

GEORGE SPICKARD

1757-1848

George Spickard was born to Julius E. and Elizabeth (Lee) Spickert on June 10, 1757 in Augusta County, Virginia. He and his father joined the Continental Army and fought in the American Revolution. George enlisted in 1776 and served as a private in the 8th Virginia Regiment under Captain Richard Campbell and Colonels Muhlenberg and Abraham Bowan. He was engaged in the Battles of Brandywine; fought on Brandywine Creek at Chad's For, Pennsylvania on September 11, 1777, and Germantown on October 4, 1777. He was discharged at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania on February 9, 1781.

The 8th Virginia Regiment was authorized on January 11, 1776. The Lutheran pastor, John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg was appointed Colonel. (His father, Henry Muhlenberg is credited with establishing the Lutheran Church in America.) On January 21, 1776, Pastor Muhlenberg preached a farewell sermon to his congregation in Woodstock, Virginia. His text was from Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3. Concluding his prayer and standing in full view of his astonished flock, he threw off his clerical robes to reveal the uniform of an officer in the Continental Army. He shouted, "There is a time to pray and a time to fight, and that time has now come!" and marched off with three hundred recruits.

The 8th Virginia Regiment was known as the "German Regiment" because it was formed intentionally from the German-American communities of the Shenandoah Valley. It was formed on April 4, 1776 and on May 25 was adopted into the Continental Army. With this regiment, George (and probably his father) took part in a series of battles in 1777 in defense of Philadelphia.



Susan Seftins
2655 Queensland Ln N
Minneapolis MN 55447

“The campaign to seize Philadelphia, the second major phase of British strategy in 1777, began in late July. Some 15,000 troops under General Howe’s command sailed from New York on July 23 and landed in Maryland on August 25th. General George Washington, with about 11,000 men, took up a defensive position blocking the way to Philadelphia at Chad’s Ford on the eastern side of Brandywine Creek in Pennsylvania. General William Howe attacked on September 11, sending General Charles Cornwallis across the creek in a wide-sweeping flanking movement around the American right, while his Hessian troops demonstrated opposite Chad’s Ford. Major General Nathanael Greene’s troops staved off Cornwallis who threatened to envelope Washington’s whole force, and the Americans fell back to Chester in a hard-pressed, but orderly retreat. Patriot losses in this engagement totaled about 1,000 killed, wounded and taken prisoner. British casualties were less than 600.

“After their victory at the Battle of Brandywine, the British forces under Howe maneuvered in the vicinity of Philadelphia for two weeks, virtually annihilating a rear guard force under Brigadier General Anthony Wayne Paoli on September 21, 1777. They moved, unopposed, into the city on September 25th. Howe established his main encampment in nearby Germantown, stationing some 9,000 men there. Washington promptly attempted a coordinated attack against this garrison on the night of October 3rd. Columns were to move into Germantown from four different directions and begin the assault at dawn. Two of the columns, both made up of militia, never appeared, but in the early phases of the fighting the columns under Greene and Divan achieved considerable success. A dense early morning fog resulted in some American troops firing on each other while the better discipline British troops reformed for a counterattack. A shortage of ammunition contributed to the still- not- fully explained retreat of the Americans at 9:00 AM on October 4th. Howe pursued the Colonials a few miles as they fell back in disorder, but he did not exploit his victory.”

[Paraphrased from an article at www.myrevolutionarywar.com.]

The Continental Army, under General George Washington and including the 8th Virginia Regiment, wintered at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania in 1777-1778. “The army suffered from a severe shortage of food, shoes and warm clothing that winter and many soldiers died or deserted as a result.” [World Book Encyclopedia, Volume 16, page 282, 1991.] Julius E. Spickert died on April 8, 1778. It is quite possible that he died at Valley Forge. He was 46 years old.

George returned home to Augusta County, Virginia and married Mary Ann Barr in 1781. Mary Ann was born in about 1757 in Virginia. All their children were born in Virginia.

