

## CHAPTER THIRTY-SIX

### SAMUEL PEARSALL

of Hempstead, New York, and Greens Farms, Connecticut.

*This chapter has been in part deleted. See Note, page 1041.*

#### SECTION 1.

SAMUEL PEARSALL, son of John Pearsall, Chapter 34, Section 1; resided at Hempstead, L. I., N. Y., and Greens Farms, Fairfield Co., Connecticut; married first, July 9, 1754, Keziah Satterly of Huntington, at the First Presbyterian Church, of Huntington, Long Island, N. Y., by the Rev. Ebenezer Prime. She died June 19, 1783, in the 57th year of her age, and is buried in the Hurlbutt Cemetery Plot, Greens Farms Burying Ground, West Port, Connecticut. He married second, Eunice Hoyt, daughter of Nathan Hoyt and Elizabeth Lockwood his wife, of Norwalk, Conn. She was born July 18, 1742. Children of first marriage:—

1. John Satterly Pearsall, born 1757; Chapter 36, Section 2.
2. Anna Pearsall, born 1762.
3. Samuel Pearsall, Chapter 36, Section 4.
4. Abigail Pearsall, married June 22, 1777, Zebulon Williams of Long Island, at Greens Farms Congregational Church.

#### SECTION 1.

Jno. S. Jones, in his *Reminiscences of Westport*, says that notwithstanding the fact that Westport is in New England, slaves were kept and sold here. Perhaps not as openly as in the South, but repeated instances were known of their being sold at private sale or traded off as cattle are in these days, and slavery existed here as long as the slave holders could make the business pay, after which they disposed of their stock and became rank abolitionists and were ready to assist in the underground railroad business with the slave property of the South. Samuel Pearsall was an owner of slaves. The Family Book of Fairfield discloses the names and ages of his bond-folks. The record reads:— Samuel Pearsall's negroes, Lucy born January 8, 1807. Rose born February 7, 1809.

The operations of the English Army during the year 1777, which resulted in the destruction of Danbury, Connecticut, began by the landing of a large force of the British at Compo, on the shores of the Long Island Sound, in Fairfield County, Connecticut. The local militia made an effort to repel this force but were disastrously defeated, many were killed, and still more taken prisoner, among the rest Samuel Pearsall. His experiences are so clearly set out in the public records that the reader's attention is invited to the following transcripts thereof.

To the Honorable Governor and Assembly of the State of Connecticut to be holden at New Haven on the 2d Thursday of Instant October. The Memorial of Samuel Pearsall of Fairfield in the County of Fairfield humbly sheweth:—

That on or about the 9th Day of September 1777 your Memoria with others having Notice that a party of the enemy had landed at Compoa so called your Mem with others without waiting for leaders forthwith took their arms with a view to defend the place and drive off the enemy, but unfortunately for your Memor and one David Lyon they both fell into the Hands of the Enemy were made Prisoners; taken on Board the Ship Swan, carried to New York thrown into a Dungeon and there Confined four weeks from thence were removed to the Procoit and there held until the 9th Day of Febry. 1778, and from thence to the Sugar House and your Memor was held a Prisoner untill the 21st Day of July last past when he was Redeamed and has finally got Home. your Memor during the Time of his captivity was treated with great cruelty and inhumanity and endured great Hardship so that he had reason to apprehend the most fatal consequences but Providentially was preserved tu humbly pray your Honours will consider his unhappy case and in your wonted Goodness make him some allowance for the loss of his time of his gun, Bayonet and other warlike impliments and for the Extraordinary Expense he was at during his Captivity on account of all which your Memorialists herewith lays before your Honours and he ar in Duty bound shall ever pray &c. dated in Fairfield the 7th Day of Octo A. D. 1778.—Saml Pearsal. [Conn. State Library. Connecticut Archives. Revolutionary War XII XIII:399.]

Upon the Memorial of Samuel Pearsall of Fairfield showing to this Assembly that in September 1777, he was captured by ye enemy near Compo and held in captivity until ye 21th day of July 1778, during which time he suffered great hardships as well as Loss of time and was also put to very great expense &c. praying for Relief as per Mem. on file. Resolved by this assembly that ye sum of thirty-five pounds eight shillings be and it is hereby granted to ye Mem. in ye premises and ye comtee of pay table are directed to draw on the treasurer for ye same accordingly. Passed in the Lower House. Test. Benj. Payne, Clerk. January 1779, Concurred in the Upper House. Test. George Wyllys, Secty. [Colonial Mss. at State Library, Hartford, Conn.]

Fairfield October 23rd A. D. 1778.

My account while a prisoner In New York which was Ten Months and Twelve Days pay in @ 40s per mth .....£20: 18: 0

Money I Received of my Wife and friends while a Prisoner and

Expended in New York.....	9: 10: 0
	<hr/> 30. 8: 0

To my Gun and Bayenut that was Taken

When I was Taken a Prisoner @ 64s.....	3: 4: 0
Samuel Pearsall	<hr/> 33: 12: 0

Brot up.....	<hr/> 1: 16: 0
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Granted.

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£35: 8: 0

Fairfield October 23rd A. D. 1778.

The Account that I was at of Expençe of Percuring Flags to Git my Husband out of New York While a Prisoner in New York and Money Sent Him.

