



The route from Baskingridge to Berkeley County would require crossing the Susquehanna river and Wright's Ferry (right) would be the obvious crossing point. Spado was last seen at this location on Christmas Day – some 12 days after Lee was captured.

It is a total mystery why Block having got this far would abandon his mission!

LATER DEVELOPMENTS

Lee was court-martialled by Washington (over the handling of a battle) and his response was 'O that I were an animal, that I might not call man my brother'.

Lee retired to Berkeley and a 'planter's life' and sometimes wrote for the 'Maryland Journal'. He kept cows and grew tobacco. Lee was reported to be slovenly, eccentric – wearing unusual clothes and his language was very coarse. He built a house with no internal walls – using chalk marks to his dogs, of which he was immoderately fond, and his books, he lived " more like a hermit than a citizen of the world".

demarcate rooms claiming this was an improvement on walls. He had hardly any furniture but his love of dogs continued. It was written of him' ... surrounded by his dogs, of which he was immoderately fond, and his books, he lived " more like a hermit than a citizen of the world".

Around 1779 we learn of one last piece of information about Spado. Lee had responded angrily to a magazine article ridiculing him and Brackenridge the editor of the United States Magazine then lambasted Lee in his magazine, calling him an ourang-outang and a metempsychosist, followed by 'You have been heard to say that you expect when you die to transmigrate to a Siberian foxhound, and to be messmate to Spado'. (Note – a mess is a military term for a place where soldiers ate and socialised). An enraged Lee went to Brackenridge's office and challenged him to step outside for a 'horse whipping'. It is significant that Lee would become incensed over his feelings about Spado being mocked and risk yet another duel – luckily this was avoided. It is known that Lee always had an interest in metaphysics.

Mr Gilman wrote that after Spado was sent down the lines he 'passes out of history' so it is reasonable to conclude that he was never found. Although Lee continued to keep canine companions none are named. No dogs are mentioned in his Will.

Lee had requested in his Will that he did not wish to be buried in a churchyard (his request was not honoured) reasoning ' I have kept so much bad company when living, that I do not choose to continue when dead'. He then added ' I recommend my soul to the Creator of all worlds and of all creatures.' He died in 1782.

It is likely that he did wish to transmigrate and see his beloved Spado once again. He clearly considered him dead by 1779 and it appears the two were never reunited.

Since writing this article for the American Pomeranian Club's *Pomeranian Review 50th Anniversary Special Edition* further research unearthed an interesting reference in The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography 1881 (this can be read on archive books).

"Daniel Wister was a member of the Jockey Club, and had a great fondness for animals, fancying in special manner horses and dogs. He imported from Germany the progenitors of the well-known breed of Spitz dogs, whose descendants still snap and snarl about the grounds of some members of his family. The name of the ancestral dog 'Keys' is preserved among his descendants".

Daniel Wister (1738 – 1805) was the son of a wealthy German immigrant John Wister. He read German newspapers and had a German education in Lancaster County. He was a friend of Dr Benjamin Franklin and bought his house at 141 High Street Philadelphia – the first house with a lightning rod – he also owned a large house called Grumblethorpe in Germantown that still exists. His daughter Sarah or Sally Wister (1761- 1804) is well known for her diary chronicling events in 1777 when her family evacuated Philadelphia and sought refuge at the Foulke's farmhouse in Gwynedd near Valley Forge.

A clue to the type imported by Wister is perhaps in the name 'Keys'. Pomeranians of the type now called Wolfs Spitz in Germany (see illustration below) are also known as Keeshond elsewhere. Legend has it that the Dutch name was adopted in honour of patriot Cornelis de Gyselaer (also recorded as Gijseelaar) whose nickname was Kees. He lived from 1751 -1815 and around 1785 was instrumental in the bid to oust the ruling House of Orange in Holland. In Britain this type was simply known as the Pomeranian and in America as the Spitz dog – regardless of size or type. Please see our History of the breed pages for clarification.

Unfortunately we do not know when Wister imported his dogs from Germany but it is odd that he called one of the German variety by a name used by the Dutch in the northern region of Holland – they were called 'Fik' dogs in southern Holland according to Hutchinson 1935. If he imported his dogs before the 1780s then this would suggest that the name Kees or Keys may have an earlier origin than the previously thought.



Photo] WOLFSPIITZ. [Fall.
Mrs. Gustave with two Wolfspitz bitches of pure German descent. Both are typical of the smart Pomeranian variety and should be compared with the heavier Rhineland type.