

James Melville Pierce

ISSN 0003-4827

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Recommended Citation

"James Melville Pierce." *The Annals of Iowa* 13 (1923), 630-630.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.4708>

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NOTABLE DEATHS

JAMES MELVILLE PIERCE was born in Richland County, Ohio, May 9, 1848, and died in Des Moines, Iowa, November 1, 1920. When a boy he was employed as a printer's apprentice in the office of the *Shield and Banner*, Mansfield, Ohio. He was a member of Company B, Forty-eighth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. In 1867 he removed to northwestern Missouri and engaged in farming. In 1870 he became publisher and editor of the *Grant City Star*, and in 1875 of the *Hopkins Journal*, both in northwest Missouri. In 1878 he added the *Taylor County Republican*, of Bedford, Iowa, to the string of papers he owned, and in 1884, the *Osceola Sentinel*. In 1885 he acquired an interest in the *Iowa Homestead*, at Des Moines, and removed to that city. At that time Henry Wallace was the editor of the *Homestead* and, through the efforts of the two, the journal prospered and became an agricultural and political factor in the state. On Mr. Wallace's retirement from the *Homestead* in 1895, Mr. Pierce became sole owner. In 1893 he acquired the *Wisconsin Farmer*, Madison, Wisconsin, and the *Farmer and Stockman*, Kansas City, Missouri. All of these he continued to publish, retaining active control up to the time of his death. The last ten years of his life he increased his activity in politics. He never was a candidate for office, but was ardently for or against many public men, always working, as he believed, for the advancement of the agricultural interests of the state. He was independent in politics, party lines making no difference to him. In the last few months before his death he had been vigorously supporting the Democratic candidates for governor and United States senator. He had just made a strong campaign against the sale to the public of stock in questionable corporations, which was then at high tide in Iowa. He was a great business man, had vigor and courage, and exerted a large influence in public affairs.

WILLIAM G. CLEMENTS was born near Flushing, Belmont County, Ohio, January 2, 1847, and died at Los Angeles, California, January 10, 1920. Interment was at Newton, Iowa. In October, 1855, the family removed to a farm near Monroe, Jasper County, Iowa, and three years later to the vicinity of Newton. William G. attended country school and later, College Farm, or Wittenberg College, near Newton. This he supplemented by a course at Iowa College, Grinnell, and also was graduated from the Iowa Business College at Des Moines. He then taught school a few years, served for a time as deputy county recorder, and read law under Hon. O. C. Howe. He was admitted to the bar in 1869 and in 1870 began practice at Prairie City, in partnership with Sidney Williams. He was mayor of Prairie City one year. In 1876 he

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