

THE SEARING FAMILY

The Searing family is English and in the early records the spellings of the name have included Syron, Seiring, Siring, Seryon, Siron and many more. By 1700 the common spelling was Searing as it is today in most cases. The family was probably originally Norman, from France.

The Searing family has its origins in the Hempel-Hempstead area of Herts (Hertfordshire) in England. The earliest members of the family to come to the Colonies were Simon (Cymon) Searing and his family. He originally came to the New Haven Colony and settled in Stamford in 1642, which was at the time, a part of this Puritan Colony.

The Searings then went to Hempstead Long Island in 1644 and later to Newtown in the general area of Flushing, New York. My line of the family went to New Jersey by about 1700 and many members remained in the Newark, Elizabethtown, Westfield areas of what is now Essex and Union Counties.

My line of Searings married with the Marsh family and migrated to Ohio in the 1790s. Their story is typical of the early English colonists to come to the American shores and within several generations headed west in the search of new homes.

My Searing Family History begins with John Searing who is the earliest of the line that I can trace. He remained in England all his life, but his son came to America and spawned a whole line.

JOHN SEARING

The Patriarch of the American Searings was John Searing who was born in Hempel Hempstead in England in about 1580. He married Jane Badger there on December 6, 1610 according to some records in Saint Savior's Cathedral in Hempel Hempstead. I have very little other information except that his son Simon (Cymon was another spelling) Searing married and took his family to America by the year 1640.

Keep in mind 1634 was the year that serious English colonization began. Our Searings were very early settlers and great Pioneers of the new English Colonies.

I have no information on when or where John Searing died. As I found absolutely no records of him in America, I assume that at his age of about sixty, he simply decided that he was too old to accompany his son across the seas.

He more than likely remained in England all his life and died in Hertfordshire.

SIMON SEARING I

Simon Searing was born in England about 1613. He married sometime in the late 1630s or early 1640s. I have been told by another researcher that his wife was Katherine Van Klieffe and they were married in Hertfordshire.

In America, the first mentions of him were in the records of the New Haven Colony as being in Stamford in 1642. This old record refers to him as Simon Seiring and the record lists him among eight men named as freeholders with a 'house lot and pasture land in he field.' I would therefore venture the guess that he married in England and brought his new family to the Colonies around 1640.

The early New Haven colony controlled most of the southern Connecticut shoreline and its influence went across the Long Island Sound to Long Island. Long Island came under first, the rule of the New Haven Colony, then the Dutch, then the larger Connecticut Colony and finally the New York Colony after the Dutch were finally forced out of the area.

We find the names Simon Searing and Thomas Armitage as both original settlers at Stamford, and as members of the group that left Stamford to cross the Sound and become the original founders of the town of Hempstead on Long Island. There is more on Thomas Armitage, another relative, in the upcoming ARMITAGE FAMILY HISTORY.

The following is taken from an 1868 HISTORY OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT by E. B. Huntington:

From the first, there seems to have been a degree of restiveness among the Stamford settlers in regard to the limited franchise they enjoyed under the jurisdiction of the New Haven Colony. As early as 1644, but little more than three years after the settlement, this impatience under such restrictions, was shown by the secession of quite a portion of the colony. Reverend Richard Denton, and those that agreed with him, decided to try their fortunes under the Dutch Government on Long Island, and accordingly moved and located at Hempstead.

The list of people included my ancestors Simon Seiring and Thomas Armitage. The town of Hempstead was named for the English town of Hempel Hempstead from where most of these people originally came.

Simon Searing went with others to Hempstead in 1644. He was involved in the first land divisions there in 1647. He was among those that signed a petition in 1674 to obtain a new minister of their own. He was an overseer in 1679 and Constable in 1681. In a HISTORY OF COLONIAL HEMPSTEAD, I found this: '... to the north, Simon Searing, one of the most respected of the early settlers, owned a large estate at Searingtown.'

