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A HISTORY
of
PENCE PLACE NAMES
and
EARLY PENCES IN AMERICA
(With Genealogies)

Compiled and published by
MONROE CONGER PENCE

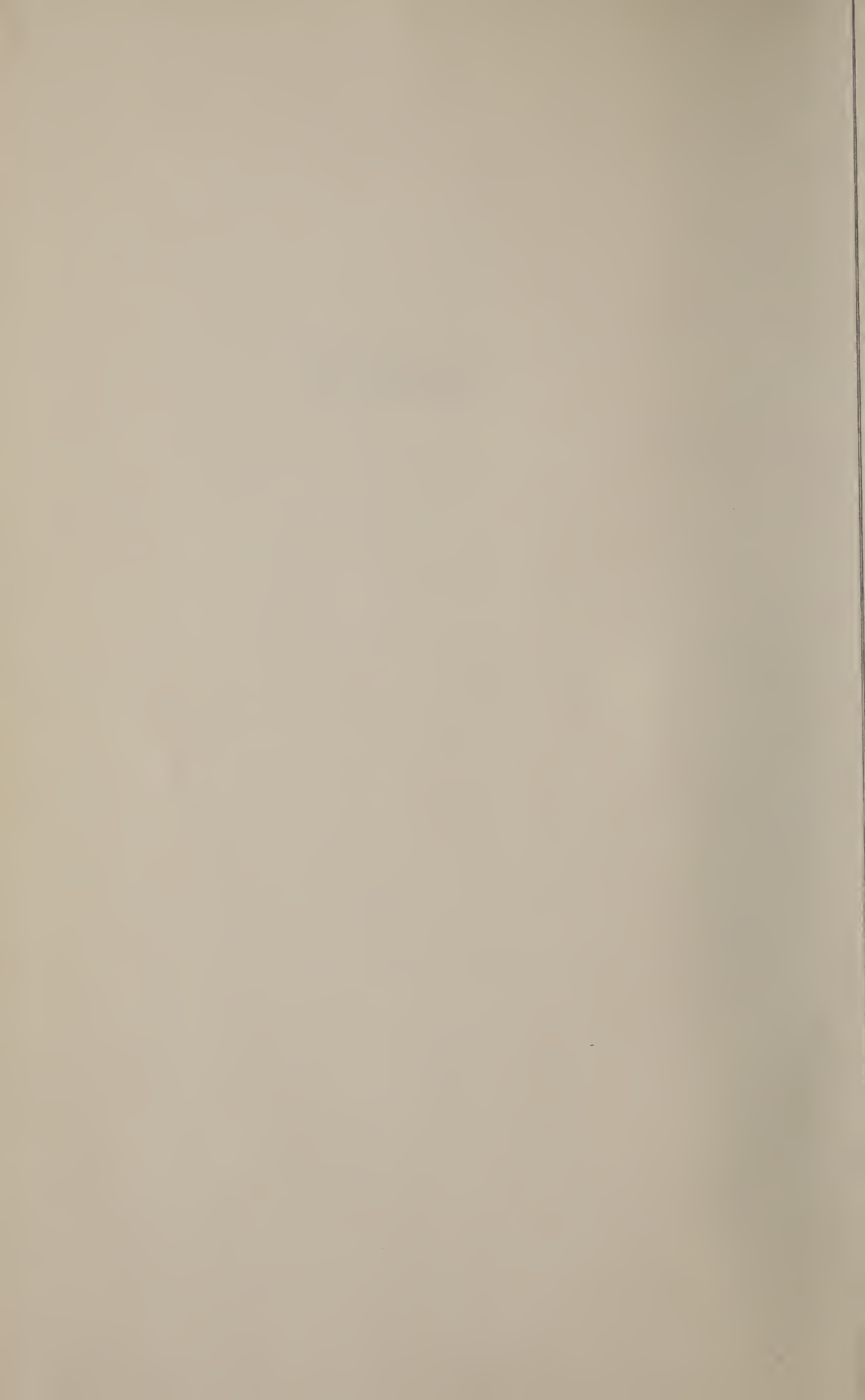
a great-great grandson of
the German Immigrant
HEINRICH BENTZ

Americanized as
HENRY PENCE

Copyright, 1961, by Monroe Conger Pence

Mountain View, California

1214079



Dedicated to
THE PENCE PIONEERS
of America

PREFACE

The author finds that the name Pence, as a surname, is not common to the English or German people. The name is believed to have been derived from the Bavarian (German) surname of Bentz, and of the related name of Benz. According to Dr. John Branner, former president of Stanford University (1913-1915), these families (the Pencés) originated in Switzerland, and about the year 1000 A.D. moved into what is now Germany, from Germany to Holland, and from there to Pennsylvania. (The preceding statement is quoted from Oliver book listed below.)

Emigrating by way of England, these families arrived in America some-time prior to the Revolutionary War. Here, they settled in the English Colonies (Pennsylvania and Virginia), and in later years many of their descendants moved south and west into the states of West Virginia, The Carolinas, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois.

In the early part of the 17th Century, countless Bentzs and Pentzs were among the Immigrants to the English Colonies. The numerous county clerks, ever so many times, recorded the name Bentz as Pentz, and Pence; and also, no doubt, as Pense, and Pents. The pronunciation of the letter "B" in the Bavarian dialect often sounds like the letter "P" in the English language. In the book, "30,000 Names of Immigrants in Pennsylvania" by the German historian, I.D. Rupp, Pencés under the name of Bentz, Pentz, and Pence appear many times. Their descendants are all over America.

The books listed below may be referred to for additional information concerning the family name:

"Deutsche Namenkunde" by Max Gottschald. 1954. New York Public Library.

"The Bentz Family" a chapter in the book, "The Crone and Allied Families" by Frank Crone. 1933. Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

"The History of Judge John Pence and Descendants" by Kingsley Adolphus Pence. 1912. Library of Congress, and many public genealogical libraries.

"Genealogy of George C. and Sarah (Windle) Pence, and Their Descendants" by Cora Oliver. 1936. Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Write author for information on this book.

The author's interest in family place names has given him this rather unusual approach in attempting to create a general reader interest in descendant research and genealogy work.

The Pence family place names in this History have been arranged geographically. Secondary place names are included in a somewhat relative position. Individual Early Pence names (with family information), follow

in a miscellaneous category. In most cases, the relationship of these names to the place name families have not been established.

A record of the Heinrich Bentz Family is placed immediately prior to the history of Pence, Indiana. Identified with this town are several descendants of the German Immigrant.

The Coat-of-Arms pictured on the opposite page is taken from the book "The History of Judge John Pence and Descendants". The aged print has been shaded for a sharper reproduction.

Some three years of research work is represented with the material at hand; and, in a work of this nature, there may be some discrepancies. Nevertheless, the author, an amateur genealogist and writer, has faithfully attempted to present for the reader, an acceptable historical compilation.

Sincere appreciation is extended to the numerous historical societies, county offices, and libraries who have contributed to this book. Reference to them are given. Also, a hearty thanks to the many family correspondents. Information concerning these writers will be sent upon request.

To the several publishers who have most graciously granted permission for use of copyrighted material, the compiler and author expresses his gratitude. Acknowledgments to these publishers are given in the reference footnotes.

The author hopes that the brief sketches, and miscellaneous information will be of interest, and that in some way may help to bring the Pence Family closer together. Correspondence is welcome at any time. Please send all communications to:

PENCE FAMILY HISTORY
c/o Monroe Conger Pence
P.O. Box 1245
Mountain View, Calif.

A PENCE COAT OF ARMS

"Kraft, Wert, Friede"
translated
"Strength, Worth, Peace"



Granted to BENTZ of Bale
Rothenburg, Bavaria

Description

On a black shield, a gold lion with a red tongue is rampant (walking on hind feet) carrying a green palm. Lion denotes courage, majesty, strength; Gold, intrinsic worth; Palm, peace. Elephants' trunks (on the crest) also denotes strength.

Coat of Arms information from the book,
"Judge John Pence and Descendants"
by Kingsley Adolphus Pence.

Interpretation - from description

BENTZ -- Blessed
A pet form of Benedictus
A descendant of BENZ

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Named for Andrew Pence. Pence Branch. Daniel Boone Pence. Adam Pence. His house attacked by Missouri outlaws. Lafayette Stiles, Merry Lewis, and Ephram Pence. Pence Hotel, and Pence Springs, Arkansas. John Pense. George Washington Pense. The village of PENSE, SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA. Named for Edward John Barker Pense, of Kingston, Ontario, Canada.

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PENCE, INDIANA

Plotted by Frank Robert Pence. Col. Robert Titus Pence, and gold rush trek to California. Judge John Pence. Fort Pence, Illinois. Kingsley Adolphus Pence. Pence Park, and Mount Pence, Colorado. Dr. Leroy Pence, and "Borrowed Time Club", Lima, Ohio. Paul, Lampson, David, Lafayette, William David, and Edward Hart Pence. BENZ, MONTANA. Named for Fred Benz.

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PENCE, WISCONSIN

Named for John Wesley Pence. The Pence Opera House, Minnesota. Dedication. Artists who appeared there. Michael (Bentz) Pence. Harry Langley Pence. Philip and John Pence.

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PENTZ (PENCE), CALIFORNIA

Named for Manoah M. Pence. Gold mining. Indian attacks. Stagecoach holdups. Pence Ranch, one of the most valuable ranches in Northern California. President Hayes and Gen. Sherman visit Pentz. Pence ranch house (1959). George Washington, "G.W.", and Raymond Woodbury Pence.

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(Family genealogies are included)

PENCE SPRINGS, WEST VIRGINIA

This resort is situated on the north side of the Greenbrier River, about nine miles east of Hinton in Summers County. The Pence Springs R.R. Station (C. & O.) is one-half mile from the Springs. The community postoffice serves 110 inhabitants.

