

Dear Roderick,

I am sharing some new information on our ancestor Friedrich Roderick. The first is that I am very convinced that his first name was Friedrich. I cannot find a German spelling other than that in any literature. After many years of searching, I have indeed found a name for a German "Hessian" soldier that could be a close fit.

That name is **Friedrich Rohde**. I understand that this name is pronounced as "Road-e" in German. If you add "rick" we would have "Road-e-rick". In all of the thousands of Revolutionary War German participants, this is the only one recorded that fits this well. I will see if there is anything recorded on this name that will verify or deny him as our ancestor.

We are beginning to close in on the DNA side also. I now know that all male Rodericks up to him belong to haplogroup Z-190. We were at the 9000 years before present time at our last reunion. Now we are about 3000 years (12,000 generations) from the original ancestor of our line. With a round or two more of DNA test we could get up to current time and perhaps discover some names that we are very closely related to. What we know right now is that our ancestor (and we) have the Viking gene; meaning that we most likely lived in the northwest Germany/Netherlands/Norway region of the world. Friedrich Rohde was shown as being born in Braunschweig, Germany and being 27 years old when boarding the British ship for Canada. The soldiers from that part of Germany were known as "Brunswickers". There were almost 3,000 German (and British) prisoners (mostly Brunswickers) taken at both Bennington and Saratoga. These prisoners were known as the "Convention Army". After a one year stay in prison at Cambridge, MA, the Convention Army was moved by foot to the Albemarle prisoner-of-war camp in Charlottesville, Virginia. This move started on January 10, 1778 and ended on January 17, 1779. Hundreds of prisoners escaped from the camp and/or deserted the army. Guards were few and the prisoners were encouraged to sleep in the nearby forest because of the horrible conditions in the barracks.

Now, here is the fun thing. Frederick Rodericks first known purchase of land was 2 miles from the Albemarle barracks and on Michum's River. To me, this is near absolute proof that he was a German mercenary, brought to America to fight with and for the British. He was likely from the Brunswick, Germany area, was captured as a prisoner of war while in Canada. From there he was marched, along with hundreds of fellow Germans, to Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and finally to Albemarle County, Virginia. Numerous of his fellow countrymen deserted along the way, often enticed by friendly Germans living in the states. There was always fear that the British would try to break them from prison and use them for war again. Prisoners were encouraged to work for people living in the area. Many of them did this and a number of them met and married local unmarried women. (He married Mary Francis, in adjacent Fluvanna County, in 1783). It is important to understand that America had little to no interest in harming these soldiers. Since Friedrich was a stonemason, there is a strong likelihood that he picked up work from his profession.

Money earned may have been used for his purchases of land and for a supposed mercantile store in Charlottesville.