

Pearce – Primitive Methodist History Staffordshire and surrounds

Hello. My name is Neville Walter Pearce born 1952 and living in Brisbane Queensland. I am performing family history. An outline of the family lineage relating to the family and involvement in the Primitive Methodist Movement is below.

To date I have identified that my family on my father's side has a long history in the Staffordshire area. So far we have dated this back to the Richard Pearce 1700's.

Alexander Pearce

Research reveals that my Great Great Grandfather, Alexander Pearce was a member of the Primitive Methodist Dudley circuit.

His parents were James and Jemima (Knowles) Pearce. Alexander and Ruth had 8 children and one of them Simon Pearce, my Great Grandfather who migrated to Queensland Australia.

I have several old press cuttings from when Alexander passed away. One headed Brierley Hill Circuit - Its Origin with a photo of my GGGF Alexander. Another which captures some of the history of Alexander written by J J Appleby. It mentions him being in the congregation at the Bent St Church. Another article which is regarding his death describes him as a Veteran Primitive Methodist, He was one of the founders of the Hill St Church. His internment was at St Michael's.

When it was proposed to build the Hill St Church he purchased the adjoining piece of land and sold a portion of to the trustees at a sacrifice so that the church might have its present handsome and bold frontage, he also gave 3,000 bricks so that the schoolroom might be made four feet longer.

If you are not in possession of these documents I am happy to share them with you and other family history records which may be of benefit. I have been able to locate a lot of supporting documents such as Birth, marriage and death records of most of the family and associated other family's that the Pearce's married into such as the Hills, Cartwright, Westwood etc..

Great Uncle REV Joseph Pearce

(I have a copy of his book *The Alabaster Box*)

b1862 Old Hill Staffordshire d Joseph died on 17 December 1945 at Newport, Monmouthshire.

Early years

Joseph was born in 1862 at Old Hill, Staffordshire to parents Thomas and Eliza. The 1881 census identifies Thomas as a colliery engine driver.

Joseph was working as a clerk at a timber yard at the time of the 1881 census.

Joseph was guided as a young Christian by Dr Joseph Ferguson, who put him on the plan, directed his evangelistic fervour, mapped out his studies and called him into the ministry. Before entering the ministry at Brighton, Joseph spent six months as Dr Ferguson's assistant at Burslem. In that time he witnessed some 200 conversions.

Ministry

Joseph spent five years as Connexional Temperance Secretary. During that time, he inaugurated the Young Abstainers' league, won Band of Hope representation at circuit meetings and roused churches by his eloquent tongue and his powerful pen.

His obituary records that Joseph was a preacher of outstanding merit. He had a burning passion for souls, travelling all over the country, preaching, lecturing and winning men for the Kingdom. A gracious personality with a flair for friendship, he was a skilful raconteur whose infectious laugh was a tonic.

Literature

Joseph authored the following.

The Alabaster Box

<https://www.ebay.es/itm/The-Alabaster-Box-and-Other-Addresses-Rev-Joseph-Pearce-Brighton-/273922103668>

Life on the Heights

Family

Joseph married Edith Palmer (1856-1942) in the summer of 1887 at Old Hill, Staffordshire. Census returns identify three children.

- Edith Eliza (1888-1976) – an elementary school teacher (1911); married William George Cripps, a PM Minister, in 1921
- Hilda Annie (1889- – a music teacher (1911); married Ewart Nelson Woodhouse, a chain manufacturer, in 1914
- Joseph (1891-1967) – a PM Minister

Joseph died on 17 December 1945 at Newport, Monmouthshire.

Circuits

- 1884 Brighton I
- 1885 Birmingham
- 1887 W Bromwich
- 1889 Burnley II
- 1892 Barrow in Furness
- 1896 Grimsby 1
- 1899 Bridlington II
- 1901 Brighton
- 1905 Bristol III
- 1908 Cradley Heath
- 1912 Birmingham V
- 1918 Kidderminster
- 1920 Walsall
- 1924 Church Gresley
- 1929 Knighton (S)

