

John A. Peirce, Lieutenant, Co. G, 21st IL Infantry, U.S.

1843 March 12: John Adrian Pierce, was born in Clay County IL to Mr. and Mrs. John Peirce. *"His early life was spent on the farm."*¹

1850 September 5: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Clay County, IL showed seven-year-old "Adrian" living with his parents and siblings.

1860 June 12: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Xenia, Clay County, IL showed seventeen-year-old John living with his parents and siblings. His father was a farmer.

1861 June 10: Peirce mustered into the U.S. Army and mustered into Co. G, 21st IL Infantry.

*"...as soon as the civil war broke out he entered the service, first of the State, in May, 1861, but June 13, 1861, was mustered into the United States service, Company G, Twenty-first Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Col. U.S. Grant. This was the first regiment to march from the State, and October 21, 1861, they were in their first engagement at Frederickstown, MO. When Mr. Peirce first applied to be admitted into the State service, the enrolling officer refused him because he was so short; but he made known his grievance to Col. S.S. Good, and the Colonel told him that he would soon grow up, and for him to take his place in the rear rank, and when his name was called in the muster-roll to answer up. This advice he followed, and so got into the service. In October, 1861, Mr Peirce was taken into the Adjutants office, as Orderly at head-quarters. He served in this capacity till March 12, 1865, when he was promoted to the office of Sergeant Mayor, and September 6, 1865 was mustered in by special order as Extra Lieutenant and Adjutant, which office he continued to hold till close of service. December 16, 1865, they were discharged at San Antonio, Tex. He had all the experiences of the soldier in his marches and counter-marches, in tent life on the field of battle. They were in the siege of Corinth, at Perrysville, Ky., Stone River, on the Chickamauga campaign, etc.: and when the first three years of enlistment were out, he re-enlisted at Ooltewar, Tenn., for another three years, and then took a veteran's furlough for thirty days, after which he returned to the regiment at Big Shanty, and was on the Atlanta campaign, and in the fights at Franklin and Nashville, Tenn."*²

1864 February 27: Peirce reenlisted in the U.S. Army in Ooltowah, TN and mustered into his same regiment. He was a farmer, 5'6 tall, dark hair, black eyes and dark

¹ History of Wayne And Clay Counties, Illinois. Chicago: Globe Pub. Co., 1884. Pg 166

² History of Wayne And Clay Counties, Illinois. Chicago: Globe Pub. Co., 1884. Pg 166

complexion.

November 30: Peirce fought with his regiment at the Battle of Franklin in Kimball's Division, Kirby's brigade.

1865

"After returning from the service, his occupation has been various, being engineer at the woolen mills for sometime, then painting, and afterward into the tin business."

1868 January 12: He married Fidella Westmoreland in Xenia, IL.

1870 July 27: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Xenia, Clay County, IL showed John, a tinner, and his young wife Fidella living in their own home.

A handwritten census record from the 1870 U.S. Federal Census. The record is on a grid and contains the following information:

Peirce John	Female	650	Head	12	Tin	91	Male	310		
					Wife	11	Female	130		
					Wife			75		
									910	
								445		

