

Chapter 00550 **1851**

**DAVID HENRY PEARCE**

(**blind**)

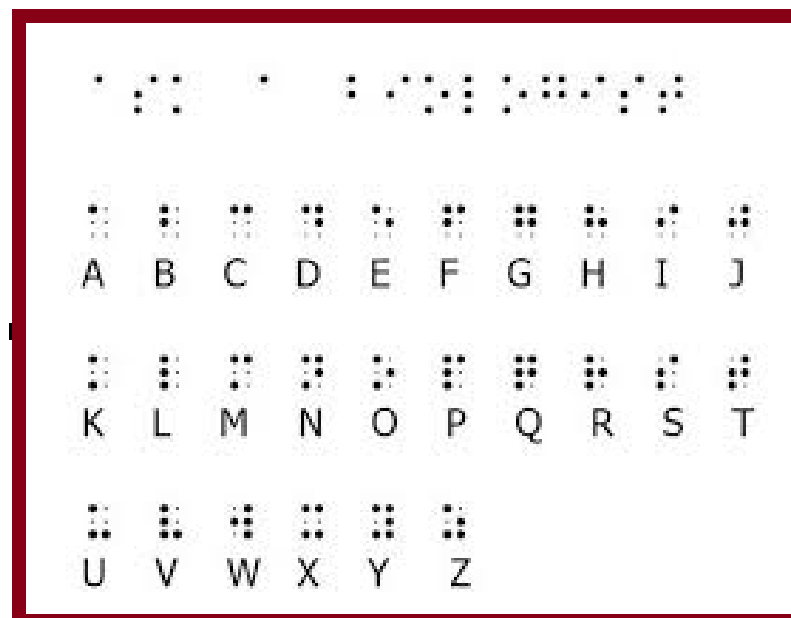
**Son of Mark Pearce and  
Mary Elizabeth 'Eliza' QUACKENBUSH.**

Fairfield NJ, Middletown NY  
and Bronx, NY

**Henry Harrison Pearce branch #2, generation #5.**

David is a 2nd great grandson of Henry Pearce #1

David is the same generation  
as cousin Charles Small Pierce.





4/24/2025


## Relationship: Henry PEARCE to David Henry PEARCE

David Henry PEARCE is the 2nd great grandson of Henry PEARCE


Self

	<b>Henry PEARCE</b> b: 25 Jul 1725 England d: 08 Jul 1788 Fairfield, NJ
	<b>Elizabeth Lucinda SPEAR</b> b: 06 May 1737 England d: 16 Oct 1814 Fairfield, NJ


Son

	<b>Henry James PEARCE</b> b: 28 Aug 1771 Fairfield, NJ d: 09 Aug 1842
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Grandson

	<b>Henry Harrison PEARCE</b> b: 1801 Fairfield, NJ d: 18 Feb 1859
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Great grandson

	<b>Mark PEARCE</b> b: 1824 d: 05 Apr 1898
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2nd great grandson

	<b>David Henry PEARCE</b> b: 28 Nov 1851 NJ d: 02 Feb 1927 Bronx, NY
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**1885**—David Henry Pearce resided in Caldwell NJ with **Jacob Fredericks VAN NESS** and wife **Margaret Bond Van Ness**. They must have been a wonderful couple.

Their son **Gilbert O. VAN NESS** married our **Mary Louise PIERCE**, who was an aunt to David. David is on branch #2 and Mary Louise on branch #3, the same **#3** branch as **Jill Pierce Bingler**. The mentioned people lived near Hillside Cemetery.

Jacob and Margaret had 7 children. By 1885, their children were adults with ages 30 to 40.

These people are buried at **Hillside Cemetery**.

By the way, Mary was a born before her brother, our Albert Pierce.

The Gilbert and Mary Pierce Van Ness home was on Horseneck Rd close to the cemetery. When entering the cemetery, the house would have been about 150 feet down on the same cemetery side. Where there are new condo homes. Their deserted home burned down around 1975.

