

**Notes on Mary J. Thurston and William C. Pierce,
Pioneers of Harvey County, Kansas,
Including Some of Their Ancestors,
Their Children, and Other Descendants**

Prepared by Roger A. Evans

November 1997

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Notes on Mary J. Thurston and William C. Pierce, Pioneers of Harvey County, Kansas, Including Some of Their Ancestors, Their Children, and Other Descendants

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Mary J. Thurston's American Immigrant Ancestors

Mary Josephine Thurston - "May," the daughter of David Thurston and Sarah Jane Hine, was born 1 SEPT 1859 in Grant County, Wisconsin. Her paternal American immigrant ancestors include John and Margaret Thurston of Wrentham, Suffolk County, England, who in May 1637 were passengers bound for New England aboard the *Mary Anne*, arriving in Boston Harbor on 20 June 1637. They settled in Dedham of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and later were among the first to live in nearby Medfield, MA. John frequently served in town offices, including many years as a selectman (*Thurston Genealogies*, 1892, by Brown Thurston, pp. 357-503, LDS microfilm 1697948, item 5).

Mary J. Thurston has many other direct ancestors, almost all from England, who were early American immigrants and whose descendants married into the Thurston family (based on the assumption that the family lines presented in the *Thurston Genealogies* are correct). Arthur Warren settled in Weymouth, MA, by 1638. His son, Joseph, later lived in Medfield, MA (*Some Descendants of Arthur Warren...*, 1911, by Warren Foster, LDS microfilm 1454558, item 32). Ralph Wheelock came to America about 1637 and was one of the most influential men of Dedham, MA, and later "the founder of Medfield." Ralph was on the committee for collecting funds for a new brick college at Cambridge, now known as Harvard University (*The Litchfield Wheelocks*, 1980, Family History Library, SLC, and *The Wheelock Family in America*, 1969, by Walter Wheelock). Thomas Wight was at Watertown, MA, in 1636, at Dedham in 1637, and a selectman for many years. He later lived in Medfield, where he was a church deacon and one of its wealthiest citizens. Thomas "subscribed" for the building of Harvard (*The Wights*, 1890, by Wm. Wight). James Allen was first listed in the records of Dedham in April 1638 and later lived in Medfield, MA (*...Allen Family...*, 1896, by Hutchinson, LDS microfilm 0896622). Samuel Morse left England, bound for America aboard the *Increase*, on 15 April 1636. He settled first at Watertown, then in Dedham, and later in Medfield, MA (*The Ancestors and Descendants of the Rev. Daniel Morse*, 1980, by Elliot and Morse). William Sabin was at Rehoboth, MA, in 1643, where he was one of the original settlers and a man of considerable property and influence. Richard Wright of Rehoboth, MA, apparently, came to New England in 1630 with the fleet of John Winthrop (*Early Rehoboth*, 1948, by Bowen, Vol. 3). Anthony Fisher came to America in 1637 and died at Dorchester, MA, in 1671 (*Dedham Historical Register*, Vol. 1, p. 25). *The History of the Town of Medfield, Massachusetts* (1887), by Tilden is an excellent source, covering several of the previously mentioned individuals. John Sweatland came to America sometime prior to 1650 and died at Providence, RI, in 1685 (*A Partial Genealogy of the Sweatland Family In America*, 1987, by Doug Sweetland). Hugh Calkins came to America by 1640. He served in many public positions, including 22 sessions in the Connecticut General Court (Legislature) and died in Norwich, CT, in 1690 (*The Calkins Memorial Military Roster*, 1903, by Wm. Calkins. See LDS Ancestral File). John Gore came to Roxbury, MA, in 1635 with his wife, Rhoda. He was a "freeman," 18 April 1637 (*History of the First Church in Roxbury*, 1908, by Thwing). Robert Royce was an early settler in Stratford, CT, and later moved to New London, CT, where in 1661 he served in the General Court (*NEHGR*, 1926, Vol. 80, p. 107). Reginald Foster was one of the earliest inhabitants of Ipswich, MA, settling there about 1638 (*NEHGR*, 1876, Vol. 30, p. 83). Stephen Gifford was an early settler in Norwich, CT, which was first settled in 1660 (*Old Houses of the Ancient Town of Norwich*, 1895, by Perkins).

Mary J. Thurston's maternal American immigrant ancestors include Thomas and Elizabeth Hine. Thomas had a home lot in Milford, CT, in JAN 1646. It has been written that Thomas once saved the life of a Mohawk warrior and "for this act he was held in high regard by the neighboring Indians who said that when Hine or his descendants died the Great Spirit took them at once to his big Wigwam." "The Great Spirit would always watch over and protect the good white face and his posterity" (*The Hine Genealogy*, 1899, by Robert Hine, LDS microfilm 0875144, item 3, see p. 169).

Mary J. Thurston has many direct ancestors, who were early American immigrants that settled in the New Haven, CT, area and whose descendants married into the Hine family. *The History of the Colony of New Haven* (1881) by Atwater mentions several including: Richard Miles, John Clark (died 1649), John Cooper (died 1689), George Smith (died 1662), John Thompson, John Hall (died 1676), Benjamin Wilmot (died 1669), Thomas Tibbals, and Francis Brown (died 1668). Francis Brown went with the advance group to explore the New Haven area in SEPT 1637 and was

among the seven men left to prepare the site during the winter. The early settlers of New Haven came to freely practice their religious beliefs and I have noted at least 29 of Mary J. Thurston's direct ancestors who were members of the First Church of Christ (Center Church) in New Haven, CT, from 1639 thru 1738 (*First Church of Christ*, 1914, by Dexter, LDS microfilm 0928515).

The Families of Ancient New Haven (1927) by Donald Jacobus covers the following immigrant ancestors of Mary J. Thurston: William Bradley, Henry Bristol, Francis Brown, John Clark, Joseph Collins, John Cooper, John Hall, Richard Harrison, Samuel Hotchkiss, William "Wingle" Johnson, Ralph Lines, Richard Miles, Roger Pritchard, George Smith, John Thomas, John Thompson (died ca. 1655), John Thompson (died 1674), and Benjamin Wilmot. *The Families of Early Milford, Connecticut* (1979) by Susan Abbott covers Thomas Tibbals, Thomas Hine, and their descendants. Thomas Tibbals, who in 1635, at the age of 20, sailed from London aboard the *Truelove*, guided the first group of settlers overland from New Haven to Milford, CT, in 1639.

Another immigrant ancestor of Mary J. Thurston, Thomas Sherwood, is well-documented in *Daniel L. Sherwood and His Paternal Ancestors* (1929) by Andrew Sherwood, which also mentions Robert Seabrook.

Mary J. Thurston from Wisconsin to Kansas

Mary J. Thurston's father, David, was born in New Lisbon Township, Otsego Co., New York on 12 May 1822 and was the son of Allen Thurston, born 27 Oct 1797 in New York and Lucy Wakely, born 12 Oct 1799 in CT. (Dates from *Thurston Genealogies*. I'm unaware of Lucy's parents). The *Thurston Genealogies* (p. 451) records Allen's birth in Norwich (Township), Chenango Co., NY, but census records suggest that he may have been born in what is now New Lisbon Township, Otsego Co., NY. New Lisbon Twp. was formed from Pittsfield Township in April 1806, and is ten miles SW of Cooperstown, NY. The 1820 and 1830 censuses recorded the Allen Thurston family in Otsego Co., NY. I've been unable to locate Allen on the 1840 census, but his parents, Amos Thurston and Lucy Dart, moved from Otsego Co., NY some time after 1830, and were recorded in Norwich Township, Chenango Co., NY, on the 1840 and 1850 censuses. David Thurston, a farmer, moved to Hine's Corners, Preston Township, Wayne Co., PA, apparently with his parents in 1842, and married Sarah "Jane" Hine there on 24 Dec 1846 (Thurston family Bible, to be herein referred to as FB. *Thurston Genealogies*, 1892, p. 503, records marriage 12 May 1847).

Sarah Jane, born 6 March 1829 in Jackson Township, Susquehanna Co., PA (FB, 1820 and 1830 Censuses), was the daughter of Merrit Hine, born 26 Dec 1792 in CT (FB, census) and Catherine Belcher, born 9 Oct 1793 (FB, 1850 and 1870 censuses record born PA, 1860 census lists born CT.) Merrit Hine, a farmer and early settler of the area, kept the tollgate at Hine's Corners on the Ohquagua Turnpike (*History of Wayne County*, 1880, by Goodrich, pp. 243, 244, 326). Hine's Corners, zip code 18449, is less than one mile north of Orson and about seven miles NE of Herrick Center on State Route 670, directly east of Sugarloaf Mountain. Merrit's father, David Hine, a native of Connecticut, served as a Continental soldier, aiding the colonies in the Revolutionary War, according to the *Commemorative Biographical Record of Northeastern Pennsylvania* (1900) by Beers (p. 1588).

The 1850 census (taken 10 SEPT) lists David, a farmer, and Sarah J. Thurston with their children, Charlotte S. and Francis, in Preston Township, Wayne Co., PA (p. 37, family 88), recorded next to David's parents, Allen, a farmer, and Lucy Thurston, with their son, Henry A., age 15 (p. 36B, family 87). Sarah J.'s parents, Merrit, a farmer, and Catherine Hine were also recorded in Preston Township (Twp) on the 1850 census with their children: Philander, age 27; David J., 16; Elizabeth, 20; and "Alvira" (Mary Elvira), 18; and Merrit's father, David Hine, age 87 (p. 39B, family 126). Note: David Thurston's sister, Armena, married Sarah J. Hine's brother, John, and they resided at Hine's Corners.

The *Thurston Genealogies* (1892) states that in 1854 David Thurston moved to Grant County, Wisconsin, "then an undeveloped country" (p. 503). However, a librarian for the State Historical Society of Wisconsin was unable to locate David on the index to the 1855 WI state census and other census records indicate that David's daughter, Cora, was born in Pennsylvania, 21 AUG 1855 (FB). Did David go to Wisconsin without his family to prepare a homesite in 1854 and then return to PA for them? If not, it would appear that the family moved to Wisconsin after AUG 1855 and prior to the birth of David's daughter, Elizabeth Jane, 28 JAN 1856 (FB. 1860 WI and 1875 KS censuses suggest born 1857).

