

## Pierce Wilbanks Genealogy newsletter 2000 #1

**Be At the First Pierce/Wilbanks family  
Reunion  
of the New Millenium!! 800-398-5127  
Editor LD Pierce 805 W Sante Fe Gage  
OK**

## Pierce Wilbanks Reunion 2000

News wire

News for Millennia Pierce Genealogy  
Descendants of Capt Andrew Jackson Pierce and  
Nancy E Abercrombie Pierce

**IN THIS ISSUE:**  
**PIERCE WILBANKS FAMILY REUNION JUNE 25 2000,**  
**START 9:00 - 10 AM CLEBURNE, TEXAS**  
*lasting all afternoon*

New Info Clem Abercrombie Pierce burial site. Idaho relative sends obituary CA Pierce was Rhoda Pierce Wilbanks, & LD Pierce Sr.'s brother.



CA Pierce

Clemeth Abercrombie PIERCE born December 16, 1842, Died April 5, 1908 (Cleburne, TX) Buried Cleburne cemetery Brother to my Great Grandfather LD "Peg-Leg" Pierce Editors Note: My dad J.L. Pierce gave me several boxes of my Mothers Papers the last weekend of June 1999, and my mom had this photograph - a photocopy only. I think it looks marvelous considering it is the only known record of this man. I think it is it is possible this photo's original exists in my Uncle Allen's papers the Vernon's have. or one of my grandmother's aunts has it. Hope to find the original soon, but until then it is very nice to find even this photocopy!! WANTED: WE NEED TO CONTACT DESCENDENTS OF THIS FAMILY WHO LIVE IN NEW YORK (WE HAVE HEARD) AND STILL OWN PART OF THE PIERCE RANCH AT GOATNECK JOHNSON COUNTY TX. WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR CLEM PIERCE'S BURIAL SITE. (DEC 1999 found that CA Pierce is buried Cleburne cemetery, Block 28, Lot 20.)

**Reuben Pierce Born Edgefield District  
South Carolina 1768 is the Probably  
father of Andrew Jackson Pierce  
born 1815 Hall Co. GA.**



Photo Allen And Eva Pierce;



Photo My Grandfather  
LD Pierce II

THANKS TO INFORMATION AND COPY OF OBITUARY RECEIVED FROM JOAN MARKS OF SALMON, IDAHO, RECEIVED JULY 12 1999 WE NOW KNOW HE HE DIED IN 1908 AT HOME, ACCORDING TO OBITUARY. WE NOW KNOW HE WAS BURIED IN JOHNSON COUNTY TX. WE KNOW THE WIFE AND DAUGHTERS WERE WITH HIM IN 1907. OUR FAMILY HAS HEARD NOTHING FROM THIS FAMILY FOR 80 YEARS OR MORE. UPON FIRST READING OF THE OBITUARY BELOW I HAD DETERMINED HE DIED IN COLORADO BUT REVIEWING WHAT WAS WRITTEN AND TITLE, HE MUST HAVE DIED AT GOATNECK PRIOR TO APRIL 5 1908. July 12, 1999: Newspaper article sent to me by Joan Marks of Salmon ID. Her great grandfather was brother to Nancy E Abercrombie, and she found this obituary of Clem Pierce among his things. She also sent letter from Fannie James (Nancy Abercrombie Pierce's) JJJ Abercrombie (John Calvin) JJJ Abercrombie of Trinidad Co. "Old Citizen is Dead At Home" Article from Johnson County TX newspaper

**Nancy E Abercrombie's family  
is well researched and she is  
descended from families of  
Cavender Corbin Deadman.  
other Abercrombies were in the  
oil business in Houston TX.**



Pierce Log Cabin  
GoatNeck At Cleburne



Gayle Compton 20 years old



GoatNeck Community Centers



Peg Leg Pierce  
LD Pierce Sr 1890



Peg Leg Pierce and family



CA Pierce Obituary

Clem Pierce Yields to Grim Reaper and is Called to Heavenly Reward April 5th, 1907. On Sunday night at 8:15 o'clock Mr Clem Pierce, one is of the best known ranchers and stockmen of Johnson County, was called to his heavenly reward. Mr. Pierce had been in poor health of some time. For the past several summers he had been spending much of his time in the mountains of Colorado. These summer trips seemed to improve his health, but two weeks ago, he was attacked by la grippe and since that time slowly sank, until death claimed him. The attack of la grippe was followed by an attack of heart disease. On Friday his condition became alarming, and although he had the best of attention, it was to no avail. He was born in Hall County GA Dec 16, 1842, and was 66 years old at the time of his death. (1908). He leaves a wife, and several children to mourn his death. The funeral was held from the family residence on Monday afternoon at 4 o'clock