**1910**—David was living in Middletown New York, working as a 'chair cane maker'. He is noted in the 1910 NY Census as being 'divorced'. I don't find his wife.

**1914**—lived at 125 West Main Street (Confectionery Store) in Middletown, NY.



**Theodore Sanford Pearce son of Mark Pearce.**

About 1885 or so, David moved to Middletown NY, down the street from his step-brother Theodore. Their other 2 young siblings William and Evaline died earlier as did both mom's (Ellen and Eliza). Their father Mark was still alive.

In 1895. Theodore was age 29 and blind David age 44. Theodore was a postman in Middletown, NY.

The dad Mark died 3 years later in 1898. Theodore and David were the only living members of this family unit.

1900 Theodore lived at 10 Olwer Ave, Middletown, NY working as a painter.

1907 Theodore lived at 75 West Main St, Middletown, NY. David lived on the same street at 125 West Main Street. Glen remembers walking many times on that street in 1965-67 when he attended nearby Orange County Community College.

Here is a summary of the relatives who helped David.

Generation #3	Branch# - Gen#	Generation #4
Mark Pearce	#2 - #4	
Ellen M. Carlton, wife 1	#2 - #4	
	#2 - #5	<b>Theodore Sanford PEARCE</b>
	#2 - #5	Leah Walker FORT
	#2 - #5	William Franklin PEARCE
		died age 4
Mark Pearce	#2 - #4	
Mary Elizabeth 'Eliza' QUACKENBUSH	#2 - #4	
	#2 - #5	Evaline Aurilla PEARCE
		died age 18
	#2 - #5	<b>David Henry PEARCE</b>
<b>Jane Maria PEARCE</b>	#2 - #4	no children
Henry L. MULFORD	#2 - #4	
<b>Jacob Fredericks VAN NESS</b>	#3 - #3	
<b>Margaret M. BOND</b>	#3 - #3	
	#3 - #4	<b>Gilbert O. VAN NESS</b>
	#3 - #4	<b>Mary Louise PIERCE</b>

In the 1895, Theodore was age 39 living with his family in Middletown NY. He worked as a mailman. It appears that David lived down the street in Middletown, NY.

**1910**—David Henry Pearce age 59 lived in Middletown New York, working as a 'chair cane maker'. The 1910 NY Census shows David 'divorced'. So far, I don't find David's wife.

The 1910 census shows Theodore Pearce and family living at 247 West 111th Street, NYC working as a salesman and house painter.

It appears that David stayed in Middletown NY until 1923 or so.

**1914**—Mrs. **Jane Pearce Mulford** died 3/9/1914. Her WILL thoughtfully gave nephew David, **age 62**, \$1,000 per year for life. **\$1,000** in 1914 is equivalent in purchasing power to **\$32,000** in 2025 money.

In 1914, the average annual income in the United States was around **\$574**, with state and local government workers earning slightly more at \$699 and public school teachers earning \$492. (Google 2025)

Therefore, David's \$1,000 per year for life was above average.

The US started the income tax in 1913 but it was 1% for income over \$6,000. So David was not affected.

Aunt Jane was the 7th and last child of Henry Harrison Pearce and Maria C. Bush. Her brother Mark Pearce was the father of David.

Jane is Glen's number one all-time relative. She and her husband **Henry Mulford** did not have children. They are buried at Hillside Cem.

They were generous with their money for family members. Jane managed the cemetery for about 40 years.

# LOCAL INTEREST ASKED FOR SALE OF THE BLIND

1918

Middletown residents can do much towards helping the blind in this community, and elsewhere to become self-supporting, by attending and supporting the two-day sale of the State Commission for the Blind at Tompkins' dry goods store on Friday and Saturday. This sale will show the wide variety of industries that the sightless people of our state are engaged in and the success with which they are making so many articles of utility and decoration. **David H Pierce**, 125 West Main street, is one of the local residents who has benefited through the instruction of a state blind teacher.

