Chapter 00040 **1725**

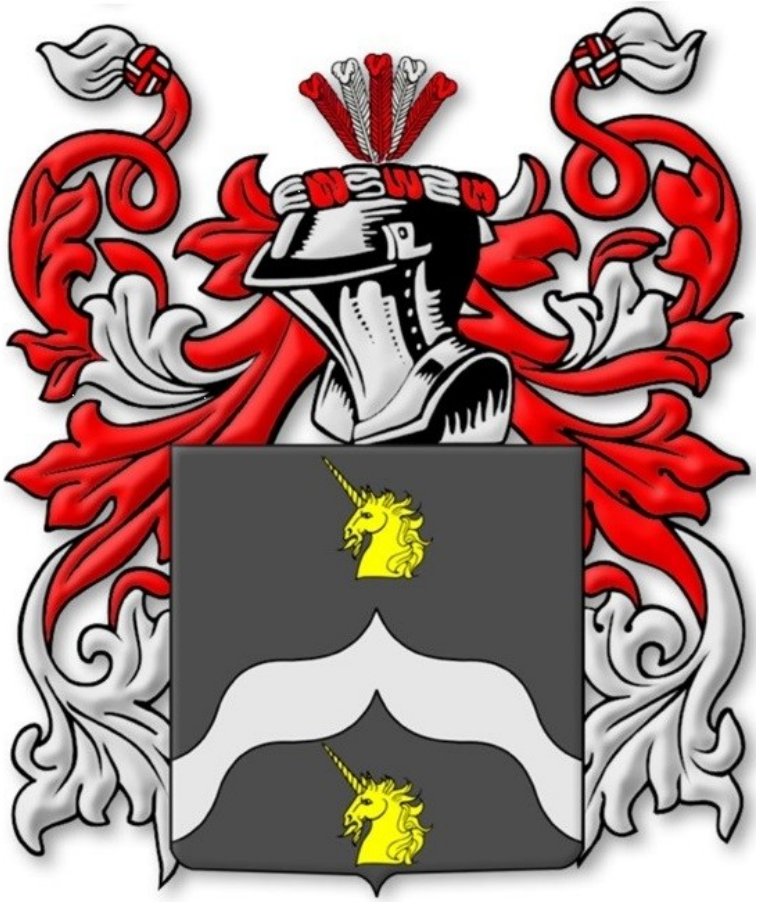
FIRST ANCESTOR

HENRY PEARCE 1725—1788 (62)

and

ELIZABETH LUCINDA SPEAR 1737—1814 (77)

England and Fairfield NJ



12/24/2024

6/19/2024 I do not know for certainty where Henry Pearce was born. Here are some thoughts.

1—Henry's granddaughter **Mrs. Margaret Pearce Peck** said in an 1898 book that Henry came from Scotland England. ['Biographical and genealogical history of the city of Newak and Essex County NJ' by Frederick William Ricord, 1898 pages 567-568.]

"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 was a native of Scotland and married a Miss Spear, a member of one of the early families."

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.

I see Edward and George noted as born in England.

Edward Pearce

in the U.S. and International Marriage Records,

Detail

son of Henry Pearce #1 and Elizabeth Spear

Name	Edward Pearce
Gender	Male
Birth Place	EN **England**
Birth Year	1773
Spouse Name	Hannah Stagg
Spouse Birth Place	NJ
Spouse Birth Year	1778
Marriage Year	1796 **Married 9/3/1796 Parsippany, NJ**
Marriage State	NJ **Rev. Joseph Grover**

2—Margaret, a 3rd Pearce generation, is stating that her father George Pearce and her uncle Edward (Glen's ancestor) came from England.

Here is a record from Ancestry.com which shows George born 1779 in England. Yes, George and Rachel did marry 2/23/1804 Morristown NJ, I believe the Presbyterian Church.

Don't forget that Henry Pearce #1 died in 1788 when son George was age 9. These facts negate Helen Herzer premise that Henry married 1750 in Belleville NJ. Henry would have still been in England at least to 1779 or 1780 etc.

George Pearce
in the U.S. and International Marriage Records

Detail Source

Name	George Pearce
Gender	Male
Birth Place	EN ENGLAND
Birth Year	1779
Spouse Name	Rachel Riggs
Spouse Birth Place	NJ
Spouse Birth Year	1790
Marriage Year	1804

Another point to consider is that Edward and George's sister Betsey worked 1780 in Newark NJ for a Continental officer and his wife.

I wonder why Henry #1 and Elizabeth's 1st child Betsey and 2nd child Henry nor their 4th child Charlotte are not mentioned by **Margaret Peace Peck.**

Betsey, Henry and Charlotte were born BEFORE George Pearce?? Edward was the 3rd child and George the 5th child.

