

# Captain Elisha Cranson

## A Patriot's Legacy from Crown Point to Saratoga

**ROOTS IN MASSACHUSETTS**  
(Circa 1721)

**Roots in Massachusetts**  
Born in Marlborough, Middlesex County, to Samuel and Elizabeth Brown Cranson.

**EARLY SERVICE & THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR**  
(1759-1760)

**The Crown Point Expedition**  
(April-November 1759)  
Strategic expedition to a vital stronghold on Lake Champlain, transitioning from French to British control.

**Invasion of Canada**  
(1759-1760)  
Age 37: Served as a British private under Colonel John Chandler, Jr., using his own firearm.

**A FAMILY OF PATRIOTS**

**CAPTAIN ELISHA CRANSON**

**BROTHER ABNER CRANSON**  
Fought at Bunker Hill; died in service May 1777.

**SON ASA CRANSON**  
Served directly under his father in 5th Hampshire Company (1777-1780).

**SON SAMUEL CRANSON**  
Sergeant in Massachusetts Militia; participated in local alarms and defense units.

**THE REVOLUTIONARY CALL TO ARMS**  
(1775-1780)

**AGE 55: MUSTERING FOR THE REVOLUTION**  
(1776)  
Demonstrated exceptional dedication, joining the effort at an age when most had retired from combat.

**Commissioned as Captain**  
(May 3, 1776)  
Captain of the 11th Company, 5th Hampshire County Regiment of the Massachusetts Militia.

**The Ticenderega Alarms**  
(1776-1777)  
Commanded local militia units reinforcing Northern Department against British incursions.

**FINAL YEARS AND LEGACY**  
(1780-1804)

**Resignation and Retirement**  
(April 25, 1780)  
Returned to his family and 10 children.

**Donor of Spruce Corner Cemetery**  
Deeded land for the cemetery in Ashfield, Massachusetts.

**Final Resting Place**  
(Died April 1804, Age 94)  
Buried at the highest point of the cemetery he founded.

**Victory at Bennington & Saratoga**  
(1777)  
Led his company to support Gen. John Stark; participated in mobilization forcing Gen. John Burgoyne's surrender.

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# William Craig: Patriot, Pioneer, and the "Cooper's Dozen"

## 'Revolutionary Service and Virginia Life'



## Express Rider for the Militia

Carried vital, dangerous messages for the Loudoun County militia during the Revolutionary War.



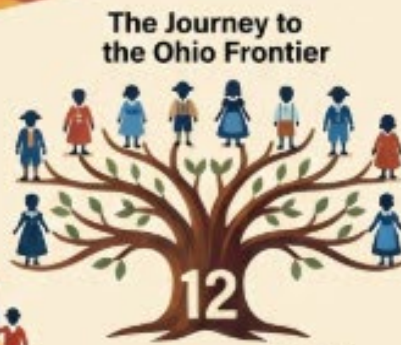
## Master of Two Essential Trades

Provided for his community by working as both a skilled cooper and blacksmith.



## A Marriage 'Read Out of Meeting'

Married Quaker Deborah Holmes in 1783, causing her temporary excommunication for marrying a non-Quaker.



## The Journey to the Ohio Frontier

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## Raising 'A Cooper's Dozen'

William and Deborah raised twelve children together between 1784 and 1801.



## The 350-Mile Migration of 1807

Led his large family from Virginia to Columbiana County, Ohio, by wagon.

Landmark	Significance
Harpers Ferry, VA	Crossing the Potomac River by ferry into Maryland
Uniontown, PA	Crucial passage over the sleepy gorges of the Allegheny Front
Columbiana Co., OH	The destination carved out of the Northwest Territory



## Final Resting Place at Sandy Springs

Died in 1808; buried at Sandy Springs Friends Cemetery with a DAR marker.

# The Patriot Brothers: The Legacy of Michael King

## MICHAEL KING AND THE KING'S BRIDGE



**Patriotic Service (1782-1783)**  
Supported the war effort against the British by paying the Depredation Tax.

## THE PATRIOT BROTHERS



**Philip & Christopher King**  
Both brothers provided Patriotic Service through the payment of Supply Taxes (1780-1783).

## John "Wheelwright" King



Served as a Private in the 4th Battalion of the Philadelphia Militia.

A Somerset County bridge built in 1802 that bears the King family name.



## Cramer-King Cemetery



Michael's suspected final resting place on former family land in Somerset County.

## Family Resting Grounds



The brothers are buried at Cramer-King Cemetery and Jersey Baptist Churchyard.

# Melchior Yoder: Patriot, Pioneer, and Patriarch

A journey of faith, service, and a profound living legacy.

## PATRIOTISM & SERVICE



### Service in Captain Philip Reed's Militia

Melchior served despite community religious convictions opposing bearing arms.

