

CHAPTER FORTY-SIX

EDWARD PEARSALL
Genearch of the North Carolina Group

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

SECTION 1.

EDWARD PEARSALL, son of Jeremiah Pearsall, Chapter 45, Section 23; resided at Nantmeal and Radnor, Chester Co., Pennsylvania; married January 5, 1717, Dorothy Davis at Christ Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, daughter of John Davis and his wife Ann Evans. Child:—

1. Edward Pearsall, born 1717; died 1762. Chapter 46, Section 2.

His will appears among [the records of the Register of Wills of Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, and is recorded in Will Book D, page 77; it reads as follows: In the name of God Amen, the twenty-sixth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and seventeen I Edward Pearsall of the Township of Radnor in the County of Chester being sick and weak in body but of sound and perfect mind and memory praise be given to Almighty God for the same and calling to mind the uncertainty of life and being desirous to settle things in order, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form [following, that is to say, first and principally I commend my soul to Almighty God, my Creator assuredly believing that I shall receive full pardon and free remission of my sins and be saved by the previous death and merits of my Blessed Saviour and Redeemer Christ Jesus and my body to ye earth from whence it is to be taken to be buried in such decent and Christian like manner as to my executors hereinafter named shall be thought meet and convenient and as touching such worldly estate as the Lord in Mercy hath lent me my will is that the same shall be employed and bestowed as hereinafter by this my will is expressed. And—First, I do hereby revoke, frustrate and make void all former and other wills by me made and declared and appoint this my last will and testament and secondly, I will that all my just debts and funeral charges be paid and discharged. Item. I give and bequeath the one half of all my estate of what kind or nature so ever or in whose hands so ever it now is to my dear and loving wife Dorothy Pearsall to be by her fully possessed and enjoyed. Item. I give and bequeath the other half of my estate unto my loving mother Elizabeth Pearsall to be by her freely had and enjoyed and my will is also that immediately after my death my said wife shall be discharged by my brother Richard Pearsall of the bargain that I and he now are partners in concerning the house and plantation where we now live and whereas my servant Richard Hughes was to serve me four years as by his indenture appeareth therefore, my will is that my said servant shall have six months time given him before the expiration of his term by indenture and my will is also that he shall serve the residue of his time in such place or places as my wife shall order until the last six

months aforesaid and do hereby nominate and appoint my loving wife aforesaid and my brother Richard to be the executors of this my last will and testament and it is also my will that if my brother Richard aforesaid cannot afford to discharge my wife from the house and plantation without having some satisfaction that he is to make himself such satisfaction as shall be reasonable out of my mothers share or half of my estate bequeathed to her and also my will is that my servant aforesaid shall be wholly to my wife's disposal and benefit that she can make of him over and above the one half of my estate mentioned anything hereinbefore contained to the contrary notwithstanding and whereas my wife aforesaid is now with child therefore my will is that if the said child shall live until it doth attain the full age three years that then my brother Richard is to — five pounds more to my wife aforesaid out of my mothers share towards the maintenance and bringing up of my said child which said five pounds my said brother is to reserve in his hands until he doth see that my said child doth live or not as aforesaid. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year first above written. Edward Pearsall. Witnesses Hugh Williams who affirmed James Pugh and Meritt Davis who took oath. Probated August 28, 1717.

Upon the death of Edward Pearsall his wife went home to her parents and the balance of her life was spent within the influence of her own family. It will therefore be necessary in order to properly relate the story of this generation to detail quite fully not only the ancestry of Dorothy Davis, but to give a history of the movements which finally caused the removal of her father and his family from Philadelphia and to follow them from place to place until, in 1743, we finally bring Dorothy Pearsall and her son Edward Pearsall to North Carolina on the Welsh Tract located on the waters of the northeast branch of the Cape Fear River. [See the Manuscript.]

SECTION 2.

EDWARD PEARSALL, son of Edward Pearsall, Chapter 46, Section 1; born in Philadelphia, province of Pennsylvania 1717; died 1762, in St. James Parish, now Wilmington, North Carolina; resided in North Carolina in the Welsh Tract, on the northeast branch of the Cape Fear River, then in New Hanover County, now in Pindar County, North Carolina; married Catherine James, sister to James James and Thomas James, Esq., of Duplin County, North Carolina. After the death of Edward Pearsall his widow married Thomas Rutledge, which accounts for the removal of the family to the neighborhood of the old Rutledge Church and graveyard, about a mile east of Kenansville, Duplin County, North Carolina. The James family originally came from Wales to Maryland, where Owen James, Henry James, William James and John James were Dutch-English traders sailing from the Chesapeake Bay country as early as 1635. The family followed the emigration to Long Island, and from here they followed the emigration to Southern New Jersey and the Delaware peninsula, thence returning by way of the Susquehanna to Chester County, Pennsylvania, and then to the Delaware country again, from which they came among the early settlers to the Welsh settlement on the northeast branch of the Cape Fear River in North Carolina. Children:—

1. James Pearsall, born 1750. Chapter 46, Section 3.
2. Jeremiah Pearsall. Chapter 46, Section 19.
3. Edward Pearsall. Chapter 46, Section 24.
4. Dorothy Pearsall. See Y, this Section.
5. Catherine Pearsall. See Z, this Section.

The will of Edward Pearsall is found in Deed Book E, page 20, and reads as follows:—In the name of God Amen. I Edward Pearsall being weak in body but of sound and perfect memory praise be God therefore do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner following, first and principally I recommend my soul to God who gave it and as to the temporal estate it hath pleased him to bestow upon me I give and dispose as follows first I will that all my lawful debts be paid and discharged of my executors and extx hereinafter mentioned. Item. I give and bequeath all my lands to my two sons James and Edward to be divided by the main branch that runs through my land as far as ye fork and from thence to ye head of my land to be divided by and at ye discretion of my Exectrs. Item. I give and bequeath to my well beloved son James ye plantation and buildings and all my land on that side said branch to him, his heirs and assigns forever in consideration of which he must pay to my well beloved son Jeremiah thirty pounds Prov. money when he is eighteen years of age. Item. I do give and bequeath unto my beloved son Edward all my land on the other side said branch to him his heirs and assigns forever. Item. I do give and bequeath all my estate real and personal to my well beloved wife during her widowhood and one third part of my movable estate to her heirs forever. Item. I do give and bequeath all the remaining part of my movable estate to be equally divided between my beloved sons and daughters and do hereby appoint and ordain my beloved wife Catharine executrix with Benjamin Evance and Jonathan Evance exectrs, to this my last will and testament and I do hereby disannul and make void all former wills and testaments by me heretofore made. In witness whereof I have set my hand and seal at St. James Parish, in New Hanover County, North Carolina, in the year of our Lord God 1762. The words to him his heirs and assigns forever, between the eleventh and twelfth line interlined before ye ensealing and signing of these presents. Edward Pearsall. Witnesses, Jeremiah Hand, William Orr, Ann Evans. Proved November 10, 1762.

The act of 1749 creating Duplin County enacted that the boundary line between the new county should begin at the mouth of Rockfish Creek on the northeast branch of the Cape Fear River thence running east to Onslow County. The census of 1790 names David Evans as living in New Hanover County with his wife and three sons, one of them over sixteen years of age, and one daughter. Which would make it appear that the location of the property was not very far south of the town of Washington and west of Exeter. It could of course have been farther south. In any event it was in the triangle between the northeast branch of Cape Fear River and Black River. This brought it within the territory of the Willet Tract where the Welsh settlement was located, many of whom came from Chester County, Pennsylvania, and from the Welsh settlement on the Delaware. This deed also makes it evident that James Pearsall and Edward Pearsall, the sons of Edward Pearsall, located within the bounds of Duplin

County after 1762 and before 1778; probably they came in 1776 at which time James Pearsall bought land from McCullough which he held at the time of his death.

