

Aug. 1648 when cattle belonging to Katherine Pead are mentioned.³

2. JOHN² PEAD (John¹) received a patent, 21 Sept. 1652, for 150 acres on the south side of Winter Harbour, now in Mathews County, claiming John Pead and Mary Pead as headrights.⁴ He married — and died before 1671.

Issue: 4. GEORGE³.

4. GEORGE³ PEAD (John², John¹) renewed the patent granted to his father, 25 Sept. 1671.⁵ The name of his wife is unknown.

Issue: 5. John⁴, as orphan of George Pead patented, 22 Dec. 1682, 370 acres on the south side of Winter Harbour Creek and on the bay, which included the 150 acres patented by John² Pead in 1652.⁶

³ York Co. Deeds, Orders, Wills &c 2, pp. 184, 403.

⁵ Patent Bk. 6, p. 231.

⁶ Patent Bk. 7, p. 215.

⁴ Patent Bk. 3, p. 127.

PEIRCE¹

*1. WILLIAM¹ PEIRCE departed from England, June 1609, in company with Sir Thomas Gates and Sir George Somers on the *Seaventure*, flag-ship of the largest expedition ever sent to Virginia, and was wrecked en route on the Somers Islands. Capt. Peirce's wife *Joane had sailed in the same expedition but aboard the *Blessing* which, although encountering the same storm that wrecked the *Seaventure*, steered a different course and reached Virginia safely by mid-August 1609.²

While Capt. Peirce and wife were living at James City, Feb. 1623/4 in the census³ and 24 Jan. 1624/5 in the muster, he had received land on Mulberry Island in the area which became Warwick County, where thirteen of his servants were listed in the muster. A patent was issued to him, 16 Dec. 1643, for 2100 acres beginning at the mouth of a creek near the "now dwelling house" of Peirce, which creek divided the land from Baker's Neck "where the church now standeth," and running along James River to the old point, and then to the water side of "Scotes quarter & the great

¹ Br. Gen., p. 978; Arthur H. and Dorothy F. Vollertsen, "Captain William Peirce," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 31 Jan. 1971. Also as PIERCE, PERCE, PEARSE.

Virginia, 1609. See letter from Capt. Gabriel Archer of the *Blessing*, dated Jamestown, 31 Aug. 1609 (Smith, *Tra.* I, pp. xciv-xcvii).

³ Hotten, p. 174.

² The *Blessing* made a single voyage to

Marsh which divides this land from Mulberry Island," and "into Mears Necke unto a certain oak marked by Capt. Clayborne over against the E[ast]w[a]rd of Cedar Island, up the banke to Warwick River & the land of Capt. Thomas Harwood to a great oak, marked by Mr. Hawley," and included 650 acres which had been patented to him 31 Dec. 1619.⁴ The date of the grant to Peirce of the "Baker's Necke" tract of 360 acres adjoining Thomas Harwood's plantation, "Queen Hith," in Warwick, is missing.⁵ As a member of the Council Peirce patented 2000 acres on Lawne's Creek opposite Jamestown, 22 June 1635.⁶

Before 1623 Capt. Peirce had become an important man in the colony and since his other duties frequently demanded his presence at Jamestown, he kept a house there across the marsh from Sir George Yeardley's residence⁷ and among his servants there was a Negro woman Angelo.⁸

By 29 May 1623 Peirce had been named by Governor Francis Wyatt as captain of the guard and commander of Jamestown⁹ and commissioned "to go against the Indians up the Chickahominy or any other place."¹⁰ In 1629, Capt. Peirce, in company with the Governor and other Virginians, visited England and as an "Ancient Planter of 20 years standing" left an account of Virginia.¹¹ Mrs. Joane Peirce accompanied her husband on his journey; a letter writer of this period, in England, alludes to her as "Mistress Peirce, an honest and industrious woman who hath a garden at Jamestown containing 3 or 4 acres where in one year she hath gathered near 100 bushels of excellent figs . . ." and states that "she can keep a better house in Virginia for 3 or 4 hundred pounds than in London, yet went there with little or nothing."¹²

While in England Capt. William¹ Peirce submitted for probate, 21 May 1630, the will of his son-in-law John Rolfe, which named him as executor and directed that he take charge of Rolfe's "two small children of very tender age."¹³ Upon his return to Virginia Capt. Peirce was mentioned as a member of the Council, 1632, and in 1635, during the controversy with Governor Harvey, Lord Baltimore described him, along with Capt. Samuel Mathews, John

⁴ Patent Bk. 1, p. 927.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 879.

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 255.

⁷ *Va. Carolorum*, p. 68.

⁸ Angelo came in the *Treasurer* among the first Negroes brought to Jamestown, 1619.

⁹ *R, Va. Co. IV*, pp. 111, 109.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 250, 252.

¹¹ *Va. Carolorum*, p. 59. Peirce agreed to pay Mary Flint 8½ barrels of corn "before his departure for England," 20 Jan. 1628/9 (*MCGC*, p. 180).

¹² *Va. Carolorum*, p. 61.

¹³ Jane Carson, "The Will of John Rolfe," *V LVIII*, pp. 58-65.

