

GEORGE ALEXANDER SPICKARD
1823-1899



G. A. Spickard



"I have just received a letter from George A. Spickard wich stated he had reached the Gould digons after a long and tiresom Road, and with sory I must say to you that he lost his Companion within 10 miles of the settlement. He also stated that they had all bin sick but him and his Child was geting better and exspects to return to the Sate in the Spring or as soon as the Colery stoped ragion for he could not make his bord their the Gould mines are about to come to ___?___. He say their are a grate number of his neighbors their that wants to come home and is not able to get away he has got his teem all in good plite and can sell it for 800.00 or a thousand dollars which will enable him to get home.. A grate many has died that went from this county their was 9 went in Georges train and only 6 reached the mines. I am sorry that the Gould mines was ever discovered for it has caused me to loose several hours sleep..." Spickard goes on to write that he has converted from Methodism to Baptism, as he found "that the Methodist Church is not in the holy Scriptures I was very mutch supriised..."

FINE WESTERN AMERICANA with CALIFORNIA & THE GOLD RUSH including MANUSCRIPTS & ARCHIVAL MATERIAL Monday & Tuesday, February 9 & 10, 1988 202. (Gold Rush Letter) Autograph letter from John L. Spickard, in Mercer County, Missouri, to his brother-in-law and sister in Warren County, Indiana, relaying information about George A. Spickard, who had joined the gold rush to California. 1-1/2 pages on a single sheet folded to from self-envelope, with address on the back. Mercer County, MO: Feb. 16, 1851. Relays some rather depressing news from the Golden State: Some soiling, still in very good condition, an interesting letter indicative of the disappointment most found after reaching California during the gold rush years. (150/250). Pacific Book Auction Galleries.

[This letter was probably written by George's younger brother, John Smith Spickard, Jr. to his older sister, Mary E. Spickard Taylor, who remained in Indiana.]

George Alexander Spickard was the second child and oldest son of John Smith Spickard and Mary Magdalene Deeds. He was born in Hillsborough, Highland County, Ohio on September 29, 1823. His grandfather, a Revolutionary War veteran for whom he was named, had a well-established farm there. At the age of two, in 1825, his family moved to Greene County, Ohio, the home of his mother. His father had no prospects

for inheritance from either family. In 1829 he moved his young family West to Warren County, Indiana, probably by Conestoga wagon along the National Road.

The National Road (now U.S. Route 40) was the first highway built with federal funds. It started in Baltimore, Maryland and ended in Vandalia, Illinois. Building began in 1811 and ended in the 1830's when funding ran out. The Spickard family may have taken it as far as Terra Haute, at least a two weeks journey, then turned north along or on the Wabash River to Warren County, Indiana. George was 6, Mary was 8, John was 4, and Martha, a baby. Sarah, Magdalene and half brother Benjamin were all born in Indiana.

The History of Grundy County (1881) provides a colorful account of George A. Spickard's life, which is quoted in italics through this narrative.

George A. Spickard, eldest son of John and Mary N. Spickard, nee Deeds, natives of West Virginia, was born near Hillsborough, Highland county, Ohio, September 29, 1823. He lived with his parents, residing successively in Greene county, Ohio, and in Warren county, Indiana, removing to the former county in 1825, and to the latter in 1829, where he received his education by a three months' attendance at the district school. In 1837 his mother died, and three years later his father followed her to the grave.

Mary Magdalene Deeds Spickard probably died giving birth to Magdalene Spickard who died that same year. John remarried within a year to Matilda M. Nixon who gave birth to Benjamin Franklin Spickard in 1840. John Smith Spickard died that same year. John and Mary Spickard are buried in the Sisson Cemetery, a half-mile from the Spickard Family farm in Warren County, Indiana.

He remained in Warren county with his one brother and three sisters four years. . .

In 1840 the family was as follows: Step mother, Matilda M. Nixon Spickard, her infant son, Benjamin Franklin Spickard, Mary E. Spickard, 18, George A. Spickard, 16, John Smith Spickard, Junior, 15, Martha Jane Spickard, 12, and Sarah Ann Spickard, 10. Mary married Aaron Y. Taylor on October 18, 1844 and would remain in Indiana until her death in 1896. Apparently the Taylors weren't happy about John Smith Spickard's will of 1840 and contested it. This is a third hand account and needs further research. It may have been settled to George's advantage just in time for him to get married and buy a farm in 1847.

“Notes from Edith Coffeen:

In 1846 there was some kind of a suit by Aaron Taylor and his wife Mary versus Geo. A. Spickard and the other heirs of Mary's father John Spickard, deceased, at Warren County, Indiana. This would be in the newspaper probably Attica Journal at Fountain Co., Ind. starting June 5, 1846 and ending in July. Part of this from Probate box 23 from the courthouse at Williamsport, Warren Co., IN.”

