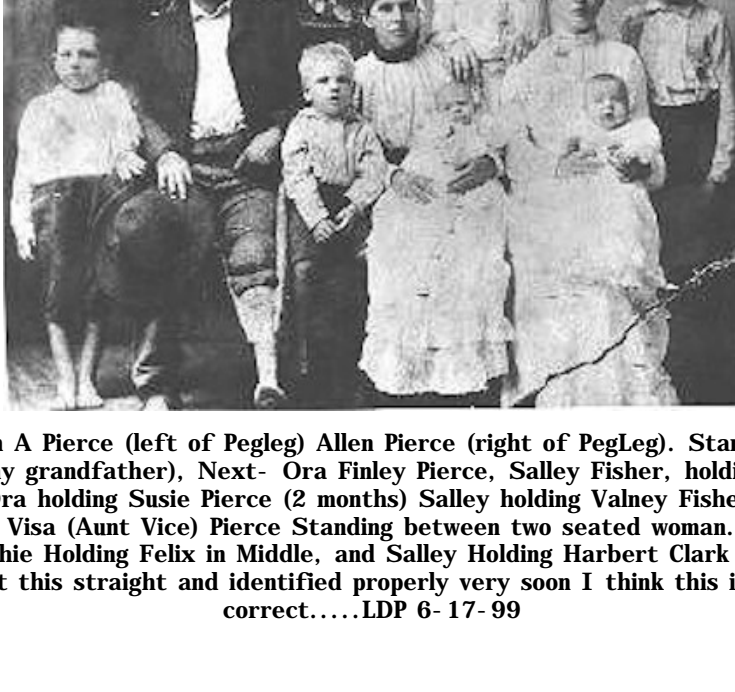


LD PIERCE SENIOR WAS MY GREAT GREAT GRANDFATHER  
 SON OF ANDREW JACKSON PIERCE OF GA AND GOATNECK RANCH  
 CLEBURNE, JOHNSON COUNTY TX. ANDREW WAS SON OF REUBEN PIERCE.  
 HIS SON LD PIERCE JUNIOR WAS MY GRANDFATHER  
 ALLEN PIERCE WAS MY GRANDFATHER'S BROTHERS. THEY BOTH MOVED TO  
 HANSFORD COUNTY TX IN 1906 WITH THE PIERCES AND WILBANKS.  
 NEW PHOTO OF PEG LEG BELOW

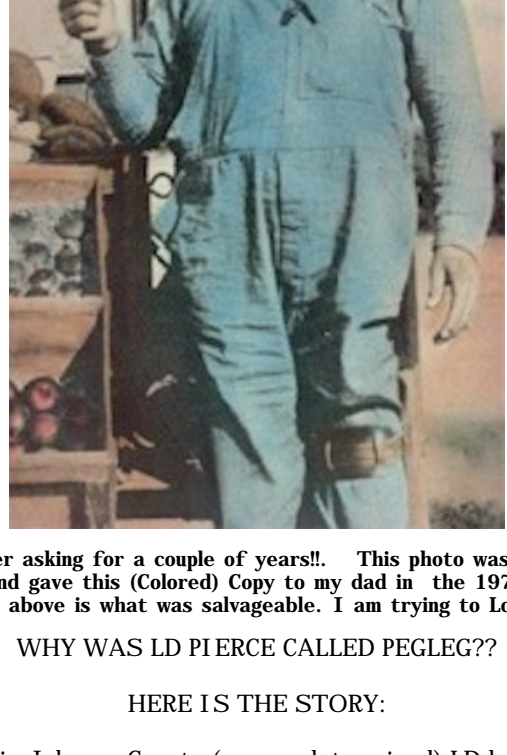
**Lorenzo Dowell (L.D.)<sup>3</sup> Pierce** (Andrew Jackson<sup>2</sup>, Reuben<sup>1</sup>) was born January 26, 1856 in Cherokee Co., GA or near Rome GA, and died 1923 in Spearman TX. He married (1) **Susannah Pluckett Lott** on June 30, 1874 in Johnson County TX, daughter of A C Lott and ?? Lott. He married (2) **Aqua Ora Finley** after 1884, daughter of John Finley and Fannie Wright. Ora Finley was born February 10, 1867 in Johnson Co., TX, and died November 26, 1929 and was buried Nov 28 Hansford County Cemetery. Info of L.D.'s 2nd wife came from Lester Jones-descendant of LD Sr.'s son George. He found this info researching in Hillsborough TX, Hill County in 1997. He sent the deed he found in Hill County detailing the transfer of land from Susannah Pluckett. She was a widow of Andrew Pluckett. She remarried to LD Pierce Sr. and evidently passed away also. A C Lott sold LD Pierce Sr. a parcel of land that Mrs Pluckett had owned. It was situated in Hill County on Nolan's River. Vol 12 page 21 Hill County Records. Aug 12 1884



**Peg Leg Pierce's family: Clem A Pierce (left of PegLeg) Allen Pierce (right of PegLeg). Standing (arm on Peg Leg Pierce) LD Jr (my grandfather), Next- Ora Finley Pierce, Salley Fisher, holding babies Ora holding Susie Pierce (2 months) Salley holding Valney Fisher. Visa (Aunt Vice) Pierce Standing between two seated woman. Other relatives says Sophie Holding Felix in Middle, and Salley Holding Harbert Clark on right, and Aunt Vice Standing. Am trying to get this straight and identified properly very soon I think this is incorrect the one above is correct.....LDP 6-17-99**

