

Wm F. J. Boardman
Hartford
Conn

THE
HOLLISTER FAMILY
OF
AMERICA;

LIEUT. JOHN HOLLISTER
OF WETHERSFIELD, CONN.,
AND HIS DESCENDANTS.

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COMPILED BY
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74 FARMINGTON AVENUE,
HARTFORD, CONN.

CHICAGO:
FERGUS PRINTING COMPANY.

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Children:

- + 2361. Richard DeWitt Perry, b. Jan. 12, 1856; m. Jennie Swan, Oct. 17, 1883.
- 2362. Leone Perry, b. May 14, 1858; d. Nov. 23, 1858.
- 2363. Luene Perry, b. Nov. 2, 1859; d. Feb. 2, 1864.
- 2364. Mary Asenath Perry, b. Dec. 27, 1871.

(1069.) **Christopher Miner⁷ Spencer.**

(Asenath⁶ Hollister, Josiah⁵ Thomas⁴ Thomas³ John² John¹).

Christopher Miner⁷ son of Asenath⁶ Hollister and Ogden Spencer, was born in Manchester, Conn., June 20, 1833. In 1845, he went to live with his grandfather, Josiah⁵ Hollister, then 90 years of age, and here he first developed a fondness for mechanical work. His grandfather had an old foot-lathe, upon which the boy spent most of his spare time, turning out various fancy articles in wood. His Aunt Harriet often expressed her disapproval of this waste of time, and thought he could be more profitably engaged in chopping wood or something more practical; but his grandfather encouraged him, believing he would "make something yet." From early childhood he had a passion for fire-arms, and the first gun he owned was his grandfather's old musket, a Revolutionary relic, which he improved by sawing off the barrel with an old case-knife, converted into a saw by hacking it on the edge of an axe, little dreaming while remodeling the old flintstock that this branch of mechanical work was to form so large a part of his life-work. In 1847, he left his grandfather's farm and went to work at Cheney's silk-mill, and in 1848, entered on an eight-months' apprenticeship in the machine shop of Samuel Loomis at Manchester Centre. The following winter he went to school, and in the spring he served another eight-months' apprenticeship with Mr. Loomis, at the end of which time he entered the employ of Cheney Brothers, as journeyman machinist, where he remained about three years. During this period he made a good deal of experimental machinery, under the supervision of

Mr. Frank Cheney, whose kindly interest in the young man's mechanical ingenuity led him into the line of invention. In 1853, desiring to become better acquainted with the methods of different shops, he went to Rochester, N.Y., working six months in making machinist's tools, and six months in locomotive repairing. Returning to Hartford, Conn., he worked a year in the repair shops of the Colt Fire-arm Company, where he first conceived the idea of improvements in repeating fire-arms. Too close application to study and work impaired his health, and he was obliged to go home and rest for three months, when he again went to work for Cheney Bros., and soon after became superintendant of their machine shop. While with them he obtained his first patent on an automatic silk-winding machine, which they regarded as a great achievement, and manufactured a large number of them, paying him a royalty. He exhibited the device to the Willimantic Linen Company, and in company with Hezekiah Conant, who was then in the Company's employ, perfected a machine that was adopted by the Company for their entire system of thread-winding. Mr. Conant proposed to introduce it to Messrs. Coats Bros., of Belfast, Ireland, and wished Mr. Spencer to accompany him to England for that purpose, but the latter's greater interest in fire-arms, influenced him to remain at home and perfect the gun, that he had been at work upon during spare hours for several years. Through the kindness of Mr. Frank Cheney, he was offered every facility for successfully carrying forward the work, which resulted in his obtaining a patent on what was known as the "Spencer seven-shooter." The means for perfecting the model and obtaining the patent were advanced by Mr. Spencer's father, in return for which he was given a half-interest in all profits to be derived from the patent. Mr. Charles Cheney, of Cheney Brothers, became interested in it and at the outbreak of the Rebellion, a company was organized to manufacture the gun for war purposes, and in company with Mr.

