

## JOHN SPEED, THE HISTORIAN.

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John Speed, of England, the historian, geographer and antiquarian, was born at Farrington, in the county of Cheshire, in the year 1552. Edward Sixth was then upon the English throne. It was six years before the accession of Elizabeth and sixty-eight years before the Mayflower brought the Pilgrims to Plymouth Rock. In the same year, 1552, Walter Raleigh was born. One year later Shakespeare was born. America was then a solitude. Adventurous voyagers were only hovering about her coasts. Fifty-three years later the settlement at Jamestown was made, and one hundred and forty-three years later a descendant of John Speed, bearing the name of James Speed, left England and settled in the eastern part of Virginia

This ancient John Speed lived in London, and the principal feature of his life was his great work, the History of England. But he was the author of other works besides of almost equal interest. His first publication he called "A Cloud of Witnesses," being a tabulated account of the Scripture genealogies. This was in 1593. He next published "A Defence of the Holy Genealogies."

He next published a book of maps of England and Wales. This work he immediately enlarged in a much more extensive form and entitled it "The Theater of the Empire of Great Brittain, Presenting an exact Geography of the Kyngdoms of England, Scotland and Ireland and the Isles adjoining, with the Shires, Hundreds, Cities and Shire Towns within the Kyngdom of England, Divided and Described by John Speed."

This book of maps became a part of his Historie, or rather, the Historie was written as a completion of his entire scheme which he called the "The Theater of the Empire of Great Brittain." He also published another book of