The home of Thomas Rutledge, who married the widow of Edward Pearsall, was situated in Duplin County on the old Presbyterian Road, or the road by which the non-conformists came from Virginia and the north to North Carolina. As early as 1755 there were twenty organized Presbyterian churches along this road, besides a great many other preaching places. By this time there had come in large emigrations of Irish Presbyterians who had landed either at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, or Charleston, South Carolina. The emigration from Pennsylvania began before 1745 and they were known as Scotch Irish Presbyterians. It was not long before they began to invade the Welsh Tract. In 1755 the Presbyterians in the Welsh Tract felt strong enough to join with their Duplin County brethren in the support of a minister. It was this congregation that in 1755 called the Reverend Hugh McAden, who was born in Pennsylvania. He was not the first Presbyterian minister who preached in North Carolina, for the pioneer of all of these was William Robinson, famous in the annals of Virginia churches, of whom the Reverend Samuel Davies says that the success of William Robinson astonished him whenever he reflected upon it. This eminent missionary passed through Virginia to North Carolina and spent a part of the winter of 1742-43 among the Presbyterian settlements twelve years before Mr. McAden came to North Carolina, which exactly coincides with the date when the Welsh Presbyterians emigrated from New Castle County, Delaware, to the Welsh tract on the northeast branch of the Cape Fear River in North Carolina. Samuel Davies was, as we have seen, first cousin to Dorothy Davis, the mother of Edward Pearsall. Another remarkable incident concerning the settlements along this road, and which was true both as to the Irish and the Welsh, was that those who came from Pennsylvania all had resided in Chester County, or nearby counties in Pennsylvania, or had lived across the line in Delaware, before coming to North Carolina. In fact so many came from Pennsylvania that the people in this locality were said to have the airs and manners of that colony. [North Carolina Colonial Records, vol. 5, pages 1193, 1223, 35, 1199, 1198.]

Y. DOROTHY PEARSALL married William Hall of Hallsville, North Carolina.

The census of 1790 names Dorothy Hall as living in Onslow County with three sons and a daughter. The sons were *1. Nicholas Hall, who married Catherine Kinnear. Children:—1. Thomas Hall, who married Mary Bryan McGowan. No children. 2. Nellie Hall, married Rev. James Sprunt of Kenansville. 3. Susan Hall, married Edward Armstrong. No children. 4. Elizabeth Jane Hall, married Edward Armstrong. Children:—1. Nicholas Hall Armstrong. 2. Thomas Armstrong. 3. Barbara Armstrong. 4. Mary Susan Armstrong. 5. Ellen Armstrong. *2. Edward Pearsall Hall, married Mary Brown. Children:—1. Eli Hall. 2. Edward P. Hall. *3. Thomas Hall.

Z. CATHERINE PEARSALL, married Robert Dickson, son of John Dickson. Children:—*1. John Dickson, born circa 1765. *2. Ann Dickson, born circa 1767. *3. Pearsall Dickson, born 1762. *4. Edward Dickson. *5. Catherine Dickson. *6. Mary Dickson. *7. Elizabeth Dickson.

William Dickson, in his celebrated letters, says that Robert Dickson moved his property into the back parts of Virginia when Cornwallis went through Duplin County, and returned in July, 1781, to move his family there also but his wife died the very day of his return and left him an infant child a few days old, which he put to nurse and returned to Virginia again. But not liking to settle there he returned home as soon as the enemy left Wilmington, and being resettled, he married another wife. He is a frugal industrious man, has a number of children, lives very well and plentiful, and has as good credit as any man in the country.

SECTION 3.

JAMES PEARSALL, son of Edward Pearsall, Chapter 46, Section 2; born 1750; died November 12, 1812, aged 62 years; his gravestone is in the old Rutledge graveyard near Kenansville; resided at Duplin County, North Carolina. His farm, on the separation of Sampson County, became the location of the county seat and was called Kenansville. He married first, Zylpha Uzzell of Lenoir County. She is buried in the old Rutledge graveyard; her tombstone reads Zilpha Pearsall, wife of James Pearsall, Sr., and daughter of Thomas and Catherine Uzzell. He married second, Faraby Whitfield, daughter of Constantine Whitfield of Lenoir County. She died between March 28 and August 1795. He married third, Anna Dickson, born July 23, 1877; died November 4, 1837; oldest child and only daughter of Joseph Dickson of Duplin County who lived midway between Kenansville and Warsaw. Children of first marriage:—

1. James Pearsall. Chapter 46, Section 4.
2. Edward Pearsall. Chapter 46, Section 10.
3. Polly Pearsall, married William McGowan.
No children of second marriage.
Children of third marriage:—
4. Jeremiah Pearsall, born January 21, 1800. Chapter 46, Section 14.
5. James C. Pearsall, died in infancy; gravestone in old Rutledge Cemetery.
6. Joseph Dickson Pearsall, died unmarried.
7. Hugh Pearsall. Chapter 46, Section 17.
8. William Dickson Pearsall, born November 12, 1812. Chapter 46, Section 18.
9. Anne Pearsall, married John Oliver.
10. Lucy Jane Pearsall, married David Gillespie. No children. William Dickson in a letter dated March 13, 1818, says Nancy Pearsall has a daughter named Lucinda. This must refer to Lucy Jane.
11. Feraby Pearsall, married David Gillespie. No children.

James Pearsall was High Sheriff of Duplin County from 1784 to 1791 inclusive; he was also a member of the House of Commons of North Carolina 1791-93.

William Dickson Pearsall in a letter dated February 17, 1892, says:—My father James Pearsall first settled where the Town of Kenansville now stands. Duplin County then embraced all of Sampson and the Court House was located three miles West of Warsaw on the road to Clinton. After Sampson was cut from Duplin the site for a New Court House was selected at the Cross Roads two miles South of Kenansville, that being the most central. Father proposed to the Commissioners to give a few acres of land for public buildings if they would locate the

Court House on his farm, and that the spring of cold, soft and healthy water there would be a great public convenience, and a blessing to all settlers. His proposition was accepted, the Court House was built near the spring, which is still flowing its limpid stream for the delight of all the inhabitants of Kenansville, and the thousands of visitors there for business and other purposes.

SECTION 4.

JAMES PEARSALL, son of James Pearsall, Chapter 46, Section 3, resided at Duplin Co., North Carolina; married Ann Carr, daughter of James Carr and his wife, Susannah Powell. Children:—

1. Susan E. Pearsall, resided at Duplin Co., North Carolina; married James M. Larkin. Children:—*1. Jane Larkin. *2. Catherine Larkin. *3. Robert James Larkin. *4. William Larkin.
2. Mary Ann Pearsall, married Clem Gillespie.
3. Edward Pearsall. Chapter 46, Section 5.
4. Twins, died in infancy.
5. Joseph Pearsall. Chapter 46, Section 13.
6. Zylpha Pearsall, married D. B. Nicholson.
7. Catherine Pearsall, married D. J. Middleton. Children:—*1. David Middleton. *2. Oscar Pearsall Middleton.
8. Lucy Jane Pearsall, married first, J. L. Nicholson. Married second, D. J. Middleton. Child of first marriage:—*1. J. L. Nicholson. Children of second marriage:—*2. W. H. Middleton, married Kalesta Carlton. *3. Leonidas Middleton, married first, Clarissa Bowden; married second; Beavie Kennedy. *4. Katie Middleton, married Fred G. Horget. *5. Charles M. Middleton, married Sadie Moore. *6. Edwin L. Middleton, married Mary Register. *7. Theodore Middleton, married Lizzie Crump. 8. Herbert D. Middleton, married first, Mattie Henderson; married second, Lela Gillespie.
9. Melinda Pearsall, married first, Wright Boney; married second, Luke Powell.
10. Martha Pearsall, married Henry Rhodes.

