

# *S.K. Pierce Victorian*

*research by Catrina Gagnon of Paranormal Reactions*

4 West Broadway Gardner, MA

House 6,661 Square feet with 26 rooms



## *Deed Owners -*

*Purchased* 12-01-2008 by Edwin Gonzalez & Lillian Otero

*Purchased* 06-26-2000 by Suzzane Casanova

*Purchased* 01-04-1966 by Jay, Eleanor, and Jane Stemmerman **From** Edward W Pierce

*Built* 1875 by Sylvester K. Pierce

## S. K. Pierce & Son

Sylvester K. Pierce was a chair manufacturer and had the Victorian built close to his acquired manufacturing company -



The company began in 1830 by Stephen Taylor as a chair shop. In 1845 Mr. Taylor sold the shop to Jonas Pierce II and his brother Sylvester K. Pierce. Sylvester became sole owner soon after the shop was acquired and grew the company into a very profitable enterprise. When Mr. Pierce died, his son Frank Pierce took control.

Location: South Gardner

Products: Chairs for chamber suites, dining chairs, rockers with cane or cobbler seats, and screw and spring office chairs.

Date closed: 1937. (You can still find these chairs today)

## S.K. Pierce

Sylvester K. Pierce was born in Westminster on April 11, 1820 the 7<sup>th</sup> child of Achsah and Jonas Pierce. Jonas past away at the early age of 46, Sylvester was only 3 years old. At 15 Sylvester began working in a chair factory and found his niche. At age 21 he started working for Stephen Taylor, Sylvester worked for Taylor for 5 years before buying him out. Mr. Pierce married his first wife Susan E Jackson June 11, 1845 and had son Frank J Pierce in 1857. Susan passed away Jan 6<sup>th</sup>, 1876, the construction on the historic Victorian finished later that same year. Sylvester went on to marry his second wife Ellen L. West Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1878 and had 2 more sons, Stuart K. Pierce in 1879 and Edward W. Pierce in 1883. S.K. Pierce died in 1888 at 68 years of age.

## **United States Federal Census 1880 - 4 West Broadway Gardner**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Age</u></b>	<b><u>Relationship</u></b>
Sylvester K Pierce	60	Head
Ellen L Pierce	29	Wife
Frank J Pierce	23	Son
Stuart K Pierce	1	Son
Susan S Lloyd	19	Servant (from Massachusetts)
Mattie Conwell	21	Servant (from Nova Scotia)

## **United States Federal Census 1900 - 4 West Broadway Gardner**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Age</u></b>	<b><u>Relationship</u></b>
Ellen L Pierce	50	Head
Stuart K Pierce	21	Son
Edward W Pierce	17	Son

## **United States Federal Census 1900 - 16 West Broadway Gardner**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Age</u></b>	<b><u>Relationship</u></b>
Frank L Pierce	43	Head
Cora I Pierce	34	Wife
Idell S Pierce	15	Daughter
Marrion K Pierce	13	Daughter
Fannie Pierce	11	Daughter
Irma J Pierce	9	Daughter
Fannie J Knapp	61	Mother in Law
Mary Geanan	30	Servant
Mary A Ruth	21	Servant

## **United States Federal Census 1940 - 4 West Broadway Gardner**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Age</u></b>	<b><u>Relationship</u></b>
Edward W Pierce	58	Head
Bessie L Pierce	58	Wife
Beatrix Robichaud	46	Guest
Kenneth Gigger	32	Guest

\*Franks four daughters grew up and married

\*Stuart and his wife Virginia had no children that I could find record of.

\*Edward and Bessie had 1 daughter, Annette H Pierce, she turned 18 in 1930. Edward did continue to take in boarders even after Bessie passed.

Worcester (County)  
Gardner (City or Town)

State of Massachusetts  
KEVIN H. WHITE  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH  
DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS  
MEDICAL EXAMINER'S  
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

To be filed for burial permit with Board of Health or its Agent.  
Registered No. 126

at Henry Heywood Memorial Hospital (If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give the NAME, address of street and number.)  
FULL NAME Eino Saari (Last Name)  
Physician - IMPORTANT (Was attended a U.S. War Veteran? If so specify WAR) 302  
4 West Broadway (Last place of abode)  
Gardner, Mass. (If attendance, give city or town and county)

Length of stay: In place of death years months days In place of residence years months days

