Cemetery Note

Conrad Roller (1752-1824) is one of the Revolutionary War veterans buried in the old cemetery. He was born in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and was married in 1779 to Elizabeth Slates (1761-1845, daughter of Friedrich and Rosanna Schloetz). We have a marriage certificate signed by Rev. Charles Wildbahn, who was the resident pastor in York, Pa. at the time; Wildbahn later served here. He gives Conrad's residence as Loudoun County, Va., and Elizabeth's as Pine Run Hundred in Frederick County, Md.

Conrad served in a Pennsylvania regiment – we don't know which one – for about six months during the early years of the Revolutionary War. After his marriage, he was drafted in Virginia, and served for 18 months in the South; in an application for a widow's pension in 1840, Elizabeth said she believed he was "at Yorktown at the Capture of Cornwallis" – when the British were defeated in October 1781. He received a federal land warrant for his military service.

After the war, Roller worked as a farmer; his property was probably on Irish Corner Road near Dutchman's Creek Road. He contributed to the church building fund in 1800 and again in 1803, for the construction of the old stone church. Our church register records the burial of "Old Conrad Roller" on October 6, 1824 at 72 years of age. Elizabeth lived to 83 years; she died in 1845, and is buried next to Conrad. More on the Roller family next week.



