

Generation Nine
Roger Pierce and Marjorie Curtis Pierce

Generation Ten
Anne Grenway Pierce Shaughnessey
And
Robert Shaughnessey

9. **Roger Grenway (7/20/1888-1968) m. 2/26/1919 Marjorie Hazel Curtis (1895-3/12/1941)**
 10. Roger Curtis (3/8/1922-5/18/1990) m. Mary Tansey (5/7/1925-)
 10. Anne Grenway (6/9/1924-) m. 6/5/1948 Robert Shaughnessey
 (11/26/1920-5/9/1997)
10. **Anne Grenway (6/9/1924-) m. 6/5/1948 Robert Shaughnessey**
(11/26/1920-5/9/1997)
11. Robert Pierce (1950-)
 11. Jean Marie (1956-)
 11. Joan Marjorie (1956-)

In the twentieth century, as before, the Pierce House was home to multiple generations of family members. Although Antoinette Pierce owned the house from 1905 until her death in 1937, she lived elsewhere for all of her adult life, first on Adams Street in the home that she and her husband, George Frederick Pierce, built on his family's land, then in the home he inherited from his father in 1910, and finally, after 1931, in Milton. However, her eldest son, Roger Grenway Pierce, and his family took up residence in the Pierce House in 1929, and Roger inherited the house when Antoinette died. Forty-one years old when he moved into the "Old House," Roger raised his own family there and remained for the rest of his life. In the years following World War II his two children, Curt and Anne, married and settled into their own homes, but when Roger suffered a heart attack in 1950, his daughter, Anne Pierce Shaughnessey, and her husband Robert returned to Anne's childhood home to care for him. With the births of the Shaughnessey children, the Pierce House once again sheltered a three-generation household.

Antoinette's decision to move Roger and his family into her house seems to have been determined by a number of factors. "Nettie," as Antoinette was called, was an energetic and strong-minded woman, keenly interested in the house and its history. After her father, William Augustus Pierce, died in 1905, she rented the house to a series of tenants, but concern for the building's physical condition may eventually have led her to decide that a family member would be more responsible about upkeep and more respectful of family tradition. At first Roger Pierce also paid his mother rent, \$40 per month, but by the early 1930s he had assumed the payments on a mortgage his parents had taken out on the property in 1929 to finance some over-due repairs and



Roger Pierce as a boy.

renovations.¹ As part of his arrangement with Antoinette, Roger and his wife, Marjorie Curtis Pierce, supervised this construction work soon after they moved in. Marjorie knew a carpenter, Charles Rogers, from her hometown in Maine, and Rogers lived with the family for a time and did the restorative carpentry and painting that, in Anne Shaughnessey's words, "brought the 'Old House' to life."² Their pride in their ancestral home, its traditions, and its heirlooms inspired the family to hire noted Boston photographer Leon Abdalian to take a series of photographs of the Pierce House when the work was finished in the spring of 1930. With views of both the exterior and the interior, the photos were also later made into postcards to commemorate the house's rich history.³

Although he had never before lived in the Pierce House, Roger Pierce had grown up nearby, and his maternal grandparents, Antoinette and William Augustus Pierce, resided in the house during his childhood. Roger, his parents, and his four brothers lived "around the corner" on Adams Street, next door to his paternal grandfather, Frederick Leeds Pierce, and when Frederick Leeds died in 1910, they moved into his larger and more elegant home. Roger attended Mechanic Arts High School and, at Antoinette's insistence, Dartmouth College, although he was not a particularly strong or eager student.⁴ The only one of the four sons to go to college, Roger graduated from Dartmouth in 1910 and obtained a job as a clerk in Boston. During the pre-war years Roger's brothers, who all became successful businessmen, were involved with the leather business, and through them Roger at some point became a leather buyer for Sears Roebuck.



Pierce House Middle Parlor, 1930. Leon H. Abdalian, photographer.



Pierce House Stair Hall, 1930. Leon H. Abdalian, photographer.



Pierce House Middle Chamber, 1930, Leon H. Abdalian, photographer.