Sarah Ann married George Washington Henry in 1850 and died in childbirth in 1851. Matilda and her son, Benjamin also remained in the area. Matilda married George Ostrander in 1843 and died in nearby Danville, Vermillion County, Indiana (now in Illinois) on April 16, 1891. Benjamin would move to Missouri; marry twice, then return to Indiana where he married a third time, and died in 1917 in Vermillion County.

[George] migrated to Missouri, settled in Grundy county, and secured work as a field hand upon the farm of Larkin Field in Washington township, in whose employ he remained three years. On the 24th of August, 1847 he removed to Franklin township, entered a claim of eighty acres, which he improved, and afterward purchased. On the 24th of August, 1847, he was joined in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Cantrell, of Grundy county. His eldest son, Charles, was born March 14, 1849.

We don't know exactly why George pushed westward. Perhaps he needed to escape the sad reminders of his parents' deaths in Indiana. Perhaps it was a youthful need for adventure and the promise of a rich new life on the frontier. John, Martha and Benjamin all joined him in Missouri eventually. But he led the way. Martha Jane married Harrison Miller in 1846. Their second child was born in Missouri. Their sixth child, Charles Miller, born in Missouri, was a music teacher at Eastman School of Music! John Smith Spickard, Jr. married Delilah Reid in Grundy County, Missouri in 1850.

In 1844 the National Road stretched to Vandalia Illinois, only 60 miles from St. Louis and the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. It is possible George followed that route, or that he went south along the Wabash River to the Ohio, then north on the Mississippi. (The Wabash and Erie Canal was completed by 1853 and might have been used by his siblings.) There must have been stories of good soil, ample game and cheap land to be found in northern Missouri.

The first permanent white settlers arrived in the Grundy County area in the 1830's. Larkin Fields is listed among the pioneers of the area, farming in Washington Township in the northwest corner of the county.

George was 21 when he entered this new life and it didn't take long for this ambitious young man to establish his own farm and family.

Among the earlier marriages, may be mentioned that of Mr. George A. Spickard and Miss Elizabeth Cantrell, which occurred on the 24th of August 1847, and was performed by Abram Fields, justice of the peace. Mr. S. is still in the enjoyment of good health at the old homestead, one mile and a half northwest of the young and flourishing village that bears his name. Mrs. Spickard died September 21, 1850, after two weeks' sickness, while crossing the mountains to California.

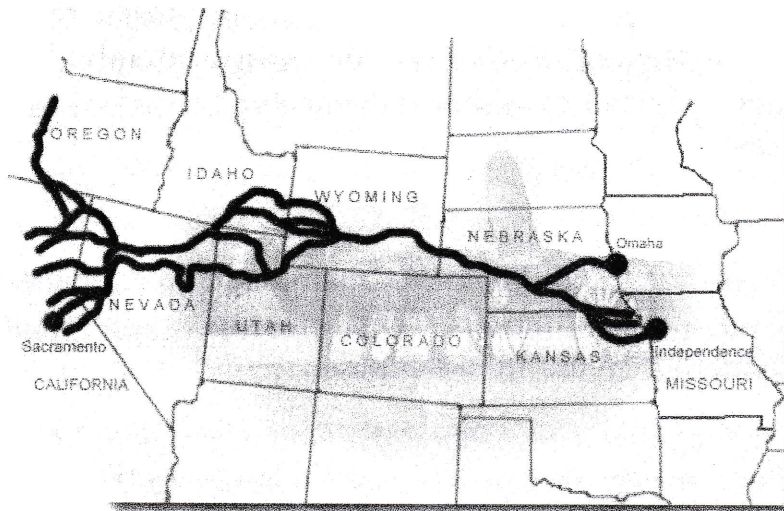
I know very little about the Cantrell family. Some sources argue that her name was Cantrom, not Cantrell, but I find little evidence of this. One other Cantrell marriage is mentioned in the Grundy County History of 1881. A quick search of Missouri records reveals plenty of Cantrell's, and no Cantrom's. Sadly, Elizabeth will be remembered by the dramatic story of her tragic death.

GOLD RUSH!

On January 24, 1848, James Marshall found gold at Sutter's mill at a place called Coloma in California. The History of Grundy County (1881) provides a wonderfully colorful description.

