

FACT OR FICTION?

WHERE WAS STEPHEN CAWDLE (c1685-1758) BORN?

For decades CAUDELL/CORDELL Family researchers have wondered, "Where was STEPHEN born?" Initially some said, "...by legend he was born in Scotland, and settled for awhile in Lunenburg Co, VA, before moving on to Wilkes Co, NC". Others said, "According to the books on British surnames by Bardsley, CAUDELL and CAUDLE are corruptions of the Scottish name CALDWELL". Still others said, "CAUDILL is derived from the Spanish name CAUDILLO ("leader, or chieftain"), obviously indicating descent from survivors of the Spanish Armada who ship-wrecked along the coast of Scotland after the British defeated them in 1588." So obviously STEPHEN was born in Scotland. Or was he?

The Scots did have an impact on the American colonies. Many Scots-Irish, who really were Lowland Scots that the British sent to Ireland in 1605 to subdue the native Irish, settled in PA, VA and NC between 1717 and 1770. Many Highland Scots fled to NC after the British decisively defeated them at the Battle of Culloden in 1745.

However, the vast majority of settlers in VA and NC were ENGLISH. According to ancestry.com: "*Ninety percent of the population of the American colonies in 1699 was persons of English birth or parentage.*" To put this in perspective, in 1730 the total white populations were just 84,000 in VA and 24,000 in NC.

In 1731 STEPHEN CAWDLE first appears in Surrey Co, VA, where he bought 195 acres of land on the Nottaway River. Where did this STEPHEN come from? Were there any other CAWDLES in the vicinity? Let's look at all the documented evidence available to us for that area at that time.

CHRONOLOGY OF DOCUMENTED EVIDENCE

In 1654, in New Kent Co, VA, JAMES CORDELL was 1 of 19 persons transported to from LONDON, ENGLAND to New Kent Co, VA by Arthur Nash, who received 950 acres in "head-rights" (50 acres for each person transported).

In 1691 in Kingstone Parish, Gloucester Co, VA, RICHARD CORDELL is 1 of 4 people "transported" by Henry Wareing, who received 200 acres in "head-rights" (50 acres for each person transported).

In 1691 in King & Queen Co, VA, JAMES CAWDLE and Benjamin Clements were referenced as the former owners of 499 acres in that county, which was NEW KENT CO, VA, before 1691.

In 1703 in ST STEPHEN'S PARISH, King & Queen Co, VA (formed in 1691 from New Kent Co, VA), JAMES CAUDALL'S name was referenced in a land deed.

In 1704 in Charles City Co, VA, RICHARD CODELL appeared in the VA Quit Rents Roll with 100 acres in Charles City Co, VA. NOTE: This same RICHARD CORDELL acted as Deputy Sheriff to certify the 1704 Quit Rents Roll for Gloucester Co, VA.

In 1707 in Gloucester Town, Gloucester Co, VA, JAMES CAWDLE was 1 of the 62 original lot owners.

In 1717 in Abingdon Parish Church, Gloucester Co, VA, JAMES and SARAH CAWDLE christened their newborn son JAMES.

In 1722 in Bristol Parish Church, Prince George Co, VA, JOHN and MARY CAUDLE christened their daughter ELIZABETH.

In 1723 in Bristol Parish Church, Prince George Co, VA, JOHN and MARY CAUDLE christened their son THOMAS.

In 1725 in Bristol Parish Church, Prince George Co, VA, JOHN and MARY CAWDLE christened their daughter MARY.

In 1727 in Bristol Parish Church, Prince George Co, VA, JOHN and MARY CORDLE christened their daughter LUCRETIA.

In 1729 in Prince George Co, VA, JOHN & MARY CAWDLE christened their newborn son David at Bristol Parish Church.

In 1730 in Charles City Co, VA, RICHARD CORDLE was referenced in a Benjamin Harrison land deed.

In 1736 in Charles City Co, VA, SAMPSON CORDLE and his wife SARAH GREGORY CORDLE were plaintiffs in a court suit.

In 1737 in Abingdon Parish Church, Gloucester Co, VA, JAMES CAWDLE died and was buried NOTE: This JAMES would have been born c1667 since 70 yrs was the average British lifespan at that time.

