

SCION



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THE LEWIS SPENCER KIRKPATRICK STORY

AFTERWORD BY ROY FRASER KIRKPATRICK

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## PREFACE

Clan Kirkpatrick is a tribe of proud warriors, its roots firmly planted in the South of Scotland, in the parish of Closeburn in Dumfriesshire, where the Kirkpatricks held lands since the ninth century. Kirk is the Scots Gaelic word for church. Kirkpatrick, then, is the “Church of Patrick,” or church dedicated to Saint Patrick. Kirkpatricks first appear in historical records in the twelfth century, when Ivone (John) de Kirkpatrick witnessed a charter <sup>1</sup> of the Bruce family, the Scottish clan that would later produce two kings of Scotland. King Alexander II granted a charter of confirmation to Ivone of his lands. Ivone’s descendant Roger Kirkpatrick attended one of history’s most famous warriors (and later one of its most famous kings), Robert the Bruce. Roger served boldly and bravely as Robert’s henchman, to defend the future king against his rival for the Scots throne.

That rival was John Comyn (Red Comyn), a Scots nobleman, and it was at Closeburn in 1306 that Bruce put a definitive end to Comyn’s political aspirations. According to legend, Bruce confronted Comyn before the altar at the church of the Greyfriars in Dumfries, and stabbed him. As

Bruce rushed out of the church, he encountered Kirkpatrick. Telling him what had just transpired, Robert expressed concern that Comyn may have survived. Drawing his dagger, Kirkpatrick assured his liege, “I mak sikkar”—Scots Gaelic for “I’ll make sure”—and then entered the church to finish what Bruce had started, leaving Red Comyn for dead. Kirkpatrick’s act of loyalty, and his famous words, are carved in stone on an exterior wall of the very church where the deed took place. There, the motto “I MAK SIKKAR” appears above the Kirkpatrick clan crest: a hand upholding a bloody dagger.<sup>2</sup>

In recent centuries, many sturdy branches of this formidable family tree have proliferated, with Kirkpatricks putting out leaves as far as Australia, Belgium, Canada, Honduras, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, New Zealand, Peru, Spain, and all over the United States of America.

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## OKLAHOMA SPIRIT

**T**he story of Oklahoma is one of pioneering spirit and endurance, and since its earliest beginnings, the territory was famous for drawing brave people from all over America. One notable Oklahoman was Dr. Elmer Ellsworth Kirkpatrick, who moved to the territory in 1893 to establish a practice in the medical field in which he was trained: dentistry. It was the same year he had completed his study at the Chicago College of Dental Surgery.<sup>1</sup> Considerable courage was required to plant roots in the rapidly evolving terrain of what was formerly Indian Territory, whose frontier had opened to white settlers just four years prior, in 1889. Perhaps it took even greater courage to settle in Oklahoma as a dentist; the Oklahoma Territory Dental Association had been organized only two years earlier, in 1891. Oklahoma was a new frontier for dentistry, and at age 26, Dr. Kirkpatrick had plenty of optimism and stamina—core values typical of Oklahoma and its resilient people.

The fourth son and sixth child in a family of eight siblings born to John Elson Kirkpatrick and Mary Elizabeth

Gibbony, upstanding Presbyterians of Bardolph, Illinois, Dr. Kirkpatrick was not unaccustomed to relocation. When he was still a child, his family had moved from Illinois to Holton, Kansas, where young E.E. graduated from high school and then attended Campbell University before deciding to pursue dentistry as a career. To honor his parents and their faith, Dr. Kirkpatrick became a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Oklahoma City in December of 1893. His license— No. 25—to practice dentistry was issued May 1894, making him one of the earliest registered dentists in the territory. In 1895, Dr. Kirkpatrick achieved a professional distinction: he was elected president of the Oklahoma Territory Dental Association. He was then the organization's secretary-treasurer for three terms, 1896–99, and the president again for the following two terms, 1899–1901. Territorial governor Cassius McDonald Barnes appointed Dr. Kirkpatrick to the Oklahoma Territorial Board of Dental Examiners, on which he served from 1897 to 1900. He also helped establish the Oklahoma State Dental Association, which combined the Oklahoma and Indian Territorial organizations.

On June 27, 1900, Dr. Kirkpatrick married Helene Claudia Spencer, daughter of Lewis Mortimer (L. M.) and Mary Julia “Mollie” Spencer of Yukon, Oklahoma. It is not known exactly how the couple met—no correspondence between them has survived—but we do know that Claudia and E.E. came from vastly different backgrounds. Claudia's parents were proud Confederate sympathizers: L. M. Spencer was a veteran of the Confederate Army, and Mollie was energetically active for many years in the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the women's organization dedicated to the “Lost Cause” and its ideals. Dr. Kirkpatrick's parents, on the other hand, were confirmed Union

loyalists. So proud were they to fly the Union flag that they named their fourth son after the man who went down in history for giving his life to tear down a Confederate flag: Elmer Ephraim Ellsworth, the first conspicuous casualty of the Civil War and a friend of President Abraham Lincoln.<sup>2</sup>

Naming their son after such a famous figure was a very emotional move on the part of John and Mary Kirkpatrick. Yet equally strong feelings must have been kindled in Claudia's Southern parents at the prospect of giving their only daughter's hand to a Northerner. The radical difference between the gray and blue backgrounds of Claudia and Elmer must have been discussed at some point during their courtship, although we have no record of it (they lived too near each other to necessitate letter-writing and, after marrying, were never separated for very long). Theirs might very well have turned into a frontier update of *Romeo and Juliet*. But although the two halves of this couple grew up in opposite political camps, they were not, in Shakespeare's phrase, "star-cross'd lovers." The Spencers accepted their proposed son-in-law, proudly celebrating Claudia and Elmer's nuptials with a lavish wedding. Whatever lingering resentments the Spencers and Kirkpatricks may have harbored, they graciously buried them on the wedding day. Dr. Kirkpatrick's in-laws went so far as to gift the couple with a plot of land in Yukon, and sent them to their Oklahoma City home on a special train arranged for the occasion. It's admirable that a Confederate-gray family and a Union-blue one could overcome their differences to achieve a harmonious blend, the colors remaining separate and distinct, agreeing to disagree—just as the often contrasting hues of Scots tartans combine to form enduring, cohesive patterns.

Dr. and Mrs. E. E. Kirkpatrick made their first home at

921 N. Robinson Avenue, Oklahoma City. And on May 15, 1901, at 11:15 in the morning, they proudly welcomed their first child: Lewis Spencer, scion of Oklahoma's newly minted Kirkpatrick clan. The robust little boy, thereafter known to family and friends as Spencer, turned the scales at nine pounds, eight ounces.<sup>3</sup> Like little Spencer, the modern era into which he was born was in its infancy. This was the first year of the twentieth century, and historic events were taking place at breakneck speed across the country and around the world. Just four months after Spencer's birth, on September 14, President William McKinley was pronounced dead, the victim of an assassin's bullet. Eight days earlier, anarchist Leon Czolgosz walked up to the president in a receiving line and shot him point-blank in the gut. Tragically, doctors made the unfathomable decision to close the president's wound without extracting the bullet, and McKinley died of septicemia. The 1865 assassination of Abraham Lincoln was still fresh in the collective American memory; insult had been added to injury with the assassination of John Garfield in 1881. Now a third sitting president had been taken by senseless violence. On the same day, September 14, Vice President Theodore Roosevelt succeeded McKinley and was sworn in as twenty-sixth president of the United States. As a direct result of the terrible pattern of presidential assassination established over the preceding 36 years, Roosevelt became the first chief executive to receive full-time Secret Service protection (albeit not at the Rough Rider's request). On September 26, less than two weeks after Roosevelt's swearing-in, the body of President Lincoln was exhumed and reinterred in thick concrete, as if to fortify the national psyche against the threat of future attacks on the presidency.

As the first male issue of businessman and philan-

thropist Theodore “Thee” Roosevelt Sr., the dynamic new president—at 42, the youngest ever to take office—was the esteemed son of a prominent family, with all the hopes, responsibilities, and pressures that position entails. Much was expected of him, and he would famously deliver on the great promise of his birth, becoming one of America’s most admired leaders, his face ultimately carved into Mount Rushmore alongside the likenesses of Washington, Jefferson, and Lincoln. Roosevelt personified a rapidly changing America, one that would soon become a key player on the world stage, with much expected of it. America’s first foray into global power politics centered on the Philippines, the archipelago in Southeast Asia consisting of 7,107 islands, eyed by world powers for its strategic location and rich agricultural resources. Since the sixteenth century, the Philippines had been a colony of Spain, but after the Spanish-American War—a conflict which marked the beginning of American globalization—the United States seized control of the islands, installing a military governor in 1898. The Philippines had fought for independence since 1896, when the Philippine Revolution began; that elusive goal was embodied by nationalist hero Jose Rizal, who was executed in 1896 by firing squad. The Philippine-American War was a continuation of Filipinos’ struggle for independence—only now the enemy was not Spain but the U.S. The war came to an end on July 4, 1902, and the Philippines became an unincorporated territory of the United States. President Roosevelt requested that the four islands closest to Manila Bay—Corregidor, El Fraile, Caballo, and Carabao—all be established as military reservations.<sup>4</sup> But before the United States would present a formidable, fully united front beyond the Philippines, it remained very much in flux. Oklahoma was one of the last states to enter the union; it

wasn't until after Spencer's sixth birthday that his home territory would become America's 46th state, when President Roosevelt signed the proclamation in 1907 (Oklahoma was followed in 1912 by New Mexico and Arizona). Very soon, the portal through which Lewis Spencer Kirkpatrick entered the world—the Sooner State—would grow up quickly, as would the country as a whole. Its innocence bruised by the War Between the States, America would have yet more harsh realities to face in the years leading up to the First World War and its aftermath.

“Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon 'em”—the comical adage of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*—may be truth in jest, but it speaks poignantly to any scion's predicament. Spencer would be expected to fulfill not only his parents' dreams but also the wishes of two sets of grandparents. America itself is a kind of scion: Great Britain's noble, rebellious offshoot, whose achievements have always been closely observed by many, with some expecting the youngster to fail and others gunning for its success. The scion of Oklahoma's Kirkpatrick clan appeared tailor-made for the great expectations he shouldered. The grandson of pioneers who were among the Oklahoma Territory's early settlers (his grandfather and grandmother Spencer), Lewis Spencer Kirkpatrick inspired his family's confidence and love from an early age. “All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players” is another famous Shakespearean line, spoken by Jaques in *As You Like It*. Yet experience has shown that certain players, even in infancy, command the spotlight and leave a lasting impression on their audience. Spencer was, by all accounts, a healthy, agreeable little boy; his affable personality was already in evidence by 1902, when his antics drew this positive notice in the *Daily Oklahoman* on the occasion of his

inaugural birthday party: “Baby Lewis voted a prince of entertainers.”<sup>5</sup> Little Lewis was named for his maternal grandfather, but he didn’t really ever answer to “Lewis.” He typically used his middle name, his granddaddy’s surname: Spencer.

There is nothing among the Kirkpatrick family artifacts to suggest that this playful, peaceful child might grow up to be a career soldier. In early photographs, he showed a fun-loving nature, smiling wide, yawning wider, clambering in and around his daddy’s doctor’s bag. Spencer was precociously humorous, his contagious laugh first captivating his public at one week shy of three months, on August 7 (it was heard by his grandmother Spencer, and duly noted in the *Baby’s Record*). At eight months, on January 15, the appearance of his first tooth was recorded, with the notation “Just one little corner peeping through.” In still and moving pictures taken throughout his life, Spencer would be quick to display a healthy set of teeth. In fact, all members of Oklahoma’s clan Kirkpatrick appeared to have perfect teeth, doubt-less thanks to their dentist father. (What’s more, Spencer and his siblings managed to avoid grave health issues, also likely due to Dr. Kirkpatrick’s awareness that maintaining good oral health is a reliable gateway to overall well-being.) Among Spencer’s baby photographs and the list of gifts he received, we don’t notice a single warlike plaything: no toy gun or sword, and not so much as a drum or a bugle. We do, however, find a photograph of an elaborately ornate pram worthy of a little prince, a gift from his grandfather Spencer.

Later, in a series of studio photographs, Spencer is seen posing with the family dog, a pug. He resembles a budding infant movie star, as dark and doll-like as tiny screen legend Baby Peggy would be two decades later. In August 1905,

three months after Spencer turned four, the Kirkpatricks of Oklahoma welcomed the arrival of a second child, Elmer Ellsworth Jr. Spencer was now a big brother, with all the responsibility and idolatry that position can entail. Added to his family's hopes for his future was now the wide-eyed admiration of a kid brother, who would always look up to Spencer.<sup>6</sup>

As Dr. and Mrs. Kirkpatrick enjoyed the playful antics of their two healthy boys, parents of young men elsewhere in America grieved the injury or death of their sons in the shockingly violent sport of college football. A kind of civil war was wreaking carnage on varsity football fields across the country; in 1905 gridiron fatalities reached a peak of nineteen, resulting in a threat by President Roosevelt—whose son Ted Junior was then a freshman player at Harvard—to abolish the game unless rule changes were implemented.<sup>7</sup> One of history's most ardent football champions, President Roosevelt famously revered the sport as “the greatest exercise of fine moral qualities, such as resolution, courage, endurance, and capacity to hold one's own and stand up under punishment.”

In 1908 the Kirkpatricks' third son, John Elson, was born, followed by Claude Sicheluff in 1910. This was also the year that the capital of Oklahoma moved from Guthrie to Oklahoma City; the Kirkpatricks now resided in the state's political, economic, and cultural hub. The band of brothers enjoyed summers spent at the family cabin in Green Mountain Falls, Colorado, where many happy memories were made. “Our ‘Big Brother’ Spencer was loved, admired, and emulated by us all,” John would recall years later. “He led us in practically every activity—from his riding a bicycle, roller skating, milking the cow, newspaper route, Boy Scouts of America, driving a car, Christian Endeavor, climbing Pikes

Peak, leading the Sunday-school class assembly, his Forum Debating Society, the high school fraternity..."<sup>8</sup> Another activity the boys undertook was compiling, printing, and distributing a gazette called *The Gurgle*; sadly, no copies of this periodical have survived. From their father the dentist, the Kirkpatrick children learned to practice kindness and compassion toward others. Dr. Kirkpatrick's good heart would not permit him to turn away patients who were unable to afford dental care during Oklahoma's recession of 1911; he often deferred the bills of those who were unable to pay, or accepted food and other items in lieu of money. The good doctor's reputation for kindness was well known in his community, and his compassion was passed on to his four sons and baby daughter, Mary.

In Europe in 1914, a catalytic event occurred, in Sarajevo, a place that not many people in the United States had heard of—and even if they had, few imagined it would dramatically alter the course of American and world history by sparking the “war to end all wars.” An intense patriotism called nationalism had been taking hold across Europe. In the Balkan Mountains, nationalism led to the growth of militant secret societies such as Serbia's Black Hand, whose goal was to drive Austria-Hungary out of the Balkans and establish a “Greater Serbia,” a unified state for all Slavic people. In June 1914, this nationalist fervor resulted in the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir presumptive to the Austro-Hungarian throne, as he rode with his wife through the streets of Sarajevo by motorcade, in a Graf & Stift automobile with the top down. In an outrage hauntingly similar to the broad-daylight assassination of President McKinley, the archduke and duchess were shot dead by twenty-three-year-old Gavrilo Princip, one of a group of assassins coordinated by the Black Hand. The assassination

led directly to World War I when Austria-Hungary declared war on the Kingdom of Serbia.

The United States resisted involvement at first but ultimately entered the war in 1917, when Spencer was a sixteen-year-old high-school sophomore. On April 2, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson appeared before a joint session of Congress to seek a declaration of war against Germany. Near the conclusion of his stirring speech, the president stated:

*It is a fearful thing to lead this great peaceful people into war, into the most terrible and disastrous of all wars, civilization itself seeming to be in the balance. But the right is more precious than peace, and we shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts—for democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own governments, for the rights and liberties of small nations, for a universal dominion of right by such a concert of free peoples as shall bring peace and safety to all nations and make the world itself at last free.*

Despite the chief executive's idealistic rhetoric, Americans were, understandably, not eager to step forward and volunteer to serve in a war whose murderous brutality was well known, whose surviving soldiers—if they were lucky not to be taken prisoner—arrived home mutilated and shell-shocked. To raise an army, a draft was absolutely necessary. The Selective Service Act of 1917, enacted on May 18 (three days after Spencer's birthday), authorized the federal government to raise a national army for the American entry into World War I through compulsory enlistment of people.<sup>9</sup> According to the guidelines, all males aged 21 to 30 were required to register for military service. There is no evidence in Spencer Kirkpatrick's high-school career to suggest he was any more or less fascinated with war than other young men of his age. He learned many lessons of

bravery in battle, both in his school history class and from his Civil War–veteran grandfather, L. M. Spencer. Like any young boy, Spencer listened intently to retellings of events at the Alamo, the fortress in San Antonio so bravely defended by the “Texians” before they were overrun by Mexican troops in the Texas Revolution of 1836. The Battle of the Alamo became synonymous with a heroic struggle against impossible odds—heroism that resonated strongly with Confederates like L. M. Spencer and their descendants (during the American Civil War, as Texas joined the Confederacy, the Alamo complex was taken over by the Confederate Army). Yet Spencer did not participate in the Reserve Officers Training Corps at Central High School. His younger brother Elmer, on the other hand, would join Central High’s ROTC in his freshman year, when Spencer was a senior, and eventually earned the rank of corporal, working as a gunner and battery clerk with the 189 Field Artillery of the Oklahoma National Guard. What did occupy many extracurricular hours each week in Spencer’s busy schedule was football. He was a guard on the Central High team.<sup>10</sup> As a game that requires a deft combination of tactical intelligence and brute force, American football has been, since its inception in 1869, a reliable barometer of a soldier’s mettle. No less an observer than Theodore Roosevelt equated valor on the gridiron with bravery on the battlefield, an insight that left a profound impression on his eldest son, Ted junior, a football player who later became a soldier.<sup>11</sup> Spencer was well equipped to pursue a military career, simply by virtue of having excelled at football.

As fate would have it, Spencer and his teammates narrowly avoided being drafted. In August 1918, at the request of the War Department, Congress amended the law, expanding the age range to include all men 18 to 45. Just 17,

Spencer was one year too young to serve. Interestingly, a disappointed patriot whom circumstances derailed from duty in World War I was a cousin of former President Roosevelt and a future president himself: Franklin Delano Roosevelt. An avid collector and reader of books on naval history his entire life, FDR served as assistant secretary of the navy under President Wilson, and was very eager to serve his country at sea, but missed the opportunity.<sup>12</sup>

Not all charismatic kids grow up handsome, but Spencer Kirkpatrick—the beautiful little boy with the pug puppy—was as attractive as he was accomplished, clearly cut from the cloth of leadership, and a tough act for any kid brother to follow. Spencer was motivated to achieve so much partly because his family had so little. Dr. Kirkpatrick had the misfortune to sustain a career-altering injury in 1918 or 1919, when he broke his arm; the family car backfired as he was cranking the engine to get it started. His dental practice never recovered, and from that point forward the family's financial prospects were tenuous. Spencer's diligence in helping his parents was impressive: he led the way in taking miscellaneous odd jobs to supplement the household income, enlisting his siblings in the family team effort. Their grandmother Mollie Spencer also thoughtfully sent her boys encouraging letters containing currency, each missive sporting the sign-off "Loads of Love."<sup>13</sup> In a personal autobiography, Elmer recalled working at People's Drug Store, Owen Drug, and Jerome Cohen's tire shop while attending school. As he remembered it, "We were broke most of the time, but had ways of getting what we needed."<sup>14</sup> John later recalled that he, Elmer, and Claude were all especially impressed by Spencer's "work as a section hand on the Colorado Midland Railroad with the Thos. H. Cusack boys (we

were given the privilege of feeling his bi-ceps muscles developed on that job)...He could look with pride at the footsteps he left for us to follow. We followed his pattern closely.”<sup>15</sup>

We don't know if Spencer's busy schedule left him time to date, although it's tough to imagine him not escorting a pretty girl on prom night. In the event that he didn't, his looks were certainly not to blame. If handsome Spencer ever did struggle through an awkward phase, as so many adolescents do, we have no photographic evidence of it. All we see are the cleft chin, smoldering eyes, and thick, wavy hair of a junior matinee idol. The camera clearly loved Spencer, yet he appears in his high school yearbook, *The Annual*, in minuscule photographs on only a couple of pages. This is perhaps because he gamely served as the publication's staff photographer, which placed him squarely behind the camera at most photo opportunities. Apparently, he was not as aggressive as he could have been about pursuing his classmate clients for head-shot fees, which earned him this notation in the yearbook:

*Discovered! A man who doesn't want money. Why, positively every member of the Senior Class had to chase Spencer to fork over the required wherewithal for their senior pictures.*

Despite his movie-star looks, *The Annual's* "Student Ballot" did not deem Spencer "Most Handsome Boy" in the class of 1920; that distinction went to one Slat's Kahle. Far from needing to command the spotlight, secure young Spencer appears to have been perfectly comfortable working diligently behind the scenes. Contrary to the mention in the yearbook, his slowness to collect money was not because he didn't want it but because he did. Spencer knew that his sideline in photography yielded only small potatoes—so he focused his efforts on other jobs that

promised more substantial and regular earnings. Besides, football practice demanded a great deal of his time.

In downtime from the playing field, Spencer was preoccupied with a greater endeavor: Following his parents' example by going to college. The National Football League (NFL) did not exist yet—it would be founded in 1922—or Spencer might well have considered a career in professional football. Still, one gets the distinct impression that he keenly felt familial pressure to be a scholar, to further his education by attending college. His grandmother Mollie Spencer especially valued higher education, having insisted on sending her daughter, Spencer's mother Claudia, to Monticello Women's College. And it goes without saying that his father's side of the family was proud of their son the dentist, and also highly esteemed collegiate study. With no money for tuition in the family's already-strained budget, the only way for Spencer to achieve the goal of a college education was to take the military route: securing an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point, where no tuition was required, and the cream of America's youth was groomed to serve as officers in the U.S. Army. The prestige of "The Point" was an aspiration that Spencer's politically adversarial grandparents could immediately and wholeheartedly agree to share. After all, it was the alma mater of heroes on both sides of the Civil War: among its distinguished alumni were Jefferson Davis (Class of 1828), Robert E. Lee (1829), and Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson (1846)—and, on the Union side, Ulysses S. Grant (1843) and William Tecumseh Sherman (1840). To facilitate the Kirkpatrick family's aspiration of sending their eldest son to this celebrated military college, on April 10, 1920, a friend of Dr. Kirkpatrick addressed himself in a typed letter to Judge J.W. Harreld thus:

*My Dear Judge:*

*Dr. E.E. Kirkpatrick, whom you probably know as one of our most excellent citizens and active Republicans, desires to secure the appointment of his son to the West Point Military Academy, and I understand that the latter is a worthy son of his father.*

*I recommend this appointment very earnestly.*

*Yours very truly, [handwritten signature]*

Around the time of his birthday, May 1920, as Spencer and his fellow Central High seniors anticipated their graduation, the world was every young person's oyster. Here was the dawn of the Jazz Age—the Roaring Twenties—a time when electric excitement and a tremendous sense of possibility filled the air. The privations of wartime were a memory; the Kirkpatricks all dared to hope that the hardships they'd endured might also soon fade in the rearview mirror, along with cars that needed hand-cranking. The “war to end all wars” had come to an end a year and a half earlier, in November 1918, and America was now embarking on a period of post-war economic prosperity. Throughout the 1920s, new oil fields would be discovered across Oklahoma, and the state would produce more than 1.8 billion barrels of petroleum, valued at more than \$3.5 billion, for the decade. This would provide the fuel for the automobiles that were rapidly overtaking the roads as well as the aircraft soaring overhead. Spencer could look back on a successful high school career. It's possible that his time at school afforded him rare moments of relaxation in an otherwise fully booked schedule, all the while meeting numerous obligations and living up to—perhaps exceeding—parental and fraternal expectations. But now it was time to look to the future. Spencer's work was far from done. The scion of Oklahoma's Kirkpatrick clan would not let his family down—neither the immediate relatives nor the shadowy ances-

tors in old Caledonia, whose bravery in battle was the stuff of legend. His entire life had been bracketed and defined by war; in his first eighteen years, he'd learned many lessons, more than a few of them hard ones. Now Spencer, quick study that he was, would learn to become a troop leader. He'd had plenty of practice leading his battalion of kid brothers; what's more, after his brilliant career on the high-school football battlefield, it would be a natural transition from gridiron warrior to soldier.<sup>16</sup> Spencer was admitted to West Point for the academic year starting in the fall of 1920. When the time came for him to leave home for the first time, he mustered bravely. The first report on his progress was received by his family on July 6 via Western Union telegram, addressed to Dr. Kirkpatrick in Colorado Springs: "Lewis Spencer Kirkpatrick has reported at Academy and was admitted as cadet July second."

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## WEST POINT

The spring of 1920 was a time of celebration across America. The nation was hopeful that devastating, global war such as the one that had just ended would be a thing of the past: January 19, 1920 saw the founding of the League of Nations, the first intergovernmental organization whose principal mission was to maintain world peace.<sup>1</sup>

That spring was also a time of high anticipation for Oklahoma's Kirkpatrick clan. Spencer was gearing up to begin his military career at West Point, which would groom him and his fellow cadets to be U.S. Army officers, and his siblings were trying to imagine what life would be like without their big brother to lead them. Years later, Elmer would recall in a letter just how sad he, John, and Claude were upon seeing Spencer depart for West Point: "We all cried when he left because it was the first time any of us had ever been separated."<sup>2</sup> West Point's famously high standards, and the stiff competition for admission, hit home for the Kirkpatricks when they learned the details of Spencer's acceptance. An opening providentially arose, and Spencer's

letter of recommendation happened to be in the right place at the right time. Spencer received a copy of a letter dated May 6 and addressed to the Hon. J. W. Harreld, House of Representatives, in response to Harreld's letter of recommendation on Spencer's behalf. The letter notified Harreld that his principal nominee, one Thomas J. DeBose, "was deficient in all subjects of the examination, so that Mr. Kirkpatrick will be entitled to admission to the Academy if he qualifies therefor." Immediately upon receipt of the letter, Spencer typed one of his own, addressing himself to West Point's superintendent:

*From: Spencer Kirkpatrick, 415 West Park Place, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

*To: Superintendent, Military Academy, West Point, New York*

*Subject: Request for General Orders*

*1. Having received an appointment to the Military Academy, and in order to answer questions contained in "personal and school history sheet," intelligently, I request to be supplied with C.O. #19, Washington,*

*D.C. April 1915.*

*Spencer Kirkpatrick*

Sooner rather than later, Spencer would discover that the superintendent to whom he had addressed his letter was already well on his way to becoming a legend, not only in West Point lore but in world military history. American civilian universities are led by a chancellor or president, who may or may not be a graduate of the school he or she helms; the United States Military Academy, on the other hand, has a commanding officer with the title of superintendent, who is by tradition a graduate of the academy. During Spencer's first two years at West Point, the superintendent was Brigadier General Douglas MacArthur.<sup>3</sup> In 1921, two decades after the United States began its push toward glob-

alization in the Philip- pines, West Point under Superinten- dent MacArthur's command also focused on broadening horizons while reaffirming its long-held ideals. The academy was consciously shunning "provincialism" in favor of "a new atmosphere of liberalization," as the superinten- dent explained in his annual report:

*It is especially necessary to hold fast to the policies typified in the motto of the Academy, "DUTY, HON- OR, COUNTRY," to insist upon "thoroughness," to implant as of old the gospel of cleanliness, not only of body but of mind and spirit, to introduce a new atmosphere of liberalization—in doing away with provin- cialism, in substituting subjective for objective discipline, in progressively increasing cadet responsibility that tends to develop initiative and force of character rather than automatic perfor- mance of stereotyped functions—to broaden the curriculum so as to be abreast of the best modern thought on education, and to bring West Point into a newer and closer relationship with the Army at large.*

*Transforming such a purpose into a complete pro- gram is not the work of a single year, nor yet of a de- cade. In the first twelve months, it was possible merely to establish the cardinal principles upon which to erect a substantial structure that would rise through the certainty of evolution rather than after the de-moral- ization of revolution.<sup>4</sup>*

Soon after posting his letter to the superintendent, Spencer received a communication on War Department letterhead from the Adjutant General's Office, Washington, dated May 17:

*Sir:*

*I have the honor to inform you that the certificate submitted by you with a view to admission to the United States Military Academy without mental examination has been approved by the Academic Board, and that you are, therefore, authorized by the*

*Secretary of War to present yourself to the Superintendent at West Point, New York, on July 1, 1920, before 10.30 o'clock, a.m., for physical examination and for admission to the Academy as a cadet if found to be physically qualified.*

*In this connection your attention is invited to the enclosed circular of instructions, which is furnished for your information and guidance. It is suggested that before proceeding to West Point, you have yourself thoroughly examined physically, by some reputable physician.*

*You are requested to acknowledge receipt of this notification, in order that the records of this office will show whether or not it has been delivered to you. For this purpose a postal card, which requires no postage, is included herewith.*

*Very respectfully,*

*The Adjutant General*

Spencer had a little over a month before he would begin his new life, along with hundreds of other cadets in their first year, his fellow “plebes,” all of whom—in Superintendent MacArthur’s words—would experience “the democracy of the corps.” What equalized them all was the academy system, whereby “every member of the student body throughout his four-year course wears the same clothes, eats the same food, passes through the same course of study, rises and retires at the same hours, receives the same pay, and starts always without handicap in the same competition.” In theory, Spencer had some experience with international issues; as a member of the Oklahoma City debate team in high school, he’d argued convincingly over such topics as whether the United States should adopt an old-age pension similar to that of Great Britain.<sup>5</sup> In reality, Spencer’s experience of people had been limited to those he met in his home state and in Green Mountain Falls, Colorado, location of his family’s summer cabin. However,

like the United States as a whole, democratic West Point was undergoing globalization, so Spencer would be sharing the West Point experience with plebes<sup>6</sup> from all over the country and the world. Among his classmates were a handful of cadets from China, Panama, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines.