### THE STORY OF LORENZO DOW

By Myra Vanderpool Gormley, C.G.(c) 1997. He was a large, raw-boned man, stopped-shoulder, with a beard reaching to the middle of his body, his hair loose and blowing to his shoulders. He was an uneducated man and some thought him insane, but many Americans named sons for him. The name was Lorenzo Dow, Wyatt Earp, one of the personalities at the Gunfight at OK Corral, had a paternal uncle, born in 1809 in North Carolina, named for him. In fact, the name of Lorenzo Dow is found in many families. Dow was born in 1777 in Connecticut, of English ancestors, and died in Washington, D.C., in 1837. During his 57 years, he spent 39 of them in the ministry and traveled in every state, Canada, England, Ireland and Wales. His only child was born in Ireland and died in England. He began as a Methodist, but was never officially accepted by them. He first visited Ireland in 1799 where he was jeered and persecuted. He returned the following year to America and preached in New York, Alabama and Kentucky. In 1805 he revisited both Ireland and England, where he instituted the camp meeting. This custom was such an innovation that it led to controversy, resulting in the organization of the Primitive Methodists in England. While Dow was generally looked upon as an eccentric, it is also said that he was singularly pious, self-sacrificing, zealous, laborious and useful as a wandering evangelist. He asked no pecuniary compensation for his services. Sometimes he would sell his watch and use the funds to aid a poor Community in the erection of a place for public worship. He would sell his own clothes to raise a few dollars to pay his expenses through the Indian Nations or elsewhere, that he might promptly meet all his speaking engagements, which were often published a year or more beforehand. No doubt many of our ancestors, particularly those who lived in Kentucky, Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi, heard him speak in camp meetings. Others may have read some of his books, as he was a voluminous writer also. It is said that he was powerful orator but awakened much controversy and serious thought. "Holistic Methodism," by R.N. Price, which was published in 1906, provides a great deal of information about Lorenzo Dow. You may be able to obtain a copy of this book via interlibrary loan. Many names found upon our genealogy charts reflect our ancestors' admiration for ministers, military heroes and politicians as well as a beloved neighbor. It is easy to recognize many of these - George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Francis Marion, Abraham Lincoln and Robert E. Lee - but you may have to dig a bit deeper in the history of the locality where your ancestors resided or expand your research into the events happening at a particular time in order to determine for whom a child was named. A good example is the origin of Wyatt Earp's given names. His father, Nicholas Earp, served in the Mexican War as a sergeant in Captain Wyatt Berry Stapp's company of Illinois Mounted Volunteers and named his son Wyatt Berry in honor of his captain. 1997 Written by Previously published by Julia M. Case and Myra Vanderpool Gormley, CG. Missing Links: A Weekly Newsletter for Genealogists, Vol. 3, No. 48, 27 November 1998. You may visit the MISSING LINKS Web page at <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mlnews/index.htm>>.



My dad finally let me take this photo to scan after asking for a couple of years!! This photo was taken at the Force Farm/Ranch in Eric Oklahoma. My Grandfather's brother Allen had the original and gave this (Colored) Copy to my dad in the 1970's. I am very glad they preserved it. Part of the photo was damaged, the above is what was salvageable. I am trying to locate the other original.

### WHY WAS LD PIERCE CALLED PEGLEG??

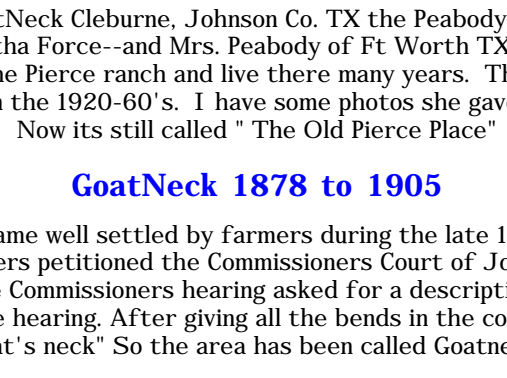
HERE IS THE STORY:

In his early life in Johnson County (year undetermined) LD had gone to a barn dance with friends on horseback to play fiddle at the dance. On the way back to Goatneck--(after drinking much with some of his friends) they came upon the train passing by. His friends urged him to beat the train--made bets possibly. He tried to cross in front of the train, got hit and got his leg cut off. Eventually wearing a wooden leg or Peg Leg. After the accident he was not that mad about losing the horse, or the saddle, or his leg!! But he was furious about ruining the Fiddle!! I have always been told this accident was written about in both the Cleburne and Fort Worth TX newspapers, but I have not been able to verify that yet.

