

CHAPTER FIFTY-TWO

RICHARD PIERSALL

of Washington County, Pennsylvania, and Green County, Kentucky

This chapter has been in part deleted. See Note, page 1041.

SECTION 1.

RICHARD PIERSALL, son of Job Pearsall, Chapter 48, Section 1; born 1741; resided Washington County, Pa., and Green County, Kentucky; married ——. Children:—

1. John Washington Piersall, born May 6, 1778, Chapter 52, Section 2.
2. Samuel Pierceall, Chapter 52, Section 11.
3. Zachariah Piersol.

The settlement of the southwest corner of Pennsylvania furnishes one of the most interesting historical events of colonial and revolutionary times. Here the Virginia planter with his slaves met the Pennsylvania trader with his commodities and his peltry. Here the two provinces fought out a boundary dispute as interesting in its detail of events public, private, and social, as any in all American history, and it is well known that border difficulties have been an endless source of war. In this controversy our family were deeply concerned, and as it was a strife of states of the same general government it degenerated into civil warfare with the usual result of sharply cleaving family lines. Two of the sons of Job Pearsall settled in this disputed territory. It is an interesting geographical observation that if one would draw a straight line northward from the mouth of Cross Creek in Washington County to the mouth of Coaquenesing Creek in Beaver County, this line would not only nearly follow the valley of Chartiers Creek, but it would be close to the farms of these brothers and to those of their sons, and this territory was considered by them as being in the state of Virginia. The greater part of the lands in the present counties of Washington and Green were taken up on Virginia certificates, but the reverse was the case in the territory which is now Fayette County, Pennsylvania. Here nearly all the settlers took title from Pennsylvania, and but few Virginia certificates are found. The reason for this was that prior to the close of the Revolution many, and probably the greater part, of the people believed that the state line would eventually be established on the Monongahela River, giving sole jurisdiction east of that river to Pennsylvania and all west thereof to Virginia. [History of Fayette County, page 65.]

By far the largest settlement of Virginians was along Chartiers Creek under land entries made between 1769-79. By the compromise of the latter year between the two states these Virginia entries were recognized as equally good as Pennsylvania warrants. This agreement was not ratified however by Virginia until June 23, 1780, and by Pennsylvania until September 23, 1780. In the meantime, on March 1, 1780, the latter state had placed on its records an act

for the gradual abolition of slavery. The passage of this law was very offensive to most of those who had come into this region with their servants from the other side of the line run by Mason and Dixon. It has been said, but with how much truth is not known, that General Washington was greatly displeased by this enactment and the story even goes so far as to assert that he regarded it as a personal affront and that this was the cause of his disposing of his real and personal property in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, which he had acquired under Pennsylvania warrants. This part of the story, however, cannot be true, as George Washington held Fayette Co. lands at the time of his death, which lands his executors subsequently sold. It is probable that as a Virginian and slaveholder, Washington's sympathies were with his old friends of the Northern Neck of Virginia who had followed him into this wilderness only to find that they must again move on. For it was largely through Washington and his influence with the settlers on the lands of Lord Fairfax, that so many of the sons and daughters of these people, including Benjamin and Richard Pearsall, sons of Job Pearsall, who settled on the waters of Chartiers Creek, came into the Panhandle of Virginia. There never was any question as to their loyalty to the American cause. The luke-warmness of the Quaker element, which predominated the sentiment of eastern Pennsylvania, was entirely absent in this western district of that province. In proportion to population the largest number of Pennsylvania Revolutionary soldiers came from west of the Allegheny Mountains and south of the Ohio River and the Pittsburgh, Greensburg and Bedford Road. [Hist. of Allegheny Co., 1889, page 61. Ibid., page 73. Hist. of Fayette Co., Pa., page 127. Washington and Braddock's Expd., by Haddon, page 57. Hist. of Greene County, Pennsylvania, page 16.]

The settlement of the boundary line dispute was generally accepted as a measure tending to the unity of the American forces. The Virginians were nevertheless greatly surprised to learn of this emancipation legislation. The first ebullition of contempt that manifested itself was the preparation of those that were foot-loose to immediately depart for Kentucky, which was now in its turn the new Eldorado of the West. This interference with what they pleased to call their domestic rights, was immediately visited upon the devoted heads of the Quakers in the old counties of Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, etc., until the curses were loud, long and bitter. Discontent and alarm also, existed almost everywhere with reference to the final result of the revolutionary war. Cornwallis was not as yet overthrown. A Quaker government was much better adapted to a condition of peace than one of war. [Hist. of Greene County, Pa., page 16.]

