

Age Context of Peter Burr and His Family

As we attempt to make history come alive at the Peter Burr House through the eyes of those who saw it first, it would help to have some context for ages and genders of the individuals. With an understanding of who was alive at the time of specific events and how old each family member was, we can gain perspective and understanding of what might have been going on in the family. In addition to family, others (friends, neighbor, and historical persons) could as easily be included as related people who also saw history through their own eyes. As with us today, our chronological age and placement in the surrounding environment has much to do with who we are and how we see the world.

Column #3 below gives the known dates of birth for each member of Peter Burr's immediate household. Column #4 gives the exact ages of each member of the household on the first Independence Day, and Column #5 gives the ages at the time of the birth of the last sibling. This information should aid in calculating ages at any given date.

Gender	Members of the Burr family	Birth	Calculated Ages on Independence Day July 4, 1776	Calculated Ages at Birth of last child 31 July 1785	Calculated Ages at Peter Burr's death Jan 20, 1795
M	Peter Burr, father of 13	21 Oct 1727	48 Yr, 8 mo, 13 days	57 yr, 9 mo, 10 days	67 yr, 2 mo, 30 days
F	Mary Stewart, mother of first 7	17 Aug 1730	Deceased (died. about 1772)	Deceased (died. about 1772)	Deceased (died. about 1772)
F	Jane Calhoun, mother of last 6	Unknown	Unknown (child bearing age)	Unknown (child bearing age)	Deceased (died after July 1785)
Children:					
F	Mary Burr	28 Oct 1756	19 yr, 08 mo, 06 days	28 yr, 09 mo, 03 days	38 yr, 02 mo, 23 days
F	Abigail Burr	16 Sep 1758	17 yr, 09 mo, 18 days	26 yr, 10 mo, 15 days	36 yr, 04 mo, 04 days
F	Sarah Burr	15 May 1761	14 yr, 01 mo, 19 days	24 yr, 02 mo, 16 days	33 yr, 08 mo, 05 days
F	Miriam Burr	25 May 1763	12 yr, 01 mo, 09 days	22 yr, 02 mo, 06 days	31 yr, 07 mo, 26 days
F	Jane Burr	29 Mar 1765	10 yr, 03 mo, 05 days	20 yr, 04 mo, 02 days	29 yr, 09 mo, 22 days
M	Peter Burr	4 Aug 1767	08 yr, 11 mo, 00 days	17 yr, 11 mo, 27 days	27 yr, 05 mo, 16 days
F	Hannah Burr	8 Feb 1772	03 yr, 04 mo, 26 days	13 yr, 05 mo, 23 days	22 yr, 11 mo, 12 days
M	James Burr	2 Apr 1776	00 yr, 03 mo, 02 days	09 yr, 03 mo, 29 days	18 yr, 09 mo, 18 days
F	Elizabeth Burr	16 Jul 1777	Unborn	08 yr, 00 mo, 15 days	17 yr, 06 mo, 04 days
M	Moses Burr	6 Dec 1778	Unborn	06 yr, 07 mo, 25 days	16 yr, 01 mo, 14 days
F	Ann Burr	28 Dec 1780	Unborn	04 yr, 07 mo, 03 days	14 yr, 00 mo, 23 days
M	William Burr	22 Jan 1783	Unborn	01 yr, 06 mo, 09 days	11 yr, 11 mo, 29 days
F	Esther Burr	31 July 1785	Unborn	00 yr, 00 mo, 01 day	09 yr, 05 mo, 20 days

Note: With this information, we know that

- If Peter Burr began farming his land about 1750, then he worked without the help of a son for more than 17 when his first son was born.
- If Peter Burr married Jane Calhoun in 1775, she became the stepmother of 7 children age 3-18.
- Coming into the American Revolution in 1776, 5 of his children were not born; 1 was a newborn, 4 were between ages 3-12, and 3 were teenagers.
- When Peter Burr died in January 1795, he had 5 children under the age of 18.

Now with these pieces of information, begin to imagine what life was like as little children interacted with teen and adult siblings. And how would children at different ages have viewed life as history occurred around them?

Visit the Peter Burr House

170 E. Burr Blvd., Kearneysville, WV 25430
(at Burr Industrial Park in the far right back corner)

See website for directions: www.RelivingHistoryInc.org