May 1819, probably in Antrim Township; alive in Ohio in 1840.⁸¹
- 9 ii. JACOB KESEY, born 8 November 1821, probably in Antrim Township; probably died in Franklin County before 16 November 1840.⁸²

78. For birth and death, *Find A Grave*, memorial 17713606, digital image, 27 January 2007, by “Judy,” gravestone for William Kesey. For marriage, *The History of Napa and Lake Counties, California*, 252. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007499194>), digital film 007499194, images 618-20, Pioneer index file (California), 1906–1935, Kesey-Adams, 26 May 1864. 1880 U.S. census, Lake Co., Calif., pop. sch., Lower Lake, ED 49, fol. 11r (stamped), dwell./fam. 21, William Kesey household. William’s mother-in-law was Elizabeth Adams, born in Kentucky. For death, *FamilySearch*, digital film 007602558, image 1341, Lake Co., Calif., Superior Court, Probate records, 1867–1940, case no. 237, p. 2031, William Kesey estate, petition for letters of administration, 18 October 1886.

79. For birth year, 1850 U.S. census, Seneca Co., Ohio, pop. sch., Tiffin, fol. 438v (stamped), dwell./fam. 247, Samuel Pugh household. For birth and death, *Find A Grave*, memorial 69027005, 27 April 2011, memorial, by “ProgBase,” Sarah J. Pew. For marriage license, *FamilySearch*, digital film 004257781, image 262, Seneca Co., Ohio, Marriage records, 1846–1850, vol 3:154, Pew-Kesey, license 7 November 1848.

80. For birth and death, “Died,” Thomas Kesey obituary, *Franklin Telegraph*, 27 August 1833, p. 3, col. 5. For marriage to Elizabeth, *German Reformed Evangelical Zion’s Church of Greencastle, Pennsylvania*, 7. Lydia Ann Kasay was baptized 24 October 1819, as the daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Kasay.

81. For baptismal date, *ibid.*, Lydia Ann Kasay, baptized 24 October 1819. Lydia was alive in 1840, see Franklin Co., Probate, file, no. 2961, Thomas Kesey estate, administration account, 16 November 1840; FCA.

82. For birth, *German Reformed Evangelical Zion’s Church of Greencastle, Pennsylvania*, 18. Jacob Kaesey was born 1821 to Thomas and Elizabeth Kaesey. Franklin Co., Probate, file, no. 2961, Thomas Kesey, administration account, 16 November 1840; FCA. Jacob was not mentioned, suggesting he had died before his father’s estate was administered.