

**009 AMMEN, J. – [JOHN AMMEN]**

**Publisher**

**Fincastle, Botetourt**

Publisher of first newspaper in Botetourt County, *The Herald of Virginia & Fincastle Weekly Advertiser* (1800-01), a short-lived joint venture with his brother David Ammen (008).

A weaver by trade, John Ammen was apparently the financier for his brother David's press. Fourteen years David's senior, John had already built a weaving mill on family land along Looney's Mill Creek. When his father, Durst, brought the family to Botetourt County from Pennsylvania in 1785, John was twenty-five years-old and looking to establish a freehold of his own; his mill became the means to that end. He married Anna Deardorff of Bedford County in 1788, evidently once the mill was operating; the couple apparently had only one child, who died in infancy. In 1810, after Anna's death, he remarried, this time to another Botetourt County resident, Christianna Beckner. In land transactions throughout this period, John is seen divesting himself of the land conveyed to him by his father, likely for capital needed to expand his weaving business, while assisting other family members in building up their nearby farms. He remained engaged in the business that he had started until his 1846 death. His journalistic career, however, died when Fincastle's *Herald* did in mid-1801.

***Personal Data***

Born:	Sept. 7	1761	Lancaster County, Pennsylvania
Married [1]:	In	1788	Bedford County, Virginia
Married [2]:	July 10	1810	Botetourt County, Virginia
Died:	June 17	1846	Botetourt County, Virginia
Children:	Infant daughter (d. 1799)		

Sources: Imprints; Brigham; Austin, *Botetourt County Families*; Stoner, *Seed-Bed of the Republic*.

The spelling of his surname varies between Ammen and Amen; in early Virginia records the Amen form prevails, anglicizing a Germanic name; but the family's genealogical accounts, his brother's later Ohio imprints, and his nephews' biographies all embrace the Ammen form; so the style employed here follows that convention.