

A German Family
in an
English -Speaking
Township



A German Family
in an
English-Speaking
Township

by

Charles D. Spotts

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CHARLES D. SPOTTS

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Foreward

Recapturing even the smallest detail of information about my Spotts ancestors confirms the sociologist's 'melting-pot' theory, or more accurately the 'transmuting pot' theory of how all immigrants, in our case, German, have been transformed and assimilated to an idealized "Anglo-Saxon" model.

George Spatz and his family were German protestants, probably Lutheran. His decision to settle in Caernarvon Township brought him and his family into the midst of an English-speaking community. They were probably the only German-speaking family in the area. Assimilation must have taken place very rapidly.

When his son, John, my ancestor, moved into Salisbury Township, he found himself surrounded by neighbors who were affiliated with the Pequea Presbyterian Church. Ever since, members of my family, having lost their German background, rapidly became assimilated into a social fabric quite different from that of their ancestors.

This sociological experience of our ancestors is in sharp contrast to that of the German and Swiss Mennonite immigrants who settled in other parts of Lancaster County, and who still perpetuate the culture of their German ancestors. On Sunday morning they still read from Martin Luther's German translation of the Bible. Much of their daily conversation reflects the Germany language; a great deal of German folklore remains unchanged.

Although my father lived in a Pennsylvania German community for nearly a half century he never learned to speak the dialect.

The absence of primary sources — diaries, letters, legal documents — made research extremely difficult. However the information which is available has made it possible to recreate the kind of people our ancestors were. In most cases, they were hard-working, honest poor people, tenant farmers, blacksmiths, charcoal burners, wood-cutters.

Chapter Four includes the names, year of birth, and present home of the members of the seventh and eighth generations, with as much accuracy as possible. I am aware that some of this information can change before these pages come off the press.

I make no apologies for the Appendix. It appears as the only printed record of my career, which is my contribution to future family historians.

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Acknowledgements

To Miss A. Elizabeth Hammond for typing the manuscript from my, sometimes, almost illegible handwriting; to many relatives who supplied information, but especially to my cousin Pearl Ranck, whose memory over seven decades made part of the family history come alive, and to Amelia, the wife of my cousin Robert Spotts, whose tact and persistence made available considerable information about the descendants of my Uncle Frank, who are scattered from New Jersey to Florida; to all who were willing to search attics, family albums, and old trunks in order to find family photographs, all of which are reproduced in this volume; to my friend and professional photographer, Jon Simpson, for the pictures which appear on pages 3, 6, 8 (left), 9 (right), 14, 16, 30 (right), 31, 32, 34, 37 (several of the old tombstones presented a problem); to the staff of the Brookshire Publications, whose training and talents created a very pleasing and attractive lay-out; and, above all, to my wife, Lucy, who almost a half-century ago married a Spotts and has had to endure all these years both the desirable and the undesirable qualities of a descendant of George Spotts I, the German emigrant whose coverage brought him to Caernarvon Township one hundred and sixty-eight years ago.

Table of Contents

A German Family Settles in An English-Speaking Community	1-4
The Spotts Family Moves into Salisbury Township	5-7
The Spotts' Become Mountain People	7-10
Our Ancestors — George and Maria Spotts	10-16
My Uncles and Aunts	17-28
Map of Salisbury Township	20-21
My Father's Career	29-36
An Autobiographical Postscript	36-41
Spotts Family Tree	42-43
Epilogue	44

A German Family Settles in an English-Speaking Community

The family name **Spotts** is the English version of the German family name **Spatz**, which means "sparrow." Some years ago I was discussing this with students in Munich, Germany, who remarked that a Spatz was an ordinary sparrow and that an intelligent sparrow is called a Sperlingle, not a Spatz. They suggested that my students should address me, not 'Professor Spatz', but 'Professor Sperlingle'. I have never attempted to make this change. Sufficient to remember that our family name means "sparrow," which will prevent each member of the family from succumbing to the sin of pride.

Professor William John Hinke, in **Pennsylvania German Pioneers**, published by the Pennsylvania German Society, Volume XLIV, 1934, lists only four Spatz immigrants. Wilhelm Spatz, September 30, 1743; Lorentz Spatz, August 28, 1750; George Michael Spatz, September 27, 1752; and Michael Spatz, October 4, 1752. Professor Hinke's list includes the list of arrivals in the port of Philadelphia from 1727 to 1808. Our ancestor is not included among the above four.

The above Michael Spatz, who arrived October 4, 1752, married Anna Barbara. Six children were born to this marriage: Johann Peter, b. October 9, 1754; Jorg Michael Spatz, b. December 12, 1756; John Andreas Spatz, b. September 27, 1758; Margaret Spatz, b. April 15, 1761; Elizabeth Spatz, b. April 20, 1763; Anna Barbara Spatz, b. May 26, 1770. These children were baptized in the New Hanover Lutheran Church, Montgomery County.

The baptismal records included the following:

Anna Barbara Spatz, b. May 26, 1770, baptized August 12, 1770; parents Michael and Anna Barbara Spatz.

David Spatz, b. August 30, 1809, baptized October 22, 1809; parents, George and Rebecca Spatz.

Elizabeth Spatz, b. April 20, 1763, baptized June 5, 1763, parents, Michael and Anna Barbara Spatz.

John Andreas Spatz, b. September 27, 1758, baptized November 26, 1758, parents, Michael and Barbara Spatz.

Johann Peter Spatz, b. October 9, 1754, baptized December 25, 1754, parents, Michael and Barbara Spatz.

Jorg Michael Spatz, b. December 12, 1756, baptized March 20, 1757, parents Michael and Barbara Spatz.

Margaret Spatz, b. April 15, 1761, baptized June 21, 1761, parents Michael and Barbara Spatz.

The following were confirmed in the New Hanover Lutheran Church, Montgomery County.

May 9, 1771 — Peter Spatz, Michael's son, 16 years old

George Spatz, Michael's son, 18

years old

May 22, 1773 — Andreas Spatz, Michael's son, 15 years old

May 14, 1775 — Margaret Spatz, Michael's daughter, 15 years old

These are undoubtedly the children of Michael Spatz who arrived October 4, 1752.

The marriage records include:

George Spatz and Rebecca Royer — November 25, 1804

Jacob Spatz and Magdalena Arms, May 17, 1807
Peter Spatz and Maria Drumhella, November 2, 1823

Samuel Spatz and Elizabeth Roth, March 24, 1822
Barbara Spatz and John Luopold, January 7, 1806

The above records would indicate that the Spatz family was in Montgomery County, at least, from 1754 to 1823.

One of the above immigrants may have stayed in Philadelphia. Elizabeth Spatz and Heinrich Schmaltz were married in the German Reformed Church in Philadelphia, May 17, 1792. This was probably a German-speaking family.

A number of years ago I became acquainted with the late Dr. Walter Hertzog, when he visited Franklin and Marshall College. During the summer of 1955 we visited him in his home near Fallbrook in Southern California, at which time he showed me a family genealogy, which included Magdalena Spatz, his great-grandmother. She was a descendant of Michael Spatz, who is buried in Berks County. Michael's son, Sebastian Spatz, was born February 25, 1740, while the family was enroute to America. Hinke doesn't list his father, Michael. The descendants of Sebastian Spatz lived in Berks, Northumberland, and Snyder counties.

A Spatz family also lived near Muddy Creek, Lancaster County, during the second quarter of the 18th century. John Mueller married Anna Maria Spatz, widow of David Spatz, in Muddy Creek, June 17, 1735.

A German Family

continued

Johann Jacob Spatz received communion at the Muddy Creek Church, March 30, 1746. Jost Balthaser Spatz was married to Catherine Schmidt in New Holland, March 29, 1760. It is possible that several Spatz' immigrated before Hinke's list, which begins with 1727.

The Pennsylvania Dutchman, March 1, 1951, refers to Catherine (Morentz) b. 1762, wife of Frederick Spatz, b. 1760. They were married August 20, 1786; and are buried in York County.

A William Spatz took the oath before the Supreme Court in Philadelphia, April 10-11, 1761. He took the Sacrament April 7, 1761.

On January 15, 1930, Mrs. Ada M. Avery of Chicago, Illinois, sent me a letter, in which she referred to "Michael Spatz, who was born August 10, 1786 and died October 18, 1872. He was baptized by Parson Bosz; and was married to Helena Robinson on September 5, 1811. He was the father of 10 children . . . He left Berks County for Union County on March 15, 1834 or 37."

The 1790 census (the first U. S. census), on page 231, lists "John Spotts (heel maker) "one who puts heels on shoes or boots." His family included "one white female above 16, 3 free white males under 16, 6 free white females, including heads of families." This is probably the John Spotts who married Elizabeth Shreyer December 3, 1776, in Swedes Church, Philadelphia. He lived on Quarry Lane in Third Street East, between Arch and Race Streets. This is the earliest record that I have found of the English spelling 'Spotts', undoubtedly the influence of Philadelphia, where very little German was spoken during the 18th century.

About ten years ago, a former Franklin and Marshall colleague, Professor Van Milbrouke, sent me a letter from Texas in which he reported that a Lt. Samuel Spotts (November 30, 1788–July 11, 1833) had participated in the first engagement at the Battle of New Orleans, January 8, 1815, which was the most complete victory of the war. The American soldiers consisted of hastily assembled force consisting mainly of Louisiana militia and volunteers from Kentucky and Tennessee. I have no idea where this Samuel Spotts came from but he later settled in Texas. About twenty years ago I met his descendant, O. A. Spotts in Dallas, Texas, who said that I was the first Spotts, besides his son, to whom he had ever spoken. Apparently the Spotts' in Texas are scarcer than longhorns.

Our Ancestors

The life of a pioneer in the first decade of the 19th century is succinctly illustrated by the French Francis Andre Michaux's *Travels to the West of the Allegheny Mountains*, early Western Travels, III, 136-137. "On the 27th of June (1802) I set out from Lancaster for Shippensburg. There were only four of us in the stage,

which was fitted up to hold twelve passengers. Columbia, situated upon the Susquehannah, is the first town we arrived at; it is composed of about fifty houses, scattered here and there, and almost all built of wood. At this place ends the turnpike (present Lincoln Highway, old Route 30).

"It is not useless to observe here, that in the United States they give often the name of town to a group of seven or eight houses, and that the mode of constructing them is not the same everywhere. At Philadelphia the houses are built with brick. In the other towns and country places that surrounded them, the half, and even frequently the whole, is built with wood; but at places within seventy or eighty miles of the sea, in the central and southern states, and again more particularly in those situated to the westward of the Allegheny Mountains, one third of the inhabitants reside in **log houses**. These dwellings are made with the trunks of trees, from twenty to thirty feet in length, about five inches diameter, placed one upon another, and kept up by notches cut at their extremities. The roof is formed with pieces of similar length to those that compose the body of the house, but not quite so thick, and gradually sloped on each side. Two doors, which often supply the place of windows, are made by sawing away a part of the trunks that form the body of the house. The chimney, always placed at one of the extremities (occasionally in the center), is likewise made with the trunks of trees of a suitable length; the back of the chimney is made of clay, about six inches thick, which separates the fire from the wooden walls . . . The space between these trunks of trees is filled with clay, but so very carelessly, that the light may be seen through in every part; in consequence of which these huts are exceedingly cold in winter, notwithstanding the amazing quantity of wood that is burnt. The doors move upon wooden hinges, and the greater part of them have no locks . . . Four or five days are sufficient for two men to finish one of these houses; in which not a nail is used. Two great beds receive the whole family. It frequently happens that in summer the children sleep upon the ground, in a kind of rug. The floor is raised from one to two feet above the surface of the ground, and boarded. . . . The clothes belonging to the family are hung round the room, or suspended upon a long pole."

George Spotts I (1750-1810)

Into this kind of a setting George Spotts, our immigrant ancestor, came sometime during the summer of 1805, from somewhere in Germany. The Biographical Annals of Lancaster County report that he came from Germany with three sons and settled in Caernarvon Township. The sons were Jacob, John and George. There was also a sister Mary, who was only thirteen

A German Family

continued

years old. George, the father, was probably a widower; George, the oldest son, was probably married. Whether they built a log cabin or moved into one that was already built we shall never know. However we can be quite certain that they were poor and moved into a comparatively primitive house somewhere in the Conestoga Valley in Caernarvon Township.

Mrs. Martha Jenkins Nevin, in Ellis and Evans History of Lancaster County, describes Caernarvon Township as "that beautiful section of Eastern Lancaster County, bounded on the north by the 'Forest Hills', on the south by the Welsh Mountain, and through which runs the head-waters of the Conestoga, was, according to ascertained records, first settled by a colony of Welsh people about the year 1730."

Into this valley of English-speaking Welsh people came George Spatz and his family during 1805. He had just immigrated from somewhere in Germany; he and his family spoke German, but must have soon learned to speak English. In the 1806 Tax List his name appears as "Spotts", an Anglicized form of Spatz. He is listed, in 1806, as a "farmer, owning no land, but two cows and two horses." His name appears also on the 1810 census. He probably died during the latter part of 1810. I have no knowledge as to where he was buried. There is very little that we know about our emigrant ancestor.

The three brothers George, Jacob and John, might have been the three brothers of whom my Uncle John used to speak. His story was that three brothers came from Germany. They did, they came with their father George during 1805, and also their sister Mary.

Second Generation

Children of George Spotts I

(1) George Spotts (1776-) was married to a Susanna. The 1806 Tax List reports him in Caernarvon Township with "three cows and one horse, owning no land," the indications of a poor man. By the 1830 Census, he has become more prosperous, "owning 138 acres, one lot and one house." Sometime after 1840 he moved to Ploughville in Berks County, where he is buried. His descendants still live in Berks County. They had seven children.

a. John (1818-) was a forgeman, probably at Windsor Forge, Churchtown. He was married to Anna ? (1820-). They had seven children, of whom I could find records - Jacob (1842-), James (1846-), Joseph (1848-), John (1850-), Edward, George (Porter George), and Henry. At the time of the 1850 census Elizabeth Eppenhimer, 22 years old, also lived in his household. She was the daughter of John's Aunt Mary Eppenhimer, who died in 1849.

b. Hannah married to a Sheeler.



Tombstone of Mary (Spotts) Eppihimer (1792-1849)
Wife of James Eppihimer
Churchtown Methodist Cemetery
(Second Generation)

c. Jacob (1820-) whose wife's name was Caroline. He was a stone mason. Their granddaughter lived in Reading, and was married to a Sweitzer of Brecknock Township.

d. George "Farmer George" (1831-1887) married to Elizabeth G.

e. William (-1867) whose children included John W. Spotts of California, Lancaster County, who was married to Hannah Hoyer of Plowville.

f. Samuel E. (1816-) married to Lydia ? (1822-). The 1850 Census reports three children - Harriet, George and Charles.

g. Joseph Spotts (1821-1875) who married Barbara Troop (1802-1905). Joseph Spotts was born at Morgantown, later became an expert cabinet maker and undertaker at Churchtown, located on the north side, not far from the Episcopal Church. During his later years he lived alone in a small house in the mountains. He was killed by a train in Downingtown, at the age of fifty-three.

A German Family

continued

Third Generation

Joseph (1821-1875) and Barbara A. Spotts (1822-1905) had eleven children.

