

= James Caudy =

James Caudy (1707 ? March 15 , 1784) was an American frontiersman , settler , and landowner in the Ridge @-@ and @-@ Valley Appalachians of the Colony of Virginia ? present @-@ day West Virginia . Caudy was born in the Netherlands , immigrated to the Thirteen Colonies in the 1730s , and settled within the Cacapon River valley near present @-@ day Capon Bridge in Hampshire County . As early as 1741 , Caudy was associated with the arrangement and development of transportation routes throughout present @-@ day Hampshire County . Caudy twice hosted George Washington ; first during his surveying expedition in 1748 and again upon Washington 's 1750 return to the Cacapon River valley .

Caudy participated in the French and Indian War and is best known for having purportedly defended himself from a band of Native American fighters on Caudy 's Castle ? a sandstone outcrop that now bears his name . According to tradition , Caudy used his long rifle barrel to push his Native American attackers off the rock into the Cacapon River below . In his later life , Caudy became involved in a land dispute with John Capper that was resolved by Thomas Fairfax , 6th Lord Fairfax of Cameron in November 1762 . Caudy died in 1784 and was interred on his property south of present @-@ day Capon Bridge . According to local tradition , Caudy was buried with a Native American on either side of him , while another tradition says Caudy was buried with his horse .

= = Early life = =

James Caudy was born in 1707 in the Netherlands . He possibly arrived in the Thirteen Colonies through Prince George 's County in the Province of Maryland in the 1730s . While in Prince George 's County , Caudy married his first wife , Mary Hutchinson .

= = Settlement in Virginia = =

Around 1738 , Caudy and fellow frontiersman Joseph Edwards purchased tracts of land along the Cacapon River . He and Edwards were accompanied by the first two families of European descent to settle in the Cacapon River valley . Caudy and his family settled on 358 acres (145 ha ; 0 @.@ 559 sq mi) in the Cacapon River valley near present @-@ day Capon Bridge in what was then Orange County . Caudy 's land parcel was located to the south of Edwards 's 400 acres (160 ha ; 0 @.@ 63 sq mi) ; the present @-@ day U.S. Route 50 (Northwestern Turnpike) approximately corresponds to the boundary between Caudy 's and Edwards 's land parcels .

= = Development of transportation routes = =

As early as 1741 , Caudy was associated with the arrangement and development of transportation routes throughout present @-@ day Hampshire County . On March 25 , 1742 , an Orange County court order mandated that Jeremiah Smith and James Eaton " view and lay " a road from Caudy 's land to Isaac Perkins 's mill near Winchester . That year , a wagon road was constructed between Winchester and Caudy 's land tract . By 1744 , this route was extended from Caudy 's property to the North River at present @-@ day North River Mills . This route later terminated at the mouth of Patterson Creek on the North Branch Potomac River and connected Winchester with Cumberland , Maryland .

In December 1742 , the County Court of Orange County ordered the construction of another wagon road from Caudy 's land to the South Branch Potomac River . In 1743 , a wagon road connecting Winchester and Moorefield traversed Caudy 's land using a ford in the Cacapon River . This road led to a watermill near Old Fields on the South Branch Potomac River . Due to the location of Caudy 's settlement along the Winchester ? Moorefield route , his residence served as an overnight stopping point for George Washington and George William Fairfax in April 1748 . Washington and Fairfax were returning to Winchester en route to Belvoir following their surveying expedition in the South Branch Potomac River valley in present @-@ day Hardy County . Washington and his surveying

party stayed overnight in Caudy 's log cabin . On April 12 , 1750 , George Washington surveyed a plot of " waste land " for Caudy , using white oak trees as boundary markers .

Caudy and John Stewart of Frederick County coordinated the layout and construction of further transportation routes through the region , and were respected for their efforts . Following Stewart 's death in 1750 , Stewart left his eldest son in the charge of Caudy and Captain Jeremiah Smith , who both procured land along the Cacapon River for him .

