

# The Pemberton Post

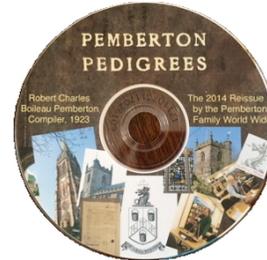
News of the Pemberton Family World Wide

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## Special Edition: *Pemberton Pedigrees*



A new day in the history of Pemberton research has arrived!! Volunteers from the Pemberton Family World Wide have completed the project to reissue the *Pemberton Pedigrees* book by [Major-General Robert Charles Boileau Pemberton](#), (RCB in this *Pemberton Post*) first published in 1923. Now, for the first time in many decades, all Pemberton researchers have access to this wonderful compilation of 40 pedigree charts with their attendant notes and helps.

The 2014 edition of *Pemberton Pedigrees* features all 40 charts; a complete index to all Pemberton individuals; a separate, complete index to all other individuals; digitized, electronically searchable text of all the non-chart pages except the indices; and all the photographic images from which this new edition was taken. This new edition is available now on DVD from the PFWW website.

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*Pemberton Pedigrees*, An Incomplete Work

Major-General Robert Charles Boileau Pemberton made the decision to spend much of his retirement years researching the worldwide Pemberton family. However, he passed away on

December 22, 1914, well before the work could be published, leaving instructions in his will and to his son, Rev. Robert Pemberton of Ingatestone, Essex, regarding its disposition. But Robert was a young man, busily engaged in the ordinary affairs of life and was unable to complete the work as both he and his late father had desired.

Robert's Preface seven years later puts it all in proper perspective: "... and it was impossible for me during the war to do anything towards fulfilling his wish, but during the last two years I have endeavoured to assimilate the information he had gleaned, to bring it up to date and in some cases to add to it, but in the midst of a busy life I have had to forego any extensive original research, and think it best to issue now the necessarily incomplete result. The cost of printing, however, makes it impossible to publish the whole work at the present time and so, acting on expert advice, I am publishing the Pedigrees separately as a first volume, hoping that the

interest of the various families may justify the issue of the Notes on the Pedigrees as a second volume in the near future. I have added short introductions to most of the Charts, noting the chief cases where assumptions have been made, but fuller details and also acknowledgments of help received are reserved for the future.”

It is clear that the 1923 edition was less than RCB (and his son) had wished. Hence, the present 2014 reissue is but a reproduction of an incomplete work.

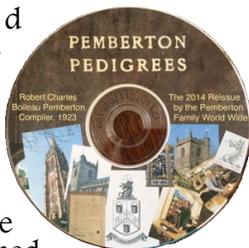
However, it has been nearly a century since all these things came to pass, and with almost 350 members of the Pemberton Family World Wide association available to combine their resources, skills and enthusiasm, we must all be “hoping that the interest of the various families may justify the issue of the Notes on the Pedigrees as a second volume in the near future.”

Toward that end, the PFWW plans to make this year's reissue of the 1923 edition just the first phase of RCB's work. His extensive notes and collected documents have just recently been located so the way is clear before us to proceed to complete his monumental work.

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### *Pemberton Pedigrees, 2014 Edition*

The compiler and author of the famous Pemberton Pedigrees book, Major-General Robert Charles Boileau Pemberton, passed away on December 22, 1914. As the project to re-publish his book came close to completion, it was determined that it should be published on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death. So the project team doubled down and managed to have the book published on the PFWW website on that date as a tribute to the years and thousands of hours RCB put into the compilation of the 40 pedigree charts. Thus all the text and the indices became available to the whole world on December 22, 2014.



### Range & Scope of the Book

- Event Dates:** 1154 – 1922
- Places:** Primarily England, Ireland, Scotland, United States, Canada, New Zealand, and India
- Surnames:** Pemberton, Leigh-Pemberton, French-Pemberton, and many non-Pemberton surnames.

