

SAMUEL SPICER
AND HIS DESCENDANTS.

With Some Notices
of the
Early Settlements of Camden and Cape May
Counties, New Jersey.

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Samuel Spicer and His Descendants.

To properly understand the record of the families of the early settlers here it may not be amiss to rehearse a little of the early history of West Jersey.

Edward Byllinge, the Quaker buyer of this province from Lord Berkley, failed. His religious associates, in accordance with the doctrines of that sect, under the guidance of William Penn, resolved to help him. In doing this they divided up West Jersey among themselves, many of whom were his creditors. By so doing they saved part of their claims, and secured new land for the persecuted of their faith. Their own members in England were not numerous enough to settle but a small fraction of the province; they therefore sought for other emigrants to whom they could sell their vacant lands. Without detracting anything from the beneficence of their religious toleration it may be said that it was to their interest to treat such settlers with the greatest fairness and to allow them equal freedom with themselves.

We therefore find that they did what is now done every day by land promoters, they sought for customers elsewhere. On Long Island and in New England they found a class of young men, and some whole families just suited to their purpose, who were ready to migrate to a new country. Quaker missionaries at once visited these sections to preach the new doctrine and invite the inhabitants to come and occupy the land. Samuel Jennings, the first governor and leader of the English Friends in the new colony, went himself on missionary tours to both of these countries and succeeded in persuading a number to remove to West Jer-

sey; among them was one family from Long Island to whose sons he married his three daughters and only children.

An examination of the deed books in the office of the Secretary of State in Trenton shows that while the earliest title to all the land in West Jersey is in the name of residents, or former residents, of England, yet only a small part was ever dwelt upon by them. Their settlements extended along the Delaware river from Trenton to Salem for about an average width of ten miles, bounded on the east by the great Indian trail that led from Amboy and the Falls to Maurice River Cove and Cape May. Interspersed in this strip of land were the Quakers from Long Island and New England. Between this tract and the pine barrens was a narrow strip of fertile land that was settled by the non-Quaker relatives and friends of the last named emigrants, besides a scattered few of colonists of other religious faiths direct from the old country. Along the Delaware river shore were several colonies of Swedes, who antedating the English in their settlements were left undisturbed in the possession of the lands they had tilled. Cumberland and Cape May Counties, and the entire coast from Cape May point to the boundary line at Tuckerton, was settled almost exclusively by people from Long Island and New England, among whom the faith of the Friends had only a slight hold. This influx of people from the East was of great advantage to the colony. First. They brought capital—a great deal of ready money—as is shown by their large land purchases and their cash payments. Second. They brought education, and upon the whole it was of an higher order than that of their English neighbors. Third. They brought a knowledge of the climate, the natives and the crops best suited to the soil, and lastly they brought the practical workings of a free government, which to the followers of Penn was but an untried theory. The perpetuation of the

town meeting in this section up to the present day is a proof of this.

Smith in his History of New Jersey writes of the acts of the government, and the governing classes, of West Jersey, to which his family belonged. In this he copies all the accessible ship records of passenger-emigrants from the old country; but nowhere alludes to any one as having come from Long Island or New England. All subsequent historians have copied Smith without making any original research.

The majority of the colonial officials were selected from the English Quakers settled along the Delaware river shore for reasons that are quite evident. The first emigration was under the patronage of three companies. The first, in 1675 under Fenwick, located at Salem. The Yorkshire and London companies, beginning in 1677, settled at Burlington; the former on the north, and the latter on the south side of the Main street. They brought with them a local organization by which they were governed until the arrival of Jennings, the first deputy governor, in 1680. From this date until 1703, when the province was surrendered to the crown, the landowners resident in England appointed the governors who had in their gift the patronage of appointed officers, which usually fell to friends and relatives. The members of the Assembly were elected at first from the ten parts into which West Jersey had been divided, four only of which had any population or representation, and these were under the control of the members of the companies above named. Afterwards the whole province was erected into three counties: Burlington, which extended from the boundary line to the Pensaukin creek, and from the Delaware to the ocean: Gloucester county, which was bounded on the north by Burlington county and extended to Oldman's creek on the south, and thence east to the Atlantic. The balance was

Salem county. The population on the Delaware river shore being more concentrated held the control. To be a member of the Assembly one must be a land owner. While there was no religious test or other bar to anyone holding office, yet the Quakers controlled it by the same political means in use to-day. Their religious meetings were the only organized ones held in West Jersey until after 1700. At their weekly or monthly gatherings, they canvassed outside of the walls the candidates for office, and then adopting the town meeting of New England gave all a free chance to vote for a person already fixed upon.