In 1738 in Charles City Co, VA, RICHARD CORDLE sold his land to Samuel Marshall, another Tidewater elite family.

In 1739 in Brunswick Co, VA, STEPHEN CAUDLE bought 446 acres on the south side of Rocky Run Creek. NOTE: In 1752 this land became part of Dinwiddie Co, VA.

In 1741 in Surry Co, VA, STEPHEN and wife MARY "H" CAUDLE sold their 195 acres to Lawrence Gibbons.

In 1747 in Brunswick Co, VA, STEPHEN CAUDLE sold SAMPSON CAUDLE 146 acres of Stephen's 446 acres he received in 1739 by land patent.

In 1748 in Lunenburg Co, VA, (formed in 1746 from Brunswick Co, VA) STEPHEN CAUDLE and SAMPSON CAUDLE voted together for Sterling Clark and Drury Stith as their representatives in the House of Burgesses.

In 1752 in Lunenburg Co, VA, STEPHEN CORDELL and son JAMES CORDELL were on Hugh Lawson's 1752 Tax List (northeast part of Lunenburg Co, VA). NOTE: Lunenburg Co, VA was formed in 1746 from Brunswick Co, VA.

In 1758 in Brunswick Co, VA, STEPHEN CAUDLE died.

In 1758 in Brunswick Co, VA, SAMPSON CAUDLE sold his son JOHN CAUDLE 50 acres (of the 146 acres he bought from STEPHEN).

In 1759 in Lunenburg Co, VA, STEPHEN (JR) bought 400 acres

In 1761 in Lunenburg Co, VA, STEPHEN CAUDLE sold 100 acres to Thos Hardin, and STEPHEN'S name appears with 3 different spellings in the same deed: STEVAN CAUDLE, STEPHEN CORDLE and STEPHEN CORDEL.

In 1762 in Brunswick Co, VA, SAMPSON CORDIL and his son RICHARD CORDIL sold to Wm Dowsing 96 acres (of the 146 acres they bought from STEPHEN).

ANALYSIS 1

This documented evidence continues, but this should be sufficient to prove that whether or not all these CAWDLES/CORDLES were closely related. "Let's connect the dots."

STEPHEN bought land in Surry Co, VA in 1731.

Any other records of STEPHEN in Surry Co, VA? Yes, in 1741 STEPHEN and wife MARY "H" CAUDLE sold these 195 acres to Lawrence Gibbons. Where did Stephen and wife Mary go?

In 1739 in Brunswick Co, VA, STEPHEN CAUDLE bought 446 acres on the south side of Rocky Run Creek. So Stephen bought this land 2 years before he sold his 195 acres in Surry Co, VA. Any other records in Brunswick Co, VA?

In 1747 in Brunswick Co, VA, STEPHEN CAUDLE sold SAMPSON CAUDLE 146 acres of Stephen's 446 acres. Who is this SAMPSON?

In 1748 in Lunenburg Co, VA, (formed in 1746 from Brunswick Co, VA) STEPHEN CAUDLE and SAMPSON CAUDLE voted together for Sterling Clark and Drury Stith as

their representatives in the House of Burgesses. STEPHEN and SAMPSON could be father/son, but their actions suggest they more likely are BROTHERS.

In 1758 in Brunswick Co, VA, SAMPSON CAUDLE sold his SON JOHN CAUDLE 50 acres from the 146 acres he bought from STEPHEN CAUDLE. So now we know Sampson had a son John. Anything else happen in 1758 in Brunswick Co, VA?

In 1758 in Brunswick Co, VA, STEPHEN CAUDLE died. Any more records for SAMPSON?

In 1762 in Brunswick Co, VA, SAMPSON CORDIL and his SON RICHARD CORDIL sold to Wm Dowsing the remaining 96 acres of the 146 acres they bought from STEPHEN.

There are no more records for SAMPSON after 1762, and there should be no more records for STEPHEN after 1758 when he died. But wait, in 1759 in Lunenburg Co, VA, STEPHEN bought 400 acres. This must be STEPHEN JR, buying his own 400 acres after his FATHER STEPHEN SR died the previous year. Did STEPHEN SR have any other sons?

Yes, in 1752 in Lunenburg Co, VA, STEPHEN CORDELL and JAMES CORDELL were on Hugh Lawson's 1752 Tax List, taxable on 2 tithes. JAMES' name is indented below STEPHEN'S, indicating JAMES is the SON OF STEPHEN, who is STEPHEN SR.