### Goat Neck to 1836

by Herbert E Blackstock Johnson County History book

After the War between the States, a few settlers began to settle in the area that is part of Hill County. Some of the former plantation owners from the eastern southern states were the first to settle the area. LD Pierce came with his former slaves, settled on a tract of land near a big bend on the Brazos in the western part of the area. On this tract of land was a big bluff. There were overhanging rocks that made a shelter. LD Pierce's former slaves lived in the shelter of that bluff. LD Pierce built a log house on a hill overlooking his farm. The log house had a large auger drilled through the walls, and the holes were used as a window for firing rifles. The Log house is still standing, although it has had more rooms made of lumber added to it. (editor's note: this log cabin was torn down in 1996) It has also been plastered over the logs. Clem Pierce established a large cattle ranch in the eastern part of the area, beginning at Barnard's Mill and over to Ham Creek running in a northerly direction in a fan shape. It included several hundred acres of land. The ranch has been cut up into smaller ranches including the Klondike and Gatewood (owned by Floyd Ormsby) and some still owned by the Pierce Heirs. After the area called Goatneck because part of Johnson County. Frank Long, then sheriff, found a dead man on the Clem Pierce Ranch under a stack of hay. There is an old ranch house still standing on the old Pierce Ranch. It may be the second house built by Clem Pierce. (Editor note: this building has since burned) On the LD Pierce farm is the Pierce Family Cemetery. ....



The Pierce Log Cabin at Goat Neck Cleburne, Johnson Co. TX the Peabody's bought the property from the Pierces or Bertha Force--and Mrs. Peabody of Ft Worth TX gave me this photo. She was born on the Pierce ranch and live there many years. The Pierce Homestead was called the Peabody Place in the 1920-60's. I have some photos she gave me on the GoatNeck TX Page. Now its still called " The Old Pierce Place"

### GoatNeck 1878 to 1905

The area called Goatneck became well settled by farmers during the late 1800's and early 1900's. It was during that era that the Settlers petitioned the Commissioners Court of Johnson County that the area be annexed to Johnson County. The Commissioners hearing asked for a description of the area. It was described by one of the men present at the hearing. After giving all the bends in the course of the Brazos River He said, "It is just the shape of a goat's neck" So the area has been called Goatneck since. Herbert Blackstock

Dee Peterson, Goat Neck's oldest resident at 83, states that Goat Neck got its name during the legal transfer of the area from Hill to Johnson County. Clem Pierce, one of the early settlers of the area, was asked to describe the piece of land for one of the legal documents necessary to transfer. According to Legend: He said: "It's just a little ole' goat's neck out in the cedar brakes along the river." The name stuck and goat's neck eventually became Goat Neck." written by: Steve Bell Johnson County History Book

Goatneck has had its share of tragedies and disasters through the years.....One of LD Pierce's sons was murdered and thrown into a hand dug well near Pierce's House. In the 1880's a man by the name of Crane was found murdered on the Clem Pierce Ranch. Mr. Shaw accused of murder, was tried, convicted and hanged for the crime. He claimed he was innocent till the very last. By: Herbert Blackstock

Lorenzo D (L.D.) Pierce is buried in Old Hansford Cemetery, Hansford, TX, with his wife Ora Finley. 1st Wife: Susannah Lott Pluckett Pierce was born December 10, 1850, and died April 03, 1884 in Bosque County. Buried in Kimball Cemetery. She married Lorenzo Dow Pierce, son of Andrew J Pierce and Nancy E. Abercrombie.. She had a first husband- Andrew Pluckett--deceased. She is buried at Brazos river crossing-Kimball Bend, Bosque County, TX. Kimball Cemetery is located on highway 174, Bosque County, TX. Tombstone reads:

"PIERCE, SUSANNAH LOTT w/o LD PIERCE- "By Her Mother"; DEC. 10, 1850-APR. 3, 1884"

The cemetery at the old town of Kimball on the Brazos River was relocated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1950 when the dam for Lake Whitney was being built. A total of 639 graves were moved, 420 of which were unknown. The new location is three miles west on Highway 174. Since then, many more burials have been added in this new cemetery. Other smaller cemeteries were re-interred in this enclosure, such as Powell and Allen Bend, originally in Bosque County. Poque Cemetery, originally in Hill County, is also now in this one. The cemetery Association has an all day gathering to work in the cemetery the second Saturday of June. Copied by Rebecca Radde and Jeanne Owen in March 1985.

### Children of Lorenzo Pierce and Aqua Ora Finley Are:

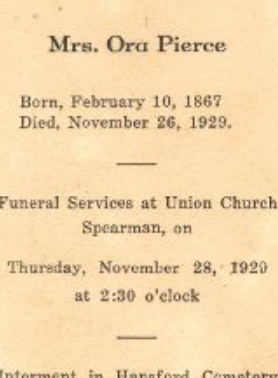
- + 1 i. Sally<sup>4</sup> Pierce, born 1898; died April 03, 1930 in Spearman TX.
- + 2 ii. George Taylor Pierce, born July 23, 1899; died 1980 in Alice, Jim Wells Co., TX.
- + 3 iii. Lorenzo D (L.D.II) Pierce, born March 16, 1895 in Cleburne TX Johnson County; died June 16, 1971 in Spearman, Hansford Co., TX buried in Old Hansford Cemetery.
- 4 iv. Clem Pierce, born 1893 in Cleburne TX Johnson County; died 1957. He married Winnie Dacus.
- 5 v. Felix Diaz Pierce, died 1945 in WWII. He married (1) Della Faye Koontz. He married (2) Ruby Womack.
- + 6 vi. Visa Lou Pierce, born October 04, 1891 in Johnson County TX. died March 1985 in Luling TX.
- + 7 vii. Allen Mansel Pierce, born February 12, 1901 in Cleburne, Johnson Co., TX; died May 09, 1987 in Spearman, Hansford Co., TX.
- + 8 viii. Susan (Susie) Pierce, born June 17, 1904 in Cleburne, Johnson Co., TX; died December 08, 1978 in Amarillo Potter Co., TX buried Memorial Park Amarillo TX.
- +9 viii Unknown- Son Killed and thrown down well on Pierce Ranch

### Notes for Felix Diaz Pierce:

Died in World War I Buried in Hansford Cemetery Spearman TX. I am including this info here rather than in his own section, as the rest of the children of LD Pierce have descendants, while Felix did no. He did marry. This is a tribute to him as he died in service to our country and Freedom in World War I.

