

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

Name of collection:

Peirce Family, Papers, 1692-1991

Location:

Stacks
Octavo volumes "P"
Oversize mss.
boxes "P"

Size of collection:

1 mss. box
1 octavo volume (53 leaves)
1 oversize folder

N.U.C.M.C. number:

RLIN id:

Sources of information on collection:

See accompanying sheet(s) for additional information.

Source of collection:

Gift of the heirs of Harold Peirce, 1991

Collection description:

The Peirce family of Newbury, Massachusetts, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and Kittery, Maine, was originally settled in Newbury in 1638 by Daniel Peirce (1611-1677), a blacksmith, of Ipswich, Suffolk County, England. He married a woman named Sarah, who died on 17 July 1764. They had three children: Daniel; Joshua; and Martha (1648-1674), who married Col. Thomas Noyes and had three children. Daniel Peirce married (second), on 26 December 1764, Mrs. Ann Millward (-1690), with whom he had one child: Sarah (-1665), who married Caleb Moody and had two children.

Daniel Peirce (1642-1704), the oldest child of Daniel and Sarah Peirce, was prominent in the civil, ecclesiastical, and military affairs of Newbury, Mass. He married, on 5 December 1660, Elizabeth Millward (1644-1709). They had eleven children.

Daniel Peirce (1739-1803), the great-grandson of Daniel and Elizabeth Peirce, settled at the head of Spruce Creek in Kittery, Me. He married Ruth Sargent (-1800). They had nine children.

Charles Peirce (1770-1851), the second child of Daniel and Ruth (Sargent) Peirce and the great-great-grandson of Daniel and Elizabeth Peirce, was a publisher and bookseller in Portsmouth, N.H., from 1793 to 1814, and was in

partnership with James Foster Shores (ca. 1792-1871), his son-in-law, from 1812 to 1814. After the death of his wife, Elizabeth Oliver Peirce (-1813), by whom he had nine children, Peirce removed to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and entered into partnership with his son-in-law, Cyrus Peirce (1787-1878) [no relation, except by marriage], in the wholesale grocery business. This partnership ended when Charles married, on 4 July 1816, Frances V. Blair (-1848), the daughter of Dr. Samuel Blair. They removed to Germantown, Pa., where Charles was clerk of the Mayor's Court, and remained there until 1825 when they returned to Philadelphia. In 1848, shortly before the death of Mrs. Peirce, they moved to Bristol, Pa. Soon afterwards, Charles removed to Byberry, Pa. to live with his daughter Ruth and her family. He died there on 23 September 1851.

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Collection description (continued):

Ruth Sargent Peirce (1798-1880), the fourth child of Charles and Elizabeth (Oliver) Peirce and the great-great-great-granddaughter of Daniel and Elizabeth Peirce, married, on 17 March 1813, Cyrus Peirce, of Sadsbury, Chester Co., Pa., the son of Joseph (ca. 1761-1847) and Sarah (-1822) Peirce. Ruth became a farm wife and had thirteen children, one of whom, Charles William (1825-), married Mary, the daughter of Lardner Vanuxem.

Cyrus was the oldest of three children, the others being: Isaac, who was a teacher, bookseller, and publisher in Philadelphia from 1811 to 1819, and who eventually moved to New York; and Jane, who married George Peirce in 1826.

Joshua Peirce (1643-1670), the second child of Daniel and Sarah Peirce, was instrumental in settling Woodbridge, New Jersey. He married, first, Sarah Saunders (-). They had no children. He married, second, on 7 May 1667, Dorothy Pike (-). They had two children.

John Peirce (1746-1814), the great-grandson of Joshua and Dorothy Peirce, lived in Portsmouth, N.H. He was a member of the New Hampshire Legislature; a principal agent in erecting the Piscataqua Bridge in 1794, and in the construction of the turnpike to Concord, and was Loan Officer for New Hampshire during the administration of John Adams. For many years he had charge of an insurance office in Portsmouth.

