

Courtesy of Larry Petrisky (email October 2008)  
Generation No.2

DAVID HEMBREE, son of \*JAMES HEMBREE (b.c.1700 VA; d. bef. 1770 Lunenburg Co, VA) and SARAH. A civil suit Clement Read vs. James Hembry in Feb 1754 Halifax Co, VA validates the Hembree name. Clement Read, an attorney for Col. Henry Embry, would presumably know the spelling. (\*Bob Hembree, the 'dean of Hembree researchers' writes, "James Hembree, NOT William as so often reported, is the father of David Hembree")

David Hembree and his brother, James were in the Granville County Militia commanded by Jno. Sallis on 6 September 1755 in Granville County, Colony of North Carolina.(1) He married Elizabeth before 1759.

It is important to remember that David and James Hembree did not come into upper South Carolina before 1768. Therefore they are not related to 'Old John' Hembree and that family of Cherokee ancestors. **David's daughter Margaret, however, married Nicholas Welch, son of Elizabeth, said to be Cherokee(3).)**

By 1773 there was a steady stream of migration into South Carolina from the north. The 'Presbyterians' from Pennsylvania and New Jersey filled the northern and eastern farm lands. Many Virginians moved to the back country to establish their own churches. The migration from Virginia was driven by a religious revival known as 'anabaptism' (what we would call 'born again' Christianity). Anabaptism was a return to the Bible and a rejection of the Anglican Church, which was so powerful in Virginia. Anabaptists did not name their sons after English kings: William, Henry, George, John, James. They preferred names from the Bible: Benjamin, Isaac, David, Reuben, Moses, Jesse, Joel, Joseph, Isaiah, Elijah, Ephraim and so on.

Into the upper reaches of Spartanburg came the Anabaptists, with David Hembree and his brother James and their families. David's uncle William was a founder of the Meherrin Baptist Church of Lunenburg County, Virginia. This congregation wanted to establish a pilot church in a place free from Anglican control. They went to North Carolina for 10-15 years then found the upper corner of South Carolina more to their liking. [Aaron Loockock had lands in Spartanburg County, South Carolina on the Pacolet River, which is probably where the boys lived in 1776.]

David Hembree was part of a Baptist migration from Deep River (Granville County), North Carolina, to Tyger River (Spartanburg & Union District), South Carolina, then to Pendleton District, South Carolina, before 1788. His pastor, the controversial Philip Mulkey, is his neighbor in the 1790 census of Pendleton District, South Carolina. David Hembree owned land on 26 Mile Creek, in what is now Anderson County, South Carolina. The church was the center of the lives of these families and migrations were congregational, either due to church plantings or splits.

David died between 1809 and 1810 in Pendleton District, South Carolina. His will was probated in Pendleton District, South Carolina, after 1810.(2) He was buried in Old Salem Cemetery, Pendleton District, South Carolina; No tombstone has been located but it is likely that he was buried here.

Who was David Hembree and what was his family connection to the family of Old John Hembree?

See Larry Petrisky's online book "Bob Hembree, the "dean of Hembree researchers  
"James Hembree, NOT William as so often reported" and also

See 'Old John' Hembree' <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~tnmcm2/johnhem2.htm> and

The Abraham Hembree Data Project <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~tnmcm2/AbrahamHembree.htm>

1.[S2081] Colonial and State Records of NC, Vol. XXII, TP, pp 365–366. (<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~rfwilson/robert-p/p41.htm#i14290>)

2.[S2082] David Hembree, Anderson County, South Carolina, Probate Records, Roll 332. (<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~rfwilson/robert-p/p41.htm#i14290>)

3. James Northcutt" <http://www.myroots.net/getperson.php?personID=I939&tree=MRall>