It is true that the laws they passed were just to all the people and were executed with a fairness that proved satisfactory to every one. The new arrivals from the old country, and the emigrants from the East, lived together on the friendliest terms, intermarried with each other, and under the Friends doctrines that kept down pride of ancestry with the other vanities of the world, the latter class lost their identity. If, thirty-five years ago, any one had asked any of the numerous descendants of those from Long Island or New England where their ancestors came from to New Jersey, they would have replied—direct from England. If it was hinted to them that their family names were not to be found in Smith's passenger lists they would probably have said that the emigrant came over in the ship "Welcome" with William Penn, a list of whose passengers has not been preserved. A prominent surveyor and conveyancer of Burlington county, a lineal descendant of Gov. Jennings, in a public address delivered before the West Jersey Surveyors Association in 1870 stated that the three sons-in-law of the governor came over in the same ship with William Penn. The records of their early land purchases state that they came from Long Island. A local historian of Cape May county, himself a descendant of Jacob Spicer, in a history published in the "Star of Cape

May," in 1892, says that "Jacob Spicer 1st, came over to America with William Penn in 1682, and settled in Cape May."

SPICER.

The family that is now conceded to have been one of the ablest of the early settlers in Camden county, formed in 1844 out of old Gloucester county, and the one, in colonial days, that made the most marked impress upon West Jersey, was that of Samuel Spicer.

Samuel Spicer was the son of Thomas and Michael Spicer and was born either in England or in New England before 1640. The family accompanied Lady Deborah Moody upon her removal from Massachusetts, and went with her to Long Island, where she obtained a patent for Gravesend on December 19, 1645. Among the freeholders of this town in 1656 were Thomas, Samuel and Jacob Spicer. Samuel Spicer adopted the faith of George Fox, and that he was an earnest advocate of his doctrines is shown by his being imprisoned in Fort Amsterdam in 1660 for encouraging Quakers. The next year he and Henry Townsend were fined 600 guilders for the same offence, and were ordered to be imprisoned until it was paid. In 1665, Samuel Spicer was one of the company that bought of Gov. Nichol the Shrewsbury and Monmouth tract; but he never removed to it. In 1683 he was taxed for a farm of 100 acres at Gravesend, and his inventory of stock called for 9 full aged cows; 3 three year old; 5 two year old; 6 one year old; 3 working horses; 1 two year old and 1 one year old.

In 1685, Samuel Spicer bought of Samuel Coles a tract of nearly 500 acres in Gloucester county, West Jersey. It was at the junction of Coopers creek with the Delaware river, opposite to the present city of Camden. Samuel Coles, one of the earliest locators of land here, had come from England with a Right to one ninetieth part of a Pro-

prietary, which he had either taken for debt, or bought of the creditors of Edward Byllinge. Under this he had surveyed to him 3 mo. 13 day 1682, the above 500 acres. Along with this land Samuel Spicer bought part of S. Coles' Rights, under which he afterwards located the adjoining land extending to the Pensaukin creek, a tract about six miles long and three wide. The neighbors were William Cooper, of England, who had located on the Camden side of Coopers creek in 1682, and Henry Wood of Newport, Rhode Island, who had bought 100 acres of Samuel Coles soon after its location in 1682, but he did not remove to it until 1687. The deed to Samuel Spicer says he was a resident of Gravesend, L. I. He built his house where the Pennsylvania Railroad crosses Coopers creek, and removed to it in 1686, as appears by the following letter:

To our Dear and Well beloved Friends at their Monthly or Quarterly Meeting in West Jersey, or elsewhere: Whereas our dear Friends Samuel Spicer and Esther his wife have seen cause to remove themselves and family &c from Gravesend on Long Island, where they have long abode unto your parts to settle and inhabit &c, these may certify that the said Samuel and Esther his wife have long been well known to us, and among us; and to our great satisfaction we can say, that from their commencement unto this day, we have not known of any misbehaviour concerning them either to the blemishing the truth they have professed with us, or towards their neighbors; but as far as we know and (do believe) they have been of honest conversation and good patterns and examples both among us and also their neighbors; and will leave a good savor behind in the hearts of Friends and people that know them; and although they remove outwardly from amongst us, yet we hope our love and verity in the truth shall abide towards them and remain the same. At our Quarterly Meeting at Flushing, Long Island, this 20 day 3 month 1686.

