

John Sinor Sr.
12 Oct 1751 – 23 Sept 1823

John Sinor was the son of **Joseph James and Mary Small**. He was born in Middlesex County, Virginia. His family moved to Bedford Co. Virginia about 1780.

He met **Mary**, last name believed to be **Wetzel**, and they were married after the Revolutionary War in Bedford Co. Virginia. Her name as Mary Sinor was listed on the Allotment of Widows Dower dated 5 Oct 1826. There are a lot of interesting stories about the Wetzel men and I would love to include them here, however without proof that it is her last name I am unable to put that as a fact.

John Sinor's Revolutionary War service is well documented but the name Sinor is spelled many ways including, Sinah, Sineth, Siner and of course, Sinor. He served as a Private in the Waggoner division with the 1st Regiment of the Continental Line (Virginia) with George Washington, at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, during the winter of 1777. His Regiment fought a Brandywine, and then moved to the Delaware River where they crossed and moved to Monmouth, New Jersey and fought a major battle there on 28 June 1778. From there they fought their way north until they reached Brunswick, New Jersey, in July 1778. In the later part of July they moved on to the battle of White Plains, New York. John was wounded in December of 1778 and was out of action until late June of 1779. In June he moved to Middlebrook, Virginia and was discharged on 3 Aug, 1779. John Sr was wounded twice, March 1777 and December 1778. He received \$200 and 6 lbs sterling as reward for an act of bravery.

John enlisted on the 4th Day of August in 1776 for the term of 3 years. He served as a Waggoner. *Note: I looked up the definition of Waggoner and here is what I found. "He is a teamster who drives a wagon carrying food, supplies, equipment and regiment baggage. You get detached from your regular service to become a Waggoner. Being a Waggoner is not a cushy job; you have to take care of two of the most incredibly stupid beast ever created, and keep the wagons in good condition. It took special skill to be a Waggoner and not a job for slackers. The opposing troops always wanted to capture the Waggoner because of the supplies and food they carried" I believe they were Quakers who did not believe in fighting a War; perhaps this was a way to help in the war without actually fighting, except maybe to save his life as necessary. I have found records of marriages for the Sinor brother's, in the American Quaker Genealogy Vol IV records.*

By the 1st of November 1777 John was in Valley Forge, Pa. The long hard winter was one of the saddest stories of the Revolutionary War. There was much suffering in that winter of 1777 and 1778. The soldiers were not prepared for the harsh winter weather, most had no coats, hats, shirts or shoes. They wrapped themselves in a thin army issue blankets and were barefoot in the snow and ice.

George Washington accused Congress of "little feeling" for the destitute soldiers. These hardships led to a vigorous training regime that transformed the troops into a

confident 18th century military organization. The French sent valuable volunteers also and fresh volunteers entered the War that spring.

Many man, up to 3.000 died in camps or makeshift hospitals. Washington gave those who spent the hard winter an extra month's pay for their sacrifice; they also received a ration of Rum. John was one of those men who spent the winter at Valley Forge and he received his extra pay in March of 1778.

Besides land he purchased or was granted him for service in the Revolutionary War, John was given a tract of 225 and ½ acres by a friend, John Phillip Weaver on 15 day of March 1799 in Bedford Co. VA .and recorded in deed Book 11 page 82. He must have been a very special friend to have this land given to him.

In about 1780 he had married **Mary** and they moved to Bedford Co. Virginia where he bought 229 ½ acres of land with his brother, **Benjamin Sinor**.

The 1810 Census of Bedford Co. Virginia list John as over 55 with one male 16-25 in the household.. He was also in the 1820 census as were his sons **John Jr., Robert and James**.

John and Mary had at least eight children, five sons, Henry, Robert, James, John and George and three daughters, Nancy, married Thomas Kenworthy, Mary Jane married Allen Cowley and Elizabeth (Betsy) married James Jordan. Most spent their lives in Bedford Co. Virginia.

John died 23 Sept 1823 in Bedford Co. Virginia and his will was probated and settled in December of that year. His will is found in the Will book 6, pg 22 of Bedford Co. Also the Inventory of his Estate and the List of Sale of the estate is in Will book 6, pg 24. His sons; James, Robert, John and a son in law George Jordan purchased the property.

His widow received an allotment of Widows Dower of 39 acres, including Mansion house. By 1826 his widow, Mary died (book 6 pg 347 Bedford Co. VA). I have been unable to locate a grave for either of them. The must be buried in an older cemetery in Bedford Co. VA.; their markers long deteriorated.