



Guide to the Franklin Pierce Papers, 1820-1964

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

Franklin Pierce Papers, 1820-1964

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society

30 Park Street

Concord, NH 03301

603-228-6688

<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

Collection Number:

1929.001

Author of Finding Aid:

Unidentified

Creator:

Pierce, Franklin, 1820-1869

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English

Extent:

6 boxes

Abstract:

Papers, 1820-1964, relating to the life and family of Franklin Pierce, who served as the 14th President of the United States and is currently the only President from New Hampshire. The majority of the collection is correspondence of Franklin Pierce and his family. The papers include business, political, and personal items.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The New Hampshire Historical Society purchased the first portion of its Franklin Pierce Papers in 1918 from M.P. Corse. This purchase consisted of items related to General John McNeil and Franklin Pierce. Most of these materials dated between 1820 and 1840. In 1922, the New Hampshire Historical Society purchased additional Franklin Pierce Papers from Susan Pierce. In 1926, the Society purchased a 1955 Franklin Pierce Address to Congress from Mary Pierce. Also in 1926, Benjamin P. George donated correspondence relating to the election of 1852, which had been stored in the attic of John Hatch George. Materials related to Pierce descendants, Susan and Mary Pierce, and the Pierce Homestead were a gift of Donn and Doris Purvis. Other materials in the collection were either purchased from dealers or individuals, pulled from other collections, or donated to the New Hampshire Historical Society.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by an unknown person in 2009. The finding aid was updated by Sarah Galligan in November 2014. This finding aid follows the standards set forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Access Restrictions:

Available for research.

Location:

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:

No special physical or technical requirements exist for this collection.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Researchers are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

Preferred Citation:

Item title, Franklin Pierce Papers, 1929.001. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date Accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information/ Administrative Information:

Franklin Pierce served as the 14th President of the United States from 1853 to 1857. Pierce was born on November 23, 1804 in Hillsborough, NH. In 1824, he graduated from Bowdoin College in New Brunswick, ME. Peirce then went onto study law under Governor Levi Woodbury in Portsmouth, NH, at Northampton Law School in

Northampton, MA, and under Judge Edmund Parker in Amherst, NH. In 1827, Pierce was admitted to the New Hampshire Bar. He went on to set up a law practice in Hillsborough, NH.

In 1829, Pierce was elected to the New Hampshire State House of Representatives. From 1832 to 1833, he served as Speaker of the New Hampshire House. Pierce remained a member of the New Hampshire House of Representatives until 1833, when he was elected to be a United States Representative from New Hampshire as a Democrat. Pierce left the House of Representatives in 1837 to enter the United States Senate, again as a Democrat from New Hampshire. He remained in the Senate until 1842, when he resigned to practice law in Concord, NH.

Pierce remained active in politics, serving as chairman of the State Democratic Committee. Following the election of James K. Polk as President, Pierce was appointed United States Attorney for New Hampshire in 1844. Meanwhile, Pierce also remained active in the state militia. Soon after the outbreak of the Mexican-American War, Pierce volunteered his service and was appointed Brigadier General in 1847. Back in Concord after the war, Pierce was President of the New Hampshire State Constitutional Convention. In 1852, Pierce was elected President of the United States as a Democrat. He held the office from 1853 to 1857.

Franklin Pierce was married to Jane Means Appleton on November 19, 1834. Jane lived from March 12, 1806 to December 2, 1863. She and Pierce had three children: Franklin, Jr., Frank Robert, and Benjamin. Both Franklin, Jr. and Frank Robert died under the age of 5. Benjamin died at age 11, in a train accident. None of the Pierce's children survived to adulthood. Franklin Pierce died on October 8, 1869 and was buried at the Old North Cemetery in Concord, NH.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The Franklin Pierce Papers, 1820-1964, are composed of materials relating to the life and memory of Franklin Pierce. The majority of papers in the collection are correspondence to and from Franklin Pierce and his family members. The earliest correspondence dates to 1820 while Pierce attended Bowdoin College in New Brunswick, ME. Correspondence covers political, business, and personal correspondence. About a third of the material dates to the campaign and election of 1852 and Pierce's subsequent term as President from 1853 to 1857. There is also some correspondence between Jane Appleton Pierce and her family. The collection also consists of legal papers, speeches, and newspaper clippings.

Along with papers directly related to Franklin Pierce, the collection also contains some items related to Pierce's descendants or relatives and Franklin Pierce memorials. Pierce family members with items found in the collection include Benjamin Pierce, Henry D. Pierce, Kirk D. Pierce, Susan Pierce, Mary Pierce, and Frank Hawthorne Pierce. Some folders in the collection include copies of material found at other institutions.