### Obituary of Capt. Andrew Jackson Pierce

"Old Settler Dead. Capt. A. J. Pierce died at his home on Friday Last. His home nestled in the timber overlooking the Brazos. He was born in Hale (Hall) county, Georgia on the 16th of July 1815. His home was under the shade of mountains where their peaks kiss his new home above. He was one who lived to love a friend, his friends. He feared no enemy. In 1851 Capt. Pierce went to California. He was there when the golden gates were opened to the outside world. He came to Johnson County in 1866. He selected his home where the bluff banks of the Brazos reminded him of his Native hills. He has gone to his grave. He leaves behind forty-five grand children and twenty great grand children. Two of his boys fell in battle, and sleep under the soil of their native state. His aged wife, who was before she took his name, Nancy C Abercrombie, lives to mourn his going. Their Children, C.A. Pierce, L.D. Pierce, Mrs. G.W. Pierce and Mrs. Roddie Wilbanks are here to mourn the loss of a father and friend. We write this only as a token of respect to him who is one of our mourned dead. May the youngest of his great grand children only live to emulate his example."

Another obituary reads, "Mr. A. J. Pierce died at his home May 20, and was buried in the family Cemetery, by the side of his former wife. He was born in Hall county, Georgia., July 15, 1815, and so was 77 years old. In 1866, after losing all his property, because of the war, He moved to Texas and settled in, what was then in the wild west. He settled and improved the farm in Johnson county, in 1866 on which he died. In early life he married and he and his wife had born to them eleven children, five sons and six daughters. Three of their sons and six of their daughters are still living. There are of his descends, forty-five grand children and twenty great grand children. Mr. Pierce was a member of the Baptist church. He loved his family and friends. He was bold and fearless in the expression of his opinion and never deceived anyone. He leaves a wife and many friends to mourn him. The family has the sympathy of this community, but the hope and trust sustains us that when life's parting comes, that beyond the fleeting dust the severed links are gathered home and God, in love and patient care, will reunite them over there."

### Pierce Cemetery

Located at GoatNeck on the Brazos Johnson County TX (Cleburne) Located at GoatNeck not far from Goatneck community center on private property owned by Dyer but Deeded to Pierce Heirs. Surveyed June 1996 and 1999 by LD Pierce, Dallas TX. Write or email for directions to this cemetery.

Andrew Jackson Pierce (born 1815 Lumpkin GA) and his wife Nancy Emaline Abercrombie (Pierce) are buried in the Pierce family in the Cemetery north of the old Pierce log cabin (torn down in 1996). This part of the Old Pierce ranch with the Cemetery is now owned by Dyer but deeded to pierce heirs. The Cemetery is approximately one acre. There is one very large tombstone marking AJ's and Nancy's graves. There is one other cement tombstone listing Jessie Pierce (Clem Pierce and Mollie Gordon's daughter) plus several flat native stone head and foot markers. They are buried edgeways with no identification. The cemetery used to be completely fenced with Cast Iron, but it has been torn down. The cemetery was almost completely covered by overgrowth in 1996 but Lester Jones, 2nd eldest of the Andrew Jackson Pierce descendents, paid to have most of the growth cut down. A gravel company excavated a large hold in search of gravel within 15 feet of the graves and left the hole open. The company went bankrupt and the hole is still there. Floods have washed even closer to the Cemetery, and needs to be filled in or the entire Cemetery will wash out soon. There is only one large rock tombstone in this Cemetery, which contains about 20 graves. Viola Block noted historian of Johnson County TX states that many of AJ's and Nancy's Negro slaves (freed) are also buried in the cemetery. Andrew Jackson Pierce moved to Texas in 1866 some twenty miles from Waco, and moved to Johnson County in 1869. He died in 1892

Written by LD Pierce III June 1999

**LD Pierce is seeking donations to  
cover the cost of mailing  
newsletters, maps, ect. Printable Map  
to GoatNeck and list of Hotel is  
Burlson and Cleburne can be found  
on Pierce Website, Or Call Cleburne  
Chamber of Commerce  
817-645-2455**



Pierce Log Cabin  
GoatNeck At Cleburne



JL Pierce 15 years old



LD Pierce II and his friend  
Jim Compton



Lester Jones and LD Pierce III  
Lester is descended from George W Pierce  
brother of Rhoda and LD Pierce  
and Clem A Pierce



