

John Peirson fonds

A988.033

Title John Peirson fonds

Dates 1888-1937

Extent 24 cm of textual records

Biographical Sketch

John Peirson (1839 - 1934), sometimes known as "Pierson", and Sarah Barkley (March 9, 1838 - September 5, 1916) were married in or around 1862 in Oxford County. After moving to Bruce County in or around 1863, they cleared their homestead near Burgoyne, on lots 2 and 3, River Range B, in Saugeen Township, Bruce County.

John Peirson was a farmer and local politician, being first elected to Saugeen Township Council in 1869. Thereafter, he continued to serve in municipal life for a total of about 22 years in various capacities including township councillor, Reeve and Warden for Bruce County in 1884. He also took an interest in provincial politics and, in 1893, was the Liberal candidate for the riding of North Bruce, being defeated by the Patron of Industry candidate. He was also a veteran of the Fenian Raid of 1866.

Mr. Peirson was trustee of Alexandria Methodist Church, Burgoyne. After its closure, he attended the Burgoyne Presbyterian Church. After the Union, he attended the Port Elgin United Church. Mr. Peirson was also on the executive of the Burgoyne Cheese Company for a period of time in the early 1900s.

John and Sarah had three children:

- a) Mary Ann ("Molly") was born in 1862 and married W. Ross Hilborn, a druggist in Tara, in 1898. After Mr. Hilborn's death, in 1905, Mary Ann eventually moved to reside in a house on her father's homestead;

- b) Robert married Margaret Lamont in 1894 and moved to St. Catharines as a young man;
- c) William married Catherine Black in 1902 and lived near or with his father. William and Catherine had 4 children: Robert Melvin, Margaret Marie, John Duncan, and William Ross. Both William and Catherine died in 1964.

Sources: Contents of fonds, including newspaper clippings.

Scope and Content

This fonds consists of John Peirson's diaries with enclosures. His brief daily journal entries include information related to his family, political life, rural life, personal financial information, social engagements, church meetings, weather and farm operations and activities, including ploughing, sowing and the sale of animals. Mr. Peirson also makes mention of world events, including the sinking of the Titanic and the end of the Great War.

Journals after 1919 each continue to have the name "John Peirson" written on the title page, sometimes with the name of the person who gave the diary to him as a gift; however, most entries in those journals appear to have been written either by John's daughter-in-law, Catherine (Black) Peirson, and/or his daughter, Mary Ann (Peirson) Hilborn, both of whom were living in houses on the homestead with John. These journals include references to "father" and his health. Other topics include social activities, Women's Institute meetings, social visits, family life, and some financial information.

Enclosures in the diaries, such as invoices, statements and newspaper clippings, reflect some of the businesses in the community, such as W.A. Gerolamy, grocer; J.W. Chittick Burgoyne General Store and The Tara Creamery. John Peirson's involvement with the Burgoyne Cheese Company, and family events reported in the newspaper are also reflected in the enclosures.

File/Item List

Diaries (one book per year): 1888, 1892-1919, 1921-1925, 1927

Enclosures in the Diaries:

Diary	Description of Enclosed Items
1893	.005 (a-l) 11 Burgoyne Cheese Factory statements May 1897 – October 1898; .006 ½ Burgoyne General Store broadleaf .007 handwritten invoice form from A. Caldwell, Underwood
1899	.014(a-i) Burgoyne Cheese Factory Statements to John Pierson, .015 Township of Saugeen Tax Notice to Burgoyne Cheese Co., J. Pierson (President), Oct. 5, 1899 .016 W.A. Gerolamy, grocer, Tara receipt to John Pearson, Feb. 19, 1900 .017 J.W. Chittick, general dry goods, hardware etc, Burgoyne, Oct. 11, 1899 .018 Broadside "Read the following letter by our traveller, Mr. Marcus A. Ware, on How to make Cement Floors; and Broadside "The Thorold Cement is tested by a Hurricane" .019 Order Ticket from the publishers of "Portraits and Principles" June 1899, agent Cairns. .020 "Publishers' Guarantee to Subscribers" re: "Thrilling Stories of the War", delivery in July 1899. .021 Newspaper clipping: "Dr. Sowerby Accepts. London Minister Coming to Toronto.
1901	.024(a-d) Burgoyne Cheese Factory account and milk statements .025 Note to Mr. Pierson from Lanwick, cheese maker. .026 Saugeen Cheese & Butter Co. Financial statement for the year 1900 .027 McGregor, Banwell & Co (manufacturers of the Gem Fence Machine) account statement March 15, 1901 to John Pierson. .028(a-d) Newspaper clippings: "Dark Horse Wins the Race" re: Charles Parke of Wiarton "Williscroft Cheese Meeting" "Acton's Monument: The memorial of gunner Moore unveiled" Gillett's Lye advertorial for fruit growers .029 Notes re: count of cows / heifer.
1903	.032 Port Elgin Times Office Invoice to Burgoyne Cheese Co. (LR. Munro printer and publisher) re: to advertise annual meeting and print milk and account statements, October 24, 1903;

