Cemetery Note:

On this July 4 weekend, it is fitting to honor **John Axline** (1739-1833), one of our best-known Revolutionary War heroes, ha ving been featured in Rev. Kretsinger's histories of New Jerusalem. John (Johannes) was born here in 1739. He was a son of Georg Christoff Oechslin, who emigrated from Alsace in the Rhineland, arriving in Philadelphia in 1727.

During the Revolutionary War John served as a private in the 3rd Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line. On his payroll record there is a notation "for special services" – which apparently was for making gunpowder for the Continental Army when he was not fighting. A family researcher found military records showing gunpowder provided by John Axline. Also found was a diary written by his wife, Christena Mertz, who wrote: "Everything is in confusion around me. Since John made the last gunpowder, the British have confiscated everything we have." John and Christena and their family were members and communicants of New Jerusalem, and John was a member of the church council.

In 1974, the Ketoctin Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution paced a commemorative plaque on John's gravesite in the old cemetery, where he is buried alongside his wife.

