

**PIERSON
GENEALOGICAL
RECORDS**

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Pierson Genealogical Records by Lizzie B. Pierson

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LIZZIE B. PIERSON

**PIERSON
GENEALOGICAL
RECORDS**



PIERSON
GENEALOGICAL RECORDS,

COLLECTED AND COMPILED

By LIZZIE B. PIERSON, of ANDOVER, MASS.

ALBANY, N. Y.:
JOEL MUNSELL, PRINTER.
1878.

EDITOR'S PREFACE.

It is proper to state here, that, as Miss Pierson in undertaking missionary labor in China with her brother, was necessarily unable to oversee the labors of issuing her work from the press, this duty was entrusted to myself with the liberal privileges of editor, which privileges, however, I should add, have very rarely been exercised beyond the mere correction of proof.

I wish also to add my testimony that the author has been indefatigable in collecting the records of these families and that all the descendants of the Puritan ancestors whose genealogy has been traced in this book have reason to congratulate themselves in the fidelity with which she has executed her work.

GEO. R. HOWELL.

Albany, March, 1878.

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INTRODUCTION.

The object of this *Pierson Record* is to collect and compile the various and fragmentary records of the different branches of the family in America, that the present and future generations may have better knowledge of their relations one to the other, and that the links connecting us with our worthy sires and Pilgrim Fathers may not disappear altogether. With this in view the compiler has spent many hours in correspondence, and in personal interviews with many individuals of the family, and has listened to many a detail of family history, and has made such selections as should be preserved. She now takes great pleasure in presenting the result of her labors to all who may be interested in the book. There has been no attempt at elaboration, but in all instances, clearness, precision and honesty. By inquiries among the different branches of the name, a hope was entertained of discovering the relationship of all or of the principal emigrants of the name, to this country; but the records which have been preserved are so meagre and disconnected that this is quite impossible (at least so far as has been discovered); therefore, the present generations have been traced back, each to its progenitor in this country; and the most the compiler can do is to present it in this form, writing out each branch as found, from the known progenitor, and trusting that some one, somehow, may have further means of information and be able to connect the different branches with the main root which was nourished on English soil, in the distant past. An attempt has been made in England also, to find from old records an account of the emigration to America of Rev. Abraham (see English note 63) and his contemporaries, hoping thus to learn if Abraham, Thomas and Henry, were "the three brothers, who together left their native land, and sought a home on the rocky shores of New England."

For the benefit of such as are ignorant of the fact, it may be stated that there are in England state papers and other records, which give the names and place of residence in England, and other particulars, of those who sailed from England with the name of ship and date of sailing. From such records many American families have found a clue to their English ancestry; but all such research (thus far) has failed to show us in what vessels our ancestors crossed the Atlantic.

It may yet be found in the old Dutch records at Leyden, or may still be buried in the uncatalogued mass of documents in the British record office. Abraham, Thomas, Henry, both Johns, and possibly Stephen, were among those who left their English homes in pursuit of religious freedom, and suffered persecution because they desired purity of religion. Many of those thus persecuted, called Puritans, sought refuge in Leyden and other parts of Holland. Some of these people sailed directly from Holland to America, while most of them first returned to England, and from there sailed to America. While an effort was made to keep a record of *all* who left the country, it was quite impossible to do this, as we are told that between 1620 and 1640 some 4,000 families or 21,000 British subjects came to America.

The two Johns, coming in 1637 and 1643, settled in Massachusetts, and their families have remained mostly in New England.

Rev. Abraham came first to Boston in 1639, was on Long Island a short time, but his life and labors were particularly in Branford, Ct., and in Newark, N. J. The most of his descendants are in N. J., N. Y. and Conn.

Henry is first found on Long Island in 1640, where his life was spent, and with the exception of his son Benjamin (who removed to N. J.) his children remained on the island, and the most of his descendants have continued in that vicinity. Thomas, Sen., first appeared on record at Branford, Conn. The town records of Branford state that "Thos. Pierson, Sen., mar. Mary Harrison, 1662." He removed to N. J., and his descendants are mainly in that vicinity.

Stephen came to Derby, Ct., in 1666, and his descendants are mostly in Conn. Three generations of this line have lived on Old Meeting-house hill, in Derby. Those who were Quakers mainly settled in Pennsylvania.

As a race the Piersons are intellectual and educated; and while they are somewhat reserved in manner and averse to much demonstration of feeling, they may be said to be genuine and honest, endowed with their full share of independence of thought and action, with tenacity of purpose (sometimes to obstinacy), fidelity to one another and to their country, and a high sense of honor, with a respect and reverence for the religion of their forefathers, while the most of them have manifested a spirit of deep and earnest piety. Many of them have been graduated at our colleges and seminaries, and have filled posts of honor and usefulness; while others, without a college education, have served their country and generation faithfully.

After an extensive research among the different branches of the family, the compiler takes pleasure in adding that no traitor to his country has been found among them; and that we need not be ashamed of the name which has descended to us, and which marks among the earliest settlers of our beloved land such men as the 1st and 2d Rev. Abraham, and Henry, and Thomas and John Pierson, men guided by high and noble principle, whose allegiance was to the

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triumph God, who dared the perils of the sea and life on a rocky, desolate coast, because the love of liberty in religion and government, demanded a fresher atmosphere than old England extended to them.

It may be found that some items and dates in the following records are inaccurate. If so, it is because the compiler has been misinformed, though great care and caution have been used in obtaining the information.

To all who have rendered assistance in contributing data and other information, I would return many thanks. If others who have been addressed had taken interest in the work, and contributed concerning their branches, our genealogical tree would have been more fully leaved. But with its imperfections, let the present generation of Piersons receive it, at the hand of the willing compiler,

L. B. P.