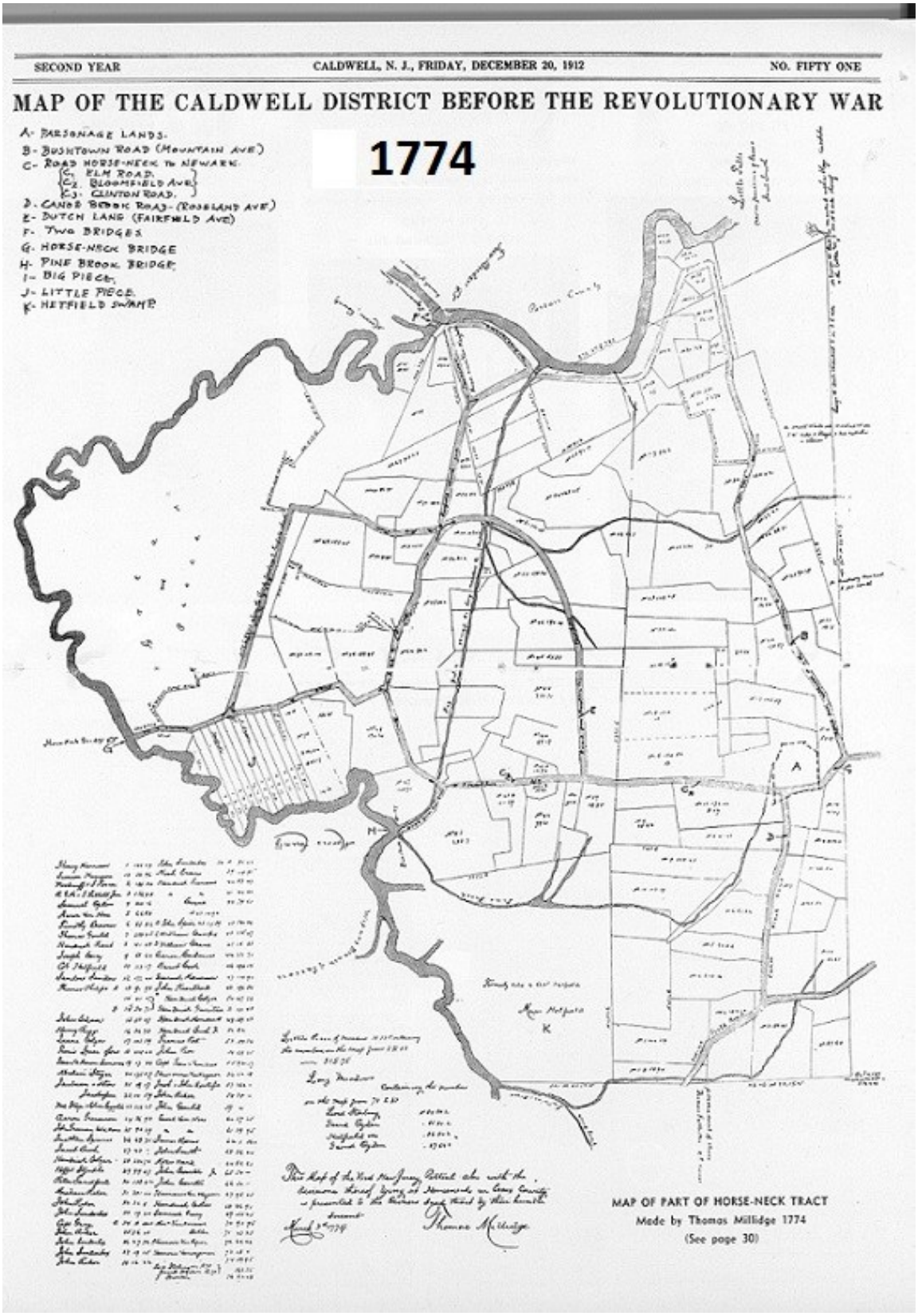
Henry #1 is not on the 1774 **Thomas Milledge** map of Fairfield, Essex County, NJ. Looks like we did not come to Fairfield till around 1780 to 1788 ??

When Betsey Pearce, age 22, worked 1780 at the Plume House in Newark NJ, could our Henry Pearce #1 have lived in Newark NJ or NYC?

Also why would Henry #1 venture to America during the height of the Revolutionary War? In 1780, Henry #1 was age 55. Way too old to serve.

Then again, I saw a Henry Perce on the Continental NJ rolls. Found it at the Trenton Historical Library on State Street.

1774 Thomas Milledge map of Caldwell's area. But no Henry Pearce.



SECOND YEAR CALDWELL, N. J., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1912 NO. FIFTY ONE

MAP OF THE CALDWELL DISTRICT BEFORE THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

Maybe Henry Pearce #1 bought the Fairfield land from Henry Mandeville ??

Now a curveball. Did George Pearce age 71 tell the 1850 US census taker that he was born in NJ ??

George Pearce

in the 1850 United States Federal Census

Detail Source

Name	George Pearce
Gender	Male
Race	White
Residence Age	71
Birth Date	abt 1779
Birthplace	New Jersey
Residence Date	1850
Home in 1850	Caldwell, Essex, New Jersey, USA
Occupation	Farmer

Is this the same Rachel Riggs who married our George Pearce?? Apparently no. Appears from the 2009 Alvy Ray Smith manuscript that our Rachel Riggs was not the one born 11 Oct 1790. Here is my Rachel comparison.

Rachel Bockoven 1860

in the 1860 United States Federal Census

Detail

Married 11/23/1806 Morristown NJ to Peter Bockoven

Name	Rachel Bockoven
Age	69
Birth Year	abt 1791
Gender	Female
Race	White
Birth Place	New Jersey
Home in 1860	Seneca Falls, Seneca, New York
Post Office	Seneca Falls
Dwelling Number	926
Family Number	934

born 10/11/1790
died 11/17/1872
Canoga Cem, Seneca Falls, NY

Rachel Pearce

in the New Jersey, U.S., Compiled Census and Censu

Detail

Married 2/23/1804 Morristown NJ to George Pearce

Name	Rachel Pearce
State	NJ
County	Essex County
Township	Caldwell Township
Year	1860
Record Type	Federal Population Schedule
Page	091
Database	NJ 1860 Federal Census Index

Notice that our Rachel Riggs had children between 1804 and 1818. Also, she died between 1818 and 1826.

The other Rachel died 1872 in Seneca NY.

We have to be careful about the data for the two Rachel's. Confusing because they both hailed from Morristown NJ.

Henry & Elizabeth Lucinda

George PEARCE 2
Born: 1/5/1779
Fairfield, NJ
Died: 11/15/1853

Rachel RIGGS
Born:
Died:

Marriage: 2/23/1804

Go	Children: 6	Sex	Birth	Death
◀	Mary Ann PEARCE	F	10/11/1804 in Fairfield, NJ	1/18/1894
◀	Margaret PEARCE	F	12/13/1807 in NJ	3/9/1907
◀	William M. PEARCE	M	1810 in Fairfield, NJ	5/17/1867
◀	Henry George PEARCE	M	12/29/1812 in Fairfield, NJ	9/6/1900
◀	Cynthia Jane PEARCE	F	2/1818 in Fairfield, NJ	9/16/1851
◀	Reuben Henry PEARCE	M	2/1818 in Fairfield, NJ	1904 in Perris, CA

George married a 2nd time, about 1827. Implies that this Rachel died before 1827. Glen Pierce 6/20/2024

The second wife was named **Mariah**. The marriage did not go well. George placed newspaper ads saying that he will not be accountable for any of her debts and that she had been told to leave.

