

**Chapter 00788    3/11/1864**

**THOMAS MOURISON SPEER**

6/19/1828—9/29/1864 (36)

**and**

**Mary Jane Vanderhoof**

Fairfield NJ

George Pearce branch #5 generation #4.

Thomas is the 1st cousin of husband (Josiah Speer) of  
granddaughter (Mary Ann Pearce) of Henry Pearce #1



2/16/2025



## Relationship: Henry PEARCE to Thomas Mourison SPEER

Thomas Mourison SPEER is the 1st cousin of husband of granddaughter of Henry PEARCE

Self

 <b>Henry PEARCE</b> b: Jul/25/1725 Scotland or St Just Parish, Cornwall, England d: Jul/08/1788 Fairfield, NJ 1		 <b>Elizabeth Lucinda SPEAR</b> b: May/06/1737 Paisley, Renfrewshire, England d: Oct/16/1814 Fairfield, NJ 1
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Son

 <b>George PEARCE</b> b: Jan/05/1779 Fairfield, NJ d: Nov/15/1853 2	
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Father-in-law of granddaughter

 <b>Richard "Major" SPEER</b> b: Apr/19/1778 Fairfield, NJ d: Aug/03/1838 5
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Granddaughter

 <b>Mary Ann PEARCE</b> b: Oct/11/1804 Fairfield, NJ d: Jan/18/1894 3	
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Grandparent of husband of granddaughter

 <b>Thomas Theunis SPEER</b> b: 1753 North Caldwell, NJ d: Jun/26/1829 6
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Husband of granddaughter

 <b>Josiah SPEER</b> b: Apr/02/1803 Fairfield, NJ d: Mar/22/1877 4
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Uncle of husband of granddaughter

 <b>John T. SPEER</b> b: Jan/15/1783 Caldwell, NJ d: Feb/26/1865 7
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1st cousin of husband of granddaughter

 <b>Thomas Mourison SPEER</b> b: Jun/19/1828 d: Sep/29/1864 8
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## Relationship: Jans 'John' Spier to Thomas Mourison SPEER

Thomas Mourison SPEER is the 6th great grandson of Jans 'John' Spier **8th Speer generation**


Self

 <p><b>Jans 'John' Spier</b> b: Abt. 1572 Goey in Artoys d: <b>1</b></p>	 <p><b>Marguerite de Hennion</b> b: Abt. 1575 d: <b>1</b></p>
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Son

 <p><b>Jans 'John' Spier</b> b: Jan/02/1600 Amsterdam, Noord-Holland, Netherlands d: Amsterdam, Noord-Holland, Netherlands</p>
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3rd great grandson

 <p><b>Theunis SPEAR</b> b: Abt. 1709 Second River (Belleville), NJ d: Mar/21/1787 <b>5</b></p>
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Grandson

 <p><b>Hendrick Jansen Spier</b> b: 1625 Bremen, Germany d: Sep/04/1674 Jersey City, NJ <b>2</b></p>
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4th great grandson

 <p><b>Thomas Theunis SPEER</b> b: 1753 North Caldwell, NJ d: Jun/26/1829 <b>6</b></p>
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Great grandson

 <p><b>John Hendricks 'Hans' SPIER</b> b: Apr/08/1663 Passaic County, NJ d: Jul/13/1726 NJ <b>3</b></p>
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5th great grandson

 <p><b>John T. SPEER</b> b: Jan/15/1783 Caldwell, NJ d: Feb/26/1865 <b>7</b></p>
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2nd great grandson

 <p><b>Hendrick Hause SPIER</b> b: Oct/05/1685 Jersey City, NJ d: May/25/1751 Fairfield, NJ <b>4</b></p>
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6th great grandson

 <p><b>Thomas Mourison SPEER</b> b: Jun/19/1828 d: Sep/29/1864 <b>8</b></p>	
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**“He who does great deeds, does them from innate sensitiveness to moral beauty.”**

**1863 Poet Walt Whitman (6).**

The moral beauty was to keep the Union together and outlaw slavery with authority by the Federal government. The Southern cry of States Rights meant continued slavery for current and new states.

