



Elizabeth Jane Langley Pearce.



Mr. Richard A. Pearce and wife Allie Falton Pearce.



Elijah Franklin Pearce and wife Susan Ella Tyner
1862.

children. She was loved by most everybody. We had company a lot; they were her church friends. They would visit on Sunday evening. She would read the Bible and help us children to learn some of the verses. She would go visit her oldest son, Elijah and his wife (Ella); they lived in Princeton. She would stay a week or maybe a weekend. He'd take her to other churches for reunions and associations that came once a year. They'd spread dinner and have all day church service at Johnston Union Church, as did the other churches.

She would help my mama (Allie) with us children and cook for Mama also. We were glad of her return home after a visit to see some of her friends. As she grew older she became weaker and she was sick for a short while before she died. She had told the children that she was leaving and not coming back. She tried to prepare us of her death, before she died.

After her death, I found out that she had gotten a monthly check of \$8.00 which was called old-age pension. It was a joy to her for her to receive that check, for she did not have to depend on anyone.

Source: Personal knowledge.

— Mrs. Ethel Jane Pearce Best
and Geraldine Martin Dudley

GEORGE PEARCE AND DESCENDANTS

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The Pearce Family in Johnston County started when George Pearce, a blacksmith by trade, sailed from England for the New World. He probably sailed from Bristol, England, since records indicate that all George Pearces who were immigrants (except one who went to Barbados and then to America) seemed to have sailed from Bristol.

George Pearce, the blacksmith, came first to "Manzemon Towne" in Lancaster County, Virginia. Here his name, along with others, appears on a land grant dated June 2, 1664. On August 12, 1675, Robert Lawrence, Jr., deeded to George Pearce, smith of Nansemon, 300 acres of land by Beaver Dam Swamp in Isle of Wight County, Virginia. In the years following he acquired several thousand acres of land by patent and deeds of sale.

His wife was named Ann and he had a son Phillip. George died April 9, 1705. His will was appraised by Arthur Whitehead, William Johnson, and Henry Pope. I do not know whether his will still exists. He apparently had a daughter who married a Jones.

Phillip Pearce married and stayed in the Isle of Wight County. He died March 20, 1727, leaving as heirs his wife Sarah and sons, Nathan, Arthur, Simon, Richard, and Thomas. All of the sons, except Nathan, came to Johnston County in North Carolina and were given land grants. Simon received a grant in 1756; Arthur in 1744 and 1759; Richard in 1744 and 1775; and Thomas in 1782. Phillip received undated grants. The grants in 1744 were in Craven County before Johnston was

formed. At one time the Pearces owned a large amount of land in Eastern Johnston County from the Neuse River to what is now the town of Kenly. In 1757, Nathan indentured land which he owned in the Isle of Wight County to Robert Holland. At that time Nathan was living in Northampton County in North Carolina. He later moved to Cumberland County, North Carolina.

Arthur Pearce was my ancestor, and since he is the only one I have researched at this time, I will follow his line of descendants. He died October 2, 1792, leaving as heirs his wife Mary; sons, Theophilous and Jesse; and daughters Winifred and Mornen. Winifred had married into the Fulgum family and moved to Tennessee where some of her descendants are still living. Mornen married a Watkins. Theophilous was in service for 84 months during the American Revolution. Arthur left in his will, in addition to his plantation, Negroes: Mobe, Primus, Peg, Fan, Dos, and Litha, a copper still, livestock, tools, furniture, and other things.

Jesse Pearce died February 12, 1807, leaving as heirs his wife Elizabeth and children Matthew, Levy, William, Jesse, Asa, Mathes, Asprilla Hays, and Elizabeth Rains.

Mary Pearce, widow of Arthur, died March 17, 1815. She left the following heirs: daughters Winifred Fulgum and Ann (Mourning or Mornen) Watkins and grandchildren and great-grandchildren Levi Pearce, Jesse Pearce, Matthew Pearce, Arthur Pearce, Betsy Rains, Nancy Moore, Zilphia Moore, Theophilus Pearce, William Pearce, Asa Pearce, Wily Pearce, William Pearce, Jr., Apsily Hays, and Polly Pearce. She did not state which were grandchildren and which were great-grandchildren, but in looking at Jesse's will we can tell who the grandchildren were.

All these early ancestors were farmers and some were also distillers of turpentine. They knew other crafts as well and seemed to be active and well-known throughout the area. There were many other descendants not mentioned in this series of articles who came from the sons and daughters mentioned and who lived in Johnston and surrounding counties.

Mrs. William D. Mason of Fremont, North Carolina, and Ms. Virginia Howell of Hornsby, Tennessee, are presently researching other branches of the Pearce family in Johnston County.

Sources: U.S. census records, U.S. military records, wills, will abstracts, Johnston County Library, Johnston County court records, genealogical section of North Carolina State Library, North Carolina Archives, North Carolina Records of Deeds and Grants, and Hamlet Public Library.

