

**Descendants of John Pierce
Generation No. 1**

- 1. John² Pierce (Reuben¹) was born 1808 in SC. He married Sarah Dean September 28, 1826 in Hall Co., GA. Notes for John Pierce:**

John Pierce was the father of James Harrison Pierce, who was born in Hall County, Georgia in about 1836 and was a cousin of the Russell brothers and also a cousin of Robeson Jasper Pierce, all of whom participated in the gold prospecting expedition to the Colorado Rockies in 1858.

On 19 Sep 1827, John Pierce was listed at p. 293 in one of the account books of Frances C. Andoc's stores or taverns in Hall Co. or Cherokee Indian Nation.<44>

The 1830 Georgia Census of Hall County enumerated John Pierce (p.103), with 1 male 20-30, 2 females under 5, and 1 female 15-20.<27>

The 1840 Georgia Census of Hall County enumerated in the 575th District, John Pierce (p.198), with 1 male under 5; 1 male 5-10; 1 male 30-40; 1 female under 5; 1 female 5-10; 1 female 10-15; and 1 female 30-40.<32>

The 1850 Georgia Census of Hall County enumerated at p.693, dwelling 28: John Pearce (age 43, farmer, \$500 Real Property, b SC); S (f, age 40, b GA); M (f, age 21, b GA); M (f, age 16, b GA); J (m, age 14, b GA); E (f, age 11, b GA); C (f, age 9, b GA); J (f, age 4, b GA); and J (m, age 1, b GA). In the same census on printed p. 340, dwelling 1, was: William Pearce (Age 19, Laborer, b GA); C (age 22, b GA); and Henry H. (age 1/12, b GA..) William and his wife, "C," were married within the year.

It is believed that William was the son of John. The Enumerator unfortunately chose to list members of households other than heads by initials rather than names. It is also believed that James was listed as "J, age 14," in the household of John Pearce.<45>

John Pierce was listed as one of the winners from Hall County in the 1827 Georgia land lottery for original counties of Lee, Muskogee, Troup Coweta and Carroll, out of former Indian Lands of western Georgia. John, of Capt. Dorsey's district, Hall County, won lot 166, district 3 of Muskogee County. Also winners from Hall County were Mary Pierce of Capt. Garrard's district (abandoned by husband), who won lot 46, district 14, Muskogee County; and Sampson Pierce of Capt. Robert's district, who won lot 105, district 12,

Carroll County. Some winners sold thier lots to others.<46>

The 1860 Georgia Census of Hall County, 575th District, Wooleysford Post Office, enumerated at p.11, dwelling 86: John Pierce (age 52, Farmer, \$500 RE, \$500 PE, b SC); Sarah (age 51, b GA); Mary A. (age 26, b GA); Sarah E. (age 20, b GA); Cyntha (age 18, b GA); Eliza (age 13, b GA); John F. (age 12, b GA); and Harriett C. (f, age 8. b GA.)<47>

In an article in The Times by Sybil McRay, Hall County Genealogist, Mrs. Patsy Rouse McMichens of Dora, AL, inquired about ancestors of John and Sabra Rouse who moved to Hall County between 1820 and 1830. She confirmed that Elizabeth (Pierce) Russell was the sister of Reuben, Nancy and John Pierce. She also confirmed the names of seven of the nine John and Sarah Pierce children. They were: William, John, James Harrison, Cyntha, Mary Ann, Martha Ann and Harriett. One of the girls, Martha Ann, married John W. Rouse. One of Elizabeth's daughters, Mary Russell, married Joe Rouse.<48>

FOOTNOTE:44*Robert S. Davis, Jr., "The Families of Hall County, 1817-1849," p.132, Magnolia Press, Gainesville, GA, 1991.

FOOTNOTE:45*1850 Hall County, Georgia Federal Census, M432, Roll ?, National Archives, Fort Worth, TX.

FOOTNOTE:46*Robert S. Davis, Jr., "The Families of Hall County, 1817-1849," p.180, Magnolia Press, Gainesville, GA, 1991.

FOOTNOTE:47*1860 Hall County, Georgia Federal Census, M653, Roll 126, National Archives, Fort Worth, TX.

