

Some Highlights of the Life of **Stephen Pierce** (1804-1883) (www.APLib.org)
 See "Stephen Pierce...Hesitant, Helpful," *Lest We Forget*, Vol. 2, No. 2, pp. 4, 5

<i>Date</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Event</i>
1804	0	Born in Cavendish, Vermont
[Married Almira Tarbell. Member with her of the Baptist Church.]		
1848-1850	44-46	Took part in the Sabbath Conferences

(EGW comments during the Kellogg Crisis looking back to these years:)

Many of our people do not realize how firmly the foundation of our faith has been laid. My husband, Elder Joseph Bates, **Father Pierce**, Elder Edson, and others who were keen, noble, and true, were among those who, after the passing of the time in 1844, searched for the truth as for hidden treasure. [At our important meetings, these men would meet together and search for the truth as for hidden treasure.] I met with them, and we studied and prayed earnestly. Often we remained together until late at night, and sometimes through the entire night, praying for light and studying the word. Again and again these brethren came together to study the Bible, in order that they might know its meaning, and be prepared to teach it with power. [As we fasted and prayed, great power came upon us. But I could not understand the reasoning of the brethren. My mind was locked, as it were, and I could not comprehend what we were studying.] When they came to the point in their study where they said, "We can do nothing more," the Spirit of the Lord would come upon me, I would be taken off in vision, and a clear explanation of the passages we had been studying would be given me, with instruction as to how we were to labor and teach effectively. Thus light was given that helped us to understand the scriptures in regard to Christ, His mission, and His priesthood. A line of truth extending from that time to the time when we shall enter the city of God, was made plain to me, and I gave to others the instruction that the Lord had given me. {SpTB02 56.4} [They knew that when not in vision I could not understand these matters, and they accepted as light direct from heaven the revelations given me. The leading points of our faith as we hold them today were firmly established. Point after point was clearly defined, and all the brethren came into harmony.] SpTB02 (1904) [brackets inserts from {3MR 412.4} Ms 135, 1903, "Establishing the Foundation of Our Faith."]

1851	47	Ellen White's first letter to him (Letter 2, 1851; 18MR 248-253)
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Oh, I saw that this was not all of the requirements of Jesus, and those who pray for the sick are not all who have faith in Jesus. The faith of Jesus takes in the whole life and divine character of Christ. I saw that you are too exclusive; also Brother Pierce. You are leaning too much on Sister Phillips. Sister P has too much confidence in herself, and you have too much confidence in her judgment, in her feelings. God is willing to teach Brother Pierce his duty that he may know it for himself. You all go too much by feeling. {18MR 251.1}

I saw Brother Pierce would often try to talk the truth; if he did not have that liberty and success, that freedom he anticipated, he settled down, [thinking] that God did not call him to that work. Now, if it had not been for this, Brother Pierce might have been more useful than he has been. All, every one of God's called and chosen servants, have had just such times, and if they had followed their feelings, would have given up, [thinking] that that was not the work God had given them to do. But the servants of God will always have obstacles to surmount. But do not yield up readily; keep trying, and plow your way through the darkness. Look away to Jesus; depend on Him entirely. {18MR 251.2}

Brother Pierce, you have been silent too much; too much shut up with yourself. In the paper you could speak to hundreds, but you have a few of you contented yourselves together. ... {18MR 252.3}

1852	48	He and wife took their stand on present truth. Almira, who for years has occasional seasons of hopeless despair, had a climax of darkness settle on her (May) after embracing the Sabbath. Ellen White became acquainted with her at Wolcott, Vermont (September). The Pierces were present in Panton, Vermont (October), when Ellen White had a vision, with a message for Mrs. Pierce.
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It was at this meeting the Lord gave Sr. White a vision, a part of which so clearly showed up her case, and so perfectly instructed her what to do, from that time forward the scene with her was in a great measure the most happily changed. {2SG 170.1}

