An Idea Was Born...

- David Spencer
- 1876 – Philadelphia Centennial
- Pleasant Mount
- Spencer Farm
David Spencer

1854(?) - 1944
Welcome to Historic Pleasant Mount
Settled 1789
The Search for Parts....

1880 - 1888
Collected Parts

- High Pressure Steam Gauge
- Set of Artillery Wagon Wheels
- Teat Axle
- Set of Extra Heavy Wagon Springs
- Ash Lumber
- Differential Gear
- Single Cylinder Yacht Engines (2)
- Front Axle
Custom Work

- Castings
  - Lanesboro, PA
- 185 Pound Pressure Boiler
  - Spencer Design
  - Shapley & Wells Fabrication
- Patterns for Gears and Pinions
  - George Spencer Shop, Thompson
- Blacksmith Work
  - Frank Spencer, Pleasant Mount
Site of Blacksmith Shop

Route 371, East of Pleasant Mount
The Invention is Complete...

A Historic Day

December 15, 1888

Pleasant Mount
FARM TRACTOR INVENTED BY DAVID SPENCER, PLEASANT MOUNT, PA.
COMPLETED YEAR OF 1889
ON DISPLAY AT WAYNE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, HONESDALE, PA.
A Trial Run....

December, 1888
Presentation to the Public....

July 4, 1889
First Store in Pleasant Mount
Presbyterian Church
Frank O’Neill
1877 – 1962
Pleasant Mount
Lourdes O’Neill
Traveling West on Route 670
Intersection of Two Turnpikes

This memorial is a tribute to the financier-patriot of the Revolution who was first Treasurer of the U.S., 1789-1801. George Clymer and Meredith were large landholders in this area. Meredith died at his estate, Belmont, in 1817.
Past Meredith Park
Through the Village of Pleasant Mount
To the North Road
Up the North Road
To the John Dix Farm
And Back to the Presbyterian Church

A Three Mile Trip!
Some Interesting Statistics...

- Speed – about 4 MPH
- Power – about 10 – 20 HP
- Weight – 3100 Lbs.
- Cost - $10,000
- Ran forward or backward
- Wheels: Rear = 60”D; Front = 54”D
- Required: A fireman and driver
The Tractor Was Equipped With...

- A boiler, smokestack & engines (rear)
- A fire blower
- An injector (force water into blower)
- An auxiliary pump
- Grates for wood or coal
- Brakes on each rear wheel
Facing Reality...
FARM TRACTOR INVENTED BY DAVID SPENCER, PLEASANT MOUNT, PA.
COMPLETED YEAR OF 1889
ON DISPLAY AT WAYNE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, HONESDALE, PA.
Tractor Needs Major Changes in Design...

After using tractor to carry logs and thresh oats, Spencer decides to let others carry on his dream.
End of An era...

- David Spencer died Feb. 28, 1944
- Reached age of 89
- Lived to see original idea develop into a horseless age
- His invention made Wayne County and Pennsylvania History
David Spencer

1854(?) - 1944
The Tractor Changes Hands...
Incomplete List of Owners 1944 to 2003...

- Thomas H. Jones
- Wayne County Historical Society
- ?
- Bob Stahr
- Alan Grieme
And Falls Into a State of Disrepair...
An Idea Is Born...
2002
WCHS Farm Museum Committee...

- Dave Williams
- Rod Brown
- Tom Nebzydoski
- Paul Liptak
- Linda Dix Lee, Chair
A Visit is Made...
November 25, 2003
Stockertown, PA
Northampton County
STEAM WAGON
Made by David Spencer
and Frank Spencer of
Pleasant Mount in 1888.
This was one of the earliest
tractors.
Support is Sought...

WCHS Board Meeting

January 15, 2004
A PROPOSAL TO BRING THE SPENCER TRACTOR BACK TO WAYNE COUNTY

TO: WCHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: FARM MUSEUM COMMITTEE, Linda Dix Lee, Chair  DATE: JANUARY 15, 2004
PRESENTED BY: Rod Brown, Committee Member
The idea for building Wayne County's first steam tractor was conceived by David Spencer, who later donated the tractor to the Wayne County Historical Society. The tractor eventually found its way from Pleasant Mount to Uniondale to Honesdale, where it was donated to the Wayne County Historical Society in 1947. The Historical Society, for reasons unknown to us, at some point in time de-acquisitioned the tractor. It is presently owned by Alan Grieme and is located on Rt. 191 south of Wind Gap, PA. The tractor has been uncovered and has been for several years, although a shingled covered roof has afforded some degree of protection.

On November 25, 2003, three members of the Farm Committee viewed and photographed the tractor. The Committee strongly recommends that the Spencer tractor be returned to Wayne County where it belongs.

PROPOSAL:

Phase I - Acquisition Price - $3000 max
Pallet - $500
Moving - donated by Dave Williams
Storage - donated site

Estimated range - $5000-15,000

Funding - Phase I
$500 - donations expected before transfer of tractor
$3000 - proposed loan from WCHS Board (to be repaid by Farm Museum Committee over a three year period)

Funding - Phase II
To take place over a several year period by the following means:
Donations of materials and labor
Spencer tractor fund raising by the Farm Museum Committee
Use of any profits realized from Farm Museum during Fair weeks

Future Placement
Our goal is to eventually house the restored tractor at a suitable site.
Volunteers are Recruited...

- Linda Dix Lee – Overall Coordinator
- Dave Williams – Mastermind of Move
- Rod Brown – Photographs/Help
- Tom Nebzydoski – Found Mover/Help
- Tim Hall – Rollback Truck/Expertise
- Lewis Lee – Help
- Marlyn Shaffer – Help
Tim Hall in His Auto Shop
A Historic Day...

The Spencer Steam Tractor Comes Home

February 7, 2004
A Generous Offer of a Storage Barn...

Spencer McBain
Pleasant Mount
Great Great Great Nephew of
David Spencer
A Safe Resting Place
April 24, 2004
Volunteers Meet to...

- Clean Out the Weeds
- Preserve the Wheels
- Measure for Wood
- Replacement Parts
- Plan for the Future
An Offer of Ash Timber...

for wood replacement parts is received from owners of 1800’s Earl Kennedy farm where original ash for tractor was cut.
Another Offer Is Received

... from neighbor Ronnie Peck to saw the timber into boards with his sawmill.
David W. Dix, whose Grandmother was a Spencer and related to the inventor, passed away on May 9, 2004. David lived to see his dream fulfilled, the return of the Spencer Tractor back to its Wayne County home.
And a Gain....

Gifts in David’s memory push the tractor fund past the purchase cost.
Generous Gifts Pay Cost of Tractor in Full...

- Cost of Tractor - $3,000
- Donations Prior to May 9, 2004: $860
- Gifts: Memory, David W. Dix: $2235
- Total = $3095
What’s Next? Restoration!!!
This... To This...
Restoration Fund

Spencer Steam Tractor
Wayne County Historical Society
P O Box 446
Honesdale, PA 18431
The End