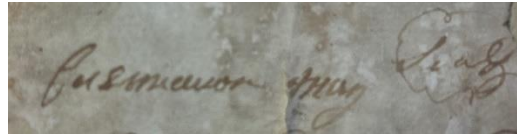


Cassimore May

From Germany to Washington County

1754 – 1836



Cassimore May was born in Germany, the son of Joann Wilhelm May and Ann Elizabeth Schertel. His parents died while he was still a child, and as a young man of 19, he left his home, and sailed to Philadelphia in 1773. He was listed as “Casimir May”¹ on the ship, “Charming Molly.” It was in Philadelphia that he was drafted into the Pennsylvania Militia, in the summer of 1777. He joined the main army under General George Washington, and fought in the Battle of Brandywine in 1777².

It is likely that he remained in Pennsylvania for a few years before removing to the Washington County area of North Carolina. I found no original record of his marriage to Mary Horne, but I believe this may also have been while he was in Pennsylvania. The birth of their first child was in 1782, a son named John. Other children followed, William and Elizabeth in 1785, and Mary in 1787. There is a gap between their children here, the next child, Catherine, born in 1791. Another gap between children is after Catherine, and before the next child, Peter, born in 1795. It may have been during this time that the family came to Washington County. Four more children were born into the family, Adam in 1796, Samuel in 1797, Barnabus in 1800, and David in 1803.

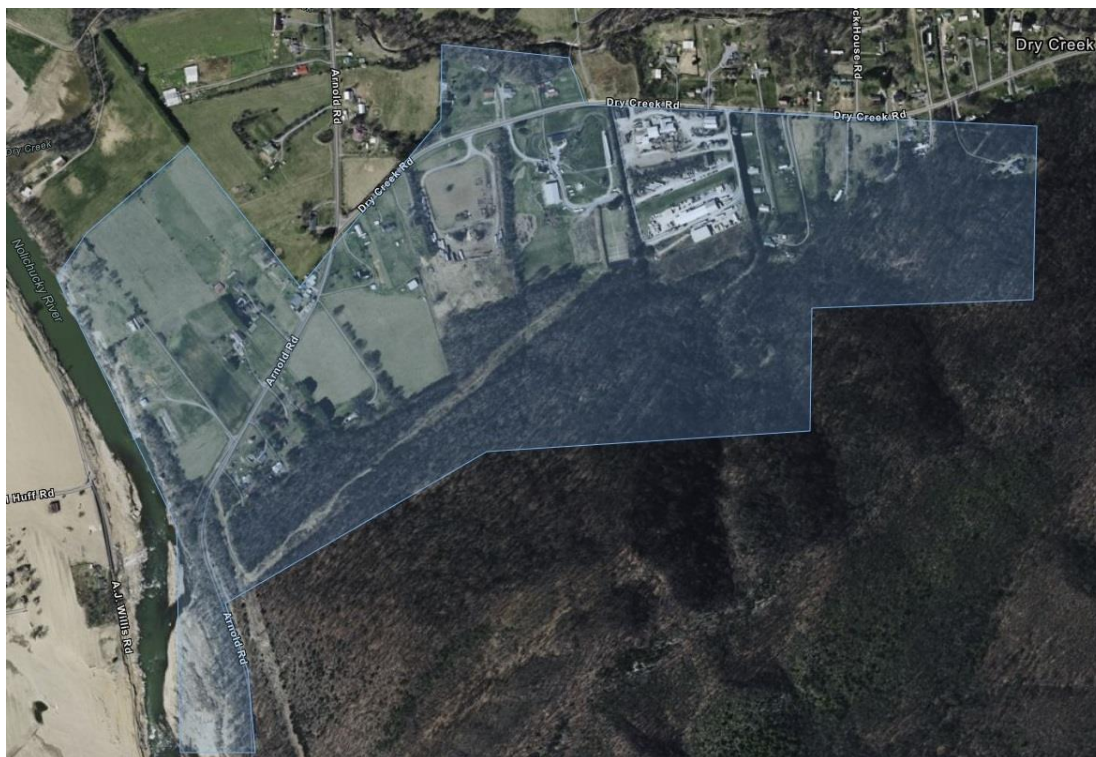
Other supporting evidence for that the May family arrived here between 1791 and 1795 is found in records here in the archives. The first mention of Cassimore May is found in March, 1794, a court case between May and James Penney, for trespass. 1794 is also the first time May is listed on the county tax list, as seen below. It is important to note here that May is shown as owning no land. From 1794 through 1835, Cassimore May consistently is listed in the county’s tax lists.

