

FRANCIS L. PIERCE

Project Consultant – Kearny County

Photographs & additional details were provided by Pat Breniman Rowell and the Kearny County Historical Society.

The book titled “History of Kearny County, Kansas” goes into greater-detail about Francis L. Pierce and his wife, Carolina.



FRANCIS L. PIERCE



CAROLINA (GRAY) PIERCE

FRANCIS LIVINGSTON PIERCE, son of Hezekiah Francis Pierce (1819-1908) and Julia Robinson Wilson (1821-1907) was born on 28 Dec 1846 in Woodstock, Windham County, Connecticut. In 1853, Francis moved with his parents to Geneseo, Henry County, Illinois, where he received his early education. Ten years later, they moved to Brooklyn, Poweshiek County, Iowa, where he taught school for a few terms. He completed his education at the Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa.

Francis married **CAROLINA VIRGINIA GRAY**, daughter of Francis Washington Gray (1803-1844) and Sarah Roseberry (1804-1882), on 7 Mar 1877 in Montezuma, Poweshiek County, Iowa. Carolina, the youngest of nine children, was born on 8 Mar 1843 in Graysville, Greene County, Pennsylvania. She was first married to James S. McClellan in 1859, and they soon moved to Washington, Washington County, Iowa. They were divorced just before 1876. Three children were born to their marriage; Flora McClellan (9 Mar 1860-14 Mar 1860), James McClellan (20 Oct 1865-24 May 1876), and Virginia Belle McClellan who passed away when she was 18 years old. Carolina moved to Montezuma, Poweshiek County, Iowa, in 1876, where she met Francis L. Pierce.

After they were married, Francis and Carolina left Iowa and moved to Offerle, Edwards

County, Kansas. Then on 4 May 1879, they, along with his parents, arrived in Lakin, Kearny County, Kansas. People in Lakin remembered their home, located west of town and a short distance north of the tracks.



FRANCIS L. PIERCE
At their home in Lakin, Kearny County, Kansas

They both had an active part in the transactions of the county. Carolina was a member of the Old Settlers organization of Kearney County. Francis spent the majority of his life on their farm, engaged in raising stock and farming. He was an early real estate agent, selling land to the new pioneers arriving in Kearny County. For a few years, he worked for the Santa Fe Railroad. Francis was the first Justice of the Peace, and his duties included marrying the first couple to be married in Kearny County. He was working there as County Clerk at the time of his wife's death.

Francis was a Mason for 75 years. He and Carolina were both active in the Order of Eastern Star.

In 1899 Carolina became afflicted with an abscess. She consulted the best surgeons in Western Kansas but found no relief. Carolina then went to Chicago and went through a severe operation from which she never fully recovered. She died at her home in Lakin on 1 Jan 1908. Francis lived to be 101 years of age. He died on 22 Feb 1947 in Lakin. They were both buried at the Lakin Cemetery.

Francis and Carolina had two children, **FRANCES GRAY PIERCE** died in infancy (*18 Oct 1878–4 Sep 1879*). She was born in Offerle, Edwards County, Kansas, and buried there. They later erected a memorial headstone at the Lakin Cemetery. **FRANCES "VIRGINIA" (PIERCE) HICKS** (*1880-1976*). Virginia married Chauncey Morrison

Hicks on 20 Jun 1901, in Stafford County, Kansas. (See - Virginia P. Hicks, *Project Consultant – Kearny County.*)

Cemetery Headstones

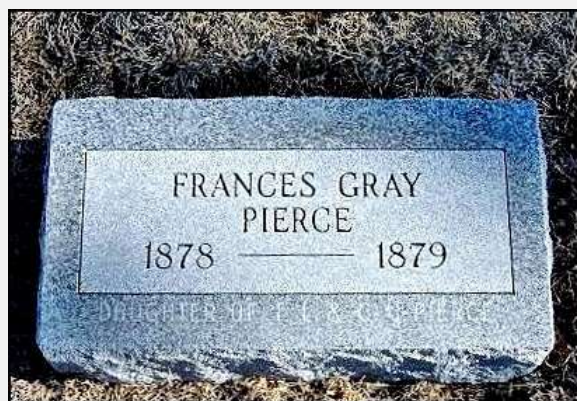
FRANCIS LIVINGSTON PIERCE & CAROLINA VIRGINIA (GRAY) PIERCE
& one of their daughters, Frances Gray Pierce



LAKIN CEMETERY

Lakin, Kearny County, Kansas

Headstone photographs provided by Leon Barton



MEMORIAL HEADSTONE

Actually buried in Offerle, Edwards County, Kansas