OLD KENT

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Notes Illustrative of the Early Records
OF
KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND
BY
GEORGE A. HANSON, M. A.

SEC. 67. B. The Pearces came to Maryland about the year 1660 and settled in that portion of Kent county which was given to Cecil in 1674 and returned to it in 1706. They were active, prominent and influuential members of Shrewsbury Parish.

WILLIAM PEARCE, son of the High Sheriff of Cecil county, was distinguished in the early annals of Kent. In the years 1714 and 1715 he was the presiding Judge of Kent County Court. He died, March 1720. His wife, Isabella Pearce, died in the year 1729, leaving the following children, viz: Gideon Pearce, Benjamin Pearce, Daniel, Elizabeth Ward, Isabella Johnson and Sarah Hopkins, afterwards Sarah Rogers, and the following grand-children, viz: Rachel Blay, Catharine Blay, Benjamin Hopkins, Joseph Hopkins and Philemon Church.

Gideon Pearce, son of William and Isabella Pearce, married Beatrice Codd, daughter of Colonel St. Ledger and Mary Hanson Codd, and died, in August 1751, leaving the following children, viz: James Pearce, George Pearce, David Pearce, Andrew Pearce, Nathaniel Pearce Mary Pearce, Sarah Kennard, Elizabeth Scott, and Isabella Pearce, also a grand-son William Pearce.

James Pearce, for many years a Vestryman of Shrewsbury Parish, son of Gideon and Beatrice Codd Pearce, married, 17th of August 1771, Catharine Susanna Shannon. He died, in 1802, leaving the following children, viz: Isabella Pearce Freeman born 27th of July 1772, ames Pearce, Gideon Pearce, William Pearce, Elizabeth Pearce, Ann Pearce and Catharine Pearce.

Gideon Pearce, son of James and Catharine Susanna Shannon Pearce, married Miss Julia Dick, daughter of Dr. Elisba Cullen Dick, of Alexandria, Virginia, and left two children, viz: James Alfred Pearce and Ann Ophelia Pearce.

Ann Ophelia Pearce, daughter of Gideon and Mrs. Julia Dick Pearce, married D. M. Wharton, of Botetourt county, Virginia, and had the following children, viz: J. A. P. Wharton, Edmund L. Wharton, John A. Wharton, Catharine Julia Wharton and D. M. Wharton.

HON. JAMES ALFRED PEARCE, son of Gideon and Mrs. Julia Dick Pearce, married Miss Martha J. Laird, who died leaving the following children, viz: Catherine Julia Pearce, Charlotte A. Lennox Pearce, (Mrs. Crisfield, the gifted poetess), and James Alfred Pearce.

After the death of Mrs. Martha J. L. Pearce, Mr. Pearce married Miss Matilda C. Ringgold. He died the 30th day of December 1862, leaving his widow, Mrs. Matilda C. R. Pearce, with one daughter, Miss Mary C. Pearce, his other children surviving.

Hon. James Alfred Pearce was a gentleman of great and varied culture, and a Statesman of enlarged conservative views. He was not a politician in the usual acceptation of the word, and yet he was the most successful public man in Maryland, during the period of his life. Honors and offices waited upon him. His success was due, entirely, to his own, individual merits,— to his unsullied integrity and capacity for public affairs,—and the appreciation of his eminent qualities, by his fellow citizens. His death was regarded, by men of all parties, as a loss to the country, and deplored as a national calamity.. He was reputed to be, one of the wisest and safest Statesman in that august body, the Senate of the United States; and the minds of the people were turning towards him as a proper candidate for the Presidency, when death removed him from the Councils of the Nation. He died, leaving behind him a reputation which increases the treasury of National Honor, and a name which adorns the History of Maryland, and will be cherished in Kent county by generations unborn.

Mr. Pearce was born the 14th of December 1805, at the residence of his grand-father, Dr. Elisha Cullen Dick, in Alexandria, Virginia. His mother died when he was very young, and his early education was received, in Alexandria, under the direction of his grand-father. He entered Princeton College at the early age of fourteen, and was graduated in 1822, before he had completed his sixteenth year, dividing the honors of his class with Hugo Mearns of Pennsylvania, and Edward D. Mansfield of Ohio; both of whom were men of mature years and minds, and were distinguished in after life; the first for general scholarship, and the last in the Law, being the Professor of Constitutional Law, for many years, in the Cincinnati College. Among his classmates, also, were George R. Richardson, Attorney General of Maryland, one of the brightest ornaments of the Maryland bar in his day, and Albert B. Dod of New Jersey, afterwards a Professor in Princeton College, and one of the most brilliant rhetoricians and lectures in this coutry.

