

122

HORTICULTURE AT PEIRCE'S PARK

1798-1905

by

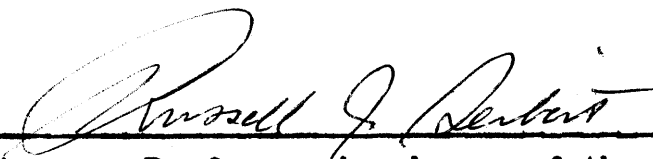
Frederick Edward Roberts

A thesis submitted to the Faculty of the University of Delaware in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science in Ornamental Horticulture.

May, 1971

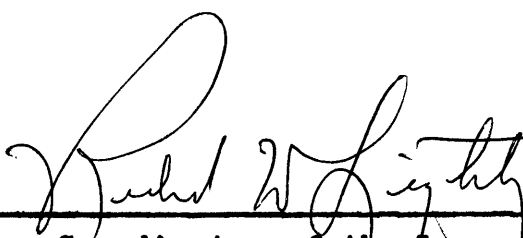
S8
1099
1971
.R644

Approved:



Professor in charge of thesis

Approved:



Coordinator of the Longwood Program
in Ornamental Horticulture

Approved:



Dean of the School of Graduate Studies

PREFACE

The preparation of this thesis was made possible through a Longwood Program Graduate Fellowship at the University of Delaware. This research paper is primarily intended to document horticultural activity at Peirce's Park between the years 1798 and 1905.

Mr. Pierre S. duPont (1870-1954) showed an interest in the Peirce family history during the years following his purchase of the Peirce property in 1906. Several of his staff members were engaged in gathering such information. This information is now on file at the Eleutherian Mills Historical Library, Greenville, Delaware, and in the Director's File at Longwood Gardens, near Kennett Square, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Russell J. Seibert, director of Longwood Gardens, has also expressed a continued interest in the history of Peirce's Park. It was he who suggested that I research this topic as a thesis project. His counsel and guidance during the course of this study and the efforts of the staffs of various local historical libraries were invaluable in the implementation of this project.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	i
INTRODUCTION	1
CHAPTER	
I. EARLY PEIRCE HERITAGE	4
II. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PEIRCE'S PARK	9
III. AN ERA OF TRANSITION	20
CONCLUSION	39
FOOTNOTES	41
ESSAY ON SOURCES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY	48
BIBLIOGRAPHY	53
APPENDICES	56

ABSTRACT

The development of horticulture on the Peirce property is significant both in its historical aspects and in its relation to the subsequent development of Longwood Gardens. The original land grant to George Pearce in 1700 marked the beginning of a horticultural history which developed in varying degrees under numerous owners until its final purchase in 1906 by Pierre S. duPont.

The original grant from William Penn to George Pearce on December 14, 1700, conveyed 402 acres and 54 perches in East Marlborough Township. This land was developed for agricultural purposes--first by his son Joshua and later by his grandson Caleb.

Samuel and Joshua Peirce, great-grandsons of George Pearce, received approximately 189 acres of the original Penn grant. In the year 1798 they began to plant a portion of this property as an arboretum and thereby began the development of Peirce's Park. By the year 1830 they had one of the finest collections of woody plant materials of any park or arboretum in the country. They associated with several important botanists during the early years of the

nineteenth century, including Josiah Hoopes, Humphrey Marshall, and Dr. William Darlington. Plant materials found on the property were mentioned in several publications such as Flora Cestrica by William Darlington in 1837, the American Handbook of Ornamental Trees by Thomas Meehan in 1853, and the Book of Evergreens by Josiah Hoopes in 1868.

After the death of Joshua Peirce in 1851, the Park passed into the hands of his son George W. Peirce. During the time of his ownership there was more emphasis on the Park as a place for social gatherings than for scientific effort, and it became known and appreciated as a place for picnicking and other outdoor activities.

After the death of George W. Peirce in 1880, the ownership of the property was held by the nine children of his sister Mary Ann Peirce Stebbins. This division marked the beginning of a decline which continued through subsequent transfers of Park ownership to various individuals. Finally in 1906, the ultimate and complete destruction of the Park seemed inevitable with the signing of an agreement between the then-owner, Lydia V. Bevan, and a Lancaster lumber company. This agreement granted permission for trees on the property to be cut and used for lumber production.

In an effort to save the trees from destruction, Pierre S. duPont bought the property in 1906. This purchase marked the beginning of a new horticultural and social era on the Peirce property with the development of Longwood Gardens. The heritage of the Peirce family and their development of the Park provided the impetus for this new growth and is now an integral part of modern-day Longwood.

INTRODUCTION

Longwood Gardens, established by Pierre S. duPont, is appreciated for its horticultural excellence by visitors from all over the world. The total of 1,089,803 visitors during the fiscal year 1970-71 attests to the degree of public interest in this institution. The outstanding displays of plant materials, using the effects of water fountains, pools, special lighting, conservatories, and other special features have no doubt contributed to the wide public attention which Longwood Gardens receives.

It is of interest and value in understanding the development of Longwood Gardens to consider what inspired Mr. duPont to purchase property in a rural part of Pennsylvania and to create such an institution. A partial explanation is given in a "Memorandum by Pierre S. duPont in Regard to Purchase and Maintenance of the Longwood Estate":

The purchase of the original two hundred acres, including what was then known as "Peirce's Park" and the old Peirce mansion dating back to 1730, was made by me in July 1906. The object of the purchase was to save the collection of old trees, which had been accumulated by the Peirce family over a period of more than one hundred years, many of extraordinary growth

and striking appearance. A casual visit made to the property revealed a plan on part of the then owner to sell off all the woodland. Part of the woodlot had been sold and the trees in the park were to be offered for sale. To the casual observer it seemed that the property was being denuded for the benefit of the owner before the maturity of the debts incurred in its purchase.²

As indicated in this memorandum, the original purchase was made to save the collection of old trees. It is doubtful that Mr. duPont intended to create an institution such as Longwood Gardens when he purchased the Peirce property. The construction of such an establishment would have seemed rather difficult because of the location, along with other limiting factors, as indicated by his statement as follows:

At that time the purchaser had no intention whatever of using the place as a residence as it was entirely inaccessible for parts of the year on account of the condition of the earth roads during the spring and in stormy weather. The road building programs of the state had not then been inaugurated, let alone developed, and there was no hope or expectation of transportation facilities such as now exist.³

The development of Longwood Gardens as a botanic garden was not given impetus until 1919, when the construction of the conservatories was begun.⁴

Peirce's Park attracted the interest of Mr. duPont with the ultimate result of his development of Longwood Gardens on the property. This fact lends historical significance to the Park. In addition, there is historical

significance in the horticultural activity that was carried on at Peirce's Park while it was owned by the Peirce family. This thesis deals specifically with the history of horticulture at Peirce's Park. It is the main objective to describe the horticultural activity at Peirce's Park between 1798 and 1905, documenting this activity as a segment of the development of horticulture in America. A brief outline of Peirce family history prior to 1798 will be presented, along with other relevant supporting information.