**Thomas Speer** did not need to re-enlist since he previously served in the **NJ 26th Infantry Regiment Company D** 9-month unit that had lackluster experiences. With clear weather the day after Christmas 1863, Fairfield skaters might have enjoyed ice skating and snow sled-ding. Tom had another matter on his mind.

Tom travelled to the Morristown NJ Army recruitment office to join the new **NJ 1st Light Artillery Regiment Battery E** 3-year unit, sometimes called NJ 5th Battery. Age 35, Tom was 12 years older than the Fairfield Gettysburg vets but healthy as an ox. The Bounty enlistment bonus ceased in 2 weeks. He received \$300 bounty, comparable to a citizen's annual wage and \$15 a month Army pay. (7)



There was economic risk to consider since a deceased soldier's wife only received \$13 per month pension in a time when housing/food combined cost \$30 per month. Skilled jobs for women were scarce.

At Morristown, 12/29/1863, Mary watched Tom mustered in for the chilly train ride to **Camp Barry**, located 2 miles east of the White House in Washington DC. His country to save. They would be apart 1863 New

Year's Eve. (8)



Tom was assigned to Battery B but reassigned on 2/2/1864 to the new Battery E at Camp Barry. There was a pond for horses and open ground for cannon maneuvers. (9) (10)

Battery "B" Fairfield friends moved 65 miles southwest at Brandy Station Virginia.



Tom practiced in the March 1864 cold. Usually, 6 horses were attached to a 2-wheel Limber that had a rear hitch that attached to the field artillery. The caisson carried 2 ammunition chests and a spare wheel. There were 3

drivers on the left side horses. (11)



Wed. 3/9/1864 camp news was about the Ulysses S. “Sam” **Grant** promotion to Lt. General as overall Union military commander; the highest Army rank since George Washington. Hard rain the next 2 days confined the men to cold simple tents. Battery E men reflected on imminent battles.



Grant’s aggressive attrition policy wore down Confederate General Lee’s resources. Grant’s intense policy was key to ending the war and slavery. In 4 years, 679,000 people died from both sides which is equivalent to 7.5 million in 2013. 62% deaths were from infections or disease such as measles, small pox, bad drinking water, dysentery, TB or bad meat.



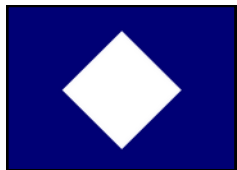
Two days later, 3/11/1864, the energized camp started practice on the wet field. Tom got his horse team ready. (12)

Suddenly, an ornery horse kicked Tom’s left leg just below the knee, shattering a bone and traumatizing soft tissue. 2012 medical journals document a person could go into cardiac arrest from such a kick.



Tom hobbled for a month but 4/17/1864 was sent to the nearby **Camp Barry** (above) tent hospital in great pain.