Previously those seasons of despair had worn off more gradually; but in this case it seemed that the word was spoken, and the work was done. For even on our return from the meeting, instead of gloom and horror being depicted on her countenance it was lighted up with cheering hope. {2SG 170.2}

1853/1/20	49	Letter of January 3 published in <i>Review and Herald</i>
1854/4/11	50	Second letter from Ellen White to him, and his wife (Letter 2, 1854; unpublished)
1855/12/4	51	First listed as corresponding editor of the <i>Review and Herald</i> ; until May 28, 1861
1857/10/8	53	Response to Merriam's question regarding the law in Galatians 3 published in the <i>Review and Herald</i> (30 years before the question resurfaced before Minneapolis)
1857/12/3	53	Third and last letter recorded from Ellen White to him (Letter 4, 1857; excerpted in 1Bio 404)

You inquire what the faith of Jesus is. I have seen that the brethren and sisters have not understood the faith of Jesus in its true light. They have taught that it is healing the sick, et cetera. It is not healing the sick, merely, but it is all the teachings of Jesus in the New Testament. "The commandments of God, and the faith of of Jesus." I saw that it was the whole New Testament which relates to Jesus. . . . {1BIO 404.1}

You inquire if we should pray for none that are sick except those in the third angel's message, or pray for all that shall make application, et cetera. James 5 is our rule to follow. "Is any sick among you? let him call," et cetera. It is those that are among us. God had shown me those who keep God's commandments are to have nothing to do [in anointing and special prayer] for the sick of those who are daily trampling them underfoot, unless it is in some special case where souls are convicted of the truth and are decided to move out upon it. The partition wall between commandment keepers and those who trample them underfoot should be kept. {1BIO 404.2}

Your next question: The elders referred to in James are not merely those who have been ordained, but aged persons, those also who have experience and judgment in the things of God—those whose lives are circumspect.—Letter 4, 1857. {1BIO 404.3}

1859/9/24	55	Ellen White wrote of him: "The Lord has blessed him and given him freedom of speech; he should not be handing out his means to help others, but should seek to save his wife care and labor. He should study her convenience and comfort, but should not hand out his means at present. His time is money. His labor is needed in the field, and he must take a different course from what he has." {21MR 15.1}
1863-1865	59-61	President of the Vermont Conference
1864	60	Ellen White wrote of his "moral worth," "depth of experience," "industrious and consistent" life which made him a "daily, living" preacher; his labors "have removed a great amount of prejudice and have gathered and built up" (1T449.1)
1865	61	Moved to Minnesota in the late summer
1865-1870	61-66	President of the Minnesota Conference
1868/10/13	64	Wrote long article "Wisdom," <i>Review and Herald</i> , pp. 201-203
1871	67	Ellen White wrote of both of them: his "labors have been a special blessing to that state [Minnesota]. He is a man of tender conscience. The fear of God is before him. Infirmities have weighed heavily upon him, and this has led him to question whether he was in the way of his duty and to fear that God was not favoring his efforts. God loves Brother Pierce. He has but little self-esteem, and he fears and doubts and dreads labor; for the thought is constantly upon his mind that he is not worthy or capable to help others. If he would overcome timidity and possess more confidence that God would be with him and strengthen him he would be much more happy and a greater blessing to others. In the life of Brother Pierce there has been a failure to read character. He believed others to be as honest as himself, and in some cases he has been deceived. He has not the discernment that some have.... In his age and feebleness Brother Pierce may be imposed upon, yet all should esteem him highly for his work's sake. He commands the love and tenderest sympathy of his brethren, for he is a conscientious, God-fearing man. {2T 629.3}
1871/9/26	67	Wrote "Worldly and Heavenly Interests Contrasted," <i>Review and Herald</i> , p. 117
1875/9/26	71	Almira died age 68 of "congestive chill fever" in Iowa where they had moved
1880/5/6&13	76	Wrote article "God is Love," <i>Review and Herald</i> , pp. 293, 309
1883	79	Died in Madison, South Dakota of "typho-malarial fever"