

Dear Madam

SPERINGE FAMILY, GOLDSMITHS, 16-17TH CENTURY

Thank you for your letter of 6 November concerning possible ancestors of your family, the Spearins.

I have the following information on Nicholas and George Sperynge who may be related to your family:

1. Nicholas Sperynge

On 28 January 1564 he was described as the late apprentice of one of the Wardens, William Fox, when he paid 3 shillings and took his oath as a freeman of the Company. He paid 2s 6d for the presentment of his apprentice, George Sperynge, on 24 May 1568. Another apprentice, John Moseley, was turned over to Michael Abdie for his whole term, Sperynge paying the fee of 2s 6d for his presentment on 17 February 1576. A third apprentice, Thomas Grainger(?) was presented on 28 January 1577, his master paying the usual fee.

2. George Sperynge

Apprenticed as above in 1568, his master asked the Wardens on 5 March 1574 for a letter from them to the Merchant Adventurers in Flanders for the freedom of his apprentice which was granted. On 18 January 1577, George, a 'servant' with Nicholas Sperynge paid his 3 shillings and was sworn and made free of the Company.

The Court Minutes are missing from 1579-1592 and the notes to which I have referred peter out in the later part of the sixteenth century. There is no evidence for our apprenticeship records which survive from 1578 that either of the Sperynges took apprentices. There is no further evidence of the freedom of members of that family in our index of freemen and apprentices but I have found further references in the Court Minutes from 1600-1619 which

Summary of Comments on Goldsmiths Company letter 1998.pdf

Page: 1

Author: Administrator Subject: Sticky Note Date: 23/04/2010 11:04:39

this must be George the Elder's brother, as mentioned in his will of 1610. This Nicholas died before 1610 and from Bob's gedcom was born about 1543, 15 years before his brother George.

Author: Administrator Subject: Sticky Note Date: 15/04/2012 21:27:21

So Nicholas had his younger brother as an apprentice. George would have been only 10 years old (if born in 1558) which is very young for an apprentice! Are we sure about these dates? where do they come from? I'll have to ask in the Goldsmiths Library if this is possible from what we know ...

Author: Administrator Subject: Sticky Note Date: 23/04/2010 11:21:46

In 1574, George would have been 16 years old. It appears that he first needed to be freed from the Merchant Adventurers of Flanders, and then 3 years later, became a freeman (=member) of the Company of Goldsmiths (aged 19). Check out Wikipedia at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Company_of_Merchant_Adventurers_of_London

are appended. From 1619-1637 there are no indexed references to the Sperrynges. I suggest that when you know the dates of your visit to London in October 1999 you write, or telephone, to make an appointment. The library is open from Monday to Friday, from 10am to 5pm.

I also enclose a brief history of the Goldsmiths' Company by Susan Hare, my predecessor, and a leaflet on the Company.

Yours faithfully

David Beasley
Librarian

Encls.

This page contains no comments

SPERINGE REFERENCES 1592-1619

Court Book O, part II, p.118, 20 June 1600

Spering makes known abuses in the sale of 'stuffe' by Ravenscrofte and others to bakers to the detriment of the poor of the City. Richard Martin will inform the Lord Mayor and Alderman.

Court Book O, part II, p.379, 3 December 1604

Nicholas Spering was made free by patrimony and paid 4 shillings.

Court Book O, part III, p.446, 16 May 1606

Nicholas Spering set down to have one of Lady Ramsey's £50 (possibly as a loan).

Court Book O, part III, p.517, 8 May 1607

Nicholas Spering set down to have the lease of his garden renewed.

Court Book O, part III, p.519, 22 May 1607

Nicholas Spering to have the lease of his garden without Bishopsgate gratis (i.e. free) without paying a fine, for 30 years.

Court Book O, part III, p.616 (620), 13 April 1609

Mr. Bereblock and Mr. Spering, Assistants, are appointed to consider with the Wardens 'the passage of that business' (not clear what the business was - possibly the Plantation in Ulster?) and 'to compound' if they see fit or otherwise to refer it again to the Court of Assistants.

Court Book P, part I, fo.159v., 7 November 1617

Nicholas Spering appointed Reuter (to collect Company's rents).

Court Book P, fo.196r., 7 April 1619

Details of his accounts as Renter, although £8-£9 of rent uncollected for the good performance of his office the Company were to 'make an allowance into him of fine pde which he thankfully accepted'. (I do not quite understand this - it might be £5 but that was usually written as '5^l', the second word looks like a contraction for 'paid'.

- Author: Administrator Subject: Sticky Note Date: 15/04/2012 21:28:11
Probably George the Elder? or his brother Nicholas if still alive.
- Author: Administrator Subject: Sticky Note Date: 15/04/2012 21:28:16
This is probably the first son of George the Elder (hence the "patrimony"?). He would have been about 22 in 1604 (Bob's gedcom has his birthdate as 1582).
- Author: Administrator Subject: Sticky Note Date: 15/04/2012 21:28:24
the following Nicholas's could be either Nicholas, brother of George, or Nicholas, son of George.
- Author: Administrator Subject: Sticky Note Date: 23/04/2010 12:01:37
Check out Wikipaedia for Plantations of Ireland. The Goldsmiths were one of 12 Companies who helped orchestrate the Plantation of Ulster. Could it be that they later had a hand in the (re)plantation of Munster (including Limerick & Rathkeale)? Are there any records of Spering's becoming Planters? I need to ask the Librarian about this ...
- Author: Administrator Subject: Sticky Note Date: 15/04/2012 21:29:52
This is Nicholas, son of George, because brother Nicholas died before 1610 (according to George the Elder's will of 1610).