

Spring Lake Mich.

April 27-1900

My Dear Cousin

I was, indeed, surprised to receive a letter from you but none the less pleased to do so. But I cannot understand why it did not reach me in Chicago - I have a daughter and son living there - have spent the past winter there as I have done before, and my mail has always been promptly re-mailed to me - I only got your letter through Sara Winder just as I left for home, and take my first opportunity to reply - you must have "lots" of patience for I am crippled with rheumatism and very nervous so may run over myself, so to speak, as writing out genealogies is not my forte, but if you have the talents of my mother's family

you can straighten out tangles and untie knots.

I will tell you all I know, as I heard it from my mother and Aunt Sarah, her next sister, about our family beginning with the Spencers - The first I have heard of was John Spencer - a man of wealth and social position who once owned the town of Greenwich, my mother's town - His wife, I think was a Fey - your father's middle name - He must have settled there about two hundred years ago - He was called "Gentleman John" Spencer - why, I do not know - I only know that he had two sons - Rufus the eldest who, under the English law of primogeniture, inherited his wealth, and John, from whom you and I are descended, and his wife was Susanna Reynolds - They had eleven children, of whom our grandfather, Capt. Joseph Spencer, was the youngest, and he, if now living, would be 144 years old, and you can reckon back the probable years to his grandfather "Gentleman John"

~~As~~ I do not know much about my grandfather's family except that one brother Thomas, settled in N. Ireland and has descendants there I think - a brother, Charles, was a sea captain, settled in England - married an English girl - Isabella ~~Ann~~ Assey, after whom Sasa Kinder's mother was named - There were two sisters who married and settled in the eastern part of the state of New York, and that is all I know of his family - Grandfather married Amy, eldest daughter of Oliver and Abigail (Furn) Wickes, who had six other daughters - Rose, who married Richmond Remington - Roby, married Nathaniel Cole - Mary, to Thomas Fillingdale - Abby, to Capt. William Sands - Lucretia, to David Holloway and Fannie who died when very young - My mother was Capt. Spencer's eldest - then Sarah - Abney Man. Joseph W. Ladd - Miss M. Catherine Filled

Joseph M. Meliusa Jewald - Abby ma  
William B. Remington - Mary who  
married Edwin Miller and after  
his death Rev John Baker - and  
John Fry, your father, who was but  
six months older than myself.  
I should have said my mother  
Susan Reynolds married Augustus  
Gunn Miller of Warwick R.I.

As I have already stated, Abby  
Wicks married Capt. William  
Sands, - as I have heard my moth-  
er say, a handsome, intelligent  
and attractive man, but he  
forsook poor Aunt Abby who idolized  
him, leaving her to bring up her  
three children, William, Rag Thom-  
as and Ann Maynard in  
poverty and sorrow - The son  
William became a sea-captain  
like his father - married Ann  
- do - that is all I know about  
her except that I think they had  
one child