

Edward W. Spencer
Documentary

The Story

Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois, had for many years a volunteer lifesaving crew among its students which became famous. On September 8, 1860, the *Lady Elgin*, a crowded passenger steamer, floundered off the shore of Lake Michigan just above Evanston. One of the students gathered on the shore, Edward W. Spencer, a student in Garrett Biblical Institute, saw a woman clinging to some wreckage far out in the breakers. He threw off his coat and swam out through the heavy waves, succeeding in getting her back to the land in safety.

Sixteen times during that day did young Spencer brave those fierce waves, rescuing seventeen persons. Then he collapsed in a delirium of exhaustion. Ed Spencer slowly recovered from the exposure and exertion of that day, but never completely. With broken health he lived quietly, unable to enter upon his chosen lifework of the ministry, but exemplifying the teachings of Jesus Christ in his secluded life. He died in California, aged eighty-one. In a notice of his death, one paper said that not one of these seventeen rescued persons ever came to thank him. ~Aquila Webb

The Staff

Daniel P. Johnson – Producer / Director

Over the past 16 years, Dan has had the opportunity to work with many production companies including Disney/MGM Studios in Orlando, FL and has worked on projects such as Walt Disney World Inside Out, Disney Channel Preview with Robbie Benson, Wheel of Fortune, NBC's Quarterback Challenge, Family Matters, The Adventures of Mary-Kate and Ashley, ABC Easter and Christmas Parades and NFL Allegiance Commercial to name a few. Dan currently resides in the Nashville area with his wife Lee Anne and their three children, Rebekah, Benjamin and Stephen.

Ken L. Shaw – Producer / Director

Graduating in 1985 from the University of Memphis with a degree in Film and Video, Ken Shaw has worked as a Director for NBC and produced/directed a music video entitled "Turn Around" which landed at number five for best video for a Memphis Television Show. As a director, Ken's footage has appeared on the NBC Today Show, Nickleodean and around the world during the Presidential Election Coverage in 1992. Since moving his company, KLS Productions, to Nashville in 1996, Ken has also had the opportunity to capture Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith in concert. Ken recently directed and edited several television pilots, some of which are currently being pitched to PAX TV and HGTV. Ken has been involved in five short films including three shot on 16mm and two using current digital technology. Ken and his wife Connie live in the Nashville area.

John D. Keltonic – Composer / Arranger

As a composer, John has been composing music for more than 20 years and has won numerous awards including an Emmy Award for Best Original Music Score for his work on “Over Alaska,” a national Emmy award for “Korean War” for best historical drama and an Emmy nomination for the PBS series “A Force More Powerful” in the best documentary category. A symphony entitled “Our Wings Have Caught the Wind” has brought John critical acclaim.

The Support

The producers have received encouragement from Henry S. Bienen, President of Northwestern University, as well as Ted A. Campbell, President of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. Both organizations have provided preliminary research information to the producers and offered assistance with the project.

The Project

The research phase of the Edward W. Spencer Documentary project is scheduled to begin as soon as funding is available. Footage will be acquired using the latest digital technology and offline editing will be performed on a state-of-the-art non-linear system. The final product will be converted to a digital format and mastered for broadcast television. The project will be released on VHS and DVD through several distribution channels including mass market wholesale, catalogs, retail stores, and internet sales.

The Plan

Phase 1 – Research @ 2 Months, \$54,981.50

- Research Northwestern University and Garrett Theological Seminary archives
- Research survivor history, Spencer’s later years, family, etc.
- Legal and copyright research

Phase 2 – Writing @ 2 Months / \$57,224.00

- Script writing
- Story boarding

Phase 3 – Pre-Production @ 2 Months / \$27,784.00

- Script breakdown
- Location research
- Shooting schedule
- Travel itinerary
- Shooting permits

Phase 4 – Production @ 1 Month / \$42,642.00

- Travel
- Acquire footage
- Record interviews

Phase 5 – Post Production @ 3 Months / \$95,093.50

- Edit footage
- Score composition
- Incorporate narration and music

Phase 6 – Distribution @ 2 Months / \$138,356.50

- Cover artwork
- Marketing
- Approach PBS
- Packaging and delivery

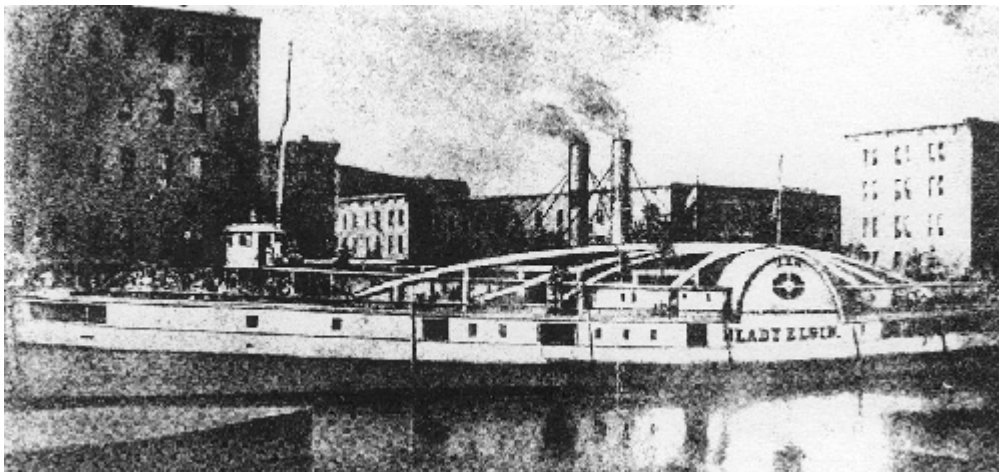
Funding

The Edward W. Spencer Documentary project has an estimated budget of \$416,081.50 and will seek funding from multiple sources. For additional funding information contact:

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The steamer *Lady Elgin*