1. Sallie (Spotts) Kern, Morgantown
2. Mary Elizabeth (Spotts) Piersol, Lancaster (1845-)

3. William W. (1850-)

4. Bertha (1858-)

5. Anna C. (Spotts) Deichly (1859-) Her daughter's husband, gave the Peacock Bird Collection to Franklin and Marshall College.

6. David Troop Spotts, born in Birdsboro, married Elizabeth E. Goheen. They had three children, one Nora Spotts of Upper Darby, with whom I corresponded many years ago.

7. Jacob Spotts, father of Edward Spotts, Reading.

8. John Spotts

9. George Spotts (Cracker George) married Elizabeth Gordon (1836-). Joseph E. Gordon of Blue Ball presented me several years ago with a chart of the descendants of Ephraim (1800-1873) and Margaret (Sheeler) Gordon (1802-1816). George and Elizabeth had five children — Harry Gordon, Ellen Weaver, Ephraim, Margaret Reifsnnyder, and Barton.

10. James Hawkins Spotts (1868-) married Adella Dora Frankenfeld, daughter of Professor H. L. Frankenfeld, teacher of music.

James was born in Churchtown, March 25, 1868; he attended school at New Holland until he was fifteen. During three and one-half years he was a clerk in the Lupard, later the Weber Hotel. He spent one year in the baggage department of the Broad Street Railroad Station, Philadelphia, after which he returned to the Lupard Hotel for one year. In 1889 he entered the employment of Myers and Rathfon, and 1897 became a partner in the S. M. Myers and Company. He was the first President of the Lancaster Kiwanis Club. A brief biography appears in H. M. J. Klein's *History of Lancaster County*, Vol. IV, page 446.

11. Isaac Spotts

(2) Jacob Spotts (1782-January 13, 1863) was married to Mary ? (1787-December 10, 1861). He was a blacksmith, the first of many among the Spotts'. He lived near Churchtown. Jacob and Mary had eight children.

a. William, who could be the William Spatz, buried in the Methodist Cemetery in Churchtown (1816) in the family plot of Jacob's sister, Mary Eppenheimer.

b. John (1808-1872) who was married to Rebecca? (1817-). He was a tenant farmer. His will (1872) lists the following children: Hannah (1843), wife of William Hoffman; George (1846), Reading; Daniel (1848); Ruth Ann; Margaret, wife of Henry W. Bowers; Susanna

(1853), wife of Theodore Geiger; Edward W. (1854); and Harriet, all of Caernarvon Township.

c. George

d. Hannah

e. Jacob

f. Ann Proudfoot (the English for 'Stoltzfus')

g. Samuel

h. Joseph

(3) John Spotts (1786-1844)

John Spotts, my great-great-grandfather married Elizabeth Wolf (?-1856). They had eleven children:

a. Ann (1807-) Rischel

b. Elizabeth (1809-)

c. Sarah (1811-)

d. "Eliza" Dunlap

e. John (1816-1894), my great-grandfather.

f. Eve Jane (1825-) Silknelter

g. Ellen Liggett

h. Polly Rischel

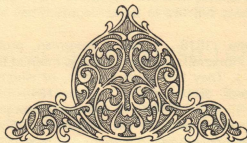
i. Margaret Miller

j. Kate Mitcner

k. George

(4) Mary (Spotts) Eppihimer (1792-1849) who married James Eppihimer. They are buried in the Methodist Cemetery at Churchtown. Joseph, a brother of James is also buried here. He died in 1816 at the age of eleven years. On this same plot is a small tombstone with the inscription, "William Spatz," d. 1816," which I suspect was Mary Eppihimer's nephew, son of her brother Jacob. Mary's husband's name is later spelled "Eppenhimer."

A number of the descendants of our ancestor were apparently named after him, George. In order to distinguish one George from another nicknames were invented — 'Porter' George, 'Farmer' George, 'Cracker' George, 'Nigger' George. This practice was very similar to that used by the Old Order Amish when several men with the same name happen to live in a particular area.



The Spotts Family Moves Into Salisbury Township

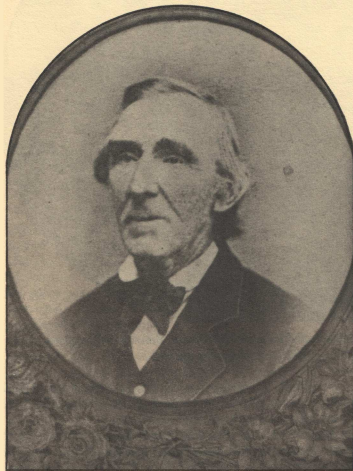
John Spotts I circa (1786-1844), our ancestor, was probably born in Germany, migrated with his father George, and his brothers Jacob and George, and his sister, Mary. He married Elizabeth Wolf. They lived in Caernarvon Township, probably in or near Churchtown, until the fall of 1816, when they moved into Salisbury Township, where their descendants continue to live.

With the end of the War of 1812 the people of the United States moved westward as never before. Settlers and travelers crowded the roads and floated down the rivers on any kind of craft that would carry them. Timothy Flint, a Congregational missionary from Massachusetts, chose a keelboat to take his family from Cincinnati to St. Charles, Missouri, in the spring of 1816, the same year that John Spotts moved from

Caernarvon Township, near Churchtown, across the Welsh Mountain, into Salisbury Township. Timothy Flint's trip was not only longer but included more excitement. The following excerpt, written ten years later, represents his recollections of the first day on the Ohio river.

"Our keelboat was between eighty and ninety feet in length, was fitted with a small but comfortable cabin, and carried seventeen tons. It was an extremely sultry afternoon when we embarked . . . The river, full almost to the summit of its banks, swept along an immense volume of water . . . We found the current, too, had more than twice the rapidity as we had experienced the previous autumn.

"We commenced this trip, . . . with the most cheering



John Spotts (Circa 1785 — 1844-45)
(second generation)



Elizabeth (Wolf) Spotts Wife of John Spotts
(second generation)

The Spotts Family

continued

auspices. We experienced in a couple of hours, what has so often been said and sung of all earthly enjoyments, how near to each other are the limits of happiness and trouble. Banks of thunder-clouds lowered in the horizon, when we left Cincinnati. They gathered over us, and a violent thunder-storm ensued. We had not time to reach the shore before it burst upon us, attended with strong gusts of wind. The gale was too violent for us to think of landing on a bluff, and rock-bound shore . . . We had some ladies, passengers on board, whose screams added to the uproar without . . . The peals of thunder were incessant, and the air was in a blaze with the flashes of lightning, and waves of water came into

Mountain; neither was the Welsh Mountain Mission in existence. It is quite possible that John Spotts, in his journey across the mountain didn't meet a single human being. An occasional Ruffed Grouse may have disturbed the horse, but, all in all, it was probably a slow, uneventful, two hour trip.

In the 1817 Salisbury Tax List John Spotts is listed as a "laborer (collier, probably a charcoal burner), he is credited with "1 horse, 1 cow, worth \$120, tax 12-1/2c." The 1818 Tax record includes "John Spotts, Elizabeth 9, Sarah 7 "poor children", further indication that our ancestors were poor, mountain people. The 1820 census lists "John Spotts ca 45, wife ca 45, one



Site of burial of John and Elizabeth Spotts. Between marker of Elizabeth E. Spotts, their granddaughter, and stump of an old white oak tree. Pequea Presbyterian Cemetery.

the boat. The storm continued to rage with unremitting fury, for more than an hour."

As the Flint family was experiencing this violent storm, in a boat, on the Ohio river, John Spotts and his family were climbing the Welsh Mountain with a large farm wagon carrying his worldly possessions, which were probably comparatively few. He was probably walking behind the wagon, leading the family cow. We can assume that no violent thunder storm came up from the Conestoga Valley. Of course, Abe Buzzard and his notorious gang were not yet operating on the Welsh

son (0-10), 3 daughters (0-10), 1 daughter 16, 2 daughters ca 26)." The three older daughters must have been born in Germany.

The 1839 Tax Records report him as "farmer, with one horse and two cows", a one-horse farmer was not very prosperous. The 1841 Tax Records report "John Spotts, Sr. with 1 cow." The 1845 Tax Records has the word "dead" written above the name, John Spotts, Sr., which indicates that he died during the winter of 1844-45.

The 1850 census lists "Elizabeth Spotts 70 (head of

family), Sarah 38, Eve Jane 25." Apparently the two daughters, Sarah and Eve Jane were not married at this time. According to records in the Orphans Court, Elizabeth died during 1856.

There is good reason to believe that John and Elizabeth were buried in the Pequea Presbyterian Cemetery, near where a large white oak tree stood, close to the stone that marks the grave of their granddaughter, Elizabeth Ellen Spotts, daughter of John and Esther Spotts, who died before her parents had a burial plot.

Third Generation

John and Elizabeth's children married as follows:

1. John Spotts married Esther Miller, my Great-Grand-parents.

2. Anna Spotts married George Rischel. They moved to Iowa during the Civil War period where they are

buried. They had one daughter who was married to a Martini.

3. Ellen Spotts married a Sheels Liggett from Waynesboro. They had no children and are buried at the Brandywine Manor.

4. Polly Spotts married William Rischel; they are buried at Mt. Zion.

5. Margaret Spotts married George Miller; they are buried at Bridgeville.

6. Eve Jane Spotts married Cyrus Silknetter, no children, buried at Bridgeville.

7. Kate Spotts married Charles Mitchner, no children, buried in Montgomery County.

8. Eliza Spotts married John Dunlap, large family, buried at Pequea Presbyterian.

9. Sarah (Sally) Spotts was a cripple for thirty years, had to be fed. She is buried in the Honey Brook Presbyterian Cemetery.

The Spotts' Become Mountain People

My Great-Grandfather, John Spotts II (1816-1894) was probably born soon after his parents moved into Salisbury Township. The 1844 Tax Report lists him as "Freeman (Single)" 'inmate' behind his name, which suggests that, at that time, he was living with his parents; but by the next year, 1845, he is listed as "Farmer, 2 horses and 2 cows." This would suggest that he married Hettie (Esther) Miller (1821-1900) during the early part of 1844. The fact that he started farming with two horses would indicate that he was more prosperous than his father.

The Tax Records indicate that he did not own property. The 1847-1848 Tax Records report him living on S. O. Jacob's land (north-west of where my Uncle Will lived). He is listed as "farmer, 3 horses, 4 cows."

The 1849-1851 Tax Records report that he rented 78 acres from Sol Landis, who died during this period.

The 1850 Census listed him as a "laborer," his wife, Esther, and the following children – George, John Ellen and Charles.

By 1852-1853 the Tax Records report him owning "4 acres, 1 horse \$20, 1 cow \$10, 1 house, 1 lot." The 1856-1858 Tax Records indicate that, in addition to the above 4 acres, he owned "34 acres 'unseated' @ \$10 per acre."

It is not clear whether he lost the above land, but by 1859 he is reported as "tenant of W. B. Jacob's land, 1 cow," an apparent depreciation from previous reports. He continues to be a tenant during 1860-1865, the period of the Civil War, during the later part of which two of his sons, John and George were in the Union Army. John and his wife became members of the Pequea Presbyterian Church during 1867.

The 1866 Tax Report indicates that, by this time he "owned 30 acres (near Ed Ream), bought from William Cooper for \$1900, (a direct descendant of James Fennimore Cooper), 1 horse \$40, 2 cows \$40." This ownership lasted only one year. William Cooper bought back this property, March 9, 1867. By 1867 he is a "tenant on Wm. Cooper's 30 acres, no animals," during 1868 he is a "tenant on the Kennedy Diem farm, 14 acres" (near where by Uncle John lived). The 1875 Tax Report lists him on the Peryes Tickner farm, close to Cambridge at the source of the Brandywine. March 29, 1878 he bought four acres from estate of John H. Clark, sold at public sale, for \$34, bounded by land owned by Wm. Diem, Elias Wert, Sol Warner, and A. B. Ayers. At this time he is listed as a stone mason and as a laborer with William B. and Adam W. Gault, the first of my

Mountain People

continued

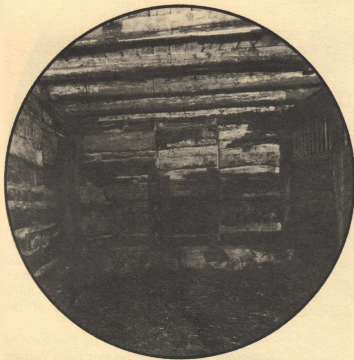
ancestors to be employed by ancestors of my mother. This relationship continued for several generations. The Gaults owned a great deal of property, including a mill, two large farms and many acres of mountain land; my paternal ancestors continued to be of modest means.

During 1878 John Spotts and his wife built a log house on the two acres near Meadville, on the south side of the Welsh Mountain. This land was on the Mt. Airy road, near where George Myers lived. He had helmed to clear the land. Here he, built a log house and a well with dry wall. He lived here until his death in 1894. The 1887-1890 Tax Reports list him as owning "2 acres, 1 male dog, 1 cow, tax 63 cents."

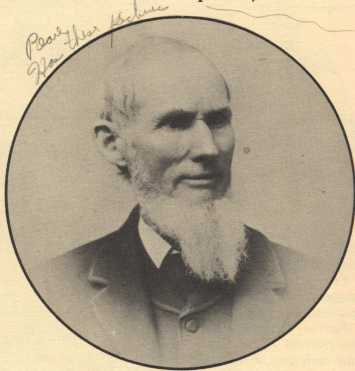
In addition to light farming he always worked in the mountain, burning charcoal. During his last years he owned a mare called Dollie. One day he took Dollie with him when he went to cut wood, tying her to a tree

tore it down he marked each log, and hauled them to Cambridge in his one-horse wagon. He then reassembled them to build a stable to house his horse and cow. The building is still standing, as the central core of a much larger building. The old logs are the only products we still have of my Great-Grandfather's handiwork. I hope they will remain intact for future generations to see.

The Fourth Generation (Children of John and Esther Spotts)



Inside of horse-stable constructed from logs taken from log house built by John and Esther Spotts, during 1878, now standing in Cambridge.



John Spotts (1816-1894)
(Third Generation)

as he went back to his work. When it was time to go home at the close of the day he couldn't find Dollie, so he walked home. After he told his daughter-in-law, Mrs. George Spotts, she walked up to the woods where he had been working and in no time located Dollie. I am indebted to my cousin, Pearl Ranck, for this story. She remembers the incident very well; her Grandmother told her the story. I guess women are still better finders than men.

The log house was later moved by my Uncle Patton to Cambridge, where he had a blacksmith shop. When he

1. George Miller Spotts (July 16, 1844-June 19, 1924) married to Maria Russell (August 23, 1911), my grandparents.

2. John Wolf Spotts (February 20, 1846-January 28, 1940) married to Mary Clark, 1900, listed as Stone Mason at Alert P. O.

3. Elizabeth Ellen Spotts (March 10, 1851-March 21, 1862)

4. Charles Mitchner Spotts (February 16, 1850-May

Mountain People

continued

5, 1922), married to Anna Ammon. He was a blacksmith with James Roseboro.

