



## Orangeburgh Genealogical Society

### First Families of Orangeburgh District (SC)

---

# Speigner

(Spaigner, Speigener, Speigenor, Spigener, Spignar, Spigner)

### First Family Biography

1. JOHN GEORGE SPEIGNER was born abt. 1710 in Austria and died in 1767 in Orangeburg S. C. His wife, Mary, may have also been born in Austria.<sup>[2, 4]</sup>

He and his wife, Gateway Ancestors, arrived at the Port of Charles Town, S. C. on March 2, 1753 coming on the Ship "Elizabeth", Captain Ross, Commanding, having made his way from Rotterdam, Holland.<sup>[6]</sup> They were among Swiss-German settlers who contracted with Nicholas Purcell, Agent, Rotterdam, Holland to bring them over to this country.<sup>[1, 2]</sup>

Evidence points to them being members of the Anabaptist movement. It is further evident that the original Speigner family was from Austria, moving to South Germany prior to the reformation to obtain a more favorable religious atmosphere.<sup>[1, 2]</sup>

They arrived with six (6) children: John Samuel 20 years old, Eva Susannah 18 years old, John George 15 years old, George Frederick 15 years old, Barbara 10, and Anna Maria 5 years old.<sup>[6]</sup>

Pursuant to a precept directed by George Hunter, Esquire, his Majesty's Surveyor General dated the 23rd day of March 1753,<sup>[6]</sup> John Hamilton, Deputy Surveyor laid out a tract of land unto JOHN GEORGE SPAIGNER containing four hundred acres, situate lying and being on the South Side of Saludy [River] on a branch called Beaver Dam in Saxe Gotha Township. The Surveyor General certified his plat on May 25, 1753<sup>[7]</sup> and the grant was dated July 4, 1754.<sup>[3, 8]</sup>

The Fourth of July is celebrated by the Speigner family not only as Independence Day, but as the day the Speigners first owned land in America.<sup>[3]</sup>

The map dated February 20, 1999 shown below, illustrates JOHN GEORGE SPAIGNER's Kings Grant of 400 acres. It appears to be drawn over a map showing current roads and property lines.<sup>[5]</sup>

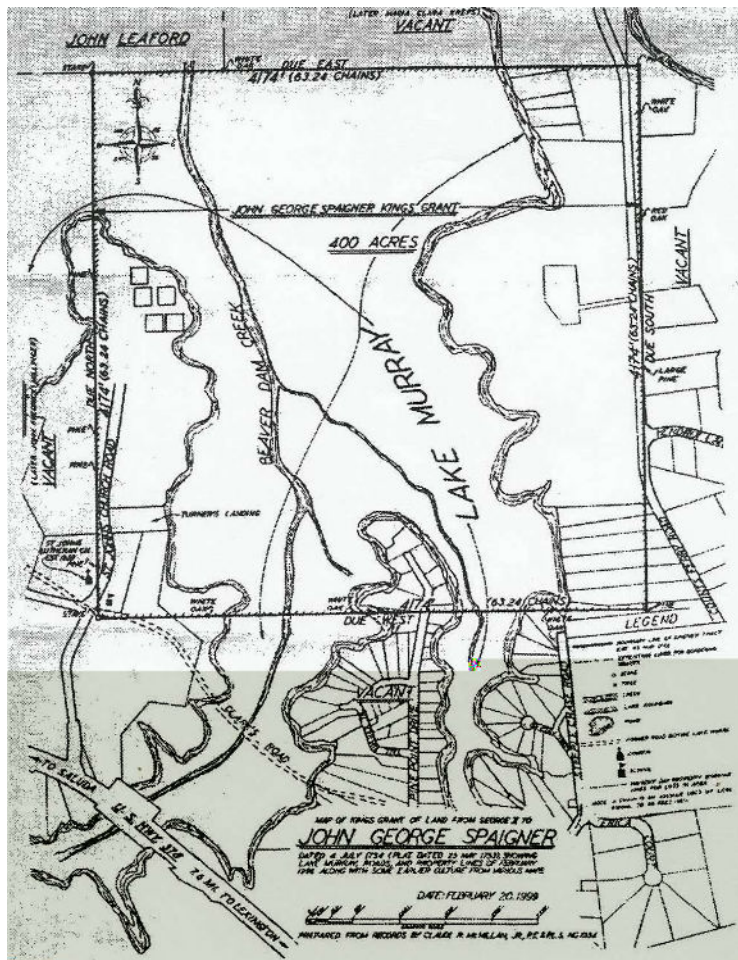


Figure 1. JOHN GEORGE SPAIGNER's Kings Grant of 400 acres

Children of JOHN GEORGE SPEIGNER and wife MARY are:

