

**Ruby Thelma (Loftis) Pierce Obt.**

b. 31 May 1921, Jackson Co., TN – d. 10 April 2015, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, md on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 1944, Putnam Co., TN to **Howard Nelson Pierce**, b. 14 March 1920 – d. 13 January 1961. Ruby Thelma (Loftis) Pierce, d/o **Lee Martin Loftis** (1888-1960) & **Laura Langford** (1890-1990).

(**Source:** Tennessee State Marriage record, Putnam Co., TN, pg. 292 – Howard N. Pierce married 22 July 1944, Putnam Co., TN, age 24, address: Jones St., Dayton, OH to Ruby T. Loftis, age 23, address: 217 S. Montgomery St., Dayton, OH. Name of parent, guardian or next of kin of female: Martin Loftis, Rt. 1, Cookeville, TN).

**COOKEVILLE** — Funeral services for Thelma Loftis Pierce, age 93, of Cookeville, will be held 1:00 pm, Tuesday, April 14, 2015 in the chapel of Presley Funeral Home with Bro. Jim E. Phillips, Bro. Clayton Lee, Jr., and Roy Allen officiating. Interment will follow in Smith Chapel Cemetery in Putnam County.



The family will receive friends, Monday, April 13 between the hours of 5-8:00 pm, and on Tuesday, April 14, from 12 noon until the time of service.

Mrs. Pierce passed away Friday, April 10, 2015 at Upper Cumberland Hospice Center.

Mrs. Pierce was born May 31, 1921 in Jackson County, Tennessee to the late Lee Martin Loftis and Lora Langford Loftis.

Mrs. Pierce was a teacher and principal for 4 years at Dodson Branch School, where she was known as a caring educator and the organizer of the largest school fundraiser event for Jackson County with Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs during the 1960's.

She was a nurse at Cookeville General Hospital for 22 years, (1966-1988), and really loved people and praying they would get well.

She was a member of Dodson Branch Southern Baptist Church, and continually served in church, in some capacity, since she became a Christian at the age of seventeen.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Howard N. Pierce, a WWII Veteran; a grandson, Larry Payne; her brothers, Walter Loftis, Claude Loftis, and Hollis Moore Loftis; sisters, Livie Loftis Lee, Louvada Loftis Allen, Reba Loftis Dillon, and a son-in-law, Carmel Lee.

She is survived by three daughters, Darlene Pierce Payne and husband, James Payne, of Union, Ohio, Linda Pierce Lee, and Sarah Pierce, both of Cookeville; sister, Merle Loftis Smith of Cookeville; four grandchildren, Terry Payne and wife Jenny, Ginger Lee Smith and husband Jeff, Chris Payne, and Jason Pierce Lee and wife Shelley; ten great-grandchildren, April, Aaron, and Heather Payne, Isabella, Kiersten, Pierce, Jillian, and

Annaliese Lee, and Ashlyn, and Bryson Smith, all of which, she really loved, cared for, and had concern for the well-being of her family.

Pallbearers will be friends of the family.

Special thanks are given by the family to: Misti and Kaylee Ledbetter, Laurie Lucas, the Upper Cumberland Hospice Care, Cookeville Regional Medical Center Doctors, Nurses, and Staff for their care of Mother, and the support and prayer from many faithful friends.

In lieu of flowers, in memory of Thelma Loftis Pierce, money may be donated to the King of Kings Radio Network at Presley Funeral Home.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 11 April 2015

\*Read more about the Loftis family at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>