That concludes our evidence going forward from 1731 to 1762. What have we learned so far?

SUMMARY 1

We know STEPHEN and SAMPSON are BROTHERS. We know STEPHEN died 1758, so we can assume **STEPHEN, and his brother SAMPSON, were born c1690** since 70 years was the average British lifespan at that time.

We also know **STEPHEN SR had SONS JAMES and STEPHEN JR, and SAMPSON had SONS RICHARD and JOHN. We can assume all these sons were born c1720s** since the average marriage age for males at that time was 27 years of age. So, SAMPSON and STEPHEN SR, who were born c1690s, would have married around 1720, and would have begun having children in the 1720s.

Now let's look backwards from 1731 to see what we can learn.

ANALYSIS 2

What other records are available on SAMPSON?

In 1736 in Charles City Co, VA, SAMPSON CORDLE and his wife SARAH GREGORY CORDLE were plaintiffs in a court suit against Sarah's brothers over her inheritance of a one year old slave. Only the Tidewater elite families owned slaves at this time, so we can conclude SAMPSON and SARAH CORDLE belonged to the Tidewater elite in Charles City Co, VA.

There are no earlier records on SAMPSON. Are there any other earlier records on CAWDLES/CORDLES in Charles City Co, VA?

In 1730 in Charles City Co, VA, RICHARD CORDLE was referenced as a neighbor in a Benjamin Harrison land deed. So RICHARD was a neighbor to BENJAMIN HARRISON's 1,000 acre estate, "Berkeley Plantation". Any earlier records on RICHARD?

In 1704 in Charles City Co, VA, RICHARD CODELL appeared in the VA Quit Rents Roll with 100 acres, which we know were adjacent to BENJAMIN HARRISON's estate, "Berkeley Plantation". There are no earlier records in Charles City Co, VA for RICHARD. Was there any RICHARD CAWDLE/CORDLE in neighboring counties?

In 1704 in Gloucester Co, VA, a RICHARD CORDELL acted as Deputy Sheriff to certify the 1704 Quit Rents Roll for Gloucester Co, VA. Sheriff was the highest county government office at that time, so this RICHARD was important. Are there any earlier records on RICHARD in Gloucester Co, VA?

Yes, in 1691 in Kingstone Parish, Gloucester Co, VA, RICHARD CORDELL is 1 of 4 people "transported" by Henry Wareing, who received 200 acres in "head-rights" (50 acres for each person transported). Is this a different RICHARD, or is this the same RICHARD, returning from a trip to England?

We learn from Nell Nugent's book, "Cavaliers and Pioneers", that the "head-right system", established in 1619 to encourage new immigrants, eventually was abused and "gamed" by the elites. Since Tidewater elite families made frequent trips back and forth to England, they soon figured out they could "transport" friends and neighbors and receive a free 50 acres for each person for whom they paid "transportation costs".

The man who in 1691 "transported" such a small 4 person group, including RICHARD, was Henry Wareing. What do we know about him? Records show that in 1707 he was 1 of 62 original lot owners in Gloucester Town, Gloucester Co, VA. Coincidentally his next door neighbor was BENJAMIN CLEMENTS, and a few doors away lived his neighbor JAMES CAWDLE.

Was this RICHARD that Henry Wareing "transported" in 1691 the same RICHARD who a decade later was living on a 100 acre estate, just across the York River in Charles City Co, VA, and neighbor to the Tidewater elites BENJAMIN HARRISON's "Berkeley Plantation", ROBERT "KING" CARTER's "Shirley Plantation" and WILLIAM BYRD's "Westover Plantation"?

Since there are no other RICHARDs around, and since Henry Wareing just happened to become a neighbor of JAMES CAWDLE/CORDLE a few years later, it appears Henry was gaming the head-right system when he "transported" a relative of his friend, and future Gloucester Town neighbor, JAMES CAWDLE.

Therefore we can conclude that there was only one RICHARD at that time, and that he participated in Gloucester Co, VA government from his family seat among the Tidewater elites in Westover Parish, Charles City Co, VA. We also can conclude that **RICHARD was closely related to JAMES CAWDLE in Gloucester Co, VA.** Are there any earlier records on JAMES CAWDLE/CORDLE?

