

Dr. Nathaniel Pendleton Biography

Dr. Nathaniel Pendleton was a physician serving the residents of Gouldsboro, Maine from the mid-1830s until his death in 1877.¹ He was born 7 April 1803 at Islesboro, Maine, son of Rev. Joshua Pendleton (1781 - 1859) and Sarah/Sally Randall (1781 – 1863). The oldest of six children, he had four brothers – Joseph, Samuel, Adam, and Shubael, and one sister – Sarah Jane Pendleton Dodge.²

He married Eunice Grover, daughter of George W. and Lydia Stockbridge Grover, on 7 April 1823 at Islesboro, Maine. Eunice was born 19 Mar 1805 at Islesboro and died 26 Mar 1891 in Winter Harbor. She was the oldest of seven children, with two sisters and four brothers. According to her great-granddaughter, Eunice was “a small woman, with snapping brown eyes, and a snapping temper, too.”³

According to the family genealogy, Nathaniel studied medicine in Philadelphia for an unspecified time.⁴ He settled on Mark Island (near Islesboro, not Winter Harbor) which was owned by his father, then moved to Acre Island until 1828.⁵

Dr. Pendleton and Eunice moved to Winter Harbor in the mid-1830's with five children under the age of nine.⁶ Hancock County records indicate Dr. Pendleton purchased 110 acres called Lot C in Winter Harbor from the Bingham Estate on December 28, 1837 for \$303.50.⁷ He built a salt-box home on the property close to the head of the inner harbor.⁸

Three of his siblings - Samuel, Adam, and Sarah, relocated to Gouldsboro about the same time. Eunice's parents, and all of her siblings, except her brother George, also moved to Winter Harbor. Her sister Mary married Nathaniel's brother Samuel and lived near Prospect Harbor.

Between 1825 and 1845, Eunice gave birth to fourteen children including one set of twins. Two of the five children born in Islesboro died in 1835 after the move to Winter Harbor. Eight more children were born between 1836 and 1845. Five died as infants, two as toddlers. Martin drowned at age 12 in 1847. All were buried near the house on the harbor.

Their oldest son, Solomon, was lost at sea at age 28 in 1855, leaving a wife and two children. Francena, Roderic II, and an adopted son, Charles William, lived in Winter Harbor until their deaths.

Name	Birth Date	Birth Location	Death Date	Death Location	Burial Location
Eunice	06 Nov 1825	Islesboro	23 Nov 1825	Islesboro	Unknown
Solomon	08 Nov 1826	Islesboro	25 Aug 1855	At sea	Cenotaph in Greenwood
Francena	30 Sep 1828	Islesboro	03 Jan 1914	Winter Harbor	Greenwood
George W	24 Sep 1830	Islesboro	18 Sep 1835	Winter Harbor	Greenwood
Martha	18 Sep 1832	Islesboro	18 Sep 1835	Winter Harbor	Greenwood
Martin VB	06 Nov 1834	Islesboro	25 Jun 1847	Winter Harbor	Greenwood
George II	10 Oct 1836	Gouldsboro	24 May 1837	Winter Harbor	Greenwood
Edmond	16 Aug 1838	Gouldsboro	05 Sep 1838	Winter Harbor	Greenwood
Infant Son	09 May 1839	Gouldsboro	21 May 1839	Winter Harbor	Greenwood
Infant Dau	09 May 1839	Gouldsboro	21 May 1839	Winter Harbor	Greenwood
Caroline	16 Apr 1840	Gouldsboro	21 Sep 1844	Winter Harbor	Greenwood
Roderic	Mar 1841	Gouldsboro	10 Sep 1841	Winter Harbor	Greenwood
Roderick	26 Sep 1842	Gouldsboro	23 Oct 1918	Winter Harbor	Greenwood
Eleanore	1845	Gouldsboro	04 Dec 1848	Winter Harbor	Greenwood
Adopted					
Charles W	09 Nov 1841	Gouldsboro	10 Mar 1917	Winter Harbor	Greenwood

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In addition to his medical duties, Dr. Pendleton was actively involved in shipping and fishing businesses including an oil rendering operation on Spectacle Island.⁹ He owned all, or shares of, several vessels including the *Henrietta*, *Oolong*, and *Mary Jane*. He also served as the justice of the peace and post master.