Mrs. Eliza Miller Hicks of Goldsboro, North Carolina, writes, April 27, 1917. At the age of six or seven years I commenced going to school at the Hannah More Academy and will tell you all I know about it. Mr. James Pearsall, so I have heard, gave the land conditionally; if the school was not kept up it was to return to his estate. It was a building with four rooms, two large ones with a chimney between with fireplaces in each room. One side of the chimney had a partition of plank, the other side had the teacher's desk elevated so that it had to have two steps with a passage way between the two rooms and the teacher seated at the desk could look over both rooms. One of the large rooms was the school room; the other the drawing room with a long desk with drawers to contain the drawing materials. Then there were two small rooms, one containing a piano was the music room and the other had a chimney and fireplace and was occupied by the large boys and on rainy or cold days was used to eat in. In pleasant weather we carried our lunch baskets out of doors.

I do not know who was the first teacher but I think it was Miss Lucena Clark of Elmira, New York. She taught there several years, then married my Uncle Stephen Miller and they moved to Tallahassee, Florida. Her sister Miss Mary Clark, then took the school and she married Dr. Sullivan of Kenansville and they moved to Vicksburg, Mississippi. My Uncle died soon after going to Florida and his widow who had no children sold the slaves he gave her and returned to New York and married again a Mr. Johnson. My Aunt and Uncle John Miller, in Florida during the Civil War, heard by some means that Mrs. Johnson went to Vicksburg to get her sister's children, Mrs. Sullivan having died, but the military authorities in charge would not let her go into Vicksburg. Her son Mr. Johnson went to Florida after the war and called on my aunt and my father. Uncle John had died and they asked him if the story was true; he said yes his mother was so smart and shrewd looking they took her for a Yankee spy and would not let her enter Vicksburg. It was before Vicksburg fell.

All the people in the neighborhood took boarders and my mother had a young lady with her who was Miss Mary Jarman and she afterwards became the mother of Senator Simmons who is still one of the bright men in Congress. She carried me to school with her my first session. Miss Mary Jarman's mother was a Davis and there are some of the Davis descendants living in this town. (It seems remarkable how the Davis, Jarman and Pearsall families continue as neighbors, first in Virginia, then in Long Island, then in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware, and now we find them in North Carolina near neighbors to each other.)

SECTION 5.

EDWARD PEARSALL, son of James Pearsall, Chapter 46, Section 4; born December 28, 1812; died 1871; resided at Duplin Co., North Carolina; married January 2, 1840, Margaret McGowan, born May 1, 1819. Children:—

1. John Wesley Pearsall, born September 16, 1841. Chapter 46, Section 6.
2. Benjamin Franklin Pearsall, born July 3, 1843. Chapter 46, Section 7.
3. Annie Elizabeth Pearsall, born August 2, 1846; married I. C. M. Loftin.
4. Edward Dickson Pearsall, born February 6, 1848. Chapter 46, Section 8.
5. Joseph Fletcher Pearsall, born October 9, 1850. Chapter 46, Section 9.

SECTION 6.

JOHN WESLEY PEARSALL, son of Edward Pearsall, Chapter 46, Section 5; born September 16, 1841; resided at Duplin County, North Carolina and Roanoke, Virginia; married first, October 12, 1865, Lucy L. Sullivan; born October 3, 1844; died June 25, 1874; married second, Ann E. Ervin. Children of the first marriage:—

1. Claudia Pearsall, born August 3, 1866.
2. Charles Wesley Hill Pearsall, born September 6, 1868; died December 27, 1896.
Children of second marriage:—
3. Edward Franklin Pearsall.
4. Mary Corinne Pearsall, married A. G. Moseley.
5. Paul James Pearsall.
6. Annie McGowan Pearsall.

John Wesley Pearsall writes:—From your letter you wish to get the war service of our family. At the beginning of the Civil war in 1861, I volunteered when twenty years old, and went in the army of Northern Virginia, Robert E. Lee, commanding, in Stonewall Jackson's Corps, A. P. Hill's Division, and W. D. Pender's N. C. Brigade. I was engaged in some very heavy-fought battles, viz.: I was wounded in the first day's fight at Gettysburg. I was engaged in those three hotly contested battles, viz.: Chancellorsville, the Wilderness, and Spottsylvania Court House; also around Richmond and Petersburg. My health was good. We did some heavy fighting in Robert E. Lee's army, and I was in the battle from 1861 to 1865, and was with the army at the surrender at Appomattox Court House. We were outnumbered, cut off from supplies, and General Lee acted wisely to surrender. Brother Frank Pearsall was with me in the army and was a courier for our Brigadier-General Alfred M. Scales. A short distance from where we were heavily engaged in battle was a two-story rock or brick building, in the rear of which a good number of our wounded soldiers—for safety—were temporarily conveyed or carried. When I reached this building, wounded, I found the ground in the rear almost covered with the wounded. A short time afterwards the wounded were conveyed to the general hospital for treatment, and among the large number of wounded I found cousin Leonidas Pearsall; he told me that he was badly wounded in the hip joint, that the bone was broken. I did not see him again as I was sent to Chambers Hospital in Richmond, while he was captured and sent to New York City, where he died. [This refers to Gettysburg.]

SECTION 7.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN PEARSALL, son of Edward Pearsall, Chapter 46, Section 5; born July, 1843; resided at Roanoke, Virginia; married December 18, 1877, Flora Loftin; born November 15, 1853. Children:—

1. Samuel L. Pearsall, born November 30, 1880; died April 4, 1900.
2. Edward H. Pearsall, born November 1, 1882; died October 2, 1915.
3. Maggie Pearsall, born July 16, 1885; died October 4, 1886.
4. Eugene A. Pearsall, born August 28, 1888; married October 1, 1912, Bessie Saunders; born June 23, 1886.
5. Benjamin Franklin Pearsall, born November 1, 1891; married December 15, 1914, Louise Southerland; born December 12, 1895.

SECTION 8.

EDWARD DICKSON PEARSALL, son of Edward Pearsall, Chapter 46, Section 5; born February 6, 1848; died September 26, 1913; resided at Rocky Point, Pendar Co., North Carolina; married May 11, 1876, Barbin L. Armstrong; born May 29, 1848. Children:—

1. Edward Hall Pearsall, born February 17, 1877; died August 1, 1877.
2. James Alderman Pearsall, born May 29, 1878; died August 1, 1906.
3. Thomas Polk Pearsall, born September 18, 1880.
4. William Wilson Pearsall, born March 22, 1883.
5. Robert Dickson Pearsall, born March 6, 1886.
6. Norwood McGowan Pearsall, born November 22, 1888.
7. Martha Ann Pearsall, December 23, 1891.

SECTION 9.

JOSEPH FLETCHER PEARSALL, son of Edward Pearsall, Chapter 46, Section 5; born October 9, 1850; died December 9, 1911; resided at Richmond, Virginia; married October 1, 1885, Minnie Bryan Fennel; born October 6, 1860, daughter of Robert James Fennel and his wife, Ruema Jane Kirby of Sampson Co., North Carolina. Children:—

1. Kirby Fennel Pearsall, born August 24, 1887; married July 17, 1911, Virginia Harrison Slaughter; born March 27, 1892.
2. Robert Edward Pearsall, born May 18, 1894; married June 3, 1916, Ona Floyd, born December 19, 1897.