In 1691 in King & Queen Co, VA, JAMES CAWDLE and BENJAMIN CLEMENTS were referenced as business partners and the former owners of 499 acres in that county, which was NEW KENT CO, VA, before 1691. In 1707 in Gloucester Town, Gloucester Co, VA, this BENJAMIN CLEMENTS is a close neighbor of JAMES CAWDLE, and the next door neighbor of HENRY WAREING, who "transported" RICHARD in 1691.

There are no earlier records for JAMES CAWDLE in Gloucester Co, VA, so obviously he moved there in 1707 from somewhere else. Are there any later records for JAMES CAWDLE/CORDLE in Gloucester Co, VA?

In 1717 Abingdon Parish Church, Gloucester Co, VA, **JAMES and SARAH CAWDLE christened their newborn son JAMES.**

In 1737 in Abingdon Parish Church, Gloucester Co, VA, JAMES CAWDLE died and was buried Since the average British lifespan at the time as 70 years we can estimate **this JAMES was born c1667.** There are no later records on other CAWDLES/CORDLES in Gloucester Co, VA, so are there any records in neighboring counties?

Yes, 34 years earlier in 1703 in ST STEPHEN'S PARISH, King & Queen Co, VA (formed in 1691 from New Kent Co, VA), JAMES CAUDALL'S name was referenced in a land deed. Are there any earlier records on JAMES CAWDLE/CORDEL in New Kent Co, VA, or the part that became King & Queen Co, VA, in 1691?

Yes, in 1654, in New Kent Co, VA, JAMES CORDELL was 1 of 19 persons transported to from LONDON, ENGLAND to New Kent Co, VA by Arthur Nash, who received 950 acres in "head-rights" (50 acres for each person transported). Since the average age of immigrants at that time was 17 we can conclude **this JAMES was born c1637.** New immigrants had a 60 year average lifespan due to "seasoning" to the hot, humid climate in Tidewater VA, so **we can estimate the immigrant JAMES was born c1637 and died c1697.**

Immigrants arriving at this time were "distressed cavalier's", or English Royalists who had been on the losing side in the English Civil War. These Royalist families sent their

younger sons to VA to escape persecution in England, and to regenerate their family's fortunes in VA.

SUMMARY 2

SAMPSON was living in Charles City Co, VA, in 1736, at the same time as RICHARD. RICHARD had lived in Charles City Co, VA, since 1704, but sold his land in Samuel Marshall in 1738. Obviously RICHARD is older than SAMPSON, so we can conclude that **RICHARD is the FATHER OF SAMPSON, who named his first son and heir RICHARD, after his grandfather**, as was the custom in Colonial VA.

Since SAMPSON and STEPHEN SR are BROTHERS, this proves **RICHARD had sons SAMPSON and STEPHEN SR.**

Since SAMPSON and STEPHEN SR were born c1690, and the average age for males to marry was 27, we can conclude **RICHARD was born c1663.**

RICHARD of Charles City Co, VA, and JAMES of Gloucester Co, VA, were related, either brothers or father-son.

We have 3 JAMES: **JAMES born c1637; JAMES born c1667; JAMES born c1717.**

Since the immigrant JAMES would have died c1697, we can conclude that the JAMES who was 1 of 62 original lot owners in Gloucester Co, VA, was his son, JAMES, who was born c1667 and who died in 1737 in Abingdon Parish, Gloucester Co, VA.

Therefore, **the JAMES and RICHARD in Gloucester Co, VA in 1707 were BROTHERS.** So RICHARD also would have been born c1667. With the 70 years average life expectancy this RICHARD would have died c1737. NOTE: RICHARD would have been 24 years old when he was "transported" to Gloucester Co, VA, by family friend Henry Wareing. RICHARD probably was returning to VA after getting his formal education in England, to qualify him for higher office in Colonial VA government, as we later saw.

Coincidentally, RICHARD sold his land in Charles City Co, VA in 1738, right before the time of his death, and just a year before 1739 when STEPHEN SR bought 446 acres in Brunswick Co, VA, that he later shared with his brother SAMPSON. These actions make perfect sense around the pending death of a family Patriarch, and we will see it repeated in succeeding generations of CAWDLES/CORDLES.