This sale has a two-fold purpose—to encourage the industrial employment of the blind, and to make known to the blind of the community, the possibility of instruction and employment for all able-bodied blind persons, therefore, you are urged to make this your interest for September 26-27 and not only attend yourself but pass the invitation on to any blind person whom you may know that this exhibit is for his especial interest. Bear in mind this sale on Friday and Saturday.

Middletown Times-  
Press, NY,  
Wed, /25/1918  
Page 7



8/21/1866 NJ Inheritance issue

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** to Mahall Quackenbush (widow of David Quackenbush, deceased,) Martha Quackenbush, Franklin Quackenbush, Henry Quackenbush and Abraham Quackenbush, and all whom it may concern, that the subscriber, who claims to be tenant in common of the undivided one-fifth part of certain land and real estate situate in the city of Newark, in the county of Essex, and State of New Jersey, being the house and lot, or homestead, whereof the said David Quackenbush, deceased, lately died seized, and whereof the said Martha Quackenbush, Franklin Quackenbush, Henry Quackenbush and Abraham Quackenbush are each entitled also to an undivided fifth part, subject to the right of dower of the said Mahall Quackenbush therein—will make application to the Orphans' Court of the County of Essex aforesaid, on the twenty-second day of September next, at the hour of ten in the forenoon, or as soon thereafter as the same can be heard, for the appointment of Commissioners to divide the said premises between the said owners in the shares aforesaid.

**DAVID HENRY PEARCE.**

Dated August 21, 1866. au21-oawt:22

David Henry Pearce petition for his late mother's share of David Quackenbush's estate.

Petition filed on behalf of David Henry Pearce, son of Mark Pearce and Mary Eliza Quackenbush, seeking a share of the estate of his grandfather, David Quackenbush.

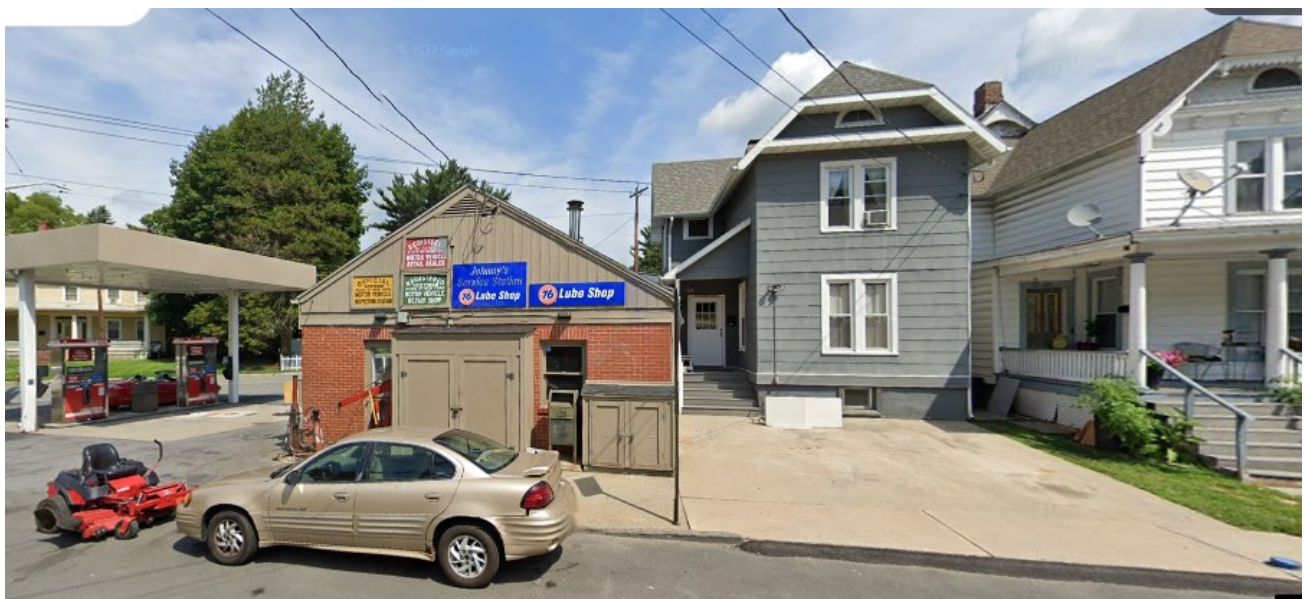
The 1920 US Federal census shows David owning and living at 125 West Main St in Middletown, NY. The brick building may have been his shop for making 'cane chairs'.