SECTION 10.

EDWARD PEARSALL, son of James Pearsall, Chapter 46, Section 3; resided at Mount Olive, North Carolina; married Margaret ——. Children:—

1. John H. Pearsall. Chapter 46, Section 11.
2. William Dickson Pearsall.
3. Joseph Dickson Pearsall.
4. Edward Oliver Pearsall. Chapter 46, Section 12.

SECTION 11.

JOHN H. PEARSALL, son of Edward Pearsall, Chapter 46, Section 10; resided at Duplin Co., North Carolina; married Mary ——. Children:—

1. George W. Pearsall; married Sarah Padgett. Children:—*1. Mary Pearsall. *2. L. F. Pearsall. *3. Albert C. Pearsall, born August 12, 1858; married November 27, 1879, Violet Louise Dunhouse, born January 1, 1863; died August 24, 1905. Children:—1. Mittie Ann Pearsall, born January 9, 1881. 2. Charles J. Pearsall, born December 5, 1882.
2. William Edward Pearsall. See X, this Section.
3. Luther Giles Pearsall. See Y, this Section.
4. John Hancock Pearsall. See Z, this Section.

X. WILLIAM EDWARD PEARSALL, married twice. Children:—

1. George Pearsall.
2. John Luther Pearsall.
3. James Buchanan Pearsall, married ——. Children:—*1. J. F. Pearsall. *2. Edgar Pearsall. *3. Buchanan Pearsall. *4. L. A. Pearsall.

Y. LUTHER GILES PEARSALL, married Virginia Peacock. Children:—

1. Franklin L. Pearsall, died June 10, 1898; married 1888, Margaret Smith.
2. James Oscar Pearsall, died 1902; married Emma ——.
3. Cora L. Pearsall, died 1889.
4. Anna M. Pearsall, died 1906.
5. Gideon R. Pearsall.

Z. JOHN H. PEARSALL, died 1891; resided at Duplin Co., North Carolina; married Ripsey Grady; died 1900. Child:—

1. John D. Pearsall, resided at Jacksonville, Florida; married August 10, 1875, Lucy Pender.

SECTION 12.

EDWARD OLIVER PEARSALL, son of Edward Pearsall, Chapter 46, Section 10; resided in Duplin Co., North Carolina; married Mary, widow of Jones. Children:—

1. William Dickson Pearsall. See Y, this Section.
2. John D. Pearsall. See Z, this Section.
3. Susan Pearsall.
4. Rachel Pearsall.

Y. WILLIAM DICKSON PEARSALL, resided in Duplin Co., North Carolina; married May 15, 1836, Mary Ann Outlaw, daughter of James Outlaw and his wife Rachel Whitfield. Children:—

1. James Edward Pearsall; married Lou Codgell. Children:—*1. Emmett Gorden Pearsall. *2. Hubert Pearsall. *3. Vida Alma Pearsall. *4. Bert Pearsall. *5. Pearl Pearsall.
2. Elizabeth Pearsall, unmarried.
3. Dickson Morgan Pearsall; married Sarah Watkins.
4. Annie Susetta Pearsall, born December 26, 1874; married December 26, 1900, Eben James Britt.
5. Albert Samuel Pearsall, born June 24, 1875; married July 2, 1902, Mattie Elizabeth Felton; born January 19, 1884.
6. Elbert Pearsall, born June 24, 1875; married Nora Winstead.

SECTION 13.

JOSEPH PEARSALL, son of James Pearsall, Chapter 46, Section 4; resided in Duplin Co., North Carolina; married Barbara ——. Children:—

1. Susan Ann Pearsall, married Kedar Bryan. Children:—Three sons and three daughters, including *1. James Bryan. *2. Joseph Kedar Bryan. *3. A daughter who married Pyatt and had children:—1. Sudie Pyatt. 2. Kedar Pyatt.
2. Olivia Pearsall, married R. A. Cox.
3. Cora Pearsall, married Stephen W. Wells.

SECTION 14.

JEREMIAH PEARSALL, son of James Pearsall, Chapter 46, Section 3; born January 21, 1800; died August 5, 1871; resided Duplin Co., North Carolina; married first, July 10, 1821, Katherine Middleton, born December 25, 1805; died December 5, 1851; married second, February 10, 1857, Jemina Haywood Middleton, born December 18, 1834. Children of first marriage:—

1. Robert J. M. Pearsall, born May 27, 1822. Chapter 46, Section 15.
2. David Moulton Pearsall, born May 18, 1834. Chapter 46, Section 16.
3. Joseph Dickson Pearsall; born December 8, 1829. See Z, this Section.
4. Julia Pearsall; married Needham Herring. Children:—*1. Evander McNair Herring. *2. Jeremiah Pearsall Herring. *3. Catherine Middleton Herring.
5. Louisa Pearsall, married Adolphus Moseley. Children:—*1. Hugh Moseley. *2. Adolphus Moseley. *3. Annie Moseley. *4. Catherine Moseley.
6. Annie Pearsall, married Matthew Faison. Children:—*1. Jeremiah Faison.

- *2. William Faison. *3. Frank Faison. *4. Susie Faison. *5. Kate Faison.
- 7. Frances Pearsall, married W. Pitt Baldwin. Children:—*1. W. Pitt Baldwin. *2. Frank Pearsall Baldwin.
- 8. Bettie Pearsall, married Douglas Smith. No children.
- 9. Kittie Pearsall, died aged 5 years.
- 10. Susan Pearsall, married D. Edward Ward. No children.
Children of second marriage:—
- 11. James Pearsall, born November 27, 1857; married December 18, 1889, Adna McKay, born 1869; died March 27, 1905. Children:—*1. William McKay Pearsall, born December 18, 1890. *2. Jeremiah Pearsall, born November 14, 1892. *3. Robert James Pearsall, born February 24, 1895.
- 12. Kate Middleton Pearsall, born May 20, 1861; died August 2, 1909; married Robert Williams. Child:—*1. James Henry Williams.
- 13. Clara Pearsall, born April 11, 1864; died April 29, 1885; unmarried.

SECTION 15.

ROBERT J. M. PEARSALL, son of Jeremiah Pearsall, Chapter 46, Section 14; born May 27, 1822; died October, 1895; resided at Kenansville, North Carolina, and Sampson Co., North Carolina; married Ellen T. Bryan; born October 8, 1824; died September, 1896. Children:—

- 1. Jeremiah James Pearsall, born October 7, 1844; resided at Dunn, North Carolina; married July 11, 1872, Eliza H. Moseley; born October 6, 1854; died October 27, 1911. Children:—*1. Robert M. Pearsall, born July 2, 1873; married Roberta Smith. *2. Lucy E. Pearsall, born April 2, 1875; died August 11, 1903; married Ransom M. Pearsall. Chapter 46, Section 16. *3. Allie L. Pearsall, born May 27, 1877; married Myrtle Shaw. *4. Eleanor B. Pearsall, born November 6, 1882; married Joseph L. Hatcher. *5. Eliza H. Pearsall, born November 6, 1882; married Archie D. Brooks. *6. Molly M. Pearsall, born February 16, 1892; married Paul C. Hood.
- 2. Emma Pearsall, born July 4, 1846; married A. Ferdinand Johnson.
- 3. Lucy Pearsall, born October 24, 1848; died January, 1917; married October, 1866, James S. Evans. Children:—*1. Robert Pearsall Evans. *2. Victoria Evans. *3. Elizabeth Evans, married Lister. *4. William Augustus Evans. *5. Eleanor Evans, married Jones. *6. Emma Evans, married Gerloch. *7. James Evans. *8. Lucy Pearsall Evans, married July 10, 1908, W. O. Todd. *9. Isabelle Evans, married McAllister. *10. Jeremiah Pearsall Evans.