After the United States entered World War I in the spring of 1917, Roger enlisted in December in the United States Naval Reserve Force, serving as an ensign. The next spring he was posted to San Francisco and then assigned to the *USS Edgecomb*, stationed in Tacoma, Washington. During this period he was commended for his discipline and loyalty, specifically for “silencing of derogatory remarks against the Service” made by other sailors.⁵ The Armistice signed in November of 1918 effectively ended the war, and by the next February Roger was re-assigned to shore duty on the east coast, first in Norfolk, Virginia, and then New York City. He was discharged in April of 1919, although he remained in the inactive naval reserves, and he returned home to Dorchester.⁶

During his time in the Navy Roger also married. While working for Sears Roebuck he had made frequent trips to Maine to purchase leather and to check on shoe production, and on visits to a mill in Sanford, Maine, Roger met Marjorie Curtis, a native of Richmond, Maine, whose family also had roots in colonial Dorchester.⁷ An honor student at Nasson College, in Springvale, Marjorie boarded at a local home since the college had no dormitories, and Roger also stayed there when he was on the road.⁸ After Marjorie’s graduation, and toward the end of Roger’s active military service, the couple was married in Marjorie’s family church in Richmond on February 26, 1919, the same month Roger was sent to Norfolk. After his discharge in April Roger and Marjorie lived in Boston and then moved to Chicago for a brief period; by early 1921 they had returned to Boston, and Roger worked as clerk and salesman, including another position with Sears.⁹ Roger and Marjorie’s first child, Roger Curtis, known as Curt, was born in 1922, and their daughter, Anne Grenway Pierce, followed two years later, in 1924.



Marjorie Curtis Pierce as a young woman.

Like so many other Americans, the Pierces were adversely affected by the economic swings that led to the Great Depression, and at some point Roger may have lost his job. For a period in the 1920s he and Marjorie moved to Richmond, Maine to work with Marjorie’s parents in their family bakery and sweet shop.¹⁰ While Curt went with them, Anne remained behind in Dorchester with her Pierce grandparents.¹¹ By 1928, however, Roger had a job in Boston as an insurance adjuster, and he, Marjorie, and Curt joined Anne and his parents on Adams Street. The decision to rent the Pierce House to Roger a year later may have been designed to solve Roger’s housing needs as well as to provide better maintenance for the house; while they would continue to benefit from family assistance, the young family could also experience greater privacy and independence after periods of living with parents and in-laws.

During the 1930s Roger continued as a broker and later as a claims adjuster for Gordon Boyd, an insurance company in Boston. His office was downtown, but his work took him to clients’ homes to assess their varied claims. Although Roger faithfully worked for the insurance firm for many years, his daughter recalled that his real loves were his avocations – the water, his garden, and family history. Roger loved to sail and navigate, and he logged sailboat races for many years. In 1939 he joined the United States Power Squadrons, a community-based educa-

tional organization that offers boating safety courses at various levels. After completing the entrance exam in coastwise navigation and pilot rules, Roger went on to qualify for further positions as advanced pilot and navigator in the 1940s. During World War II he also served as a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary Temporary Reserve Unit, along with other members of Flotilla 152 of the South Boston Yacht Club.¹² Roger Pierce also created a landscape around his home that was admired by the neighbors and by the teachers at the Kenny School across the street. He had a grape arbor and made wine – which he served only to “choice visitors” – from the grapes, and he distilled liquors from the fruits of his big Bartlett pear tree and two sickle pear trees. A lilac hedge defined one border of the property, and Roger planted a large rose garden; he also grew various perennials and annuals, including iris, money plants and pansies around the garage, and jonquils and geraniums in the front. In the mornings, dressed for work, Roger would putter in the garden, and he sometimes cut flowers for teachers on their way into the Kenny School. After he retired from his position at Gordon Boyd in 1961, Roger continued to devote himself to his garden.¹³