Meanwhile, some 1,400 miles away in Dumont, New Jersey,<sup>7</sup> a borough of the Garden State's Bergen County, a high-school graduate named Elizabeth Boyer Cacy was also looking ahead to the future, and West Point was in her sights too. The second child of William Evans Cacy, an agent for a steam railroad company,<sup>8</sup> and his wife, Marcia (née Smith), Bess—as she was called all her life—assumed a leadership role among her siblings. There were three sisters, Dora, Bess, and Mary, and two brothers: the first-born, William junior, died in infancy; the youngest child was Albert, known to all as Bud. Bess's siblings all looked up to her the way Spencer's brothers emulated him. Dora was acknowledged to be the prettiest of the three attractive Cacy sisters, all of whom possessed an allure that shines through in numerous photographs taken of the trio together. The Cacy girls were, in their way, American forerunners of the Mitfords, a famously stylish five-sister act that would soon take England's social scene by storm. Like Spencer, Bess was a leader who gamely helped her parents with all manner of chores in running the household. And her kid sisters and little brother, Bud, came to rely on Bess as a second mother, who embraced the maternal activities of cooking, baking, and operating a sewing machine.

Bess and her siblings were well aware of military culture. Just three years earlier, in 1917, Camp Merritt<sup>9</sup> was established along the eastern border of Dumont, which subsequently experienced a big population increase.

Overnight, businesses sprang up to meet thousands of soldiers' needs, and a dedicated railroad for camp supplies sliced through backyards and front lawns across the upper end of town. Military culture was not just part of the everyday scenery in this part of New Jersey; it conveyed considerable prestige. The railroad that ran between New Jersey's Ridgefield Park and Tappan, New York, also transported Dumont's eligible bachelorettes northward, to Orange County and the United States Military Academy. There, they would attend dances in hopes of meeting a cadet who might prove promising marriage material. Bess's father, William, worked for the railroad, so this method of travel would have earned his approval when his daughters petitioned for an evening's furlough from home. Both he and Bess's mother obviously placed trust in their daughters, each of whom earned her parents' confidence time and again by displaying the noblest sisterly intentions toward her siblings. For example, although Bess's education would end with high school, she contributed to her younger sister's continuing education, helping Mary attend college in the nearby town of Montclair, New Jersey. The army officer's itinerant lifestyle was something that locals respected and aspired to. Meeting and marrying an officer, and seeing the world, was a goal shared by more than a few of the adventurous young women of Dumont. The Cacy sisters—Bess especially—were no exception; plus, they all enjoyed a good dance with a swinging jazz soundtrack. So, apparently, did the average West Point cadet, who hotly anticipated dances hosted by the academy and the chance to “drag” (i.e., escort) a “femme,” preferably one of the “keen” specimens who came from nearby Poughkeepsie, New York (location of Vassar College), or from as far as Bar Harbor, Maine. The venue for these chaperoned events was

Cullum Hall, the most ornately decorated building on campus.<sup>10</sup>

Upstairs, Cullum's grand ballroom displays oil portraits in the West Point Art Collection, as well as commemorative plaques, statues, and cannon trophies. Such was the stately atmosphere for cadets to have supervised skirmishes with members of the fairer sex: Saturday-night dances, or "hops." Cadets were married to the military—"wife," incidentally, being West Point slang for roommate—but they were permitted the occasional brief, chaste affair: namely, those Saturday-night hops. For cadets learning the art of war, "Cullum" was short-hand for "social," a place to sharpen skills in the art of love. Time spent at Cullum was a drill they eagerly anticipated and planned with military precision, shining their shoes with polish and their hair with Slickum, each class represented by its own "Hop Managers," whose duties included having the dance cards printed.<sup>11</sup> When they weren't on the "elephant quad," upperclassmen took advantage of their six-hour leaves by hotfooting it to Manhattan to watch the professional dancers of the Ziegfeld Follies. Many cadets' bios reflect this popular pastime. The modern feminine ideal, the glamorous flapper, had an undeniable presence in *The Howitzer*, the academy's yearbook, whose 1924 edition features various renderings of this fantasy femme on several pages. In fact, at this period in West Point history, "cherchez la femme" translated to "find a flapper." This of-the-moment beauty was the female human embodiment of the swinging jazz sound taking America by storm, and she was tailor-made for movement, down to the dancing fringe on her skirt hem. On page 444a, there's a charming cartoon image of a wooden soldier chastely embracing a pretty flapper doll, he in full uniform and she in a fashionably short dress, both wearing black combat

boots. The cartoon carries the title “Route Step,”<sup>12</sup> a witty reference to a command cadets were accustomed to hearing which permits talking during a drill.

Bess Cacy exhibited impressive skill in operating the family’s electric, foot-pedal-operated Singer sewing machine, even when under the gun. An excellent seamstress, she could create dresses for her sisters and herself at a moment’s notice, without so much as a pattern to guide her, as long as she had the wearer’s measurements and an image from a magazine, newspaper, or popular movie. For the West Point excursions, Bess deployed her sewing artistry so diligently that all three Cacy girls were handsomely outfitted, a trio of Cinderellas ready for the ball. Bedecked in evening wear that reflected the latest contemporary fashion, they would call to mind cinema sweetheart Clara Bow, or Charlie Chaplin’s leading lady Edna Purviance, or screen siren Gloria Swanson, whose every fashion move was eagerly copied.<sup>13</sup> At this point in clothing history, young women were wearing their dresses and their hairstyles shorter than ever before. In France, the deliberately androgynous fashion plate du jour was called a “garçonne,” the feminized form of the French word for boy (garçon). And thanks to Bess and her dressmaking handiwork, the comely Cacy girls were upstandingly stylish American mirrors of their French counterparts, right down to their charmingly boyish hairstyles, which were short, wavy, and accessorized with wide headbands.

Bess didn’t just know how to create fashionable dresses suitable for dancing; she also knew how to create a stir on the dance floor. An excellent dancer, she had strong, lean legs—tanned and toned from playing tennis—which were perfectly showcased by the short hemline that was so à la mode, and her voguish frocks and physique certainly

assured she would have no shortage of admirers at those Cullum Hall hops. Her fashionably short hair would've looked more fetching still when tousled after an aerobic turn on the dance floor. On the page marking the yearbook's "Social" section (p. 398a), we find an illustration of a Titian-haired beauty who bears a strong resemblance to Bess. Meanwhile, in an elegant drawing on page 406, captioned "Saturday Night 'Hop' in Cullum Hall," the cadet at the center of the composition, with his dark, center-parted hair, could very well have been modeled on Spencer. As noted in *The Howitzer*, many cadets pored over periodicals such as *The Red Book* and *The Cosmopolitan*, where they'd see a veritable smorgasbord of flapper fashion plates. (To judge by Bess's fashionable turnout, she was quite conversant with those magazines as well.) Several cadets also ran up a high tab at "BB&B" (Bailey, Banks & Biddle, jewelers), source of the "miniature"—a smaller, lady's version of the West Point ring, purchased by smitten cadets to present as a romantic keepsake to a special femme.

And yet, as fate would have it, the paths of Bess Cacy and Spencer Kirkpatrick managed never to cross at West Point. A note on his page in *The Howitzer* offers a clue as to why: Scholarly Spencer was buried too deep in his books to make time to read *The Red Book*, let alone attend dances. "He rarely leaves the domicile to shine in Cullum," the yearbook divulged. Besides, even if he had, selective Spencer was well armed against Cupid's arrows, for according to *The Howitzer*, "It takes the fairest of the fair<sup>14</sup> to make him fall, and then he doesn't fall very hard."

Spencer's first priority was making the grade at the academy, no easy task. Alumni of civilian colleges and universities may reflect on their days of higher learning, shuddering to recall the demanding academic schedule and the cram-

ming for midterms. That, from a cadet's point of view, is a cakewalk. For cadets, there are the added pressures of conforming to highly regimented rules, including early-morning inspections of one's room and person. Skills few civilian coeds could fathom had to be mastered, including tactics (the art and science of organizing and leading a military unit), the drawing of maps, the grooming and saddling of horses, and foreign-language proficiency. Not for nothing was "Hell on the Hudson" a universal cadet term of endearment for West Point. For some cadets, math was a recurring nightmare, the ninth circle of West Point's Inferno, one that could—and often did—end many a military career. For a student of, say, Yale to miscalculate a math problem would not be a life-or-death matter. But such an error by a West Pointer could cost the men in his command their very lives. Still, with the high numbers of cadets conceding defeat, changes were made in the mathematics department "designed to decrease materially the number of cadets turned back or discharged in the subject. It was found that many cadets with adequate mental equipment were unable to accomplish the introductory stages of the old course, due either to a poor foundation of previous instruction, or to a lack of understanding of correct methods of application. The new course is designed to correct this situation by inducting the cadet more gradually into the difficult reaches of the higher branches of Mathematics."<sup>15</sup>

Five months after arriving at West Point, in December 1920, Spencer sent his parents the following message via Western Union telegram: "A Merry Christmas to you all I passed all examination Spencer." That was no small achievement. The following year, he would struggle to maintain a good average in English. On top of all this academic pressure, Superintendent MacArthur had initiated

reforms to the West Point athletic-program curriculum in 1917, to make it even more challenging, a result of the stated goal of “progressively increasing cadet responsibility.” The academy, noted the superintendent’s annual report, “has inaugurated what is believed to be one of the most complete physical regimes to be found in any institution in the world. In accordance with Dr. John Dewey’s conception that for educational purposes there is an ‘impossibility of insuring general intelligence through a system which does not use the body to teach the mind and the mind to teach the body,’ the cadet is made to experience each day mutual response between the mental and physical sides of his nature.”<sup>16</sup> Cadets were expected to excel at several sports, not electively but as an absolute requirement; basically, they had to be su- per-jocks, to wit:

*Out of a total average enrollment of not more than 950 during this first trial year of compulsory mass athletics, 641 cadets were individually coached until they were able to play in intra-mural match games of football, and were marked in the meantime on their progress, 641 went through the same process in soccer, 550 in lacrosse, 337 in tennis, 263 in basketball, 240 in baseball, 100 in track and field, 25 in golf and 16 in polo. It is planned that upon graduation every cadet will have had to pass through three semesters each of football, baseball, soccer, and lacrosse, two each of tennis, basketball, track and field, and one of golf and polo. Although the schedule takes on the seriousness of other activities required at the Academy, it is relieved by inter-company competition or intra-mural contests. The above course does not include that of the new cadet who, during the summer period, receives individually a preparatory course in baseball, football, lacrosse, tennis, track and field; the participants in the various compulsory indoor activities such as swimming, boxing, wrestling, fencing, gymnastics, or riding, which in most cases*

*alternate with study periods during the term; or volunteers for outdoor sports such as hockey.*<sup>17</sup>

Some might feel fatigue just reading about such a demanding athletic regimen—and indeed, many cadets eagerly looked forward to their allotted eight hours of nightly shut-eye, including Spencer. Rare was the cadet who could excel with equal brilliance in both academics and athletics. Although no stranger to aerobic athletic activity as a high-school football star, Spencer simply had no time to devote to the sport now; what few hours he had left over after studying were devoted to catching some sleep. Spencer took a ribbing in *The Howitzer*, along with several other cadets, for a special attachment to the standard-issue red comforter that was a uniform feature of barracks décor.<sup>18</sup> In 1922, on his first summer break (after the completion of his second year), Spencer visited with his family for three weeks in Colorado and Oklahoma; his visit was noted in the local newspaper.<sup>19</sup> “He timed his arrival at the cabin as a big surprise to [his brothers],” John Kirkpatrick would later recall. In Yukon, Oklahoma, Spencer was photographed with his grandfather and namesake, L. M. Spencer. The two men are pictured standing side by side, the elder comparing their heights with a raised arm, and the young cadet grinning broadly—clearly tickled to have narrowly won this vertical challenge against the white-bearded family patriarch and Civil War veteran, whose stature in the community was a formidable example for his grandsons to follow. Even if Spencer had already outstripped those boots in size, they were still big, and he was determined to fill them. He was well on his way: on the fourth finger of Spencer’s left hand was his newly minted class ring.<sup>20</sup>

Well aware that numerous cadets had their careers cut short because they were unable to make the grade academi-

cally—those unfortunates were listed in *The Howitzer* under the ominous headline “CASUAL- TIES”<sup>21</sup>—scholarly Spencer decided early on that he would not be one of their ranks. Maybe he wasn’t an “engineer” (brilliant student) but neither was he a “goat” (wooden man). Academically, Spencer made a very respectable showing. When he graduated, his ranking, a.k.a. Cullum Number, was 215—well within the coveted top 400 of the class. He was not turned back for failure to make the grade in any subject. And yet he was spared being called out for bookishness by his peers. Here’s how *The Howitzer* characterizes him: “Spencer, known as the Buffalo by his many friends, hails from the Oklahoma prairies. Unlike the Indian fighter that his place of origin indicates, he is a man who is gentle of manner and quiet of speech. Spencer is not a file hound, but has always managed to be amongst the famous ‘Four Hundred’ when the standings were posted.” Let other cadets pitch camp in the library; during exam time, Spencer struck out in search of outdoor study settings, preferring to get his work done while surrounded by nature. Every cadet had a nickname bestowed by his peers in the corps; the more obvious “Kirk” cognomen (West Point-ese for nickname) was already hung on fellow classmate Frank Smith Kirkpatrick of Wichita, Kansas (no relation), so Spencer was dubbed “Buffalo” and “Buff”—the result of his habit of disappearing into the woods for uninterrupted, solitary study time,<sup>22</sup> and then returning hours later with a dark five- o’clock shadow, which gave him the woolly appearance of a bison.<sup>23</sup> He kept busy with studying, limiting his activities. The caption beneath his photograph in the yearbook reads, “Rifle Sharpshooter; Pistol Sharpshooter.” Despite his experience helping to compile his high school yearbook, Spencer was not involved with *The Howitzer*. And familiarity with

femmes was apparently his lowest priority: the soles of his perfectly polished shoes never made contact with Flirtation Walk (West Point's lovers' lane), and rarely touched the Cullum ballroom floor.

For the Cacy girls, on the other hand, Cullum was a frequent and favorite destination, and the many hours the sisters spent preparing for hops and traveling to and from the academy were well spent, for Cullum would turn out to be the source of not one but three engagements. In 1923, all three sisters were engaged to marry West Point graduates. Dora's fiancé was Austin "Ossie" Cunkle Jr., of Arkansas, USMA class of 1923; Bess's cavalier was a young man whose name we don't know, possibly also USMA class of 1923, whose goal, like many young men of this period, was to join the air service;<sup>24</sup> and Mary's sweetheart was Ralph Glasgow of Twin Falls, Idaho, a star of the football squad who happened to be Spencer's classmate and best friend. As *The Howitzer* pointed out in Cadet Glasgow's biography, "Cullum Hall has its attractions for him, as for everybody else."

There was talk of having a triple wedding at the Point, a prospect that the band of Cacy sisters found particularly thrilling. Tragically, that plan was changed after Bess's fiancé was killed in a plane crash while training for the air service.<sup>25</sup> Dora married Ossie, Mary married Ralph, but widowed Bess remained single. It's possible that the popular tune "The Man I Love" by the brothers Gershwin described Bess during this phase of her life: "When the mellow moon begins to beam,/ Ev'ry night I dream a little dream,/ And of course Prince Charming is the theme,/ The he for me." Perhaps she drew comfort from the hope that, as the song further lyricized, "someday he'll come along." But Bess wasn't holding her breath. Undaunted, she resolved to see

the world—even if that meant doing so without a U.S. Army officer at her side.

As for Spencer, he had his West Point ring and wore it proudly, but no young lady wore the ring's corresponding "miniature."<sup>26</sup> A few of his classmates had opted to pursue "cit. [civilian] life," but Spencer wasn't one of them. He would continue in the military. He'd survived West Point, and his accomplishment made his parents

—not to mention Grandpa and Grandma Spencer—very proud. On June 11, 1924, the Spencers telegraphed their profound pleasure to him via Western Union: "May your success at the U.S. Military Academy be a picture of your future life and may all days be as bright in Oklahoma as this day has been to your grandparents." Departing West Point, Spencer carried with him the best wishes of his classmates; his yearbook biography concludes with, "To have his friendship is to possess a treasure. May Lady Luck serve him always and may his success be great." Focused on beginning his military career in the real world, far from the training grounds of Hell on the Hudson, Spencer awaited notification of his first assignment. It wouldn't be long in coming.

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## OFFICE & GENTLEMAN

**I**n the summer of 1924, Spencer and his fellow “shavetails” (new West Point grads) in the Thundering Herd<sup>1</sup>—as the class would later call itself in reunion books—were eager to take up their first posts and begin their careers as commissioned officers in the United States Army. At this time, the commander in chief of the armed forces was President Calvin Coolidge, per Article II, Section 2, Clause I of the Constitution. Promoted to second lieutenant of infantry, Spencer was stationed on the picturesque North Shore of Chicago, with the Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment at Fort Sheridan, near Lake Forest. This part of Illinois was already well established as the Chicago area’s most desirable neighborhood, attracting Rockefellers, Armours, Medills, and Marshall Fields. F. Scott Fitzgerald immortalized the swank suburb in *The Great Gatsby*, published in 1925. In Chapter One, the narrator explains that Tom Buchanan brought a string of polo ponies east from Lake Forest. With Spencer’s free time no longer commandeered by academic studies, he had some time for recreational activities, and one of his favorites was

polo. In 1924, it so happened that Lake Forest was polo central. Polo clubs in the region—such as Onwentsia—welcomed army officers to use their facilities; in America as in England, polo represented a level playing field for horsemen of all walks, as well as a meeting place for young men and women from different social strata who might otherwise never have met. Out on the polo field, a handsome young army officer would not have escaped the notice of Lake Forest's eligible young women. Whether or not polo had anything to do with it—for we don't know exactly how it happened

—Cupid's arrow found the one whose heart had been so well guarded while at West Point; Spencer fell head over heels in love with a young woman named Helen Nelly. A 1925 graduate of the Ogontz School for Girls,<sup>2</sup> a finishing school in Pennsylvania that groomed students to take their places in society, Helen is the subject of a gushing letter written by Spencer to his parents on June 28, 1926, announcing their engagement. Spencer had purchased a ring on January 7, 1926, from the diamond department of the Noris, Alister-Ball Co. of Chicago.<sup>3</sup> It is the first letter of Spencer's that (a) has survived in its entirety and

(b) is not a telegram. Evidently, Dr. and Mrs. Kirkpatrick had expressed regret at missing the opportunity to meet Helen before she undertook a solo sea voyage to Panama, for Spencer writes:

You know that I too was mighty sorry that you did not get to see my Helen before she sailed. Not for you to judge whether or not she was worthy, however, for she so far exceeds, that I must make myself better and do better for her, but to really share her love with me like you would have to do if you but saw her.<sup>4</sup>

A mutual friend named Nell did have the pleasure of

meeting Helen, and liked what she saw; of their meeting, Spencer reports:

Said Nell: "I just love the sweet little girl of your choice..." and "we had such a nice, 'comfy' talk and I found her everything sweet and lovely and dear that a young girl could be..." She wrote much more but I have something to say too. Helen seems just as crazy about Nell and let loose with considerable "applesauce" herself. Anyway two of the world's best met that day in New York and one would have to look in more than one hemisphere to find a dozen more to compare.<sup>5</sup>

The affinity between a West Point grad and an Ogontz alum would be natural, as Ogontz was renowned for its "military drills." Twice a week, Ogontz students would assume their straightest posture, donning navy-blue uniforms with brass buttons, to parade the school grounds while singing and carrying balsa-wood rifles. Here, as at West Point, there was a caste system: only the leaders were issued the good-looking belts, and high-ranking officers got to wear silk stockings, while younger privates had to wear humble cotton hose.<sup>6</sup> Spencer and Helen very likely commiserated over their respective "plebe" experiences.

The female paragon who inspired such high praise from Spencer had set sail for Panama without him; one of the ship's ports of call, in particular, caused him great concern:

I've been worried somewhat over Helen this week because of the terrible storms at sea—especially in the parts where she is sailing. Yesterday a tug, "the Roosevelt" went down near Porta Ria—Helen's boat was to stop at Porta Ria Monday & Tuesday—and when the first reports and S.O.S. was given the name was lost or withheld, but last night was published. Three other ships were wrecked and one of those

had its name withheld several hours. All of the liners are from one to three days late and she is on an old transport. God, but I hope she's safe. I'm sorry that I ever let her go, very sorry.<sup>7</sup>

It is not difficult to picture Spencer diligently scouring those nautical reports for news of his beloved's safety. Helen was not merely a passing romance: in this letter, Spencer proudly expresses eagerness, on the part of both his intended and himself, to spread the word about their forthcoming nuptials:

Col. & Mrs. Nelly (Henry M.) announced our engagement in New York last Thursday when they sailed for Panama. Most of our dearest friends already knew about it. Helen had put it in the Ogontz paper (school where she graduated in '25) and in the Army & Navy Journal. Helen wants me to give it to the Tribune and Pointer [West Point newspaper] and if you slip it in the "Oklahoman" most of [our] friends will know. Also help me make out a list for invitations later on. Hope we can be married when spring comes. Those short winter days are long to me and nights twice longer than books say.<sup>8</sup>

A look at the Ogontz

Mosaic, the alumnae newsletter of Helen's alma mater, confirms that she did, indeed, place an item about her engagement. The February 1926 edition listed the following under "ENGAGEMENTS": "Colonel and Mrs. Henry Nelly announce the engagement of their daughter, Helen Elizabeth, to Lieutenant Lewis Spence [sic] Kirkpatric [sic] of Oklahoma City." Busy though he and Helen were, Spencer still made time to set an example for his siblings. Ever the compassionate big brother, he was generous with career advice and helped out with problems as they cropped up.

He was particularly close to the sibling nearest him in age: younger brother Elmer, who took the West Point entrance exam in May 1925, after attending a prep school in Alabama for one year. In a nice example of an older brother giving his kid brother a leg up, after the exam, Spencer secured a job for Elmer, who traveled to Fort Sheridan, where Spencer was stationed. As Elmer would later recall,

*On 1 May I went to visit Spencer who was stationed at Fort Sheridan, Illinois near Chicago where he got me a job with the Post Exchange. In those days they were simple "canteens." I was responsible for the food and soda fountain part. In mid-May HQ Company of the 2nd Michigan near Battle Creek for summer training. I went (walked) along with the "canteen" from the Post Exchange. It was a ten-day march through Chicago, Niles, Kalamazoo, etc. It snowed at Niles on 15 May 1925, Spencer's birthday. I really got to know and admire my brother Spencer on that trip. I also walked a long way and had to help care for the horses that pulled the PX wagon. It was hard work and long hours on the march and then setting up at Custer. But I did make some visits to Battle Creek and remember the food plants making Kellogg's Cornflakes and Post cereal and the sanitarium.<sup>9</sup>*

In June, Elmer learned that he'd made it into West Point (he would graduate in 1929). Also in that summer of '25, the third Kirkpatrick brother, John, was admitted to the military academy but did not fare as well. John became a casualty of his class; his nemesis was English, and his failure in the subject after his first semester led to his discharge from West Point. Although a proud USMA graduate, Spencer was pragmatic enough to appreciate that Hell on the Hudson was not for everyone, and perhaps the Naval Academy—West Point's arch-enemy on the gridiron—was the better choice for John. So, rather than pushing for his kid brother

to keep hitting his head against the USMA wall, Spencer kindly suggested that John set his sights on a different, equally worthy goal. He gently dispensed this sage, practical brotherly counsel, which John was wise to follow:

*I was sorry to hear about John, but he was so very young and poorly prepared. Yes, he will or should take basic work in everything as well as English. His trouble when he returns will be loafing because he has once been over the work there. Maybe it would be best that he go to Annapolis.*<sup>10</sup>

John would not be the first Kirkpatrick to struggle with yearling English at West Point. In an undated letter to his parents, Spencer commiserates with Elmer, who was also challenged by the academy's English department, wryly recalling his own battle with that subject: "If you will remember, I suffered quite a drop in yearling English myself—from the second section to the eighteenth...Elmer will just have to work at it."<sup>11</sup> The siren call of civilian life briefly beckoned Spencer when the father of one of Helen's friends interviewed him for a position. He writes:

*Yesterday, I went to Chicago on business. I talked to Mr. I. A. Bennett of the I. A. Bennett & Metal Moulding in Chi and V. Pres. Of the Nat'l Metal Works, Pittsburgh. He has something that looks good to me. He is one of the finest, cleanest men that I have ever met. His daughter is Helen's best girlfriend and knows me pretty well too. I'll see him again in a few days. He tells me that his greatest trouble is to find clean "hard hitting" men for big jobs and that from meeting me thought I should be very successful. The trouble in the end of the game where money is and what he pointed out to me (same as he took) is that it requires as much moving over the country. Pitts- burgh, St. Louis, Frisco, Chicago, New York all stopovers for him regularly. He knows Helen very well and congratulated me heartily. Said we were both lucky.*

In the next line of the letter, Spencer adds,

*"The pictures arrived and have already been sent to my Helen in Panama."*<sup>12</sup>

Toward the end of 1926, someone else embarked on a sea voyage: Bess Cacy, who, coincidentally, had a brief career in the metal business, working as a secretary at a mining concern. Bess boarded the *Wilhelmina*,<sup>13</sup> departing San Francisco on December 15 and arriving in Honolulu on December 21. She was photographed with a man in uniform<sup>14</sup> on what appears to be the ship's deck, wearing several flower garlands—the traditional lei, symbol of warm Hawaiian hospitality. In those photographs, stylish Bess has the great gams of a showgirl—and that's exactly what she was. She'd successfully parlayed her natural sense of rhythm into a stint as a Ziegfeld Follies dancer.<sup>15</sup> On her Hawaiian voyage, Bess and her fellow passengers would have been shown all the notable sights: Punchbowl Crater, Hanauma Bay, Koko Head, Manana Island, Fort Kamehameha,<sup>16</sup> and Pearl Harbor, headquarters of the U.S. Pacific Fleet. It goes without saying that the *Wilhelmina*'s passengers would have heartily enjoyed Hawaii's many charms, from the succulent pineapples (the fruit of agriculture entrepreneur James Dole's labors) to the alluring hula dancers, swaying to the singularly Hawaiian sound of steel-metal guitars. Their tour guide probably enlightened the travelers about "Night Marchers" (*huaka'i po*), the ghosts of ancient warriors, said to roam large sections of the island chain.<sup>17</sup> It was a tourist custom for departing visitors (*malihini*) to throw their leis into the sea as their ship passed Diamond Head (*Le'ahi*), the volcanic cone that got its name when nineteenth-century British sailors mistook calcite crystals on the adjacent beach for diamonds.<sup>18</sup> The gesture was traditionally made in the hope that, like the lei, the

person tossing it would return to the islands someday.<sup>19</sup> Whether or not she cast her lei into the water, Bess greatly enjoyed her Hawaiian experience and, like many visitors, dreamed of a return trip.

Later that year, Spencer transferred to Panama, to Quarry Heights in the Canal Zone, where he served with the Headquarters and Military Police Company under the Panama Canal Department until November 1927. Was Helen going ahead of him to visit what would have been their future first shared home? We don't know, and there is no further mention of Helen in his letters (or if there had been, those letters were lost or destroyed). Spencer retrieved the engagement ring. At Quarry Heights, which is now a nature reserve, Spencer's love of the great out-doors would have been richly rewarded with spectacular flora and fauna: the reserve is located on Ancon Hill, where toucans perch in the trees and the bird of paradise flower thrives among many other exotic plants in this tropical maritime climate. Such a spectacular setting held plenty of interest to keep a young officer's mind off a broken engagement, not to mention a broken heart. Spencer was next transferred to the 33rd Infantry Regiment, also in the Canal Zone, where he remained until September 1928. His parents received a photograph of Spencer standing with a fellow officer on the steps of their quarters on Fourth of July Avenue in Panama, the street that divides U.S. territory from that of the Republic of Panama (the steps, their son wrote, were made of gin bottles).

Two months later, in November, Spencer was de-tailed as a student officer to attend Air Corps Primary Flying School at Brooks Field near San Antonio, Texas. This was also the year his kid brother Elmer graduated from West Point, and Elmer's first assignment was also Brooks Field, to

the Quartermaster Corps. In January 1929, Spencer was relieved from the Air Corps and sent to Fort Huachuca in southeast Arizona, about 15 miles north of the Mexican border. Home of the 25th Infantry Regiment, Fort Huachuca has a rich history<sup>20</sup> as does the 25th. One of the racially segregated units of the U.S. Army known as buffalo soldiers, the 25th served from 1866 to 1946 and saw action in the American Indian Wars, Spanish-American War, and Philippine-American War.<sup>21</sup> Buffalo soldiers originally were members of the U. S. 10th Cavalry Regiment, formed on September 21, 1866, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. The nickname “buffalo soldier” was bestowed with respect upon the “Negro Cavalry,” as it was formerly known by the Native American tribes they fought; the term eventually became synonymous with all of the African-American regiments. Spencer, whose West Point cognomen was “Buffalo,” was photographed with a group of black and Mexican soldiers around 1929.

