

# Guide to the Pierce-Dahlgren- Vinton Family Papers

MS 398



compiled by John Espy

November 1980

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
mssa.assist@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

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## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	4
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	4
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Biographical / Historical .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Arrangement .....	4
Collection Contents .....	5
Selected Search Terms .....	8

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## Collection Overview

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

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 398

**CREATOR:** Pierce family

**TITLE:** Pierce-Dahlgren-Vinton family papers

**DATES:** 1792-1936

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 7.25 linear feet (16 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The principal figure in these papers is Sarah Madeleine Vinton Dahlgren, whose daughter, Ulrica Dahlgren married Josiah Pierce (1861-1902). More than half the papers consists of family correspondence chiefly for the years 1824-1873. Also included are sketchbooks, memoirs, genealogical materials, account books, legal records and autographs of Civil War generals and admirals. The correspondence of Josiah Pierce (1827-1913) who was secretary of the U.S. legation in St. Petersburg includes material documenting his service in Russia. Also in the papers is the diary (in Russian) of Ivan Timofieff for the year 1858, with an English translation. The papers of Samuel Finley Vinton, who was congressman from Ohio (1823-1837; 1843-1851) include courtship letters to his fiancée.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0398>

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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.0398>.

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

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Deposited by Joan Dahlgren Pierce, 1953-1954.

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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, though much of the material in this collection is likely in the public domain. 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-Dahlgren-Vinton Family Papers. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Sarah Madeleine Vinton Dahlgren: author; married Daniel C. Goddard, 1846, married Rear Admiral John Adolphus Dahlgren, 1865; began to write professionally in 1859, author of many books and articles. Josiah Pierce (1861-1902): civil engineer; from 1883-1884 served as engineer on the Northern Trans-continental Survey; from 1885-1888 served in the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey; in the 1890s was connected with various railroad companies and utility companies; professor of engineering at the Columbian University and Catholic University of America.

For a chart outlining the genealogical relations of the Pierce-Dahlgren-Vinton family, please consult the [Genealogical Chart](#).

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## Scope and Contents

The principal figure in these papers is Sarah Madeleine Vinton Dahlgren, whose daughter, Ulrica Dahlgren married Josiah Pierce (1861-1902). More than half the papers consists of family correspondence chiefly for the years 1824-1873. Also included are sketchbooks, memoirs, genealogical materials, account books, legal records and autographs of Civil War generals and admirals. The correspondence of Josiah Pierce (1827-1913) who was secretary of the U.S. legation in St. Petersburg includes material documenting his service in Russia. Also in the papers is the diary (in Russian) of Ivan Timofieff for the year 1858, with an English translation. The papers of Samuel Finley Vinton, who was congressman from Ohio (1823-1837; 1843-1851) include courtship letters to his fiancée.

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## Arrangement

Arranged by name of family member.

## Collection Contents

	Correspondence (with some legal papers, autographs, printed matter, etc.; also some letters are filed under recipient rather than author)	Circa (1824-1869)-1936
b. 1	A -Dahlgren, P.	
b. 2	Dahlgren, S. - Goddard, D.C.	
b. 3	Goddard, D.C. (cont'd) - Sm	
b. 4	St -Vinton, S. F.	
b. 5	Vinton, S. F. (cont'd) -Y, unidentified	
b. 6	Dahlgren, John Adolphus Bernard: journals, notebooks, letters patent	Circa 1829-1866
	Dahlgren, Sarah Madeleine (Vinton) Goddard	
b. 6	Commonplace book	1839-1841
b. 6	Memoir of Daniel C. Goddard: MS notebook	1853
b. 6	Vinton estate inventories	1889-1898
b. 6	"Reminiscence": typescript English	undated
	Dahlgren, Ulric	
b. 6	Sketchbook	1850
b. 6	Correspondence and MSS for memoir of him	Circa 1862-1865, 1886
b. 7	Correspondence and MSS for memoir of him	Circa 1862-1865, 1886
b. 7	Dahlgren, William Theodore (alia William de Rohan)	1855-1891
b. 7	Letters received	1855-1891
b. 8	Letters from; passports; subject files (France, Italy, Mexico and Texas, Sweden, Turkey); miscellaneous	Circa 1836-1888
	Goddard, Vinton	
b. 8	Order and letterbooks	1873-1876
b. 8	Notebooks of writings, drawings, addresses	1868, undated
b. 9	Lander, Frederick West: correspondence, orders, clippings	Circa 1817, 1853-1862
b. 9	Pierce, Eliza: book inscribed to her	1874
b. 9	Pierce, Josiah (1756-1830): "Road to Happiness by a Parent": MS, with copy by Josiah Pierce (1827 - 1913)	1824, 1846

