

DISCLAIMER

This biography is a rough draft and a work-in-progress.
The research has not been completed, so there may be errors and omissions.
Please return to Tuscania1918.org in the future to see if a revised and
finalized version is available.

Abbreviations:

b = born

d = died

F: = Find A Grave (www.findagrave.org)

NOK = next-of-kin

TUSCANIA

Pierce, Royal Byron
1895 WI – 1965 WI

Royal B. Pierce

COLOMA — Royal B. Pierce, 70, Coloma, died at his home Monday evening following a year's illness with a heart condition.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday at the Coloma Methodist Church, the Rev. Wendell Bennetts officiating, with burial in Pleasant Hill Cemetery.

Mr. Pierce was born in the town of Colburn, Adams County, on July 6, 1895, the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Pierce. He had farmed in this area and worked on town road maintenance until his retirement.

On Aug. 25, 1926, he married Martha Smith. She survives, as does a daughter, Mrs. Robert Burling, Wisconsin Rapids.

Also surviving are two brothers, Morris Portage, and Ivan, Coloma; a sister, Mrs. Bertha Sigourney, Coloma, and two grandchildren.

Mr. Pierce was a veteran of World War I, and a survivor of the sinking of the Tuscania.

Friends may call at the Hamilton Funeral Home in Hancock after 4 p.m. Wednesday until noon Thursday, and after 12:30 p.m. at the church.

Military rites will be conducted at the graveside by the Hancock-Coloma American Legion post, of which he was a member.

PIERCE ROYAL BYRON		X ^{9/24/65} C 1 177 067	
Corp Co F 2 Sup Tn Q M C		K	
Coloma Wis		A 1 337 182	
Ssn 251 122	Died ⁹⁻²⁰⁻⁶⁵	T 325 443F	
Born 7/6/95		R	
Enl 7/15/17	Dis 8/14/19	Ct. 26 381	
		I	
U. S. VETERANS BUREAU MAIL AND RECORDS FORM 7292—Rev. Sept., 1926		INDEX CARD	2-12849

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/ark:/61903/1:1:7YNR-WQW2>

Royal Pierce of Milwaukee is spending a few days with his family here.

Coloma news: (Royal is living in Milwaukee in the 1930 census) "Wisconsin Rapids (WI) Daily Tribune" Friday 29 Nov 1929 p 10

Mr. and Mrs. Frank McLaughlin, Mr. and Mrs. George Myhill, Mr. and Mrs. Royal Pierce attended the American Legion meeting held at the Clifford Jones home in Hancock Friday evening, where members of the Auxiliary were entertained by the Legion members.

"Wisconsin Rapids (WI) Daily Tribune" Thursday 9 Oct 1930 p 5

Royal Pierce of Milwaukee is visiting his wife and daughter here.

"Wisconsin Rapids (WI) Daily Tribune" Thursday 24 Apr 1930 p 5

Royal Pierce, who has been working in Milwaukee, is at home now.

“Wisconsin Rapids (WI) Daily Tribune” Wednesday 2 Jul 1930 p 11

Mr. and Mrs. Royal Pierce and daughter, Mrs. Bertha Sigourney and children attended the Legion Auxiliary picnic at Pleasant lake Friday.

“Wisconsin Rapids (WI) Daily Tribune” Saturday 9 Jul 1932 p 7

Royal Pierce is now working at Merrimac. Mrs. Pierce and daughter Elaine are living in Hancock where they are teaching and attending school.

Coloma WI news: “Wisconsin Rapids (WI) Daily Tribune” Thursday 25 Jan 1945 p 8

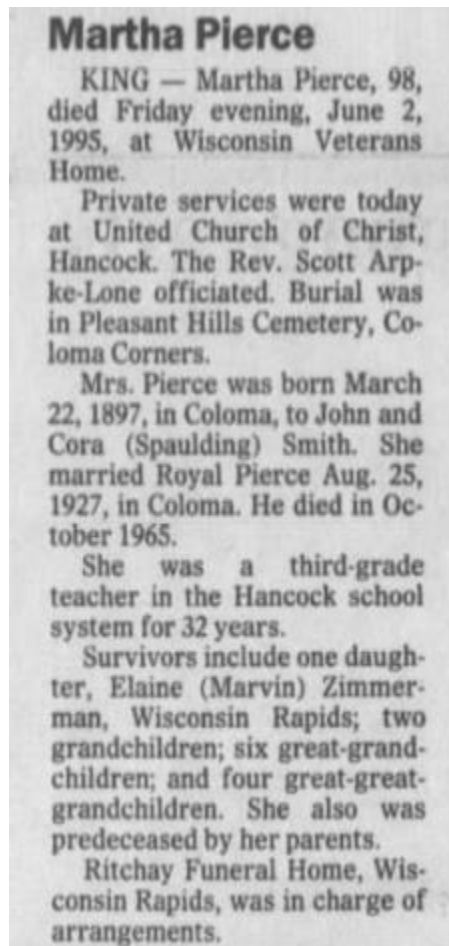
A family gathering was held at the S. R. Pierce home on Sunday. Among those attending were S. R. Pierce, Milwaukee; Mr. and Mrs. Royal Pierce, Coloma Corners; Mr. and Mrs. Bob Burling and baby, Adams; Keith Blackmore, Coloma; Keith Barton, Chicago; Mrs. Bertha Sigourney and family, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Pierce and son Jed, Hancock.