Thomas	1779
William Warren	1784
Elizabeth	1786
Nancy	1790
Jane	15 Jun 1792
Mary ("Polly")	1796
George A.	11 Jul 1797
John Smith	1798
Alexander	15 Jun 1801

George Spickard was listed in the 1787 Virginia State Census for Augusta County. In the early 1800s he moved to Monroe County, in what is now West Virginia, farther south along the Virginia border. During this time his son, Thomas married Elizabeth in 1803 and son William Warren married Jane Knox in 1810. I came across a Monroe County deed dated February 4, 1803 which included George Spickard in a description of a land grant for John Scarborough. A transcription and copy of the original follows.

February 4, 1803

"...Knowye that by virtue of an exchanged treasury warrant number eight hundred and three assigned the fifth of July seventeen hundred and ninety seven there is granted by the said Commonwealth unto Philip Wickle, assignee of Bradley Dolton, a certain tract or parcel of land containing one hundred and sixty two and a half acres by survey bearing the date the twenty second day of June eighteen hundred and one lying and being in the County of Monroe on Back Creek and some of the waters of Indian Creek joining the land of John Maddocks, William Campbell, George Spickard, William Fletcher and the heirs of Mathias Kisinger, deceased..."

[illegible]

Mary Ann (Barr) Spickard died in Monroe County in 1814 and George moved his family westward to Highland County in southwestern Ohio. There he married his second wife, Eleanor Gardner, on February 26, 1818. They had no children.



He must have lived a contented life, surrounded by his offspring and their families as they grew.

George A. Spickard married Elizabeth Knox on September 21, 1815.

Mary Spickard married James Hulse on March 14 1816.

John Smith Spickard married Mary Magdalene Deed on April 5, 1821.

Elizabeth Spickard married Rudolph Barrow on May 20, 1822

Alexander Spickard married Esther Deeds on December 16, 1824

Jane married Barnabas Dawson on August 7, 1827

Nancy Spickard

As a Revolutionary War veteran, George Spickard had a special status in the community, as related by this query posted on the Spickard Forum of genealogy.com.

“Looking for information on the Rev. War record of George Spickard 6-10-1757. He and my g....grandfather served together in General Green’s Army of the South. Both later moved to Highland, OH and would sit together on the stage at July 4, ceremonies. My relative was John Foster Leaverton who enlisted in the MD Line 1-28-1776. Need more information on his service record. Since he and George Spickard were comrades perhaps data from George’s experiences would give additional insight relative to my g...grandfather. Many thank. ggg” [George G. Garver, May 28, 2001]

Can you picture him on the podium in the town square? Flags flying! People cheering! What a joyful way to end this story. George Spickard died in Highland County, Ohio on February 15, 1848 and was buried on the Spickard farm.

Addendum to George Alexander Spickard.

I received a letter from John Carr Spickard on May 22, 2006 with the following additions and corrections to the George A. Spickard story.

"I was not the author of the article on Aunt Delilah. A local lady, Meridan (Mrs. Max) Oyler wrote it and asked me to read it, and as a family representative, to either consent or disapprove it being printed in the genealogy paper. So my only connection was approving on the grounds that printing it could do no harm.

"A side light of the news article – In George A. Spickard's will he gives each of his children the sum of \$1200, unless he has already given them the equivalent, except in Maggie Hutton's case. She was not to receive anything unless she had divorced (in the 1800's!) Angus Hutton, or he was dead. 'In no case was Angus Hutton to receive any benefit from George's estate'. I am surmising that G. A. thought that Angus had somehow failed Delilah. Not only had he accepted Delilah as his child, he and Mary raised the six children left orphaned (fatherless) by Charles Smith Spickard's death [in 1880]. This from Dad [John Cleo Spickard], who could not have remembered his great grandfather, but who undoubtedly knew and had talked with his great grandmother Spickard. What tales she could have and probably did tell!

"Another story is from an abstract to a title to a piece of land just north of our 'homeplace'. In 1861 or 1862 - can't remember which, John S. Spickard contracted pneumonia while hiding out from bushwhackers. He died, leaving a widow and six orphans. Widow Spickard's land was sold at the Mercer County courthouse door to satisfy a note held by a man who I suspect of having been one of the bush whackers. However, the property was bought by one Augustus Wilson. He and Mrs. Spickard were married not too long thereafter."