Poor George. Later, his house burned down. Then hung himself in 1853 age 74.

3—I haven't tied in these leads. For example, the brother Edward Pearce lead.

I've been looking at a few recent Ancestry posts that try to tie our Henry to parents **Robert Joseph PEARCE** and Susannah Maria GIBBS. However, that **Portland England** family does not have a child named Edward Pearce.

4—In 1982, Glen found a **John Pearce** tombstone at the Belleville NJ Dutch church. Said John died in a 1735 Belleville mining accident, age 23, therefore born 1712. The stone has since broken and was removed by a 1984 church cleanup crew. It was located in the front church area.

Could John be an older brother to Henry who was born 1725??

4—There were many Spear, Speer, Spyr families living at Belleville NJ. Most later moved to Fairfield NJ in the mid 1700's.

These Speer's were originally from England but in late 1600s moved to Holland to escape religious persecution. After 30 years in Holland, with a lastname spelling change, the Spyr's briefly moved back to England and soon after moved to America.

Or did the Speer's come from a mining town in Cornwall England and settle in Belleville NJ? Josiah Hornblower was the mining expert in both cities.

5— On 12/14/1997, our family member Helen Hertzer of Massachusetts emailed me that Henry married at Second River Christ Church [Dutch Church], Belleville, Essex Co., NJ on **5/3/1750**. Helen notes Henry's birthdate as 7/251725.

She said that he first came to the Boston MA area. Helen is a top librarian so I stop to consider her ideas.

The Fairfield NJ Dutch Reformed church is considered a spinoff of this Belleville church. Same for one of the Little Falls NJ churches.

But I find no Pearce records for that Belleville church. Only many Speer families. Mrs. Margaret Pearce Peck said that her grandmother **Elizabeth Lucinda Pearce** (Henry's wife) was associated with the Belleville church members. So we get more leads but nothing concrete.

7/6/1767

Just when I think our Henry Pearce did not come from England, until say 1780s, I find a 1767 Henry Pearce from Second River (Belleville) NJ who has letters in New York. Second River Dutch later moved to Fairfield NJ. So who is this Henry??

LIST of LETTERS, remaining in the General Poſt-Office, New-York, July 6, 1767.
Not before advertiſed.

O.

John Oſtrom. Joſeph Otway, Eſq.

P.

Captain Samuel Paul. Peter Parre. John Patten.
Rachel Poldon. James Price. Joſeph Pynehon.
Henry Pearce, Second River. Lieut. Phiſter.

NY Journal, Thurs 10/29/1767

Belleville NJ was also called Second River.
Maybe this is our Henry Pearce #1 ?

Remember, the descendents of the Belleville Dutch church migrated to Fairfield NJ. In 1982, Glen found a tombstone at that church for John Pearce 1710-1735, killed in a Belleville mining accident.

1 - RENFREW SCOTLAND - Mormon church microfiche for Scotland shows an Elizabeth Spear at **Abby Parish, Renfrew Paisley, Scotland**, England born on 5/6/1738 and baptised 5/7/1738 to **John Spear and Jean Wilson**. I did not see any Pearce's in those Renfrew parish records.

The source was the Mormon library Scottish parish records for Renfrew. Our Elizabeth Spear Pearce was died 10/16/1814 age 77, which makes her birth around 1737 or 1738. If only we knew her exact birthdate.

There is a chance that Henry #1 married twice with both gals named Elizabeth. His #2 child has a 13 year gap from the first sibling which may indicate a second marriage.

2 - **St Just Parish, CORNWALL, England**. Found parish records at the Salt Lake City, Utah Mormon Library that showed two baptism's in 1756 and 1757 (exact years are in my records somewhere) of an Elizabeth Pearce with parents Henry/Elizabeth. A child birth dates and parents names almost match up. Our Elizabeth 'Betsey' Pearce was born 17 Mar 1758 with parents Henry and Elizabeth. I wonder if that St Just Parish Elizabeth is ours? May not be.

Many **Cornwall England miners** came to Belleville NJ in 1730s and on. They worked for Captain Horatio Hornblower, the 1700's inventor of the steam ship.

3 - I recall in 1981 finding a notecard at the Rutgers Alexander Geneology 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) and then to America in 1659 to escape religous persecution.