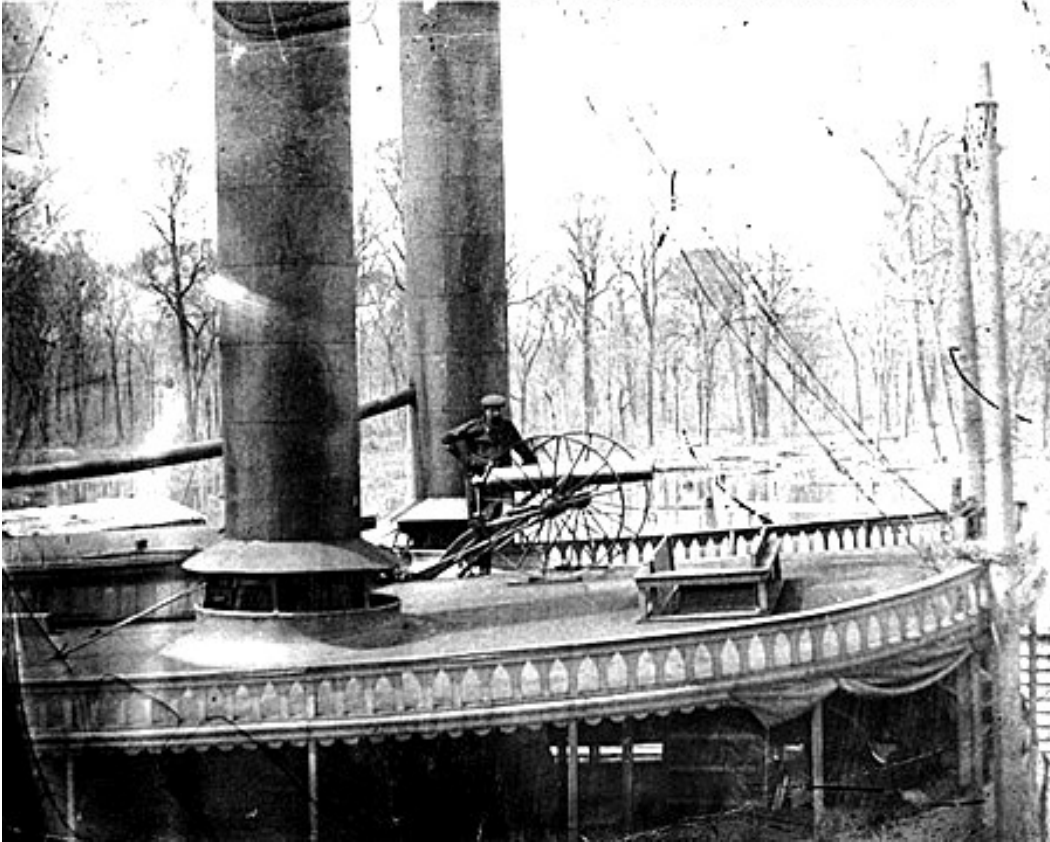
4/22/1864, Battery E friends said farewell to Thomas before they went to war.



The **Zenas Warren's Battery E** was detached to 10th Army Corps 2nd Division but allowed to keep their famous **White Diamond** 3rd Corps badge. (10)

The patch was worn on the Battery E hat to help officers keep track of their troops.

Photo # NH 53866 12-Pounder howitzer on upper deck of USS General Lyon



Tom transferred 4/28/1864 to General Hospital—Wash. DC, then 2 days later admitted to Lincoln Hospital-DC and 5/9/1864 went back to General Hospital.

The next day, he was carried aboard the Hospital transport ship **General Lyon** (above), a 390-ton side-wheel river steamer . (13)

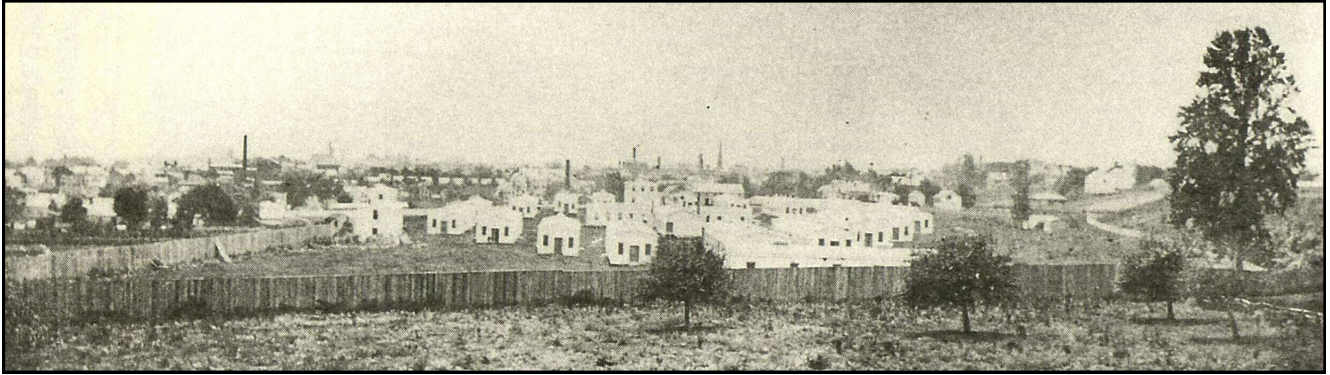
Destination Lovell Hospital, Portsmouth Grove, Rhode Island. They were desperately trying to save his left leg from amputation.



