

JOHANNES "JOHN" OTTINGER
Private/QM Pennsylvania

John Ottinger is a documented Revolutionary War Soldier by the D.A.R. Oddly, he is not shown as a Pensioner. Given the fact he lived to be 104 years old when he died in 1859, it is extraordinary he did not receive a Pension.



Age 104 years & 16 days
St James Cemetery

The Southside by Goldene Fillers Burgner, pg 69

The Neas and Ottinger families came to America by way of Philadelphia.

These Germans migrated down the Shenandoah Valley and came into southern Greene County, Tennessee around 1790-1800. John Welty, a German, who fought in the American Revolution, was a taxpayer here in 1793. This was a hard life. They came, saw and conquered the wilderness. For many years they spoke their own language and lived somewhat to themselves. They were still using the German language in their sermons in 1820, and in their home a century later.

Biography

JOHANNES (JOHN) CHRISTIAN OTTINGER

Johannes (John) Christian Ottinger was born on June 15, 1755, in York County, Pennsylvania. He was the eighth of 10 children of German immigrants (and natural-

Captain Emmanuel Herman in the Second Battalion of York County, Pennsylvania, Company 5, and also spent six months as a private in the regiment commanded by Colonel Snoffel.



The Spirit of '76

While in the service, John played the fife and served as a quartermaster in charge of the company's wagons. He was within hearing distance of the artillery during the Battle of

ized British citizens) Johannes Jacob Ottinger (1716 - 1781) and Anna Johanna Joseph Ottinger (1723 - 1816).

John turned 21 in 1776, the year the United States of America formally declared its independence from the British Empire. When he filed for his war pension in 1851 (at age 96), John stated he was drafted to serve under

Germantown on October 4, 1777. John later removed the dead and wounded from the battlefield and collected provisions for the Cavalry. After the Revolutionary War John remained in York County, where he was a farmer, rock mason, and tanner by trade. At the age of 26, in 1781, he married Pennsylvania native Margaret Detterman,

**Born June 15, 1755,
in York County,
Pennsylvania,
USA**

**Died October
13, 1859, in Greene
County, Tennessee,
USA**

**Farmer, Rock
Mason, Tanner,
Soldier, and
Fife Player**

**Fourth Great
Grandfather of
Ed Sams**

Johannes Christian (John)
Ottinger (1755 - 1859)

↓

Michael Ottinger
(1801 - 1877)

↓

Sarah Ottinger (1827 - 1897)

↓

David Phillip Boyer
(1858 - 1910)

↓

Zollie Boyer (1887 - 1933)

↓

Edwin Boyer Sams
(1918 - 1981)

↓

Ed Sams

Ottinger, Boyer, Ruble

Families Hail From Penn

Three Cocke County families can trace their ancestry back to York, Pennsylvania. They are Boyer, Ottinger and Ruble. Each family had come from Germany and probably went to Germany from Switzerland. It is interesting to note the numerous Boyer-Ottinger marriages from early times in Cocke County to the present time with only one Boyer-Ruble marriage.

The Ruble family did not come to Cocke County until 1890. In 1914 Festus Boyer, whose grandmother was an Ottinger, married Julia Ruble of Del Rio.

The Boyer family of Cocke County has interesting history that has been placed in Stokely Memorial Library. Jacob Boyer, first of the name in Cocke County settled on Clear Creek before 1806. His grandson, Creed Fulton Boyer, wrote that he came from Massachusetts to Pennsylvania, thence to Virginia. Other descendants stated he was born in Virginia. He was raised in Virginia on the Shenandoah River near Rockingham and married Margaret Huffman in Virginia. Jacob was a soldier in the Revolutionary War.

American Boyers, a history of the various Boyer families had as its 1950 edition editor Donald Arthur Boyer of York, Pennsylvania. Seventeen pages concern descendants of the Jacob Boyer family. This information was contributed by Willodean Nease Schofield a Boyer descendant.

The Boyers who came to America are said to have lived in Switzerland. Many families who came to America lived in Switzerland and then in Germany before coming to Pennsylvania.

The Boyer family has a proud heritage and have

been leading citizens of Cocke County for a great number of years.