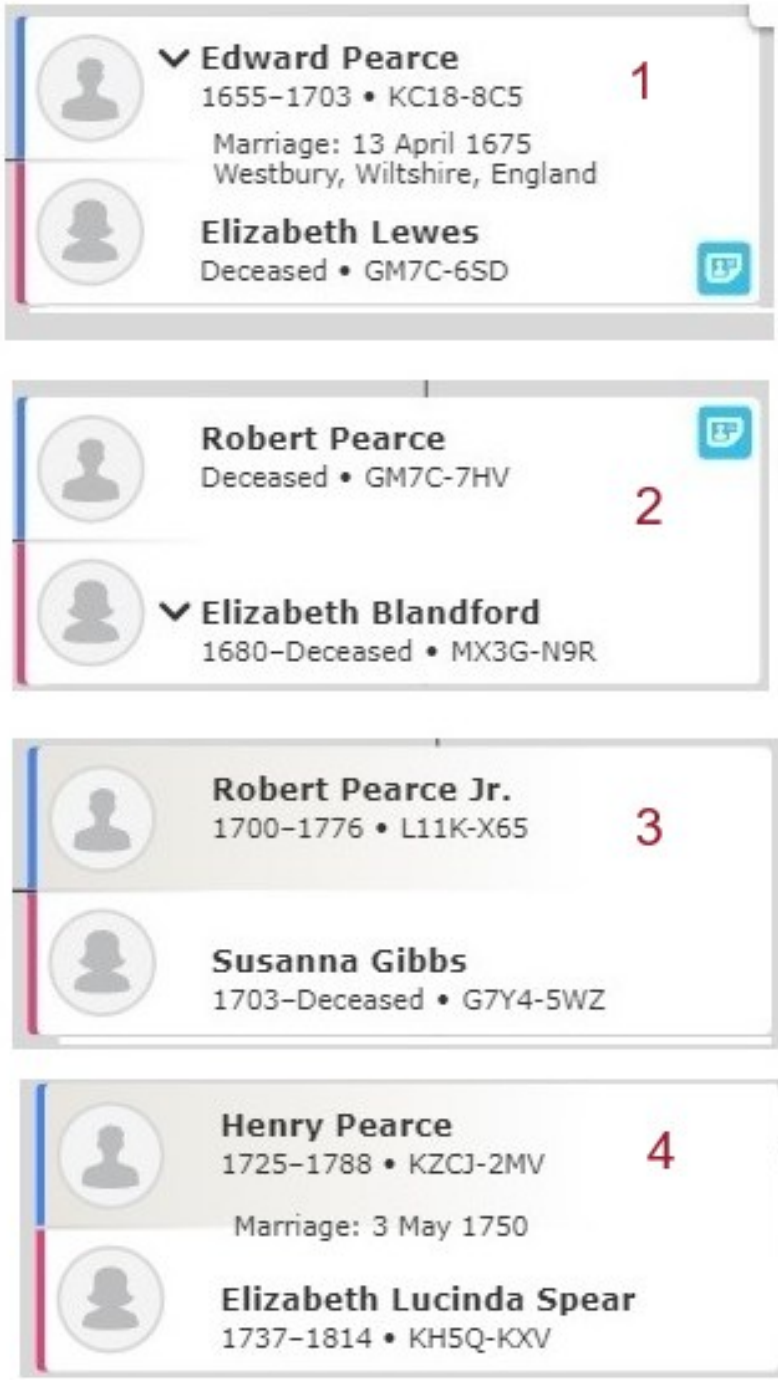
I could never find a match of our Elizabeth Spear to this group, although they eventually formed the Fairfield Dutch Reformed Church which the first Henry Pearce kids attended.

4—These Speers settled in Belleville NJ or Second River.NJ as it was named then. We found a John Pearce who died age 23 in 1735 from a Belleville mining accident at the Belleville churchyard. Towards the church front. The tombstone was removed around 1988 or so.

John’s tombstone read that he had been born in St. Just Penwith Parish in Cornwall England. John’s birthdate was around 1712. Our Henry Pearce was born 7/25/1725. The difference in birthdates is only 13 years. Could John be an older brother of Henry?

Glen 2024: Someone reports 3 generations before our Henry Pearce. Is it true? I have no evidence yet about the 3. I will check this out.

Maybe Edward, Robert, Robert then Henry??



Dorset, England, Church of England
Baptisms, Marriages and Burials

Baptisms, Marriages, Burials
for the Year: 1726

1726

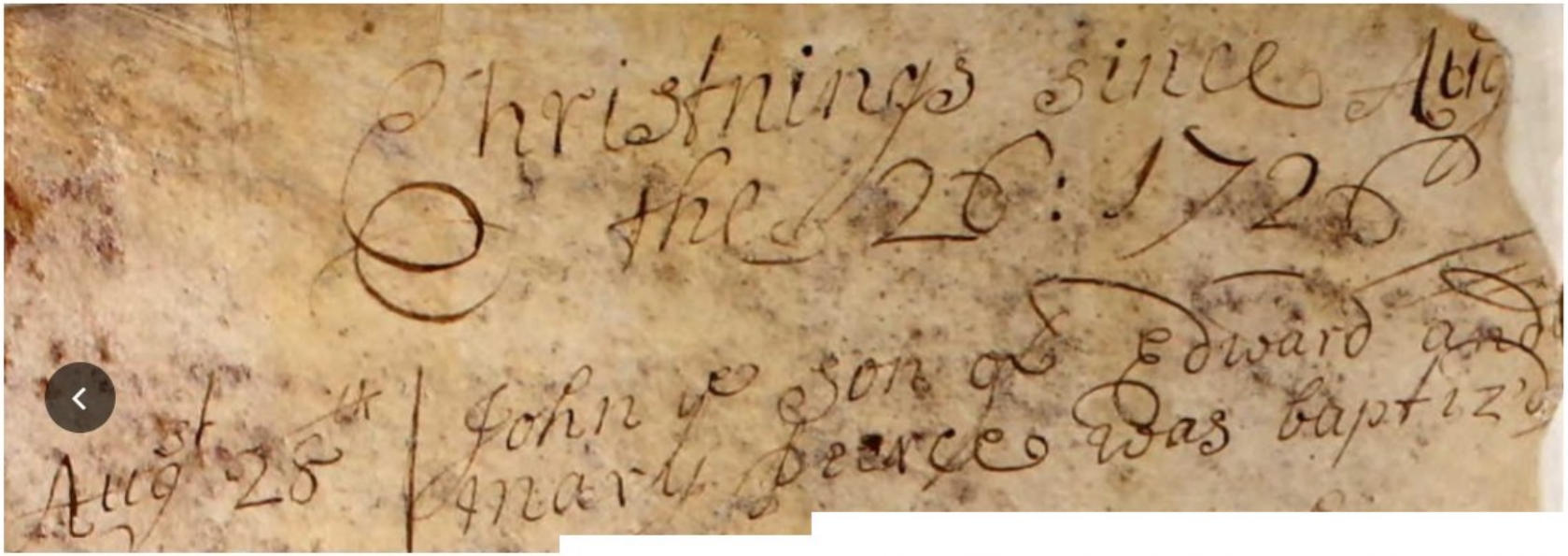
Married Robert Pearce and Susannah Gibbs on 6/25/1726

