

**HISTORY OF SPENCER FROM ITS
EARLIEST SETTLEMENT TO THE
YEAR
1841, INCLUDING A BRIEF SKETCH
OF LEICESTER, TO THE YEAR 1753**

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History of Spencer from Its Earliest Settlement to the Year 1841, Including a Brief Sketch of Leicester, to the Year 1753 by James Draper

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JAMES DRAPER

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P R E F A C E .

It cannot be expected, in the History of a town situated in the interior, like Spencer, that many facts or incidents would have happened, connected with its earliest settlement, and but few events in the succeeding stages of its existence, which would excite much interest in the general reader, and much less could this be expected of any thing relative to the present state of the town, or its inhabitants. It may, however, lay some claims to antiquity, by being once, a component part of the town of Leicester, but the annals of its earliest period can exhibit no details of bloody conflicts with the Indian, nor can it boast of having produced any great and illustrious characters, either in peace or war. No exciting or interesting details of this kind, will form any part of this history.

These pages are the humble effort of a native citizen of Spencer, and have been especially prepared for the benefit and gratification of his fellow citizens. The compiler makes no pretension to the character of an accomplished writer, and indeed the execution of such a work does not require much talent, or literary acquirements. All that is necessary, and all that may be expected, is a faithful de-

tail of names, dates, facts, incidents and events, such as have occurred with little variation, in most of the towns in New England. The brief sketches, and genealogies of families, will undoubtedly be dull and even tedious to many, while others, and perhaps most of the native inhabitants, will esteem this the most valuable part of the work. However satisfactory, or acceptable this may prove, or however it may be esteemed, it has cost a great deal of time and labor, indeed so much, that had it been known and realized at the commencement, it would have been abandoned before it was undertaken. The writer has aimed at the truth, and every statement and fact of any importance, may be strictly relied upon. For materials, access has been had to the county records of Suffolk, Middlesex and Worcester; to the Council and Legislative records of the state; to histories of other towns; to the town, church and proprietors' records of Leicester and Spencer; to Magazines, old files of Newspapers, and occasional sermons; to ancient manuscripts, deeds, and other authentic documents; to the memories of aged people; and even the tombstones have furnished sources of information, from which something has been gleaned. In the hope that it may be of some benefit, and be acceptable to the parents and children of his native town, the author cheerfully submits it to their candor and intelligence.

C O R R E C T I O N S .

Page 95, line 7 from top, for come read ensue.
100, 17 from top, for Tanner read Tansur.
119, 11 from top, for Eliza read Elizabeth.
136, 3 from top, for to read from.

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HISTORY OF SPENCER.

THE town of Spencer is situated eleven miles a little to the South of West from the *Depots* of the several Rail Roads in Worcester. It is bounded East by the towns of Leicester and Paxton; North by the towns of Rutland and Oakham; West by the towns of North Brookfield and Brookfield, and South by the town of Charlton.

Spencer was once a part of the town of Leicester. It will, therefore, be necessary to give a brief sketch of Leicester, including Spencer, until the Westerly half was incorporated into a town by the name of Spencer in 1753.

ORIGINAL GRANT.

More than one hundred and fifty years ago, a number of wealthy gentlemen belonging to Boston and its vicinity, were in the habit of purchasing large tracts of unsettled lands, of the Indians, in the interior of the state. Leicester, Hardwick and other tracts were purchased by them, in what is now, the county of Worcester. The following is a copy of the Indian deed of the town of Leicester to some of those gentlemen.

“ Know all men by these Presents, that we the heirs of Oraskaso, Sachem of a place called Toutaid, situate and lying near the now town of the English called Worcester, with all others which may under them belong unto the