BURIAL NOTE: listed on Monument in front of Hansford County Courthouse dedicated to WW I and WWII dead Sergeant 18th Infantry 1st Division WWII Article from Borger Herald 1945 "Borger Man Dies in Action" Sgt. Felix D. (Diaz) Pierce of Borger was killed in action on Jan 18 1945. He was fighting with the infantry in the First Army in Belgium. The family was first notified that the sergeant was missing in action; Yesterday the second message came through with the killed in action report. The sergeant was reared in the vicinity of Spearman in Hansford County. He attended school at Spearman. He had been in the service two years, and overseas since last August. His wife, Mrs. Della Faye Pierce, lives at Borger. Sgt Pierce was working in Borger at the time of his induction.

There are four Brothers, LD Pierce and Allen Pierce of Spearman, G T Pierce of Alice and Clem Pierce of Arch NM, and Two sisters: Mrs. Vernon Compton of Odem TX, and Mrs. Henry Dacus 1109 Harrison in Amarillo TX. Editors Note: see Jan 22 1937 Clem Pierce letter to Rhea Kurken Hall located in Journal Entry page: 20-21. He mentions Felix Pierce....Felix Pierce was in Cheyenne. Wy had his 24th birthday Dec 22, 1936. Spoke to my dad JL Pierce 11/14/98 he said that Uncle Allen Pierce went to Wyoming shortly after this date and "bought" Felix out of the US Army. He had been in the army several years. Unfortunately he was forced to re-enlist when war was declared and lost his life in Belgium. I have Felix's last letter written to him by his mother Ora Pierce, it was returned "Deceased". I plan to insert it here later, when I have more time.

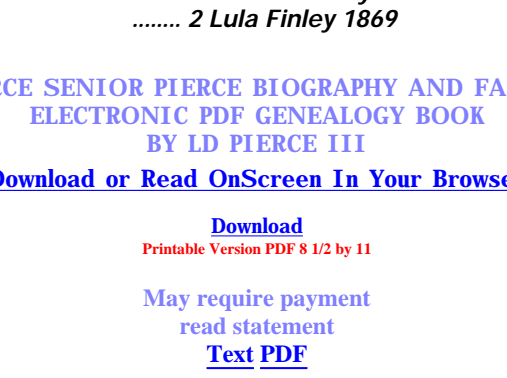


Aug 1999 I have found a file of photos sent to my Uncle Bobby Jack Pierce from our great Aunt Lilly Bell Spivey Greer. There are many photos of Felix and his wife and other. Will add these photos to this pages soon.

My Great grandfather's (LD Pierce) 2ND wife was A FINLEY. Her name was Aqua Ora Finley.

She were descended from John and Mary Wright Finley. Our family knew little about her as stated on Peg Leg Pierce page. I had been told several stories about her, nothing concrete. My Cousin Mary Lee Crew did find a written genealogy from her mother Susie Pierce Dacus that stated that Ora's father was a John Finley, and mother was Fanny Wright. Laura's census work mentioned below shows the same, and Ora's mother as a Mary F Finley. (F for Fanny??)

July 1 1999 I was contacted by a woman named Laura Willis Rivard of Wichita Falls Tx. She had found me and my email address and telephone number on the Johnson County TX Genweb Page. She had been looking into the Finley family for several years and had determined that her grandmother Laura Finely had a sister who had married LD Pierce and Johnson County TX. She sent me census records and such today Aug 4, 1999.



Mrs. Ora Pierce  
 Born, February 10, 1867  
 Died, November 26, 1929

Funeral Services at Union Church  
 Spearman, on  
 Thursday, November 28, 1929  
 at 2:30 o'clock

Interment in Hansford Cemetery

### Ancestors of Aqua Ora Finley Pierce

Descendants of John F Finley  
 1 John F Finley/  
 Mary Fanny Wright

..... 2 Aqua Ora Finley 1867 - 1929  
 ..... Lorenzo Dow Pierce 1856 - 1923

..... 2 Laura Louella Finley 1858 - 1913  
 ..... James Jessie Willis - 1901

..... 3 Jessie Walter Willis 1893 -  
 ..... Alberta Cowart 1894 - 1979

..... \*2nd Husband of Laura Louella Finley:  
 ..... ? Ray. She was buried as Laura Finley.

..... 2 Mary E Finley  
 ..... 2 Chapel G Finley  
 ..... 2 Jefferson Finley  
 ..... 2 Napoleon Finley  
 ..... 2 Sarah Finley  
 ..... 2 Lula Finley 1869

**LD PIERCE SENIOR PIERCE BIOGRAPHY AND FAMILY INFO**  
 ELECTRONIC PDF GENEALOGY BOOK  
 BY LD PIERCE III  
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**READ Onscreen LD Pierce & Ora Finley Family Group**  
 OR (Print) this family group record

**LD Pierce named after Lorenzo Dowell**  
 famous Holistic Methodist Preacher 1820's  
 visit the original page for this information  
[Lorenzo Dow Pages](#)  
[Denton Genealogy Pages](#)

Sue Montgomery wrote this web page about Lorenzo Dow  
 visit her Denton Genealogy Pages!