The 1860 census (taken 18 July) records Mary J. Thurston, ten months of age (born 1 SEPT 1859), with her parents, David and Sarah J., and her siblings: Sylpha (Charlotte S.), age 12; Francis, 10; Henry, 7; Corinna, 5; Elizabeth, 3; and Ella, 2, in "the Town of Little Grant," Grant Co., WI (pp. 427, 428, family 1070). Also recorded in the town of Little Grant on the 1860 census were Sarah J.'s brother, Lorenzo Hine, with his wife, Catharine, and two children (p. 427, family 1072) and David Thurston's sisters, Maria Jane, with her husband, Samuel S. Breed, and three children, and Lucy Ann, with her husband, Abel Reynolds, and four children (p. 431, families 1097, 1098). The census designation of "the Town of Little Grant" apparently referred to the Township of Little Grant, not a village unit. Most of the men recorded in Little Grant were farmers or farm laborers.

Mary J. Thurston's death certificate records her birth in Lancaster, WI, the largest nearby city (population of 3,756 in 1970), but she was probably born at the family farm in the Township of Little Grant, Grant County, WI. I've been unable to pinpoint a true town of Little Grant on a map, but there is an entity called Little Grant that appears to be NW of Lancaster, receives its mail thru Lancaster (zip code 53813), and had a population of 375 in 1990. There is a Little Grant Cemetery about nine miles NW of Lancaster and about five miles east of Bloomington, WI.

Mary J. Thurston's father served in the Civil War, enlisting at Bloomington, Grant Co., WI, on 13 AUG 1862 as a private in Company I, 20th Regiment, Wisconsin Infantry Volunteers (Pension File). His residence was listed as Little Grant, WI, in the records of the Adjutant General. David was engaged in the battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas, in which the 20th Wisconsin had more than 200 casualties in 20 minutes, while charging up a hill, and was at the siege of Vicksburg and Fort Morgan. He was discharged from the service at Galveston, Texas, on 14 July 1865. While serving in the 20th Regiment, two of David's (and Sarah's) children died: Merrit Lorenzo, born 1862, died SEPT 1862 (FB), and Edgar Byron, born 1860, died 5 July 1863 (FB). David's only brother, Henry Allen Thurston, served in the Civil War, dying in the hospital at Fortress Monroe, Virginia, and Abel Reynolds, the husband of David's sister, Lucy Ann, also died in the War. Note: Lucy (Thurston) Reynolds, age 40, with four children (p. 289B) and Lorenzo Hine with his family (p. 288B) were recorded in the town of Little Grant, WI, on the 1870 census. David and Sarah J. Thurston's daughter, Gertrude, born 12 AUG 1866, about one year after David's discharge from the 20th Regiment, died in May 1869 (FB).

Mary J.'s sister, Charlotte Sylphronda Thurston, married Norman Lord on 16 DEC 1868 (FB), apparently, in Grant Co., WI. The 1870 census recorded "Sylvanie" Lord with her husband, Norman, and daughter, "Alferetta," in Bloomington, Grant Co., WI (p. 29). I've been unable to locate David Thurston and his family on the 1870 census, but the *Thurston Genealogies* (1892 Edition, first printed in 1880) states that he moved to Alta, Kansas (Harvey Co.) in 1872, "then an unbroken prairie, where he has succeeded in the face of many difficulties, including the grasshopper raid (1874), when famine stared everyone in that region in the face, in securing a beautiful home in the midst of a beautiful and fertile country, where he is now enjoying the results of an industrious and laborious life" (p. 503).

Mary J.'s sister, Corrinia "Cora" Thurston, married George N. Gibbs, in SEPT 1874 (FB). I was unable to locate a Harvey Co., KS, marriage record for Cora and George. They were recorded on the 1880 census in Lancaster, WI, with a daughter, "Gertruth," age 5, born in WI.

The 1875 (1 March) Kansas state census records Mary Thurston, age 15, with her parents, David and Sarah, and her siblings: Elizabeth, 18; Ella, 17 (Ella was recorded a second time as an inhabitant in the city of Newton on the 1875 census); and David, 5, in the Garden Township of Harvey Co. (Post Office, Garden City). The family was recorded as coming to Kansas from Wisconsin. The Thurston farm was 160 acres, valued at \$1200, where they grew wheat, corn, oats, and buckwheat, and had two horses, three swine, and one dog. Mary J.'s brother, Francis Thurston, age 24, was recorded next to his parents with an 80 acre farm.

Francis "Frank" Thurston married Mary Elizabeth "Mollie" Pruitt in Harvey Co., KS, on 15 March 1877 and Mary J. Thurston, herself, married W.C. Pierce in Harvey Co. on 22 June 1877.

Mary J.'s father, David Thurston, a steward in the Methodist church, was recorded on the 1880 census (1 June) with his wife, Sarah J., and his children, Elizabeth J., age 24, and David A., age 10, in the Garden Township of Harvey Co., KS (Enumeration District 237, p. 1). Also recorded with the Thurston family was Sarah J.'s sister, Elizabeth Hine Tuthill, Elizabeth's husband, Daniel Tuthill, and their son, Vernon. The census enumerator who recorded the Thurston family household was Norman Lord, Charlotte S. Thurston's husband. Norman, a farmer, was recorded with

his wife, "Sylphronda," and their daughter in the Alta Township of Harvey County in 1880 (E.D. 237, p. 22. Norman, as an enumerator, recorded his own family).

Mary J.'s sister, Elizabeth J. Thurston, married Edmund Stone in Harvey County on 5 SEPT 1880 and died 14 DEC 1880 in Harvey Co., KS. Her marriage and death dates are from the Thurston family Bible. Elizabeth J. Stone is buried near her mother, Sarah J. Thurston, at an abandoned cemetery in Section 24 of Garden Twp and her gravestone records her death on 12 DEC 1880.

Mary J.'s sister, Lucy "Ella" Thurston, who was recorded on the 1880 census (June) as a "servant" at Richard and Mary Safford's home in Halstead Twp, Harvey Co., married William D. Humphrey of Halstead in Harvey Co., KS, on 25 DEC 1880 (Marriage license records Ella as a resident of McPherson Co., KS, north of and adjoining Harvey Co.).

Mary J.'s mother, Sarah "Jane" (Hine) Thurston, died in Harvey Co., KS, on 24 June 1881 (FB) and is buried in an abandoned rural cemetery located in Section 24 of Garden Township, Harvey Co., KS (Take County Road 801 north from Halstead for seven miles, east one mile, north half a mile. The cemetery is on the east side of the road in a field). Her gravestone records, "Sarah J., wife of D. Thurstin d. 24 June 1881, Aged 52 - 3 - 19." David preferred to spell his last name as "Thurstin," rather than the more standard and accepted spelling of Thurston that I have used.

Mary J.'s father, David Thurston, had moved to Rice Co., KS, by March 1883, when he married Lucy A. Moss of McPherson Co., KS. David, who was 5'8" tall, with a sandy complexion, brown hair, and blue eyes, received a Civil War pension, and died on 12 May 1897, apparently, in Lyons, Rice Co., KS, where he had been living just prior to his death (pension file).

Mary J.'s brother, David A. Thurston, married Catherine "Katie" Donnelly on 29 SEPT 1891 (FB). The 1900 census records David with his wife and two daughters in Turkey Creek Twp, McPherson Co., KS.

William C. Pierce from Alabama to Kansas

William Capers Pierce - "Doc," the son of William Britton Pierce and Elizabeth F. Ward, was born in Russell County, Alabama, perhaps near Salem, the families recorded post office on the 1860 census. The nearest large city was Columbus, Georgia, about 20 miles SE of Salem, AL, across the Chattahoochee River. W.C.'s parents were married in Russell Co., AL, on 9 JAN 1853 (LDS film 1287156), and W.C. was apparently their second born child. W.C.'s death certificate records his birth on 10 June 1856 and his gravestone also records his birth in 1856, however, most census records suggest that W.C. was born in 1854 or 1855 and the 1900 census records his birth in "June 1854" (see Age Data On W.C. Pierce). W.B. Pierce, a Methodist, apparently named W.C. after William Capers, a Methodist bishop, who "became the most popular preacher of his denomination in the south," "a power in the General Conferences of the Church," "the founder of the Asbury Indian Mission at Coweta (1821) in present - day Russell Co., AL," and who died 29 JAN 1855 (*Dictionary of American Biography*, 1958, Vol. 2, pp. 483-4. W.C.'s namesake provided by Ethel Mae Prouty Castelli). "When he (W.C.) was a small boy, his father sent him to town to get a smallpox vaccination. When the shot began 'to take,' he vaccinated (using a pin) his brothers and sisters, unbeknown to his parents. From then on his nickname was 'Doc'" (Mary Romine, W.C. write - up, F245, *Harvey County History*, 1990, edited by Linda Smurr).

W.C.'s grandfather, Walton Pierce, was born in Georgia about 1803 and recorded on the 1830 census in Talbot Co., GA (p. 322), with his apparent wife and two males under five years of age. W.C.'s father, William Britton Pierce, was apparently born in Talbot Co., GA, and W.B.'s death certificate records his birth on 5 FEB 1824, however, census records suggest that his birth was in 1830 to 1832, and the 1900 census records his birth in "Feb 1831."

I have yet to determine the identity of W.B.'s mother, but a Walton "Pearce" married Cynthia Parker in Upson Co., GA, on 11 JAN 1827 (*History of Upson County, Georgia*, 1930, p. 185). W.B.'s mother may have died in Russell Co., AL, where Walton Pierce married Miss Elizabeth Jones in NOV 1839 and where Walton and his family were recorded on the 1840 (p. 11) and 1850 (p. 19, Beat 2) censuses. The 1850 census (taken 18 OCT) suggests that Walton Pierce and his family moved to Alabama after the birth of his son, Henry, (recorded, age 15, born in GA), and before the birth of his son, Wesley (recorded born in AL), on 26 NOV 1836. However, later records are inconsistent and suggest that Wesley may have been born in Georgia. I have been unable to locate W.B. Pierce on the 1850 census, he wasn't recorded with his father, Walton.

W.C.'s maternal grandparents, Ezekiel Ward, born in Georgia about 1805, and Sarah Middlebrook(s), born in Georgia, 12 March 1811, were married in Jones Co., GA, on 15 DEC 1827. I'm unaware of Ezekiel Ward's parents, but Sarah Middlebrook(s) was the daughter of Thomas Middlebrook(s), born 1763 in Caswell Co., North Carolina, and Anna Selman (Selmon), born March 1778. The American immigrant in the Middlebrook line was Joseph Middlebrook, who arrived at Concord, Massachusetts Bay Colony, in OCT 1635. He moved to Fairfield, CT, in 1644 and died there in 1686 (*The Smith Genealogy*, 1971, pp. 119 - 124, LDS film 1036262).