Just under 40 miles away from Fort Huachuca was the border town of Naco, Arizona, where Spencer served in the ongoing Mexican Revolution (*Revolución Mexicana*), a.k.a. the Mexican Civil War (*Guerra Civil Mexicana*), which intensified through March, April, and May of 1929.<sup>22</sup> In August 1929, Spencer was promoted to first lieutenant. The same year, a dark day in New York City—the financial capital of the world—would rock America to its core: on October 29, 1929, the stock market crashed. “Black Tuesday” would have severe long-term repercussions, with millions of Americans left jobless and, consequently, homeless. Spencer and his fellow army officers were fortunate to have job security at a time when such a thing was practically unheard of. Of course, it meant always staying on the move, traveling to the location of one’s next assignment. In July

1930, First Lieutenant Spencer Kirkpatrick transferred to the Coast Artillery Corps, as battery executive officer with the 63rd Coast Artillery at Fort MacArthur in Los Angeles, California (the fort was named in honor of Douglas MacArthur's father, Arthur MacArthur). "Coast" being West Point slang for "married men's branch of the military," Spencer's fellow classmates in the Thundering Herd would've chuckled knowingly, suspecting—correctly—that it was inevitable he would soon respond to the reveille of wedding bells. In September 1931, Spencer transferred to the Coast Artillery School at Fort Monroe, Virginia, where he took the battery officer's course until June 1932. Some time in between, Spencer's classmate and buddy Lieutenant Ralph Glasgow had occasion to tell him about his catch of a sister-in-law. Twenty-nine and living with her parents in New Jersey, she'd been a dancer on Broadway, and then held a job at a financial firm on Wall Street until the crash shuttered the business. Now she was working as an instructor with the Arthur Murray Dance Studios<sup>23</sup> at New York City's Pennsylvania Hotel. This attractive, vivacious, young career woman was hardly a wallflower; here was one gal whose dance card had always been full. How she had remained single was a mystery to all who knew her.

The Glasgows introduced Bess to Spencer—and the rest was one for the West Point books.<sup>24</sup> Spencer presented Bess with a diamond platinum ring for her left hand, and put a "miniature" on her right ring finger; now she, too, was married to the military, and would bravely follow her husband wherever in the world army duty called him. On Thursday, June 30, 1932, at 4:30 p.M. EST, Spencer Kirkpatrick stacked a wedding band atop the diamond ring on Bess Cacy's left ring finger. Their marriage ceremony took place at the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration, "the

Little Church Around the Corner," on East 29th Street in New York City.<sup>25</sup> The bride wore a white crepe ensemble with a corsage of white orchids and lilies of the valley. Her matron of honor was her sister, Mary Glasgow, wearing an ensemble of pink crepe with a corsage of gardenias. Ralph Glasgow stood as Spencer's best man, with both men wearing white uniforms. From this day forward their brotherly bond, strong since their West Point days, was cemented even more firmly; Spencer and Ralph were family now. Bess's father, William Cacy, gave away the bride, the last of his three daughters to tie the knot. The happy couple spent their wedding night at the Waldorf Astoria. Although no photographs of the wedding survive, subsequent snapshots reveal Spencer

AND BESS TO BE RADIANT WITH joy, so happy and relieved at having finally met the elusive soul mate. The overjoyed couple honeymooned at the Kirkpatrick family cabin in Green Mountain Falls, Colorado, stopping first at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indiana to visit Bess's sister Dora and her husband, Ossie Cunkle; their next destination was Oklahoma City, to meet Spencer's parents, Dr. and Mrs. Kirkpatrick. For safekeeping, they left the diamond engagement ring in Mrs. Kirkpatrick's care.

After a one-week stay in Colorado, their plan was to drive to San Francisco, where they would sail on August 17 to a familiar destination for Bess, one she knew well and loved: Hawaii. Just six short years after her brief but memorable visit, she was returning to the islands for a much longer stay. Spencer reported to Fort Kamehameha near Honolulu, where he became battery commander with the 15th Coastal Artillery on Oahu. The newlyweds thoroughly

enjoyed each other's company, often going out together for a game of pins (both Spencer and Bess excelled at bowling). Bess further perfected her already accomplished home-making skills, expanding her culinary repertoire to include Hawaiian specialties such as poi, a creamy, purple starch made by mashing the cooked heart of the taro root (*kalo* in Hawaiian), one of the traditional foods of the islands. For dessert or a refreshing treat, there was the delicacy called "shave ice," Hawaii's answer to the snow cone, flavored with coconut cream, guava, or other local delicacies.

Now at a distance of nearly 4,000 miles from Oklahoma City, sampling exotic fruits and vegetables on the balmy beaches of the Pacific, the Spencer Kirkpatricks were not spared an acute awareness of the cold, bracing reality gripping their homeland: the Great Depression, which exerted a stranglehold on the American economy. The downturn left so many people jobless and homeless that, all over the country, people had no choice but to squat on public lands, building makeshift shacks out of any and all scrap materials they could get their hands on. Because the crash and economic downturn happened while the unpopular Republican Herbert Hoover was president, these settlements were dubbed "Hooverilles." In New York City, Hooverilles cropped up in Central Park and Riverside Park. In Oklahoma, the south bank of the Canadian River had become a sorry sight, with encampments that extended for eight miles, home to a series of Hooverilles sheltering hundreds of Oklahomans.<sup>26</sup> Crime and suicide rates rose, as did reported cases of malnutrition. After the repeal of Prohibition in 1933, alcoholism was epidemic, as many unhappy Americans sought solace in a liquor bottle.<sup>27</sup> With the effects of the bad economy keenly felt the world over— including Hawaii, where employment in the sugar and pineapple

industries was steadily declining—conditions were ripe for a charismatic leader to galvanize a dispirited populace. In America, the man for this job was Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the governor of New York. A fifth cousin of President Theodore Roosevelt, FDR defeated the incumbent President Hoover by a landslide in 1932. The new president's election victory came eleven years after his personal victory over polio, which had left him paralyzed from the waist down. He'd overcome this challenge with a steadfast refusal to give up his political career or accept that he was permanently disabled. With hard work, optimism, and government aid, surely America as a whole would rebound from the many seemingly insurmountable challenges imposed by its crippled economy and morale, and eventually recover with its reputation for fortitude intact. FDR was sworn in as president of the United States on March 4, 1933; his stirring inaugural address was a rallying cry for a depressed nation. The charismatic new commander in chief promised "to wage a war against the [economic] emergency as great as the power that would be given to me if we were, in fact, invaded by a foreign foe"; his first hundred days in office saw the initiation of major legislation and executive orders that established the New Deal, a system of programs designed to provide relief (i.e., jobs for the unemployed), recovery, and reform.

IN GERMANY, where economic conditions had been bleak since the country's defeat in World War I, a very different charismatic leader rose to power: Adolf Hitler, a decorated veteran of World War I who was elected Reichskanzler (realm chancellor) on January 30, 1933, one month and a few days before FDR took the presidential oath of office on

March 4. In his inaugural address, FDR had assured his fellow Americans, “The only thing we have to fear is fear itself—nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance.” Yet no one could have predicted that fear itself would soon have a terrifying face,<sup>28</sup> recognized the world over: the scowling, mustachioed countenance of Germany’s new leader, whose Nationalsozialismus (Nazi) Party, the largest in the Reichstag at the time of his appointment as chancellor, had carried him to his present position. Soon, Hitler would create a new title for himself: *führer*. Thereafter, the German word for guide would become forever stigmatized as a synonym for tyrant. Hitler stunned the world by withdrawing from the League of Nations in October 1933. He would justify his aggressive expansionism by asserting that Germany needed more space, a concept summed up by the word *Lebensraum*, meaning “room to live.” Italy had already produced its own grandiose tyrant, the Fascist dictator Benito Mussolini, the self-styled “Il Duce”—i.e., “the Leader”—and his justification for expansion was *spazio vitale*, or living space. The Fascist salute—extending one’s right arm with a straight hand—became mandatory in Germany, where, to signal allegiance to the *führer*, it was accompanied by the exclamation, “Heil Hitler” (Hail Hitler).

MEANWHILE, back at home, the fight to maintain a decent living standard was a constant struggle for families from all walks of life. The dental practice of Spencer’s father, Dr. E. E. Kirkpatrick, had sustained steady losses over the years, even before the Great Depression made oral hygiene and care the lowest priority on his clients’ list of survival essentials. Now, with the Great Depression making it difficult

bordering on impossible for Americans to make ends meet, the burden fell to sons and daughters to exercise financial savvy on their parents' behalf. As is common in such situations, all eyes and ears turned to the one accustomed to shouldering the heaviest burden of responsibility: the eldest son. Spencer assumed the leadership role in conferring with his brothers about their parents, and how best to deal with the financial setback they faced.<sup>29</sup>

Every month, Spencer dutifully sent funds to his parents, in the form of checks drawn on his account at the Bank of Hawaii, Pearl Harbor Branch.<sup>30</sup> The amounts he mailed home ranged from \$10 (which in 2016 had the same buying power as \$184.05) to \$15.75 (\$289.87).<sup>31</sup> Despite the new responsibility of making their way as newlyweds, compounded by the hardships imposed by the Great Depression, the Spencer Kirkpatricks greatly enjoyed their time in Hawaii; Bess would look back on those years as blissful ones.<sup>32</sup> In 1934, Bess stood as a matron of honor at the wedding of a fellow army officer, whose name we don't know. In a photograph published in the Honolulu Sunday Advertiser, Bess appears radiant and happy, along with the rest of the sun-kissed wedding party.<sup>33</sup> It's quite likely that the songs played during the festivities included "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes." A bluesy number from Jerome Kern's 1933 Broadway hit *Roberta* that was frequently played on the radio, it was a favorite of both Spencer's and Bess's—their song. After nearly three years, in March 1935, it was time to relocate again, this time to the East Coast. Spencer was transferred to the 8th Coastal Artillery Regiment (Harbor Defense) at Fort Preble in Maine. It was a logical assignment for an expert gunner such as Spencer Kirkpatrick: the fort had been modernized in the early 1900s with the installation of several Endicott-era coast-defense batteries,

including two batteries of eight twelve-inch mortars, two “disappearing” six-inch guns, and two three-inch guns. Together, Spencer and Bess moved to officers’ quarters in Portland and looked forward to starting a family. Bess was already one month pregnant with their first child.

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## FAMILY LIFE ON THE FORT

**M**aine was certainly a change from Hawaii: bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the east and south, the state comprises the northernmost and easternmost portion of New England. Its snowy winters, with gale-force winds whipping off the Atlantic, were quite a contrast to the year-round balmy breezes of the Pacific so beloved by Bess and Spencer. That heavenly Hawaiian climate swiftly became a distant memory. Then again, there could be no more perfect place to celebrate Christmas than the Pine Tree State, the majority of whose land is forested; for children of all ages, Maine is a wonderland of sledding and other exciting wintertime activities. The last time Spencer had endured such a radical climate adjustment was fifteen years earlier, in 1920, when he left hot, humid Oklahoma for West Point, experiencing those notoriously long, cold winters for the first time. From that point forward, he and his fellow cadets in the Thundering Herd—especially the ones who hailed from warm climates—had braced themselves each subsequent year when the thermometer dipped. Yet even at its coldest, the Maine coast had its

distinct charms. One of its features, within easy view of Fort Preble, was especially captivating to children: the Spring Point Ledge Light. Owned and operated by the United States Coast Guard, it was a black-and-white, brick-and-iron “spark plug” lighthouse whose fog bell sounded twice every twelve seconds.

Being based on America’s East Coast meant Spencer was nearer to his relatives—for better and for worse. It had been a long time since he had visited with his brothers.<sup>1</sup> In January 1936, Spencer—who had been promoted to captain five months earlier, in August 1935—was able to coordinate a get-together with two of them, Elmer and John. They met in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where John was studying at the Harvard Business School. Spencer and Elmer were delighted to meet John’s toddler daughter, Joan. The brothers—like siblings all over America during the Great Depression—discussed how they would look after their elderly parents’ financial prospects. Displaying the teamwork that had always seen them through tough times, the Kirkpatrick brothers collaborated to draft a plan to maintain what few resources their parents had left. On January 15, 1936, Spencer wrote to his parents summing up the fraternal summit with the take-charge leadership skills that his family could always count on:

*Dear Dad,*

*At Cambridge last weekend, Elmer, John and I went into a huddle to study the state of the home. John and I had talked long distance about it. Elmer proposed that we get together. We did, and aside from the business at hand, enjoyed the reunion tremendously. We all wished that you were at hand to pre-side and felt that had you been present you would have concurred in all that transpired. We feel that our recommendations are practical and conducive to your greater happiness.*

. . .

REGARDING the property at 501 W. 13th Street in Oklahoma City, the building where the Kirkpatricks lived and rented space to tenants, Spencer wrote, "We unanimously say drop it like a hot potato and enjoy life for a change. Don't put any more of your dear selves into a losing game." He added:

*We, therefore, propose to ante \$15 dollars per month each. As long as Mary is employed and lives at home, she is expected to pay \$30 per month. This together with what other income you have, we believe is ample to live on a better standard and with less worry than you now have. In event of a foreclosure you may be permitted to rent your present quarters and even, if you wish, manage the building. We are working on a plan which may yield about \$20 per month additional, without cost to any of us. ... We hope that you will agree that our proposals are practical and of the greatest benefit to all of us. The principal thing we hope for is to end your work and worry.*<sup>2</sup>

Spencer's letter ended on an up note: in a postscript, he wrote that he'd enclosed snapshots of "the little guy," his infant son, Roy Spencer Kirkpatrick,<sup>3</sup> born in Portland, Maine, just two months and ten days earlier, on November 5, 1935. Once again, Dr. and Mrs. Kirkpatrick were proud grandparents. The Kirkpatrick clan's next generation already had strength in numbers: Elmer Jr.'s daughter, Patricia, was almost five years old; John's daughter, Joan, was two and a half. The brothers and their sister, Mary Elizabeth, would ultimately produce for their parents a combined nine grandchildren. But perhaps most important to Claudia and Elmer senior, in this most trying of times in American history, the Kirkpatrick sons were able to provide their parents with an assurance few could lay claim to: thanks to their employment in the armed forces,

they would never be out of a job, and they'd always have a place to live.<sup>4</sup> The army promised to provide support to its officers and their families, in recognition of their service and sacrifice to the nation. That security, in turn, meant that sons could look out for their parents as well as their spouses. Spencer and Elmer junior, the West Point graduates, were U.S. Army officers (Elmer junior at this time was assigned to West Point, where he worked on construction and expansion of the academy); Claude, the Annapolis alumnus, was an officer in the U.S. Navy, assigned to the USS Ralph Talbot, a destroyer. Over the years, Claudia would turn frequently to her officer sons for help with paying bills and generally making ends meet.

Sadly, all of his sons' carefully considered plans were moot, as Dr. Kirkpatrick died less than two months after this letter was written, on March 27, 1936. He was a passenger in his 1931 Plymouth Roosevelt sedan, driven by his friend Bill Parker, when the car was hit by a truck pulling a trailer. Following the accident, the two men chased down the driver of the truck, but the exertion caused Dr. Kirkpatrick to suffer a heart attack. He died that evening at 9:30 and was buried at Fairlawn Cemetery in Oklahoma City. He was 69 years old. After her husband's death, Claudia Kirkpatrick took in boarders, but finally was obliged to sell the family home, take up residence at the Huckins Hotel in Oklahoma City, and rely on the kindness of her sons and daughter, and their spouses, for a place to stay. She was never refused or turned away by any of her children or in-laws, who welcomed her for extended visits. The following Easter, Claudia spent the holiday with Spencer and family, traveling to Portland by train. She'd been practically bursting with anticipation at meeting her grandson ever since

Spencer had written home of the little one's resemblance to himself at the same age.<sup>5</sup>

DESPITE THE MANY responsibilities accrued by his duties as scion, husband, and now dad in a time of national economic upheaval, Spencer was having the time of his life in Maine. In snapshots and home movies,<sup>6</sup> the Spencer Kirkpatricks are the picture of a young, happy, carefree family making wonderful memories together: Dad, dapper in his neatly pressed uniform, grinning and rolling around in the grass with his toddler son, or singing "Little Brown Jug" with Mom, or cheerfully stomping through the snow on his way home; Mom cutting flowers from the garden, preparing a delicious lobster dinner, or overseeing Roy's festive third-birthday party, complete with a home-baked chocolate cake. Bess was renowned for her baking skills, and Roy's third-birthday cake was artfully decorated to resemble a little boy's drum. This footage is almost too charming, resembling professional "Hollywood at Home" reels produced by the motion-picture industry to stoke audience adoration for its biggest stars—except in this case the aura of glamorous domesticity was not created by a team of makeup artists, costumers, and set designers. The special effects occurred naturally, in real time, and everyone on-screen is all wide, genuine smiles. On May 15, 1938, Spencer's thirty-seventh birthday,

DAD HAD extra reason to celebrate: it was also the day his daughter was born. The baby was named Mary Elizabeth, the name of her father's kid sister (who wasn't a kid any longer: one month later, on June 15, she married John Dean

“J. D.” Moorman, another West Point graduate and fellow Oklahoman).<sup>7</sup> Two months after little Mary’s birth, Spencer received orders to sail for the Philippines in September 1938. Those orders were later amended, and the Spencer Kirkpatricks prepared to return to the Pacific in February 1939. Together with their two young children, they traveled that month to the San Francisco Port of Embarkation and boarded a U.S. Army transport ship bound for Manila Bay.

For the sea voyage to their new home base, Spencer and Bess brought along their Kodak movie camera, recording footage of Roy and baby Mary. Observing the antics of their two beloved children, the couple must have reflected on the previous four years, and how quickly they had passed. The following year, British poet W. H. Auden, living in New York City, would write a poem titled “As I Walked Out One Evening,” key verses of which are an apt description of this family’s charmed life:

*The years shall run like rabbits,  
For in my arms I hold  
The Flower of the Ages,  
And the first love of the world.*<sup>8</sup>

THE KIRKPATRICKS WERE TRAVELING LIGHT; upon notification of their assignment, officers assigned to Cor-regidor were briefed that most of their furnishings would not survive the humidity of their new home base, and wouldn’t be appropriate to bring along. Upholstered seating, for instance, would quickly develop mildew in the hot, humid, tropical maritime climate of the Philippines, so the best plan was to acquire furnishings after arrival—and, ideally, items made of wicker, which can withstand sultry conditions.<sup>9</sup> Arriving in Manila, the family enjoyed a brief stay at the Army-Navy

Club, the social center for military personnel. After that, they boarded a passenger boat with a Filipino crew for the two-hour trip to their final destination, Corregidor (Fort Mills), where in March 1939 Spencer became Battery "D" commander for the 59th Coastal Artillery. Known as "the Rock," Corregidor was the headquarters of the United States Harbor Defenses of Manila and Subic Bays. Located at the entrance of Manila Bay, it is one of four islands that defended the bays and the city of Manila from attacks by enemy battleships; the other islands were El Fraile (Fort Drum), Caballo (Fort Hughes), and Carabao (Fort Frank). All four islands had been fortified by the United States between 1922 and 1932, as part of the plan to prepare the Philippines for independence. Corregidor is the largest, its biggest part rising prominently to a large flat area called the "Topside." Beneath its surface was the fortified communications center, as well as army headquarters, barracks for enlisted men, and the bulk of the artillery batteries. A small plateau interrupts the slope between Topside and Bottomside, the lower part of the island; the plateau, "Middleside," was the location of a two-story officers' quarters, barracks for enlisted men, a hospital, quarters for non-commissioned officers, a service club, and the PX. South of Bottomside was Barangay; to the north was Army Dock, with three large piers; and to the east was the Malinta Tunnel, an underground complex built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and used as a bombproof storage and personnel bunker.

"CORREGIDOR" comes from the Spanish word *corregir*, meaning "to correct"; Corregidor means "the corrector." According to one story, the island was named *Isla del Corregidor* (Island of the Corrector) because, during

Spanish rule, the customs system required all ships that entered Manila Bay to stop and have their documents checked and “corrected.” A different story holds that the island was used as a correctional facility—El Corregidor—by the Spanish government. Weather on the Philippine Islands is usually hot and humid. There are three seasons: taginit or tagaraw, which is the hot, dry season from March to May; tagulan, the rainy season from June to November; and taglamig, the cool, dry season from December to February. Temperatures range from 70 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit. The sultry conditions owe to the fact that Corregidor and Caballo Islands are remnants of a volcanic crater, the Corregidor Caldera, which was last active about one million years ago. However, Corregidor is still classified as a potentially active volcano.<sup>10</sup> The coolest month is January; the warmest is May. Philippine culture is a blending of East and West, combining traditions from Asian countries with a Malay heritage, yet also showing Spanish and American influences. For the Kirkpatricks, the adjustment to their new home would be almost as smooth as the acclimation to Hawaii had been. Between 1922 and 1932, the United States had built many features to make life on the Rock as pleasant and “like home” as possible. Topside boasted a branch bank of the Philippine Trust Co., the Cine Corregidor movie theater, officers’ quarters, underground ordnance shops, parade grounds, a baseball field, an officers’ club with a nine-hole golf course, tennis courts, and a swimming pool. Middle-side featured two schoolhouses: one for American children and the other for the children of Filipino soldiers. The Corregidor High School was integrated, so the children of both Filipino and American servicemen studied there. There were 65 miles of paved roads and trails, and 19.5 miles of electric railroad track, used to haul heavy equipment and

ammunition from Bottomside to the different batteries. The island also had an electric trolley system as public transport.

IN EARLY 1939, the tacticians of our nation's armed forces, observing the events taking place overseas, had every reason to conclude that manning up coastal defenses in the Pacific—especially the garrisons of the Philippine Islands—was an absolute necessity. In November 1936, the signing of the Anti-Comintern Pact, an anti-Communist treaty, had bound Germany to the Empire of Japan; Italy joined the pact in November 1937.

FOUR MONTHS BEFORE THAT, on July 7, 1937, the Imperial Japanese Army had instigated a battle with the Republic of China's National Revolutionary Army. The July 7 Incident, as it would be called, marked the start of the Second Sino-Japanese War. The Japanese government's motive for expanding into China was control of its grain fields and raw minerals. For decades, Japanese imperialist policy was designed to expand the empire's political and military influence. However, the empire was now justifying its expansionist aims with the lofty propaganda concept "Asia for the Asians," claiming its mission was to unite East Asia under Japanese leadership in a "Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere," which would free East Asians from Western influence, particularly that of the United States. Yet Japan had proven, as early as 1931, that equality among Asian races was not part of its bigger "Co-Prosperity" picture.<sup>11</sup>

. . .

TWO MONTHS after the Kirkpatricks arrived in Corregidor, the Rome-Berlin Axis became a military alliance in May 1939 with the signing of the “Pact of Steel” between Germany and Italy. Hitler and Mussolini had been steadily rearming; Germany invaded Poland four months later, in September 1939. The nightmare of a second global conflict, which the League of Nations had been formed to prevent, was now a brutal reality: World War II. It would take a little more than a year for Japan to join the Axis war effort, with the signing of the Tripartite Pact of September 27, 1940, which integrated the military aims of Germany, Italy, and Japan. And it would take another year for Japan to mount a surprise show of force in the Pacific that would command the world’s attention. All three aggressor nations had the weapons and manpower, and were more than prepared to mobilize them. The Philippine Islands had always been an object of Japan’s interest; it was only a matter of time before Japan’s ongoing aggression in China would spread to other territories, becoming part of the war its ally Germany had started. The Philippines, with its strategic location, had always been vulnerable to Japan’s expansionist maneuvers—fewer than 2,000 miles separated Manila and Tokyo—but never more so than now, for whoever controlled it would have a territorial treasure that conveyed tremendous global prestige and military power. “The archipelago affords an ideal strategic position,” General Arthur MacArthur (III)—the eldest brother of General Douglas MacArthur—had testified before the Senate more than four decades earlier, during a 1902 investigation into the Philippine situation. “It is the stepping stone to commanding influence—political, commercial, and military supremacy in the East.” Japan was certainly convinced. Soon, the dormant volcano that was

Corregidor would become a man-made scene of deadly, explosive violence.

For now, however, the Kirkpatricks were thoroughly enjoying the calm before the storm. Spencer and Bess were doubtless impressed by the layout of the spacious officers' quarters. The colonial-style houses, elevated on concrete pillars above the termite-populated ground, resembled exotic vacation getaways. Surrounded by large, wide, canopied porches, and landscaped with gardenia and hibiscus bushes, these luxurious lodgings featured two or three bedrooms, two bathrooms, and large sliding windows, their panes made of translucent Capiz (shells of window-pane oysters, which are abundant in the water around the Philippine province of Capiz and an inexpensive substitute for glass). Each closet was rigged with a lightbulb that stayed illuminated, to keep clothing and linens dry and thus prevent mold, which was rampant due to the humidity. There were also fireplaces and servants' rooms complete with separate baths. Here, Bess would have help in looking after Roy and Mary, as well as for keeping house. The *yaya* phenomenon—women leaving their own families to care for the children of others—was a longstanding tradition since the nineteenth century, when Filipino women began venturing outside their native villages to go to towns and cities to work as servants for the more affluent<sup>12</sup> (such was the poverty in the rural Philippines that even middle- and lower-class homes in Manila were “affluent”). By these standards, military families on Corregidor were certainly well-to-do, with the means to employ an amah (nanny), who cheerfully worked as a surrogate mother, and domestics to help with housework. The reduction of chores enabled military wives to relax, and couples got to enjoy more recreational time, together and apart. Spencer and Bess, who

called each other “Daddy” and “Momie,” greatly enjoyed bowling,<sup>13</sup> a pastime at which they both excelled. Mrs. Kirkpatrick topped the Ladies Ten Pin League score sheet for 1940, with a high average of 147.08, and was awarded an engraved silver cup to add to her growing collection, which would number eight in all; her husband came in a respectable second in the men’s division. Badminton, bridge, and golf provided additional recreational outlets. Women could use the links in the morning; afternoon tee times were reserved for men.

The daughter of an officer stationed in the Philippines during this period, Dr. Selma Calmes recalls the Corregidor of her childhood: “It was an idyllic place for the Army families who lived there.”<sup>14</sup> Frank Capra’s 1937 film, *Lost Horizon*, had captured audiences’ imaginations with its depiction of a fictitious tropical paradise called Shangri-La; the movie was a hit with audiences seeking a couple hours’ escape from the troubles of the Great Depression. Corregidor was a kind of real-life utopia for the military families stationed there. Small luxuries that weren’t affordable in the United States were easily accessible here. Bess could take a well-deserved break from a lifetime of seamstress duty: local tailors worked so cheaply that officers could comfortably splurge on different bespoke uniforms for different occasions, and their entire families could be outfitted in custom clothing. For the officers, tailors also made warm-weather watchbands, which came with a piece of cloth that absorbed perspiration and was detachable for ease of laundering. Cine Corregidor movies were screened daily at 6 and 8 p.m.; officers and their families wore dressy evening clothes when attending the 8 p.m. show. Those who enjoyed entertaining and decorating could avail themselves of handsome, inexpensive table linens and mealtime accessories; even casual

get-togethers had a festive air. To keep children busy, there was a Cub Scout troop and a Boy Scout troop. Military brats adored the pageantry on display every weekend on the parade ground; they also became as adept as local children at playing with the yo-yo (bandalore), a popular Philippine toy for hundreds of years.

Granted, certain aspects of life on Corregidor did take some getting used to: high humidity, cockroaches, earthquakes. Mild volcanic earthquakes—tremors lasting about 20 seconds—were a frequent phenomenon. The humidity was such that there were days when even the most fastidiously prim-and-proper Americans were tempted not to wear undergarments. And yet the sea breezes off Manila Bay made the nights quite chilly; the only time one could do without a blanket was in May, the hottest and driest month. The water supply was not considered safe, so one was obliged to boil it for purposes of drinking or toothbrushing. But on the whole, military life on Corregidor had much to recommend it, different though it was from the average American's experience, with its palm trees and other lush vegetation. It offered, in many respects, a country-club lifestyle for army families, with enough exotic features to keep all members entertained, especially the children. Each morning, Spencer and Bess would awaken to two excited little ones gleefully bouncing on their parents' bed. Like all the kids on Corregidor, Roy and Mary would squeal—with delight or terror—at the common sight of small, harmless lizards patrolling the porch in search of mosquitoes.<sup>15</sup> During a down-pour, the crawly creatures would drop with a thud from the deck's metal roof, where heavy raindrops played boisterous, insistent percussion. This would happen with regularity from July to October, when Corregidor—a notch on the typhoon belt—experienced torrential rains

and thunderstorms. To her already impressive arsenal of recipes, Bess would add adobo, the Philippine national dish.<sup>16</sup> But the staples of the bill of fare at Quarters No. 19—the Kirkpatrick's residence, which looked out onto the golf course—were all-American specialties such as casseroles and roasts. A favorite special-occasion menu was steak, potatoes, and lemon-meringue pie. The Kirkpatrick's enjoyed all meals at a clothed table. Bess was a stickler for proper settings, even when serving soup and sandwiches for a casual lunch; at dinner, her beloved Wedgwood china saw its share of action. After dinner, when the children were snugly tucked in, the couple enjoyed grown-up fun and games, a cocktail and cards, before retiring.