In 1684 he was one of three men chosen to go to New York City to obtain a patent for the Town of Hempstead. This patent was finally granted on April 17, 1685. Another of my ancestors, James Pine was among those to whom this Patent was granted.

Simon must have died soon thereafter as he was in his seventies at the time. Another researcher has found that he died in 1691. I have nothing else on this Simon Searing other than the fact he had at least one child, a son John Searing, from whom I am descended.

JOHN SEARING

John Searing was born about 1647-1648 in Hempstead, Long Island. The first record I have on him in America is when he paid taxes in Hempstead in 1685. He was married in Hempstead, Long Island on May 10, 1671 to Susan Pine of Hempstead.

Susan was the daughter of James Pine and Susannah Armitage. James Pine was the son of James Pine senior and Edith Williams. Susannah Armitage was the daughter of Thomas Armitage and Susan Mitchell. Thomas Armitage was a good friend of Simon Searing and another very early settler in Stamford. Both the Pines and the Armitages were early settlers of Hempstead and English in origins. Family Histories of both the PINE and ARMITAGE Families are contained in this work.

John Searing remained in Hempstead all his life. He died there in late 1712 or early 1713 after having left his will earlier in 1712. A division of the lands based on the provisions of the will was entered in court on March 26, 1713. This will lists his wife Susan and children: John, James, Simon and Jonathan. The following is the land division record:

'These presents witnesseth that wee John Searing, Jeams Searing, Siman Searing and Jonathan Searing have made a Deviation of the meadow land that our father John Searing latly desesed in Hempstead in Queens County in ye province of New Yorck did give to ous by his will viz as followeth, John Searing hath a lot of meadow on Denton's Neck containing six acors as it was laid out for his share: and Jeams Searing, Simon Searing and Jonathan Searing having a lot of meddow land at Rainers Neck containg fifteen acars as it was laid out for thear shair and we above named do acknowledg to be satisfied and contented with the above said deviation as witnes our hands and seals this twenty sixth of march Anno Domini 1713.'

The following is what I know about these children. This information was taken from Mary Bunker's Book, LONG ISLAND GENEALOGIES OF THE DESCENDANTS OF THOMAS POWELL and from information supplied by Gladys Ingram. There had to also be another son, Samuel. In his will, Simon Searing makes reference to his brother Samuel Searing.

The children were:

JOHN SEARING was born in 1674 and died in 1718. He married Ann Pearsall.

JAMES SEARING was married twice, first to Sarah someone in 1703 He later remarried to Temperance Williams Seaman in 1735. She was the daughter of John Williams and the Widow of David Seaman. He died on May 2, 1746. They had the following children: James, Daniel, Sarah who married Jacob Fowler and Mary who married Daniel Williams.

SIMON SEARING is my line and is covered in the next section. He was born in about 1676 and married Aphia Ball about 1700.

JONATHAN SEARING was born about 1685 and married an Elizabeth in 1706. His will was proved in February of 1738.

SAMUEL SEARING must have been a son based on being named a brother by Simon Searing in his will of 1735. He was born in 1681 and died in 1738. Samuel's own will was dated October 6, 1738 in Elizabethtown, New Jersey. Based on the information in that will we find his wife was named Rose. They had the following children listed in that will: Isaac, Elizabeth wife of David Morehouse and Hannah wife of Simeon Bryant. He also lists six 'minor' children: Samuel, John (who I believe later married Ann Ludlam), Mary, Phebe, Sarah and Susannah Searing.

MERCY SEARING was born in 1688 and died February 6, 1763. She married Samuel Denton in 1710 and then Abel Birdseye in February of 1717.

HANNAH SEARING was born in 1683.

SARAH SEARING was born in 1691.

MARY SEARING was born in 1689.

SIMON SEARING

Simon Searing was born in about 1676 in Hempstead, Long Island, New York. He married Else or Alice Ball in about 1705. Else Ball was a daughter of Edward Ball and a sister to Thomas Ball of Newark. The BALL FAMILY HISTORY is treated separately and follows shortly.