CHAPTER I

EARLY PEIRCE HERITAGE

In February of 1679, George Pearce of Winscom, Somerset County, England, married Ann Gainer of Thornbury, Gloucester County, England. In 1684 he left the seaport of Bristol bound for Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with his wife and three young children. In America he first settled on a tract of 490 acres in what was then known as Thornbury Township, Delaware County, Pennsylvania. He was an active member of the Chichester Friends Meeting and was generally active in religious and civil affairs. In 1706 he represented Chester County in the Provincial Assembly. He was also one of a company who erected the Concord Mill, which was the first mill in his neighborhood.¹

It may be appropriate to note here that the family name was spelled "Pearce" by the first family member to enter the new world. Throughout the family history, there was a tendency to spell the name either "Pearce" or "Peirce." Occasionally it was spelled "Pierce," which seems to be more the preference of authors than of family members. It appears that the spelling "Pearce" was preferred by family members in America until the early 1700s. After that time,

the preferred spelling was generally "Peirce" and will be used to maintain consistency throughout this thesis.

On December 14, 1700, George Pearce received title to a tract of land containing 402 acres and 54 perches (one perch is equal to 30 $\frac{1}{4}$ square feet) from the land commissioners of William Penn.² This land was located at the present site of Peirce's Park in what is now known as the township of East Marlborough. George Pearce conveyed this tract of land to his son Joshua on June 6, 1725.³ On November 27, 1728, Joshua Peirce, along with several of his neighbors, officially recorded the boundaries of East Marlborough township, upon which they had previously agreed. This record bounded the township

Eastward by the Eastern Lines of the Land
late of Vincent Caldwell, the Land of
Joshua Pierce and the Land late of Hugh
Harry...⁴

Joshua died August 23, 1752. He left 189 acres of the land given to him by his father to his son Caleb Peirce.⁵

In 1730 Caleb Peirce, son of Joshua Peirce, constructed the first section of the Peirce house, which exists today as part of the administration building at Longwood Gardens. The brick, window sash, and glass for this house were brought from England. Some changes were made in the house, and a small addition was built in 1764; but the structure retained its original character. It is

thought that a log house stood on the site of the present brick building prior to 1730.⁶ A photograph of the house in the late 1800s is illustrated on the following page. Caleb Peirce died October 30, 1805. He left the 189 acres of property to his twin sons, Joshua and Samuel, specifying that they hold it as common tenants.⁷ In March of 1834, Samuel sold his half interest in this acreage to his brother Joshua.⁸ Joshua and Samuel are generally given credit for the initial planting of what was to become Peirce's Park.

Joshua Peirce was the more frequently mentioned of the two brothers in published information about Peirce's Park. It is important to note that there was another Joshua Peirce, a cousin, who was born at Rock Creek in the District of Columbia. He was the son of Isaac Peirce, founder of Peirce's Mill on Rock Creek, which is now a National Historical Landmark. Isaac also raised fruit trees and other nursery stock. In the year 1823, he gave his son Joshua an 84-acre tract of land on Linnaean Hill in the District of Columbia. Here Joshua built a greenhouse, which was one of the earliest greenhouses in the District of Columbia. The greenhouse was later abandoned, and Joshua concentrated his efforts on the nursery business until the time of his death in April of 1869.⁹

The Joshua Peirce of Linnaean Hill was a contemporary of his cousin, Joshua Peirce of East Marlborough, Pennsylvania; and the two are often confused, since both of them were involved in horticulture. No evidence has been found, however, to indicate that the



The Peirce home as it appeared circa 1884. (Eleutherian Mills Historical Library)

The Joshua Peirce of Linnaean Hill was a contemporary of his cousin, Joshua Peirce of East Marlborough, Pennsylvania; and the two are often confused, since both of them were involved in horticulture. No evidence has been found, however, to indicate that the Joshua Peirce of Linnaean Hill had any direct contact with, or influence upon, Joshua Peirce or others of the family at East Marlborough, Pennsylvania.

CHAPTER II

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PEIRCE'S PARK

Joshua Peirce was tax assessor for the township of East Marlborough. In October of 1807, he made a list of the taxable inhabitants of that township in which he listed himself and his brother Samuel as being farmers.¹ The word "farmer" is descriptive of their place in society; however, this does not definitely rank them socio-economically, as farmers, then as now, vary greatly in this respect. There is no evidence to indicate that Joshua and Samuel Peirce were gentlemen farmers. If in fact they were simple farmers, their achievement of establishing Peirce's Park must be recognized as one of the outstanding accomplishments in the botanical efforts of their time.

An 1850 article in *The Horticulturist* entitled "Trees and Pleasure Grounds in Pennsylvania" gives some valuable insight into the establishment and development of Peirce's Park. The author, who signed himself "a Massachusetts Subscriber,"² made a visit to Peirce's Park and interviewed Joshua Peirce. He states that Joshua

...is an active man of about eighty,
and still cultivates the ground; he

accompanied us through his park, which he laid out and planted with the assistance of his brother.³

In his younger years Joshua Peirce had cradled wheat on the field where the Park now stands. The soil in the field was too poor for growing wheat, so he planted a peach orchard in place of the wheat. For twelve years he was troubled by boys stealing fruit and finally decided that he should plant something that the boys could not steal. In 1798 Joshua began to develop the arboretum which is now known as Peirce's Park.⁴

By 1850 there was a long, double colonnade of trees on each side of the Park, some of which had grown to a circumference of from ten to fifteen feet. Joshua showed a marked interest in the rate of growth of his trees. In his frequent comparisons of his trees with like species in the squares of Philadelphia, he found his to be growing taller and faster at a rate of one to two feet more annually.⁵

At one time the Park was stocked with deer. This effort was later abandoned because boys hunted the deer.⁶ The rumor that deer had been introduced into the Park was documented by the 1850 article in *The Horticulturist*.

The article "Trees and Pleasure Grounds in Pennsylvania" mentioned Norway pine, cypress, yew, white

pine, larch, magnolia, chestnut, and fir as growing at Peirce's Park at the time of the author's visit. He was obviously very impressed with the Park, as is made quite evident by his following statement:

Massachusetts abounds in fine isolated trees, which still bear the name of those who planted them; as the Henchmen elm, on Boston Common, the Frye elm, at Andover, and the Aspinwall elm, at Brookline. Yet, when compared with the alleys of splendid trees raised by Mr. Pierce, they are looked at as a solitary Claude or Raphael would be by a connoisseur who has seen the riches of the galleries of the Eternal City. Here each tree is in itself perfect, and variety enhances the beauty of each.⁷

Dr. William Darlington, one of the more noted botanists of Chester County, gave an address to the Chester County Horticultural Society in 1846 at West Chester, Pennsylvania. In this address, he discussed some of the early horticultural achievements made in Chester County.

At an early day--when the perceptive faculties of the masses were unimproved by Education, and blunted by the unavoidable drudgery of a rude Agriculture--our County produced men whose taste and refinement were so far in advance of the times, that they actually dreamt of pleasure-grounds, and Botanic Gardens;--and consequently, those strange conceits were very imperfectly appreciated, by their contemporaries. A Botanic Garden was then considered as one of the practical vagaries of an eccentric mind--the embodiment of a monomania--instead of being prized as a nursery of taste, and an instrument of knowledge--a means by which the value of new discoveries, and the

practicability of their culture, may be speedily and economically tested, for the information of all. Yet, even in the midst of that intellectual fog, there were minds (and honored be their memory!) whose radiance could illustrate the importance of such Institutions,--and whose energies could effect their introduction.⁸

In this same speech, Dr. Darlington discussed the earliest men to plant botanic gardens in Chester County. Humphrey Marshall was first credited for having established his garden at Marshallton in Chester County. His example was then followed by John Jackson of Londongrove and by Samuel and Joshua Peirce of East Marlborough

...who, by their splendid collection of Evergreens, and other kindred embellishments, have made their farm one of the most delightful rural residences within this commonwealth.⁹

In his 1837 edition of Flora Cestrica, Dr. Darlington had mentioned three species of plants collected by Samuel Peirce. A specimen of Clethra alnifolia was given to him by Samuel in 1827.¹⁰ He also stated that both Populus heterophylla¹¹ and Magnolia glauca, then plants rarely found in Chester County, grew on the Peirce property. The Magnolia glauca was observed to be of unusually large growth (between 30 and 40 feet high) and appeared to be indigenous.¹²

The Darlington Collection in the herbarium of West Chester State College gives an excellent survey of the

kinds of plant material that were growing at Peirce's Park. This collection includes a large number of herbarium specimens, along with an herbarium catalogue which Darlington completed in 1843.¹³ Appendices I and II contain lists of the plant materials from Peirce's Park that are listed in the Darlington Collection. It is interesting to note that, while Joshua is more often mentioned than Samuel in written publications, Samuel's name appears on the majority of the labels on the Peirce herbarium specimens in the Darlington Collection.

