Chapter 00043 1773

Edward Pearce 1773-1834 (60)

and

Hannah Stagg 1778-1846 (68)

Branch #3 highlights

Generation #2 to #10

3/26/2025

GREAT BRITAIN
ORKNEY
SHETLAND
Thurso
Ullapol
OUTER HEBRIDES
ISLE OF SKYE
Inverness
Aberdeen
Dundee
Perth
Stirling
Glasgow
EDINBURGH
SCOTLAND
Londonderry
NORTHERN IRELAND
BELFAST
Stranraer
Newcastle-upon-Tyne
Durham
Carlisle
ISLE OF MAN
York
Leeds
Kingston-upon-Hull
Blackpool
Preston
REPUBLIC OF IRELAND
DUBLIN
ANGLESEY
LIVERPOOL
MANCHESTER
Holyhead
Llangollen
ENGLAND
Caernarfon
Leicester
Norwich
BIRMINGHAM
Aberystwyth
Cambridge
WALES
Brecon
Stratford-upon-Avon
Ipswich
Pembroke
Oxford
LONDON
Bristol
Cardiff
Dover
EUROTUNNEL
Bath
Stonehenge
Folkestone
Calais
Salisbury
Exeter
Portsmouth
Plymouth
ISLE OF WIGHT
Brighton
Penzance
FRANCE

Until 7/2024, I thought we came from Scotland, then St. Just Penwith, Cornwall, England, then Belleville NJ, then Fairfield NJ in 1770s. By the way, 1702 Fairfield was known as **Gansegat,** a Dutch word for 'Big hole in the ground filled with water'. Hence, great farm soil.

The 1780-1800 NJ census confuses me. Some say that the first 5 of 6 children came from England.

I do not see the Pearce's on the 1784 Thomas Milledge map of Fairfield NJ. Where were we?

I have to verify the info about Portsmouth England. Something does not seem correct about Portsmouth.

I make these notes to remind us to keep looking. Maybe look at old 1700s Fairfield NJ maps.

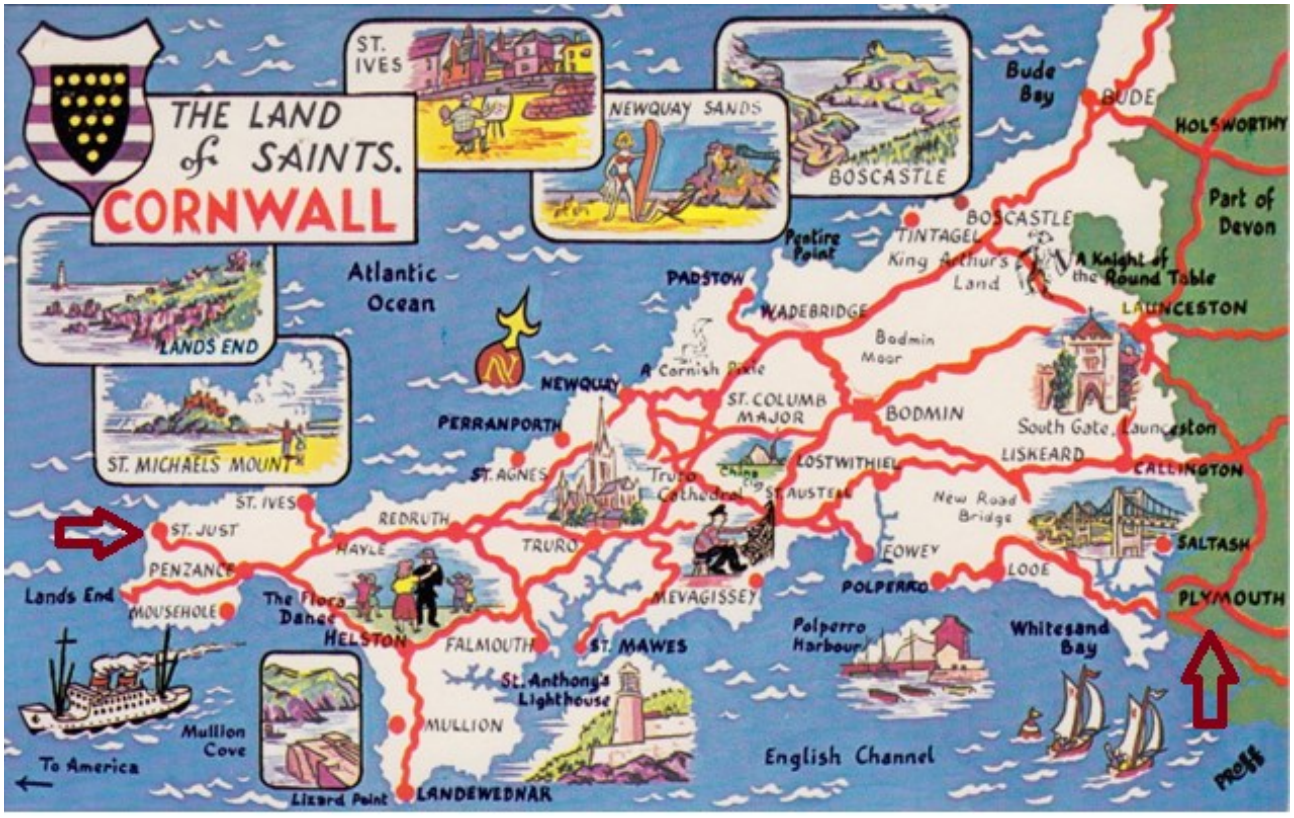
Where do we descend from Scotland?