Arrangement:

The Franklin Pierce Papers are organized into folders based on date and type of material. The materials are arranged chronologically.

Contents List**Box 1**

Folder 1	Correspondence, 1820-1827
Folder 2	Correspondence, 1828
Folder 3	Correspondence, 1829
Folder 4	Correspondence, 1830
Folder 5	Correspondence, 1831
Folder 6	Correspondence, 1832
Folder 7	Correspondence, 1833
Folder 8	Correspondence, 1834
Folder 9	Correspondence, 1835
Folder 10	Correspondence, 1836
Folder 11	Photostats of correspondence to Horatio Bridge, 1837
Folder 12	Correspondence, January – June 1837
Folder 13	Correspondence, July – December, 1837
Folder 14	Correspondence January – June 1838
Folder 15	Correspondence, October – December 1838
Folder 16	Correspondence, January – February 1839
Folder 17	Correspondence, March – May 1839
Folder 18	Correspondence, June – August 1839
Folder 19	Correspondence, September – November 1839
Folder 20	Correspondence, January – February 1840
Folder 21	Correspondence, March – April 1840
Folder 22	Correspondence, May – July 1840
Folder 23	Correspondence, August – December 1840
Folder 24	Memoranda includes an agreement between Judge Hall Burgin and Franklin Pierce, 1840

Box 2

Folder 1	Correspondence, January – February 1841
Folder 2	Correspondence, March – May 1841
Folder 3	Correspondence, June – August 1841
Folder 4	Correspondence, September – December 1841
Folder 5	Correspondence, January – April 1842
Folder 6	Correspondence, May – September 1842
Folder 7	Correspondence, 1843
Folder 8	Correspondence, 1844
Folder 9	Correspondence, 1845
Folder 10	Correspondence, 1846
Folder 11	Correspondence, 1847
Folder 12	Correspondence, 1849

Folder 13 Correspondence, 1850
 Folder 14 Correspondence, 1851
 Folder 15 Correspondence, January – May 1852
 Folder 16 Correspondence, June 1-6, 1852
 Folder 17 Correspondence, June 7, 1852
 Folder 18 Correspondence, June 8, 1852
 Folder 19 Correspondence, June 9, 1852
 Folder 20 Correspondence, June 10, 1852
 Folder 21 Correspondence, June 11, 1852
 Folder 22 Correspondence, June 12, 1852
 Folder 23 Correspondence, June 13-14, 1852
 Folder 24 Correspondence, June 15, 1852
 Folder 25 Correspondence, June 16-17, 1852
 Folder 26 Correspondence, June 18-19, 1852
 Folder 27 Correspondence, June 20-21, 1852
 Folder 28 Correspondence, June 22-23, 1852
 Folder 29 Correspondence, June 24-25, 1852
 Folder 30 Correspondence, June 26, 1852
 Folder 31 Correspondence, June 27-28, 1852
 Folder 32 Correspondence, June 29-30, 1852

Box 3

Folder 1 Correspondence, July 1-6, 1852
 Folder 2 Correspondence, July 7-10, 1852
 Folder 3 Correspondence, July 11-15, 1852
 Folder 4 Correspondence, July 16-21, 1852
 Folder 5 Correspondence, July 22-26, 1852
 Folder 6 Correspondence, July 27-31, 1852
 Folder 7 Correspondence, August 1852
 Folder 8 Correspondence, September 1-22, 1852
 Folder 9 Correspondence, September 23-30, 1852
 Folder 10 Correspondence, October 1-16, 1852
 Folder 11 Correspondence, October 17-19, 1852
 Folder 12 Correspondence, October 20-21, 1852
 Folder 13 Correspondence, October 22-30, 1852
 Folder 14 Correspondence, November 1 – December 21, 1852
 Folder 15 Correspondence, December 22, 1852 – 1853
 Folder 16 Cancelled checks and check register
 Folder 17 Inventory, artist sketches

Box 4

Folder 1 Miscellaneous papers, 1853-1854
 Folder 2 Correspondence, 1854
 Folder 3 Correspondence, 1855
 Folder 4 Correspondence concerning Cuba, 1855
 Folder 5 Correspondence, 1856

- Folder 6 Correspondence, 1857
- Folder 7 Correspondence includes trip abroad, 1858
- Folder 8 Correspondence, 1859
- Folder 9 Correspondence, 1860
- Folder 10 Correspondence, January – June 1860
- Folder 11 Correspondence, July – September 1860
- Folder 12 Correspondence, October – December 1860
- Folder 13 Correspondence, 1861
- Folder 14 Correspondence, 1862
- Folder 15 Correspondence, 1863
- Folder 16 Correspondence, 1864
- Folder 17 Correspondence, 1865
- Folder 18 Correspondence, 1866-1868
- Folder 19 Correspondence, 1869

