

JOHN SMITH SPICKARD

1789-1840

John Smith Spickard was born to George Spickard and Mary Ann Smith Barr in 1798 in Augusta County, Virginia. He was the eighth of nine children. When he was a small child the family moved south and west into Monroe County, which is now part of West Virginia. His brothers and sisters were all born in Virginia.

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

The family moved again in 1814 to Highland County, Ohio. John Thomas was about sixteen. He married Mary Magdalene Deeds on May 4, 1821 in Greene County, Ohio. Mary's parents were George Deeds (1763-1846) and Mary Smith (1766-1848). The Deeds met and were married in Augusta County and may have known the Spickards. Mary's grandfather was named Johan Philip Dietz, so they were probably part of the German-American community in the Shenandoah Valley. The Deeds family also moved to Ohio and settled at Caesar's Creek in Greene County. John's brother, Alexander, married Mary's sister, Esther Deeds in Greene County. "Roland [Spickard] notes that John's father George was friendly with a Smith family in Ohio and that John's sister married a George Smith in 1817." [Jim Spickard.] He also may have been a relative of Mary Deeds through her mother. So it appears that these families were well acquainted and intermarried as was so common in the frontier communities.

John Thomas and Mary Magdalene had seven children. Their births mark the movements of this family in Ohio and into northwestern Indiana.

Mary E.	Born 4 Jan 1822	Highland County, Ohio
George Alexander	Born 29 Sep 1823	Highland County, Ohio
Henry H.	Born 1824 or 1825	Greene County, Ohio
	Unconfirmed.	

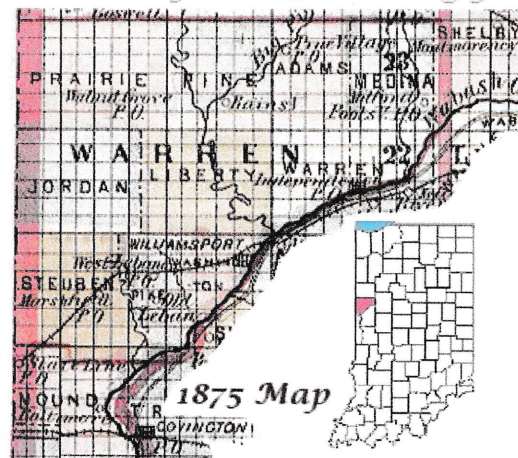
John Smith Born 8 Dec 1825 Greene County, Ohio
 "His great-great-grandson Roland Spickard notes that John's son was definitely "John Smith", but that this son never signed his name 'Jr.', nor did the father sign anything 'Sr.' All references (including his will) are simply to 'John'."
 [Jim Spickard notes]

Martha Jane Born 16 May 1828 Greene County, Ohio
 Sarah Ann Born 1830 Warren County, Indiana
 Magdalene Born 1837 Warren County, Indiana
 Magdalene probably died as an infant.

Apparently they lived on or near the George Spickard family farm in 1821-1823, then moved to the Deeds neighborhood at Caesar's Creek, Greene County in about 1823-25. As one of the youngest offspring of George and Mary, John's prospects for inheritance were limited. (As it turned out, his father outlived him by eight years.) Then in about 1828-1830 they made their final move to Warren County, Indiana.



Warren County, Indiana History <-> Genealogy



Mary Magdalene Deeds Spickard died in Warren County, Indiana in 1837, the same year her daughter, Magdalene, was born and died. One could assume they both died in childbirth. John was left with five children, ages seven to fourteen. It must have been a difficult winter without a mother. John married Matilda Nixon on July 25, 1838. She was born in Harrison County, West Virginia in 1806 to Benjamin B. (or F.?) Nixon and

Joanna Clark. John and Martha had one child, Benjamin Franklin, born March 4, 1840 in Warren County, Indiana. Sadly, John Smith Spickard died that same year, leaving his children, an infant to 18 years, in the care of Martha. He was buried next to Mary Magdalene and their baby in the Sisson Cemetery a half-mile from the Spickard family farm in Warren County, Indiana.

But life marches on and so did the Spickard children.

- Mary stayed in Indiana and married Aaron Y. Taylor in 1844. She died there on January 29, 1896
- George Alexander moved to Missouri in 1844 and married Elizabeth Cantrell in 1847. His life and adventures are in the next chapter.
- John Smith married Delilah S. Reid in about 1850 and took her to Missouri in 1853 to join his brother George. He died in Missouri in 1862.
- Martha Jane married Harrison Miller in Indiana in 1846. They also moved to Missouri. She died in there in 1883.
- Sarah Ann married George Henry in 1850 and died in 1851 in Missouri.
- Benjamin Franklin married Margaret Odom in 1863 in Missouri. He married twice more and died back in Indiana in 1917.