### A "Gentleman" of the Estate

By 1820, designated "gentleman" with an estate valued at \$2,717.20.

## MIGRATION AND FAITH



### The Move to Snyder County

Migration to Northumberland (now Snyder) County influenced by the 1798 Fries Rebellion tax revolt.



### Founding Trustee of St. Peter's Church

In 1799, Melchior was a founding trustee for the Globe Mills house of worship.

## THE CHALLENGING LINEAGE

### The Case for Jacob the Potter

Logic and DNA evidence prove Melchior is the father of Jacob the Potter, bridging historical gaps.



### The Elimination Argument

Brother John Jacob died childless in 1816, naming a "nephew Jacob" in his will; as Melchior was the only other immigrant brother, the lineage is confirmed.



## A MASSIVE LIVING LEGACY



# 22,000+ PROVEN DESCENDANTS

Family tree expanded into a massive network of over 22,000 documented descendants.


### 16,943 from the Jacob Yoder Line

### The Mystery of the Unknown Grave


Despite his extensive family and documented life, Melchior Yoder's exact burial site remains unknown to history.



# JACOB ROLLER: DEFENDER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA FRONTIER FROM WÜRTTEMBERG TO THE FRONTIER (1749–1752)




**1749 Arrival on the Ship Ranier**  
Jacob immigrated from Württemberg, Germany, arriving in the American colonies to start a new life.



**Three Years as a "Redemptorion"**  
To pay for his Atlantic passage, Jacob worked for three years as a redemptorion before gaining his full independence.


## DEFENSE OF SINKING VALLEY



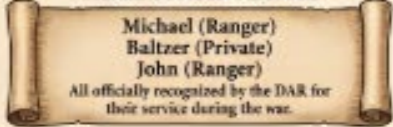
**The Construction of Fort Roller:**  
Jacob settled in Sinking Valley, where he built a fortified homestead known as Fort Roller to protect frontier families during the Revolution.

**QUOTE:**  
*"Never went out to work but with their guns"*  
This family rule highlights the constant danger they faced for seven years while defending the frontier from Tory and Native American threats.


## A PATRIOT FAMILY LEGACY



**THREE SONS IN SERVICE**




Michael (Ranger)  
Baltzer (Private)  
John (Ranger)  
All officially recognized by the DAR for their service during the war.




**TIMELINE EVENT:**  
1783: The Sinking Valley Tragedy  
In August 1783, Jacob Jr. was killed and scalped by Indians while working alone in his cornfield, a stark example of frontier risk.


## THE ROLLER HEIRLOOM & HERITAGE



**SUPPORTING FACT:**  
The 100th Anniversary Reunion  
The enduring strength of the Roller family is evidenced by the 100th-anniversary reunion held in 1980 to celebrate their shared history.



**DEFINITION:**  
The Mystery of the German Bible  
Jacob's will left a "large German Bible" to his son John; the family still searches for the location of this missing heirloom today.



**KEY FINDING:**  
Final Resting Place  
While Jacob's exact burial site is unknown, it is believed he is buried on his original homestead.

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# John Roller: Ranger of the Frontier & Ohio Pioneer

A Chronicle of Service, Migration, and Legacy

**1778-1783: DEFENSE OF THE FRONTIER**



**Private in the Bedford County Militia**

- Served in the Pennsylvania Militia "marching classes" sent to Sinking Valley.
- Defended against Tory threats and Native American attacks.
- Served under Brigadier General Daniel Roberdeau, protecting vital lead mines essential for Continental Army ammunition.

**Ranger of the Sinking Valley**

Operated on the rugged frontier of Sinking Valley and Bald Eagle, maintaining vigilance for the nation's safety.

**1805: THE MIGRATION TO OHIO**

Settlement in Columbiana County



**Establishing a New Home**

Migrated to Ohio, to Ohio, purchasing land to establish a homestead for his growing family.

**Marriage & Family**



Married Catherine Smith (c. 1784). Raised eight children: Jacob, Sarah, Henry, Mary, Margaret, Michael, Elizabeth, and Isaac.

**Legal Estate and Guardianship**

Historical estate documents bear the signatures of his children, including a guardian for his youngest son, Isaac.

**FINAL RESTING PLACE & LASTING HERITAGE**

Trinity Lutheran Cemetery



**Buried in Washingtonville, Ohio**

Marks the end of his journey from at the Trinity Lutheran frontier.

**1879: THE FIRST ROLLER REUNION**



A long-standing family tradition began in 1879, with reunions documented for over a century, including a 100th-anniversary history book published in 1979.

**"A Critical Contribution to the War Effort"**  
- Historical records emphasize the defense of the lead mines at Fort Roberdeau as one of the most vital resource-protection efforts of the Revolution.