Pence Springs was founded in 1878 by Andrew Plunkett Pence (1840-1915), a son of Henry (1800-1867), and Nancy (Stodghill) Pence of West Virginia. They were married in 1829. Andrew's grandparents were Jacob (died in 1819), and Elizabeth (Tresler) Pence (1778-1865), a German girl; both came from Rockingham County, Virginia, to Monroe County, West Virginia. Andrew's great grandfather was also believed to be a Jacob Pence; the German Immigrant who came to Virginia in about the year 1747 with his brother Valentine.

Andrew P. Pence purchased the Summers County farm and sulphur springs from the heirs of a Jessie Beard. Soon after purchase, (1878), he built a large hotel on the site, and exploited the springs as a resort for persons afflicted with kidney, liver, dyspepsia, and other ailments. In a short time, the place became one of the leading resorts of the Greenbrier Valley.

The celebrated Pence Springs Hotel was filled to capacity most of the time. The guests included fashionable society people and well known citizens from Washington and New York. All were seeking the curative values of the sulphur water. An excellent host, the handsome Andrew Pence was well-liked for his friendly disposition. The indelible stamp of his personality was felt by the guest and visitor alike. Along with his hotel business, the enterprising Mr. Pence did a very profitable business of bottling and shipping the water, averaging some 200 crates a week, at \$2.00 a crate.

Shortly before the turn of the century, the resort, perhaps enjoyed its greatest success, being well known throughout the eastern states, and receiving visitors from as far west as California.

The success of Pence Springs prompted a Mr. E. M. Carney to establish a resort on 22 acres of land above Pence's property. Mr. Carney found that with the installation of pumps, he could draw up the precious sulphur water. On the site, a guest house was erected, and was named the "Valley Heights Hotel".

When Carney started his pumps, the natural flow of water subsided at Pence Springs. It became necessary for Mr. Pence to purchase and install powerful steam pumps.

The operation of Mr. Carney resulted in the filing of two noted law suits (one in 1904) "Pence vs. Carney", to enjoin the pumping and the waste of the water. In effect, the ruling handed down was that the pumping of the water in a reasonable way was permissible. It could not be wasted and must be used for "beneficial purposes only". Both resorts continued to operate for some time. In later years, the old Pence Springs Hotel was destroyed by fire. A modern brick hotel replaced it, and the place continued to operate as a health resort until highways took guests elsewhere. About 1948 a part of the Pence estate was purchased by the State of West Virginia.

It is said, however, that the Springs are still in operation and are owned by a Mr. Deeds. The sulphur water is dispensed at ten cents a gallon, and the scenic grounds are open for camping and picnicking. Amid these rustic surroundings remain, no doubt, the memories of bygone days and of the goodness and hospitality of Andrew P. Pence.

Little is known about Sarah Lewis (1842-1934), the wife of Andrew, tho the story is told of an Indian attack on the West Virginia plantation of Andrew's grandmother, Elizabeth Graham. This barbarous attack took place apparently during the absence of the parents, Colonel and Lady Graham. The Indians broke into the house and seized Elizabeth's ten-year old brother and a negro servant, who were hiding in a chimney. They were taken outside and tomahawked and scalped. Elizabeth, then seven years of age (1785), was carried off by the savages. Colonel Graham, a man of wealth, spared no expense in the search for his daughter. In 1793, Elizabeth was finally located at an Indian camp. She was allowed to be taken home after a ransom was paid. The Indians received \$300.00 in silver, 30 saddles, and a quantity of beads and trinkets.

Elizabeth, now fifteen years of age, had a difficult time of adjusting herself once again to the white-man's way of living. Several times she threatened to return to the Indian wigwam camp. With parental guidance and care, she at last settled down, married, and raised a family of five sons and four daughters.

Children of Jacob and Elizabeth Pence (no dates): Henry, Catherine, Julianna, Moses, Elizabeth, Agnes, and Peter Pence. Henry was born in Virginia. The others were probably born in Monroe County, West Virginia, between 1800 and 1825.

Children of Henry and Nancy Pence: Armanda (1830-79), Richard, Lewis A., John H., William W., Andrew Plunkett (above), and Harriet E. Pence. All were presumed born between 1825-48 in West Virginia.

Children of Andrew Plunkett and Sarah (Lewis) Pence: George Lewis, Bess, Jacob Dick (1/23/1873-4/7/1937), Silas Henry (1878-1951), and Nellie K. Pence (1884-1949). All were born in Summers County, West Virginia.

References: "School and Library Atlas of the World." 1950. Map. "History of Summers County" by James Miller (own publisher). 1908, West Virginia. Pages 738-41. This book has a picture of Andrew P. Pence and also one of the grounds at Pence Springs. "West Virginia Geological Survey - Mercer, Monroe, and Summers Counties" by David B. Reger. Pages 744-45. Published and copyrighted by Wheeling News Litho. Co., Wheeling, West Virginia. Gives an analysis of the water at Pence Springs. Tells of lawsuit "Pence vs. Carney." (Stanford University Library). Also see Morton's "Monroe County", pages 391-92. Letter from correspondent. (Genealogy)

Confederate soldiers from Monroe County, West Virginia include: George W., Gustavious, John, and Stewart Pence. Also an Isaac Pence, who was wounded at Cold Harbor in 1864. See Wayland's Virginia History. (Calif. State Library, Sutro Br., S.F. 2).

Pence's Hill, Virginia: This hill is located in Shenandoah Co., between Mount Jackson and Edinburg. Two miles above Edinburg the traveler along the Valley Pike mounts gradually to the crest of Pence's Hill. On a clear day the entire length of the Massanutten Range (50 miles) can be seen from this hill. Here lived a Jacob Pence, blacksmith and wagonmaker. At the foot of the hill stood the famous "Red Banks House", a prominent inn, stagecoach station, and stopping off place. Andrew Jackson, Mme. Bonaparte, and other notables of the time visited here. The hill is not designated on present day maps.

Jacob Pence, who died in 1881, is believed to be the last person buried in the nearby Bethel graveyard.

Reference: "History of Shenandoah County, Virginia" by Wayland. Copyrighted by The Shenandoah Publishing House, Strasburg, Va.

Jacob Pence: Born in 1792. His father from Rockingham County, Virginia, was Captain George Pence of the Revolution. Jacob resided in Tennessee, and later moved to Bartholomew County, Ind. His grandsons included William David, and George Pence, collector of Indiana history, who died in Indiana on September 13, 1929. Captain George Pence possibly was related to Adam Pence, the Immigrant who came to America on the ship "Friendship" (9/20/1738).

Martin Pence: From West Virginia. His wife, Susan, was from Ohio. A son, William F. Pence, was born in Champaign County, Ohio on February 15, 1830. Later resided in Logan County, Ohio.

William Pence: Born in Rockingham County, Virginia on September 2, 1831. Married Miss Synthia Ann Givens of Missouri, who was born about 1839 and died in 1876. Their children, all born in Missouri: John Pence, born in 1863; Albert Sydney Johnson, 1867; Sylvester W., 1868; Stonewall Jackson, 1872; and Lon Pence, 1876. This family is related to the Pences in Kentucky and Illinois. William died on January 27, 1909 and is buried at Roscoe, St. Clair County, Missouri.

Peter Pence: Born in Armstrong County, Pennsylvania on October 12, 1837. Wife's name was believed to be Ann (Bixby) Pence. A picture of Peter Pence appears in the book "The History of Idaho". 1920.

Thomas Jones Pence: Born in Raleigh, North Carolina on March 28, 1873. Son of Thomas and Anna Elizabeth (Jones) Pence. Tom, Jr. was a newspaperman and Washington correspondent. He directed and managed the campaign which resulted in the nomination of Woodrow Wilson for president (Baltimore, 1912). He passed away on March 27, 1916.

References: Wayland's History (above) - Jacob and Martin Pence. Letters from correspondents on William and Peter Pence. "Who Was Who" 1897-1942, Vol. I. Tells of Thomas Jones Pence.

PENCE, KENTUCKY

A Wolfe County pioneer, Andrew Pence (1798-1878), settled in this area about 1823. The village of Pence (his namesake), is located about nine miles southeast of Campton, the county seat. The postoffice at Pence (pop. 43) has been discontinued, and mail is now picked up at nearby Bethany. It is said that Andrew came to Kentucky from Illinois, and his ancestors came from Virginia or possibly from North Carolina.

Andrew Pence purchased 640 acres of Wolfe County land in the 1820's from a Mr. Burse Ayres for \$125.00. This property, situated on both sides of Holly Creek, was known as "Pence Branch". Rebecca Hollon (1806-87), a descendant of English royalty and the first white child to be born in the County, became Andrew's wife in 1823. They were blessed with eleven children, all believed born on Pence Branch. Official records show that in 1830 taxes were paid on this property by Andrew Pence.

Daniel Boone Pence: A grandson of Andrew Pence, was born in Wolfe County (formerly a part of Breathitt), on January 4, 1860. He was still active at 94 years of age, and frequently visited the news office in Campton. Here he told of his boyhood days in Wolfe County when wild turkeys were plentiful, and of the free school near his home, which was in session only three months out of the year, and where only the elementary grades were taught. He recalled the missionary church near Bethany; the burning down of the old log courthouse in Campton, and of being an eyewitness to the hanging of the culprit Floyd Williams. Sheriff Taylor Center officiated at this execution.

Daniel Boone married a Hettie McDaniel, and they made their home on Pence Branch. They were childless. He outlived his wife by several years, passing away at 96 years of age.

Andrew Pence, the stalwart leader, leaves many descendants in Kentucky. Truly an honored son of the paternal mansion.