... the air was freighted with rumors of a land where gold literally covered the earth. These stories, as they first came to hand, were vague, but Aladdin's lamps shone not more brightly on the wonders of ancient days than these tales assured of when the reality was reached, that gold had been found on that distant shore where the waves of the mighty Pacific lashed in fury when in its wrath, or kissed its pebbled beach when the storm cloud had passed, and he who ruled the storm had spoken, "peace, be still." Then, indeed, was the whole country excited. The excitement became intense as more definite news came continually to hand, and a perfect stampede took possession of those who were borne away by the wild and wonderful stories of that far-off land. The rush was terrible in the number who left all behind them to gain a fortune in the El Dorado of the West, and still more terrible in the sufferings and death of thousands who never reached the Pacific coast and whose bones, with those of thousands of cattle and horses, whitened the plains which lie between the home they had left and that golden shore. Men started out on foot, on horseback, with oxen and horses to wagons, some well provided, others not; covered wagons whitened our State, for Independence and St. Joseph were favorite fitting-out places for those who

had the money, while the great Santa Fe trail led from the former place. But nearly all who went overland made the soil of Missouri the route to their distant destination and her western border as a starting point, where civilization ended, and the wild country beyond was the great unknown land whose dark and gloomy portals had to be passed before the light of a golden day would again greet their eyes. The plunge was made, and the discovery of California, that far-away treasure-trove, has left its footprints upon the pages of history in the trials and sufferings of a mighty host, and the death of thousands of brave hearts who suffered all and endured all for their loved ones at home. Grundy county had her gold-seekers and scores of the bravest and best left in the wild hegira for the land of gold.

