

Cemetery Note:



John Stautzenberger is one of almost a dozen Revolutionary War soldiers and patriots buried in the New Jerusalem graveyard. Grave markers for six are still intact, and there are probably five others whose graves are now unmarked. We should be immensely proud of having this many American Revolution heroes at New Jerusalem. (See *History Minute* for July 5, 2015.)

Johann Conrad Stautzenberger was born in 1762 in York County, Pa., the second of 19 children.

When he was 15 years old, John enlisted in the Continental Army, into Capt. Nathaniel Irish's Company of the Artillery Artificers for three years. Earlier that year in 1777, Gen. George Washington had directed Col. Benjamin Flower to recruit a Regiment of Artillery Artificers, an ordnance organization based in Carlisle, Pa., which manufactured cannon, guns, ammunition, and wagon carriages for the Army. John became the company drummer, eventually becoming drum major—a highly responsible position charged with relaying commands to the troops.

John married Maria Margareta Ritchin on March 30, 1784, and purchased land here in 1789, the first year he appears on the Loudoun County tax rolls. He served as a Captain in the Loudoun County militia in the 1790s, and operated a store at Hoysville near Taylors town. John and Maria and their family were active members of New Jerusalem

Lutheran Church, and their children were baptized here. Some of their children are also buried in the old cemetery. John died in 1837, and Maria in 1847.

On June 29, 2002, a ceremony was held in the old cemetery, to mark the placement on DAR plaques on John and Maria's gravesites.

(The DAR marker identifies Marie as "Kitchen" but Mike Zapf determined that the name is actually "Ritchin"—the German feminine version of Ritchie. The Ritchie family was a neighbor of the Stautzenbergers, and acquired the Stautzenberger homestead after John and Maria's deaths.)