- Pembertons:** Approximately 2,400 individuals
- Non-Pemberton:** Approx. 1,600 people
- Notes to Charts:** Approximately 30 pages

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### *Pemberton Pedigrees, the Project*

The project begins of necessity with the decision by Major-General Robert Charles Boileau Pemberton to spend perhaps thousands of hours and as many miles to produce the pedigrees of the the Pemberton's as they were in the late 1800's.

The re-publishing of RCB's famous old book has been the work of a number of people, some of whom we cannot identify. The microfilm was created decades ago, the work of unknown volunteers of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In 2011, George Pemberton of Salt Lake City, Utah, discovered the film and saw to the scanning and recording of the it. The file of images so created was soon recognized as inadequate because of missing pages and unusable frames in the source microfilm.

Subsequently a Pemberton Pedigrees Group was formed on the PFWW website and word went out to its membership seeking access to a good copy of the 1923 edition. Herbert Pemberton, a retired librarian of Blackpool, England, and son Steven volunteered and soon finished meticulously photographing every page of the copy held in the Lancashire Archives in Preston, England.



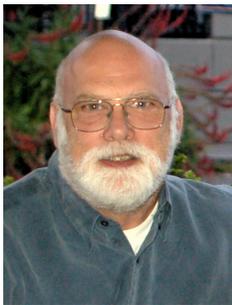
That milestone event was the effective birth of the present project.

In order to make the new edition more useful, it was determined that the images of all the textual pages should be scanned with Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software in order to make them electronically searchable. The pedigree charts are the real essence of RCB's work and due to the lighting in the archives, their images needed some enhancement. Christopher Pemberton, of Redditch, England, took on that challenge and his efforts were eventually joined by those of Michael Spier, of Seabeck,



Washington, USA. So while work on the conversion of the images of text to electronic text progressed, Chris and Mike worked on the charts. Mike also assisted with the OCR work.

Charts 1 through 23 were done by working directly with the Herbert Pemberton images of 2012. Those photographs needed the contrast enhanced and the shadow of the camera eliminated. These 23 charts were cleaned up by Christopher Pemberton of Redditch, UK, by scrubbing the camera images. Michael Spier, on the other hand, decided it was much faster to recreate the charts from scratch. This proved to be much faster but it also was a copying process subject to errors. To minimize the inevitable errors, charts 23 through 40 were carefully proof-read against the photographic images and changes made as required. However, if the reader should wish to be absolutely sure he is getting the data as RCB Pemberton printer rendered it, he should refer to the photographic images of the archived book.



The preparation of the chart images and the OCR conversion of text images to electronic text proceeded in parallel for almost two years with the volunteers doing their work as their individual circumstances allowed.

It was of significant assistance, during the processing of these charts, to be able to refer to both the microfilm and the photographic images. They came from two distinctly different copies of the same book and so although supposedly identical, 1923 printing was such that any two copies would be slightly different. For example, Rebecca P. (number 45 on chart 24) was married to a John Carnalt or a John Carnall. The Preston photograph of this chart shows a slight smudge near the top of the second "l" which could mean that the name was spelled "Carnalt". However, the microfilm, which came from a different copy of the book, has a very clear image of that name and it is definitely spelled "Carnell".

As the 100th anniversary of the death of RCB Pemberton approached, it was determined that we should accelerate our work and finish the project by December 22, 2014. Consequently the team redoubled its efforts and we were able to put the entire book online on that date.

While deciding to meet this deadline, there was much consideration of whether to make the book freely available or to collect some revenue from those interested enough to purchase copies. Such revenue would be used by the PFWW to further its objectives, particularly in the areas of DNA sample collections and other possible publications. When the notes accumulated by RCB during his compilation work were discovered at the last minute, it was clear that we should sell the re-published book and use some of that income for the future publication of the notes. Accordingly, the online publication contains only Chart 1 as a sample of the 40 charts while the DVD publication was put up for sale online in the Pemberton Marketplace for \$30.