- a. John Samuel Speigner, b. 1733 Germany,<sup>[6]</sup> d. 1773 S.C, m. 1753 Miss Christina Hanser, b. abt. 1735, d. Sept 27, 1807, the daughter of Margaret Hanser. They settled in The Congaree Settlement which later became Richland County.
- b. Eva Susannah Speigner, b. 1735 in Germany.<sup>[6]</sup>
- c. John George Speigner, Jr, b. 1738 in Germany.<sup>[6]</sup> He fought in Cherokee Indian War in 1759-60.
- d. George Frederick Speigner, b.1738 in Germany,<sup>[6]</sup> m. Margaret (?) Jackson. He fought in Cherokee Indian War in 1759-60.

[Note: References 1 and 4 have George Frederick. as age 13 (born 1740) in his father's petition while reference 6 has both he and John George, Jr. as age 15 making them twins. We have

chosen to go with reference 6 (a transcription of the petition from the Council Journals) but readers should be aware that there is disagreement among the references as to George Frederick's age.]

- e. Barbara Speigner, b. 1743 in Germany.<sup>[6]</sup>
- f. Anna Maria Speigner, b. 1748 in Germany.<sup>[6]</sup>

## REFERENCES:

1. Beiman Otis Prince, Sr. The Spigener-Haigler-Dantzler Genealogy
2. Beiman Otis Prince, Sr. The Speigner-Spigener-Spigner Family
3. J. McNary Spigner Remarks prepared for the Orangeburgh German- Swiss Genealogical Society on the occasion of Oktoberfest, October 2, 1993
4. J. McNary Spigner prepared, corrected and refined by Beimen Otis Prince, Sr. - John George Speigner Genealogical Chart <sup>[3]</sup>
5. Claude R. McMillan Jr., Map of Kings Grant of land from George 2nd to JOHN GEORGE SPAIGNER, Dated February 20,1999.
6. Brent Holcomb, *Petitions for Land from the South Carolina Council Journals, Vol. III : 1752-1753*, 1997.
7. SC Archives, Colonial Plat Books, (Spraigner, John George), Ser. S213184, Vol. 0012, Pg. 00161, Itm. 01, 25 May 1753.
8. SC Archives, Colonial Land Grants, (Spaigner, John George), Ser. S213019, Vol. 0006, Pg. 00042, 4 Jul 1754.

Other references to this surname are found in OSGSG Newsletters: Vol. 1, pp. 3, 59; Vol. 2, pp. 152, 160; Vol. 3, p. 31; Vol. 4, pp. 22, 25, 28, 54; Vol. 5, p. 4; Vol. 6, pp. 51, 90, 117.

**Information provided by Carolyn Haigler Black and James Benjamin Black III on October 13, 2006.**

## **Family Migration**

During the early and mid-Nineteenth century many descendants of the early Orangeburgh area families migrated to Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Arkansas, Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana and other points west. The information we have provided about a family's migration to another state is an attempt to document those migrations in order to assist family researchers in connecting their ancestors back to Orangeburgh or account for missing branches of their families.

Several members from the SPEIGNER family migrated into Alabama. See the Orangeburgh Migrations Project for more information about them.

---

**Please help maintain, correct and expand these pages. Send comments, corrections, updates and additions to: [migrations@ogsgs.org](mailto:migrations@ogsgs.org)**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:** An initial implementation of these pages (and most of the information for them) was created by Gene Jeffries and published on this web site about 2002. The pages were removed from the web site when maintaining and updating the many files proved too onerous. With Gene's consent, we are republishing these files as an aid to Orangeburgh researchers and are working on streamlining the maintenance and update process.

**DISCLAIMER:** The family information included in Orangeburgh Family Migrations was compiled from a variety of sources, many of which are not documented. These pages have not been checked for accuracy and should not be treated as authoritative documentation on these families. They are provided as a hopefully helpful source of leads to further research into these families.