



Johannes Roller

1725 – 1816

Virginia

Johannes, or Johannas (John), was born in 1725 in Wildberg, Baden-Württemberg, Germany.

Possibly encouraged by William Penn's description of America, John traveled down the Rhine River to Rotterdam and departed from there on the ship *Patience* (stopping at Cowes on the Isle of Wight, England) and arrived at Philadelphia on August 11, 1750. He later moved to Virginia. Virginia Times article published on 19 Feb 1915, written by Dr. Robert D. Roller which states that the Roller name is fondly associated with Wildberg, Balingen, around Hohenzollern and throughout the Black Forest of Wuerttemberg, Germany.

John's history is unknown between landing in 1750 and receiving a Lord Fairfax grant in 1760. Grants or leases were made to more than twenty persons by 1760 including John Roller.

John was a patriot in the Revolutionary War and served as a private in the Third Virginia Regiment. He was in the Dunmore County Militia under the command of Cpt. Jacob Holeman. His civic duty was as a Juror in Shenandoah CO in 1783.

First Census of Virginia in 1782 lists John Roller with 11 people, 1 dwelling and 1 building. The 1787 Census shows John with 5 horses and 18 cows. His wife, Anna, died before 1788. Then he married Catherine Dosser on Jan 12, 1788 in Rockingham CO, VA. Marriage listed in Shenandoah Co, VA records as Catharina Doser.

Johannes Roller of Rockingham and Shenandoah Counties (earlier called Dunmore County) is the father of all the Rollers of Scott CO, Virginia. All of his children were born in Rockingham CO or Shenandoah CO. The family did not move from Rockingham CO to Shenandoah CO, instead the part of Rockingham CO in which they lived changed to Shenandoah County. In fact Johannes

was a signer of a petition to change the name. Johannes died in Timberville, Rockingham, VA, in June 1816.