

Bio-Shepherd, George & Elizabeth

ELIZABETH DAY, Dau of Thomas, Born ???, Married George Shepherd

NOTES FOR HER HUSBAND

George Shepherd is the earliest Shepherd ancestor that has been certainly identified in America, or abroad. He is the great, great, great, great grandfather of Grover and Harrison Shepherd.

George Shepherd lived in St. George's Parish, Spotsylvania County, Virginia during the first half of the eighteenth century. The first record of George Shepherd comes from 1731 where it is stated that he owned land in precinct 5 of St. George's Parish.

Birthday Unknown

Events in the life of George Shepherd prior to 1731 are the subjects of debate among the many descendants of this Colonial gentlemen. No one seems to know for sure if George Shepherd was born in Scotland, England, Colonial Maryland, Colonial Virginia, or who his parents were. Some concrete evidence concerning George's origins would be most welcome.

The following have been proposed as birth dates for George Shepherd:

- 1700 in England
- 1700 in Spotsylvania County, Virginia
- Born in Edinburgh, Scotland
- October 7, 1716 in Banff, Scotland
- 1720 in Spotsylvania County, Virginia

Proponents of the 1716 birth date say that George was the son of Thomas and Christian McLachlan Shepherd of Scotland. A problem with this is that George would have been considerably younger than his wife, Elizabeth Day, if his wife was indeed the daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Day of Essex County, Virginia.

Another source says George was the son of Edward Shepherd and wife Arvarilla of England, and that he migrated to Colonial Virginia about 1733. Based on the fact that first names are usually used for succeeding generations, there are not any children, or grandchildren of George bearing the name of Edward or Arvarilla.

Another source says George and wife Elizabeth imigrated to America with son James about 1733. Yet another source says George and his brother John came to America from Baniff, Scotland.

Most researchers seem to settle on "abt. 1700" as George's birth date in Spotsylvania County, Virginia. Since George married Mary Elizabeth Angelica Day, who was born 1687-1699, a birth date around 1700 for George seems a reasonable assumption, but this is by no means definitive.

Married Elizabeth Day

Elizabeth was the only daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Day. But just when did George and Elizabeth get married? Three dates have been proposed for the marriage of George and Elizabeth. These are 1720, 1725, and 1739. The majority of researchers have settled on 1725.

Not much is known about the everyday life of George Shepherd. However, the following events are known from old records in Spotsylvania, Virginia:

- On June 1, 1739, George Sheppard was witness to a land transfer from peter x Gustavus and Mary his wife of Amelia Co., VA to William Sandige of Spotsylvania, Co.
- On October 31, 1745, recorded 5 Nov 1745, Thomas Cartwright of St. Geo. par., Spts co., and Rachel his wife to George Sheppard of same parish and county. L25 currency, 150 acre whereon sd. Cartwright now dwells, and which he bought of Colo. James Taylor. Witn: Edmund Waller, Mary Waller, Ephraim Musick.
- In August, 1747, George Sheppard is allowed 2 days' attendance for being a witness for Nicholas Randall and sd Randall ordered to pay him 50 lbs tobacco.
- About October, 1748, George Shepard Sr. was witness to will of Anne Pollard who d. 2 Nov 1748.
- On November 6, 1749, George x Shepperd Sr. of St. George's Parish, Spts. co., and Elizabeth mary Angelicke his wife, to Benjamin Holloday of same parish and county. L25 currency 60 acres, part of land whereon sd. Shepperd lives, etc. Witnesses: Joseph Holloday, William x Miller, Margaret x Randolph. recorded: 7 Nov 1749.

Death


George Shepherd wrote his Last Will and Testament on January 10, 1750. His will was probated on October 1, 1751, indicating that he died sometime between these dates. In his will, George mentions his wife and six children.

Children

Three of George Shepherd's six children (James, John Sr., and Robert) and their families removed to the Reddies River area of Wilkes County, North Carolina about 1775 where they were among early settlers of the area.

Six Known Children of George and Elizabeth Day Shepherd born in Spotsylvania, Virginia:

1. George Shepherd, Jr
 2. James Shepherd
 3. John Shepherd, Sr
 4. Ann Shepherd
 5. Elizabeth Shepherd
 6. Robert Shepherd
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 **Description:** source unknown. found on ancestry trees....