After his removal to West Jersey Samuel Spicer took an active part both in religious and civil affairs. He held public worship at his house before the erection of the first meeting house at Newton. He often represented the latter in the yearly meetings. In 1687, he was appointed one of the judges of the Gloucester county courts. He died in

1699. His will, which is on the files in Trenton, is dated 13 day, 7 mo., 1691, and was probated March 12, 1699.

1. Samuel Spicer married Esther, daughter of John and Mary Tilton of Gravesend. He and his wife are buried in Newton graveyard (on Newton creek), now called West Collingswood, on the Philadelphia and Atlantic City Railroad, about a mile from Camden. The burying ground is now utterly neglected and overgrown with brush and briars.

Their children were:

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| | d | m |
| 2. Abraham, | born 27, | 8, 1666. |
| 3. Jacob, | " 20, | 1, 1668. |
| 4. Mary, | " 20, | 8, 1671, married Jeremiah Bates. |
| 5. Sarah, | " 19, | 4, 1674, died young. |
| 6. Martha, | " 27, | 11, 1676, married 1st Joseph Brown & 2nd Thos. Chalkley. |
| 7. Sarah 2d, | " 16, | 12, 1677, married Daniel Cooper. |
| 8. Abigail, | " 26, | 1, 1683, married Daniel Stanton. |
| 9. Thomas, | | |
| 10. Samuel, | died unmarried. | |

Esther Spicer survived her husband four years and met a tragic death, thus noted on the minute book of the Had-donfield Friends Meeting: " Esther Spicer, Esther Saxby her servant maid and Richard Thackara, the son of Thomas Thackara of Newton, he being 11 years 9 months and twelve days old, were slain by lightning in Esther Spicer's house about 10 P. M. 24 day of 7 month 1703, and were buried in Newton Friends burying ground 26th of same month." The funeral was by night and James Logan of Philadelphia says in his papers that he was an eye witness to it. Judge John Clement, in his "Early Settlers in New-ton," draws the following pen picture:

The funeral was by night, the family and friends going in boats down Coopers creek to the river Delaware, and down the river to Newton creek, and thence to Newton graveyard. Each boat being provided with torches the scene upon the water must have been picturesque indeed. To the colonists it was a sad spectacle when they saw one so much esteemed among them being borne to her last resting place. To the Indians it was a grand and impressive sight. Arasapha, the king, and others of his people, attended the solemn

procession in their canoes, thus showing respect for one the cause of whose death struck them with awe and reverence. The deep, dark forest that stood close down to the shores of the streams almost rejected the light as it came from the burning brands of pine carried in the boats, and as they passed under the thick foliage a shadow was scarcely reflected from the water. The colonists in their plain and unassuming apparel, the aborigines in their gaudy and significant robes, and the negro slaves (oarsmen) with their almost nude bodies must have presented from the shore a rare and striking picture. Here—all undesigned—was the funeral of a Friend, in which ostentation and display are always avoided, made one of the grandest pageants the fancy could imagine, a fertile subject for the pencil of the artist, and one well deserving an effort to portray its beauty.

Jacob Spicer was the oldest living son, his brother Abraham having died before his parents. He and his brother Thomas and their sons after them appear to have been trained as surveyors and conveyancers, a vocation that took the place of lawyer among Friends, whose religious faith is opposed to the latter profession. This sect does not bring a suit at law, but settles all disputes between its members within the meeting, and suffers loss by a stranger rather than resort to the law.

Jacob Spicer removed to Cape May in 1692. His father was not in favor of his removal, as in his will, after bequeathing to Jacob his share of the property in Gloucester (now Camden) county he leaves him in addition "the tract of 179 acres at Nast's Landing" in Pensaukin creek upon condition of his building upon it, improving it and dwelling upon it within fifteen years, otherwise it was to be divided among his other children.