SECTION 16.

DAVID MOULTON PEARSALL, son of Jeremiah Pearsall, Chapter 46, Section 14; born May 18, 1834; died June 4, 1894; resided Duplin Co., North Carolina; married October 23, 1860, Rachel J. Middleton; born November 2, 1837. Children:—

- 1. David Moulton Pearsall, married Addie L. Blizzell.
- 2. Ransom Middleton Pearsall, born February 6, 1863; married Lucy Pearsall.
- 3. Joseph Dickson Pearsall.

4. Julia Haywood Pearsall, died in infancy.
5. Leon Fillyaw Pearsall, born May 2, 1870; married Mary E. —.
6. Annie Faison Pearsall, born October 3, 1873; married John Charles Clifford.
7. Walter Douglas Pearsall.

SECTION 17.

HUGH PEARSALL, son of James Pearsall, Chapter 46, Section 3; resided in Duplin County, North Carolina; married Margaret Maxwell. Children:—

1. James Dickson Pearsall, married 1855, Martha Ellen Whitaker; born 1837. Children:—*1. Allie B. Pearsall, born July 1, 1858. See A this division. *2. Sidney Pearsall, born 1860. *3. Ida Pearsall, born 1856. *4. William Pearsall, born 1862.
2. John Henry Pearsall, married Lucy Morris. Children:—*1. Margaret Pearsall. *2. Fanny Pearsall. *3. Charles Pearsall.
3. William F. Pearsall, married Cordelia Ann —.
4. Sarah Ann Pearsall.

SECTION 18.

WILLIAM DICKSON PEARSALL, son of James Pearsall, Chapter 46, Section 3, born November 12, 1812; died April 2, 1892; resided on Goshen Swamp and in Kenansville, Duplin County, North Carolina; married 1841, Sarah Whitaker of Raleigh, North Carolina; born 1827, died May 16, 1897. Children:—

1. Leonidas Pearsall, born January 3, 1843. See X, this section.
2. Anna Pearsall, died unmarried.
3. Cora Pearsall, married 1871, Richardson.
4. Oscar Pearsall, born April 9, 1849. See Z, this Section.
5. Lucy Pearsall, resides in Georgia.
6. Harriet Pearsall, married Herring.
7. Philander Pearsall, born April 6, 1855; married June 9, 1892, Mary Moore Brown.
8. Irena Pearsall, married J. W. Marsh. Child:—*1. Alma Marsh.
9. Mittie Pearsall, married Junius Scroggs. Children:—*1. Mittie Pearsall Scroggs. *2. Junius Scroggs.

Oscar Pearsall writes:—William Dickson Pearsall and Sarah Whitaker Pearsall lived in the fertile and at that time most prosperous part of Duplin County, about six miles eastward from the County Seat, called the Goshen Neighborhood. Southern country life in those days was not what many prefer now, but had its charms for those who enjoyed it, notwithstanding there have been attempts by some public men, prejudiced perhaps, to criticise what they term plantation manners. I venture the assertion any man who would publicly attempt to reflect on the people of this section of the country in this manner was a stranger to the polite manners and hospitality that pertained to Southern life before and since Civil War time—when Southern gentlemen were more properly, in their intercourse, Civil Cavaliers in their estimate of and gallantry to ladies, and even toward other men whom they considered gentlemen. If the Southern ante-

bellum life is at all to be criticised it is for the estimate placed upon slaves; there was a sentiment (unwritten), then in existence, yet it was extant—that one's social position depended largely upon the number of slaves owned by the family, which in itself is sufficient justification in the minds of disinterested persons for criticism. The descendents of large slave owners admit the abolition of the slaves was Providential and has proved a blessing to the South, yet as they represented largely the assets of those holding them, there was also equity in the proposition that slave owners should be reimbursed for some nominal value that might be agreed upon, but that question has long since been thrashed out, and will never be successfully revived again. The freedom of the negro has cost the country all they were worth, and the South who resisted, much of the best blood of the South. The difference being while a good many men north of Mason and Dixon's line of the northern and western states have also died in the Civil War, the proportion of natives is much less because many foreigners came to this country and served on the Federal side.

Concerning Leonidas Pearsall:—Without entering into controversy between North Carolina and Virginia troops at the Battle of Gettysburg it is said by an officer of high rank, of another division of the army, Pender's Brigade took and would have held part of the breastworks of the enemy except for the falling back and retreating of Pickett's Division when they needed the support. Two of the Lieutenants in my brother's company told the writer since the Civil War, they surrendered their swords inside the enemy's breastworks, and that it was necessary for the few who reached this point to either fight their way back or surrender. Another hero of that battle has said this was the first and only time that Pender's Brigade ever failed to take and hold what they undertook to do.

We know our brother was in all the battles fought in Northern Virginia from Manassas to Gettysburg, and that he never had but one ten day furlough during his services in the army. During that memorable charge of the afternoon of July 3rd he was among those who fell, with his right thigh broken near the hip joint by a Minié ball, and was carried behind a barn which was the best available protection. As the Southern army fell back he became a wounded prisoner of war. We could never learn how long he remained without attention, nurse or physician, but we can imagine the pain, agony and suffering entailed by removal from the Battle of Gettysburg to water transportation thence to the war hospital on Davis Island in New York Harbor. For a time he lingered and suffered. It is reasonable to suppose he would have survived had it been possible to give him prompt medical attention.

A schoolmate who lived in another county visited my father's family after the close of the war and related the incident and circumstances under which he last saw my brother. As the army had a long march, and all knew they were approaching the enemy there was a seriousness that prevailed in the entire army, and Mr. Richardson of Bladen County serving in another section of the army desired to see his friend, and told the writer of this sketch, knowing that serious fighting was ahead, and nobody knew who would come out of it safely, he got consent to ride ahead knowing the formation of the line of march of the army—my brother's regiment and company, he rode ahead of the line of march and found

St. Camp U S Hospital
Davis Island New York
Aug 12. 1863.

My Dear Father.

I arrived on this Island
19th July: with my right thigh broken
by a Minnie Ball - in the action at
Gettysburg July 1st. My thigh
is doing very well. The bones are
joining nicely & the Doctor thinks I
will have a good leg. My general
health is good. I am very
comfortable: and receive every
attention that I could require.
Please write to me to the above
address, and enclose your letter. You
pay C. postage.

Your affectionate son
Leonidas Pearsall

W. D. Pearsall
Tenansville. Duplin Co. N.C.

him without any difficulty a few miles before they reached the Potomac River. His brigade was the First Division of the army and his Regiment the head of the Brigade, and Co. A in lead of regiment and brigade. He led the army across the Potomac. This was an incident interesting to us hearing him tell of the last time he saw his friend. After exchanging greetings and good wishes for a safe return he parted and is still living, but his friend, the subject of this sketch, met a very different fate, bringing to a sad and painful close the life of one who had a good physical development and but for war, the prospect of a useful life.

