

### **GENERAL EDWARD HAND**

Edward Hand was the son of John and Dorothy Hand. Born December 31, 1744 at Clydruff, Kings County, Province of Leinster, Ireland. He came to this country with his regiment sailing from Cove of Cork, arriving in Philadelphia in 1767. Appointed surgeon of the First Royal Irish Regiment of Foot by George III. Commissioned ensign 1722 sent to Fort Pitt. Returned to Philadelphia in 1774 resigned commission from British service refusing to fight an oppressed people. Came to Lancaster, Pennsylvania to practice medicine and surgery where he met and married Katharine Ewing (a daughter of Captain John Ewing whose wife was Sarah Yeates a sister of Judge Jasper Yeates). Was at siege of Boston and led regiment at Long Island. In 1777 promoted to Brigadier General in Continental Army. Was in Sullivan's Campaign, on Washington's staff, name attached to Penn Constitution, named Major General in U. S. Army. Said by Historians to have received the sword of Cornwallis in their surrender.

In 1777 Fort Hand was one of the first three forts built as a blockhouse for protection of pioneers against Indians rather than as an army garrison later a dispatch from General Hand was made defense of the frontier.

In 1778 General Edward Hand, M.D. founded for the use of Federal Troops the first hospital west of the Alleghenies.

In 1777 Hand was made a Brigadier General, was in active service all during the Revolutionary War. In 1798 was appointed Major General in U. S. Provisional Army. In the same year President John Adams anticipating war with France appointed ex-President Washington commander in chief of all armies. Washington made Hand his choice for Adjutant General. General Hand died September 3, 1802 at his home "Rockford" near Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The house is still standing. Buried in grave yard of St. James P. E. Church of which he was a vestryman.

He was the father of eight children. Their fifth child, Jasper, was born at Lancaster, February 20, 1784. He came to Hillsboro, Ohio in 1808. He was a graduate of the Philadelphia Medical School. He was an ardent and devoted patriot in the War of 1812 serving as surgeon. Was elected Brigadier General of the Highland militia. He wore on parade the military chapeau and costume of his father. He married the widow of Dr. James Smith (Pheobe Ogdan Smith). Died suddenly in Hillsboro on February 19, 1828. He left six children. The house he lived in is still standing.

His youngest daughter, Mary, married William Bell a merchant in Greenfield, Ohio. There were six children.

Charles E. Bell married Ella Harper of Burlington, Iowa, a daughter of William and Mary Lunbeck Harper. He was with his father in mercantile business. Charles died young leaving one child, Mary Bell who married Ernest Ellis. Their home is in Greenfield, Ohio.

On September 5, 1932 a large bronze tablet dedicated to General Edward Hand, in memory of the Hand Hospital founded by him for use of Federal Troops in 1778, was unveiled by Mary Bell at Crafton,

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Pennsylvania at which time she was made a member of the Shrine of American Revolution. The site of Fort Hand, named for General Edward Hand near Vandergrift, Pennsylvania was also marked with a monument by The Fort Hand Chapter D. A. R. in 1933. A tablet was placed in Williamson Park near "Rockford" the house of General Edward Hand, M.D. in Lancaster, Penn., during a celebration held in his honor.

A Gobelin velvet carpet that now covers the west parlor floor at Mt. Vernon was presented to the Mt. Vernon Association by a great granddaughter of General and Katharine Ewing Hand. The carpet was a gift to Katharine Hand from her uncle Judge Jasper Yeates. It was originally a gift from Louis XVI to General Washington.