

# Cyrus Cogburn

## 2018 Pottery Hall of Fame

Cyrus Cogburn, the 2018 Georgia JugFest Pottery Hall of Fame inductee, was born in 1782 in North Carolina and the son of Henry and Elizabeth. He married



Sarah Henderson (1742-1824) before 1804 and had several children, Levi, Henry, W. Jackson, Luis, and Tomlinson who was also a known potter.

Along the way, Cyrus (aka Sirius and Scirus) turned jugs and jars in Washington county, Crawford, Upson, and Talbot County Georgia. By 1820, Cyrus was turning pottery with the Bustle family of potters in Washington County. The Bustle family later moved to Crawford. In 1823, he won land in the Upson County Land Lottery, "landing," so to speak, in the Upson-Talbot County, Georgia, area before 1830, where he was listed in the 1830 census as being 40-49 years of age.

By 1840, Cyrus was listed in the Macon County, Alabama, census as Scirus (Cyrus) Cogburn, 50-59 years old. By 1850, Cyrus, 68, was working in Rusk County, Texas, with his son, Tomlinson, 32.

So, when did he possibly make pottery in Crawford County? Most likely between 1830 and 1840, since pottery sherds believed to have been made and marked by Cyrus and by his son Tomlinson (marked with a small "t") were found. They were recovered from William Bustle's pottery waster dump, another known Crawford county potter.

Recently, Gary and Martha Price of East Alabama have found signed Cyrus Cogburn sherds in Randolph County, Alabama. It seems logical that Cyrus

Cogburn, like so many other early potters, worked his way to Texas, filling in as a turner for potteries located along his route. A large pottery vase with his mark was discovered in an antique shop in Lanett, Alabama, near the Rock Mills pottery center.

In addition to pottery and sherds, Cyrus also left family members behind, including his son Henry Cogburn, who married into a Talbot County family and remains in the family graveyard there.

Mr. Cogburn died 1855 in Rusk, Texas and his burial place is unknown at this time.

By: Russell Jones