Cheney, Mr. Spencer went to Washington with a sample of the gun, which was shown to the Hon. Gideon Welles, Sec'y of the Navy, who was an intimate friend of Mr. Cheney. A trial of the gun was ordered at the Washington Navy-Yard, at which one thousand rounds of ammunition was fired with the gun without cleaning, and a rapidity of twenty-one shots in sixty-two seconds obtained. The result of the trial was an order from the Navy Dep't for one thousand guns. The Cheney Bros. then purchased the patent, paying \$5000 and a royalty of one dollar on every gun manufactured. The Cheneys then united with Boston parties and organized a company for the manufacture of the guns, which was known as the Spencer Repeating Rifle Co. Half of the Chickering piano factory was secured, and an expenditure of half-a-million dollars made for machinery, etc. Mr. Spencer, in connection with Mr. Frank Cheney, went to Boston to superintend the works. Warren Fisher, Jr., treasurer of the company, obtained the assistance of the Hon. James G. Blaine, who prevailed upon the War Dept. to give an order for ten thousand. The first lot was used in arming some of the Mass., Conn., and Mich. Vols., who soon had ample occasion to put the new-arm to practical use, the successful and effective result of which is now a matter of history. From this time the demand for the new gun was so great that the company was taxed to its utmost limit, making about two hundred thousand guns, and so great was the demand that the Government gave the Burnside Rifle Co., of Providence, R.I., an order for thirty thousand, that company paying the Spencer Rifle Co., a royalty of three dollars a gun. In August, 1862, Mr. Spencer went to Washington, taking with him a rifle for presentation to President Lincoln, who was greatly interested with it and gave Mr. Spencer a very cordial reception. A practical test was made by Mr. Lincoln on the grounds below the White House toward the Potomac, the target being a rough board with a black bull's-eye two inches in

diameter. Mr. Lincoln fired the gun off-hand, doing good work, and the target was preserved by Mr. Spencer, who afterward sent it to the Historical Rooms at Springfield, Ill., where it now is. Ill-health compelled Mr. Spencer to relinquish this close application to the details of the business, and he took several trips in the interest of the company, visiting the armies in the field and instructing the soldiers in the use of the gun. He was at the headquarters of the Army of the Cumberland, in 1863, where he met Gen. Rosecrans and Col. Wilder of the 17th Ind. Vols., commanding the 1st Brigade Mounted Infantry, known as the "Hatchet Brigade," which at the colonel's request was furnished with the gun. From Murphreesboro, Mr. Spencer went via Louisville and Nashville to Cairo, and thence down the Mississippi to the mouth of the Yazoo, just above Vicksburg, where our gun-boats under command of Com. Foote were coöperating with Gen. Grant in the Siege of Vicksburg. His trip down the Mississippi was made on a Gov't Dispatch boat, he having been provided with letters from the Navy Dep't granting him every facility for access to the gun-boats, which were all provided with the Spencer rifles. He reached Vicksburg four days before the fleet ran the batteries, remained there one day, meeting Gen. Grant on board Com. Foote's flag-ship, and gave an exhibition of the rifle. Returning to Boston, he devoted his time to the further improvement of the gun until the close of the war, when the demand for the gun ceased, and the company sold its entire plant to the Winchester Repeating Arms Co., of New Haven, Ct., which thus put an end to a formidable rival to its own arm.

Mr. Spencer removed to Amherst, Mass., and in company with Mr. Henry F. Hills of that town, formed the Roper Repeating Arms Co., and engaged in making the Roper shot-gun, patented by S. H. Roper of Boston. The principle of the mechanism of this gun being defective the enterprise was abandoned, after about eighty-

thousand dollars and three-years time had been fruitlessly spent upon it. In 1869, Mr. Spencer joined with his father, purchased the entire plant of the company and moved the machinery to Hartford, where with Mr. Chas. E. Billings of that city, under the name of the Billings and Spencer Co., they began the manufacture of drop-forgings, sewing-machine shuttles, etc. The company is still in existence and one of the most successful and flourishing enterprises in Hartford. While here Mr. Spencer obtained a patent on a machine for automatically turning the spindles and heads of metal spools used in sewing-machine shuttles. This machine forms the complete spool from a coil of wire, straightening the wire and turning the ends, thereby reducing the cost of making eighty per cent. It is now used by all the sewing-machine companies. This invention suggested to Spencer's mind the idea of making the turret-screw machine, commonly used for turning metal screws from the wire to work automatically, and the careful study of the subject for a few weeks resulted in the perfection of his plan, and so confident was he of its practicability, that he took special pains to keep his invention a secret, and privately constructing a wooden model, he applied for a patent before making a working machine. The practical result of this invention was to largely reduce the cost of manufacture, one man being required to attend to from ten to fifteen machines, instead of one to each machine as before. Having obtained his patent, he first applied the device to a machine made by the Pratt & Whitney Co., of Hartford, then in use in the shop of the Billings & Spencer Co. The result was a complete success, and so great was his enthusiasm, that he determined to commence the manufacture of screws automatically as a new enterprise, and severing his connection with the company in 1874, he hired a room and set the first machine to work. New machines were put in as fast as they could be made, but his business increased faster than his ability to fill orders. Geo. A. Fairchild, supt. of the Weed Sewing Machine Co.,

became interested in the new enterprise and in company with David Groesbeck and Daniel Morell, both of New York City, furnished the capital for enlarging the business. In 1876, they formed the Hartford Machine Screw Co., with a capital of \$40,000, of which Mr. Spencer was supt. Business was carried on by them in a portion of the Weed sewing-machine factory for three years, when having outgrown its quarters, the company decided to build a place suitable for its growing needs. The result was the establishment of one of the largest business enterprises in the City of Hartford, with a plant valued at \$400,000. It operates 350 machines, and the leading manufacturers of machinery throughout the country have generally adopted its use. The field for this business being so large, a company was organized in 1882, and established at Elyria, O., to operate the machine in the Western States.

