

SPALDING

The name Spalding appears quite early in English history. Of its derivation we have no certain knowledge. Some conjecture that it arose in connection with the town of Spalding, in Lincolnshire, England, which is said to have derived its name from a spa or spring of chalybeate water in the market-place. Spa, as a general name for a spring of mineral water, arose, unquestionably, from a place of this name in Germany. E.W. Spalding, of St. Louis, Missouri, suggests the following: "The French epaule, Spanish espalda, English spall, all meaning shoulder, seem to have some significance, as the whole race, so far as I know, are physically very powerful. The last syllable has a meaning, also: ding, to strike; spal-ding, shoulder-striker. In the Middle Ages, when battles were fought hand to hand, our name originated. The two-handed sword in one coat of arms strengthens the argument."

The name, so far as we have any knowledge, first appeared in connection with the town in Lincolnshire, England. This existed before Crowland; for in Ethelbald's foundation charter of that place, part of the bounds of the monastery there are said to extend "usque aedificid Spaldeling." Ethelbald began to reign 716 A.D., and was killed 757 A.D.

Whether the name was introduced by the Anglo-Saxons, or was brought over by a colony of Flemish people, or originated in that county, it is impossible to determine. In the Topographical Dictionary of England, by Samuel Lewis, vol. 4, pp. 138 and 139, published in 1831, we have the following sketch of the old Saxon town, Spalding:

Spalding, a market town and parish in the wapentake of Elloe, parts of Holland, county of Lincoln, 44 miles from Lincoln (S.E. by S.), and 100 (N.) from London containing, according to the 1st census, 5,207 inhabitants, now supposed to amount to upwards of 6,000. This place is said to have derived its name from a Spa or spring of chalybeate water, in the market-place; it is of considerable antiquity, being mentioned at an early period of the Saxon annals as one of the points on the boundary line of the estate belonging to Crowland Abbey, to which a subordinate cell for a prior and five monks was founded here in 1051, by Thorold de Buckenhale; but at the conquest, on the presentation of this manor to Ivo Talbois, Earl of Angiers, a nephew of the Conqueror, who built a castle here, the society was so harassed by their new neighbor as to be compelled to abandon their cell, which, falling into his hands, was given in 1074, with the church of St. Mary and the manor, to the abbey of St. Nicholas at Angiers, whereupon some Benedictine monks were sent over, and it became an alien priory to that monastery, being dedicated to St. Mary and St. Nicholas it did not share the fate of the other alien houses, but was raised to the dignity of an abbey, and so continued until the general suppression, when its revenue was valued at L 878 18s 3d. The town is situated on the river Welland, in a fenny district, but remarkably well drained; the streets are clean and well paved, the houses of neat appearance and the inhabitants are well supplied with water.

An Antiquarian Society was established here, many years ago, by Mr. Maurice Johnson, a native of the town, of which Sir Isaac Newton, Sir Hans Slo and, Dr. Stuckeley, and several other distinguished persons.

FIRST GENERATION - EDWARD SPALDING

He was the first of the family of whom we have any knowledge, and came to America in the earliest years of the Massachusetts Colony; probably between 1630 and 1633. He first appears in Braintree, Mass., where his first wife Margaret and his daughter Grace died, and where one of his children, Benjamin was born. The following records from the town of Braintree were returned to the recorder in Boston, and are published in the Hist. And Gen. Reg., vol. 3, p. 247.

Benjamin the Sonne of Edward Spalden,

His wife, was born 7, 2, 1643.

Grace the daughtr of Edward Spalden,

His wife was buried 3, 1641.

Margaret the wife of Edward Spalden dyed – 1640.

Edward Spalding was made a freeman May 13, 1640, from which fact we know that he was a member of the established church of the Province; as no person could be made a Freeman, or be entitled to any share in the government, or be capable of being chosen a magistrate, or even of serving on a jury, who was not a member of some one of the churches established a Colony.

The third mention of Edward Spalding is in the following petition made Oct. 1, 1645.

