

## John Weaver

John Weaver was a Revolutionary War soldier, a Democrat and a farmer. John's great-grandfather was Caspar Weber. Caspar was born in Germany in 1700 and immigrated to America in 1720. Caspar's son, Christopher, was born in 1731 in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Christopher would marry Anna Elizabeth Lintzin, in a Lutheran Church, in Lancaster County. In 1749, John Weaver, the oldest of four sons and three daughters, was born to Christopher and Anna.

America was the "promised land" and it was expanding westward. At first it was a trickle, but soon it would be a flood of land seekers traveling along the Great Philadelphia Wagon Road. This was a major American pioneer road that began in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, passed through the Roanoke Gap and on southward into the rolling red hills of South Carolina. Because this was such a large, empty country full of cheap land, eventually Christopher Weber and his family would be swept into the westward tide.

The Webers' journey would take them 110 miles west on the Great Philadelphia Wagon Road. Their most likely mode of transportation was the six-horse drawn, boat-shaped Conestoga wagon. They would pass the settlements of York, Gettysburg, Hagerstown and eventually arrive at their new home at Sleepy Creek, Berkeley County, Colony of Virginia. With this start in a new land and the fact that most Colonists were British and English-speaking, Christopher changed the family name to Weaver.

With the onset of the Revolutionary War, Berkeley County would quickly feel immediate and profound effects. As early as 1777, soldiers from the Berkeley County militia were involved in the Battle of Brandywine, Pennsylvania. In that battle George Washington tried to prevent General William Howe from taking Philadelphia. It was a

British victory with the outnumbered American army being driven from the field. Afterward, from 1778-1779 the militia was garrisoned 25 miles northwest of Pittsburgh, at Fort McIntosh, Pennsylvania.

At the age of 31, John Weaver enlisted in the Berkeley County Militia in 1780 and served until 1783. During his enlistment the Berkeley County Militia saw action at the Battle of Cowpens, South Carolina, the Siege of York and guarded prisoners that were taken at Yorktown, all in 1781. On the homefront, Christopher Weaver had provided wheat from his farm to the Militia of Virginia. He was paid 122 Pounds Sterling and 10 Shillings on October 21, 1780. It must be noted that Christopher Weaver had a total of four sons who served in the Revolutionary War. Their names were William, Christopher Jr., Henry and John.

By 1783, Britain and the victorious Americans were negotiating peace in Paris, France. On June 18, 1783, John Weaver was ordered to remain on furlough until a possible recall and was released from service. This was a way to keep soldiers bound to service in case hostilities broke out again. On September 3, 1783, the Treaty of Paris was signed and then ratified by the Continental Congress on January 14, 1784. Thus, officially ended all hostilities.

Back in Berkeley County, the marriage of John Weaver and Catherine Peckenpaugh occurred about 1782 and was followed by the birth of their first child, John Jr., in 1783. He would be the oldest of nine children. Sadly, in 1788, the Weaver family would lose its patriarch, Christopher Weaver, in Sleepy Creek, Berkeley County, Colony of Virginia.

The will of Christopher Weaver provides an interesting insight into the inner dynamics of the Weaver family. The document stipulates an equal distribution of the estate to the seven children, but only upon the death of his wife, Elizabeth. Furthermore, "if John Weaver is

not satisfied, [he is] to be paid [only] five Shillings Sterling out of the estate." This was probably inserted either to prevent a family quarrel or to remedy a current situation. Ultimately, when Elizabeth does die, the family will separate.

By now, the war was an event of the past, and the country was being elevated with a new spirit. A combination of factors would steer National policy. The British, at the peace table in Paris in 1783, ceded the entire Northwest Territories to the United States. The U.S. Congress created the Virginia Military District of Ohio, which was reserved for Virginia's Revolutionary War soldiers. In 1779, the Virginia State Legislature determined that the number of acres distributed would be according to rank and years of service of the recipient. For instance, a Major General was entitled to 15,000 acres and a soldier serving three years could receive 100 acres. In 1800, John Weaver received 100 acres for his service in the militia of Berkeley County, Virginia.

After the death of their mother Elizabeth, the Weaver family again became part of the westward migration. In 1802, John Weaver's brothers William and Christopher Jr., left Berkeley County and traveled through Kentucky on their way to Champaign County, Ohio. The only brother to stay in Berkeley County, VA, was Henry Weaver. In 1806, John Weaver's oldest son, John Jr., married Christianna Miller. In 1807, John Jr. and his new wife immigrated to Clermont County, Ohio. Upon arrival, they rented a farm from Ezekial Dimmitt near Batavia. Word would get back to John Weaver that Clermont County was plentiful of fertile and undeveloped farm land. By 1810, John Weaver would leave Virginia with his eight children and join his son in Clermont County, Ohio.

John was a man of considerable substance and would bring with him all of the necessary farming implements and stock. He was

prepared to make a new life for his large family. Between the years 1812 and 1827, John purchased over 805 acres of land in Clermont County. His first home was a log cabin. Later a wood structure house was built that eventually gave way to a brick-style home. He would even build a windmill on the farm.

In 1829, John's wife Catherine would pass away. John died in 1831, and they are now both buried together on their original farm property. After John's death, Congress liberalized the service-pension acts benefiting Revolutionary War veterans. In 1833, the heirs to the estate of John Weaver applied and received a land grant from the President of the United States, Andrew Jackson, for 682 acres. To this day, ancestors of the Weaver family still occupy land once owned by John Weaver, Revolutionary War veteran. ♦

*Submitted, researched and written by Bryan Paul Weaver, of Rancho Palos Verdes, CA. He is the 4th great-grandson of John Weaver.*

### **Mrs. Jacob Snyder's Birthday** Kingston, Ohio

January 20, 1880 was the 66th birthday of Mrs. Jacob Snyder. About 45 of her friends, with well filled baskets, made a grand surprise to their residence, three and a half miles northwest of Urbana. Mrs. S., although being taken entirely by surprise, was very successful in making her guests feel perfectly at home.

She was born in Rensselur County, N.Y., Jan. 20, 1814, moved to this county in 1858, where two years after, they purchased the piece of ground formerly known as the "Old Field".

Twelve children were born to them, only six are still living. The last to pass away was Mrs. Jas. Perry, who was burned to death. ♦

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Abstracted by Pat Stickley