About 1982, Glen found a **John Pearce** who died age 23 in **1735** from a **Belleville NJ mining accident** at the Belleville church-yard.

His tombstone read that he had been born in **St. Just Parish**, near **Cornwall, England**. John's birthdate was around 1712. Our Henry Pearce was born 1725 and died in Fairfield NJ in 1788.

The difference in birth dates is only 13 years. Could John be an older brother of Henry?

Unfortunately, John's broken tombstone was removed by a church cleanup group. Except for Glen, no one knows of John.



SCOTLAND. Where ?

1898 3rd generation Mrs Margaret PIERCE

"Mr. Stephen Peck's second marriage was solemnized in 1842, when he was united to Miss Margaret Pierce (1807-1907), a native of Fairfield NJ and a daughter of George and Rachel (Riggs) Pearce.

Her father came from England with a brother Edward and settled in Essex County NJ. The paternal grandfather (Henry Pearce #1) was a native of **Scotland** and married a Miss [Elizabeth Lucinda) Spear, a member of one of the early families (likely Belleville NJ)."

Margaret made these remarks when she was age 91. Henry and Elizabeth Spear Pearce were Margaret's grandparents who had 6 children. Edward was their 3rd child and George the 5th child. She did not mention the other siblings. There were many Spear/Speer families in Belleville NJ.

568 *ESSEX COUNTY.*

Stephen Peck

marriage was solemnized in 1842, when he was united to Miss Margaret Pierce, a native of Fairfield, Essex county, and a daughter of George and Rachel (Riggs) Pierce. Her father came from England with a brother, Edward, and settled in Essex county. The paternal grandfather was a native of Scotland and married a Miss Spear, a member of one of the early families. Mr. and Mrs. Peck became the parents of five children,

Biographical and genealogical history of the city of Newark and Essex County NJ. By Frederick William Ricord, 1898, pages 567-568.

Henry Pearce's wife **Elizabeth Spear** was born 1737. We don't know the month and year.

Mormon church microfiche for Scotland shows an **Elizabeth Spear** at **Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland**, England baptized a year later on 5/6/1738 to John Spear and Jean Wilson. I did not see any Pearce's in those Paisley parish records. Could this our Elizabeth?

Scottish flag.

I recall in 1981 finding a notecard at the Rutgers Alexander Genealogy library in New Brunswick, NJ which states that the **Spyer/ Spear/Speer's** of Belleville and Fairfield, NJ were originally from Scotland and fled to Holland (around 1635), briefly back to England and then to America in 1659 to escape religous persecution.

I could never find a match of our Elizabeth to this Speer group which eventually moved to Fairfield and formed the Fairfield Dutch Reformed Church (FDRC). Henry Pearce and family kids attended.

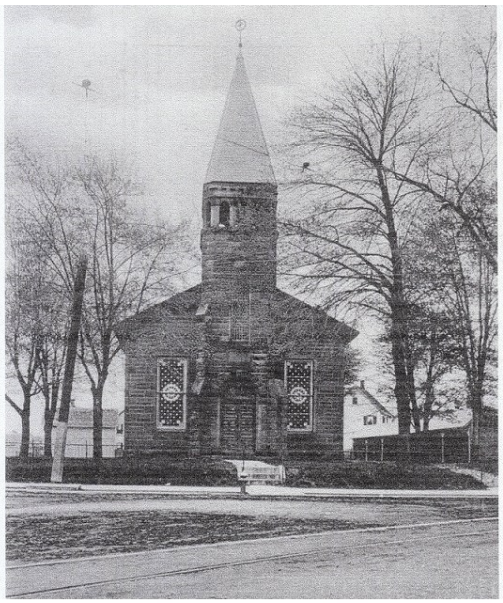
Many of the Revolutionary Army officers and soldiers were **Speer's** from Belleville, NJ. During the early part of the war, the townspeople moved in just 3 days from **Belleville to Fairfield NJ** to escape the incoming British army who burned Belleville down. The town had been a good lookout site due to high elevation plus the Passaic River offered good water transportation to the American's.

