

and Matthias, and John and Robert Speed. And no abler or more influential people took part in the development of Western New York in the first years of this century than the families of Dr. Joseph Speed and Henry Speed.

Without flattery, but only as a statement of a fact, it may be said the qualities which belonged to the old Virginia family, and their children, continue to be displayed by their descendants to this day. The same cheerful courage and spirit of independence; the same disposition to attend to their own affairs and faithfully recognize the obligations of duty; the same disposition to make the best use of opportunity without craving notoriety; the same enjoyment of the esteem and respect of their fellow-men in every community where they live, is distinctly observable.

And the same patriotic spirit which sent an entire family into the war of the Revolution has been displayed in later times. Their country's cause was upheld in the second war with England, by Major Thomas Speed and his brother, John, and their nephew, Thomas Speed, and Colonel John Speed Smith. In the Mexican war were Speed Smith Fry and Green Clay Smith. In the last great struggle of the Civil war those who participated in one capacity or another, would make a noteworthy list of about fifty.

It is not with vanity that these observations are made, nor is it with any undue pride that the records contained in this book are thus published for the use of the family. The object intended is to preserve from oblivion the family history. Traditions fade away and letters and manuscripts perish. The printed volume is the only means that will prevent such history from becoming vague and indistinct, and ultimately passing away. The object, too, is to bring to the attention of the younger members of the family, the strong characteristics and worthy lives of their ancestors. Regard for our own forefathers is as commendable as patriotic regard for the fathers of our country. It is proper that we should know who our ancestors were, where they lived, and what they did, that we, ourselves, and generations yet to come, may be inspired to emulate the good which was in those who have gone before.