Z. OSCAR PEARSALL, born April 9, 1849; resided at Fernside near Wilmington, North Carolina; married May 21, 1872, Rachel Whitfield Herring; born 1851; died 1901. Children:—

1. Anna Dickson Pearsall, born February 28, 1873.
2. Fred L. Pearsall, born September 30, 1874, married Mary McA —.
3. Elizabeth Pearsall, born September 10, 1876; married H. L. Hunt.
4. Florence Pearsall, born September 3, 1881; married R. M. Sheppard.
5. Horace Pearsall, born September 11, 1886; married Melva Carr.
6. Melzer Pearsall, born March 9, 1888.
7. Oscar Pearsall, Jr., born November 24, 1889.
8. William Victor Pearsall, born June 27, 1892.
9. Rachel Pearsall, born October 16, 1894.
10. Grace Vidan Pearsall, born March 4, 1883; died March 26, 1886.
11. Norwood Pearsall, born January 16, 1885; died April 2, 1886.
12. Sallie Virginia Pearsall, born June 12, 1878; died December 23, 1891.

SECTION 19.

JEREMIAH PEARSALL, son of Edward Pearsall, Chapter 46, Section 2; resided at Duplin County, North Carolina; moved to the Western District of Tennessee and later to Courtland, Alabama; married first, Patience Molton; married second, Hannah Johnston, daughter of Benjamin Johnston. Children of the first marriage:—

1. Sarah Pearsall, resided at Texas; married Nathan Gregg. Children:—
*1. Edward Gregg, resided at Marshall, Texas. *2. John Gregg, married Mollie Garth; resided at Decatur, Alabama.
2. James Moulton Pearsall, Chapter 46, Section 21.
3. Dorothy Pearsall, Chapter 46, Section 22.
4. Edward Pearsall, born November 16, 1785; Chapter 46, Section 20.
5. Benjamin Pearsall, Chapter 46, Section 23.

Jeremiah Pearsall was a member of the Senate of North Carolina from Duplin County, 1822-23.

Jeremiah Pearsall settled on the hills overlooking Goshen Swamp about six miles north of his brother Edward. He sold his plantation to his brother James who owned the adjoining plantation. These two plantations have never passed out of the hands of the Pearsall family. After Jeremiah Pearsall removed to Alabama he and his wife were charter members of the first Presbyterian Church in Courtland, Alabama.

SECTION 20.

EDWARD PEARSALL, son of Jeremiah Pearsall, Chapter 46, Section 19; born November 16, 1785; died June 3, 1853; resided at Duplin County, North Carolina, and Tuscumbia, Colbert County, Alabama; married 1816, Parthina Sharon; born March 12, 1800; died December 12, 1872. Children:—

1. Nathan Gregg Pearsall, born 1836. See Z, this Section.
2. Elizabeth Pearsall, married Samuel Elliott. Six children including Mrs. W. I. Baker of Trinity, Alabama.
3. Nancy Pearsall, died in infancy.
4. Lucy Pearsall, died in infancy.
5. Jeremiah Pearsall, born November 15, 1820; died September 20, 1840; unmarried.
6. Edward Pearsall, born 1827; died 1848; unmarried, buried at sea.
7. Katherine Pearsall, married John W. Rand.
8. Letitia Pearsall, born June 1, 1834; died November 1, 1893; resided at Tuscumbia, Alabama; married John D. Rather, born January 7, 1823; died March 4, 1910. Children:—*1. Henry Chambers Rather, born January 12, 1857; died August 4, 1912; married ——. Child:—1. John D. Rather. *2. Ella Pearsall Rather, born September 6, 1859; married December 14, 1886, James T. Kirk; born April 7, 1858. Child:—1. Mary Wallace Kirk, born July 26, 1889. *3. John Taylor Rather, died at five years of age. *4. Anne Eve Rather, married June 30, 1891, John Bedford Weakley; born November 6, 1863. No children; resided at Birmingham, Alabama. *5. Jennie Rather. *6. Charles Courtney Rather. *7. Pearsall Rather. *8. Mary Wallace Rather.
9. Anne Pearsall, resided at Augusta, Georgia, and San Marcos, Texas; married Joseph Clarke Eve, who was a captain in Confederate Army. Children:—*1. Edward Pearsall Eve, born April, 1857; resided at Von Ormy, Texas; married Ruth Winans. Children:—1. Joseph Edward Eve, born June 10, 1908. 2. Mark Page Eve, born June 27, 1912. *2. Thomasella Nina Eve, married E. P. Via, resided at Columbus, Texas.
10. Thomasella Pearsall, married J. B. Moore; they had two daughters who were killed in a tornado November 23, 1874.
11. Ella Pearsall.

Nathan Gregg Pearsall, Jr., says:—Grandfather, named Edward Pearsall, emigrated to Alabama in 1812, when Alabama was a territory, where he bought land from the Federal Government and lived and died a cotton planter, and from all accounts was a most remarkable man. There is a history of Alabama called Crawford's Early History of Alabama, where you will find quite a lot of honorable mention of the Pearsalls. My grandfather's nickname was Honest Ned; he acquired the name as follows: in the early days of the settlement of Alabama there were no banks, and it was the practice of one neighbor to endorse notes for the other; my Grandfather endorsed notes for a man named McCray for over a hundred thousand dollars. Mr. McCray failed, my grandfather was called on to pay the note; he stated to the attorneys, that there was his property,

and if they saw fit to take it, but if they would give him a chance he would pay the note. The attorneys told him to go ahead, so he paid the note. I never saw my grandfather, but was told the above by an old attorney who was in the case when he was a young man, in the forties. Grandfather died a rich man for those times, in 1850.

Z. NATHAN GREGG PEARSALL, born 1836, died 1900; resided at New Orleans, Louisiana; married August, 1854, Louisa Sharon; born 1840; died 1876. Children:—

1. Nathan Gregg Pearsall, born 1855; married November 11, 1891, Grace Cowles, born 1865. Children:—*1. Lansing Gregg Pearsall, born 1894, died 1915. *2. Nathan Cowles Pearsall, born December 4, 1899.
2. Mary Gertrude Pearsall, born 1857.
3. Letitia Pearsall, born 1860.
4. Sallie Gregg Pearsall, born 1862; died in infancy.
5. Elisabeth Pearsall, born 1865; died 1876.
6. Lula Pearsall, born 1868; died 1873.

Nathan Gregg Pearsall writes that referring to the writer's request for some incidents relating to his father:—My father married very young, and I was his oldest child, and only about twenty-two years younger than he was; he was a farmer and I was his daily companion from the time that I can remember, until I left the farm to enter the railroad service in 1879. Therefore you must pardon much that I state for the reason that it is from a son who almost worshiped his father. My first remembrance of my father was the day he returned home from the Southern Army in April, 1865, about the last part of the month. In some way that I do not remember my mother and I knew that he should arrive that day. I was at the gate for a long time waiting for him; at last he came in the company of his bunkie that was with him in the army and who was also a near neighbor; they parted at the gate and I remember my father saying to this neighbor, Jim I wish this had happened a month sooner so we could have planted a cotton crop. His farm was a ruin, fences all gone, his stock had been stolen, his labor was gone. He was not a citizen of the state of his birth, and a general indescribable condition existed that no human being can imagine, unless it had been experienced. However, the next day my father and I began to build fences, and in a few months we had the farm in going condition; then he, or rather my mother, had a few acres of wheat that she in some way had saved, that enabled us to live until a crop could be made. Notwithstanding this terrible condition my father was cheerful and worked day and night to retrieve his former condition; he never complained, although before the Civil War he was what was called an old line Whig, and that party was opposed to secession and the war. He was a very handsome man, and a strong man physically, and it was my ambition to be able to do as much work as he could on the farm. In character he was kind and lenient to a reasonable extent, but when his patience had been exhausted he could be very severe and positive. He was a very sensitive man, and quick to become offended at the slightest fancied offence; I used to laugh at him about that trait of his character, he would only smile and say nothing, as he was

