



The Pemberton Post

News of the Pemberton Family World Wide

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👉 The famous book *Pemberton Pedigrees* is being re-published! 👈

In this Post we celebrate the complete filming of the grand old book *Pemberton Pedigrees* by Herbert Pemberton (i.e. "Bert") and Steven, his son. If it were not enough that they spent hours doing that work, Bert has also provided us with a short biography of the book's compiler, RCB Pemberton. Read on -

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R. C. B. Pemberton, by Herbert Pemberton

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PFWW Reunion 2012 Grows BIG

The first reunion and business meeting of the Pemberton Family World Wide organization is scheduled for August 9 – 11 in the Redwoods of California, not very far north of San Francisco. It now has the prospect of about 100 attendees! Many of these will come from the close relatives of the President and Founder of the PFWW but PFWW members from as far away as Virginia are coming.

Please note that any Pemberton family that wishes to hold their own reunion in 2012, is invited to schedule their reunion concurrent with the PFWW reunion so people can attend sessions from both without missing either one! See the front page of the website for more details.

Members of the PFWW will stay at Camp Liahona Redwoods for a lodging fee of \$5 per person (No, you won't be sleeping under a log.) plus the cost of meals which will be served in the large dining hall. All the details that are presently fixed are published on the front page of the website: PFWW.org. Take a look at the beautiful camp and review the many amenities there.

This reunion promises to be quite special because it brings together a number of people who have never met before but who are destined to be close friends. Where better to find someone who

really understands you and has so much in common with you?

Come and get the vision of a Pemberton team working to transcribe and share wills, deeds, church and vital records. Many members live in the heart of a centuries-old Pemberton geography and have access to records that are not available anywhere but in their local libraries, graveyards, churches, etc. Come and join in the vision of shared Pemberton sources that would otherwise remain virtually unavailable.

See you there!! Click here to learn more.

[Click here to register.](#)

Major-General R. C. B. Pemberton

By Herbert Pemberton, Blackpool, UK.

Amongst the reasons for the widespread interest in Family History today, one must surely be the steadily growing amount of material becoming available online, which makes it so easy to extend research beyond the construction of a basic family tree. The ease with which millions of records can now be accessed would astonish the genealogists of a hundred years ago, but they would be pleased, I think, to see that their work is still valued by present-day researchers, in some cases perhaps more highly than it was by their contemporaries.

One of those genealogists to whom we, as Pembertons, owe a huge debt, is Robert Charles Boileau Pemberton (I shall refer to him for convenience as "RCB") who on his retirement in 1892 decided to try to assemble a genealogy of the Pemberton family.

Born in Calcutta in 1834, he had a distinguished army career, rising to the rank of Major-General in the Royal Engineers. His entry in *Who was Who*, 1897-1915, says that he served during the Indian Mutiny Campaign at the siege of and assault on Delhi and the capture of Lucknow. Between 1857 and 1892, he held various appointments in the Indian Public Works Dept., including Director of Railways and Secretary to Government, and served for fourteen months as a temporary member of the Viceroy's Council. He was decorated for military and civil services.

In retirement, he lived in South Kensington, London, and was thus ideally placed to use the

capital's library resources, especially those of the Guildhall, the Public Record Office, the London Library and the British Museum (which then contained what is now the British Library). He was a member of the Society of Genealogists.

By the time of his death in December, 1914, he had collected or drawn up forty pedigree charts of various Pemberton families, plus a lot of Notes containing biographical information "with proofs and authorities for statements or suppositions". His elder son, the Rev. Robert Pemberton, edited and prepared the charts for publication, and they appeared in book form in 1923 with the title *Pemberton Pedigrees*. Most of the pedigrees are of English families, of course, but families from Philadelphia, Boston, Ireland and Canada and the French Pembertons of New Zealand are included.

In the Preface Robert hoped that "the interest of the various families may justify the issue of the Notes as a second volume in the near future", but he also saw the need for further research "to link up most, if not all, of the branches with the original Lancashire stock". Unfortunately, so far as we are aware, the Notes were never published and their whereabouts, and those of the remaining material, are unknown.

I discovered RCB's work in Birmingham in the early 1960s, when, finding myself with time to kill before a meeting, I wandered into the Central Library. For no particular reason that I can think of, I looked up "Pemberton" in the card catalogue - and found a book entitled *Pemberton Pedigrees*. In great excitement, I requested it from the stacks, fully expecting in my innocence to find some reference to my ancestors, although at that time, save for my grandfather Benjamin, born in Lancashire in 1874, I had no idea who they were. To coin a phrase, I wouldn't have known them from Adam.