Ezekiel Ward and his family were recorded on the 1830 census in Upson Co., GA (p. 106), where apparently his daughter, Elizabeth, was born about 1833. Ezekiel and his family moved to Russell Co., AL, in 1835, where at one time they owned property on the Chattahoochee River, and where they were recorded on the 1840 (p. 4) and 1850 (p. 9, Beat 2) censuses. Ezekiel was a farmer and a member of the Masonic Lodge (*Lee County and Her Forebears*, 1983, by Nunn, p. 242).

The 1860 census (taken 13 July) records W.C. "Pierce," age 5, with his father, W.B., age 28, a farmer; mother, E.F., age 27; sisters, S.G.A. and L.A., ages 6 and 4, and brother, J.W., age 1, in Russell Co., AL, with Salem as their listed post office. The value of the families real estate was recorded as \$800 (p. 1064). The northern part of Russell Co., AL, including the Salem area, became part of the newly formed Lee County, named for Robert E. Lee, on 15 DEC 1866.

Jefferson Davis was sworn in as the President of the Confederacy, 18 FEB 1861, on the steps of the Alabama state capital at Montgomery and the Confederates fired on Fort Sumter, S.C., to begin the Civil War on 12 April 1861. Sometime just prior to, or during this difficult period, when W.C. was still a small boy, his mother, Elizabeth (Ward) Pierce, died and on 22 SEPT 1861, W.C.'s father married Texanna (Texianna) M. Adams in Coosa Co., AL.

W.C.'s father served in the Civil War as a private in Company K, 34th Regiment, Alabama Infantry Volunteers and W.B.'s brother, Wesley Pierce, also served in the 34th Regiment, as a private in Company A. W.B. records in an application for a Confederate pension dated 25 April 1896, that he was wounded in the side by a minie ball at Perryville, Kentucky, in OCT 1862. In another application dated 23 FEB 1898, W.B. records that he was wounded in the right side by a minie ball at Jonesboro, Georgia, in AUG 1864 (LDS film 1750444). W.B. received a Certificate of Disability for Discharge dated 24 Nov 1864, from the Army of the Confederate States after spending what appears to be three months in the hospital at Columbus, GA, due to "asthma" and a related bronchial problem (Alabama service records, LDS film 0880689, difficult to read). Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox Court House, VA, on 9 April 1865, to end the War. According to a family story, recalled by John Armagost, the farm where W.C. lived was not damaged during the Civil War.

The 1870 census (20 July) records W.C. Pierce, age 15, with his father, W.B., age 40, a farm laborer; step - mother, T.M., age 24; sister, Laura, age 13; brother, J.W., age 11; two half - sisters, Annie and Margaret, and a half - brother, James Walton, in Township 19 of Elmore Co., AL, with Wetumpka as their listed post office. The family had no real estate recorded and a personal estate valued at \$300 (p. 98B). The southern part of Coosa Co., AL, became part of the newly formed Elmore County on 15 FEB 1866, with Wetumpka as its county seat). The 1870 census also recorded W.C.'s grandfather, Walton Pierce, a farmer, with \$1,500 in real estate in Township 19 of Elmore Co., AL (P.O. Wetumpka, p. 92). Walton's son, Wesley, a farm laborer, and his family were recorded next to Walton's family without any real estate listed.

I have encountered more than one source that indicates W.C. was "reared" near Eclectic, AL, which is 12 miles NE of Wetumpka and 22 miles NE of Montgomery, AL. Eclectic had a population of 715 in 1950.

W.C.'s father, William Britton Pierce, died 16 JAN 1929, in Tallassee, Elmore Co., AL, due to bronchial pneumonia following the flu. W.B., affectionately known as "Uncle Britt," was reported approaching his 105th birthday, and as the oldest citizen of Elmore Co., "Belonging to that old school of Southern gentlemen, Mr. Pierce believed in elderly men wearing a beard and took a pride in grooming his long grey whiskers which reached nearly to his waist line" (Obituary, *Montgomery Advertiser*, 18 JAN 1929, front page). Buried at Pleasant Grove Cemetery, Eclectic, AL, on County Road 44, his gravestone records, "W.B. Pierce, Co. K, 34 Ala. Inf., CSA" (No dates).

John Armagost recalls another family story that indicates W.C. Pierce left his Alabama home as a young man, going first to Texas and then to Kansas. While I have no data to confirm that W.C. first traveled to Texas, many families from Alabama did settle in Texas, before and after the Civil War. If W.C. did go to Texas, he apparently, returned to Alabama before going on to Kansas, as the 1885 Kansas state census records that W.C. came to Kansas from the state of Alabama ("Where from to Kansas").

The first pioneers settled in what is now Harvey Co., KS, in 1869. In 1870 the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad Company decided to lay a track south to meet the Chisholm Trail, the great Texas cattle trail extending from Texas to Abilene, KS. The site of Newton, KS, was selected for the railhead, with the first passenger train arriving at Newton's depot on 17 July 1871. Newton, as a shipping point for Texas cattle, became a boomtown, with an unruly populace, but by late 1872 the railroad had extended south to Wichita and the cattle drives no longer came to Newton. Harvey County was organized on 29 FEB 1872 with a population of 2000, growing to 5400 in 1875, and 11,450 in 1880. Halstead, the second city established in Harvey Co., was laid out in the spring of 1873 on the Little Arkansas River, as settlers followed the railroads extension west from Newton in 1872. The movies "Picnic" with William Holden and "The Parade" with Rosanna Arquette were filmed in Halstead, KS.

W.C. Pierce, apparently came to Halstead, KS, on the Santa Fe Railroad in 1874. His obituary in March 1936, states, that W.C. "came to Harvey County 62 years ago." Mary Romine records that W.C. came to Halstead to visit his father's brother, though, I have yet to determine who that may have been. Ms. Romine has further recorded that W.C. owed \$12 to a Mr. and Mrs. Van Horne, "who had come on the train with him" (The 1875 Kansas state census recorded T.B. "Van Horn," with his wife, A.E., and six children in Sedgwick Twp, Harvey Co. The family was listed from Alabama, with their youngest son, age 1, born in Alabama, suggesting their arrival in Kansas within the last year). Once in Halstead, W.C. found lodging at a rooming house and successfully applied for a job digging cellars. *The History of Harvey County, 1871 - 1881*, by Judge Muse, indicates that in the spring of 1874 many homes and businesses were being built in the growing town of Halstead (p. 31). W.C. proceeded to "dig more cellars than anyone else in Halstead," saved his money, and paid his debt to the Van Hornes. Meanwhile, W.C. had observed the women of Halstead driving cows to and from pasture each day. He sought and received the job, allowing him to drive the cows to pasture before work and return them to their sheds after work. He continued to pasture the cows for several years and saved money to send for his younger brother, "Johnny," in Alabama. In addition, W.C. started to buy caves and then bought a pasture, his first piece of real estate, allowing him to drive the cows to his pasture and receive rent.

I was unable to locate W.C. on the 1875 Kansas state census, however, an "A.C. Pierce," age 21, a laborer, born in and from Alabama, was recorded in Halstead Twp, Harvey Co., KS.

W.C. Pierce and Mary J. Thurston in Harvey County, Kansas

"W.C. Pierce," age 22, of Halstead, married Miss Mary J. Thurston, age 19, of Harvey Co., at the National Hotel in Newton, KS, on 22 June 1877 (Harvey Co., Marriage record). "They moved into light-housekeeping rooms next door to Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Warkentin who also had light-housekeeping rooms. Mr. Pierce told his wife on their wedding day, 'I'll make you a million dollars,' and she answered, 'You make it and I'll save it.'" (Mary Romine, F245, *Harvey County History*, 1990, edited by Linda Smurr).

The 1880 census (June) recorded "William Pierce," age 25, a farmer, with his wife, Mary, age 20, keeping house, their 8 month old daughter, Edna, and W.C.'s brother, John, age 19, a store clerk, in Halstead Twp., Harvey Co., KS (E.D. 239, p. 11, family 109). The occupations listed for those near the Pierce family suggest that they were living in the town of Halstead at this time and Mary J.'s sister, Ella, age 22, was recorded nearby as a "servant" in the Richard Safford household (family 85). The "Barnard" Warkentin family (#162) was also recorded in Halstead Twp. in 1880, including a daughter named Edna, age 3.

W.C., after saving his money for a number of years, bought his first farm, sometime prior to March 1885, about seven and a half miles NW of Halstead in Garden Township, consisting of 160 acres. He then bought the East half of the Section containing his farm. W.C. next purchased 318 acres about one and a half miles south of his homeplace, on Black Kettle Creek in Section 5 (East half) of Halstead Twp., recorded on the Halstead Plat map of 1902. This property was adjoining and north of a 160 acre parcel previously owned by James M. Pierce (relation unknown), in Section 8 of Halstead Twp.

The 1885 (1 March) Kansas state census records W.C. Pierce, 28, a farmer, with his wife, Mary, 24, and his children, Edna, 5, and George, 4, in the Garden Township of Harvey Co., with Christian as their Post Office. W.C. was listed as the owner of a farm, where 100 acres of winter wheat were sown in the fall of 1884 and 46 acres of corn, 15 acres of oats, 1 acre of Irish potatoes, and 15 acres of millet and hungarian were planted in the spring of 1885. The farm had 900 (unclear) bushels of corn and 25 bushels of wheat "on hand," and 3 horses, 2 mules or asses, 7 milch cows, 89 other cattle, 125 swine, and 1 dog. The family made 150 pounds of butter and slaughtered or sold for slaughter, animals valued at \$1,175 during the previous 12 months.

In 1894 with a growing family, W.C. sold the homeplace in Garden Twp. and bought the Bill Prouty place on 12th, a quarter section, about 5 miles west of Newton in the Macon Twp., where the Pierce family lived for many years. The house had 6 rooms to which W.C. added 2 rooms on the north, 2 rooms on the west, a 2 room basement, and front and back porches. Here the children attended the Prouty School (School #42. Data from Mary Romine.).