not a great talker. The attorneys of the county would never accept him on a jury as they said he would do justice, and that was the one thing that one side did not want. They said he would decide a case on the evidence and no argument could change him, he often served on the grand jury and then the wrongdoers knew that they would be dealt with according to their offence. I never heard him tell a joke in my life; in fact it fretted him to hear jokes, and he would walk off when any kind of nonsense was talked in his presence. He was a very devout man and had the greatest regard and respect for the church and the ministers of the church; while he was a Presbyterian he was broad and had no prejudice against other denominations. My father entered the Civil War to follow his state in 1861, in the 4th Alabama Cavalry, and fought under Forrest, came home to find his property ruined and gone; and debts that were not any thing when he went in the army, to be a very serious matter with his property gone; but he refused to take the bankrupt law, and paid his debts. He was elected a magistrate as soon as came home, but he could not take the oath of office until his disabilities were removed by General Grant. I had the message from General Grant a long time but do not know where it is now. All of the Pearsalls that I have known are rather touchy about their honor, and as high-tempered as can be; I used to laugh at my father about those traits of character. We in this country are Presbyterians, and I married into a Presbyterian family that originally came from Connecticut, named Cowles. My grandfather and father married into the Sharon family of North Carolina and Tennessee.

SECTION 21.

JAMES MOULTON PEARSALL, son of Jeremiah Pearsall, Chapter 46, Section 19, died of yellow fever, 1853; resided at Columbus, Arkansas, Natchez, Miss., and New Orleans, Louisiana; married Maria Elizabeth Mayers, of Staunton, Virginia, and Lagrange, Alabama. Child:—

1. Anna Jane Pearsall, married first, Captain A. J. W. Johnson, who was killed at the siege of Vicksburg. Children:—*1. Pearsall Johnson. *2. Edward Gregg Johnson. *3. Lulu Johnson; married G. T. Mays of Memphis, Tennessee. Child:—1. Helena Pearsall Mays, born 1890. Anna Jane Pearsall, married second, Col. Williamson, son of Dr. Samuel Williamson; he died November, 1907. He commanded in the Confederate Army at Day Gap and shortly after lost his leg at Resaca, Georgia. His father was for fourteen years president of Davidson College, North Carolina. Children:—*4. Annie Williamson, married Ford Johnson; resided at Hope, Arkansas. *5. Mary Pearsall Williamson, married W. F. Hamilton; resided at Memphis, Tennessee. *6. Samuel Williamson. *7. James Adams Williamson.

SECTION 22.

DOROTHY PEARSALL, daughter of Jeremiah Pearsall, Chapter 46, Section 19; resided at Nashville, Tennessee; married Metcalf de Graffenreid. Child:—

1. Dorothy Catherine James de Graffenreid, born November 3, 1822; married first, January 12, 1842, Powhatan Perkins, son of James W. Perkins and his

wife Eliza Tennessee Edwiston; born January 9, 1821; died June —, 1852; married second, January 25, 1855, John Heil Ervin.

SECTION 23.

BENJAMIN PEARSALL, son of Jeremiah Pearsall, Chapter 46, Section 19; resided at Tuscumbia, Alabama; married first, — Camp; married second, Widow Clayton. Children of the first marriage:—

1. John Johnson Pearsall, died December, 1861; married November 29, 1860, Mary A. Goodnight; born September 27, 1826; died March 5, 1905. Child:—
*1. Jacqueline Pearsall, born October 5, 1861; married Monroe Hall.
2. James Pearsall, died unmarried, aged 21 years.
3. Sarah Pearsall, married Madison Wheeler of Mississippi. Children:—
*1. Sue Mary Wheeler, married John Benson. *2. William Camp Wheeler, married first, Lou Smith; married second, Georgia Madison. *3. Ellen Patience Wheeler, married Joseph W. Dean.
4. Mary Pearsall, married James Wheeler. Child:—*1. Madison Wheeler.
5. Hannah Pearsall, married John Parker. No children.
6. Ellen Pearsall, married John Kinney. Child:—*1. Patience Kinney.
Child of the second marriage:—
7. Margaret Pearsall.

SECTION 24.

EDWARD PEARSALL, son of Edward Pearsall, Chapter 46, Section 2; resided in Duplin County, North Carolina; settled on the north side of Grove Creek; married — Johnson. Child:—

1. John Pearsall, Chapter 46, Section 25.

[William Dickson Pearsall in a letter to his son Philander, dated February 17, 1892, says that Edward Pearsall married a Miss Johnson and had only one son, who became one of the few college-bred men in Duplin County. The writer of this family history has however had letters from the Regent of the State Chapter of the Daughters of the Revolution from which it appears that there are families in North Carolina who claim to be descended from the daughters of Edward Pearsall. This information came to hand just as the record was being made ready for the printer and unfortunately there was not time to give the subject the investigation it deserved.]

After the death of Edward Pearsall, second, who married Catherine James, his wife married Thomas Rutledge, who was prominent in politics and afterwards served in the American Army. It has always been an undisputed tradition of the Pearsall family in North Carolina that the three sons of Edward Pearsall, namely James, Edward and Jeremiah, served in the American Army in the Revolution, probably in the militia of Duplin County, and were conspicuous soldiers. While they were in the army, the British under Lord Cornwallis passed through Duplin County and camped for several days either on the farm of Edward Pearsall, or on that of his step-father Thomas Rutledge. Some of the British soldiers were insulting to Mrs. Rutledge, one going so far as to strip a ring from her finger tearing the flesh. News of this came to Lord Corn-

wallis who relieved her of the presence of the objectionable soldiers by making his headquarters on the lower floor of her home and moving the family upstairs. Her own slaves were allowed to serve her though they were required to serve Lord Cornwallis and staff as well.

In 1780, the British changed their plans by attacking the southern states, which were numerically weak and divided in sentiment. They were also well removed from the main sources of American troops and from the supply stations that had been developed during the preceding five years of war. By May of this year the British had captured Charleston, South Carolina. The British command in the Carolinas was now intrusted to Lord Cornwallis. He began to push into the interior and to march northward along the old Presbyterian Road by which he ultimately reached Yorktown. It was not long before he had completely broken the remnant of the American southern army. But Marion and Sumter, with militia and other irregular troops and guerillas, kept the field and everlastingly annoyed the British.

Cornwallis attempted to establish a loyalist government and to enlist troops for his army. This led to a fearful condition of partisan warfare. Congress sent Gates to take command and reorganize the American forces, but he was soon compelled to run away because of the utter rout of his troops. By this time Cornwallis had control of North Carolina where he wintered. Washington sent Nathanael Greene to take command in the south and acting under his directions Marion, Henry Lee and Morgan soon defeated the British and forced Cornwallis, after the battle of Guilford, to fall back to the coast at Wilmington, in New Hanover County, which then included what is now Duplin County. William Dickson in one of his letters has most graphically described the warfare in the neighborhood where he and the Pearsalls resided. He says—that in a previous letter he had begun a Historical Account of the War as far as concerned us and our families in the vicinity of Carolina, which I have found from the commencement of the War down to the Battle of Guilford in North Carolina, which happened in the Spring of the year 1781, from which Lord Cornwallis returned to Wilmington to recruit and repair his Damages, etc., before he could proceed to Virginia, and Gen. Greene marched his Army to South Carolina to dispute the Dominion of that State with Lord Rawdon, who then commanded the Garrison at Cambden. There I concluded my last letter in which you'd find none of our families concerned except my oldest brother Michael who had his share both of good and ill fortune. Having thus brought the War to our own door I shall now give you some account of its operations here and how much it affected us and our families.

