

..... PIERCE, John Baptist, 1875-1942, Alabama born. Brick-  
: mason experience with father in youth. Tuskegee Inst.  
CUT :  
: grad. Taught in classroom and trades, High Point, No. Car.  
: :  
..... At Hampton Inst., began study for life's work Oct. 5,  
1889; received certificate in ag. in 1902. Dr. Seamon A. Knapp in  
his 1907 report to Sec. Ag. James Wilson, attributed the beginnings  
of "demonstration work" for Negro farmers to Dr. H. B. Frissell, Pres.  
of Hampton Inst., and to Dr. Booker T. Washington, President of Tuske-  
gee Inst.; and Sec. Ag. Claude <sup>R.</sup> Wickard has attributed the fine charac-  
teristics exhibited by Mr. Pierce of ~~perseverance~~ "perseverance, patience,  
tact and cooperativeness," during his 35 years of work with Negro farm-  
ers and their families, to his association with these great leaders.  
Slogans of the early days included: LIVE ON YOUR FARM AND BOARD AT HOME.  
Mr. Pierce was so successful in carrying this "live at home" program  
into effect, first as county agent, then as district agent, and finally  
as regional field agent in nine states, working out from Hampton as his  
base, that he was held in high esteem by both races. This record is  
based on data from Secretary Wickard and other sources sent me, with  
a photograph for the cut, by Field Agent John W. Mitchell; and on my  
own firsthand observation of this good and great man in action, both  
at Hampton and in the field. -- R. W. Stimson.

Pierce, J. B.



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