But Benjamin was not there, and there was no Pemberton that I could recognise. Greatly disappointed, and feeling that a more accurate title for the book would have been *Some Pemberton Pedigrees*, I returned it and went off to my meeting. I did commit the title to memory, however, (not difficult!) and when history repeated itself in the late 1990s I went back to the Library and was delighted to see that the book was still there.

I was retired by then, and had started to investigate my family history, so I approached the book with a more tolerant attitude and a greater awareness of the problems RCB had faced. It became clear that, as an ex-Army officer, he had understandably begun his work by making contact with people of a similar or higher social standing, people who almost as a matter of course kept detailed records of family events. I quickly realised that my Pembertons, mostly glassworkers, shoemakers, watchmakers and innkeepers, were unlikely ever to have come to his attention. It seemed that the best I could hope for was to trace them sufficiently far back to be able to say that, on

the balance of probabilities, there could be a link between one of RCB's families and mine.

So, believing that if I could do that I could make a great leap backward, and hoping that someone might have taken his work forward, I posted an appeal on the Pemberton message board at Rootsweb in 2003, asking anyone who knew the whereabouts of his Notes and other research material to respond. The only person to do so was Jackson Pemberton, who wrote late in 2011 to ask whether I had a copy of the book. I replied that I hadn't, but knowing that there was a copy in Lancashire Archives in Preston, fairly close to where I live, I offered to go there and photograph it. Jackson accepted my offer and I recruited my son Steven, who is more of a photographer than I am, to help me. We spent the best part of a day in December at the Archives and on the following day transferred the images to a CD, which I posted to Jackson shortly afterwards.

RCB is quite firm in his assertion that the Pemberton name derives from the "populous and extensive township" in the civil parish of Wigan in Lancashire and offers four explanations of its meaning.

His first four charts are grouped together under the title, *The Founders (1154-1376)*, and the earliest Pemberton he had found was Adam de Pemberton, who was living in 1154. The descent from Adam to Richard Pemberton and Alice (unknown), "of Pemberton, Tunstead, Etherston and Prescott", who were alive in 1415, is uncertain and more research is needed to fill the gaps. Descent from Richard is better documented.

RCB also goes into some detail about coats of arms. One result of his selective approach is that thirteen of his forty charts bear coats of arms, and he clearly devoted a lot of time to researching this aspect of the family's history.

I can see now that he was selective out of necessity, and I remain full of admiration for what he achieved at a time when there were few telephones, and no IGI, computers, fax machines or Internet, so that the principal means of gathering information were visiting libraries, writing letters and making personal visits. The breadth and depth of the research on which the pedigrees are based are clear from the sources quoted. (One of the principal ones was volume 4 of *The Victoria County History of Lancashire*, published in 1911.) He has worked carefully and methodically, and I think he has given us a sound basis for further investigations.

I hope that when his work is made available on our Pemberton family website, it will inspire other genealogists and especially perhaps members of those families whose pedigrees appear in it to carry on his research and make their findings available to others.

[Ed. Note: A [picture of him](#) has been found in the National Portrait Gallery showing him with a group of men of the India Company. He is said to be second from right standing.]

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Pemberton Pedigrees Republished

Progress continues on the republication of this famous old book by Major-General Robert Charles Boileau Pemberton [See today's feature article]. The book has been completely and meticulously photographed by Bert Pemberton and his son Steven, of Blackpool, England. Our picture shows Bert at work in Lancashire Archives in Preston. [Ed. Note: Our special thanks to Bert for his work; this project being the quintessence of the reason the PFWW was formed.]

Members of the PFWW who have paid membership dues, will be given a complete copy of the book as soon as it is ready. That copy will, at a minimum, be a DVD. (If you have paid dues you will want to ensure that you have entered your correct postal address in your profile on the website.) Meanwhile, all who have registered on the PFWW.org website, can [examine](#) the book's Title page, Preface, Introduction, and Table of Contents. The majority of the book is, as the title infers, Pemberton pedigrees. The notes to these pedigrees are particularly interesting as they discuss certainties and uncertainties, origins and geographies.



One of the facts that fairly jump off the page of this wonderful old book, is that RCB Pemberton had collected a quantity of information which he intended to publish once he had it organised. That publication has still not happened and the PFWW is hoping to assist in locating the now missing information, if indeed it is remains extant. It would be a matter for regret if all the painstaking research into the origins of the Pembertons carried out by RCB and his son has been lost. The

Pemberton Family World Wide would be delighted to hear from their descendants or from anyone who has any information about this material.

[Ed. Note: As we go to press, the search continues for this material and several inquiries with pending results are outstanding.]

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Huguenot Branch DNA Identified

The Pemberton DNA Project just received the results of a second Pemberton whose line is known to go back through Manakin town, Virginia Colony. The two DNA samples are identical. This means that any Pemberton male who wishes to know whether his line is in the branch referred to as the Huguenot branch, can submit a sample and answer that with great certainty.