The 1895 (1 March) Kansas state census records W.C. Pierce, 39, with his wife, Mary, 35, and his children: Edna, 15; George, 14; Elizabeth, 9; Ethel, 7; Beryl, 6; William, 4; Ella, 3, and "Kneva", age 2 months, in Macon Township, Harvey Co., with Halstead as their listed Post Office. W.C.'s recorded farm had 149 acres and a cash value including improvements of \$3,000, where 50 acres of winter wheat were sown in the fall of 1894 and 40 acres of corn, 1 acre of Irish potatoes, 10 acres of sorghum, 10 acres of millet and hungarian, and 6 acres of alfalfa were planted in the spring of 1895. The farm had 1,000 bushels of corn "on hand," 10 horses, 4 milch cows, 119 other cattle, 75 swine, 100 apple trees, 100 peach trees, 25 cherry trees, and 1 dog. The family listed 350 pounds of butter made during the previous 12 months.

"Many immigrant German couples were coming to Harvey County to work on farms until they could become established. The Pierces needed help so they hired these couples. The wife helped in the house and the husband helped with farming." (Mary Romine, F245). A number of German couples got their start in America at the busy Pierce home. "Twelve loaves of bread were baked every other day, 12 fruit pies were baked every weekend. Gallons of cottage cheese were made from the milk as well as many pounds of butter. Mrs. Pierce sewed clothes for family and hired help and a daughter said her mother would stand at the stove knitting stockings and socks while she fried the meat." "Many of the immigrants spoke little English, so communication was difficult, but the immigrants were eager learners. In the evening when the work was finished, the family and help would gather in the parlor and Mrs. Pierce would read books. First she began with the children's books: *Secret Garden*, *Black Beauty*, *Treasure Island*, *Little Lame Prince* and western stories, and finally the Dickens' classics." (Mary Romine, F245).

"Mr. Pierce continued to buy land and when the immigrants began to have families, he would place them on a farm. He started them with a little furniture, a cow, a hog, and some chickens." (Mary Romine, F245). William and Anna Keller lived on and worked a Pierce farm at SW8 - 23S - 2W from about 1916 to 1920. Samuel and Luise Klein, German immigrants (1909), at one time worked a Pierce farm south of Hesston. Some other immigrants hired by the Pierces include the Walters and Hirschler families. Years of hard work and sacrifice provided W.C. Pierce and his family with a growing and successful farm and livestock business. W.C. always had his eye out for good farm land and Meg (Graybill) Williams recalls that he made his rounds between farms, wearing a money belt containing up to \$2,000 in gold, in order to make a quick purchase on a desirable property when the opportunity arose.

Mary Romine records some subsequent properties purchased by W.C. Pierce as a "half section, 1 1/2 miles west on 1st St.," followed by a "quarter section across the road from the homeplace;" "160 acres south and west of Hesston;" a "quarter section and 40 acres south of Emma Church;" a "quarter section, 2 miles west on 12th;" a "half section at Twin Bridges;" and a "quarter section on old 5 west on 12th."

The 1900 census (1 June) records W.C., 45, and Mary J. Pierce, 40, with their children: George G., 19; Sarah E. (Elizabeth), 14; Ethel C., 12; Arlettie B. (Beryl), 11; Willie W., 10; Lucy E. (Ella), 8, and Harold D., 3, in Macon Twp., Harvey Co., KS. Mary J. is recorded married 22 years with 11 children born and 8 living (E.D. 84, p. 1, family 1).

The 1910 census (April) records William C., 56, and Mary J. Pierce, 50, with their children: Elizabeth S., 24; William W., 19; (Lucy) E., 18; Harold, 13, and their grandson, Theodore Ervin, age 1, in Macon Twp., Harvey Co., KS (E.D. 39).

"When the youngest son, Harold, was ready for high school, Mrs. Pierce felt it was time to retire. They had bought a large house at the end of the 700 block on West Broadway. Mr. Pierce kept delaying retirement. He always had one other deal 'going.' One day as he came home from making the rounds of his farms by way of horse and buggy, he found a note "Harold and I have moved to Newton. We would be happy to have you join us.' He did!" (Mary Romine, F245). W.C.'s obituary in March 1936 states that, "Twenty - four years ago he retired from active farm work, and moved to Newton" (ca 1912). His death certificate records that W.C. spent 40 years as a farmer, last working at that occupation in SEPT 1914 (which suggests that he started farming in 1874), and that he had lived in Newton for 24 years (since 1912).

"After high school Harold thought he would like to have a cattle ranch in Colorado. So he, his parents and sister, Elizabeth, homesteaded land near Walsenberg, Colorado known as 'Rattlesnake Buttes.' Mr. Pierce also bought other ranch land there." (Mary Romine, F245).

I've been unable to locate W.C. and Mary J. on the 1920 census, but an unidentified Wm. C. Pierce was recorded as a Hotel lodger at 1229 19th St. in Denver, Colorado (JAN) and Harold Pierce was listed as a "Roomer" in Pueblo, CO, working at a steel mill. Several seasons of dry weather helped persuade Harold to try California and back in Newton, W.C. and Mary J. eventually "decided to build a Tudor brick house at 720 West Broadway. Mr. Pierce inspected every brick and copper pipe that went into the house. Workmen said he rejected more brick than he used." (Mary Romine, F245).

Mary J. Pierce loved company, many nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and other family and friends came to visit in the Pierce home. Some came to spend the summer and a sister of Mary J.'s once stayed for months. Mary J. enjoyed playing canasta and taught Mary Romine to play "whist." She made great pies and a wonderful apricot jelly and although an understanding woman, Mary J., expected her husband, who chewed tobacco, to clean his own brass spittoon. Later, when W.C.'s eyes failed, Mary J. "kept him abreast of the news of the day by reading him the *Daily K.C. Star* and *Times*." (Mary Romine, F245).

Although, at one time, W.C. considered himself a Methodist, Mary Romine can't recall W.C. or Mary J. Pierce attending church. W.C.'s daughter, Elizabeth, considered her father a very generous man and recalled that he always gave anonymously.

W.C. Pierce died 4 March 1936, in Newton, Harvey Co., KS, and his death certificate records his cause of death as "chronic interstitial nephritis," a condition he developed in FEB 1934.

"William C. Pierce, familiarly known as 'Doc' Pierce, pioneer resident of Harvey county passed away at his home at 720 West Broadway at 10:40 last night at his home following an illness of three weeks." "Funeral services will be held Saturday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at the home." "'Doc' Pierce was one of the few pioneers left in Newton. He came to Harvey county 62 years ago and settled on a farm one mile west of the county farm. He was possessed of unusual business acumen and added many acres to his original 160 acres. Twenty - four years ago he retired from active farm work, and moved to Newton and he and his wife enjoyed the comfort of a lovely modern home in the last years. Mr. Pierce enjoyed his contacts with business men on Main street and although he lived quite a distance from town, he walked every day to the city, until only a few days before he was stricken." He was survived by his wife, six children, and Theodore, an adopted grandson. "Mrs. Ethel Prouty and Mrs. Beryl Ervin, two daughters, preceded their father in death." "Alice Batchelor of Arkansas City, Kas., is sister surviving. There are also three half - sisters and two half - brothers surviving. There are also 25 grandchildren and 14 great - grand children surviving." (Obituary, *Evening Kansan-Republican*, Newton, KS, Thursday, 5 March 1936. I've been unable to locate any data on W.C.'s sister, "Alice Batchelor"). Note: W.C.'s death certificate records both his birthplace and his parents birthplace as Montgomery, Alabama, which is incorrect. The informant for W.C.'s death cert. was his wife, "Mrs. Mary Thurston Pierce."

W.C. died without a will and his probate records (Harvey Co. - case no. 3277, provided by Ethel Mae Prouty Castelli) list his heirs as: Mary J. Pierce, Newton; Edna M. Dunlavy, St. Louis, MO; George G. Pierce, Newton; Sarah Elizabeth Romine, Neosho, MO; William W. Pierce, Bloomington, CA; Ella M. Royer, Route 1, Newton; Harold D. Pierce, 5105 West 20th St., L.A., CA; Theodore M. Pierce, adopted son, 1036 S.W. Temple, SLC, UT; and Harold Prouty, grandson, 819 Main St., Wichita, KS. The final probate record valued W.C.'s personal property at \$22,592.91 and his real estate, totaling 13 properties, at \$123,955, for a total estate valued at \$146,547.91, prior to debts and

expenses ("property at death subject to the Kansas legacies and successions tax law"). In addition, W.C. had property in Colorado. Apparently, each of W.C.'s recorded heirs received a piece of his real estate, with Harold Prouty receiving the East half of the SE quarter of Section 31 in Township 22. The probate was filed open in March 1936 and filed closed in DEC 1937.

Mary Josephine (Thurston) Pierce - "May," died 12 JAN 1944 in Newton, Kansas, age 84, and her death certificate records her cause of death as a "cerebral hemorrhage," that occurred four days prior to her death. She had been diagnosed with arterial hypertension for ten years.

"Mrs. Mary J. Pierce, widow of William C. Pierce, passed away at her home, 720 West Broadway, at 11:30 Wednesday night, following a stroke which she suffered several days ago." "Funeral services will be held at 2:00 o'clock Saturday afternoon at the Pierce home" (Obituary, *Evening Kansan-Republican*, Thursday, 13 Jan 1944). Her obituary failed to mention that Mary J. was an early Harvey County pioneer, arriving with her parents in 1872. Both W.C. (Lot 2, grave 5), and Mary J. Pierce (Lot 2, grave 4), are buried in Block one of the Halstead Cemetery, Harvey Co., KS, near their children: Neva Pierce (grave 1), Elizabeth Romine (grave 3), and Ella Royer (grave 6).

The children of Mary Josephine Thurston and William Capers Pierce

Format:

1. Child

A. Grandchild

(1) Great-grandchild, with great-great-grandchildren.

1. **Edna May Pierce** was born 25 OCT 1879 at Halstead, Halstead Twp., Harvey, KS, and died 21 April 1964 at Stockton, CA, due to coronary thrombosis, age 84. She married John Marion Dunlavy, 16 DEC 1896, at the "house of the bride" just west of Newton, KS, in Macon Twp. John M. was born 3 June 1874 in Dickinson Co., KS and died 9 OCT 1938 at St. Louis, MO. John Marion served as a pastor in three different denominations; Methodist, Presbyterian, and Congregational, preaching in various cities, including, Frontenac, KS, Kansas City, KS, and St. Louis, MO.

The 1920 census (JAN) recorded Edna M. Dunlavy, age 40, with her husband, J. Marion (listed as a farmer), and seven children in Emma Twp., Harvey Co., KS (E.D. 46, p. 9).