Officers were encouraged to take brief trips to China, so Spencer and several others visited Shanghai in April 1940, traveling on the USS *Augusta* and staying at the Metropole Hotel. Spencer wrote home of the various furnishings he'd purchased to feather the family nest. Displaying the decorative instincts of an interior-design professional, he even sketched the lamps he'd selected while out shopping, and included his handwritten notes in a letter sent home to No. 19. Spencer had brought the Kodak camera along for the Shanghai trip, and in the footage recorded,<sup>17</sup> we get a rare glimpse of him dressed in civilian clothing—a neatly tailored suit, a tie, and a fedora—as he laughs and enjoys a cigarette with his travel companions. He has the worldly, sophisticated air of a successful advertising executive. The Kirkpatrick's home was graciously decorated, with elaborately carved furnishings made of teak, including an armoire, folding screens, and a coffee table.<sup>18</sup> Spencer's artillery expertise made him indispensable to the U.S. defense of the Philippine coast; shortly after his return from Shanghai, in May 1940, Spencer was notified that his

regiment—the 59th Coast Artillery, Battery D—was classified “excellent” for the calendar year 1940 in Coast Artillery target practice with twelve-inch guns.<sup>19</sup> Many of Spencer’s fellow West Point graduates were also stationed on Corregidor and other posts in the islands. One of them was his old friend and brother-in-law Ralph Glasgow.<sup>20</sup>

General Douglas MacArthur, former superintendent of West Point during Spencer’s time there, had retired from the army in 1937 but continued living in Manila with his family, serving in a civilian capacity as adviser to his friend Manuel Quezon, president of the Philippines since 1935, when the islands were granted commonwealth status (in the terminology of United States insular areas, an organized but unincorporated dependent territory); the progressive Quezon instituted many reforms. Also, in 1937 MacArthur traveled to the United States to build support for the defense of the Philippines. (MacArthur’s chief military aide, Lieutenant Colonel Dwight D. Eisenhower, West Point class of 1915, had returned to the States in 1938 after three years in Manila.) In 1940, Colonel Paul Bunker, West Point class of 1903, assumed command of Spencer’s outfit, the 59th Coast Artillery Regiment. Bunker had graduated 21 years before Spencer. Although hundreds of West Point alums, Spencer included, had never met the college football star, or seen him in action on the field, Bunker’s legend was such that they felt as if they knew him. Selected by Walter Camp<sup>21</sup> as a member of the 1901 and 1902 college-football All-American teams, Bunker was one of a select few athletes to win all-American honors at two different positions, tackle and halfback. Now a young man of 59, Bunker retained his tall, imposing physique, the still-powerful musculature giving him a fighting weight of 220 pounds. Colonel Bunker inspired confidence in his men, Spencer included, for he

was as familiar with the layout of Corregidor as with that of the college gridiron: Bunker had been stationed here before, from 1915 to 1919. Later that year, in December 1940, Brigadier General Jonathan Mayhew Wainwright, West Point class of 1906, arrived on Corregidor; he would be commander of the Philippine Division. Although quite different in appearance from the burly Bunker—Wainwright’s nickname was “Skinny”—he was a heavyweight in the eyes of his troops, renowned as a “fighting general” who never stood on ceremony when it came time to get down in the foxholes. Of the division’s 22,000 troops, 12,000 were Philippine Scouts, one of whom was John M. Wright, West Point class of 1940, who would serve alongside Spencer throughout their time on the Philippines. The 91st Coast Artillery, Philippine Scouts, was Wright’s first commission.

The Kirkpatricks would always remember their time on Corregidor. It had been two unforgettable years, a kind of working vacation, and certainly a milestone in this young family’s history. But no stay in paradise can last forever. The army determined it was time for the officers’ families to be evacuated for their safety. For the men left behind, Spencer included, it was time to get down to the hard work of preparing for battle; the fort was no place for dependents any longer. On February 28, 1941, Spencer accompanied his wife and children to Manila on the ferryboat Hyde,<sup>22</sup> doing his best to make this leave-taking more bearable for Roy and Mary by presenting it as a short family trip. The Hyde had been a fixture of garrison life, so its familiarity, and their dad’s presence for this first leg of the trip, doubtless helped acclimate the children to the longer voyage that awaited them, aboard the SS President Coolidge.<sup>23</sup> At Manila, Bess and the children boarded the Coolidge, and about two weeks later, after stops in Honolulu and Panama, they

would dock at Fort Mason, a.k.a. the San Francisco Port of Embarkation.<sup>24</sup> Spencer and Bess were confident they would see each other again, but parting was unfathomably hard—the only other time this dynamic duo had been separated in nine happy years of marriage was Spencer's brief sojourn in Shanghai nine months earlier, and even that had been more than he could stand.

Spencer showered Bess and their children with kisses, assuring them they'd all be together again very soon. In the meantime, he promised he'd write often and send them group photographs they had taken just the other day. Maintaining his composure took all of his strength, and many times, sentimental Spencer's emotions threatened to get the better of him. But rather than turn and walk away, he bravely stood on the dock to watch the Coolidge as she pulled out to sea. Spencer managed to avoid breaking down in view of the little man he'd just encouraged to be brave for his mother and sister, which might have caused his brave wife to break down too. Young Roy never forgot the haunting image of his father—the little boy's bigger-than-life hero—standing on the dock, growing smaller and smaller until, finally, he disappeared.<sup>25</sup>

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## DUTY, HONOR, COUNTRY

**E**motionally tough as it was to be apart from the love of her life, the separation also presented many practical challenges for Bess. The children constantly in- quired about their absent Daddy, so she had a great deal of explaining to do. Spencer was not home to help with the big and little aspects of parenting, so everything from bandaging cuts to bedtime storytelling fell to her. A letter from Dad was a major event, read aloud several times for the children’s delight, and then savored later by Bess when she had a few moments to herself. Anticipating this, Spencer began corresponding with Bess and the children immediately; his first letter is dated March 3, 1941, three days after his wife and kids sailed. He was out of practice in letter writing—it was, he admits, “a performance to which I am unaccustomed.” Yet in this letter and the dozens that follow, Spencer bravely rises to the occasion, displaying a gift for capturing and conveying the news, maintaining his sense of humor, and framing it all for his beloved addressees in wonderfully affectionate terms. He managed to achieve all this with impressive speed, so as not to miss the boat—liter-

ally the clipper ship carrying the mail. Spencer often closed with something on the order of "I must finish quickly as the harbor boat is going to leave in a few moments." His letters were gems, and they would be read, re-read, and treasured.

*I miss you all so very much since I kissed each of you good-bye. I guess that is why I didn't rush from the dock as I thought to do, but stayed to watch you all and then the boat until it was gone. I was happy that so many remembered you with bon voyage tokens and that you were comfortably accommodated. Since you left the weather has been clear, cool, and calm here and I do hope that it has extended to where you have been.*

*Things were mighty quiet when I returned Friday so I went down to the Battery and stayed in camp until Sunday evening when I went to see "The Great Dictator."<sup>1</sup> After the show I arranged things in my quarters and went to bed.*

Work would fill part of the void left by his family's departure, for Spencer had a new job:

*Next day, today, has been a busy one. I was relieved of the Battery and assumed command of the Battalion and took over Duke Miller's work as Plans and Training Officer, Athletic O., etc. Duke was transferred to the 92nd and is moving to Kindley Field.<sup>2</sup> Bunker and I seem to click and the first day in the office has been agreeable.*

Spencer also mentions brief social interactions with General MacArthur and Colonel Bunker:

*Had dinner at six and made four calls. First on the General, who was most amiable. Said if Mrs. M. left on next boat, he would prefer to live with Pete and I, than to any he could pick. Also said most of remaining families may go back on chartered commercial boats if money is raised...Then I went to Bunkers and had a glass of wine. They were very hospitable and he, complimentary. Roy would like his little black Scottie...<sup>3</sup>*

Spencer concludes with a sweet promise that his next letter will reach Fort Mason in San Francisco ahead of them—and an assurance that his kids' trust in him as custodian of two favorite teddy bears was well placed:

*Kiss each other for me and know that your old dad is thinking of you always. Blackie and Brownie are well taken care of too. They are the only toys that I have and I love them very much. Roy made some very good promises to me on the Hyde and I hope that he is keeping them everyone. I'll write next to Ft. Mason in hopes that you will have a letter to meet you.*

*Goodnight my dear ones, with love and kisses, Dad*

Spencer was hopeful that he would soon be stationed in the United States again, although that hope was starting to dim after his orders to North Carolina were revoked. In the meantime, he eagerly awaited letters from Bess and, in one dated March 18, 1941, let her know that he was economizing so there'd be more money for them to enjoy when they were reunited. He also updated her on various household administrative matters, deferring to his wife's authority as to the proper disposition of their home furnishings and where she wanted them shipped. But playing beat-the-clock to finish his letters became trickier, for Spencer had to get his writing done before the 9:30 p.m. blackout, when the fort's power went off. Hearing no word from Bess began to make him worry:

*The clipper leaves the twenty first. This letter must leave on that ration boat in the morning to make it. The distance in time for mail to travel puts me nearly as far from Manila as you. I hope that same clipper brings me a letter from Honolulu telling me all about the first leg of your journey. I called a number of people at Mills none of whom had heard from their wives (your shipmates). If letters come on the clipper, I'm going right over on*

*that tiny fishing boat and get mine. I have never awaited mail as anxiously.*

For recreation, there was bowling or the occasional movie, although neither was much fun without Bess. Happily, Spencer reported being in good health:

*I feel great, physically. I live in such close contact with the men that I would not think of taking a drink. I go to bed early and am up at 5:45 every morning. The food has been exceptionally good and I eat a great deal of it. The water is like that in the mountains. I drink a great deal of that too. I hope my stay out here adds a few years to my life—my life with you. That alone can make my stay here worthwhile.*

*Our family group pictures did not turn out so well. I doubt if I order any. The pictures were fair but the subjects would not inspire memories of “the good old days.” You and I looked hot, tired and mentally low. Roy had his usual set “so what?” expression. Mary didn’t like the lights. One was fairly good and another was excellent except for composition. ... Better luck next time. That was humorous. I looking all enthused, am telling a story to Roy & Roy not listening or interested, is making a face at the photographer. You, grinning broadly, and making goo-goo eyes to something unseen near the ceiling & are evidently trying to make Mary do likewise. Mary looks as if she is saying “I want my .” Better luck next time.*

*Well, my dear, sweet, coy-coy Momie and babies, I’ve got to get to work. There is not much news of stories that I can tell, but know that I miss you every one every hour. I miss telling you kids stories and talking away your tears, your pushing my eyeballs and jumping my bed to waken me in the morning. Momie, I love you as much. Sometimes I feel as sentimental and homesick that a letter must sound mushy.*

*Take good care of yourselves and each other and have a good*

*time on your trip home. Your old dad will join you just as soon as he can.*

*With all my love,  
Dad*

By March 27, Spencer was missing his family so much that even those less-than-perfect, last-minute family group photos were starting to look great; despite his initial hesitation, he ordered prints after all:

*I want to see about getting a picture of a family group made up. It is not good, but it is better than nothing. My room is lonely enough. No furniture but a QM bed, chair, and chest of drawers. There is no decoration either, but two bears Roy & Mary left me. Not bad company either, for they bring to mind the very sweetest pictures. I almost talk to them along the line "Remember when."*

*I got no sleep at all last night nor did I much but sit up in the tower and look out into the darkness. I thought of you most of the time and so many things to say. So many things without a language to say them in.*

*Frankly sweetheart, I am worried as can be about you. That does no good, I know. Nor anything I do. I'm just helpless. I know that you can care for our babies better than anyone in the world with or without my help. That gives me assurance, courage. But I do so want to help, love to help. I miss playing with our babies and helping you care for them, I miss your love in our home. Bess, I'll be happy when next I have you in my arms with our Roy & Mary. You will never know how much I love you.*

*Don't spare writing when you can and always by air mail. That is my only luxury and my only joy. I hope this letter arrives before you leave San Francisco. I shall address another there which may not arrive before you depart, but know that I think of you all al- ways and too often I feel that old lump in my throat and the same sinking feeling that I had at the boat. I feel bad now, but will be OK with some sleep.*

*Always your sweetheart and  
Dad, Kirk*

In April, Spencer was relocated to Fort Drum.<sup>4</sup> There, he would be promoted to major and become the garrison commander. Fort Drum, the heavily fortified “concrete battleship” located at the mouth of Manila Bay, due south of Corregidor, was so named because El Fraile island had been leveled, in 1909, for the building of a reinforced-concrete structure shaped like a war-ship, its prow pointing toward China. The approximate strength of Fort Drum was 240 officers and men. Holding down this fort was a big responsibility, and—after a brief period of adjusting to a stationary battleship<sup>5</sup>—Major Kirkpatrick would discharge it honorably. “You might as well enjoy this vacation from your old man,” Spencer wrote Bess in a letter dated April 20, 1941. “I’ll never give you another chance if I can help it!” He added:

*Don’t let Roy and Mary forget their Dad. I get pretty blue sometimes and wish for one of our little family parades or a turn at ring around the rosie. I guess that I’m overly sentimental, but at times I could lay down and bawl out loud. I do love you all so very much. I miss being with the children while they are so sweet and cute. I know that they will always have some attributes which will be missed when they are away from us.*

In May, he wrote,

*I’ve nothing new to report. I’ve kept my nose close to the grindstone the better to endure a loneliness that I have never known before. I’ve accomplished quite a bit at the fort and received compliments from the General, the I.G.<sup>6</sup> and Col. Bunker. I, too, believe that the battle efficiency on my ship has greatly increased. But I am weary of it. It is much more pleasant here than being a participant in the rat race at Corregidor. It gives me the jitters just to visit there.*

He still held out hope for relocation to the States, and saved his money in the event he'd have to move fast:

*My expenses for April including new shoes and 2 uniforms were only \$52.00 so am happy to send you another \$50.00 with this letter. I have enough in the bank to pay my bills, if I should be ordered away quickly, and to get me home from San Francisco by train. Also, have enough to pay for your rugs and buy the things you want. I shall shop some this month and order bahooka [rattan] furniture for one room.*

Spencer often recommended that Bess and the kids visit the Kirkpatrick family cabin in Colorado for the summer. However, Bess preferred to stay on the East Coast, where her parents and sister Mary lived. And so Bess, Roy, and little Mary visited with the Cacys in Dumont, and with Aunt Mary and Uncle Ralph Glasgow in Washington, D.C. For his birthday in May—the hottest month of the year on Corregidor and El Fraile—Spencer treated himself to a brief vacation in Baguio, a city on Luzon, a northern Philippine island where the climate is far less steamy than in the lowlands; temperatures average between 59 and 73. He traveled there and back by air-conditioned train, placed a winning bet at a jai alai match, and enjoyed 18 holes of golf and the spirited punch called “rum-downer.” Spencer exuded confidence that he'd soon be coming home, writing: “Stay near a telephone all of the time now that I'll not be hard to find when news of my orders home is announced.” That phone call was never placed, for the orders were changed each time, and Spencer remained on Fort Drum. First North Carolina, then New York, then Delaware...none of the proposed assignments materialized.

In June, the stress of the preceding several months had taken a toll on the children, and both fell ill. Happily, they made an excellent recovery after a visit to the Jersey Shore.

In addition to nursing Roy and little Mary, Bess also had her hands full with housekeeping. The domestic help she'd had on Corregidor was sorely missed. With no one to assist with the chores, after the children were finally asleep, Bess would sometimes collapse into bed at the end of a long day, too exhausted even for her favorite evening pastime: reading fiction. Although she never complained, and her letters were always cheerful, Spencer could read between the lines, and felt terrible that he wasn't there to help:

*It made me most happy to know that the children were well and improved so at the beach. I can't begin to describe how miserable the thought that they are sick made me. I am unable to become accustomed to be away from them and you, particularly when things are not going well. I fully appreciate the difficulties of full responsibility thrown upon you, but envy my share.*

Spencer, too, would experience what it was like to be a den mother—to the troops. In July, stormy weather, severe enough to warrant a number-two or -four typhoon signal, made life uncomfortable for the personnel of Fort Drum, and Spencer was obliged to supply diversions, as one might devise games for kids with cabin fever:

*It has been a giant problem to keep the large number of men confined here from "blowing their top" (Ft. Drum slang for "going nuts"). The space below, even that occupied by bowling alley, is filled with canvas bunks three high and two wide as close together as in a transport. There is practically no room for recreation facility. Too stormy outside for play or movies. 12 men each block. I bought some good dart games at Haacock's, which are very popular. A number of teams have formed a league in dart baseball...Each evening in the mess hall...cards, Chinese checkers, etc. are played. Some song fests are held etc, but all under adverse conditions. I have many "children" here to keep contented. This matter, together with routine duty, has kept me*

*so occupied that I have not noticed what a hell of a place this to be so much.*

On July 26, 1941, President Roosevelt federalized the Philippine Army, recalled MacArthur to active duty in the U.S. Army as a major general, and named him commander of the U.S. Army Forces in the Far East (US- AFPE). MacArthur was promoted to lieutenant general on July 27 and then to general on December 20. Spencer was hopeful that his relocation to the States would happen soon, and could hardly wait to be reunited with Bess and the kids. His bags were packed; he was prepared to haul out on a moment's notice when his orders arrived, if they arrived. On August 8, he wrote:

*Dearest Bess,*

*It has turned stormy again and the clipper schedule is all tied up. The one scheduled for early this week has not arrived yet, but is due today and to leave Sunday. I have been so much in hopes that I could send you the good news that we have been waiting for by now. But the old army guessing game goes on. There are so many rumors, good and bad, in circulation that it will be hard to tell when any real news does break. I'll believe that I am on the way home when I watch the sunset from the deck of a boat definitely bound for San Francisco. That will be a beautiful sunset. I am ready to leave any time and I hope that I have my order by the time this letter arrives.*

*Col. Bunker inspected Wednesday for only the second time since I have been here. He made a very detailed inspection and seemed very pleased especially with the training of the men. He said that we are far more advanced in our training and general efficiency than any other organization at Mills and for that reason wants me to send a number of my privates to other organizations to be non-commissioned officers. Well there has been damn little else to do all day and night but to train soldiers and*

little interference from the "high command." We don't have much grass to cut or roads to clear either.

*I have greatly enjoyed the snapshots of the children. Only regret that you did not include one of the size fourteen. I sure miss you and them. I guess that I'll miss seeing Roy off to school for the first time—an event I hate to miss. If my orders are not published soon, I presume that you will take the Washington apartment. That certainly appealed to me as the best thing for all of us. Even if I'm ordered to the east coast later in the fall, it would be a good home base until we get settled. I could get quarters, furniture, etc. arranged so that you and children could move in with little confusion. Of course, wherever I am ordered, I had best make all necessary arrangements before you join me at a near post.*

On October 9, Spencer wrote this letter to his son:

*Dear Roy,*

*I have just received a letter from mommy about you starting to school. You must have grown a great deal since you left Fort Mills and I am glad. I hope that you learn your lessons each day, so that when I return you can show me that you can read, write, spell and add. I remember when I was a little boy starting school down in Oklahoma. Some of my schoolmates were little Indians. Their dads were Indian braves, their mommy's Indian squaws. They did not study hard, though, and could not talk very well in English. But they could run as fast as deers. One, named Hosey, was a good friend of mine. He could*

*NOT TALK VERY good English either, but he could talk to birds, animals and insects. He could not talk to fish because they have no ears. He used to frighten the Teacher by making a noise like a mouse. One day he made a noise so much like a mouse that a whole family of real mice came into the school room so that they could hear better. The Teacher and the little girls were sure scared*

too. But Hosey never learned to talk like a man and now his only friends are insects with ears that stay with him all of the time. Most of the children at my school were not Indians. They were very much like the children in Dumont. Some were smart and did their daily tasks so well that they grew up to own railroads of their own and airplanes, and be firemen, policemen and good citizens. Others were dumb, played hooky (like your ma) and said bad words so that when they grew up they became lawyers and politicians and went to jail.

In the old days, when you had a little guy at Fort Mills, they had a school. Pete and Floyd and many others went. Now there is not one single little boy or girl at Fort Mills—Now the school has become a bar- racks by putting soldiers' beds where the little desks used to be. And there is another hospital where the playgrounds were. The swings and merry-go-round are still there, but they are nearly hidden by tall grass where no grass used to grow. No children march with the soldiers at evening parades. Only geckos and house boys watch. The old barracks and many new ones are filled with soldiers, with hard voices, heavy shoes, radios, bowling alleys and noisy kitchens. But things seem too quiet since the children went away. I miss you, Mary and your friends very much.

I expected to be home with you and Mary and Mom- my long ago. But it seems that each time I get ready to get on a boat, that the general orders me to stay here to teach the soldiers and sailors how to shoot the biggest guns of all. Of course, soldiers must know how to shoot. I hope that they all learn quickly so that I can go back to my little boy. I especially want- ed to be home for your birthday party so that you and I could have a real good time together. And I will come home just as soon as the general permits me. Since all of the children have gone, the stores have had no presents that little boys would like so I am sending you \$5.00 for your birthday present.

Be a good boy and give Mary and Mother and Grandma and

*Grandpa all a good hug and kiss for me. I am well but cannot be really and truly happy until I am with you again.*

*With all my love to my little ones, Dad*

On the night of November 29, orders were issued that the entire Harbor Defenses command would be alert at all times. The move from peacetime to wartime conditions was to be completed by 1200 (military time for twelve noon) the following day.<sup>7</sup> One week later—on a day that the heretofore non-interventionist President Roosevelt solemnly vowed would “live in infamy”—the Empire of Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, headquarters of the United States Pacific Fleet, in Hawaii, at 7:48 A.M. With this shocking military strike, the enemy achieved complete tactical surprise. The base was attacked by 353 Japanese fighter planes, bombers, and torpedo planes in two waves, launched from six aircraft carriers. All eight U.S. Navy battleships were damaged; four were sunk.

The Japanese also sank or damaged three cruisers, three destroyers, an anti-aircraft training ship, and one minelayer. Two thousand four hundred and three Americans were killed, 1,178 more were wounded, and 188 U.S. aircraft destroyed. The attack was the immediate cause of the United States’ entry into World War II, in both the Pacific and the European theaters. The U.S. declared war on Japan; Germany and Italy declared war on the U.S. From that point on, families across America—Bess and the children included—would keep an ear close to the radio for news from “over there.”

It wasn’t long before Japan targeted the Philippines. The country’s plans for independence, a priority of President Quezon’s agenda, were once again interrupted when the Japanese Empire invaded. Quezon was exiled to the United States, and the Second Philippine Republic of Jose

P. Laurel was established as a collaborator state. Upon notification of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Fort Drum cleared its decks for action, literally: temporary wooden barracks that had housed the troops in peacetime were now shoved over the side. On December 29 at 1200 Corregidor was attacked by about 60 enemy twin-engine bombers and numerous Japanese dive-bombers, including nine old-fashioned bi-planes (the kind flown in World War I). The attacks on Corregidor continued through January 6. Fort Drum, which had not yet been attacked, assisted the other islands by firing the two AA guns at the enemy bombers whenever they came within range. On February 6 at 0820, Japanese artillery fired on Fort Drum with a 105-mm howitzer; this attack lasted three and a half hours. Firing often took place at night, and continued daily for about two weeks. Spencer's morale was high, as his next letter indicates, and although his focus was on winning the war, his mind's eye saw a happy future with his family:

*Feb. 13th, 1942*

*Darling Bess, Roy and Mary:*

*An opportunity may soon arrive to start this short letter on a long perilous journey home. There is much to write about, but little that I may say. I am perfectly well and have been since the war began. I have taken part in considerable action, with credit. You will be proud of me when it is proper to make the details known.*

*In September I was promoted to Lt. Colonel with full pay and allowances. I am increasing your allotment by one hundred dollars. I hope that will relieve you of any financial worry. Perhaps you can arrange to take the children to the mountains or seashore for the summer or you may wish to establish a home until I return. Do all that you can for your comfort, happiness*

*and health. I hope that war never reaches you. It is bitter misery for children and mothers.*

*I have not been away from my post since late last November, but some of our friends have been able to visit me here while others frequently chat by phone. All are well and are making the best of things. I learned that all of the items that I bought since last February, your rugs, silver and my trunk (packed) were burned. I hope that our insurance is still in effect or that a claim may be made successfully. The total loss was quite a bit. I have a complete list of what the nine boxes, crates and my trunk contained. Our old quarters went down with a\_\_\_\_\_ (as Roy would put it) on about Xmas or New Year's. All I have now is a few cotton uniforms, drawers, shoes and a tin hat. There is no need for additional personal effects. Your letters and a few snap shots were not burned—they were with me. And, Bess, they have helped so much.*

*I have devoted every effort, energy, and thought to improving our position here. The stronger we fight the better our chances are for a quick victory and peace. It has taken more courage, stamina and skill than I knew that I possessed. It is a great relief, a great personal victory, to stand the test of fire and continuous action and know that you can "take it" and lead others. Know, too, that you can perform anything and everything that war demands. I do not want you to worry about me. We must have faith in what we cannot see. Somehow, I seem to keep in touch with you that way. There is comfort and consolation in prayers.*

*It will soon be a year since you sailed. It seems so much longer, but every little detail of your leaving stands out in my memory. The year has been my saddest. Only the service that I may now render near justifies it. And I have missed your love and the happy companionship of our children at their age more than can be said. But, when this war ends, we will make up for it all. If you can save some we might soon get us a home of our own. I'll*

*be saving about a hundred a month. Anyway, it is something to dream about.*

*I love you all devotedly and hold you closely to my heart always. I hope that my conduct will always make you and my children proud of me and our name. I am perfectly confident that soon after this war is over I'll be back, whole, to enjoy again our home and the love of my family. Best wishes to your folks, Mary, Ralph and all. Please write a letter to my mother (E.E.K.—Huckins Hotel, Okla City). I can write only one letter now. Send her my love and tell her that I am well. I hope that this letter makes the grade and brings to you some cheer.*

*With all of my love, Dad*

By March 11, 1942, Spencer keenly felt the strain of combat. When he'd written that his family would be proud when the details could be made known, military discretion prevented him from spilling the beans: their Daddy was nothing less than a hero. At the time he wrote, in February, Fort Drum had been subjected to intense bombing, with 100 shells hitting the concrete battleship on the first day. Spencer's skill and stamina made sure that the enemy got a pounding in return. Spencer would secure the fortress and never give up the fight. But being a hero wasn't easy. The stress of this situation was compounded by the anxiety of separation from his beloved family and the mounting stir-craziness of his cooped-up circumstances. Food in barracks was strictly rationed and nothing to write home about; the smell of Bess's delicious cooking wafted across Spencer's memory so vividly he could almost taste it. Still, he maintained his sense of humor:

*I hope that you get some of my letters. Enough to know that I am well and have been since the war began. I have been on a most healthy diet. My dad used to say, "What you don't eat will never make you sick," which was a very safe observa-*

*tion indeed. However, I would risk my present good health to sink my teeth in one of your lemon meringue pies after a dinner of porterhouse steak broiled in butter with mushroom and plenty of French fries with just the right amount of salt and tomatoes and a couple of high balls to polish off while the steak cooks.*

As he had at West Point, Spencer found time to sit outdoors with a book or two. The heat made him nostalgic for those Maine winters of days gone by: "I'd like to be building a snow house with Roy and Mary, with an icicle hanging on my nose and ears," he wrote. Absence made his heart so fond of his beloved and their little ones that smoke got in his eyes more than once; Spencer's heart was on fire, precisely as described by the song he and Bess loved. Disillusionment with war had begun to set in:

*I am too close to the war to see or know much of what is going on. All I get is a few side lights and sound effects without music or song. There is no glamour, or romance or adventure to it. It is just grim, nasty and wasteful. You get some news and wait for the war to run its miserable course. I hope that we can get going soon and be done with it. I am confident as ever that we can win out. It will take time, sacrifice and work.*

Unlike his previous letters, handwritten in his neat, left-leaning style, this one is typed. It would be the last letter his family received directly from Spencer. Six days after he wrote and posted it, on March 17, 1942, Fort Drum and Fort Frank underwent heavy bombardment from Japanese 240-mm howitzers, placed by the enemy on the shoreline of Cavite, on the southern shore of Manila Bay (Luzon Island). The day after Spencer typed this letter, March 12, 1942, General MacArthur and a select group left Corregidor in four PT boats.<sup>8</sup> Back in December, when the Japanese began bombing the Philippines, President Roosevelt had

ordered MacArthur to relocate to Australia, to prevent him from being captured by the enemy.

On April 24, 1942, Colonel Bunker notes in his diary: "About 3:00 p.m. the Japs started desultory shelling of Corregidor which got rapidly heavier. At first we had no rover batteries working—when we tried to open with [Battery] Geary they started firing 240s at it. Then we tried in vain to start [Battery] Craighill, and the enemy came down on that. So all we had left was the Drum turrets, so we got Kirk busy and he did yeoman service in silencing 3 Jap guns—probably 240 mm. While doing this, Japs started firing on him from Cavite, so we started [Battery] Koehler to working that bunch over, and they stopped as soon as Koehler opened fire."<sup>9</sup>

On May 6, 1942, Spencer was ordered to surrender Fort Drum. He did so only after he and his men destroyed the equipment, rendering the fort useless for the invading army. We can only imagine how wrenching it must have been for this expert artilleryman to destroy the armaments of which he was the custodian, especially the big guns—the four fourteen-inch, turret-mounted naval rifles and their periscopes that he and his men had manned to defend the fort with the same to-the-mat tenacity of the American heroes who defended the Alamo 106 years earlier. The same day, Lieutenant General Wainwright surrendered Corregidor, ordering Colonel Bunker to perform an equally painful task: lower the

U.S. flag and burn it, to prevent its falling into the hands of the Japanese forces.<sup>10</sup>

At 4 A.M. on May 6, President Roosevelt sent Wainwright this message:

*During recent weeks we have been following with growing admiration the day-by-day accounts of your heroic stand against*

*the mounting intensity of bombardment by enemy planes and heavy siege guns.*

*In spite of all the handicaps of complete isolation, lack of food and ammunition you have given the world a shining example of patriotic fortitude and self-sacrifice.*

*The American people ask no finer example of tenacity, resourcefulness, and steadfast courage. The calm determination of your personal leadership in a desperate situation sets a standard of duty for our soldiers throughout the world. In every camp and on every naval vessel soldiers, sailors, and Marines are inspired by the gallant struggle of their comrades in the Philippines. The workmen in our shipyards and munitions plants redouble their efforts because of your example.*

*You and your devoted followers have become the living symbols of our war aims and the guarantee of victory.*

*Franklin D. Roosevelt*

Meanwhile, on the home front, that same month, Bess and the children moved into an eight-room house in Washington, D.C., at 3400 Porter Street NW, not far from where her sister Mary Glasgow and Spencer's brother Elmer lived with their families. After eagerly decorating the

PLACE IN ANTICIPATION of Spencer's homecoming, Bess received a letter from the office of the Adjunct General in the War Department, dated May 21, 1942, notifying her that "I deeply regret that it is impossible for me to give you more information than is contained in this letter... The War Department will consider the persons serving in the Philippine Islands as 'missing in action' from the date of the surrender of Corregidor, May 7, 1942, until definite information to the contrary is received. It is to be hoped that the Japanese Government will communicate a list of prisoners

of war at an early date. At that time you will be notified by this office in the event his name is contained in the list of prisoners of war.”

