

## RITCHIES & CALDWELLS

### THE RITCHIE FAMILY

There appear to be several spellings of the surname Ritchie. In her book, *The Richey Clan*, Mary Durdin Bird uses the spelling **Richey**, but other documents and court records use **Ritchie**, **Ritchey**, **Richee** and **Richie**. The earliest document I found (1756) uses the spelling of **Ritchie** so I used that spelling in my writings almost exclusively.

The name Ritchie appears to be of French origin, and though it is not proven or documented, it is supposed to come from the family of Richelieu in France. The most famous of this family, Duc de Richelieu (Armand Jean du Plessis 1585-1642), was a French cardinal and statesman and leading minister to Louis IV, King of France. (Cardinal Richelieu is best remembered as the evil cardinal in *The Three Musketeers*). Some of the family went to Scotland and settled there. After all, the Scots and French were almost always allied as they both were long-time enemies of the English.

Whether this story is true is debatable, but we do know that the Ritchie/ Ritchie/ Richey families appear to have been in Scotland for some period of time, some of them eventually making a move to Ireland and finally coming to the American colonies in the early 1700s.

However, the name Ritchie also appears in early English records on the border of Scotland and appears to derive from the name Richard. There is a Ritchie coat of arms, a hand bearing a cross, which would indicate that some ancestor was a part of the crusades in the middle ages. This is more than likely the origin of *our* family.

The first Ritchie that we know about in our lineage is **SAMUEL RICHEY**, who was born about 1668 in Northern Ireland and died about 1739 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He was married to Lydia Moore. Their son was **ALEXANDER RITCHIE** who married **JANE CALDWELL**. It is believed that Alexander Ritchie and Jane Caldwell were of Scots origin but came to America from Ireland in December 1727, landing at New Castle, Delaware. From there they went to Lancaster, Pennsylvania and about 1730-1745 to Amelia County, Virginia. Alexander Ritchie died circa 1749 and his Will was probated in Amelia County on August 18, 1749. Jane Caldwell Ritchie is believed to be the sister of John Caldwell of Cub Creek in Lunenburg County, a prominent figure in the organization of the new Lunenburg County (1746) under the direction of Governor Gooch. There may also have been a brother, George Caldwell, whose Will was probated in Amelia County December 27, 1742.

**ALEXANDER and JANE CALDWELL RITCHIE had at least eight children: JOHN RITCHIE, SAMUEL, AGNES, SUSANNA, CATRIN, MAREY, JAMES and ALEXANDER II.**

1. **JOHN RITCHIE** (b. about 1735, d.1769) married **JANE DAVIS**, daughter of **GEORGE**\* and **VIOLET** (unknown surname) **DAVIS** in May 1756 in Prince Edward County, Virginia.

**They had at least four children** as mentioned in the Will of Jane Davis Ritchie probated in Clark County, Kentucky in 1799.

- i. **ALEXANDER RITCHIE**. He signed the marriage bond (September 4, 1786) for his sister, Margaret Ritchie, when she married Alexander Thompson.
- ii. **GEORGE RITCHIE**.
- iii. **MARGARET RITCHIE**. m. **ALEXANDER THOMPSON** in Prince Edward Co., VA December 7, 1786.
- iv. **VIOLET RITCHIE**.

There also may have been a daughter:

- v. **MARY RITCHIE**. b. 1757, m. **ABEDNEGO INMAN** in Limeton, Virginia and removed to Tennessee after the marriage. Mary died in Jefferson County, Tennessee in 1836. There is no proven documentation of Mary's parents being John and Jane Ritchie, other than family oral tradition.

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## **NOTES ON ALEXANDER THOMPSON AND MARGARET RITCHIE**

After the marriage of **ALEXANDER THOMPSON** and **MARGARET RITCHIE**, they moved to Lincoln County, Kentucky, as proven by gift deed documents signed in January of 1787. Alexander Ritchie witnessed these documents, so it is assumed the Ritchie family went west at that time.

Eventually, we find Alexander, George, Violet and their mother, Jane Davis Ritchie, in Clark County, Kentucky. Jane Davis Ritchie died in that county in 1799, and her Will was proven there. Violet died in 1809 and her Will was also probated in Clark County, Kentucky. Mentioned in her Will are George, Margaret and her daughter, Violet Thompson, and the son of her brother, Alexander, George Ritchie. Violet Ritchie apparently never married.

