

Chapter 00138 **1816**

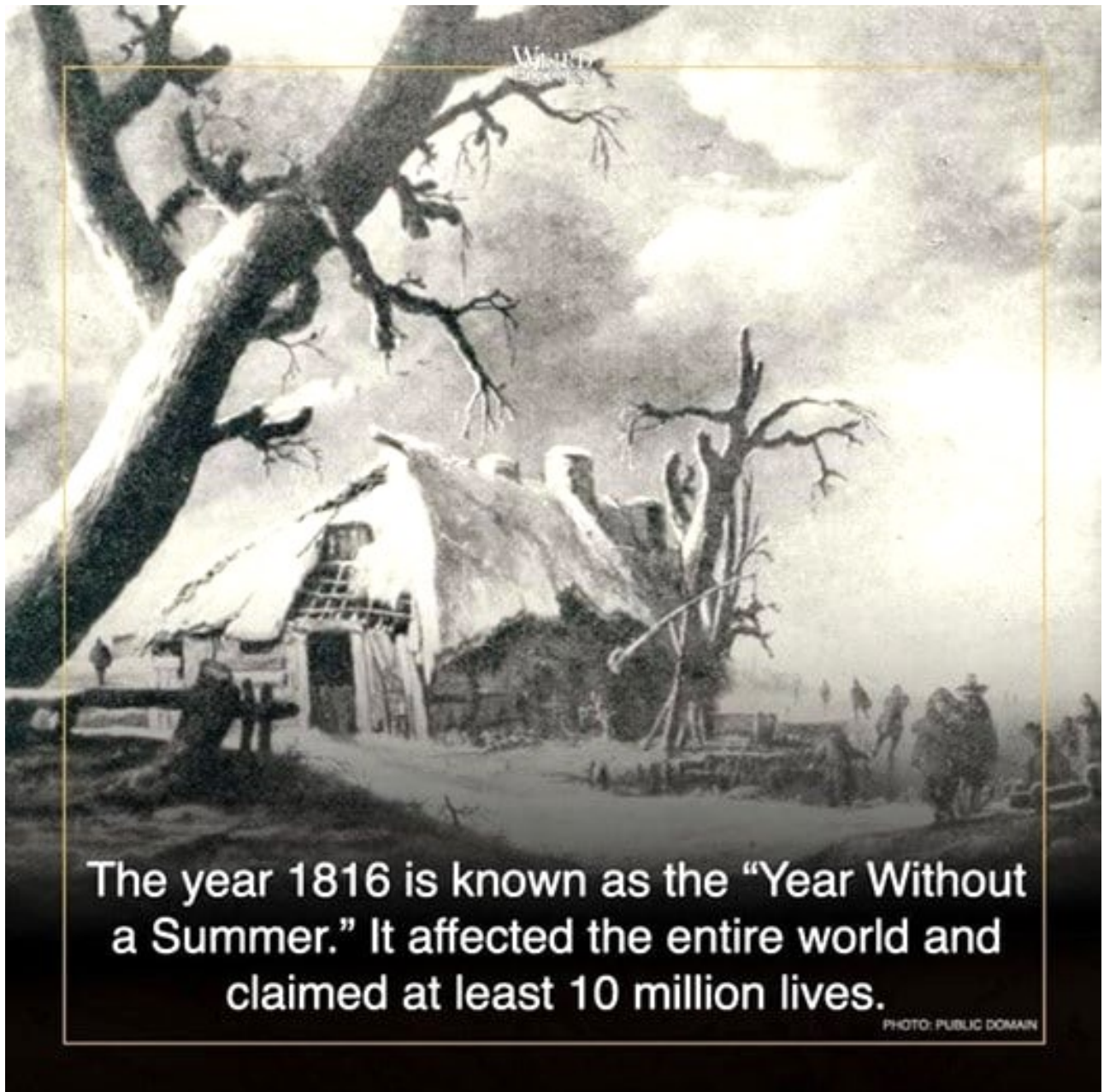
THE YEAR WITHOUT A SUMMER

4/10/1815 Eruption of Mount Tambora, Indonesia



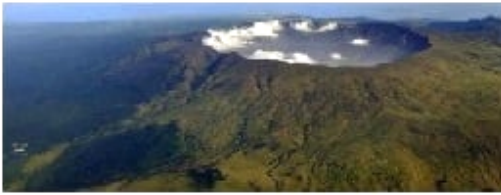
8/24/2024

The effects of Mount Tambora reached America in 1816.



The year 1816 is known as the “Year Without a Summer.” It affected the entire world and claimed at least 10 million lives.