Around Christmas 1942, Bess received an update as to Spencer’s health, possibly via telephone communication with the Red Cross, for she handwrote the following on the back of the above postal telegraph, as one does when taking notes during an important conversation:

*I am interned at Philippine Prison Camp No. 9. My health is excellent. I am uninjured. I am well. Please see that every comfort to yourself and children is taken care of. Darling wife Roy and Mary. My thoughts are with you this Xmas week and always. Don't worry confident excellent health will continue. Love Kirk. Please give my best regards to loved ones and Mother.*

It had been almost two years—one year and ten months—since she and the children had departed the Philippines. Almost a year later, Bess received a postal telegraph dated May 14, 1943, the day before Spencer’s birthday:

REPORT JUST RECEIVED THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS STATES THAT

YOUR HUSBAND, LIEUTENANT COLONEL LEWIS S KIRKPATRICK, IS A PRISONER OF WAR OF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT LETTER OF INFORMATION FOLLOWS FROM PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL<sup>11</sup>

Bess was worried sick about Spencer’s health, especially in light of the letters in which he’d described his bout with pleurisy and piles, plus oral-tumor removal and a painful abscessed tooth that required extraction. Her letters to him had gone unanswered; she didn’t know whether they had even reached him. She’d prayed he was alive, and this new communication seemed a credible answer to those prayers.

After months of waiting and worrying, Bess received wonderful news on May 15, 1943—Spencer and Mary's birthday. Their beloved Daddy was alive, and mail could be sent to him in care of the Japanese Red Cross! Overjoyed, Bess hastily wrote and posted this letter:

*Daddy Darling,*

*After a long year of waiting we received the good news on your and Mary's birthday, while decorating. We never doubted for a minute that you were alive but it was so long in coming and we could not write.*

*A year ago I decided to make a home for the children so picked a place near Mary and Elmer so that I wouldn't be alone. Since then both Elmer and Mary left but Mary returns next week. I have an eight room house in the northwest section and rent out a room to help with expenses. I bought some furniture for upstairs to make us more comfortable so intend to "sit tight" until it is all over.*

*Many friends and relatives come here on business occasionally so I keep in touch with both families who are doing their best and are well. Your mother is in the same city and from what I hear in excellent health. Eleanor and Joan are also there while John has your interests at heart. Claude is leaving soon and Edie Wee is at her father's home. Mary E. is south someplace and expects another child soon.*

*Both your children dear are in excellent health and I am doing the very best I possibly can. I am with them constantly and we talk so much of the future. Mary has you pictured as the tallest, strongest, best-looking and cleverest man in the world. It goes without saying that Roy loves you more than ever, if that is possible. Roy is just finishing his second grade as an average pupil. He did rather poorly last year as his poor little mind was so confused but this year he has had an excellent teacher who took a personal interest in his problems. Mary is smart, unusually quick,*

*with a bad temper—I wonder where she got that. She expects to take the school by storm next year. She still looks like you while Roy has your expressions and gift for storytelling. He was noted as having the best imagination of anyone in the second grade.*

*Mother and Dad are fine and he is tackling a very hard job these days but thriving under it. Dora and children live near them in an apartment. Bud has been working for Ralph for nearly a year.*

*The five letters I received since war broke have almost been memorized and keep me going. I am positive we have a wonderful future to look forward to and nothing can keep us apart.*

*If it is possible for you to send a cable collect darling please do so. I hope we've reached you.*

*Be brave dear and our prayers will be answered.*

*Goodbye for now.*

*Your own devoted Bess*

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## PRO PATRIA MORI

**T**he Kirkpatrick family's elation would be short-lived, for in September of 1943 Bess received the news that Spencer had died of bronchial pneumonia five months earlier, on April 27. Her husband was already gone before Bess posted that last letter to him; it was returned to her in the original envelope, which she'd hand-addressed. Spencer's body had been cremated, and his remains buried in the cemetery at Bilibid Prison in Manila. According to a letter received by Elmer Kirkpatrick from U.S. Army Chaplain Perry O. Wilcox in August of 1945, "all burials in Bilibid Prison were made in individual graves, well marked with heavy plank crosses on which the name and date of death were carved with a chisel. The cemetery was well cared for, the grass mowed and flowers growing in large flower beds about the cemetery. None of the graves suffered any damage in the battle of Manila." On October 22, 1948, Spencer's cremated remains were transferred to his final resting place, Arlington National Cemetery, beneath a white headstone that reads:

LEWIS S.  
KIRKPATRICK  
OKLAHOMA  
LT. COL.  
59 COAST ARTY  
WORLD WAR II  
MAY 15, 1901  
APRIL 27, 1943

DETAILS OF HIS IMPRISONMENT, passing, and cremation came to Bess in December of 1945, when she received a highly informative letter from Sergeant Larry Wozniak, whom she remembered from the family's time on Corregidor, when he'd been in charge of the meat market. It read, in part:

*I think it was about three weeks after the fall [of Corregidor] that he was sent to Cabanatuan [a Japanese P.O.W. camp near Cabanatuan City on the island of Luzon], but he didn't stay there long. He was sent back to Corregidor with about sixty-five enlisted men and officers. As the senior officer there, he immediately assumed command, and was the American officer in charge of the camp. The Col. was informed by the Japanese that as camp commander, he was entitled to an orderly and could choose one as he saw fit. The Col. was too much of a man to accept any favors that were not permitted to other officers there, even though he was the senior officer. This was just one of the many reasons why he was so well liked and respected by all the men in camp.*

*I was put to work in the galley by the Col. and if at any time he had any personal work which he needed done, he would always come to me to do it for him— which was indeed a pleasure and an honor as he and I had established a very close friendship.*

*It was as early as the middle of April that the Col. and I had planned to celebrate our birthdays together, May 15th, and I regret that his untimely death did not permit us to fulfill this plan. Thursday, April 22, 1943, I remember very clearly...It was very hot that day, and in the evening the Col. had remarked to me that he thought he was having a slight fever. The following day he did not eat any breakfast or dinner and very little supper. Saturday the Col. was feeling better, but on Sunday he had a fever all day long. On Monday evening as I went to him for the fifth time that day to see if he was in need of anything, or if there was anything at all that I could do for him, he raised his head from his pillow and said, "Gee, I'm feeling bad, Woz." Then he laid his head down and fell into a coma, and I'm sure that those words were his last, because early Tuesday morning, April 27, 1943, after an illness of only five days, he died in his sleep. The doctor called it bronchial pneumonia. The untimely passing of such a fine man as Col. Kirkpatrick was keenly felt by the entire company, but we were grateful, too, that his illness was of short duration.*

*It was my privilege to help prepare him for burial. We had a clean sun tan uniform to put on him, wrapped his body in an American flag that [was] hidden all those months from the Japs, and sent his remains to Manila for burial. Fourteen months later, I, too, was sent to Bilibid Prison in Manila, and in our prison compound found the marker for his grave—a small white cross with only his name and date of death. A small marker for so great a man, it is true, but no monument in the world could be large enough to show the love his men had for him because of the countless courtesies, kindness, and never ending consideration he always had for us.<sup>1</sup>*

In December 1946, after a year of hospitalization following his liberation from a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp, Lieutenant John M. Wright Jr. brought a special

Christmas delivery to Bess: her husband's West Point ring. Wright had rescued it upon Spencer's death, and kept it hidden from his Japanese captors by sewing it inside his trouser cuff, together with his own West Point ring. In addition, Wright presented Bess with Spencer's dog tag, which he'd also managed to keep safe. Wright informed her that the Japanese had offered one unit of blood plasma at the last minute, but it came too late to save Spencer.<sup>2</sup> Renowned physician Dr. William Osler, who died of pneumonia, called it "the old man's friend"; there was some consolation, for his family and his men, in the understanding that Spencer had not suffered as long or as badly at the hands of the detaining power as he might have. Colonel Bunker, on the other hand, was cruelly mistreated by his Japanese captors on Taiwan. By the time of Bunker's death in 1943, his once magnificent frame had wasted from 220 to 150 pounds due to starvation and disease. In his diary, published posthumously, the colonel mentioned Spencer favorably as a capable and trustworthy colleague. Bunker is buried in the cemetery at West Point, and the West Point Museum houses the fragment of the United States flag he rescued from Corregidor.<sup>3</sup>

General Wainwright, commander of the Philippine Division, was held in prison camps in northern Luzon, Taiwan, and Liaoyuan (a county within Manchukuo) until his liberation by the Red Army in 1945. The highest-ranking American P.O.W. held by the Japanese, Wainwright had grown extremely thin and malnourished after three years of mistreatment during captivity, but he survived.

At the First Presbyterian Church of Oklahoma City, Spencer Kirkpatrick was remembered during the morning worship services for October 3, 1943. Claudia's grief at losing her first son was indescribable. In Warrenville, Illinois, a Catholic religious congregation called the Cenacle accorded

perpetual membership in the Crusade of Prayer to Colonel Kirkpatrick, stating that “the name will remain upon the Altar and participation will be given in One Hundred Masses annually, and the daily prayers of The Religious of the Cenacle.” It was a tribute from Spencer’s boyhood friend Frank Cusack.

In April, 1944, the West Point Magazine commemorated Spencer’s heroism thus:

*After his family was evacuated in February, 1941, Colonel Kirkpatrick took command of Fort Drum and prepared it for the oncoming fight. During the Battle of Bataan and the Siege of Corregidor, Fort Drum under his command stood as a thorn in the side of the Japanese conquest. Though subjected to intense artillery fire and aerial bombing almost daily, this garrison made sufficient repairs at night to be able to reply to the next attack. The heroes of Fort Drum were among the last to be taken by the Japanese.*

*News of his death in a Japanese prison camp came on September 2, 1943, just a short time after his family had received word from him that he was a prisoner and in good health.*

*“Buffalo” will be remembered with love and respect as the finest soldier of a family of soldiers and American pioneers. His forebears played their part, and not a small one, in opening new frontiers and defending them. His performance was no less than the greatest of theirs.*

World War II lasted until 1945 and involved the majority of the world’s nations—including all of the great powers. It was history’s most widespread war, directly involving more than 100 million people from more than 30 countries. It was marked by mass deaths of civilians, including the Holocaust (during which approximately 11 million people were killed) and the strategic bombing of industrial and population centers (during which approximately one million people

were killed and many treasures of art and architecture destroyed). The war resulted in an estimated 50 million to 85 million fatalities, making it the deadliest conflict in human history.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt died on April 12, 1945, of a massive cerebral hemorrhage; Vice President Harry S. Truman succeeded him as 33rd president of the United States. Due to this transition, Bess was notified by two separate Commanders-in-Chief of her husband's valor in combat.

General Douglas MacArthur had promised he would return to the Philippines; he did so on October 20, 1944. The MacArthur Landing Memorial National Park on Leyte commemorates his landing on the beach, during which the general and several others waded ashore after their boat grounded in knee-deep water. As the war entered its sixth year, the Allies had begun to prepare for Operation Downfall, an invasion of the Japanese mainland. The war in Europe ended when Nazi Germany signed its instrument of surrender on May 8, 1945. However, Japan refused to accept the Allies' demands for unconditional surrender, so the Pacific War continued. On July 26, 1945, President Truman, U.K. prime minister Winston Churchill, and chairman of the Nationalist Government of China Chiang Kai-shek issued the Potsdam Declaration, which outlined the terms of surrender for the Empire of Japan. The ultimatum stated that, if Japan did not surrender, it would face "prompt and utter destruction." The empire's response was *mokusatsu*—Japanese for "to kill with silence" or "to practice wise inactivity." This was answered by Truman's swift decision to carry out the threat of destruction. Instead of the conventional bombing that had defined the rest of the war, Truman opted for a new kind of aerial bombardment that could not

be ignored: the results of a nuclear-weapons research-and-development program called the Manhattan Project.

The special assistant to the director of the Manhattan Project was none other than Spencer's brother Elmer E. Kirkpatrick Jr. Elmer was sent to the Pacific island of Tinian, where he was responsible for base development in support of Project Alberta and the 509th Composite Group, a unit of the United States Army Air Forces tasked with the operational deployment of nuclear weapons.<sup>4</sup> On July 16, the Trinity Test—the first artificial nuclear explosion in history—was successfully completed in New Mexico. On August 6, a Boeing B-29 Superfortress bomber named *Enola Gay*, developed with the help of its pilot, Brigadier General Paul Tibbets (who named the plane after his mom), became the first aircraft in the history of warfare to drop an atomic bomb. At approximately 9:15 A.M. JST (Japanese Standard Time), the bomb, code-named “Little Boy” (what Humphrey Bogart calls Elisha Cook Jr.'s character in *The Maltese Falcon*), exploded 2,000 feet above Hiroshima, destroying five square miles of the city, which had a sizable military garrison.

On August 9, the bomb code-named “Fat Man” (named after Sydney Greenstreet's *Maltese Falcon* character) was dropped from the Boeing B-29 Superfortress “*Bockscar*,” detonating at 11:02 A.M. JST over the city of Nagasaki. That same day, Russia declared war on Japan. The Soviet invasion of Manchuria quickly defeated the Japanese Army in Manchukuo. Less than one week later, on August 15, Japan announced its surrender to the Allies, signing the instrument of surrender on September 2. World War II had finally come to an end. General Wainwright returned to the Philippines to receive the surrender of the local Japanese commander, Lieutenant-General Tomoyuki Yamashita,

aboard the USS Missouri, a U.S. Navy Iowa-class battleship known as “Mighty Mo.”

THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY Tribunal for the Far East (IMTFE), also known as the Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal—the counterpart of Nuremberg—was convened on April 29, 1946, to try the leaders of the Empire of Japan for three types of war crimes: “Class A” crimes were reserved for those who participated in a joint conspiracy to start and wage war; “Class B” crimes were reserved for those who committed “conventional” atrocities or crimes against humanity; “Class C” crimes were reserved for those involved in “the planning, ordering, authorization, or failure to prevent such transgressions at higher levels in the command structure.” The tribunal ended in November 1948. Of the 5,379 Japanese, 173 Taiwanese, and 148 Koreans charged as Class B and C war criminals for conventional crimes and violations of the laws about 4,300 were convicted, almost 1,000 sentenced to death, and hundreds given life imprisonment.<sup>5</sup>

On October 24, 1945, the Republic of the Philippines became one of the founding members of the United Nations, the intergovernmental organization established to replace the ineffective League of Nations; the U.N.’s mission is to promote international cooperation and prevent another world conflict. On July 4, 1946, the Philippines’ independence was recognized by the United States, during the presidency of Manuel Roxas.

In 1944, Lieutenant General LeRoy Lutes of Army Service Forces decorated ten-year-old Roy Kirkpatrick with his father Spencer’s posthumous Legion of Merit Award. The citation reads:

*Lieutenant Colonel LEWIS S. KIRKPATRICK, 015709, Coast*

*Artillery Corps, United States Army. For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services in the Southwest Pacific Area, from 18 March to 6 May 1942. Serving as Commanding Officer, Fort Drum, Manila Bay, Philippine Islands, Colonel Kirkpatrick displayed brilliant leadership and resourcefulness in meeting the savage attack of overwhelming Japanese forces during the early days of the war. Although the Fort was completely invested by the enemy, and supplies and reinforcements unobtainable, Colonel Kirkpatrick continued the fight with such courage and skill as to become a most inspiring example to the men of his command. Although subjected to frequent aerial bombings and prolonged shellings which resulted in hundreds of hits on the sides, deck and armament of the Fort, he maintained Fort Drum in a condition of readiness for instant and effective action throughout the long siege. With complete disregard for personal danger, he directed his men as enemy artillery in Cavite Province and Bataan Peninsula was located and heavy counter-battery fire dealt against the enemy positions, thus materially minimizing casualties and reducing the destruction of defensive elements on other fortified islands of the Harbor Defense and nearby anchored shipping. Utilizing his broad tactical and technical skill, he engaged enemy landing barges which were attacking Corregidor and enemy troop concentrations on the Bataan shore and was instrumental in inflicting many casualties upon the foe. Fighting against a numerically superior enemy force and in the face of almost certain death or capture, he courageously remained at his post, directing his men in the defense of the Manila Bay area. Through his outstanding leadership, and unflagging devotion to duty, Colonel Kirkpatrick made an invaluable contribution to the heroic defense of the Philippine Islands.*

Battery Wilridge was a reinforced concrete, eight-inch coastal gun battery on Wiliwilinui Military Reservation, Honolulu County, Hawaii. It was built using a U.S. Navy

twin-gun turret removed from the aircraft carrier USS Lexington; battery construction started on June 15, 1942 and was completed on December 16, 1942. In Spencer's honor, it was renamed Battery Lewis S. Kirkpatrick on August 27, 1946. Placed in caretaker status at the end of the war, it was disarmed in 1949.

Spencer's brother John made inquiries with the Army Records Administration Center; he received a letter from the Office of the Adjutant General which states, in part:

*Lt. Col. Kirkpatrick was entitled to the following decorations and awards: Legion of Merit, for performance of outstanding services at Fort Drum, Philippine Islands, from 18 March to 6 May 1942; one Oak- Leaf Cluster to Legion of Merit, for performance of outstanding services in the Philippine Islands from 8 December 1941 to 12 March 1942; Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with one bronze Service Star for the Philippine Islands Campaign; American Defense Service Medal with one Bronze Star; World War II Victory Medal; Distinguished Unit Emblem with two Oak-leaf Clusters; and the Philippine Defense Ribbon with one Bronze Star.*<sup>6</sup>

Another brave alumnus of West Point<sup>7</sup> was General Dwight D. Eisenhower, MacArthur's aide in the Philippines, who became supreme commander of the Allied forces in Europe. Eisenhower was elected president in 1952, the last commander in chief to have been born in the nineteenth century. "Ike" served two terms and is ranked by scholars as one of the ten greatest U.S. presidents.

In his memoir, *Reminiscences* (published in 1964), MacArthur<sup>8</sup> recalled the day he left Corregidor, and the last time he saw his friends and fellow West Point alums, among them Jonathan Wainwright and Paul Bunker:

*Through the shattered ruins, my eyes sought "Topside," where the deep roar of heavy guns still growled in defiance, with*

*their red blasts tearing the growing darkness asunder. Up there, in command, was my classmate, Paul Bunker. Forty years had passed since Bunker had twice been selected by Walter Camp for the All American team. I could shut my eyes and see again that blond head racing, tearing, plunging—210 pounds of irresistible power. I could almost hear Quarterback Charley Daly's shrill voice barking, "Bunker back." He and many others up there were old, old friends, bound by ties of deepest friendship.*<sup>9</sup>

Paul Bunker was posthumously inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1969; in 2008, *Sports Illustrated* named him the retroactive Heisman Trophy winner for 1902 (the award wouldn't be created until 1935, so the magazine sought to identify the college players who would have likely won the trophy). In San Francisco, near the Presidio and Golden Gate National Recreation Area, two streets are designated to honor a pair of American commanding officers: Bunker Road, named for Colonel Paul Bunker, and Kirkpatrick Road, named for Lieutenant Colonel Lewis Spencer Kirkpatrick.

In 1978, Spencer's brother John Kirkpatrick and his wife, Eleanor, traveled to Fort Drum to oversee the placement of a bronze plaque honoring Spencer. It reads:

IN MEMORY OF OUR BROTHER  
LEWIS SPENCER KIRKPATRICK  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL, U.S. ARMY  
WHO COMMANDED & FOUGHT THIS FORT IN  
1941 & 1942  
ELMER E. KIRKPATRICK, COL. U.S. ARMY  
JOHN E. KIRKPATRICK, REAR ADMIRAL U.S.N.  
CLAUDE S. KIRKPATRICK CAPTAIN U.S.N.  
MARY KIRKPATRICK DAILEY

Also that year, the West Point class of 1924 June bulletin had this to say about Spencer's legacy:

*In all that has been written about the siege of Corregidor during the Philippine campaign in 1941–42, the part played by Fort Drum and its valiant defenders in holding the entrance to Manila Bay has been submerged in the news of larger events. It is not generally known that that fort, called the concrete battleship, withstood the Japanese aerial and artillery bombardments for four months with relatively little damage; that its garrison suffered a casualty of only one man wounded; and that after most of the guns on Corregidor were silenced, the batteries of four 14-inch guns on Fort Drum continued to pound the Japs until five minutes before the declared ceasefire on 6 May 1942. Our Kirk commanded Fort Drum throughout the entire struggle, and surrendered to the Japanese only when so ordered by his Commanding General. Before doing so, he destroyed all the armament on Fort Drum, thus denying its use by the enemy against our forces upon their return to the Philippines.*

*On 27 April 1943, Kirk died of pneumonia while a prisoner of the Japanese on Corregidor.*

The heroism of what would come to be called “the Gallant Last Stand of the Concrete Battleship” is the more impressive upon learning that Fort Drum and Fort Mills were not built to survive aerial bombardment; constructed in 1909, they were designed to stand up solely to seaborne attack, and could withstand only a six-month-long siege. Spencer and his men were bravely fighting a mid-twentieth-century war in a late-nineteenth-century fortress.

In 1988, John M. Wright published his memoir, *Captured on Corregidor: Diary of an American P.O.W. in World War II*. In its pages, he shares this elegiac reminiscence of Spencer:

*I asked for permission to bury Colonel Kirkpatrick in the*

*American cemetery on Corregidor. That request was denied, and I was ordered to cremate the body. Hidden away on the third floor of the hospital, Goldy [Lieutenant Leonard E. Goldsmith] had an American flag. We dressed the colonel in full uniform, wearing all his insignia, then wrapped the body in the American flag, and covered that with an Army blanket. A Japanese sergeant accompanied a five-man American detail to the beach for the cremation. As the truck made the trip with the boy, all Americans out on work details formed along the road, stood at attention and paid their final respects to our commanding officer.*

*The cremation was carried out on the same beach where he had first been corralled following the surrender of Corregidor. As the guard watched the cremation, he was amazed when the blanket fell from the body, and the colonel lay under a flaming American flag. That sight renewed our inspiration, our hope, our determination to get through, to be Americans again under that American flag, under which so many Americans had died, and would yet die, to preserve the American way of life.*

*On May 15th, the colonel's birthday, we had our breakfast celebration as he had planned. I invited all the officers to my room and served baked ham, fried eggs, and plenty of coffee, which was becoming a rare item. As we sat at the table, eighteen officers dressed in our best khaki uniforms, we took another grip on the pre-war past. We were officers again, forgetting our prisoner of war status for a few minutes. Little did we know of what lay ahead—this was a brief respite. Of the thirteen of us who sat at that table, eight fell by the wayside on the road to hell.*

*For the month following Colonel Kirkpatrick's death, Corregidor was not the same to me. I missed our cribbage and Chinese checkers; I missed the colonel's abominable Japanese; I missed our arguments over who would do the dishes and sweep the floor. The rest of the camp missed him, too.<sup>10</sup>*

In 2013, the Internet further burnished Spencer's legacy.

A comment about his memorial was left on the West Point Web site; it came from Hidenori Horiuchi of Japan, who regretted that his “English is not good” and kindly shared a photograph of Spencer with three Japanese officers (the one in the white T-shirt being Mr. Horiuchi’s uncle). Mr. Horiuchi said that Ashihei Hino, a reporter with a Japanese magazine, had interviewed Spencer. It was noted that “Lt. Col. Kirkpatrick has showed removed the family photos from the pocket. Its photo, is reflected wife and two children.” If further proof was required that, in Bess’s words, “he was a perfect husband and father,” there it was.

Roy Spencer Kirkpatrick—the brave little soldier decorated with his Daddy’s medal—grew into “a fine big boy,” just as Spencer had wanted; Roy joined “the Long Gray Line,” graduating from West Point in 1958 and then served in Korea and Vietnam. Roy was the handsome image of his father. Meanwhile, Mary—as if following to the letter Spencer’s written directive to “remain as lovely as you are in my dreams”—blossomed into a beauty who strongly resembled the Daddy she could barely remember. Bess, referencing the old tune so beloved to her and Spencer, would tell Roy and Mary how they’d be able to recognize true love: if smoke got in their eyes. Bess knew whereof she spoke: she never fully recovered from the loss of her own true love. A war widow’s pension was never quite enough to make ends meet, so Bess was kept busy in a retail position at the department store Best & Co.; in her spare time, she was active with Gold Star Wives of America, a support service for widows whose early members included First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. The group pledged “to work diligently and unselfishly in the interest of all of us who have been called upon in a very personal way to share in the ‘last full measure of devotion’ to our country and mankind.”<sup>11</sup> To

combat loneliness, Bess returned to active seamstress duty; her daughter was now the beneficiary of her stellar sewing skills. Mary was outfitted with a variety of lovely dresses, including one inspired by a costume Judy Garland wears in the 1946 movie *Till the Clouds Roll By*, in which the actress famously sings “Look for the Silver Lining.” Sadly, the only lining Bess could see now was the material that would line the inside of Mary’s latest dress. With Spencer gone, Bess was not so much living as existing. She’d bravely held out long enough for Roy to reach adulthood, but she didn’t have much time left; diagnosed with cancer, Bess asked Eleanor and John Kirkpatrick to look after Mary, and the couple welcomed their teenage niece at their home in Oklahoma City. Bess died on May 10, 1956, aged 55. She is buried alongside Spencer at Arlington National Cemetery.

Roy married twice, fathering three daughters— Jennifer, Elizabeth, and Melissa—and a son, also named Roy, who is the proud keeper of Spencer’s West Point ring. In 1991, he succumbed to heart disease. He is interred at St. Mary’s Episcopal Cemetery in Portsmouth, Rhode Island. Mary traveled internationally, held jobs in America and abroad; she was married and divorced, and now lives in New York City. Mary has a daughter named Justine, who lives in Paris with her husband and their son, Tyler. Mary treasures the miniature West Point ring that never left Bess’s hand and intends to bequeath it to Justine.

Several turbulent decades after the United States recognized the Philippines’ independence, at the end of President Corazon Aquino’s administration in November 1991, the republic rejected the U.S. Bases Extension Treaty; United States forces were withdrawn; Clark Air Base and Subic Bay were transferred officially to the Filipino government, ending the basing of American military forces in the coun-

try. The candidate who won the Philippine presidential election of May 1992 was a graduate of West Point: Fidel Ramos, class of 1950. One of the academy's international cadets, Ramos served as a Philippine Army officer after graduation. He eventually became the country's military's chief of staff and later secretary of national defense. Ramos served as president of the Republic of the Philippines from 1992 to 1998.

The SS *President Coolidge*—the vessel that carried Bess, Roy, and Mary away from the Philippines and their beloved Daddy—served as a troopship from December 1941 until October 1942, when she was sunk by mines in Espiritu Santo in the New Hebrides. Since beaching, the *Coolidge* rests on her port side with her bow at a depth of 69 feet and her stern at 240 feet. The ship is a popular destination for recreational divers, due to her relatively shallow site, easy beach access, and visibility. Divers enjoy exploring the wreck, swimming through holds and decks, observing guns, cannons, jeeps, helmets, trucks, chandeliers, and a statue called “the Lady,” a porcelain relief of a woman riding a unicorn. Coral is abundant, as are reef fish, barracuda, lionfish, sea turtles, and moray eels. The *President Coolidge* was listed as one of the top-ten wreck-diving sites in the world.<sup>12</sup>

“Smoke Gets In Your Eyes” has been covered often in the decades since it was first recorded in 1933. Spencer and Bess's favorite tune remains a classic of the American Songbook.



## THE KIRKPATRICK FAMILY LEGACY: THE PATH TO SCION

The Kirkpatrick Family Legacy: The Path to *Scion*

*Before you begin...*

The Kirkpatrick Family Archive has attempted here to trace the family history from the shores of Scotland to the colonies of early America. There are multiple sources which indicate how this journey was made, but our evidence cannot be described as inarguable. They reflect currently available information, interpreted with the understanding that future data will likely alter our conclusions. We are excited about the eventual documents and heirlooms which will supplement and clarify the Kirkpatrick story. We hope readers like you will consider yourself part of the group who will take up the investigation and join in the conversation.

*The story so far...*

The tumultuous journey of the Kirkpatrick family from Scotland to their arrival in America parallels in many ways the birth of Scotland herself. From its attempted conquerors such as the Romans and then Viking invaders to the many indigenous people groups such as the Pict and Gaelic inhabitants, the region rarely remained settled and tame. The

centuries which predate this survey are exciting and many of the sources used here reveal the volatile world our Kirkpatricks would inhabit. Eventually, “the *Celtic* constitution was superseded, by the establishment of the Anglo-Norman, as the municipal system of North-Britain.”<sup>1</sup> From these Northern British confines, the Kirkpatrick family tree emerges according to various historical texts. Much like Scotland herself, the Kirkpatricks would not be bound within them for long.

