

Sprague Project Correspondents:

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, ..." I'm sure that almost all are familiar with the preceding quote from the opening paragraph of Charles Dickens' "Tale of Two Cities." I'd guess a vote of the world's population would identify the year 2020 as "the worst of times." As my late country philosopher father was heard to say many times throughout his life, "there is no loss but what there is some small gain."

The Sprague Project exemplifies my father's belief. I passed my 87th birthday in 2020 which means that I made my first entry to the Sprague Database over 30 years ago. My objective at that time was simply to create a computerized database of the book "Sprague Families in America" by Dr. W. V. Sprague. That dream grew over time. A. Arnold Sprague convinced me (with my late wife Ellie's help) to let him create the Sprague Website from the Sprague Database. It was decided to give equal priority to male and female lines of Sprague descent. Sprague lines were extended to include world wide lines of descent. Arnold replaced the original Sprague Website with one controlled by TNG (The Next Generation of Site Building" in order to improve usability and function. A new Sprague Website was created on the site of The Guild of One Name Studies in order to provide availability of the Sprague Database beyond the time in which I'm able to continue doing so. A group of outstanding and dedicated family history researchers continue to regularly add thoroughly researched Sprague family information. The result is a Sprague Website that I believe to be quite unique in the world of freely available family research information.

This year was not "the worst of times" for the Sprague Project. A few long time correspondents passed away and that always creates sadness. My major disappointment has been that, despite a long time high interest in the ancestry of Abiel Sprague, I have been unable to persuade an adequate number of participants to participate in an anticipated NEHGS/Mayflower Society DNA test of Sprague descendants of Abiel.

It is easy to say that this year was the "best of times" for the Sprague Project. The far reaching isolation caused by the worldwide pandemic has resulted in a high level of family research and an abundance of submissions to the Sprague Project. An active, ongoing project has already added hundreds of English Spragues to the Sprague Database. Significant groups from Australia and South Africa have been added. My long time dream of making the Sprague Project a world wide project is coming true because of the addition of accomplished Sprague family researchers in England and Australia. They are added to the existing group from Canada and the United States. For the first time in the life of the Sprague Project, the Sprague Website has been updated on a monthly basis. The Sprague Project continues to make every day exciting for me and one to which I look with anticipation.

I wish you all a happy, safe and healthy 2021 and thank you for your interest and support in 2020. I urge you to continue to review your families on the Sprague Website and to report any error no matter how small. Please send me notifications of e-mail changes. My best wishes to you all. Dick

Richard E. (Dick) Weber, Sprague Project Developer
Website: <https://sprague.one-name.net>
e-mail: richard677@centurytel.net