The petition of Stephen Kingsly, John Garing, Francis Eliott, Thom: Flatman, Henry Adams, Thomas Adams, John Sheopard, Henry Adams, Junior, Samu: Adams, John Adams, Christopher Adams, William Vaysey, Richard Bracket, Christopher Webb, Edward Sparlden, Thomas Meakish, Nicho: Woode, Robert Quelues, Thom. Barett, Daniell Shode, William Ellice, Deodatus Curtis, Thomas Waterman, Nathaniell Herman, Humfry Grigs, John Hastings, George Aldridge, John Wheateley, Thomas Wilmet, Henry Madsley, John French, & Arthur Waring is granted wth free and full consent, they being about twenty of the thirty-two subscribers free men, the Cort doth thinke meet that so much land as they shall set out for their towne, not exceeding the quantity of tenn thousand acres together, shall be allotted to them, and that the major part of the freemen shall first build & plant thereupon, so that the whole make up the number of seaven, shall have power to admit or keepe out whom they thinke good, & that the Genrall Cort should write letters to Benedict Arnold, to compound wth Pumhome at the easiest rate he can, for his right in any improved ground, & that the petitioners shall dispose of ye houses built upon ye said ground, with this proviso, that they shall pay to such as built them what the cort shall hereafter appoint, if they see cause so to do; this is granted provided they go on, & ten families be there within twelve months.

Th name next appears in connection with the settlement of Chelmsford Mass. In Allen's History of Chelmsford, p.8, we find the following statement.

About twenty persons from Woburn and Concord at the last session of the General Court in 1652, petitioned for liberty to examine a tract of land, lying on the other side (west) of Concord river. The Court accepted and granted their request. Having by a joint committee examined and viewed the

aforesaid tract of land, and having also found sundry others to the number of thirty-nine in all, desirous of uniting with them in erecting a new plantation, they jointly petitioned the legislature for a grant of land, bordering upon the river Merrimack, near to Pawtucket.

The petition was granted [Colonial Records, vol. 3, p. 301] May 18, 1653, and Capt. Willard of Concord and Capt. Johnson of Woburn were appointed to lay out the township. It was about six miles square.

The town was incorporated May, 1655, and "upon information by letter from Esdras Reed, Edward Spalding and William Fletcher, inhabitants of said plantation, that the number of inhabitants according to the time prefixed in the Court's grant, were there settled; at their request the Court do grant the name thereof to be called Chelmsford. It was named after Chelmsford in England, county of Essex, which derived its name from the river Chelmer, on which it is situated

The town in the first grant did not extend to the Merrimack River, but, May 3, 1656, on petition of the inhabitants, the north east boundary was extended to it. Among the signers of this petition was Edward Spalding.

In this enlargement was some of the best land in the town, and a portion containing 214 acres, was fenced in 1669, and called the "New Field." The names of the proprietors are given, and among these we find Edward Spalding, Sen., Edward Spalding, Jun., and John Spalding.

In 1686, the land lying west of Concord river and south of the Merrimack, near Pawtucket Falls, called "Lamest," was sold by the Indians to Jonathan Ting and Maj. Thomas Hinchman. Mr. Tyng conveyed his right in the Wamesit purchase, except one forty-sixth part, to Maj. Hinchman, for L50, who sold the whole tract to forty-four persons, reserving one share to himself. These forty-six joint proprietors built a wall on the south side, extending from Merrimack River to Concord River, and for some years used the land as a common pasture for their cattle. It was annexed to Chelmsford, 1726.

The first named among these proprietors is Edward Spalding, who was the son of the elder Edward. We also find among them John Spalding, John Spalding, Jun., Joseph Spalding, Benjamin Spalding, and Andrew Spalding, the five sons and one grandson of the elder Spalding. This territory is now within the most densely settled part of the city of Lowell.

