

INVENTORY OF THE  
PICKENS FAMILY PAPERS  
IN THE OLD DARTMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
WHALING MUSEUM LIBRARY

Content: Business records and personal papers of a New  
Bedford and Boston, Mass., family, 1796-1811.

Volume: 1 linear foot.

Provenance: Gift of Mrs. Elizabeth Taber Price on 4 October  
1935 and of Mildred C. Teeling, 11 December 1965.

Restrictions: None.

Processed By: Barbara E. Austen, with assistance from  
Helen Frasier.

Funds for processing this collection were provided by the  
National Endowment for the Humanities.

## INTRODUCTION .

Materials in this collection were given to the Old Dartmouth Historical Society by Mrs. Elizabeth Taber Price on 4 October 1935 and by Mildred C. Teeling, 11 December 1965.

## HISTORICAL NOTE

Thaddeus Pickens, born in 1774, was a New Bedford, Mass., shipmaster and commercial agent who sailed merchant vessels out of New York City, New York, and Boston, Mass., between 1798-1811. He sailed to such European ports as Amsterdam and St. Petersburg, as well as to the East Indies for Murray & Mumford, New York merchants. Thaddeus Pickens' brother, John Pickens, Jr. (1779-1825), was a Boston, Mass., merchant who occasionally sold goods for his brother, although he never had Thaddeus in his own employ. In 1797, Thaddeus Pickens married Peace Bennett (1775-1812), of New Bedford, Mass. He was lost at sea in 1811.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Materials in this collection concentrate on the business activities of Thaddeus Pickens between 1796-1811. His business and personal correspondence, 1799-1811, includes letters to his wife, Peace Bennett Pickens, and brother John Pickens, Jr., as well as numerous letters to and from his employer, Murray & Mumford, and various ship brokers and shipmasters. Many of these letters concern the Tripolitan War, 1801-1805, and the trade acts passed by Great Britain and France during the period of the Napoleonic Wars, 1803-1815. Also included are several letters referring to the United States Embargo Acts of 1807-1809.

Complementing Pickens' rich correspondence are financial records, 1796-1811, consisting of a day book, ship's papers for vessels of which he was master or agent, insurance records, accounts current, and bills and receipts; legal documents, 1800-1806, including a ship's protest and power of attorney certificates; and a merchant signal sheet, ca. 1805.

Other family members represented in the collection are Thaddeus Pickens' wife and brother. Peace Bennett Pickens' papers, ca. 1803-1811, consist of incoming and outgoing personal correspondence, including a letter to her husband, and bills and receipts. The papers of John Pickens, Jr.,

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE (cont.)

are comprised of business and personal correspondence to Thaddeus and Peace Bennett Pickens, 1800-1811.

- Sub-group 1. Thaddeus Pickens Papers, 1796-1811. Incoming and outgoing business and personal correspondence; financial records; legal documents; merchant signal sheet. 10 inches.
- Sub-group 2. Peace Bennett Pickens Papers, ca. 1803-1811. Incoming and outgoing personal correspondence; bills and receipts. 7 items.
- Sub-group 3. John Pickens, Jr., Papers, 1800-1811. Business and personal correspondence. 26 items.

## DESCRIPTION

## Sub-group 1. Thaddeus Pickens Papers, 1796-1811

## Series A. Correspondence, 1799-1811

## Sub-series 1. Incoming, 1799-1811

Folder 1. 1799-1800  
 " 2-3. 1801  
 " 4-5. 1802  
 " 6. 1803-1805  
 " 7. 1805  
 " 8. 1806  
 " 9. 1807  
 " 10. 1808  
 " 11. 1810-1811

## Sub-series 2. Outgoing, 1799-1810

Folder 1. 1799-1804  
 Volume 1. 1801-1804  
 Folder 2. 1805  
 " 3. 1806-1808  
 " 4. 1809  
 " 5. 1809-1810

