

HAYES-GENOTER HISTORY AND GENEALOGY LIBRARY
 RECORD OF THE PEWS
 TOWN RECORD - VOL. 1 - PAGE 202

Dec. 8, 1795 - "Voted that the purchasers of the Pews be put in the Town Book of such a Number to such a man or men, to him and his heirs forever."

Voted - That for and in consideration of the sum of money here after mentioned, well and truly paid to the Town of Pelham, by the persons here after named. The receipt whereof the Inhabitants of said town grant, bargain, sell and convey unto them the said persons hereafter named and to their heirs and assigns forever, the following Pews in the Meeting House in said Pelham. (viz)

1 - on the Lower Floor for the sum of Sixty-one Dollars is sold to Ens. Benjamin Barker and to his heirs and assigns forever	\$61.00	
2 - Capt. John Ferguson and heirs forever	\$61.50	
3 - James Hobbs & Jonathan Gilmore and heirs forever	?	(equally)
4 - Capt. Asa Richardson	\$52.00	
5 - Lieut. Ezra Ralph Marsh	\$46.00	
6 - James Richardson	\$49.00	
7 - Daniel Butler	\$45.00	
8 - Isaac Gage	\$44.50	
9 - Caleb Butler	\$45.00	
10 - Lt. Daniel Richardson	\$47.00	
11 - Lt. William Wyman	\$46.00	
12 - Ebenezer Palmer & John Cutter	\$46.00	(equally)
13 - Benjamin Coburn	\$45.00	
14 - Roger Coburn & Jonathan Lyon	\$45.00	(equally)
15 - Jacob Butler	\$44.50	
16 - Deac. Barnabas Gibson	\$46.00	
17 - Capt. Jonathan Gage	\$48.00	
18 - Lt. John Bradford & Asa Stickney	\$45.00	(equally)
19 - Benjamin Hamblet	\$48.00	
20 - Capt. Thomas Spofford	\$43.50	
21 - Abiel Barker	\$49.00	
22 - Nathan Hobbs	\$46.00	
23 - Capt. Nathan Butler & Jonathan Butler	\$46.00	(equally)
24 - James Gibson Esq.	\$46.50	
25 - Jedidiah Hardy & Jedidiah Hardy, Jr.	\$45.00	
26 - Capt. Jesse Smith	\$46.50	
27 - Capt. Jesse Wilson	\$45.00	
28 - Deac. Daniel Barker	\$49.00	
29 - (Samuel Barker & Samuel Barker Jr.)		
29 - Ebeneza Barker	\$49.50	
30 - Nemiah Butler & James Hall	\$52.00	(equally)
31 - Nathaniel & Henry Gage	\$47.00	
32 - Amos Moody	\$48.00	
33 - Joseph Pearson & Aaron Grosvener	\$45.00	(equally)
34 - Daniel Atwood	\$46.50	
35 - Joshua Atwood	\$46.00	
36 - Daniel Gage	\$46.00	
37 - Josiah Gage Esq.	\$46.50	
38 - Moses Whiting	\$48.50	
39 - Enoch Howard	\$45.00	
40 - James Ferguson	\$50.00	
41 - Lot Spaulding & Daniel Wyman	\$46.00	

Gallery

1 - Jonathan Butler	\$32.50
2 - Aaron Wyman	\$26.00
3 - Joshua Hamblet	\$37.00
4 - John Nevens & Lot Spaulding	\$27.50
5 - James Richardson & Isaac Carlton	\$37.50
6 - Edward Wyman	\$32.50
7 - David Atwood	\$37.00
8 - Samuel Davis	\$30.50
9 - Charles Hardy	\$33.00
10 - Benjamin Hamblet & James Ferguson	\$36.50
11 - David Sawyer & Moses Sawyer	\$40.00
12 - Abel Butrick & Jonathan Stickney	\$37.00
13 - Andrew Tallant	\$34.50
14 - Josiah Gage	\$33.00
15 - William Sherburne	\$38.50
16 - James Richardson	\$28.00
17 - Joseph Baldwin & Isaac Hall	\$32.00
18 - Isaac Hall	\$26.00
19 - Capt. Jesse Smith	\$26.00
20 - Ebenezer Ellingwood	\$36.00
21 - Ezra Wyman & Paul Atwood	\$34.00
22 - Esq. Abel Gage	\$38.50
23 - James Hobbs - Jonathan Gilmore - E. Ellingwood	\$38.50
24 - Solomon Barker & Jonathan Ferguson	\$41.00
25 - Edmund Tenny & Jacob Marsh	\$43.50
26 - Seth Cutter	\$38.50

Each sale includes "for his and his heirs and assigns forever."

This list includes a large part of the inhabitants of Pelham in 1795. It is the most comprehensive list available. Even today a complete list of inhabitants is not kept in the town. The census taken every ten years by the federal government is not available to the citizens. Its accuracy is often questioned as census takers, not aware of people living in the town or unfamiliar with the geography of the town, often skip whole sections of a town or city.

Each name in the list of pew owners represents a family. Eighty-seven such names are listed, but several owned more than one pew. Thirty-two owned one-half or one-third of a pew.

This plan was a method of financing the building or restoration of a church. This plan continued until the 1900's when the church took over and free seating allowed. The Family Pew was an institution and continued for many years.