
2. Purdue Genealogy, courtesy Dr. J.H. Pierpont Family collection, Pensacola, Fl.

   Also, church records, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Ascension, Savannah, Ga., 1824-1882.


4. Purdue genealogy, op. cit.


9. Mortality records, Chatham County, s.v., Purse, 1829-1838, 1845-1847, 1850-1852 (two deaths in the family in 1836, and three in 1850.)

10. Interview with Purdue descendant, Mrs. Catherine Scholl and Mrs. Harriet Harms of Savannah, May 4, 1986.

Further information on Lewis C. Tebeau is available in History of the Baptist Denomination in Georgia, compiled by the Christian Index, Atlanta: Jno. P. Harrison & Co., Printers and Publishers, 1881, 522-3.

It must have been an interesting household at Thomas Purse's in 1860 according to the Savannah area national census! Most of the Purse's were Lutheran, but Julie was married to a Baptist minister and Eliza Jane to the son of a prominent Unitarian minister and abolitionist in Boston. The brother of James Pierpont, Eliza's husband, also lived with them, the Unitarian minister John Pierpont Jr., pastor of the Unitarian Church in Savannah until it closed due to sectional disputes in 1860. John, having just left the ministry, is noted in the census as an Episcopaliano minister, but the city directory lists him for the 1859 year as a Unitarian! There is no record he ever was an Episcopalian, though he never returned to the ministry after his Savannah experience of the 1850's. James and John Pierpont were the uncles of the financier J. Pierpont Morgan, who visited in Savannah in the 1850s.

12. Interview with Harms and Scholl, op.cit.


14. Mortality Records, Chatham County, 1860, s.v., Purse and Pierpont; also, Savannah Newspapers Digest, s.v., Purse and Pierpont, 1860.


16. Also, Myers, Children of Pride, op. cit. 1656.

16. Church Records, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Ascension. Also, there is a marker to Felt in the downstairs area of the church.


18. Chatham County deeds, JU-455. Gilbert Butler is identified as a carpenter in the Savannah City Directory in 1859. He lived at 3 Lafayette Square, and resided at 1 McDonough Street. No indication in material I read has been found of a relationship to the Felt beyond friendship, but he might be a relative or close friend.

19. Mortality records, Chatham County Health Department, s.v., Purse, 1864 and 1867. Also, Lutheran Church records for the same years, as well as 1866.

20. Savannah Newspaper Digest and Index, s.v., Purse, 1818-1909

21. Deeds, Chatham County Court House. Some 50 are listed with Thomas Purse as either a buyer or seller between 1819-1875, when he bought the estate of Thomas R. Fries from some heirs for $2,200, to the sale of his house to his son in 1866, 420-141, as listed at the Superior Court, real estate records.


   Also, Pensacola Tribune, March 26, 1918 (see appendix.)
27. Federal Census records, 1840, 1850, 1860.
29. Savannah Newspaper Index, 1853-60, s.v., Purse. Also Myers, Children of Pride, op.cit., 1869.
   Also, Savannah City Directory and Federal Census, s.v., Purse, 1860.
30. Hauntun, Savannah In the 1950's, 92.
31. Savannah Newspaper Digest, 1853-1861, s.v., Purse
33. Hauntun, 275.
34. Daily Morning News, Dec. 20, 1872, 3/1-2 for story of Purse's career with the SFD. For story of his exchange of letters with another fireman, and his efforts to get a new engine, Daily Morning News May 3-1854, 2/3; and May 11, 2/4; award of trumpet, ibid, May 27, 1854, 2/2.
35. Savannah Newspaper Digest, s.v., Purse, 1832-62.
36. Gartelmann, Mildred, 14-22.
37. Savannah Morning News, July 24, 1850, 2/3, and story continuing through to Oct. 25, 1850, 2/1/2, with Purse being one of the representatives "cheered."
39. Myers, Robert Manson, Children of Pride, 773.
40. Ibid, 792. Remember this was less than two months before the Purse-Felt marriage.
42. Gamble, Thomas, 254-7. Savannah Newspaper Digest of the Daily Morning News, 10-22-1861, through October, 1862, also has a full account of the Purse administration.
44. Ibid, December 29, 1872, 3/2.
45. Gamble, Thomas, 256.
46. Myers, Robert Manson, 621.
47. James, C.C. Jr., History of Savannah, 634.
48. Obituary of Dr. Ben Purse, scrapbook of Dr. Juriah H. Pierpont, Pensacola, no date given. Clipping is from a Savannah newspaper. Dr. Pierpont was the nephew of Dr. Ben Purse.
Dr. Ben Purse died Jan. 19, 1927, age 84. He was listed as one of the oldest members of the First Baptist Church, and the Confederate Surgeon-General on the staff of Gen. M.B. Vance, Commander-in-Chief of Confederate Veterans. The accompanying picture is of Dr. Purse in uniform as a veteran.