Cape May, at the beginning of the year 1692, had a number of settlers located there, but they could not obtain titles to any land until Dr. Daniel Coxe bought the Rights and had 91,000 acres surveyed to him in that end of the province; which, the same year, he had conveyed to his great land company, the West Jersey Society. On the map of this survey made by John Budd and John Worledge, deputy surveyors, is shown a little fishing village named Cape

May Town. Aaron Learning thus speaks of it in his memoirs: "My father died in 1695, and his remains were interred at a place called Cape May Town, situated next above New England creek, and contained about thirteen houses, but on the failure of the whale fishery on Delaware bay it dwindled into common farms." Fishermen from the East had stations there at an early date, but it does not appear that there were any permanent settlers until after Penn and his associates had purchased West Jersey, about 1680. The first deeds for Cape May land made to actual settlers are recorded in Jeremiah Basse's (attorney for the West Jersey Society) Book B², and in Revell's Book. They began in 1694. Up to the year 1699 inclusive conveyances were made to thirty-nine separate owners in Cape May county. Of these the names of twenty-three are to be found in the several census of Long Island up to 1686, chiefly in the towns on the eastern end of the island. The other sixteen bear the stamp of a New England origin. Of the members of the first grand jury summoned in 1693, viz: Shamgar Hand, Thomas Hand, Wm. Goulden, Samuel Matthews, John Townsend, Wm. Whitlock, Jacob Dayton, Wm. Jacobs, John Carman, Jonathan Pine, Caleb Carman, John Reeves, Oliver Johnson, Christopher Learning, Arthur Cresse, Ezekial Eldridge and Jonathan Forman—all were from Long Island except Ezekial Eldridge.

So Jacob Spicer went to Cape May among friends and acquaintances, never to return to Nast's Landing. On April 9, 1694, he had a deed recorded to him for 400 acres of land, and on May 30 of the same year another for 400 acres more. He was a Quaker, and here he found a few others like the Leamings and Townsends, of the same faith. But the majority did not belong to that sect, for in 1712, a Baptist church was organized in that small community; and a Presbyterian church was established in 1714. Jacob Spicer shaped his actions to suit the views of the people

who selected him to be their political leader. He held a military command of some kind which gave him the title of major. Sometimes he is called colonel. His right to the first is officially attested, in the following document:

By the Honorable Colonel Richard Ingoldesby Lieutenant Governor, Commander in Chief of the Province of New Jersey, New York &c and Vice Admiral of the same to *Major* Jacob Spicer greeting: Reposing especiall trust and confidence in your prudence, fidelity and honesty, I doe hereby lycence, authorize and empower you to take into your custody, secure, put up and tri in the most proper method, with all convenient speed, all such whales and other royal fish that may be driven on shore on the coast of Her Majesty's province of New Jersey, between the bay of Delaware and Sandy Hooke, yielding me one-hulfe part of all such whale bone or oyles as shall be by you saved or secured after the charges of securing the same are first deducted. Given under my hand and seal this 30th April 1709.

Richard Ingoldesby.

Again, in 1721, Jacob Spicer was a contributor to the building of a Presbyterian parsonage. These were acts, particularly the assumption of a military rank and title, contrary to the discipline of Friends; yet no record has been found that he was ever called to account for these lapses of religious faith. His religion was no doubt of great service to him politically, and also to his son Jacob after him, who was a Quaker by birthright membership. This enabled them to sit with their co-religionists as their peers in the Assembly, and gave them the right to take part in the religious and business meetings of Friends.

In 1709 Jacob Spicer was elected a member of the New Jersey Assembly from Cape May, and continued to fill that office until 1723. Some amusing incidents are told of his career while a member of that body. At one time he absented himself from its meeting and the sergeant at arms was sent to arrest him, but he hearing of his coming went up the bay and river shore by another route and avoided him. After the officer had gone away, Jacob returned home. Again neglecting to attend the session of the legislature, the Assembly expelled him, and issued

writs for a new election. But this did not help them, for the people of Cape May re-elected him. Finally he put in his appearance, made his excuse and was seated. In 1723 the office of Surrogate was erected in Cape May and Jacob Spicer was elected its first incumbent. This office he held until his death in 1741. Besides this he was for many years one of the justices of the Cape May courts.

III. Jacob Spicer, born 20 day 1 mo 1668, married Sarah —

Jacob died April 17, 1741, and was buried in Cold Spring cemetery, Cape May. On his tombstone is this epitaph:

Death thou hast conquered me;
I by thy darts am slain,
But Christ shall conquer thee,
And I shall rise again.

