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**Maris Bryant Pierce Papers, 1787-1884 (bulk 1883-1874)**  
**Microfilm M65-8**  
**Mss. B00-9**

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**PLEASE USE MICROFILM VERSION**

**Scope and Content Note**

Correspondence with government officials, census officials, Indians, Quakers, friends and relatives, 1834-1874; sermons, speeches and other writings; copies of New York State and federal laws and bills concerning Indians, 1850-1874; and papers concerning the Seneca Nation, including Council minutes, 1833-1865, treaties and agreements, 1787—1844, financial reports, letters, and mss. written by whites about the Senecas, 1807—1874. Subjects include Indian emigration, timber sales, schools, self-government, and relations with the Ebenezers, Quakers, and the Ogden Land Company.

**Biographical Note**

Maris B. Pierce was an educated Seneca Indian who lived most of his life on the Buffalo Creek and Cattaraugus Reservations. An 1840 graduate of Dartmouth College, he was one of the first Indians to receive a college education. He returned from college to the Buffalo Creek Reservation, where he was appointed an official interpreter and also taught in the Indian schools.

Pierce served as recording secretary for Seneca delegations to Albany and Washington, D.C., where he was a highly successful and respected advocate for Seneca rights and Indian welfare.

**Microfilm Note**

The following series description and folder-level inventory do not strictly correspond to the organization of the microfilm edition of the Mans Pierce Papers. However, they can act as a general guide to the contents of the collection. The papers are on 4 reels of film.

## Series Description

### Series I: Personal papers, 1834—1884

- Subseries A: Pierce's life and papers, 1884
- Subseries B: Correspondence, 1834—1874
- Subseries C: Sermons, speeches and other writings, 1838-1868
- Subseries D: Recommendations and authorizing papers, 1837-1868
- Subseries E: Autograph album, 1852

### Series II: Seneca Indian papers, 1787—1874

- Subseries A: Treaties and laws, 1787—1877
  - Subseries B: Correspondence, 1807-1874
  - Subseries C: Council minutes, resolutions, etc., 1833—1865
  - Subseries D: Other papers concerning government of the Seneca Indians, 1814-1873
  - Subseries E: Papers concerning emigration, religious activities, census and other matters, ca. 1839-1871
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## Box and Folder List

### Box 1

#### Series I: Personal Papers

##### Subseries A: Pierce's Life and Papers

1. ALS by [Mary 3. Pierce], n.d., and clipping, 1884, concerning Pierce's life and papers

##### Subseries B: Correspondence

2. Official government correspondence to Pierce, 1839—1867
3. Other correspondence to Pierce, 1834-1848
4. Other correspondence to Pierce, 1849—1874
5. Correspondence from Pierce, 1837—1873

##### Subseries C: Sermons, Speeches and Other Writings

6. 1838-ca. 1868 and n.d.

##### Subseries D: Recommendations and Authorizing Papers

7. Recommendations and certifications of Pierce, authorizing him to perform various functions, etc., 1837—1868

##### Subseries E: Autograph Album

8. Autograph album from Pierce's service in Washington, D.C., 1852

Series II: Seneca Indian papers

Subseries A: Treaties and Laws

9. New York State Legislature bills concerning Indians, 1850-1874 and n.d.
10. Handwritten drafts of N.Y.S. Legislature bills and acts concerning Indians, n.d.
11. U.S. Congress bills concerning N.Y. State Indians, Jan.-Apr. 1874
12. *A Brief Statement of the Rights of the Seneca Indians in the State of New York to the Lands in that state...* Philadelphia, 1877; bound photocopy

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**Box 2**

1. Photostat copies of Pierce's bound ms. *Copies of Treaties, agreements, and correspondence relating thereto*, 1787-1844
2. *Copies of Treaties, agreements, and Correspondence relating thereto*, 1787-1844. Original bound ms.
3. Appraisal report by Thomas C. Love and Ira Cook to the Secretary of War, 1844, as per treaty with Seneca Indians of 1842

Subseries B: Correspondence

4. Correspondence to the Seneca Nation, 1807-1854 and n.d.
5. U.S. Government correspondence with agents, subagents, or Seneca Indians other than Pierce, 1834-1866
6. Correspondence and other writings by whites on the subject of the Indians of New York State, 1839—1853 and n.d.
7. Correspondence of Seneca Indians to whites on governments, lawyers, land companies, etc., 1835—1874 and n.d.

Subseries C: Council Minutes, Resolutions, etc.

8. Council meeting minutes and notices, 1833-1865 and n.d.

Subseries D: Other Papers Concerning Government of the Seneca Indians

9. Miscellaneous papers concerning government of Seneca Nation, 1814-1873 and n.d.
10. Election materials, 1845—1867

Subseries E: Papers Concerning Emigration, Religious Activities, Census and Other Matters

11. Rolls of New York State Indians emigrating west of the Mississippi, ca. 1846
12. Miscellaneous papers relating to Seneca religious activities, n.d.
13. Miscellaneous materials (Seneca census, list of names, Civil War discharge, will, etc.), 1839-1871 and n.d.

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Collection reprocessed and retroconverted:  
Peter Nelson  
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