Marrd. Robt. Pearse & Susannah Gibbs — June — 25

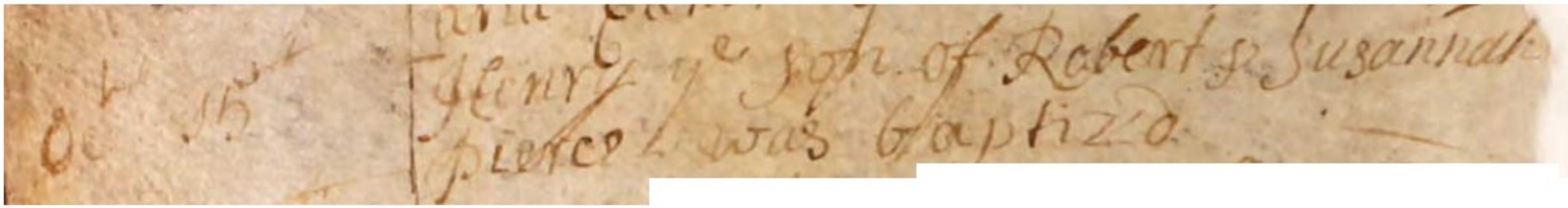
Married Abraham Pearce and Susannah Lano on 12/28/1726

Marrd. Abraham Pearse & Susannah Lano — 28

Dorset England baptism


Christnings since Aug the 26: 1726

Aug 28th | John ye son of Edward and Mary Pearce was baptiz'd

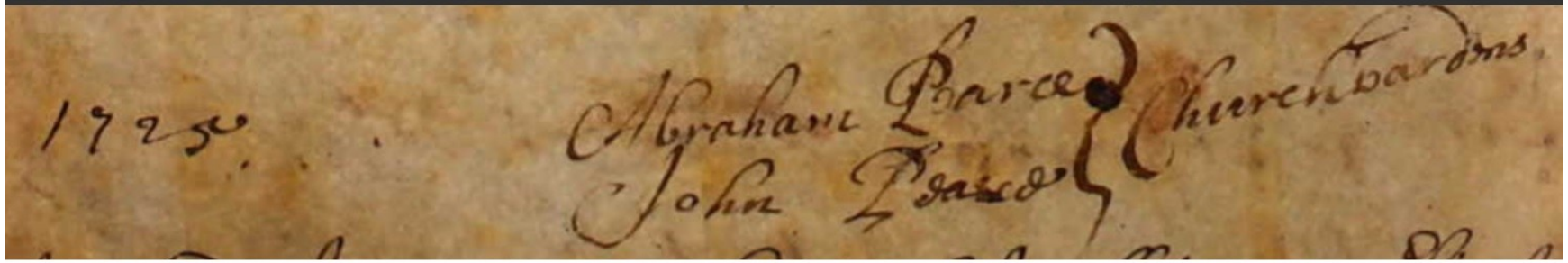

Oct 15th | Henry ye son of Robert & Susannah Pierce was baptiz'd

I don't know anything about this John Pearce. Note our Henry Pearce baptized 10/15/1726, age 15 months, born 7/25/1725.

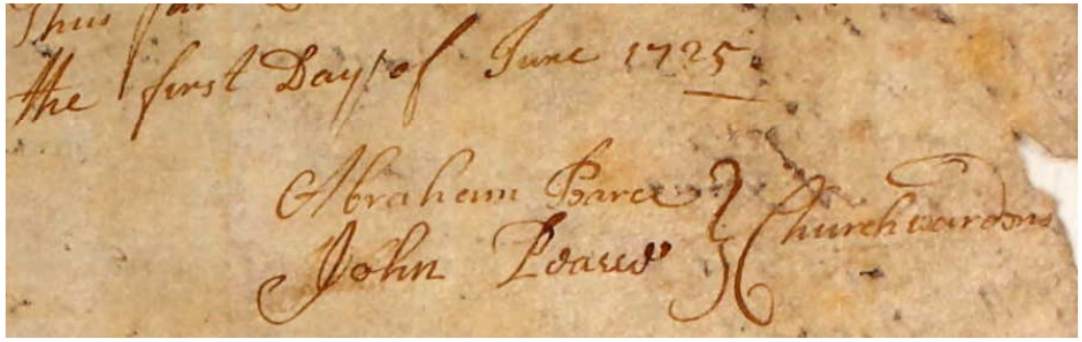
Dorset, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812

Portland

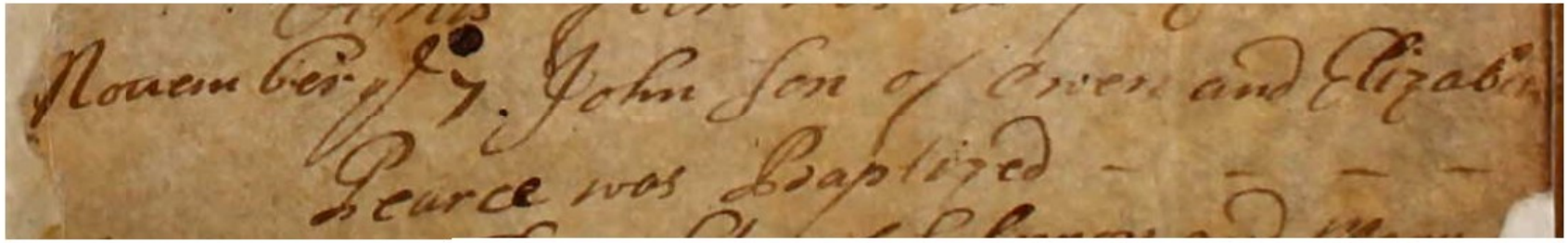
Save



Here is another note. The are church ??? what.



Not sure the father's name for this John Pearce. Mother Elizabeth Pearce. Baptised 11/7 /1725.
Portland, Dorset, England


November 7 John Son of Owen and Elizabeth
Pearce was Baptized

Appears that Portland is an Isle barely connected to the English mainland.

The Great Frost of 1739-40

On 10/8/1739, **Henry Pearce,** age 15, signed a formal 7 year apprentice document to work for a London England clockmaker named **Pockley Cotham**.

"The winter of 1739-40 was one of the most severe ever remembered, and from the long continuance of the frost from Christmas eve, 12/24/1739, to February 17th, 1740, when it began to thaw, but very gradually, it has been known ever since as **the Great Frost**. [There had also been a 1683 and 1709 Great Frost's.]

