

Caldwell

PROGENY OF A BARONET IN AMERICA

Scotch-Irish blood in American Revolution -- Recent Investigations into Caldwell's whose Progenitors were Mediterranean Seaman in Fourteenth Century -- First Great Grandfather with Oliver Cromwell -- Descendants

by
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Great-Great-Grand Daughter of James Caldwell, First American Immigrant of the Blood

The name of Caldwell is historic in America. Recent investigations reveal for it a remarkable record for patriotism and personal bravery during the War of the Revolution, and in the trying times when the States were coming into shape on new soil. From Rhode Island to Florida, and through to Texas and the coast, this extends to day, growing out of a parent stock that was staunch in its defence of Presbyterianism, friendly to education, and influential in politics.

The earliest record of the Caldells found in the recent investigations, relate to three brothers: John, Alexander and Oliver --- who were seamen on the Mediterranean in the latter part of the 14th century. The Three brothers returned to Toulon, in France, where they had been born, and settled nearby at "Mount Arid, earning the enmity of Francis I of France. After his escape from imprisonment, under Charles V of Germany, the brothers were again forced to change their location. Going to Scotland, they purchased, near Tolney, Frith, the estate of a Bishop named www.visionquest.com with the consent of James I on condition that "the said brothers John, Alexander and Oliver, late of Mount of Arid" should have their estate known as "Cauldwell" and when the king should require they should each send a son, with twenty men of sound limbs, to aid in the wars of the king. There is a cup, preserved as an heirloom, from which it is seen that the estate took its name from a watering place. The cup represents a chieftain and twenty mounted men, all armed, and a man drawing water from a well, with the wolf's underneath "Alexander of Cauldwell", -- also a fire burning on a hill, over the words "Mount Arid," and a vessel surrounded by high waves.

The men of "Cauldwell" early entered the wars of the islands. Joseph, John, Alexander, Daniel, David and Andrew, or Cauldwell, went with Oliver Cromwell (whose grandfather was Ann Cauldwell) to Ireland, of which he was the Lord Governor. After his promotion to the protectorate of Ireland they remained in his interest in Ireland until the restoration of Charles II, when David, John and Alexander fled to America. Joseph died in Ireland and Daniel remained there, but several of their children emigrated to America, settling on the James River, Virginia, and elsewhere. There is a claim that John Cauldwell did not settle in America, but it is assured that his son, John Caldwell (as the name had come to be spelled married Margaret Phillips, in County Bevery, Ireland, where several children were born to them. On December 10, 1727, they landed at Newcastle, Delaware, going from there to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and about 1742 to Lunenburg, now Charlotte County, Virginia. Here they were joined by relatives, forming what was known as "Caldwell Settlement" for many years. John Caldwell was the first Justice of the Peace and his son, William, the first militia officer commissioned by George II for that territory. He died and was buried beside his wife in 1750

The children of these pioneer Americans were: 1st, William; 2nd, Thomas; 3rd, David; 4th, Margaret; 5th, John; 6th, Robert; 7th, James. Each of these men contributed to early American history. James Caldwell, D. D., one of the founders of Princeton College was murdered by British soldiers at Elizabethtown, New Jersey, and his descendants received, by way of pension, clerkships at Washington for many years. Two of his sons led in the foundation of the Liberia colonization scheme, and gave name to Caldwell, Liberia. Martha, daughter of William Caldwell, became the mother of James Caldwell Calhoun, the American statesman. The whole family were distinguished for patriotism during the War of the Revolution. Robert Caldwell was an early settler in Mercer County, Kentucky, where he died in 1806, the father of a large family, who were an honor to the State. One son, John, died while Lieutenant-Governor and was buried at Frankfort where a public monument marks his life work. He gave name to Caldwell County, of which he was an early settler. Samuel Caldwell was a major-general in the War of 1812, and the first clerk of the Logan County Court. Both were members of the legislature, as was Robert Caldwell who presided in the House when the famous resolutions of 1798 were adopted. The latter's daughter, Ellen, became the wife of O. H. Browning, Lincoln's Secretary of the Interior. Mary, a daughter of Robert Caldwell, married Dr. R. A. Farmer, a well-known physician of his day. David Caldwell was buried in the old churchyard in Lunenburg County, and his widow with her children settled at the point marked "Caldwell Station" (near Danville) on Tilson's map of Kentucky of 1784. One of the sons was John, who married Dicey Vann, and has many descendants throughout the United States.