The bulk of this collection of Peirce family papers covers the period 1692 to 1849 (the twentieth century material is mostly genealogical). The collection contains papers from the descendants of both Daniel Peirce and Joshua Peirce.

There are many early deeds, 1695 to 1753, for family members for parcels of

land in Woburn and Newbury, Mass., and for one parcel in Chester, N.H. There is also a collection of deeds, 1692 to 1790, for properties in Newbury and Newburyport, Mass., and for three properties in Newbury, Vermont. These miscellaneous deeds relate to the families of Calef, Cheney, Choate, Goodrich, Hale, March, Ordway, Pilsbury, Rolfe, Somerby, and Titcomb, among others.

There is a folder of family correspondence and business papers for the period 1738 to 1835. The correspondents include John Peirce (1746-1814), Daniel Peirce (1739-1803), Charles Peirce (1770-1851), and Joseph Peirce (ca. 1761-1847). The recipients include Robert Boyce, Charles Peirce, John West, Cyrus Peirce, Friend Norris, Edward Cutts, and Jacob Wendell. There are five receipts of Capt. Thomas Brown (1762?-1822), for payments received by various Peirces for such things as a payment to the owners of the ship "Harriet," a six-month subscription to the "Oracle," hay, a note at the New Hampshire Bank, and for work on a ship. There is another receipt for a one-year subscription to the "Oracle" for William Badger, as well as an account of Charles Peirce to the Proprietors of the Stratham & Newmarket Bridge.

There is a volume, entitled "Journal to Vermont Oct. 1809," which was kept by Charles Peirce. This diary contains observations of a trip taken during the period 9 through 18 October 1809 from Portsmouth, N.H. to Newbury, Vt., and back. Peirce had four travelling companions on the trip to Vermont: his wife, Mr. Blanchard, Mrs. Meloon, and Mrs. Tappan. During the return trip they were accompanied by Mrs. Clark.

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Collection description (continued):

The diary contains daily entries which detail the trip, including comments on the towns in which they passed through, and of the taverns at which they stopped. Their stop in Hanover, N.H., during the period 14-16 October, includes a fine description of the people and places visited. Peirce found it remarkable the number of sets of twins encountered on the trip. There is a partial transcription for this volume.

There is a folder of insurance accounts, for the period 1800 to 1811, of Capt. Thomas Brown with John Peirce, as well as a folder of miscellaneous papers, seemingly not related to the Peirce family, including legal papers (inquests, indentures, appointments of administrators of estates, a power of attorney, a writ, a will, depositions, a lawsuit); papers concerning land (not deeds); meeting notes; and some correspondence.

The final two folders contain genealogical material.

The octavo volume, entitled Reviews of the Weather, &c., was kept by Charles Peirce for Ruth S. Peirce, and covers the years 1833-1849. It contains many articles reporting reviews of the weather (past and present), remarkable or extraordinary weather (past and present), and phenomena (e.g., meteor showers).

The majority of the reviews have been cut out of newspapers and pasted into the volume. The volume also contains loose articles not relating to the weather, including an article entitled, "A Short Chapter on Order and Carefulness," and a portion of an obituary for a Mr. Pulsifer, as well as clippings containing poetry pasted into it. There is a "Preface" (4 leaves) in manuscript explaining the purpose of the volume. The last review by Charles Peirce was for September 1848 and is dated, Philadelphia, October 2, 1848. There is a review for January 1849, dated and signed: "Philadelphia, 2d mo. 1st, 1849. P.S."

The oversize folder contains deeds; an address by Charles Peirce to the Washington Benevolent Society [probably delivered 9 December 1813--see letter dated 30 November 1813]; and a folder of policies of assurance for the years 1777 to 1806.

See Contents List.

4 March 2010

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Sources of background material on the collection:

Adams, Nathaniel. Annals of Portsmouth ... (Portsmouth, 1825; reprinted Hampton, 1971)

American Antiquarian Society, Printers' File

Anderson, Joseph Crook, II, and Lois Ware Thurston, eds. Vital Records of

Kittery, Maine to the Year 1892 (Camden, 1991)

Peirce, Frederick Clinton. Peirce Genealogy ... (Worcester, 1880), pp. 233-245.