49. Savannah Newspaper Digest, 1861-65, s.v., Purse.
51. Savannah Newspaper Digest, 1862-5, s.v., Purse.
54. Gartelmann, Mildred, A Compiled Chronological History of The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Ascension, privately printed at Savannah (no date given) for the use of the church. The mention here is from page 75 of the booklet, on the Minutes of the Synod of Georgia, Sept. 28, 1865 meeting.
55. Deeds, Chatham County Superior Court, Savannah, 4-D-141.
56. Purse Genealogy, Georgia Historical Society, Coll. 1293, Folder 2.
57. Interview with Barnes and Scholl, op. cit. Also Savannah Morning News, July 17, 1865, (family scrapbook, no column or page listings,) for James' advertisement re street cleaning.
For more on Yeade, see History of the Baptist Denomination in Georgia, op. cit., 522.
58. Tax Records, Chatham County, 1861-1872, s.v., Purse.
60. Savannah City Directory, 1866-1871, s.v., Purse.
61. Wills, Probate Court, Court House, Savannah, Ga.
66. Mortality records, Chatham County Health Department, 1882, s.v., Purse. Also, City Directory, 1872-82, s.v., Purse.
APPENDIX

PURSE FAMILY GENEALOGY

1. William Purse (Furse)
   born in England
   his son

2. Thomas Purse (1744-1795)
   was born in Manchester, England.
   He was the first to come to America.
   He married Isabella Steele in 1775
   (she died in 1784)
   He was a member of the Third S.C. Regiment
   under Col. William Thomson.
   Their son

3. Thomas Purse (1776-1823)
   married Mary Jane Pilkington (1777-1848)
   in Baltimore in 1795
   their son

4. Thomas Purse (1802-1872)
   was born in Winchester, Va.
   He married (first)
   Eliza Jane Cugle (1809-1860)
   in 1824
   and after her death
   (second) Josephine A. Felt (1824-1882)
   in 1862

(Compiled from Purse family genealogy belonging to
Dr. Juriah Harris Pierpont of Pensacola, Fl.,
and Lutheran Church of the Ascension records,
Savannah, Ga.)
# The Children of Thomas Purse and Eliza Jane Gugle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>1829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eliza Jane</td>
<td>1831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julia</td>
<td>1833</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anne</td>
<td>1836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine</td>
<td>1838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Gugle</td>
<td>1839</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William C.</td>
<td>1841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin S.</td>
<td>1842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Jr.</td>
<td>1843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esther</td>
<td>1845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ella S.</td>
<td>1845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret</td>
<td>1846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John M.</td>
<td>1848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frances</td>
<td>1849</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# Children of Thomas Purse and Josephine A. Felt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Marie Purse</td>
<td>1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josephine A. Purse</td>
<td>1867</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Church in Baltimore where Thomas Purse (1776-1823) and Mary Jane Fiskington (1777-1848) were married May 9, 1795. They were the parents of Thomas Purse (1802-1872).

(Purse Family Genealogy from the private collection of Dr. Juriah Harris Pierpont, Pensacola, Fl.)
Thomas Purse (1802-1872)

Photo from a portrait probably done about the time of his first marriage, to Miss Gugie, in 1824.