The final weeks of this production included the creation of HTML code for the presentation of the book on DVD, testing and retesting, finishing the label design and printing them, and addressing and finally actually shipping them to the dues-paying members of record of December 22, 2014, and those who had ordered them in the Pemberton Marketplace shopping cart.



Photographs from top to bottom: Herbert capturing images of the book, Steven, his son, helping with the photography, Christopher Pemberton and Michael Spier who processed the 40 pedigree charts, and Jackson Pemberton finally stuffing the DVD's into their envelopes.

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## The Discovery of RCB's Notes

Tracing one's family history has always been a popular study, especially for those in retirement. Some restrict themselves to their direct ancestry, some spread their net wider to include collateral branches and some go even further to try to trace all occurrences of a given name.

We Pembertons have a shining example of the latter in the person of Major-General Robert Charles Boileau Pemberton, who, when he retired from the Army, set out to record pedigrees of as many Pemberton families as he could. Inevitably, he had to be selective, beginning by concentrating on those families of a similar social standing to his own. When considering what he achieved, we have to bear in mind that he was working at a time (the early twentieth century) when there were few telephones, no internet, no

IGI and no online indexes. The principal means of gathering information were using libraries and archives, writing letters and making personal visits.

Forty pedigrees collected by the Major-General were edited and published by his son, the Rev. Robert Pemberton, Rector of Ingatestone, Essex, in 1923, nine years after his father's death. In his Preface, Robert says that his resources did not allow him to do more, and he hoped that "the interest of the various families may justify the issue of the Notes on the Pedigrees as a second volume."

This seems never to have happened, so the Pemberton Family Worldwide (PFWW) instituted a search for them. Notices were placed on Rootsweb lists, on the email forums of the Family History Societies which cover Lancashire, and elsewhere.

The search ended when a member of PFWW told us that he had used the personal papers of a Robert Pemberton "of Ongar, Essex" in the Library of the Society of Genealogists (SoG) in London about eighteen years ago. Ongar and Ingatestone are not all that far apart: could these be the papers we were looking for? It turned out that they were—eight boxes of them! The Librarian of the SoG has very kindly supplied us with a one-page list of the contents of the "Pemberton Collection".

Robert also says in his Preface, "there is still much need for further research in some of the branches, ...and as more Parish Registers and early documents are printed it should become possible to link up most, if not all, of the branches with the original Lancashire stock."

Like all good mathematicians—and genealogists—the Major-General left us his "working out", so we can now carry on the work he started, hopefully with the interest and the help of those families who allowed their pedigrees to be published.

The following is the 1990 inventory of the eight boxes as given to the author by the SoG:



PEMBERTON COLLECTION

8 Boxes

This Collection contains the research notes compiled by Maj.-Gen. RCB PEMBERTON CB, CSI, (late) RE, FSG (1834-1914) on his family from about the 12th century, through various English

counties, North America, the West Indies and India.

The Collection was edited, after his father's death, and donated to this Society in 1924 by Rev. Robert Pemberton when he was Rector of Ingatestone parish church in Essex.

Box 1

BMD and baptism certificates, parish records, pedigree charts, indentures, notebooks, research notes.

Box 2

Research notes on Pembertons of Birmingham, Cheshire, Lancashire, Lichfield and the West Indies. Wills, abstracts and deeds.

Box 3

Pembertons of Philadelphia and West Indies  
W. C. Renshaw's notes of Pembertons of various English counties.  
Will abstracts – Chester, Chancery transcriptions.

Box 4

Chancery transcriptions – folders 1 – 5.

Box 5

Chancery transcriptions – folders 6 – 9.

Box 6

Close Rolls – 8 folders, including calendar of Pemberton entries, parish register entries, De Banco Rolls, Feet of Fines

Box 7

Notes on Pemberton charts edited by Rev. Robert Pemberton, 1-8 folders.

Box 8

Notes on Pemberton charts, mostly America and Durham. Plates of Pemberton signatures.