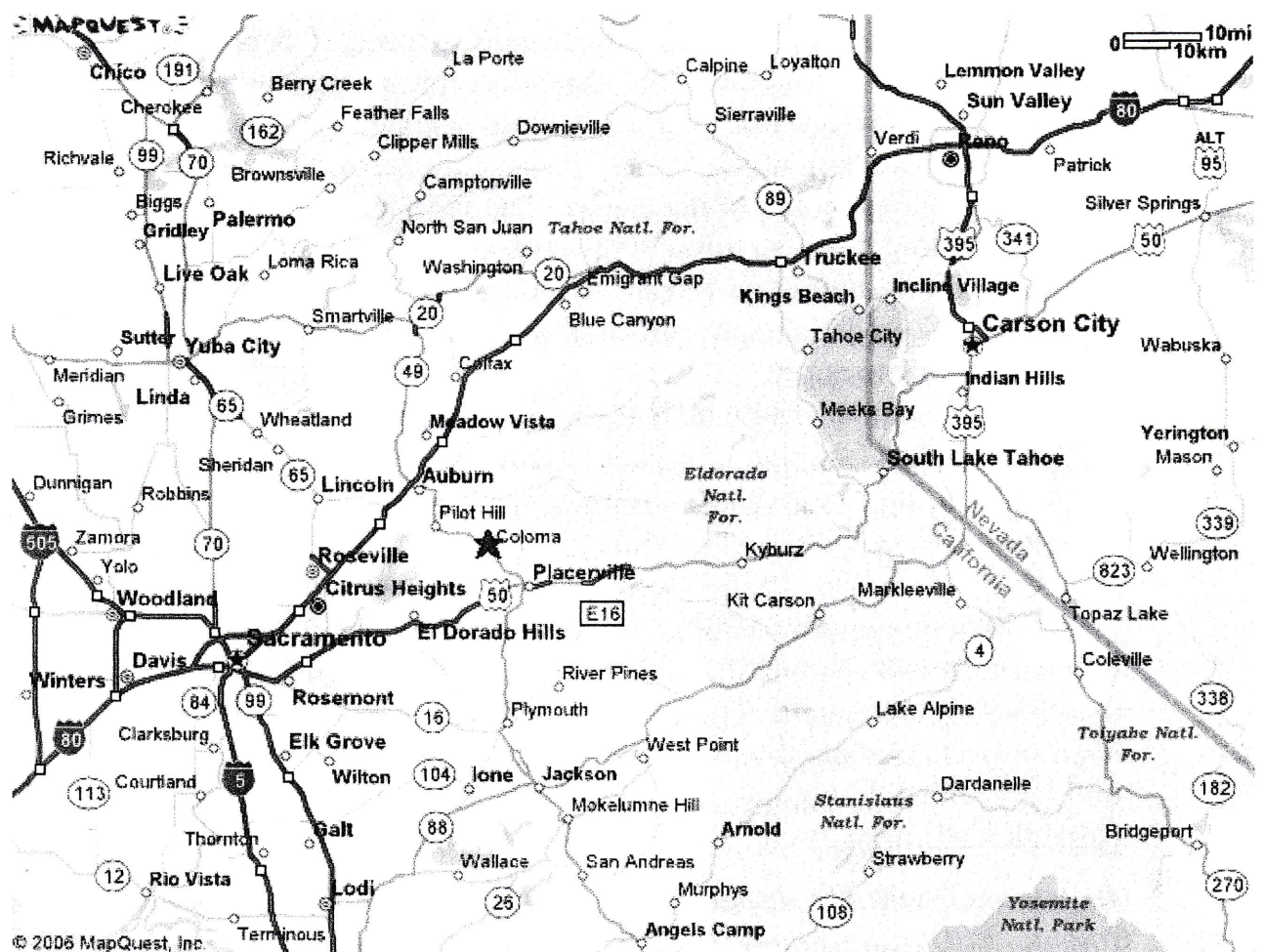


National Park Service – California Trails

April 14, 1850, he [George] sold his farm, and accompanied by his wife[Elizabeth] and son [Charles], packed their household goods in a wagon drawn by an ox team, and joined the anxious throng of treasure hunters who sought fortunes upon the “golden shores” of far-off California. Over the plains he and his young wife and baby-boy, traveled for five long months and eleven days, when in the “Pleasant Valley”, on the Carson River, within ten miles of their journey’s end, on the 21st of September, 1850, after two week’s illness of “mountain fever,” Mrs. Spickard closed her eyes in that long, last sleep that knows no waking, and there, in Pleasant Valley, in the early days of autumn, she was tenderly placed beneath the sod, and the ox team and its occupants moved sadly on.

What was he thinking, taking his young wife and one year old child on such a dangerous journey? He sold the land he had worked so hard to

acquire, bought a Conestoga wagon and a team of oxen and headed West from Missouri (St. Joseph was the closest jumping off place) with thousands of others along the treacherous Oregon trail. The letter quoted in the beginning stated that there were nine in his party and only six reached the mines. One would hope that means nine wagons, not nine people on that long journey. In addition to the dangers of crossing Native lands, deserts and mountains they were haunted by the invisible, deadly enemy of diseases, such as malaria, dysentery, cholera and Rocky Mountain spotted fever. Elizabeth apparently died from the last, called "mountain fever" at the time. The cruellest blow was that they were only ten miles from their destination when Elizabeth died. Another version of the story adds that George took apart their Conestoga wagon to make a coffin for his dear wife. She was buried near Coloma, California on the Carson River, just across the border from Nevada. The Reverend Thomas Thompson apparently heard of their plight and came to their camp to perform the funeral.



California Gold Country – mapquest.com

REVEREND THOMAS THOMPSON

Reverend Thompson was an old friend of the Spickard's. He arrived in Franklin Township, Grundy County, Missouri in the spring of 1839. He was one of the first settlers, and a minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); a reformed off-shoot of the Presbyterian Church, sometimes whose followers were sometimes referred to as "Cambellites". He conducted services regularly in 1839; the first church services held in the township. George was well acquainted with Reverend Thompson and his family during the 1840's.

In the early spring of 1849, Reverend Thompson, his third wife, Mildred Bell Cave Thompson, their widowed daughter Mary Ann Thompson Ervin, and her two year old daughter, Delilah Ervin, and other children, left Missouri for California. [The fascinating story of Delilah may be found in the addendum.]

"He tells in a sketch of his own life, published in the Bible Expositor, that he preached on the plains as 'opportunity afforded.' More than once, he says, he helped to 'break down the sagebrush for an opening for their wagons.' On one occasion a herd of buffalo stampeded their train. One infuriated buffalo bull attack Father Thompson's team, and the oxen whirled and broke the tongue out of the wagon. The buffalo then attacked the wagon, ramming his head through the end gate where Sister Thompson and the children were hid away in fear. At this stage of the proceedings, Father Thompson lowered his trusty rifle and fired the fatal shot that brought the angry bison low to earth.

"In September, 1849, he landed in California, and struck his camp at Gold Run, Placer County. . . In 1850 Thompson moved to Coloma, on the South fork of the American River, the place where gold was first discovered. . . He took charge there of the 'Miners' Home,' a tavern for boarding and lodging of the miners. In this place he frequently preached, and in other places along the mining camps, which were scattered along the foothill in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. . . In the spring of 1851, Father Thompson left the mines and moved his family to the Santa Clara Valley, settling on a little ranch now in the outskirts of Santa Clara, where he continuously resided until God called him home, April 14, 1872." (History of the Disciples of Christ in California, by E. B. Ware, 1916, Healdsburg, California.)

He [George] settled at a small place known as "Miner's Home," near Coloma, El Dorado county, California, where on October 23, 1851, he married Mrs. Mary Ann Ervin, of that place, a daughter of Rev. Thomas

Thompson, the pioneer preacher of Grundy county, Missouri. Mr. Spickard engaged in mining upon Canon Creek for several months, and then removed to San Francisco, which city he left June 3, 1854, via the Nicaragua route for Grundy county, and arrived in Franklin township July 10, 1854.

When Elizabeth died on September 21, 1850, their son, Charles Smith Spickard, was just three years old. After Reverend Thompson performed Elizabeth's funeral, George and Charles followed him back to the inn called "Miners' Home" where the Thompson family was living. Looking back at the letter at the beginning, George and his son were also ill and needed time to recover. Then he must have worked in the mines, or panned for gold while Mildred Thompson and Mary Ann Ervin cared for the children. A relationship developed between George and Mary Ann and they were married in El Dorado County, California on October 23, 1851. On April 29, 1853 their son, Eldorado California Spickard was born.

