

30 oz. plate, 1783; 7 slaves, 1790. **LAND AT FIRST ELECTION:** 156 acres in Kent County, including a grist mill on Swan Creek and possibly half of another mill; also 4.5 lots in George Town, Kent County. **ADDITIONAL COMMENT:** In the 19 years before his first election, Pearce purchased almost 2,000 acres in Kent County, apparently for speculation; he had sold most of it by 1781. **SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH:** purchased at least 667 acres, all located in Kent County except for a small parcel in New Castle County, Delaware, 1785–1801; obtained 229 acres in Kent County in 1785 by foreclosing on a mortgage which he held; patented 314 acres in Cecil County, 1791; sold 292 acres in Kent County, plus 4 lots in George Town, between 1785 and 1793; purchased 2 lots in George Town at public sale in 1794 and 3 more lots in George Town in 1801. **WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED:** will probated on March 22, 1802, in Kent County. **PERSONAL PROPERTY:** TEV, £2,796.1.0 current money (including 38 slaves and plate); FB, estate overpaid £1,712.18.3. **LAND:** ca. 1,500 acres in Kent and Cecil counties and a small parcel in New Castle County, Delaware. His holdings included his dwelling plantation, a plantation on the Chester River, and plantation lands on Morgan Creek, Kent County, plus at least 4 lots in George Town, as specified in his will.

PEARCE (PEIRCE, PERSE), WILLIAM (ca. 1641–1720/21). **BORN:** ca. 1641, probably in England. **IMMIGRATED:** probably in the late 1650s, definitely by 1664, probably as an indentured servant. **RESIDED:** probably in Baltimore County; Cecil County by 1675; Kent County at death. **MARRIED** Isabella (?–1729). **CHILDREN. SONS:** *Daniel Pearce* (1677–1727); William (?–1703); Col. Benjamin (ca. 1683–1734), a justice of Cecil County, 1720–1734, who married Mary, widow of *John Hynson* (ca. 1670–1708), daughter of John Stoops; and Gideon (1678–1751), sheriff of Kent County, 1720–1723, and justice, 1733–1738, who married Ann. **DAUGHTERS:** Isabella, who married first, *William Blay* (ca. 1681–1716), and second, by 1722, John Johnson; Elizabeth, who married *Henry Ward* (?–1734); Sarah, who married first, Joseph Hopkins, and second, John Rogers; and Mary (?–alive in 1713/14), who married William Pott. **PRIVATE CAREER. EDUCATION:** literate. **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION:** Anglican, South Sassafras Parish, Cecil County. **SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES:** probably the William Pearce, former servant of *Thomas Howell* (?–1675), who received

a warrant for completion of service in 1661/62, and then in 1663 patented 250 acres with another former servant, Robert Neife; in 1714, Col. William Pearce, the legislator, aged “73 or thereabouts,” testified concerning this event that had occurred 50 years previously in Maryland. **OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE:** probably indentured servant, free by 1661/62; planter, probably by 1663, definitely by 1675. **PUBLIC CAREER. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE:** Lower House, Cecil County, 1676–1682, 1682–1683 (resigned before the 3rd session of the 1682–1684 Assembly to become sheriff), 1694–1696 (Aggrievances 4, 5; resigned before the 6th session of the 1694–1697 Assembly to become sheriff), 1700 (elected to the 4th session of the 1697/98–1700 Assembly), 1704–1707. **LOCAL OFFICES:** justice, Cecil County, 1676–1684, 1694; sheriff, Cecil County, 1684–1688, 1689–1691, 1696–1699; South Sassafras Parish Vestry, Cecil County, 1693–1696, 1704–1705; naval officer of Cecil County, 1695. **MILITARY SERVICE:** captain, by 1688; colonel, by 1690. **STANDS ON PUBLIC/PRIVATE ISSUES:** active supporter of Protestant Associators’ Revolution, 1689; fined for cheating the county while sheriff, 1699; found guilty of misappropriating levy, 1704. **WEALTH DURING LIFETIME. LAND AT FIRST ELECTION:** probably 350 acres. **SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH:** acquired at least 3,355 acres in Kent and Cecil counties, probably by patent and purchase, which he then deeded as gifts to his children, 1710–1717. **WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED:** between February 9 and March 5, 1720/21, in Kent County. **PERSONAL PROPERTY:** TEV, £1,168.11.17 current money (including 22 slaves and £49.1.4 in coined gold); FB, £1,153.7.4. **LAND:** 1,450 acres mentioned in his will.

PEMBERTON, BENJAMIN (ca. 1698–1733/34). **BORN:** ca. 1698 in Talbot County; youngest son. **NATIVE:** at least second generation. **RESIDED:** in Talbot and Queen Anne’s counties. **FAMILY BACKGROUND. FATHER:** John Pemberton (?–ca. 1701), of Talbot County, a merchant and cooper. **STEP-FATHER:** Col. Robert Grundy (?–1720), of Talbot County, merchant. Grundy married Margaret Pemberton in 1703. **MOTHER:** Margaret Matthews (?–by 1718). **BROTHERS:** John (1685–1722), of Queen Anne’s County, merchant, who married Deborah (?–1749), daughter of Col. Robert Grundy; James (1687–1724), of Queen Anne’s County, merchant; and Joseph (1690–?). **STEP-SISTERS:** Ann Grundy (1690–1732), who married *James Lloyd* (1679/80–1723); Deborah Grundy