5. Sarah Ann (Martin) Fellenbaum (November 11, 1853- 1921).

6. Mary Catherine (Kate) Martin (June 16, 1856-).

7. Esther Margaret Spotts (January 26, 1859- 1930). Joined Pequea Presbyterian 1875.

8. Laura E. Hilliard (February 26, 1862- 1954?), married to Henry Hilliard (1857-1920). Joined Pequea Presbyterian 1875.

9. Ida Mae Wetzler (July 20, 1865- 1950) married to George Wetzler (October 1866- , December 3, 1891).

All of this generation lived within a radius of three miles of each other.

- d. Ada Spotts – died in childhood
- e. John Spotts (1875-) – three children, Della Hilton, George Spotts and Mary Howe, Springville
- f. Newton Spotts – three children, including Ralph's father
- g. Alfred Spotts – ten children
- h. Clarence Spotts (1878-) – three children
- i. George Spotts (1879-) – no children
- 3. Henry and Laura Hillard (married April 1883) had nine children:
 - a. Leonard Hillard (1854-) four children, married Marie Lewis (1883-)
 - b. Esther Patton (1886-) six children, married Samuel D. Patton (1882-1941)
 - c. Charles Hillard (1888-) three children, married Esther Newpher, Alice Peckett
 - d. John Hillard (1890-) seven children, married



Esther M. Spotts (1821-1900)
(Third Generation)



Tombstone of John and Esther Spotts,
Pequea Presbyterian Cemetery

The Fifth Generation (In Part)

1. George and Maria Spotts (our ancestors)
2. John W. (blind) 1846- and Mary Jane (Clark) Spotts 1850, had nine children.
 - a. Amanda E. Myers (1868-1940) – no children
 - b. Cora Keaton – four children
 - c. Ella Gable, Elverson – six children (1873-)

- Ella Parmer
- e. George Hillard, (1893-) three children, married Elsie Houck
 - f. Lena Peel (1895-) three children, married Reese S. Worst (1891-)
 - g. Paul Hillard (1897-1923)
 - h. Anna Shopf (1900-)
 - i. Harry Hillard (1902-)
 4. Ida Mae and George Wetzler
 - a. John Henry (Harry) Wetzler (1892-)
 - b. Mary Elizabeth Elmer (1895-) – five children,

married George Dewey Elmer (1898-)

c. Ira Wetzler

5. Charles M. Spotts (1850-1922) Anna Mary Spotts (1851-) had seven children:

a. J. Ed Spotts – nine children (1872-)

b. Harry A. Spotts – one child (1875-)

c. Horace (1878-)

d. Mae Moore – no children

e. Ruth C. Spotts (September 25, 1890-)

f. Grace Smith (1887-1968) – three children

g. Edna Zell () – two children, William Zell, Coatesville

Our Ancestors- George and Maria Spotts

George Spotts II (1844-1924) A Civil War Veteran

I have vivid memories of the beginnings of the Spotts Reunions, that is the Reunions of the descendants of George and Maria Spotts. I was only a small boy when they began almost seventy years ago. Until my Grandmother Spotts died (1911) these reunions were always held on Thanksgiving Day at the home of our Grandparents, on the top of the Welsh Mountain. We lived in Bowmansville, twelve miles on the other side of the mountain, which meant that we had to start the journey early in the morning, before daylight. It required at least two hours for the horse to pull the carriage with six or seven people. When we came to the Narvon RR Station father and the older children got out and walked up the steep mountain in order to make it easier for the horse to pull the wagon over the numerous "thank you mams." I always thought it was real fun to walk up that mountain; seven decades later I still enjoy mountain climbing.

When we arrived at Grandpa's house the uncles and aunts and cousins had come from all directions, at least sixty of us in all. I had at that time, at least, fifty first cousins on my father's side of the family. They were my only cousins for my mother was an only child. I was also very special because I was numbered among the older cousins.

After the horses were unhitched, the men and older boys gathered the dogs and we struck out for near-by meadows and woods to hunt rabbits. On one of these expeditions I was fortunate to have a rifle and succeeded in shooting a cottontail, the first and last time that I ever participated in the pursuit of game. My acquired love of wildlife makes it impossible for me to contemplate aiming a gun at an innocent cottontail for the sake of sport.

By high noon we gathered back to Grandpa's place,

where the women and older girls had loaded a long table in the orchard with what I thought then was the best food I had ever eaten. When everyone was more than satisfied, we played games, visited, told stories and reminisced. I still recall some of the tall stories which were told by several of my uncles. After Grandma died in 1911 the Reunions ceased until some years later when we continued them at different places, not on Thanksgiving Day, but during the summer. But it has never been the same; we all missed Grandpa's place, the mountain, the indescribable something which made those Thanksgiving Days on the Welsh Mountain unforgettable.



Reunion at Grandfather's place Thanksgiving Day, circa 1906. (Grandpa and Grandma second row, my father to Grandma's right. This is the only picture available of Grandma Spotts)

Our Ancestors

continued

My Grandfather

My paternal Grandfather George Miller Spotts was born July 16, 1844, probably on the S. O. Jacob's farm, which his father rented, located near South Hermitage. As a boy he worked for his father although he also worked for neighboring farmers. The 1860 Census lists him as a "farm laborer with Henry Sweigert"; he was only 16 at this time. Later he worked for the Gault's and their kinsman, John Magill.

Military Service

In the meanwhile, the Civil War had begun. He and his younger brother John, who was only eighteen, enlisted in the cavalry. I have a copy of his Volunteer Enlistment paper, which records his having volunteered "the twenty-ninth day of August, 1864, to serve . . . for the period of one year" He was twenty years and one month. He was assigned to the 9th District Pennsylvania Co. "H" 11th Penna. Cavalry.

My Uncle Chester, for a long time, insisted that his father had been present at the Battle of Gettysburg, during which a bullet went through his hat. He reported that Grandfather wanted to visit the Battlefield where presumably he had participated. It is understandable how such family stories may get started; but this one has absolutely no basis of truth. All the papers report his enlistment in 1864, a year after the Battle of Gettysburg. Several years ago I visited the Battlefield and checked the card file for every man who participated. His name is not there. Nevertheless, Uncle Chester would like to believe otherwise.

On August 25, 1962, at a Spotts Reunion, Uncle Chester told me a slightly different version, that Grandfather was at Gettysburg, waiting nearby on his horse, but was never called into action. After the battle he followed Lee's Army south, during which he was hit on the back of the neck by a sniper, and the bullet killed the horse next to him. Another of the Civil War stories that really never happened. Such stories are almost inevitable in the context of a drama like the Civil War.

On February 15, 1901, my Grandfather presented to his wife, Maria, and his children, a large framed copy of his Discharge, which reports that "Comrade Spotts shared the fortunes of his regiment in the following engagements, Fort Harrison, September 29, 1864, New Market Heights, December 10, 1864, Five Forks, April 1, 1865, Amelia Court House, April 4, 1865, and Appomatox at Lee's surrender." This was one of the few items which was saved when his house burned in 1911.

During June of 1968 Mrs. Spotts and I spent several days retracing the places in which Grandfather had participated a century ago. This was a thrilling experience.

I do remember stories which Grandfather himself told in my hearing. He rode the same horse during the ten months he was in Service. On a number of occasions he told us how he broke three saddles during the process of breaking-in the horse. I am sure that he helped to break in horses on the farms on which he worked before enlisting.

During one of the marches he was ordered to forage. A woman told him that the Rebels had 'cleaned house.' He noticed a loose board, at a nearby farm house. He removed it, stuck down his bayonet and smelt smoked pork which had been covered with sawdust. I suspect such experiences were rather common-place.

While his unit was approaching Appomatox he and his brother John were with a group of cavalry who were caught in a heavy fog between two mountains. It was impossible to see very far ahead, the commanding officer announced, "break ranks, every man for himself." Grandpa tied the reins of his brother's horse to his saddle and followed the leader. Hindsight suggests that he made the right decision.

December 10, 1864, the 11th held the right of the line at New Market Heights during the attack, and sustained a loss of several men killed and wounded. We can assume that my Grandfather participated in this attack.

The 11th crossed the James and Appomatox rivers on March 28, 1865, and by the night of March 30, had reached the left of the Army at Ream's Station, thence to follow the fortunes of Sherman's command during the short but brilliant campaign, culminating in the surrender of Lee at Appomatox Court House.

Soon after passing Dunwiddie Court House on April 1, 1865, the enemy's infantry was found, strongly posted in the edge of the wood along the White Oak Road. About two miles to the right of Five Forks a mounted and dismounted charge was immediately made by the 11th (I believe that Grandfather was mounted), and the enemy was driven from his position in confusion. Ten thousand prisoners were captured. This was probably the most intensive engagement in which he participated. He was slightly wounded during this attack.

Grandpa used to tell us that he was sitting on his horse at a distance of about one half mile from where Lee surrendered. Company B, 11th Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry was known as "Harlan's Light Cavalry."

He was discharged under G. O. No. 83 War Dept. A. G. O. May 8, 1865, but was not mustered out until June

Our Ancestors

continued

5, 1865, at Richmond, Virginia. I have the copy of his Discharge in my files.

He later joined the General Wayne Post, G. A. R., Honey Brook, Pennsylvania. My friend, Harry F. Stauffer, Farmersville, took the picture which appears

below, May 30, 1919. Grandpa Spotts is the last one on the right of the backrow. The picture was taken in front of the home of Dr. Reese, Main Street, five years before Grandfather died. This is one of the best pictures of George Spotts that is extant.



General Wayne Post, G.A.R., Honey Brook, Pa.

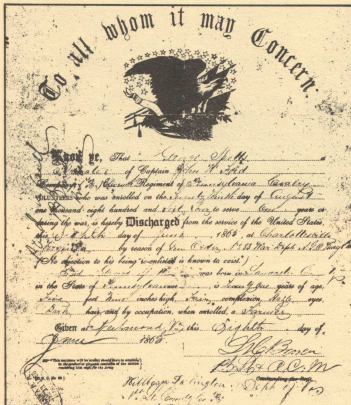
Front Row L to R: George Deickley, John Zollers, John R. McMichael. Back Row: George Supplee, Reese Welck, Cyrus Gehr, George Spotts — at home of Dr. Reese, Main Street. May 30, 1919 by Harry F. Stauffer.



Our Ancestors

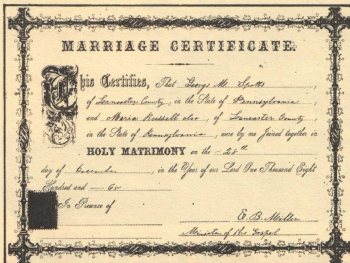
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The only record I have of my Grandfather's signature is on his application for pension, according to the Act of June 27, 1890. His application is dated June 27, 1890.



My grandfather, George Spotts', discharge from the Union Army, June 6, 1865

Less than seven months after he was discharged from the Union Army Grandfather was married to Maria Russell, December 28, 1865.



Marriage certificate of my grandparents George M. Spotts and Maria Russell

Grandma Spotts was a descendant of Thomas (1785-1871) and Mary (1787-1871) Russell, who may have emigrated from England or Wales. The family developed an iron mine west of the Narvon RR Station. Maria Russell's father was a brother of Mifflin A. Russell (1838-1919) who is buried at Cedar Grove. He was killed when Grandmother was only four years old. He was helping to unload logs when a skid broke, a log flew up and hit him on the head; he was killed instantly.

The Russells lived on top of Welsh Mountain, near the Mission. Grandpa did not have to travel very far when he went courting. Grandma was the youngest child; she had no brothers. Her family name came to an end with the death of her father. But there are Russells still living near the Narvon RR Station on the north side of the Welsh Mountain. Several years ago I visited Mrs. James (Emily) Hay, a descendant, who has a picture of the original Russell log house, and a photograph of her grandfather, Mifflin Russell (1838-1919) and his children.

Many of the Russells were very tall. Sadie Russell, who lives near the home place, remembers a cousin, George Kersey, who was over seven feet tall. At one time he was a dentist in Elizabethtown. My father used to tell us that when he was a small boy, a cousin of Grandmother's visited them occasionally while he was travelling with a circus. Father was quite frightened when he would come into the house and see this 'giant' sitting on one of their chairs. Several of my uncles inherited a proportion of this height; I guess my shortness came from my mother's family.

Rutland Park, a famous amusement place along the Railroad, was not far from the original Russell homestead. Thousands of 'tourists' came, by train, from Philadelphia to visit this park. Sadie Russell remembers her mother reporting that she saw a movie at Rutland Park many years ago; a movie showing Lazarus rising from the dead, which made a very deep impression on her. One of the first carousels, or merry-go-rounds, in Lancaster County was located in Rutland Park, consisting of a ring of wooden horses on a revolving platform, sometimes referred to as Flying Horses. A horse pulled the gadget and a man played the organ. Uncle Chester tells the story which represents the demise of the Flying Horses. The carousel at Rutland Park was operated by horsepower. Sometime after the Park was formerly closed Chester and one of my cousin's wife's father were in the neighborhood with their horses, which they hitched to the contraption, and gave them the whip. The result, the Flying Horses had a wild ride; it was perhaps the last time that the Rutland Park Merry-Go-Round went 'round' and 'round'.

My Mother's relatives, John and William Gault, owned most of the land on that part of the Welsh Mountain; they probably owned the land which later became Rutland Park. I remember as a small boy, I was

Our Ancestors

continued

always excited when we drove past this amusement place, wondering what actually happened there. Little did I realize that relatives - Mother's, Grandmother Spotts, and my uncle were actually part of the drama of this one-time, late 19th and early 20th century 'Disneyland', located on the north side of the Welsh Mountain. Varied indeed is the long story of life on the Welsh Mountain.

A Home is Started

Information about where my Grandparents started housekeeping appears in my files in a letter from Cousin Pearl Ranck, dated June 27, 1964: "From Uncle Chester I learned that Grandpa and Grandma started housekeeping near Joe Kurtz's at Limeville. Grandpa drove a (six-horse) lime team for him (sometimes as far as Philadelphia). They may have lived there about twelve years". Joe Kurtz operated a lime-stone quarry. One winter a mad (affected with rabies) dog, wandering about in the neighborhood bit his two fat hogs and a cow, all of which died as a result.

While they were living at the Kurtz place the following six children were born: John (December 3, 1866); Mary (January 16, 1868); William (February 7, 1869); Harry (November 3, 1871); Edgar (my father), (December 24, 1873); and Patton, November 21, 1875).

In the Spring of 1877 they moved to South Hermitage, nearer the mountain, into the Gault tenement house, and he became a laborer on one of the Gault farms, the one operated by John McGill, who was married to a Gault. Another of my poor paternal ancestors going to work for one of the more prosperous of my maternal ancestors. The house into which they moved is the middle of the three on the north side of the road, east of the farm formerly owned by the Reverend William S. Baltz. My cousin, Marian Ramsey's daughter, Ruth, lives in this house at present. My Grandparents joined Pequea Presbyterian Church, by profession of Faith, February 11, 1877. The Pequea Church was only a short distance from where they were living. They lived here for five years, during which three more children were born, Ella Margaret, October 29, 1877; Frank, February 21, 1879; and Martin, November 5, 1882. During this period their children, when they were old enough, attended the White Hall School, not far from their home. The building is still standing, but has been transformed into a summer home. My father attended school here during the first three years of his brief formal education. The 1878-1879 Tax Records report my grandfather as a "farm laborer at the Gault farm." The 1880 Census lists the following children at South Hermitage - Mary 12, Willie 11, Harry 9, Eddie 6, Patton 4, Ella 2, Frank 4 months - all living in a four room house.