Dr. Pendleton continued to acquire large parcels of land in the area. According to his great-granddaughter, Myra Smith Earl, "Grandfather Pendleton owned hundreds of acres of land behind the village, also part of the Bingham grant, beginning way up in the deep woods behind the hills, commonly called "the Doctor's Ledges," and continuing to the shore of the harbor. The lot on which our house sat was a gift from Great-Grandfather Pendleton to my mother."¹⁰

In the early 1850s, Dr. Pendleton began construction on "the finest house in town" which stood "on high land slightly behind the centre of the village and commanded a view of the whole village, the inner and outer harbors, the Mount Desert hills on the right and Schoodic Mountain and point on the left."¹¹ The white house with green blinds faced south with a garden surrounded by a picket fence. Pendleton personally spent countless hours building the house and barn alongside numerous hired laborers and craftsmen.

In May 1852, Dr. Pendleton prepared a new graveyard behind the new house. He removed the children from the harbor house to the new graveyard, marking their graves with white marble tombstones. Other family members were also laid to rest there.¹²

Dr. Pendleton documented his daily activities and financial transactions in a "pocket diary" for an unknown number of years. Twenty-one volumes (1852 – 1873, missing 1857 and 1874 is incomplete) have been preserved and protected by six generations of descendants. These diaries document everyday life in Gouldsboro, Maine from the perspective of the local doctor. His "calls" to ill patients at all hours of the day and night reveal the challenges he encountered including traveling between villages, the ability to diagnose illnesses, and limited medicinal treatments typical of the era.

Dr. Nathaniel Pendleton died on 7 Apr 1877 in Winter Harbor, Maine. He is buried with his wife and children in Greenwood Cemetery.¹³

¹ Gouldsboro, Maine is a town with several villages which included Winter Harbor until 1895. Dr. Pendleton voted and paid taxes in the town of Gouldsboro. He lived in the village of Winter Harbor.

² For more information about Islesboro – an island in Penobscot Bay, refer to <http://islesboro.maine-memory.net/page/1058/display.html>. Also, John Pendleton Farrow, *History of Islesboro, Maine, 1893-1983* (Bangor, Maine: Thomas W. Burr, 1893).

³ Myra Smith Earl, *Fond Memory: A Maine Coast Reminiscence* (Brunswick, Maine: Biddle Publishing Company, 1993), 37. Earl is the granddaughter of Solomon Pendleton, who died at sea in 1855.

⁴ Everett Hall Pendleton, *Brian Pendleton and His Descendants, 1599-1910* (Everett Hall Pendleton, 1911), 524. No dates are specified so it is unclear whether he went to Philadelphia before or after his marriage in 1823 at age 20.

⁵ Farrow, *History of Islesboro, Maine, 1893-1983*: 256.

⁶ Their oldest child, Eunice, was born 6 Nov 1825 and died 23 Nov 1825 at Islesboro, Maine. Her burial location is unknown.

⁷ Hancock County Registry of Deeds, Book 100, Page 233. <https://www.hancockcountydeeds.com/>. For more information about the Bingham Purchase and Colonel John Nixon Black, refer to <https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1713&context=mainehistoryjournal>.

⁸ Allan Smallidge, *Musquito Harbor: A Narrative History of Winter Harbor, Maine, 1790-2005* (Winter Harbor, Maine: Ironbound Press, 2006), 295-97.

⁹ *Ibid.*, 236.

¹⁰ Earl, *Fond Memory: A Maine Coast Reminiscence*: 21.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, 35-40. Earl provides a detailed description of the elegant house and recounts her memories of its destruction by fire in 1885.

¹² A detailed description of the removal begins on 15 May in Dr. Pendleton's 1852 Diary. The contract for their marble tombstones appears on the front inside cover. Pendleton erected a large monument (engraved with a schooner) to his son Solomon after his death at sea in 1855. Eventually, Dr. Pendleton sold lots to other residents of Winter Harbor. The cemetery is known as Greenwood and is managed by the town of Winter Harbor. At least 690 persons are buried there.

¹³ For more information about their graves, refer to <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/127274955/nathaniel-pendleton>.