Box 5

- Folder 1 Correspondence and deeds relating to the Plumbago mines, 1862-1863
- Folder 2 Deeds of Benjamin Pierce, Franklin Pierce, Henry D. Pierce, and other Pierce family members
- Folder 3 Materials related to the grave of Franklin Pierce, 1941
- Folder 4 Photostat copy of Franklin Pierce's Diary during the Mexican-American War, May 24 – July, 1847
- Folder 5 Photostats of correspondence to Albert Baker from Franklin Pierce, 1834-1841
- Folder 6 Kirk D. Pierce (Hillsborough, NH lawyer) papers, 1880-1923
- Folder 7 Mary and Susan Pierce receipts related to Pierce memorabilia
- Folder 8 Mary and Susan Pierce materials related to the Pierce Homestead, Hillsborough, NH
- Folder 9 Mary and Susan Pierce papers, 1885-1868
- Folder 10 Franklin Pierce miscellaneous materials, 1836-1866
- Folder 11 Frank Hawthorne papers, 1871-1874
- Folder 12 Edmund Burke correspondence and newspapers, 1852-1893
- Folder 13 Transcriptions of correspondence, 1838-1849
- Folder 14 Henry D. Pierce papers
- Folder 15 Franklin Pierce Land Bill speech
- Folder 16 Correspondence, not dated
- Folder 17 Correspondence, not dated
- Folder 18 Miscellaneous materials and newspaper clippings

Box 6

- Volume 1 Franklin Pierce's Message to Congress, 1855
- Volume 2 Franklin Pierce's Message to Congress, 1857
- Folder 1 Scrapbook of newspaper clippings from throughout the country relating to campaign and election of 1852

Separated Materials:

The following materials are located in oversize storage:

- Map of the Pierce property, 1861
- Land grant to Amos Woodworth, Michigan Militia of 1812, 1855
- Passport of Frank H. Pierce, 1873
- Appointment of Henry D. Pierce as Justice of the Peace signed by Isaac Hill, 1839
- Custom clearance signed by President Franklin Pierce, 1857
- Certificate of Membership to Brigadier General Franklin Pierce in the Aztec Club of Washington , DC (Military Society of the Mexican-American War), 1849
- Appointment of Franklin Pierce as United States Attorney for New Hampshire signed by Secretary of State James Buchanan and President James K. Polk
- Membership certificate for the Society of Cincinnati issued to Franklin Pierce, 1851
- Diplomas to Mount St. Mary's Academy in Hooksett, NH to Mary and Susan Pierce, 1900
- Appointment as United States Consul in Matanzas, Cuba from Spain to Frank H. Pierce, 1887
- Honorary awards to Frank H. Pierce from "Societies Ameriana Whiggenis," 1870
- *The Republic*, Washington, DC, newspaper coverage of the Election of 1852, 1852

The New Hampshire Historical Society also contains books that belonged to Franklin Pierce, which are housed in closed library storage.

Subject Terms

People:

Atherton, Charles Gordon, 1804-1853
Baker, Albert, 1810-1841
Bell, Samuel D. (Samuel Dana), 1798-1868
Burke, Edmund, 1809-1882
Davis, Jefferson, 1808-1889
Fowler, Asa, 1811-1885
George, John H. (John Hatch), 1824-1888
Hatch, Albert Ruyter, 1817-1882
McNeil, Elizabeth, 1788-1855
McNeil, John, 1784-1850
Peaslee, Charles Hazen, 1804-1866
Pierce, Benjamin, 1757-1839
Pierce, Franklin, 1804-1869
Pierce, Henry D. (Henry Dearborn), 1812-1880
Pierce, Jane M. (Jane Means), 1806-1863
Pierce, Kirk D.
Pierce, Mary
Pierce, Susan
Polk, James K. (James Knox), 1795-1849

Organizations:

United States. Congress. House
United States. Congress. Senate
United States. President (1853-1857 : Pierce)

Subjects:

Mexican War, 1846-1848
United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865
United States—Politics and government—1853-1857

Locations:

Amherst, NH
Boston, MA
Concord, NH
Cuba
Hillsborough, NH
New Brunswick, ME
Portsmouth, NH
Texas
Washington, DC

Occupations:

Lawyers
Presidents—United States
Representatives, U.S Congress—New Hampshire
Senators, U.S. Congress—New Hampshire