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THE SPENCERS

of the Great Migration

VOLUME I

1300 A.D. - 1783 A.D.

The History and Genealogy of the
Five Spencer Siblings of Bedfordshire

WHO CAME TO NEW ENGLAND 1630-1631
AND THE LINEAGE OF SOME OF THEIR
DESCENDANTS IN AMERICA



by
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and
Edith Woolley Spencer



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**THE FIRST COMPLETE STORY OF THE FIVE
SPENCER SIBLINGS OF BEDFORDSHIRE WHO
CAME TO NEW ENGLAND 1630-1631**

BY JACK T. SPENCER AND EDITH W. SPENCER

A half century has passed since Donald Lines Jacobus, Dean of American Genealogists, published his monumental one-hundred page treatise on "*THE FOUR SPENCER BROTHERS*" of Bedfordshire in *The American Genealogist*. In early April of this year (1997) the Gateway Press of Baltimore has published the first complete sequel to the Jacobus landmark. The 500-page volume "*THE SPENCERS OF THE GREAT MIGRATION*" will tell the full story of both the history and the genealogy of the five Spencer siblings who came to New England in the first vessels of the Winthrop Fleet, 1630-1631. The siblings were William, Thomas, Michael, Gerard, and Elizabeth. The brothers first settled in Newtowne (now Cambridge), Massachusetts. The oldest brother, William, was one of the eight men who founded Newtowne in 1631. A few years later (1639) William emigrated to Hartford where his younger brother Thomas already was a resident on Sentinel Hill.

The younger brothers, Michael and Gerard, emigrated to Lynn, Massachusetts, about 1637, where both lived for several years. Michael emigrated to Hartford and lived there between 1640 and 1646. He returned to Lynn after the death of Elizabeth's husband, Timothy Tomlins. Gerard moved to Hartford for a short period, but in 1662 was a co-founder of Haddam, Connecticut.

Elizabeth's husband, Timothy Tomlins, was at Salem in 1630 and on the assumption that Elizabeth accompanied him, it is possible that she may have come to New England somewhat in advance of her four brothers. Timothy Tomlins was a member of a group of fifty settlers from Salem who founded Lynn in 1630.

"The Great Migration" book emphasizes the history of the Spencer siblings as much as their genealogy. The lineage of the family is traced back to the Middle Ages in England. The genealogy of the American families up to about 1800 was highlighted in the Jacobus publication of the 1950's. Much of the English data used by Jacobus was published by Vicar John Holding of Bedfordshire in 1903. Holding had discovered the famous "Phillipps Manuscript" which outlined some of the early descent of the Bedfordshire Spencers.

In the book "The Great Migration", all of the ancestry published by the early Spencer historians is presented in detail and each account is evaluated for its credibility. This is the first time such a comparative analysis has been published in book form.

"The Great Migration" has a span of twenty chapters. Perhaps the best way to

visualize the scope of the book is to present the titles of several chapters. Fourteen of the chapters are devoted to the lives of the original Five Spencer Siblings who came to new England 1630-1631. Six of the last chapters are devoted to the large group of Spencers in Suffield, Hartford County, Connecticut who developed 144 Spencer marriages between 1674 and the end of World War II.

There are three very comprehensive encyclopedic indexes: I Spencers and Despencers; II Other Surnames and Subjects; III Places. The Spencer index includes 500 names with identification as to lineage, time, and place. There are 1600 collateral names and subjects. Finally, 400 geographical locations.

CHAPTER TITLES

THE PARAMETERS OF THE SPENCER HISTORY
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LYNN
GERARD¹ SPENCER, A PIONEER OF CAMBRIDGE, LYNN, HARTFORD, AND HADDAM,
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THE SPENCERS AND OTHER MEN OF SUFFIELD, CT, WHO SERVED IN THE FRENCH
AND INDIAN WAR
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HUXLEY)
WILLIAM³ SPENCER AND MEHITABLE MASCRAFT SPENCER, A PATRIARCH AND
MARIARCH OF SUFFIELD, CONNECTICUT
JOHN⁴ SPENCER AND EUNICE MOORE SPENCER OF SUFFIELD, CONNECTICUT
JOHN⁵ SPENCER OF CONNECTICUT AND OHIO - A SOLDIER OF THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION
THREE HISTORIC LETTERS FROM EARLY PIONEERS IN THE CONNECTICUT
WESTERN RESERVE OF OHIO

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Jack Taif Spencer and Edith Woolley Spencer of Dekalb, Illinois, U.S.A. have been engaged in genealogical and historical research for several decades. They commenced their early academic careers on the genetics of maize and other species of grass, including Kentucky Bluegrass at the University of Kentucky. Jack holds a B.S. *summa cum laude* from Kent State University (Ohio), an M.S. from the University of Wisconsin (Madison), and a Ph.D. from the Ohio State University (Columbus). Jack is a direct descendant of Sgt. Thomas¹ Spencer (1607-1687), a co-founder of Hartford, Connecticut and a veteran of the Pequot War of 1637. During Jack's early career in science, he was a research agronomist at the University of Kentucky, a member of the Office of Scientific Intelligence (CIA), a Program Director in the National Science Foundation, an Executive Director of the Organization For Tropical Studies (Miami and Costa Rica), and Director of Development and Federal Relations at the Shippensburg University, Pennsylvania. During World War II, Jack served as the leader of Beach Party Team #57, Amphibious Forces, Pacific Fleet. He was engaged in the assaults against the Japanese at Guam, Leyte (Philippine Islands), and Okinawa.

Edith Woolley Spencer is a native of Osborne, Kansas, and during her lifetime has worked directly with Jack on many of the scientific projects mentioned above. Edith is descended from the early Woolleys of Holland who emigrated to England when William of Orange and Mary ascended the English throne in 1689. Edith's maternal grandparents were Thomas Jackson from England and Emma Burgess of New York State. They were early pioneers in Kansas in 1870. Edith has researched the lineages of many of her Jackson, Burgess, and Woolley ancestors.

Edith and Jack published their first major volume in 1986 (Gateway Press) on "The History and Genealogy of the Derthicks and Related Derricks". In recent years, they have published a dozen articles in the Connecticut Nutmegger and "le Despencer" on the history of the New England Spencers. Their latest book is Vol. I - *The Spencers of the Great Migration* (Gateway Press, Baltimore). This book has 500 pages, is hardbound, illustrated, and fully indexed. It costs \$45.00 postpaid. Please order from:

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