“Wisconsin Rapids (WI) Daily Tribune” Monday 24 Jul 1950 p 8

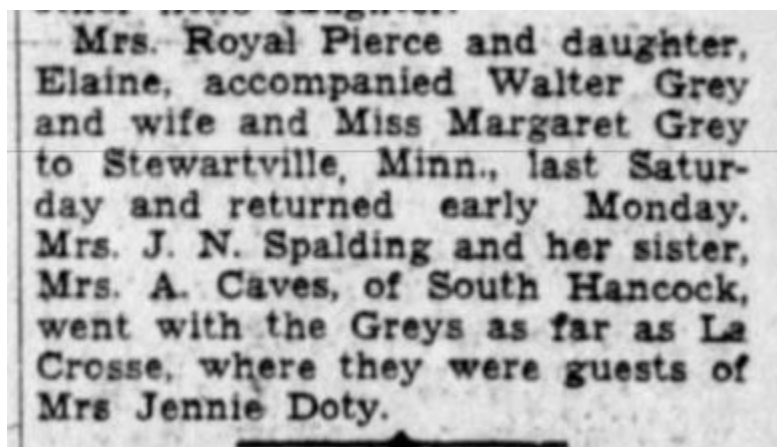
Fifty friends of Mr. and Mrs. Royal Pierce went to their home Sunday to help them celebrate their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. After a picnic dinner the afternoon was spent in visiting. Robert Burling of Milwaukee visited at the Royal Pierce home Sunday. He and his family returned home Monday.

“Wisconsin Rapids (WI) Daily Tribune” Thursday 30 Aug 1951 p 15

Wife:



Obituary of wife Martha Spaulding Smith Pierce – “Wisconsin Rapids (WI) Daily Tribune” Tuesday 6 Jun 1995 p 2



“Stevens Point (WI) Journal” Friday 20 Jul 1934 p 8

Mr. and Mrs. Royal Pierce of Coloma called at the Edward Heames home Friday afternoon. Mrs. Pierce will be remembered as Martha Smith and was a classmate of Mrs. Heames.

Endeavor news: "Portage (WI) Daily Register" Friday 9 Jun 1950 p 3

Daughter:

Mr. and Mrs. Royal Pierce entertained at dinner Sunday in honor of the 13th birthday of their daughter Elaine. Those present were Nelma Wyman and Elizabeth McLaughlin of Coloma, Elaine Thompson and Lillian Douglass.

"Wisconsin Rapids (WI) Daily Tribune" Tuesday 28 Jan 1941 p 8

The Carl Ely family attended a bridal shower at the Royal Pierce home Friday evening for their daughter Elaine who was married Sunday.

"Wisconsin Rapids (WI) Daily Tribune" Thursday 16 Jun 1949 p 15

Coloma Corners
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Burling of Adams visited Sunday at the Royal Pierce home.

"Wisconsin Rapids (WI) Daily Tribune" Thursday 21 Jul 1949 p 14

Robert F. Burling

Robert F. Burling, 41, 2431 42nd St. N., died at 8:50 p.m. Saturday at Riverview Hospital after a three-month illness.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the First Baptist Church, the Rev. George Bishop officiating. Burial will be in Restlawn Memorial Cemetery.

Mr. Burling was born Aug. 21, 1928, in Friendship, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Burling, and married Elaine Pierce on June 5, 1948, in Coloma. He came to this area 12 years ago from Hancock and for the past five years owned and operated the meat department at Johnson Hill's Department Store. Illness had prevented him from working since July 17.

He is survived by his wife; one son, Melvin, and one daughter, Mrs. Peter Droste, both of Wisconsin Rapids; his mother, Mrs. Harry Burling, Bradenton, Fla.; two half-brothers, Lyle Zink, Bradenton, and Melford Zink, Brantwood, Wis., and one grandchild. His father preceded him in death.