## Series B. Financial Records, 1796-1811

## Sub-series 1. Day books, 1803-1811

Volume 1. 1803-1811

## Sub-series 2. Ship's papers, 1796-1807

Volume 1. COLUMBIA (Ship), 1796-1807  
 Folder 1-5. " " , 1798-1803. Includes Sea Letter  
 " 6-9. DESDEMONA (Ship), 1803-1807  
 " 10. HARDWARE (Ship), 1809  
 " 11. HARRIOT (Schooner), 1797-1798  
 " 12-13. HOPE (Ship), 1800-1805  
 Volume 2. " " , 1802-1804 SEE Volume 1  
 Folder 14-25. OPHELIA (Ship), 1803-1807  
 Volume 3. " " , 1804-1805 SEE Volume 1  
 Folder 26. SAMUEL ELAM (Ship), 1807; UNION (Ship), 1806  
 " 27. Miscellaneous papers for unknown vessels, ca. 1800

## Sub-series 3. Insurance records, 1806

Folder 1. DESDEMONA (Ship), 1806; ca. 1805

## Sub-series 4. Accounts current, 1802-1806

Folder 1. 1802, 1806

## Sub-series 5. Bills and receipts, 1797-1811

Folder 1-11. 1797-1811. Includes town tax receipts

Sub-group 1 (cont.)

Series C. Legal Documents, 1800-1806

- Folder 1. Power of attorney certificates, 1806
- " 2. Ship's protest for COLUMBIA (Ship), 1800
- " 3. Agreement, 1803

Series D. Merchant Signal Sheets, ca. 1805

- Folder 1. ca. 1805

Sub-group 2. Peace Bennett Pickens Papers, ca. 1803-1811

Series A. Correspondence, 1804-1807

- Folder 1. Incoming, 1807, ca. 1807
- " 2. Outgoing, 1804

Series B. Bills and Receipts, ca. 1803-1811

- Folder 1. ca. 1803, 1806, 1810, 1811

Sub-group 3. John Pickens, Jr., Papers, 1800-1811

Series A. Correspondence, 1800-1811

- Folder 1. 1800-1803
- " 2. 1803-1807
- " 3. 1808-1811

## ADDED ENTRIES

Account books--New Bedford, Mass.--1803-1811  
 Barbary Pirates SEE United States--History--Tripolitan  
 War, 1801-1805  
 Boston, Mass.--Commerce  
 Business records--Mass.--New Bedford  
Columbia (Ship)  
 Commercial agents--Mass.--New Bedford  
Desdemona (Ship)  
 Embargo, 1807-1809  
 Europe--Politics and government--1789-1815  
 France--Commercial policy  
 France--History--Consulate and Empire, 1799-1815  
 Great Britain--Commerce--United States  
 Great Britain--Commercial policy  
 Great Britain--History--1800-1837  
Harriot (Schooner)  
Hope (Ship)  
 Merchant seamen--Mass.--New Bedford--Salaries, pensions, etc.  
 Merchant ships--Mass.--Boston  
 Merchant ships--Mass.--New Bedford  
 Merchant ships--New York--New York City  
 Merchants--Mass.--Boston  
 Murray & Mumford, New York City, New York  
 Napoleonic Wars SEE France--History--Consulate and  
 Empire, 1799-1815  
 Netherlands--Commerce--United States  
 New York (City)--Commerce  
Ophelia (Ship)  
 Pickens, John, Jr., 1779-1825  
 Pickens, Peace Bennett, 1775-1812  
 Pickens, Thaddeus, 1774-ca. 1811  
 Russia--Commerce--United States  
 Shipmasters--Mass.--New Bedford  
 Shipping--Mass.--New Bedford  
 Shipping--New York--New York City  
 Ship's papers  
 Tripoline War SEE United States--History--Tripolitan  
 War, 1801-1805  
 United States--Commerce--Great Britain  
 United States--Commerce--Netherlands  
 United States--Commerce--Russia  
 United States--Commercial policy  
 United States--History--Tripolitan War, 1801-1805  
Hardware (Ship)  
Samuel Elam (Ship)  
Union (Ship)