Children of Andrew (12/11/1798-8/4/1878) and Rebecca Pence (6/10/1806-3/31/1887): Jane, Henry, Felix, Angie, Cithy, Katie, Cinda, Joab, Jack, Charity, and Fanny Pence.

Children of Henry (died 12/18/1903) and Jane (Pelfrey) Pence: Melissa, Caroline, Cithy, Scott, Logan, Nathan (born May 8, 1886), Angie, and Emily Pence.

Children of Felix (1/25/1851-5/5/1915), and Elizabeth (Gibbs) Pence: Jack (12/14/1871-5/31/1900), William (7/6/1873-?), John (5/1/1875-2/27/1942), Sarah Belle (10/7/1877-?), Sam (6/23/1880-?), Minnie (6/6/1882-5/17/1921), Taylor, born on Oct. 8, 1884, Bruce, Oct. 19, 1886, Kelly (5/15/1890-4/21/1926), and Ealy Pence, born on August 23, 1898.

Children of Joab and Levina (Landsaw) Pence: Leander, Susan, Will, Taylor, Sam, Georgeann, Felix, and Martitia Pence.

Children of Jack and Susie (Landsaw) Pence: John, George, Melissa, Daniel Boone (1/4/1860-6/14/1956), Polly, Sally, Jack, Newton, Billy, Renie, and Lou Ellen Pence. All believed born in Wolfe County. Susie (Landsaw) Pence's great grandmother, Nancy Ransome Murphy, was said to be a cousin of our first president, George Washington.

References: "School and Library Atlas of the World" 1950. Map. "Early and Modern History of Wolfe County", compiled by the Wolfe County Woman's Club, Campton, Kentucky. The history and genealogies of many prominent Kentucky families (including this Pence pioneer family) are presented in this book, which may be purchased at the above address. (See pages 116, 117, 118, 176, 177). Letter from correspondents. (Genealogy) Note: The name of the land owner "Burse Ayres" may not be spelled correctly.

Adam Pence: Lived in Scott County, Kentucky. Married Anna Snell. A son, William Henry, was born here in 1825. The family later moved to Clay County, Missouri. Other children include: Don (Donnie), Joe (Bud), Bob, and Jack Pence. Believed also to be children (or grandchildren) of this family were: Adam, Jr., Tom, Alexander D., Margaret A., Sallie, Eliza, Lurania, and Catherine Pence, who died in infancy.

In 1849, Adam Pence and his son, William Henry, operated a wagon supply train in the California gold fields. A few years before, William H. had served as captain in the Mexican War, where he was presented with a citation for bravery. They later returned to their farm in Clay County, Missouri, where the Pences were practically neighbors to the Jessie James farmstead. Don (Donnie) Pence, and Jessie James were boyhood friends.

One day in 1864, the Adam Pence house was attacked by a gang of Missouri outlaws, whose leader was the dreaded guerilla Quantrill, who in turn, was the teacher of Jessie James. The men were out seeking certain information. Adam, a man of principal and extraordinary courage, refused to cooperate with the desperadoes, so they put a rope around his neck and threatened to hang him. They broke a fiddle over his head, and also the stock of a gun. Then his feet were pulled up off the floor two or three times. All this had little effect on this gallant man, who by a miracle, and no doubt, some admiration, was allowed to live. The terrorists finally left the Pence house. Don, son of Adam Pence, was interviewed at Wakefield, Kentucky in 1887, where he told of the early guerilla warfare in Missouri. Adam and Anna Pence lived out their golden years with their son, Captain William Henry. They are buried at Kearney, Missouri.

This Adam may possibly be related to the German Immigrant, Adam Pence. He embarked to America on the ship "Neptune" from Rotterdam, Holland, and Cowes, England on October 4, 1752.

References: "Quantrill and the Border Wars", by Wm. E. Connelly. Pages 302, 449-50-57-79. Copyrighted by The Pageant Book Co., 59 Fourth Ave., New York City 3, N.Y. For additional enlightenment read: "Jessie James Was My Neighbor" by Homer Croy. Pages 154-55-59, also 267-68. Published by Duell, Sloan, and Pierce, 19 West Fortieth Street, New York City 18, N.Y. 1949. "Portrait and Biographical Record of Clay, Ray, Carrol, Chariton, and Linn Counties". Published by Chapman Bros., N.Y. 1893. This book has a picture of Captain William Henry Pence, and also an interesting story of his life. Los Angeles Pub. Library. Letter from correspondent (Family information).

Lafayette Stiles Pence: Resided in Lebanon, Marion County, Ky. An authority on Abraham Lincoln. Thru research, he has brought out interesting and little-known facts pertaining to the Lincoln family in Kentucky. Established the recognized date and place of death of Lincoln's grandfather, Abraham, the pioneer, who was shot by an Indian. Tells of the Rev. Head, and wedding of Lincoln's father, Thomas, and Nancy Hanks. Describes conduct of Lucy Hanks. Lafayette, (a Judge) may feasibly be related to, or the same person who is listed under "Pence, Ind."

References: "Abraham Lincoln, 1809-1858" Vol. 1, Pages 11-14, 17. Author, Albert Beveridge. Copyrighted by The Houghton Mifflin Company, Publishers, 2 Park Street, Boston 7, Massachusetts. For more knowledge read: "Lineage of Lincoln" by W. E. Barton. Copyrighted by The Bobbs-Merrill Co., Indianapolis. See index.

Merry Lewis Pence: Born in Hancock County, Kentucky on August 8, 1854. Married Belle Kelly. Parents of eight children. Professor at the University of Kentucky for over fifty years. A brilliant physicist and scholar; one of the first to make a successful picture by means of X-rays. His ancestors came to America from Delft, Holland, settling first in Pennsylvania. A number of descendants reside in Kentucky.

Children of Merry Lewis and Belle (Kelly) Pence: Alice Courtney, Merry Lewis, Jr., Kate, Christina, Mary Belle, Edgar Allen, Sallie Elizabeth, and Robert Kelly Pence. Merry Lewis passed away on Sept. 15, 1938.

Ephram Pence: His parents came from Holland to Virginia, and thence to southern Kentucky. A son, William Hendrickson Pence, (1854-1914) was born at Schochoh, Logan County, Kentucky. Several descendants now reside in Texas and also, no doubt, in the bordering states, including Arkansas.

The old Red River Meeting House Burying Ground in Logan Co., Kentucky, is the burial place of many Pence descendants, some before the year 1803.

Pence Hotel, Arkansas: Located at Eureka Springs. This three-story landmark was quite popular in the 1880's. Its unique construction caused

much comment. Situated on a Spring Street hill, the Hotel advertised a ground floor entrance on each floor. A Sam Pence was believed to have built it about 1870. A resident remembered the Pence Hotel as being quite old in the year 1897. The Hotel was razed in the 1940's.

Pence Springs, Arkansas: Situated in the Boston Mt. Range of the Ozarks, about six miles east of the U.S. Highway #71, and not far from the towns of Winslow and Winfrey, in Crawford County. Pence Springs is now non-existent. It has been walled up for many years. In earlier times, the Springs was well known around the country as a meeting place for summer picnics, and family gatherings. It is said to have been located on the old John Pence farm, one of several big Pence family farms in the area. A George and Alec Pence also farmed here.

About a mile and a half south of these farms lived a John Pense family. John Pense was postmaster at Winfrey for many years and also ran a general store there. James (Jim) Pense, a brother, likewise resided in Winfrey. It is claimed that these families of Pences and Penses were related.

George Washington Pense: Believed to have been born in Ohio about 1840. He was a Civil War veteran. His children included a son, Henry Sherman Pense, who was born in 1877 at Broken Bow, Clay County, Nebraska.

References: Letters from correspondents on previous five articles., (History and Genealogy)

Pense, Saskatchewan, Canada: Named in 1882 in honor of Edward John Barker Pense, owner and publisher of the Kingston, Ontario "Whig". The village of Pense, incorporated in 1904, has a population of 285, inhabited mostly by homesteaders from eastern Ontario, Canada. It is situated between the towns of Regina and Moose Jaw, on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railroad.

Edward J. B. Pense, was born in Kingston on June 3, 1848. He was a son of Michael Lorenzo, and Harriet Grace (Barker) Pense, and a grandson of James Pense. In 1876, Edward J. B. married Cornelia Vaughn (she died in 1897). In 1900, he married Elizabeth Hamilton, a publisher. The author has no record of their children.

Mr. Pense was widely acclaimed as a publisher, as well as a civic leader. He was master of Minden Masonic Lodge in 1878 and 1879. He took an active part in church work (Anglican). Became president of the Canadian Press Association (1881-82). Served as Kingston city councilman, as mayor, chairman of the school board, and as a member of the Ontario Legislature from 1901 to 1908. He died on May 7, 1910. A Frederick Pense, who was born in Kingston township about 1790, is thought to be related to the Immigrant who settled in the area about 1784.

References: The Kingston Historical Society, 120 Earl Street, Kingston, Ontario, Canada. "A cyclopedia of Canadian Biography" by Rose

Publishers (1886), Toronto. See page 448. Stanford Univ. Lib., Palo Alto, Calif. Village of Pense, care of Secretary-Treasurer, Sask., Canada.

The compiler, Monroe C. Pence, has reason to believe that the Pense Immigrant to Canada came from nearby New York, and earlier from Pennsylvania or Virginia. He has observed that the name "Pense" appears not to be an established English name (so to speak), but more likely to be an extraction of the German surnames of Benz, Bentz, Pentz, or of the Americanized name of Pence. A check of the four current telephone books of metropolitan London, England, shows no listings whatsoever, of the surnames of Pence or Pense.