Name	Poles	Land
Wm Stephenson	1	467
John Embree	1	200
John Ball	1	200
Thomas Scott	1	100
Jonathan Danton	1	
John Roberts	1	
Thomas Gillespie	3	1290
William Adams	1	200
Casimir May	2	100
James Montgomery	1	625
John Macalister	2	100
Samuel Dack	1	

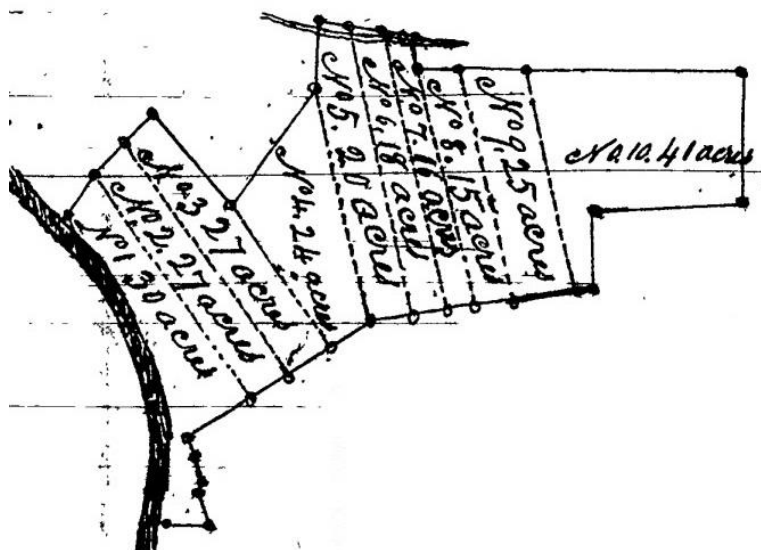
1794 tax list, Milliken’s Company, Washington County

His first purchase of land was in 1797, when he acquired six acres from Casper Sliger. This property was a portion of the North Carolina Land Grant #884, originally granted to James Cash.

In 1798, he purchased 50 acres from Jonathan Tipton in the present-day Dry Creek area of the county. He later purchased 117 acres from Charles Robertson, and was also a recipient of two Tennessee land grants, #5824 (September 1809), and #10445 (April 1824). The image below shows the property at Dry Creek, bounded on the west by the Nolichucky River.



At the time of his death on May 31, 1836, May likely lived on the parcel of land in Dry Creek. He had long since sold the Bulldog Miller tract. The Dry Creek property was divided among his heirs, found in Deed Book 21, page 372. The image below shows the layout of the lots, and the recipient of each.



- David May - Lot 1
- Barnabas May - Lot 2
- Samuel Keplinger and wife - Lot 3
- John May - Lot 4
- Adam May - Lot 5
- Samuel May - Lot 6
- Catherine Kindal - Lot 7
- Peter May - Lot 8
- Jacob Million and wife - Lot 9
- William May's heirs - Lot 10

Cassimore May and his wife are both buried at the Old Dutch Meeting House Cemetery; his grave is marked by a hand-carved tombstone. A government military marker was set on May 28, 1958 to recognize his service in the Revolutionary War. At least two of their children, Catherine Keplinger, and her husband Jacob, and David May are also buried in the cemetery.



Historical marker for the Old Dutch Meeting House



Old Dutch Meeting House Cemetery



Mary May's tombstone.



Cassimore May's two tombstones
PVT PA Line Rev War

1. STRASSBURGER, RALPH BEAVER. *Pennsylvania German Pioneers: A Publication of the Original Lists of Arrivals in the Port of Philadelphia from 1727 to 1808*. Edited by William John Hinke. Norristown [PA]: Pennsylvania German Society, 1934. 3 vols. Vols. 1 and 3 reprinted by Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, 1964. Repr. 1983. Vol. 1. 1727-1775. 776p.
2. Ancestry.com. *U.S., Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. (Original data: Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files (NARA microfilm publication M804, 2,670 rolls). Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15. National Archives, Washington, D.C.)