



The Pemberton Post

News of the Pemberton Family World Wide

Vol. 2

July 9, 2012

Num. 3

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by Dixie Ann Pemberton, Vice-President, PFWW

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A Pemberton Family Scrapbook

by Dixie Ann Pemberton

What is this Scrapbook?

Our Pemberton Family Scrapbook is a red leather bound book, having two distinct parts. The first part contains the Minutes of a Baptist Church to which our early Missouri Pembertons belonged. The Second Part contains miscellaneous writings and newspaper clippings. Both parts are on folios of paper, the blue ink less readable than that written with black ink.

Who started the Scrapbook and when did it begin?

The book has gold lettering printed on the spine: “SCRAP BOOK” and below these two words, “G. M.” and below that, “PEMBERTON”. This is a reference to George Middleton Pemberton, Sr. or GMP. Its inside cover has a pasted-on, hand written page about miscellaneous happenings: for example: “Uncle David Brooks of Kentucky paid us a visit July 14th, 1861.” In addition: “Set out the Border [boundary?] corner of the yard to west to the north west corner of the field in the spring of 1854.” The facing page has a single newspaper clipping about the civil war.

The “when” of the Scrapbook is complex, written at different times in the 1800’s. Mostly, George Middleton Pemberton, Sr, is the “who” of the Scrapbook . He was given Part I and wrote much of Part II. The most important section for our family history are those pages he entitled: “History of our relations”. Next and equally important are a number of typed, written pages, glued into the second last folio. It is titled: “History of the



Pembertons” and under that is typed, “(based on George M. Pemberton’s Scrap Book.)” These typed pages open thus [See Appendix]:

“My great, great, grandfather, George Pemberton, lived in Cheshire County (or parish) England. His residence was known by the name of “Pemberton Huff,” and received its name from some circumstance that took place between the king and himself, and the king ordered the following notice to be put up at Pemberton’s gate post:

“While olives are green and commodities rough
Here is the place for Pemberton’s huff.”

He married Sarah Middleton. His son, George Pemberton came from England to America and settled in Virginia in 1710, and married Elizabeth Brooks.“

While there is handwritten text in “History of our relations” regarding origins and relationships, the original text dealing with “Pemberton Huff” (the sign on the gate post) has been lost from the folios prior to their binding. For speculations about a plausible interpretation of this text, see an article on the subject [here](#).

Who was George Middleton Pemberton Sr?

George M. Pemberton, Sr. was born in Kentucky in 1810. His parents were Jesse Brooks Pemberton, b. 1770, Virginia, and Tabitha Brooks, b. 1776, South Carolina. Jesse Brooks Pemberton and his brother, George IV, were sons of George III and Judea Brooks, both Virginians. George III and his brother Isaiah I were sons of George II and Elizabeth Brooks. (We are uncertain about any blood relationship between Elizabeth Brooks and Judea Brooks, her daughter in law.) According to the Scrapbook, George II left Cheshire, England and landed in Virginia in 1710. His English

parents were George Pemberton I and Sarah Middleton.



George M. Pemberton, Sr.

George III and his brother Isaiah I moved with their families to Newberry County, South Carolina after selling their Virginia property to George Washington's brother Samuel in 1771. (See *George Pembertons of Virginia in the 18th Century* in Pemberton Post [Vol. 1 No. 1](#),

and *Mr. Washington's Order* in Vol 1 No. 2.)

The Quaker community in 1770, began the Bush River Monthly Meetings, in Newberry County, South Carolina. Their Minutes note these Pembertons' presence in its early days. After the Revolution, the Pemberton family again moves.