During all these years of excessive work Spencer's mind was still inclined to the improvement of fire-arms, and in 1882, in connection with his old friend S. H. Roper of Boston, determined to produce a repeating-gun that should excel all others in rapidity of firing. The first feature he insisted on was that the gun should be capable of being continually fired without removing it from the shoulder. The right hand always being in use to grasp the stock of the gun, it naturally occurred to them that in whatever system they adopted the left-hand must be employed to manipulate the reloading. The result of their mutual study and experiments was what is now known as the Spencer Repeating Shot-gun, for which they obtained joint patents in April, 1882. Their system was also adapted to a military rifle, and their model was subjected to practical tests before a Board appointed by the Sec'y of War under an appropriation of Congress for the inspection of repeating-arms. The result of this in every respect exceptionally severe test, was a complete success for the rifle, a rapidity of firing being attained of eighty-six shots in two minutes, or more than double that of the old Spencer seven-shooter. The

models were shown to New-York parties who became interested in the gun, and in May, 1883, a company was formed for their manufacture, of which Mr. Spencer is treasurer and general-manager. It is known as the Spencer Arms Co., has a capital of \$400,000 and its works are located at Windsor, Conn. In July, 1883, Mr. Spencer in company with the president, L. A. Bartlett of New-York City, and Mr. Albert Bierstadt, the artist, who was one of the stockholders, visited Europe and exhibited the rifle to the military authorities of England, France, Germany, Austria, Italy, and Denmark, with uniform success. Since its organization the company has been principally engaged in the manufacture of shot-guns. Several thousand of which are in use in the United States, and other parts of the world. The gun has an established reputation among sportsmen, and has recently found a new use, in the quelling of riots, being better adapted for that purpose than rifles. The U.-S. Government recently purchased several hundred, which were delivered to the Ohio State authorities, on a requisition of the governor, for arming a portion of the Ohio militia.

C. M. Spencer married¹ 1st, Theodora Peck, June, 1860. She died without issue Nov. 7, 1881, and he married 2d, Georgette Taylor Rogers of Norwich, Conn., July 3, 1883. She was born there Oct. 2, 1859, and is a daughter of Geo. W. Rogers and Fanny L. Taylor, who were both born in Orleans, Mass.

Child of C. M. and Georgette T. Spencer:

2365. Vestâ Spencer, b. at Windsor, Ct., Aug. 5, 1884.

(1070.) **Wilbur Fiske⁷ Spencer.**

(Asenath⁶ Hollister, Josiah⁵ Thomas,⁴ Thomas³ John² John¹).

Wilbur Fiske⁷ son of Asenath⁶ Hollister and Ogden Spencer, was born in S. Manchester, Conn., April 26, 1835.

He married Mary Bennett, daughter of Sira Bennett of Glastonbury, Conn., July, 1857. Child:

+2366. Ernestine Spencer, b. March 22, 1859; m. Charles Wesley Cooper, Aug. 1, 1878.

(1071.) **Mary Jane⁷ Spencer (Strong).**

(Asenath⁶ Hollister, Josiah⁵ Thomas⁴ Thomas³ John² John¹).

Mary Jane⁷ daughter of Asenath⁶ Hollister and Ogden Spencer, was born in S. Manchester, Conn., July 18, 1837. She married, Sept. 23, 1858, Judson Noah Strong, son of Noah Strong of Bolton, Conn. He was born in Bolton, July 20, 1830. They reside in Camden, N.Y., where he is a commission merchant and deputy postmaster since 1882.

Children:

- 2367. Grace Foote Strong, b. in Chicago, Ill., Jan. 29, 1860; m. Edward Carroll Case, June 16, 1886.
- 2368. Edward Ogden Strong, b. Oct. 7, 1861, in Chicago, Ill.
- 2369. Arthur Judson Strong, b. Aug. 5, 1865, in Camden, N.Y.

(1072.) **Emma Frances⁷ Spencer (Herriott).**

(Asenath⁶ Hollister, Josiah⁵ Thomas⁴ Thomas³ John² John¹).

Emma Frances⁷ daughter of Asenath⁶ Hollister and Ogden Spencer, was born in S. Manchester, Conn., June 20, 1841. She married George Herriott, son of Reuben Randolph Herriott of New-York State, April 7, 1869. They reside in Hartford, Conn.

Children:

- 2370. Maude Howard Herriott, b. Jan. 17, 1870; d. Jan. 19, 1870.
- 2371. Reuben Randolph Herriott, b. Oct. 4, 1872.
- 2372. William Howard Herriott, b. Aug. 24, 1878.