1. Paid to Daniel Gray for Giting a flag & Going to New York..	£ 4: 10: 3
2. Paid Capt Eliphalet Thorp for Going to New York with a Flag.	2: 15: 0
3. Paid Joseph Bennit for Going to the Fishkill To General Mac Dugall to Git a flag.....	3: 7: 9
4. Paid to Mr. Deliverance Bennit for Going to His Honour the Governor at Hartford to percure a flag.....	4: 15: 0
To Cash Sent Down to my Husband Not Rec. by Him.....	1: 16: 0
Kezia Pearsall.	<u>£17: 4: 0</u>

From which it appears that the faithful Keziah spent time and money to procure flags of truce permitting visits to Samuel Pearsall by his friends and urging his exchange. No doubt Samuel's days in jail were unpleasant, nevertheless he received four visits from friends under flags of truce during the ten months of his incarceration. The reader is referred to Chapter 37, Section 3, where the story of Danbury will be found, told in more detail and recounting the experiences of Nathaniel Pearsall, his sons George, Henry and Joseph, and their four families in making their escape after the destruction of that town.

Samuel Pearsall was an important man in the business of Fairfield County. He owned the principal landing place for boats, kept the store, maintained a regular line of boats carrying freight and passengers to and from New York City and ran a large hotel for the accommodation of the traveling public. The close of the Revolutionary War brought the usual high taxes necessary to pay the cost of the war and to maintain the new government. As usual the hotel proprietor was a shining mark for the legislature and his taxes were increased, as he thought, out of all proportion to the business he was doing and the profits he was making, forgetting that these increased taxes would be passed along to the traveler who would find it in his bill along with other increases, all of which would be explained as due to the late war. The tavern keepers of Connecticut, nevertheless petitioned the legislature to modify the system of taxation of their farndalties. Samuel Pearsall signed this paper.

## SECTION 2.

JOHN SATTERLY PEARSALL, son of Samuel Pearsall, Chapter 36, Section 1, was born 1757; died August 31, 1808, aged 51 years; baptised at St. George's Church, Hempstead, L. I., N. Y., May 6, 1764; resided at Greens Farms, and Westport, Conn.; married Mary Hurlbutt. Children:—

1. John Pearsall, baptised October 6, 1781; Chapter 36 Section 3.
2. Nancy Pearsall, baptised August 14, 1785.

John S. Pearsall was a large operator and his death was most unfortunate to his family as he had gone heavily in debt in order to handle the grain from his locality. Shortly before his death, the market went against him which resulted in wiping out his entire estate. John S. Pearsall handled the most of the grain raised in the rich valleys of Fairfield County. It was a hazardous business owing to the irregularity of European shipping and the competition of Pennsylvania and Vir-

ginia growers. The market conditions would seem to be fair for a profit. Grain would be loaded on a vessel and shipped to New York City only to meet several unexpected cargoes from the south. The merchants would take advantage of these conditions and down would go the price. The following deed on the Fairfield Records in Book 33, page 500, tells the story of what happened in such a falling market to John S. Pearsall, who was then sick and on his death bed. Deed dated April 14, 1810, wherein Samuel Pearsall, administrator of John S. Pearsall, decd., quitclaims to John and Willit Seaman, all right, title, interest of said estate to all the real estate which formerly belonged and was owned by the said John S. Pearsall, situated at Saugatuck in said town of Fairfield, and by and in his lifetime given as security to Willet Seaman for moneys advanced.

### SECTION 3.

JOHN PEARSALL, son of John Satterly Pearsall, Chapter 36, Section 2; baptised October, 1781; married Dosia F. Nash, daughter of Elisha Nash. Children:—

1. Andrew Pearsall, married June 2, 1849, Louisa Maria Hoyt.
2. William H. Pearsall, married Sarah E. —.
3. Mary Vanderhoof Pearsall, born November 17-18, 1817; died July 18, 1892; married May, 1837, James Edwin St. John.
4. Nancy (Anna) Pearsall, died August 14, 1865, aged 80 years; married October 8, 1808, James Lockwood, who was born November 22, 1784; died September 30, 1864.

### SECTION 4.

SAMUEL PEARSALL, son of Samuel Pearsall, Chapter 36, Section 1; baptised at St. George's Church, Hempstead, L. I., N. Y., April 30, 1765; resided at Westport, and Norwalk, Connecticut; married first, October 19, 1788, Rachael Wakeman. He married second, Esther Cable of Oxford, November 12, 1808. Children of first marriage:—

1. Polly Pearsall, baptised August 2, 1789; married February 13, 1807, John W. Hanford. Children:—\*1. Frederick A. Hanford, born December 24, 1807. \*2. Sally W. Hanford, born December 14, 1809. \*3. Samuel S. Hanford, born August 18, 1812. \*4. Mary C. Hanford, born December 14, 1814; married — Wells. \*5. Philander Hanford, born January 1, 1818. \*6. Lansing B. Hanford, born March 31, 1820; married 1880, Jane Eliza Wiley of Flatbush, Ulster Co., N. Y. She was born July 22, 1835. Child:—1. Adele Hanford, resided at Silver Creek, Chautauqua Co., N. Y. \*7. Keziah C. Hanford, born May 4, 1822, married — Bartholomew. \*8. Hester A. Hanford, born August 26, 1824. \*9. Jane M. Hanford, born December 7, 1826.
2. Platt Pearsall, baptised February 27, 1791; died September 16, 1880.
3. Keziah Pearsall, baptised July 14, 1793.
4. Anna Pearsall, baptised August 21, 1795; died unmarried.
5. Betsy Pearsall, baptised July 27, 1800.