

William Spencer

William Spencer is listed in the muster of 1625 as having reached Virginia aboard the *Sarah* probably in 1611. He, his wife Alice and 4 year old daughter Alice were living at Jamestown in 1625, and appear to have been relatively well off owning two houses and a boat. An ancient planter, he had received in August 1624 as part of his first dividend a patent for 12 acres at James City. This was described as "a narrow ridge towards Goose Hill between two marshes, the one on the easterly side parting it from the land of Sir Thomas Dale". As recently as 1900 Goose Hill was still a name in use there.

Land was again that which left a trail through the records. In 1629 the General Court authorized William Spencer to acquire 400 acres "any place not already taken up." In 1632 (250 acres on the west side of Lawnes Creek at its mouth), 1635 (1100 acres on Lawnes creek next to his earlier parcel in exchange for 22 named servants' headrights), and 1637 three separate land patents gave him a total of 1900 acres south of the James bordering Lawnes Creek.

William Spencer was listed as a burgess for Mulberry Island in 1623 and again on 1 February, 1633.

His children included: a son, William, listed at the time of the 1625 muster as being among the dead at Jamestown, Alice age 4 at that time, and Elizabeth and Anne. Elizabeth married as his second wife, Major Robert Sheppard who had patented 300 acres on Chippoakes Creek in 1635 and who was a burgess for James City County, 1646-1648. He died before 5 July 1654. Anne married William Cockerham who had gained 1100 acres in Surry County with the hand of his wife,. He later served as colonel of militia and also as a burgess for Surry County during the period December 1662 to 1665, dying before May 1669.

References:

1. "Adventurers of Purse and Person Virginia 1607 - 1624/5", 4th Edition, Vol 3; John Frederick Dorman; Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, MD, 2007
2. Henings Statutes at Large, Vol 1, p 203.
3. Virginia Magazine of History and Biography: Vol 1, p89; Vol 2, p189; Vol 3, pp275-6; Vol 30, p272.
4. William and Mary College Quarterly, Series 1, Vol 9, pp12,13.