FOOTNOTE:48*"The Times," Gainesville, GA, 18 Nov 1979.

Children of John Pierce and Sarah Dean are:

- 2 i. Martha Ann³ Pierce, born 1829 in Hall Co., GA. She married John W. Rouse.**
- + 3 ii. William Pierce, born 1830 in Hall Co., GA.**
- 4 iii. Mary Anne Pierce, born 1834 in Hall Co., GA. She married P. B. Inlow February 15, 1860 in Miller Co., SC.**
- + 5 iv. James Harrison Pierce, born January 1836 in Hall Co., GA; died February 11, 1910 in Denver, Jefferson Co., CO.**
- 6 v. Sarah Elizabeth Pierce, born 1840 in Hall Co., GA.**

- 7 vi. Cynthia A. Pierce, born 1842 in Hall Co., GA. She married John Rouse.
- 8 vii. Eliza J. Pierce, born 1847 in Hall Co., GA.
- 9 viii. John F. Pierce, born 1848 in Hall Co., GA.
- 10 ix. Harriett C. Pierce, born 1852 in Hall Co., GA.

Generation No. 2

3. William³ Pierce (John², Reuben¹) was born 1830 in Hall Co., GA. He married C.

Child of William Pierce and C is:

- 11 i. Henry H.⁴ Pierce, born July 1850 in Hall Co., GA.

5. James Harrison³ Pierce (John², Reuben¹) was born January 1836 in Hall Co., GA, and died February 11, 1910 in Denver, Jefferson Co., CO. He married Nancy E. Whelchel September 24, 1871 in Hall Co., GA, daughter of John (Jack) Whelchel.

Notes for James Harrison Pierce:

James (Jim) is believed to have been listed as, "J" in the 1850 Georgia Federal Census of Hall County, as he was the only boy in that county of the appropriate

age and the initial, "J." He left home in 1857 with his cousins, R J Pierce and the Russell brothers, and didn't return until about 1870.

On July 31, 1858, while the Russell prospecting party was searching for traces of gold along the eastern front of the Rockies, a one-time California miner and trader named John Cantrell, returning to Kansas City from Fort Laramie, appeared in Dry Creek Camp. He had learned of the party before he left Fort Leavenworth. Jim helped him dig a sack of dirt, which Cantrell took along with him. Cantrell had it assayed and the value publicly attested, thereby setting off the "Pike's Peak Gold Rush." <2>

In 1860, prospecting was taking place in "Baker's Park," in the San Juan Mountains in which Silverton is now located. James Pierce is listed by one source as a member of that expedition.<49> Also in that year, Jim and Bill McKimens tried their hands at ranching about 20 miles down-river from Auraria, and they were also doing contract construction on the Consolidated Ditch Company project of which Green Russell was president.

In 1862, as the Russell party was preparing to return to Georgia, Jim had just returned from down on the Missouri River. He was captured with them and

returned to Denver in early 1863. In the fall, Jim, Dr. Levi Russell and R. B. Fields went from Denver to Montana, where gold had been discovered in 1862. Jim remained in Montana until 1870, when he returned to Georgia. He married Nancy E. Whelchel, a cousin of the former Confederate President Jefferson Davis, in 1871 and their first child was born in 1873. After their second child was born in 1874, they moved to Texas.

The 1880 Texas Census of Parker County enumerated on 23 Jun 1880 in Justice Precinct 4, Parker County, TX, p. 45, dwelling 354: James Pierce (age 40, Farmer, b. GA, f b. GA, m b. GA); Nancie (wife, age 28, b. GA, f b. GA, m b. GA); Libbie (dtr, age 7, b. GA, f b. GA, m b. GA); Albert (son, age 6, b. GA, f b. GA, m b. GA); Ader (dtr, age 3, b. TX, f b. GA, m b. GA); Chinae (son, age 1, b. TX, f b. GA, m b. GA.)<50>

Jim returned to Colorado in 1883, but a year later moved his family to Arkansas where they remained until 1887, when they moved to Colorado, settling on Clear Creek, about two miles below Idaho Springs.<51> In October, 1895, the first "Festival of Mountain and Plain" was celebrated, at which Jim was feted as "Colorado Pioneer Number One," and "Pioneer of Pioneers," since he was the oldest remaining white man in the state, based on the date of his arrival. He

was a worker in the ore mills and a driver of ore wagons until the panic came with the demonitization of silver in 1893 and the mines closed down. He then returned to placer mining with fair success.<43> In 1898, he settled on a ranch 12 miles west of Morrison in Jefferson County,<51> where he resided until his death in 1910.

