

Josiah Pierce

May 21, 1783 – Dec. 25, 1843

Josiah Pierce, the first settler in the town of Washington, Green County, Wisconsin, was a native of the Bay State, born in Salem, Hampshire county, Massachusetts, May 21, 1783.

He was married to Ruth Ayers, of Granby, Connecticut.

In 1827 they removed to New York, and settled in Ostego county, where they lived until the spring of 1837. Mr. Pierce, then being in failing health, concluded to try a change of climate, and came to Milwaukee, where he was engaged by Col. Bird, the contractor who was building the State capitol at Madison, to proceed to that place and open a boarding house for the accommodation of the workmen. Accordingly, he joined Bird's party and they started overland with four teams, carrying provisions, tools, and other necessary articles. A part of the way they were obliged to cut a road, and in some places to build corduroy roads. He became the second settler in Madison, but remained there only until fall, when he came to Green county, and entered land on section 13, of township 3 north, range 8 east, now known as Washington. His nearest neighbors were at Exeter, seven miles distant. Although his health was quite poor at this time, he was able to be out and about and attend to business for several years.

His death occurred Dec. 25, 1843.

He was a man of good education, intelligent, public spirited and enterprising, and in his death the county lost one of its most useful and respected citizens. He was one of the first commissioners of Green county.

His widow died June 8, 1863. They were the parents of eight children, five of whom are living.