HEINRICH BENTZ (1740-1824)
The children of the German Immigrant
(Henry Pence and Mary Blimly)
Shenandoah County, Virginia

Jacob Pence: No marriage record. Thought to have been the eldest son. Very little information on this Jacob. Marriage records of Shenandoah Co. show a Jacob Pence to Catherine Calback in 1794; to Eve Prince (Printz), 1798, both Ohio pioneers of 1819. Rockingham Co. marriages: Jacob Pence to Polly Smith; to Lucinda Graves; Elizabeth Tresler; Mary Tanner; Magdalena Butt; and Barbara Null (Hull). All 1800 to 1823 (approx.). Champaign Co., Ohio records: Jacob Pence to Rebecca Davis in 1810; Sarah Epherd, 1824; and to Julia Boswell in 1843.

Henry Pence: Married Elizabeth Koontz in 1788, a daughter of Elder John Koontz of Page County (formerly part of Shenandoah County), Virginia. Possible relation.

John Pence: (1775-6-1841). Known as Judge John. Married Eve Piper on Dec. 22, 1795 by Elder John Coons. Eve dec'd. in Shenandoah Co. Married Elizabeth Steinbarger about 1803. She died in Bartholomew Co., Indiana. About 1826, married Mrs. E. Records. Father of 16 children. Author's great grandfather.

David Pence: (1777-1852). Married Barbara Ruffner (1782-1831) in Shenandoah Co. in 1803. Moved to Fairfield Co., Ohio (borders Perry County). Great grandfather of R. T. McNaghton of Detroit, Michigan.

Lewis Pence: No marriage record. Purchased about 700 acres of Ohio land from his brother John in 1820.

Samuel Pence: No marriage noted. Believed early death. Champaign Co., Ohio record (1807-1811).

Abraham Pence: Report of marriage not given. His children include a son, David Pence; a grandson, Rev. Wilson T. Pence of Topeka, Kansas; and a great grandson, Dr. C. D. Pence of Chicago, Illinois. Ohio entry, 1807-1811. (Urbana)

Benjamin Pence: Born on April 26, 1787. Married Catherine Steinbarger on April 11, 1811. Moved to Bartholomew Co., Ind. in 1820, where they left many descendants. Catherine may be a sister-in-law of John Pence.

Reuben Pence: Married a Miss Cowick. Parents of William Lassen Pence, and grandparents of Alfred Fortescue Pence. Descendants in Columbus, Ohio (Champaign Co., Ohio record). About 1806.

Joseph Pence: Statement of marriage not shown. Settled in Ohio about 1807. Champaign County Record.

Isaac Pence: Born about 1792 in Virginia. Married to Catherine Heck; both of Perry County, Ohio. A son, Manoaah M. Pence, was one of seven children. This Isaac not verified as being a family relation. Records of Champaign Co. show an Isaac Pence married to Catherine Weint on 11/12/1817; to Mary Berry, 1840.

Susanah Pence: Married to a Mr. Jenkins (Jinkins). Also record of a Susanah Pence to a Benjamin Maggott in 1794, by Elder J. Koons of Shenandoah County, Virginia.

Anna Pence: Married to John Norman 2/11/1800; Elder J. Koontz.

Elizabeth Pence: Married to a Mr. Stonebarger. Also record of an Elizabeth Pence to a Samuel Comer 1786, by Elder J. Koontz.

Mary Pence: married to William Runcle (Runkle).

Magdalena Pence: No marriage record. A Shenandoah Co. entry shows a Magdalena Pence to a Dan Baker 1790, by Elder Hinkle.

Barbary Pence: Married, 1. Mr. Rosenbarger. 2. Mr. Stewart. Children include Joseph Rosenbarger and Henry Stewart. Barbary deceased about 1820. A Shenandoah record shows a Barbary Pence married to a Henry Harshburger 1785, by Elder J. Koontz.

Two children died in infancy.

A George, Ruby, Sarah, and Polly Pence, are listed as children of this family in at least one Ohio Pence family tree.

The Immigrant, Henry, and wife Mary (Blimly) Pence, are buried in Nettle Creek Cemetery, about five miles from Urbana, Ohio.

On Oct. 23, 1752, a Joery Heinrich Bentz and Carl Bentz came to America on the ship "Rawley" from Rotterdam, Holland, "but last from Plymouth, England." Possible family ancestors.

References: "History of Judge John Pence and Descendants." Virginia, and Ohio County Records. Authors: Wayland and Antrim, Calif. State Library (Sutro Br.), San Francisco 2, Calif. Letters from correspondents (Genealogy).

*
For dates of birth of children of
Heinrich Bentz see charts in
pocket at back of book.

PENCE, INDIANA

Frank Robert Pence plotted this town in 1902. He also promoted the railroad thru here and engaged in the buying and shipping of grain. Pence is located in Warren County, about 15 miles northwest of Williamsport, and near the Illinois border. It has a postoffice which serves 115 inhabitants.

Frank Robert was born in Warren County on September 16, 1868. He died on August 3, 1920. He was a son of Gabriel (1845-1885), and Louisa (Mehaffey) Pence. Louisa died in 1905. His grandparents were: George (1804-1879), and Mary (Swisher) Pence (d. 1851). Frank Robert's great grandparents were: Judge John (1775-1841), and Elizabeth (Steinbarger) Pence, who died about 1824 in Bartholomew County, Indiana. (A brief history of Judge John Pence is given separately in this chapter).

Frank Robert's great-great grandparents were: Heinrich Bentz, The Immigrant, whose name was Americanized as Henry Pence (1740-1824); and Mary (Blimly) Pence (1749-1829).

During the California gold rush excitement in 1850, Frank Robert's great uncle, Col. Robert Titus Pence, captained a trek from Oquawka, Illinois, in which about 100 men participated. Included in the company were Col. Robert's half brothers, John Adams and Andrew J. Pence. Each four men were allotted to a wagon loaded with 1-1/4 tons of supplies, and pulled by three yoke of oxen and one yoke of cows. The troupe braved the usual hardships, including skirmishes with the Indians. They reached Grass Valley, Calif. in the Fall of 1850, making the 2000 mile trip in about six months.

Reports indicate that within a short time, Col. Robert Titus returned home (down and around, by sailing vessel), much wiser, but not richer. John Adams remained in California a few years, but eventually returned to his Illinois home. Andrew Pence stayed on the West Coast, where he passed away at about 27 years of age. He is said to be buried at Pescadero, about 18 miles south of Half Moon Bay, California.

In 1857, Gabriel Pence, brother of Robert Titus, founded the Pence Colony in Cerro Gordo County, Iowa. Charolette Pence (Mrs. J. Madden) his half sister, in later years was to be a victim of the San Francisco earthquake and fire. She was buried in 1906 at Cyprus Lawn Cemetery, San Mateo County, Calif. A daughter, Arminda, is buried in Masonic Cemetery, San Francisco.

Children of The Immigrant, Henry Pence (Heinrich Bentz), and Mary (Blimly) Pence, are given on previous pages.

Children of Judge John Pence and Eve (Piper) Pence: Elizabeth (1799-1844), and Mary Pence (1800-31). Eve deceased Shenandoah Co., Virginia

Children of Judge John and Elizabeth (Steinbarger) Pence: George (1804-79), Gabriel (1806-80), Sarey (1807-?), Lydia Ann (1810-?), Allen Wallace (1812-90), Solomon J. (1815-85), Robert Titus, the author's grandfather (1817-89); Curtis M. (1819-46), and Phebe Flowers Pence (1821-63). Elizabeth, mother of above children, died in Bartholomew County, Indiana about 1824.

About 1826, Judge John married Elizabeth Records. Their children: Andrew J. (1828-55?), John Adams (1830-1912), William Henry (1831-93), Caroline (1833-1901), and Charolette Pence (1839-1906).

Children of George and Mary (Swisher) Pence: Curtis Monroe (1828-?), Barbara Jane (1830-1904), Elizabeth Ann (1833-66), William Wallace (1835-?), Catherine (1837-68), John Harrison (1840-43), Anthony (1842-44), Gabriel (1845-85), and Mary Eliza Pence (1847-84). Infant child died in 1851. Curtis Monroe and Barbara Jane born in Bartholomew County; the others all born in Warren County, Indiana. Mary, mother of above children, died in 1851. George married Catherine Loyd 12/5/1867. They had one son: George Lincoln Pence, born in Warren County on 3/18, 1869.

Children of Gabriel and Louisa (Mehaffey) Pence: Frank Robert (1868-1920), Zara E. (1870-?), Geo. Alexander (1871-?), Albert R. (1873-?), and Abner W. Pence (1881-1905). Abner born near Hoopetown, Ill. The others born in Warren County, Indiana.

Children of Frank Robert and Delia (McCandless) Pence, who were married on March 29, 1891 at West Lebanon, Indiana: Harold McCandless Pence, born in Warren County on April 9, 1894. In 1912, Harold graduated from the Culver Military Academy.

References: "School and Library Atlas of the World". 1950. Map. "History of Judge John Pence and Descendants" by Kingsley Adolphus Pence. Pub. 1912. A group picture of Frank Robert, his wife, Delia, and son Harold, is shown opposite page 58 in this book. A picture of his grandfather, George Pence, appears opposite page 42. This book may be found in several libraries, including New York City, Philadelphia, Library of Congress, Wash.D.C., St. Louis, Denver, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.

Judge John Pence: Born in Shenandoah County, Virginia, on Jan. 15, 1775. The year has also been given as 1776. He was a son of the Immigrant Henry Pence (Heinrich Bentz). Judge John was the father of sixteen children (by more than one marriage). He also raised two step-children, and took into his home several orphans. In 1805, the entire family moved from Virginia to Champaign County, Ohio, where Judge John took up farming, and in 1812, built a grist mill on Nettle Creek. His ^{bro}son-in-laws, John Norman and William Runkle, are believed to have had a hand in the running of this mill, and also a woolen mill. In 1819, he was elected Justice of the Peace for Champaign County.

