

# Guide to the Pierce Family Papers

MS 633



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

November 1982

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
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beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 633

**CREATOR:** Pierce family

**TITLE:** Pierce family papers

**DATES:** 1898-1961

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.25 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The two principal figures in these papers are David French Pierce, a Congregational minister of Southbury, Conn. and his daughter, Anna Harriet Pierce. Included are manuscripts by David F. Pierce, recounting his visions. The papers of Anna H. Pierce, who was an artist, contain her reminiscences as an art student as well as programs of exhibitions and photographs of her paintings. Also included are memoirs of another daughter, Mary Elizabeth, of her life on a New England farm together with family photographs and other papers.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0633>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0633>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Shelton B. Hicock, 1971.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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### Preferred Citation

Pierce Family Papers. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Frederick Erastus Pierce, B.A. 1904.

Born March 11, 1878, in South Britain, Conn.; Died March 26, 1935, in New Haven, Conn.

Father, Rev. David French Pierce, a Congregational minister in Southbury, Conn.; son of Erastus and Elosia (Platt) Pierce, of South Britain. Yale relatives include: Granville T. Pierce, '55 (uncle).

Private tutor. First McLaughlin Prize, first grade Berkeley Premium, and first Benjamin F. Barge Mathematical Prize Freshman year; second Benjamin F. Barge Mathematical Prize and Robert Callender Scholar Sophomore year; third TenEyck Prize, John Hubbard Curtis Prize, Cook Prize in Poetry, Waterman Scholar, Yale Literary Medal, and Pundit Club Prize Junior year; DeForest Prize Medal Senior year; philosophical oration appointments Junior and Senior years; treasurer Yale Union Junior year and president Senior year; on University Debating Team and board of *Yale Literary Magazine* Senior year; Class Poet, and Valedictorian; member Zeta Psi, Chi Delta Theta, Phi Beta Kappa, and Skull and Bones.

Studied in Yale Graduate School 1904-1908 (M.A. 1905, Ph.D. 1908); instructor in English, Yale 1906-1910, instructor in debating 1907-1908, assistant professor of English 1910-1926, associate professor since 1926; instructor summer session State Teachers' College, Greeley, Colo., 1921; author: *The Collaboration of Webster and Dekker* (1909), *The World That God Destroyed and Other Poems* (1911), *Jordan Farms. An Epic in Homespun* (1916), *Currents and Eddies in the English Romantic Generation* (1918), *Poems of New England and Old Spain* (1918); editor *The Merchant of Venice* (1911), Selections from the *Symbolic Poems of William Blake* (1915), and *The Winter's Tale* (for the Yale Shakespeare series 1918); co-author (with H. N. MacCracken and W.H. Durham, '04) *An Introduction to Shakespeare* (1911), and (with H. S. Canby, '99 S., and W.H. Durham) *Facts, Thought and Imagination, a book on writing* (1917); editor in collaboration (with S. Thurber) *Macaulay's Essays on Clive and Hastings* (1911), (with H.S. Canby) *Selections from Robert Louis Stevenson* (1911), (with H.S. Canby and W.H. Durham) *Poems by John Masefield* (1927), and (with Carl F. Schreiber, Ph.D. 1914) *Fiction and Fantasy of German Romance* (1927); contributed to: *Philological Quarterly*, *Modern Philology*, *Journal of English and Germanic Philology*, *Modern Language Notes*, *North American Review*, *Literary Review*, *Yale Review*, *Anglica*, and *The Nation*; member United (Congregational) Church, New Haven.

Married June 25, 1910, in West Haven, Conn., Delma Louise, daughter of Rev. Norman Jairus Squires (B.A. Wesleyan 1871; B.D. Methodist General Biblical Institute) and Mary Matilda (Minor) Squires. Children: David Frederick, Dartmouth '35; and Mary Eleanor, Wellesley '37. Mrs. Pierce died August 20, 1929.

Took his own life. Buried in Center Cemetery, South Britain. Survived by children and a sister, Miss Anna H. Pierce (B.F.A. 1916). His sister, Miss Mary E. Pierce (M.A. 1927), died October 7, 1934.

From *Yale University Obituary Record*.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection contains writings and other papers by and about David French Pierce (1840-1905) of Southbury, Connecticut, and his children. Papers pertaining to David F. Pierce include manuscript descriptions of visions seen by him and poems written by him. Papers pertaining to his daughter Anna Harriet Pierce (Yale B.F.A. 1916) include a typescript copy of "Reminiscences of an Art Student," newspaper clippings describing her paintings, programs of exhibitions of her works, and photographs and other reproductions of her paintings. Anna's sister Mary Elizabeth Pierce (d. 1934; Yale M.A. 1927) is represented by the manuscript "Memories of Life on a New England Farm"; their brother, Frederick E. Pierce, is represented by an obituary notice and a eulogy. The remaining items in the collection are two letters, photographs, and an essay all relating to the Pierce homestead in Southbury, and ten photographs of family members.

These papers were donated to Yale University in 1971 by Shelton B. Hicock.

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## Collection Contents

### Anna Harriet Pierce

b. 1, f. 1	"Reminiscences of an Art Student," TM English	undated
b. 1, f. 2	Newspaper clippings	1926-1958
b. 1, f. 2	Programs of art exhibitions	1958-1961
b. 1, f. 3	Photographs and reproductions of paintings	1957, undated

### David French Pierce

b. 1, f. 4	"A Vision," MS English	undated
b. 1, f. 4	"A Waking Vision," MS English	undated
b. 1, f. 4	"World-wide Events Which Were Foretold by the Reverend David F. Pierce..." MS English	1946 April 5
b. 1, f. 4	Poems	1898, undated
b. 1, f. 5	Frederick Erastus Pierce: Obituary notice and eulogy	1935
b. 1, f. 6	Mary Elizabeth Pierce: "Memories of Life on a New England Farm," MS	undated

### Pierce family

b. 1, f. 7	Correspondence, photographs, and writings describing the Pierce homestead	1952, 1961, undated
b. 1, f. 7	Photographs of family members	1898-1916, undated

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Clergy  
Families  
Visions  
Women artists

### **Geographic Names**

Connecticut  
Southbury (Conn.) -- History

### **Genres / Formats**

Autobiographies

### **Occupations**

Artists

### **Names**

Pierce, Anna Harriet, d. 1973  
Pierce, David French, 1840-1905  
Pierce, Mary Elizabeth, d. 1934

### **Families**

Pierce family