His wife Sarah died July 25, 1742, and is buried alongside of her husband. They had one child:

11. Jacob Spicer, born —, 1716; married first Judith, daughter of Humphrey Hughes, whose children were

12. Jacob.

13. Sarah, married Christopher Leaming and had eight children.

14. Sylvia, married 1st, Samuel Jones; 2d, Rev. — Harris, a Baptist minister.

15. Judith, married Elijah Hughes, Jr. He was clerk of Cape May in 1767 and 1768; was Surrogate from 1768 to 1787, and a member of the State legislature in 1781 and 1785.

Jacob Spicer 2nd, first wife Judith died in 1747, and he married second Deborah Hand Leaming, widow of Christopher Leaming. He does not appear to have had any children by the latter.

Jacob Spicer, Esq., as he was sometimes called (or the second Jacob) was even a greater man than his father. He was for twenty-one years a member of the Assembly from Cape May, from 1744 until his death in 1765. He was appointed by the legislature in conjunction with Aaron Leaming to compile the laws of New Jersey. The work they performed is a monument to their ability and industry. In 1756 he bought of Dr. Johnson, the agent of the West Jersey Society, for £300, the last of their land in

Cape May. This land was known as the "Vacant Rights." This purchase caused a great deal of dissatisfaction among the people, who claimed that he had been sent to buy it for them and not for himself. He kept a diary, which is in the possession of the New Jersey Historical Society, and is a true exponent of the man and his life. The will of Jacob Spicer is a closely written document of thirty or forty pages of foolscap paper. In it he names as his executors Deborah Spicer, Sylvia Jones, Samuel Jones, Sarah Leaming and Christopher Leaming. He died Sept. 17, 1765, and was buried in Cold Spring cemetery. His tombstone bears the following inscription:

If ought that great or good could save
Spicer had never seen his grave.

XII. Jacob Spicer (third) married Elizabeth, daughter of Joseph Donaldson of Philadelphia, a man of prominence who held office under Washington, and was ambassador to Tunis and Algiers in 1795; their children as far as known were:

16. Jacob.

17. Sylvia, married Henry Pratt.

The third Jacob was apprenticed (according to the custom of those days) to James & Drinker, a large shipping firm of merchants on Front street above Arch, Philadelphia. After learning the business he started in the same for himself. For a time he was successful, and was said to have lived in princely style, but at last he failed and fell into obscurity. Elizabeth, the wife of Henry Drinker, of the firm above mentioned, kept a diary for many years; from it we learn a few facts. Under date of July 17, 1790, she says "Molly (her daughter) and myself went to call on Jacob Spicer at Mt Airy." Again, under date of December 5, 1806, she notes: "H D (Henry Drinker) went to the funeral of Jacob Spicer. He was at one time an appren-

tice to James & Drinker. He lived after he was married and in trade next door to us."

XVI. Jacob Spicer (4th) married Elizabeth Jackson, a widow. He had no children, and the name is run out in this line. The widow died in 1893, aged 81.

THOMAS SPICER.

IX. Thomas Spicer, born before 1686, but the date lost, married Abigail, daughter of Francis and Sarah Davenport, of Willington, Derbyshire, England, who emigrated to America in 1691 and settled in Burlington county. Their children were:

18. Thomas.

19. Jacob.

20. Samuel.

Thomas Spicer (first) lived upon the land inherited from his father Samuel, upon which the homestead stood, on Cooper's creek, at which there was a ferry to cross to the Camden side until 1747, when a bridge was built. He purchased a part of his brother Jacob's land and other large tracts in the lower end of Gloucester county. He did not hold any office of importance, but spent his time in business affairs. His will is dated January 4, 1759, and was probated November 7 of the same year. His widow survived him some years.

XVIII. Thomas Spicer (2d) born ———, married October 1, 1744. Rebecca, daughter of Humphrey and Jane Day. She was born August 1, 1723, and died May 3, 1792. Their children were:

21. Humphrey, died young.

22. Jane, died young.

23. Abigail.

Thomas Spicer lived on land inherited from his father and grandfather. He never held any office, but spent much of his time in travel. His will is dated May 4, 1760, and was probated the next October. A clause in this entailed his property as follows: "I give and bequeath unto

Rebecca my dearly beloved wife all and singular the rights and properties that I possess during her widowhood but no longer. Item. I give and bequeath to my daughter Abigail my beloved, and the heirs of her body at the marriage or decease of my dearly beloved wife all the lands and liberties and rights and properties I possess."