Schoolhouse in South Hermitage which my father-attended; now a summer home.

During the Spring of 1883 my grandparents moved from the Gault tenement house to a small place which they had bought on the top of Welsh Mountain, north of the Gault farms. At first they lived in an old log stable while they built a new log house. Uncle Reeser was born in this old stable December 8, 1883.



House in which my grandparents, George and Marie Spotts, lived from 1877 to 1883. My cousin Marian Ramsey's daughter Ruth Ream lives in this house at present.

with her grandparents during this period, received one cent a quart for picking berries.

They had one horse, one cow, and about fifty chickens. Some of the eggs were taken to Bunn's and Hillard's stores, south of the mountain, to barter for groceries. The 1900 census reports their address as "Alert P. O." - 8 acres, 1 horse, 1 dog, \$1.48 tax; 2 acres of timberland Masts, 5c, and 4 acres of Magills, 64c." Grandpa also farmed one acre of tobacco, which was dampened in the house cellar and stripped in the house.

The Fifth Generation (cont.)

Children of George M. and Marie R. Spotts

1. John Park Spotts - December 3, 1866-June 30, 1962

2. Mary Elizabeth Martini - January 16, 1868 - October 11, 1940

3. Charles William Spotts - February 7, 1869 - December 3, 1956

4. Harry M. Spotts - November 3, 1871 - May 18, 1954

5. Joseph Edgar Spotts - December 2, 1873 - March 25, 1951

6. Patton Gault Spotts - November 21, 1875 - August 23, 1955

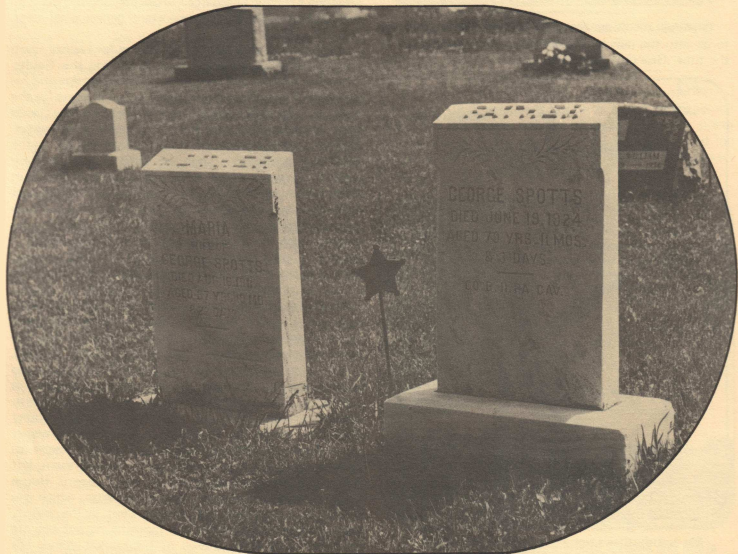
7. Ella Margaret Kurtz - October 29, 1877 - July 23, 1952

8. Frank Alexander Spotts - February 21, 1880 - July 10, 1930

9. George Martin Spotts - November 5, 1882 - May 11, 1959

10. Alfred Reeser Spotts - December 8, 1884 - April 27, 1966

11. Daniel Chester Spotts - December 23, 1887 -



My grandparents tombstones, Mt. Zion United Methodist Cemetery, near Cambridge.

My Uncles and Aunts

Four Hundred Descendents of George Spotts II

We come from large families. The second generation, John and Elizabeth (Wolf) Spotts had eleven children, nine girls and two boys. His brother Jacob and wife Mary had nine, six boys and three girls, and his brother George had seven. Their sister Mary Epphimer had at least two children. The third generation consisted of twenty-nine persons.

My Great-grandparents John and Esther (Miller) Spotts had nine children, six girls and three boys. My grandparents, George and Marie (Russell) Spotts, had eleven children, nine boys and two girls; fifty-eight grandchildren, one hundred and two living great-grandchildren and one hundred and sixty-six living great-great-grandchildren, and twenty-six great-great-grandchildren. Including those who have died my grandparents have had over four hundred descendents.

My father, Joseph Edgar Spotts, was the father of eleven children, nine boys and two girls. My Aunt Ella (Ressler) Kurtz was also the mother of eleven children, six boys and five girls. In the families of two of their children my grandparents had twenty-two grandchildren, which is a record among my ancestors.

My cousin Gertrude Sener was the mother of ten children, four boys and six girls; and my cousin Grube Ressler was the father of nine, eight boys and one girl.

It is somewhat unusual to have four generations in a family with an average of ten and one-half children in each generation. It is exceptional to have two successive generations with nine boys and two girls. With my generation population control has begun to operate. We have only two children and six grandchildren. Twenty-five of my cousins average less than two children per family, ten having only one child, four had no children. This is quite a change after four generations of large families. Our generation has almost reached a point of non-growth.

Our ancestors were also long lived. Nineteen members of the fourth and fifth generations lived an average of eighty years, three living beyond ninety. This was in sharp contrast to the longevity of the American Indians who lived in the same area several thousand years ago but who seldom lived to reach forty years. There is a family rumor that, at least, one of my ancestors married a person of Indian descent. My generation was marked by a number of infant deaths, which didn't seem to occur in previous generations. At

least there are few on record. Four of my own brothers and nine of my cousins died during infancy.

The early generations were also quite provincial. Although our emigrant ancestor, George Spotts, settled in Caernarvon Township, where some of his descendants still live; his son John, our ancestor, moved into Salisbury Township during the Fall of 1816. During four generations practically all of our Spotts family lived in a small geographical area of northern Salisbury Township, on the south side of the Welsh Mountain, in a valley with a radius of not more than five or six miles, in which were to be found the following hamlets - South Hermitage, Salisbury, Pequea, Alert, Cambridge and Mast.

My father was the first to break away from the confines of this limited area, when he moved his family to the village of Bowmansville, in Brecknock Township, a distance of not more than fifteen miles north from where all his ancestors had lived for nearly a century. A few years later he was joined by his brother, Martin, who became an apprentice in his blacksmith shop. But it was my Uncle Frank who took the big step, when he moved outside the state of Pennsylvania to Camden, New Jersey. The other eight members of the fifth generation remained in the "land of their fathers." With my generation the great scattering took place when cousins moved as far from Salisbury Township as Florida. The seventh generation became part of "the generation on the move" until the children of my generation and their children are scattered from coast to coast, in addition to a number who are overseas.

It is a century and one-half since our ancestor, John Spotts, moved into Salisbury Township. There his descendents remained for a century, unchallenged by the call of the prairie and the buffalo, of Pike's Peak and the Gold Rush, of the factory and the city. During a long one hundred years they cut wood on the Welsh Mountain, served as tenant farmers for more prosperous neighbors, in a few cases, were able to buy a few acres of their own. Our typical ancestor was a hard-working, law-abiding, church-going, frugal, neighborly citizen, with several of the unmistakable Teutonic characteristics - stubbornness, toughness, stick-to-itiveness, and family loyalty.

There follows a brief biographical sketch of each of my uncles and aunts. This information was gathered from members of their families and should, therefore,

Uncles and Aunts

continued

be considered fairly objective.

1. Uncle John Spott's III Family

My Uncle John (1866-1962) married Mary E. Miller August 14, 1890; I always knew her as Aunt "Molly." She was a sister of Emma (Miller) Seldomridge, great grandmother of Kenneth Schreiner, one of my undergraduate students at Franklin and Marshall College during the late 1940's. I remember her as a small, anemic person, but she lived to be eighty years old.

When I was a boy Uncle John's family lived on a farm, a short distance west of Honey Brook, on the north side of Route 322. The house was used as a tavern at one time. I still remember the large room which was the bar-room. His son George was about my age and full of tricks. I recall vividly one Sunday when we visited, I was dressed in a linen Sunday suit. Sometime during the afternoon George took my brother Edgar and I up into a hilly field back of the barn. We caught a calf. I was given the tail and George told me to hold on, not to let go. The calf started on a run down the hill, I holding on to the tail followed, at times stumbling, but continued to hold on. By the time I finally let go my Sunday suit was a 'mess,' I had several bruises, and cousin George stood up on the hill laughing 'his head off.' They also had a pasture south of the highway. I enjoyed going along to bring the cows into the stable at milking time.

Soon after his wife died Uncle John retired and moved to the home of his daughter, Mrs. Harrison A. Saner, near Lancaster. The following newspaper story appeared when he was ninety-four:

Uncle John lived to be ninety-five, the oldest age attained by any of my ancestors of which I have a record.

Uncle John's Children

Sixth Generation

Gertrude M. (Spotts) Saner - (February 27, 1891-February 18, 1966)

Stella M. Spotts (May 12, 1896-August 12, 1896)

George M. Spotts (January 29, 1899-March 12, 1948)

Infant son (still born) (July 28, 1902-July 28, 1902)

With the death of my cousin Gertrude in 1966 my Uncle John's generation came to an end.

Spotts Is 94 on Saturday, Likes Stories of Cowboys

East is east and West is west — and the twain have been meeting for as long as John P. Spotts, 295 New Holland Pike, can remember.

Spotts, a strictly Eastern "gude" will celebrate his 94th birthday Saturday. And he'll do it the same way he has been since he could read. He'll sit down with a good cowboy story.

NEVER WEST OF COUNTY

The fact that Spotts has never been west of Lancaster county doesn't dampen his enthusiasm for western novels in the least.

"He has been reading cowboy books all his life," according to his daughter, Mrs. Gertrude Saner, with whom he lives.

No one knows exactly how many western novels Spotts has gone through, or how many villains have bitten the dust, but there have been "plenty" in the nonagenarian's reading repertoire.

Nor can anyone explain how Spotts became interested in western stories. The fact that he was born a year after the Civil War ended, when the West was still "The West" and there was gold "in them thar hills," may have had something to do with it.

ZANE GREY IS FAVORITE

Spotts, who now uses heavy reading glasses to enjoy his pastime, says his favorite author is Zane Grey.

And it isn't easy for Spotts to run out of fresh reading material. Some of his 27 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and eight great-great-grandchildren supply him with books "for presents on his birthday and on Christmas," according to Mrs. Saner.

If that isn't enough, he sup-



JOHN P. SPOTTS

plements his books by watching "all the cowboy westerns on TV," Mrs. Saner said.

Mrs. Saner said there will be a big birthday cake for her father on Saturday, but no special party is planned.

Spotts was born near Honey Brook, Chester county, a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. George Spotts. He lived most of his life there as a farmer and retired nearly 20 years ago to live with his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Harrison A. Saner.

He was the husband of the late Mary Miller Spotts, who died in 1949.

Seventh Generation

Uncle John's Grandchildren living in 1973

1. George H. Sener (1913-) Maryland
2. Mary R. Sener (1914-) New Holland, Pa.
3. Miriam G. Aument (1915-) Willow Street, Pa.
4. Gladys A. Braas (1919-) Ephrata, Pa.
5. Evelyn Rankin (1923-) Leola, Pa.
6. Esther Rapp (1920-) Elverson, Pa.
7. Kenneth Spotts (1923-) Exton, Pa.
8. G. LeRoy Spotts (1930-) Elverson, Pa.

There were also twenty living great-grandchildren, and, at least, twenty-seven great-great-grandchildren.

Uncles and Aunts

continued

2. Aunt Mary's Martini's Family

My Aunt Mary (Spotts) Martini (1868-1940) married Thomas Joseph Martini, son of Franklin and Eliza Kyle Martini. They began housekeeping on the Martini small farm; Uncle Tommy's parents living with them until they moved into the tenant house. Aunt Mary's family lived up in the big house through their entire married life. There Aunt Mary nursed her husband's parents and her own father during their last years.

My childhood memories include: a very rough lane leading into the buildings; the house and barn in need of repairs; the intriguing, rambling house, with twelve rooms on four levels; a small, second floor room in which my grandfather spent his last years; and Uncle Tommy's tools. During their early married years Uncle Tommy worked in the nearby sand mines and later operated a wheelwright shop in connection with my Uncle Patton's blacksmith shop in Cambridge. They had a horse called "Cap."

Uncle Tommy was one of several of my uncles who died suddenly. He drove his car into a cornfield, stopping about five hundred yards from the road, where his body was found lying on the ground near the vehicle; he was eighty-seven at the time of his death.



Aunt Mary's Children Sixth Generation

Mary Lillian (Martini) Dukeman (March 8, 1902-August 14, 1967)

Paul Ernest Martini (February 28, 1910) Honey Brook, Pa.

Aunt Mary's Grandchildren living in 1973

Seventh Generation

1. Donald Dukeman (1923- Narvon, R.D. 2
2. Edward Thomas Martini (1929 Honey Brook, Pa.
3. Harry Robert Martini (1932 Downingtown, Pa.
4. Kerney L. Martini (1934 Exton, Pa.
5. Paul Ray Martini (1941 Sinking Spring, Pa.

There are also fourteen living great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

3. Uncle William Spotts' Family

My Uncle William married Elizabeth (Lizzie) Northeimer January 28, 1892. They began housekeeping on the Kurtz farm near Limeville, where my grandparents had lived earlier. Later, when Uncle William lived in Sadsbury, Uncle Patton worked for him. This was during the Spanish American War. During part of this period Uncle Frank, who was not yet married, also lived with them. He worked in the Coatesville mill.

I remember best the large farm south of Cambridge where they lived for many years. As a child I thought that the farm was very large and completely isolated; it was fun to visit there. Our children also enjoyed this farm; on the slopes below the house they did their first skiing. They lived on the John Finger farm, close to Mt. Zion for thirteen years.

As a child I was impressed by the size of Uncle Will and Aunt Lizzie; they were large people, but very kind. I remember Uncle Will's tremendous hands. Aunt Lizzie was diabetic; for many years she had to inject insulin into her veins daily. In spite of this ailment, she lived to be seventy-seven.

Uncle William and Uncle John were very big men. One of my cousins tells a story about them which took place before they were married. A group of nearby rough-necks had started a fight, which drew in several others until a melee of combatants mingled in a confused mass. My two large, strong uncles approached

Uncle Tommy and Aunt Mary Martini, Cousin Lillian sitting between them.

Map Notes

CAMBRIDGE P.O.