It was the custom of the College, at that period, for one member of each class, at graduation to write verses, descriptive of the character of each one of the class, in the order of the roll-call, which was called the "Honoriad;" which was written by him, best qualified, by the voice of the class for the task. The HONORIAD, for the class of 1822, was written by William Augustine Washington of Virginia. The verses descriptive of Mr. Pearce will show the estimate placed on him by his associates and class-mates. They are as follow:

"PEARCE!"

"With undissembled joy and homage free
Attractive Genius, next we turn to thee!
'Tis good to pause, and ponder on the mind,
Where all thy charms, thy countless charms, we find;
Where all thy vast and varied powers are shown,
And where thy pleasure 'tis to place thy throne.
In thee, admired Pearce! a mind is found,
Where all these charms and all these powers abound,
Yes! Fancy,—Wit,—and Judgment all appear
To meet and shed their mingled radiance here.
Hence JIM, we like to linger on thy name,
To tell thy value,—hear thy merit's claim,
Display thine honest egcellence, and pause
To pay our trifling tribute of applause.
Fain would the Muse have all thy worth expressed,
But dreads to put her talent to the test,
Oh! could she borrow but one tithe of thine,
Around that brow, that honored brow, she'd twine
As fair a wreath as ever learning's lore
Or princely pride in proudest moment bore."

After leaving College Mr. Pearce studied Law in Baltimore, with the late Judge Glenn, who was also a descendant of Col. Hans Hanson, and was admitted to the Bar in 1824. Shortly after his admission he commenced the practice of his profession in Cambridge, Maryland, where he remained about a year; after which, he went to Louisiona and engaged in sugar planting, on the Red River, with his father. He remained there about three years, and then, returned to Kent county, Maryland, where he spent the rest of his honored life. On his return to Maryland he resumeo the practice of the law, at the same time carrying on the farm, upon which he resided. He was not, however, permitted to devote himself to his profession, as he desired, for he was early called into public life.

In 1831 he was sent to the Legislature of Maryland, and in 1835 he was elected a member of the House of Representatives, and with the exception of a single Term in 1839, when he was defeated, by a small majority by the Hon. Philip F. Thomas, he was re-elected, from time to time, till 1843.

In 1843 he was transferred to the United States Senate, where he was continued, by four successive elections, until his death, the 20th day of December, 1862. During this long period of public service, the Library of Congress, the Botanical Gardens, the Smithsonian Institute, and the Coast Survey Department were favorite objects of his fostering care, and received great and valuable attention from him, while at the same time he faithfully, conscientiously, and with distinguished ability discharged all the Senatorial duties of a Legislator.

He was offered a seat on the Bench of the United States District Court, for the State of Maryland, by President Fillmore, and during the same Presidential Term he was nominated and confirmed Secretary of the Interior; both of which positions he declined, preferring to remain in the Senate, where he believed he could be more useful to his country. He left a son, now residing in Chestertown, Md., who worthly bears his honored name, James Alfred Pearce, and illustrates, at the bar, the "honest excellence" of his distinguished father. He is now (9th of Aug. 1875) the, capable, State's Attorney in and for Kent County, Maryland. (23)

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Ratification Nisi

In Re: Trust Estate of Mary E. Watts, dec'd.

In The Circuit Court for Kent County In Equity, No 2237

Ordered, this 28th day of July, 1933, by the Circuit Court for Kent County in Equity, that the Auditor's Account and Report, stated and reported by S. Scott Beck, Auditor, in the above entitled cause, be Ratified and Confirmed, unless cause to the contrary thereof be shown within three weeks from the date of the first publication of said natice, viz: August 19th, 1933; Provided, a copy of this Order be inserted in some newspaper printed and published in Kent County, once in each of two successive weeks before the 7th day of August next.

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ROBERT A. SHALLCROSS, Clerk.
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NOTICE is hereby given that the undersigned has obtained from the Orphans' Court for Kent County letters of Administration on the personal estate of

JOHN SCHAUBER

late of said county, deceased. All persons having claims against said deceased's estate are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the proper vouchers thereof, to the undersigned on or before the 8th day of January, 1934, otherwise they may by law be excluded from all benefit of said deceased's personal estate.

All persons indebted to this estate must settle at once.

Given under our hands this 6th day of July, 1933.

MARY A. SCHAUBER,
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References—First National Bank. All commercial agencies.

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