

David E. Spence had a nephew Roy S. Hamilton.
The original letter is in the possession of Warren Raymond Spence of
23 Altair Ave. Ottawa Ontario K1K 0L7 Canada

The following letter - 1959 - Dave of Sheborne to Roy Spence of Toronto.
Mr. W.R. Spence Toronto, Ont.

Dear Mr. Spence:

I was pleased indeed to receive such an interesting letter in answer to my note. From what you said in it, it is evident that we come from the same stock. Did it ever strike you that our family is inclined to be clannish.? The reason is not far to seek, for we were originally Lowland Scots, and accounts for the reason why I wrote you in the first place.

In case you are not conversant with the early history of the family perhaps I can fill in some of it. Many years ago, the late Dave Spence of Parkdale (someone wrote "in Toronto" in the margin of the letter) engaged people to search the records, and their investigation reached back almost 300 years, and proved that the Spence's are a branch of clan MACDUFF, in fact, John (my brother) and I have neckcloths of the clan MACDUFF and tissue of the plaid, which is a fiery red, and of the hunting tartan which is a dark green. We also have the cap badge which is an animal something like a unicorn rampant with the motto DEUS JUVAT. (But are ignorant of its meaning).

At the time of the border wars, and their eventual defeat, many of the Scots were forced to flee to the low countries, and some Spences fled with them. The earliest individual they located was a young officer in the army of William of Orange, later William III of Britain. During the war in Ireland, the army of James II was looting and burning many towns, and one night while one of these towns were burning and the inhabitants escaping in their nightclothes, a beautiful young girl was befriended by our ancestor who put his cloak on her and took her to a place of safety - and later married her, which was the beginning of our family in Ireland. After the war each soldier was given a grant of land, and Spence's are living on that land today (1959). This grant was known as "Forever land", and no matter what happened, no one but a Spence could ever own it.

In 1911, when troops went over to the coronation of George V, John was one of the two from the 36th Peel Battalion, and he went across to Ireland and met many relatives - many times removed. He was in the house in which our Grandfather was born in 1818. He also took many pictures and learned what he could about the country and family. The old homestead is in Armagh County, near Market Hill, Newry, etc.

I would have answered your letter much sooner, but I wanted to show it to John who knows a great deal more than I do about our family, but he went to spend Christmas with a nephew - another Roy - in London and is not home yet.

If either John or I had a decent home I would suggest that we have a get-together in the Spring, when he could really tell you a great deal more than I ever could, but we are both batching and both keep horrible dens, but it is my hope that we can arrange something for we are both intensely interested in anything pertaining to the name of Spence.

Thanks for writing, and it is my hope that we may meet before too long and go into a huddle over family affairs.

Sincerely yours,

(signed)

Dave Spence