Richard Piersall was among the first to remove to Kentucky; he was a soldier and a follower of Washington, so he at once removed to the territory governed by Virginia. He had been a lad of thirteen when Washington spent the eventful day and night at his father Job Pearsall's fort on the south branch of the Potomac, and from that day until the end of his life he never ceased to be a follower of his boyhood hero and friend, George Washington.

In the list of Virginia soldiers of the Revolutionary War appears the name of Richard Pierceall, under the list of the names of those upon the pension rolls

of other states who had served in Virginia commands, Secretary of War report, 1835, pension rolls 3 Ky. 98. Statement for Green County, Kentucky, Richard Pierceall, private, annual allowance \$20.00, amount received \$60.00, served in Virginia Militia, placed on pension roll April 25, 1833. Pension to commence May 4, 1831; aged 90 years.

SECTION 2.

JOHN WASHINGTON PIERSALL, son of Richard Piersall, Chapter 52, Section 1; born May 6, 1778; died June 1, 1834; resided Clark County, Ky.; married first, March 29, 1805, Nancy Wills who was born June 13, 1788; married second, November 8, 1821, Margaret Frances Stevenson. Children of the first marriage:—

1. Isaac Piersall, born March 9, 1806, Chapter 52, Section 3.
2. Phebe Redmond Piersall, born November 29, 1807; died January 2, 1892; married September 28, 1832, William Page Allen.
3. John Piersall, born December 20, 1809. See Z, this Section.
4. Polly Piersall, born November 9, 1812; married — Wills.
5. Lukkus Hood Piersall, born September 15, 1813.
6. Sinthia Ann Piersall, born February 23, 1815.
7. Nancy Piersall, born December 21, 1815; married — Jones.

Children of the second marriage:—

8. Samuel Stevenson Piersall, born July 11, 1823, Chapter 52, Section 9.
9. Elizabeth Piersall, born October 12, 1824.
10. Margaret Mariam Piersall, born June 5, 1826; married December 16, 1847, Reuben Clark Wilson, who was born October 28, 1824.
11. Thornton Wills Piersall, born October 16, 1827, Chapter 52, Section 10.
12. Frances Piersall, born April 15, 1830; married Aaron Crostweight.

It was fortunate for these early pioneers that game, especially deer, was very plentiful. The man who was able to provide well for his family was necessarily a good hunter. Among those who were famous as huntsmen in this section of Kentucky, says Benjamin Franklin Piersall, was my grandfather. He once challenged another famous hunter, Mr. Luke Hood, the grandfather of General Hood, of Confederate fame, to go hunting, the wager being a new pair of moccasins. The challenge was accepted and Mr. Hood arrived in the middle of December, 1823. The weather was very cold and in a state of blizzard. Mr. Hood taking the waters of Clear Creek for his hunting ground and my grandfather taking Caney Creek as his hunting ground. They arrived back home at sunset, both calling to grandmother for cold water in which to bathe their feet, as they were badly frozen. After they had been thawed out, my grandfather asked Mr. Hood how many deer he had killed; he replied that he had killed and hung up in the woods eight bucks. He then asked grandfather how many he had killed, and he said that he had gone one better.

Z. JOHN PIERSALL, born December 20, 1809; resided in Clark County, Ky.; married Rachel —. Children:—

1. George Washington Piersall, born July 4, 1837; died September 9, 1907; married Sarah Simpson. Children:—*1. Sarah Piersall, born October 15,

1860; married first, in 1876, Peter Price. She married second, M. Crutchfield who was born in 1855; died 1903. *2. George Piersall, born March 22, 1862; married Theodosha Shears. *3. R. S. Piersall, born April 12, 1866; married Ora Chapman. *4. Martha Piersall, born September 17, 1869. *5. Emma Piersall, born May 29, 1871; married first, — Boydston; married second, Louis F. Witt, born February 5, 1873. *6. James Simpson Piersall, born May 3, 1877; married first, Rose May Houston; married second, Sallie Barbara Beard.

2. John Piersall.
3. Samuel Piersall.
4. Eli Piersall.
5. William Piersall. See b, this Division.

SECTION 3.

