

# Spalding roots trace to pre-Mayflower days

## THE WAY IT WAS

George  
Parkhurst



Born in Chicago, August 15, 1888, he showed an unusual musical talent from a very early age and received the degree of Professor of Music from the Conservatory of Bologna, Italy when he was only 14 years old. He made his musical debut in Paris three years later, while his first soloist appearance in America was in 1908 with the New York Symphony orchestra. He was also a prolific composer of works for the violin, piano, and voice and also wrote several orchestral compositions.

During World War I, he was a member of the flying service and, following the Armistice in 1918, he served as Adjutant to Fiorello LaGuardia (later mayor of New York City) where he was involved in "cloak and dagger" operations in Italy.

His excellent command of the Italian language was put to use in Allied radio broadcasts to the Italian resistance during World War II. Albert died in 1953.

Almost everyone is familiar with the name "A.G. Spalding and Bros." on all kinds of athletic equipment. The co-founders of this, the first ma-

for sporting goods company in America, Albert G. and J. Walter Spalding, uncle, father, respectively, of the violinist.

While many local members of the family, not hve achieved as wide spread fame, a few worthy of mention. Col. Simeon Spaulding, of those who marched to Concord on April 1775, was very active in Town affairs. It was he who built the Greek Revival house at the corner of North and Dalton Roads. His son, Simon Spaulding, Jr., built the "Fiske House" at North Billerica Road.

Joseph Spaulding, a member of Capt. Forster's company, is reported to have fired the first shot at the Battle of Bunker Hill, contrary to orders for which he received a blow on the head from Gen. Putnam. He claimed that he killed British Major Pitcairn but this was hard to prove since the major fell with four musket balls in his body. Joseph Spaulding built the house that stands today at 55 Spaulding Road.

Oscar Spalding (1867-1941) was prominent in Westford town affairs and in 1935 gave to his fellow townspeople the Spalding Town Forests, some 122 acres of woodland. Ten years earlier he had donated land in the center of Carlisle which became Spalding Park.

After more than three and a third centuries, descendants of Edward, some bearing the Spalding (Spaulding) name and others whose genealogy is traced through the female lines, are still active in the Chelmsford area.

*George Adams Parkhurst is a Chelmsford historian whose family has lived in town since 1781.*

Mayflower ancestry is of prime importance to most genealogically inclined people. However, many descendants of the early Chelmsford families (including this writer) can claim relationship to one of the town's founders who arrived in this country a year before the Pilgrims disembarked at Plymouth.

He was Edward Spalding. History tells us that Spalding migrated, with his family, from England to the Jamestown, Virginia area about 1619 and came north to Braintree, Massachusetts around 1634.

Edward Spalding settled in Chelmsford in 1653 or 1654 as he was one of the Town officers elected at the first Town Meeting held at William Fletcher's house on what is now Crosby Lane in November of 1654.

The name Spalding (or Spaulding) has been well known in Chelmsford, Westford, and the surrounding communities for 335 years. While some members of the family inserted a "U" into the name, others hold to the old spelling of Spalding. Both, however, are descendants of the same original Edward.

In the program, "Albert Spalding in Remembrance," at the Carriage House on June 1, Suzanne Spalding Winston told about the most famous of Edward's many descendants, Albert Goodwill Spalding, who was acclaimed as one of the world's greatest violin virtuosos. Mrs. Winston is a niece of the violinist.

Albert Goodwill Spalding achieved international fame as America's first violin virtuoso.