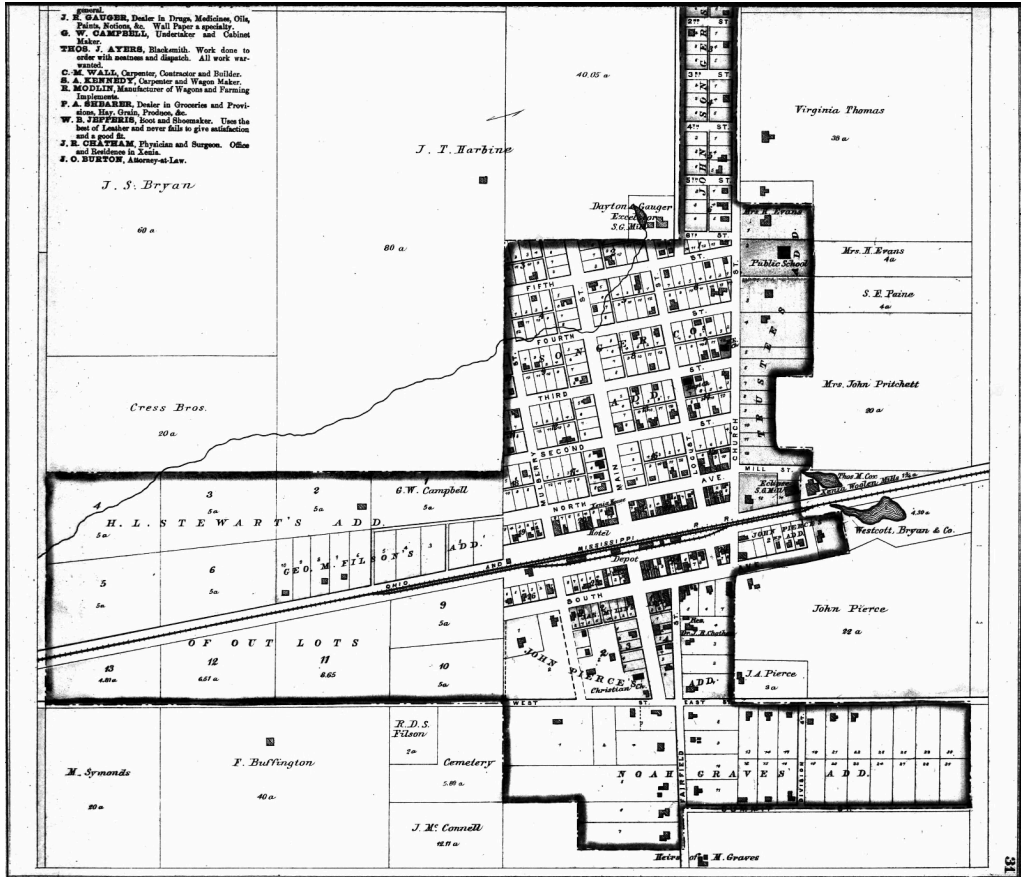
The number 3 is written at the bottom right of the table.

1878 *"he [Peirce] started into his present business of machinist, and is now prepared to do all kinds of work in repairing of all kinds of machinery.."*

1880 June 15: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Xenia, Clay County, IL showed John, a tinsmith, and Fidella living with their three young daughters.

1881 Local map of Xenia with John's property listed.

³ 1870 Industry Schedule, U.S. Census, Xenia, Clay County, IL (accessed ancestry.com)



- 1884 “He is a member of the Zenia Lodge, I.O.O.F. He and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In politics, [Mr. Peirce] is a Republican.”⁵
- 1900 June 4: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Xenia, Clay County, IL showed J.A., a machine shop operator, and Fidella living with two of their daughters.
- 1905 April 5: Peirce applied for and was granted a pension for his military service during the Civil War.
- 1910 April 19: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Xenia, Clay County, IL showed John, a shop owner, and Fidella living with their youngest daughter Nella.
- 1920 January 26: The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Xenia, Clay County, IL showed John, a machinist, and Fidella living with their adult daughter Nella.
- 1926 February 8: John A. Peirce died and was buried at Odd Fellows Cemetery, in Clay

⁴ U.S. Indexed County Land Ownership Maps, 1860-1918 (accessed ancestry.com)

⁵ *History of Wayne And Clay Counties, Illinois*. Chicago: Globe Pub. Co., 1884. Pg 166

County, IL.

Civil War Veteran Dies at 82.
XENIA, ILL., February 9.—John Adrian Peirce, 82, civil war veteran and the oldest citizen of Xenia, died yesterday.

6



7

⁶ St. Louis Globe-Democrat, St. Louis, MO, Wed, 10 Feb 1926, pg. 13 (accessed newspapers.com)

⁷ grave.com