About the 25th January, 1781, Maj. Cray arrived on Cape Fear River and landed at Wilmington with about 450 veteran troops with which he garrisoned the town and detached a party up the North East River to the great bridge about 12 miles above the town and there demolished the bridge, seized and burned some public store ships and their contents which had been run up the river for safety, and also destroyed some private property and returned back to the town and Major Cray immediately fortified the garrison. The militia of three counties were then immediately ordered down to take post at the great bridge, and

that pass was fortified by us in order to prevent the enemy from making excursions into the country. We had been there about three weeks with about 700 militia when Major Cray marched out upon us in the night with his main force and some field pieces, surprised and dispensed our piquet guard and displayed his artillery across the river upon our dirt works, but without any effect. The enemy finding their attempt entirely fruitless after staying and viewing us across the river two days returned in the night time to Wilmington.

On the 28th of April, General Lillington discharged all the militia except one company to guard the artillery and stores. The militia thus discharged, we had not the name of an army in North Carolina. Every man was now to look to himself. The next day after being discharged we returned home, Cornwallis' army was then in the middle of our country, encamped at my brother Robert Dickson's plantation, the whole country was struck with terror, almost every man quit his habitation and fled leaving his family and property to the mercy of merciless enemies. Horses, cattle and sheep and every kind of stock drove off from every plantation, corn and forage taken for the supply of the army and no compensation given. Houses plundered and robbed, chests, trunks, etc., broken open. Women's and children's clothes, etc., as well as men's wearing apparel and every kind of household furniture taken away. These outrages were mostly committed by a train of loyal refugees as they termed themselves—whose business was to follow the camps and under the protection of the army to enrich themselves on the plunder they took from the distressed inhabitants who were not able to defend it. We were also distressed by another swarm of beings (not better than harfangs). These were women who followed the army in the character of officer's and soldier's wives. They were generally considered by the inhabitants to be more insolent than the soldiers. They were generally mounted on the best horses and side saddles, dressed in the finest and best clothes that could be taken from the inhabitants as the army marched through the country.

Our family were all obnoxious to the enemy although none of the brothers except myself had actually taken arms and joined the army. I will now give you some account how we all fared while the enemy was in our neighborhood. My brother Robert had left his place and removed his family and property. The enemy encamped one day and night at his plantation and destroyed some of his stock which he had not got off. The same day my brother Joseph was surprised in his own house by the Dragoons; but being determined he would not surrender, fled into a thicket or swamp, and although pursued made good his escape. The enemy plundered his house, took all his corn, his horses and his wife's clothes and side saddle, etc.

The same day another party went to my brother James' house and not finding him at home plundered his house of every thing they could find in it, took off two of his slaves and all his corn, etc., and compelled his wife and a neighbor woman who was there to deliver them the rings off their fingers and the buckles out of their shoes. The same day my sister's husband, Wm. McGowan, was found driving some stock out of their way. He was made a prisoner and after being some time under guard was compelled to pilot their light horse to his own and

several of his neighbor's houses where they took all the corn and forage, all the horses, cattle, etc., they could get. The night following they detained him under guard and went and plundered his house of everything they found in it worth carrying away; broke every lock, ransacked every chest and trunk, took away all the bedding, etc., all the apparel, even the baby clothes, stripped the rings off my sister's fingers and the shoes and buckles off her feet, choaked the children in order to make them confess if their father had not hid his money and to tell where it was, etc., and many of the neighbors were treated in the same brutish manner.

The day following the army encamped near my house and notwithstanding I was not at home they went away peaceably and took nothing from me which I thought very strange for sundry of my neighbors were plundered of almost everything they had. The enemy being destined to Virginia made but a very short stay in our neighborhood, but immediately after they were gone came on our greatest troubles, for the Loyalists, or as we term them, the Tories, began to assemble and hold councils in every part of the state, and thinking the country already conquered, because the enemy had gone through us without being checked, they were audacious enough to apprehend and take several of our principal leading men prisoners and carry them down to Wilmington, and deliver them to the Guards. There were numbers of our good citizens thus betrayed, perished on board of prison ships and in their provors. This so alarmed the inhabitants that none of us dared to sleep in our houses or beds at night for fear of being surprised by these blood suckers and carried off to certain destruction. In the meantime the governor of the state, and several others of the first character, were surprised in this manner by some who had been personally acquainted with him and carried and delivered to the guards in Wilmington, notwithstanding the attempt of sundry parties of the militia who attempted to rescue him. Matters being thus in confusion there was no subordination amongst men, but every popular or leading man raised and commanded his own little party and defended themselves as they could. At length we got collected about 400 men together under Colonel Kenan in Duplin and about 200 under Colonel Brown in Bladen, the adjunct county. Colonel Kenan's militia had not made a stand more than ten days when Major Craig marched his main force with field pieces, defeated and drove us out of our works and made some of our men prisoners (here I narrowly escaped being taken, or cut down by the dragoons) the enemy stayed several days in Duplin county (this being the first week in August, 1781), the loyalists gathered in very fast, we were now reduced again to the utmost extremity, the enemy were now more cruel to the distressed inhabitants than Cornwallis' army had been before. Some men collected and formed a little flying camp and moved near the enemy's lines and made frequent sallies on their rear and flanks while others fled from their homes and kept out of the enemy's reach. Major Craig marched from Duplin to Newbern, plundered the town, destroyed the public stores, and then immediately marched back to Wilmington to secure the garrison. The Loyalists, or Tories, in Duplin and other counties now thinking the day entirely their own, became more insolent than ever, but Craig, being again returned to Wilmington, the Whigs again resumed their courage and determined to be revenged on the loyalists, our

neighbors, or hazard all; accordingly we collected about 80 light horsemen and equipped them as well as we could. They marched straight into the neighborhood where the Tories were embodied, surprised them; they fled, our men pursued them cut many of them to pieces, took several and put them instantly to death. This action struck such a terror upon the Tories in our country that they never attempted to embody again and many of them in a short time came in and submitted and were pardoned.

SECTION 25.

JOHN PEARSALL, son of Edward Pearsall, Chapter 46, Section 24; resided at Duplin County, North Carolina, and also in Wilmington, North Carolina, and Tennessee; married Elizabeth James. Children:—

1. Jeremiah Pearsall, born 1810; died 1882. Chapter 46, Section 26.
2. Hannah Pearsall, married Thomas Wright.
3. William I. Pearsall.
4. Thomas Pearsall.

SECTION 26.

JEREMIAH PEARSALL, son of John Pearsall, Chapter 46, Section 25; born 1810; died 1882; resided at Mississippi; married — Chestnut. Children:—

1. Robert C. Pearsall.
2. Ellen Adams Pearsall, married William Lewis Barr; resided at Clay County, Mississippi. Child:—*1. Mary Elizabeth Barr, born May 19, 1859; married Richard Dexter.
3. Joseph Pearsall.
4. Madison Pearsall, died 1907; resided at Atlanta, Mississippi; married 1863, Martha Summerall; died, 1899. Children:—*1. W. E. Pearsall, born October 31, 1864; married June 20, 1900, Sallie O. Cleland, born 1876. *2. Cannie B. Pearsall, born 1870; died 1905. *3. Pearl Pearsall, born 1885; died 1914.
5. A daughter, married W. M. Flaherty.