About 1820, the family moved to Bartholomew County, Indiana, where Judge John took up various occupations, including the real estate business. He purchased several 80 acre tracts of land near Brookfield, for a cash price of over \$4180.00, paid for in silver; the money bags weighing more than 250 lbs.

On Sept. 1, 1820, he sold to a Mr. Tannehill, 1200 acres of land near Taylorville for \$3000.00. The greater part of this payment included 700 bbls. of whiskey, which Tannehill delivered to Pence. The whiskey was loaded on flatboats and floated down the Driftwood, White, Wabash, and Ohio, to the Mississippi River, where it reached an Arkansas market.

On Oct. 19, 1820, Judge John received \$12,638.00 in an Ohio land deal with his brother, Lewis. This deal is believed to have closed out his holdings in Ohio. The following year (1821), he was appointed Associate Judge of Bartholomew County.

About 1827, he received back some land on which the purchasers could not complete payment. Judge John Pence, at this time, was the wealthiest land owner in Bartholomew County. It is estimated his Indiana holdings in the year 1925 would be appraised at \$500,000.00. The whiskey deal of 700 barrels, at 50 gallons to the barrel; and at the 1925 bootleg price of \$10.00 a quart, would be worth \$1,400,000.00.

The following year of 1828, is believed to be the year that Judge John became land poor, when a five year limit in taxation had expired, and at which time he closed out his remaining holdings to resettle in Henderson County, Illinois (then a part of Warren County). In 1830, he served as County Commissioner. A letter sent in 1840 to his eldest son, George, and daughter, Polly Pence, tells of the struggles encountered by the family on their Illinois farm. (This is the only reference to Polly Pence given in the family book). Judge John Pence passed away on Sept. 20, 1841, and is buried in Rozetta Baptist Cemetery, near Oquawka, Illinois. The names of hundreds of his descendants (incl. the author's) are recorded in the Pence book (1912).

The Henderson County History, in speaking of Judge John Pence, has this to say: "He was one of those noble, great-hearted men always to be found on the frontiers, ever ready to aid those around him in need. He lived, and died, loved and respected by all who knew him."

His daughter, Caroline (1833-1901), a royal entertainer, spoke of her father: "Often he would bring home the sick and afflicted, and care for them as if they were members of his own family. Our father, by industry and economy, always managed to have a good supply of the necessaries of life around him, and he always felt that he held this world's goods in trust for his fellow man, as well as for himself."

References: "History of Judge John Pence and Descendants" by Kingsley Adolphus Pence, his grandson.

"The Ancestors and Descendants of Abner and Barbara Jane (Pence) Goodwine" by Ray Himmelright, Covington, Indiana. 1954. This pamphlet presents an interesting story of Judge John Pence and his granddaughter, Barbara Jane, and can be found in the California State Library (Sutro Br.) S.F. 2, Calif. Also see "History of Champaign and Logan Counties" by Joshua Antrim.

Fort Pence, Henderson Co., Illinois: Built by Judge John and his neighbors. A refuge for many ancestors during the Black Hawk Indian War of the early 1830's. Caroline Pence was believed to have been born in the Fort on Nov. 22, 1833.

Kingsley Adolphus Pence: Born in Henderson County, Illinois, on Nov. 19, 1854, a son of Robert Titus and Elizabeth (Conger) Pence. Elizabeth was a granddaughter of Capt. David Conger, Jr. of the Revolution. Kingsley Adolphus married Mary E. Duke on Aug. 30, 1881, at which time he was teaching school near Rozetta, Ill. Shortly afterwards, they moved to Shenandoah, Iowa, where he practiced law. Later, engaged as a banker in Atwood and Blakeman, Kansas. In 1892, Mr. and Mrs. Pence established residence at Denver, Colorado. Here, he became active in the real estate business, in civic affairs, and in commercial organizations. In 1912, he compiled and published the Pence family book.

At a later date, Kingsley Adolphus and his wife, Mary, retired to Southern California. They had no children. In the Fall of 1926, while driving to Palo Alto, Mary lost her life in the tragic bridge accident at Ventura, Calif. In August of the following year (1927), Kingsley Adolphus passed away at his Hollywood estate. He lays at rest in The Great Mausoleum, Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Glendale 5, California.

Pence Park: Located in Jefferson County, a few miles southwest of Denver, Colorado. This 320 acre park can be found one and one-quarter miles south of the community of Kittredge (between Kittredge and Indian Hills). It has a picnic area. Named for Kingsley Adolphus Pence.

Mount Pence, Colorado: 9,903 ft. elevation. Located in Clear Creek County, about six miles southeast of Idaho Springs, and two miles west by northwest of Bergen Peak. Named for Kingsley Adolphus Pence for his efforts in effecting the establishment of the Denver Mountain Park System. Mount Pence was named by the author, his nephew; and on behalf of the Pence family, in remembrance to our beloved "Uncle Dolph" who was known as "The Father of the Mountain Parks".

References: Pence family book. Tells of Fort Pence, pgs. 39, 103. A history of Kingsley Adolphus Pence is given on pages 96-97. Denver Public Library, Western History Dept. has information on Pence Park; also more on K. A. Pence. U.S. Department of the Interior, Board on Geographic Names, Washington 25, D.C. Dept. has legal description of Mount Pence.

Dr. Leroy R. Pence: Founder of the "Borrowed Time Club", Lima, Ohio. To join the Club, members had to be 70 yrs. of age or older. At one time, more than 2000 persons were members of the Club, which was established in 1931. Various meetings were held, and always a big outdoor picnic in the summertime. The compiler has received very little information on Dr. Pence. He was one of Lima's earliest geriatrics specialists, and was believed related to Dr. James C. Pence, who was born on Mar. 16, 1859, in New Philadelphia, Tuscarawas County, Ohio. James was a son of Henry and Elizabeth (Conwell) Pence, who, with their family, moved to Van Wert County, Ohio in 1864.

Reference: The Allen County Historical Society, 620 W. Market Street, Lima, Ohio.

Paul Pence: Born on Jan. 10, 1800, possibly in Virginia. Married Mary Newport, who was born on May 5, 1801. She died Jan. 31, 1864. Paul died on Aug. 5, 1863.

Children of Paul and Mary (Newport) Pence, all believed born in Ohio: James T. Pence (7/6/1823-2/24/1883), Thomas N. (4/6/1825-11/15/189), Sarah (2/22/1827-10/7/1844), Jacob R. (8/10/1829-11/13/1844), John N. (11/3/1830-5/11/1864), Daniel B. (6/25/1833-1/29/1912), Paul N. S. (2/17/1835-6/10/1908), and William Pence (9/29/1839-4/13/1902).

Children of Paul N.S. Pence include: Margaret, A.L.M., Harry B., and Frank Maynard Pence.

Reference: Letter from correspondent.

Lampson Pence: Married Mariah Cavendar. Resided in Fairfield County, Ohio. Their children included a son, Isaac Newton Pence, who was born on Mar. 22, 1851, at Lancaster, Ohio. Isaac married Emma Alice Gray, who was born in Marion, Linn County, Iowa. She died on May 30, 1915. Isaac died Sept. 25, 1940, Glendale, Calif. Isaac and Emma Alice (Gray) Pence were the parents of five children, including a daughter, Edna Leo Pence, born in Jewel Co., Kansas on May 22, 1886. Died Jan. 21, 1953. Family lived for many years in Kansas, moving to Wheatland, Wyoming in 1892. Reference: Letter from correspondent.

David Pence: Married Nancy Hart of Bartholomew County, Indiana. Children include: Lafayette, Wm. David, and Edward Hart Pence, all of note in professional and civic affairs (see below).

Lafayette Pence: Born in Columbus, Indiana on Dec. 23, 1857. He married Clara Vawter on Dec. 18, 1881. No record of children. Lafayette engaged in hydraulic mining research; also lawyer, and member of Colorado House of Representatives (1883-85). He introduced the first graduated income tax. Died Oct. 22, 1923.

William David Pence: Born in Indiana on Nov. 26, 1865. Married Charolette Gaston Dec. 31, 1888. She died May 6, 1938. Children included: Ada, Helen, and Esther Pence. Father, a civil engineer.

Edward Hart Pence: Born in Columbus, Indiana, on Apr. 10, 1868. Placed second in state oratorical contest (1889). Married Jessie Archer June 24, 1892. Children incl. David Wm., Jessie, and Edna Pence. Edward Hart was an outstanding clergyman.

References: Who Was Who 1897-1942; Hist. Lafayette Pence. Who's Who 1928-29; Wm. David. 1934-35; Edward Hart Pence.

[Note: The following place name of Benz, Montana (as well as the previous Pense, Canada), has been included in this compilation as somewhat of an exception, altho the compiler believes family connection may be possible.]

Benz, Montana: Located in Prairie County. Named for Fred Benz, a development agent for the Northern Pacific Railroad. The community, with a population of 18, was originally known as "Zero". After a group of railroad officials were stalled there on a real hot day, nothing appropriate could be seen in the name of "Zero", so it was changed to "Benz" (about 1890), in honor of the agent.

Fred Benz at one time lived in Yakima County, Washington, and was known as "The Potato King of Yakima Valley".

In 1632, a Benz family living in Rothenburg, Germany, had a crest with a Lion in the Coat-of-Arms.

References: Prairie County Clerk, Terry, Montana.
Yakima Valley Regional Library, Yakima, Washington.
Rothenburg Archives (letter to author).

PENCE, WISCONSIN

This mining town can be found in northern Wisconsin, about five miles west of Hurley, the county seat for Iron County. It has a postoffice and a population of 450. Pence was named in 1890 for John Wesley Pence (1829-1893), a member of the firm of "Pence & Snyder", early mine operators in Iron County. John was born in Springboro, Warren County, Ohio on Feb. 11, 1829, the son of Jacob (1797-1877), and Barbara (Null or Hull) Pence (1802-64).