XXIII. Abigail Spicer, born January 25, 1743, married May 25, 1758. William Rudderow of Chester township, Burlington county, whose lands lay across Pensaukin creek from the Spicers. He was born October 11, 1732, and died Nov. 1808. The Days and Rudderows were adherents of the Church of England, and according to the Quaker ritual Thomas Spicer's wife and child were not counted of the latter faith unless they had openly joined it. The children of Wm. and Abigail Rudderow were:

- 24 John.
- 25 Jane, born Feb. 1, 1760 married Joshua Osler.
- 26 Thomas, " Dec. 1761 " Rebecca Carty.
- 27 Abigail, " March 24, 1764 " John Ashburner.
- 28 Elizabeth, " June 10, 1766 " Humphrey Day.
- 29 William, " Sept. 27, 1769 " 1st Rachel Rowand, 2nd Rachel Burden.
- 30 Spicer, " Nov. 3, 1772, died unmarried.
- 31 Jacob, " Nov. 3, 1775, died unmarried.
- 32 Humphrey, " Jan. 8, 1779, married ———

XXIV. John Rudderow, born Feb. 17, 1759, married 1st, Jerusha Inskeep; 2d, Anna Leconey, nee Welch. He died Feb. 14, 1840. Under the will of his grandfather, Thomas Spicer, John Rudderow inherited about 400 acres of the original Samuel Spicer tract, part of which is now covered by the borough of Merchantville. During his lifetime the whole of this remained intact. After his death it was gradually sold off in parcels by his heirs. The last conveyance, of about 80 acres, was made in 1885.

XIX. Jacob Spicer (son of Thomas first) born ———: married Mary Lippincott. He died October 31, 1779. They had no children. He lived and died on a tract of

1034 acres in Woolwich township, Gloucester county. He was a strict Quaker, and in his will, dated July 10, 1797, he bequeaths "one acre and a half of land for the use of a meeting house and a graveyard to the people commonly called Quakers forever bounded by the Cumberland road and one rod road, the line of Jacob Gosling, my other land and Thomas Casseday's lane." He also gave the lot where the school house stands.

XX. Samuel Spicer (son of Thomas first) born Oct. 29, 1720; died in 1777. He married first, on Nov. 16, 1743, Abigail Willard. She was born Sept. 25, 1725, and died April 24, 1752. Their children were:

30. Jacob, born Oct. 23, 1744, died unmarried Decr. 4, 1769.

31. Abigail, born Nov. 14, 1746, married John Keble—no issue.

32. Rebecca, born Feb. 28, 1752, died June 21, 1753.

Samuel Spicer married 2d, Sarah Potter, of Shrewsbury. She died 1793. Children were:

36. Thomas, born Jan. 12, 1755; died August 21, 1759.

37. Sarah.

38. Rebecca.

Samuel Spicer inherited the homestead property on Coopers creek. He lived in the original house built by Samuel, his grandfather, the emigrant, which stood intact until the early part of the present century, when it was torn down by his son-in-law to make room for a more pretentious mansion. He was an active surveyor and one of the deputy surveyors for West Jersey. He and his family and his father and mother were interred in a private burying ground that stood in his own land on the Delaware river shore. It was kept unmolested until Cramer Hill, a suburb of Camden, grew around it, and in 1890 the bodies were removed and a street was opened directly through it.

In this branch the male line also ran out, leaving only daughters for a line of descent.

XXXVII. Sara Spicer, born March 17, 1759, married Joseph Cowperthwait, who was descended from an emigrant

from Flushing, L. I. She died Sept. 26, 1823. Their children were:

39. Rebecca, married —, 1804, Daniel Stevenson of Honesdale, Penn.
40. Abigail, " Marmaduke Shivers.
41. Elizabeth, " John Curtis, a Methodist minister.
42. Harriet, " Sheve Cowperthwaite.
43. Sarah, died unmarried.
44. John Keble, married Hannah Collins.
45. Spicer, " — — —, had issue.
46. Joseph, died unmarried.

XXXVIII. Rebecca Spicer, born July 23, 1762, married in 1781 William, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Folwell. She died June, 1844. Their children were:

47. William.
48. — — —, married Benjamin Pitfield.
49. Sarah, died unmarried.
50. Rebecca, died unmarried.

The homestead of the Spicers fell to the share of Rebecca Folwell and remained in the family until a few years ago, when it was sold for building purposes, and is now included in the town of Wrightsville, a suburb of Camden.