The Pemberton DNA Project has positively identified two distinct branches. The DNA of the Huguenot branch shares only 21 of the 37 markers tested with the branch tentatively known as the Cheshire Branch. (There may be more Cheshire branches.) This 57% commonality represents a huge genealogical distance – very distant cousins – with a common ancestor probably two thousand years into the past.

The Project is in need of samples from the Pennsylvania, New Zealand, Lancashire, and Australian Pembertons.

To see the chart of samples collected with the markers and their values, [click here](#).

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Benjamin Franklin & Dr. Pemberton

From the records of Benjamin Franklin, famous American Founder:

“My pamphlet by some means falling into the hands of one Lyons, a surgeon, author of a book entitled *“The Infallibility of Human Judgment,”* it occasioned an acquaintance between us. He took great notice of me, called on me often to converse on those subjects, carried me to the Horns, a pale alehouse in [unreadable] Lane, Cheapside, and introduced me to Dr. Mandeville, author of the *“Fable of the Bees,”* who had a club there, of which he was the soul, being a most facetious, entertaining companion. Lyons, too, introduced me to Dr. Pemberton, at Batson's Coffee-house, who promis'd to give me an opportunity, some time or other, of seeing Sir Isaac Newton, of which I was extremely desirous; but this never happened.”

Franklin, Benjamin. The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin. Public Domain Books.

[Ed. Note: We are seeking permission to reprint, in a future *Pemberton Post*, a biography of this Dr. Henry Pemberton, who worked closely with Sir Isaac Newton.]

What Genealogical DNA Does and How it Does It

The Pemberton DNA Project, hosted at Family Tree DNA, is a Y-DNA project, meaning that it is using only samples from those who carry the “Y” chromosome – males. This is because surnames are likewise passed from father to son. This “Y” chromosome is replicated precisely and passed to sons from fathers, usually with perfect fidelity. However, as chance would have it, sometimes there is a small change in a link between genes. These changes, or mutations, are essential to the power of DNA as a genealogical tool.

Links between genes that mutate more frequently help us find connections in shorter time periods so that we can identify branches of a family that occur within a century timeframe. Slower mutations help trace migrations of civilizations. This difference can be understood by asking the question: “What if no mutation ever occurred?” Then all males would have identical genealogical DNA and it would be completely useless since it would offer no discrimination from one male to another.

So by watching the fastest mutating markers, we can trace family lines. We can imagine a scene that demonstrates this. Suppose that each male has a shirt with 37 differently colored stripes (we are using the “37 marker DNA test) numbered from top to bottom. Each of his sons gets an identical shirt except once in a while a stripe (say number 23) will be a different color in the son than in his father (a mutation). The son’s sons will get this same new color for stripe 23 and that new color will be handed down indefinitely.

Now suppose that we have four living males and their shirts are identical except that each one has a stripe a different color than the other three, and further that the different colors occur in four different strips. Thus all 37 stripes are the same except that A’s 24th stripe is a different than the other three’s 24th stripe, B has a different color than the other three in stripe 32, C has a different color than the other 3 in stripe 33, and D has a different color than the other three in stripe 37. It all comes together when we realize that the only way these four could have their patterns is if they all come from an ancestor whose stripes were exactly the dominant color evidenced by these four shirts.

This happened in the Pemberton DNA Project. Three samples came from known cousins and their DNA proved their records were correct. The fourth one comes from a line that is not documented as far back as the first three. But this researcher has the advantage of knowing that his line will tie in with the other three!

So that’s how it does it.

[Ed. Note: To read more about the Pemberton DNA Project, [click here.](#)]

Make the Website Work For You

The PFWW website now has 140 persons registered. They can log in and search among the other 139 registrants to find someone else who is either working on, or is descended from the same progenitors. A few of us have done that, but the search will fail if those other people have not added their own information. So we all need to cooperate by taking a moment to add our Pemberton fathers’ given names. That in fact, is the whole point of registering with the Pemberton Family World Wide – to work together. If we all come to the puzzle to see what we can find but don’t bring our own pieces – well guess what??

So if you haven’t listed the given names of your Pemberton ancestors and the surnames of their wives, you are not getting “your money’s worth”! And neither is anyone else. One of the major objectives of the PFWW is to bring people together who want to share their successes and work together on their challenges.

If you haven’t yet done so, log in and click on your name right above your picture and then click on the black tab that gives you access to your profile, then hover your mouse over each field and follow the instructions to enter your own family history information.

Please also consider the advantage to you of adding a few things about yourself. We can find others with common interests and goals, if we share our own.