Several of the Peirce specimens in the Darlington Collection are of special significance. Franklinia alatamaha (listed as Gordonia pubescens under Theaceae in Appendix II) was collected in Peirce's Park on August 7, 1828. A photograph of the franklinia is illustrated on the following page. It is interesting to note that this 1828 herbarium specimen was collected in bloom. This would indicate that the Peirces probably obtained the plant around 1820.

The franklinia was first discovered by John Bartram in 1765 near the Altamaha River in Georgia.¹⁴ The franklinia was offered for sale in Bartram's Botanical Garden catalogue of 1783, being listed as "Gordonia Pubescens Franklinia."¹⁵ The Peirces may have purchased



An herbarium specimen of Franklinia alatamaha from the Darlington Collection in the herbarium of West Chester State College.

the plant from Bartram; but it would be more likely that they received plants of the franklinia from Dr. Moses Marshall, the son of the Humphrey Marshall who started Marshall's Garden at Marshallton, Pennsylvania, in 1773.¹⁶ In 1790 Moses Marshall made a trip to Georgia to collect the franklinia.¹⁷ The sequence of events from the appearance of the franklinia in Bartram's catalogue in 1783, to a collection by Marshall in 1790, and to the Peirces' collection around 1820 would indicate that this may well be the manner in which the Peirces received the plant.

Ginkgo biloba (listed as Salisburia adiantifolia under Ginkgoaceae in Appendix I) was collected at Peirce's Park; unfortunately, there was no date on the herbarium specimen. William Hamilton, who started his famous garden on his estate, "The Woodlands," on the banks of the Schuylkill River about 1784, is generally credited with the introduction of Ginkgo biloba.¹⁸ The tree also was present in Bartram's Garden at an early date, and there is some doubt as to whether it was Bartram or Hamilton who first introduced the tree.¹⁹ There is no evidence to indicate just how this tree was introduced into Peirce's Park.

Thomas Meehan described several of the trees at Peirce's Park in his book, The American Handbook of

Ornamental Trees, published in 1853.²⁰ A list of the trees mentioned in Meehan's book may be found in Appendix III. Of the trees noted by Meehan, one of special interest is Magnolia cordata. According to E. H. Wilson, author of Aristocrats of the Trees, Magnolia cordata was first discovered between 1787 and 1796 near Augusta, Georgia, by the French botanist and traveler, Michaux, who immediately sent the specimen to France. All efforts to rediscover the plant failed until the early 1900s, when Louis A. Berckmans happened upon a specimen in a dry wood approximately eighteen miles south of Augusta, Georgia.²¹ The specimen observed by Meehan in Peirce's Park was four feet in circumference.²² This measurement would have been made prior to 1853, since it was then his book was published.

Josiah Hoopes mentioned Joshua and Samuel Peirce in his book published in 1868, The Book of Evergreens.

About the year 1800 two brothers, Joshua and Samuel Peirce, residing a few miles south-west of West Chester, Pa., commenced their collection of trees, consisting principally of the well-known Conifers. They were mostly planted in a double avenue, extending some distance from their dwelling to a beautiful small lake at the rear of the premises. After a lapse of sixty-seven years, these trees have grown to an immense size, and present the most imposing sight imaginable. This little select arboretum is, as Dr. Darlington has recorded, "certainly unrivalled in Pennsylvania, and probably not surpassed in these United States."²³

This is a rather brief description of Peirce's Park, which seems strange in view of the fact that Josiah Hoopes was a contemporary of the Peirces and was especially interested in evergreens, an outstanding feature of Peirce's Park.

A news article in the Daily Local News (1879) lists several species of plants at Peirce's Park which were not listed in the previous references. Those mentioned were the American laurel, French chestnut, boxwood, and grapes.²⁴

In 1885 C. S. Stebbins, a nephew of George W. Peirce, measured a Spanish chestnut in the Park which had a circumference of 9 feet 6 inches at a height of 4 feet above the ground. In 1890 he measured a chestnut (probably an American chestnut) which was 13 feet in circumference at 4 feet above the ground. Stebbins also mentioned the existence of an avenue of Lombardy poplars (Populus nigra italica), which were in the central section of the Park and were removed at an early date due to the fact that these are short-lived trees.²⁵ According to U. P. Hedrick, author of A History of Horticulture in America to 1860, Hamilton introduced the Lombardy poplar in 1784, although some people credit its introduction to Andre Michaux in 1785. Soon after its introduction, it was being planted more than any other ornamental tree. Hedrick also mentions that in 1798 the Prince Nursery advertised 10,000 Lombardy poplars from 10 to 17 feet in height.²⁶

Peirce's Park, as it exists today as part of Longwood Gardens, does include some notable specimens of a variety of tree species. The exact age of these trees cannot be determined without doing damage to the individual specimens. Appendix IV lists many of the largest specimens of a variety of species that are today present in and around Peirce's Park.

There is little information with which to document the sources of this wide variety of plant material that was known to have existed in Peirce's Park. Several newspaper articles mention that Joshua Peirce traveled on horseback through an area that ranged from the Catskill Mountains of New York to the Cypress Swamps of Maryland. He collected native plant material which he brought home in his saddlebags. Stebbins states that:

European trees and shrubs were obtained at considerable expense and difficulty of transportation through a nursery on Long Island, then the only available source of such treasures.²⁷

His statement is possibly incorrect because there were several nurseries in the Philadelphia-West Chester area that did offer exotic plant materials at an early date. However, it may be that some plant material was bought at a Long Island nursery, possibly the Prince Nursery, which was founded in 1737 at Flushing Landing, Long Island.²⁸

There is little information on the subject of who influenced and guided the Peirces in the development of their arboretum. The fact that plant specimens from Peirce's Park appeared in the collection of William Darlington would indicate that he had a working relationship with the Peirces and, no doubt, advised them in much of their botanical efforts. Darlington also suggests that Humphrey Marshall influenced the development of Peirce's Park when he states:

The laudable example of Humphrey Marshall was not without its influence in the community where he resided....about the year 1800, also, the brothers Joshua and Samuel Peirce, of East Marlborough, began to adorn their premises by tasteful culture and planting...29

The establishment and development of Peirce's Park by Samuel and Joshua Peirce is a fine example of early American efforts in horticulture. Their accomplishment was no doubt unrivalled in its time, if we accept as accurate a statement made in The Horticulturist:

At the end of half a century it is probably the finest artificial park in the country.30

CHAPTER III

AN ERA OF TRANSITION

After the death of Joshua Peirce on March 28, 1851, the Park passed into the hands of his son, George W. Peirce, who continued to maintain it and add to its beauty.¹

George was interested in mineralogy as well as botany and maintained a small greenhouse along with a building in which he housed his mineral collection. George was also skilled in ironwork and kept a well-equipped blacksmith shop on his farm. In this shop he built and repaired many of his farm tools and created objects useful in the Park. Woodworking was another of his skills, and his woodwork shop contained a jigsaw and lathe among other woodworking tools. The lathe was used to produce croquet balls from boxwood grown in the Park.²

At the time that George inherited the property, the Park consisted of over fifteen acres. Eastward from the house, there was an area of open lawn. Lengthwise with and enclosing this area were ten files of trees, which formed five avenues and occupied about ten acres. To the south of this ten acres, the Park was extended another five acres with additional avenues of trees parallel to those of the original tract.

