

**Pierce-Aiken Family Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2007**

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm83036200>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms007086>

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## Collection Summary

**Title:** Pierce-Aiken Family Papers

**Span Dates:** 1797-1903

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1830-1870)

**ID No.:** MSS36200

**Creator:** Pierce family

**Creator:** Aiken family

**Extent:** 575 items

**Extent:** 4 containers

**Extent:** 1.4 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm83036200>

**Summary:** Four generations of the family of Jane M. Pierce (born Jane Means Appleton), wife of United States president Franklin Pierce. Genealogical material, photographs, and correspondence among members of the Pierce, Aiken, Appleton, Mason, and Means families, including letters from Franklin Pierce and Jane M. Pierce relating to politics, antebellum New England, War of 1812, and social life in Washington, D.C.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Aiken family.

Aiken, Mary M. (Mary Means), -1883--Correspondence.

Appleton family.

Appleton, Jesse, 1772-1819.

Mason family.

Means family.

Pierce family.

Pierce, Franklin, 1804-1869--Correspondence.

Pierce, Jane M. (Jane Means), 1806-1863--Correspondence.

### Organizations

Bowdoin College.

### Subjects

Depression, Mental.

Presidents' spouses--United States.

Religion.

Slavery.

### Places

Massachusetts--Social life and customs--19th century.

New England--Social life and customs--19th century.

New Hampshire--Politics and government--1775-1865.

New Hampshire--Social life and customs--19th century.

United States--History--War of 1812.

United States--Politics and government--1853-1857.

United States--Politics and government--19th century.

Washington (D.C.)--Social life and customs--19th century.

## Provenance

The papers of the Pierce-Aiken family were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1983 and 1991. A small addition was given by Norman F. Boas in 1993.

## Processing History

The papers of Pierce-Aiken family purchased in 1983 were processed in 1984. Additions to the papers were interfiled with the family correspondence in 1995. This register describes the 1983 purchase as well as the 1991 and 1993 additions. The register was revised in 2007.

## Additional Guides

Descriptions of the Pierce-Aiken Family Papers appear in Norman F. Boas, Jane M. Pierce (1806-1863): The Pierce-Aiken Papers (Stonington, Conn.: Seaport Autographs, 1989) and Jane M. Pierce (1806-1863): The Pierce-Aiken Papers, Supplement (Stonington, Conn.: Seaport Autographs, 1989). The collection is further described in Library of Congress Acquisitions: Manuscript Division, 1983, pp. 14-17, and Library of Congress Acquisitions: Manuscript Division, 1992, pp. 10-12.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of the Pierce-Aiken family is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Pierce-Aiken family are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Pierce-Aiken Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of the Pierce-Aiken family span the years 1797-1903, with the bulk of material dating from 1830 to 1870. The collection consists largely of correspondence between members of the Pierce, Aiken, Appleton, Mason, and Means families, principally of New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Contained in this correspondence are letters from Jane M. Pierce (1806-1863) and her husband, Franklin Pierce (1804-1869), fourteenth president of the United States. Photographs and genealogical material are also included.

The family correspondence is arranged by generation and alphabetically therein by name of correspondent. The correspondents' family relationship to Jane Pierce is identified in the container list below. Four generations of Jane Pierce's family are represented, including her grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles, her own generation of siblings and cousins, and her nieces and nephews. Topics include antebellum New England family life, religion, politics, War of 1812, slavery, and events related to Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, which Jane Pierce's father, Jesse Appleton, served as president between 1807 and 1819.

Jane Pierce's letters, 1822-1860, include accounts of social life in Washington, D.C., during her husband's congressional years between 1835 and 1842 and during their first year in the White House in 1853. Much of her correspondence, as

well as family correspondence about her, reveals her struggle with depression following the deaths of her three children. The papers include six letters written between 1850 and 1868 by Franklin Pierce, largely to his wife's sister, Mary M. Aiken. In one of these letters, written in 1856, Pierce discussed the likelihood that he would not be nominated for a second presidential term.