Once your information is entered, you can search to see how others could find you. Click the “Advanced Search” link on the page showing all registrants (choose “Roster of Registrants” in the “Site Access” menu). On the advanced search page, change the “name” pull down to “Your Pemberton Given Names” and type your grandfather’s name. You will see all the other people whose Pemberton line contains that name. Actually, you will only see those who have entered their Pemberton given names, and that is the whole point.

The site also contains almost 100 articles on a broad range of topics. These are accessible via the menus on the left of every page.

The bottom menu item is where you can find a number of helps in using the website. Be sure to [look there](#) when you have a “how-do-I” question.

With so many things available on a new site, there are, of course some that are not quite right. Please send your suggestions to the webmaster at technologist@pembertonfamily.com.

Even if you enter your street address, it will not be visible to others, but it will let PFWW Officers mail you information when appropriate. (Copies of the book *Pemberton Pedigrees* are scheduled to me mailed as soon as the material is ready.)

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Dixie Ann Pemberton, Vice-President



Our featured member in this issue is Dixie Ann Pemberton, Ph.D. a native Arizonian and Vice-President of the Pemberton Family World Wide. After many years in education, Dixie, a geographer, retired from twenty three years with the University of Maryland, serving as a teacher, researcher, and administrator in the area of environmental matters. An Instructor at the University of Kansas during her studies, she left KU to teach and found the Department of Geography at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Blacksburg, VA. At the U of M, she directed grants and contract work from over a million dollars to a few thousand. Funding came from federal and state agencies as well as private foundations. Dixie also authored some ninety chapters, articles and reports before retiring to Arizona.

Other of Dixie's achievements include: co-founding the Women's National Bank, now Adam's National Bank, in Washington, D.C., overseeing its feasibility study and its site planning, co-founding with four educators, edited for, and together managed, a publishing company of educational materials; now sold.

National offices include election by teachers and colleagues in U.S. and Canada to two three-year terms as Officer and Treasurer and member of the Board of Directors, National Council for Geographic Education, and appointment by that Board to the Board of the Alliance for Environmental Education, there elected an officer, two five year terms. From the University Park,

Maryland, Women's Club she received the Woman of Achievement Award.

In retirement, she and her husband Arnold continue to travel: Italy, England, France, Australia, Fiji, New Zealand and Costa Rica as well as parts of Canada and the US; most recently, to Greece and Istanbul. Her services have included being: an

officer in Terravita's Acquisition Committee in its transition from Del Webb to Community self-governance and ownership of its golf and social amenities, invited speaker to an Arizona educational meeting, working with a non-profit to write its proposal for infill housing to the Phoenix City Council, and serving as an Officer in Terravita's Art League.

In 2005, with increasing health problems, she and Arnold moved closer to medical facilities at Heritage Village, an over 50's community. Here she continues to work on genealogical research begun in 2002, in collaboration with Daniel Buckley (now deceased), after George M. Pemberton's (1810-1878) Scrapbook became available through its present owner, Gordon Lee Pemberton. Several of its pages tell the history of Pemberton relatives, beginning with George Pemberton's coming to the Virginia Colony in 1710 from Cheshire, England. His parents were Sarah Middleton and George Pemberton. So he is called him George I, the émigré, George II, and his son, born in Virginia in 1718, George III. He moved his family with his brother Isaiah to South Carolina in 1771, and into Kentucky, in 1801. There he died in 1827. By then, George M., born in 1810, was 17 years old. One of his sons, my grandfather moved to Phoenix, Arizona in 1922. Now collaboration continues through the Pemberton Family World Wide where she serves are Vice-President.

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Present Projects of the PFWW

- World Wide Pemberton Reunion 2012
- The Cheshire Wills Extraction Project
- Wendell J Pemberton Memoirs Transcription
- The Pemberton DNA Project
- The Georges of Tarvin and Nantwich
- Pembertons of the Virginia Colony
- Publication of *Pemberton Pedigrees* book
- Pemberton Origins
- Pemberton Gear (tee shirts & coffee mugs)

Volunteers are needed for posts as officers and Committee Members of the Pemberton Family World Wide organization. If you have an interest in one of these projects, or have an interest you would like to pursue, please feel free to create a Group of your own and give it a go! [Click here](#) for help in setting up a Group in the PFWW.

Posts that are currently open are Chair of the Social Committee, Chair of Publicity Committee, and Chair of Membership Committee.

The *Pemberton Post* is the official newsletter of the Pemberton Family World Wide organization. It is published at irregular intervals depending on the availability of appropriate material. To subscribe, go to PFWW.org and register a new account – all registrants automatically receive the *Pemberton Post* by email. Archived copies of previous issues are [here](#).

The Pemberton Family World Wide organization now has 26 members who have paid dues and are therefore voting members.