

George Shank (1750-1826) P-287674
Submitted by Richard Kenneth Mahaffey SAR #159505

In 1750 Patriot George Shank, Jr. was born in Derry Township, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. His parents were German immigrants George and Mary Shank Sr. They were recent arrivals to the colonies having only arrived in Philadelphia from Rotterdam in 1738. Less than 40 years after the arrival of George's parents, the colonies saw several small wars, increasing tensions with Great Britain, and the rise of the independence movement.

1771 would mark the year that George Shank, Jr. would wed his wife Maria and begin his family. As was often the case, their family would grow quickly. Their children include David, Jacob, George, Elizabeth, Nancy, Katherine, Jacob, and John.

Though he had a large family dependent upon him, George wanted to ensure their future freedom. So, in 1781 he joined Captain Robinson's Company as a Private. In 1782-3, George would continue to risk all in the fight for freedom. This time he enlisted as a private in Lieutenant Colonel Cook's Company.

George survived to see America become an independent a republic. He continued to live in Pennsylvania, near where he was born. At the age of 76 George passed on to his eternal rest and was buried in Hummelstown, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. Though the exact location is unknown, his grave is probably located in one of the local cemeteries where many later generations of Shanks also rest.

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