Simpson, Henry. The Lives of Eminent Philadelphians Now Deceased
(Philadelphia,
1859)

Stackpole, Everett S. Old Kittery and Her Families (Lewiston, 1903)

Vital Records of Newbury Massachusetts ... (Salem, 1911), 2 vols.

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Contents List

Manuscript Box

- Folder 1 Family Deeds, 1695-1753
- Folder 2 Family Papers, 1738-1835
- Folder 3 Charles Peirce, Journal of a trip to Vermont, 1809
- Folder 4 Capt. Thomas Brown, Insurance Accounts, 1800-1811
- Folder 5 Miscellaneous Deeds, 1692-1738
- Folder 6 Miscellaneous Deeds, 1740-1749
- Folder 7 Miscellaneous Deeds, 1750-1778
- Folder 8 Miscellaneous Deeds, 1784-1799
- Folder 9 Miscellaneous Deeds, 1800-1820
- Folder 10 Miscellaneous Papers, 1698-1790
- Folder 11 Genealogical material, undated
- Folder 12 Genealogical material, undated; 1859-1991

Daniel Peirce (1611-27 Nov 1677), a blacksmith, the founder of the Peirce family of Newbury, Mass., came from Ipswich, Suffolk County England, in the "Elizabeth," in 1634. He first settled in Watertown, Mass., of which town he was a proprietor, in February, 1636-37. He was made a freeman 2 May 1638, and removed to Newbury the same year. ... In Newbury he was an influential citizen, selectman, and Justice of the Peace.

m. Sarah ????? (-17 Jul 1654)

had (three children):

1. **Daniel (15 May 1642-22 Apr 1704)**

2. **Joshua (15 May 1643-1670)**

3. Martha (14 Feb 1648-3 Sep 1674)

m. 28 Dec 1669, Col. Thomas Noyes; they had three children

m. (2) 26 Dec 1654, Mrs. Ann Millward (-27 Nov 1690)

had (one child):

1. Sarah (-25 Aug 1665)

m. 24 Aug 1659, Caleb Moody; they had two children

Daniel Peirce (15 May 1642-22 Apr 1704), the first child of Daniel and Sarah Peirce, was prominent in the civil ecclesiastical, and military affairs of Newbury, Mass.

m. 5 Dec 1660, Elizabeth Millward (1644-9 Dec 1709)

had (eleven children):

1. Daniel (20 Dec 1663-2 Sep 1690)

m. Joanna ????? (-16 Sep 1690); they had one child

2. Anne (22 May 1666-)

m. Simeon Wainwright

3. Benjamin (20 Feb 1668-19 May 1771)

4. Joshua (16 Oct 1671-1717?)

m. 5 Dec 1703, Joanna Gerrish; they had seven children

5. Thomas (May 1674-)

m. 5 Jan 1697, Mehitabel Frost; they had four children

6. Martha (26 Feb 1676-3 Aug 1732)

m. 2 Nov 1702, William Johnson (12 May 1678/9-); they had eight children

7. Sarah (3 Oct 1679-)

m. 21 Sep 1721, Jonathan Winslow, of Boston; they had three children

8. George (5 Mar 1682-1753)

m. 28 Mar 1706, Elizabeth Langdon (16 Nov 1687-); they had eight children

children

m. (2) Mary Hunking

9. Mary (14 Apr 1685-)

10. John (16 Oct 1687-)

11. Katherine (18 Sep 1690-)

Benjamin Peirce (20 Feb 1668-19 May 1771) was the third child of Daniel and Elizabeth (Millward) Peirce.

m. Lidia ?????

had (nine children):

1. Daniel (6 Aug 1693-25 Aug 1693)

2. **Charles (3 Feb 1695-23 Jan 1764)**

3. Elizabeth (14 Nov 1696-)

4. Daniel (11 Oct 1698-)
m. Elizabeth ????
5. Benjamin (13 June 1700-)
m. Lydia Peirce, of Rowley
6. John (7 Nov 1703-)
m. 12 Nov 1730, Sarah Adams; they had two children
7. Humphrey (23 Mar 1705-)
m. 16 Apr 1730, Lydia Richardson; they had three children
8. Thomas (1 Nov 1706-)
9. Joseph (26 May 1708-26 May 1708)