After her husband's death, Edna lived with Margaret (her daughter) and Henry Bielfeldt in St. Louis and then spent a while with her son, Paul. Eventually, Edna moved back to Newton, KS, where she lived with her mother and brother, George, at 720 W. Broadway, until the death of her mother in JAN 1944. After Mary J. Pierce died, George purchased a home at 510 Ash Street, where he and Edna lived until his death in FEB 1953. Periodically, Edna would make long visits with her children. Later, she rented a room on Broadway in Newton and just prior to her move to Calif., four months before her death in April 1964, Edna was living at 212 E. 9th, perhaps with her sister, Ella Royer. In Newton, Edna was a member of the First Methodist Church, the Thespian Club, and the Women's Christian Temperance Union. Edna, a fan of the St. Louis Cardinals, who enjoyed playing card games, was soft spoken, yet strong-willed. She was very much a lady, both in her manners and appearance. Edna, a widow for many years, outlived all but three of her children. Edna and John M. Dunlavy are buried at Greenwood Cemetery, Newton KS. Their children:

A. Edith May Dunlavy, b. 2 AUG 1897, Newton, KS. d. 25 FEB 1958, Oakland, CA, heart attack, age 60. m. 20 OCT 1919, Hutchinson, KS (eloped), Karl "Hady" Evans. Their children:

(1) Karl Hady Evans, Jr., b. 6 SEPT 1920, Kansas City, MO d. 18 DEC 1991, Lodi, CA, age 71. m. Winona Shepherd. Their children: Carmel, b. and d. 1944; Karen "Lynne," b. 1946; Hady, b. 1947; Stephen, b. 1950 and d. 1956; Roger Allen, b. 25 JAN 1952. Karl H., Jr. and Winona divorced about May 1966. Karl married second, 30 OCT 1966, Reno, Nevada, Judith Ann Leyerle, b. about 1947 in Washington State. Their child, Jennifer, b. 1976. Karl and "Judy" divorced and Karl married third, Lois Hatch Sanasac, 5 April 1989, Carson City, NV.

(2) Twin Boys, born and died 13 OCT 1922, Wichita, KS.

B. Helen Dunlavy, b. about 1899, Harvey Co., KS and died as a infant prior to 13 June 1900 federal census.

C. Ethel "Marian" Dunlavy, b. 29 May 1901, Halstead, KS. d. 19 MAR 1924, Wichita, KS, tuberculosis, age 22. Buried Greenwood Cemetery, Newton, KS. Marian graduated from Newton H.S. in 1920 and had the privilege of naming the annual that year "Rodeo." She never married.

D. Willard "Pierce" Dunlavy, b. 11 AUG 1902, Kansas City, KS. d. 25 NOV 1945, Detroit, MI, heart attack, age 43. m. Nina Zerita Nielson in 1926 and had two sons.

(1) John Lawrence Dunlavy, b. 2 MAR 1934, Michigan. d. 26 APR 1996, Michigan. m. Sandra Intihar. Their children: Angelia, b. 1970; Heather, b. 1972.

(2) Charles Hubert Dunlavy, b. 26 June 1936, Michigan. m. Maureen Donnelly and had one child, Kimberly, b. 1968. "Chuck" and Maureen divorced and Chuck married second Joan Marie Tuczak Parent.

E. Clara Virginia Dunlavy, b. 6 June 1905, Frontenac, KS. d. 18 NOV 1961, Tucson, AZ, age 56. m. Lee "Walter" Armagost in Wichita, KS and had one son.

(1) John Walter Armagost, b. 25 April 1930, Wichita, KS. m. Neta Irene Richards. Their children: Kathleen, b. 1954; Thomas, b. 1957.

F. Mary Elizabeth Dunlavy, b. 3 May 1907, Frontenac, KS. d. 27 JAN 1988, Mesa, AZ, age 80. m. 29 April 1923, Newton, KS, Kermit Graybill. Their children:

(1) Mary Elizabeth Graybill - "Meg," b. 25 OCT 1926, Newton, KS. m. Jack Mays Williams. Their children: Mary K. - "Kit," b. 1947; Bradley, b. 1952; Duncan, b. 1956.

(2) Katherine Mae Graybill - "Tinka," b. 10 OCT 1941, L.A., CA. m. Leo Edward Dexter - "Bill." They have two adopted children, Matthew and Mary Katherine.

G. Paul William Dunlavy, b. 7 May 1911, Kansas City, KS. d. 25 SEPT 1960, Florissant, MO, heart attack, age 49. m. 1931, St. Louis, MO, Dorothy Mae Dicks, a widow with two young children: Donald John Voorhees, b. 30 May 1926 and d. 29 June 1948 in a motorcycle accident, and Donna Mae Voorhees, b. 25 FEB 1929. Paul W. Dunlavy was the only "father" Donna Mae has ever known. Donna Mae is a much-loved member of this family. Paul W. and Dorothy had five children and later divorced.

(1) Paul Dicks Dunlavy, b. 31 May 1933, St. Louis, MO. d. 8 DEC 1989, Longmont, CO. m. Doris Marie Wiebe, b. 13 JAN 1934, Newton, KS. Their children: Cary, stillborn 1954; Paula, b. 1958 and d. 1959; Claire, b. 1961; Drew, b. 1965; Donn, b. 1968.

(2) Joan Glennie Dunlavy, b. 15 May 1934, Three Oaks, MI. m. Gene Talmadge Summers. Their children: Gene, b. 1953; Scherry, b. 1955; Brenda, b. 1958; Brian, b. 1959; Raymond, b. 1962.

(3) Judith Ann Dunlavy, b. 21 June 1936, St. Louis, MO. m. Loran Thomas Cooper. Their children: Sidney, b. 1953 and Lawrence, b. 1954.

(4) Bette Rae Dunlavy, b. 17 OCT 1937, St. Louis, MO. m. Louis Olson.

(5) Virginia Claire Dunlavy - "Ginni," b. 2 FEB 1940, St. Louis, MO. m. Hugh Henry Mottern Jr. Their children: Juliana - "Julie," b. 1967 and Derrick, b. 1971.

Paul W. Dunlavy married second, Mary Jo, in St. Louis, 1955 and they had one son.

(6) William Dat Dunlavy, b. 25 AUG 1955, St. Louis, MO.

H. Ruth Dunlavy, b. 3 March 1913, Kansas City, KS. d. 1975. m. Clarence McFarland. Their children:

(1) Jamia Lee McFarland, b. 1934. m. John C. Gassner.

(2) Mary Margaret McFarland, b. 15 DEC 1940, St. Louis, MO. m. Bill Rademacher. Their children: William, Linda, Michael, Timothy, Daniel, Anthony, and Elizabeth.

(3) Robert McFarland, b. 1942.

(4) Terrance McFarland

I. Margaret Dunlavy, b. 21 May 1916, Kansas City, KS. m. 26 SEPT 1937, St. Louis, MO, Henry Bielfeldt (Henry's Rolling - Pin Restaurant in Stockton, CA, made the best french donuts in the World!). Margaret and Henry are living in Stockton, CA, and had two daughters.

(1) Linda Sue Bielfeldt, b. 28 SEPT 1942, St. Louis, MO. m. Larry John Poelstra. Their children: Michael, b. 1965; Lenor, b. 1968; Bradley, b. 1970.

(2) Sandra Lee Bielfeldt, b. 20 OCT 1947, St. Louis, MO. m. Alvin Woodson Joyce. Their son, Jeffery, b. 1973.

For more information on the descendants of Edna Pierce, see *John Marion Dunlavy, Edna May Pierce, Their Children and Descendants*, by Roger A. Evans.

2. George Glenn Pierce was born 2 March 1881 at the family home in Halstead, Halstead Twp, Harvey Co, KS and died 12 FEB 1953 at Bethel Deaconess Hospital in Newton, KS, age 71. He married NOV 1910 (Obituary, *Newton Kansan*, 12 FEB 1953, records marriage 17 NOV 1910. Have also seen 16 NOV) in Frontenac, KS, Mary Elizabeth Bold - "Polly," born 1887 in Ince, Greenlane, Lancashire, England. Mary J. Romine records that George met Polly Bold in Frontenac, KS, while visiting Edna (Pierce) and Marion Dunlavy, who "were preaching" there at the time. When George got married, his brother, Willie, took over the "homeplace." Their father, W.C., built a new house on the land later owned by Orval Wiggers and "the old house (homeplace) burned down while George was on his honeymoon."

George and Polly lived on a farm outside of Newton, where Mary Bold Pierce died during a flu epidemic on Christmas day in 1918. The 1920 census (12-14 JAN) records George G. Pierce, age 39, a widower and farmer with his children: Mildred, Mary, Glenn, and Wilda Mae; his father and mother - in - law, William and Jane Bold, and his sister-in-law, Mabel Bold, in Macon Twp., Harvey Co., KS (Reel 534, E.D. 52, p. 3). George G. was a member of the M.W.A. lodge and prior to his death had been living at 510 Ash Street in Newton with his sister, Mrs. Edna M. Dunlavy (George and Edna had lived with their mother prior to her death in JAN 1944. Then George bought a home and Edna kept house for him until his death). George was survived by 13 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren (Obit). George and Polly share a gravestone in Newton's Greenwood Cemetery. The children of George G. Pierce and Polly Bold:

A. Mildred Jane Pierce, b. 20 SEPT 1911, at the family farm near Newton, KS. m. 2 JAN 1931, Halstead, KS, Albert Gustave Hahn, b. 23 NOV 1909. They lived in Lyons, KS for 20 years and sometime after FEB 1953 moved to Newton, KS where they still reside. Mildred was last employed at Friendly Acres and Albert retired from Stevens Spring Co. Their children:

(1) Mary Joan Hahn, b. 28 July 1932, Halstead, KS. m. Wilbur Elliot Short, b. 24 July 1931. Their children: Bonita Sue, b. 23 AUG 1951, Thomas Lee, b. 17 OCT 1952, Linda Kay, b. 12 JAN 1954 and d. 3 June 1984, buried Greenwood Cem., Newton, KS.

(2) Nancy Jane Hahn, b. 3 AUG 1936, Lyons, KS. m. Orrin Jones. Nancy died in July 1956 and is buried in Greenwood Cem.

B. Mary Elizabeth Pierce, b. 3 JAN 1913, at the family farm near Newton, KS. d. 15 FEB 1996, Butte Co., CA (Last address, Orland, CA). m. 12 May 1935, Newton, KS, Wilton Edward Baumgartner, b. 28 July 1906 and d. 8 AUG 1983. They farmed in Kansas before moving to Northern Calif. Their children:

(1) Ronald Lee Baumgartner, b. 21 OCT 1936, Halstead, KS. m. Rozella Clark. Their child, Rhonda Rhea, b. 22 SEPT 1960. Ronald Lee married second Sharon (Welch) Smith.