There is a tradition (which is given by Allen, in his history of Chelmsford, pp. 16, 17) that Edward Spalding removed to Wenham, Mass., and was one of the Wenham company which removed to Chelmsford; but I can find no trace of his being there, upon any records of that town. He removed to Chelmsford, Mass., at, or immediately after, the first settlement of that town, in 1653. His name does not appear in the list of original grantees, but at the first town meeting held Nov. 22, 1654, he was chosen one of the Selectmen. The record is as follows:

The 22nd, the 9. Month: 1654. At a meeting then at William Fletcher's Hous, there was chosen to officiate in ordering the Public Affairs of the Place by the Consent of the Major part of the Town for this present year ensuing: are as

followeth: Ezdras Reed: **Edward Spalding**: William Fletcher: **Isaac Learned**: Simeon Thompson: William Underwood: Thomas Adams:

He was also chosen Selectman in 1656, 1660, and 1661. Under date of Feb. 4, 1661, is recorded the division of land granted him by the Town, amounting to 28 acres, and consisting of 12 acres on Stony Brook, 109 acres at Little Tadmuch, and 6 acres on Merrimack Plain. In 1665 he was appointed one of a "Committee for laying out the Meadow granted to the several Inhabitants according to the Town Order." In 1663 he was "the Surveyor of the Highways." In 1666, he was chosen with three others "Surveyor for the Newfield," a tract of land lying north of Stony Brook, then first opened for pasturage, afterward when settled as a village, called "Newfield" and subsequently "North Chelmsford." Edward Spalding was himself one of the Proprietors of the "Newfield," as recorded in the Town Records, March 12, 1667; his proportion being 6 acres.

The attention of the first settlers was early given to the culture of apple-trees, and special mention is made of the orchard of Edward Spalding, in 1664.

From the settlement of the Spaldings in Chelmsford, Mass., there went out, about 1700, a large emigration to Plainfield, Conn. The following facts transcribed from the records of Plainfield, Conn., may be found in the Hist. And Gen. Reg., vol. 15, p. 53:

"Plainfield, Conn., was granted to Gov. John Winthrop of New London, about 1655, settled from Massachusetts, and incorporated 1699; and contained, Dec. 24, 1702, the following freeholders, residing on the east side of the Quinebaug River." Among the thirty-four named are John Spalding, Joseph Spalden, Edward Spalden, and Benjamin Spalden.

Oct. 10, 1706, the General Court of Connecticut, in answer to a petition, gave a more ample confirmation to nineteen of the above proprietors, and to the following new proprietors." Among the nineteen mentioned, are the four Spaldings above named.

The Connecticut colony consisted of two of the sons of Edward Senior, Benjamin, and Joseph, and seven grandsons. It is probable also that William, the son of Andrew, went to Connecticut.

A large emigration also went from Chelmsford, at a later period, to Ludlow and Cavendish, Vt. It was said that it was safe to address any one in either of these towns as Spalding, since the persons bearing this name constituted a large proportion of the inhabitants.

The same restless spirit which moved the Spaldings to emigrate from Chelmsford to Connecticut, continued in force in their descendants, and led to settlements in Plainfield and Cornish, N.H., Moretown, Middletown, Sharon, and Panton, Vt., and Bradford County, Penn.; and now there is not a State or Territory, north of Mason and Dixon's Line, in which the descendants of Edward Spalding may not be found.

As a race, they are possessed of great physical vigor, and for the most part, are tillers of the soil. There are, however, many successful and wealthy men of business among them. About fifty have graduated at different colleges, and about forty have graduated at

the different schools of law, medicine, science, and theology. The practice of medicine has been the leading preference, next to this the ministry, and then the law.

It will be seen from the rolls of the soldiers, that the family has been represented in the army, in every war in which the country has been engaged. The returns are necessarily very incomplete, but they indicate the patriotism of the family, and it must be borne in mind that we have given names only of the Spaldings. Had the descendants of the female lines been given, the number on these rolls would have been doubled.

The children of his wife Margaret, were John, b. about 1633; Edward, born about 1635; and Grace, b. ? The latter was buried May 3, 1641. His wife Margaret died Aug. 1640.

