

Family Group Record for Nathaniel Pearsall

Husband		Nathaniel Pearsall [528]¹	
AKA			
Born	date:	place:	
Died	date:	place:	
Buried	date:	place:	
AFN			
Father	George Pearsall Jr [529] (-) ² [MRIN:210]		
Mother			
Marriage	17 Dec 1735	Hempstead, Long Island, New York, USA [MRIN:209] ¹	
Wife		Sarah Todd [537]¹	
AKA			
Born	date:	place:	
Died	date:	place:	
Buried	date:	place:	
AFN			
Father	[MRIN:210]		
Mother			
Children			
1	M	Joseph Pearsall [541]³	
Born	date:	place:	
Died	Bef 1790	place:	
Buried	date:	place:	
AFN			
Spouse	Elizabeth Hicks [2758] (-) ³ [MRIN:659] ³		
2	F	Mary Pearsall [542]⁴	
Born	date:	place:	
Died	date:	place:	
Buried	date:	place:	
AFN			
Spouse			
3	F	Sarah Pearsall [540]⁵	
Born	date:	place:	
Died	date:	place:	
Buried	date:	place:	
AFN			
Spouse			

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Children (cont.)		
4	M	George Pearsall [538]⁶
Born	31 Dec 1739 ⁶	place:
Died	3 Dec 1825 ⁶	place:
Buried	date:	on old Pearsall farm in Saratoga County, New York, USA ⁶
AFN		
Spouse		
5	M	Henry Pearsall [527]⁷
Born	1741 ⁷	place:
Died	date:	place:
Buried	date:	place:
AFN		
Spouse	Elizabeth [--?--] [543] (-)	[MRIN:199] ⁸
6	F	Hannah Pearsall [539]⁹
Born	19 Aug 1743 ⁹	place:
Died	date:	place:
Buried	date:	place:
AFN		
Spouse		

General Notes: Husband - Nathaniel Pearsall ¹⁰

- 1) Resided at Searingtown and Oyster Bay, Long Island, New York and Clinton Township, Dutchess County, New York.
- 2) Nathaniel Pearsall removed to Dutchess County, N. Y. in 1757....where he acquired lands from the Patroon or owner of the land under the system of leasing for three generations...a very unsatisfactory system of land holding...relations between the proprietor and his tenants were never cordial and pleasant...unending stream of complaints and objections to the hardships of a tenure which took from a man the benefit of the work in clearing and fencing a farm, when probably the three deaths would happen so close together as not only to give the landlord the whole benefit of the lessee's labor, but to turn the lessee's young family adrift with nothing to show for their father's and grandfather's labor....as a consequence of this discontent there resulted the Anti-Rent War of 1766 in Dutchess County history.....at the close of the Revolutionary War all these tenures were made fee simple possessions of the lessees...Nathaniel Pearsall, however, died before the close of the Revolutionary War, hence the leasehold of the farm at Pleasant Valley vested in his oldest son George Pearsall to the exclusion of the other heirs.
- 3) About the year 1774, Nathaniel Pearsall removed, although retaining his farm in Dutchess County, to the town of Danbury, Connecticut, in order to engage more largely in the manufacture of arms....the town of Danbury was on the border of land situated between the colonies of New York and Connecticut, a no-man's land claimed by both, but held by neither....Here gathered the best skilled artisans of the country, among whom were Nathaniel Pearsall and his sons George, Henry and Joseph. When Lexington was fought, Danbury was already famous for its arms and munitions...Danbury became intensely loyal to the American cause...the town was defenceless against the English attack on Saturday, April 26, 1777....by Sunday night the whole Whig population of the village, including Nathaniel Pearsall and his party, made their escape to the adjoining towns.

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Notes: Marriage

1) Married at St. George's Church, Hempstead, Long Island, New York.

General Notes: Child - Joseph Pearsall [541]

1) Resided at Clinton, Dutchess County, New York.

General Notes: Child - Mary Pearsall [542] ⁴

"Such were the conditions of Indian warfare in the country when Nathaniel Pearsall settled near the present site of the village of Pleasant Valley, Dutchess County, N. Y. One day, shortly after he was comfortably settled in his new home, his daughter Mary, not yet in her teens, was sent on an errand to a neighbor's....Shortly after she entered the woodland, in sight of her father's home, she was suddenly confronted by an Indian. Too badly frightened to scream or give the alarm, she was seized and hastily carried through the woods....all settlements were avoided....The first night out, Mary was lodged in a hut of the Wappinger Indians, and bound with thongs that she might not escape....many nights were spent by the camp fire in the forest before they reached their destination,near the Lake George trail and eastward of Lake Champlain....she grew to womanhood, married her captor, an Indian chief, and gave birth to a son....her brave failed to return from one of his raiding expeditions.... she obtained the consent of her Indian relatives to return to her father's home....Mary lived but a few years after returning to her parents. She was changed and broken in spirit, and died of a broken heart. When the boy had grown to young manhood, he retruned to the Indians as a doctor."

General Notes: Child - Henry Pearsall [527] ⁷

1) Henry Pearsall remained in Dutchess County until after the battle of Lexington, when he too joined with his father and brothers at Danbury, where they had large works, in the manufacture of arms and wheelwrighting products." Henry Pearsall is the only Pearsall name in 1775 signed to the Articles of Association in Dutchess County for the support of the American Cause. He "signed this agreement or pledge in Beekman Township, Dutchess Co., New York.....he came over into Danbury to join in the work of making arms and quartermaster supplies for the American Army. It was not long after his coming before Danbury was destroyed by the English Army and the Pearsalls, father and sons, were compelled to flee with their families from the wrath of the Tories, who carried on a bushwhacking campaign following the retirement of the English Army." Henry Pearsall was a member of the Baptist Church until the day of his death...."attending the church located at Poughquag which is now part of the Brill farm....a part of the Beekman Baptist Church removed to Stillwater in Saratoga County, where they organized the first Baptist Church which is still in existence. To this church came Elder David Irish from Pawling, Dutchess County, Baptist Church.

2) Henry Pearsall with wife and family moved to Twelve Corners in Cayuga County, about 1790. "The date is assumed from the fact that Henry Pearsall does not appear in the census of 1790, thus showing that he was in neither Dutchess nor Cayuga county at that time. Hence he must have been on the road with his family, cattle and other belongings.:

3) Henry Pearsall was not only a skilled man at building saw and grist mills but he and his sons were operating lumbermen. From here his family removed to Michigan upon the opening of the lumber industry in that state.

Source Citations

1. History and Genealogy of THE PEARSALL FAMILY, Clarence E. Pearsall and Hattie May Pearsall, THE PEARSALL FAMILY (Reprinted by HIGGINSON BOOK COMPANY, 148 Washington St, Post Office Box 778, Salem, Massachusetts 01970. Phone 978-745-7170 www.higginsonbooks.com), Vol III 1928 Chapter 37 Sec 3 Pg 1207.
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