It is said that Jacob was born in Petersburg, Virginia. His parents were: George (1764-1824), and Anna (Nicholas) Pence, (1754-?). John Wesley's great grandfather was his father's namesake, Jacob Pence, the Immigrant from Germany, who settled at Cub-Run, Rockingham County, Virginia. Jacob was born in the fatherland between 1730 and 1737. He died in 1800. He is believed to have been one of the brothers of the Immigrant, Henry Pence (Heinrich Bentz), who was born in Germany about 1740.

John Wesley Pence, one of the wealthiest of the Pencses, came to Minnesota in 1865, and settled in Minneapolis, where he became president of the City Bank, and owner of much real estate. He acquired extensive farming, mining, and business interests in several states, including Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the Dakotas. In the year 1867, John built the Pence Opera House, located in downtown Minneapolis (Hennepin Ave. & Second St.).

Pence Opera House: (1400 seat cap.). Dedicated on June 21, 1867, and for a quarter of a century thereafter, it was the cultural and entertainment center of Minneapolis. On the Pence stage, the comedies and tragedies of Shakespeare were presented, along with the dramatic oddities of the day, including "East Lynne", "Uncle Tom's Cabin", and "Mazeppa".

In preparation for the dedication of the Opera House in June of 1867, the singers of the Musical Union rehearsed regularly. The "Pence Opera Bonnet" was put out by the local millinery store. For people who attended, the railroads provided free round-trip transportation from St. Paul, and half-fares from all other points in the state.

Present at the gala opening of this playhouse included the Governor of Minnesota, the Honorable William R. Marshall; Lt. Governor T. H. Armstrong, and Senator Ramsey. After the dedicatory address, the Governor said a few words, followed by a program of concert selections. Mr. Pence then took a bow on the stage, but remained silent, apparently emotionally choked up by the brilliant reception given him, and his "elegant and spacious music hall". Ceremonies ran to a late hour.

Artists who performed there included Rachel Johnson, who starred in "The Hunchback", the first dramatic presentation at the new opera house. She was well received.

On July 1, 1867, the young and beautiful Prima Donna and Comedienne, Emilie Melville, appeared on the Pence stage. This talented actress, it is said, took Minneapolis by storm, and broke hearts ruthlessly. When she appeared in such pieces as "Po-ca-hon-tas", and "The Pearl of Savoy", "showers of bouquets" were thrown upon the stage, and gifts of jewelry from admiring males were included in the floral downpour.

"Ole Bull", the Norwegian violinist, gave a concert at the Opera House in 1869. It is said that The House was filled to overflowing to hear this grand master, who "carried the audience away with delight". In 1870, audiences described as consisting of "the most fastidious and discriminating class of citizens" in Minneapolis, came to see Laura Keene perform in a three-act comedy, "Our American Cousin". This comedy, some five years before, was playing at Ford's Theater, Washington, D.C. on the night that President Lincoln was assassinated.

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In later years, vaudeville took over the Pence Opera House, and included among the last performers were the German dialect comedians, Weber and Fields. Shortly after 1900, the theatre building was converted into a rooming house, and finally razed in 1952. Until 1952, the gallery, unused for 60 years, remained intact. It was the last vestige of the Opera House. The spacious gallery was described as "one of the largest, most commodious, and tastefully decorated audience rooms west of Chicago."

Laura Ewall became the wife of John Wesley Pence in a marriage ceremony performed in Minneapolis on Jan. 2, 1871. The compiler has record (unconfirmed), that they were the parents of six children. Laura passed away in 1881. John took a trip to the West Coast in about 1892. He passed away on May 25, 1893 at National City, near San Diego, California.

Children of the Immigrant, Jacob, and Catherine (Persinger) Pence: Anna Maria, born on Feb. 28, 1763; died in infancy; George (8/18/1764-6/11/1824), born in Cub-Run, Va., died in Springboro, Ohio; Elizabeth, John, Jacob, Henry, Catherine, Peter, William, Adam, Susanna, and Charles Pence (10/21/1786-8/27/1861). All believed born in Virginia. Charles died in Indiana.

Children of George and Anna Maria (Nicholas) Pence: Jacob (12/5/1797-12/17/1877), Polly, John (12/31/1800-7/31/1882), William (10/30/1802-8/18/1851), Nicholas, b. Va., d. Aug. 1833, Indiana. Peter A., b. Va., d. Calif., Louisa Jane (2/22/1812-8/29/1885); died in Indiana. Rebecca Pence (b. Va. 1814. Died ?).

Children of Jacob and Barbara Ann (Null-Hull) Pence: Edward H. (4/26/1823-9/4/1892), George Simon (10/18/1824-12/6/1903), Sarah Ann (4/15/1827-6/24/1889), John Wesley (above), Cynthia Jane (2/22/1831-10/9/1844), Harriet Amanda (2/14/1833-?), Martha Delilah (12/4/1834-1/21/1910), Charles Nicholas (12/20/1838-?), and Mary Elizabeth (8/8/1842-?). All believed born in Ohio.

Children of John Wesley and Laura (Ewall) Pence: Edward, George, Charles, Harriet, Martha, and Mary Pence (names unconfirmed).

References: "School and Library Atlas of the World". 1950. Map. The State of Wisconsin, State Historical Society, 816 State St. Madison 6, Wisconsin.

"History of Minneapolis, Minnesota" by Atwater. 1893. This book has a picture of John Wesley Pence (see Index).

"Minnesota History" Winter 1952, Vol. 33. This magazine presents "The Story of the Pence Opera House" by Donald Z. Woods (pages 169-178). Information herein is from Mr. Woods' story, which also includes pictures of the Opera House and of famous artists who performed there. "Minnesota History" is published and copyrighted by the Minnesota Historical Society, Central Ave. and Cedar Street, St. Paul 1, Minnesota. Letter from correspondent (Genealogy).

Michael (Bentz) Pence: Immigrant from Germany. (Believed born near the Swiss border about 1749.) Married Susan(or Sabilla) Frye of Shenandoah County, Virginia. Said to be parents of nine sons and several daughters. A son, Henry Pence, born in 1787, married a Katy Layman. In 1796, several Pence families left the Shenandoah Valley and traveled over the mountains of West Virginia and down the Ohio River, settling in Highland and Adams Counties, Ohio. Michael Pence was included among these settlers. It is said that on a Christmas Day about 1807, the Immigrant, Michael, was drowned in the Ohio River.

Children of Henry and Katy (Layman) Pence: George, William, John, Elizah, Mary, and Lydia Pence.

Children of George (b. 2/18/1815), and Kathyrn (Wilkins) Pence: Allan, Peter, Phillip, Ellis, John, Henry, Lewis, Lucinda, Rachael, Mahala, Polly, and Sally Sarah Pence.

Children of Ellis (b. 9/25/1851), and Margaret (Langley) Pence: Wesley, Franklin, Andrew W., Margaret, Katherine, Polly, Mary Alice, and Harry Langley Pence.

Harry Langley Pence: Born on Sept. 23, 1882, at Sardina, Ohio. In 1902, appointed to the Naval Academy. Graduated in 1906. Married Ruth Montgomery. Parents of Margaret Langley Pence.

During his naval career, Harry has received numerous awards, including the Navy Cross and the Mexican, Nicaraguan, W.W. I, German Occupation, and Tunisian Campaign Medals. Retired as Captain U.S.N. in 1945. Home, LaJolla, Calif. Engaged as a real estate broker, and active in civic and community affairs. Capt. Pence's hobbies include family genealogy research.

On Sept. 18, 1732, a Mikell Pentz, who was born in Germany in 1700 and his brother, Johannes Pentz, embarked on the ship "Loyal Judith".

They settled in Shenandoah County, Virginia. Mikell Pentz, Americanized as Michael Pence, married Elizabeth Huber on May 10, 1737. Johannes (John Pence), married Magadalene Hatt. Possible ancestors of previously mentioned family.

Philip Pence: Immigrant from Germany. Came to America about 1750. Believed to have settled in Virginia. Later moved to Ohio. Father of a large family, including William, and George C. Pence, born on Nov. 28, 1791. He died on June 15, 1866, and is buried near Eldora, Hardin Co., Iowa.

Children of George C. and Sarah (Windle) Pence include: Abraham, born on Dec. 19, 1820, in Fayette County, Ohio, and Joseph J. Pence, also believed born in Ohio.

Children of Abraham and Nancy (Bucklew) Pence include a son: William Henry Pence, born on Oct. 5, 1841, in Whitley Co., Ind.

Children of William Henry and Mary (Nicodemus) Pence: Orten, Bernard, Franklin Erwin, Lulu, and William Abraham Pence (b.11/18/1878-d.3/3/1913). Family lived in Noble County, Ind.

Children of Franklin Erwin Pence (no record of wife): Cora, Clerence, Clyde, Lena, Ressie, William, and Earl Pence. This family resided near Lavaca, Sebastian County, Arkansas.

Reference: "Genealogy of George C. and Sarah (Windle) Pence and Their Descendants", by Cora Oliver, Ft. Wayne, Ind. 1936. Who's Who 1944-45. Gives brief history of Harry Langley Pence. Letter from correspondent (Genealogy).

John Pence: Born in Shenandoah Co., Va. on Jan. 4, 1780. Died on Oct. 26, 1848. Presumed to be a son of Michael and Sivila Pence. Married Sarah Branner, grt. aunt of Dr. John C. Branner, former Pres. of Stanford Univ. Children: Mary, Michael, Susan, Cathy, Lydia, Harrison, Jonas, Sylvanus, Ambrose, and Sarah Pence. Parents are buried in Solomon's churchyard, nr. Forestville, Va.