Of his wife Rachel, named in his will, there were Benjamin, b. April 7, 1643; Joseph, b. Oct. 25, 1646; Dinah, b. March 14, 1649; Andrew, b. Nov. 19, 1652.

He died Feb. 26, 1670. His will, dated Feb. 13, 1667, in which his sons Benjamin and Joseph are not mentioned, made his wife Rachel executrix. But she died soon after him, and on probate of the will, April 5, 1670, administration was given to John and Edward. The reason, undoubtedly, why his sons Benjamin and Joseph were not mentioned in the will, was because he had already given them their portions, which they had invested in lands in Plainfield and Killingly, Conn.

The following are copies of the will of Edward Spalding, and the inventory of his estate.

The 13th day of Feb. 1666

I Edward Spalden of Chelmsford in the County of Middlesex and New England being of a perfect memory and understanding do declare this my last will & testam^t.

Impr. I give and bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God, the creator of heaven & earth and my body to the earth till the day of resurrection.

I give and bequeath my house and the land about it with the appurtenances, the meadow adjoining to it, and the lott of meadow in the river meadow, to Rachell Spalden my beloved wife, to use, improve & enjoy, dureing the terme of her naturall life and after her decease to Andres Spalding, my youngest sonne; paying to his sister Dynah Spalding, my daughter, the some of tenn pounds, if shee be living: if shee be not living, then I will that Andrew Spalding my sonne, shall pay out of the said lands five pounds to Edward Spalding my sonne & five pounds to John Spalding my sonne or to the eldest child of either of them if themselves be not living.

I give and bequeath to Rachell Spalding my wife, my lott in the generall field, called the new field, to use and improve dureing the terme of her natural life and after her decease, I will that John Spalding and Edward Spalden my sonnes, shall have the said lott in the new field to be equally divided between them both. I give and bequeath to Rachell Spalding my wife all my moveable goods and chattels, to use and improve dureing the terme of her naturall life, and after her decease, to be divided equally amongst my

children, only I will that Dynah Spalding my daughter shall have my feather bed, and bolster belongs to it, more than the rest.

I make Rachel Spalding my wife my sole executor. I make Thomas Hinksmann & Jacob Parker, overseers, to this my last will & testament.

Witness his marke.

EDWARD SPALDING

George Byam

Jacob Parker

At a Coun Court held at Cambr, Aprill 5th 1670, George Byam appearing before the Court, and being sworne do say that Edward Spalding above named deced, being of sound judgement and memory signed & published this instrumt, as his last will & testamt and that he knows of no other. THOMAS DANFORTH

The inventory of all the moveables, goods, chattels, & other estates of Edward Spalding late of Chelmsford now dece'd prised upon the 28th of 1 mo. 1670, by Samuel Foster and Georgy Byam of Chelmsford, above said.

Impr. One dwelling house, one barne, & land the	
Housing stands on	055 00 00
In meadow	026 00 00
In Arable land	010 00 00
In A paire of oxen	010 10 00
In horse flesh	005 10 00
In two cow beasts	007 10 00
In two sheep	000 15 00
In cart & plow & irons	001 12 00
In Swine	003 10 00
His wearing cloathes	001 04 09
Brass ware	001 06 02
One Iron pott & other iron ware	000 10 00
In bookes	000 15 06
By 2 axes and other Irons	000 10 00
In a fowling peece	001 00 00
By a tow combe & old irons	000 14 04
In a Pewter	000 03 09
In bedding	004 08 00
Certaine tubs, & barrels	001 05 00
By corne	005 00 06
By flax and yarne	000 16 08
By chests and a box	000 09 06
By spinning wheels	000 06 00
By baggs	000 09 00
By shoemakers tooles	000 05 00
By scales & weights	000 02 00
By tables & chayres	000 02 00
By tongs, bridle & saddell	000 08 04
By a saw, & other Iron ware	000 10 06
Summatol:	140 08 10
Debts due from this estate	013 09 06
Rest	126 19 04

The inventory of all the wearing apparel of Rachell Spalding, late of Chelmsford now deced, prised upon the 2, of the 2: mo. 1670: by Daniel Bloggett & Jonathan Butterfield of Chelmsford above said,

L s. d.
002 10 00

Impr. Her wearing Apparrell
At a Coun Court held at Cambr.