(Purse family collection, #1291, Folder 3, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah.)
Eliza Jane Gugie Purse, (1809-1860)

A photo from a portrait probably made about the time of her marriage to Thomas Purse in 1824.
(Purse family collection, #1293, Folder 3, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah.)
Marriages

First book, 25th of March, 1824,

4th November, Mr. Thomas Prince to Miss Eliza Geisel; both of Savannah, Georgia.

1825

1st February, Mr. Augustus B. Campbel of Savannah, to Miss Mary A. School of Wilmington Island.

1st March, Mr. John B. Blance, to Miss Valeria Davis; both of Savannah.

2d September, Mr. Henry N. Pose to Miss Mary J. A. Seaman; both of Beulah Grove, Georgia.

3d November, Mr. W.W. Franklin Weller to Miss Eleanor Rahn. Thunderbolt, Georgia, 1810.

Portion of the church record book of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Ascension, Savannah, Georgia, showing the first pastor and some of the early records kept by the congregation.
Home of Daniel Gugle (1767-1832), father-in-law of Thomas Purse, at 318 W. Oglethorpe Avenue, Savannah (formerly South Broad Street.) The house was built between 1799 and 1806. The Pursees named a son for Gugle. Their home nearby has since been demolished, and the new Federal Building covers the site.

(Photograph and house information from

This is a copy of a silhouette done by the French artist August Edouart in 1836. It depicts W.M. Gordon, first president of the Central of Georgia railroad, presenting the charter of the road to representatives in Savannah. (They are, left to right, President Gordon, John E. Ward, Dr. Richard Arnold, John N. Millen, and Thomas Purse, the first superintendent and for 25 years a member of the Board of Directors.) Since the railroad was chartered in 1833, this scene was reenacted in 1933 at the Biennial Celebration of the founding of Georgia, a program held at the Savannah city stadium.

(From the private collection of Mr. Purse's grandson, Dr. Juriah Harris Pierpont, Pensacola, Fl.)
Illustration from
Central of Georgia Railway
By Richard E. Prince, 1976
MEMBER OF THE A. B. C.
The Circulation of the Tribune Temporary was 1 S. 900

This date in History

1751—Thomas Burke, merchant, born.
1792—William Clark, governor of Kentucky, born.
1830—William Garrison, editor of the Liberator.

But the poor Philadelphia merchant's reply:
“Jacksonville has ‘killed in the well’ a sectional traitor.
They call it a war crime, but it was the ‘great sin of peace.’

The mocking birds are revelling in spring
And pin the sparrows.
And to think we can't have any peace with this Union-like March.

Mary Moony is to give Jacksonville one
Version of the last war, just as a sample.

Savannah News is going to give Jacksonville
Factors for personal benefit, and state sake.

The Orlando Reporter-Star scores for
no name. The old red kite of

Clipping from an unnamed Florida
newspaper, March 26, 1913, one of
many newspaper items crediting Purse
with the invention of railroad time
schedules, a claim often found in
the Savannah newspapers at the time
of his death in 1872.

(Courtesy the personal papers of
Dr. J.H. Pierpont of Pensacola.)
Thomas Purse (1802-1872) about the time he became mayor of Savannah (1861-2.) A copy of this picture hangs at the Savannah City Hall.

(Purse family collection, #1293, Folder 3, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah.)
Thomas Purse Jr., (1843-1861) killed July 21, 1861, at the Battle of First Manassas Plain, Virginia. He is buried at Laurel Grove Cemetery, Savannah.

(From the family collection of Dr. Juriah Harris Pierpont, Pensacola, Fl.)
The war drum is beating, prepare for the fight,
The stern giant Northman exults in his might,
Gird on your bright weapon, your foeman are nigh,
Let this be your watch word, "We conquer or die!"

The trumpet is sounding from mountain to shore,
Your swords and your lances must slumber no more,
Fling forth to the sunlight your banner on high,
Inscribe with the watch word, "We conquer or die!"