(2) Mary Elizabeth Baumgartner - "Beth," b. 25 SEPT 1939, Halstead, KS. m. Peter Conrad Camper, b. 26 July 1936. Beth and Peter have no children and are living in Orland, CA.

(3) Morris Alan Baumgartner, b. 4 June 1947, Oroville, Butte Co., CA. m. Patricia Westaby. Their child is named Jeffrey Alan.

C. Glenn William Pierce, b. 6 July 1914 at the family farm near Newton, KS. m. 11 JAN 1936, Newton, KS, Dorine Nightingale. Glenn W. and Dorine were divorced five years after their marriage. Glenn later married Grace and then Arlene. Glenn lived in Pocatello, Idaho, for many years and died there about 1985, while working in his yard. The children of Glenn W. Pierce and Dorine Nightingale:

(1) Gary William Pierce, b. 2 SEPT 1936, Axtell Hospital, Newton, KS. m. Joyce Nelson. Their children: Diane, b. 16 June 1959 and David, b. 19 Nov 1963.

(2) Beverly Ann Pierce, b. 24 AUG 1937, Axtell Hospital, Newton, KS. m. Louis Johnson and divorced 35 years later. Their children: Dana, b. 24 May 1960; Ronald, b. 17 June 1958; Kelly, b. 20 April 1965.

D. Wilda Mae Pierce, b. 25 OCT 1915, at the family farm near Newton, KS. m. Lloyd C. Young. They farmed in Kansas, then settled in Council Grove, KS, and bought a John Deere Agency. They raised six children: Eleanor, Richard, George, Elaine, James, and David.

Data for George G. Pierce and his descendants provided by Mary Joan Short, Mary E. "Beth" Camper, and Dorine Nightingale Baker.

3. Sarah Elizabeth Pierce - "Elizabeth," was born 19 JAN 1886 at the family farm in Garden Twp., Harvey, Co., KS, during, perhaps, the coldest month recorded in Kansas. The Great Blizzard of 1886 hit Harvey County late on 6 JAN and continued for four days. Howling winds and below - zero temperatures killed livestock, wildlife, and people lacking shelter. Inhabitants were snowbound for two weeks and harsh conditions continued through 21 JAN. Born under such rigorous conditions, Elizabeth's father said, "She came in with a toot." Elizabeth was called "Tootie" by her father and later "Aunt Toot" by her nephews and nieces. Elizabeth died 1 June 1974 at Newton, KS, after a month's stay in Bethel Hospital, age 88, buried at Halstead Cemetery, Harvey Co., KS (Block 1, Lot 2, Grave 3), near her parents. She married 23 AUG 1925 in Newton, KS, William David Romine, a widower with four children. Mr. Romine, a farmer and stockman, died 1 April 1962.

Elizabeth Pierce attended the Prouty School and after graduating from grade school spent a year at Baker University Academy in Baldwin, KS, where her education was cut short due to her eye - sight. Many of the early church colleges had an "Academy" that children from the country could attend after completing grade school. Note: An unidentified, Elizabeth Pearce and Edna May "Pearce" are listed in the Baker Catalogue of 1899 in the Art Department (checked from 1894 to 1903). Later, Elizabeth's concern for education, along with her willingness to sacrifice, helped enable all four of her step-children to graduate from Wichita University.

Elizabeth's sister, Beryl, died, leaving a baby son named Theodore. Elizabeth became a mother to Theodore and guided him until his graduation from high school.

Elizabeth, as a young girl, attended meetings at the Royer Church, where people of all denominations were welcomed (SW corner of Section 26 in Macon Twp. about five miles SW of Newton) and later became a member of the Newton Church of the Brethren. She had hoped to become a Missionary and supported missions throughout her life. She was a member of the Help One Another Club and the WCTU.

When William D. Romine retired, he and Elizabeth moved to Neosho, MO, where they lived for six years. After Elizabeth's father died, they returned to Newton to live on a farm that Elizabeth had inherited thru her father's probate. Following her husband's death in April 1962, Elizabeth moved to 915 Oak and lived there until she moved to a new apartment at Friendly Acres in 1973. She liked to entertain and enjoyed the visits of her friends and family. William D. Romine's children and Elizabeth Pierce Romine's much-loved step-children:

A. Mary Joanna Romine, b. 1 May 1904, Darlow, KS. Mary taught school in Dodge City and Newton, KS and was once engaged to a man from Colorado, who became a U.S. District Court Judge in Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas. She never married. Mary has enjoyed her personal independence, managing her own money, and loved her career as a teacher. Mary is an exceptional source of knowledge concerning the extended Pierce family and has been most helpful to me in my efforts to gather information for this work. She is now living at Friendly Acres in Newton, KS.

B. Ruth Emmaline Romine, b. 1907, Darlow, KS. Married Clarence Spangler, who was struck by lightning while checking cattle on his ranch. Ruth, a prize winning poet, is now living at Presbyterian Manor in Newton, KS, where she was given a big ninetieth birthday bash with almost 200 people in attendance.

C. George Wesley Romine, b. 1909, Cordell, Oklahoma. Married Dorothy Anderson, who died in 1992. George worked in the Offices of Standard Oil until World War II, when he moved to Eugene, Oregon to work for Weyerhaeuser. He died in 1970. Their children: Bruce, who died in 1980 and Brian, who lives in Eugene, Oregon.

D. Prudence Eva Romine, b. 1913, Cordell, Oklahoma. Married Deward V. Price, who died. Prudence taught school in Wichita and Amarillo, Texas and now lives in Newton, KS.

The data for Elizabeth Pierce and her step-children was provided by Mary J. Romine of Newton, KS.

4. Ethel Corrina Pierce was born 2 FEB 1888 at the family home in Garden Township, Harvey Co., KS, and died 4 NOV 1923, at her home southwest of Hesston, Emma Twp., Harvey Co., KS, heart attack, age 35. Ethel "suffered from slight attacks of heart trouble, but she was apparently in good health and the best of spirits on Sunday morning. The family was away when the fatal attack came. Mrs. Prouty had called her sister Mrs. Alvin Royer by telephone about nine o'clock (A.M.) asking her to come over to dinner. Mrs. Royer promised to call later and did so receiving no answer. She went to the Prouty home about 11:30, and found her sister lying upon a bed with evidence that Mrs.

Prouty had been engaged in making up a bed when she was stricken and collapsed, being unable to summon aid or attract anyone's attention. The father and son were at a neighbors' and were quickly summoned." (Obituary). Ethel C. Pierce Prouty, "a woman of sterling qualities" who "had the high esteem of all" was buried at Greenwood Cemetery, Newton, KS. Ethel C. was "pidgeon breasted" due to a congenital heart problem. She was well known as a good cook and memories of her pudding with floating cream on top, long survived her. Prior to her marriage, Ethel attended Baldwin College in Baldwin, KS.

Ethel C. Pierce married Atchison Trask Prouty - "Atch," on 1 AUG 1905 in Newton, KS. Atch was born 25 JAN 1885, near Newton in Macon Twp., Harvey Co., KS. He was a farmer and married three more times after the death of Ethel C. Atch died 21 NOV 1958 at Bethel Deaconess Hospital, Newton KS, age 73, buried Greenwood Cem. The 1920 census (JAN) recorded Ethel Prouty, age 31, with her husband, Atchison, a farmer, and her son, Harold, in Emma Twp., Harvey Co., KS (E.D. 46, p. 1). The children of Ethel C. Pierce and Atch Prouty:

A. Harold William Prouty, b. 23 MAR 1907, Newton, KS. d. 27 FEB 1954, Los Angeles, CA. m. 29 NOV 1925, Cottonwood Falls, Chase Co., KS, Elsie Mae Lancaster, b. 13 OCT 1908, Peabody, Marion Co., KS, d. 27 June 1985, Fullerton, CA. Both Harold and Elsie Mae are buried at Inglewood Cem., Inglewood, CA.

Harold W. Prouty, called "son" through - out his life by people of all ages, worked as a body and fender man for A.E. Nugent from 1936 until his death in 1954. He loved playing pinochle and often played cards all night with family members and friends who came to visit. Harold and Elsie Mae's children:

(1) Ethel Mae Prouty, b. 10 April 1927, Newton, KS. m. 27 AUG 1943, Fort Smith, Arkansas, Santo Castelli, b. 1 JAN 1922, L.A., CA, d. 25 June 1997, Hesperia, CA. Their children: Linda Diane, b. 28 JAN 1944; Donald Gene, b. 3 SEPT 1945; Marianne, b. 30 May 1951.

(2) Helen Lois Prouty, b. 19 DEC 1928, Newton, KS, m. 19 July 1947, L.A., CA, Harold Ransom Moore. Their children: Gerald Lee, b. 26 DEC 1947 and d. 17 JULY 1993, Phoenix, AZ; Harold Ransom, b. 6 MAR 1949; Janis Doreen, b. 27 FEB 1953; Phyllis Ann, b. 16 OCT 1954. Harold R. Moore and Helen Lois' two subsequent husbands are now deceased.

(3) Mary Alice Prouty, b. 20 April 1930, Newton, KS, m. 11 AUG 1947, Las Vegas, NV, Magnus Duane Midstokke, b. 6 AUG 1926, McVille, N. Dakota. Their children: Diana Maria, b. 5 May 1948; Kathlee Louise, b. 20 AUG 1950; Marilyn Ann, b. 21 April 1955; Michele Kay, b. 14 NOV 1956; Michael Duane, b. 18 JAN 1959; Mary Jane, b. 19 AUG 1961.

(4) William Donald Prouty, b. 8 July 1931, Newton, KS, m. 23 OCT 1954, Bangor, Maine, Claudette Stella Pelletier, b. 7 MAR 1937, Frenchville, Maine. Their children: Harold William, b. 14 SEPT 1955; Odette Rene, b. 26 MAR 1957; Keith Donald, b. 12 FEB 1962.

B. Baby boy, still born, buried Greenwood Cemetery with mother, Ethel C.

Data for Ethel C. Pierce and her descendants provided by Ethel Mae Prouty Castelli of Hesperia, CA.

