

where the Washington family established themselves, and was very intimate with General Washington's predecessors. Mrs. Alexander Harris (Maria Louisa Spencer), of Kent County, has in her possession a piece of silver with a crest upon it, which is the same as that engraved upon the seal of General Washington, and the one used by Lawrence Washington. This piece of silver is supposed to have been the property of Richard Spencer, son of James Spencer, of Talbot County. James Spencer, Jr., it is thought, was the founder of "Spencer Hall," Talbot County, which is situated north of the main road leading from St. Michael's to Easton, through the village of "Royal Oak."

A son of James Spencer, Jr., of "Spencer Hall," named Joseph, served in the Continental army throughout the whole war. Nicholas was warden of St. Michael's parish in 1757. Henry Spencer, grandson of James Spencer, Jr., removed to Kent County and went to sea with Capt. James Nicholson, and it is supposed was taken prisoner and died. Captain Nicholson was a native of the Eastern Shore, and was a gallant officer. He was appointed the senior captain of the Continental navy, in 1776. He commanded the colonial vessel "Defence," also, the "Virginia," which latter vessel struck upon ground at the entrance of Chesapeake Bay, and was captured by a superior British force. Captain Nicholson and part of his crew escaped. It is probable that Henry Spencer was taken at this time. Perry Spencer, of the fourth generation of the Talbot Spencers, was a man of strong character. In 1776 he joined the independent company of troops raised in Talbot County for the defence of the province, which afterwards became incorporated in the "Flying Camp." After Mr. Spencer left the army, he became an extensive ship-builder. During the war of 1812, he built numerous privateers. His ship-yard was made a special object of an attack by a portion of the British fleet, under the notorious Cockburn, in 1813. The attacking force was bravely repulsed by the Eastern Shore troops, under General Perry Beuson. Dr. Samuel H. Harrison said of Mr. Perry Spencer—that he was "as stalwart in mind as in person." He died in 1822, and was buried in the family burying-ground, at "Spencer Hall." Richard Spencer, youngest son of Robert Spencer and brother of Perry, served in the Maryland line under General Smallwood, during the Revolution. He was a mere boy, and was present at the battles of Brandywine and Germantown, September and October,