March to the battle, there do or dare,
With shoulder to shoulder, all danger to share,
And let your proud watchword ring up to the sky,
Till the blue surge re-echoes "We conquer or die!"

Press forward undaunted, nor think of retreat,
The enemy's host on the threshold to meet;
Strike firm till the foeman before you shall fly,
Appalled by the watch word, "We conquer or die!"

Go forth in the pathway our forefathers trod;
We, too, fight for freedom - our Captain is God;
Their blood in our veins, with honor we vis,
Their, too, was the watch word, "We conquer or die!"

We strike for the South - mountain, valley and plain,
For the South we will conquer again and again,
Her day of salvation and triumph is nigh,
Ours, then, be the watch word, "We conquer or die!"

Words to the song "We Conquer Or Die," written by James Lord Pierpont, son-in-law of Thomas Purse, and sold in Savannah at the store of another of the Purse sons-in-law, L.C. Tebeau, at 179 Bryan Street, according to an advertisement in the Savannah Daily Morning News Jan. 9, 1862. Pierpont was also the author/composer of the famous winter song "Jingle Bells," copyrighted in 1857 as "One Horse Open Sleigh," and reissued two years later as "Jingle Bells, Or, The One-Horse Open Sleigh." (Oliver Ditson and Co., Boston.)

"We Conquer Or Die" was published by P.F. Werlein and Halsey, 5 Camp St., New Orleans. It was inspired by a Confederate watchword.

In 1872, Mr. Purse began public life in the capacity of a citizen of the city, in which office he was frequently elected during his life.

In 1880 he was elected as Democratic Governor from the First District to the Georgia Senate, and in 1884 was elected Mayor of Savannah, having previously served as Mayor of 1875 during the presidency of Grover Cleveland, with the unbounded respect of the Georgia Historical Society.

For some years Mr. Purse was President of the Union Society, succeeded by Mr. Francis C. Sneed in 1899, and continuing in the presidency of the 1880's and honored association until 1890.

He was often elected as Chief of the First Department of Savannah, and in 1884, while occupying that post of honor, was presented with a gold silver trumpet for his faithful service in that capacity.

Mr. Purse was a Master Mason and a member of the Order of Odd Fellows.

In 1861 he married a most estimable and amiable lady of Savannah, with whom he lived until 1865, and again married in 1865, his second wife now surviving him; and has left as immediate family of four sons and two daughters.

In early life—in the year 1863, when just issues the threshold of manhood—he became a member of the Methodist Church, but died as a faithful Methodist.

For some years Purse never recovered from his hard work and unceasing discharge of pressing business duties as an officer of the Central Railroad, and in his tragic and unexpected death, devoted to this enterprise of his mental and physical energies, was the result of a spasm rather than a strong consumption, and from it resulted the enfeebled health of his last ten years.

For a long time a sufferer from chronic stomach and lung diseases, he was prostrated by constant frequent and severe attacks of a bilious disorder, which, as on account of the service decay of his system he was unable to withstand and survive.

It was a peculiar feature of his life that he never intruded among his personal relations his increased personal responsibilities in the capacity of the greatest and the most difficult period of the history of the State, and for twenty-five years he was a director of the Central Railroad until 1892, at the close of the war.

He looked upon the interests of the Central Road with peculiar pride and pleasure, always referred to his connection with and labors for it with the utmost satisfaction.

DEATH OF ANanging and ANCENT CIVILIAN.
Mr. Thomas Purse, One of the Wearest.

And the First Superintendent of the Central Railroad.

At 6 o'clock yesterday morning, Mr. Thomas Purse, a gentleman long and most favorably known in Savannah, and considered by all classes of our people, breathed his last at his residence on Park Road, having sustained his three-score years and ten, and after a quiet and extraordinary usefulness and many kindnesses.

Mr. Purse was born on the 25th of March, 1810, at Wiltshire, Virginia, of English parents, who moved during his early years to Overland, South Carolina, whence at the age of 18 he came to Savannah and was in his fortunes with the effects of the Central Railroad.

