

Chapter 03070 1902

Phone Operator

DORA PIERCE

Caldwell, NJ

Edward Pearce branch #3, generation #5.

Dora is the 2nd great granddaughter of Henry Pearce

Dora Pierce is same generation as Charles Small Pierce.












9/27/2024

Branch #3, Generation #5.

Dora's parents were Munson Pierce and Jenny Spear of Caldwell NJ.

Relationship: Henry PEARCE to Dora M. PIERCE

Dora M. PIERCE is the 2nd great granddaughter of Henry PEARCE

 <p>Henry PEARCE b: 25 Jul 1725 Scotland d: 08 Jul 1788 Hillside Cem, Fairfield, NJ</p>	 <p>Elizabeth SPEAR b: Abt. 1737 Possibly England or Belleville, NJ d: 16 Oct 1814 Hillside Cem, Fairfield, NJ</p>
 <p>Edward PEARCE b: 02 Dec 1773 Fairfield, NJ d: 26 Jul 1834 Hillside Cem, Fairfield, NJ</p>	 <p>Hannah STAGG b: 13 Apr 1778 Hanover, NJ d: 26 Aug 1846 Hillside Cemetery, Fairfield, NJ</p>
 <p>Peter PEARCE b: 31 Mar 1819 Fairfield, NJ d: 10 Jun 1879 Pine Brook Cem, Pine Brook, NJ</p>	 <p>Rachel JACOBUS b: 1821 NJ d: 13 Feb 1883 Pine Brook Cem, Pine Brook, NJ</p>
 <p>Munson J. PIERCE b: 16 Jun 1845 Fairfield, NJ d: 31 Mar 1920 Prospect Hill Cem, Caldwell, NJ</p>	 <p>Sarah Jennifer 'Jenny' SPEAR b: 02 Nov 1845 Pinebrook, NJ d: 15 Jan 1929 Prospect Hill Cem, Caldwell, NJ</p>
 <p>Dora M. PIERCE b: 16 Mar 1880 Caldwell, NJ d: 22 Aug 1941 Prospect Hill Cem, Caldwell, NJ</p>	<p>Branch 3, generation 5. [no spouse]</p>

Dora is at Prospect Hill Cem, Caldwell NJ as are her parents.
I don't have a picture of her tombstone.

This is the **Munson Pierce home**, in 2024, at **18 Orchard Square**, Caldwell, NJ. On the right is Personette Street that leads to Bloomfield Ave by the Caldwell Presbyterian church.

They had 2 daughters, Jetta born 1879 and Dora Pierce born 1880.



Dora graduated Caldwell NJ High School in the 1898 class of 4 students.

Dora lived down the street in 1930 at 46 Orchard Square. Munson died 1920 and his wife Jenny in 1929. After the parents died, Dora moved to her childhood 18 Orchard home until she died in **1941**.

Her sister **Jetta Pierce** married 11/25/1914 to David Carr, moving to West Caldwell. Glen spoke a few times in 1982 with their daughter Janet who lived next door at 20 Orchard Square.

After graduation, when the NY and NJ Telephone Company opened its first central office switchboard at Hasler's Caldwell Drugstore with 12 subscribers, **Dora** was the first phone operator. By 1905 there were 81 phones in service and then increased to 538 by 1912.



Not Dora Pierce but a typical switchboard.





This former schoolhouse was remodeled in **1875** for a Caldwell NJ pharmacy. It was sold 1881 to Dr. Edward Everett Peck (1859-1918) and renamed **Hasler's Pharmacy** run by William Hasler and later his brother Herman Hasler.

Local historian Bev Crifasi notes that the 295 Bloomfield Ave pharmacy burned down in 1897. It was rebuilt with bricks.

Peck and Hasler are distant relatives in the Henry Pearce tree. Peck became a Republican Caldwell Mayor 1916-1918.

John Collins ran the pharmacy 1955-1994.

1891: Dr. Edward Peck installed the 1st telephone in the Caldwell NJ area at his Halser's Drug Store, 295 Bloomfield Ave, Caldwell NJ.

Dora M. Pierce (1880-1941) later became the switchboard operator at age 17. The 4/19/1902 Caldwell Progress wrote:

"Miss Dora Pierce is now in charge of the central telephone station at Hasler's Pharmacy."



Dora



Dora also did bookkeeping at her father's Butcher Shop in Roseland. Bookkeeping was her career, working also at the nearby **Thorward & Van Duyne Market** at 336 Bloomfield ave, Caldwell NJ.

“The market opened in 1856 by Frank Dobbins who later sold it to George H Vanderhoof, who next sold it to George Lewis Thorward and his partner Mr. Van Duyne.” (Kathleen Moore.2010, Thorwald relative)



336 Bloomfield Ave, Caldwell, NJ

In 2024, this building is next to the Caldwell diner.

1914 Caldwell NJ directory. Shows Dora, sister Jetta and father Munson, business and home info.

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710 CALDWELL (1914) DIRECTORY

Pierce

Pierce Albert W mason h Plymouth c Little Falls rd

—Dora M bkkpr Thorward & Van Duyne bds 18 Orchard

—Jetta R clk 370 Bloomfield av bds 18 Orchard

—Munson J h 18 Orchard

—Sylvanus farm hand bds Clinton av n Plymouth

Pine Brook Hotel Henry Gottschalk prop Bloomfield av n

Pine Brook bridge



back of photo reads from right to left. Aunt Hetty Millar, Abram Slingerland, Dora Pierce, Edna Slingerland

[mclaren2_1](#) originally shared this on 12 Nov 2016

Dora is 2nd from left.

Dora Pierce in the print dress. It's nice to be eternally remembered.



MARKET DAY - Photographed in July 1919, Thorward & Van Dyan's market on Bloomfield Ave. in Caldwell evokes an atmosphere of nostalgia with its sawdust-covered floor and bushels of ripe peaches standing to the right. From left are James Welton, Lou Thorward, John Johnson of Essex Fells, bookkeeper Dora Pierce and one Miss Dane. The picture, loaned by Mrs. D. H. Rowsome of Essex Fells, is No. 564 in a series of West Essex in the past. The Progress welcomes material for this feature and will make every effort to return items unharmed.



Thorward's Diner on Bloomfield Ave, later it became Snow's Diner.

Next door to the market.





Sold and renamed Germania Market.

2024 You can rent one of the apartments for **\$2,600** per month. Glen.



ca 2017 Fairchilds Market, 171 Eagle Rock Ave, Roseland NJ

The old name was Williams Market.