Charles Peirce (3 Feb 1695-23 Jan 1764) was the second child of Benjamin and Lydia Peirce.

m. Sarah ????

had (seven children):

1. Charles (2 Feb 1719-29 Nov 1772)
m. 24 Mar 1759; Mary Feveryear, of Boston; they had one child
2. Jane (14 Jan 1721-27 June 176?)
m. 9 May 1753, John Harbut; they had four children
3. Benjamin (24 Feb 1723-)
4. Lydia (11 Nov 1725-)
5. William (1731-15 Mar 1778)
6. Simon (11 Nov 1733-)
m. 7 Apr 1761, Martha Peirce, of Portsmouth; they had two children
7. **Daniel (16 Nov 1739-25 Aug 1803)**

Daniel Peirce (16 Nov 1739-25 Aug 1803), the son of Charles and Sarah Peirce, settled at the head of Spruce Creek in Kittery, Maine.

m. Ruth Sargent (-1 Dec 1800)

had (nine children):

1. Edward Sargent (1 Aug 1768-)
2. **Charles (29 Jul 1770-23 Sep 1851)**
3. Daniel (26 Apr 1772-10 Sep 1832)
m. 15 Sep 1794, Nancy Adams; they had six children
4. William (9 Dec 1774-18 Mar 1826)
5. Benjamin (22 Jan 1777-)
6. Nathaniel Sargent (31 Mar 1779-)
7. Olive (19 May 1781-)
8. Washington (4 July 1783-)
9. Joseph (18 Jan 1786-)

Charles Peirce (29 Jul 1770-23 Sep 1851), the second child of Daniel and Ruth (Sargent) Peirce, was a publisher and bookseller in Portsmouth, N. H., a grocer in Philadelphia, Pa., and clerk of the Mayor's Court in Germantown, Pa.

m. 10 Mar 1793, Elizabeth Oliver (-Sep 1813)

had (nine children, five survived their father):

Eliza O.

m. 17 Mar 1813, James Foster Shores (ca. 1792-18 Oct 1871)

Ruth Sargent (25 Mar 1798-5 Mar 1880)

Sarah O.

m. 1837, a Plummer, and settled in Richmond, Ind.

Charles William

James Loring (26 May 1806-26 Nov 1883), an M.D.

m. Rachel Moon Blakey (11 Jun 1809-26 Mar 1893)

Charles Peirce m.(2) 4 July 1816, Francis V. Blair (-1848?), dt. of Dr. Samuel Blair, of Germantown, Pa.

Ruth Sargent Peirce (1798-1880)

m. 17 Mar 1813, Cyrus Peirce (25 Jun 1787-02 Mar 1878), of Sadsbury, Chester Co., Pa. [no relation]

Cyrus was the oldest child of Joseph (ca. 1761-1847) and Sarah (- 1822) Peirce. He had a brother, Isaac, who was a teacher in Philadelphia in 1811 and a bookseller and publisher in Philadelphia from 1812 to 1819, eventually moved to New York; and a sister, Jane, who m. 1826, George Peirce.

Ruth and Cyrus had thirteen children:

1. Elizabeth Oliver (12/25/1813-)
2. Ann Rice (04/03/1816-1821)
3. Joseph Sargent (11/12/1818-)
4. Maria Jane (11/20/1820-12 Sep 1821)
5. Sarah Harriet (16 Dec 1822-13 Jun 1898)
6. Charles William (03/09/1825-)
 - m. Mary Vanuxem, dt. of Lardner Vanuxem
had (two children):
 1. Harold (1856-1932)
 - m. Charlotte Converse
had (two children):
 1. Margaret [never married]
 2. Mary [never married]
 2. Elizabeth
m. a Hunter
had: William Armstrong Hunter, m. Edith Fisher
 7. Francis Blair (1827-)
 8. Cyrus Newlin (5 Mar 1829-1909), a dentist
m. Charlotte L. Lundy
 9. James Linig (1830-1864)
 10. Ruth Anna (1832-1929)
 11. Joshua (1834-)
 12. Hannah (1838-1869)
m. a Wildman
 13. Oliver (1841-)