The gold was soon "mined out" and work became scarce. The cholera epidemic which followed them on the California Trail was still raging and travel by land or by sea was dangerous for a time. Finally George made the decision to go home, taking his new bride, their son Eldorado, George's son, Charles, and Mary Ann's daughter, Delilah with him. By this time a route was well established between San Francisco and the East coast by way of Nicaragua.

A Systematic Plan

Daily Alta California, August 9, 1851

The Nicaragua Route--The means of conveyance by the above named route seems to be now established on a regular and systematic plan. Another steamship will be despatched on the 15th for the point of disembarkation on the Pacific coast, to connect with a fine steamer on the other side. This route is almost entirely by water, a portion through a beautiful and healthy country, and will probably prove the most pleasant for those in haste to reach the States, especially the southern and western portion. See the company's notice in another column. **Nicaragua Route.**--The following advertisement, taken from the New York Courier and Enquirer, must satisfy the public that this quick, cheap and healthy route is complete:

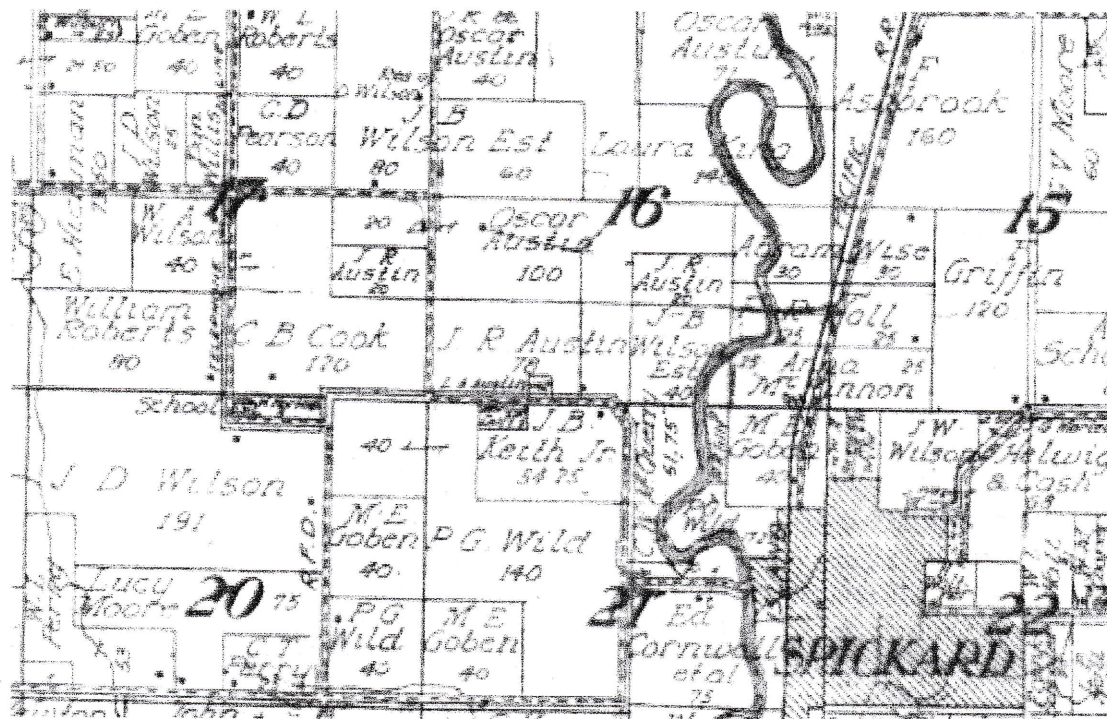
The **Accessory Transit Company** was a company set up by Cornelius Vanderbilt and others during the California Gold Rush in the 1850s, to transport would-be prospectors from the east coast of the United States to the west coast.

The ATC provided much the cheapest route to California from the east coast, and was soon carrying 2,000 passengers a month at a fare of 300 US Dollars each, later reduced to \$150. (<http://www.lasuerte.org/artaltaaug9.htm>)

According to the letter, George was able to sell his oxen to obtain the money for the fare. One source claims that George came back to Missouri with \$5000 in gold. Apparently those returning home were closed- mouthed about their success or failure in the gold fields. We do know that he had enough money to buy land in Grundy County upon his return.

He bought three hundred and sixty-nine acres of wild land, near the farm he sold in 1850, upon which he has since resided.