Reference: "Casper Branner of Va., and His Descendants" by John C. Branner, Stanford U. Library, (privately printed). 1913. (Fifty-five Pence names with birth & death dates incl. in book).

PENTZ (PENCE), CALIFORNIA

The community of Pentz is located in the geographic center of Butte County 12 miles north of Oroville. It is sparsely populated, and has a rural mail delivery. Pentz was named for an early emigrant, Manoah M. Pence, owner of the ranch and stage coach station at that location. He was appointed postmaster there in 1864. The name was apparently misspelled by the post-office department, who held to the phonetic spelling.

Manoah M. Pence was the son of Isaac and Catherine (Heck) Pence of Perry County, Ohio, where he was born on April 6, 1819. He was the second son of seven children. The compiler has limited knowledge of Isaac or his ancestors. He is believed to have been born in Virginia about 1792, and to have died in Ohio. Records show an Isaac Pence enlisted as a private in 1813, Licking County, Ohio. His commanding officer was Captain John Spencer. Licking County borders both Perry and Fairfield Counties. This Isaac could possibly be a brother of David Pence of Fairfield Co., Ohio and a son of the Immigrant, Henry Pence.

About 1840, Manoah Pence left his Ohio home, and took up residence in Illinois, Iowa, and lastly, Missouri, where on April 2, 1849, he started for the California gold fields. He and his party traveled via the Sublette Cut-Off, reaching the Lassen Ranch, California, on Oct. 2, 1849. While continuing southward, a storm set in and, after receiving supplies, Manoah and his partners started mining for gold on the Sacramento River near Hamilton. Manoah took out of the River \$37.00 worth of gold daily. He later mined on the west branch of the Feather River at Ohio Bar and at Rich Bar, near Yankee Hill.

The following year he abandoned mining and purchased in partnership a 400-acre ranch in the Messila Valley (on the old emigrant road), 12 miles north of Oroville. First known as the Lyon Ranch, Manoah later acquired full ownership, and thereafter it was known as the Pence Ranch. Here, a blacksmith shop, store, and eating house was established which served as a stage coach station and stopping-off place for travelers to and from Oregon and Nevada. The stages from Oregon came in via Yreka, Shasta, Red Bluff, Chico, Pence's Ranch, and southward; from Nevada via Honey Lake Soda Valley, Milltown, The Ranch, Oroville and south.

During the early 1850's, several Indian battles took place on and near Pence's Ranch. On New Years Eve, 1851, a band of Con-Cow Indians stole all of Pence's cattle. Their Chief was tracked down and wounded in the hip by Pence but escaped. The search continued, and finally the Chief was caught and brought back to the scene of the crime at Pence's Ranch, and then escorted to the "hanging tree" by the side of Pence's store and post-office. Here a meeting was held, in which Mr. Pence was reluctant that

the Chief should be hanged without due process of the law. The ranchers in the party, however, strung him up anyway, in view of the fact that the Indian Chief had threatened to kill Mr. Pence at the first opportunity. The hanging was witnessed by many of the ranchers of Messila Valley, and without doubt included the Clarks, Durhams, Lyons, and Smiths.

In early 1853, the Tiger Indians stole cattle from Clark's Ranch, a neighbor of Pence's. The ranchers formed a posse of seven men headed by Pence. A few miles north of Clark's Ranch they overtook the fleet-riding Tiger Indian Chief, known as "Express Bill". He was taken from his horse and hanged to the nearest tree. The posse then continued on to Dogtown, where they came upon thirty savages armed with bows and arrows. Pence and one man circled the camp, signalling for an attack from the flank and the front at the same time. One rancher received an arrow wound in the neck. Twenty-five Indians were shot and killed, and five escaped.

In the Fall of the same year (1853), ten Chinamen were massacred by the Indians while working on the Feather River. The murderers fled to the north, pursued by Pence with a company of sixty men (30 whites and 30 Chinese). It is said that more than forty of the Indians were killed in this encounter.

Numerous Mass Meetings were held at the various ranches in the county, on ways and means to stop these Indian outrages. An account of a meeting held at Pence Ranch is published in the "Oroville Weekly Union" in its issue of Aug. 1, 1863. Evidence of early Indian hostilities in the area was brought to light in 1907, when workmen from the Oroville Utility Company dug up the skeleton of little Jessie Smith, one of two sisters kidnapped by the Indians near Pence Ranch in the early 1850's.

Around the middle seventies, the area was plagued with stage coach robberies, including one of a Wells Fargo Stage, which was held up two miles north of Pence's Ranch by the notorious bandit, "Black Bart". Several holdups occurred along the nearby Feather River, participated in by Bart, "Rattlesnake Dick", "Three Fingered Jack", and others.

At Oroville, Manoah Pence had become quite active in civic affairs, serving in many capacities, including that of a Butte County Supervisor (1874-75). He had also become a member of the Table Mountain (Masonic) Lodge, F. & A.M.

His ranch at Pentz at about this time had become one of the show places of Butte County, and one of the most valuable and beautifully located ranches in all of Northern California. All kinds of fruit trees and shrubs grew there. In the orchard were about sixty orange and lemon trees, also peach, apples, pears, nectarines, apricots and black and Calif. walnuts.

The Pence Ranch vineyard had about 12,000 vines, which were grown without irrigation and which commanded the highest market price. The

Ranch was said to be one of the most interesting places to the geologists in the state, owing to the proximity of several different geological formations, and the termination of a number of volcanic ridges in the area.

In 1880, President Rutherford B. Hayes and General Sherman visited the nearby "Spring Valley Mine" at Cherokee, which at the time had an output of more than fifteen million dollars in gold and employed several hundred men. Mining was done by the hydraulic process. (The scars of this wash-down process can still be seen on Table Mountain.) The area was rich in minerals, which included topaz, platinum, quartz, and diamonds.

One of several large diamonds, which were found at the mine, was bestowed upon Annie Bidwell of Chico, the socially prominent wife of General John Bidwell, an early emigrant, and the first miner to work the Feather River.

On the afternoon of Sept. 24, 1880, the Presidential party stopped at Pentz, where, on this memorial occasion, President Hayes was presented with a box of the choice Pentz cured raisins.

The community was saddened with the news of June 7, 1882 that Manoa Pence had passed away. He was laid to rest about three miles from his ranch house in Cherokee Cemetery. At this location, in the solitude of the historic mining country, an impressive monument stands in remembrance to Manoa Pence, distinguished pioneer of the golden west.

Children of Manoa and Sophia (Finn) Pence, who were married in Oroville on Dec. 16, 1857 by Elder B. N. Seymour: Watt M., born on Sept. 10, 1858, and Layton Pence, born on Oct. 16, 1860. Died on Jan. 5, 1863.

References: Butte County Map. Pentz is also shown on several State Road Maps.

"History of Butte County" By Welles. Published by Mr. Welles in 1882. This book shows a picture of the Pence Ranch House, and one of the Spring Valley Mine. Relates Hayes visit.

"History of Butte County" by Geo. Mansfield (1882). Tells of M. Pence, his ranch, and Indian attacks. Pgs. 185-86. Above books may be found at the Calif. Historical Society, S.F. 3.

"Up and Down California, 1860-1864" by W. H. Brewer. Copyrighted by the University of California Press, Berkeley 4, Calif. Pence ranchland briefly described by guests who visited the Ranch on Oct. 13 and 14 of 1862 (Pages 340 and 344).

"Northern California" by Lewis (1891). Stage Routes. Pg. 113. Butte County Free Library, Oroville. Valuable historical records here. Excellent research material.

Native Daughters of the Golden West, 703 Market St., S.F., Calif. Stanford University Library, Palo Alto (Butte County Books).

Ohio State Library, State Bldg., Columbus 15, Ohio. Information on an

Isaac Pence of Licking County, Ohio. Private, War of 1812. Letter from correspondent (Family and Ranch Information).

Pence Ranch House: As of this date (1959), the old two-story Pence ranch house in the picturesque Messila Valley, Butte County, still stands, tho remodeled considerably.

A panorama view of this historic ranch and house (painted white), can be seen from the new highway #40 Alternate, which runs in between Pentz and Cherokee. The Ranch is now known as the "Lucky Seven".

A few miles north of the Ranch, at Magalia (formerly known as Dogtown), the famous "Dogtown Nugget" was found on Apr. 12, 1859. This 54 lb. gold nugget was valued at \$10,690.00.

Recommended for visit: The Pioneer Relic Building, 2316 Montgomery Street in Oroville. Displayed here is an interesting collection of gold rush and pioneer relics.