April 5th 1670.

John Spalden & Edw. Spalden (appearing before the Court) are admitted admstrators o the estate of their father and mother deced and Edw: Spalden presented an Inventory thereof oath. THOMAS DANFORTH, record.

The children of Edward Spalding were as follows:-

1. John, b. about 1633.
2. Edward, b. about 1635.
3. Grace b. __, d. May 1641.
4. Benjamin, b. April 7, 1643.
5. Joseph, b. Oct. 25, 1646.
6. Dinah, b. March 14, 1649.
7. **Andrew**, b. Nov. 19, 1652.

SECOND GENERATION - **ANDREW SPALDING**

Andrew (Edward), b. Nov. 19, 1652; d. May 5, 1713; m. Hannah Jefes, daughter of Henry Jefes, of Billerica, Ms., April 30, 1674. She d. Jan. 21, 1730. He was the youngest child of Edward, and succeeded, by the will of his father, to the paternal estate. He was chosen deacon of the church, and held that office at the time of his death. His son Andrew and his grandson Ephraim also held the same office.

In the name of God Amen I Andrew Spalding, senr of the town of Chelmsford in the county of Middlesex in the province of the Massachusetts Bay in New england yoeman Being of sound good and Perfect memory Praise be given to god for the same yit knowing the uncertainty of this Life one earth and Being Desirous to settle things In order do make and ordaine this to be my Last Will and testament Hereby Revoking all Former Wills by made and signed to be Null and of none effect.

In Primas. My soul I give into the hands of allmighty god that gave it in sure and Certaine hopes of Eternal Life through our alone Lord and Saviour Jesus Chris and my body to the Earth from whence it Came to be Decently Interred at the Discretion of my Executrix hereafter mentioned and after my funerall Expences and Debts satisfied And Paid What Worldly goods it hath pleased God to Endow me with all I Do give and Bequeath in manner as followeth.

Item: I Do give and Bequeath unto my Well Beloved Wife Hannah Spaulding my Homestead housing and Land with a fouer Acer Right in the Commons: allso four Lots of Land Lying without the Neck field: with all my moveable estate of all sorts and Kinds whatsoever to be at her own Disposal. As to the housing and Lands it is to be for her to use, occupie and Improve as shee shall so cause Duering the time of her Life and after her Decease I do give it

all to be Equally Devided amongst all my Children Sons and Daughters each one their equall Part: as to my sons they have Received all of them their portions all-Ready by Deeds of gift from me.

Item: I do give and Bequeath unto my Daughter Rachell Butterfield thirteen Acers of upland Lying in the field Commonly Called the New field. Also the sixt part of the Lott Lying at Sunkawasset with the seventh part of a swamp called the Spruce Swamp: to her and her Heirs Execrs Administrators for ever.

Item: I Do give and Bequeath to my Daughter Joanna Spaulding two Cows: and one Feather Bed and furniture thereto Belonging allso all the Remaining part of the Land in the neck that is not allready disposed of: allso seventeen pounds in money which is to be paid to her at her marriage to her and her heirs Execrs Admin's for ever, Hereby Authorizing and ffully Impowering my Beloved Wife Hannah Spaulding to be whole and sole executrix of this my Last Will and Testament.

In Witness Whereof I the sd Andrew Spaulding Have hereunto set my hand and Seall the Sixt Day of June Annodomini 1712 and the 11th year of her Majesties Reign over England, Before signing and sealing it is to be understood that my sons have Received their portions allready excepting what my fall to them in the Lands after my Wives Decease, allso I do give and Bequeath to my two Daughters Rachel Butterfield and Joanna Spaulding the sixt part of a trackt of Land Lying within the Township of Billerica Lying between the Land of Lt Samll Hill and Joseph hill to them and their Heirs.

