

CHAPTER XX.

THE SPENCER FAMILY.

This prominent family were antecedents of the Wrights of Maryland, on the maternal side. They came from Bedfordshire, England, and settled first in Lynn, Mass., afterwards in East Haddam, Conn.

John Spencer married Ann, of Bedfordshire, and died June 9, 1568. Their son, Michael Spencer, married Elizabeth, of Bedfordshire, about 1563. Their son, Gerard Spencer, married Hannah, and came to America in 1638. Their son Samuel married Miss Willing. Their son Isaac married Mary Seldon, and had three sons—Rev. Elihu Spencer, of Trenton, N. J.; General Joseph Spencer, of the Revolutionary army, and Major Israel Spencer. Gen. Joseph Spencer married Martha Brainard. Rev. Elihu Spencer married Joanna Eaton. This Joanna Eaton, wife of Rev. Elihu Spencer, who was ordained at Boston, in 1748, was the daughter of Joanna Wardell, who married John Eaton. Both of her parents were interred in the Episcopal Church, at Shrewsbury, N. J. The sisters and brothers of Joanna Eaton were: Dr. Joseph Eaton, Annie Eaton, Thomas Eaton, Valeria Eaton, who married Peter LeCompte; Sarah Eaton, who married Richard Tole (called by the family Aunt Tole); Lydia Eaton, who married Capt William Wanton, and Elizabeth Eaton, who married John Berrian. The parents of Joanna Wardell, who married John Eaton, were Joseph and Sarah Wardell. Their grandparents were Eliakim Wardell and Lydia Perkins Wardell. This Lydia Perkins Wardell was a daughter of Isaac Perkins, of Massachusetts, a Puritan and freeman of the colony. The Wardell family owned extensive tracts of land not far from Shrewsbury River, New Jersey, near the present site of "Long Branch." Both Eliakim and Lydia Perkins Wardell, his wife, were Puritans, but became Quakers not long after their marriage.

The first monthly meeting of Quakers, or Friends, in the province of New Jersey by families from New England, was held at Shrewsbury in 1666. George Fox stopped there in 1678.