*Scion* describes how Ivone de Kirkpatrick received his confirmatory charter from King Alexander II of Scotland on August 15, 1232. It was confirmed in part because Ivone’s grandfather—also named Ivone de Kirkpatrick<sup>2</sup>—originally received the initial fishing charter<sup>3</sup> during the reign of David I (the first), the grandfather to Alexander II. This original charter was from Robert de Brus<sup>4</sup>, Lord of Annandale, where the Kirkpatrick estate (called *Cella Patrieii*) was located.<sup>5</sup>

These lands were, therefore, already connected with the Kirkpatrick family starting with this first Ivone de Kirkpatrick and then passed onto his son William. A dispute for the Lordship of Galloway in the early part of the 12<sup>th</sup> century would cost William his life.<sup>6</sup> While it is uncertain who William married, we know his heir, Ivone de Kirkpatrick, and his wife Eufemia/Euphemia,<sup>7</sup> the daughter of Robert de Brus—the namesake continuing now to be handed down. As a result and under the direction, as *Scion* describes, of Alexander II, “We have given, granted, and in this our charter, confirmed to Ivon de Kyrkpatrick, in return for his homage and service, all the land of Kylosbern by the same boundaries by which we held it...”<sup>8</sup>

Ivone’s son Adam “possessed the Manor of Kirkpatrick in North-western Annandale.”<sup>9</sup> During Adam’s lifetime

there was a dispute regarding a church on the property<sup>10</sup> that was only resolved when his son Stephen recognized a ruling by the bishop of Glasgow and entered into an agreement with him in 1278 to allow the church to remain.<sup>11</sup> Roger Kirkpatrick, Stephen's son, would become the Laird of Closeburn.<sup>12</sup> It was, in fact, this Roger who would prove himself so valuable to Robert de Brus in dispatching John "Red" Comyn on February 10, 1306.

Sir Roger de Kirkpatrick, after the "Red" Comyn's murder, remained prominent in Scotland's ongoing journey towards self-rule. His own life included excommunication<sup>13</sup> and his successful capture of castles including the one at Caerlaverock.<sup>14</sup> Despite such harrowing adventures, it was a jilted lover's jealousy that ultimately killed this knight. Roger had invited James of Lindsay,<sup>15</sup> who had been part of the assassination of the Red Comyn, to stay with him at Caerlaverock. Lady Kirkpatrick had been a woman "who Lindsay had loved in vain."<sup>16</sup> McDowall vividly describes:

...after all the festivities were over, and 'all men bowne to bed,' [Lindsay] rose from his couch, stole on tiptoe to the chamber where his unsuspecting victim lay in the arms of his wife, stabbed him to the heart, took horse hurriedly, and, plying whip and spur, fled precipitately over moss and moor, through the midnight gloom.<sup>17</sup>

Thankfully, like his great-grandfather William before him, Roger had heirs to continue our Kirkpatrick line: a namesake, Roger, and another son Thomas.

Both sons benefited and built upon their father's legacy.<sup>18</sup> Each had children, but our Kirkpatrick path will follow Thomas whose son was named Winfred.<sup>19</sup> There is little known about Winfred including the identity of his spouse, but it is clear he had two sons: Thomas, who is said to have died with no children,<sup>20</sup> and Roger. Our

genealogical survey reveals that Roger married a “Margaret Somerville,” whose father was Thomas Somerville.<sup>21</sup> This union is confirmed in *Kirkpatrick of Closeburn* and in *History of the Somerville*, where Lord Somerville wrote that his youngest daughter, Margaret, “marryes upon the Laird of Closeburn in Niddisdale, of the sirname of Kirkpatrick.”<sup>22</sup>

Roger Kirkpatrick had been made “Commissioner of the West Borders,”<sup>23</sup> and he would have two sons: Thomas and Alexander. The *Scion* path leads us towards Alexander who would be awarded the Barony of Kirkmichael “as a reward for having taken prisoner James, the 9th and last earl of Douglas, at the battle of Burnswark, 1484.”<sup>24</sup> This title, “Baron,” was passed down from Alexander to future generations for nearly two centuries, concluding with William of Conheath.<sup>25</sup>

Alexander’s son, William, the second Baron of Kirkmichael, would marry Margaret Cairnes, whose father was William Cairnes from Orchardton.<sup>26</sup> Margaret would have a son who the couple named Alexander. After her husband died, Margaret is said to have remarried, to “James Kirkpatrick in Barmure, brother of Roger of Closeburn”<sup>27</sup> and eventually married a third time to “Edward Maxwell of Tynwold.”<sup>28</sup> According to one genealogical analysis of the Kirkpatrick family, Alexander Kirkpatrick married Margaret Charteris of Amisfield around 1573.<sup>29</sup> Alexander was followed by his son, William Kirkpatrick<sup>30</sup> who would eventually sell some Kirkmichael estate to Sir John Charteris of Amisfield.<sup>31</sup>

The line towards the *Scion* continues to be interesting with inclusions that could easily shift research in various directions and land masses.<sup>32</sup> We will continue with William who had a son, George Kirkpatrick of Knock.<sup>33</sup>

From George, our line leads Ireland and Alexander who leads us to America.

Research from this point forward requires a different approach. Several texts, many hundreds of years old, have informed our investigation so far. These sources, some of them renowned for their genealogical reliability, will no longer adequately provide evidence of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century Kirkpatricks. America both in its founding and eventual independence remains young. The sources that will inform us of emigrants forging a new life away from their traditional homes will be varied, sometimes even family traditions passed between generations and noted for posterity.<sup>34</sup>

At this point in our journey, it is best to begin with our destination. For us, this is Dr. Elmer E. and Claudia (Spencer) Kirkpatrick, the parents of Lewis Spencer Kirkpatrick, our *Scion*. Dr. E. E. Kirkpatrick's father was John Elson Kirkpatrick, a native of Adams County, Ohio, who married Mary Elizabeth Gibbony in September 1853. Joseph Patton Kirkpatrick, John Elson's father, was born in Bourbon County, Kentucky, on April 26, 1799.<sup>35</sup> He married Patience Askrens, also from Kentucky, on November 22, 1821.<sup>36</sup>

Joseph's father was Adam Kirkpatrick who appears to have married twice. Born around 1772, Adam is thought to have come from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, the geographical home being just slightly more verifiable than his actual age.<sup>37</sup> He and his first wife Rosanna (or Rosannah) Patton moved to Adams County, Ohio sometime after 1800.<sup>38</sup> Rosanna(h) died in 1817, and Adam would remarry, to Sarah "Sallie" Finley, on March 11, 1818. Sarah was herself the widow of John Finley.<sup>39</sup>

According to the Kirkpatrick Family Archive, Adam's father was Samuel Kirkpatrick and his wife Margaret (Dicky).<sup>40</sup> A record within the *Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settle-*

*ment in Virginia* lists the death of “Michael Dickey” and notes among his surviving children, “Margaret (wife of Samuel Kirkpatrick).”<sup>41</sup>

While it is challenging to fully establish Adam’s father Samuel, our genealogy will assert him as the link between Adam and Thomas Kirkpatrick. Moreover, Thomas represents for our line the last ancestor from overseas before the journey to America.<sup>42</sup> Much like the earliest times of the Kirkpatrick family, politics would determine its future and, for some branches, its very survival. A few genealogists and Kirkpatrick family members have suggested that Thomas Kirkpatrick and his brother John, along with other Kirkpatrick family members, found themselves on the losing side of the war between Catholicism and Protestants which spread from England into Scotland, leading many, including Kirkpatrick family members, to flee to Ireland.<sup>43</sup> While it is not determined fully which religious side the family took, it is accepted that it led to their fleeing first to Scotland and then Ireland before eventually sailing to America. This voyage of escape rather than exploration possibly culminated around 1738.<sup>44</sup> There are various records which show Thomas Kirkpatrick and his brother John involved in business transactions and court obligations as early as 1741 which would seem to parallel this historical turn for the family from Scot-Irish to American immigrants.<sup>45</sup>

From Thomas Kirkpatrick, our line moves to his father Alexander Kirkpatrick<sup>46</sup> and grandfather, George of Knock.<sup>47</sup> This is the line of succession which the Kirkpatrick Family Archive follows: George to Alexander then to Thomas and Samuel. They reflect traditional family understanding and stories passed down across generations. Finding our way from Lewis Spencer Kirkpatrick to his great-great-great-great-great grandfather Alexander Kirk-

patrick requires assumptions using circumstantial evidence more than irrefutable facts. The included genealogical chart could be constructed with a matrix of various individuals; it represents only one path.

Over the past decade many sources have become more accessible so that research can broaden across continents without ever leaving one's home. Further information will eventually be uncovered—including possibly family heirlooms, photographs, or documents—that may confirm some of the claims in this text or, possibly, correct information. The Kirkpatrick Family Archive exists in part because these conversations, genealogical additions and subtractions, are important. Stories across generations in this family have clearly moved across oceans and time for centuries. It will continue to be an exciting journey into the past for years to come.

*David Hull*

*Kirkpatrick Family Archive*

*Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

*January 26, 2017*

ENDNOTES



# NOTES

## Preface

1. A charter is a document. The word entered the English language from the Old French *charte* and the Latin *carta* which means paper; example: the Magna Carta. Anglo-Saxon charters are documents from the early medieval period in Britain which typically make a grant of land or record a privilege. They are usually written on parchment—in Latin but often with sections in the vernacular—describing the bounds of estates, which often correspond closely to modern parish boundaries.
2. Most Scottish clans have a Latin or French motto; Kirkpatrick is one of the few with a Scots Gaelic motto. The clan crest is described in heraldic terminology as “a dexter (right) hand holding a dagger in pale distilling drops of blood, proper.”

## 1. Oklahoma Spirit

1. The largest dental school in the world, the Chicago College of Dentistry (which no longer exists) was associated with Lake Forest College while E.E. Kirkpatrick was a student there. (Source: [www.lost-colleges.com/chicago-college-of-dental-surgery](http://www.lost-colleges.com/chicago-college-of-dental-surgery)) In an interesting coincidence, Dr. Kirkpatrick’s great-great-grandson, Blake Keese, enrolled as a freshman at Lake Forest College in 2016.
2. Born in New York, E. E. Ellsworth traveled to Springfield, Illinois, to work with Abraham Lincoln. He studied law in Lincoln’s office and assisted with the Illinois Rail Splitter’s 1860 presidential campaign. Ellsworth stood just five and a half feet tall, but Lincoln would call him “the greatest little man I ever met.” The Smithsonian Institution has pieces of the Confederate flag that Ellsworth gave his life to pull down; the towns of Ellsworth, Wisconsin, and Ellsworth, Iowa, and Fort Ellsworth in Kansas were all named in his honor. When the Civil War broke into open warfare in April 1861, Lincoln called for 75,000 troops to put down the rebellion. Ellsworth helped recruit these soldiers, turning to New York City’s volunteer firefighting corps to raise the 11th New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment (the “Fire

Zouaves”) and returning to Washington as its colonel. Together with Lincoln, he would often “[peer] curiously across the river at [a] large rebel banner that had mocked them for a month from the skyline of Alexandria.” That flag was a symbol of the administration’s slowness to move against the gathering forces of the Confederacy. On May 24, 1861—the day after Virginia’s secession from the Union was ratified—Ellsworth and his troops held off the retreating Confederate Army in Alexandria. On that day, he led the 11th across the Potomac and into the streets of Alexandria, detaching some men to take the railroad station while leading others to secure the telegraph office. On his way there, he turned a corner and stopped before the Marshall House Inn, recognizing it as the building on which the Confederate banner—the very one he’d seen countless times from the other side of the river—was still flying. Ellsworth ordered a company of infantry as reinforcements and set off for the telegraph office, but he suddenly changed his mind and climbed the steps of the Marshall House, proceeding upstairs to cut down the flag. As he came back down, Ellsworth was confronted by the inn’s owner, James W. Jackson, one of Alexandria’s most ardent secessionists, who shot him in the chest. Corporal Francis E. Brownell in turn stabbed Jackson with his bayonet, but Ellsworth was fatally wounded and died. Lincoln was moved to tears by news of his young friend’s death, and ordered an honor guard to bring Ellsworth’s body to the White House, where he lay in state in the East Room before being taken to city hall in New York City, and then to his hometown of Mechanicville, New York, for burial. Thousands of Union supporters rallied around Ellsworth’s cause and enlisted; meanwhile, relics associated with his death became prized collectibles.

3. Notations made in a copy of *Baby’s Record*, illustrated by Maud Humphrey (Frederick A. Stokes Company, Publishers, New York).
4. The establishment of the islands of Manila Bay as United States military reservations was enacted by executive order on April 11, 1902. By 1908, each of the four had been transformed into a United States military fortress. Corregidor was Fort Mills; El Fraile, Fort Drum; Caballo, Fort Hughes; and Carabao, Fort Frank.
5. Unidentified newspaper circa 1902.
6. “Lewis Spencer Kirkpatrick Album,” Kirkpatrick Family Archive, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Years later, Elmer would write of his elder brother, “He was a pretty important person all of his life.” And yet one gets the impression—from Elmer especially—that Spencer the VIP was always an approachable big brother, a real comrade.
7. Beschloss, Michael. “T.R.’s Son Inspired Him to Help Rescue Football,” *The New York Times*, August 2, 2014. In the fall of 1905,

Roosevelt summoned a group of college officials to the White House and told them: "I demand that football change its rules or be abolished. Change the game or forsake it!" It was four days after young Ted Roosevelt sustained a gash above one eye while making a tackle during football practice at Harvard. Of the First Scion's injury, *The New York Times* noted that "not one man of all the hundred other freshmen trying for their class even had received as much as a scratch." In December of that year, in response to the commander in chief's gridiron ultimatum, sixty-two colleges and universities met to discuss changing the game; those proceedings resulted in the formation of the Intercollegiate Athletic Association, later named the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). Football's new play-book included the forward pass, a neutral zone at the line of scrimmage, another referee on the field, and, later, prohibitions against kneeling and punching opponents with locked hands. Injuries and fatalities were substantially reduced.

8. Undated document by John E. Kirkpatrick. Kirkpatrick Family Archive, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
9. The Selective Service Act was drafted by a son of Oklahoma: then captain (later brigadier general) Hugh S. Johnson, who was raised in Alva, about 150 miles north of Oklahoma City. Even in his teens, Johnson was so drawn to the military lifestyle that he ran away from home to join the Oklahoma state militia at age 15—but was apprehended by his family before he could leave town and enlist. Hugh Johnson's father promised to try to secure his son an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point, and succeeded in obtaining an alternate appointment. Taking matters into his own hands, young Hugh proved why he would later earn his moniker "Iron Pants," convincing the other would-be cadet who was first in line for the appointment to step aside so that he could take his place.
10. Guards line up between the center and the tackles on the offensive line. A guard's job is to protect the quarterback. Fast on his feet, the guard performs speed blocking, creating openings for the running backs.
11. Beschloss, "T.R.'s Son Inspired Him to Help Rescue Football." *The New York Times*, August 2, 2014.
12. Burns, James MacGregor. *Roosevelt: The Lion and the Fox, 1882- 1940* (Connecticut: Easton Press, 1956). Burns added, "[FDR] very much wanted to get into a military uniform, but the armistice took shape before this could materialize; Wilson reportedly ordered Roosevelt to not resign. With the end of World War I in November 1918, Roosevelt was in charge of demobilization, although he opposed plans to completely dismantle the Navy.

13. Szabo, Julia. *The Matriarch*, Oklahoma City: Kirkpatrick Family Archive, 2015.
14. "Lewis Spencer Kirkpatrick Album" (Kirkpatrick Family Archive)
15. John E. Kirkpatrick, undated document, Kirkpatrick Family Archive.
16. The football injury sustained by Ted Roosevelt Jr. merited mention in *The New York Times* while his father was in office (1905); Spencer Kirkpatrick also received mention in his hometown newspaper, *The Oklahoman*, which reported, "Spencer Kirkpatrick and Eugene Meister, star guard and captain respectively of last year's champion Oklahoma High School football team, have received notice of their appointment to West Point and they will leave to take their entrance examinations on July 1. Providing they make the grade, they both expect to report for football at the United States Military Academy next fall. Kirkpatrick will try out for tackle while Meister hopes to catch on at end." "Pair of Oklahoma High's Athletes." *The Oklahoman* 21 May 1920: 12. Print.

## 2. West Point

1. The Covenant of the League of Nations. The Avalon Project. Lillian Goldman Law Library, Yale Law School. Accessed June 2, 2016: [http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th\\_century/leagcov.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/leagcov.asp) The goals of the League of Nations, as stated in its covenant, included preventing wars through collective security and disarmament, and settling international disputes through negotiation and arbitration.
2. "Lewis Spencer Kirkpatrick Album" (Kirkpatrick Family Archive)
3. Nominated for the Medal of Honor in 1914 after conducting a reconnaissance mission during the 1914 United States occupation of Veracruz, Douglas MacArthur was promoted in 1917 from major to colonel and became chief of staff of the 42nd Infantry Division of the United States Army National Guard, also known as the "Rainbow" division because of its multicolor sleeve insignia. During World War I, in the fighting on the Western Front (Belgium, northeastern France, and Alsace-Lorraine), MacArthur rose to the rank of brigadier general, was again nominated for a Medal of Honor, and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross twice and the Silver Star seven times. A graduate of West Point (class of 1903), General MacArthur was a fine embodiment of the academy's motto—Duty, Honor, Country—and began his military career by graduating top of his class as first captain, the highest-possible cadet rank. During his first three years at West Point, 1899–1902, Cadet MacArthur's father, Arthur MacArthur, had distinguished himself during the Philippine-Amer-

- ican War, the armed conflict between the United States and Filipino Revolutionaries that began in 1899, and was appointed military governor of the Philippines.
4. "Annual Report of the Superintendent," United States Military Academy. United States Military Academy Press, 1921. pp. 3–4 and 7–8.
  5. "Lewis Spencer Kirkpatrick Albums" (Kirkpatrick Family Archive)
  6. At the hands of upperclassmen, plebes (first-year students) were also subjected to rigorous, humiliating, often dangerous tasks as part of the academy's rite-of-passage tradition of physical training and initiation. These tasks ranged from memorizing New York Times articles to marching around the barracks at 120 steps per minute. What was called "the fourth-class system" left ample room for abuse, so upperclassmen got creative. "Foot inspection," for instance, consisted of upperclassmen holding candles to plebes' feet while they tried to sleep, dripping hot wax on them.
  7. According to the United States Census, the population of Dumont was 643 in 1900, the year before Bess's birth. Dumont was incorporated in 1894 as the borough of Schraalenburgh, and renamed in 1898 in honor of Dumont Clark, its first mayor. The land that would become Dumont had previously belonged to the Tappan Indians, who deeded 7,500 acres of land to David Des Martes, a French Huguenot, in 1677. This low ridge of land, stretching from the Tenakill Creek in what is now Tenafly to the Hackensack River, was named Schraalenburgh, which means "scraggly hill" in Dutch. Almost two centuries later, when the railroads opened in 1873, eight years after the Civil War ended, many families moved to the Schraalenburgh Valley. Railroads brought commuters and developers, increasing the population and resulting in the borough's incorporation in 1894.
  8. Mr. Cacy later began work for New York Central Railroad, the United States Railroad Administration, where he eventually became district clerk.
  9. "Camp Merritt/Wesley Merritt." Bergen County Historical Society: <http://www.bergencountyhistory.org/Pages/campmerrittphamplet.html>. Camp Merritt was named for Major General Wesley Merritt, West Point class of 1860. After service in the Civil War, he returned to West Point as superintendent. Promoted to major general of the United States Army, he was appointed the first governor-general of the Philippine Islands. Merritt died in 1910. No less a military personage than General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing—who graduated from West Point in 1886 and famously led the American Expeditionary Forces to victory over Germany in the final year of World War I—spoke at the dedication of Camp Merritt, a source of great pride for the residents of Dumont, who would speak of Pershing's visit for

- years to come. (Camp Merritt was decommissioned in 1919.) Additional source: audiotape interview with Bud Cacy, recorded in 1996.
10. The work of noted architect Stanford White, Cullum Hall was dedicated in 1900. The Greek Revival structure was built with a quarter-million-dollar bequest from Brevet Major General George Washington Cullum, USMA class of 1833. Cullum earmarked the money “to be used for construction and maintenance of a memorial hall at West Point to be dedicated to the officers and graduates of the U.S. Military Academy.” The bequest was formally accepted by an act of Congress, and construction began in 1898.
  11. A dance card was a small booklet listing dance titles and the people with whom the woman intended to share a dance. The card’s cover would sport the logo of West Point and a decorative cord, enabling a femme to tie it on one wrist or attach it to her ball gown. Often kept as souvenirs, USMA dance cards from this era have become highly collectible. (Onion, Rebecca, “Waltzing with Eisenhower: A Collection of West Point Dance Cards, 1915,” *Slate*. April 18, 2013; [http://www.slate.com/blogs/the\\_vault/2013/04/18/eisenhower\\_dance\\_cards\\_hill\\_sisters\\_collection\\_of\\_souvenirs\\_from\\_dances.html](http://www.slate.com/blogs/the_vault/2013/04/18/eisenhower_dance_cards_hill_sisters_collection_of_souvenirs_from_dances.html))
  12. The command “Route step, march” permits talking while marching. Talking and movement are permitted as long as dress, cover, interval, and distance are maintained. The command “At ease, march” is similar, except silence is maintained. (“Route Step March and At Ease March Commands” Civil Air Patrol. Accessed June 2, 2016: [http://capnhq.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/1843/~route-step-march-and-at-ease-march-commands](http://capnhq.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/1843/~route-step-march-and-at-ease-march-commands))
  13. Mary E. Kirkpatrick, interview by author, New York, May 11, 2015. Gloria Swanson starred in *The Affairs of Anatol* in 1921 and *Beyond The Rocks* in 1922; both movies could have provided Bess with sartorial inspiration.
  14. Spencer and his classmates would have doubtless been familiar with “The Fairest of the Fair,” a march by John Philip Sousa, who also composed “Semper Fidelis,” “The Stars and Stripes Forever,” and “The Gallant Seventh.” More melodic and less military than his other marches, “The Fairest of the Fair” was composed for the annual Boston Food Fair of 1908, and was said by Sousa to have been inspired by the memory of a pretty girl he’d seen at an earlier fair.
  15. “Annual Report of the Superintendent,” p. 13.
  16. Omar Bradley, USMA class of 1915, is a fine example of how difficult it could be for a cadet to achieve the delicate balance between academics and athletics. “Brad” lettered three times in baseball, but initially his studies suffered. His class is famously called “the class the stars fell on” because 59 of its 164 members would go on to become

generals, collecting one or more star insignia (and two, Bradley and Dwight D. Eisenhower, attained the rank of five-star General of the Army).

17. "Annual Report of the Superintendent," United States Military Academy, 1921, United States Military Academy Press, p. 9; pp 10–11.
18. "Buffalo loves his red comforter and bones it consistently" (The Howitzer, p. 181). To "bone," in West Point terminology, meant "to work hard for anything."
19. *The Yukon Sun*. (Yukon, Okla.), Vol. 28, No. 38, Ed. 1 Thursday, June 22, 1922 (reference: *The Yukon Sun*. (Yukon, Okla.), Vol. 28, No. 38, Ed. 1 Thursday, June 22, 1922, Newspaper, June 22, 1922; ([http:// gateway.okhistory.org/ark:/67531/metadcl29634/](http://gateway.okhistory.org/ark:/67531/metadcl29634/) :accessed August 22, 2016), Oklahoma Historical Society, The Gateway to Oklahoma History, <http://gateway.okhistory.org>; crediting Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.)
 

Furlough for cadets came after the first two years of "servitude." Eagerly anticipated by all, it is defined as a "summer leave of full moons, canoes, femmes and love affairs which comes at end of second year; oasis in the desert of our existence." (The Howitzer, "West Point Vocabulary," p. 466).
20. The United States Military Academy was the first American school to have class rings. The cadets began the practice of wearing rings in 1835. The ring ceremony, at which the tactical officers present the rings to their First Classmen, occurs shortly after completion of Cadet Basic Training (also known as "Beast Barracks") and is the first time the plebes get to turn the tables on the hazers, good-naturedly teasing the "Firsties" about their new rings by chanting the time-honored, razzing rallying call known as "The Ring Poop": *Oh my Gosh, Sir, what a beautiful ring./ What a crass mass of brass and glass./ What a bold mold of rolled gold./ What a cool jewel you got from your school./ See how it sparkles and shines./ It must have cost a fortune./ Please, Sir, may I touch it./ May I touch it please, Sir?* (Friends and Parents of West Point. "CLASS RINGS, MINIATURES, AND A-PINS." Class Rings, [www.west-point.org/family/bicent/rings.html](http://www.west-point.org/family/bicent/rings.html). Accessed to May 2023.)
21. Casualties of West Point were not only academic. Cadets really were "in the army," and this was not child's play: people could, and did, die. One of Spencer's classmates, Gerhardt George Rowe of Wisconsin, is memorialized with a full page in the yearbook. He was killed on July 9, 1923, when a metal fragment hit him during a demonstration of explosives. (The Howitzer, 1924, p. 243)
22. Mary E. Kirkpatrick, interview by author, New York, September 2014.

23. The image of the American buffalo (species name *Bison bison L.*) was ubiquitous in the American cultural currency, literally: the animal appeared on the back side of the Buffalo nickel, a copper-nickel five-cent coin first minted in 1913. The coin's portrayal of this noble beast was the work of renowned sculptor James Earle Fraser, whose many prestigious commissions included the World War I Victory Medal, the Navy Cross, numerous public monuments, and the Robert Todd Lincoln Sarcophagus at Arlington National Cemetery. Fraser's iconic sculpture *End of the Trail* is currently on display in the entryway of the Oklahoma City Museum.
24. Such was the lure of aviation that the Howitzer biographies of literally dozens among the West Point class of 1924 listed the air service as their chosen branch of the military. This was attributable to one or more of the following: (1) the coolness factor of World War I flying aces and their international reputation for valor in aerial combat, reports of which captivated America and the world; (2) a class trip taken to Long Island's Mitchel Field, a.k.a. Mitchel Air Force Base, where cadets experienced the thrill of aviation firsthand, their excursion coinciding with the golden age of air racing; and (3) hearing the exploits of classmate Herbert T. Schaefer, a.k.a. "Lightnin' Bug," who had arrived at West Point after a stint in the U.S. Army, where he'd actually served in the air service. It is believed that Bess's fiancé perished while performing a figure eight during a crashed test flight at Mitchel Field.
25. Interview with Bud Cacy, recorded on audiotape in 1996 and replayed in 2015.
26. Miniatures are reproductions of class rings made smaller to wear as engagement rings. They symbolize the same ideals, customs, and traditions as class rings and are given not in a sense of parting with the ring, no more than a man would part with his class ring, but, rather, as an engagement ring for one who will share in army life the ideals, traditions, and customs that the class ring symbolizes. Miniatures are normally given by First Classmen to their fiancées at the annual Ring Hop (dance). (Friends and Parents of West Point. "CLASS RINGS, MINIATURES, AND A-PINS." Class Rings, [www.west-point.org/family/bicent/rings.html](http://www.west-point.org/family/bicent/rings.html). Accessed 10 May 2023.)

### 3. Office & Gentleman

1. E-mail received March 25, 2015, from Casey L. Madrick, USMA Archives: "They use the term in their reunion books. It is not listed as an

- official class motto and there is no indication as to when they started using the term Thundering Herd.”
2. Ogontz School for Girls (and Junior College), a boarding and day school, was founded as the Chestnut Street Seminary in Philadelphia in 1850. The institution, which educated young women ages 13 to 18 from wealthy families throughout the United States, relocated to financier Jay Cooke’s estate, Ogontz, in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, in 1883. It moved again in 1917, to Rydal, Pennsylvania, part of the Abington township. The school’s namesake was Cooke’s Ohio hometown, named after Native American chief Ogontz. Students at the school received a liberal-arts education, which included humanities, science, and physical education classes as well as class excursions to museums, historic locations, and industries in the region, such as sites in Philadelphia and New York City. The Ogontz Mosaic was published monthly by the students, the most famous of whom was aviator Amelia Earhart, who had attended Ogontz for a year and a half but did not graduate. Ogontz closed in 1950. (Ogontz School for Girls album[graphic] /Ida F. Drew. -- 1892-1893. *The Library Company of Philadelphia*/librarycompany.org. Accessed 16 June 2016.)
  3. Statement from the Noris, Alister-Ball Co., Chicago, Illinois, describing “diamond platinum ring mounting” that cost \$108.10. According to an online inflation calculator used on June 12, 2016 that amount has the same buying power as \$1,461.25. (“CPI Inflation Calculator.” U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, [data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/cpi-calc.pl](http://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/cpi-calc.pl). Accessed 12 June 2016.)
  4. Letter from Spencer Kirkpatrick to his parents, dated January 28, 1926. Helen charmed all who met her. Voted “Most Thoughtful” by the Ogontz class of 1925, nicknamed “Hel,” and described lyrically as “Helen of the winsome smile/ Helen with the neat-kept chamber/ Whose twinkling eyes the heart beguile,” Helen E. Nelly was captain of the senior swimming team and received a promotion from first-class private to sergeant in the military drill company; she received honorable mentions for neatness, company, and sewing. The “Class Prophecy,” penned by the school’s headmistress, saw this in its crystal ball: “Miss Helen Nelly, a partner in the Parker-Nelly Law Firm, called today. She tells me that although she has been very successful as a divorce lawyer she doesn’t feel as if she was getting all that she could out of life. The only thing I could suggest for Miss Nelly was to stop thinking about divorce and give the senior partner the chance he had long been waiting for, and that would satisfy most of her desires.” Perhaps most tellingly, one of her classmates selected these verses from Robert Browning’s “Cristina” to capture Helen: “She should

- never have looked at me/ If she meant I should not love her!” (Yearbook, the Ogontz School, 1925.)
5. *Ibid.*
  6. <http://www.campogontz.com/history.html> (verified at <https://web.archive.org/web/20161031134438/http://www.campogontz.com/history.html>) and [http://articles.philly.com/1992-06-04/news/26033155\\_1\\_penn-state-ogontz-private-school-pennsylvania-state-university-s-ogontz](http://articles.philly.com/1992-06-04/news/26033155_1_penn-state-ogontz-private-school-pennsylvania-state-university-s-ogontz) (no longer working link)
  7. Letter from Spencer Kirkpatrick to his parents, dated January 28, 1926 (LT200611), Kirkpatrick Family Archive.
  8. Helen’s father, Henry M. “Harry” Nelly, USMA class of 1902, was stationed in the Philippines from September 1, 1905, until February 15, 1906, in the post-war period after the Philippine-American war, during the first Jolo campaign; his daughter Helen was born during this period. Captain Nelly later served at West Point as the head football coach, and then as an instructor in the department of drawing. After that, he was appointed professor of military science and tactics, and then assigned to duty as commandant of cadets on September 21, 1919. He died on December 14, 1928.
  9. Reminiscence of Elmer E. Kirkpatrick, Jr., Kirkpatrick Family Archive.
  10. Spencer’s suggestions would turn out to be spot-on: after attending a prep school for two months to “bone” English, John Kirkpatrick nonetheless failed the entrance exam to re-enter West Point. However, John applied to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland—nominated by Congressman Swank in October 1926  
—and made a very successful career of it, graduating in 1932. The youngest Kirkpatrick brother, Claude, followed John at the Naval Academy, graduating in 1934. (Kirkpatrick Family Archive Web site, biographies of Elmer Ellsworth Kirkpatrick Jr., John Elson Kirkpatrick, and Claude Siceluff Kirkpatrick.)
  11. Undated letter from Spencer Kirkpatrick to his parents. Kirkpatrick Family Archive.
  12. Letter from Spencer Kirkpatrick to his parents, dated January 28, 1926. Kirkpatrick Family Archive
  13. The *Wilhelmina* was one of several transpacific ocean liners operated by Matson Navigation Company. Primarily a purveyor of cargo, the company diversified in 1926, taking over the Oceanic Steamship Company to capitalize on the burgeoning tourist trade. Matson is credited with introducing mass tourism to Hawaii. Its fleet—“the white ships of Matson”—sailed from the West Coast ports of San Francisco and Los Angeles to Honolulu and points beyond. (“History.” MATSON, [www.matson.com/corporate/about\\_us/history.html](http://www.matson.com/corporate/about_us/history.html). Accessed 10 May 2023.)