Friends may call at the Ritchay Funeral Home from 2 o'clock this afternoon until noon Tuesday and then at the church.

Obituary of son-in-law Robert F. Burling (1928-1968) – "Wisconsin Rapids (WI) Daily Tribune"
Monday 27 Oct 1969 p 2

Siblings:

Bertha Mae Sigourney

HANCOCK — Bertha Mae Sigourney, 90, of Route 2, Coloma, died Friday in Wild Rose Manor.

She was born in the Adams County town of Colburn on Dec. 6, 1893, the daughter of William and Ida Johnson Pierce. She married Frank Sigourney in the town of Colburn in 1914. He died Dec. 7 1931.

Mrs. Sigourney was a member of the Hancock United Church of Christ, the Royal Neighbors, and a former member of the Richfield Homemakers.

Survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Phillip (Ida Mae) Norquist, Stevens Point; three sons, Bryce of Hancock, Garth of Wisconsin Rapids and Frank of Coloma; two brothers, Maurice Pierce, Marshall, Wis., and Ivan Pierce of Hancock; 16 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 2:30 p.m. Monday in the Hancock United Church of Christ, the Rev. Devon Allen officiating. Burial will be in Pleasant Hill Cemetery, town of Coloma. Friends may call at the Hamilton-Ayars Funeral Home of Hancock from 4 to 8 p.m. Sunday, and at the church Monday from noon until the time of services.

Obituary of [sister Bertha Mae Pierce Sigourney \(1893-1984\)](#) – “Oshkosh (WI) Northwestern” Sunday
25 Mar 1984 p 47

Stennet Pierce

HANCOCK — Stennet Pierce, 61, a resident of Hancock, died Thursday morning at University Hospitals, Madison, after an illness of two months.

Funeral services will be held at 4 p.m. Saturday in the Congregational Church, Hancock, the Rev. Arthur Brown, Whitewater, officiating, with burial to follow in the Hancock Cemetery.

Mr. Pierce was a motor repairman for the R. L. Ryerson Co., Milwaukee, for 25 years. He was born in the town of Colburn, Adams, County, July 10, 1900, the son of Mr. and Mrs. William L. Pierce.

He was married to Virgie Bowen in Waukegan, Ill., in 1924.

Surviving in addition to his wife are a son, Stennet Jr., New Richmond, Wis., three brothers, Royal, Colma, Maurice, Portage, and Ivan, Hancock; a sister, Mrs. Frank Sigourney, Hancock, and two grandchildren. One son, Jack, preceded him in death.

Friends may call at the Hamilton Funeral Home in Hancock, this evening and at the church after 2 p.m. Saturday.

Obituary of brother Stennet Rufus Pierce Sr. (1900-1962) – “Wisconsin Rapids (WI) Daily Tribune”
Friday 8 Jun 1962 p 13

Pierce, Maurice W.

MARSHALL — Maurice W. Pierce, age 83, of Marshall, formerly of Hancock, Wisconsin, passed away on Friday, July 14, 1989, at the Columbus Community Hospital. He was born July 7, 1906, in Adams county, the son of William and Caroline (Johnson) Pierce. He was a graduate of the Hancock High School. He was united in marriage with Lucille Poad on November 14, 1929. Mr. Pierce worked for the H. J. Heinz Company for 40 years as a supervisor. He was a former member of the Hancock Fire Department. He was also a former member and former manager of the Hancock baseball team. Mr. Pierce lived for many years in Hancock, and then moved to Portage, where he resided for 20 years. Later he moved to Marshall, and resided there until the time of his death. Survivors include his loving wife, Lucille; a son, Jed (Bonnie) Pierce of Marshall; a brother Ivan Pierce of Hancock; three grandchildren; and two great grandchildren. Memorial services will be held on Monday, July 17, 1989, at 2:00 p.m. in the **HAMILTON - LEIKNESS FUNERAL HOME**, Hancock, with the Reverend Paul Anderson officiating. Interment will be private.

Obituary of **brother Maurice William Pierce (1906-1989)** – “Wisconsin State Journal” (Madison WI)
Sunday 16 Jul 1989 p 22



Brother Ivan Hiram Pierce (1908-1991) – Find A Grave 78853503

Obituaries

Ivan H. Pierce

 HANCOCK — Ivan H. Pierce, 82, a native of Adams County, died Sunday, June 30, 1991, at Wisconsin Veterans Home, King.

Services will be at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday at Leikness Funeral Home. The Rev. James Saunders will officiate. Burial, with military honors, will be in Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Coloma.

