

## FACT OR FICTION?

### WHO WAS JEREMIAH'S FATHER?

For decades CAUDELL/CORDELL Family researchers have wondered who was the father of JEREMIAH? Everyone accepted that he was related to the Wilkes Co, NC clans of JAMES and STEPHEN, but he was NOT one of their sons. So who was he, to whom did he belong, and what was he doing in Wilkes Co, NC?

JEREMIAH CAUDLE (b1775-1784) first appears on the 1800 Census in Wilkes Co, NC. JESSE CAUDLE (b1775-1784) also first appears in the 1800 Census in Wilkes Co, NC. Neither of them belong to the JAMES and STEPHEN clans in Wilkes Co, NC, so where did they come from, and why did they move to Wilkes Co, NC? To understand this we first have to understand the violent history of the Revolutionary War in Wilkes Co, NC, where the Patriots and Loyalists murdered and hanged one another with joyful glee for 8 bloody years.

Working backwards from 1790 we see listed on the 1784 Tax List in Wilkes Co, NC, JAMES (0 acres, 1 tithe), STEPHEN (0 acres, 1 tithe) and MARY, their elderly mother (60 acres, 0 tithe). However, when working back even further we find that the FIRST "CAUDLE" in Wilkes Co, NC, actually was ISHAM CODEL, who is on the 1779 Tax List in Richard Allen's District in Wilkes Co, NC: Property Value 100 pounds; tax 1 pound 10 schillings.

ISHAM is not on the 1790 Census in Wilkes Co, NC, because he died before 1790. Since ISHAM was in Wilkes Co, NC *BEFORE* JAMES and STEPHEN, and JEREMIAH and JESSE were in Wilkes Co, NC *AFTER* JAMES and STEPHEN, how are they all related, and why did they all come to be in Wilkes Co, NC?

Wilkes Co, NC was formed in 1777 from Rowan Co, NC. Sure enough, ISHAM COWSDELL and JAMES CODDLE are on the 1778 Tax List in Capt Johnson's District in Rowan Co, NC, each with 1 poll (16-60 years of age) and 0 acres of land.

The 1778 Rowan Co, NC Court record says it put ISOM CAUDLE on the "Register of persons who refused or neglected to...take Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance to the State"- p 170, "Loyalists & Tories-Rowan Co, NC" This refusal was a serious breach of the law in the early days of the Revolutionary War, and it made ISOM subject to the confiscation of his property and to banishment from the state.

As a result of the Rowan Co Court finding ISHAM and JAMES fled to the western mountains of Rowan Co, NC, which in 1777 became Wilkes Co, NC. Many others who refused to pledge allegiance to the Provincial Govt of NC also fled to these mountains.

From 1766 to 1771, ISHAM and JAMES had been members of the "Regulator Movement" in Granville Co, NC. The "Regulators" were so called because they wanted

to "regulate" their own lives, without oppressive fees, taxes and laws from a distant and corrupt NC Provincial Govt.

In 1771 ISHAM and JAMES signed 2 "Regulator" petitions for "tax relief" in Granville Co, NC. The "Regulator Movement" ended on May 16, 1771 at the Battle of Alamance, when Gov Tryon and the NC Militia defeated the Regulators in battle. Gov Tryon hanged many Regulator leaders, and began the persecution of thousands of ex-Regulators, including ISHAM and JAMES.

In 1776 the NC Provincial Govt passed a law requiring all citizens to pledge allegiance to the state govt. To escape this law, so they thought, ISHAM and JAMES sold their land in Granville Co, NC in 1777 and moved to the western mountains in the newly formed Wilkes Co, NC.

However, their sons, ISHAM JR and JAMES JR, who had young families to worry about, chose instead to move across the southwestern Granville Co line into Chatham Co, NC, to avoid subjecting their families to the British Loyalists and Cherokee Indians marauding in the western mountains of NC.

On the 1790 Census in Chatham Co, NC are listed ISHAM JR CAUDLE, wife ELIZABETH PREWET/PRUIT CAUDLE, and their 5 sons, JOSHUA, JEREMIAH, JESSE, JAMES and JOHN, all under 16 years of age (born 1774-1790). They remained in the relative safety of Chatham Co, NC during the Revolutionary War.

The Revolutionary War ended in 1783, but the Cherokee Indian Wars did not end until the 1795 Treaty of Greenville. By 1795 the NC mountains were once again safe, and ISHAM SR had died, leaving his land to his eldest son ISHAM JR. ISHAM JR and his eldest son, JOSHUA, decided to stay in Chatham Co, NC, but the younger sons JEREMIAH and JESSE decided to move to Wilkes Co, NC between 1795 and 1800.

## **CONCLUSION**

JEREMIAH's father is ISHAM JR.

JEREMIAH and his younger brother JESSE moved to Wilkes Co, NC after their grandfather ISHAM SR died. They moved there because ISHAM JR's first born son, JOSHUA, would inherit ISHAM JR's 468 acres in Chatham Co, NC, so JEREMIAH and JESSE decided to take advantage of the opportunity their grandfather left them in Wilkes Co, NC.