

Clara Ann Pearce**XID – 12852**

Commentary: Clara Ann Pearce was the daughter of John Pearce II and Frances Upchurch and therefore the granddaughter of Benjamin, head of Upchurch Clan 13. Clara married William Osburn Gay, who died in battle at Gettysburg, PA.

Acknowledgements: This Biofile was transcribed by UAFA Director of Biofile Transcription, Carla J. Michaels!

(1) See Page 26 download in letter 7 Mar 2000 Flora Pauline Upchurch to RPU
 46. **Clara Ann⁷ Pearce**, (*John⁶, Phillip⁵, Nathan⁴, Nathan³, Phillip², George¹*) was born October 9, 1825 in Franklin Co, NC, and died September 8, 1912 in Franklin Co, NC. She married William Osborn Gay, CSA November 22, 1850 in Franklin Co, NC, son of Osborne Gay and Elizabeth Baker. He was born 1830 in Franklin Co, NC, and died July 4, 1863 in Gettysburg, PA.

Notes for William Osborn Gay, CSA:

Enlisted in Co B, 47th Regt May 13, 1862, for the war, at the age of 33 as a Pvt. Wounded in both legs and captured at Gettysburg, PA July 1 – 3, 1864. Died in the hands of the enemy on or about July 4, 1863, of wounds.

Children of **Clara Pearce** and William Gay are:

- i William Jasper⁸ Gay, born October 24, 1853, Franklin Co, NC; died October 5, 1929, Franklin Co, NC.
- ii James T Osborn Gay, born June 4, 1861, Franklin Co, NC, died August 8, 1907, Franklin Co, NC
- iii Martha W Gay, born about 1863, Franklin Co, NC

I. Nathan Pearce, I born 9 Jul 1735

A. Phillip Pearce – 1 of 4 brothers

1. John Pearce, II married Frances Upchurch

a. **Clara Ann Pearce**

(2) Pearce Family of Franklin Co, NC – 1850 & 1860 Census

[Note: See Clara Ann Pearce entry in the 1850 Census below – CJM 8 Aug 2021]

1850 - DUNN'S DISTRICT

Name	Sex	Age	Occupation	Color	b A B T
John Pearce	M	71	Farmer		1786 Δ
Frances	F	61			1790 Δ
Clara	F	27			1823 Δ
Fanny	F	18			1831 Δ
Robert	M	14	Farmer		1836 Δ
Early Denton	M	12			1837 * Δ

1860 - DUNN TWP
PO BAKERS X ROADS

Household Members:	Name	b A B T	Age
	John Pearce	1789	71
	Frances Pearce	1791	69
	Robt Denton	1836	14 * Δ
	Susan Locust	1823	37 * Δ
	James Locust	1850	10 * Δ
	Kearney Locust	1854	6 * Δ
	Alecy Locust	1854	4 * Δ
	Martin Locust	1858	2 * Δ

* = Linkage not established

I. Benjamin Upchurch – Head of Clan

A. Frances Upchurch XID – 2814

married () John Pearce born 1787 XID – 4203

1. Clara Ann Pearce born 9 Oct 1823 XID – 12852

(3) From Estate File of John Pearce born 10 Nov 1787 [son of Philip Pearce born 9 Jun 1735]

See his biofile – 29 Oct 2006

Page 46 – The heirs of John Pearce, Sr petition to divide his 1125 acres Dec Term 1863 – For the Petitioners: B SW Spivey

Petitioners (Heirs) – 9:

Benjamin Pearce

John Pearce, Jr

Calvin Pearce

Pemberton Mitchell & wife nee Lucinda Pearce

Clem Alford & wife nee Jane Pearce

Baldy Alford & wife nee Priscilla Pearce

Joseph Pulley “Joe” & wife nee Frances Pearce “Fannie”

William Gay & wife nee **Clara Ann Pearce** “Clary”

Ambrose Upchurch & wife nee Harriett Pearce

Land bounded by:

William Privette

Benjamin Pearce

Shaw Driver

Commissioners appointed

Thomas Williams

John Griffin

W T Minga

W S Cheves

W S Harris

Registered – 16 Jul 1866 – T C Horton, Clerk of Court

(4) See Pearce Family – received by RPU 2 Mar 1985

I. Nathan Pearce married Nancy Wester

A. Phillip Pearce born 24 Jul 1754 married Nancy Bunn

1. John Pearce born 10 Nov 1787 married Frankie Upchurch (Frances Upchurch, II)

a. Clear Pearce = **Clare Pearce**

married William Osburn Gay

i. William Jasper Gay married Susan Pearce

ii. Jim Gay married Ruth --- ---

iii. Martha Gay married --- ---

(5) From Estate File of John Pearce born 10 Nov 1787 [son of Philip Pearce born 9 Jun 1735] see his biofile – 29 Oct 2006 Franklin Co, NC