5. Arlettie Beryl Pierce - "Beryl," was born 4 March 1889 at the family farm in Garden Twp., Harvey Co., KS and died 15 June 1909 in Macon Twp., Harvey Co., KS. She was buried at Halstead Cem. and her gravestone records, "Beryl, wife of T.F. Ervin, 4 March 1889 - 15 June 1909." " Mrs. Arlettie Beryl Irvin (Ervin) died yesterday afternoon at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W.C. Pierce, west of town (Newton). She was twenty years old and suffered from a complication of diseases. She has been quite ill for almost a year. The funeral services will be held tomorrow morning at 11:00 o'clock at the Pierce home" (Obituary, *Newton Kansan*, 16 June 1909). Beryl married Theodore Frank Ervin in Harvey Co., KS. Theodore F. was born 23 April 1887 in Newton, KS and died 14 May 1974 at Spokane, Spokane Co., Washington, age 87 (Death Cert. 11667). The son of Beryl Pierce and Theodore F. Ervin:

A. Theodore Myron (Ervin) Pierce - "Ted," b. 8 SEPT 1908, Newton, KS, d. 15 June 1996, Wickenburg Hospital, Maricopa Co., Arizona, due to "Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease," age 87. m. 13 OCT 1934, Halstead, Harvey Co., KS, Ardath Lucille Dresse, b. DEC 1906, Halstead, KS, d. 1 MAR 1994, Safford, Arizona. Ardath is buried at Halstead Cem.

Theodore's mother died when he was only nine months old. Beryl's sister, Elizabeth Pierce, became like a mother to Theodore, guiding him until his graduation from high school. The 1910 census (taken April) records Theodore Ervin, age 1, "grandson," at the William C. Pierce home. Theodore, age two years and one month, was adopted by his

grandparents, William C. and Mary J. Pierce, in the Probate Court of Harvey Co., KS, on 10 OCT 1910. Theodore's father, Theodore F. Ervin, a resident of Harvey County, "relinquished all right" to his child and consented to the adoption (Record of Adoption, Book 1, p. 57. Provided by Raquel Molina.). Theodore M. used the last name of Pierce and his death certificate records his parents as William C. Pierce and Mary J. Thurston.

Theodore - "Ted," was living in Salt Lake City by at least FEB 1936, in Medford, Oregon by at least JAN 1944, and in Tucson, AZ, by at least FEB 1953. Ted and Ardath divorced and Ted married two more times. Ted's death certificate indicates he had been a construction contractor and had lived in Arizona for 45 years prior to his death, his last address being in Yarnell, AZ. His obituary in the *Wickenburg Sun*, 26 June 1996, records him as Rev. Theodore "Ted" M. Pierce, survived by his wife, Rev. Zeita M. Pierce, and others, including 19 great grandchildren. Theodore M. Pierce and Ardath Dreese had two children.

(1) Gloria Jean Pierce, b. 22 FEB 1936, Salt Lake City, Utah. Gloria married several times and had six children: Eddie Wesley, b. 30 DEC 1958 (adopted by the Wesley family); Josephine Yolanda Gonzales, b. 1 FEB 1960; Connie Rae Gonzales, b. 13 SEPT 1961; Victoria Lynn Gonzales, b. 1 April 1963; Ricardo Eugene Cervantez, b. 7 FEB 1966, and Raquel Leigh Cervantez, b. 28 NOV 1970.

(2) Gary Dean Pierce, b. 16 July 1941 and died 4 DEC 1990, perhaps, in California. Gary never married and had no children.

The data on the descendants of Beryl Pierce was provided by Raquel Molina of Tucson, AZ, granddaughter of Theodore M. Pierce.

6. William Wesley Pierce - "Willie," was born 5 SEPT 1890 at the family farm in Garden Twp., Harvey Co., KS (Though called Willie by his parents and siblings and Uncle Willie by his nieces and nephews, William W.'s granddaughter, Elaine Hansen, recalls that he always went by the name of Bill or Billie). William W. died 29 NOV 1978 at San Bernardino, CA, the last surviving biological child of W.C. and Mary J. Pierce, and was buried at Montecito Memorial Park, San Bernardino, CA. William W. married Goldie May Gunzelman, who was born 14 May 1894 in Abilene, KS. Goldie died 21 JAN 1990 at Yuma, AZ, and is buried at Montecito Mem. Park.

The 1920 census (JAN) records W.W. Pierce, a farmer, age 29, with his wife, Goldie, and son, Jack, in Macon Township, Harvey Co., KS (E.D. 52, p. 2B). William W. farmed in Harvey Co., KS, until about 1927 when he and his family moved to California, living in the cities of San Bernardino, Rialto, and Bloomington. "He worked for the Fontana Farms Hog Ranch (at that time the largest hog ranch in the world) and planted 2 five acre grapefruit groves. He left the hog ranch and went into the feed business on a 'shoe string' and eventually had a regular feed store in Bloomington. In 1941 - 42 a feed store, named the Pierce Feed Company, was built in Fontana on railroad property. Eventually, a mill to produce poultry food extended the store into a regular feed mill. His son, Jack, went into the Navy in March 1944 and returned home DEC 1945. In the meantime, William W. and Allene, his daughter-in-law, ran the store. William's son, Don, was in the Air Force. In January of 1946, Don came home and began working in the store also. William W. retired about 1955 and the store remained in business until about 1958" (Elaine Hansen). Once retired, William W. and Goldie loved to travel with their trailer, spending "most of their time in Corning, CA, Vancouver Island, on the Colorado River at Lake Havasu, and in Yuma, Arizona, where William would fish. He also spent time hunting pheasant, duck, and geese in Northern California." Elaine recalls that Goldie "made the best fried catfish."

William W. "was great fun" and loved to tell jokes. His granddaughter, Elaine Hansen, has fond memories of playing games with William, a master gamesman, especially Rook, and before each game, William would make a "great big bowl of popcorn to go with it." William enjoyed putting popcorn into a big glass of milk and eating it with a spoon. He told Elaine, "he loved it best that way." William W. Pierce and Goldie Gunzelman had two sons.

A. William Jack Pierce - "Jack," b. 18 JAN 1916, Newton, Harvey Co., KS, d. 27 May 1957, San Bernardino, CA, buried, Montecito Mem. Park, San Bernardino. m. 30 June 1940, San Bernardino, CA, Allene Annette Everett, b. 26 July 1916, Goldfield, Nevada. Their children:

(1) Gerald William (Pierce) Muffley, b. 18 JAN 1947, San Bernardino, CA, m. 16 AUG 1969, Fontana, CA, Pamela Ruth Beglau.

(2) Elaine Annette (Pierce) Muffley, b. 15 March 1951, San Bernardino, CA, m. 15 DEC 1972, Logan, Utah, Bruce Eugene Hansen.

Allene Everett Pierce married second, Bernard William Muffley on 3 July 1957 at Fontana, CA and Bernard adopted Jack and Allene's two children, Gerald and Elaine.

B. Don David Pierce, b. 16 July 1920, Newton, Harvey Co., KS, m. 5 April 1941, Las Vegas, NV, Juanita June Skaggs, b. 26 March 1923, Brownsville, MN. Their children:

- (1) Sheran Lee Pierce, b. 18 July 1944, L.A., CA, m. 23 SEPT 1973, Las Vegas, NV, Gary Burke Johnston.
- (2) Richard David Pierce, b. 16 NOV 1946, Upland, CA, m. 22 AUG 1969, Las Vegas, NV, Pauline Grace McBride.

Data for William W. Pierce and his descendants provided by Elaine Hansen of Paul, Idaho.

7. **Lucy Ella Pierce - "Ella,"** was born 29 NOV 1891 at the family farm in Garden Township, Harvey Co., KS. She died 20 DEC 1974 at Friendly Acres in Newton, KS, age 83 and is buried at Halstead Cemetery, Harvey Co., KS (Block 1, Lot 2, Grave 6). Ella married Alvin Leonard Royer (born 1890) in Wichita, KS on 22 DEC 1910.

The 1920 census (taken 3 JAN) records Alvin Royer, a farmer, with his wife, Ella, and their children: Evelyn, Elizabeth, Leonard, Helen, and Ethel M. in Emma Township, Harvey Co., KS (E.D. 46, p. 1B). "Alvin was a farmer and carpenter. His life was filled with hard work to support his large family" (Ruby Royer Stein). Alvin died 10 March 1957 and is buried at the Halstead Cemetery next to his wife, Ella.

Despite any troubles Ella might have, she was always cheerful. She was very proud of her children (Mary Romine). Ella was a member of the First Baptist Church in Newton and lived in Harvey County all her life. Prior to becoming a resident of Friendly Acres in 1969, Ella resided at 212 E. 9th in Newton (Her sister, Edna Dunlavy, had been living at 212 E. 9th four months before her death in Calif., April 1964). Ella was survived by five sons, four daughters, one brother, William W. Pierce, of Rialto, CA; 22 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild (Obituary). I have limited information on the twelve children of Ella Pierce and Alvin Royer.

A. Evelyn Royer was born about 1911 and married Bill Lawrence, who has died. Evelyn is now living at Friendly Acres in Newton, KS. Their child:

- (1) Patty

B. Elizabeth Royer was born about 1913 and married Earl Smith, who has died. Elizabeth now lives in Wichita, KS.

C. Leonard Royer was born about 1914 and died sometime between JAN 1920 and DEC 1974.

D. Helen Royer was born 21 DEC 1915 and married Lowell Hinshaw. Helen was living at Kansas City, MO in DEC 1974. Lowell died DEC 1981, buried, Halstead Cem. (Block 1, Lot 2, Grave 2).

E. Ethel May Royer was born about DEC 1917 and died sometime between JAN 1920 and DEC 1974.

F. Josephine Royer died sometime prior to DEC 1974.

G. William "Kenneth" Royer was living at Grouse, Idaho, in DEC 1974 and is now living in Idaho.

H. Gaylon Royer was living in Yuma, Arizona in DEC 1974 and has since died.

I. Keith Royer was living at Ames, Iowa, in DEC 1974.

J. Max Royer recently lived in Newton, KS, and now resides in Arizona. He had five children.

K. Gary Royer had an Emu farm and museum at Newton, KS, and spends winters in Florida and Arizona.

L. Doreen Royer married Robert Lietzke. She is a retired traveling nurse.

8. **Neva Pierce (female)** was born 6 JAN 1895 at the family home about five miles west of Newton on 12th, Macon Township, Harvey Co., KS, and died 12 DEC 1895 in Harvey Co., KS. Neva is buried at the Halstead Cemetery in Block 1, Lot 2, Grave 1.

