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James Iredell, Sr. was a resident of Edenton, North Carolina and the youngest member of the Supreme Court, appointed by President George Washington. Iredell advocated for the adoption of the United States Constitution in North Carolina and wrote "Answers," a response to George Mason's "Objections to the Constitution." Iredell's essay was associated with the *Federalist Papers*, and rightfully so as Iredell, himself was a potent Federalist in North Carolina. A successful lawyer, Iredell spent much of his time working in circuit courts, the strain of which would ultimately cost him his life at age forty-eight. Built in 1773, Iredell's house still stands in Edenton, North Carolina, on Church Street near the Edenton Visitor Center. (Whichard, n.d.).

Because of Iredell's prominent advocacy work toward the Constitution, a time capsule would contain drafts and additional pages of his essays that accompanied the *Federalist Papers*. These essays were a large step toward the advancement of the Constitution, so Iredell would have speeches to accompany them. Iredell was passionate about having the Constitution ratified, therefore he would have prepared information to share with other people as to why the Constitution was important. These documents would give insight as to how Edentonians and North Carolinians, in general, felt about the Constitution as Iredell would have written in a manner that would persuade these people to approve the Constitution. It would also showcase how Iredell would pursue a topic he was interested in. Iredell would also have written documents like a journal or diary entry, including his personal and educated opinions as well. He would also reference the way society was running in both North Carolina as a whole and in Edenton, specifically. In these

writings, Iredell would discuss recent propositions within the town, such as items discussed at town meetings and within the current North Carolina legislative body.

Although Iredell was born and spent the first seventeen years of his life in England, moving to America allowed him to branch out and eventually work towards independence for the American people. Iredell wrote *Principles of an American Whig*, a treatise, that displayed his ideas of what independence would mean for American citizens (National Archives, n.d.). The hopes and ideas Iredell wrote about in this treatise later influenced the writing of the Declaration of Independence. Like any prolific writer and advocate, Iredell would have had drafts and notes written down as he prepared to write *Principles of an American Whig*. Finding these documents in a time capsule would be like looking inside Iredell's mind - understanding his interest in America's independence and how he expected the future of America to look.

Finding a time capsule within Iredell's house would be like opening a picture book of Edenton's history. Inside the capsule would be tea, leftover from the Edenton Tea Party - the boycott that preceded and encouraged the Boston Tea Party. As Iredell was a well known public figure in Edenton, it is inevitable that remnants of a historic movement could be found with his home. It would be nearly impossible to remove all traces of tea from the movement led by Edentonian women, and it is unlikely that Iredell would have disposed of the tea left in his home. Additionally, a handmade candle would be placed within the time capsule as many Edentonians were constructing their own candles. With Iredell constantly crafting his influential essays, he would have had several candles in his home to provide him light to work with. A half-burned candle found in the time capsule would be

accompanied by wood from barrels and ships due to Edenton's service as a large naval port.

Finally, a time capsule found in Iredell's home would contain beer. Iredell would draw ideas from George Washington's "To Make Small Beer," a recipe written in 1757, to create his own (Alcohol Problems and Solutions, n.d.). The brewing of beer surged in the eighteenth century, and Edenton was no exception. Iredell, as well as other Edentonians, would turn to George Washington's personal recipe to craft their own beer. Testing the ingredients found in the beer would allow the finders of the time capsule to unveil the commonly used ingredients as well as any alterations to the Edentonian version.



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