Diary	Description of Enclosed Items
	<p>.033 Correspondence to John Pierson representing Burgoyne Cheese & Butter Co. From McLaughlan & Sons Company, Owen Sound, October 6, 1903;</p> <p>.034 Hilker & Co. Statement in account with The Burgoyne Cheese & Butter Co.;</p> <p>.035 Statement Cheese Co. In account with Mr. Chittick, 1903;</p> <p>.036 Tax Notice addressed to Burgoyne Cheese & Butter Factory, October 1903;</p> <p>.037 a-c: Burgoyne Cheese Company Milk Statements (J.H. Evans, Cheese maker) patron: J. Pierson, June – July 1903;</p> <p>.038 The Ballantyne Dairy Supply Co., Stratford Order / Invoice June 10, 1903</p> <p>.039 Financial calculation notes (2);</p>
1905	.042(a-e) Tara Creamery Orders/Invoices June – Oct. 1905,
1906	.044 Township of Saugeen Tax Notice to John Pierson, October 10, 1907)
1908	<p>.046 Newspaper clippings:</p> <p>“Veteran’s Claim for Recognition” re: 1866</p> <p>“Election Returns” in North Bruce in 1902 general election when C.M. Bowman and D.M. Jermyn were candidates.</p> <p>“Regarding the failure of his automobile proposals in the Legislature, Mr. Donald Sutherland, M.P.P. told constituents in South Oxford ...”</p> <p>“A Connundrum” poem in Southampton Beacon by “A Spring Poet”</p> <p>Poem “To ‘Spring Poet’”</p> <p>“A Road Jointer” letter to editor of The Farmer’s Advocate (partial letter)</p> <p>“Silo Building a Good Investment” letter to the editor of The Farmer’s Advocate from Watson Bros., Perth County.</p>
1910	<p>.049 2 W.J. Peirson Grocer and Butcher, Toronto, invoices 1910;</p> <p>.050 Receipt from Joseph Strickland, March 10, 1910;</p> <p>.051 Letter to the editor of “The Farmer’s Advocate” from John Peirson & Son clipping re: pigpen plan.;</p> <p>.052a-f The Tara Creamery Co. Invoices (include total weight of cream supplied and total amount of fat in the cream, with price per pound of fat), October 1910, May – Sept. 1911;</p> <p>.053 Haynes & Co. Real Estate Insurance & building loans card presented by “A.R. Bartley”.</p>
1915	.059 Mrs. Robt Black business card re Private Boarding in Guelph

Diary	Description of Enclosed Items
	<p>.060 Cash Account July</p> <p>.061 Letter "Dear Niece Mary Ann" from Woodstock 1919</p> <p>.062 "Receipt for Dyspepsia or stomach trouble"</p> <p>.063 Unidentified family photograph -= man, 2 women and 2 children standing outside house</p> <p>.064 John Pierson newspaper clippings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Obituary and notices re: John Pierson b) Broken limb of John Pierson c) "Saugeen's Grand Old Man" John Pierson's 90th birthday d) "Celebrated 92nd Birthday" e) Saugeen Pioneer will Celebrate 95th Birthday f) Tribute to John Pierson g) "John Pierson of Saugeen Tp. Died Sunday" h) "Daddy of them All" re: council involvement of John Pierson i) "Spring is here" j) "Saugeen's Grand Old Man Passes" <p>.065 Sarah (Mrs. John) Pierson "Laid to Rest" obituary (2)</p> <p>.066 Mary Ann (Pierson) Hilborn June 27, 1934 "Extraordinary tumor removed" re: Dr. Laird of Owen Sound and Mrs. Mary Ann Hilborn (nee: Pierson) "Mrs. W. Hilborn" obituary</p> <p>.067 Bartley family</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Death notice re; Mrs. John Bartley b) Death of John Bartley <p>.068 Other individuals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Obituary of Dr. John Percival McKinnon b) Wedding of Ida Mary Johnston and Norman McLeod c) Obituary of David Esplen d) "Miss Vrooman Bride of W.P. Hamilton" e) Obituary of Agnes Reany Heyen f) Miss Bessie Shanks and Mr. William Duch married g) "Burgoyne Resident Buried on Thursday" re: Robert Cunningham. h) "Dr. J. M'Kinnon, District Native Dies at Guelph" i) Moses G. Dippell died

Diary	Description of Enclosed Items
	<p>.069 Robert Pierson, Moore and Tollington Families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Wedding announcement re: Mr. John Lamont Pierson, son of Robert Pierson of St. Catharines. b) Wedding announcement of Sera Marjorie Pierson, daughter of Robert Pierson c) Ruth Tollington marriage to Edward Fenton, 1937 Winnipeg Free Press d) Mrs. E.B. Moore obituary (sister of John Pierson) e) Obituary of Robert Pierson (1813-1896) <p>.070 W.J. Pierson family Marriage announcement re: Margaret Marie Pierson (daughter of W.J. Pierson) to David Sylvester Chappell</p> <p>.071 Miscellaneous</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) "Concrete Floor for Cow Stable" b) Near Confusion of Corteges (funeral cortege confusion on Friday 13) newspaper article c) "Dunblane Presbyterians Celebrate their Jubilee" newspaper article d) Assortment of newspaper clipping poems
1922	<p>.078 Newspaper clippings enclosures:</p> <p>"Large fox ranch for Bruce" "The nucleus of a large Silver Black Fox Ranch has been started on the farm of Councillor W. J. Peirson of Burgoyne in company with his brother, Robert.</p> <p>"The Globe, Toronto, January 28, 1922 "Peggy's Ambition" by Peter McArthur re: Peggy the pig.</p> <p>"What can a Little Chap Do?" poem</p> <p>"Questions and Answers. – Asparagus"</p> <p>Note re: A. Watters address in New Orleans.</p>

Custodial History

These records were transferred to the Archives by the University of Western Ontario in 1988, their file No. CA9ONPEI225Y8D31 OE