Here is a tricky problem. I do not have any record of the Ball family being on Long Island at all. Simon does not seem to have gone to New Jersey until about 1720. His first child was born about 1710 which would have been on Long Island. It would therefore appear that Else was his second wife or he went to New Jersey earlier than we thought.

Simon and Else Searing remained in the Newark and Elizabethtown areas in New Jersey all their lives. Simon wrote his will on June 30, 1735. The following abstract of that will was taken from the New Jersey Calendar of Wills 1730-1750:

SEARING, Simon, of Elizabethtown, Essex County, yeoman; will of. Wife, Else. Son, Simeon, land joining land of Joseph Williams. Son, Joseph, land joining land of Mathias Swaim. Daughters, Sarah, Phoebe and Amy Searing. Executors - brother, Samuel Searing, brother in law Thomas Ball of Newark, and son Simeon.

Simon died in July of 1735 and the Will was proved in court on August 2, 1735. On August 1st, an inventory was made and it totaled slightly over 123 pounds sterling.

Simon and Else had the following children:

JOSEPH SEARING born about 1708.

SIMEON SEARING born about 1710. This is my lineage, and his life is covered in the next section.

AMY SEARING born about 1712. She married a Pryer.

PHEBE SEARING who died single and left her will on April 6, 1760 mentioning her sisters and cousins.

SARAH SEARING who married Joseph Wade about 1738, and had two sons. Andrew, who was born in 1740 and married Martha Riggs on December 4, 1765 and died in January of 1781. Joseph, who was born about 1742. Andrew was known as the '*Blind Fiddler of the Passaic Valley.*' After Sarah died, Joseph Wade remarried and had six more children.

SIMEON SEARING

Simeon was the eldest son of Simon Searing. He was born in about 1710 in Hempstead, Long Island. He moved to Elizabethtown on the New Jersey shore as a young man in the 1730s. It was there that he met and married Affia Ball.

Affia Ball was born about 1715 in Newark and was a daughter of Thomas Ball and Sarah Davis. As mentioned earlier, the BALL FAMILY HISTORY follows soon. There is also a section on the early DAVIS FAMILY HISTORY as well.

The family remained in Elizabethtown, Essex County, New Jersey all of their lives. They lived in a section called Connecticut Farms, named so because the original settlers of that area all came from the New Haven Colony.

Simeon wrote his will on March 29, 1760 and died in April. His will was proved on May 9, 1760. The following is an abstract of that will:

SEARING, Simeon of the Borough of Elizabeth, Essex County, yeoman. Wife, Affa. Children: Jacob, Daniel, Jonathan, Nancy and Mary Parsons. Real and personal estate. John Stits and Isaac Woodruff to divide the real property. Son Jacob and John Stits Executors.

Affia later married a Scudder. She died in 1785 also in Elizabeth. The following is what I know about their five children.

JACOB SEARING seems to have been the eldest. I have no records on him other than the fact he was alive when his father's will was written in 1760. There is the possibility, of course, that he died fighting in the Revolution.

MARY SEARING was born on September 2, 1754. She married William Parsons junior and they had seven children. They lived in New Providence, New Jersey. Mary died on August 16, 1815 and William died earlier on November 10, 1792.

NANCY SEARING was born in the mid 1740s and married John Marsh on November 21, 1762. This is my line and their lives are contained in the MARSH FAMILY HISTORY portion of this work.

JONATHAN SEARING married a Cherry girl and they lived in Springfield, New Jersey. They had six children. He died about 1800 to 1810.

DANIEL SEARING was born about 1740. He married Hannah Toff and they lived on Staten Island. They had six children: Mary who married Simeon Bryant, Simeon, Prussia, Nancy, Aphia and Hannah Searing. Daniel died at about age 40 at the close of the Revolutionary War. I believe he was killed in the War.