b. 9	Pierce, Josiah (1827-1913)	Circa 1832-1873
	Letters to, from, and about	
b. 9	A-M	
b. 10	N-Pierce, J.	
b. 11	Pierce, J (cont'd)-Pierce, M.	
b. 12	Pierce, M. (cont'd)-W	
b. 12	Correspondence and clippings re: Emperor Alexander II of Russia	1860-1867
b. 13	Memorandum book, commonplace book, speech	1845-[1850?]
b. 13	Diary kept by Ivan [Timofieff?], in Russian with English translation	1858
b. 13	Account books, financial papers	Circa 1843-1864
b. 13	Certificates, legal papers, printed memorabilia	Circa 1842-1868
b. 13	Passports	Circa 1849-1868
b. 13	Memoranda, miscellaneous papers	Circa 1844-1858
	Pierce, Josiah (1861-1902)	
b. 14	Letter to Cardinal Gibbons	1891
b. 14	Drawings, printed memorabilia	1891, 1900, undated
b. 14	Pierce, ___: miscellaneous and unidentified	Circa 1838-1855
	Vinton, Samuel Finley	
b. 14	Deeds	Circa 1792-1845
b. 14	Notebook	1822, undated
b. 14	[Vinton and others]: miscellaneous papers English	Circa 1816-1869
	Unidentified and unsorted	
b. 14	Genealogical and biographical writings, notes, tables	Circa (1814-1872)-1923
b. 14	Bills, receipts, deeds	Circa 1816-1867
b. 14	Correspondence	Circa 1804-1865
b. 14	Correspondence and notes	1859-1912
b. 14	Photostats of Lincoln's diary	1861
b. 14	Autographs of Civil War generals and admirals	Circa 1818-1898
	Unidentified and unsorted (cont'd)	

b. 14	"Miss West": music book English	undated
b. 14	Recipe book	1929
b. 14	Miscellaneous writings	1825-1836, undated
b. 15	Memorabilia	undated
b. 15	Calling cards	undated
b. 15	Maps	undated
b. 15	Printed matter: clippings, pamphlets, miscellaneous	Circa 1827-1928
b. 16	Printed matter: clippings, pamphlets, miscellaneous	Circa 1827-1928
b. 16	Photographs	Circa 1862-1896, undated
b. 16	Empty envelopes and binders	undated

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## 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

Armed Forces  
Authors  
Courtship  
Diplomats  
Engineering  
Families  
Women

Pierce, Lewis, b. 1832  
Pierce, Martha Derby Lander, 1834-1873  
Vinton, Romaine Madeleine Bureau, 1802-1831  
Vinton, Samuel Finley, 1792-1862  
Vinton family

### Families

Dahlgren family  
Pierce family

### Geographic Names

Europe  
Ohio -- Description and travel  
Saint Petersburg (Russia) -- Description and travel  
Soviet Union  
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865  
Washington (D.C.) -- Social life and customs

### Genres / Formats

Account books  
Autobiographies (documents)  
Autographs (manuscripts)  
Diaries

### Occupations

Civil engineers  
Engineers

### Names

Bureau, John Peter Romaine, 1770-1854  
Dahlgren, John Adolphus Bernard, 1809-1870  
Dahlgren, Madeleine Vinton, 1825-1898  
Dahlgren, Ulric, 1842-1864  
Goddard, Daniel Convers, 1822-1852  
Pierce, Eliza, 1838-1879  
Pierce, Eliza West, 1859-1877  
Pierce, Evelina Lewis, 1795-1870  
Pierce, Franklin, 1804-1869  
Pierce, George Washington, 1836-1910  
Pierce, Josiah, 1792-1866  
Pierce, Josiah, 1827-1913  
Pierce, Josiah, 1861-1902