George III's brother Isaiah I, also born in Virginia, died in 1794 in Newberry County, South Carolina. Isaiah's extended family elected to move to the new territory of Ohio, around Cincinnati, all except a son, also named George Pemberton. In 1801, Jesse B. and his family, his brother George IV (b. 1766, Virginia) and his family, along with his grandfather, George III, (b. 1718, Virginia), moved to Christiansburg County, later called Caldwell County, Kentucky. Both families selected the territories made available for homesteading in the newly independent nation. There is nothing in the records of the Bush River Monthly Meeting Minutes nor in the Scrapbook to indicate motives for settling in different areas other than agreeing to disagree about where the best opportunities for each Pemberton family would unfold.

When George III died in 1827, his grandson George Middleton Pemberton wrote the following in Part II of the Scrapbook (We do not know where or when he wrote this.):

"My Grand Father George Pemberton who departed this life in the one hundredth and ten year of this life, was in some particulars an(d) extraordinary Man. He was born in the State of Virginia. Moved from there to South Carolina about the year 1771, and in 1801, moved to Kentucky where he died in Coldwell County in the year 1827. Eight miles, a little South of East from Princeton and was buried on the farm owned by his son, George Pemberton.

"He was a stout robust athletic man. He could say at his death what few men could say. He never was sick a day in his life. Never took a dose of

Medicine. Never was bled. Never was drunk. Never was sued. Never sued any person. Never had

As a help to following the family lines in this article, here is the Pemberton line of the author. Please note that the suffixes I, II etc. are not in the original records.
George Pemberton, I, b. ca. 1660, England
George Pemberton, II, b. ca. 1685, England
George Pemberton, III, b. about 1718, Virginia
Jesse Brooks Pemberton, b. 1770, West Virginia
George Middleton Pemberton, Sr., b. 1810, Kentucky
Thomas Mason Pemberton, b. 1870, Missouri
Gordon Taylor Pemberton, b. 1904
Dixie Ann Pemberton

an arbitration with any person. When he died, just seems as to have fallen a sleep. He was Captain in what was called Bratockes War. Was a respectable member of the old Regular Baptist Church for about 80 years.

The above is my father statements to me written by Geo. M. Pemberton." It is noteworthy that this GMP spent his first 17 years in association with George III.

PART I - MINUTES

Part I begins with the RULES OF DECORUM for the Walnut Branch Church or The Regular Baptist Church of Christ at Walnut Branch. These 25 rules concern membership and a process for belonging to and/or exclusion from the Church. The top left corner of this sheet is so worn that most of the date is missing. The next dated item is mid-page: 1st Saturday August. The texts from the minutes of that meeting continue on the next page, dated: 1834. In the 1840's, J. Pemberton signs many of the minutes. The text uses Jesse B. and J. Pemberton, probably to distinguish between Jesse M. Pemberton, George IV's son, and Jesse B., his uncle and George IV's brother. These Minutes include other Pembertons. For example, February 18, 1844, the minutes show that their meetinghouse was destroyed by fire. Members pledged logs with Thomas B. Pemberton giving the church 75 pounds of nails, enough to complete a new meetinghouse.

The numbering of pages in the Scrapbook is confusing as the pages are not consecutive. An example of this is the last page in Part I of the Minutes. It is dated June, the first Saturday, 1834. "We a body of Baptist met at the home of brother Embre for the purpose of becoming constituted into a church, and after prayer and praise, took seats and opened conference." After quite a number of pages, we find in large cursive script: "Geo. M. Pemberton, presented by his friend, Wm. L. David, of St. Louis Mo. Apr. 15, 1853, Vol. I". (See: Item 3.) Some six pages prior to finding out how GMP acquired VOL I, we find a page written in large beautiful cursive letters showing: "VOL. II Geo M. Pemberton Memorial Book, Presented by his father, George M. Pemberton, Sept 18th, 1878. G. M. P., Jr."



“Geo. M. Pemberton, presented by his friend...”



“VOL II Geo M. Pemberton Memorial Book ...”

The *History of Pettis County, 1878*, “History of Elk Fork Township”, p.964, has more about this church. We find: “CHURCHES—The first church of which any record is found is the Walnut Branch of the Baptist Church, it being one of the old style churches in belief and practice. Of this Association, whose first meeting was held ...on the first Saturday in June, 1834...; at a regular meeting in December 1848; a difference of opinion occurred on a doctrinal point and this difference grew to a division of the society into two parties, each claiming to be the regular church.” (Much more follows.)