ISAAC PIERSALL, son of John Piersall, Chapter 52, Section 2; born March 9, 1806; resided in Clark County, Kentucky; married November 26, 1827, Melissa Bruce, daughter of Byron and Lucy Bruce of Clark County, Kentucky. James Bruce of Accomac, Virginia, was a Dutch-English trader resident there and connected with Kent Island before 1648. Some of the family passed over into west Nantmeal, Chester County, Pennsylvania, thence to Hampshire County, Virginia, and from there to Allegheny and Washington Counties, Pennsylvania; thence they emigrated to Kentucky. Children:—

1. John William Piersall, born May 5, 1830, Chapter 52, Section 4.
2. Thomas Barnett Piersall, born October 14, 1832, Chapter 52, Section 5.
3. Martha Ann Piersall, born April 27, 1835; married Benjamin E. Wills.
4. Jesse Ray Piersall, born October 9, 1837, Chapter 52, Section 8.
5. Mary Frances Piersall, born March 13, 1840; married William Tanner.
6. Archibald Cooper Piersall, born March 31, 1843, Chapter 52, Section 6.
7. Lucy Piersall, born January 28, 1846; married Landon Parrish.
8. Nancy Elizabeth Piersall, born August 18, 1848; married John E. Sousley.
9. James Franklin Piersall, Chapter 52, Section 7.

SECTION 4.

JOHN WILLIAM PIERSALL, son of Isaac Piersall, Chapter 52, Section 3; resided in Clark County, Kentucky; married February 14, 1861, Frances Vivian Lowe, born July 7, 1841; died April 7, 1887; daughter of Frederick Lowe and his wife Mary Vivian of Clark County, Kentucky. Those of the name of Lowe in this section of the country are descended from Seth Lowe who came from the parish of Denly, England, and resided in Talbot County, Maryland, before 1674. Here he was a Friend interested in the Quaker meeting founded by the Talbot County Friends on the Trego Farm in Chester County, Pennsylvania, which adjoined the Piersall homestead in Nantmeal, now Honeybrook Township. Here some of the descendants of Seth Lowe settled and from here the family spread along the York road into western Virginia, thence to Fayette County, Pennsylvania, from here they emigrated to Monongalia County, Virginia, and thence they came to Washington County,

Pennsylvania, from which place they joined the emigration of Virginians to Kentucky. Children:—

1. Mary Lee Pearsall, born February 28, 1862; married Basil D. Hardesty.
2. Nancy Lowe Piersall, born January 24, 1865; married Graham Taylor.
3. John Milton Piersall, born May 12, 1868; married Nina Thompson.
4. Carrie Belle Piersall, born April 16, 1871; unmarried.
5. Chelsea Piersall, born July 8, 1876; married first, Ethel Flynn; married second, Lillian B. Thornton.
6. Frederick Lowe Piersall, born August 26, 1880; unmarried.

SECTION 5.

THOMAS BARNETT PIERSALL, son of Isaac Piersall, Chapter 52, Section 3; resided in Clark County, Kentucky; born October 14, 1832; died September 13, 1901; married April 29, 1862, Mary Sanford Bruce, daughter of Sanford Bruce and his wife Martha Ann Rout; she was born March 24, 1845. Children:—

1. William Sanford Piersall, born February 1, 1864; died March 13, 1894; married first, Julia A. Black, daughter of James Black and his wife Martha Watts; married second, her sister Sarah Black. Children of first marriage:—
*1. Anna Lee Piersall, married George Rupard. Children:—1. Thomas Rupard. 2. Nelson Rupard. 3. Garner Rupard. *2. Charlotte Piersall, died young. Child of second marriage:—*3. William Sanford Piersall, married Lura Sweatman. Child:—1. William Sanford Piersall.
2. Lela Earl Piersall, born October 15, 1865; married Dilarce Gordon.
3. Jessie Nora Piersall, born December 2, 1868; married Rowland D. Ramsey.

SECTION 6.

ARCHIBALD COOPER PIERSALL, son of Isaac Piersall, Chapter 52, Section 3; born March 31, 1843; died November 27, 1917; married August 27, 1880, Mamie Weldon, born May 19, 1860; daughter of William D. Weldon and his wife Sallie A. Noe. No children. The family in Virginia called themselves Welton. Washington in his journal records that on April 5, 1750, he surveyed for William Henry Welton a tract of land in Frederick County, Virginia, on Cacaphon bounded by John Woodfine and William Hughes, Junior; the survey is signed by John Welton, probably a son. As late as the census of 1782-84 the family was still represented in Hampshire County although they had branched out into Fayette County, Pennsylvania, and thence had emigrated to Kentucky.

SECTION 7.