PEIRCE'S PARK--MID-1800s

(1)
(2)
(3)
(4)
(5)
(6)
(7)
(8)
(9)
(10)
(11) Hou
O
(12) Shr
F
(13) Bar
(14) Ent
(15) Pro
c
M

N
E
W
S

APPR
BO
SCAL

- (1) Natural Forest
- (2) Lake
- (3) Water Ram
- (4) Willow Border
- (5) Orchard
- (6) Maple Grove
- (7) Ice Dam
- (8) Main Avenues of
Trees
- (9) Cypress near Ice
Pond
- (10) Open Lawn
(Croquet)

- (11) House and Outbuildings
- (12) Shrub Plantings and Flower Garden
- (13) Barn
- (14) Entrance Planting
- (15) Probable Location of Greenhouse and Mineral House

APPROXIMATE
BOUNDARIES: -----

SCALE: 11/16" = 200'



The area of open lawn which is eastward from the house circa 1880. (Eleutherian Mills Historical Library)



The east end of the central avenues of trees circa 1884.
(Eleutherian Mills Historical Library)



The south side of the main avenues of trees, running eastward from the house circa 1900. (Eleutherian Mills Historical Library)

To the west of the house and lining the entranceway were rows of trees, primarily American chestnut and sugar maple,³ under which grew large specimens of boxwood.⁴ Maple sugar and syrup were produced from the sap of the sugar maples, and the chestnut stand was cut for timber several times during the years following the original planting.⁵

The barn was located part way up the driveway on the right; to the left was an orchard, which extended the entire length of the Park. Two old pear trees at Longwood stand in the proper location to have been part of this orchard. At the end of the driveway stood the house, its porch ornamented with iron snakes. Much of the house was covered with ivy, as were several very large pine trees which were limbless up to a height of 50 feet above the ground.

To the west of the house were stables and outbuildings, including the smokehouse, the blacksmith shop,⁶ and the carpenter shop. Immediately to the east of the house were two croquet courts made of compacted earth. These were supplied with lamps for evening play and furnished with rustic chairs and sofas. To the southeast of the house and at the edge of the avenues of trees was a lake which covered approximately two acres. Spring-fed and reaching to an approximate depth of ten feet, this was often used



The entrance driveway to the west of the house circa 1884. (Eleutherian Mills Historical Library)



The area to the east of the house, which is often referred to as the "bowling green" circa 1884. This area was probably used for croquet. It is interesting to note the ivy growing on the trunks of two large trees (probably white pines) in the left part of the photograph. (Eleutherian Mills Historical Library)



The lake circa 1884. (Eleutherian Mills Historical Library)

for boating by visitors to the Park. A summer house was erected near the lake, and another was built high in the trees at its edge.⁷ Several small, rustic summer houses of this type were constructed on various locations within the Park. These houses were furnished with chairs, lounges, and other accommodations designed for the visitors' pleasure and relaxation.

Willows covered an expanse of land to the east of the lake,⁸ and at one side of the lake (probably to the northeast) was a wheel house which housed a large water wheel used for pumping water up to a large reservoir at the rear of the house.⁹ During the time of Samuel and Joshua, water from several springs in this area was collected into a basin to be used for watering plants.¹⁰

A group of hemlocks stood between the east end of the house and the beginning of the walks to the lake. North of the house, along with a row of several large hydrangeas, stood a larch. Evergreens also lined both sides of the upper and lower walks to the lake, the lower walk having such trees as sweet gum and sycamore scattered among its evergreens. A third row of trees extended from the lower east side of the front lawn to a grove of sugar maples near the lake. Several varieties of chestnuts were included in this row and below it stood a short row of pine trees.



The woods path to the lake circa 1884. Note the platform in the trees at the extreme left edge of the photograph. (Eleutherian Mills Historical Library)



The front of the house as viewed from the area which originally contained the flower beds and shrub plantings on the west side of the house circa 1908. The entrance driveway and barn would have been to the left of the area shown in this photograph. The greenhouse and mineral house were located in the general area directly to the right of the position from which this photograph was taken. (Eleutherian Mills Historical Library)

South of the lake was an ice dam, west of which grew a small group of tall cypress trees.

The lawn in front of the house contained a variety of trees and shrubs, including magnolia, horse chestnut, jasmine, mock orange, several evergreens, and a long, curved row of high rhododendrons. Running east to west at the south edge of the lawn was an English yew, an Irish yew, a ginkgo, a papaw, and a large cypress tree. The southeast section of the lawn contained a large paulownia, arbor-vitae, spiraea, rose of sharon, weigela, smoke tree, trumpet vines, forsythia, several tall lilacs, and several small flower beds lined with low boxwood.¹¹

George Peirce constructed an artificial figure of an Indian and placed it in a thatched wigwam surrounded by boxwood and other shrubbery.¹² To the southeast and a short distance from the house was a honeysuckle-covered summer house and a nearby grape arbor.¹³ The mineral house and the greenhouse were also located southeast of the house near the garden.¹⁴ Near the greenhouse grew several American yew, magnolia, a flowering crabapple, and further south, a large snowball bush. A little south of the west end of the house, a row of very high boxwood extended to the entrance of the lane to the highway. South of the boxwood were a few evergreen trees and several holly bushes.

Purple beeches and one magnolia tree mixed with other plantings bordered the driveway.¹⁵

George Peirce appears to have continued the scientific interests of his father Joshua, as is indicated by his efforts to perpetuate and improve the Park, as well as by his interest in minerals and other natural and historical matters. He also seems to have been a more gregarious person than his father, having made the Park more attractive to the public by adding garden ornaments and other aesthetic features. As an active member of the Chester County Horticultural Society, he is mentioned in several newspaper articles during the 1850s. His activities in this group appear to have centered around his efforts as a member of the Society's committee on plants and flowers.¹⁶ He was also a member of the Chester County Agricultural Society and was involved with that group at the time of its permanent organization in 1853.¹⁷

George Peirce's social interests are shown to a great extent by his continued efforts to make his Park available for public use. No exact figure is available as to the number of people who visited Peirce's Park prior to the death of George Peirce, but it is reputed to have been in the thousands.¹⁸



A social gathering by the lake at Peirce's Park circa 1880. (Chester County Historical Society)

Although generally known as "Peirce's Park" to the public, there was a period during the Park's ownership by George Peirce when it was named "Evergreen Glade." This name was given to the Park by Sidney Peirce Crevles, a daughter of Joshua Peirce;¹⁹ and in 1880 a newspaper article announced "Evergreen Glade" as the new name for Peirce's Park.²⁰ Despite this, it is evident that the public continued the habit of referring to the Park as "Peirce's Park."