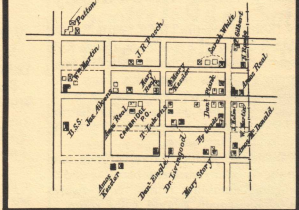
(1) Center, "Mary Kessler" - home of my maternal grandparents, Henry and Elizabeth Gault, where I visited as a child.
 (2) Lower left, "B.S.S." Blacksmith Shop where my father, my Uncle Patton, and my cousins Hobart and Eugene learned the blacksmithing trade, Salisbury (West to East)

- (3) "Vinola P.O." Here my mother began teaching, 1894.
 (4) North of Meadville, "John Spotts Est. 2 acres" home of my great-grandparents John and Esther Spotts from 1878 to 1894.
 (5) "Geo. M. Spotts 8 acres" home of my grandparents, George and Maria Spotts from 1883 until 1911.
 (6) "John Spotts, Jr." home of my grandfather's brother, John, west of Meadville.
 (7) Meadville, Alert P.O." - store where my great-grandparents, my grandparents and families of several of my uncles shopped and posted and received their mail and where my grandfather boarded.
 (8) "Hy Hillard 13 acres" home of my grandfather's sister, Laura.
 (9) "This Hermitage P.O." - In this hamlet my grandparents lived from 1877 to 1883, during which three children were born. At this time both of my grandparents were working for the Gault families, a short distance north.
 (10) "C.M. Spotts 30 acres" home of another of grandfather's brothers.
 (11) Center of Map "Pequea Pres. Ch." The Church of several generations of my father's family and many more generations of my mother's family.
 (12) South of Cambridge, "Geo. & Mary Wetzler 104 acres" farm of grandfather's sister, Ida Mary.
 (13) North-west of Cambridge, "Mt. Zion U.B.Ch." Here I started Sunday School; Mother, four of my brothers, my grandparents, a number of uncles and aunts and cousins are buried here.
 (14) "J.J. Templin 46 acres" - home of father's first wife.
 (15) North-east corner "Frank Martin 22 acres" house of my Aunt Mary Martin.
 (16) East of Meadville, "Jno. L. Emery Est." home of grandfather's sister Anna Fellenbaum.
 (17) North-West of Welsh Mountain - home of grandfather's sister, Kate Martin, near Cedar Lane.

This limited map covers the homes of my great grandfather John Spotts; seven of his children; and, although not marked, nine of his great-grandchildren lived in this same area for at least part of their married lives; cartographical evidence of a provincial family.

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SALISBURY TWP.



The Atlas of Surveys of the County
 Graves & Steinbarger, Boston



y of Lancaster, State of Pennsylvania;
 n & Philadelphia, Pa., pp. 76-77 - 1899

Uncles and Aunts

continued

the crowd, swinging their powerful arms right and left until the fighting mass was separated. This story is a bit reminiscent of the exploits of Abraham Lincoln during his younger years.



Uncle Will and Aunt Lizzie

Uncle Will's Children Sixth Generation

Ethel Pearl (Spotts) Ehrhart (March 18, 1893-) Lititz, Pa.

Hobart Mc. Spotts (November 11, 1896-March 12, 1946)

Earl Ralph Spotts (July 20, 1900-February 12, 1951)

Marian Gertrude (Spotts) Ramsey, (July 20, 1900-) South Hermitage, Pa.

Elsie Mae (Spotts) Sweitzer (February 4, 1909-) Morgantown, Pa.

Mabel Elizabeth (Spotts) Geiger (October 22, 1913-) Cambridge, Pa.

Ernest William Spotts (October 30, 1918-) Narvon, R. 2, Pa.

Uncle Will's Grandchildren living in 1973 Seventh Generation

1. Mary Elizabeth Markwood (1920) Coatesville, Pa.
2. Donald Earle Spotts (1923) Parkesburg, Pa.
3. Emma Mae Spotts (1926) Coatesville, Pa.
4. James N. Spotts (1929) Sadsburyville, Pa.
5. William Martin Spotts (1932) Brandywine Manor, Pa.
6. Priscilla Alden Cauller (1938) Coatesville, Pa.
7. Ruth Anne Ream (1927) South Hermitage, Pa.
8. Charlotte Mae LeFever (1932) Gettogen, Pa.
9. Lloyd Ernest Sweitzer (1938) Morgantown, Pa.
10. Mabel Elizabeth Sash (1943) Reading, Pa.
11. Janet Kay Sweitzer (1957-) Morgantown, Pa.
12. Carol Lorraine Trego (1946) Cambridge, Pa.
13. Ronald Ernest Spotts (1951) Narvon, R. D., Pa.
14. Rodney Lee Spotts (1954) Narvon R.D., Pa.

There are also thirty living great-grandchildren and nine great-great-grandchildren.

4. Uncle Harry Spotts' Family

My Uncle Harry married Ella Glauner, whose father was a blacksmith, and who worked for my Uncle Patton at one time. Uncle Harry began farming on his father-in-law's farm near Compass. Later he farmed near Cambridge where we visited several times. Aunt Ella was not a strong woman. I remember talking with her only a short time before she died.

Following Aunt Ella's death Uncle Harry worked at plumbing, and later served as sexton at the Honey Brook Methodist Church. He died unexpectedly, at the age of eighty-three, in a barber shop at Honey Brook.

Uncle Harry's Children Sixth Generation

John Spotts (1891-1904)

Park Spotts (1895-1895)

With the death of their son, John, in 1904, Uncle Harry's family line came to an end.

5. Uncle Patton Spotts' Family

Uncle Patton Gault Spotts, his middle name "Gault" was given him because both of his parents had worked for the Gault families, married Frances Elva Coffroad on Thanksgiving day, 1902. Before his marriage he was hired on a farm from the time he was sixteen, for which he received very little pay.

He learned the blacksmith trade from Amos Kessler at Cambridge and John Kessler at Kinzers. Upon the completion of his apprenticeship he rented a blacksmith shop at Dry Hill, at the northern slope of the Welsh Mountain, for five years. In 1906 he moved to Cambridge where he carried on the trade for about twenty years, during which time my Uncle Mart and my

Uncles and Aunts

continued



Uncle Patton



Aunt Elva

cousin Hobart learned the trade under him. I remember visiting his family while they lived in the new house which was built near the blacksmith shop. I have a very clear memory of drinking cistern water, they didn't have a well. It was my first and perhaps my last experience of drinking cistern water, for which I never acquired a hearty taste.

From the blacksmith shop they moved to a near-by large farm, where they lived until Uncle Patton retired and built a new house near where he had previously lived. As I recall, my father and several of my uncles who were blacksmiths gave up the trade after several decades and took up farming, probably for at least two reasons: blacksmithing was very hard work, and the coming of the automobile and the tractor began to replace horses.

My recollection is that Uncle Patton was more enterprising than most of my uncles. He was extremely active at Mt. Zion United Brethren Church; he was a founder and Director of the local Cooperative Creamery; he took the lead in organizing projects to help relatives and neighbors who were in need.

Like several of my uncles he died unexpectedly while returning home from his son, Eugene's, feed mill, only a block from his home, in his eightieth year.

Aunt Elva was a daughter of Abner G. and Catherine

Zeigler Coffroad, who lived near the sand mine on the old route 322. Both Lucy and I remember her as an exceptionally good cook. For some reason, I believe that we visited Uncle Patton's more frequently than we did any other uncles and my two aunts.

Uncle Patton's Children Sixth Generation

Eugene (April 19, 1904-) Cambridge, Pa.

Lloyd (April 17, 1909-) Cambridge, Pa.

Uncle Patton's Grandchildren living in 1973 Seventh Generation

1. Lois Ann Seldomridge (1929-) Honey Brook, Pa.

2. Janet Elizabeth Brackbill (1931-) Cambridge, Pa.

3. Thelma Jean Fisher (1937-) Gap, Pa.

There are also six living great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Uncles and Aunts

continued

6. Joseph Edgar's Family (My Father)

- Charles Dewey Spotts (April 26, 1899-) Lancaster, Pa.
John Edgar Spotts (August 28, 1900-) BOWMANVILLE, Pa.
Mary Elizabeth Tallaksen (March 8, 1902-September 9, 1966)
Lorenz G. Spotts (June 24, 1903-August 22, 1903)
Henry George Spotts (October 8, 1904-January 8, 1905)
William Wayne Spotts (January 20, 1906-May 8, 1906)
Luther Ernest Spotts (March 12, 1908-September 17, 1908)
Paul Franklin Spotts (August 17, 1910 -) BOWMANVILLE, Pa.
Woodrow Isaac Spotts (June 8, 1913 -) Fivepointville, Pa.
Edith Amanda Long (March 28, 1916-) Reinholds, Pa.
Howard Lafollete Spotts (December 3, 1918-) Mohnton, R.D., Pa.

Another family of eleven children, nine boys and two girls, the third time this occurred in four generations of the Spotts family.

Joseph Edgar Spotts' Grandchildren living in 1973 Seventh Generation

1. Mary Jane Merrill (1927-) Claremont, California.
 2. Nancy Lou Bare (1931-) R.D., Leola, Pa. (on a farm)
 3. Betty Jeanne Turgeon (1928-) Harrisburg, Pa.
 4. Edward Lee Spotts (1951-) North Dakota (Air Force)
 5. Mary Ann Spotts (1955-) Bowmanville, Pa.
 6. Edith Eileen Hoover (1945-) Denver, Pa.
 7. Sandra Ann Long (1947-) Reinholds, Pa.
 8. James Howard Long (1948-) Reinholds, Pa.
 9. Kevin Spotts (1956-) Mohnton, R.D., Pa.
- There are also thirteen great-grandchildren.

7. Aunt Ella (Ressler) Kurtz' Family

Aunt Ella was married twice - to Frank Isaac Ressler, who died July 7, 1943; and to Martin M. Kurtz, who died June 9, 1953.

Like her sister and brothers she had to go to work when she was only nine. Within a year she was helping to milk twenty cows. For one year she worked on Uncle John's farm in Chester County. Her first child, Pearl, was born before she was nineteen. She left her baby with her mother and went to New Holland to work as a cook at the New Holland House. While she was working there she was married to Frank Ressler of New Holland, who worked for the Telephone Company.

The story of the first fifteen years of her married life is almost incredible. Although her husband was a good worker he spent practically all that he earned on liquor. When he was intoxicated he abused Aunt Ella beyond description. But he was her husband and she endured what was virtually hell.

For several years they lived near Mill Creek, where two of her children were born. On several occasions she



Aunt Ella and Cousin Geneva

Uncles and Aunts

continued

got up several days after delivering a child in order to go out and gather wood to keep her family warm. During a period of six years she walked two and one-half miles to pick up and return wash in order to make enough money to buy food for her family. Later they moved into New Holland and lived for six years in her brother-in-law's chicken house.

During these bitter years she would occasionally hire a team and take her children over to see their maternal grandparents. She was a good woman, was always very kind to me. The last years of her life were really pleasant ones. I almost weep when I remember what she endured for several decades.

Aunt Ella's Children Sixth Generation

- Pearl Ranck (1896-) Lititz, Pa.
- Geneva Kochel (1900-) New Holland
- Grube Ressler (1902-1972)
- George Ressler (1905-1905)
- Rose Ressler (1905-1905)
- Frank Ressler (1907-) Leola, Pa.
- Helen Yuninger (1913-1931)
- Henry Ressler () Terre Hill, Pa.
- Robert Ressler (1915-) New Holland, Pa.
- Joseph M. Kurtz (1921-) Ottawa, Ohio

Aunt Ella's Grandchildren living in 1973 Seventh Generation

- 1. Vernon W. Ranck (1920-) Lititz, Pa. R.D.
- 2. Vivian A. Reckford (1924-) Lancaster, Pa.
- 3. Vera B. Reifsnyder (1927-) Lititz, Pa.
- 4. Virginia Lou Ludwig (1932-) Lititz, Pa.
- 5. Robert I. Kochel (1920-) Willow Street, Pa.
- 6. John E. Ressler (1920-) R.1, Lititz, Pa.
- 7. Martin E. Ressler (1922-) Kirkwood, Pa.
- 8. Elmer R. Ressler (1925-) Kennet Square, R.D. 3, Pa.
- 9. Harold L. Ressler (1926-) East Earl, Pa.
- 10. Melvin J. Ressler (1928-) Akron, Pa.
- 11. Clarence I. Ressler (1931-) Lititz, Pa. R.D. 4
- 12. Anna Mae Ressler (1932-) Ephrata, Pa.
- 13. Elvin J. Ressler (1940-) Ephrata, R.D. 3, Pa.
- 14. John H. Ressler (1930-) Montana
- 15. Mary An Daubl (1943-) Terre Hill, Pa.
- 16. Ella Louise Moison (1945-) Terre Hill, Pa.
- 17. James B. Ressler (1943-) New Holland, Pa.

- 18. Robert Lee Ressler () Crystal Beach, Va.
 - 19. Lisa Ann Kurtz (1956-) Ottawa, Ohio
 - 20. Julie Jo Kurtz (1971-) Ottawa, Ohio
- There were also forty-two living great-grandchildren and ten great-great grandchildren.

8. Uncle Frank Spotts' Family

Like his brothers during his youth he worked on neighboring farms. Cousin Pearl remembers when he came home, he would sit on the front porch and sing. He had a rich baritone voice. His favorite hymn was "When the Roll is Called up Yonder." Later on he sang in the choir of the Haddon Heights, New Jersey, Lutheran Church.

Uncle Frank married Margaret Robinson of Philadelphia, a native of Ireland, having been born near Belfast. The first time I remember visiting Uncle Frank's family is when they lived along the railroad tracks on the top of the Welsh Mountain. They had a large St. Bernard dog, for which I had a response of both awe and fear. The dog was almost as tall as I was. Soon after this they moved to Reese White's farm near Honey Brook. He was never a very successful farmer.

He became a press-smith at a Coatesville Steel Company; he also drove a horse and wagon for the Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company.



Uncle Frank



Aunt Margaret

They moved to Woodlyn, New Jersey during 1916, and Uncle Frank began to work in a forge in Camden, later at the Baldwin Locomotive Company and at Eddystone.

Soon after they moved to Camden he entered the political arena, beginning as a policeman on the beat. He was very tall and must have been an impressive figure in a patrolman's uniform. When they moved to Barrington he was elected three times, by the Republican Party, to

Uncles and Aunts

continued

serve on the Borough Council. Although he had very little formal education he became an influential person in Barrington. In less than fifteen years he died of carcinoma.

Of my ten uncles and aunts Uncle Frank was different. He was the only one to marry someone from outside of Lancaster County, and the only one to marry a member of the Episcopal Church. He was also the only one to move out of Pennsylvania, the only one to find employment in industry, the only one to be elected to a political office. He was the tallest of my uncles and aunts, being about six feet, five inches; my cousins recall how he always had to stoop when coming through a door. He was the first to die, being only fifty, more than a quarter of a century younger than were the others when they died.

Uncle Frank's Children Sixth Generation

- Lucy Maria Hall (1903-) Glen Riddle, Pa.
- Frank Alexander Spotts (1905-1967)
- Ruth Spotts (1907-1907)
- James Russel Spotts (1909-1964)
- Robert William Spotts (1911-) Monroeville, R.D. 2, N.J.
- Benjamin Robinson Spotts (1914-) Rockledge, Florida
- Edward Hill Spotts (1917-) Aubudon Village, N.J.