Utie and Capt. John West, as one of "the prime actors in the late mutiny" and requested that they be ordered to England "to answer their misdemeanors."¹⁴ He was in England, 1636, to answer the charges and remained some eighteen months, being examined "upon interrogatories exhibited against him in the Star Chamber."¹⁵ He petitioned the Privy Council at Hampton Court, 29 Sept. 1637, to return to Virginia to settle his estate, which petition was granted by license, 30 Sept. 1637, "to repair to Virginia for the better management of his affairs" upon posting security for £100 to appear in the Star Chamber when required.¹⁶

An Act of Assembly, 6 Jan. 1639/40, named him as a tobacco viewer for the upper part of Warwick River as far as the Parish of Denby extended and down to the upper side of Batchelor's Hope Creek and Standley Hundred.¹⁷ There is further record of Capt. William¹ Peirce, 22 July 1640, when six of his servants who "plotted to run away unto the Dutch plantation," took a ship belonging to him and sailed down to the Elizabeth River, were apprehended, and, 31 Jan. 1641/2 and 8 March 1641/2, when he sat as a Councillor.¹⁸

Issue:¹⁹ 2. JOANE².

¹⁴ W. Noel Sainsbury, ed., *Calendar of State Papers, Colonial Series, 1574-1660* (London, 1860), p. 217.

¹⁵ *Va. Carolorum*, p. 88.

¹⁶ Sainsbury, *op. cit.*, p. 258.

¹⁷ *W(2) IV*, p. 23.

¹⁸ *MCGC*, pp. 467, 498; Northumberland Co. Record Bk. 1652-58, p. 25. A patent to Capt. William Pierce, Esq., one of the Councillors of State, for 1170 acres in James City County was dated 19 March — [probably 1643/4] (Patent Bk. 2, p. 367). He was dead by 22 June 1647 (Warwick Co. Orders, 1647, in *The Virginia Genealogist*, I, p. 62).

¹⁹ Other children of William¹ Peirce are unproved. A possible son, however, was Thomas Peirce of Mulberry Island, Warwick County, who, 21 Jan. 1655/6, made a deed of gift to his eldest son William Peirce of a cow which Capt. William Peirce and Mr. William Spencer were to make choice of (Surry Co. Record Bk. 1, p. 116). On 21 Oct. 1665 in response to a petition "preferred by Mr. Thomas Iken as he intermarried with Grace Harwood [see HARWOOD] against Thomas Peirce as one of the executors of Captaine Thomas

Peirce of tenn pounds sterling," it was ordered that "in regard Thomas Peirce is not yet of age and hath not yet his estate in his hands nor acted as executor," his guardian keep in his hands what was necessary to pay the legacy (Warwick Co. Court record, 21 Oct. 1665, in *The Virginia Genealogist*, XVIII, p. 286, erroneously dated 1663). Thomas Iken patented, 14 May 1669, land which included his dwelling house, "formerly the dwelling house of Capt. Wm. Peirce" (Patent Bk. 6, p. 218). William Peirce who patented, 22 April 1668, 100 acres nigh the mouth of Scott's Creek and along Mr. Harwood's line, which had been granted Jno. Rolfe, Wm. Peirce, Tho. Peirce and Willm. Spencer and was due him by order of the General Court 24 April 1667 (*ibid.*, p. 166), was presumably the son of Capt. Thomas. He may be the William Peirce whose land adjoined a patent granted Roger Delke at Lawnes Creek, Surry County, 15 Feb. 1663/4 (Patent Bk. 5, p. 320). Mr. Thomas Peirce who patented, 2 March 1673/4, 155 acres in Mulberry Island near George Harwood's line (Patent Bk. 6, p. 506) was presumably Thomas, Jr., and the Thomas Peirce who

2. JOANE² PEIRCE (William¹) married (1), as his (3) wife, *I. John¹ Rolfe* (see ROLFE) and (2), by 1623, *I. Capt. Roger¹ Smith* (see SMITH, Roger).

Issue: (by 1) see ROLFE.

left will, 7 Oct. 1696–21 Jan. 1696/7 (Warwick Co. Record Bk. 1695–97, p. 453), naming wife Elizabeth, sons Jeremiah and William and daughter Elizabeth. Widd'o Pierce held 155 acres in Warwick County, 1704. No connection between Capt. William¹ Peirce and William Peirce who was mentioned as early as 31 Oct. 1657 (Westmoreland Co. Deeds, Wills, Patents &c 1653–59, p. 94a) and, as "of the

Parish of Copley in the County of Westmoreland," left will 20 Feb. 1701/2–25 March 1702, mentioning deceased son John, naming John's son William as heir, and also mentioning daughters Elizabeth Bridges, Margaret Graham and Mary Rowsey and grandson Samuel Bayley (Westmoreland Co. Wills & Deeds 3, 1701–07, pp. 50–51), has been established.

PEIRSEY¹

†*1. ABRAHAM¹ PEIRSEY of Maidstone, Kent, came to Virginia, 1616, in the *Susan*, the first magazine ship sent to the colony.² As cape merchant (supercargo), his mission in part was profitably to dispose of the goods shipped in exchange for tobacco and sassafras, the only two commodities produced in the colony at that time that would bring a profit when sold in England. He returned to England on the *Susan* and the following year came back to Virginia in the same capacity on the second magazine ship, the *George*. He seems to have remained in the colony thereafter to receive and disburse cargoes sent in the magazine ships.

In 1619, however, Peirsey was sent in the *George* to Newfoundland as cape merchant with a cargo of tobacco to be exchanged for fish. He gave an account of this voyage in a letter to Sir