It was impossible for the colliers from the north to get up the river, and the distress among the poorer classes was terrible, not only from want of fuel, food and water, but also of work. The watermen and fishermen with a peterboat in mourning, and the carpenters, bricklayers, and labourers walked in procession through the streets begging, and to the honour of the city and all, great sums were collected and disbursed.

Another terrible calamity happened a few days after the frost had begun : there was a **terrible gale** which did incalculable damage in the river, dragging vessels from their moorings and dashing them against one another, while the large sheets of ice floating in the stream overwhelmed the wherries and lighters and barges, and **sunk many**, especially those laden with coal and corn.

Above the bridge the Thames was frozen completely over and a Frost Fair was held on it. Various shops were opened for the sale of toys, cutlery, and other light articles.

Printing presses were set up and the usual drinking booths and puppet shows abounded. All sorts of sports and activities were there, and the place became a perfect carnival, as if the populace were utterly oblivious of the misery and distress which existed on shore."

https://www.londononline.co.uk/history/thames/5/

10/8/1739 Henry Pearce age 15 signed his 7 year indenture paper to work in London England as a clockmaker for Pockley Cotham.

Henry Pearce

in the London, England, Freedom of the City Admission Papers, 1681-1930

Detail Source

Name	Henry Pearce
Admission Date	8 Oct 1739
Residence Place	England
Father	Robert Pearce
Master	Pockley Cotham

This Indenture Witnesseth, That Henry Pearce son of Robt Pearce of St Andrew Holbourn Master — doth put himself Apprentice to Pockley Cotham Citizen & Clock-maker — to learn his Art, and with him (after the manner of an Apprentice) to serve from the Date of the date hereof — unto the full End and Term of Seven — Years from thence next following, to be fully compleat and ended. During which Term the said Apprentice his said Master faithfully shall serve, his Secrets keep, his lawful Commands every where gladly do. He shall do no damage to his said Master, nor see it to be done of others, but that he to his Power shall let or forthwith give warning to his said Master of the same. He shall not waste the Goods of his said Master nor lend them unlawfully to any. He shall nor commit Fornication, nor contract Matrimony within the said Term. He shall not play at Cards, Dice, Tables, or any other unlawful Games, whereby his said Master may have any loss, with his own Goods or others, during the said Term, without Licence of his said Master, he shall neither buy nor sell. He shall not haunt Taverns or Play-houses, nor absent himself from his said Master's Service Day or Night unlawfully. But in all things as a faithful Apprentice he shall behave himself towards his said Master, and all his, during the said Term. And the said Master, in Consideration of the sum of Ten pounds — being the Money given with the said Apprentice, his said Apprentice, in the same Art and Mystery which he useth by the best means that he can, shall teach and instruct, or cause to be taught & instructed, finding to his said Apprentice Meat, Drink, Apparel, Lodging, & all other Necessaries, according to the Custom of the City of London during the said Term. And for the true Performance of all and every the said Covenants and Agreements, either of the said Parties bindeth himself unto the other by these Presents. *In Witness* whereof, the Parties above named to these Indentures interchangeably have put their Hands and Seals the Eight Day of Octo — in the Twelfth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the second of *Great Britain, France* and *Ireland*, King Defender of the Faith &c., *Anno Dom.* 1739

Seal'd and delivered in the Presence of

James Drury Clerk

Henry Pearce

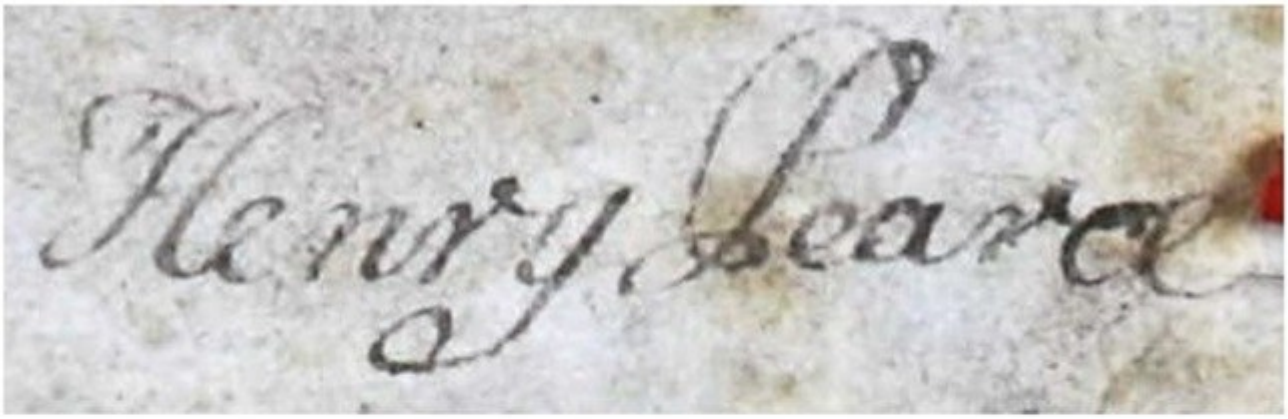
10/8/1739 Freedom of the City Admission Papers - Henry Pearce Master: Pockley Cotham , Clock Maker 2023 found by Robert Pierce Allen and his relative

Fifteen days later, 10/23/1739, England declared war on Spain. This was the ‘War of Jenkins Ear’, 1739 to 1748.

Two months later, 12/24/1739, London was frozen. Henry Pearce must have been cold.

Signature comparison. 1739 on the certificate. 1787 in his Will.

1739



1787

King George 2nd

Our Henry Pearce was born 1725 in England when King George #I reigned.