In the Kentucky census of 1800 I find Alexander, George and Violet all living in Clark County, in addition to a Samuel Ritchie and a James Ritchie. In the census of 1810 I find Alexander, senior, John and Samuel living in Clark

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\* *George Davis owned 400 acres in Amelia County on the south side of the south fork of Buffalo River — adjoining Alexander Ritchie and Archtacon recorded — July 25, 1749. After the death of Alexander Ritchie, his son, John Ritchie inherited his property adjoining George Davis. George Davis and Jane had at least two children: Jane, who married John Ritchie, and Violet, who married Adam Calhoun. Adam Calhoun is connected to John C. (Caldwell) Calhoun (1782-1850), famous American statesman and Vice President of the U.S. (1825-1832). It has been suggested, but not proven, that George Davis was part of the group of Scot-Irish that settled this area along with the Ritchie and Caldwell families.*

County and Alexander, Jr., George, and Samuel Ritchie living in Warren County. Can't locate a census of 1820 but the census of 1830 only lists a James and a Samuel Ritchie living in Clark County. I do not know the relationship of Samuel and James Ritchie, if there is a relationship to our Ritchie branch.

The other Ritchie in our family comes a generation later with the marriage **OF JANE THOMPSON**, daughter of **ALEXANDER** and **MARGARET THOMPSON**, to **JAMES RITCHIE**. They were married on May 10, 1805 in Lincoln County, Kentucky. This is verified in the Will of Alexander Thompson in 1814. Family tradition says that Jane and James were cousins. In 1819, Jane was made guardian of her minor brother, William Thompson, who was about 14 years old at the time. I find a James Ritchie in the 1830 census of Missouri living in St. Louis County.

## THE CALDWELL FAMILY

**T**he Caldwell family is an ancient family, coming originally from Italy. They went to Toulon, France and eventually settled in Scotland during the reign of James I of England. Ann Caldwell was said to be the grandmother of Oliver Cromwell, and during the Cromwell Protectorate in England, Oliver Cromwell sent several of his Caldwell relatives to Ireland to serve his various interests there. At the time of the restoration of Charles II to the English throne, the Caldwells began emigration to the colonies.

The earliest Caldwell name to be found in Scotland is **WILLIAM CALDWELL I**. **WILLIAM CALDWELL II** was born in 1579 in Stratlon County, Scotland. He married and had a son named **JOHN CALDWELL**, born about 1600 in Prestwick, Scotland.

**JOHN** married **MARY SWEETENHAM**, and they moved to Ireland, where John died on February 19, 1638 in Londonderry. We know they moved to Ireland sometime before 1630, because John and Mary had a son, **JOHN CALDWELL**, born in 1630 in Ballycoogan, Ireland.

This **JOHN CALDWELL** married (1) **MARGARET PORTER** and (2) **MARY HOLMES**, and they had a son, **JOSEPH CALDWELL**, born 1656 in Londonderry, Ireland, who married **JANE MCGHEE** in 1682.

**JOSEPH and JANE had three children of note:**

1. **CAPT. JOHN CALDWELL**, (1682-1750), married **MARGARET PHILLIPS**

### NOTES ON CAPTAIN JOHN CALDWELL

The most famous Caldwell appears to be **JOHN CALDWELL** who, it is believed, was born in County Derry, Ireland circa 1690. He left Ireland in 1727 and arrived in New Castle, Delaware on December 12, 1727. At the time of his arrival he was accompanied by his wife, **MARGARET PHILLIPS**, and five children and four brothers-in-law (Dougherty, Dugeon, Moore, and Alexander Ritchie, who was married to John Caldwell's sister, Jane Caldwell.) and their families. They went from New Castle to Lancaster, Pennsylvania and tarried there for an unknown period of time. Some of these families also went for a time to Abbeville, South Carolina.

Sometime between 1730 and 1745 John Caldwell and the Alexander Ritchie family went to Amelia County, Virginia, and eventually John settled an area on Cub Creek. John Caldwell played an important part in the formation of Lunenberg County from Amelia County in 1746, under the direction of Governor Gooch. Margaret Phillips Caldwell died sometime before 1748 and John died in 1750-51.

**JOHN and MARGARET CALDWELL had about 7 children.** It is believed that the first five children were born in Ireland, the others in Pennsylvania. It is also known that they were Presbyterian.

- i. **WILLIAM CALDWELL** m. Jean. Their grandson was John C. Calhoun, Vice President of the United States and senator from South Carolina.
- ii. **THOMAS CALDWELL.**
- iii. **DAVID CALDWELL** m. **MARY**

- iv. **MARGARET CALDWELL** m. 1. **JOHN ROGERS**, 2. **JAMES MITCHELL**
- v. **JOHN CALDWELL** .
- vi. **ROBERT CALDWELL** m. **MARY LOGAN**
- vii. **JAMES CALDWELL** m. **HANNA OGDEN**

- 2. **JANE (JEANNE) CALDWELL** (1688-1784), married **ALEXANDER RITCHIE**
- 3. **GEORGE CALDWELL** (1690-1742), married (1) **JANE PHILLIPS**, sister of Margaret Phillips, wife of John Caldwell, (2) **SARAH** (surname unknown).

