Gen. Edward Hand was born at Bizzar, Kings County, province of Leinster, Ireland, Dec. 31, 1746, and died at his farm, "Rockford," near Lancaster, Pa., Sept. 8, 1802. In 1767 he was appointed by George III. surgeon of the Eighteenth Royal Irish Regiment of foot, and sailed with the regiment from Cork on May 28th of the same year, arriving in Philadelphia July 11th. He was ensign of the same regiment, his commission bearing date 1772. He went with his regiment to Fort Pitt, and returned to Philadelphia in 1774, resigning his commission, and receiving a regular discharge from the British service. The same year he came to Lancaster, with recommendations, in order to practice his profession, and the following year married Catharine (1731-1805), daughter of Capt. John Ewing (1727-1794) and Sarah Yates.
(1731-1823), a sister of Judge Yates, of Lancaster. In 1775 he entered the Continental service, and left Lancaster as lieutenant-colonel First Battalion Pennsylvania Riflemen, with his commission dated June 25th of that year. He was on Prospect Hill on August 20th, when the battalion distinguished itself. He was raised to the rank of brigadier-general in 1777, subsequently to adjutant-general, and held this rank at the battle of Yorktown, marching back with the troops to Philadelphia, where they were dismissed. In 1785, Gen. Hand was elected to the lower branch of the Pennsylvania Legislature, and in 1786 he was a delegate from Lancaster County to the convention that amended the first State Constitution. He was a member of the Continental Congress in 1783 and 1784, as a Federalist. In 1786 he was appointed major-general in the Provisional army. Gen. Hand was an intimate friend of Gen. Washington, and had his full confidence during the entire struggle of the colonies for independence, as the following letter attests, and he was one of the original members of the "Order of Cincinnati."

"Dear Sir,—When I left Philadelphia I hoped to have had the pleasure of seeing you at Annapolis before my departure from thence, and to have had an opportunity (previous to my resignation) of expressing to you personally, amongst the last acts of my official life, my entire approval of your public conduct, particularly in the execution of the important duties of Adjutant-General. Notwithstanding I have been disappointed in that expectation, and have it now in my power only as a private character to make known my sentiments and feelings respecting my military friends, yet I cannot decline making use of the first occasion after my retirement of informing you, my dear Sir, how much reason I have had to be satisfied with the great zeal, attention, and ability manifested by you in conducting the business of your Department, and how happy I should be for an opportunity of demonstrating my sincere regard and esteem for you. It is unnecessary, I hope, to add with what pleasure I should see you at this place, being, with great truth, "My dear Sir,
Y' real friend &
Most Ob'l Servi
Of WASHINGTON.

"The Hon'ble" "Gen'd Hand."

His children were: Sarah (1777-1850), wife of Samuel Bethel of Columbia; Dorothy (1777-1863), wife of Edward Brien (1780-1816), a native of Ireland, County Tyrone, and an iron-master at the Merrie Iron-Works in Lancaster County; Mary (1786-1866), died unmarried, at New Haven, Conn.; Edward, born in 1792, died at Havana; Jasper, born in 1784; and John (1785-1807).

The children of Edward Brien are: Edward, died in Lancaster in 1834; Harriet; Sarah Bethel, born in 1810, is the widow of Henry Rogers (1803-1868), a lawyer of Lancaster, and brother of Judge Rogers of the same city; Henry, died in Madeira at the age of twenty-one; and Catharine.

The children of Henry Rogers and Sarah Bethel Brien are: Anna Russin, wife of Edward Reily, of New York; Sarah Hand, died; Catharine Brien, wife of Dr. John L. Atlee, Jr., of Lancaster; Mary Hand, died; Harriet Dorothea, wife of Washington W. Hopkins, a lawyer at Fort Deposit, Md.; and Edward Brien Rogers, deceased.

One of Col. Hand's aides-de-camp was Jasper Ewing, nephew of Hon. Jasper Yates, of Lancaster. The adjutant of the regiment was David Zeigler, of Lancaster County, severely wounded at the battle of Long island, Aug. 27, 1776; retired from the army Jan. 1, 1783; died at Cincinnati, Ohio, Sept. 24, 1811, aged sixty-three. Frederick Hubley, of Lancaster borough, was appointed quartermaster.

Among the list of company commanders are found the following of Lancaster County, viz.: Capt. Matthew Smith, Capt. James Ross, Capt. James Hamilton (taken prisoner Nov. 2, 1777; promoted to major Second Pennsylvania Dec. 10, 1778), and Capt. (afterwards major) Henry Miller. Capt. Ross was promoted to major of the regiment, Sept. 25, 1777, and to lieutenant-colonel March 12, 1777, and transferred to the Eighth Pennsylvania. Ross' promotion to major over the heads of senior officers caused Capt. Smith to resign Dec. 5, 1776. Capt. Cuggage, of Bedford County, also resigned for the same reason. The only rolls found of any of the above-named companies are the following incomplete ones of the companies of Capt. Ross and Miller, viz.:

Capt. James Ross' Company.

Cachet.

Ross, James, promoted major Sept. 25, 1777.

Holliday, John, from first lieutenant of Cuggage's company Sept. 25, 1777.

First Lieutenant.

Echols, Jacob, resigned Oct. 1, 1777; resided in Lancaster County in 1814.

Second Lieutenant.

Hubley, Frederick, promoted first lieutenant and quartermaster.

Secretary.

Frances, James.

Ward, John.

Frances.

Anderson, Adam, May 1, 1776.

Allison, Thomas, July 23, 1776.

Buller, George, re-enlisted May 1, 1778, for four years; wounded at Paol in the shoulder; residing at Marlboro in 1825, aged eighty-three.

Cameron, Angus, Feb. 14, 1777.

Carroll, John, March 6, 1777.

Collins, Robert, May 4, 1776.

Connolly, John, May 6, 1776.

Decker, Henry, May 1, 1776.

Devisick, Cadwallar, May 1, 1776.

Ellis, William, May 6, 1776.

Burns, Frederick, July 11, 1777.

Bryan, Michael, May 5, 1776.

Bromley, John, July 17, 1777.

Bryant, John, May 5, 1776.

Bryant, Andrew, March 8, 1777.