= = French and Indian War = =

= = = Caudy 's Castle incident = = =

According to local tradition and folklore , Caudy is known as an " Indian fighter " . Upon detecting a Native American stalker in pursuit of him , Caudy pretended to flee along a pathway leading up the mountain toward the craggy bluffs spanning between 450 and 600 feet (140 and 180 m) above the Cacapon River , south of present @-@ day Forks of Cacapon . This pathway edged around the face of a rock formation overlooking the Cacapon River , and narrowed into a rocky ledge . Another legend says Caudy was leading a group of pioneer settlers in defense against Native American attacks .

In both versions of the story , Caudy awaited his pursuers within the craggy recesses of the rock formation . The narrow recesses within the pinnacle 's sandstone ledges allowed only single file passage through the rock outcrop toward the formation 's face . As Caudy 's followers traversed the outcrop 's narrow passes and ledges , Caudy is said to have used his long rifle barrel to push them one @-@ by @-@ one off the rock formation into the Cacapon River 450 to 600 feet (140 to 180 m) below . Other legends say Caudy used the tactic atop this rock on several occasions . The outcrop was named " Caudy 's Castle , " by which it is still known . With the exception of this event , there exist no other accounts of encounters or conflicts between Caudy and Native Americans .

= = = French and Indian War service = = =

During the French and Indian War , Caudy remained on his property on the Cacapon River ; he staunchly defended it and likely sought further protection at Fort Edwards to the north . Caudy 's residence may have been fortified ; it was known as " Cuddy 's Fort " . This fortification was not part of the " chain of forts " organized by George Washington for the defense of settlers against Native American raids in the South Branch Potomac and Cacapon River valleys . Caudy also served as a drummer in Maryland frontiersman Michael Cresap 's militia .

Caudy hosted Washington again in 1755 , providing Washington with an ample supply of grass seed that was likely produced in one of Caudy 's fertile fields known as " Caudy 's Meadow " . Civil engineer Claudius Crozet later mentioned Caudy 's Meadow in his fieldnotes during the planning and construction of the Northwestern Turnpike nearby . Washington sent payment for the grass seed to Caudy through James Wood , the founder of Winchester , Virginia .

= = Later life and death = =

Following his marriage to the widow of James McCoy by 1761 , Caudy intended to acquire McCoy 's 369 acres (149 ha ; 0 @. @ 577 sq mi) east of Great North Mountain in Frederick County . Caudy 's claim to McCoy 's land was disputed by John Capper , who claimed to have purchased McCoy 's property before his death . A feud developed between Caudy and Capper ; it was resolved by Thomas Fairfax , 6th Lord Fairfax of Cameron in November 1762 . Lord Fairfax awarded 165 acres (67 ha ; 0 @. @ 258 sq mi) to Caudy and the remainder of the disputed land to Capper .

Caudy never learned to write in English ; he signed his last will and testament with an X mark in 1784 . Caudy died on March 15 , 1784 , and was interred on his property south of present @-@ day Capon Bridge . According to local tradition , Caudy was buried with a Native American on either side

of him . Another tradition says he was buried with his horse . The site of Caudy 's interment is located on property now known as Hartford Bealer farm . In the 1930s , Caudy 's burial site was attended to by a local Boy Scouts troop , who landscaped the site and planted shrubbery . By 1976 , Caudy 's burial place was marked with four posts . In 2002 , the Capon Bridge Ruritan Club removed the overgrown shrubs and erected a white fence around Caudy 's interment site . The project was initiated by Capon Bridge area residents Roy Giffin , Ken Edmonds , and Roberta Munske . The Ruritans purchased a marble marker and erected it on the site at 9 a.m. on November 15 , 2003 . The burial site is accessible and visible from Christian Church Road , West Virginia Secondary Route 13 .

= = Marriages and issue = =

Caudy 's first marriage was to Mary Hutchinson in Prince George 's County , Maryland . He and Mary had five children together :

David Caudy (died in November 1782) , married Martha Hiatt

Ann Caudy Dulany , married a Mr. Dulany

Margaret Caudy Wood , married Daniel Wood

Mary Caudy Kinman , married Samuel Kinman

Sarah Caudy Hancher , married Joseph Hancher

By 1761 , Caudy had married the widow of James McCoy , who lived across Great North Mountain in Frederick County .