PART II: MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

GMP, Sr., wrote on folios of paper, intermittently, in a beautiful cursive script. There would be months of silence, then an entry would

appear. Most of the Scrapbook seems to have been written in Missouri.

He writes that his first trip to Missouri was in October 1832, and that he moved to Missouri, landing in Pettis County May 7th, 1836. On another page, he writes, “Moved from the Varner place (I sold to S. Raybourn) to Brick house place I bought of Brother T. B. Pemberton on 28th day of April 1865.” Some three pages follow, relating a crime in Kentucky at a neighbor’s Christmas gathering. The next entry is this: “In Pettis Co, Mo, the Red-oak tree standing in the yard at the brick house place due north of the east end of the house measured five feet round, three feet from the ground, on the first day of June, 1876.”



Thomas B. Pemberton

Pictured here is Thomas B Pemberton who studied medicine in Kentucky under Doctors Stewart and Pemberton. (We do not know who this Dr. Pemberton was.) In addition, he received his lectures at the Transylvania Medical College of Lexington, Kentucky, in 1835.

An image of his brick house, the first in Pettis County is shown in the Appendix. During the summer of 2004, Rhonda Moffitt deciphered who the individuals are in this picture. The elderly man leaning on the tree is probably Thomas B.; the younger boy back behind him could be Thomas Mason, age 10; the younger girl standing on the porch could be me at age 14; the the woman sitting on the porch with the man leaning in front of her could be Lucinda B., age 29; and her husband Monroe Garton; the 3 young men standing in various places in the yard (by the tree, window and buggy) could be Jesse Lee, age 16, George M. Jr., age 24, and Brooks Gordon, age 21. The two remaining women, one standing on the porch and one by the window could be Carrie, age 18; and Sarah, age 53.

The Scrapbook says nothing about GMP’s uncle George IV having already moved to this area of Missouri prior to GMP’s move. But in two places in the *History of Pettis Co, 1887*, this is the reality. On page 977, Jesse M., George IV’s son, is referred to as Judge Pemberton. The occasion is the 1839 marriage of George M. to Melissa, George IV’s granddaughter and the daughter of Jesse M. Pemberton. He was born 7 Dec 1797, in South Carolina; died 20 Dec, 1867, in Sedalia, Missouri. The second reference is on page 978. It says that in 1835, Jesse B. came to Missouri and lived with

his brother, George IV. So he had previously moved to Pettis County. The text also states that in 1836, Thomas B. and George M. Pemberton brought their families to this county and settled in Elk Fork Township, near the waters of Muddy Creek, another confirmation of the Scrapbook.

Melissa M. Pemberton and George M. Pemberton raised a family of eight children born between 1840 and 1859: Thomas Fitzhu, Jesse Brooks, Warren Goodloe, Mariam Buena, Lucinda Bathena, Elizabeth Tabitha, George Middleton, and Brooks Gordon. His wife Melissa died in 1859 and about the same time, two sons and a daughter died all of typhoid fever. In 1860, he married Sarah Ellen Pemberton, a sister of his first wife. They had four children between 1861 and 1870: Matilda Caroline, Jesse Lee, Dixie Ellen, and my grandfather, Thomas Mason Pemberton.

The Scrapbook has four pages titled: "History of our relations." These pages of script were typed and shared with George Daniel Buckley for purposes of research. The verification of this history covered over three years of intensive detective work with others across the country including myself and Ernie Pemberton, all coordinated by Daniel Buckley. Much of this work is found on our partial copy of [his website here](#).