— Mildred P. Perry
and Frances P. Lampley

HARDY GRAHAM PEARCE FAMILY

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Hardy Graham Pearce (b. 25 Dec 1881 d. 21 Sep 1976) son of Joseph LaFate Pearce and Elizabeth Jane Langley, Joseph LaFate is the son of Billy Pearce and Smithy Bridgers. Elizabeth Jane Langley is the daughter of William

Parrish II (Kent) was born, 1962, William K. Parrish at Meadow School in Benneville. He taught there four years as the faculty at the Smithfield High grade teacher. He was until he became the principal and also taught the ninth grade. On June 21, 1967, another son was born to this couple, Franklin Todd Parrish. In February 15, 1971, William K. Parrish was appointed to fill the vacancy left by Justin McNeil, principal at South Smithfield Elementary School. The position was temporary but William K. Parrish was asked to stay on as principal. He served there for five years, earning his Master's degree in Education Administration from East Carolina University in June 1973.

In August of 1976, William K. Parrish was selected to be principal of the newly constructed Smithfield Junior High School.

William K. Parrish's love for God, his family, and most of all, his students, has earned him many awards and nominations, including Johnston County's nomination for the prestigious Terry Sanford Award, one of the highest awards bestowed to a person in the education field. William K. Parrish has one thing that is more important than any award. That one thing is: The love and admiration of his family and the people of Johnston County.

Sources: Personal knowledge.

— Todd Parrish

FAMILY OF ALTON JOSEPH PEARCE

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Alton Joseph Pearce is the eight child of Richard A. Pearce and Allie Talton Pearce, of Boonhill Township, Johnston County. Alton was born 3 Sep. 1930 in Johnston County.

Alton married 28 Mar. 1959 Frances Roberta Robbins (b. 13 Aug. 1934). Frances is the daughter of Perry Ruffin Robbins (b. 25 Apr. 1895 d. 24 Jan. 1959) and Bettie Massourina Lee (b. 3 Feb. 1899 d. 9 Nov. 1976), who were also farmers.

Alton and Frances were married in Wayne County by Reverend Ben Aggie Daughtry of Goldsboro, N.C., who was formerly from Johnston County.

Alton and Frances were blessed with two daughters of whom they are very proud.

Shelia Ann Pearce was born 12 Nov. 1960 in Wayne Memorial Hospital. Shelia graduated from Princeton High School and Johnston Technical School of Nursing. She is employed at Wayne Memorial Hospital, Goldsboro, N.C.

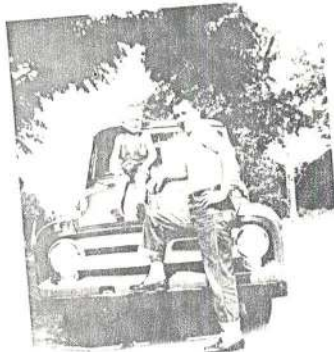
Shelia Ann married 3 April 1892 John Clark Nicholson II formerly from Burlington, North Carolina.

John is a graduate of Walter Williams High School in Burlington, N.C. He has an B.A. Degree in Business Administration from Elon College. John is a credit officer at Wachovia Bank in Goldsboro, N.C.

Rebecca Gale was born 10 Mar. 1962 in



Family of Alton Joseph Pearce: Frances Robbins and Alton Pearce, Shelia and Rebecca.



Alton Pearce and Donnie Wilkins, his nephew.



Allie Talton Pearce.

Wayne Memorial Hospital. Rebecca graduated from Princeton High School and Johnston Technical School. She has an Applied Associate degree in Cosmetic Arts and diploma in Basic Computer Programming. She is presently employed in Princeton.

Alton Joseph Pearce attend Princeton High

School and Wayne Community College. He has been employed in Civil Service for twenty-three years and is presently employed at Seymour Johnson A.F.B., Goldsboro, N.C. Alton has received awards for Special Achievements and Outstanding Performances.

Frances graduated from Nahant High School in 1952. She is a homemaker and housewife.

Sources: Family Bible and personal knowledge

— Mrs. Frances Robbins Pearce

BOBBIE GRAY PEARCE FAMILY

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Bobbie Gray Pearce (b. 30 May 1928) was the eighth of nine children born to Hardy Graham Pearce and Hettie Rogene Daughtry of Boon Hill Twp., Johnston County.

Bobbie married 9 Oct 1949 to Effie Belle Jones (b. 16 May 1931), daughter of Charles Raffie Jones and Effie Frances Baily. Bobbie Gray and Effie have two children:

1. Effie Pamela Pearce born 9 Aug 1950, married Billy Wayne Baily born 25 Aug 1948. Pamela and Wayne have two children: Shannon Gray Baily born 22 Jun 1974 and Billy Wayne Baily, Jr., born 21 Jul 1977.
2. Bobbie Lynn Pearce born 11 May 1955 has not married yet.

Bobby and Effie live on the Holt's Pond road, southwest of Princeton, N.C. in Johnston County.

Bobby is employed with a company in Goldsboro, N.C.

Sources: Family Bible and personal knowledge of Bobbie Gray Pearce.

— Geraldine Martin Dudley



The family of Bobbie Gray Pearce: Bobbie Gray at 53; Belle at 50, Pam at 30; and Bobbie Lynn at 26 on 23 July 1981.

FAMILY OF DOCK MARVIN PEARCE

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Dock Marvin Pearce (b. 1 Jul 1920) is the fifth of nine children born to Hardy Graham Pearce and Hettie Rogene Daughtry, farmers

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