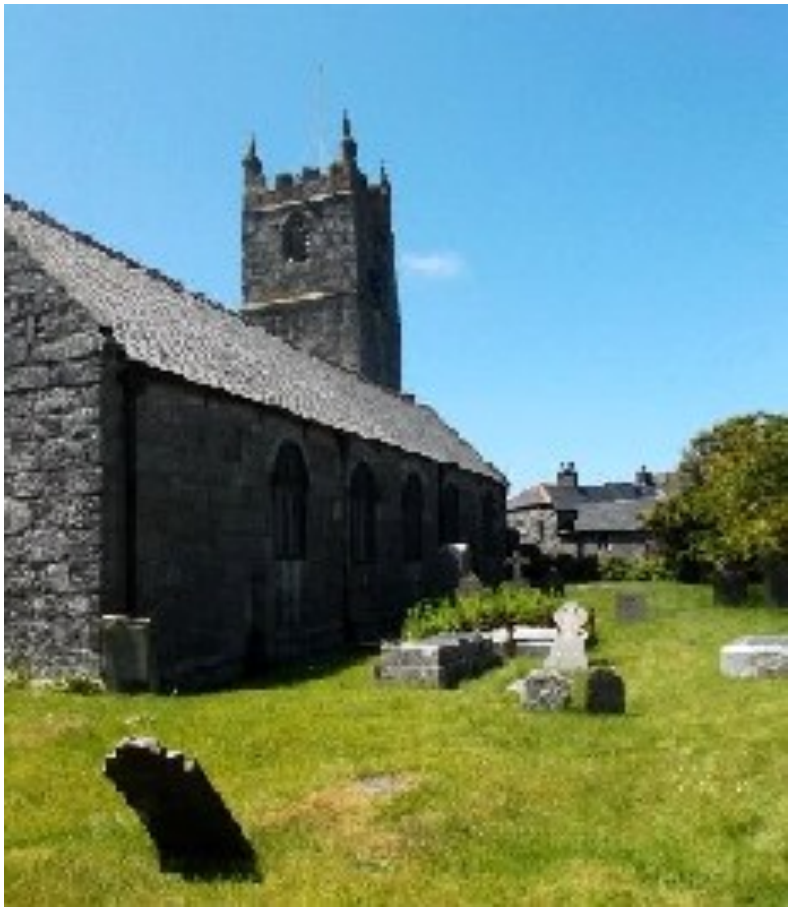
English **King George #2** reigned from **1727 to 1760**. Our Henry Pearce age 15 began his 1739 apprentice during this reign.

King George #3 ruled from 1760 to 1820. The 1776-1783 Revolutionary War occurred during his

King George #2 was born 1683 and died 1760 age 76.

1757 St Just Parish, Cornwall, England.
Potential church for Henry Pearce #1.

1908 St. Just Parish, Cornwall, England. at Penwith



A typical ship sailed 25 to 30 days, 3,000 nautical miles from England to New York at 1.1 miles per hour.

Coming to America

Many Scottish, Cornwall and Dutch copper miners came from Cornwall England to Belleville NJ. Many of the Belleville Dutch church tombstone are ancestor of Fairfield Dutch Reformed church tombstones.

In 1982, Glen found a broken tombstone half buried in the Belleville NJ Dutch Reformed church graveyard. It was for a **John Pearce** who died 1735. I think the stone showed John as age 25, therefore he was born 1715.

The tombstone said that John died from a Belleville mining accident. There was extensive copper mining at Belleville.

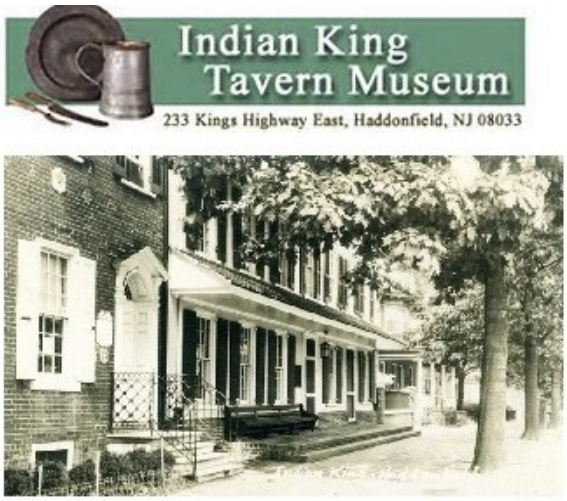
The broken stone was removed around 1984 when the cemetery was improved. I wish I had photographed the stone. I wonder if John was a brother of our Henry Pearce?

A major marker of the coming industrial revolution was the first steam engine in the United States, brought to Belleville by Josiah Hornblower in 1753 to pump out the Schuyler copper mines.

In 1797 Hornblower also achieved notoriety with two associates for building the first steamboat in New Jersey at Belleville. Although slow, the steamboat probably assisted Fulton in perfecting his ideas, which led to the famous run of the Clermont in 1809.

2/27/1777 New Jersey. The Declaration of Independence was adopted 7/4/1776 by the 56 delegates, the Founding Fathers, to the 2nd Continental Congress at the Philadelphia PA Independence Hall.

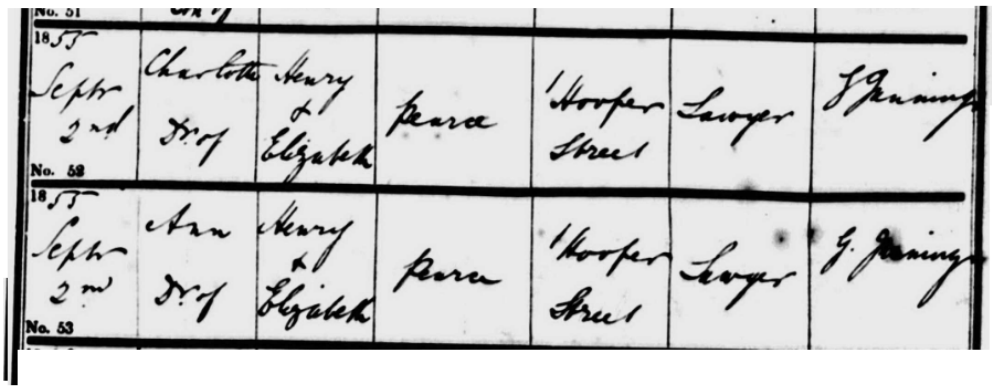
Seven months later, the Declaration was read in NJ. Henry Pearce would have heard the news.



