

## Peckham Collection

### Overview of the Collection

Repository: South County History Center 2636 Kingstown Road Kingston, Rhode Island 02881  
Tel: 401.783.1328 email: andrew@southcountyhistorycenter.org

Title: Peckham Collection

Dates: 1833-1973

Media: Paper

Quantity: 1 box, .42 linear feet

Location: Shelf 12 (Box 18)

Identification: Rec. Gr. 1

Language: English

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### Historical Note

The Peckham family has a long history in South Kingstown. Early family members to settle in the area included Benjamin Peckham (1684-1769) and Sergeant Timothy Peckham (1757-1791), both descendants of John Peckham (1645-1712), who was born and died in Newport, Rhode Island.

Benjamin Peckham's (1684-1769) descendants Sarah Peckham (1777-1859) and Mercy Peckham (1783-1850) were daughters of William Peckham (1752-1820) and Mercy Perry (1754-1810) who lived in Kingston, South Kingstown. Little is known of the sisters lives, although they were sisters of Perry Peckham, grandfather of Elizabeth P. Hadwen (1840-1874).

Born in Hopkinton, Rhode Island to parents Timothy Peckham (1734-1822) and Ruth Barber, Sergeant Timothy Peckham (1757-1791) moved to South Kingstown as a young boy. He later joined the Revolutionary War, fighting in the war for two years. He married Freelove Cottrell (1766-1825), granddaughter to Jeremiah Gardner.

Nathaniel Cottrell Peckham (1801-1891) was born in South Kingstown to parents Sergeant Timothy Peckham and Ruth Barber. He married Ann M. Brown (1805-1884), daughter of Peleg and Dorcas (Gardner) Brown. Their eldest child, Jeremiah Gardner Peckham (1826-1908), married Elizabeth P. Hadwen (1840-1874), daughter of Benjamin and Mercy Dockray Peckham Hadwen, as his first wife and then Mary Arnold Noyes (1856-1905), daughter of Azel and Sarah J. Noyes, as his second wife. Jeremiah and Elizabeth had two daughters, Sarah Elizabeth Peckham (1867-1961) and Anna Brown Peckham (1870-1959). Jeremiah and Mary Arnold Noyes had one son, Arthur Noyes Peckham (1870-1959). Jeremiah Peckham was deeply involved in affairs in the South Kingstown area. He was engaged in the coal and lumber business at Narragansett Pier before moving to Kingston because of ill health and becoming involved in the management of the Landholder's National and Kingston Savings Banks. He also served on the General Assembly of South Kingstown, the Town Council, and the Board of

Assessors. Additionally, he helped organize the Patrons of Husbandry in Rhode Island, serving as the First Master of the State Grange.

Jeremiah Peckham's children were all well-educated, taking on professional roles in their communities. Sarah Elizabeth and Anna Brown both attended the Friends School in Providence. Sarah graduated from Wellesley College (1895) and began teaching in Providence schools in 1911. Anna Brown also graduated from Wellesley College and pursued teaching. She taught in the Providence schools for a year, and then taught for three years at Rhode Island State College (now the University of Rhode Island). She later moved to Ohio where she taught at Denison University as a professor of mathematics. Both sisters eventually returned to South Kingstown, where they resided at the time of their deaths.

Like his father, Arthur Noyes Peckham was a prominent land-holder and businessman in South Kingstown, owning a lumber-mill operation, a potato farm, a grass seed business, and a saw mill. Graduating from Denison University in 1905, Arthur Noyes returned to South Kingstown where he married Jenness Ruhl (1900-1941) in 1924 and then Dorothy Messinger in 1952 after his first wife passed away.

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## Scope and Content

The records of the Peckham Collection include newspaper clippings, correspondence, receipts, poems, a ledger, and other miscellaneous items. The collection is likely an accumulation of a number of acquisitions that took place between 1958 and the 1990s.

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## Administrative Information

**Access:** Any qualified person doing personal or scholarly research is permitted to utilize materials in the South County History Center collections.

**Preferred Citation:** [item], Folder [number], Box 1, Peckham Collection, South County History Center

**Provenance:** These records have undergone processing at many points in the previous decades. Due to the number of times these documents have been rearranged, the original identification, provenance, and organization of the documents have been lost. The collection likely reflects acquisitions from multiple sources. When available, a catalog number is provided that may give more insight into the provenance of individual items.”

**Processed by:** Anne Colletta

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## Subject Terms

South Kingstown (R.I. : Town) -- History.

Kingston (R.I. : Town) -- History.

South Kingstown (R.I. : Town) -- History -- 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

Peckham family.

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**Related Materials**

Researchers interested in this collection may also wish to consult the following sources in the South County History Center holdings:

Individual/Family Vertical Files—contains materials on various members of the Peckham family.

Library Genealogy Collection—contains published and unpublished genealogy of the Peckham family.

## Contents Listing

The Peckham Collection includes newspaper clippings, correspondence, receipts, poems, a ledger, and other miscellaneous items dating from 1958 to the 1990s.

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	Newspaper Clippings	1923-1956, n.d.
2	Newspaper Clippings	1963-1973
3	Correspondence –Sarah Peckham, Mercy [?] Peckham, and MD Hadwen [?]	1833-1856
4	Correspondence – Sarah Peckham, E.T. Gale, David and Helen Dejong, Dorothy and Arthur Noyes Peckham; Miscellaneous	1857-1961, n.d.
5	Miscellaneous	1849-1966