The Great Seal of New Jersey.*

BY FRANCIS BAZLEY LEE.

When, upon the second day of July, 1776, the people of the State of New Jersey "agreed upon a set of charter rights and the form of a Constitution," it was provided therein that the Council (now Senate) and the House of Assembly should have power to make a great seal for the colony, which was to be kept by the Governor or by the Vice President of Council, in case of the Governor's absence. It was to be called "the great seal of the colony of New Jersey."

Upon the 27th day of August, 1776, the Legislature of the State of New Jersey met in Princeton, creating the formal institution of New Jersey's share in national liberty. Immediately the legislators took measures to prepare a formal symbol whereby the power and authority of the new-born State should be recognized. On the sixth of September, 1776, it was ordered by resolution of Council that "Mr. Smith and Mr. Cooper be a committee to meet a committee of the House of Assembly in order to form a great seal for the State." Mr. Richard Smith was from Burlington city, whilst John Cooper was of the family which gave the name Cooper's Point to old Gloucester, now Camden city.

Upon the same day the Assembly appointed Samuel Dick, of Salem, Ephraim Harris, of Cumberland, John Covenhoven (Conover), of Monmouth, and Charles Coxe, of the Trent-Coxe family, of Hunterdon, as a committee to act with Council, to form a great seal.

*See article by author in *Heraldry in America* (Eugene Zieber), Philadelphia, 1895, pp. 159-161.

On September 10th, 1776, John Fell, of Bergen, brought into the Assembly a resolution from Council to the effect that inasmuch as it will take some time to prepare a seal, "*Resolved*, That the Seal at Arms of His Excellency, *William Livingston*, Esquire, shall be deemed and taken as the Great Seal of this State till another shall be made." In this the Assembly concurred.

The joint committee on the third of October reported to both houses "That they have considered the Subject and taken the Sentiments of several intelligent Gentlemen thereon, and are of the Opinion that *Francis Hopkinson*, Esq., should be immediately engaged to employ proper Persons at Philadelphia to prepare a Silver Seal, which is to be round, of two and a half inches diameter, and three-eighths of an inch thick, and that the arms shall be three Ploughs in an Escutcheon, the supporters Liberty and Ceres, and the crest a Horse's Head; these words to be engraved in large Letters around the Arms, *videlicet*: THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY."

Mr. Hopkinson was ordered to "draw on the Treasurer of this State for the Expenditure of the Great Seal." William Woodhull, of Morris, and Peter Tallman, of Burlington, were instructed to acquaint Council concerning the engagement of Mr. Hopkinson.

In the Secretary of State's office in Trenton is the original silver seal and the report of the committee. Upon a comparison of the original seal with the recommendations of the committee, it will be seen that there are some noteworthy variations. Mr. Hopkinson secured the services of Pierre Eugene Du Simitiere, the artist archeologist of Philadelphia, whose personal eccentricities make him a noteworthy character. Du Simitiere drew the design for New Jersey's seal in October, 1776, while preparing seals for Virginia, Georgia and Delaware. The talented Frenchman deviated

from the orders of the committee and inserted a helmet under the horse's head in the crest, and added the numerals "MDCCLXXVI." It is a noteworthy fact that in the representations of the Great Seal of New Jersey to be found in the State laws of the end of the XVIII and the early part of the XIX Centuries the printers followed the wording of the resolution of 1776, and omitted Du Simitiere's designs of the horse's head and Roman numeral date. In this connection it will be noticed that the legislative resolution supplanted the word "colony" by that of "State." It was not until September 20, 1777, that the Legislature adopted the word "State," although such amendment was never submitted to the people for ratification.

In May, 1777, the Great Seal was finished and an itemized bill of expenses incurred by Messrs. Hopkinson and Du Simitiere was paid by the State.

The great seal, or coat of arms of New Jersey, has never been emblazoned by authority. A picture of the Philadelphia State House thus emblazons this coat of arms: The Goddess of Liberty is arrayed in blue, with the Phrygian cap in red. The Goddess of Agriculture, Ceres, is in a costume of white, red and green, with a waist of red. The mantling is white and blue, the helmet is gold, the nag's head proper. The field of the shield is blue, the plows are in silver.

During the period between September, 1776, and May, 1777, the coat of arms of Governor William Livingston was used as the Great Seal.