2/27/1777, The Declaration of Independence was read into the minutes of a NJ Assembly meeting on the 2nd floor of the Indian King Tavern, Haddonfield, NJ.
(Info from the History Girl Kelly and Tom)

On this day, Henry Pearce #1 and wife Elizabeth Spear were on their Fairfield, Essex County, NJ 100 acre farm homestead with 4 young children.

6/20/2024 Here is an example of why researchers need to check better. The nice person, whom I know, thinks that the 1855 sisters belong to our Henry Pearce #1. Our Charlotte Pearce born 1776 was age 79 living in Caldwell NJ. She died 1863. I doubt that she went to 1855 England, got baptized, came back to Caldwell. These are not our people.



No. 51						
1855 Septr 2nd	Charlotte Dtr	Henry & Elizabeth	Pearce	Hooper Street	Lawyer	J. Fenning
No. 52						
1855 Septr 2nd	Ann Dtr	Henry & Elizabeth	Pearce	Hooper Street	Lawyer	J. Fenning
No. 53						

Glen Pierce

6/15/2024 I disagree with this 1855 from Robert info. Henry Pearce died 7/5/1788, well before 1855. Plus, Charlotte Pearce died 4/7/1863 age 86 in Caldwell NJ. This 1855 record has to be for a different Henry and Elizabeth. Glen Pierce
Plus, our Charlotte did not have a twin sister.

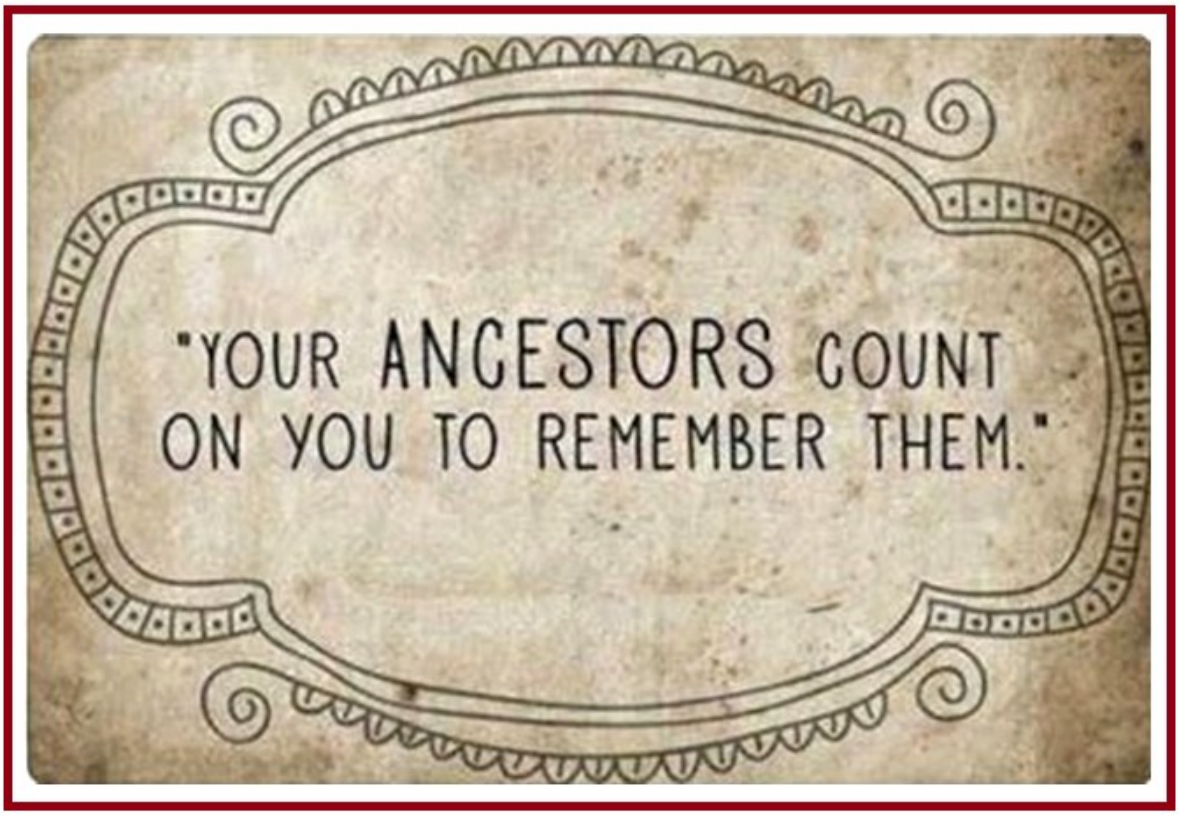
CALENDAR OF WILLS—1786-1790 175

1787, March 14. Pearce, Henry, of Horsneck, Essex Co., yeoman; will of. Daughter, Elizabeth, £10. Wife, Elizabeth, all real and personal estate, and, after her death, to my 4 sons, Henry, Edward, Andrew and George, my old homestead. Younger daughter, Charlott, £50. Executrix—wife, Elizabeth. Witnesses—Timothy Ward, Harman Masear, Encrease Gould. Proved April 30, 1789.

Lib. 38, p. 86.

Yeoman means farmer. Daughter Elizabeth (Betsey) age 29 was married 7 months earlier on 8/25/1786 to Job Crane, perceived as a rich man. Charlotte was age 11 in 1787. Henry died 18 months later on 7/8/1788 at Horseneck Road, Fairfield, NJ.

North America in 1783
Claimed by Great Britain and Spain
Hudson Bay
NEWFOUNDLAND
Grand Banks
BRITISH TERRITORY
Disputed between U.S. and Great Britain
LOUISIANA
MISSISSIPPI R.
NEW SPAIN
THE UNITED STATES
Atlantic Ocean
Disputed between U.S. and Spain
SPANISH TERRITORY
FLORIDA
New Orleans
WEST INDIES
CUBA
HISPANIOLA
PUERTO RICO
French
Pacific Ocean
R. M. Chapin



Great Great Great Great Great Grampa Henry out for a morning Scottish joust.