During the late 1870s, several short newspaper articles relating to the Park appeared in the Daily Local News. Some of these articles described the activities of groups which went to Peirce's Park for a day of picnicking and recreation that is generally associated with that activity. Accordingly, Peirce's Park received much public attention during the late 1800s. The significance of the Park as a meeting place for various groups is well illustrated by the fact that both printed and hand-written invitations were sent to individuals to attend social functions at the Park. Several of these invitations are in the Invitations Collection at the Chester County Historical Society Library.²¹

In the year 1878, Peirce's Park received a serious setback as a result of heavy damage from a storm. Many of

the larger trees were damaged or destroyed; and much of the grounds were torn up by roots, limbs, and other debris.²² The damage was later repaired and improvements were made to restore the beauty of the Park. Flowers were planted, new swings were erected, and additions were made of rustic woodwork. A pair of wild geese was also purchased to enhance the natural beauty of the Park.²³

Appreciation of the efforts of George Peirce in making his Park available for public use is shown by the following excerpt from an article in the Daily Local News:

The fact that George W. Peirce, of East Marlborough township, permits the use of his park for social purposes is exceedingly gratifying to the writer. This beautiful grove of trees was planted by the immediate ancestors of the present owner. It was the admiration of the neighborhood, and attracted a large share of attention some thirty years ago. Doubtless at that time it was regarded as a delightful spot in Chester county. Having enjoyed frequent opportunities of visiting the location in question, I am disposed to bear witness to the interest which its owner has shown towards promoting the social fellowship of his fellowman.²⁴

After the death of George Peirce on November 26, 1880, there began a decline in the condition of the Park, which was probably the result of a lack of interest, ability, or both on the part of the new owners. George left the Peirce property, including the Park, in equal shares to the nine children of his sister Mary Ann B.

Stebbins.²⁵ After her death on October 7, 1897, the Park was mutually owned by her children.²⁶ Little has been recorded about activities at the Park during this era. As local newspapers made little mention of Peirce's Park, it appears evident that there was a decline in family interest and that the Park was neither maintained nor improved during this period.

On May 22, 1905, the Park and the property containing it was deeded to Lucy Richards;²⁷ and March 26 of the following year, it passed to Jesse W. Ringrose.²⁸ A month later, Jesse W. Ringrose and wife deeded the property to Lydia V. Bevan.²⁹ And finally, on July 20, 1906, the last transfer of the Peirce property was made, when Lydia V. Bevan deeded it to Pierre S. duPont.³⁰

Under Lydia Bevan's ownership, permission had been granted to Milton J. Heidelbaugh of Lancaster County to cut timber on the Peirce property.³¹ The existence of Mr. Heidelbaugh's sawmill on the property, with the intent of harvesting timber, stimulated Mr. duPont's purchase of the Park. His main objective was

...to save the collection of old trees, which had been accumulated by the Peirce family over a period of more than 100 years, many of extraordinary growth and striking appearance.³²

The purchase by Mr. duPont marked a turning point in the history of Peirce's Park and began a new era in the history of horticulture on the property--that of the development of Longwood Gardens.

CONCLUSION

The beginning of the development of Peirce's Park in 1798 by Samuel and Joshua Peirce closely follows similar horticultural efforts of earlier times. The development of botanic gardens by John Bartram in 1730, Humphrey Marshall in 1773, and William Hamilton in 1784, all in Pennsylvania, were part of the early development of horticulture in America.

The Peirces did not achieve the degree of fame enjoyed by these early botanists. However, their efforts were of horticultural significance because they were able to collect plant materials and maintain an arboretum which gained the recognition of such accomplished and well-known botanists as William Darlington, Josiah Hoopes, and Thomas Meehan at this early stage of horticultural evolution in America. The recognition they received was for their horticultural accomplishment in planting the Park; it does not appear that they were ever given any academic recognition by their more scientifically oriented contemporaries.

The primary significance of Peirce's Park is the fact that its existence and near destruction attracted the attention of Mr. Pierre S. duPont, with the subsequent result of his developing Longwood Gardens. In essence, the development of Longwood Gardens around the Peirce property by Mr. duPont assured the preservation of the Peirce plantings and serves as a living memorial to their horticultural accomplishment.

FOOTNOTES TO INTRODUCTION

¹Director's File--Longwood Gardens, "Report of Activities in Progress" (Kennett Square: July 1 to September 30, 1970).

²Pierre S. duPont, "Memorandum in Regard to Purchase and Maintenance of the Longwood Estate" (Kennett Square, January 8, 1945), p. 1.

³"Ibid."

⁴Horticultural Information Office, "Information Concerning Longwood Gardens" (Kennett Square), Section I--History, Item 4.

FOOTNOTES TO CHAPTER I

EARLY PEIRCE HERITAGE

¹George Smith, History of Delaware County, Pennsylvania (Philadelphia: H. B. Ashmead, 1862), pp. 490-491.

²Original Grant from Land Commissioners of William Penn to George Peirce (December 14, 1700), Peirce Collection, Peirce House--Longwood Gardens.

³J. Smith Futhey and Gilbert Cope, History of Chester County Pennsylvania (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1881), p. 184.

⁴Ibid.

⁵Probate of Joshua Peirce of East Marlborough (September 23, 1752), File 1148-1, Series A., Papers of Pierre S. duPont (1870-1954), Longwood Manuscripts--Group 10, Eleutherian Mills Historical Library.

⁶"Peirce's Park," Daily Local News (September 15, 1879).

⁷Probate of Caleb Peirce of East Marlborough (December 16, 1815), File 1148-1, Series A., Papers of Pierre S. duPont (1870-1954), Longwood Manuscripts--Group 10, Eleutherian Mills Historical Library.

⁸Sale Agreement--Samuel Peirce to Joshua Peirce (March, 1834), Peirce Collection, Peirce House--Longwood Gardens.

⁹Thomas Meehan, "Joshua Peirce," Meehans' Monthly (Vol. I, 1891).

FOOTNOTES TO CHAPTER II

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PEIRCE'S PARK

¹Joshua Peirce, "A List of the Taxable Inhabitants of the Township of East Marlborough" (October, 1807), Manuscript 31485, Chester County Historical Society.

²"Trees and Pleasure Grounds in Pennsylvania," *The Horticulturist, and Journal of Rural Art and Rural Taste*, V (July to December, 1850), p. 252.

³*Ibid.*

⁴*Ibid.*

⁵*Ibid.*

⁶*Ibid.*

⁷*Ibid.*

⁸William Darlington, Address Before the Chester County Horticultural Society (West Chester: 1846), p. 14.

⁹*Ibid.*, pp. 14-15.

¹⁰William Darlington, Flora Cestrica (West Chester: S. Siegfried, 1837), p. 264.

¹¹*Ibid.*, p. 569.

¹²*Ibid.*, p. 326.

¹³William Darlington, Herbarium Catalogue of the Botanical Specimens Contained in the Herbarium of the Chester County Cabinet of Natural Sciences (1843), Darlington Collection--Herbarium of West Chester State College.

¹⁴U. P. Hedrick, A History of Horticulture in America to 1860 (New York: Oxford University Press, 1950), p. 90.

¹⁵Emily Read Cheston, John Bartram, 1699-1777, His Garden and His House (Ambler: Johnson Press, 1953), p. 18.

¹⁶Ibid., p. 8.

¹⁷Ibid., p. 18.

¹⁸John T. Faris, Old Gardens In and About Philadelphia and Those Who Made Them (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1932), pp. 155-156.

¹⁹Ibid., p. 42.

²⁰Thomas Meehan, The American Handbook of Ornamental Trees (Philadelphia: Lippincott, Grambo & Company, 1853), pp. 61-237.

