

# History and Genealogy of THE PEARSALL FAMILY

in England and America



CLARENCE E. PEARSALL

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HETTIE MAY PEARSALL

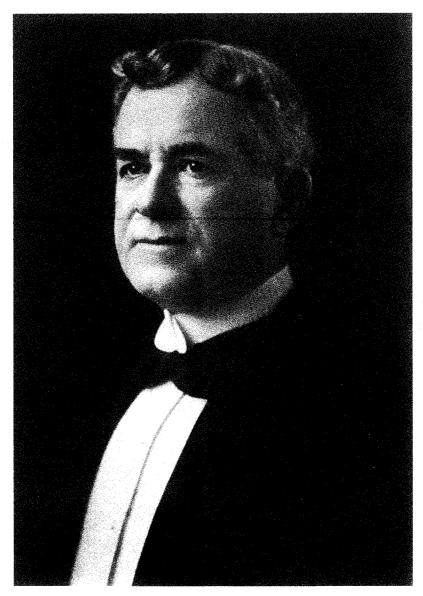
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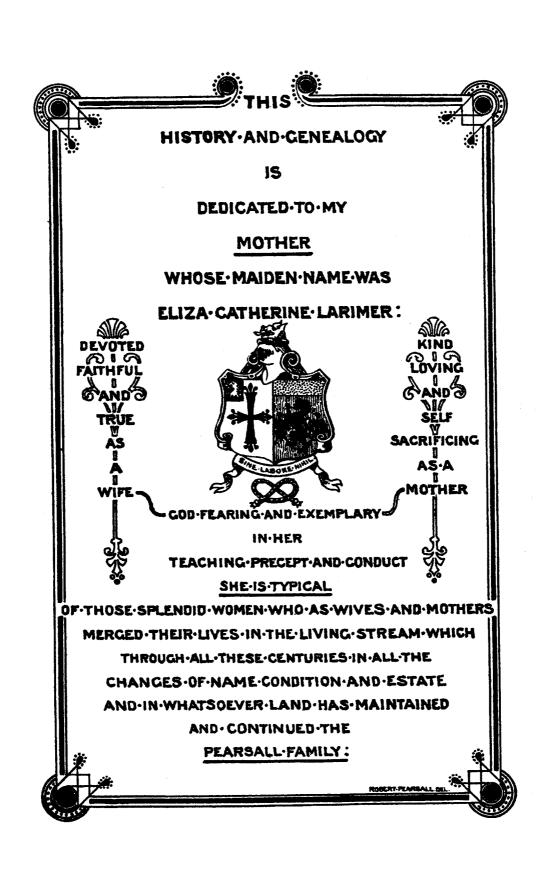
VOLUME ONE



HETTIE MAY PEARSALL [MRS, C. E. PEARSALL]



CLARENCE E. PEARSALL



#### THE MOTIVE

The Motive which induced certain only distantly related members of our family to adopt the common spelling of Pearsall for their surname is too long a story to be condensed into a concrete statement. It will be found to be duly explained in its proper place in this history.

While this family name of Pearsall includes many branches that did live and some of which now live in England, yet our primary interest is in those branches, having this spelling of Pearsall, who came to America.

The inducement which impelled one's ancestor to leave his homeland and come to America is always an interesting subject of inquiry. The records disclose that our ancestor came for trade in which his father, Edmond Pearsall, held the King's Patent granting a monopoly of the Tobacco trade to him and his associates.

The history of America shows that emigrants of other families came to found churches to their own liking; religious liberty they called it. To the descendants of such we commend the story of the founding of the First Presbyterian Church of Hempstead, which discloses that our ancestors were also God-fearing and God-serving men and women.

History also shows that others, mostly of the gentry of England, came to acquire lands because, under the feudal system, possession of land was the basis of the whole social fabric, and upon this foundation these emigrants expected to acquire rank and title at home. To the descendants of such we commend a reading of the many thousands of deeds herein abstracted, which disclose that our ancestors were not only owners of large tracts of land, but that some of the lines of their descendants can show more than three centuries of unbroken landed possession.

#### **THANKS**

It would be impossible either to adequately acknowledge or to sufficiently express our appreciation for the help and assistance that has been given the writer by the Libraries of England and America in the work of compiling the material from which has been made the history of the Pearsall Family as herein presented.

It is not generally understood that in genealogy and family history negative are as important as positive statements; one may therefore work for days and examine hundreds of authorities, getting all the time excellent results, which however will not appear in the list of citations. Then again every library specializes in those matters which are of local interest, so that no matter how much may have been published and in general circulation upon any given historical event or character, nevertheless, the library of the locality will have something exclusive upon the same subject. It may be a manuscript or clippings from the paper of local circulation, or a county history, or some book of reminiscences. It can readily be seen that one cannot say that they have fully mastered a subject until they have carefully examined the local specialties relating to the matter. This is more than true, it is insistent, with reference to family history, even though all this search may result in nothing being added to what is already known. It would not therefore be possible to list all the books and manuscripts that have been examined to make this history-genealogy; and while careful citations of authorities have been made to support the text, yet frequently, yes, generally, very many other books and manuscripts were also consulted, and after this study the text, as stated herein, was made to conform to the weight of all the authorities. It can therefore be understood that one can, within the limits allowed for this purpose, only speak in terms of the libraries where this work was done.

For the use of their manuscripts and books, as well as for the personal assistance of the librarians and their assistants, our thanks and acknowledgements are due to

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The Library of the Historical Society of New Jersey, Newark, New Jersey.

The Newberry Library, Chicago, Illinois.

The State Library of Rhode Island, Providence, Rhode Island.

The Public Library, Bristol, England.

The Library of the Historical Society of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland.

The Library of the State of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

The State Library of North Caroline, Raleigh, North Carolina.

The Library of the Historical Society of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

The State Library of Connecticut, Hartford, Connecticut.

The Library of the Historical Society of Connecticut, New Haven, Connecticut.

The Pequot Library at West Port, Connecticut.

The State Library of California. Sacramento, California.

The Library of the Historical Society of Delaware, Wilmington, Delaware.

The Public Library of San Francisco, San Francisco, California.

The Field Memorial Library, Conway, Massachusetts.

The Memorial Library, Poughkeepsie, New York.

The Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

The Library of Historical Society of Chester Co., Pa. Westchester, Pennsylvania.

The Library of Historical Society of Lancaster Co., Pa. Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Library of Historical Society of Washington Co., Pa. Washington, Pennsylvania.

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The Library of the Iowa State Historical Society, Des Moines, Iowa.

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The Library of the Historical Society of Massachusetts, at Boston.

The Library of Harvard College, especially the Sparks Mss.

The Mss. in the State House and Court House, Boston, Massachusetts.

The Library of the Historical Society of Maine, Portland, Maine.

The Library of the Salem Historical Society, Salem, Massachusetts.

The Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

The Library of Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The Public Library at Wilmington, North Carolina.

The Public Library, Jamaica, Long Island, New York.

The Library of the Historical Society, Huntington, Long Island, New York.

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The Library of the Province of Ontario, Toronto, Canada.

The Public Library at Picton, Canada,

The Public Library at Norwich, Connecticut.

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The MS. collections of the Land Commissioner of Maryland at Annapolis, Maryland.

The Mss. in the Secretary of State's office, Trenton, New Jersey.

The Mss. in the office of the State Historian of West Virginia at Charleston, West Virginia.

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And all the churches and public offices in England and America where original searches were made and which yielded valuable information which the reader will find suitably acknowledged and identified in the text.

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