Possession of Our Scrapbook

This is from an un-dated and un-sourced newspaper clipping in the Scrapbook:

"The will of the late George M. Pemberton (Jr.) was admitted to the probate court Monday. To his wife, Grace B. Pemberton, he left his home, 619 West Seventh Street, with all its contents, during her lifetime. At her death, the place is to be sold and the proceeds divided equally between his two brothers, Warren G. and Brooks G. Pemberton of Midland Texas, and his two sisters Miriam B. Rucker, of Aspen CO, and Matilda C. Teague, of Sedalia. If Mrs. Rucker should not be living at the time of the execution of the will, her shares to be divided among her three heirs.

"All personal property and household goods, except articles herein mentioned are to be divided equally between his sister-in law, Mrs. T. M. Pemberton and niece, Mrs. George Lively..."

We glean from this article, that after "Uncle George's Scrapbook" passed from GMP, Sr., to his oldest son, GMP, Jr. he, in turn, passed it to Constance Taylor Pemberton. Now Constance was the wife of his youngest brother, Thomas Mason Pemberton. We conjecture that this may be because she, my paternal grandmother, was an avid genealogist. My grandfather was predeceased

by his wife Constance. Next, the Scrapbook passed via will to their daughter Cecelia Pemberton Marks. In 2001, her will leaves the Scrapbook and other papers to Gordon Lee Pemberton, her nephew, and son of her brother, Gordon Taylor Pemberton. Three generations of Pembertons: front row left: Grandfather, Father, and the rest, his sons, are my brothers.

Finally, we do not know who organized the folios nor had both GMPs' notes bound with the historic Minutes of the Walnut Baptist Church. This is just one more mystery contained by and in this, A Pemberton Family Scrapbook.

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Reunion News

As this issue of the Pemberton Post goes to press, we are experiencing a very lively interest in the pottery class – many want to make a Pemberton mug with a griffin on it.

If you are planning to attend and have not registered, you need to do so. There are only four weeks left and more than 100 are coming!

The author of this issue's feature article, our Vice-President, will be presenting this Scrapbook.

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Pemberton DNA Project Results

A new DNA test joined the project two days ago and the results are exciting. This contemporary Pemberton has the exact profile of one George Pemberton who was born in Cheshire ca. 1660! It will be very interesting to see how this discovery assists the donor of this latest sample.

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Correction of Vol 2 No. 1

The picture mentioned in the Editor's Note at the end of the article entitled "Major-General R. C. B. Pemberton" was from the Indian Civil Service, not the India Company.

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Pemberton Griffin T-Shirts Ready

The griffin appeared on Pemberton arms before the buckets, so this modern shirt is based on the oldest known Pemberton symbols. See it below. To order it, go to [Pemberton Market](#) on the PFWW.org website.