### LD'S NOTES

ON LORENZO DOWELL (PegLeg) FAMILY MEMBERS  
 Primarily Info regarding children of son LD Pierce Jr, and  
 Biography of son Allen Pierce

**Lorenzo D<sup>4</sup> Pierce My Grandfather** (L.D.)<sup>3</sup>, (Andrew Jackson<sup>2</sup>, Reuben<sup>1</sup>)  
[Jimmie Francis Scott my Grandfather](#)

**Uncle Allen Pierce Biography My Great Uncle**

**Aunt Susie Dacus Allen Pierce Biography My Great Aunt**

**Aunt Visa Compton Biography My Great Aunt**

**Aunt Salley Fisher Biography My Great Aunt**  
 Valney "Chum" Fisher is the oldest living descendent of  
 Andrew Jackson Pierce as of July 1999.  
 We are wanting to contact Rocky Clark  
 son of Valney's half-brother Harbert Clark.

**Uncle George Taylor Pierce Descendents My Great Uncle**  
 Have not been in getting much information from this part of the family.  
 Dowell Pierce ordered a book, and talked to Allen Pierce's kids but never got any forms back.  
 Have written Florence Kale in Athens TX several times but received nothing back.  
 Sent Clem Pierce an older version of the book heard nothing back. Irving promised to send me some stuff and have not heard from him either. Call Bill Pierce today and left message.  
 Talked to Florence Kale, and sending her another letter. Maybe we will get something done on this family yet!!

**Click Here**

**Print LD Senior brothers and sisters Family Group Form**  
**Children of Andrew Jackson Pierce family group sheet.**

**Johnson County History** Read the Johnson County web page  
**Much More about Johnson County on**  
[GoatNeck TX Page](#)  
**and TX Panhandle Links Page**

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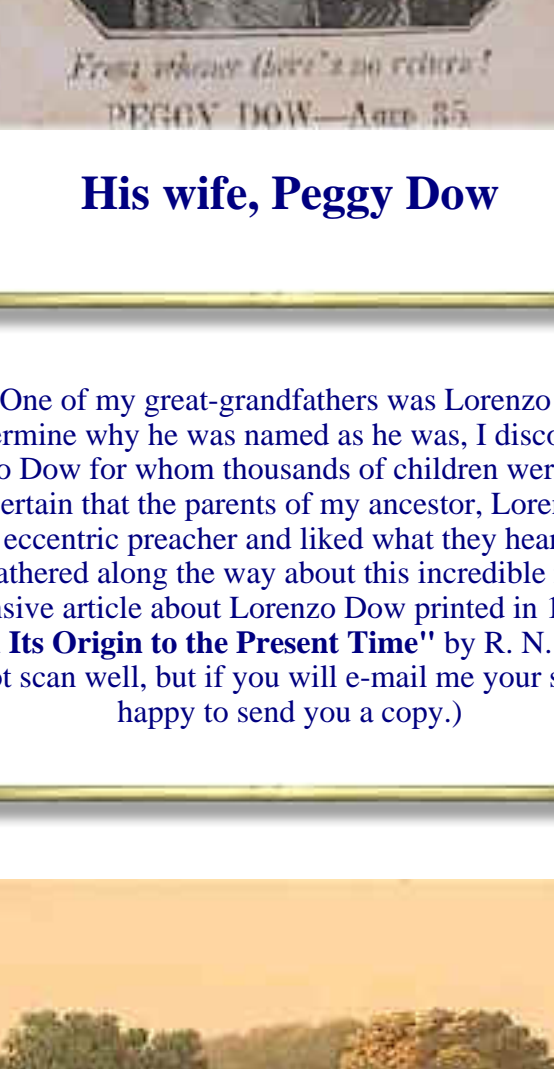
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# Denton Family Genealogy



**Lorenzo Dow**  
October 16, 1777 - February 2, 1834



**His wife, Peggy Dow**



(Methodist Camp Meeting, March 1, 1819, Engraving from the Library of Congress)

## How Many Lorenzo Dow's Do You Have In Your Charts? (from "Blue Grass Roots" Winter, 1978)

Have you, in your genealogical work, found numerous men named Lorenzo Dow, or L.D.? If you have encountered this name often, as we have, did you ever wonder how so many came to be given this name? We found the name in numerous families, in several generations, in various states and counties. We had wondered about it for years, and had made many inquiries, but to no avail. Finally, we found the answer.

Lorenzo Dow was born 16 Oct. 1777, in Coventry, Connecticut, of English ancestors. He was in poor health all his life, suffering from asthma, and had several serious illnesses. He died in D.C. in 1834. Of his 57 years, he spent 39 in the ministry. He began as a Methodist, and although never officially accepted as a Methodist minister, he was closely associated with Methodists, including Bishop Francis Asbury. Dow traveled in every state in the Union, seventeen at the time, Canada, England, Ireland, and Wales. His wife Peggy accompanied him on many of his travels. Their only child was born in Ireland, and died in England.

