

**The New York Public Library
Stephen A. Schwarzman Building
Manuscripts and Archives Division**

Guide to the

Samuel J. Tilden letters to Catherine Peirson

1848-1880 (bulk 1848-1863)

MssCol 6294

Compiled by Kit Messick, March 2010

Summary

Creator: Tilden, Samuel J. (Samuel Jones), 1814-1886

Title: Samuel J. Tilden letters to Catherine Peirson, 1848-1880 (bulk 1848-1863)

Size: .21 linear foot (1 box)

Source: Gift of the Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College, 2006

Abstract: Catherine Peirson (1796-1888) was a descendant of Henry Peirson (1618-1680), who departed Yorkshire, England in 1639. The Peirson family settled in Massachusetts, in Suffolk County, New York, and in Morristown, New Jersey. The daughter of Captain Nathan Peirson, Catherine owned several properties in Richmond, Massachusetts, a small town adjacent to Columbia County, New York, where Samuel J. Tilden was born and raised. According to Tilden friend and biographer John Bigelow, Peirson, who never married, had been long acquainted with the Tilden family, and a clause in Tilden's will suggests that Peirson had at one time loaned money to his brothers Moses and Henry.

The collection consists mostly of the letters of Samuel Tilden to Catherine Peirson and their typed transcripts. Most of the letters discuss Tilden's handling of Peirson's finances. This includes general political and financial news of the time, and updates on the status of Peirson's investments. Some of this correspondence also refers to Tilden and Peirson's plans and failed attempts to meet in person. Also included are a memorandum of Catherine Peirson's investments in US stocks and notes written by Tilden; two signed receipts of monies paid to Peirson by Tilden; and a copy of Tilden's essay *The Union! Its Dangers! And How They Can Be Averted*. Also included are some typed transcripts of undated correspondence between Peirson and family members, including letters to Captain Nathan Pierson, concerning a sister's death and other family matters.

Access: Advance notice required. Apply at <http://www.nypl.org/mssref>.

Preferred citation: Samuel J. Tilden letters to Catherine Peirson, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

Custodial history: Presented to the Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College, by the estate of Margaret Mace Kingman in 2002.

Related collections

Samuel J. Tilden papers, 1794-1886, bulk (1835-1876) .Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Creator history

Catherine Peirson (1796-1888) was a descendant of Henry Peirson (1618-1680), who departed Yorkshire, England in 1639. The Peirson family settled in Massachusetts, in Suffolk County, New York, and in Morristown, New Jersey. The daughter of Captain Nathan Peirson, Catherine owned several properties in Richmond, Massachusetts, a small town adjacent to Columbia County, New York, where Samuel J. Tilden was born and raised. According to Tilden friend and biographer John Bigelow, Peirson, who never married, had been long acquainted with the Tilden family, and a clause in Tilden's will suggests that Peirson had at one time loaned money to his brothers Moses and Henry.

Scope and content note

The collection consists mostly of the letters of Samuel Tilden to Catherine Peirson and their typed transcripts. Most of the letters discuss Tilden's handling of Peirson's finances. This includes general political and financial news of the time, and updates on the status of Peirson's investments. Some of this correspondence also refers to Tilden and Peirson's plans and failed attempts to meet in person. Also included are a memorandum of Catherine Peirson's investments in US stocks and notes written by Tilden; two signed receipts of monies paid to Peirson by Tilden; and a copy of Tilden's essay *The Union! Its Dangers! And How They Can Be Averted*. Also included are some typed transcripts of undated correspondence between Peirson and family members, including letters to Captain Nathan Pierson, concerning a sister's death and other family matters.

Arrangement

Material is arranged by subject.

Key terms

Subjects

Women -- Massachusetts -- 19th century

Places

New Lebanon (N.Y.)

Richmond (Conn.)

Names

Peirson, Catherine

Peirson, Nelson

Tilden, Samuel J. (Samuel Jones), 1814-1886

Container list

- b.1 f.1 Peirson family correspondence, undated (Typed transcripts)
- b.1 f.2 Samuel J. Tilden letters to Catherine Peirson, 1848-1863, 1874, 1880, n.d,
- b.1 f.3 Samuel J. Tilden letters to Catherine Peirson, 1848-1863, 1874, 1880, n.d, (Typed transcripts)
- b.1 f.4 *The Union! Its Dangers! And How They Can Be Averted*