JL Pierce, Peggy Ferguson Pierce, and Bobby Jack  
Pierce

## Gardner Wilbanks Biography

From Johnson County Tx History Book

Gardner Wilbanks moved to Rusk County, Texas from Tennessee in 1839. He fought in the war which won Texas independence from Mexico and was given a land grant in Rusk County for his service. Gardner, his son, Hiram Henry, and their families moved to Johnson County before 1883. Hiram enlisted in the Confederate service, in Company B, Captain Childress' command, Stone's regiment, in 1862. He was in the Battle of Donaldsonville, Louisiana, and was later detailed to the mail service where he served until the end of the war. Socially, he was a member of the Masonic Order and the Grange; politically, a Democrat; and religiously, a member of the Christian Church. Hiram had fourteen children and has many descendants now living in Johnson County. Allen Mansel Wilbanks, son of Hiram, was born in 1858. Although a very small boy, Allen had to serve as a look-out for Indians during the War Between the States. The older youths and men were away at war and the community was in constant fear of Indian raids. He married Rhoda Pierce who had come to Johnson County from Georgia by covered wagon at the age of three. In 1902, Allen and his family of eight



sheriff Hix Wilbanks and  
Wife Trixie

**PIERCE WILBANKS FAMILY REUNION TO BE HELD  
THE THIRD SUNDAY  
OF JUNE 2000 9:00 A.M.  
AT THE GOATNECK COMMUNITY CENTER. THIS  
DATE IS JUNE 25 2000. AT THIS POINT NO  
CATERING OF FOOD/PICNIC ITEMS IS PLANNED.  
IF YOU WHO ARE COMING WANT A BUFFET  
PROVIDED WE MUST MAKE PLANS IMMEDIATELY.  
THERE ARE PLENTY OF PICNIC TABLES AVAILABLE  
AND THE GOATNECK COMMUNITY CENTER HAS  
SEVERAL ROOMS AND KITCHEN WE CAN USE. THE  
GOAT NECK AREA  
OLD TIMERS COMMUNITY HAS ALREADY BEEN  
HAVING THIS ANNUAL REUNION FOR 10 YEARS OR  
MORE....NOW US PIERCES ARE GOING. RSVP TO  
800-398-5127  
LD PIERCE SUGGESTED  
805 Sante Fe Gage  
Oklahoma 73483  
Cleburne Chamber of Commerce 1511 West Henderson  
Cleburne TX 76031 Chamber Telephone: 814-645-2455**



JL Pierce, Uncle  
George Pierce of Alice, and  
Grandpa LD Pierce 1950's.



Jimmie Pierce Pictured here  
with Rube Wilbanks 1935.



Tombstone At Pierce Cemetery  
for Andrew J Pierce, and Wife  
Nancy E Abercrombie Pierce.

children, including two married sons, moved to Hansford County in the Texas Panhandle traveling by wagon four sixteen days. One son, Andrew Jackson, had married Dove Oakes of Hood County. The other son, Allen Mansel, Jr., had married Ophelia Ewing of Johnson County. Allen had a contract to drill forty water wells on the XIT Ranch and had purchased four sections of land in Hansford County for two dollars an acre. This land is being cultivated by his descendants today. Allen's two brothers, Earnest, married to the former Eva Mae Burran of Johnson County, and Floyd, married to the former Susan Bowden, also of Johnson County, traveled to the Panhandle and settled on adjoining land. Another brother, Arthur, died in Hansford County in 1908. He never married. Thomas Calvin Hazlewood an active businessman of Cleburne, is the great-grandson of Allen Mansel. Mary and Calvin Hazelwood of Fort Worth are his parents. His grandfather was Howell L. (His) Wilbanks who was born in Johnson County in 1888. Hix was a pioneer farmer and rancher and was Sheriff & Tax Collector of Hansford County for twenty years. Thomas is married to the former Gail Gumm of Fort Worth who is the daughter Mary and Charles C. Gumm of Fort Worth and the Double Dollar Ranch near Rio Vista. Tom and Gail have one daughter, Holly. Travis Hazlewood of Fort Worth, brother of Thomas, is married to the former Charwynne Bass, daughter of Fleeta and J.T. Basof Cleburne. Travis and Charwynne have onson, George Bass. Article F795 by Gail Hazlewood Johnson County History Book pg 835 Reprinted Editors Note the author's husband Tom Hazlewood is Mayor of Cleburne Tx Johnson County



AM Manny Wilbanks and wife  
Rhoda Pierce Wilbanks



LD Pierce II and Allen Pierce  
with their best friends  
the Compton Brothers



LD Pierce II 1940's.



Photo of Gardner  
Wilbanks Sent to me by  
Mary Calvo. Her Grandmother  
Was Gardner's Sister  
Susan Wilbanks.



Your Author LD Pierce III taken 1998