According to John Carr Spickard, "In the 1897 Plat book, all the land in section 21 shown here as P. G. wild, and all in section 17 shown here as C. B. Cook was G. A. Spickard's. It totaled 300 acres. The 80 acres in section 21 which would be described as NE 1/2, SW1/4 and NE1/4, NW1/4 was the 'old Reunion Grounds'. G.A.R. [Grand Army of the Republic – Civil War] conventions were held there, with balloon ascensions and possibly the first airplane in the area. I remember C. B. Cook quite well. The house shown on this plot is still standing, but has been vacant for several years and is rapidly falling apart. C. B. Cook sold to Burl and Irene Shipps. Burl was brother to 'Cuz'. Burl's widow sold it to its present owners, descendents of W. H. Brewer."



Franklin Township, Grundy County, Missouri, Plat 1897

The George A. Spickard family was home at last, but tragedy found them again within days. Eldorado California, their one-year-old son died on July 16, 1854 and was buried in Groff Cemetery, just northwest of Spickard. Mary Ann was pregnant at the time and they welcomed John Thomas Spickard into the world on October 14, 1854. Between 1855 and the summer of 1862 they had four more children:

George Isaac Davis Spickard	March 19, 1856
Sarah Frances Spickard	February 6, 1858
William Warren Spickard	November 9, 1859
Alexander Union Spickard	May 6, 1862

THE CIVIL WAR

On the breaking out of the civil war he espoused the cause of the Union, enlisting August 28, 1862, in the Missouri State militia, and received his commission as captain of company C, to date from the 28th of the previous July. His company was stationed at Chillicothe, and his services were chiefly north of the Missouri River. July 6, 1865, he was commissioned major, and still hold his commission, never having been discharged.

The History of Grundy County (1881) dramatically describes the Civil War in Grundy County, Missouri.

The year 1861 will go down in history as the opening year in the dark drama where American freemen, instead of uniting to build up a fraternal brotherhood of States, caused the land to become a battle-field of contending hosts and our favored and prosperous country to be drenched with the life blood of her people. The angel of peace had taken her flight and the demon of hate held high carnival over the death struggles of brave men. Once more was the 'Land of the Free' to seal her devotion to liberty in the blood of her martyred sons. The brave and heroic deeds of the sons of freedom were given an additional luster, but at enormous cost, while the wails of agony went up from the hearts of millions of people, and the lives of thousands were given freely, a sacrifice upon the altar of their country. The people of to-day can look more leniently upon the action and motives of those who, in the madness of the hour brought dire distress and sorrow to the land, yet no blush of shame mantles the cheek, for right or wrong, they fought as only brave men fight, and so far as in that fierce conflict man met man in hostile array, it was no crime. The crimes committed lay at the door of those at home, who, while brave men were defending the very portals of

liberty, engendered hatred and malice, preached the gospel of hate, and committed those crimes of which history has but imperfect record, and whose appalling atrocities are branded deep in the hearts and memories of the families and friends of the victims.

Grundy county, at the outset of the war, was pretty evenly divided in sentiment, but as time passed, the ringing cry of the 'Union forever' soon placed the Federal power in a majority, and when the news came that Sumter had fallen, the time had also come for the upholders of the Union to express more openly their sentiments and determination. (Pages 213-214)

Ruth Fisher presents a simpler, more personal introduction to the Civil War in neighboring Sullivan County in her book, This Small Town Osgood, 1975, Milan, Missouri.

"Civil War broke out following the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860. Its story is a bitter one in this community as it was all over the state; especially so, in the border states as Missouri was. Families were divided; neighborhoods were split in their loyalties. It was no longer safe to express an opinion." (Page 9)

Northern Missouri had few slaves, but its settlers came from all over the country and had differing views of and responses to this conflict. Some joined the Union Army. Some joined the Confederacy. Some took off for California, especially those with conflicts within their own families. Many joined one of several different militia and home guard units designed to keep the peace within Missouri.

"Few if any of the many types of militia that existed in Missouri are as misunderstood and mis-categorized as this organization. The Provisional Enrolled Militia was formed in mid-1864 and was made up of 62 independent companies (56 of which are identified below). Because of its name, the Provisional Enrolled Militia is often confused as being a part of the Provisional Enrolled Missouri Militia, but there was absolutely no connection between the two.

The Provisional Companies were formed by county committees that handpicked the men that joined the ranks. As they were formed, the primary duty of these units was to maintain law and order in their localities."

Grundy County	Capt. George A. Spickard	July 1864	[Date of enrollment]
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<http://www.civilwarstlouis.com/militia/PEM.htm>

"Throughout the war . . . bands of both Union and Confederate guerillas terrorized the Missouri countryside. These guerillas burned and looted towns and murdered innocent people." (World Book Encyclopedia,

Vol. 13, Page 671.) This didn't stop at the end of the war. The James/Younger gang is an apt example. Jessie and Frank James were among the Confederate guerillas, called "bushwhackers" who attacked Missouri communities. After the war they joined up with their cousins, the Younger brothers and began holding up trains, stagecoaches and banks. (Jesse was finally killed by another gang member in St. Joseph in 1882.) This is the most famous example of the lawlessness that plagued Missouri during and after the Civil War.

