

BENJAMIN CLIFFORD PIERCE

By his Brother, J. W. Pierce, O.L.S.

Benjamin Clifford Pierce, third son of Reverend Barry Pierce and Katherine Helena Farnsworth, was born in the Parsonage at Cape Ozo, Gaspé, Quebec, on November 5, 1890.

After matriculation from Kingston Collegiate Institute, he took a course in Civil Engineering at Queen's University, graduating with the degree of Bachelor of Science in 1912.



During the summer seasons of his University course, Mr. Pierce was variously engaged with C. H. Fullerton, O.L.S., of New Liskeard, Ontario, on township outline and other surveys, with R. H. Montgomery, D.T.S., of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, on township subdivision in that Province and with his brother, J. W. Pierce, O.L.S., of Pembroke, Ont.

Immediately after graduation, he apprenticed with his brother, and acted as assistant on township subdivision north of Battleford, Saskatchewan. On the completion of this work in the spring of 1913, he was placed in charge of one of the survey parties of the Dominion Forestry Branch in the Brazeau District in Alberta. He obtained the Commissions of Dominion and Ontario Land Surveyor in 1914, and was appointed by the Surveyor-General of Dominion Lands as assistant to A. M. Narraway, D.L.S., on the retracement of the Principal Meridian in Manitoba. On his return to Kingston, Mr. Pierce engaged in private survey work in that vicinity until the following year when he again accompanied Mr. Narraway to Swift Current, Alberta, on township retracement surveys.

COMMITTEE ON BIOGRAPHY

Following another brother, Captain G. B. Pierce who was now in France with the 50th Battalion, he enlisted in October, 1915, and after qualifying at the Infantry Training School in Kingston, was granted a commission of Lieutenant in the 59th Battalion. On the breaking up of that Battalion at Shorncliffe, he was transferred to the 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles and was sent to France in June 1916. On April 10, 1917, Lieut. Pierce made the supreme sacrifice at Vimy Ridge and he was later buried in the Canadian Cemetery at St. Ecoive, France.

Following Lieut. Pierce's death, his parents in Kingston were the recipients of a large mounted photograph of one of the mountain peaks on the Alberta-British Columbia Boundary, the survey of which was then in progress. This peak had thoughtfully been named "Mount Pierce" by the Surveyor-General of Dominion Lands, while accompanying the photograph was an extract from the Canadian Gazette and a map showing details of the elevation and position of Mount Pierce and the origin of the name.