The 1900 Colorado Census of Jefferson County enumerated on 7 June 1900 in Bradford Precinct. Jefferson County, CO, Sheet 1, dwelling 2: James Pierce (dob Jan 1834, age 66, md 28, b GA, f b GA, m b GA, farmer); Nancy (wife, dob Jan 1852, age 48, md 28, ch 10, liv 10, b GA, f b GA, m b GA); Margaret (dtr, dob Sep 1886, age 13, b AR, f b GA, m b GA); Carrie (dtr, dob Mar 1889, age 10, b CO, f b GA, m b GA); Reuben (son, dob Mar 1890, age 9, b CO, f b GA, m b GA); George (son, dob Aug 1894, age 5, b CO, f b GA, m b GA.)<52>

Jim and Nancy had ten children, all living, in 1900. Four were named in the 1880 Texas census and four more were named in the 1900 Colorado census. Two additional children were born in either Texas or Arkansas between Chinae (TX, 1879) and Margaret (AR, 1886.) Jim died Friday, 11 Feb 1910, at the home of his daughter, wife of Dr. W. S. Craghead, 1929 Champa St., Denver, and was buried 14 Feb in the Pioneer Section of Riverside Cemetery. Pallbearers were

fellow pioneers. At his death, he was survived by his wife, Nancy, a son in Victor, CO, two daughters in Denver, and a daughter in Morrison, CO.<43>

FOOTNOTE:49*Allen Nossaman, "Many More Mountains, Vol. 1: Silverton's Roots," Sundance Publications, Ltd, 1989.

FOOTNOTE:50*1880 Parker County, Texas Federal Census, T773, Roll 54, National Archives, Fort Worth, Texas.

FOOTNOTE:51*Denver Post, April 7, 1904.

FOOTNOTE:52*1900 Jefferson County, Colorado Federal Census, T1035, Roll 50. National Archives, Fort Worth, Texas. More About James Harrison Pierce:

Fact 1: February 14, 1910, Riverside Cem, Denver/Adams Co., CO

Notes for Nancy E. Whelchel:

The 1910 Colorado Census of Jefferson County enumerated on 20 May 1910 in Montana, District 3, Jefferson County, CO, p.4695, line 18, dwelling 95:

Nancy E Pierce(age 58, Wid, ch 10, liv 10, b. GA, f b. GA, m b. GA); Reuben H. (son, age 19, S, b. CO, f b. GA, m b. GA, Farmer); George R. (son, age 15, S, b. CO, f b. GA, m b. GA, Farmer); Viola M. (gdtr, age 5, S, b. CO, f b. GA, m b.

GA.) It is not known who were Viola's parents.<53>

Nancy died Aug 1912 at Golden and was buried in the Pioneer Section of Riverside Cemetery, next to James.<43>

FOOTNOTE:53*1910 Jefferson County, Colorado Federal Census, National Archives, Fort Worth, Texas. More About Nancy E. Whelchel: Fact 1: Riverside Cem, Denver/Adams Co., CO

Children of James Pierce and Nancy Whelchel are:

- 12 i. Libbie⁴ Pierce, born 1873 in GA.**
- 13 ii. Albert Pierce, born 1874 in GA.**
- 14 iii. Ader Pierce, born 1877 in Parker Co., TX.**
- 15 iv. Chinae Pierce, born 1879 in Parker Co., TX.**
- 16 v. Margaret Pierce, born September 1886 in AR.**
- 17 vi. Carrie Pierce, born March 1889 in CO.**
- 18 vii. Reuben H. Pierce, born March 1890 in CO.**
- 19 viii. George R. Pierce, born August 1894 in CO.**