²¹Ernest H. Wilson, Aristocrats of the Trees (Boston: The Stratford Company, 1930), p. 127.

²²Thomas Meehan, op. cit., p. 153.

²³Josiah Hoopes, The Book of Evergreens (New York: Orange Judd & Company, 1868), p. 416.

²⁴"Peirce's Park," Daily Local News (September 15, 1879).

²⁵Extract of Historical Facts Regarding "Pierce Arboretum" now "Longwood" (August 17, 1925), pp. 2-3, File 1148, Series A., Papers of Pierre S. duPont (1870-1954), Longwood Manuscripts--Group 10, Eleutherian Mills Historical Library.

²⁶U. P. Hedrick, op. cit., p. 146.

²⁷Extract of Historical Facts Regarding "Pierce Arboretum" now "Longwood," op. cit., p. 2.

²⁸U. P. Hedrick, op. cit., p. 71.

²⁹William Darlington, Memorial of John Bartram and Humphrey Marshall (Philadelphia: Lindsay & Blakiston, 1849), p. 22.

³⁰"Trees and Pleasure Grounds in Pennsylvania," op. cit., p. 252.

FOOTNOTES TO CHAPTER III

AN ERA OF TRANSITION

¹John W. Hershberger, "The Old Gardens of Pennsylvania," Garden Magazine (February, 1921), p. 326.

²"Peirce's Park," Daily Local News (September 15, 1879).

³Ibid.

⁴Village Record (October 17, 1894).

⁵Daily Local News, op. cit.

⁶Village Record, op. cit.

⁷Helen M. Woodward, Untitled Notes on Peirce Family, Mrs. Lounes Taylor File, Vault Manuscripts, Chester County Historical Society.

⁸Daily Local News, op. cit.

⁹Village Record, op. cit.

¹⁰Chester County Cabinet of Natural Science Report on the Progress and Present Condition of the Chester County Cabinet of Natural Science (March 15, 1828), p. 4, Organizations File, Chester County Historical Society.

¹¹Letter from Helen M. Woodward of Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, to author (February 8, 1971), Director's File--Longwood Gardens.

¹²Village Record, op. cit.

¹³Helen M. Woodward--Vault Manuscripts, op. cit.

¹⁴Letter from Helen M. Woodward, op. cit.

¹⁵"Horticultural and Industrial Exhibition--1851," The American Republican (June 24, 1851).

¹⁶"Notice" (Regarding Chester County Agricultural Society), *The American Republican* (June 28, 1853).

¹⁷*Daily Local News*, op. cit.

¹⁸George Peirce Stebbins, "Two Planted Peirce's Park as Last Century was New," *Daily Local News* (September 15, 1932).

¹⁹"Evergreen Glade," *Daily Local News* (May 14, 1880).

²⁰Invitations Collection, Chester County Historical Society Manuscript File.

²¹*Daily Local News* (October 26, 1878).

²²*Daily Local News* (May 10, 1880).

²³*Daily Local News* (July 26, 1880).

²⁴George W. Peirce, will (East Marlborough, November 26, 1880), File 1148, Series A., Papers of Pierre S. duPont (1870-1954), Longwood Manuscripts--Group 10, Eleutherian Mills Historical Library.

²⁵Mary Ann B. Stebbins, will (East Marlborough, October 7, 1897), File 1148, Series A., Papers of Pierre S. duPont (1870-1954), Longwood Manuscripts--Group 10, Eleutherian Mills Historical Library.

²⁶J. Peirce Stebbins, deed to Lucy Richards (May 22, 1905), File 1148, Series A., Papers of Pierre S. duPont (1870-1954), Longwood Manuscripts--Group 10, Eleutherian Mills Historical Library.

²⁷Lucy Richards, deed to Jesse W. Ringrose (March 26, 1906), File 1148, Series A., Papers of Pierre S. duPont (1870-1954), Longwood Manuscripts--Group 10, Eleutherian Mills Historical Library.

²⁸Jesse W. Ringrose, deed to Lydia V. Bevan (April 2, 1906), File 1148, Series A., Papers of Pierre S. duPont (1870-1954), Longwood Manuscripts--Group 10, Eleutherian Mills Historical Library.

²⁹*Daily Local News* (July 21, 1906).

³⁰*Ibid.*

³¹Ibid.

³²Pierre S. duPont, "Memorandum in Regard to Purchase and Maintenance of the Longwood Estate" (Kennett Square, January 8, 1945), p. 41.

ESSAY ON SOURCES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

In doing the research for a paper covering a historical subject, the most valuable information is obtained from sources directly related to the subject. Information gathered from secondary sources, while very valuable in many instances, is often difficult to use as one may not be certain of proper interpretation of the material and may find difficulty in correctly using it.

Research on the subject of Peirce's Park was made very difficult because of a lack of documentary material, both primary and secondary. Original material, particularly letters, documents, and other written records by Peirce family members, is rather scant. In the years following the purchase of the Peirce property by Mr. duPont in 1906, original material was in the hands of Miss Helen Woodward, grandniece of George W. Peirce. Over the years this material had been handed down through the family to her. She found it necessary to destroy much of this due to the difficulty of transporting it as she moved from one place to another. This explains much of the problem in finding original material.

The writings of men like William Darlington, Thomas Meehan, and Josiah Hoopes were of value. However, the lack of serious comprehensive writings about the Peirces by these individuals seems strange since they were noted botanists of the time when Peirce's Park gained recognition as an arboretum or garden. Of all the possible authors on the Peirces, the Painter brothers, who had an arboretum which is now known as the Tyler Arboretum in Lima, Pennsylvania, would have seemed the most probable. They were very much interested in the history of their area and gathered and recorded a vast amount of information. A search of manuscript collections containing their writings indicates that they were aware of the existence of the Peirces and were interested in them. However, they seem only to have collected genealogical information on the Peirce family.

The close geographical proximity and possible relationship of the Humphrey Marshall family would indicate that there might well have been correspondence between the Marshalls and the Peirces which would contain valuable information on the horticultural activities of the Peirces. A search of Marshall papers in area manuscript collections failed to produce such material.

A Report on the Progress and Present Condition of the Chester County Cabinet of Natural Science (1826) by

H. H. Van Amringe indicates that he corresponded with Samuel Peirce in collecting information for the preparation of his report. The report contained nothing of significance about Peirce's Park, and a search of manuscripts containing Van Amringe's papers failed to produce any correspondence between Samuel Peirce and Van Amringe. The location of such correspondence, if in fact it does exist, might well prove invaluable in better understanding the Peirce horticultural efforts.

There are many well-known written accounts of Chester County history. A History of Chester County (1881) by J. Smith Futhey and Gilbert Cope is an excellent example. This publication along with others of its kind failed to provide any substantial quantity of information on the Peirce family. This seems odd in view of the public recognition given to the Park, as evidenced by various newspaper articles.

Of the early horticultural publications, such as The Magazine of Horticulture, Meehans' Monthly, The Farmers Cabinet, and The Horticulturist, and Journal of Rural Arts and Rural Taste, only the latter contained any mention of Peirce's Park. An article in this magazine, "Trees and Pleasure Grounds of Pennsylvania," (1850) was extremely valuable in documenting several items of interest which had previously been held through legend only.

Information provided by Miss Helen Woodward was valuable in many instances, particularly in describing the physical characteristics of the Park. Her extracts made from family papers, since destroyed, were valuable in understanding much of the family history and other background material related to the Park.

The transactions of the Chester County Agricultural Society, Horticultural Society, and Cabinet of Natural Science contained very little information of value.