Mr. Purse was a member of the Board of Directors of the Savannah & St. Simon's Railroad, subsequently being one of the proprietors of the establishment, afterwards sold to Mr. P. E. N. Purse, whose Master, John M. Cooper & Co., now owning business in Savannah, succeeded.

Mr. Purse retired from his prosperous business, in order that he might devote himself to the study of law and afterwards enter upon the practice of the law in Savannah, being the only person who has ever been successful in the study.

Mr. Purse's family consisted of four sons and two daughters.
The death of Thomas Purse, as reported in
The Morning News, Savannah, Dec. 19, 1872,
page 3, column 2.
Report of the funeral of Thomas Purse in The Morning News, Savannah, Dec. 20, 1872, and the expressions of honor and regret passed by the City Council, which attended the ceremony in a body along with many other organizations to which Purse had belonged during his career in the city. Because of the crush of the crowd, the funeral was half an hour late in being conducted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Names</th>
<th>Date of Interment</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Nativity, &amp;c.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>John Melonzo Perez</td>
<td>Oct. 16, 1871</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>Savannah, Ga.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Julia Willbrooks</td>
<td>Dec. 28, 1870</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>Savannah, Ga.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Louis J. Weller</td>
<td>Apr. 10, 1870</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Cohasset, Mass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Eli West</td>
<td>May 21, 1870</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Capt. Alfred Landwe</td>
<td>June 12, 1870</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>J. H. Myhre</td>
<td>June 18, 1870</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>Chatham County, Ga.</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Ernst</td>
<td>Dec. 28, 1870</td>
<td>14 mos.</td>
<td>Savannah, Ga.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Maria Emelia Nichols</td>
<td>July 18, 1870</td>
<td>33 yrs</td>
<td>Savannah, Ga.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mr. Myers</td>
<td>Sep. 10, 1870</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Samuel A. Krieger</td>
<td>Nov. 21, 1870</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>Savannah, Ga.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Mrs. L. Von Walden</td>
<td>Sept. 10, 1870</td>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Wm. Heinrich Springer</td>
<td>Sept. 17, 1870</td>
<td>Infant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>German Lindner</td>
<td>Oct. 22, 1870</td>
<td>18 yrs.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>John Welch</td>
<td>Nov. 20, 1870</td>
<td>57 yrs.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>William Branch</td>
<td>Dec. 21, 1870</td>
<td>46 yrs.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Former church, often called the English Lutheran Church, on the site of the present Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Ascension, Bull and State Streets, Savannah. This church was built in the 1840s, and was the one where the Purser family were active members along with the family of the second wife of Thomas, Josephine Felt.

(The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Ascension brochure)
Large Ascension window, dedicated to the memory of Thomas Purse, at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Ascension, Savannah. Church window was installed in 1878, and the new building dedicated in 1879.

(Records of The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Ascension, Savannah)
Appendix

Milton H. Rahn, chairman of the James Lord Pierpont Marker and Scholarship Committee, Savannah, examines the large Purse-Pierpont marker at Lot 343, Laurel Grove Cemetery, where Thomas Purse, his first wife Eliza Jane Gugle, and several members of their family are buried. The smaller headstone at right is that of Private Thomas Purse Jr., of the Oglethorpe Light Infantry, killed at First Manassas in July, 1861.

(Photo by Robert Seay, Savannah News-Press, Pg. 163, Col. 1-3, Dec. 15, 1974.)
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Tax Digest, Savannah, Ga.
Wills, Probate Court, Court House, Savannah, Ga.
Real Estate Records, Deeds, Superior Court, Court House, Savannah, Ga., for Chatham County.
Death Records, Chatham County Public Health Service, Savannah.
Purse Genealogy, courtesy the family collection of Dr. J.H. Pierpont, Pensacola, Fl.
Purse Collection, #1297, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah.
Parish Records, Lutheran Church of the Ascension, Savannah, Ga.