Pierce was born Sept. 27, 1908, in the Adams County town of Colburn, to William M.L. and Ida Caroline Pierce.

He served in the U.S. Army from 1942-45 and was employed by H.J. Heinz Co. He was a member of Rogers-Oestrich American Legion Post 343, Hancock/Coloma.

Survivors include one niece, Elaine Zimmerman, Wisconsin Rapids; seven nephews, Garth Sigourney, Wisconsin Rapids; Bryce Sigourney, Hancock; Frank Sigourney, Coloma; Keith Barton, Nekoosa; Stennett Pierce, Menomonie; Jed Pierce, Marshall; and Phil Norquist, Stevens Point; and other relatives.

Obituary of Ivan Hiram Pierce – “Wisconsin Rapids (WI) Daily Tribune” Tuesday 2 Jul 1991 p 2

Name: Royal Byron Pierce

Name variations:

Military:

On Tuscania: 107th Supply Co. C - private

Serial number: 251,122

Entered service from: Coloma, Waushara WI

Sailed on “Tuscania” as: Royal B. Pierce

Next-of-kin on “Tuscania”: father William Pierce, Coloma WI

Returned from war on: "Leviathan" May 1919

Sailed on return ship as: Royal B. Pierce

Next-of-kin on return ship & rank: father William Pierce, Coloma WI (cpl, Co. F, 2nd Supply Train)

World War I draft registration (1917): as Royal Byron Pierce - b. 6 Jul 1895 Colburn WI; res:

Coloma WI. Single. Farmer by himself at Colburn WI. Medium height, slender build.

National Tuscania Survivors Association (1939): 1939 NTSA: Cudahy WI - 1955 WI Survivors: Coloma WI

World War II draft registration (1942): as Royal Byron Pierce - b. 6 Jul 1895 Adams Co. WI; res: RFD 2, Coloma, Waushara WI. NOK Mrs. Martha Pierce, same address. Employed by Township of Coloma, Coloma, Waushara WI. Height: 5'9" – 170 lbs.

Veterans Administration Military Index:

Enlisted: 15 Jul 1917

Discharged: 14 Aug 1919

Address: Coloma WI

Rank/unit: corporal, Co. F, 2nd Supply Train, QMC

Birth & death:

Born: 6 Jul 1895 Colburn, Adams Co. WI

Died: 20 Sep 1965 Coloma, Waushara WI (at his home)

Find A Grave record: 78853506 – presence on Tuscania indicated in text

Burial location: Coloma, Waushara WI

Cemetery: Pleasant Hill

Tombstone: veteran flat: Wisconsin Cpl Co F 2 Supply Tn WWI

Father: William L. Pierce, Oct 1863 Colburn, Adams WI – 28 Apr 1942 Adams Co. WI. Son of Avery L. Pierce & Delilah Sullivan. Buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Coloma, Waushara WI.

Find A Grave: 78853507

Mother: Ida Caroline Johnson Pierce, Mar 1869 Sweden – 17 Feb 1929 Adams Co. WI.

Buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Coloma, Waushara WI.

Find A Grave: 78853502

Parents' marriage: 1891

Spouse: Martha Spaulding Smith Pierce, 22 Mar 1897 Coloma, Waushara WI – 2 Jun 1995 King, Waupaca WI. SSN 398-38-4468. Daughter of John William Smith & Cora Susan Spaulding. Buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Coloma, Waushara WI.

Spouse Find A Grave: 78853505

Marriage: 25 Aug 1926 Waushara Co. WI

Children:

- Virginia Elaine Pierce Burling Zimmerman, Jan 1928 WI - . On 5 Jun 1949 in Coloma, Waushara WI, she married Robert F. Burling, 21 Aug 1928-25 Oct 1968, buried in Restlawn Memorial Park, Wisconsin Rapids, Wood WI, F: 93432176. Robert was the son of Harold J. Zimmerman (F: 108504579) & Ida Mae Tubbs (F: 108504580). She was Mrs. Robert Burling of Wisconsin Rapids WI in Sep 1965 when her father died. - When her mother died in Jun 1995, Elaine was Mrs. Marvin Zimmerman of Wisconsin Rapids WI. Virginia E. Pierce Burling married Marvin E. Zimmerman on 10 Jun 1973 in Wood Co. WI.