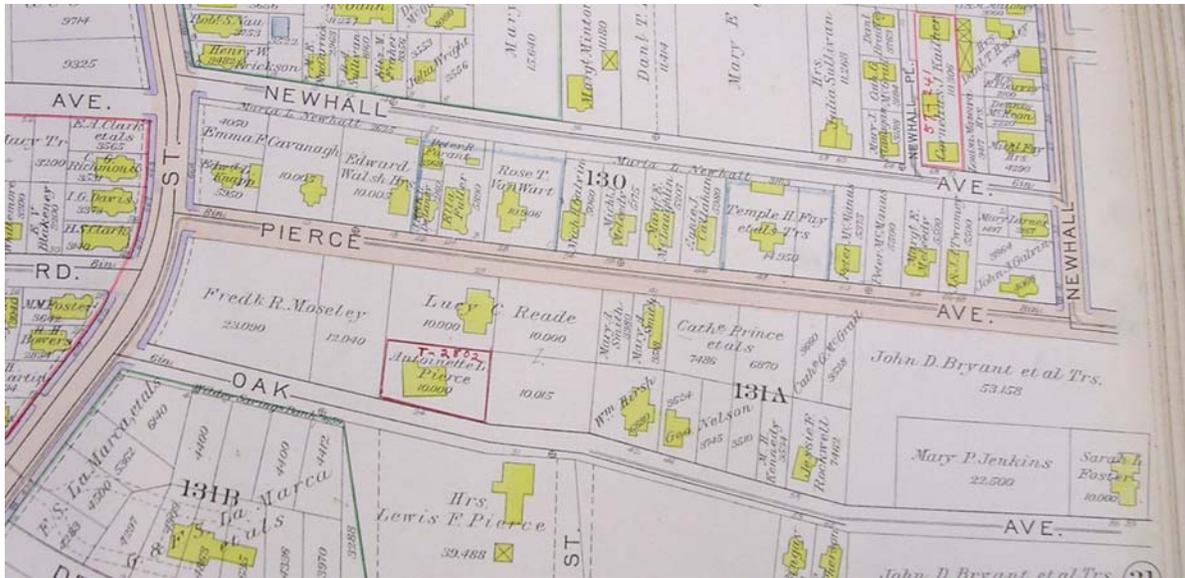
Anne Pierce in front of the Pierce House garage, built in the 1930s.

Roger’s other continuing interest was the family home and his family’s history, and, according to his daughter, he was more keenly aware than his brothers of the importance of preserving this past. When his parents moved from Adams Street to their smaller house in Milton, they gave some furniture and other family possessions to Roger, and he later obtained the family papers that Antoinette and her cousin George Francis Pierce had collected.¹⁴

Marjorie Curtis Pierce shared Roger’s pride in the Pierce House and enjoyed decorating it with the family antiques. Although money was tight, she, like other homemakers and mothers during the Depression years, worked hard to cut corners and stretch the family budget.¹⁵ Her daughter, who loved dolls, remembered that in the mid-1930s Marjorie sold enough subscriptions to *The Boston Traveler* to earn a special doll for Anne that could talk and even sing.¹⁶ The Depression took a physical toll on Marjorie as well. She had had medical problems since Anne was born, and the family could not afford the kind of medical attention that might have prolonged her life.¹⁷ Marjorie died in 1941, shortly before Anne graduated from the Dorchester High School for Girls.



Anne, Roger Jr. (Curt), Roger, and Marjorie Pierce, c. 1940. Photographer Unknown.



Bromley Atlas of Dorchester, 1918.

The neighborhood that the young Pierce family moved into in 1929 was quite different from the one William Augustus had lived in at the turn of the century. In 1900, although the Pierce farmland had been subdivided and many new houses built, Neponset was still on the urban periphery. By the 1930s, however, the streetscape had changed dramatically. The land behind the new Thomas Kenny School had been subdivided into several blocks of densely situated homes. New roads had been cut parallel to Plain Street, including Flavia, Rosaria, and Glide Streets, and each held a single or two-family house.¹⁸ The lot just to the east of the Pierce House remained vacant, and a few other empty lots served as play spaces for the Pierce children in the 1930s, but these lots were increasingly rare. The Neponset, or Adams Village neighborhood, as it was now called, had begun to experience a building boom in the 1910s and 1920s as better transportation and improved services made the area a “streetcar suburb.” City water had arrived in 1894; by 1918 there were streetcar lines along Neponset Avenue, Adams Street, and Dorchester Avenue, and by 1930 rapid transit lines ran to the new Field’s Corner station, where connecting trolleys and buses transferred passengers to all parts of lower Dorchester.¹⁹