Six of the heirs of John Pearce, II received contiguous 187-acre tracts near Moccasin Creek. per the Jan 1864 survey to partition the estate. Parcel No 2 (shown below) was allocated to daughter Clara Ann (Pearce) Gay. Since her husband is not named it may be presumed that he is deceased. RPU

(see map below)



RPU note: The husband of **Clara Ann Pearce** was William Osburn Gay. He was a Civil War casualty who died Jul 1863 at Gettysburg, PA. Cross-file Clara Ann Gay. The disposition of the tract would be of interest. 11 Sep 2008

(6) Extract of Mrs Frances A Pearce court action Mar 1863 Franklin Co, NC to obtain dower rights in property of her late husband John Pearce, II – item in letter 1 May 1984 Eleanor Grace Williamson to RPU – Filed in biofile of nee Frances A Upchurch (XID – 2814) John Pearce, II died intestate leaving children as follows:

Benjamin Pearce
 Calvin Pearce
 John Pearce [“Jack”]
 Lucinda Mitchel [Lucinda Pearce]
 Priscilla Alford [Priscilla Pearce]
 Harriet Upchurch [Harriet Pearce]
 Jane Alford [Jane Pearce]
 Clara Gay [**Clara Pearce**]
 Fannie Pulley [Fannie Pearce]

(7) See Pearce Family – compiled 1967

I. Nathan Pearce married Nancy Wester

A. Philip Pearce born 24 Jul 1754 married Nancy Bunn

1. John Pearce born 10 Nov 1788 married Frankie Upchurch died at age 80 – was daughter of Benjamin Upchurch and Nancy Ledbetter (lived to age 85) Benjamin Upchurch had sister Frankie Upchurch, Betty Upchurch and Nancy Upchurch. Frankie’s brother Jubble Upchurch lived to be 80.

a. Clear Pearce [**Clara Pearce**]
 married () William Osburn Gay

(8) Baker Family of Franklin Co, NC – from Ancestry.com 28 Mar 09 – RPU Plus, will of John Baker 4 Jul 1823

1850 Census – Franklin Co, NC – Harris Township			
Name	age	born abt	
Archibald Baker	30	1820	farmer
Harriet Baker	21	1829	
John Baker	64	1786	
Martha Baker	16	1834	
Ruth Baker	19	1831	

1880 Census – Wake Co, NC – Little River District			
Name	age	born abt	
Baldy Baker	66	1814	head
Mary S Baker	23	1857	daughter
John Perry Baker	21	1859	son
Routh L Baker	17	1863	daughter
Archibald Baker	15	1865	son
Charlie R Baker	11	1869	son

1900 Census – Franklin Co, NC – Dunn Township			
James Gay	38	Jun 1861	head
Rutha P Gay	39	Apr 1861	wife
William F Gay	13	Jul 1886	son
Etta H Gay	11	Jun 1888	daughter
Birtha L Gay	9	Oct 1890	daughter
Lissie M Gay	8	Mar 1892	daughter
Junie E Gay	5	May 1895	son

Rutha Baker	
Birth: 1832 – 03 Franklin, North Carolina, USA	
Death: 1913 – 05 – 09 Franklin, North Carolina, USA	
1832 Mar Birth	Birth Franklin, North Carolina, USA
1852 11 Jul Age: 30	Marriage to Calvin Pearce Franklin, North Carolina, USA
1860 Age: 28	Residence Dunn, Franklin, North Carolina
1900 Age: 68	Residence Dunn, Franklin, North Carolina
1913 9 May Age: 81	Death Franklin, North Carolina, USA
Parents	John Baker 1886 – 1855 Rutha Hopkins 1793 – 1850
Spouse & Children	Calvin Pearce 1833 – 1860 Charles A Pearce – 1922

Archibald Baker	
Birth: 1815 Franklin, North Carolina, USA	
Death: 1881 Baker, Franklin, North Carolina, USA	
Parents	John Baker 1886 – 1855 Rutha Hopkins 1793 – 1850
Spouse & Children	Calvin Pearce 1833 – 1860 Charles A Pearce – 1922

Harriet Baker	
Birth: About 1839 Franklin Co, NC	
1856 23 Oct Age:17	Marriage to Bryant Pearce Franklin Co, NC
Spouse & Children	Bryant Pearce 1832 – Swanson Pearce M E Pearce J A Pearce J J Pearce

Junie Eric Gay	
Born: 31 May 1895	
Died: 19 Mar 1967 (city) Franklin, North Carolina	

Hattie Blanche Duke	
Born: 2 Feb 1903	
Died: 7 Oct 1966 (city) Franklin, North Carolina	
Marriage: 23 Dec 1919 (city) Franklin, North Carolina	

Archibald L Baker	
Birth: 1865 Wake, North Carolina, USA	
Death: Mar 1893	
1856 23 Oct Age:17	Marriage to Bryant Pearce Franklin Co, NC
Children	Living Gay – M Living Gay – F Living Gay – F Living Gay – M Living Gay – F Living Gay – M born 14 Aug 1920 (Franklin Co, NC)