Siblings: and additional sibling died between the 1900 & 1910 censuses

- Joseph Pierce, b. & d. 25 Sep 1891 WI. Buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Coloma, Waushara WI. F: 78853504
- Effie L. Pierce, 15 Sep 1892 – 30 Jan 1893. Buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Coloma, Waushara WI. F: 78853501
- Bertha Mae Pierce Sigourney, 6 Dec 1893 WI – 25 Mar 1984 Coloma, Waushara WI. Married in 1914 in Colburn, Adams WI to Frank Alanson Sigourney (1893-1931, F: 78853546). Buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Coloma, Waushara WI. F: 78853541
- Stennet Rufus Pierce (Sr.), 10 Jul 1900 Colburn, Adams WI – 7 Jun 1962 Madison, Dane WI. Married 21 Aug 1924 in Hancock, Waushara WI (or in Waukegan, Lake IL according to his obituary) to Virginia Grace Bowen (1903-1994, F: 137959485). Buried in Hancock Cemetery, Hancock, Waushara WI. F: 137959511
- Maurice William Pierce, 7 Jul 1906 Adams Co. WI – 14 Jul 1989 Marshall, Dane WI. Married 14 Nov 1929 to Martha Lucille Poad, 1909-2001, F: 137959594. Buried in Hancock Cemetery, Hancock, Waushara WI. F: 137959567
- Ivan Hiram Pierce, 27 Sep 1908 WI – 30 Jun 1991 King, Waupaca WI. Served as a private 1st class in the US Army in WWII. Buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Coloma, Waushara WI. F: 78853503
- Adeline C. Pierce, ca. 1911 WI -

Notes:

Pre-war:

Wartime:

Post-war:

Obituary:

"Wisconsin Rapids [WI] Daily Tribune" 21 Sep 1965 p 2 - age 70, resident of Coloma WI, died at his home after a year's illness. Born Colburn Tsp., Adams WI 6 Jul 1895, son of Mr. & Mrs. William Pierce. Farmed & worked on road maintenance until retirement. Married Martha Smith 25 Aug 1926; she & daughter, 2 brothers, sister survive. WWI veteran, Tuscania survivor, member of American Legion.

Social Security number:

Censuses:

1900 Colburn, Adams WI

William L. Pierce, 36 WI, Oct 1863, parents b. NY, married 9 years, farmer

Ida C., 31 Sweden, Mar 1869, parents b. Sweden, emigrated 1888, in US for 12 years, gave birth to 5 children, 2 are living

Bertha M., 6 WI, Dec 1893, at school

Royal B., 4 WI, Jul 1895

& mother Delilah Pierce, 59 NY, Dec 1840, widow, parents b. NY, gave birth to 1 child, 1 is living

1905 Colburn, Adams WI

William L. Pierce, 41 WI, parents b. NY, farmer

Ida C., 36 Sweden, parents b. Sweden, housekeeper

Bertha M., 11 WI, father b. WI, mother b. Sweden

Royal B., 10 WI, father b. WI, mother b. Sweden

Strennett R., 5 WI, father b. WI, mother b. Sweden

Delilah, 64 NY, parents b. NY, widow

1910 Colburn, Adams WI

William L. Pierce, 46 WI, parents b. NY, in 1st marriage, married 19 years, farmer, general farm

Ida, 41 Sweden, parents b. Sweden, in 1st marriage, gave birth to 8 children, 5 are living

Bertha M., 16 WI

Royal V., 14 WI

Stennett, 9 WI

Morris W., 3 WI

Ivan, 1 WI

& mother Delilah Pierce, 69 NY, parents b. NY, widow

1920 Colburn, Adams WI – his parents & sib lings but not him

William L. Pierce, 56 WI, parents b. NY, farming, general farm

Ida C., 50 Sweden, parents b. Sweden, emigrated 1888, naturalized 1890

Stennett R., 19 WI, laborer, home farm

Maurie W., 13 WI

Ivan H., 11 WI

Adeline C., 9 WI

1930 Coloma, Waushara WI – wife & daughter

Cora S. Smith, 74 NH, parents b. NH, widow [head of household]

Martha S. Pierce, 33 WI, father b. WI, mother b. NH, married [daughter]

V. Elaine Pierce, 27 [age is impossible as she is Martha's daughter – should read "2"] WI, parents b. WI [granddaughter]

1930 Cudahy, Milwaukee WI – 630 Layton Ave. – line 42

Royal Pierce, 34 WI, married, father b. WI, mother b. Sweden, age 26 at 1st marriage, tire builder, rubber factory, WWI veteran

Boarding with Herman & Sarah Raasch & their nephew

1940 Coloma, Waushara WI – same house in 1935

Royal B. Pierce, 44 WI, laborer, farm

Martha S., 43 WI

Virginia Elane, 12 Wi

1950 Coloma, Waushara WI

Royal Pierce, 54 WI, running road grader, road patrol

Martha S., 53 WI, intermediate teacher, grade school