

**BOWMAN GENEALOGY;
FRAGMENTARY ANNALS OF A BRANCH
OF THE BOWMAN FAMILY; TO WHICH
IS APPENDED DATA RELATING TO
OTHER BOWMANS AND THE SPENCERS**

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Bowman genealogy; fragmentary annals of a branch of the Bowman family; to which is appended data relating to other Bowmans and the Spencers by Charles W. Bowman

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CHARLES W. BOWMAN

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123

BOWMAN GENEALOGY

FRAGMENTARY ANNALS

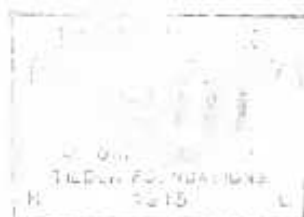
OF A

BRANCH OF THE BOWMAN FAMILY

TO WHICH IS APPENDED DATA RELATING
TO OTHER BOWMANS AND
THE SPENCERS

CHARLES W. BOWMAN

WASHINGTON, D. C.
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INTRODUCTION.

BOWMAN GENEALOGY—ERRATA

- Page 3, fifth line from bottom, after "and" insert "to."
- " 9, eighth line from bottom, for "Margaret L." read "Susan."
- " 16, third line from bottom, for "1907" read "1906."
- " 54, eighth line from top, let quotation end with period.
- " 86, ninth line from bottom, for "1908" read "1808."
- " 101, eighth line from bottom, for "Las Cruas" read Las "Cruces."
- " iv, Index, top line, omit "Bowman."

PLEASE INSERT THIS SLIP FOLLOWING THE INDEX

the larger enterprises, contributing to civilization and the betterment of their fellow men. Mostly they were pioneers, hewing the forests, opening the roadways, plowing the fields, fulfilling their parts as citizens in rearing and maintaining the political fabric.

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INTRODUCTION.

The purpose of the compiler of these annals has been simply to preserve them for posterity. However humble their careers, the history of one's ancestry must always prove of interest, though experience proves that few persons are willing to devote the time necessary to collate such data.

It is not intended to present here more than such detached information as was available relating to a single branch of the Bowman family, namely, the descendants of Edward Bowman, of Amherst county, Virginia. Incidentally there will be found some data concerning the Spencers, Morgans and others connected by marriage. In general, there seems little doubt that the Bowmans of Virginia and other states to the south and west are of common stock. It is a family tradition that the earliest ancestor was a ship carpenter who came with the first colonists to Jamestown from London, but this has neither been authenticated or disproved.

Though their names have not been written large on the pages of the cyclopedias, the Bowmans have had a part in the larger movements, contributing to civilization and the betterment of their fellow men. Mostly they were pioneers, hewing the forests, opening the roadways, plowing the fields, fulfilling their parts as citizens in rearing and maintaining the political fabric.

Bowman is an ancient English name, probably originating with the practice of archery, or its employment in war. In later English history and down to the time of Henry VIII the cross-bow was an arm of the service.¹

Two pronunciations are sanctioned by the Century Dictionary, that with the long, or first sound of o, and that of ou. The former is the one generally used. There are two German names, Bauman and Baughmann, from which many of the Bowmans, particularly those of Pennsylvania, derived their names, and it seems probable that this accounts for the second pronunciation.

As before stated, this collection is mainly confined to the history of a single original family, and its successors, the earliest one concerning which authentic information has been found. To have traced the ancestry of this family to the first colonist, and even to the mother country, would have been most satisfactory, likewise to have included all the descendants of the first comer, but the undertaking proved too great. There will be found a gap between 1715 and Jamestown which remains to be bridged by some future historian. Somewhere in the old family or official records of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, the necessary links in the chain may yet be found.

The census of Virginia for 1790 was destroyed at the invasion of Washington by the British in 1812. A substitute census has lately been made up by the census bureau from assessment rolls and other local records of the state, from which we find that in 1782 there were thirteen heads of families by the name of Bowman in five counties; in 1790 there were twenty-eight heads of families in six counties.

There is also an ancient, honorable and quite extensive

¹See "The Bowmen's Song," in *The White Company*, Doyle.

family of Spencers, whose history it would be interesting to trace. The branch associated with the Bowmans by marriage appears to have originated in Virginia. Several are known to have been soldiers in the Revolution and a number were ministers of the Gospel. Shepherd Bowman married Elizabeth Spencer in North Carolina, and his son Joshua married Elizabeth M. Spencer, of Lincoln county, North Carolina, of the same family. The name Benjamin Spencer is of so frequent occurrence among the pensioners of the Revolutionary War as to create confusion in the pursuit of information of the family history.

There were Bowmans in New England, descendants of Nathaniel, "who came to America before 1630 and settled at Watertown."

A list of Bowmans from Virginia, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York, who served as officers in the Continental Army, will be inserted at the end of this collection.

As will appear to the critical reader, there are many unfortunate gaps in the stories which follow. Inquiries have been addressed to many persons, supposed to be in possession of data, but with meagre results. Fragmentary though it be, this compilation is committed to print in order to preserve it and in the hope that it may stimulate those concerned to co-operate in any further attempts to render it complete.