I. --- --- Baker

A. John Baker 1786 - 1850

married () Ruth Hopkins 1793 - 1850

1. Archibald H Baker born 1815/1820 (Franklin Co, NC) died 1881 (Franklin Co, NC)

married () A Strickland

a. Mary S Baker born 1857

b. John Perry Baker born 1859

c. Ruth L/A Baker born 1861/1863

married () James Osborn Gay, son of William Osborn Gay & Clara Ann Pearce

i. Junie Eric Gay born 31 May 1895 died 19 Mar 1967 (Franklin Co, NC)

married 23 Dec 1919 (Franklin Co, NC) Hattie Blanche Duke born 2 Feb 1903 () died 7 Oct 1996 (Franklin Co, NC)

(I) → (V) 3 daughters and 2 sons

(VI) Junie Boradus Gay born 14 Aug 1920 (Franklin Co, NC)

d. Archibald L Baker born 1865 (Wake Co, NC) died Mar 1893

e. Charlie R Baker born 1869

2. Harriet Baker born 1829/1839 (Franklin Co, NC)

married 23 Oct 1856 (Franklin Co, NC) Bryant Pearce born 1832

a. Swanson Pearce

b. M E Pearce

c. J A Pearce

d. J J Pearce

3. Ruth Baker born 1831

4. Martha Baker born 1834

(9) Item in letter 14 May 1984 Eleanor Grace Williamson to RPU

Re 1803 Upchurch → Carpenter name change

Franklin Co, NC Estates Records – Pace – Pearce, Acriel; 1781 – 1934; C. R. 039.508.56Franklin Co, NC Estates Records – Pearce, Archibald – Pernell; 1781 – 1934; C. R. 039.508.57

(1) Calvin Pearce – 1868 – Heirs Harriett Upchurch, wife of A Upchurch – More sheets in folder – copy of one enclosed.

(2) James Pearce – 1792 – Sale of Est – Buyers: Benjamin Upchurch & others

Bond: Children of James Pierce bound to Thomas Ray: Beedy or Bud, Betsey, Penny, Pattie & Willis Pierce. Bondsman: Thomas Ray, Richard Upchurch & Benjamin Wheler

(3) John Pearce – 1865 – Division of Land of John Pearce, 18 Oct 1865. Children & heirs at law of John: Calvin Pearce, Pemberton Mitchell & wife Lucinda, Clem Alford & wife Jane, Priscilla Alford, Joseph Pully & wife Fannie, **Clara Ann** Gay & Ambrose Upchurch & wife Harriet.

(4) Martha Pearce – Ambrose Upchurch owed estate – 1846

Franklin Co, NC – Estates Records – Gay, Sherrod – Gill, John N – 1781 – 1934. C. R. 039.508.25

(1) Nothing of interest

Franklin Co, NC Estate Records – Person, Thomas – Pinnell; C. R. 039.508.62

(1) Checked for Pierce – Nothing of interest

Franklin Co, NC Estate Records – Hobbs – Hopkins, 1781 – 1934; C. R. 039.508.36

(1) Calvin Hopkins – 1864. Sale – Buyers R (R) Upchurch & others.

(10) Jan 1864 Survey to allocate lands of **John Pearce, II** born 10 Nov 1787, son of Philip, grandson of Nathan. Widow – nee Frances A Upchurch gets 623 acres – daughter of Benjamin Upchurch – Head of Clan

Six Children each get 187A

1. **Clara Ann (Pearce)** Gay – husband deceased [See red oval in map below – CJM 8 Aug 2021]

2. Fannie (Pearce) Pulley – husband = Joseph

3. Jane (Pearce) Alford – husband = Clem

4. Harriet (Pearce) Upchurch – Husband = Ambrose

5. Priscilla (Pearce) Alford – husband = Archibald

6. Lucinda (Pearce) Mitchell – husband = Pemberton

Child 7 Calvin Pearce got a remote 22A

#8 – Benjamin – 300A

#9 – John??

[Names included: Acrel Pearce, John Jeffreys, Privette, William Privette, Mobley, Shaw Driver, Bryant Stallings, Strickland, Burkely Upchurch, Bartlett Medlin, John Griffin, B Medlin, Griffon, Bell, Gaston, Johnson, Pace, W K Hopkins

[This item is a repeat of above – CJM 21 Oct 2020]

(see map next page)

(11) See William Jasper Gay Cemetery Records – Franklin Co, NC

Clara Gay [nee **Clara Pearce**] born 9 Oct 1825 died 8 Sep 1912

William Osburn Gay was killed at Gettysburg, PA in CSA battle – he was buried there – site unknown.

(12) See letter 18 Jan 1994 Crama Lee Smith to RPU

In 1863 the heirs of John Pearce petitioned the court to divide his 1125 acres in Franklin Co, NC among his heirs. His daughter **Clara Ann (Pearce)** Gay received 187 acres, her husband having been killed in the Civil War.