The **1774 Thomas Ball map** indicates that **16 English/Dutch families** lived in Fairfield amongst the Acquackanonk indians. We see no Pearce's on the map. Neither in Belleville maps.

About 1802, three of Henry's sons, along with 4 other fellows, built the foundation for the new FDRC. The Pearce's were **Henry #2 age 31, Edward age 29 and George age 23**. I read this in the NJ Genealogy Magazine. I will look for this page.

The FDRC resembles the Belleville Reformed church (BDRC) and so does the Little Falls Reformed church which is on Main Street. That church and the FDRC sometimes used the same 1790-1870s Pastor who did a service at each place.

BDRC, 171 Main St, Belleville, NJ.
founded 1697 as Second River Dutch Reformed



LFDRC, 61 Main St, Little Falls, NJ

FDRC, 360 Fairfield Road, Fairfield, NJ.

New church 1802.

For future researchers, do not bother to search the **Pyr/Pier/Peer** families as noted in the Belleville/Fairfield church christenings. Glen traced each Pier back to the early 1700's. I see no connection to the Pearce/Pierce name.

So did our ancestors come from Scotland to St Just-in-Penwith, Cornwall England? Cornwall was a mining town. Did those Speer/Pearce/people next move to Belleville NJ?

Josiah Hornblower 1729—1809 was an English engineer who designed a steam engine for tin mines. He first went to Cornwall in 1745. He went 1753 to the copper mines at Belleville NJ along the Second River. Josiah is buried at the Belleville Dutch Reformed Church, same place as John Pearce who died 1735.

What about the Pearce folks at Portsmouth England? They have first names that don't match up with our group. Not sure yet.

Quite a distance between these places. We don't know yet.

I saw a 1982 Mormon microfiche record for a Henry and Elizabeth Pearce who attended this St Just-in-Penwith church. Was it our people?? Don't know yet.

Location within Cornwall

St Just Penwith of Cornwall England had strong copper and tin mining history in the 1700-1800s. In 1753, Josiah Hornblower left Cornwall England for Belleville New Jersey. Recall that a John Pearce of Cornwall England died in a 1735 Belleville mining accident.

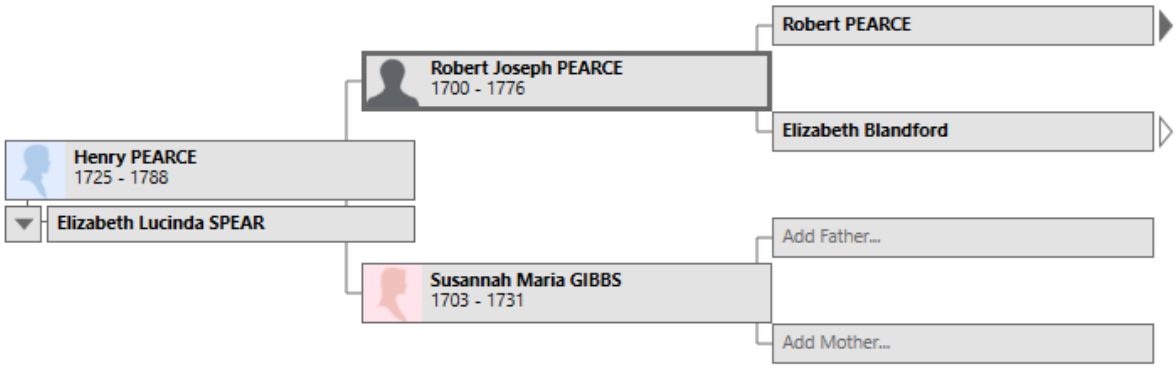
The **Belleville Dutch Reformed Church** people have a connection to the Fairfield Dutch Reformed Church and the Little Falls Dutch Reformed Church.

St Just Penwith, Cornwall, England

I am not sure yet if we connect to **the other** Edward Pearce clan of **Portsmouth England**.

