

The Anthony Spengler Home (Spengler Hall or Matin Hill)



Location: On the western edge of Strasburg, Virginia, on the west side of Route 11

Built: circa 1800

Owners:

At a Commissioner's sale, Isaac Hite, Jr., and others, conveyed to John Boyle, a lot of real estate in and near Strasburg, on the river and mountain ... the said two plantations, house, etc. *Deed Book 1, page 273*

24 Jul 1801: John Boyle conveyed to Anthony Spengler. *Deed Book N, page 401*

Inventory and appraisement of personal property and slaves of Anthony Spengler, deceased. *Will Book T, pages 19, 40*

Joseph H. Spengler sold to Samuel Kendrick, his interest in the lands of Catherine Spengler, being the same that was allotted to John Spengler in division of lands belonging to the estate of Anthony Spengler. (Catherine

Spengler, late Catherine Kendrick, died September, 1834. *Deed Book 2, page 349*

Sarah M. Kendrick, administrator of the last will of Samuel Kendrick, deceased sold to Winchester and Strasburg Railroad Company the same property which was conveyed to Samuel Kendrick by Joseph H. Spengler. Caroline Kendrick, daughter of Samuel and Sarah Kendrick, married Captain C.M. Borum, and is the present owner of "Matin Hill", which she inherited from her father. *Deed Book 10, page 131*



Physical Description

This massive brick house has a splendid setting amid old trees and shrubbery, on an elevation facing eastward.

Beautiful boxwood of immense growth lead to the front portico with its huge columns, about three feet in diameter; these columns are made of brick covered

with plaster. There are twelve fireplaces with beautiful mantels over each, and closets at the sides. mantels and cornices over the closets are reeded and fluted, also are decorated with motifs of various designs. One outstanding mantel has a sunburst and urns, and fluted pilasters. The kitchen mantel is about ten feet long over a large fireplace of such dimensions that an entire stack of cord wood could easily be used; there is ample room, also for cooking with the early American utensils then in use. Paneled door frames and wainscoting are used throughout the house. All hardware is hand-wrought from iron, by native craftsmen.



Historical Significance

Capt. Anthony Spengler, (1774-1834) who built this house early in 1800, was a brother of Col. Philip Spengler, born 1761. The latter came from York County, Pennsylvania, to Shenandoah County; was Lieutenant Colonel of the 6th Virginia Regiment, and representative of Shenandoah in the Virginia house of delegates, 1818-19.

A grandson of Anthony Spengler, Gen. Abram Spengler was born in Shenandoah County. He organized the Hardy Greys, C.S.A. at Moorefield, WV, and was their captain. He rose to be colonel in command of the Stonewall

Brigade. It is said, a commission for him, as brigadier general, C.S.A., had been prepared, but in the confusion of the end of the war, was never received. He was a son of Christian Spengler, born 1799, of Shenandoah County, and Susan Hoffman Spengler. Christian S. Spengler was a son of Capt. Anthony Spengler of York County, PA, and Shenandoah County, VA, and Catherine Kendrick of Strasburg. (A descendant of Dr. David Jameson, commander of the 3rd battalion of York County, PA, militia in the American Revolution).

The old road, the forerunner of the Valley Pike, passed up the hill immediately in front of "Spengler Hall." The Dellingers, who suffered at the hands of the Indians in 1764, lived on a part of the Spengler plantation, not far from "Matin Hill". In the spring of 1862, "Spengler Hall" was the headquarters of Federal General Williams. In the summer of 1864, General Jubal A. Early, C.S.A., pitched his tent on the lawn, but did not occupy the house.

Several small brick buildings on the place are known as the slave quarters. An interesting incident in connection with the building of the house was that the expert carpenter in charge of the paneling and finishing of the interior of the house, who felt it his patriotic duty to enlist in the War of 1812, left some of the mantels unfinished, returning after the war to complete the job.

This home contains many interesting antiques, including a spinning wheel with inlaid date "1782" amid tulips and hearts. A tall writing chair with arm table attached is said to have belonged to Gen. Williams, but left there when he made a hasty retreat.

A rather unusual listing of person property and slaves appears in the inventory and appraisement found in Will Book T, pages 19, 10, in the County Court records, part of which are as follows:

Green Room: 1 Green high post bedstead (and entire contents of the room follows).

Yellow Room: 1 Sycamore high post bedstead, 1 sett plaid Jackonett bed valance and top, 4 Linsey quilts, etc., etc.

Red Room: 1 French post cherry bed and cherry furniture, 27 fine linen sheets, etc., 1 figured Jackonett bed valance, etc.

State Room: 1 walnut bedstead and furniture, etc.

Pearl Room: etc.

Mahogany Room: etc.

White Room: etc.

Pink Room: etc.

Spinning Room: (with all kinds of equipment)

Dining Room and Kitchen. Among many articles mentioned were pewter dishes, Queens ware, 2 fly bushes, etc.

Then followed the "Weave House, Carriage House, Spring House, Doctor Shop, Outside House, Front and Back cellar, Long Cellar, and all contents."

Among the listed cattle, sheep, hogs and all livestock, last on the list were the slaves, as follows"

- 1 Negro man named Jim, valued at \$500.
 - 1 Negro boy named Joe, valued at \$350.
 - 1 Negro child named Isaac, valued at \$100.
 - 1 Negro woman named Betsy, valued at \$150.
 - 1 Mulatto woman named Charlotte, valued at \$75.
 - 1 Mulatto boy named Peter, valued at \$300.
 - 1 Mulatto girl named Sarah, valued at \$250.
- Sale proceeds amounted to \$6,200.

Source: *Virginia W.P.A. Historical Inventory Project, 1937*

A visit to the Anthony Spengler Home in the summer of 2001

by Edith Cooper Shaver

I'm researching the George & Mary Supinger Hinkins line & was told that a Virginia Hinkins Cadden who lives in Strasburg was knowledgeable of the Hinkins family. I called Virginia or 'Gin', as she prefers to be called, and was invited to her home that evening.

When I turned into her driveway, I got the feeling of going back in time. There ahead of me was this hugh home with an upper road and a lower road leading to the house. Later I found out the upper road was the original Valley Pike road that passed in front of the house. I chose the lower road and Gin met me in the parking lot.

What a delightful lady and so friendly. We had a glass of wine and talked about our ancestors. Later, she showed me the old kitchen where the slaves did the cooking and the upright chair belonging to General Williams. Just think, I was a

stranger and Gin invited me in. Guess there are still trusting people in the world or at least in Shenandoah County.

Owners of the Spengler House since 1937, have been Charles & Douglas Borum, George & Maria Hinkins and Dr. & Mrs. John F. Cadden. Mrs. Cadden (Gin) presently lives at Spengler Hall.



Photos by Jim Artz