5/11/1864, “There were 699 disabled soldiers” brought to **Lovell Hospital Rhode Island**. (14) (15)

Four days later, Tom’s cousin-in-law LT **Joseph Condit Baldwin** died at a Spotsylvania VA battle. Thomas Speer was a 1st cousin one time removed of **Mary Speer**, Baldwin’s wife. Thomas and Mary shared lineage to Thomas Theunis SPEER (1753-1829) and his wife Mary 'Maria' MOURISON (1758-1846).

The next 3 months did not heal the leg. **The leg mortified**. On 9/1/1864, It was time to bring Tom closer to his Little Falls and Fairfield NJ family.



Arriving 9/6/1864 at the Marcus Ward Hospital at Newark NJ. (16), Tom kept his condition and location from worried family, wanting to come home with 2 legs.

Wife **Mrs. Mary Jane Vanderhoof Speer**, age 19, learned that Tom was at Ward Hospital **20 days later**. Her letter's show her immediate long journey to Newark NJ. She describes Tom in great pain.

3 days later, 9/29/1864, Private Thomas Speer died age 35.



The Army classified his death as a heart attack. Despite Mary's legal challenges, the Army would not grant a war pension for a heart attack. Typically, \$12 to \$20 per month.

They were married 28 months but the 2 war tours only gave them **9 months** together. Tom's mother died 2 months and father 5 months after Tom.

Age 20, Mary was alone without a war pension, job or family. Four years later, at age 24, Mary was still widowed. I do not know if she remarried.



At the **Fairfield Dutch Reformed Churchyard (FDRC)**, Thomas M. Speer 1864 tombstone epitaph was written by his 20 year old wife Mrs. Mary Jane Vanderhoof Speer.

***My husband has gone.  
His country to save.  
And now he lies low.***



Thomas M. Speer tombstone  
view of church.



*2003 Glen: A person wants to leave a legacy of truth beyond materialism, to show the next generation.*

*Tom Speer did it.*

2003 Glen Pierce: I mentioned to the FDRC yard leader **Glenn Schneider** that I was working on the Tom Speer story. He immediately said that he knew the tombstone location. We left the church coffee hour and walked to the far back left cemetery. There was a huge tree and a crumbled tombstone. Over the years, when cutting the lawn, Schneider carefully kept the pieces together.

It paid off. This was Tom Speer's grave. I drove from Fairfield NJ to Washington DC to the Dept of Veteran Affairs National Graves located at 810 Vermont Ave NW - room 402E. for a new stone.

After the new tombstone arrived, the minister recommended that I chainsaw the huge tree by myself and remove the debris. Installing the heavy stone was hard. A year later, my friend Phil Epifanio improved the installation.

*I wonder how **Mary Jane** made out in life. She is not buried there.*

6- Walt Whitman, "Talk to an Art-union". 7- "Remember you are Jersey men" 1998 book by Bilby and Goble. 8- Library of Congress (LOB) Wash DC. Matt Morgan 1886 poster "Goodbye-God Spare You".

9- LOB, Camp Barry photo 10- "History of Battery B, 1st NJ Artillery" 1905 book by Corporal Michael Hanifen. 11- Horse artillery painting by Frederic Remington. 12- LOB, Horses 1864 sketch by Edwin Forbes .

13- LOB, General Lyon ship photo 14- LOB, Lovell Hospital—Portsmouth, RI hospital buildings along bay. 15- Providence Evening Press, 5/12/1864.

16- Marcus Ward Hospital—Centre Street, Newark, NJ between the NJ railroad and Passaic River surrounded by a wooden fence.