

the family to trace their descent, and determine the relationship which exists among the various branches.

It will be observed that this book contains the history of the Speed family during the entire period it has been in America—a period of two hundred years. With this past history now furnished, all who desire to do so can, from this time, preserve their own respective descent on the lines given.

The plan of the book is such as to enable the reader to find what it contains even without the use of the index. Each one of the children of John Speed and Mary Taylor, his wife, is regarded as the ancestor of a separate branch, and the descendants of that branch are given connectedly before another is taken up.

It is, perhaps, proper to explain that the space occupied by the Louisville family is naturally considerable, for the reasons that it is numerically large and the acquaintance of the author with all its members.

The publication is solely for private circulation among the members of the family. This fact justifies the remark that, as a general thing, the Speed people have possessed many excellent and worthy characteristics. They have stood well in every community where they have lived, and, by industry and integrity, have made the name respected everywhere, so that all who bear it have a good passport and are presumed to be worthy. They are generally independent and self-reliant, and depend more upon substantial qualities than upon display. Some of the family have achieved more than ordinary distinction, but ostentation is unknown. There is an evident partiality for the name shown not only in words spoken and written, but in the noticeable frequency it appears as a given name.

A widely dispersed and numerous body of people now bear the Speed name or belong to its lineage. The publication of these records ought to have the effect to impress all, who are thus included, that they have a good inheritance and family connection, and it should stimulate them, especially the young, to so live as to reflect credit upon those to whom they are allied by the ties of kinship.