

# THE PEARSALL FAMILY



*History and Genealogy of*  
**THE PEARSALL FAMILY**  
*in England and America*



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CLARENCE E. PEARSALL



**THIS**  
**HISTORY AND GENEALOGY**  
**IS**  
**DEDICATED TO MY**  
**MOTHER**

**WHOSE MAIDEN NAME WAS**  
**ELIZA CATHERINE LARIMER:**

DEVOTED  
FAITHFUL  
AND  
TRUE  
AS  
A  
WIFE



KIND  
LOVING  
AND  
SELF  
SACRIFICING  
AS A  
MOTHER

GOD-FEARING AND EXEMPLARY

IN HER

TEACHING PRECEPT AND CONDUCT

SHE IS TYPICAL

OF THOSE SPLENDID WOMEN WHO AS WIVES AND MOTHERS  
MERGED THEIR LIVES IN THE LIVING STREAM WHICH  
THROUGH ALL THESE CENTURIES IN ALL THE  
CHANGES OF NAME CONDITION AND ESTATE  
AND IN WHATSOEVER LAND HAS MAINTAINED  
AND CONTINUED THE  
PEARSALL FAMILY:





## 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.

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- The Library of the Long Island Historical Society,  
Brooklyn, New York.
- The Library of the Iowa State Historical Society,  
Des Moines, Iowa.
- Friends Records in possession of Joint Committee on  
Records of The Religious Society of Friends of New  
York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts,  
Vermont, Canada and Michigan.
- 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, Port-  
land, Maine.
- The Library of the Salem Historical Society,  
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- The Public Library,  
Kansas City, Missouri.
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