## **Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Family correspondence
BOX 1	Generation I
BOX 1	Kent, Abigail M., 1820
BOX 1	Generation II
BOX 1	Adams, Ebenezer, 1835
BOX 1	Appleton, Elizabeth (mother)
BOX 1	Letters received, 1812-1830, undated (3 folders)
BOX 1	Letters sent, 1819-1844, undated (2 folders)
BOX 1	Appleton, Jesse (father), 1797-1817, undated
BOX 1	Appleton, John, Jr. (uncle), 1821
BOX 1	Lawrence, Amos (uncle), 1832-1844
BOX 1	Lawrence, Nancy (aunt), 1812-1850, undated (2 folders)
BOX 1	Mason, Mary (aunt), 1816-1844, undated
BOX 1	Means, Abigail A. (aunt), 1843-1857, undated
BOX 1	Means, Mary Anne (aunt), 1831
BOX 1	Means, Robert (uncle), 1816-1839
BOX 1	Packard, Sarah S., undated
BOX 1	Generation III
BOX 1	[?], Sallucia, 1836
BOX 1	Aiken, John (brother-in-law)
BOX 1	Letters received, 1847-1866, undated
BOX 1	Letters sent, 1831-1862, undated
BOX 1	Aiken, Mary M. (sister)
BOX 1	Letters received, 1821-1868, undated (3 folders)
BOX 2	Letters sent, 1821-1858, undated (2 folders)
BOX 2	Aiken family, 1840-1883
BOX 2	Appleton, John (cousin), 1861-1883
BOX 2	Appleton, Rebecca (cousin, sister-in-law), 1846, undated
BOX 2	Appleton, Robert (brother), 1822-1848, undated
BOX 2	Appleton, William (brother), 1825-1826, undated
BOX 2	Atherton, Mary Anne, undated
BOX 2	Mason, Jane (cousin), undated
BOX 2	Mason, Marianne (cousin), 1819
BOX 2	Mason, Mary E. (cousin), undated
BOX 2	Means, Helen McGregor (cousin), 1844
BOX 2	Means, Mary Jane (cousin), undated
BOX 2	Packard, Alpheus S. (brother-in-law), 1839-1868, undated

## Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 2	Packard, Frances E. (sister)
BOX 2	Letters received, 1819-1820, undated
BOX 2	Letters sent, 1821-1839, undated
BOX 2	Pierce, Franklin (husband), 1850-1868, undated
BOX 2	Pierce, Jane M., 1822-1860, undated (4 folders)
BOX 2	Webster, Sidney, 1857-1858
BOX 2	Generation IV
BOX 2	Aiken, Charles A., 1842-1874
BOX 2	Aiken, Eliza B., 1862-1874, undated
BOX 2	Aiken, Harriet, 1847, undated
BOX 2	Aiken, John Francis (nephew), 1854-1874, undated (2 folders)
BOX 3	Aiken, Mary E., undated
BOX 3	Aiken, Sarah E., 1860-1871
BOX 3	Aiken, William A. (nephew), 1853-1879, undated
BOX 3	Lord, Harriet A., 1848-1868, undated
BOX 3	Lord, William H., 1858, undated
BOX 3	Packard, Charles A. (nephew), undated
BOX 3	Packard, Frances A. (niece), 1859-1867, undated
BOX 3	Packard, William A. (nephew), 1857-1883, undated
BOX 3	Ripley, George, 1869-1870
BOX 3	Ripley, Mary (niece), 1856-1870, undated
BOX 3	Snow, Jane A. (niece), 1848-1874
BOX 3	Genealogical bound volumes
BOX 3	Aiken, William A.
BOX 3	"A Family Affair," 1886-1890
BOX 3	"Our Village," 1877
BOX 3	Appleton family chart, 1864
BOX 4	Bacon, Eliza Buckingham, scrapbook containing history and photographs of the William A. Aiken family, 1903