

Finding to the Martha's Vineyard Museum
Record Unit 329
Joseph Thaxter Pease Papers, 1814-1897
By Nancy Young

Descriptive Summary

Repository: Martha's Vineyard Museum

Call No.

Title: Joseph Thaxter Pease Papers, 1814-1897

Quantity:

Abstract: The Joseph Thaxter Pease Collection comprises personal and business papers from 1842-1884 of Joseph Thaxter Pease of Edgartown, attorney, notary public, Collector of Customs, and Judge of Probate.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information: The Joseph Thaxter Pease Papers were acquired by the Martha's Vineyard Museum in _____ by _____.

Processing Information: Nancy Young

Access Restrictions: none

Use Restrictions: none

Preferred Citation for Publication: Martha's Vineyard Museum, Record Unit 329, Joseph Thaxter Pease Papers, 1814-1897.

Index Terms

Pease, William Cooke

Pease, Frederick K.

Pease, Cyrus W.

Monterey, schooner

Pease, Jeremiah

Series and Subseries Arrangement

Series I: Personal Correspondence

Series II: Business Correspondence

Series III: Bills

Series IV: Business Papers

 Subseries A: Legal

 Subseries B: Insurance Business

 Subseries C: Schooner *Monterey*

Historical Note:

Joseph Thaxter Pease, 1814-1897, was born into Edgartown's first family. His father Jeremiah, son of Capt. Noah Pease, served as deputy Collector of Customs, Justice of Peace, Lighthouse Keeper, bone-setter, and surveyor. His uncle Isaiah, the Vineyard's most influential politician, was County Sheriff for 40 years. Both brothers were active in the newly important Methodist movement. Indeed, Jeremiah was a lay preacher and founder of the Methodist Camp meeting in Ocean Grove.

Joseph's brother, William Cooke Pease, of the Revenue Cutter Service, is known as the father of the U.S. Coast Guard. Cyrus, William's twin, served in the Revenue service and was a well regarded as a portrait painter on and off-Island. First cousin Richard Luce Pease, friend of Alexander Graham Bell, teacher, and genealogist held many public offices including Register of Probate.

Joseph Thaxter Pease, a Democrat, held the federal patronage appointment of Collector of Customs for the Port of Edgartown for two terms. During his times as Collector he continued his work as attorney, notary public, insurance agent and ship agent. While his brother William was on Revenue Cutter duty, Joseph handled his financial affairs paying bills and remitting money to William's family. He was later appointed Judge of Probate Court and served until his death. For Joseph Thaxter Pease, as Collector of Customs, see Record Unit 139, for William Cooke Pease, Record Unit 330 and Record Unit 331 for Richard Luce Pease. Jeremiah's Pease' serialized diary can be found in the Museum's quarterly, the *Intelligencer*.

Scope and Content Note:

Many of the personal and business papers of Joseph Thaxter Pease were found among the records of the Custom House at Edgartown where during his terms as Collector he continued his other business pursuits. He practiced general law. He was involved in the Oak Bluffs Land and Wharf Company as attorney and stock holder and made a speech at the banquet for the opening of the Sea View House built by the company.

As agent for The Quincy Mutual Fire Insurance Company, he sold policies to his friends and townspeople. He paid bills and lays and hired masters as agent for the owners of the coastal fishing schooner *Monterey*.

His brothers, William and Cyrus, relied on him to handle their finances while off island and the collection has their letters describing life and politics in the Revenue Marine Service and Washington, D.C. as well as William's bank drafts and bills. In his personal life, he and his wife Sophronia Norton had 6 children so he paid bills for children's shoes and beds and ordered himself new trousers and braces. Like all his family he was important in Democratic politics and sent and received letters on appointments and elections as well as lobbying for a job in the Boston Customs House.

Series Description

Series I: Personal Correspondence

Box 1 of 2

Folder 1: Letters of recommendation 1843

Folder 2: 1842-1843 (includes letter from brother Jeremiah Pease, Jr.)

Folder 3: Democrat party politics 1843-1846

Folder 4: William Cooke Pease letters to JTP 1843-1856

Folder 5: 1845, 1846 and no date

Folder 6: Cyrus W. Pease letters to JTP 1846

Folder 7: 1849, 1850 (includes letter from brother Frederick K.)

Series II: Business Correspondence

Box 1 of 2

Folder 8: 1843

Folder 9: 1845

Folder 10: 1846

Folder 11: 1847

Folder 12: 1856

Series III: Bills

Box 1 of 2

Folder 13: 1849

Folder 14: 1851

Folder 15: 1852

Folder 16: 1854

Folder 17: Bills and bank drafts for William Cooke Pease 1844, 1861, 1862

Series IV: Business Papers

Subseries A: Notary and Legal

Box 1 of 2

Folder 18: 1842

Folder 19: 1845

Folder 20: 1846

Folder 21: 1847

Folder 22: 1848

Folder 23: 1857

Folder 24: 1866

Folder 25: 1869

Folder 26: 1870

Folder 27: 1872

Folder 28: 1872--Speech by JTP at opening of the Sea View, 1872

Folder 29: 1876

Folder 30: 1884

Subseries B: Insurance

Box 2 of 2

Folder 1: 1859

Folder 2: 1860

Folder 3: 1861

Subseries C: Schooner *Monterey*

Box 2 of 2

Folder 4: 1848, 1849

Folder 5: 1850

Folder 6: 1851

Folder 7: 1852