[his mark] X

Signed, sealed And Published to be the Lst Will and testament of Andrew Spaulding senr In the presence of us.

John Stevens, Ebenezer Spaulding, John Meriam, Jun.

The Children of Andrew and Hannah were as follows:

1. Hannah, b. ____; d. March 10, 1677
2. Andrew, b. March 25, 1678
3. **Henry**, b. Nov. 2, 1680
4. John, b. Aug. 20, 1682
5. Rachel, b. Sept. 26, 1685; m. Samuel Butterfield, Dec. 7, 1703.
6. William, b. Aug. 3, 1688
7. Joanna, b. Oct. 8, 1689-90; m. Josiah Fletcher
8. Benoni, b. Feb. 6, 1691
9. Mary, b. Dec. 5, 1795; d. July 18, 1698.

THIRD GENERATION - HENRY SPALDING

Henry (Andrew, Edward), b. Nov. 2, 1680, in Chelmsford, Ms.; d. April 4, 1720; m. Elizabeth Lund, of Dunstable, now Nashua, N.H., probably in 1703. The marriage is recorded in the Chelmsford records, but the date is not given. She was a daughter of Thomas Lund, one of the first settlers, and a proprietor of Dunstable, N.H. The name is spelt Lunn, Lun, and Lund. Her father was an old soldier, and her brother Thomas was killed by the Indians Sept. 5, 1724. Elizabeth was born Sept. 29, 1684. She survived her husband, and, with Richard Stratton, settled his estate.

Children of Henry and Elizabeth, all born in Chelmsford, Ms.:-

1. Henry, b. Nov. 22, 1704
2. Thomas, b. July 30, 1707
3. **William**, b. March 17, 1711
4. Leonard, b. Dec. 1, 1713
5. Eleazer, b. May 29, 1717. He probably died young, as no mention is made of him in the settlement of his father's estate.

FOURTH GENERATION - WILLIAM SPALDING

William (Henry, Andrew, Edward), b. March 17, 1711, in Chelmsford, Ms.; d. June 21, 1790, ae. 80; m. Hepzibah Blood, of Groton, Ms., Jan. 6, 1731; she was the daughter of Joseph Blood, and d. Feb. 1, 1787, aged 77. William Spalding was probably one of the earliest settlers on the west side of the Nashua River, then Groton, but now called Pepperell, Ms. He was a surveyor of land, and employed by "Groton Proprietors of Common Land," and had the offer from them of his choice from four farms located near the river; and the old "Spalding Homestead," was the "great Elm" in front (once magnificent), shows which of the four farms he selected for his future home. He went from Chelmsford, and settled in Pepperell, about 1730. He left a will, admitted to probate Sept. 21, 1790. In it he mentions his son Lemuel; his two daughters, Hannah Shattuck and Elizabeth Blood; his grandson Oliver, son of Joseph; grand-daughters, Rachel Spalding and Hepzibeth Spalding, daughters of Henry; and granddaughter Betty Spalding, daughter of Joseph.

In his will he directs that gravestones shall be put up for his deceased wife, for his son Joseph and wife, and for his sons Henry, Abel, and Seth. He gives portions to his sons William, Eleazer, Thomas, and Abel.

The children were all born in what is now Pepperell, Ms.

1. William, b. April 4, 1732
2. Eleazer, b. May 26, 1733
3. **Hannah, b. March 30, 1735; 1st, m. Ephraim Hall, Sept. 10, 1755; pub. June 28, 1755; he d. Nov. 6, 1758, while on his way from the army; 2d. m. Isaac Shattuck, Jan. 15, 1761.**
4. Elizabeth, b. March 11, 1737; m. —Blood
5. Joseph, b. April 26, 1739.
6. Lemuel, b. Nov. 14, 1741
7. Thomas, b. Oct. 7, 1743
8. Henry, b. April 1, 1746
9. Abel, b. June 12, 1749; d. Sept. 24, 1750; drowned in a well.
10. Seth, b. —; bap. Sept. 22, 1751; d. May 24, 1753.
11. Abel, b. May 12, 1755