

## FACT OR FABLE?

For decades CAUDLE/CORDLE Family researchers have wondered WHO was JEREMIAH'S MYSTERIOUS SON shown as 1) "born 1790-1800" on the 1800 Census in Wilkes Co, NC and 2) "born 1795-1800" on the 1810 Census in Wilkes Co, NC?

The answer to this mystery lies in 2 arcane and seemingly unrelated facts I discovered years ago. Those facts could only be understood by a descendant of JEREMIAH'S SON WILLIAM (1803-1895), but it still took me a long time to connect them. Those 2 facts stem from an 1818 family argument and an 1822 cattle drive.

Most family researchers have long held that WILLIAM came to Lawrence Co, KY in 1823 because he had an argument with his father, got angry and told JEREMIAH he was going to *"move north and change the spelling of his name"*. Hence WILLIAM moved to Lawrence Co, KY and changed the spelling of his name to CORDIAL, which many of his descendants still use today.

Those same family researchers have long held that WILLIAM met and fell in love with JANE WHEELER in 1822 when he was *"on a cattle drive that stopped for the night at the home of James Wheeler, Jane's father"*.

Let's examine those facts.

### 1. William's *"moving north and changing the spelling of his name"*

Many years ago I found ISHAM CORDIAL, born 1776-1794, on the 1820 Census in Montgomery Co, KY. This same ISHAM CORDIAL, born 1791-1800 is on the 1830 Census in Montgomery, KY. However, this ISHAM CORDIAL, born 1791-1800, later moved farther north, across the Ohio River into IN, where he is on the 1840 Census in Wayne Co, IN.

This caught my attention because it was the first time I had found that CORDIAL surname spelling in KY, and because after over 10 years in the beautiful Bluegrass Region of KY he moved on north to IN. This reminded me of the family argument and the threat to *"move north and change the spelling of his name"*. I got to wondering if my WILLIAM (1803-1895) might have been with ISHAM.

Upon closer examination of the 1820 and 1830 Censuses in Montgomery Co, KY, I found that, sure enough, the 1820 Census listed a male born 1805-1810, but that same male was not on the 1830 Census. This was consistent with my theory that WILLIAM was with ISHAM in Montgomery Co, KY in 1820, but had moved away and was the WILLIAM CORDIAL on the 1824 Tax List in Lawrence Co, KY.

2. William's meeting Jane Wheeler "*when he stopped for the night at their home while on a cattle drive*"

The JAMES CORDILL clan is on the 1810 Census in Floyd Co, KY, in the part which is on the VA border, and which later became Letcher Co, KY. On his way north my WILLIAM (1803-1895) would have visited his cousins in Letcher Co, KY, but I was never able to connect him with any of the cousins' families.

I never questioned the cattle drive story, but I always questioned the supposed route. If WILLIAM were in Letcher Co, KY when he began his cattle drive in 1822, it is a long way south of Lawrence Co, KY, and would have required a very long cattle drive up the Levisa Fork of Big Sandy River to Louisa, KY. While that would be possible, that route would NOT pass by the JAMES WHEELER farm, which I have walked and know to be very near the town of Blaine in Lawrence Co, KY.

Then one day, while recounting family tales of my grandfather CELCE CORDIAL (1900-1986) with my cousins, one of his stories came back to me vividly. Once when I had asked him what he did when he was young he told me about his horse back riding and his cattle driving BETWEEN LOUISA, LAWRENCE CO, KY TO MT. STERLING, MONTGOMERY CO, KY. This route, along BLAINE CREEK, would take that cattle drive directly through the JAMES WHEELER farm.

It suddenly was clear to me that WILLIAM was living in 1820 in MONTGOMERY CO, KY when he began his cattle drive, NOT far south in Letcher Co, KY with the JAMES CORDILL clan. Obviously WILLIAM CORDIAL was living with ISHAM CORDIAL in 1820.

Since WILLIAM was born in 1803 and ISHAM was born c1795 it appeared they were BROTHERS. I then realized it was ISHAM, not WILLIAM, who had the argument with his father JEREMIAH c1818, then moved north and changed the spelling of his name. In c1818 ISHAM would have been about 23 years old, but WILLIAM only about 15 years old, so it made sense the teenage brother would have followed his big brother north.

It is very possible the family argument was over the usual suspects: money or inheritance. We know JEREMIAH had DEBT problems which caught up with him in 1828, so perhaps that had some bearing on the argument. Perhaps ISHAM felt he deserved some of his inheritance to buy land to start his own family when he turned 21.

## CONCLUSION

**ISHAM CORDIAL (1795-1865) is JEREMIAH'S MYSTERIOUS SON on the 1800 Census in Wilkes Co, NC.**