9. Harold David Pierce was born 20 JAN 1897 at the family home west of Newton in Macon Twp., Harvey Co., KS and died 25 JAN 1962, apparently in his home at 1273 E. Palm, Altadena, L.A. Co., CA, age 65. Harold suffered from congestive heart failure and died due to a coronary thrombosis. His remains were cremated by the Mt. View Cemetery Crematory.

Harold, the youngest in the family, was called "Boy" and later his nephews and nieces called him "Uncle Boy." "After high school, Harold thought he would like to have a cattle ranch in Colorado. So he, his parents and sister, Elizabeth, homesteaded land near Walsenberg, Colorado, known as 'Rattlesnake Buttes'... After several seasons of dry weather, Harold decided he would rather sell stock and bonds in California" (Mary J. Romine).

Harold's death certificate records he served in the armed forces during World War I. The 1920 census (12 JAN) records Harold as a steel mill laborer and a "Roomer" at 301 North Union Ave. in Pueblo, CO (North of Walsenberg, E.D. 213, p. 5). Ethel Pierce Prouty's obituary recorded Harold at Rattlesnake Buttes, CO, in NOV 1923 and shortly after this he moved to California. His parent's obituaries listed Harold at Los Angeles, CA, in March 1936 and at Hollywood, CA, in JAN 1944. His death certificate records he was in the "stock" business and last employed by Jones, Cosgrove, and Miller. Harold married Ethel Ivy Fisher, apparently in California (Ethel's death cert. lists her in CA for 51 years). Ethel, always called "Brownie," was born 28 June 1896 in Pennsylvania and died 1 DEC 1966 in Pasadena, CA. She was cremated at Mt. View Crematory. Harold and Brownie had no children.

Ethel Mae (Prouty) Castelli sent me copies of Harold and Brownie's death certificates.

10. Name unknown.

11. Name unknown. The 1900 census (June) recorded that Mary J. Pierce had given birth to eleven children, of which eight were still living. Neva Pierce died in DEC 1895. Two other children died, apparently at birth or as infants. I have no knowledge of them or their burial location.

W.C.'s Brothers in Harvey County, Kansas

W.C.'s brother, John W. Pierce, who was recorded with W.C. and Mary J. Pierce on the 1880 census, owned a grocery and confectionery store in Halstead at 209 Main by 1885 (Dockson's Halstead Directory, p. 72), apparently the property in Block 4, Lot 4, recorded in the 1885 Harvey Co. tax records. The 1885 Kansas State census recorded John Pierce, age 24, a "grocerier," with his half-brother, James W. Pierce, age 14, a clerk, in the city of Halstead.

In July 1888 a large group of Harvey County pioneers met at Halstead's Opera House to form an Old Settler's Picnic Association. The group voted to hold a picnic in the J.W. Pierce Grove east of Halstead, which was held 9 AUG 1888, with nearly 1,000 people attending. The 1902 Halstead Plat Map indicates that John W. Pierce owned 160 acres in the NW quarter of Section 36, Township 23, just east of Halstead, where perhaps, the picnic took place.

John W. Pierce, age 33, married Vida Lola Williams, age 18, in Newton, KS, on 3 April 1892. After the wedding, the wedding party returned to Halstead "where a feast was waiting in the rooms over the store of the groom and where a large number of relatives and friends had gathered. The bride "is noted for her many personal charms and womanly qualities and is held in high esteem by her many friends. The groom, whom every body in this entire community knows, is one of our most prominent and solid business men, coming to our city when a mere boy, without a dollar he has, in a few years, by his strict integrity and well known ability as a rustler, amassed a considerable competency" (*Halstead Independent*, 8 April 1892). The 1900 census records John W. and Vida Pierce (born, AUG 1873) in Halstead Twp. with no children born (E.D. 80, p. 1) John W. Pierce, born in Russell Co., Alabama, had his birth recorded in DEC 1859 on the 1900 census, however he was listed as one year old on the 1860 census and as eleven years old on the 1870 census.

John W.'s wife, Vida Pierce, was recorded with George and Emma Lehman on the 1905 Kansas State census. I've been unable to locate John W. Pierce on the 1905 (state), 1910, or 1920 censuses in Kansas.

W.C.'s half-brother, James Walton Pierce, born JAN 1870 (1900 census) in Alabama, came to Harvey County by at least March 1885, when he was recorded as a clerk, living with his half-brother, John Pierce, in the city of Halstead. James W. Pierce of Newton, married Mattie Winger of Newton (born DEC 1869 per 1900 census), in Harvey Co., KS,

on 23 OCT 1890. James W., a railroad switchman, and Mattie V. Pierce were recorded in the city of Newton, KS on the 1900, 1910, and 1920 censuses and apparently had one daughter, Iris L. Pierce, born Oct 1891 in Harvey County, KS.

Some Unidentified Pierces in Harvey County, Kansas

J.M. Pierce is shown with 160 acres on the east side of Section 8, Twp. 23, north of Halstead on the 1882 plat map and School No. 25 (Riverside School) was on the north end of the property. The 1885 tax records for Harvey Co. record the owner of this property as James Pierce and the 1888 tax records indicate that James had sold the property. By 1902, as shown by the Halstead Plat Map, W.C. Pierce owned 318 acres on the east half of Section 5, Twp. 23, directly north of School No. 25 and the property formerly owned by James Pierce. A branch of Black Kettle Creek ran through W.C.'s property. W.C.'s half-brother, James Walton Pierce, was only twelve years old in 1882, so it's doubtful he was the owner of the property in Section 8.

The 1885 Kansas State census records Arzel Pierce, age 41, born in Ohio, in Halstead Township, with his wife and six children and indicates that Arzel came to Kansas from the state of Nebraska between 1877 and 1879. Arzel Pierce is shown with 40 acres in Section 6 of Twp. 23, north of Halstead on the 1882 plat map and the tax records of 1885, but by 1902, he no longer owned property in the Halstead Township.

The 1875 Kansas state census records A.C. Pierce, age 21, a laborer, born in Alabama, in Halstead Twp., Harvey Co. A.C. Pierce, age 24, of Newton, married Eddy Tibbotts in Harvey County on 1 NOV 1882.

C.A. Pierce, age 43, of Halstead, married Mrs. Charlotte Collins in Harvey County on 26 SEPT 1886.

Age Data on W.C. Pierce

The age given on a Federal census from 1850 to 1900 was to be the individual's age at their last birthday, prior to the official census date of 1 June, regardless of the day the census was actually taken. However, this detail may at times have been overlooked, so the actual date the census was taken should be considered. A birth date, such as W.C. Pierce's on 10 June (death cert.), is so near the official census date of 1 June, that his recorded census age is more suspect than a listed age for someone born earlier or later in the year.

The 1860 census, taken 13 July, recorded W.C. as five years of age. If this was his age at his last birthday, prior to 1 June, he was born in 1854. But, if the details of the official census age were overlooked, W.C.'s recorded age of five, may have been his actual age on 13 July, a month after his last birthday, indicating he was born in 1855. W.C.'s sister, S.G.A., is listed as age six on the 1860 census. If W.C. was born in June 1854, his parents had only 17 months to bear two children (married JAN 1853). This would have been unlikely, unless they started their family prior to their recorded marriage. The 1870 census, taken 20 July, recorded W.C. as 15 years of age. Again, if his official census age was given, the age of 15 would indicate that W.C. was born in 1854. But, if his actual age on 20 July was given, the listing would indicate that W.C. was born in 1855. W.C.'s marriage license, taken 22 June 1877, records him, age 22 years, suggesting he was born in 1855.

The 1880 census was apparently taken sometime in June (Received 2 AUG) and recorded W.C., age 25 (column 6, "Age at last birthday prior to June 1, 1880"). Again, if his official census age was given, age 25 would indicate that W.C. was born in 1854. But, if his age as of 10 June was given, it would indicate that W.C. was born in 1855. The 1885 Kansas state census, recording age at the last birthday as of 1 March, recorded W.C., age 28, suggesting that he was born in 1856. The 1895 KS state census (again, as of 1 MAR) recorded W.C., age 39, suggesting that he was born in 1855. The 1900 census, taken 1 June, records W.C., age 45, and records the month and year of his birth as June 1854. The year is smudged and somewhat unclear, but the soundex (index) also records his birth as June 1854. The 1910 census, with an official census date of 15 April, records W.C., age 56, suggesting that he was born in 1853. I was unable to locate W.C. Pierce on the 1920 census.

The 1856 birth year recorded on W.C.'s death certificate would appear to be an error. The evidence seems to suggest that W.C. was born in 1854 or 1855. If W.C.'s official census age was consistently reported, the 1860, 1870, 1880, and 1900 censuses all indicate that W.C. was born in 1854, but William Capers, the Methodist bishop and W.C.'s namesake, died in Jan 1855, providing support for W.C.'s birth in June 1855. A reliable birth date for W.C.'s older sister, S.G.A., would help to pinpoint W.C.'s birth year.

Final Comments

I want to thank Mary J. Romine of Newton, KS for her significant contribution to this work, including her comments and writings on the Pierce family, and the contacts she made possible for me with other family members. Special thanks are also extended to Billy Frank Pierce, Jr. of Bessemer, Alabama, who has shared his extensive research on the Pierce family in Georgia and Alabama; Ethel Mae (Prouty) Castelli of Hesperia, CA, who has shared her research on the W.C. Pierce family; and Jane Jones, Archivist for the Harvey County Historical Society (Library and Museum), who has provided me with obituaries, census records, property records, and more. Others who have contributed to this document include: Mary Joan (Hahn) Short, Raquel Molina, Hadyn Evans, Mary E. "Beth" (Baumgartner) Camper, Dorine (Nightingale) Baker, Mary E. "Meg" (Graybill) Williams, Virginia "Ginni" (Dunlavy) Mottern, John Armagost, Elaine (Muffley) Hansen, and Carol Ulsafer, who sent me copies of the records in David Thurston's family Bible.

"All things to nothingness descend,
Grow old and die and meet their end;
Man dies, iron rusts, wood goes decayed,
Towers fall, walls crumble, roses fade...
Nor long shall any name resound
Beyond the grave, unless't be found
In some clerk's book; it is the pen
Gives immortality to men."

- Master Wace, 12th century chronicler

My research in family history commenced in August 1992, and my efforts to set in order the family of W.C. Pierce and Mary J. Thurston first began in June 1995. These notes are an attempt to organize and share the data I've accumulated to date. This work should not be considered complete or infallible, but as a guide for further research.

Any comments, corrections, or additions to this work are appreciated.

Prepared, November 1997, by:

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