14. Bess was engaged for a second time, to a man who died after suffering a heart attack while cranking the engine of his automobile. His name is not known. Pictured with Bess in a series of photographs is Joe Burrell, who appears by his outfit to be a police officer. In some pictures, Burrell is seen standing behind Bess, smiling and pointing a revolver at her head. Although the nature of their relationship is not known, it's possible that this gentleman friend might have been Bess's second fiancé. (Mary E. Kirkpatrick, May 11, 2015).
15. Source: The Ziegfeld Club Archive, [www.ziegfeldclubinc.com](http://www.ziegfeldclubinc.com). Making the grade as a dancer in the famous Broadway revue of renowned impresario Florenz "Flo" Ziegfeld was no small achievement. Inspired by the Folies Bergère of Paris, the Follies ran from 1907 to 1931. Several high-profile stars of stage and screen began their careers as Ziegfeld girls—among them Gloria Swanson, Louise Brooks, Paulette Goddard, Barbara Stanwyck, and Joan Blondell—but many more were turned down. This roster of the hopefuls whom Ziegfeld rejected reads like the A list of a major Hollywood studio: Norma Shearer (who auditioned in 1919 and 1920), Joan Crawford (1924), Alice Faye (1927), Eleanor Powell (1927), and Lucille Ball (1927 and 1931). (Internet Broadway Database)
16. The fort was originally named Fort Upton for General Emory Upton, but local citizens objected and Archibald Cleghorn, governor of Oahu, suggested changing the name to honor Kamehameha, who had conquered and unified the Hawaiian Islands and formally established the Kingdom of Hawaii in 1810. The fort was renamed in 1909. By developing alliances with the major Pacific colonial powers, Kamehameha preserved Hawaii's independence during his rule. He is remembered for the Kanawai Malalahoe, the "Law of the Splintered Paddle," which protects human rights of non-combatants in times of battle.
17. According to Hawaiian legend, Night Marchers can be seen by groups of torches. Moanalua Gardens in Honolulu is one of the many places they are said to roam; they can also be found in areas that were once large battlefields, such as the Nuuanu Pali on the island of Oahu. Legend has it that if you look a Night Marcher straight in the eye, you will be forced to walk among them for eternity, but if you have a relative taken by them, you will be spared. ("Folklore in Hawaii." Wikipedia, 17 Oct. 2022, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Folklore\\_in\\_Hawaii](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Folklore_in_Hawaii).)
18. John R. K. Clark, 2002: *Hawaii Place Names* (University of Hawaii Press, p. 60)
19. "Hawaii History - the Tradition of the Hawaiian Lei." *Hawaii Flower Lei*, [www.hawaiiflowerlei.com/leitradition.aspx](http://www.hawaiiflowerlei.com/leitradition.aspx). Accessed 10 May 2023.

20. While on a patrol to secure Arizona's San Pedro Valley, Captain Samuel Whitside and two companies of the 6th Cavalry established Fort Huachuca as a temporary outpost on March 3, 1877. Huachuca became a permanent military installation in 1882 and has played a vital role in army history ever since. During its long history, Fort Huachuca has served as a cavalry post, an infantry training center, a test center for electronic equipment, and a major signals installation. Today the fort remains an important center for communication and electronic-technology development, but it mostly serves as the home of the U.S. Army Military Intelligence Corps and a training center for the various intelligence disciplines and unmanned aerial-system operations. ("Fort Huachuca Museum and Annex." Fort Huachuca Museum and Annex | U.S. Army Center of Military History, [history.army.mil/museums/TRADOC/fortHuachuca/index.html](https://history.army.mil/museums/TRADOC/fortHuachuca/index.html). Accessed 10 May 2023.)
21. The 25th Infantry Regiment would also see action in World War II.
22. The Guerra Civil is regarded as the most important sociopolitical event in Mexico and one of the greatest upheavals of the twentieth century. It was a major armed struggle that started in 1910 and lasted until around 1920, although the country continued to have sporadic outbreaks of warfare well into the 1920s. Over time the conflict changed from a revolt against the established order to a multi-sided civil war with frequently shifting power struggles. Its representatives developed the Mexican Constitution of 1917. However, enforcement of the anticlerical articles of this constitution led to the Cristero Rebellion of 1926, a.k.a. La Cristiada, a massive popular uprising tacitly supported by the hierarchy of the Catholic Church and aided by urban Catholic support. La Cristiada was the most significant relapse into bloodshed, lasting until 1929. The revolution led to the creation of the Partido Nacional Revolucionario (National Revolutionary Party) in 1929, renamed the Partido Revolucionario Institucional (Institutional Revolutionary Party) in 1946.
23. Statler Hotels, one of the United States' early hospitality chains catering to businessmen and tourists, owned the Pennsylvania Hotel, centrally located on Seventh Avenue across from Penn Station in New York City. Arthur Murray Dance Studios, started in 1925, is the second-oldest franchised company in America. The motto of the Murray Dance System was "Why Be a Wallflower!"
24. Many of Spencer's fellow West Point cadets, having used their six-hour leaves to make a beeline for Broadway and the Ziegfeld Follies, were known to have decorated their lockers with dreamy likenesses of Follies dancers; some dashing cadets were admired by their classmates for "dragging" (escorting) femmes so "keen" they were said to

- resemble Follies girls. The entire cadet contingent of Follies fans would've found sweet irony in the contemplation of studious Spencer—diligent avoider of hops and Flirtation Walk, whose name and “Ziegfeld” were never mentioned in the same sentence—not only “dragging” a Follies girl but marrying her! The wedding was held at the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration in New York City.
25. Founded in 1848 by the Reverend George Hendric Houghton, the Church of the Transfiguration is one of the most famous Episcopal parishes in the United States. Its nickname, “the Little Church Around the Corner,” dates back to 1870, when actor Joseph Jefferson—famous for his portrayal of Rip Van Winkle—requested a funeral at another church for his friend and fellow actor George Holland. Upon learning that the deceased had been an actor, the priest at the other church refused (at that time, many considered actors to be unworthy of Christian burial); he directed Jefferson to 1 East 29th Street, where, he said, “there is a little church around the corner where it might be done.” Jefferson replied, “Then I say to you, sir, God bless the little church around the corner.” The church’s sanctuary—and smaller “Lady’s Chapel”—has been the site of many glamorous weddings, including those of famed playwright Robert Sherwood (whose ushers were Charlie Chaplin and Douglas Fairbanks) and dancing duo Vernon and Irene Castle. Sources: [www.littlechurch.org](http://www.littlechurch.org) and *Through the Lich-Gate: A Biography of the Little Church Around the Corner*, by Ishbel Ross, William Farquhar Payson, New York, 1931, page 143.
  26. [www.econisok.org/wp-content/uploads/Oklahoma-Hooverville.pdf](http://www.econisok.org/wp-content/uploads/Oklahoma-Hooverville.pdf). Accessed 10 May 2023.
  27. “Social and Cultural Effects of the Depression.” [Ushistory.Org, www.ushistory.org/us/48e.asp](http://ushistory.org/us/48e.asp). Accessed 10 May 2023.
  28. The fearsome faces of Hitler and his henchmen, notably Heinrich Himmler, commander of the paramilitary unit Schutzstaffel (SS), all appeared in *Triumph of the Will*, a propaganda film directed by Leni Riefenstahl. The film was released in Europe in March 1935. In New York, where the Museum of Modern Art had obtained a print of the film, it was screened for a select number of critics and directors, among them Charlie Chaplin, Luis Buñuel, and René Clair. Later, Frank Capra, commissioned by the army to make a documentary series called *Why We Fight*, would also watch the film as part of his research. “It scared the hell out of me,” Capra recalled. Source: *Projections of War: Hollywood, American Culture, and World War II*, by Thomas Patrick Doherty, Columbia University Press, page 20.
  29. “Make Way for a ‘Great Movie.’” *The Criterion Collection*, [www.criterion.com/current/posts/1376-make-way-for-a-great-movie](http://www.criterion.com/current/posts/1376-make-way-for-a-great-movie). Accessed 10 May 2023.

30. Lewis Spencer Kirkpatrick Album, Kirkpatrick Family Archive. When Spencer was stationed in Illinois in 1926, and the elder Kirkpatricks' financial picture was somewhat rosier, they had sent money to their eldest son as a gift. In the letter dated January 28, 1926, Spencer thanked them for "the inclosure," which he called "mighty sweet"—and promptly returned it.
31. The Inflation Calculator, [westegg.com/inflation/](http://westegg.com/inflation/). Accessed 16 June 2016.
32. Mary E. Kirkpatrick, May 11, 2015
33. On August 12, 1934, the Honolulu Sunday Advertiser ran a feature titled "MILITARY WEDDING AT CENTRAL UNION"; in the photograph, Bess is pictured among the matrons of honor, smiling and looking more radiant than the bride herself.

#### 4. Family Life On The Fort

1. The last time Spencer had seen John was two years earlier, in 1934, while John's ship was in Hawaii; he planned on seeing the youngest Kirkpatrick brother, Claude, at Christmas 1931, according to a letter written by Claudia Kirkpatrick, although it's not known whether that meeting took place. But the last time Spencer had seen Elmer was several years before that, as both were very busy with their army assignments, which had stationed them hundreds of miles apart.
2. Lewis Spencer Kirkpatrick Album, Kirkpatrick Family Archive. In a fragment of an earlier, undated letter, Spencer—with his trademark pragmatism—had written, as part of his postscript, "You didn't give me any dope on the insurance policy. I'm all for dropping it. I have all I can handle besides it."
3. Lewis Spencer Kirkpatrick Album, Kirkpatrick Family Archive. Little Roy was a twin; he was born prematurely and placed in an incubator, but his brother was stillborn. (Mary E. Kirkpatrick, May 11, 2015).
4. By March 1935, John had resigned his navy commission, but this gave his family no cause for concern. John's prospects were excellent: his father-in-law, banker Mack Blake, offered John a salary commensurate with his navy pay, and he enrolled in Harvard Business School, to prepare for what would turn out to be a long and very successful career in business.
5. As is often the case in the best of families when coping with financial difficulties, friction sometimes arose. A bit of unpleasantness occurred when Bess learned that Claudia had pawned Bess's engagement ring, which had been locked in a safe-deposit box. Bess eventually retrieved the ring.

6. Kodak had introduced the first 8-mm amateur motion-picture film cameras and projectors in 1932. In 1936, the company introduced a new home movie camera, the 16-mm Magazine CINE-KODAK, which used film in magazines instead of rolls. To record the footage that is now housed in the Kirkpatrick Family Archive, the Spencer Kirkpatricks likely used one of those early models. ("Milestones." Kodak, 21 June 2022, [www.kodak.com/en/company/page/milestones](http://www.kodak.com/en/company/page/milestones).)
7. Like his wife, Mary, and her brother Spencer, John Dean "J. D." Moorman was the child of an Oklahoma dentist. His military career began at age 17, when he attended Citizens Military Training Camp at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where he held the rank of corporal. The following year, 1931, he graduated high school in Idabel, continuing with CMTC as sergeant for two more summers. While attending Oklahoma State University, he served in the National Guard of the United States and the State of Oklahoma; he followed this with service in the Civilian Conservation Corps. In January 1934 he was selected as first alternate to the United States Military Academy, West Point, and reported for transport to the academy on June 18, 1934, in Engletown, Oklahoma. While at West Point, J.D. began dating Mary Elizabeth Kirkpatrick, whom he nicknamed "Pat"; she was living in Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, with her brother Lieutenant Elmer E. Kirkpatrick and his family. J.D. and Mary were married at Fort Monmouth on June 15, 1938. Following a honeymoon summer at the Kirkpatrick family cabin in Green Mountain Falls, Colorado, J.D. reported to Randolph Field near San Antonio, Texas, for flight training at Primary Flying School. Transferred to Kelly Field in 1939 for Advanced Flying School, he received his wings on August 25, 1939, and then transferred to the Army Air Corp, 7th Reconnaissance Squadron, reporting to the Panama Canal Zone, France Field. Mary accompanied him; their daughter, Claudia Nell, was born in Panama. Promotions for J.D. came quickly, from first lieutenant in the air corp in June of 1941, to captain in October of that same year, to major in March of 1942. By October of that year, he returned to the United States as a lieutenant colonel, assigned to the air base in Casper, Wyoming, as commanding officer of the 331st Bomb Group. In late February 1943, J.D. was assigned as commanding officer to the air base in Dyersburg, Tennessee, where he received final training for overseas combat with the B-17, a.k.a. the Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress, a four-engine heavy-bomber aircraft developed by the Boeing Company for the United States Army Air Corps. In September of that year, Mary gave birth to their second child, John Michael. In March of 1944, J.D. received orders to Italy as flight commander at the Mediterranean Group Headquarters, 2nd Bomb Group of 15th Air Force. In

September, he transferred to the 301st Bomb Group, flying B-17 missions; he soon became senior pilot and deputy wing commander, and was then promoted to colonel. On December 8, 1944, around ten in the evening, J. D. Moorman was traveling in Italy by jeep when he was killed instantly after an insulator from a telephone pole was blown down by 50-mph winds, striking him in the head. According to his flight records, he flew for the last time the day before he died. If anything were to happen to him during the war, J.D. had requested that his body not be returned to the United States. He was buried in a military cemetery in Bari, Italy, and then later moved to Sicily-Rome American Cemetery and Memorial in Nettuno.

8. *From Another Time* by W.H. Auden, published by Random House copyright 1940 W.H. Auden, renewed by the Estate of W.H Auden.
9. A pamphlet written in July 1935 for Coast Artillery personnel going to the Philippines for the first time cautions, "Heavy furniture should not be taken to the Philippines as the glue fails in damp weather and veneering comes off. Heavy upholstered furniture suffers from mildew. Wicker furniture of the best quality can be purchased at a very reasonable price."
10. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.
11. On September 18, 1931, Japanese lieutenant Suemori Kawamoto used dynamite to detonate explosives close to a railway line owned by Japan's South Manchuria Railway near Mukden, in northeastern China. The detonation was so weak that it failed to destroy the track; a train passed over it minutes later without incident. Still, the Imperial Japanese Army accused Chinese dissidents of what would be called the Mukden Incident, and followed up with a full invasion that led to the occupation of Manchuria, where Japan established the puppet state of Manchukuo six months later. Exposed to the international community by the League of Nations Council, Japan's ruse of war was particularly scandalous because the empire had been one of the council's four original, permanent members. In March 1933 the Empire of Japan withdrew from the League of Nations. The move on Manchuria also provoked a diplomatic clash with the Soviet Union, which bordered Manchuria. Japan needed in effect a body-guard, hence the Anti-Comintern Pact with Germany was signed to combat the threat of a Russian attack.
12. Coronel, Sheila S. "A Nation of Nannies - Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism." Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism -, 25 Sept. 2009, [old.pcij.org/stories/a-nation-of-nannies/](http://old.pcij.org/stories/a-nation-of-nannies/).
13. In America and England, bowling was promoted as a morale-boosting recreational activity within communities on the battlefield and at home, to help relieve the stresses of wartime. The so-called

- Golden Age of Bowling is said to have taken place between 1940 and 1960. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20150331011046/http://leeds-list.com/out-and-about/the-history-of-bowling/>).
14. Lost Corregidor - the Home Front, [corregidor.org/chs\\_calmes/calme1.htm](http://corregidor.org/chs_calmes/calme1.htm). Accessed 10 May 2023.
  15. "Philippines Animals." Philippines Animals, [abanesfamily.weebly.com/](http://abanesfamily.weebly.com/). Accessed 10 May 2023.
  16. Adobar is Spanish for marinade, and it's the key to making adobo, which is prepared first by marinating meat, seafood, or vegetables in a well-seasoned blend of vinegar, soy sauce, and garlic, adding additional spices to taste, such as bay leaf, black pepper, chili or jalapeño pepper, bell pepper, onions, brown sugar, potatoes, and/ or pineapple. Then the marinated ingredients are browned in oil and simmered in the marinade; they may also be further baked in the oven, pan-fried, or grilled. In the Philippines, it's common to set the table with forks and spoons and no knives—yet another feature of the Corregidor lifestyle that doubtless appealed to children, who gladly used their spoons to scoop up every last morsel of delicious adobo.
  17. Footage housed in the Spencer Kirkpatrick Album, Kirkpatrick Family Archive.
  18. Teak furnishings held by Mary E. Kirkpatrick at her home in New York City.
  19. Communiqué from Headquarters Philippine Department, Manila, P.I. (dated May 3, 1940).
  20. Ralph and Mary Glasgow's time on Corregidor was shortened and saddened by the tragic death of their second son, Billy, who fell from the balcony of their quarters to the menacing rocks below. ("Ralph I. Glasgow; 1924." West Point Association of Graduates, [alumni.westpointaog.org/memorial-article?id=6335f8a7-503e-49ad-83b3-09fbdfdc53e](http://alumni.westpointaog.org/memorial-article?id=6335f8a7-503e-49ad-83b3-09fbdfdc53e). Accessed 10 May 2023.)
  21. The "Father of American Football," Walter Camp invented the sport's line of scrimmage and system of downs. (Bishop, LuAnn. "11 Historic Tidbits About the Game," Yale News. Retrieved November 19, 2013.)
  22. The General John McE. Hyde was a ferryboat built for the U.S. Army in 1921. It was assigned to provide transportation services among the military facilities in Manila Bay, under administrative command of the Coast Artillery Corps. The Hyde provided general logistical and passenger service to the island forts and other installations in Manila Bay, including transportation of dependents. It left Corregidor on the two-and-a-half-hour run to Manila at 8 A.M., returning at 4 P.M. It played an important role in garrison life. ("USAT General John McE. Hyde." Army Ship Photo Index, [www.navsource.org/archives/30/13/13039.htm](http://www.navsource.org/archives/30/13/13039.htm). Accessed 10 May 2023.)

23. As Japanese aggression accelerated, the *Coolidge*, a luxury ocean liner built in 1931, was conscripted as a U.S. Army Transport. She had taken part in evacuations from several parts of East Asia, and in 1941 the U.S. War Department began to use the *Coolidge* for occasional voyages to Honolulu and Manila. (Stone, Peter (2004) [1997]. *The Lady and the President: The Life and Loss of the SS President Coolidge* (2nd ed.) Yarram: Oceans Enterprises.)
24. Upon arrival, the plan was for Bess to travel with the kids to Dumont, New Jersey, for a visit with her parents and sister Mary. Once they were settled, they would look for a place of their own for the day when the family would be reunited. After a stop in Panama, where Bess posted a letter to Spencer reporting that she and the children had spent the night in “a luxurious suite,” the ship arrived in San Francisco. There, Bess was able to show the kids a good time for a couple of days, before undertaking their long train ride to the East Coast.
25. Mary E. Kirkpatrick, May 11, 2015.

## 5. Duty, Honor, Country

1. A dark comedy known around the world, Charlie Chaplin’s ingenious spoof of Hitler’s Germany was released in America in October 1940. Chaplin was inspired to make *The Great Dictator* after seeing *Triumph of the Will*, Leni Riefenstahl’s 1936 documentary about Hitler’s rise to power. It has been suggested by some historians that Chaplin’s comical depiction of Hitler caused many to believe that the führer’s atrocious oratory was nothing more than the ranting of a buffoon—hence his racist rhetoric was not taken seriously as the terrifying threat it was.
2. Kindley Field, built by U.S. engineers in 1941, was a United States Air Force Base in the British colony of Bermuda, intended to be a joint U.S. Army Air Forces/Royal Air Force facility, per an agreement between Prime Minister Winston Churchill and President Roosevelt. It was to be used by both air forces primarily as a staging point for transatlantic flights by landplanes. The airfield was completed in 1943 and known as Kindley Field, after World War I flying ace Field E. Kindley, who was credited with twelve confirmed aerial victories, including downing the Fokker aircraft of the Red Baron’s brother, Lothar von Richthofen (Kindley flew a Sopwith Camel biplane and was a dog lover; he likely inspired cartoonist Charles M. Schulz to create Snoopy’s immortal “Flying Ace” alter ego, who engages in imaginary aerial combat with the Red Baron atop his doghouse). Born in

- Arkansas and raised in Manila until age 12, Kindley died in 1920 at age 23 in a crash at Kelly Field near San Antonio, Texas, during a flight demo for General John J. Pershing.
3. Bunker's dog was named Colin, and he, too, was a stout soldier. An entry in Bunker's diary reads, "Colin got into a fight with two big dogs at G/91 and ran them both off." (Barlow, Keith A., Ed., *Bunker's War: The World War II Diary of Col. Paul D. Bunker*, Presidio Press, Novato, CA, 1996. p. 35.)
  4. The concrete fortress was named after Brigadier General Richard C. Drum, who served with distinction during the Mexican-American War and the American Civil War. He died in 1909, the year of the fort's construction.
  5. "I'm getting a bit restless myself living aboard a ship that does not go," Spencer wrote on April 20, 1941. "Except for two business trips to Fort Mills, I have not been ashore. I do not especially care to. I am comfortable, perfectly well, and have plenty of work to do. Every night for six weeks, I've seen the movies and enjoy them. I read a great deal both of professional books and for pleasure. Mrs. Bunker sends me six brand new books every week and I read about half of them. Each time that I have gone to Mills, I have been anxious to get back here. I do not plan to go again soon. Who wants to visit a mad house? Also, it has been increasingly hot and dry. Each day seems to break some sort of heat record for the Manila weather bureau. It has consistently been over 100, a temperature that has rarely been reached in the past. Also, there has been no rain since last year and there is a general water shortage. Here it is relatively cool and the water is really very good and does not require boiling. There has been considerable sickness too on the mainland and more than usual at Mills. Here there are no flies, mosquitoes and practically no sickness except for the few lads who come back from pass with 'female catarrh.' I am keeping myself well and strong for you all. Do the same for me."
  6. These were the duties of the inspector general: "Be the eyes, ears, voice, and conscience of the Army across the spectrum of operations. Conduct thorough, objective, and impartial inspections, assessments, and investigations. Provide assistance and training. Advise and assist Army leaders to maintain Army values, readiness, and effectiveness in the promotion of well-being, good order, and discipline." ("Office of the Inspector General of the United States Army." Wikipedia, 4 Nov. 2022, [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Office\\_of\\_the\\_Inspector\\_General\\_of\\_the\\_United\\_States\\_Army#Further\\_reading](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Office_of_the_Inspector_General_of_the_United_States_Army#Further_reading).)
  7. "King Report." Fort Drum - the King Report, [corregidor.org/ca/drum/king\\_report\\_01.htm](https://corregidor.org/ca/drum/king_report_01.htm). Accessed 10 May 2023.

8. MacArthur departed Corregidor with his wife, son, his son's amah, and several other staffers. His party traveled on four PT boats and were picked up by B-17s on Mindanao and flown to Australia, where the general made his famous declaration, "I shall return."
9. Barlow, Keith, Ed., *Bunker's War: The World War II Diary of Col. Paul D. Bunker*, Presidio Press, Novato, CA, 1996, p. 137
10. Wainwright later recalled, "Promptly at noon this May 6, 1942, I ordered the white flag run up and our firing ceased. It was with the sickest of feelings that I gave the white-flag-raising order to Colonel Paul D. Bunker."
11. Information Circular No. 1 recommends, as part of its directions for sending ordinary mail to prisoners of war, "Letters should be brief as possible and only personal matters should be included in order to avoid delay by censorship."

## 6. Pro Patria Mori

1. Letter from Larry Wozniak to Bess Kirkpatrick, dated December 14, 1945. The letter further elaborated on Spencer's kindness toward his men: "On Christmas of '42 there were 188 men on Corregidor. There were only 139 Red Cross packages that came into our prison camp. The Japs told all the officers and medical corps men that there were none for them because their pay was higher than that of the enlisted men. Still there were 144 enlisted men which still made five packages short. The Jap guard went through the ranks and picked out five men whom he disliked or men who had been given previous punishment and said they would have no package for Christmas. The Col. gave each of these five men 25 pesos—\$2.50 in our money—and that was a great help because these lads could use this money to buy tobacco, sugar, or fruit when it was available at the prison store."

Further recollections of Spencer's compassion came via correspondence from Major General George F. Moore, who forwarded letters written by former Allied prisoners of war Kenneth A. Allen (of Clinton, MO) and Raymond P. Armstrong (of Portland, OR); the latter recalled that "[Col. Kirkpatrick] repeatedly risked his life to obtain food and water for the men at Wawa immediately after the surrender. Usually he passed on to the men all of what he was able to obtain and more than once he continued to be hungry and thirsty himself, while a bite of food per man was made available to us." Source: Letter from Raymond P. Armstrong to Morris H. Marcus, Colonel, AGD Director, Recovered Personnel Div., August 26, 1946.

2. Mary E. Kirkpatrick, May 11, 2015

3. Instead of burning the entire flag, as he'd been ordered to do, Bunker cut off a piece and concealed it under a patch on his shirt. Before dying, he cut his flag remnant in half and gave one of the two pieces to Colonel Delbert Ausmus, telling him it was his duty to take the remnant to the secretary of war. Ausmus concealed it in his shirt cuff and, after the war ended, delivered it to Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson. That flag remnant is on display in the West Point Museum.
4. For his services to the Manhattan Project, Elmer E. Kirkpatrick Jr. was awarded a second Legion of Merit and the Commendation Ribbon.
5. The rise of concern about Japanese war crimes in the 1990s reinforced the notion that most Japanese war criminals escaped punishment, either because the U.S. government wanted to appease the Soviet Union during the early days of the Cold War or because the U.S. wanted to appease current Japanese economic and commercial interests. Unfortunately, some Class A Japanese war criminals were not punished. Perhaps the most notorious was General Ishii of Unit 731—the counterpart of Germany's infamous Dr. Mengele—who escaped post-war prosecution in exchange for supplying the U.S. government with details of his gruesome human experiments. (Source: *Researching Japanese War Crimes: Introductory Essays. Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group*, Washington, D.C., pp. 6–7.)
6. Letter from the Office of the Adjutant General, Department of the Army, Records Administration Center, St. Louis, Missouri, dated 21 May 1948, addressed to John E. Kirkpatrick.
7. Military historians have a name for the West Point class of 1915: “the class the stars fell on.” There were 59 generals in that graduating class; only Bradley and Eisenhower attained the rank of General of the Army.
8. Bess hated MacArthur. Source: Mary E. Kirkpatrick, May 11, 2015.
9. MacArthur, Douglas, *Reminiscences*. McGraw Hill, New York, 1964, p. 142. Historians dispute the accuracy of the general's recall. (“Better Have the Books Corrected.” “the Books Are Wrong!,” [corregidor.org/chs\\_mac/bulkeley.htm](http://corregidor.org/chs_mac/bulkeley.htm). Accessed 10 May 2023.)
10. Wright, John M. Jr., *Captured on Corregidor: Diary of an American P.O.W. in World War II*. McFarland & Company Inc., publishers, Jefferson, North Carolina, and London, 1988, p. 40. Wright further eulogized Spencer thusly: “We suffered a tragic loss on Corregidor which occurred in April of 1943. Colonel Kirkpatrick was admired and respected by every American and every Japanese in the camp. We all knew his brilliant record as a commanding officer of Fort Drum, the concrete battleship which was a companion fort to Corregidor, guarding Manila Bay. His record as commanding officer of the pris-

- oner of war camp was unimpeachable. It was largely through the colonel's efforts that we lived comparatively well for a year— every man in the camp was in better physical and mental condition than were the prisoners of war who had been kept at Cabanatuan.”
11. Because “only a service spouse understands the sorrow and problems of another service spouse,” the nonprofit organization Gold Star Wives continues in its mission to support widows/widowers whose spouses died while serving in the armed forces of the United States. April 5—the date of its founding in 1945—is National Gold Star Wives Day. The group issued a commemorative coin for its seventy-fifth anniversary in 2015. The front of the coin shows a picture of founder Marie Speer with former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt (who joined the organization shortly after the death of her husband, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and served on its board of directors). On the back of the coin is the United States Capitol and a folded flag. (Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. - about GSW, [goldstarwives.org/about-gsw](http://goldstarwives.org/about-gsw). Accessed 10 May 2023.)
  12. Ecott, Tim, “World’s Best Wreck Diving,” *The Times* (London: News International), March 3, 2007.