References

Primitive Methodist Magazine 1916/535; 1932/535

Methodist Minutes 1946/135

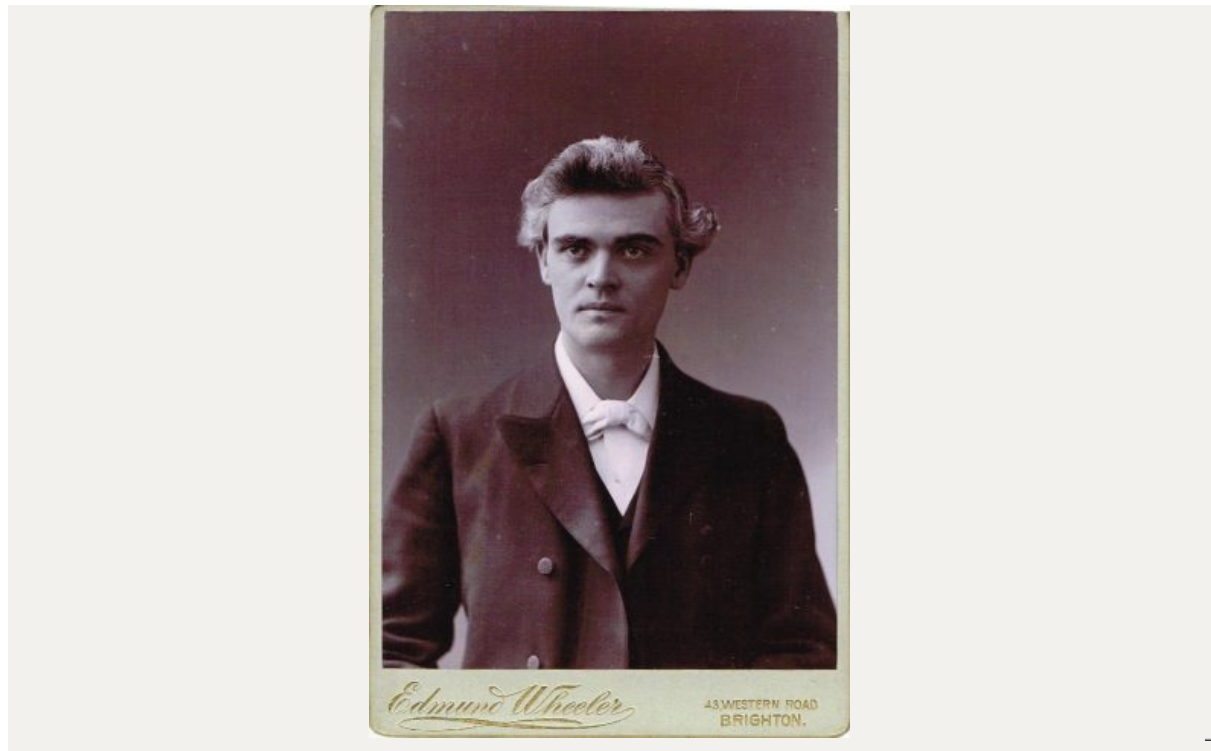
W Leary, *Directory of Primitive Methodist Ministers and their Circuits*, 1990