JAMES FRANKLIN PIERSALL, son of Isaac Piersall, Chapter 52, Section 3; resided in Clark County, Kentucky; married first, Mary Sumpter; married second, Gracie Ruppert; married third, Delia Hunly; married fourth, Gertie Piersall, daughter of John Piersall of Salt Lick, Kentucky. Children of first marriage:—

1. James Oden Piersall, born May 10, 1872; married Ann Thompson.
2. Thomas Chester Piersall, born September 30, 1882; married Emma Faulkner.

Child of second marriage:—

3. Paul Piersall, born July 27, 1890; died January 25, 1917.

No children of third marriage.

Children of fourth marriage:—

4. Isaac Piersall, born May 20, 1907.
5. John Edward Piersall, born May 20, 1911.

SECTION 8.

JESSE RAY PIERSALL, son of Isaac Piersall, Chapter 52, Section 3; died August 21, 1911; resided at Winchester, Kentucky; married Cynthia Ann Jones. Children:—

1. Emma Piersall, married J. G. Parrish.
2. Mary O. Piersall.

SECTION 9.

SAMUEL STEVENSON PIERSALL, son of John Piersall, Chapter 52, Section 2; resided in Bath County, Kentucky; married June 4, 1849, Mary L. Young, daughter of Reuben Young. Children:—

1. Marquis Young Lafayette Piersall, born March 18, 1850; died March 19, 1864.
2. Reuben Young Piersall, born December 16, 1857; married July 17, 1879, Mary Clayton, who was born July 21, 1846.
3. John Hicks Piersall, born November 18, 1853; died August 11, 1854.
4. Nancy Ann Piersall, born September 21, 1865.
5. Thornton W. Piersall, born November 15, 1858; married —.
6. Elizabeth Catherine Piersall, born January 17, 1860.
7. Mary R. Piersall, born February 21, 1862.
8. Infant son born and died June 13, 1864.
9. Sallie Florence Piersall, born May 13, 1868.
10. Anna Hestella Piersall, born July 8, 1872.
11. Merriam Piersall, born July 2, 1874; married May, 1896, Thomas Satterfield, born September 18, 1873.

SECTION 10.

THORNTON WILLS PIERSALL, son of John Piersall, Chapter 52, Section 2; born October 16, 1827; died March 13, 1879; resided in Bath County, Kentucky; married November 2, 1857, Catherine Boyd Young, born June 9, 1842; died December 18, 1914; daughter of Reuben Young and his wife, Nancy Warner. Children:—

1. Benjamin Franklin Piersall, born September 12, 1860; married first, July 22, 1890, Jaqueline Armitage; died September 13, 1891; married second, June 9, 1901, Minnie May Cartmill. Children:—*1. John Thornton Piersall, born August 23, 1902. *2. Laura Ellen Cathaleen Piersall, born July 17, 1904; died March 26, 1905. *3. Isa B. Piersall, born March 5, 1906; died December 5, 1909. *4. Iva Nora Piersall, born July 22, 1908. *5. Eva May Piersall, born February 22, 1910. *6. Clara Gertrude Piersall, born April 25, 1912. *7. Sallie Wills Piersall, born June 20, 1914. *8. Tamie Alice Piersall, born June 30, 1917.

2. John Eli Piersall, born April 12, 1862; married Laura Hobbs. Children:—
*1. Gertrude Cokley Piersall, born March 3, 1884; married James Franklin Piersall. *2. Ollie Fassett Piersall, born January 10, 1886; died December 16, 1900. *3. Howard Van Piersall, born February 3, 1888; married Mattie Haggert. *4. Glen W. Piersall, born September 15, 1890. *5. Wayne McVeigh Piersall, born October 8, 1892. *6. Thornton Oliver Piersall, born October 6, 1895. *7. Garrett Dow Piersall, born June 7, 1898. *8. Everett Crooks Piersall, born April 25, 1902. *9. Iva Catherine Piersall, born December 13, 1905.
3. Son not named, born February 16, 1864.
4. Iva Morton Nora Piersall, born September 26, 1865; married William Clayton, Jr.
5. Tandy Allen Piersall, born April 28, 1868; married Mary Margaret McClain. Children:—*1. Carl Warwick Piersall, born May 15, 1890; married Ethel Scott. *2. Burchett Druid Piersall, born May 3, 1892. *3. Louis Trail Piersall, born April 7, 1895. *4. Nina Allen Piersall, born March 20, 1897. *5. Russell Tandy Piersall, born January 18, 1901. *6. Stevenson Rhodes Piersall. *7. Nellie Belle Piersall.
6. Charles Thomas Piersall, born August 13, 1870; married November 14, 1891, Catherine Goodin. Children:—*1. Olive Burnell Piersall, born November 12, 1892; married Gaylord Cook; resided at Protection, Kansas. *2. Jessie Dean Piersall, born February 23, 1895. *3. Anna Nora Piersall, born July 23, 1897; died October 15, 1900. *4. Archie William Piersall, born October 7, 1899. *5. Charles Thornton Piersall, born August 21, 1902. *6. Grace Piersall.
7. Son not named, born December 3, 1875.
8. William Miller Piersall, born December 31, 1876; married Miranda Crooks Botts, who died May 28, 1913. Children:—*1. Berun Piersall, died July 30, 1917. *2. Iva Clayton Piersall. *3. William Lawrence Piersall. *4. Thomas Johnson Piersall. *5. Omer Sherman Piersall, died October 16, 1910.

