

JOHN SPENCER, (?-1874) Steel and file manufacturer
Given to the Company by Mrs Spencer in 1926

John Spencer came from a long line of Spencers, a family who had been filesmiths since at least the 1770s. He was the son of Matthew, becoming a Freeman and registering a mark as a filesmith in 1827. The mark, which was a crescent above 'Z' continued to be used by later Spencers, his son John taking the mark when he became a Freeman in 1849 and similarly, his grandson in 1876.

John Spencer worked for his family's company, Matthias Spencer & Co, steel merchants and file manufacturers. Their factory was Albion Works on Pea Croft, to the north of the town centre.

He was Master Cutler in 1835, three years after the building of the third and present Hall. He led the campaign for the building of the Sheffield and Manchester Railway along the route via the Woodhead Tunnel, which was completed in 1845.

He died in 1874.

Artist - unknown