Uncle Frank's Grandchildren living in 1973 Seventh Generation

- 1. Ralph Edward Salvatore (1922-) Fort Walton Beach, Florida
- 2. Russel Arthur Salvatore (1950-) Astor Farms, Chester, Pa.
- 3. Beverly A. Rankin (1932-) Toms River, N.J.
- 4. James R. Spotts, Jr. (1938-) Medford, N.J.
- 5. Barbara Ann Dougherty (1940-) Laurel Springs, N.J.
- 6. Donna Fay Volk (1943-) Blackwood, N.J.
- 7. Betty May Ruth (1944-) Lindenwold, N.J.
- 8. Margaret Spotts (1940-) Rockledge, Florida
- 9. Benjamin R. Spotts (1945-) Hialeah, Florida
- 10. Jessica Marie Wells (1947-) Hollywood, Florida
- 11. Esther Lucia Patrick (1952-) Rockledge, Florida
- 12. Lucia Maria Cockrell (1954-) Cocoa Beach, Florida
- 13. Frank Alexander Spotts (1955-) Rockledge, Florida

- 14. Edward Hill Spotts (1939-) West Berlin, N.J.
 - 15. Judith Lynne Wence (1941-) Somerdale, N.J.
- There were also twenty-two great grandchildren.

9. Uncle Martin Spotts' Family

Uncle Mart came to Bowmansville as an apprentice in my father's blacksmith shop; met Jennie R. Good, only child of Mr. and Mrs. Menno Good, married her January 18, 1910. At the time set for the wedding, January 14, 1910, he was helping Uncle Patton, who was in bed with typhoid fever. Because of a severe snow storm he wasn't able to come to Bowmansville until the 14th, therefore, the wedding was postponed.

After leaving my father's blacksmith shop Uncle Mart bought land north of the village, on which he built a small barn. Part of this land was on a steep hillside. I recall helping him to cradle and tie-up rye on a small field on this hill. He also raised tobacco.

Later he bought the farm along a branch of Muddy Creek, where Mrs. Spotts' ancestor, Jonas Musselman, settled in 1738. After retirement Uncle Mart moved to Church Street in the village of Bowmansville, where his widow still lives, at the age of eighty-five. After my father moved to the farm directly across the road from Uncle Mart's farm, Uncle Mart always assisted in the butchering of hogs at my father's farm. He and his son Warren served as caretakers of the local cemetery,



Uncle Mart and Aunt Jennie

Uncles and Aunts

continued

including the digging of graves. Warren and his sons continue this responsibility. Uncle Mart was a Deacon at St. Paul's Reformed Church for twelve years.

Uncle Mart's Children Sixth Generation

Margaret Elizabeth Coldren (1913-) Shillington, Pa.
Leon Spotts (1915-) West Reading, Pa.
Catherine May Houshower (1918-) Bowmansville, Pa.
Warren George Spotts (1919-) Bowmansville, Pa.
Ruth Arlene Spotts (1925-) Bowmansville, Pa.

Uncle Mart's Grandchildren living in 1973

Seventh Generation

1. David Allen Coldren (1941-) Mohnton, Pa.
 2. Donald Lee Coldren (1941-) Mechanicsburg, Pa.
 3. Robert Coldren (1943-) Air Force, Utah
 4. John Coldren (1947-) Towanda, New York
 5. Leon Richard Spotts (1938-) Kansas, Missouri
 6. Barbara Fay Houshower, (1937-) Adamstown, Pa.
 7. Kenneth Martin Spotts (1952-) Bowmansville, Pa.
 8. Frederick John Spotts (1953-) Bowmansville, Pa.
- There are also fifteen great-grandchildren

10. Uncle Reese Spotts' Family

Uncle Reese married Ida Mae Robinson of White Horse, whose father was a blacksmith. She was a short woman, who died forty years before Uncle Reese. They started housekeeping in South Hermitage; he worked for farmers in the area. In a few years he moved to the Gap, where he worked at the J. C. Walker Feed, Coal and Lumber Store. After Grandmother died they moved in with Grandpa. During 1914 he and Uncle Chester operated the Scott farm near Supplee, after which they moved to the Robinson farm north east of Cains, where they lived longer than at any other place. From there they moved south of Honey Brook, where he became affected with three kinds of rheumatism, which forced him to use crutches. He recovered completely and moved to the McLvaine farm near Downingtown, where Aunt Ida died during 1926. After the death of his wife Uncle Reese moved to the Hoffman farm near Sadsburyville, where he assumed charge of the large dairy. The last ten years of his life he spent in the Popscon County Home, Chester county.



Uncle Reese and Aunt Mae

Uncle Reese's Children Sixth Generation

George R. Spotts (1905-) Paradise, Pa.
Erma Mae Spotts (1909-1910)
Margaret Viola Kieffer (1911-) Wilmington, Del.
Charles R. Spotts (1915-) Downingtown, R.D., Pa.

Uncle Reese's Grandchildren living in 1973

Seventh Generation

1. Betty Jane DeWald (1925-) Quarryville, Pa.
 2. John B. Spotts (1931-) Millersville, Pa.
 3. Charles Samuel Keiffer (1928-) Coatesville, Pa.
 4. Bernell Wayne Kieffer (1934-) Wilmington, Del.
 5. Peggy Ann Spotts (1935-) Coatesville, Pa.
- There are also nine great-grandchildren

11. Uncle Chester Spotts' Family



Uncle Chester and Aunt Ida wedding picture.

Uncle Chester is my only surviving uncle. He married Dora L. Miller August 22, 1907, who died June 9, 1962. He was a tenant on Frank Helm's farm near Route 10, later north of 322 on a big farm. He later operated a large dairy farm near Honey Brook. Soon after his wife's death he took up bowling. He was then seventy-five.

During January of 1969, at the age of eighty-one he rolled a 628 triple series; started with a 227 single game, followed with a 229, and finally a 172. He still bowls two nights a week, and plays 18 holes of golf when weather permits. During the rest of the week he works in his son's farm implement shop. He is an amazing person, possessing the physical vigor and energy of a man of sixty-five. His mind is sharp and his memory amazing. I am indebted to him for a great deal of information about our family during the nineteenth century.

Uncle Chester's Son Sixth Generation

Clyde M. Spotts (1914-) Honey Brook, Pa.

Clyde was Uncle Chester's only child and there are no grandchildren.



Seven of my eight uncles — front row (left to right) John and Will, (back row) Harry, Patton, Mart, Reese, Chester. Uncle Frank is missing, having died many years earlier. Picture taken about 1953.



My Father's Career

Joseph Edgar Spotts (1873-1951): The Village Blacksmith at Bowmansville

My father, Joseph Edgar Spotts was married three times, first to Ida C. Templin, daughter of Joseph J. Templin, who lived close to Mt. Zion United Brethren Church. She was six years older than my father and died within a year after they were married.

Father decided to learn the blacksmithing trade after the death of his first wife. He was an apprentice at a shop in Kinzer when he began to date Dolly Gault. After some discussion with his brother, Patton, who was learning blacksmithing in Cambridge at Amos Kessler's shop, they decided to trade. As a result my father moved to Cambridge in order to be closer to his fiance.

On September 10, 1898, he married Mary Dorothy Gault, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Gault, thereby bringing together, in marriage, two families who for several generations had been in the relationship of employer and employee. They moved into a small house, owned by my grandfather Gault, on the east end of the village of Cambridge, in which I was born. This house was later owned by my cousin Marian and her husband, George Ramsey. Their son Paul died here.

Three years later father bought the Palm blacksmith shop in Bowmansville. When we moved to Bowmansville in the fall of 1902 my father was the first of grandfather



My father, while working for Amos Kessler, before he was married.



Father's first wife, Ida Templin (1867-1897)

Father's Career

continued

Spotts' children to move away from Salisbury Township, to 'the other side of the mountain.'

It was rather a momentous move. At first father rented the Gehman stone house north of the Seifret store; one of the first floor rooms continued to be a store room. We children were put to bed when the stage arrived from Reading, which was sometimes as early as six o'clock. I believe marks can be still seen on the wide window sills which my brother Edgar and I used for hammering.

After two years father bought the house on Water Street, next to the Blacksmith Shop, in which I lived until I entered College, January 1919, never to return home. During the five years that Mother lived in Bowmansville, she gave birth to four children, each of

and Vine Streets.

When Mother was seventeen her parents enrolled her in the Millersville Normal School. I have the Teachers Provisional Certificate (good for one year only), dated April 3, 1894, grades are included for ten subjects. The certificate was signed by M. J. Brecht, Superintendent. I have similar certificates which were signed by Mr. Brecht May 11, 1897 and May 12, 1898. Mother taught in a one-room school in Salisbury Township during the four years before she was married, beginning in the fall of 1894. I have the diary which she kept during the 1895-1896 years when she attended Millersville Normal School. She frequently complained of being 'tired'; I guess she was never a strong person physically. One record reports that "Dr. Hull, the Mathematician, led



Tombstone of father's first wife, Mt. Zion United Methodist Cemetery, near Cambridge

whom died within a few months after birth. Her body seemed to become weaker with the birth of each child, finally dying before she was thirty-two years old on June 30, 1908.

Mother was born in Cambridge, one of the places which had their origin in lottery projects. Abraham Dierdorf who plotted the town-site in 1811, purchased 239 acres of land from Thomas and Margaret Pierce in 1802, a part of this tract was surveyed and laid out in one fourth acre lots and streets in 1812. The attempts to sell lots was not very successful, and most remained unsold during the life of the founder. Recently a number of new houses have been built in the village. Mother's parents lived on the northeast corner of Main



My mother, Mary Elizabeth Gault

the prayer meeting." One entry reflects her deep Christian faith, "Have such a longing to become more like my blessed example. O, for more grace and more faith." This remained her prayer throughout her short life.

Mother began teaching at the Mt. Airy School, Vinola, P. O. I have, in my files, a letter which she wrote to her cousin, Carrie Weiler, September 17, 1894, several weeks after she started teaching. She had fifty pupils. She reported that she "whipped one for using bad language." It is hard for me to believe that she actually 'whipped' one of the boys. She reported that she "liked teaching real well." I cherish this letter which mother wrote exactly twenty-three years before I was

Father's Career

continued

having my first experience teaching at White Oak School, Brecknock Township, before spending the summer term of 1918 at Millersville Normal School.

Thirteen years later, January 24, 1907, Mother wrote another letter to her cousin Carrie Weiler, which I also have in my files. They apparently corresponded with each other frequently. In this letter she reported that "Mamma (Grandma Gault) and Mae (Fisher)" visited over Christmas. "Mamma gave the boys a Noah's Ark with 132 animals" (how well I remember that Ark and the many hours we spent playing with it) and "Mae gave Mary (my sister) a nice set of dishes. . . . Ed (father) gave me a Post Card Album which will hold 350 cards and a year's subscription to Sabbath Reading, from Papa I

I also have in my files a copy of the July 10, 1908 issue of The Terre Hill Times, in which appears a set of resolutions in memory of Mother. The Committee consisted of Lizzie A. Stover, who two years later became my step-mother; W. K. Musselman, father of Lucy Musselman who I was to marry seventeen years later; and S. G. Seifert, postmaster and proprietor of one of the village stores.

On May 5, 1910, father married Lizzie Agnes Stover, who for fifty-seven years was as fine a stepmother to me as any woman could have been. She was the daughter of Frank and Amanda Stover, who moved from a nearby farm to Bowmansville near the close of the nineteenth century. Her father became one of the prominent men



House on Water Street, Bowmansville where I lived as boy (1905-1919). Father's blacksmith shop to the right and wheelwright shop on extreme right.

received a very pretty meat platter and from Mamma a china hair reviver." She added "my time will be quite fully occupied during the coming year as I have been elected Supt. of the Infant Room in S. S." She then chided her cousin for not taking care of her health and added a very significant existential observation: "It is simply because I know from experience I fully believe our mental and spiritual conditions depend largely upon our physical condition." This is the last record I have of Mother's correspondence. Eighteen months later her lips were sealed in death. This letter is one of my prize possessions.

of the village - Justice of the Peace, Printer, Surveyor, Notary. On April 1st his office was jammed for hours with neighbors who had annual April 1st business to transact. He was also a farmer, attended the Kissinger's Farmer's Market in Reading for many years. During my teens I frequently worked on his farm and accompanied him on occasion to the Reading Market, which was quite a holiday for a teenager.

During a number of years my stepmother worked in a local cigar factory and operated her father's printing press. I still have several wooden animal forms which were used to print sale bills. When she came to live with

Father's Career

continued



Tombstones of my mother and four infant brothers, Mt. Zion United Methodist Cemetery.

us she brought along a lively black horse, called 'Nigger,' which I drove many times to haul coal from Denver, a distance of seven miles, and to cultivate several lots which we farmed. I also rode him frequently; he was a

pacer, an easy rider, afraid only of the smell of gun powder and of water. When I learned of his death years later, I penned the following lines to his memory.

Passing of an Old Black Horse

Twenty-seven years ago life came in the form of a pony black,
Life which appeared not to know exhaustion; daily toil, the plow, the bit
Could not hold you back.

The crack of a whip, the blast of a gun meant nervous motion.

That beast was almost personality, never by him could anyone be harmed.
His frolicsome pranks contained no enmity, 'Pep' and gentleness, instinct and
intelligence were combined.

One day the word was passed around, "Nigger is no more, he's underground!"

What! - possible! I must hear with remorse
The news of the passing of the old black horse.

Friend, the memory of your faithfulness can well inspire the life of many a man.

When duty called you answered with earnestness.
Your life could have belonged to God's plan

CDS

Father's Career

continued

My stepmother lived to be ninety years old, dying June 1, 1967.

I wrote and read the following tribute at her funeral.

"My mother died June 30, 1908, when I was only nine years old. She was only thirty-two. Although I remember her very well, as I look backwards it seems that she was with us only a comparatively short time. Sister Mary was only six when Mother left us.

"During the next two years Edgar, Mary and I were under the supervision of several house-keepers and helpful neighbors. Father worked hard in the blacksmith shop, next to our house on Water Street, in the village of Bowmansville; but he found time and energy to be very helpful to us children.

"Although I did not know her very well at the time I have vivid memories of Lizzie (Elizabeth Agnes) Stover before she became my step-mother. She was born January 15, 1877 on the farm of her mother's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Kramer, located in Brecknock Township, Berks County, not far from the Maple Grove Swimming Pool.

"During my boy-hood days she lived with her parents, Franklin S. and Amanda E. Stover, in the corner house east of the Hotel. Her father was a very important person in the neighborhood. He operated a vegetable and dairy farm, attended the Farmer's Market in Reading (Kissinger). On a number of occasions when I worked on his farm I slept in the parlor until one o'clock, when we fed the horses, ate breakfast, and started for Reading, including the long, steep pull up Trostle's hill, arriving at the market about five o'clock.

"Frank Stover was the local Justice of the Peace, serving mainly as a conveyor of properties. On April 1st of each year his office was the busiest place in the neighborhood, as most properties, in those days, changed hands on that day. In many of these transactions his daughter Lizzie did the inscribing of the legal documents. There was no typewriter in the office; and Lizzie always had a beautiful and legible handwriting.

"He was also the community surveyor. To me as a boy, Frank Stover's buggy, when filled with his transit and other surveying instruments, seemed to be a vehicle of mystery. I hadn't the slightest idea about what he "was up to" when he passed our house with these instruments. I am not sure that I would even now. In grandma's desk I found record of land which her father surveyed as early as March 22, 1886.

"Lizzie's father was also the community printer. In a room on the second floor of their house was an old printing press, built by Adam Ramage in Philadelphia during the period 1807-1817. Its frame is made of solid mahogany. Ramage was a Scotch cabinet-maker who came to Philadelphia in 1800 or before. He introduced

improvements in the earlier wooden presses by increasing the diameter of the screw so that pressure with less effort could be applied to the plaster through the lever. Mr. Stover acquired this press in 1886.