PHOTO: PUBLIC DOMAIN



Indonesia

1816, The Year Without a Summer

The 1815 eruption of an enormous volcano on a remote island in the Indian Ocean a year earlier had thrown enormous amounts of volcanic ash into the upper atmosphere.

The dust from Mount Tambora, which had erupted in early April 1815, had shrouded the globe. And with sunlight blocked, **1816** did not have a normal summer.



The spring and summer of **1816** was marked by consistent dry fog across the east coast of America that reddened and dimmed in the sunlight. One result of this was that sunspots were visible to the naked eye. Even wind and rain didn't dispel the fog.

In May 1816 the frost was so intense that it killed off crops in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and upstate New York. Higher elevations suffered the most. Snow was recorded as falling on June 6th 1816 in Albany, New York and Maine.



In 1816, on my tree branch #3, 2nd generation **Edward Pearce** was age 42 and his wife **Hannah Stagg** age 38, living in Fairfield, NJ.

9 of their children were living in 1816. They would have 3 more kids after 1816.

Their 9th child **Joseph Pierce** 1.5 years old during the "Year of no Summer". Glen descends from Joseph.

Image having to feed 9 kids during the 1816 worldwide weather problem. Cold. Crops failed. Lack of sun. For a whole year.

Luckily, my 3rd generation Joseph Pierce age 1.5 made it.

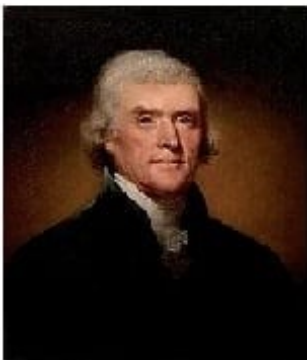
Below is a sample of our **1816 relatives** living when Mount Tambora erupted.. Food and wood logs became scarce. Henry #1 and Elizabeth Pearce had died by 1814.

* means buried at Hillside Cem.

<u>Name</u>	BORN	Age
Mrs Elizabeth Ann 'Betsey' PEARCE Crane	3/17/1758	58
Henry James PEARCE *	8/28/1771	45
Mrs. Jane FREDERICKS Pearce *	11/1777	39
Edward PEARCE *	12/2/1773	43
Mrs. Hannah STAGG Pearce *	4/13/1778	38
Mrs. Charlotte PEARCE Williams	11/3/1776	40
Jeniah WILLIAMS	5/12/1770	46
George PEARCE	1/5/1779	37
Rachel RIGGS	—	—
Andrew PEARCE	11/10/1782	34
Mrs. Amy OSBORN Pearce	7/27/1783	33
Mrs. Jane PEARCE Edwards	12/20/1796	20
Henry Harrison PEARCE *	1801	15
John Henry PEARCE *	12/19/1796	19
Joseph PIERCE *	7/2/1814	1.5
Mrs. Catharine PEARCE Jacobus	4/5/1810	6
Mrs. Phebe PEARCE Tompkins	4/1/1812	4



1816 snow in summer.



Former President Jefferson wrote:

Cold in May 1816

On May 17, 1816, Thomas Jefferson wrote:

The spring has been unusually dry and cold. our average morning cold for the month of May in other years has been 63° of Farenheit. In the present month it has been to this day an average of 53° and one morning as low as 43° . repeated frosts have killed the early fruits and the crops of tobacco and wheat will be poor.



7-29-1816 Trenton Federalist NJ

MONTREAL, July 10.—The **weather** for some days past has been again exceedingly cold and backward. On Friday and Monday mornings the ice was about the thickness of a dollar. On Sunday snow fell at the Cedars.

July 13—*Flour*—the price of this necessary of life, three weeks ago, was about 45s. per barrel, in large quantities. It has lately been sold at 80s; now 100s. is asked.

The bad weather affected the crops.

The sound of the eruption was reportedly heard up to 2,000 miles away. Millions of tonnes of sulphur dioxide, ash and pumice were ejected into the atmosphere. The eruption lasted for over a week in April 1815.

US migration increased as individuals and families moved away from the food shortages in New England on the east coast and began to settle in the more hospitable areas of West and Central New York and the American Midwest. This contributed to the settling of the “American Heartland”.



Blown up one US 1816 Penny, front/back.

Tavern breakfast cost about 33 cents. Dinner 39 cents.



1816 the year without summer

Food and grain prices went through the roof — in 1815, oats sold for \$0.12 a bushel, but soared in 1816 to \$0.92 a bushel.

PS - \$1 in 1816 is equivalent in purchasing power to about \$18.47 in 2021.