The recent investigations prove that the Caldwells in America, whose common traditions point to a common origin and ancestry, comprise at least three distinct branches of the family, each starting from a separate emigration from Ireland. These emigrations, according to the evidence now historically recorded, are:

First emigration: John Caldwell of Ireland, with his family, who landed at Newcastle, Delaware, December 10, 1727. Settled first in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and finally, in 1742, at Caldwell Settlement".

Second emigration: James Caldwell of County Tyrone, Ireland, with his family in 1769. With him came also his two younger brothers, John who settled in Virginia, and David who settled in the Carolinas.

Third emigration: John Caldwell of Harmony Hill, near Ballymorney County Antrim, Ireland, with his family; in 1798, 1799 and 1800. They finally settled on the site of the present Salisbury Mills, Orange County, New York, with the exception of the youngest son who settled in Charleston, South Carolina. He also had two brothers who came to America; James settled in Philadelphia and Richard settled in Baltimore.

The connection and relationship between these three branches of the family has not so far known been established by indisputable evidence.

James Caldwell, father of the James who emigrated to America in 1769, was a landed proprietor near the city of Cork in Ireland, and had on his estate extensive "linen blot" about all that is known of him is that on one occasion when he was visited by three men who told him they had "stolen money", a sort of blackmail for which he was from lawlessness of some sort. He said it, and gone, the son James said: "Father, I never will do it; I feel, my son, you will regret it if you

father died and the son succeeded to his estate, he was called upon for the "exemption money". He refused to pay it. The collectors bowed themselves out as politely as they could, and it was not more than a week or two until one of the servants came in and told him that a valuable yoke of oxen had been driven over a precipice. A few days afterwards they came in and told him that the dogs had been set in his sheep, and had worried them and torn some of them into pieces. Because of this and other lawlessness and persecution, he abandoned his estates in Ireland and came to America with his family in 1769. He was born on his father's estate near the city of Cork in 1724. In 1752, he married Elizabeth Alexander who was born near Cork in 1737 and is said to have been a descendant of the Bruces of Scotland and one of the same family who settled Alexandria, Virginia. At the time of his emigration his family consisted of his wife, Elizabeth, his son, (1) John, (2) Anne, (3) Mary, (4) Sarah, (5) Frances, (6) Janet, (7) Lovely, (8) Elizabeth, and (9) Jane. (10) Samuel was born during the passage. Four more were born in America, (11) James, (12) Susannah, (13) Alexander and (14) Joseph. They landed at Havre de Grace, Maryland; and moved to Baltimore, where he was a merchant. In about 1774 or 1775, not later than 1775, he sold his business in Baltimore and moved to Wheeling Western Virginia. The family crossed the mountains and settled at Wheeling in 1772, two years before the Zanes. They took up the broad bottom lands south of Wheeling Creek, being about twelve hundred acres of the present city Wheeling. James Caldwell took up large quantities of land in the Ohio River valley and lived until his death, in 1800, on Main street in the city of Wheeling.

James Caldwell, 1777, was commissioned by Patrick Henry, the Governor of Virginia, one of the "Justices of the Peace" for Ohio County, Virginia, to be a member of the first court in the valley of the Ohio and the first organized government west of the Alleghenies in Virginia. The court, of which James Caldwell was a member, organized the militia and recommending the officers to the Governor for commission. This militia was engaged in defence of Fort Henry, at Wheeling, against British troops and Indians, and in various other military enterprises against the British and their Indian allies. James Caldwell was a civil officer, but in that capacity aided the revolution, being too old to enter actively into military service. The records of the court of Ohio County show, in their service respecting militia, sufficient evidence to have subjected him to a conviction for high treason had the revolution not been successful. His eldest son, John, built Fort Henry and was wounded during one of the sieges. The father was not in the fort but upon some property of his in what is now the oil region in Tyler County, some forty or fifty miles from Fort Henry. He was driven out from his plantation after one of these sieges by one of the Girty and a band of Indians, who burned down his improvements, sending him a fugitive with his wife, who was carried behind him on a pillion. Hearing the Indians were coming, they filled a large copper kettle with silver and money and other valuables, and buried it in the woods, and fled to Clayville, Pennsylvania. When they returned for their valuables, they could not find where the house had stood nor any trace of their buried treasure. While they were at Clayville their youngest son was born, Joseph. Mr. Alfred Caldwell of Wheeling has some words given before this court by administrators or executors, which are made payable to sitting justices, among them James Caldwell. The blanks