**JANE CALDWELL RITCHIE** was the grandmother of **MARGARET RITCHIE**, who married **ALEXANDER THOMPSON** in Prince Edward County, Virginia on December 7, 1786. **GEORGE CALDWELL** was the grandfather of **ALEXANDER THOMPSON**, who married **MARGARET RITCHIE**. That would make Alexander Thompson and his wife, Margaret Ritchie, second cousins.

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## **BRINGING THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TO VIRGINIA**

Historically speaking, the settlement of the Caldwell, Ritchie, Moore, Dougherty, Dugeon and other related families in Virginia is of importance. The Commonwealth of Virginia only recognized one religion and that was the Church of England (Episcopal). No other practice of religion was allowed. The great influx of these Scot-Irish into the Shenandoah Valley with their Presbyterian religion presented a problem for the Commonwealth. These new settlers disliked the English, their government, and their religion, and they were considered "rebels" by most Virginians.

In response to a request of the Donegal Presbytery of Pennsylvania, instigated by Capt. John Caldwell on April 11, 1738, Governor Gooch agreed to allow the practice of the Presbyterian religion under certain circumstances. Basically, these rebels would have to swear an allegiance to the Crown and recognize the Church of England. All marriages would have to be in the "recognized" church. These Presbyterian settlements had "Meeting Houses", and could not call them churches. The Meeting Houses had windows, but they were allowed no glass or coverings on the windows so people could peer in and see what was going on. Doors were not allowed either.

There were two major settlements of the Scot-Irish in Virginia as a result of this compromise. One was the Tinkling Spring Congregation which was located in Augusta County (Fisherville, Virginia), and the other was the Cub Creek Congregation led by Captain John Caldwell in what became Lunenburg County, Virginia.

These people were the main influence on the policy of separating Church and State when it came time to ratify our Constitution.

## DOCUMENTATION

*The Old Free State, a History of Lunenburg Co.*, (1974) by: Landon C. Bell  
*Sunlight on the Southside: Lists of Tithes, Lunenburg Co., VA* (1974) by Landon C. Bell  
*Genealogies of Kentucky Families*, from the Register of Kentucky Historical Society. (1981)  
*The Caldwell's of Scotland*, by Mary Durdin Bird

## CUB CREEK CHURCH AND CONGREGATION

(1738 – 1838)

by Elizabeth Venable Gaines

*[This is the same Rogers family that worked with William "T" Thompson on keeping the road in repair in the Falling River area. This is also the family of George Rogers Clark, who explored the northwest territories with Merriweather Lewis. —NHA]*

Following is a letter from John Rodgers of Nashville, Tennessee written May 11, 1825:

*Our grandfather, John Caldwell, was born in Ireland and there married to Margaret Phillips (our grandmother). He remained there until he had five children at which time he got three of his brothers in laws, Moore, Richey and Dudgeon, to agree to come to this country; and another brother in law who married his wife's sister, named Dougherty (his son Thomas formerly Clerk in the lower House of Congress). These set sail together and landed at New Castle Delaware, the day King George II was proclaimed there. From thence they moved to a place in Pennsylvania called Chestnut Lorel.*

*Our grandfather, John Caldwell, of an enterprising disposition, explored the country southwesterly, and settled at a place in Virginia (now Charlotte County). He was soon followed by all his kindred. There he lived some years and there our grandmother died, and the oldest son. My mother, Margaret, their only daughter, was married there to my father, John Rodgers. Our grandfather, then hearing of Staunton River, explored the country until he and his followers settled upon a level well watered spot thirty miles outside of any habitation, to which place he and his sons and brother in law moved about the year 1742 or 1743. They were soon joined by other families, mostly from Ireland or Pennsylvania, until they formed a little settlement which was known as the 'Caldwell Settlement' for thirty years afterwards. Our grandfather was the first Justice of the Peace, and the eldest son, the first Militia Officer appointed under George II within twenty-five miles of that place ...*

*In that neighborhood I was born and married and had six children before I moved to Kentucky in 1781. Our grandfather's children were William, Thomas, David, Margaret, John, Robert and James. My father and grandfather died October 1750, just fourteen days apart ...William, Thomas, and David are buried in the church yard of Cub Creek with their father. David's widow and her children moved to Kentucky. Uncle John and William's widow and her family moved to South Carolina. Uncle John was killed by the Indians. Our friend, John C. Calhoun, is a grandson of Uncle William.*

*I am in my seventy-ninth year and enjoying good health.*

*Your affectionate relation,  
John Rodgers*