Maybe the grey building was his home???

As a blind man, David must have struggled in life. David is on the branch #2 with parents Mark Pearce and Mary Elizabeth 'Eliza' QUACKENBUSH.

Sometime in mid 1920s, David moved to a Bronx, NY home for the blind. After David died in the Bronx on 10/30/1927, his Pearce and Van Ness relatives made sure that David was buried at Hillside Cem. I hope he has a tombstone.

I bet the the 2025 Pierce's would have helped David during his lifetime. Glen.



Examples of cane chair makers. This is not a photo of David.





# 1927 Death Certificate—Home for Blind

**David Henry Pearce** 28 Nov 1851—02 Feb 1927. Age 75

25-2609-18-B, Form 15 H  
1 PLACE OF DEATH

STATE OF NEW YORK  
Department of Health of The City of New York  
BUREAU OF RECORDS  
STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

BOROUGH OF Bronx

Name of Institution Home for Blind Register No. 1000

2 FULL NAME David H Pearce

3 SEX Male 4 COLOR OR RACE White 5 SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, or DIVORCED Single  
(Write the word)

6 DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_  
(Month) (Day) (Year)

7 AGE 74 yrs. 1 day, \_\_\_\_\_ hrs. \_\_\_\_\_ min.  
If LESS than 1 day, \_\_\_\_\_ hrs. \_\_\_\_\_ min.

8 OCCUPATION  
(a) Trade, profession or particular kind of work Chair Caner  
(b) General nature of industry, business or establishment in which employed (or employer)

9 BIRTHPLACE (State or country) U.S.

(A) How long in U. S. (if of foreign birth) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) How long resident in City of New York Life

10 NAME OF FATHER Mark Pearce  
11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or country) U.S.  
12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER Unknown  
13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or country) U.S.

14 Special INFORMATION required in deaths in hospitals and institutions and in deaths of non-residents and recent residents.  
Former or usual residence Unknown  
Where was disease contracted, if not at place of death?

15 DATE OF DEATH Feb 2nd  
(Month)

16 I hereby certify that the foregoing (Nos. 1 to 15 inclusive) are correct as the same can be ascertained, and I certify that deceased was admitted to this institution Dec 3rd 1923 saw him alive on the 2nd day of Feb 1927, that he died on the 2nd day of Feb 1927, about M or P. M., and that I am unable to state the cause of death; the diagnosis during last illness was: Chronic Interstitial  
duration \_\_\_\_\_ yrs. 6  
Contributory edema of heart  
(Secondary) duration \_\_\_\_\_ yrs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Witness my hand this 2nd day of Feb 1927  
Signature Wm B. Bridgman  
House Physician

17 I hereby certify that I have this 191 performed upon the body of said deceased, and that his death was as follows:

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Pathologist \_\_\_\_\_

FILED FEB 8 1927

18 PLACE OF BURIAL Hillside Cem Clinton N.J. DATE OF BURIAL Feb 5  
19 UNDERTAKER Walter Blewke ADDRESS 6 N. Ford  
F465

Hillside Cem, Fairfield NJ. Clinton refers to the Horseneck Road section.