used were some that seemed to have been printed before the revolution as they were dated: "In the ---- year if our Sovereign Lord, King Geo the Third." These old rebel justices have had the words "in the year our Sovereign Lord, King George the Third" crossed out with ink and inserted in lieu thereof "in the year of the commonwealth".

From Pennsylvania, Alfred Caldwell settled at East Liberty, Virginia where his wife, Elizabeth, died. He finally settled at Wheeling, then called Fort Henry. The house that he built and in which he lived was torn down in 1902. The frame and some of the joists were black walnut logs and much of the timber was what is now considered very precious wood. The heavy timber was fastened together with wooden pins, and all the nail used in the house were handmade and resembled horse shoe nails. Alfred Caldwell was a Presbyterian, but when he came to this country there was something in the doctrine of the Presbyterian Church that he could not subscribe to, and he never would take communion with the church but always took his communion by himself at home. He was a great grandson of Sir James Caldwell, Baronet, who resided at and owned Castle Caldwell on the north shores of lower Lough Erne in County Fermanagh in Ireland. The title is now in abeyance and Castle Caldwell, although still known by that name, has passed into other hands than the Caldwells, it having been inherited by some female member of the family whose descendants entirely dispensed with their patrimony. The old castle was not a large affair but is a picturesque ruin on the North shore of the lake. Mr. Alfred Caldwell, eldest son, and one of his daughters, while in Europe visited Castle Caldwell in County Fermanagh, Province of Ulster, Ireland, the ancient seat of the Caldwells, and they described the ruins as among the most picturesque and imposing that they visited while in the old world.

Sir James Caldwell was created Baronet by King William. His grandfather came with Cromwell from Avonshire, John born in 1755, the eldest son of James Caldwell, remained with his father in Maryland for some time and later went to Wheeling with goods to sell to the Indians. The Indians took a great fancy to him. They put him in the creek and "washed all the white blood out of him," gave him an Indian name, and were very friendly to him. He had great influence over them, which he used to the advantage of the whites in their troubles with the hostile Indians. He was present at the great battle of Fort Henry. There is a tradition of woman's bravery in this battle which I will relate. The powder was stored across the road from the fort. A Miss Boggs exclaimed to the commander that "a woman's life was not worth much," and offered to the commander to go and bring in a supply of this powder. Her persistence was such that the commander gave her authority. The Indians, thinking she was only a squaw, did not molest her. She filled her apron with powder and started back with it, when it dawned upon the Indians what she was doing. They fired at her, but she miraculously escaped into the fort safe with the powder. There is a tradition that it was a Miss - ne who carried the powder, but John Caldwell, who was present, said it was Miss Boggs. John Caldwell was at one time with McCullough when they were pursued by Indians when they arrived at "Cug Hill," he and some others were in advance, McCullough who was behind, close pressed by the Indians, ran his horse down a steep precipice. The Indians looked on in astonishment. When they saw that he and his horse were not killed they declared it was a spirit and stopped their pursuit. The place was afterward called McCullough's Leap. Colonel John Caldwell, after Braddock's defeat, accompanied Colonel Moses C. Chapline, Colonel Ebenezer Kane, Major John Godd, Colonel Cresap and Colonel Lawrence Washington to Ohio to guard the frontiers against the French and Indians. John Caldwell was a man of personal influence and character. He married Jane Boggs.

Anne Caldwell, daughter of James Caldwell, was born in 1755 and said to be the handsomest woman in Maryland. Her first husband was a Mr. Swangenin of Maryland. and her second husband was Jack Lee.