Edward, Robert, Robert Joseph and then a Henry Pearce?

Is he our Henry ?? Notice below that Robert Joseph Pearce married on 6/25/1726. But our Henry was born a year earlier 7/25/1725. So I question a Robert connection.



Robert & Elizabeth

+ Add Parents

Robert Joseph PEARCE
Born: 1700
Portland, Somerset, England
Died: 12/13/1776

Susannah Maria GIBBS
Born: 1703
Portland, Somerset, England
Died: 7/1731
Portland, Somerset, England

Marriage: 6/25/1726 in Dorset, England

Go	Children: 6	Sex	Birth	Death
	Henry PEARCE	M	7/25/1725 in Portland, Somerset, England	7/8/1788
	William PEARCE	M	1728 in Portland, Somerset, England	12/1/1787 in Portland, Somerset, England
	John PEARCE	M	3/1/1730 in Portland, Somerset, England	1/1790 in Portland, Somerset, England
	Hariet PEARCE	F		
	Sarah PEARCE	F		
	Louisa PEARCE	F		

Coming to America. Maybe 1770s

1700 passenger ship typically took **68 days** at sea to sail from England to America.

If one accepts the late 1700s and early 1800's New Jersey census then our **Edward Pearce** was born in England on 12/2/1773.

Two weeks later, the 12/16/1773 **Boston Tea Party** protest started.

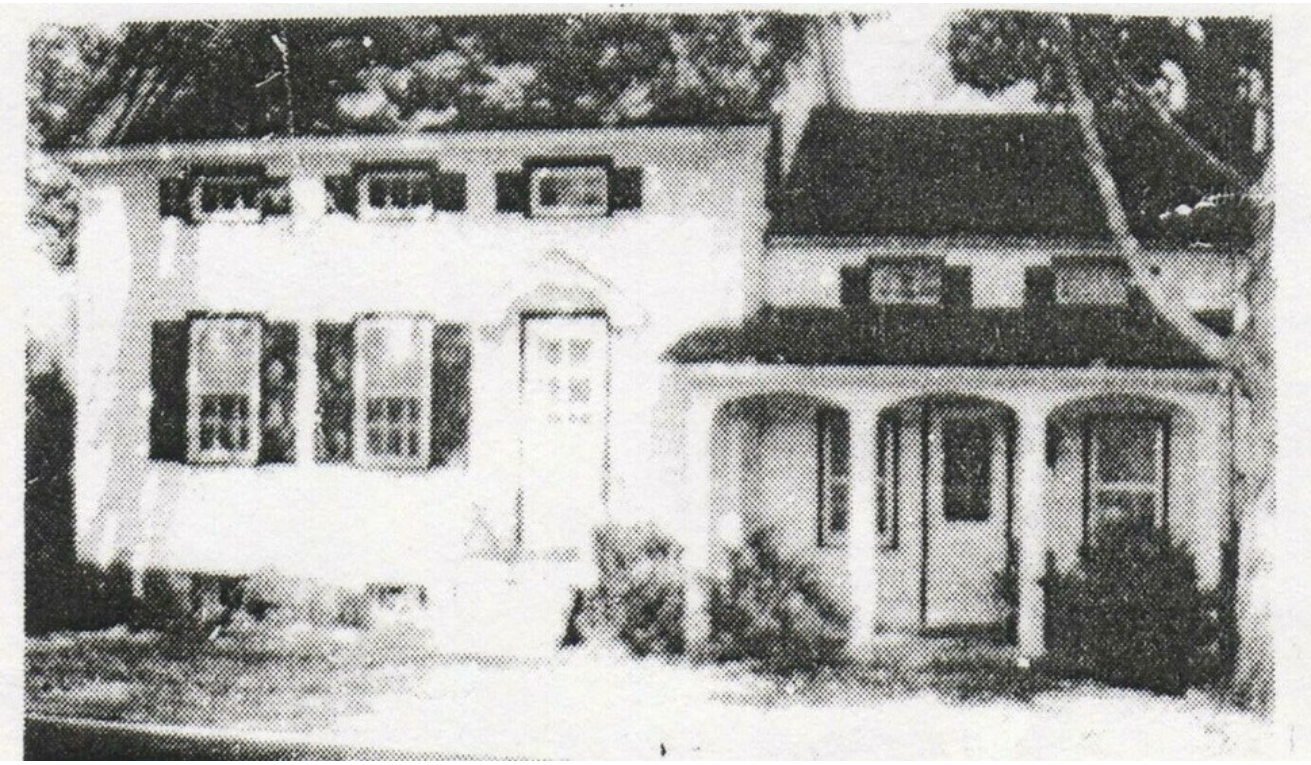
It was an American political and mercantile protest because England "allowed the East India Company to sell tea from China in American colonies without paying taxes apart from those imposed by the Townshend Acts. The Americans opposed the taxes as a violation of their rights. In response, the Americans, some disguised as Indians, destroyed an entire shipment of tea sent by the East India Company." (Wikipedia 2024)

Where did Henry and Elizabeth Pearce live?