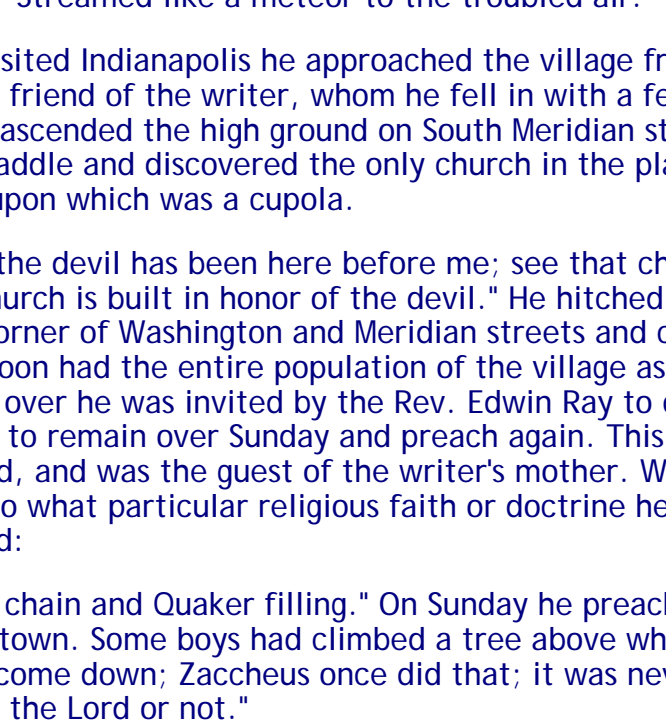
He kept a journal which was published as "History of Cosmopolite, or the Writing of Rev. Lorenzo Dow," published in 1859. He reported traveling through Kentucky in 1797, preaching in "Beardstown," Frankfort (at the State House), and in Lexington. In 1804 he attended the Western Conference of the Methodist Church and then spoke at "Herodsbury" and Springfield, where his money was stolen.

Apparently he was poor most of the time, with no income except what he was paid for his itinerant ministry. However, at times, he had money enough to help others in financial difficulties. Today, with such wide coverage by newspapers, magazines, books, Radio and TV, it is easy to see how a preacher can become well-known to millions. But how did it poor, odd, wandering minister in the early 1800's get so well-known that many babies were named for him?

Perhaps the answer can be found in words in the introduction to his book, written by the publisher. "Though the author of the following work has passed away, his character was so indelibly engraved upon the age in which he lived, that a transcript seems to have been impressed upon the present generation. Who has not heard of Lorenzo Dow? Who that has heard of him has not felt an anxiety to see to hear him speak?"

"Lorenzo Dow was a well-known itinerant preacher. He was one of the most remarkable men of his age, for his zeal and labor in the cause of religion... His eccentric dress and style of preaching attracted great attention, while his shrewdness, and quick discernment of character, gave him no inconsiderable influence over the multitudes that attended his ministry. ... it is probable that more persons have heard the Gospel from his lips, than any other individual since the days of Whitefield."

The odd, wandering preacher probably never dreamed that his name would show up on so many genealogical charts 150 years after his death.



(An old engraving of Lorenzo Dow preaching.)

## VISIT OF LORENZO DOW TO INDIANAPOLIS (From: "Sketches of Prominent Citizens of 1876" by Nowland)

About the year 1827 this eccentric man first visited Indianapolis. He was an itinerant preacher, belonging to no particular church nor holding to any particular tenet of faith or religious doctrine. He was well known throughout the United States, particularly in the south and west, having traversed the country on horseback from one end to the other. His preaching and teachings were mostly in the villages or at the cross roads, where he would be most likely to find hearers; if he made regular appointments they were generally a year ahead. The first known of his appearance in a village would be his standing on a street corner on a log or stump and proclaiming what he called his mission from God "to preach the gospel to every creature."

He was a large, raw-honed man, stoop-shouldered, his beard reaching to the middle of his body, his hair loose and flowing to his shoulders.

"Loose his beard, and hoary hair  
Streamed like a meteor to the troubled air."

When he first visited Indianapolis he approached the village from the south in company with a friend of the writer, whom he fell in with a few miles from town. When he ascended the high ground on South Meridian street, he raised himself in the saddle and discovered the only church in the place (the old Presbyterian), upon which was a cupola.

"Ah," said he, "the devil has been here before me; see that church with a steeple, that church is built in honor of the devil." He hitched his horse on the northeast corner of Washington and Meridian streets and commenced his harangue. He soon had the entire population of the village as hearers. After the service was over he was invited by the Rev. Edwin Ray to dine, and, it being Saturday, to remain over Sunday and preach again. This invitation he readily accepted, and was the guest of the writer's mother. While here Mr. Ray asked him to what particular religious faith or doctrine he adhered, to which he replied:

"I am Methodist chain and Quaker filling." On Sunday he preached in the woods south of town. Some boys had climbed a tree above where he stood. Said he, "Boys, come down; Zacchaeus once did that; it was never known whether he saw the Lord or not."

During his sermon a child annoyed him by crying; he stopped speaking and fixed his gaze upon the mother of the child, and said: "When Peggy (meaning his wife) took her children to meetin' and they cried, she always took them home." Said the woman, "I would not take it home to save your life!" "Well, well," said he, "there will be no crying babies in heaven." At the close of his sermon he announced that fifty-two weeks from that day he would again preach to the people of the place.