## The Kirkpatrick Family Legacy: The Path to Scion

1. Chalmers, George. *Caledonia, Or an Account, Historical and Topographic, of North Britain, from the Most Ancient to the Present Times: With a Dictionary of Places, Chorographical and Philological, Volume III*. Columbia University Libraries: London, Cadel, 1810. Internet Archive. Web. 17 January 2016. p. 2. This multi-volume set exhaustively describes both the various tribal groups and invaders in addition to their geographical movement during various Scottish and English kings.
2. As our Scion text notes the name “Ivone” leads to “John” but the spelling of this name has varied across many genealogical texts which explain the Kirkpatrick origin. Actually “Ivo” translates from Latin “Tuoni” written in the original fishing charter which itself was in Latin (Kirkpatrick, Charles. *Records of the Closeburn Kirkpatricks* (England: Grimsay Press, 2003), 20). The spelling may lead to “Yvo” as well, therefore allowing for “Yvone.” Also the name, as Scion explains, “Kirkpatrick” derives from St. Patrick. It was Kil-patrick, originally, “from the Scoto-Irish Cil, signifying a church; and this Gaelic term afterwards became the Scoto-Saxon Kirk” also written as CIRC. (Chalmers, George. *Caledonia, Or an Account, Historical and*

- Topographic, of North Britain, from the Most Ancient to the Present Times: With a Dictionary of Places, Chorographical and Philological, Volume III. Columbia University Libraries: London, Cadel, 1810. Internet Archive. Web. 17 January 2017.) Charles Kirkpatrick in Records of the Closeburn Kirkpatricks supplements this “Kil” and “Kirk” with the additional “Gilpatrick” spelling. He explains, “The Gaelic ‘Gilla’ or ‘Gilli’, meaning servant, [and] came to indicate the officials or lay holders in these churches, and we early find the name Gilpatrick which associates with lands of Galloway [the specific region of Scotland].” The area called Dumfries and Galloway includes many Kirkpatrick parishes along with Nithsdale and Annandale (Kirkpatrick, Richard G. Kirkpatrick of Closeburn: Memoir Respecting the Family of Kirkpatrick of Closeburn, in Nithsdale, with Notices of Some Collaterals. London: privately printed, 1858, pp. 1–2.).
3. Kirkpatrick, Richard G. Kirkpatrick of Closeburn. (Memoir Respecting the Family of Kirkpatrick of Closeburn, in Nithsdale, with Notices of Some Collaterals.) London: privately printed, 1858, pp. 1–2.
  4. Sources including Charles Kirkpatrick’s Records and a historical survey of Dumfries and Galloway confirm the relationship between Robert de Brus and David I. “Robert de Brus...became a friend of David I at the Court of Henry I of England, and subsequently received from David a grant [lordship] of Annandale...bordering on Nithsdale” (Maxwell, Herbert Eustace, Sir. A History of Dumfries and Galloway. Edinburgh, London: W. Blackwood and sons, 1900. Internet Archive. Web. 17 January 2017. pp. 103). However, in the later battles between Britain and Scotland for independence, Robert was often against the British. By the time Alexander II came to rule, Annandale had five lords from the Brus line.
  5. While many individual inhabitants found in this region were possibly descended from Roman, Nordic or even early Norman invaders, it is likely from the parishes throughout the region which bear the family name that Kirkpatricks populated this area for centuries into the past. William McDowall wrote in his history of the region, “[I]t is far more probable that [the Kirkpatricks] belonged to its old Scoto-Irish or Scoto-Saxon population....That Ivon [Ivo, Ivone] was of good birth and family, may be inferred from the favour shown to him by his feudal superior [i.e., Rober the Brus]” (McDowall, William. History of the burgh of Dumfries: with notices of Nithsdale, Annandale, and the Western Border. Edinburgh: A.& C. Black, 1867. Internet Archive. Web. 17 January 2017. p. 41
  6. The death of William de Kirkpatrick was part of the ongoing politics in this era. William the Lion, grandson of David I, invaded England with his principal commanders being brothers Uchtred and Gilbert.

When William was captured, Gilbert and Uchtred accused one another of treachery with Gilbert not only gaining the political upper hand but then brutally murdering his brother. In his attempt to appease Henry II of England—who may have interpreted such treachery as a sign of regional instability—Gilbert offered to pay a substantial indemnity and also offer his son, Duncan as a hostage. It was loyalty to Duncan that ultimately cost William Kirkpatrick his life. “On the death of the cruel Gilbert in 1185, Roland, son of Uchtred, claimed lordship of Galloway, and, in battle...defeated Gilpatrick [Kirkpatrick], who had championed the cause of Duncan, a hostage in England” (*A History of Dumfries and Galloway*, p. 56).

7. McDowall notes, “At a later period, he [Ivone] obtained the hand of Bruce’s daughter, Euphemia, in marriage—an honour which must have been flattering to his pride, and which bound his family to the Brucian interest....” *History of the burgh of Dumfries*, pp. 41.
8. *Records of the Closeburn Kirkpatricks*, p. 5. The full geographical boundaries of this charter as they relate to Kylosbern/Closeburn are outlined extensively in a history of region written by Craufurd Tait Ramage and include references both to present-day and older lands now renamed. (Ramage, Craufurd Tait. *Drumlanrig Castle and the Douglases : with the early history and ancient remains of Durisdeer, Clossburn, and Morton. Dumfries Scotland: J. Anderson & Son, 1876.* Internet Archive. Web. 17 January 2017.) For present-day reference, Closeburn is located in Dumfries and Galloway in what is known as the Scottish Southern Uplands.
9. *Kirkpatrick of Closeburn*, p. 4. Annandale is located also in Dumfries and Galloway as part of a river valley.
10. According to Chalmers’ history of North Britain, “In 1264, [Adam de Kirkpatrick] had a lawsuit with the monks of Kelso about the advoswson [a reference to the right to recommend a person for church offices related to an estate] of the church of Kil-Osbern, which was decided against him by the Abbot of Jedburgh” (Chalmers, pp. 79). Charles Kirkpatrick elaborates that church lands during this historic period were often very extensive and cultivated mainly by monks. On these properties as well were “cottar” (cottages) which sometimes included 30 to 40 families. Closeburn (Kelosbern/Kil-Osbern) was subordinate to the abbey, and it was the intent of Adam de Kirkpatrick to control this land as his property. However, with the abbey more entrenched historically, it is not unusual that Adam lost in his claim against the church. (*Records of the Closeburn Kirkpatricks*, p. 3)
11. This would not be the first time Stephen compromised with the authorities around him and, thus, preserved the Kirkpatrick lineage

in the area. He was also forced among other landowners to sign the Ragman Rolls of 1296 which declared loyalty to King Edward I of England. Such capitulation “is likely to have played...part in those troublous times keeping order in the district” (Records of the Closeburn Kirkpatrick, p. 42). It was also around this time in 1297, Sir Maxwell notes in his historical survey of Dumfries and Galloway, that Edward I “released many Scottish knights who had been taken at [the battle of] Dunbar” during fighting for Scottish independence led, in large part, by William Wallace. He adds, “Among these were five Comyns, including John ‘the Red’...” which ultimately would create a rivalry between the Comyn and the Wallace clans and navigate us towards the church of Greyfriars as described in Scion (Maxwell, p. 76).

12. It is important here to distinguish between what is a “laird” and what is a “lord.” Laird is simply Scottish for “Lord.” However, as one older but illuminating text reveals, “...it is not unlikely that the rank, as well as the title, was sometimes assumed spontaneously without any authority, except courtesy, acquiescence, custom, and acknowledgement” (Wallace, George. *The nature and descent of ancient peerages, connected with the state of Scotland, : the origin of tenures, the succession of fiefs, and the constitution of Parliament, in that country: a discourse addressed to the Rt. Hon. William Earl of Mansfield, Lord Chief Justice of England.* Edinburgh: T. Cadell, 1785. Internet Archive. Web. 17 January 2017. p. 401). To add further confusion, “Barony and Baron are often signified by Lordship and Lord” (p. 403.) For the purpose of clarity and to describe the political ascent of the Kirkpatrick family especially through its history in this region, we have limited ourselves in this earlier time frame to “Laird” as our initial title and made allowances for “Baron” at the appropriate point in our genealogical timeline.
13. Dalrymple, David, Sir. *Annals of Scotland: from the accession of Malcolm III the year MLVII to the accession of the House of Stewart in the year MCCCCLXXI, to which are added, tracts relative to the history and antiquities of Scotland.* Edinburgh: A. Constable, 1819. Internet Archives. Web. 17 January 2017. p. 423.
14. McDowall described the warring strategy of the time in which Scots, now dealing with Edward III of England, successfully frustrated the English Army and largely drove them from several regions. These victories coupled with England’s ongoing conflicts with France allowed for the knights such as Roger de Kirkpatrick to capture fortresses such as Caerlaverock (p. 124-125).
15. Kirkpatrick of Closeburn, p. 13.
16. McDowall, p. 126

17. McDowall concludes that “The widow Lady Kirkpatrick, hearing that the King was in the neighbourhood, went to him, and prayed for justice on the assassin of her husband. Forthwith the monarch formed a tribunal at Dumfries, by which Lindsay was regularly tried and condemned....” (McDowall, pp. 126-127).
18. Historical texts mark Thomas Kirkpatrick’s inheritance of Bridburgh also in the Dumfries region where the family remained (Kirkpatrick of Closeburn, p. 11 and Records of the Closeburn Kirkpatricks, p. 59). Roger Kirkpatrick became “Sheriff of Dumfries” (Records of the Closeburn Kirkpatricks, p. 60).
19. It is important to note that Roger Kirkpatrick did have a son, Umfred who was taken hostage among the many battles fought over land and independence. While some historians do occasionally confuse the names—Umfred and Winfred—the ransom ultimately paid for Umfred’s deliverance appears connected more with Roger Kirkpatrick rather than associated with his brother Thomas (Kirkpatrick of Closeburn, p. 12, 26).
20. Records of the Closeburn Kirkpatrick notes that Thomas did have a “natural son” named George, but “he never possessed Closeburn” (p. 75) It is important to note that what Thomas lacked in heirs he made up for in politics including actively participating in treaty negotiations between England and Scotland and a later appointment as Conservator, a position that often included trade and other financial responsibilities related to national commerce (Kirkpatrick of Closeburn, p. 27).
21. Darrin Lythgoe, “The Hon. Margaret Somerville, daughter of Thomas Somerville, 1st Lord.” The Kirkpatrick Family Archives. Last modified August 4, 2015.  
<http://genealogy.kirkpatrickaustralian.com/archives>.
22. Kirkpatrick of Closeburn, p. 29. Margaret was married first to Alexander and then, upon his death, remarried, to Thomas Kerr (sometimes spelled “Ker”) of Fernyhirst. Margaret’s grandfather Sir Thomas de Somerville was among those who entreated England for the ransom of James I of Scotland, who had been captured and given to Henry IV of England. His actions led to his being made, possibly, the first Lord Baron of Scotland. (Good, George. *Liberton in Ancient and Modern Times*. Harvard University: A. Elliot, 1893. Google Books. Web. 17 January 2017. pp. 89–90.) Other lineages also mark Lady Margaret de Somerville as a direct connection between the Kirkpatrick family and Alfred the Great, who was King of England from AD 871 to 899. (Honeyman, Abraham Van Doren. “The Kirkpatrick Family in Line of ‘Royalty.’” *Somerset County Historical Society*. Vol. 5, 1916, pp.171–80.)

23. The appointment was made James II of Scotland in 1455 Kirkpatrick of Closeburn, p. 29. It is unclear what power was afforded by the position, or if this was simply a designation that represented approval by the English crown.
24. Debrett, John. *The Peerage of the United Kingdom of Great Britain & Ireland, Volume I*. Princeton University, 1822. Google Books. Web. 17 January 2017. p. 842. Barons were recognized as higher than lairds in this time period as opposed to earlier centuries. As the text referenced earlier in our discussion about hierarchy notes, "All Barons were equally entitled, as Lords of parliament, to fit and vote in it; the three estates consisting of the Clergy, Barons, and Commissioners of boroughs" (*The Nature and Ascent of Ancient Peerages*, p. 448). It is unclear if "Commissioner of Boroughs" would have had any correlation to the "Commissioner of the West" designation which Roger held.
25. Records of the Closeburn Kirkpatrick, pp. 193, 195. According to another source William "sold the estate to Sir John Charteris of Amisfield about 1622, and...is said to be buried in Garrel churchyard, dying 9<sup>th</sup> June 1686" (White, William, editor, and Oxford Journals. *Notes and Queries: A Medium of Intercommunication for Literary Men, General Readers, Etc. Vol. II, January–June 1873*. London: John Francis, 1873. Google Books. Web. 17 January 2017. p. 90.) The connection of the Kirkpatrick family to Kirkmichael would not be broken, but its direction would veer away from the line we are following towards Lewis Spencer Kirkpatrick.
26. Lawlor, Henry Cairnes. *A History of the Family of Cairnes or Cairns and its Connections*. The University of Michigan: Eliot Stock, 1906. Google Books. Web. 17 January 2017. p. 66.
27. Attempting to discover "James Kirkpatrick" is a divergence from the Scion genealogy. Nevertheless, it presents a good example of the broad interpretations and nearly limitless research possibilities discovered while simply looking for direct link between generations.

The Cairnes text states "James Kirkpatrick in Barmure, brother of Roger of Closeburn." One possibility begins with a Register of Testaments which lists under the general name "Kirkpatrick" a "James, in Barmure" with the year 1576 (it is unclear if this date has any correlation to the death of the individual). (Grant, Francis J. W.S., editor. *The Commissariat Record of Edinburgh Register of Testaments, Part I: Volumes 1-35, 1514-1600*. Edinburgh, 1898. Internet Archive. Web. 17 January 2017. p. 156). However, a few lines below James' name is a reference to "Roger, of Closeberne, sher. [Sheriff] of Dumfries" with the date 1584. This office of "Sheriff to Dumfries" had been passed down to Kirkpatrick heirs, as we have already seen, in recognition of

Roger Kirkpatrick who famously declared “I mak sikkar” (Kirkpatrick of Closeburn, p. 11). However, our next testament reference the note “Thomas, Alisland” adding a spouse, Katherine Lylis. The paternity of this Thomas seems linked more to a “John Kirkpatrick” whose line does not directly intersect Roger or James (*Archaeologia Scotica: or Transactions of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*, Volume 3, Edinburgh, 1831. Google Books. Web. 17 January 2017. p. 52, 43).

Looking to another possible “James Kirkpatrick” we also begin with Roger Kirkpatrick of “I mak sikkar” fame. We remember Roger was murdered by James Lindsay after taking possession of Caerlaverock Castle. This castle had been originally in the possession of the Maxwell clan who, after Roger Kirkpatrick’s death, reclaimed it. In the genealogy for Lewis Spencer Kirkpatrick, we followed Roger’s son Alexander; however, here we look to his other son, Thomas. This Thomas married Maria de Maxwell, the daughter of Herbert Lord Maxwell whose family goes back to Caerlaverock (“Castles and Towerhouses owned by the Maxwell family in Dumfries and Galloway.” (Maxwell World Website. 17 January 2017. <http://www-maxwellsociety.com/Scotland/Castles.htm>.) According to one survey, Thomas and Maria had a son they named Thomas who married a woman known only as “the sister of Lord Creghton [also spelled Creighton]” (Kirkpatrick of Closeburn, p. 31). Thomas and this mysterious Creghton/Creighton spouse had a son named Thomas who married Margaret Sinclair. One possibility is that Thomas and Margaret had no children while their nephew, Roger Kirkpatrick from Closeburn “succeeded his uncle [Thomas], and married The Right Honorable Lady Jean Cunningham” (Kirkpatrick of Closeburn, p. 41). Keeping this outcome in mind, we look another possibility where Thomas Kirkpatrick and Margaret Sinclair have three children: Roger, Thomas, and James (Records of the Closeburn Kirkpatricks, p. 87). In this interpretation, it is Thomas, the brother of Roger and James, who marries Jean Cunningham (The Scots Peerage Founded on Wood’s Edition of Sir Robert Douglas’s Peerage of Scotland, page 243 and Records of the Closeburn Kirkpatricks, p. 93). Roger Kirkpatrick instead marries an Elizabeth Hamilton (Records of the Closeburn Kirkpatricks, p. 84). Moreover, the James Kirkpatrick here is alleged to have had an adulterous relationship with Elizabeth. One genealogical investigation suggests that this affair led to a petition for divorce that was ultimately approved (“James Kirkpatrick” The Kirkpatrick Family Archives. 17 January 2017. <http://genealogy.kirkpatrickaustralian.com/archives/> and Pitcairn, Robert, Criminal trials in Scotland, from A.D. M.CCCC.LXXXVIII to A.D. M.DC.XXIV : embracing the entire reigns of James IV, and V, Mary Queen of Scots,

and James VI : compiled from the original records and mss. : with historical notes and illustrations. Edinburgh: Longman, Rees, Orme, Brown, Green, and Longman, 1833. Internet Archives. Web. 17 January 2017. p. 78). What is unclear in this research is if this James Kirkpatrick was married at any point to Margaret Cairnes.

One last genealogical theory returns us to Thomas Kirkpatrick and his wife Margaret Sinclair. Here, Thomas later remarries a Janet Stewart (Burke, Bernard, Sir. *A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Peerage of Baronetage of the British Empire*. London: Harrison, 1869., pp. 1136-1137). Thomas Kirkpatrick and Janet Stewart become parents of several children including a Roger and James. From here, the parallels regarding the affair between James and Elizabeth, Roger's wife, recur and similar mystery regarding any connection between James and Margaret Cairnes.

In order to consolidate much of this information, you should know that there are several recurrent names omitted including Stewart, Grierson and Douglas, all of whom give rise to new possibilities within the Kirkpatrick family tree, unexplored here but all meriting further research in the future. We recommend the *Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Peerage and Baronetage of the British Empire* edited by Sir Bernard Burke referenced above.

28. With this third marriage, the third portion of Orchardton, which Margaret was set to inherit, became a dispute between Alexander Kirkpatrick and his mother. According to a Cairnes family history:

[B]y 1591 she had married her third husband, a marriage evidently most distasteful to her son Sir Alexander Kirkpatrick, who, fearing his mother might leave her estate to her husband, seized her person and locked her up. Her husband appeared before the Privy Council to demand redress....On hearing this complaint, the Lords of the Council commanded Sir Alexander to bring his mother in person before the King, of which command the offender took no notice. How the difficulty was settled is not known, but as Sir Alexander shortly afterwards appears as heir of his mother's portion of Orchardton, it is probable the lady rather conveniently died about this time.

Sir Alexander would, in 1616, sell this portion to Maxwell's son, Robert. (*A History of the Family of Cairnes*, p. 180.)

29. "Then, 9<sup>th</sup> of June 1575, there is a charter confirming Margaret Charteris, spouse of Alexander Kirkpatrick, of Kirkmichael, in an annual rent of the lands of Kirkmichael" (*Notes and Queries*, p. 427).
30. Some texts researched here indicate a "William Kirkpatrick" who comes before this final William Kirkpatrick known as the last lord of Kirkmichael (Armstrong, William Clinton. *Capt. John Kirkpatrick of New Jersey, 1739-1822*. New Jersey: J. Heidingsfeld Company, 1927. p.

- 41–42). However, the selling of Kirkmichael land is attributed to the second “William” rather than this possible first one so the outcome is not altered. Reviewing the dates attributed to charters and marriages, it is possible this additional “William” was theorized but not entirely verified. More contemporary texts such as Records of the Closeburn Kirkpatricks do not include this additional “William” and, in fact, point towards grave markers where one William Kirkpatrick is buried along with his son, George Kirkpatrick of Knock. Since his inclusion is not necessary and remains indeterminate, our genealogical line will exclude it.
31. This transaction is described in Records of the Closeburn Kirkpatricks with note that Sir John Charteris is the father of “Agnes Charteris (Kirkpatrick) of eleven children...” (p. 51). She was married to Thomas Kirkpatrick also “created a baronet of Nova Scotia, 26<sup>th</sup> March 1685, for the unshaken fidelity of himself and his ancestors to the Crown” (Drumlanrig Castle and the Douglasses, p. 209). This baronet has continued ever since and, in fact, was last held by Sir Ivone Elliott Kirkpatrick, the 11<sup>th</sup> Baronet, who also served as the for a time as the Permanent Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, the highest ranking civil servant in the Foreign Office of the United Kingdom (“Ivone Kirkpatrick” Wikipedia. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ivone\\_Kirkpatrick](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ivone_Kirkpatrick) . Accessed January 17, 2017). He died in May 1964.
  32. According to Notes and Queries (pp. 426–27), Robert of Glenkiln had a son William of Conheath, the name originating from a farm on the Kirkmichael estate. This William married a Mary Wilson of Kelton and, accordingly, had 19 children, with their 7<sup>th</sup> son being William, born May 24, 1754. It is this William who became American consul at Malaga and who in turn had a Mary who became the Countess de Montijo, whose daughter was Dona Maria Eugenia, Countess of Teba. She would meet then prince Louis Napoleon at Élysée Palace in 1849, and the two would marry. She would have one son, Napoléon Eugène Louis Jean Joseph Bonaparte. (*Notes and Queries*, p. 90).
  33. The title “Knock” comes from a piece of land on the Kirkmichael parish that featured the Garrel churchyard. Notes & Queries describes that William Kirkpatrick who was married to Margaret Cairnes obtained “from the vicar of the parish of Garrel, the church lands and the glebe of the parish” (p. 91). It is here that a “Thomas of Knock” is also implied as possibly being the father of George rather than William. According to Records of the Closeburn Kirkpatricks George Kirkpatrick of Knock, “after visiting Ireland in 1690, served in the army and left with the rank of Major. He settled down at Knock....He is buried in the same grave as his father and beside his

- brother Robert of Glenkiln (died 1746). In 1861 the tombstone was in good preservation” (p. 195). While this may seem to determine the lineage, our Records text also notes that another grave marker located near the ones for William and George, was also found. However, while the name “Kirkpatrick” is decipherable, the rest is shorn and illegible.
34. The Kirkpatrick Family Archive serves as a repository for many of these traditions collected and codified over various albums and by several individuals including family members and friends. The number of contributors and their notes are varied so that information blends together. As a result, we will reference them under the general document “Kirkpatrick Genealogy Album.” If a specific text further supports these conclusions it will be cited distinctly from the Archive.
  35. Kirkpatrick Genealogy Album compiled by Kirkpatrick Family Archives and Evans, Nelson W., and Emmons B. Stivers. *A History of Adams County, Ohio, from its Earliest Settlement to the Present Time, including Character Sketches of the Prominent Persons Identified with the First Century of the County’s Growth and Containing Numerous Engravings and Illustrations*. West Union, Ohio: E. B. Stivers, 1900. Internet Archive. Web. 17 January 2017, p. 156.
  36. Kirkpatrick Genealogy Album and Ancestry.com Operations, Inc.: “1870 United States Federal Census: Individual Record: Joseph Patton Kirkpatrick,” in Ancestry.com.
  37. One survey suggests that Adam Kirkpatrick was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania but came to Adams County via Kentucky. (*A History of Adams County, Ohio*, p. 486.) Also *Portrait and Biographical Album of Benton County, Iowa, Containing Full Page Portraits and Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens of the County, together with Portraits and Biographies of all the Governors of Iowa, and of the Presidents of the United States*. Original publication: Chicago; Chapman Brothers, 1887. Google Books. Web. 17 January 2017.)
  38. *A History of Adams County, Ohio*, p. 486. Ohio would not receive statehood until 1803, thus recalling Dr. Kirkpatrick’s eventual trek to Oklahoma Territory occurred in 1893, fourteen years before its statehood.
  39. One text has Adam Kirkpatrick’s second wife as “Sarah Reed” who is described as “widow of Nathaniel Reed [sometimes “Reid], of Adams County, by whom he had four children” (*Portrait and Biographical Album of Benton County, Iowa*, p. 360). Also some texts note the spelling “Findley” instead of “Finley” for Sarah, but a review of *A History of Adams County, Ohio* reveals the Finley family has long roots in region with the Reverend James B. Finley writing one of the

- first historical accounts of Adams County and the Wyandott native Americans in the region (*A History of Adams County, Ohio*, p. 53-57).
40. Kirkpatrick Genealogy Album.
  41. Chalkley, Lyman (ed.), *Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia: Extracted from the Original Court Records of Augusta County, 1745-1800*, Vol. 2. Rossalyn, Virginia: The Commonwealth Printing Company, 1912. Google Books. Web. 17 January 2017. p. 162. We can also say that Samuel was alive at this point since another child of Michael Dickey is listed as “widow” while Margaret is listed as “wife.” Therefore, while Samuel’s date of death is estimated, it can be assumed to be after the 1807 date for this text entry. An online paper that analyzes the area known as Watties Neach—a locale that will become relevant to our discussion when describing Samuel’s father, Thomas—there is a mention of Samuel Kirkpatrick’s birth being “born in the same year [his family] arrived in the U.S. [sic]” (Kirkpatrick, Tom. (April 30, 2014). *The Quest for Watties Neach*. Retrieved from <https://tomkirkpatrickdotorg.files.wordpress.com/2016/08/the-quest-for-watties-neach1.pdf> . Finally, we have also noted there is an entry for a “Samuel Kirkpatrick” in “Biographical Record” connected to Illinois. This text describes a “Samuel C. Kirkpatrick” who “is the son of Samuel and Anna (Hougham) Kirkpatrick, the former a native of Virginia, born in 1806, who in early childhood moved with his parents, Thomas and Betsy Kirkpatrick, to Adams County, Ohio” (S. J. Clarke Publishing Company. *The Biographical Record of McLean County, Illinois*. Chicago: S. J. Clarke, 1899. p. 147). As we will soon see, it cannot be determined the name of Samuel’s mother let alone if it is “Betsy” or, more formally, Elizabeth.
  42. There is a baptismal record for a Thomas Kirkpatrick which lists the year 1701 (Applegarth Kirk Session, Dumfriesshire, NRS Reference CH2/1220/1 p216; Index, Scottish Indexes. <http://www.scottishindexes.com/birthtranscript.aspx?birthid=3520>: accessed 19 Jan 2017.) Moreover, this date seems to correspond with Tom Kirkpatrick’s genealogical assertion that Thomas Kirkpatrick was born circa 1702 in Dumfriesshire (The Quest for Watties Neach).
  43. “Kirkpatrick Story.” Kirkpatrick McAndrew Trust. 19 January 2017. <http://kirkpatrickweb.co.uk/kirkpatrickstory.html> and The Quest for Watties Neach. While these two texts certainly do not provide an exhaustive discussion of this turbulent historical period, they summarize the era succinctly and include the Kirkpatricks directly.
  44. Tom Kirkpatrick in *The Quest for Watties Neach* elaborates that “Thomas and John [Kirkpatrick] left Ireland on the ship Walpole (or Walpole) and were part of the 65 immigrants that were reported on this ship known as the Walpole which settled in an area that was then

part of Augusta County, Virginia called Beverly Manor landing on August 23, 1738 (MacMaster, Richard. "Ulster Scots In Virginia From Pennsylvania to Shenandoah." *UlsterVirginia.com*. 2015. <http://www.ulstervirginia.com/ulsterscotsvirginia.asp>.) At this point, no ship's manifest has been found leaving us with this being a speculative story corroborated by family researchers.

45. "Kirkpatrick Genealogy: Virginia Coded Lines." *Kirkpatrick Genealogy and Related Families of Kilpatrick and Gilpatrick*, 20 March 2003, [http://www.oocities.org/heartland/6540/codedlines/code\\_va.html](http://www.oocities.org/heartland/6540/codedlines/code_va.html). While this is a compiled web site describing these historical occurrences—some of which will be disagreements with our genealogy—it best summarizes the occurrences in early American documents of Thomas and John Kirkpatrick among others that have been described. It also notes original sources which have been used for our conversation as well.
46. Alexander is not without some contention as well among genealogists. One text, for example, allows for George of the Knock to have had two sons, one Thomas and one Alexander. It further has this Alexander as having a son also named Alexander who born "in Watties Neach, Dumfriesshire, removed to Belfast, Ireland, about 1725, and then to America in 1736, and settled in Somerset County, New Jersey where he d[ied] 3 June 1758 (Browning, Charles H. *Americans of Royal Descent: Collection of Genealogies Showing the Lineal Descent from Kings of some American Families*. Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., p. 112). Another genealogical article notes, The significance Alexander is best summed up in this text: "Alexander Kirkpatrick, the American progenitor of the family, as one of the scions of the Closeburn family, and was born at Watties Neach, County Dumfries and died at Mine Brook, Somerset county, New Jersey, June 3, 1758" (p. 89). *American Historical Society, Inc. Cyclopedia of New Jersey Biography*. Memorial History Company, 1916. Internet Archive. Web. 17 January 2017. Armstrong's work *Capt. John Kirkpatrick* makes a note that other texts, however, acknowledge, "About 1735 a stream of emigrants began to drift in, among whom were Kirkpatricks....The land was there, unoccupied and uncleared; but there was no person at hand with whom would-be renters and buyers could negotiate" (p. 5). Given the documents including the *Kirkpatrick Genealogical Album*, it appears there was an "Alexander Kirkpatrick" which links in some way the family from Scotland to Ireland and then America. Inserting it here between George and Thomas is as likely, though future research may alter these conclusions.

47. Notes and Queries, p. 427; Records of the Closeburn Kirkpatricks, p. 195