George was 37 years old when the war broke out. He had a large farm, a wife and at least five children to look after. (It was said that the Spickards often took in other children.) Although he was a Union man, he must have been reluctant to leave his family, and chose, instead, to stay close to home and protect the peace in his own community. We know he was home enough to produce two more sons:

Alexander Union Spickard Born May 6, 1862

Benjamin Franklin Spickard Born May 1, 1864

There was an enrollment of all able-bodied men subject to military duty in January, 1865, and the following named persons were appointed as enrolling officers. The number found was not reported, or if so the record has not been kept. They started on their duty January 4th:G. A. Spickard and John McHarque, Washington township..... (The History of Grundy County, 1881, Page 224.)

The war ended and George returned to his family and continued his roll as a leader in his community.

November 6, 1866, he was elected one of the three judges of the Grundy County Court, for a term of six years, but resigned after four years service, during which time the Chicago & Southwestern Railroad was built.

Judge Spickard has converted the wild land which he purchased on his return from California, into one of the most fertile farms in the county upon which he has a pleasant home a mile and a half from Spickardsville, a town named in his honor, which he located in 1871.

It is a source of pride for our family to have a town named after one of our own. It has always been a modest community described in the 1881 history as "...this little village with its three hundred and thirty inhabitants, which is *not noted* for its beauty or for its unrivaled location..." On June 27, 1871 a description was filed proposing the town of Spickardsville, located on land owned by Mr. G. A. Spickard. A petition was filed and approved by the County Court in 1873 and the first meeting of the town trustees was held

on April 27, 1874. "There was nothing of interest transpired for the next two or three years. . . Spickardsville continued to grow from a dozen or so of houses, in 1871, to a town of over four hundred inhabitants, in 1881." An old log school house had been built in 1843 and was replaced in 1857. George A. Spickard and his brother John Smith Spickard, Jr. were directors for the school. It was rebuilt again in 1868 and George continued as a director. In 1873 twenty five granges had been established in the county and George Spickard was elected as a steward of the county-wide system, and master of the Oriental Chapter No. 163 of Spickardsville. During the 1870's he was instrumental in the complex negotiations to establish railroad service in Grundy County and Spickardsville. During this period he and Mary Ann had two more children:

Edward Augusta Spickard	Born February 12, 1869
Melissa May Spickard	Born April 21, 1871

He has nine children, living, six sons and three daughters, and a son and a daughter dead. Their names are as follows:

*Charles S, born March 14, 1849, married Melissa Evarts, and died February 12, 1880, leaving a wife and five children;
 Eldorado C., born April 29, 1853, died July 16, 1854;
 John Thomas, born October 14, 1854;
 George I. D., born March 29, 1856;
 Sarah Frances, born February 6, 1858;
 Benjamin F., born Mary 1, 1864;
 Mary M., born February 7, 1866;
 Edward A., born February 12, 1869; and
 Melissa M., born April 21, 1871.*

[Warren William, born 1859]

Mrs. Spickard has one daughter by her first husband, Delilah Ervin, born August 26, 1847.

- Charles Smith married Melissa Ann Everitts in 1871 and had 6 children.
- John Thomas married Mary Candace Shinn in 1873 and had 6 children.
- George Isaac Davis married Emily Jane McHargue in 1883 and had 4 children.
- Sarah Frances married C. E. Denslow in 1884 and had 4 children.

- William Warren married Adenea Florence Ewing in 1891 and had 6 children.
- Alexander Union married Sarah Ann McHargue in 1885 and had 6 children.
- Benjamin Franklin married Mary Custard.
- Mary Magdalene married Isaac Hutton and had one child.

George Alexander Spickard died on May 30, 1899 at his home on the farm west of Spickard. He was buried at Groff Cemetery and his stone is still standing with the proud inscription "GAR", Grand Army of the Republic. His story has been told scores of times by scores of ancestors. I'm proud to add my version of his story. Mary Ann Thompson Spickard lived twelve more years and was buried at Groff Cemetery with George.



Obituary for Mary Ann Thompson Spickard

"Mary A. Thompson Spickard, born Feb. 10, 1829, Boone Co., Missouri, and in 1838 moved to Grundy Co. with her parents, Rev. and Mrs. Thomas Thompson. They settled on a place for a home which is now called the Austin Farm. Oscar Austin now lives there. Mary A. died Sat. Jan. 28 at 1:10 A.M. at home of her daughter, Mrs. Maggie Hutton. Funeral held in home Sunday at 10 o'clock by Rev. J. Padget. She was 81 years, 11 months and 14 days old. She married Alexander Ervin Feb. 1, 1844, left a widow with one child, Delilah, moved with her parents, Thomas Thompson, to California, 1849. Journey by ox teams taking six months to make trip. She was married to George A. Spickard, Oct. 13, 1851. In 1854 they left

