

[Pierce, Ray Vaughn]

DR. RAY V. PIERCE DIES SUDDENLY IN FLORIDA HOME

Dr. Ray V. Pierce, president of the World's Dispensary Medical Association, died yesterday at Apachicola, Florida, where he had been since last August, of heart disease.

Dr. Pierce some time ago, as was reported in the NEWS, was stricken with a slight attack of paralysis, but he recovered sufficiently to give considerable encouragement of his ultimate recovery of health. Yesterday morning he was stricken while seated in a chair.

With him at the time of his death was his son, Hugh C. Pierce of Plainfield, N. J. Mr. Pierce immediately wired the news of his father's death to this city.

Dr. Pierce was 74 years old. He is survived by three sons, V. Mott Pierce and Ralph W. Pierce, both of this city, and Hugh C. Pierce of Plainfield.

Dr. Ray Vaughn Pierce, known throughout the United States and also in Europe as an eminent physician, was born at Starke, N.Y., August 6, 1840, and therefore was in his 74th year. He was educated in public schools and then took up the study of medicine, and in 1862 was graduated from the Eclectic Medical college of Cincinnati. Subsequently he practiced medicine in Titusville, Pa., for four years.

Dr. Pierce came to this city in 1867, taking up regular practice of his profession, and soon thereafter he began the manufacture of a prescription which he had used successfully in his private practice. This prescription, with others, soon became widely known, and the manufacture and sale developed ultimately into the great business with which Dr. Pierce's name has been connected for so many years.

Dr. Pierce, for the accommodation of persons who desired to be personally treated and advised by him, built the Palace hotel in 1871, a large and beautiful structure in Prospect avenue opposite Prospect park, which was conducted for several years. This hotel was burned in 1881. Then Dr. Pierce built the invalids' hotel and surgical institute which he since had conducted in Main street.

Dr. Pierce found time to devote his remarkable energy and forcefulness to public affairs. He was elected state senator in 1878 and his services in the state legislature were so highly regarded that in 1879 he was elected to Congress as a Republican. He served one term as representative.

Thereafter Dr. Pierce devoted his attention to his medical business. He was for many years president of the Proprietary association of this state.

According to a statement given out at the offices of the World's Dispensary Medical association, the funeral will be held from Dr. Pierce's late home at 653 Main street next Monday afternoon.

*Evening News, Buffalo NY, Thu. 5 Feb 1914*

[Pierce, Ray Vaughn]

DR. RAY V. PIERCE GIVEN LAST HONOR BY MASONIC LODGE

The funeral of Dr. Ray V. Pierce, who died in Florida last Wednesday, took place yesterday afternoon at his residence, No. 653 Main street, attended by a large number of friends and associates.

George B. Hayes, E. H. Butler, C. E. Clark, Norris Morey, Howard Baker, George Laverack, Edwin Fleming, George Bielstein, Col. D. S. Alexander, Hardin H. Littell, John Bedford, Ottomar Reinecke and Andrew Langdon were honorary bearers. The Rev. John K. Mason of Waltham, Mass., formerly pastor of the Universalist Church of the Messiah, officiated.

The active bearers included Harry Gethoefer, Gideon Martin, George J. Karbach, Charles G. Herger, Frank Baldwin, Charles Rice, William Gethoefer and Charles Johnson.

The body of Dr. Pierce was taken to the Buffalo crematory where services were conducted by Washington Lodge No. 240, F. & A. M., of which Dr. Pierce had long been a member.

Dr. Pierce was born at Stark, Herkimer county, August 6, 1840; he was descended from Abraham Pierce, a member of Plymouth colony in 1623. Levi Pierce, Dr. Pierce's great-grandfather, served in the Revolutionary war and lived in Peru, Berkshire county, Massachusetts. Dr. Pierce received his medical education in Cincinnati and Philadelphia. He then moved to Hydetown, Pa., and later to Titusville, where he practiced for three years, moving to Buffalo in 1866.

Dr. Pierce was elected to the state Senate and served there during the winters of 1877 and 1878. He resigned and was elected on the Republican ticket to Congress. He became very well known in Washington, and was a personal friend of Gen. Grant, Gen. Sherman, President Garfield and many other prominent men of the time.

The Palace hotel, which he had built in Buffalo, was destroyed by fire in 1881. It was after that occurrence that Dr. Pierce built the Invalids' hospital, No. 663 Main street.

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