

# Nova Scotia Archives

## **Finding Aid - Spicer family fonds (Accession Nos. 1997-174/007-014 ; 2007-013 ; 2008-055 ; and 2009-046.)**

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Generated by Access to Memory (AtoM) 2.3.1 Printed: July 21, 2017

Language of description: English

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# Spicer family fonds

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## Summary information

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**Repository:** Nova Scotia Archives

**Title:** Spicer family fonds

**ID:** Accession Nos. 1997-174/007-014 ; 2007-013 ; 2008-055 ; and 2009-046.

**Date:** 1873-1948 (date of creation)

**Physical description:** \* 2.2 m of textual records  
\* 48 photographs and other material

**Dates of creation,  
revision and deletion:**

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

Jacob Spicer (1821-1896), descendant of Loyalist Lt. Robert Spicer and Priscilla (Chomondelay) Spicer, inherited the family land at Spencers Island, Cumberland County, Nova Scotia and married Mary Reid of Advocate Harbour in 1846. They had the following children: George (1846-1937, m. Emily Jane and had five children: Minnie, Lawrence, Percy, Emily, George, and Stanley), Almira, Johnson, Antoinette, Robert, Dewis (1857-1936, m. Emma Baker Parsons in 1879 and had six children: Wylie, Philip, May L., Wilena Jean, E. Carlyle and Gertrude), Maria, Edmund, Ellen, Kempton, and Blanche (1869-1956, m. Captain Levi Atkins of Greenborough in 1889 and had four children). Jacob and Mary Spicer's four sons, George, Johnson, Dewis and Edmund, were all master mariners and became known throughout the area as the "Big Four".

### Custodial history

Family records and artefacts were found in the Spicer family home when it was purchased by Harold Lister of Parrsboro, Nova Scotia. The first accession in 1997 was purchased from Lister as part of a joint acquisition with the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. The 2007 and 2009 accessions were also purchased from Lister, the latter through a bequest from the late Wendy L. Thorpe. The 2008 accession was transferred to the Nova Scotia Archives from the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic; it was formerly in the possession of Stanley Spicer, who received the items from other family members as well as John C. Crowe and Capt. John Parker.

## Scope and content

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Fonds consists of correspondence, diaries, and other records created and accumulated by the Spicer family, the majority of which relate to Captain Dewis Spicer. Includes letters from his family and business associates, 1873-1918, and his diaries, 1876-1936, describing his life at sea and at home including daily weather and activities. After his death in March 1936, the diaries were briefly continued by daughter Gretchen, followed by son Earl Carlyle ("Carl") until 1948. Other records in the fonds include two diaries of Emma Spicer kept while at sea with her husband in 1880 and 1882; correspondence between Spicer family members, including letters from Dewis to Emily and letters written by Carl Spicer to his parents during the First World War; notebook of poems and songs; financial records; pamphlets and other published material; certificates and other personal documents; ephemera; and photographs of ships and Spicer family and friends. Other family members represented in the fonds include Jacob Spicer, Wylie Spicer, Johnson Spicer, and George Spicer. Fonds also includes shipping documents relating to ships Colchester, Savona and Charles S. Whitney, along with related documentation. Some of the records document the wages of the sailors on the vessels, provide details about towage and dry dock work, and give information about the ownership of the ships.

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## Notes

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### Title notes

### Physical condition

Includes: 41 photographs and 7 negatives.

### Arrangement

The items are arranged chronologically where possible.

### Related material

Records relating to Dewis Spicer and his shipping activities can also be found in the Spencers Island Company fonds. Related records also exist in the George D. Spicer fonds.

### Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published

## Access points

- Spicer, Dewis, 1857-1936 (subject)

## Series descriptions

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
1997-174/007-001	File - Dewis Spicer's Master Certificate 1879 and receipts for Government Marine School	1877, 1879		
1997-174/007-002	File - Photographs of Captain Dewis Spicer			
1997-174/007-003 - 1997-174/007-004	File - Photographs of family, friends and ships			
1997-174/007-005	File - Book of poetry and songs written by Dewis and Emily Spicer, 1874-1879.	1874-1879		
1997-174/007-006 - 1997-174/007-034	File - Receipts 1884-1910	1884-1910		
1997-174/007-035	File - Physicians Prescriptions 1883;1893-1894	1883		
1997-174/007-036	File - Survey of Timber shipped by Dewis Spicer and J.N. Spicer, 1901-1902	1901 - 1902		
1997-174/007-037	File - List of Saloon Passengers on the R.M.S. Labrador, 31 January 1895. Captain Dewis Spicer was on board	31 Jan 1895		
1997-174/007-038	File - Newspaper clippings concerning the burning of the ship Stephen D. Horton and assault			
1997-174/008-001	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary	1876		
1997-174/008-002	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary	1880		
1997-174/008-003	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary	1881		
1997-174/008-004	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary	1882		
1997-174/008-005	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary on the bark J.F. Whitney	1883		
1997-174/008-006	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary at Spencer's Island, Nova Scotia	1884		
1997-174/008-007	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary on the ship E.J. Spicer	1885		
1997-174/008-008	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary on the ship E.J. Spicer	1886		
1997-174/008-009	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary on the ship E.J. Spicer	1887		
1997-174/008-010	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary on the ship E.J. Spicer at Amsterdam	1888		
1997-174/008-011	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary	1889		
1997-174/008-012	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary on the ship E.J. Spicer	1890		

1997-174/008-013	File - Captain Dewis Spicer accounts and diary	1890-1891 ; 1896
1997-174/009-001	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary on the ship C.S. Whitney	1892
1997-174/009-002	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary on the ship C.S. Whitney	1893
1997-174/009-003	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary on the ship C.S. Whitney	1894
1997-174/009-004	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary on the ship Glooscap	1899
1997-174/009-005	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary	1900
1997-174/009-006	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary	1902 - 1903
1997-174/009-007	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary	1903 - 1904
1997-174/009-008	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary	1904 - 1905
1997-174/009-009	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary	1905
1997-174/009-010	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary	1906
1997-174/010-001	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary	1907
1997-174/010-002	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary	1908
1997-174/010-003	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary	1909 - 1910
1997-174/010-004	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary	1910
1997-174/010-005	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary	1911
1997-174/010-006	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary	1912
1997-174/010-007	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary	1913
1997-174/010-008	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary	1914
1997-174/011-001	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary	1915
1997-174/011-002	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary	1916
1997-174/011-003	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary	1917
1997-174/011-004	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary	1918
1997-174/011-005	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary	1919
1997-174/011-006	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary	1920
1997-174/011-007	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary	1921
1997-174/011-008	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary	1922
1997-174/011-009	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary	1923
1997-174/011-010	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary	1924
1997-174/011-011	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary	1925
1997-174/012-001	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary	1926
1997-174/012-002	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary	1927
1997-174/012-003	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary	1928
1997-174/012-004	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary	1929
1997-174/012-005	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary	1930
1997-174/012-006	File - Captain Dewis Spicer diary	1931