

Kiser, Joseph, 1756-1816

Joseph Kiser was born about the year 1756 probably in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. His father, Charles Keyser from Germany, had settled in Lancaster County (1) for a period of time before he acquired land in Frederick County, Virginia in 1765 (2) and area near Hawksbill, later to become Shenandoah County and presently located in Page County, Virginia. On October 8, 1778 he appears in the Page County records when he sued for debt and was awarded 18 shillings and 6 pence plus court cost. On October 10, 1782 the Commonwealth of Virginia granted Joseph Keyser 88 acres of land on the south side of the Clinch River. Marginal notations show this entry marked "void" and "Surv'd. 50 acres". The same record shows that on December 18, 1783 he had surveyed 50 acres at the same location. At that time the land was in Washington County, later to become a part of Russell County in 1786. The area he settled became known as Keyser Station, today known as Carbo. In December of 1785 he signed the petition to form Russell County. On March 18, 1793 he purchased 70 acres of land on Becks Branch of Russell County from John Frost and others. On November 24, 1801, Joseph and his wife, Susannah, conveyed to Jacob Burch 50 acres of land on the waters of Clinch River on the north side of Copper Ridge and adjoining Edward Kelly, "it being fifty acres which land was granted by the Commonwealth to said Keiser bearing date the 21st day of November 1792". Both grantors signed the deed. He was a Russell County juror on April 22, 1789, and also on June 26, 1792. He was allowed 12 shillings, 6 pence for killing one old wolf on February 22, 1791. His estate was appraised by Abraham Childress, James Sutherland, Jacob Blare and William Kelley, and the appraisal was recorded February 6, 1816. Joseph married Susannah Stacey probably in Page County, Virginia but spent most of their lives in Russell County, Virginia where both died, Joseph in 1816. Nearly all his descendants spell their surname Kiser. Their children were: Joseph Kiser, born 6 June 1782, died 27 March 1869, married Mary P. Childress; Abednego Kiser, born 1784, died October 4, 1814 in War of 1812, married 8 September 1803 to Mary P. Jessee; John Kiser, born 8 August 1786, died 15 April 1852, married 4 March 1796 to Nancy Long; Nimrod Kiser, born 1788, died 1828, married Mary P. Breeding; Ephraim Kiser, born 1790, died 11 October 1885, married 31 August 1815 to Mary P. Sutherland; Susannah Kiser, born 1792, died 23 July 1860, married Stephen Skeen; Mary Polly Kiser, born 1794, married James Artrip; Charles Kiser, born 1796, died 5 June 1880, married Nancy LaForce; Elizabeth Kiser, born 1798

(1) Kercheval's "History of the Valley", 4th Ed., page 37 relates an incident in relation to which "Major Andrew Keyser also informed the author that an Indian once called at his father's in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, appeared to be much agitated, and asked for something to eat. After refreshing himself he was asked what disturbed him. He replied, "The Southern Indians have killed my whole nation." This indicates clearly that Charles Keyser lived in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, before he settled in what is now Page County, Virginia. (2) By deed of April 6, 1765, recorded in Frederick County, Virginia, deed book No. 10, page 248, Lewis

Rhinehart and Mathias Rhinehart of Frederick County, Virginia conveyed unto Charles Keyser, of the same place, a parcel of land on the South Fork of the Shenandoah, being the lower end of two tracts of land granted to Mathias Rhinehart by deed of February 8, 1764, from the Proprietor's Office of the Northern Neck of Virginia.

NOTE: I have located in a book titled, "Bird-Samuels Paper" that a Joseph Kiser, along with Charles Kiser (Jr.) are listed in Michael Reader's Company of Dunmore County, Virginia during the Revolutionary War. Dunmore County eventually became Shenandoah County. I believe this Joseph Kiser to be the same Joseph that settled in Russell County, Virginia and he also had a brother named Charles Kiser (Jr.). I have written to the National Archives to obtain records but that were unable to locate any.

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