PEMBERTON COLLECTION

Isabelle Charlton

June, 1990



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*Pemberton Pedigrees, Help Find the Family*

The Pemberton Family World Wide would like to work with the family of RCB Pemberton to publish the interesting documents and notes now residing in the archives of the Society of Genealogists in London. In 1923, the Rev. Robert

Pemberton published his father's work. In his Preface, Robert says that resources did not allow him to do more, and he hoped that "the interest of the various families may justify the issue of the Notes on the Pedigrees as a second volume."

The PFWW would like to undertake a project to issue this second volume and is actively searching for the family to that end. If you know anyone who might be from that branch of the family, or have an interest in assisting with this effort, please contact the PFWW's President: [president@pembertonfamily.com](mailto:president@pembertonfamily.com).

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### *Pemberton Pedigrees & the DNA Project*

Pemberton pedigrees and our DNA Project fit closer than a hand in a glove. DNA samples often provide direct research guidance to their donors (and the donor's close relatives) and provide invaluable proof of connections.

While the Pemberton DNA Project continues to grow with new DNA donors, the completion of the Pemberton Pedigrees project offers a good opportunity to discuss the relationship between the two. One of the major objectives of the DNA project is the identification of the major branches of the worldwide Pemberton family. *Pemberton Pedigrees* gives us new insights into this initiative.

The Notes to Chart 14 give us a brilliant example of how non-biological Pemberton branches may be created: "By the terms of Colonel Pemberton's will the owner of Trumpington is obliged to assume the name and arms of Pemberton. Mrs. Campbell subsequently married Mr. Henry Williams Hodgson, and on the death of her mother in 1869 succeeded to the property, and with her husband assumed the name and arms of Pemberton, by Royal Licence."

Another branch of the Family was created by the assignment of the surname at a Foundling Hospital at Coram's Fields, London. Thus Robert was given the surname French-Pemberton. The Notes to Chart 40: "On his coming of age Robert had £500 settled on him, but it is not known by whom. His wife was Elizabeth Anne Evans, by whom he had five children. In 1838 the family went to France, living at first in the Provinces, and later in Paris. There the eldest son, Robert, studied at the Sorbonne, and took his Bachelor's degree. Among his father's many friends was Lady Broomhead, widow of General Broomhead, and daughter of Lord French. She stood as godmother to Robert Pemberton's second son, Charles French, who thus introduced the distinctive name into this family."

It is noteworthy that DNA samples from these branches of the family will not show a close relationship to other Pembertons. This does not mean they are not "real" Pembertons. The PFWW's policy is that if one is raised a Pemberton, or legally adopted by one, or just takes the name and lives by it, then they are as legitimate a Pemberton and any other, blood lines to the contrary notwithstanding.

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## New & Used on the PFWW Website

### New

In research links: Calendar of Patent Rolls: a searchable history of the actions of the English kings from 1216 to 1452.

In Famous Pembertons: Biographical sketches of Leigh Pembertons showing these are biological Pembertons, not Leighs. The Pemberton DNA Project could certainly profit from some samples from this famous old line. Could you help us connect with one?

### Used

Use the excellent search engine on PFWW.org to find people who may want to collaborate with you on your research. See detailed instructions in the "How to ~" section of the Utilities menu item.

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## An Appeal for Pemberton Information

Many members want to find other members who are working on the same branch of the Pemberton family. We are often unable to help because of missing information. With almost 350 members in the PFWW association, we are ready to make wonderful progress with Pemberton genealogy. What needs to happen first, is for everyone to assure that their genealogical data items in their personal profile are up to date. Just login, click on your name in the left column and choose "Edit Profile" from the black "Profile" tab at the top.

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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](http://PFWW.org) and register a new account – all registrants automatically receive the *Pemberton Post* emailed to the address in their personal profile. If you fail to receive the newsletter, please check that your email address is correct. Archived copies of prior issues are available [here](#).