The Rev. Edwin Ray had occasionally reminded the people of Mr. Dow's appointment, consequently the Court House was filled to it's utmost capacity. High water prevented the reverend gentleman from being present, and Edwin Ray filled the appointment.

Some said that Mr. Ray had kept them in mind of Dow's appointment merely to get a large audience for himself. On the next Sunday Dow made his appearance; the house was again filled. He heard what had been said of Mr. Ray's motives. When he ascended the judge's bench from which he preached, he inquired "Is brother Ray here?" Upon being answered in the affirmative, said he "Brother Ray stand up."

Some people are like buzzards, they don't like fresh meat, but let it become putrid until it stinks then they will wallow in it as well as eat it. Just so with preaching, last Sunday you preached them an eloquent sermon, but they wanted the putrid and stinking sermon of Lorenzo Dow." He then addressed the women who were present, many of whom were decked out in the tawdry fashion of that day. "Here you are," said he,

"Curled, crimped and gathered,  
Ringed bobbed and feathered,  
How the devil will make them  
feathers fly when he gets you."

The entire bar of the place, Calvin Flegg, Hiram Bower, William Quarles, William W. Wick and Harvey Gregg, sat immediately behind and near the stand. He seemed to know they were lawyers. At the close of his sermon he leaned over the railing and addressed himself particularly to them; said he,

"If a lawyer you would be  
You must learn to lie and cheat,  
For lawyers, not like other men  
Have honest bread to eat."

He then jumped out of the window, mounted his horse and left the town without speaking again to any person.

He was an uneducated man; some thought him insane. He never made any proselytes or had any followers. There were none to doubt his true religion or good intentions. All thought, with a celebrated theologian, -- "His faith, perhaps, in some nice tenets might be wrong -- his life I am sure was in the right." He has now been dead about forty years. A plain sandstone upon which his name is inscribed, marks his resting place in the city cemetery of Georgetown, District of Columbia.

## Lorenzo Dow

(Source unknown)

Lorenzo Dow was a pioneer Methodist, born in Coventry, Conn., Oct. 16, 1777; son of Humphrey B. and Tabitha Dow. His education was limited to the instruction received at a district school. His early religious convictions led him to embrace the doctrines of the Methodists, although he was opposed by his parents in this as well as in his determination to become a preacher. In 1796 he applied for admission to the Connecticut conference, but was refused. The conference, however, received him in 1798, and in 1799 he was sent to Cambridge, N. Y., and after a few months was transferred to Pittsfield, Mass., and from there to Essex, Vt., all within one year.

His conviction of a divine call to preach to the Roman Catholics in Ireland impelled him to visit that country and he sailed late in 1799. On his appearance in Ireland his eccentricities in dress and speech led hundreds to hear him and he was jeered and in many ways severely persecuted. He returned the next year to America, preaching in New York, Alabama and at Louisville, Ky., but in 1805 revisited both England and Ireland, where he instituted the Camp-meeting. This custom was such an innovation that it led to controversy, resulting in the organization of the Primitive Methodists in England. After he left the first time for Ireland he severed his official connection both the ministry of the Methodist church, but continued to promulgate the prominent doctrines of Methodism throughout his life.

His crusade against Roman Catholicism was especially directed against the Jesuits, whom he denounced as enemies to pure religion and to republican government. The prevalent opinion that he was of unsound mind detracted from the effect of his eloquence, and he was familiarly known as "Crazy Dow." He was, nevertheless, a powerful orator, speaking to men unaccustomed to listen to ordinary preaching and reaching out to the utmost borders of civilization in the south and west, where he awakened much controversy and serious thought.

His wife, Peggy, to whom he was married in 1804, was his constant travelling companion. She died at Hebron, Conn., Jan. 6, 1820. In the same year he married Lucy Dolbear. He was a voluminous writer and among his published books are: "Polemical Works (1814); A Stranger in Charleston, or The Trial and Confession of Lorenzo Dow (1822); A Short Account of a Long Travel With Beauties of Wesley (1823); Journal and Miscellaneous Writings, edited by John Dowling (1836); and History of a Cosmopolite, or Writings of the Rev. Lorenzo Dow Containing His Experience and Travels in Europe and America up to Near His Fiftieth Year: also His Polemic Writings (1851), with numerous new editions.

He died in Georgetown, D.C., Feb. 2, 1834.

## Thanks to Eloine Chesnut who sent in the following:

"One who became famous on the circuit was, Lorenzo Dow. He was known for his wild appearance and impassioned preaching. Many a new mother inspired by his preaching named a child after him." Byron L. Troyer, in his 'Yesterday's Indiana,' relates "... Lorenzo Dow, best known of all the circuit riders, was a modern Elijah. When he visited Indiana, he would dash on a horse from the wood into a backwoods community, dismount, and preach with such fire and fervor he became known as "Crazy Dow."

## His obituary appeared in the February 6, 1834 Washington, D.C. National Intelligencer.

"He was one of the most remarkable men of the age for his zeal and labors in the course of religion... his eccentric dress and style of preaching attracted great attention, while his shrewdness and quick discernment of character gave him no considerable influence on the multitudes that attended his ministry. He had been a public preacher for more than 30 years. He was a Methodist, in principle, though not in connection with the society."