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH			PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS			
1 DATE OF DEATH 4 9 63 (Month) (Day) (Year)	2 SEX Male	3 RACE White	4 CITIZEN OF U.S. YES X NO	5 SINGLE MARRIED WIDOWED DIVORCED UNKNOWN	6 HUSBAND of _____ (Give maiden name of wife in full)	7 WIFE of _____ (Husband's name in full)
8 I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have investigated the death of the person above named and that the CAUSE AND MANNER were as follows: (If an injury was involved, state fully.) Smoke Inhalation 3" Burns of Shoulder	9 IF ACCIDENTAL, was injury directly related to the death? Yes Where did it occur? Gardner, Mass. This injury being in or about home, on farm, or industrial plant, or public place? Hotel Room Nature of injury: Mattress caught fire from cigarette Cause of injury: 3" Cigarette, Smoke Inhalation Manner of death: NO Was any other cause? NO Was disease or injury to any organ related to death? NO	10 IF STRUCK, stricken, or if caused by _____ (Give maiden name of wife in full)	11 DATE OF BIRTH 6 May 1914	12 AGE 48 years 11 months 4 days	13 Under 20 years _____ 20-24 _____ 25-29 _____ 30-34 _____ 35-39 _____ 40-44 _____ 45-49 _____ 50-54 _____ 55-59 _____ 60-64 _____ 65-69 _____ 70-74 _____ 75-79 _____ 80-84 _____ 85-89 _____ 90-94 _____ 95-99 _____	14 OCCUPATION Mechanic 15 STATUS Retired 16 Address, No. 019-03-9574 17 BIRTHPLACE (City) Gardner (State or country) Mass.
18 Name of Physician _____ M. D. 19 Signature of Physician _____ 20 Date of Death 11 April 63 21 Signature of Medical Director Philip A. Bjurling Gardner, Mass. 22 Date APR 11 1963	23 NAME OF FATHER Matt Saari	24 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (City) Finland (State or country)	25 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER Anna Salo	26 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (City) Finland (State or country)	27 Informant Taito Saari (brother) (Address) Gardner, Mass. 28 I HEREBY CERTIFY that a satisfactory medical certificate of death was furnished to the family of the deceased and that the same was issued. L. W. Drake, M.D. (Signature) 29 Date of Report of Death to Office April 12, 1963 (Date of Issue of Permit)	

**Eino W. Saari** (pronounced: I-no Sarry): was born May 6<sup>th</sup> 1914 to Matti & Anna Saari both from Finland. He had 2 brothers, Sulu and Taito, and 3 sisters, Impi, Lempi, and Lillian, all but Sulu were born here in the USA. Eino joined the military in 1942 at age 28 and was honorably discharged in 1943. He died April 9<sup>th</sup> 1963 at the age of 48 from smoke inhalation when his mattress caught fire at 4 West Broadway where he was renting a room.

\*The fire did not occur in the now master bedroom but a smaller room off of it.

## Stemmermans

All below information is directly from Jane P Stemmerman, now age 72.

Jay Stemmerman, Janes father, was a musician that imported musical instruments, he was a very generous man often allowing people to order instruments from him with nothing more than a signature, he assisted several businesses get their start this way. He was an amateur artist and liked to paint pictures for his daughter Jane, he was a little eccentric but what artist isn't. Jay Stemmerman died in 2001 in Florida.

Eleanor Stemmerman, Janes mother, was also a very generous soul, she would make meals for her family of 3 in portions sized for 6 or 7 people just incase someone stopped by during dinner or someone was nearby and needed something to eat. Eleanor passed away in 1996 in Florida.

The family was well off and liked to travel, they had homes in New York and Florida, but their main residence was in New York. Mary Darmond, Janes aunt, was a live in housekeeper for Edward Pierce. The Stemmerman family would take trips to Massachusetts to visit Mary and were always welcomed into the home by Mr. Pierce. They had on occasion celebrated Christmas and other holidays at the Victorian. When Jane became a mother she would take her daughter to Massachusetts for vacations, the neighborhood kids would come by and they would all play, running through the house. In 1966 when Mr. Pierce fell on hard times and was at risk of losing the home, Eleanor, Jay, and their daughter Jane purchased the property. The Stemmermans purchased the property with the understanding that Edward could live there for as long as he wanted. They wanted to ensure that Mary could remain in the house she had grown so fond of and that Edward an 83 year old, wonderful, caring, soft spoken man, and long time family friend could remain in the only home he had ever known. "This was the way it was back then, when someone was in need others helped". Edward Pierce did in fact live at 4 West Broadway until he took his last breath. Mary Darmond continued to live in the home until she was diagnosed with stomach cancer, her family moved her to Florida and the house became empty. The home remained empty for approx. 12 years, during which time neighborhood kids broke in and vandalized the home, the homeless used it to sleep, and some of the antiques were stolen. Jane felt she had to sell the property because she was worried it would be completely destroyed by vandalism or worse by fire. Jane had the remaining items in the house from the Pierce family as well as her own family auctioned off. She made sure to sell the house to a buyer that assured her the home would not be gutted and sold in parts, that the building would be respected.

\*All the times Jane visited the property nothing strange or unusual happened, she believes the ghost stories were all made up by the Writer she sold the house to. She is completely disgusted by all the misinformation roaming the internet.

# Reported Happenings

Master bedroom, knocks on door when owners are in bed and no one else is in the house

Master bedroom, knocks on headboard while owners are both lying in bed

Master bedroom, door slams shut

Master bedroom, a smell like campfire

Master Bedroom, closet door opened half way then shut

Footsteps especially on second floor landing and up and down the staircase

Piano played 3 notes by itself

Shadows in the hallways

Images of children appear in photos

Beds shake uncontrollably

Very angry male apparition

Servant Girl apparition

Little boy apparition (seen by neighbors several times)

Heavy plant holders moved by themselves

Orbs coming down the staircase with its own light source

Moaning in the red room

Woman's disembodied voice

3<sup>rd</sup> floor, children running around in the billiards room

3<sup>rd</sup> floor, smell of roses and a feeling like your cheek is being touched

Basement, tools just hung up and organized found all over floor a short time later

Possible possession (when Lillian dug up bone in basement) later determined the bone of an animal.

Basement, child laughing