Joshua Peirce (15 May 1643-1670), the second child of Daniel and Sarah Peirce, was instrumental in settling Woodbridge, N.J.

m. Sarah Saunders

m. (2) 7 May 1667, Dorothy Pike

had (two children):

1. Sarah (18 Mar 1668-12 Jan 1743)
 - m. Humphrey Bradstreet (6 Jan 1670-11 May 1717); had seven children
m. (2) 9 Jun 1719, Edward Sargent
2. **Joshua (14 Jan 1670-7 Feb 1742)**

Joshua Peirce (14 Jan 1670-7 Feb 1742), the son of Joshua and Dorothy (Pike) Peirce, was born in Woodbridge, N.J. Returned to Newbury soon after the death of his father. He moved to Portsmouth, N.H., opened a large retail shop,

carried on a considerable fishery, and owned several ships. He held several offices.

m. 24 Jan 1694, Elizabeth Hall (1673-13 Jan 1717)

had (nine children):

1. Sarah (30 Apr 1697-21 Aug 1771)

four
m. 21 Sep 1721, John Winslow (31 Dec 1693-13 Oct 1731); they had
children

2. Joseph (21 Feb 1698-7 Feb 1747)

m. Sarah Reed; they had three children

3. Joshua (31 Oct 1700-3 Aug 1754)

4. Anna (10 Sep 1702-28 Dec 1770)

m. 28 Dec 1727, Joseph Greene (12 Dec 1703-1 Jul 1765); they had
eleven children

5. Elizabeth (31 May 1705-)

m. John Osborne (-9 June 1764), of Boston

6. Mary (29 Oct 1707-2 Mar 1752)

m. Samuel Moore (-8 Mar 1749)

7. **Daniel (2 May 1709-5 Dec 1773)**

8. Nathaniel (7 June 1711-27 Aug 1762)

m. 20 Dec 1744, Ann Jaffrey; they had three children

9. Margaret (25 June 1714-9 June 1764)

m. 24 Nov 1737, Benjamin Greene (-1793); they had five children

m. (2) 5 Mar 1718, Elizabeth Wade

Daniel Peirce (2 May 1709-5 Dec 1773), the son of Joshua and Elizabeth (Hall) Peirce, graduated from Harvard in 1728.

m. 29 Oct 1742, Ann Rindge (-19 Oct 1748)

had (four children):

1. Ann (21 Oct 1743-6 July 1811)

m. Thomas Martin

2. Joshua (3 Nov 1744-16 Jul 1748)

3. **John (19 Aug 1746-14 Jun 1814)**

4. Joseph (25 Jun 1748-12 Sep 1812)

John Peirce (19 Aug 1746-14 Jun 1814), the son of Daniel and Ann (Rindge) Peirce, was an active and efficient member of the state legislature. He was the principal agent in erecting Piscataqua bridge in 1794, and in the construction of the turnpike to Concord. He was Loan Officer during John Adams' administration, and for many years had charge of an insurance office.

m. Mary Pearse

had (six children):

1. Mark Wentworth (31 Jul 1787-10 Feb 1846)

m. 17 Feb 1843, Margaret Sparhawk

2. Samuel Fisher (9 Oct 1789-27 Dec 1791)

3. Joshua Winslow (14 May 1791-10 Apr 1874)

m. 4 May 1823, Emily Sheafe (-9 Mar 1871); they had twelve
children

4. Ann Rindge (9 Jan 1794-9 Mar 1877)

m. Charles Burroughs, D.D.

5. Mary Odiorne (5 Jan 1798-4 Nov 1801)

6. Daniel Hale (27 Mar 1801-26 Apr 1877)