Census Returns and Births, Marriages & Deaths Registers

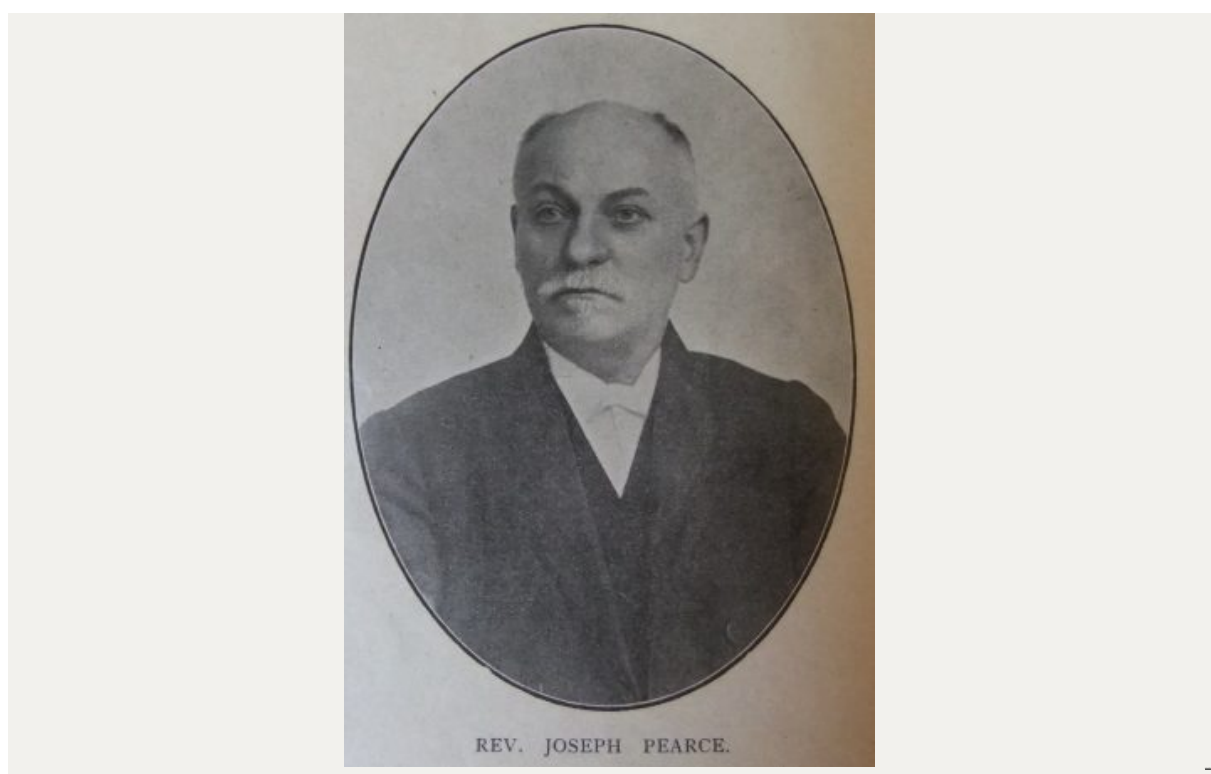
REV JOSEPH PEARCE

https://www.myprimitivemethodists.org.uk/content/people-2/primitive_methodist_ministers/p/joseph_pearce

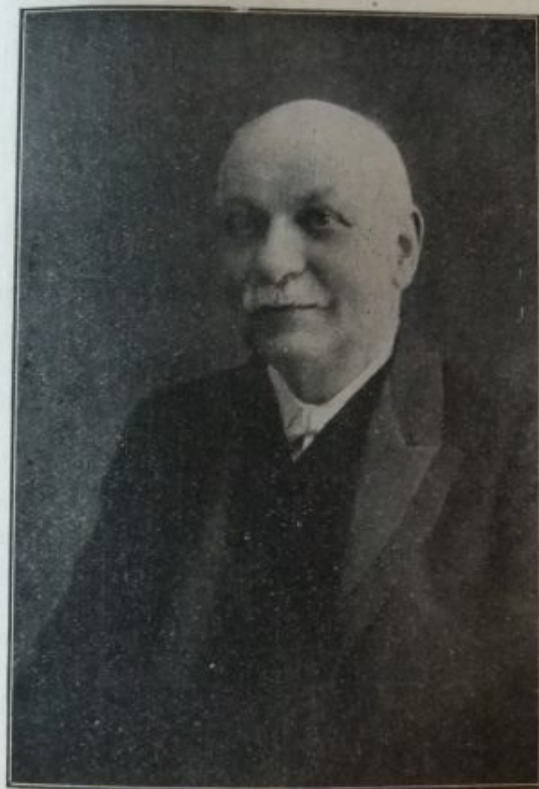
Pearce, Joseph (1862-1945)



Rev Joseph Pearce, Brighton, 1904
Englesea Brook Museum 10.04



Primitive Methodist Magazine 1916



REV. JOSEPH PEARCE.

Primitive Methodist Magazine 1932



MRS. PEARCE.

Primitive Methodist Magazine 1916

PRIMITIVE METHODIST LINEAGE

GGGG Grand Parents

Richard Pearce (b1756 Wolverhampton Staffordshire d 1838 Mill Lane Brierley Hill)
and

Martha (Thompson) Pearce (b1752 Wolverhampton Staffordshire d1826 Brierley Hill)

GGG Grand Parents

James Pearce (b1791 Cradley d1861 Kingswinford) and

Jemima (Knowles) Pearce (b1793 Old Swinford d1859 Kingswinford)

GG Grandparents

Alexander Pearce (b1819 Brierley Hill d1900 Brierley Hill) and

Ruth (Hill) Pearce (b 1819 Brierley Hill d?)

GG Uncle and Aunty

Thomas Charles Pearce (b1833 Brierley Hill d1893 Monmouth) and

Eliza (Robinson) Pearce (b1835 Brierley Hill d??)

G Uncle

REV Joseph Pearce (b1862 Old Hill Staffordshire)

G Grand Parents

Simon b1859 and Emma b1863 (Cartwright) Pearce

Grand Parents

Albert b1890 and Katie b1900 (Littman) Pearce