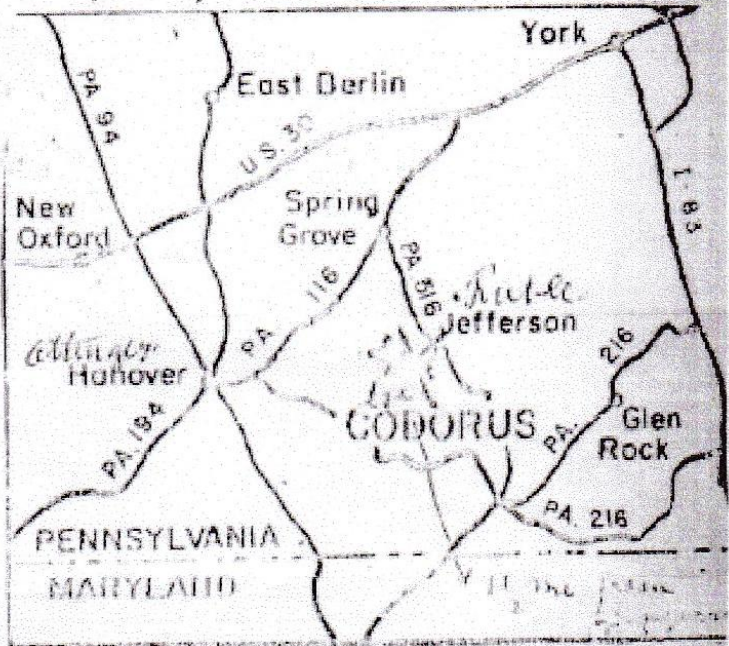
The history of the Ottinger family as researched and recorded by Nancy Lampton and Duay O'Neil begins with "John Ottinger was born in Pennsylvania September 22, 1795 of parents who were also born in that state." It is interesting to note that John married Margaret Dettman in York County, Pennsylvania. Sometime before 1828 John and his family moved to Greene County, Tennessee. This couple had several children, namely:

John Jr., David, Jacob, Peter and probably others. Margaret Dettman Ottinger is buried in the Saint James Lutheran Cemetery. The marker is written in German and is one of the oldest markers. John never remarried. He died in 1859 at the age of 64 and is buried by his wife.

The history of the Ottinger family is very interesting. The family that began in Greene County near St. James spread over into Cocke County. The majority of the graves in the large cemetery of the Saint James Lutheran Church have Ottinger on the markers.

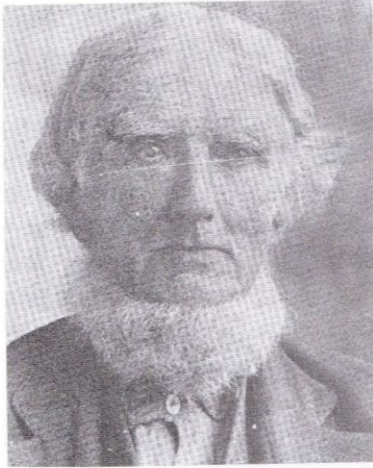
From this family that came from Germany to Pennsylvania and on to East Tennessee there grew up around them a highly respected and progressive community.

In Stokely Memorial Library can be found the history of the Ottingers written by Nancy and Duay and also much Ottinger-Nease information in the book, The Houch Family in America by Houch.



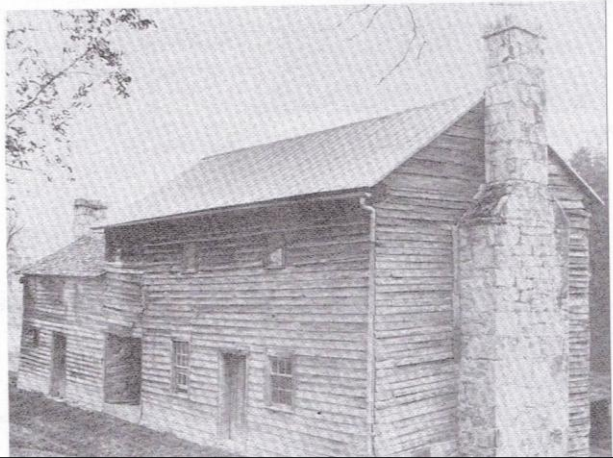
Long Lives for Ottingers

The Ottinger ancestors seemed to have really long lives. The Ottinger family came to Greene County around 1792. In 1813, Hannah Ottinger was over 90 years old, and she died about three years later. Her son John Ottinger, Sr. was born on October 22, 1755 and lived until October 13, 1859--about 104 years. These folks came from Germany after stopping for a short time in Pennsylvania. Hannah was the wife of Johann Christian Ottinger. Son John married Margaret Detterman in Pennsylvania. Her tombstone in the St. James Cemetery is written in German. John served in the York County Militia in the Revolutionary War. When he came to Greene County, he was a farmer, rock mason, and tanner. He was a fifer in the War of 1812, and at 98 years of age, he was splitting 100 rails a day for a rail fence.



These Ottingers were some of the founders of St. James Lutheran Church. The land where the church now stands was donated by John Ottinger, Sr. The Ottingers and Neases both had early churches (meeting in homes or other buildings) in the area according to tradition. One family was Lutheran—the Neases, and one was Reformed—the Ottingers. The English-speaking Neases supposedly had built a log church on Neas land. At one time graves could be found around the site of this old church. Then sometime around 1804, the two groups

decided to merge—some say because of the difficulty in locating a pastor. After the merger, the churches still had problems because the English-speaking group wanted their services held in English while the German-speaking group wanted their services in German. One story told that Jacob Ottinger (pictured) ✓



Three descendants of old John Ottinger served in the War of 1812:

David Ottinger [1788-1873], Capt. Thomas Wilson Company, buried St. James Lutheran Church
George Ottinger [1785-1866], Capt. Branch Jones Company, buried Salem Lutheran [Cocke County]
Henry Ottinger [1793-1866], Capt. Robert McCalpin Company, buried Salem Lutheran [Cocke County]