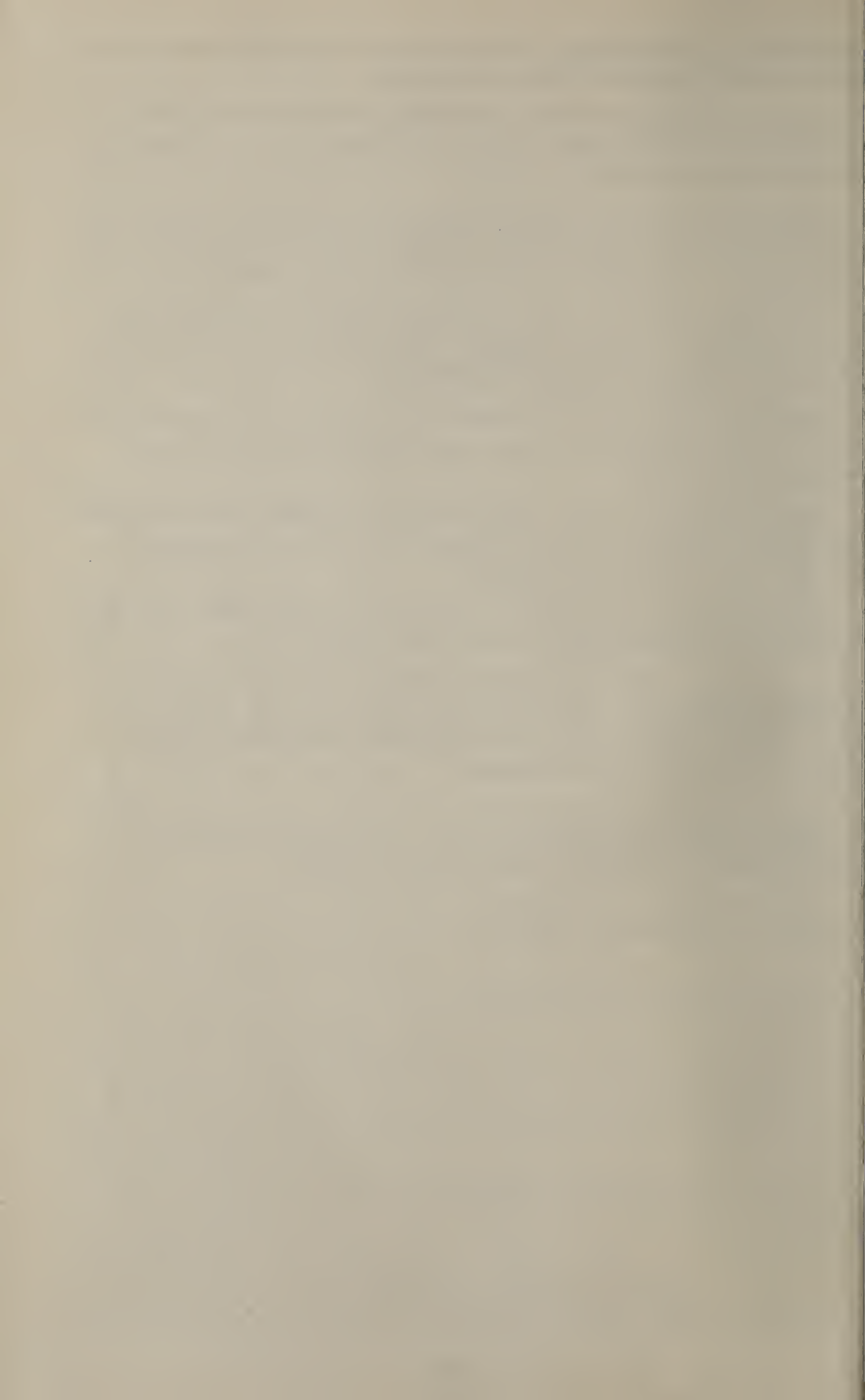
George Washington Pence: Born in Virginia in 1821. Listed as a miller and a miner. Possibly a cousin of Manoah Pence. Their names appear on the 1867 Butte County Voters' Register.

George Washington Pence: Born in Massachusetts about 1826. Recorded as a miner in Calaveras County. U.S. Census, 1850, Vol. 1.

G. W. Pence: Articles written by him about the Indian troubles are published in the papers, "The Silver Age", dated June 19, 1862, Carson City, Nevada; and the Calif. "Alta California" dated June 23, 1862. This "G.W." may be one of the above.

Raymond Woodbury Pence: Born near Granville, Licking County, Ohio on Jan. 7, 1885. A son of Calvin Joseph and Kate (Woodbury) Pence. A noted professor of English and author of numerous books.

Reference: Who's Who 1928-29.



ERRATA

Page 26. Names of descendants of Michael (Bentz) Pence should be grouped as follows:

Children of Michael and Susan (Frye) Pence include:

Henry, George, William, John, Elizah, Mary, and Lydia Pence.

(Previous quote of nine sons is subject to correction).

Children of Henry and Katy (Layman) Pence include:

George, Allan, Peter, Phillip, Ellis, John, Henry, Lewis, Lucinda, Rachael, Mahala, Polly, and Sally Sarah Pence.

Children of George and Kathryn (Wilkin) Pence, include:

Ellis, Wesley, Franklin, Andrew W, Margaret, Katherine, Polly, and Mary Alice Pence.

Ellis and Margaret Luella (Langley) Pence had one son: Harry Langley Pence.

ERRATA

... names of descendants of ...
... should be ... follows:

Children of ... and ... (Type) ...

... George, William, John, Elizabeth, Mary,
... and ...

... various parts of ... is ...
...

... Henry and ... (Type) ...

... George, John, Philip, John, ...
... and ...

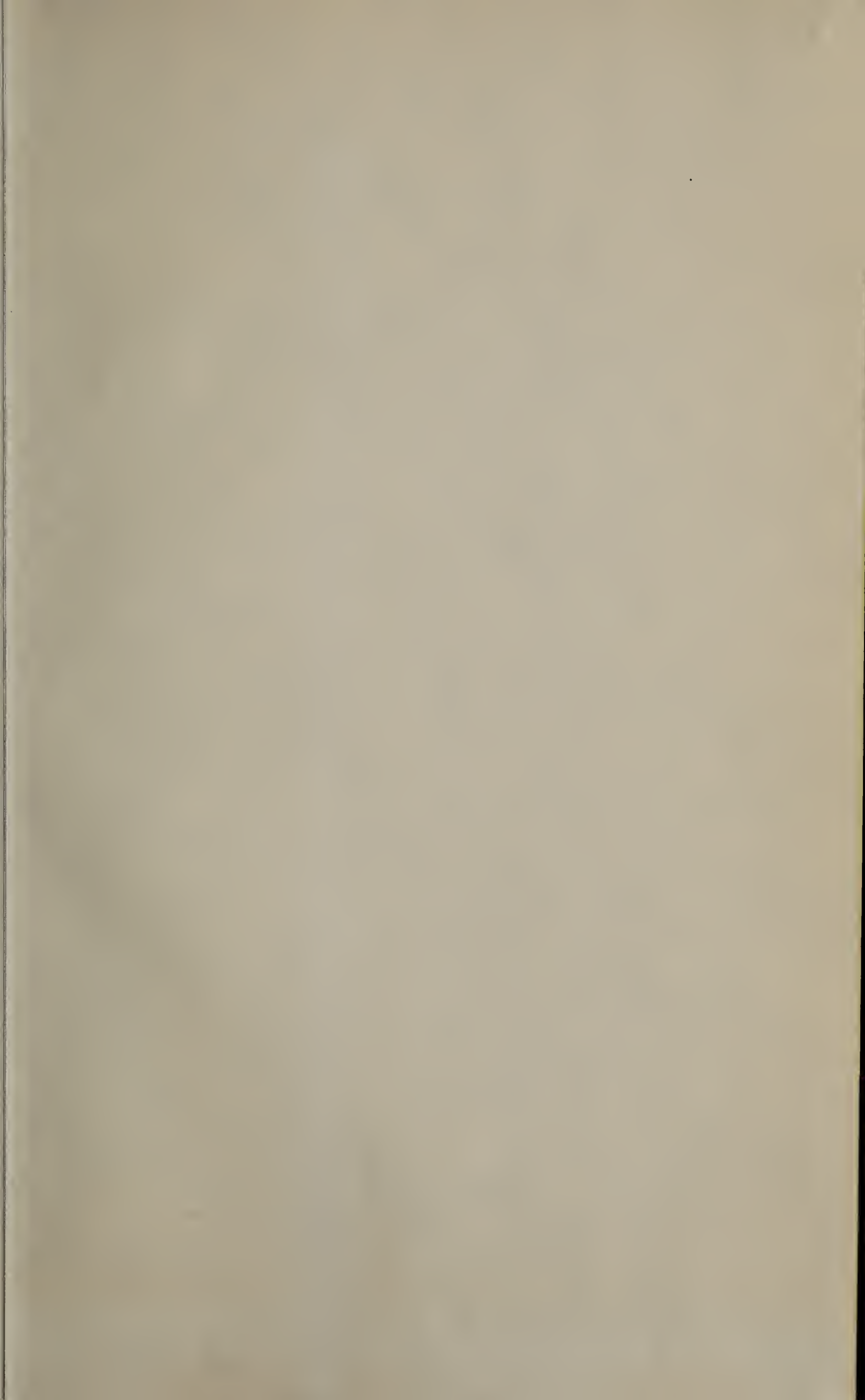
... of George ... (Type) ...
includes:

... Mary, ...
... and ...

... and ... (Type) ...
...

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A Supplement Sheet
for the book

"A History of Pence Place Names and Early Pences in
America", by Monroe Conger Pence. 1961.

Supplement to pages 16 and 17.

A list of the names and birthdates of the children of
Henry and Mary (Blimly) Pence:

George	August	16, 1766
Jacob	September	15, 1767
Henry	September	4, 1768
Abraham	September	7, 1769
Magdaline	January	31, 1771
Susannah	July	4, 1772
John	January	15, 1774
Barbara	November	2, 1775
David	February	4, 1777
Joseph	September	26, 1778
Samuel	February	4, 1780
Anna	October	10, 1781
Isaac	July	23, 1784
Elizabeth	June	22, 1786
Benjamin	April	25, 1787
Mary	June	9, 1789
Reuben	June	28, 1791

A son George is not mentioned in the will of 1820 made by Henry Pence, who records Jacob as his eldest son; hence George is not listed on page 16. Lewis, also, is not mentioned in the will, nor in the list above, tho in at least one Ohio History, a Lewis is stated to be a brother of John Pence of Champaign County.

The above list of names and dates were found in the back of a copy of Kingsley A. Pence's book in the State Library at Indianapolis, Indiana. The list was placed there in 1932 by a Charles Pence of North Vernon, Ind., who, it is reported, found the Bible of Henry and Mary (Blimly) Pence, and the record therein.

Names and dates received by author on Jan. 6, 1964

(Note: Kindly paste this sheet in back of book.)

OR BET. 16-17