"Edward S. Smith, Reading printer, bought the press from the Stover family and two years later sold it to the John Wanamaker store in Philadelphia. The store made a gift of it to the Lincoln-Free Press Memorial Association in 1953. The Lincoln Memorial Association is located in Vincennes, Indiana. In their records Lizzie is referred to as "being one of the famous printresses of early days." Lucy and I saw this old press during our first trip to the West Coast in 1955. On this press sale bills, picnic announcements, etc. were printed. Lizzie set the type and operated the press. For many years the plates used to print farm animals, wagons, etc. were in our home. We used them as toys. For a number of years after she came into our home, Grandma continued to operate this ancient printing press, which she operated for forty years.

"During her declining years as she moved from the home of one of her children to another, she carried a medium-sized, rectangular basket, in which she kept her prized possessions — insurance policies, legal documents, cemetery records, etc. In this basket was also large manila envelopes containing all the correspondence that she had had with the Lincoln-Free Press Memorial Association, concerning the preservation of the Ramage Printing Press which she had operated for four decades. I believe that this was one of the most important chapters in her long, full life.

"Bowmansville was a center of cigar-making. At one time four different cigar factories were in operation. All cigars were then made by hand. At an early age, Lizzie began to pack cigars in one of these factories, thereby becoming comparatively quite prosperous. I can still see her, on a Saturday evening coming down the road in a fancy, well-painted buggy, drawn by a graceful black pacing horse. Behind the reins sat Lizzie Stover, in a white duster, long gloves, and a large hat. She was really quite a sport in those days, attending all the church picnics, festivals, and other social affairs in the neighborhood.

"On May 5, 1910, father married Lizzie Stover and she became my stepmother. During the next eight years, before I went away to college, no one could have had a kinder, more cooperative, more concerned and more helpful step-mother than I had. The fact that she bore four children of her own during the next eight years did not detract in any way from her affection for and concern about myself, my brother and sister.

"Becoming a wife, a step-mother to three, and a mother of four, did not deter grandma's former interests. During her teens she attended I. B. Good's private school in Terre Hill. As a result she always had

Father's Career

continued

more cultural interests than did most of her neighbors. She read a great deal. For almost a half century she served as the Bowmansville correspondent for newspapers in Lancaster, Reading, Ephrata, Terre Hill, Denver, and Honey Brook. As compensation all of these newspapers came into our home free. In later years she was paid for copy.

"She was always interested in local history, and had an unusual sense for the preservation of history. This is indicated by a series of notebooks in which she transcribed all the inscriptions on the tombstones in the Bowmansville Cemeteries, and kept a detailed record of all the funerals in the neighborhood which occurred during her adult life. In many visits during recent years, before she became infirm, she showed me these records as we talked about the past. On one occasion she was quite upset when I discovered an error, which she subsequently corrected by revisiting the cemetery.

"Among her records I have discovered a "Burial Record of Interments made in the Mennonite Burial Grounds" beginning with 1896. I think this refers to the Bowmansville-Lancaster Conference Mennonite Church.

The first record reports: "January 2, (1896), Davis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Horning, aged 5 yrs., 5 mo., and 19 das. Revs. Nolt and Good officiated." These records continue in this book in her beautiful handwriting until September 1, 1908.

"In the same note-book she began a record of Interments made in the Bowmansville Union Cemetery, beginning with April 27, 1896, when Jacob Burkhardt was buried. This record continues until April 3, 1908, with the footnote, "A new book commences for 1909."

"The first book also contains burials "made at other places", beginning with 1899, and includes my infant brother Lorentz, who was buried at the Mt. Zion U.B. Church, Cambridge, August 25, 1903.

"Her approaching infirmities are reflected in the records for the Mennonite Cemetery, beginning with 1962. The effect of palsy can be detected in her handwriting at this time. It becomes increasingly worse. Finally, during the early part of 1965 she was unable to complete the records. The last entry is incomplete. The month is "May", but the date is not clear. The entry is "Wm. G. Good 83", but the reference to the officiating



Tombstone for my father and steomother, and my sister Mary, Bowmansville Union Cemetery.

Father's Career

continued



Father's family taken several years before his death. Front row (left to right) brother Woodrow, our daughters, Mary Jane and Nancy Lou, brother Edgar's daughter, Betty Jeanne, Howard, sister Edith, and Edgar's wife, Edith; Back row, Lucy, the author, Grandma, Whitey (Mary's husband), sister Mary, father, brothers Paul and Edgar.

minister is only "Rev. Lienn", I suspect it was "Leinbach".

"It is a singular coincidence that the last entry for the Bowmansville Union Cemetery was for her own brother, Isaac Stover, 84, who was buried March 10, 1965. Unlike all other entries this one was written with a pencil. Perhaps, at this time, she could hold a pencil better than a pen.

"Even a casual examination of these records reflect Grandma's unusual devotion to the preservation of records, her human concern for all her neighbors, Lutheran, Reformed, Mennonite, and even those buried in "Potters Field", and her dedication to accuracy and completeness. In these records resides a person who was known to only a few.

"Grandma also enjoyed cultural interests. She attended my graduation from Terre Hill High School in 1917, from Franklin and Marshall College in 1922, and from the Theological Seminary in 1925; in each case expressing intelligent interest in the exercises. Her thirst

for knowledge continued unabated until her last infirm years.

"She was confirmed into the Lutheran Church May 26, 1894, by the Reverend Benjamin G. Welder, who also confirmed me nearly twenty years later. Grandma was always faithful in attendance at services of both the Lutheran and Reformed congregations, occupying her favorite pew near the front. She also frequently attended services at the Pine Grove General Conference Mennonite Church, in which cemetery Samuel Bowman, the founder of Bowmansville, is buried.

"During more than forty years, Lizzie taught the Women's Bible Class in the Bowmansville Union Sunday School, of which I became the Superintendent when I was only sixteen.

"Throughout her life, Grandma tried to follow in the footsteps of her Lord. I never saw her become angry, nor heard her raise her voice in condemnation, nor criticism of anyone.

"Hers was a many-sided personality. On rare

occasions she reflected a sense of genuine humor. Although it was rare, I shall never forget the warmth and contagion of her radiant smile."

Father sold the blacksmith shop about 1923 and bought a farm at the northern end of the village of Bowmansville, where he died March 25 (Easter Day), 1951.

I remember father as a big man, weighing about 275 pounds. He always worked hard, had very little formal education, but read a great deal and was actually a very intelligent man. There was a tender and sensitive side to his nature which few of his acquaintances realized. About twenty years ago one of his relatives, Ira Wayne Russell, gave me a name card which father had given to him about 1890, on which above his name "Edgar Spotts" appears the lines:

By this my handwriting
I promise to pay
All the love that I owe thee
For ever and aye.

This is a simple thing but I think it is significant that he chose these sentiments for his name card.

Some years ago, in the wedding book of Uncle Thomas J. and Aunt Mary E. Martini, I found this significant message from my father:

"Dear brother and sister my prayer is that you may have a long and happy life and when life is over here you may live together in that beautiful home in heaven."

Your loving brother,
J. E. Spotts

Elsie Kessler, a neighbor, remembered father whistling "God Will Take Care of You" while he was working in the blacksmith shop.

He had more than his share of troubles. During a short thirteen year period he buried two wives and four children. I remember vividly that the day after Mother died he talked to me, his nine-year old son, during which he remarked, "I have had to bear a heavy cross, but many others have had to also." There was never any bitterness in his mind as a result of his burdens.

An Autobiographical Postscript

Charles Dewey Spotts (1899-): More Than a Half Century in the Class-Room

As the author approaches his seventy-fifth birthday it behooves him to record the major events in a teaching career which has covered fifty-six years; a one-room, eight grade, rural school; a semester in a Boy's High School; thirty-four years on the Faculty of Franklin and Marshall College; five years at the Lancaster Theological Seminary; ten years on the Faculty of Millersville State College; and eight years in the Creativity Program for fifth and sixth grades in the public schools of Lancaster County. It is most significant that his teaching career began and is ending in the class-room for elementary children. What could have been more appropriate? The teacher of Nazareth was extremely perceptive when he admonished his learners, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for such is the

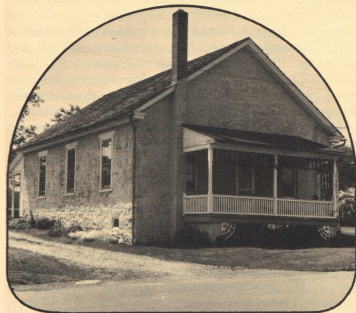
Kingdom of God." Perhaps the greatest reward comes to the dedicated teacher of children. I guess Geoffrey Chaucer spoke for me and other teachers more than six hundred years ago when he wrote in *Canterbury Tales*: "And gladly would he learn, and gladly teach."

I was born in Cambridge, Pennsylvania, not England, although I have been to the latter and was fascinated by its academic atmosphere and its exciting history. Since my birth is recorded as of April 26, 1899, I really belong to the nineteenth century. My middle name 'Dewey' reflects the impression made by Admiral George Dewey's naval victory over Spain at Manila Bay in the Philippines. In fact, it was not much of a victory, occurring in the midst of a strange war. I have never had occasion to be really proud of my middle name.

Autobiographical Postscript



House in which the author was born, east end of Cambridge.



White Oak Public School, where I began my teaching career the fall of 1917 (now a private home)

My academic career began in the public school of Bowmansville, where I skipped several grades, was fortunate to have had several excellent teachers including Susie K. Showalter, Florence Wilder, and George Reinart, who encouraged me to take the High School Entrance Examination during the summer of 1914. I was graduated from the Terre Hill High School, as Valedictorian, on Thursday, June 7, 1917. After teaching one year in the White Oak, Brecknock Township, one-room rural school, without any normal school or college preparation; and serving three months in the Student Army Training Corps; I entered Franklin and Marshall College, January, 1919, with very little financial resources and no promise of help from home. I was very fortunate in securing a job waiting on tables and washing dishes at the Refectory of the Theological Seminary, which paid my board and room. I also got a job at Mettfeff's Fruit Stand on North Queen Street.

Among old letters in my files is one dated March 14, 1922, from George F. Mull, Secretary of the Faculty of Franklin and Marshall College; "It gives me pleasure to inform you that the Faculty has awarded you the third highest honor for excellence in scholarship - the Salutatory Oration, to be delivered at the coming

Autobiographical Postscript

continued

Commencement.

"With all good wishes and congratulations,

Sincerely yours,
Geo. F. Mull,
Secy."

During the previous November I received a letter from Allen R. Bartholomew which was a most enticing invitation to spend three years in China.

Instead of accepting the invitation to teach sciences in Huping College, Hunan, China, for which I was really not prepared I decided to enter the Lancaster Theological Seminary, from which I was graduated in 1925.

Before graduation, April 17, 1925, I received a letter from Dr. D. B. Schneder, President of North Japan College, Sendai, asking me to think about joining him in Japan in a few years. I had a very high respect for Dr. Schneder and gave considerable consideration to his request. In the meantime, I had been called to become the Pastor of St. Peter's Reformed Church, where I began preaching to my former College and Seminary Instructors before I was graduated from the Seminary, and before I was ordained.

The Christian Ministry

Since St. Peter's was a Mission Congregation I was commissioned a home missionary by the Board of Home Missions of the Reformed Church in the United States, May 1, 1925, signed by Charles E. Miller, President, Charles E. Schaeffer, General Secretary.

During my student days at the Theological Seminary I enrolled in Graduate Courses at Franklin and Marshall College, from which I received a Master of Arts degree in Sociology and Philosophy.

The six years pastorate at St. Peter's was a very fortunate experience. My first task was the planning for the erection of a combination education and worship building; the congregation had previously used buildings at the Seminary. We also engaged in experimental work in the field of religious education, which was begun earlier under the supervision of Professor Paul M. Limbert and Dr. Charles Peters, of the National Board of Christian Education. During the summer of 1926 I began teaching in the denominational camp program, which I continued until the outbreak of World War II, when I was required to teach during the summers.

Although my full-time pastorate at St. Peter's lasted only six years I have since served as Interim Pastor on four different occasions: July, 1953 to February, 1954, following the pastorate of James E. Wagner; September 16, 1956 to December 6, 1956, after Pastor George H. Bricker had suffered a coronary occlusion; January 1, 1958 to June 1, 1958, following the Pastorate of George Bricker, and October 7, 1958 to December 2, 1958, while Pastor Theodore L. Trost, Jr., was completing his doctorate study in Edinburgh, Scotland.

My first Interim Pastorate was at Bethany Evangelical and Reformed Church, Ephrata, during the fall and winter of 1945-1946. The last one was at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Lancaster, during the year 1964-1965. While I was engaged in these Interim Pastorates I continued to do full-time college teaching.

During my entire professional career I have continued an interest in Christian Education, which was created by the late Dr. Theodore F. Herman, one of my Seminary professors.

From 1931 to 1950 I served as Director of Religious Education at St. Peter's Church; and during 1966 as Minister of Adult Education at St. Paul's. I am currently Superintendent of the St. Peter's Church School.

I recall that a short time before Mother died she called me into her bedroom and expressed her hope that one of her sons would desire to enter the Christian ministry. I believe that I have answered her prayer. Even my many years of teaching can be considered to have been a form of ministry.

During my pastorate at St. Peter's I began graduate

Rev. Isaac I. Stone, D. D., LL. D.
President

Rev. Rufus A. Smith
Moderator

Rev. Albert S. Whelan
Secretary

Board of Foreign Missions Reformed Church in the United States

REFORMED CHURCH BUILDING
FIFTH AND BAY STREETS
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

REV. ALLEN R. BARTHOLOMEW, D. D.
Secretary

REV. JOHN D. RICHMOND
General Treasurer

November 23, 1923

Mr. Charles D. Spette
Lancaster
Pennsylvania

My dear Mr. Spette:

You may be surprised to receive a letter from me, but I hope you will pardon my intrusion upon your time when I tell you the reasons.

Our Board of Foreign Missions is in need of a teacher for the students for our Spring College, Towson City, near Baltimore, the present incumbent, Prof. George Danilman, will be gone so far from next summer and it is very important that we should secure someone to take his place in the institution.

During the conferences of the Board with the Missions held in Lancaster last summer, I spoke to several men regarding this vacancy and your name was suggested as the one admirably qualified for the position. I also understood that you have been thinking of devoting your life to service on the foreign field.

Now you definitely determined what your life work shall be. Would an appointment to China appear to you to be less desirable than that of one who would go to (unfortunately) to Towson City upon your arrival in China next September, and would you desire to remain in the service of the Board, you could then attend the language school at Hanking after the return of Mr. Danilman. I shall be glad to answer any questions that this letter may arouse in your mind.

Wish to hear from you soon, I remain

Very cordially yours,

Allen R. Bartholomew
Secretary

AMB:AT

Letter inviting Me to teach in China.

Autobiographical Postscript

continued

work in the Graduate School of Education at the University of Pennsylvania, receiving a Master of Arts degree in 1933. During the two years, 1933 to 1935, I completed the Doctoral requirements, including the Comprehensive Final Examinations.

