

Josiah B. Pierce

Jan. 12, 1870 – June 18, 1948

Carrie Pierce

Feb. 1874 – June 18, 1948

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Pierce, Formerly of Village, Die in Crash Brodhead Couple Dies as Auto Collides with Train At Haugen, Wis.

Double funeral services for Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Pierce, prominent and highly esteemed Brodhead couple and former residents of Monticello, who were killed instantly shortly before noon Friday when their car collided with a Chicago and North Western freight train at a crossing on the outskirts of Haugen, Wis., were held Sunday afternoon at the Congregational church, Brodhead.

The Rev. J. C. Robertson, pastor of the church, officiated, and burial was in Greenwood cemetery, Brodhead. Masonic rites were conducted at the grave.

Mr. and Mrs. Pierce had gone north about 10 days before for a vacation at their summer home on Bear Lake, near Haugen, a custom which they began 40 years ago. They had been in Haugen to purchase provisions and were enroute back to their cottage when they met the train. Friends who had only a moment before bid them farewell heard the crash and upon reaching the scene of the tragedy found Mr. and Mrs. Pierce dead.

Hardware Merchant Here

Both Mr. and Mrs. Pierce were natives of Washington township, Mr. Pierce was born June 12, 1870, the son of Albert and Sarah E. Baker Pierce, pioneer Washington township residents. Following his graduation from the Monroe high school, Mr. Pierce entered the hardware business in Monticello with James Moore, a brother-in-law, as his partner. They purchased the hardware firm of Duerst and Wallace here. Mr. Pierce took over the firm in 1902. In 1904 he sold the store to Leibly and Gerber, going to Brodhead, where he entered the hardware business. Mr. Pierce had been in the hardware business for more than 50 years.

Mr. Pierce was 78 years of age at the time of his death.

Long Public Career

Mr. Pierce took an active interest in public matters and was a member of the Green county board of supervisors for 27 years, 11 years of which were devoted to the chairmanship of that organization. He retired from the post in 1938. His first experience in public life was gained in Monticello, where he served as a member of the school board. Mr. Pierce was a vice-president of the Green County Bank at Brodhead.

Mr. and Mrs. Pierce were united in marriage Oct. 19, 1893, in the farm home of the bride's parents in Washington township.

Mrs. Pierce, who was 74 years of age at the time of her sudden death, was the former Carrie Burgy, daughter of Jacob and Barbara Luchsinger Burgy. She was born on the Burgy farm, southwest of Monticello, Feb. 28, 1874.

The Pierces were active in lodge and social affairs, both being members of the Eastern Star and the Decatur Lake Country club A 32nd degree Mason, Mr. Pierce was past master of the Brodhead lodge and was a member of the Consistory and Shrine as well as the Knights of Pythias.

One son, Dwight Pierce, Brodhead, survives. Another son, Ralph Pierce, died in April, 1940.

Mrs. Pierce is also survived by two sisters, Mrs. Emery A. Odell and Mrs. J. Jacob Tschudy, Monroe, and one-brother, Jacob J. Burgy, Monticello.

Mr. and Mrs. Pierce enjoyed outdoor life, spending many summers at their cottage on Bear Lake. They spent part of each winter in the west or south.