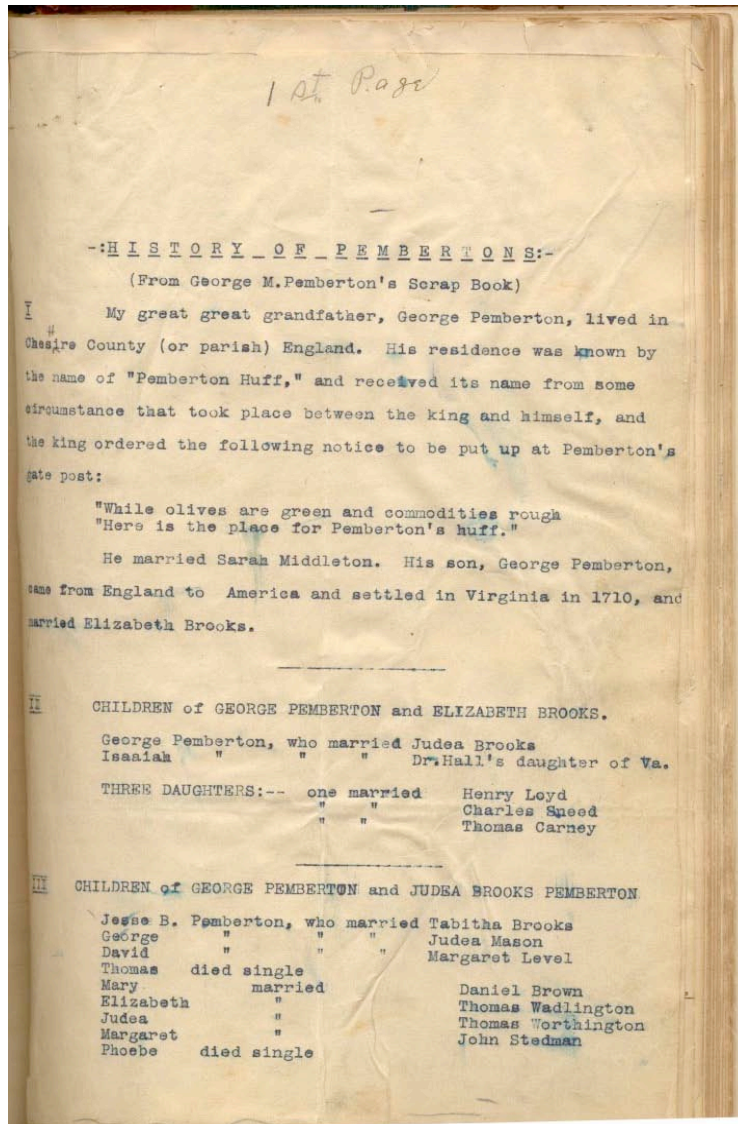
The *Pemberton Post* is the official newsletter of the Pemberton Family World Wide organization. It is published at irregular intervals depending on the availability of appropriate material. To subscribe, go to [PFWW.org](#) and register a new account – all registrants automatically receive the *Pemberton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

Appendix

The Pemberton Griffin T-Shirt Design



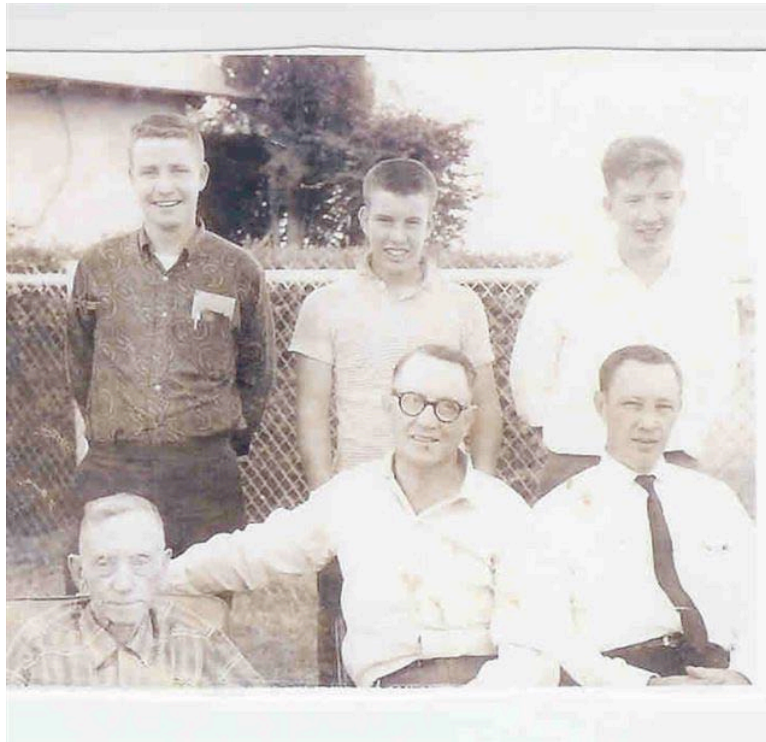
First Page of Family Genealogy in the Scrapbook



The Brick House in Pettis County



Three Generation Pemberton Family Group



Front row left: Grandfather, Thomas Mason; Father, Gordon Taylor; and the rest, his sons, are brothers of the author.