

Obituary of James Saurin Pierson (From an unknown Trempealeau Newspaper)

## **James S. Pierson Dies In Hospital**

### **Funeral Services to be Held Thursday Afternoon from Trempealeau Church**

Trempealeau, July 10. --James S. Pierson, for many years a resident of Trempealeau, died at a hospital in Watertown, S.D., Tuesday afternoon, July 9. Several weeks ago Mr. Pierson fell and broke a hip. The infirmities of age counted against him, although the break was mending.

The body will be received here Thursday noon. Funeral services will be held from the Congregational church at 2 o'clock in the afternoon of that day. Burial will be made in Trempealeau cemetery. The Masonic fraternity has charge of the funeral arrangements.

Trempealeau grieved when the announcement of Mr. Pierson's death came; yet all felt that his passing brought relief from suffering. Once one of the most robust of men, he broke down in later years. Added to his weakened condition came total blindness.

For many years "Jim" Pierson, as he was familiarly known, was a foremost citizen of Trempealeau. The Pierson drugstore was a landmark. The Pierson family seemingly was a fixture. No others were better known. Both Mr. and Mrs. Pierson had a sad ending. Only a few years ago she fell and broke a hip. She lingered but a short time. This was to be Mr. Pierson's fate.

Kingston, Canada was the birthplace of James Saurin Pierson. The date was July 25, 1852. His father, Jacob Pierson, was a native of Ireland. His mother, of Irish parentage, was born in France. The Pierson family came to Trempealeau in 1861, and a short time later settled on a farm in Caledonia, near McGilvray's Ferry. Then years later the elder Piersons located in Trempealeau. The son James passed his boyhood on the farm and in town, and when but a youth was logging on Black river in Onalaska or scaling logs in the north woods. In 1872-73 he was a rural school teacher in this county. On July 12, 1874, he married Clara I. Carleton and engaged in farming. In 1877 he was a resident of Trempealeau and working as a carpenter. Meanwhile, his father had bought a drug business. This the son bought in 1882. The store was on Front street and in the path of the fire which wiped out the business section of the town in 1887. He re-established the business in the Elkins building, where he continued it until failing health necessitated his retirement four years ago. For a year he and Mrs. Pierson enjoyed life in the fullest, traveling a bit and making the most of their home. The she was taken. Life held nothing more for him. The old home was broken up and Mr. Pierson took up his residence with his son in Watertown, S.D. His eyesight continued to fail, until he was totally blind. A slight fall, a broken hip--and then came the end.

In 1924 all Trempealeau celebrated the Golden Wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Pierson. It was a community affair. The community had it in charge. It occupied a day and a night, with a great dinner in the park and a program in the Masonic hall in the evening. Hundreds attended.

Trempealeau mourns the passing of "Jim" Pierson. Long he will be recalled as a man among men. Jovial, wholehearted, kindly and charitable, he was an outstanding man in the community for more than half a century. That he held the confidence of his fellow men is instance in the fact that for more than thirty years he served as village treasurer.

Two children, a daughter and a son, were born to Mr. and Mrs. Pierson. Charles R., the son, of Watertown, S.D., survives. A brother, Fred, resides in Seattle.

He will be buried by Trempealeau lodge F. & A. M., of which he had been a member since the days of his youth. It is probable that W. E. Sparling, old associate, will come from La Crosse to preside at the last service of his lifelong friend.