So we know the Progenitor was JAMES CORDELL (1637-1697). He had sons JAMES (c1667-1737) and RICHARD (c1668-c1738), born in ST STEPHEN'S PARISH, New Kent CO, VA (which in 1691 became ST STEPHEN'S PARISH, King & Queen Co, VA).

JAMES (1667-1737) and wife SARAH had a son JAMES (1717-1787), born in Abingdon Parish, Gloucester Co, VA.

RICHARD (1668-1738) had sons SAMPSON (c1690-c1760) and STEPHEN SR (c1690-1758), born in ST STEPHEN'S PARISH, King & Queen Co, VA.

SAMPSON (c1690-c1760) had sons RICHARD (c1720-c1790) and JOHN (c1721-c1791), born in Charles City Co, VA.

STEPHEN SR had sons JAMES (1726-1805) and STEPHEN JR (1727-1807), born in Charles City Co, VA.

ANALYSIS 3

Where does JOHN CORDLE, born c1690 and died c1760, fit into the CAWDLE/CORDLE family"?

We do not have and records that directly connect JOHN to SAMPSON and STEPHEN SR. However, they all were born c1690 and lived in adjacent counties, so they must be closely related.

In 1722 in Bristol Parish Church, Prince George Co, VA, JOHN and MARY christened their daughter ELIZABETH.

In 1723 in Bristol Parish Church, Prince George Co, VA, JOHN and MARY christened their son THOMAS.

In 1725 in Bristol Parish Church, Prince George Co, VA, JOHN and MARY christened their daughter MARY.

In 1727 in Bristol Parish Church, Prince George Co, VA, JOHN and MARY christened their daughter LUCRETIA.

In 1723 in Prince George Co, VA, JOHN CORDEL bought 147 acres, "on which he was already living at the time"

In 1727 in Prince George Co, VA, the same JOHN CORDLE & wife MARY christened their newborn daughter Lucretia at Bristol Parish Church.

In 1729 in Prince George Co, VA, JOHN & MARY CAWDLE christened their newborn son David at Bristol Parish Church.

NOTE: We know from later 1750s Tax Lists that JOHN and MARY also had SONS JOHN JR (1719-1789) and WILLIAM (1721-1791), who were not christened in Bristol Parish Church, Prince George Co, VA.

It appears JOHN was slightly older than STEPHEN SR.

From the name "SAMPSON", and from the fact SAMPSON was living with RICHARD in Charles City Co, VA after STEPHEN had moved on to Surry Co, VA, we know that SAMPSON was RICHARD'S first born son and heir.

To the first point, it was Colonial VA custom to name a first born son with his mother's surname if she came from a prominent family, like the SAMPSONS. JOHN SAMPSON was a Colonial Court Justice, so the SAMPSONS were powerful, and that was all important in the hierarchical society of Colonial VA.

To the second point, under the English law of primogeniture the first born son inherited the family estate. This practice assured the family estate remained intact, instead of being subdivided out of existence. The family estate was of paramount importance to the English landed gentry. Consequently, the oldest son was kept at home, under his father's control, even after the son was married and had children.

Therefore, JOHN (c1690-c1760) would fit in nicely as RICHARD'S second son, between BROTHERS SAMPSON and STEPHEN SR.

We have no actual proof of JOHN's being RICHARD'S son UNTIL the 1850 Census in Dinwiddie Co, VA. JOHN'S great-grandson DAVID CAUDLE named his first born son JAMES CAUDLE. JOHN's great-grandson BENJAMIN CAUDLE named his first born son JAMES RICHARD CAUDLE. This is proof that JOHN (c1690-c1760) was in fact the son of RICHARD (c1668-c1738) and the grandson of JAMES (c1637-c1697)

CONCLUSIONS:

STEPHEN CAWDLE/CORDLE was born in 1690 in ST STEPHEN'S PARISH, NEW KENT CO, VA.

JAMES CORDELL (1637-1697) was OUR Progenitor in America. The English drop the "R" and pronounce COR-DELL as CAW-DEL. Forever after county court clerks spelled the name phonetically AS THEY HEARD IT, which became CAUDELL/CORDELL, CAUDLE/CORDLE, CAUDILL/CORDIAL.