

PIERCE, JAMES O

JAMES O. PIERCE, former secretary-treasurer of the Bimel Manufacturing Company, of Portland, who died at his home in that city in 1920 and who prior to establishing his connection with the industrial interests of the community had for some years served as a teacher in the schools of this county, left a good memory at his passing and it is but fitting that there here should be carried some modest tribute to that memory. Mr. PIERCE was a native of Ohio, born on December 16, 1858, and was a son of Orange and Caroline (SELBY) PIERCE. He was reared at Zanesville, Ohio, and upon completing the course in the high school there supplemented the same by a course in the Zanesville Commercial College. He then came to Indiana and entered Ridgeville College, making his home at Ridgeville with his grandfather, the Rev. Asa PIERCE. Upon completing the course in Ridgeville College Mr. PIERCE became engaged as an instructor in the college and was thus engaged for several years, at the end of which time he accepted the position of superintendent of schools at Redkey and thus became a resident of Jay county. For four years he served as superintendent at Redkey and then he transferred his services to the schools at Portland and thereafter made his home in Portland. For two years Mr. PIERCE taught in the Portland schools and then entered the office of the Bimel Manufacturing Company as bookkeeper. He presently was promoted to the position of secretary treasurer of the company and continued engaged with that concern for about twenty-five years or until his retirement from business in 1913. After his retirement Mr. PIERCE continued to make his home in Portland, where he had become very comfortably situated, and there he died on December 4, 1920, he then being in the sixty-second year of his age.

In April, 1880, James O. PIERCE was united in marriage to Sue BOWERSOX, who was born in Darke county, Ohio, in 1858, daughter of John H. and Diana (HARTER) BOWERSOX, who later became residents of Indiana, and to that union were born four children, namely: Inez, who married G. T. VAIL, a banker, of Michigan City, Ind., and has one child, a daughter, Barbara; J. O. PIERCE, now a farmer in this county, who married Bessie FLESHER and has one child, a daughter, Marian; Earl, who is living at home with his mother, and Mabel, who married L. W. HULL, a lawyer of Oshkosh, Wis., and has one child, a daughter, Nancy.

Mr. PIERCE was a member of the Methodist church, as is his widow, and was for more than twenty years superintendent of the Sunday school. He was a Republican and was a member of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias at Portland.

SOURCE: Milton T. Jay, M.D., History of Jay County Indiana, Historical Publishing Co., Indpls. 1922, Vol. II, pp.44-45. Transcribed by Eloine Chesnut.