Edward Pearce branch #3 of 6.

Husband	Wife	Marriage Date
1 Henry PEARCE	Elizabeth Lucinda SPEAR	Ca 1757
2 Edward PEARCE	Hannah STAGG	9/3/1796
3 Joseph PIERCE	Nancy JACOBUS	7/3/1839
4 Albert Wesley PIERCE	Malvina D. 'Minnie' MULVANEY	11/25/1882
5 Charles Small 'Charlie' PIERCE	Louise Caroline JAMES	4/29/1905
6 Albin Wesley 'Allie' PIERCE	Mabel TEMPLE	12/31/1924

2014 Joseph Pierce painting of 1770s Henry Pearce #1 home.



1972 - Henry Pearce home – 22 Horseneck Road, Fairfield NJ 07004. Demolished about 2010.

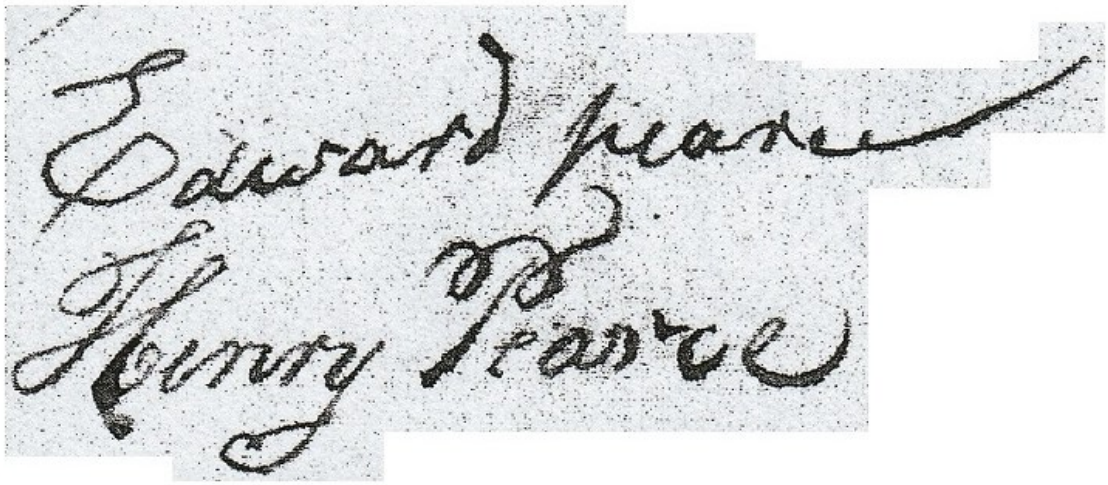
Ca 1998 Henry Pearce house, Fairfield NJ

2004 Henry Pearce house before demolished about 2010.

Over the years, the house was a flower shop. The home was totally replaced in 2010 for a Law office.

Signature of brothers Henry #2 and Edward Pearce, 2nd generation.

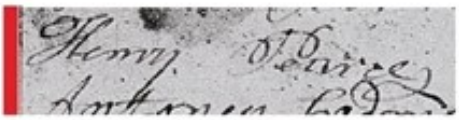
1795 Petition concerning a bridge to be built over the Passaic River at Belleville (2nd River) NJ and an access road.

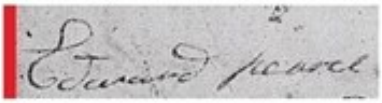


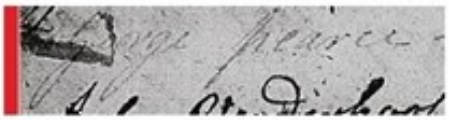
This is the Henry, son of Henry and Elizabeth Spear Pearce.

1797 Petition

There were 145 signatures; 3 Pearce's of Fairfield signed.







Sons of Henry Pearce and Elizabeth Spear

age 29 Henry Pearce #2

age 27 Edward Pearce

age 21 George Pearce