

**PEASE**  
**Pease family papers**  
**1782-1880s**

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY**

Caroline 'Cara' Susan Pease (1866-1908) was the daughter of Thomas Pease (1816-1884), a well-known Quaker philanthropist, of Leeds and Bristol. Thomas suffered from lung trouble, and travelled extensively abroad after giving up his role in his father's business. In 1852 Thomas moved from Leeds to Henbury Hill near Bristol for the benefit of the health of his second wife Martha Lucy Aggs (his first wife Lucy Fryer had died in 1844 – he remarried in 1850). Following her death in 1853, he married his third wife, Susan Ann Fry (1829-1917), daughter of Joseph Fry of the Bristol typefounders Fry and Pyne, 1856. The family made their residence at Cote Bank, Westbury-on-Trym from 1866, consisting of Katharine and Lucy Ann (daughter of Thomas and Lucy), Mary Gertrude, Margaret and Thomas (children of Thomas and Martha) and also the ten children of Thomas and Susan: Edward Reynolds (b 1857), writer and co-founder of the Fabian Society, Marian Fry (b 1859), Rosa Elizabeth (b 1860), Joseph (b 1863), Robert Aldam (b 1864), Anna Dorothea (b 1865), Caroline Susan (see below), Cyril Arthington (b 1868) and Oswald Allen (b 1871). Among the Bristol acquaintance of the family were Robert Charleton of Ashley Down, Joseph Eaton and George Thomas, Dr Edward Ash and the Sturges, and he shared their interests in the Peace movement, anti-slavery reform and the building of the Bristol General Hospital. Thomas Pease died suddenly in 1884 whilst speaking in Bristol meeting.

Thomas Pease was the son of Thomas Benson Pease (1782-1846) and Martha Whitelock (1787-1829), and had five sisters Hannah, Susan, Isabella, Louisa and Jane. Thomas Benson Pease was a large landowner and Alderman originating from the Darlington area. With his brothers John Pease (later Adam from 1807 after his great aunt Katherine Aldam) (1775-1809) and William (later Aldam from 1810) (1779-1855), Thomas joined his Benson uncles in continuing the Leeds family business of stuff merchants and dyeing, as Aldam, Pease, Heaton and Co. This firm was founded by Thomas Benson Pease's grandfather Gervase Benson (1701-1758) of Armley, a direct descendant of one of George Fox's earliest converts to Quakerism. Thomas Benson Pease was the youngest of the nine or ten children of Thomas Pease (1743-1811), grocer in Darlington and Leeds, and his wife Susannah Benson (1741-1816), although only the three brothers survived into adulthood.

Caroline 'Cara' Susan Pease (1866-1908) was the first wife of John Bright Clark (1867-1933), eldest son of William Stephens Clark (1839-1925) and Helen Priestman Bright Clark (1840-1927). They married in 1904 and their son John Anthony Clark (1908-1985) became a key family member of C & J Clark, becoming one of the high profile family directors. Following the death of Cara Clark very shortly after childbirth in 1908, John Bright Clark married Evelyn Valentin Pechey (1886-1970) in 1923.

The Pease family papers were inherited from their father by Caroline's spinster sister Miss May Pease (d 1954), who moved to Wraxhill Cottage, Street, after residence in Westbury-on-Trym and Almondsbury.

## **EXTENT**

2 large boxes

## **ARCHIVAL HISTORY**

These papers were brought to the Bristol area from Leeds in 1851 by Thomas Pease. His daughter Miss Marion 'May' Fry Pease inherited them in an iron chest from her father. She transferred them to the business shortly c 1951 before her death aged 94 and they were thereafter listed by Laurence Barber. The papers are now thought to be owned by the Museum. It seems that letters relating to Katherine Pease and Lucy Pease may have subsequently been transferred to other members of the family elsewhere in the UK. Other papers relating to Bristol were donated to the Bristol Chamber of Commerce. It is possible that other papers have become scattered, as the present two boxes do not represent the volume of papers thought to have been housed in the original chest.

## **DESCRIPTION**

Letters from Edward Pease to his father Thomas Pease, his mother and sister, 1790-1850; letters from Thomas Benson Pease to his wife Martha (Whitelock) Pease, 1812-1826; letters from Mrs Elizabeth Webster, Balby, to Martha (Whitelock) Pease, 1810s-1820s; letters to Thomas Benson Pease relating to his properties (Cleasby and others) near Darlington, 1820-1840; letters from Thomas Pease to his father Thomas Benson Pease, 1840-1850; letters relating to properties of Thomas Pease and the building of a school at Cleasby c 1847-1848, with letters to agents relating to running of Darlington estates, 1840-1850; letters from Thomas Pease to his father and sisters during a tour to Europe and the Near East, 1844-1849; letters relating to the illness and death of Mrs Thomas (Martha Lucy) Pease, 1853; letters to, from or about Martha Lucy Pease, including relating to marriage settlement, 1842-1853; letters of condolence on the deaths of Martha Whitelock Pease, 1828 and Thomas Benson Pease, 1846 and of congratulations on birth of Thomas Henry Pease in 1853, 1822-1853; letters relating to the trusts and estates of the sisters of Thomas Pease, 1830-1853; letters regarding the Revd Richard Wolfe and his courtship of Thomas Pease's sister, 1847-1850; deeds including deed of arrangement regarding the dam of Million Sheeps-car Beck, i) Joseph Broadhead, Leeds, miller, and ii) Thomas Pease, Leeds, stuff merchant, (1 May) 1851, also unexecuted deed of arrangement relating to the debts of i), i) Joseph Dugood, Darlington, Durham, grocer and linen draper and ii) John Mowbray, Darlington, land surveyor, Luke Alder and James Gay of Whitechapel, London, oil and colourmen, and Thomas Pease, Darlington, grocer, creditors of i), 12 Dec 1782, also memorial of assignment of shares of Thomas Benson Pease in the Patriotic Assurance Company of Ireland, 8 Feb 1828; approx 16 bundles of unlisted and unsorted letters to Thomas Pease, 1830s-1880s

## **ACCESS CONDITIONS**

Access to the collection is arranged via advance appointment only. Access to some collections may be restricted due to Data Protection or other restrictions. Please check with the Archivist.

## **REPRODUCTION CONDITIONS**

Usual Alfred Gillett Trust regulations apply. Permission from the Trust and/or owner of a collection is usually required before publication. Copying of some items may be possible on a case by case basis – please check with the Archivist.

## **LANGUAGE**

English

## **FINDING AIDS**

A list is available on the Access database, prepared by Derek Patch in 1999. This catalogue is based on the sorting and bundle labels of parts of the collection by Laurence Barber in the 1950s. Some letter bundles remain uncatalogued.

## **RELATED UNITS OF DESCRIPTION**

Other letters of Caroline Pease Clark and John Bright Clark are to be found in the Millfield papers (MIL). Some items relating to the Pease family are located in the papers of Lawrence Barber (LHB), including family history manuscripts by May F Pease, 1949, and Edward R Pease, 1930, and correspondence between LHB and Mrs Amy Wallis and Miss A H Carins regarding family history, 1950s. A journal of Thomas Pease's elder brother John (1775-1809) is held at the National Library of Scotland (see *Scottish Historical Review*, XXXVI (1), Apr 1957).

## **PUBLICATION NOTE**

It is not known to what extent this collection has been used in published research.

## **NOTE**

Biographical information taken from Peter Barber. 1957. 'Journal of a traveller in Scotland, 1795-1796', *Scottish Historical Review*, XXXVI (1):25-51, and Barber's ms 'Notes on the Pease family...' (LHB, Barber Papers).