Several area institutions provided the vast majority of the information used in preparing this thesis. The Manuscript Collections of the Eleutherian Mills Historical Library contain much information of a general nature and was useful in documenting much of the historical sequence of developments at Peirce's Park. The pictorial collections provided several excellent photographs which contributed much to the description of the Park. The Director's File and Peirce Collection at Longwood Gardens contain many items of interest and value relating to the Peirces. Also at Longwood is the fine collection of old trees in the Park, many of which date back to the time of the Peirces. The collections at the Chester County Historical Society also provided a large quantity of valuable material. Of particular value was the Newspaper Clippings File, from which several newspaper articles

directly related to Peirce's Park were found. An article of particular value was one entitled "Peirce's Park," which appeared in the Daily Local News (1879).

Several other institutions in the northeast region were searched for information. The Massachusetts Horticultural Society and the New York Historical Society provided little information of value pertaining to Peirce's Park. The National Agricultural Library and the Library Company of Philadelphia both contain fine collections of old publications, which did provide some background information. The Columbia Historical Society Library contains a wealth of material on the Joshua Peirce at Rock Creek, Maryland. The American Philosophical Society, the Pennsylvania Historical Society, and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society contain much information that may be used for background study but little that is specific to the Peirces.

An individual interested in pursuing further study of Peirce's Park should consider searching for information in the institutions mentioned. Those containing nothing of value at present may well have additions to their collections as time passes.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

I. MANUSCRIPTS

CHESTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Chester County--Report on Status of Cabinet of
Natural Science, March 15, 1828.

Helen M. Woodward, untitled notes on several Peirce
family members.

Invitations Collection

List of Taxable Inhabitants, East Marlborough
Township, October, 1807

ELEUTHERIAN MILLS HISTORICAL LIBRARY

Caleb Peirce, probate, December 16, 1815.

✓ Extract of Historical Facts Regarding "Peirce's
Park" Now "Longwood," August 17, 1925.

George W. Peirce, will, November 26, 1880.

Jesse W. Ringrose, deed to Lydia V. Bevan, April 2,
1906.

Joshua Peirce, probate, September 23, 1752.

Joshua Peirce Stebbins, deed to Lucy Richards, May
22, 1905.

Lucy Richards, deed to Jesse W. Ringrose, March 26,
1906.

Mary Ann B. Stebbins, will, October 7, 1897.

LONGWOOD GARDENS--DIRECTOR'S FILE

Helen M. Woodward, correspondence, February 8, 1971.

Information Concerning Longwood Gardens.

✓ Memorandum by Pierre S. duPont in Regard to Purchase
and Maintenance of the Longwood Estate, 1945.

Report of Activities in Progress, July 1 to September
30, 1970.

LONGWOOD GARDENS--PEIRCE COLLECTION

✓ Samuel Peirce, sale agreement to Joshua Peirce,
March, 1834.

William Penn, land grant to George Pearce, December
14, 1700.

WEST CHESTER STATE COLLEGE HERBARIUM

William Darlington, herbarium catalogue, 1843.

II. BOOKS

Cheston, Emily Read. John Bartram, 1699-1777. His Garden
and His House. Ambler, 1953.

Darlington, William. Address Before the Chester County
Horticultural Society. West Chester, 1846.

Darlington, William. Flora Cestrica. West Chester, 1837.

- Darlington, William. Memorial of John Bartram and Humphrey Marshall. Philadelphia, 1849.
- Faris, John T. Old Gardens in and About Philadelphia and Those Who Made Them. Indianapolis, 1932.
- Futhey, J. Smith and Gilbert Cope. History of Chester County, Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, 1881.
- Hedrick, U. P. A History of Horticulture in America to 1860. New York, 1950.
- Hoopes, Josiah. The Book of Evergreens. New York, 1868.
- Meehan, Thomas. The American Handbook of Ornamental Trees. Philadelphia, 1853.
- Smith, George. History of Delaware County, Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, 1862.
- Wilson, Earnest H. Aristocrats of the Trees. Boston, 1930.

III. ARTICLES

- . "Evergreen Glade," Daily Local News, May 14, 1880.
- . "Horticultural and Industrial Exhibition--1851," The American Republican, June 24, 1851.
- . "Peirce's Park," Daily Local News, September 15, 1879.
- . "Trees and Pleasure Grounds in Pennsylvania," The Horticulturist and Journal of Rural Art and Rural Taste, V (1850), 252.
- Hershberger, John W. "The Old Gardens Of Pennsylvania," Garden Magazine, February, 1921, 326.

Meehan, Thomas. "Joshua Peirce," Meehans' Monthly, I (1891),
15.

Stebbins, George Peirce. "Two Planted Peirce's Park As Last
Century was New," Daily Local News, September 15,
1932.

IV. NEWSPAPERS

The American Republican (West Chester), June 28, 1853.

Daily Local News (West Chester), October 26, 1875.

Daily Local News (West Chester), May 10, 1880.

Daily Local News (West Chester), July 26, 1880.

Daily Local News (West Chester), July 21, 1906.

Village Record (West Chester), October 17, 1894.

APPENDIX I

A list of plants collected at Peirce's Park and recorded in the Herbarium Catalogue of the Botanical Specimens Contained in the Herbarium of the Chester County Cabinet of Natural Science (1842-43) by William Darlington. The catalogue is now in the West Chester State College Herbarium. Corrections for botanical names are given in parentheses. All other information is taken directly from the labels of the herbarium specimens.

BERBERIDEAE

(BERBERIDACEAE)

Berberis sinensis

Hort. Peirce
Samuel Peirce

(Berberis thunbergii)

August 15, 1830

BIGNONIACEAE

Bignonia grandiflora

"from China"
Hort. Peirce
Samuel Peirce

(Campsis grandiflora)

ERICACEAE

(CLETHRACEAE)

*Clethra alnifolia

Hort. Peirce
Samuel Peirce

CUPRESSINAE

(CUPRESSACEAE)

Thuja occidentalis

Hort. Peirce
Samuel Peirce

May 31, 1828

*These specimens were listed in the catalogue but were not found by the author in the herbarium.

Thuja orientalis
Hort. Peirce
Samuel Peirce

1828

TAXINEAE(GINKGOACEAE)

Salisburia adiantifolia
Hort. Peirce
Samuel Peirce

(Ginkgo biloba)MAGNOLIACEAE

Magnolia fraseri
Hort. Peirce
Samuel Peirce

*Magnolia glauca
Chester Co.
Samuel Peirce

(Magnolia virginiana)

Magnolia obovata
var. discolor
Hort. Peirce
Samuel Peirce

(Magnolia liliflora)

May 14, 1828

OLEACEAE

Ligustrum lucidum
"Privet from China"
Hort. Peirce
Samuel Peirce

August, 1830

ABIETINAE(PINACEAE)

Pinus abies
"Norway Fir"
Hort. Peirce
Samuel Peirce

(Picea abies)

May 31, 1828

Pinus larix(Larix ?--probably decidua)

Pinus pinea
"Stone Pine--from the Alps, seeds"
Hort. Peirce
Samuel Peirce

(Pinus cembra ?)

AMYGDALAEAEPrunus semperflorens

"French Cherry"
Hort. Peirce
Samuel Peirce

(ROSACEAE)

(Prunus cerasus)
(var. semperflorens)

June 6, 1827

ULMACEAEUlmus campestris

"English Elm"
Hort. Peirce
Samuel Peirce

(Ulmus procera)

May 31, 1828

APPENDIX II

A list of plants found in the herbarium at West Chester State College in the Darlington Collection. They are not included in Darlington's herbarium catalogue (1842-43). Corrections for botanical names are given in parentheses. All other information is taken directly from the labels of the herbarium specimens.