SECTION 11.

SAMUEL PIERCEALL, son of Richard Piersall, Chapter 52, Section 1; resided in Clark County, and Montgomery County, Kentucky; married Polly ——. Children:—

1. Samuel Piersol. Chapter 52, Section 12.
2. Richard Piersall.
3. George Washington Piersall, born November 19, 1819; Chapter 52, Section 13.
4. John P. Piersall, married Nancy ——; lived in Barren County, Kentucky.
5. Andrew Piersall, married; lives in Indianapolis, Indiana. Children:—*1. James Piersall. *2. Richard Piersall. *3. Andrew Piersall. *4. John Piersall. *5. Betsey Piersall.
6. Mary Piersall.
7. Malinda Piersall.
8. Elizabeth Piersall, married John Stephens. Children:—*1. David Stephens, born February 14, 1850. *2. Sarah Stephens, born 1852.

9. William Piersall, married Betsey ——. No children. They adopted a child whom they named John Piersall who still is living near Martinsville, Illinois.

SECTION 12.

SAMUEL PIERSOL, son of Samuel Pierceall, Chapter 52, Section 11; resided in Kentucky; married Elizabeth; died 1889, aged 82 years. Children:—

1. Ignatius Clementine Piersol, born in Kentucky, 1833; moved to Missouri and then to Jonesboro, Illinois; died April 16, 1895; married Eleanor Kaly, daughter of William and Melissa Kaly of Jonesboro, Illinois; she died 1879.
2. Joshua B. Piersol, Chapter 52, Section 14.

SECTION 13.

GEORGE WASHINGTON PIERSALL, son of Samuel Pierceall, Chapter 52, Section 11; born November 19, 1819; died April 30, 1882; married August 9, 1850, Mary A. Myers, born March 28, 1820; died January 19, 1896. They resided in Barren County, Kentucky. Children:—

1. William Henry Piersall, born May 5, 1851; died February 9, 1926; married November 28, 1876, Alzina Fontenot, born January 6, 1849.
2. Mary Elizabeth Piersall, married Taylor Lowell Passmore.
3. A daughter who died young.
4. George Washington Piersall, born December 17, 1855; died circa 1925, Clark County, Illinois; married December 22, 1880, Florence W. Ryan.
5. Rebecca Ann Piersall, born March 4, 1858; married September 22, 1880, Perry Kimilin.
6. James Samuel Piersall, born September 30, 1860; married December 24, 1881, Isadora McDaniels.

SECTION 14.

JOSHUA B. PIERSOL, son of Samuel Piersol, Chapter 52, Section 12; born February 16, 1837; died June 20, 1917; resided at Billings, Missouri; married Frances E. —, who was born August 1, 1841. Children:—

1. George M. Piersol, born in Iowa, September 13, 1858; married March 16, 1876, Permelia Jane French, who was born April 2, 1855, in Jefferson Co., Iowa. Children:—*1. Paul Du Chilleau Piersol, born November 10, 1877. *2. Ivy Piersol, born March 28, 1881; died June 10, 1881. *3. Jessie J. Piersol, born June 10, 1882; died August 23, 1891. *4. Helen Jay Piersol, born June 22, 1885; married October 2, 1905, Harry Ancil Kennedy. *5. Hilda Armilda Piersol, born October 23, 1888.
2. John B. Piersol, born February 3, 1860.
3. Clara H. Piersol, born August 31, 1861.
4. Laura I. Piersol, born February 23, 1863; died April 13, 1865.
5. Susie A. Piersol, born January 31, 1867.
6. Willis R. Piersol, born October 15, 1868.
7. Ottie Piersol, born August 20, 1876; died April 7, 1882.