## From History of Methodism in Alabama by Rev. [Anson?] West, D.D. February 20, 1939

### REV. LORENZO DOW

Rev. Lorenzo Dow was the first Protestant preacher to preach in any part of the territory that is now Alabama. He claimed to be a Methodist and affiliated with that denomination, but they would not be responsible for him in anything he did. In May, 1803, Rev. Mr. Dow preached to the settlers in the Tombigbee and Tensaw settlements.

This was the first preaching ever done in Alabama except by Romish priests. However, when these settlements along the Tombigbee were developed, and became safe from the Indians and their claims were ceded to the U.S., heralds of the cross found its people and the voice of the messengers of peace was heard in the wilderness.

Rev. Dow described in some of his writings the inhabitants as mostly English, but were like "Sheep without a shepherd," and while it was under Spanish government it was a refuge for bad men.

Lorenzo Dow was born Oct. 16, 1777, in Coventry, Tolland County, Connecticut. He was descended from the English ancestors. He was the subject of early religious impressions. Before he was four years old he expressed himself as "Mused upon God, Heaven and Hell."

He was united with a society of Methodists being received into it by Rev. G. Roberts. He claimed Hope Hull as his spiritual advisor. Rev. Mr. Dow made a long and hard struggle against the conviction that it was his duty to preach, but at last yielded to the conviction that God had called him to the ministry.

He met with strong opposition from his father as to this move and still stronger from the members of the church and when he sought to obtain a license to preach he was discouraged and at first was rejected and sent away. He continued to press his claim and finally admitted on trial September 19, 1798. Ill health prompted him to come South. He was lured by the warm mild climate, and with his wife Peggy, made the long tiresome hazardous trip. The journey was both dangerous and difficult, but to Dow perils were a fascination. In his journals which have been sacredly kept, he tells of these many perils and adventures among the wild tribes he encountered.

Any feature of the uncivilized and the wilderness appealed to him. On the stages of the long journey Southward he preferred camping out at night, especially in the piney woods country. Huge piles of a straw was raked up which served as the bed and he would be lulled to sleep by the soothing monotone of the sighing pines. There was also a hope entertained that the resinous regions possessed a curative power for his malady. A singular chapter in his life was a great desire and fancy to preach to the Roman Catholics and hearing Ireland was their greatest stronghold he would thither, but his pathway was not strewn with roses by any means. He requested a leave of absence from the Conference in order to make the trip abroad, but the request was not granted and he took the leave of absence anyway against their advice and entreaties. He consumed about twenty months on this trip, preaching the gospel incessantly and attending camp meetings.

Notwithstanding he had made the European tour against the authority of the Conference, he resumed preaching on his return and remained on "trial." However, he could not stand the test and his name was soon dropped from the minutes.

He was not careful to maintain the relationship with the Conference which he had so eagerly sought. He was sent out on circuit assignments but this did not correspond with the expansive fields of his dreams. He was discontented. In a word he did not consider a circuit his right sphere, and claimed that his connection with the conference was severed. He was never really ordained to the ministry and was without authority to administer sacrament or organize societies. In doctrinal principles he was Methodist, but was without any church influence or allegiance. He was irregular and uncertain. He was a force, but uncertain, unreliable and inefficient.

He was restless and he was a dreamer. He was contradictory and never happier than when engaged in a wordy war. He possessed scant learning, but was a very close observer of mankind. The very face of Lorenzo Dow indicated his character. His features were both rough and delicate. It was rough and effeminate but in that face there was every mark of indomitable energy.

He parted his hair in the middle and wore it hanging down his neck and shoulders and his face was radiant with kindness. His wife, Peggy, whom he married before coming South, in her writings, "Vicissitudes" gives an account of their first trip coming South and also gives an account of a trip which she made with him passing through the Bigbee settlements in Nov., 1811, from Natchez, Mississippi to Milledgeville, Ga., in the wilderness some forty miles. She says "At night we camped out in lonely deserts, uninhabited by any being except wild beasts and savages."

"I was much alarmed and uneasy, but my husband was content and slept sweetly." In giving an account of her first meeting with him she says, "He is a most singular character, and admits himself that he was known by the name of 'Crazy Dow' and called himself 'Son of Thunder'."

Despite his ill health he boasted that he held off death. He refused to die and said he must live to fight for the Kingdom. He did not believe in founding churches but preferred to preach and praise God in the wilds and in the open. However, a prominent jurist of Alabama, who is closely connected with Lowndes County, claims to have the historical facts that Dow preached from the altar one time if no more. The small church known as "Union" which is nestled in a grove between the small settlements of Burkeville and Manack, Lowndes County, claims the distinction of having him preach there in its early history.

The tradition, in part, is that Sam Manac, the half-breed, who founded the latter place and from whom it was named, met Dow during his wanderings through the wilds and led him to that altar. Union Church, now obscure, holds an interesting part in the early history of Lowndes. Dow, the first man who passed the holy words around and around in Alabama, preached there. The Graves family, ancestors of Alabama's ex-governor, worshipped at that altar. Some of which sleep in the nearby churchyard, and it is built in the road that was the route of the thorough county stage coach line, "most a hundred years ago.

Rev. Dow died February 2, 1834, in Georgetown, D.C., was buried near Washington, but remains were removed and re-buried in Oakhill Cemetery, near Georgetown.