Mary Caldwell was born in 1756, and married, August 31, 1775, Colonel Moses Catton Chapline of Wheeling. She was the mother of General Moses W. Chapline, aid-de-camp to General Cass of the War of 1812. He married Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Josiah Fox, constructor of the first American Navy, whose historical record has been given in THE JOURNAL OF AMERICAN HISTORY.

Samuel Caldwell was born in 1758 and married Colonel Hughes. He owned the plantation called The Mount, Havre Grace, Maryland, where he had iron works and made cannon during the War of 1812, receiving an order from the government for several. Before he had delivered the cannon the British spiked them all, which resulted in their entire loss.

Frances Caldwell was born in 1760, she married Judge McClure and lived at West Liberty, Virginia.

Janet Caldwell was born in 1762 and died young.

Lovely Caldwell was born in 1764 and married Colonel Robert Woods. She was named on account of her beauty.

Elizabeth Caldwell was born in 1765 and married a Mr. Williamson.

Jane Caldwell was born in 1767 and married Mr. John Ralph.

Samuel Caldwell was born in 1769 and married. He had a family but not much is known of him.

James Caldwell was born in 1770. He became a merchant and lived at St. Clairsville, ten miles from Wheeling, in Ohio, and went to Congress from that district. He was said to be the handsomest man in the state. He was president of the Merchants and Mechanics Bank of Wheeling and at his death left a large estate. He married Nancy Booker of St. Clairsville. His son, Alfred Caldwell, was a graduate of Washington and Jefferson College, Pennsylvania, and of the Harvard Law School. He was an old time Whig and was seated by his party as Senator to the State Legislature of Virginia. In 1860 he became a Republican. The people of Richmond, the capital of Virginia, threatened to mob him if he, a Republican, came there and took his seat in the Senate. He accepted their challenge, came there and went to the capital and made the first Republican speech ever heard there. Lincoln appointed him Consul to Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands, where he remained through Lincoln's and Johnson's administrations. He also became mayor of Wheeling. He married, first, Battie Baird, and their son was Alfred Caldwell, who was born in 1884 and educated at Professor Harding's Academy in Wheeling; at Liberty Academy in Ohio County, Virginia; at Oahu College near Honolulu, Hawaiian Island; and at Yale, taking the degree of Ph. B. in 1867. He studied law in his father's office, being admitted to the Wheeling bar in 1868. Alfred Caldwell went with his father to the consulate in Honolulu in 1861. They returned to America in the summer of 1864. On his way home he stopped in Western Mexico during the struggle between the Emperor Maximilian and the Mexican patriots. In the fall of 1864, while on a visit to his brother George, an officer in General Sheridan's army in the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, he was at the Battle Cedar Creek, and saw General Philip H. Sheridan make his celebrated ride from Winchester to the front. He was clerk of the first branch of the council of the city of Wheeling from 1868-1875; state senator of West Virginia in 1875-1877, being a member of the court of impeachment which removed the state treasurer in 1876, and Attorney General of West Virginia two terms, 1885-1893. This descendant of the Caldwells still resides in Wheeling, practicing law. He married Miss Laura S. Goshorn in 1871.

Susannah Caldwell was born in 1772 and married a Dr. Hilliard.

Alexander Caldwell was born in 1774 and lived in Wheeling, where he was a lawyer, and through Henry Clay's influence was appointed United States Court Judge. He moved to Missouri in 1818, and practiced his profession there at St. Genevieve till 1820, when he returned to Wheeling. It was after his return that he was appointed judge. He was called the "poor man's friend". He married Eliza Halstead of New Jersey and died in 1817.

Joseph Caldwell was born in 1777, the youngest or last child of James Caldwell. He was a merchant in Wheeling until 1817. He then moved to his farm just out of Wheeling. He was also president of the Merchants and Mechanics Bank from 1841 to 1860. He married three times 1st, Mary Yarnell of Virginia; 2nd, Catherine R. Thompson; 3rd, Annie E. Pugh.

These fourteen children of a pioneer American have left, throughout the nation, thousands of descendants. This record is evidence of the power of heredity and is here recorded for its intrinsic historical values.