ACERACEAE

Acer pseudo-platanus

Peirce's Garden

West Chester

May 18, 1828

May 19, 1952

AQUIFOLIACEAE

Ilex vomitoria

Hort. Peirce

Samuel Peirce

August 15, 1830

CORYLACEAE

Betula

Hort. Peirce

(Betula species ?)

May 31, 1828

FAGACEAE

Fagus sylvatica ?

Samuel Peirce

May 14, 1828

GRAMINEAE

Arundo donax

Hort. Peirce

Samuel Peirce

Arundo donax

var. versicolor

Samuel Peirce

August 15, 1830

HAMAMELIDACEAE

Hamamelis chinensis
Hort. Peirce
Chester County
Collect. E. C. Morris

(Loropetalum chinense)
August 19, 1843

LEGUMINOSAE

Acacia julibrissin
Hort. Peirce
Samuel Peirce

(Albizia julibrissin)
May 31, 1828

Gymnocladus canadensis
Hort. Peirce

(Gymnocladus dioica)
June 5, 1828

MALVACEAE

Hibiscus
Samuel Peirce

September 11, 1830

OLEACEAE

Chionanthus virginicus
"Fringe Tree"
Peirce's Garden

May 31, 1828

PINACEAE

Pinus nigra ?
"Spruce"
Hort. Peirce

(Picea ?)

May 31, 1828

Pinus strobus
Hort. Peirce
Samuel Peirce

May 31, 1828

SALICACEAE

Populus ?
"remarkably tormentose beneath"
Hort. Peirce

1828

TAXACEAE

Taxus canadensis
Hort. Peirce
Samuel Peirce

THEACEAE

Gordonia pubescens
Hort. Peirce

(Franklinia alatomahala)
August 7, 1828

TILIACEAE

Tilia europaea
Hort. Peirce

(Tilia europaea)
May 18, 1828

APPENDIX III

A list of plants from the Peirce Arboretum included in Thomas Meehan's book, The American Handbook of Ornamental Trees (Philadelphia: Lippincott, Grambo, and Co., 1853).

Acer platanoides

"In the fine arboretum of Mr. G. W. Pierce, near West Chester there is a fine specimen near eight feet in circumference." (p. 62)

Aesculus ohioensis (Aesculus glabra)

"A specimen in the arboretum of G. W. Pierce appears to be about fifty feet high, and is two feet four inches in circumference." (p. 68)

Betula populifolia

"The best Bartram specimen is forty-one feet high by three feet in circumference. There is a much finer specimen in Mr. Pierce's arboretum." (p. 80)

Castanea pumila

"There is a very pretty specimen in Mr. Pierce's arboretum, twenty-eight inches in circumference and about thirty-five feet high." (p. 90)

Cercis canadensis

"I have seen some fine specimens of this in Mr. Pierce's fine avenue." (p. 100)

Fagus sylvatica cuprea (Fagus sylvatica var. atropunicea)

"A specimen with a magnificent head exists in the fine arboretum of Mr. Pierce, which is five feet in circumference." (p. 120)

Fraxinus quadrangulata

"I have seen but one small tree in the arboretum of Mr. Pierce." (p. 124)

Magnolia cordata

"There are very fine specimens in Hamilton's old garden at the Woodlands, and also in Mr. Pierce's arboretum; one specimen four feet in circumference." (p. 153)

Magnolia grandiflora

"Mr. Pierce has one in his arboretum which stands out pretty well." (p. 154)

Magnolia macrophylla

"The finest specimen I have seen is in the grounds of Mr. Pierce." (p. 154)

Picea pectinata (Abies alba)

"The best specimen at Bartram is ninety-five feet high and six feet in circumference. In Mr. Pierce's arboretum there are also some noble specimens, little, if any, inferior to these." (p. 167)

Pinus strobus

"There are also some splendid specimens in the large avenue in Pierce's arboretum which, though only planted in the year 1800, now average seven and a half feet in circumference, and are between ninety and one hundred feet high, to all appearance." (p. 213)

Salisburia adiantifolia (Ginkgo biloba)

"There are some very fine specimens of this tree in Mr. Pierce's arboretum, little if any, inferior to the Bartram specimens." (p. 218)

Salix caprea

"There is a noble specimen of, I believe, this species in the fine arboretum of Mr. Pierce, which is five feet in circumference, and probably forty feet high. Its head is very regular, round and spreading." (p. 236)

Ulmus campestris (Ulmus procera)

"There is a very fine specimen in Mr. Pierce's arboretum, measuring six feet seven inches in circumference, and is probably ninety feet high." (p. 237)

APPENDIX IV

Location and circumference of larger tree species in and around Peirce's Park. Measurements taken at 4½ feet above the ground during August of 1970. The accession number of each plant is recorded in the Plant Records Office at Longwood Gardens and is given at the position of each plant specimen in the appropriate map quadrant of the Longwood map series.

<u>Botanical Name</u>	<u>Acc. No.</u>	<u>Map Quad.</u>	<u>Circ.</u>
<u>Acer rubrum</u>	L248	M-7	9'2 "
<u>Acer saccharum</u>	L325	K-9	9'7 "
* <u>Ailanthus altissima</u> (1968--Broken and removed Estimated age--129 years)	L2850	N-8	7'
<u>Betula lenta</u>	L681	Q-7	10'6 "
<u>Crataegus oxyacantha</u>	L568	M-9	4'7 "
<u>Fagus sylvatica</u> var. <u>atropunicea</u>	L330	H-10	11'
* <u>Fraxinus americana</u>	L329	L-9	17'8 "
<u>Ginkgo biloba</u>	L1817	M-9	12'5 "
<u>Gymnocladus dioica</u>	L332	L-9	12'2 "
<u>Juglans quadrangulata</u>	L2787	N-8	6'5 "
<u>Liquidambar styraciflua</u>	D580	Q-7	9'4 "
<u>Liriodendron tulipifera</u>	L338	S-6	13'11"

*Measurements taken during August of 1968.

<u>Botanical Name</u>	<u>Acc. No.</u>	<u>Map Quad.</u>	<u>Circ.</u>
<u>Magnolia acuminata</u>	L581	P-8	13'
* <u>Magnolia cordata</u>	L2188	P-9	10'8 "
<u>Paulownia tomentosa</u>	L342	N-7	13'1 "
<u>Picea abies</u>	L34	M-9	8'1 "
<u>Pyrus communis</u> cv.	L2851	M-7	8'5 "
<u>Quercus borealis</u>	L652	M-9	11'
<u>Sophora japonica</u>	L346	M-10	13'7 "
* <u>Taxodium distichum</u> (double trunk)	L348	M-10	8'5 " 6'10"
<u>Tsuga canadensis</u>	L351	M-8	10'6 "

APPENDIX V

Suggestions for further study on the subject of Peirce's Park.

1. A pursuit of original Peirce manuscripts might prove invaluable. Although there can be little doubt that much of this material has been destroyed, there is every chance that various items will appear.
2. A thorough study of the Peirce genealogy, particularly suspected relationships between the Peirces and other people interested in horticulture such as the Marshalls, might aid in better understanding the Peirces' horticultural activities. Documentation of family relationships between the Bartrams, Marshalls, and Peirces would be of particular interest.
3. A most valuable study could be undertaken in the documentation of the sources of plant materials that are growing or have grown at Peirce's Park.