Publications

The first of my publications was printed by the Publication and S.S. Board of the Reformed Church, an eight-page pamphlet, **Plan of Organization For The Church School**; followed by a twelve-page pamphlet, **The Place of Men's Work in the Local Church**, published by the Reformed Churchmen's League of the Reformed Church in the U. S.

During the W.P.A. days of the Depression I was asked to do a project for the American Guide Series. The result was a thirty page description of the **Bowmansville Youth Hostel and Trails**, which appeared in 1940.

My first full-scale book was published by The Christian Education Press in 1949, **You Can Read The Bible**. It is a very elementary introduction to the Bible, but people are still reading it.

During the 1950's I prepared copy for several study guides for the Christian Education Press. During 1952 **God's Wonder World**, a fifty page family book, with a beautiful photo of a Black Snake, appeared; to be followed by **Science In God's World**, a course for Young People.

Six years later a Course for Older Young People and Adults, **The Earth Is The Lord's**, was used throughout the United Church of Christ.

Called To Teach, a book of encouragement for Church School teachers appeared in 1963, but I am quite sure that 'it never caught fire.'

In 1963 I began a series of paperbacks for the Community Historians of Lancaster:

1. 1963, **Denominations Originating In Lancaster County**,
2. 1966, **The Pilgrims Pathway**, The Underground Railroad of Lancaster County,
3. 1968, **They Called It Strasburg**,
4. 1970, **The People of Bowmansville**.

My interest turned to Schaefferstown about 1966, with the result that, **The 19th Century Returns to Schaefferstown** appeared in 1969.

The last publication appeared in 1970, **St. Peter's United Church of Christ, Lancaster, Pa., An Unusual Congregation**, a history of the first seventy years of the church.

The printer has my latest manuscript, **The History Of Tobacco In Lancaster County**, which will be printed next fall.

I Gladly Teach

My first teaching was done in the St. Paul's Sunday School in Bowmansville during my early teens. I think it started one Sunday morning when the Superintendent was stuck; he needed a teacher for a class of boys; I was the first person he met.

The following outline summarizes my teaching career.

Public School:

- 1917-1918 — White Oak one-room rural school
- 1921-1922 — Boy's High School, Lancaster, Biology, 2nd term
- 1966— — The Lancaster County Creativity Program

Higher Education:

1. Franklin and Marshall College (1931—1964)
Department of Religion:
 - 1931—1937 — Assistant Professor
 - 1937—1946 — Associate Professor
 - 1946—1964 — Professor
 - 1947—1964 — Department Chairman

Biology Instructor:

1923—1925; 1933—1935; 1943—1945

New Testament Greek — one semester

Educational Psychology — one semester

German — two semesters

Retired — July 1, 1964

2. Lancaster Theological Seminary
Visiting Professor of Christian Education
 - 1945—1946, 1951-1952
 - Christian Ethics — 1959—1960
 - Graduate School — 1960—1961
 - Church and Culture — 1970—1971
3. Millersville State College (1863—1973)
Associate Professor of Philosophy — 1963—1971
Adjunct Professor of Philosophy — 1971-1973
Retired — July 1, 1973
4. American Church in Paris (1972)
Theologian in Residence—Fall Semester

During more than a half century at least five thousand different students have sat in my class—rooms in six different educational institutions. I have always been awed by the prospect of facing a new class, not

Autobiographical Postscript

continued

knowing what kind of response to expect; likewise, I have always felt humbled by the tremendous responsibility which rests upon the sincere teacher. The task of the effective teacher was well stated by Confucius of ancient China:

Therefore in his teaching the superior man guides his students but does not pull them along; he urges them to go forward and does not suppress them; he opens the way, but does not take them to the place. Guiding without pulling makes the process of learning gentle; urging without suppressing makes the process of learning easy; and opening the way without leading the students to the place makes them think for themselves. Now if the process of learning is made gentle and easy and the students are encouraged to think for themselves, we may call the man a good teacher.

Only my former students know to what extent I was able to approach the ideal set by the ancient Chinese philosopher and teacher.

Unexpected Honors

On the walls of my Study hang framed testimonies to the unexpected honors which I have received during my long career.

Phi Beta Kappa

One of the small framed certificates reports my election to the Theta Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa on June 13, 1922. Somewhere, in my desk, is also the Phi Beta Kappa Key which was presented to me at the same time. I was not a brilliant student, I carried a heavy load of classes and had to work much harder than most of my classmates. To say that I was not proud of this honor would be an understatement.

Distinguished Teaching

Upon the occasion of my retirement from Franklin and Marshall College I was given the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation Award for Distinguished Teaching, in recognition of outstanding service in stimulating and guiding the intellectual development of students at Franklin and Marshall College. The award included a check for five hundred dollars.

Retirement Citation

I was tremendously moved when President Keith Spalding read the following sentences from the Citation which hangs near my College Diploma:

"An even more extraordinary distinction is the

quality which marks his life. Master of himself, free from petty vexations which molest most men, acknowledging the majesty of the universe and the still small voice as sources of faith and strength, he lives buoyantly, an inspiration to all who know him.

"Institutions, are shadow; the substance is Man, and in this man this institution has enjoyed a resolute critic, champion, counselor and servant."

Service to Mankind Award

During 1970 the Lancaster Sertoma Club, following an address I was asked to make, surprised me by presenting me with the Sertoma International Service to Mankind Award, which naturally left me speechless, a rare experience.

Phi Kappa Tau Palm Award

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Xi Chapter of the Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity, of which I was a Founding member, the National President presented me with the Palm Award, the Fraternity's Highest Award. Only three had been previously presented.

Fiftieth Anniversary Certificate

During the 1972 Commencement Exercises I, with my other surviving Classmates, was presented with an impressive Fiftieth Anniversary Certificate. This has a place on an upper shelf facing my desk, as a constant reminder that tempus fugit.

Purposeful

Travelings

There are tremendous learning values involved in travelling. I am, therefore, prepared to include the extensive travelling which Mrs. Spotts and I have done during the past twenty years as part of continuing education.

It all began with an eleven weeks, 11,000 miles transcontinental camping trip through Southern Canada and the United States during 1955. It was our first camping trip. I shall never forget the first night along a stream in southeastern Ohio and the night on Donner Pass, when we almost froze as the frigid air descended upon the Continental Divide sometime after midnight.

Autobiographical Postscript

continued

During the summer of 1964 a six-weeks trip took us into Alaska, down to the Olympic Peninsula, including a day in the amazing Hoh Rainy Forst, an exciting day circling Mt. Rainer, and a visit to the beautiful city of Seattle.

During the summer of 1956 we were thrilled by a six-weeks trip with students, through six European Countries, followed by similar European trips during the summers of 1958 and 1965. While teaching at Millersville State College two more opportunities for European trips became available – Spring-Break 8 day trips, 1970 to Germany, and 1972 to Kitzbuhl, Austria, in addition to a 1970 trip to Bermuda. My teaching assignment in Paris during the Fall of 1972 made it possible for us to travel over most of France and the Isle of Jersey. I have been asked to supervise a group of Franklin and Marshall College alumni on an eight-day trip to Greece next November 24-December 2.

Several years ago I was invited to join the Entomology Club at Millersville, as a result, I accompanied this group on three specimen-collecting 8-day trips to Big Bend National Park, Texas, 1971 and 1973; and to the Florida Everglades, 1972. These were unusually valuable experiences.

Our daughter Mary Jane's husband is employed by DuPonts. During the past twenty years they have lived in Texas (8 years), Ohio (4 years), New Jersey (2 years), Delaware (2 years), and California (7 years). In order to visit them we drove to Texas each summer. Now we fly to California for the holidays.

Many of our shorter automobile trips are punctuated by stops in search of National Champs. A National Champ is the largest tree of a particular species in the United States. We have located and photographed about fifty of these Champs, during which we have met many very helpful and interesting people. Our most recent discovery was made near Wilmington, Massachusetts, the largest Pussy Willow tree in the United States, on the property of Mrs. Lyn Passmore. This tree has a circumference of four feet five inches, is thirty-nine feet tall, and has a spread of forty feet. It is hard to believe that a Pussy Willow can become that large.

Ever since taking a course in Ornithology at Franklin and Marshall College I have been an amateur birdwatcher. The camping trip to Big Bend National Park in Texas and to the Everglades National Park in Florida added at least fifty new species of birds to my life list. The most exciting birdwatching was done in Michigan during the summer of 1966, when we discovered three of the rare Kirtland Warblers (there are only 500 pairs in existence), and seven Sandhill Cranes, one of nature's largest birds. One of our greatest thrills came with the sight of a rare pink Flamingo in a small pond on the Island of Bermuda several years ago.

By far the most important reward of travelling is to

be found among the many interesting people one meets. To my memory rushes the pictures of a Michigan couple we met on the Boat Ride from VanCouver to Skagway, Alaska; the artist who was on the plane on our flight to Bermuda; the family who operated the Basque Restaurant around the corner from the Hotel in Paris where we stayed for eight days on one of our European trips; a Jewish patriarch whom we met in London on our first trip abroad; an Italian Secret Service man, who came to our hotel in Rome and took us to an interesting old Roman Bishop's summer residence, by the use of Dictionaries we were able to carry on a satisfactory conversation (at the beginning, I knew no Italian and he no english); a lady in Michigan, on whose estate we found the Champion Alternate-Leafed Dogwood, but, more important, she invited us into her palatial home to see her many antiques; the lady who operated the Pension in Kitzbuhl, Austria, who introduced me to some of the secrets of the ancient parts of Kitzbuhl; and a fellow-camper, along the Pacific Coast, who sent a box of smooth pebbles to our grand-daughter in Pennsylvania.

Above all, I shall longest remember not only the people I have met in my travels, but the men, women, young people, and children of Lancaster County, including my students, who have meant so much to me. In a sense, I am a very provincial person. All of my life has been spent in Lancaster County, within a radius of fifteen miles; but, within the comparative small outlines of that radius my life has been touched by some of the finest people who have ever lived. They have included the common people - blacksmiths, farmers, factory-workers, housewives, business men - executives of Armstrong Cork, Hamilton Watch, Radio Corporation of America, bankers; professional men - Doctors, Dentists, Lawyers, Judges, Professors; Scholars - J. Nevin Schaeffer, H. M. J. Klein, Justin H. Roddy, George W. Richards, Theodore F. Herman, Edward S. Bromer, F. Lyman Windolph; and, above all, a host of boys and girls whose buoyancy and humility have been a joy and an inspiration.

Abraham Lincoln, over a century ago, expressed my sentiments towards the people of Lancaster County, when in his Farewell Address at Springfield, Illinois, he said:

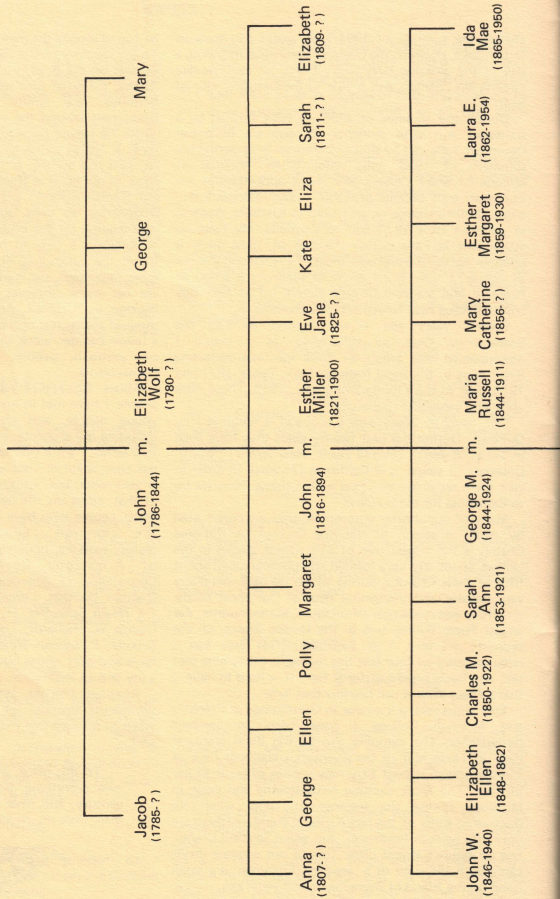
To this place, and the kindness of these people, I owe everything. Here I have lived a quarter of a century, and have passed from a young to an old man. Here my children have been born.

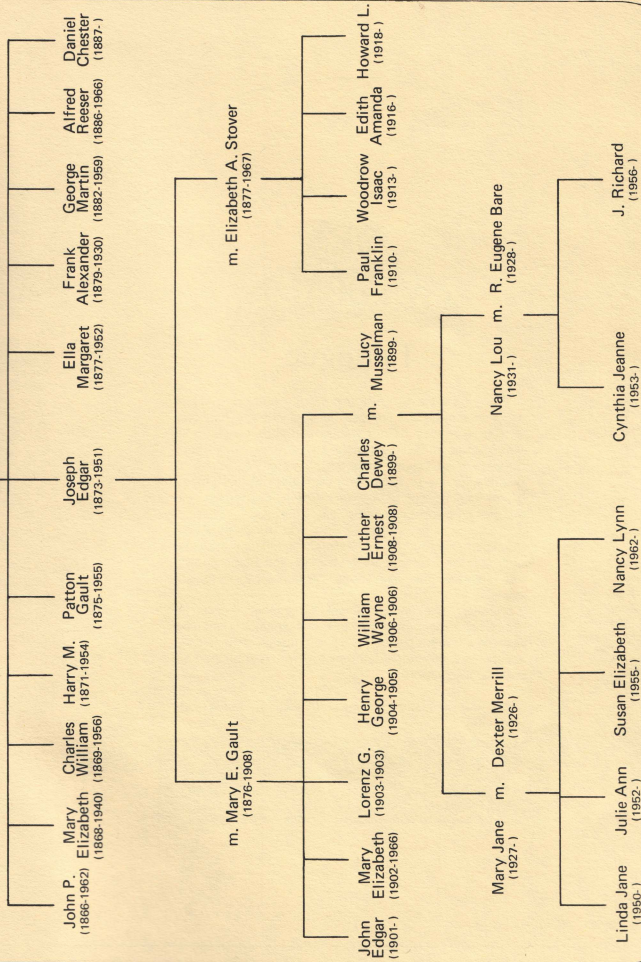


Spotts Family Tree

(Through family of Charles D. Spotts)

George (Spatz) Spotts (1750-1810)







Epilogue

When I started to write this story a number of years ago I was quite discouraged because nobody had ever written a history of our family and even genealogical data seemed to be unavailable. In the meanwhile I have unearthed sufficient objective material to make it possible for me to relive, in imagination, at least, many of the experiences of my ancestors in Caernarvon and Salisbury Township a century and a half ago.

Each reader will probably turn first to his (her) own immediate family. This is natural. Details are available only for the descendants of George and Marie Spotts, my grandparents. Additional genealogical data are available in my files.

Plutarch, the ancient Greek biographer reports an observation made by Iphicrates, a shoemaker's son who became a famous general, to Harmodius of distinguished ancestry when he reviled him for his mean birth. This was his observation:

My family history begins with me, but yours ends with you.