California for Missouri via the Nicaragua route, all the way by water [too dim to read, line ends with July 4] they returned to Missouri. Settled on wild land which is now known as the old farm or Spickard estate -- west of the town of Spickard. She is the mother of 7 boys and 5 girls, 2 died in infancy, [Eldorado California Spickard and possibly James] and 2, Fannie [Sarah Frances Spickard Denslow died in 1893] and Frank [Benjamin Franklin Spickard died in 1893] died and left families, the other children with the exception of Ed Spickard, who lives in Lawton, Oklahoma, were present at the funeral. She was the Grandmother -- 43 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren. Her mother and grandmother's graves are on the old Austin farm. Her father was a Christian preacher and at the age of 13 she joined the Church, under her father's preaching and was baptized in Grand River at the Old Bradley Mill."

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"AUNT DELILAH"

My Dad remembers hearing about "Aunt Delilah", Mary Ann's daughter by her first marriage. She was a dwarf and considered an invalid, but was spoken of with affection and pride and she made a life for herself in spite of hardship. The following article was written in 1990 by John Carr Spickard and appeared in *Grundy Gleanings*, a publication of the Grundy County Genealogy Society, Trenton, Missouri.

Delilah, dau. of ALEXANDER and MARY ANN (THOMPSON) ERVIN, was born 26 Aug 1847 in Grundy Co. Although an invalid all her life she received a common school education and did all types of housework. Under such hardships few people are as active as she. MARY ANN, her mother, was born 10 Feb 1829 in Boone Co., Mo. In 1838 she moved to Grundy Co. with her parents, Rev. & Mrs. Thomas Thompson. She md. ALEXANDER ERVIN 1 Feb 1844. Being left a widow with one child, Delilah, she moved with her parents to Calif. in 1849. MARY ANN md. GEORGE ALEXANDER SPICKARD 23 Oct 1851. GEORGE had md. ELIZABETH CANTRELL (Cantron) 25 Aug 1847 in Grundy Co. She died 21 Sept 1850 in Calif. leaving a son, CHARLES SMITH SPICKARD. Geo., Mary, Charles, & Delilah left Calif. in 1851 & settled on a farm west of Spickard, GEO. & MARY ANN had ten children: ELDORADO CALIFORNIA - JOHN THOMAS - GEORGE ISAAC DAVIS - SARAH FRANCES PAYNE - WILLIAM WARREN - ALEXANDER UNION - BENJAMIN FRANKLIN - MARY MAGALINE (sic) HUTTON - EDWARD AUGUSTUS and MELISSA MAY. Their family Bible is in Grundy Gleanings, Vol. 3, No. 3, p. 4. Dec. 4, 1887, DELILAH md. LUTHER S. DUNHAM at the residence of GEORGE A. SPICKARD. Her obit states he was "of Petoska, Mich." The marriage

record has "of Dayton, Montgomery Co., Ohio." The following is from an article in THE EVENING REPUBLICAN, Monday, June 10, 1895.

"The town of Spickard was greatly wrought up on Saturday last, over the attempted suicide (sic) of L. S. DUNHAM & wife, LOTTIE, resulting in the death of Mr. Dunham, the dose being ineffectual in Mrs. Dunham's case. Mr. & Mrs. Dunham lived in the same house with I. Angus & Maggie Hutton, & on Sat. Mrs. Hutton thought she heard an unusual noise in the Dunham's apartment. She found them both lying on the bed breathing very heavily. Physicians (sic) stated they had taken poison. MR. DUNHAM died at 12:15 P.M., age 50 yrs 8 d. They revived MRS. DUNHAM at 3 o'clock. A letter was found, written by the couple at 11 P. M. on Friday, in which they stated they had resolved to die together by taking morphine."

After the death of her husband she resided with her mother until her death 28 Jan 1911. Then DELILAH came to Spickard to live with her half sister, MARY M. HUTTON. LUTHER & DELILAH had on (sic) dau. who died in infancy. We know DELILAH was with a circus for awhile & presume this is where she met Luther. DELILAH died 4 Sept 1913 at age 66 yrs 8 das. They are buried in Groff Cemetery, Mercer Co., Mo., near the Grundy Co. line, northwest of Spickard. Credits for the Story: Mary Weaver for the picture, John C. Spickard, THE EVENING REPUBLICAN 10 June 1895, GRUNDY COUNTY GAZETTE 2 Feb 1911 & 11 Sept 1913.



Delilah Ervin born-8-26-1847 died 1913
husband Luther S. Dunham died 8-26-1847
1 Baby all buried in the Groff cem.

Delilah performed in the Circus
She made her own clothes
I knew her as aunt Delilah

Delilah was the daughter of Alexander Erv
and Mary Ann Thompson