However, the housing built in this neighborhood distinguished it from some other parts of Dorchester. Although the impact of increased population and greater density was similar, single-family homes and duplexes proliferated, rather than the three-deckers of Meetinghouse Hill, Upham’s Corner, and Wellington Hill. The construction of the Kenny School in 1926 met the needs of a growing neighborhood, but the new houses and the school dramatically changed the view from the Pierce House, which for centuries had had an unimpeded view of the water. Rather than the hilltop center of an extensive farm, the house was now just one of many small buildings in a dense suburban neighborhood.²⁰

By the 1930s the population of the neighborhood had also changed; Adams Village had become a predominantly Irish community. Irish immigrants like Michael Doody had come to Neponset to work in the 1840s and 1850s, and many had settled in the area with their families, but it took several more decades to transform the neighborhood into an Irish Catholic area. Fairly evenly

divided between renters and home owners, many of the newer residents were municipal employees, who could maintain a steady income even through the Depression years, and many lived in two-generation households.²¹ The relationship between the Pierces and these neighbors is complex. According to her daughter, Marjorie Pierce was in poor health much of the time she lived in Dorchester, and although her neighbors were apparently helpful and concerned, Marjorie kept a certain distance from them. She advised her daughter to “Be friendly with your neighbors, but not too friendly.”²² While Anne characterized her mother as broad-minded and respectful of others, Anne also realizes in retrospect that her mother encouraged her to spend time with other Protestant girls, like her best friend Marion. Still, Anne had Catholic friends as well, like her “pal” Fran, who intended to be a nun but ended up with nine children and thirty-two grandchildren.²³ Anne recalls that while she preferred to have a few close friends, her brother Curt, who loved sports, was always part of a large Irish-American “gang.” They played whatever sport was in season, often on the school grounds across the street, and Marjorie and Roger welcomed them into their home. When the boys were teenagers, they even provided them with the space and material to construct their own clubhouse in the lean-to. The boys graduated from Dorchester High School for Boys in 1939, but remained friends, and after Pearl Harbor many of them enlisted in the service.



Robert Shaughnessey, 1940s.

Robert Shaughnessey, who lived around the corner on Glide Street, was one of Curt’s many friends. The son and grandson of firefighters, Bob also lost his mother, a nurse and supervisor at the Catholic Carney Hospital in South Boston, at an early age. Anne had known Bob since childhood, but they reconnected after high school, and their relationship changed. Anne attended Nasson College in Maine, her mother’s alma mater, for one year, and then trained to be a nurse at Presbyterian Hospital in New Jersey. Bob was in the Navy and wrote Anne regularly, and he also visited her at nursing school when he had leave. Sometime after his discharge, they became engaged. Bob was a lapsed Catholic. His mother’s death had caused a crisis of faith for him and estranged him from organized religion.²⁴ In planning their mixed-faith wedding, Anne hoped to find a priest who would participate in a service at the Second Church in Codman Square, the Congregational church to which her family belonged, so that she could fulfill her girlhood visions of walking down its center aisle.²⁵ In the 1940s, however, few priests would officiate in a Protestant church. Although Anne had a long conversation with one priest, he refused to perform the ceremony outside a Catholic church and insisted she raise any children she and Bob might have as Catholics.²⁶ In the end, Ann’s minister at the Second Church, Dr. Richards, agreed to perform



Anne Pierce and Robert Shaughnessey’s wedding in the Middle Parlor of the Pierce House, June 1948.

the ceremony in her home, and, like many other generations of Pierces before her, Anne and Robert were married in June of 1948 in the middle parlor of the Pierce House.²⁷

After their marriage Anne and Robert Shaughnessey moved to Melrose, where Anne was a head nurse at Melrose Hospital. Robert had been a Boston firefighter since 1947, but they lived in Melrose because it was closer to Anne's job. Curt Shaughnessey also was married after World



Anne Pierce and Roger Pierce, 1940s.

War II, to Mary Tansey, whose family owned a successful lumber business. He went to work for their firm, Holt and Bugbee, and spent time in the northwest to learn about forestry and lumbering before returning to the company offices in Boston and later Tewksbury. Curt eventually became the company president. By the late 1940s Roger Pierce, who had not remarried, was living alone in the Pierce House, but when he suffered a heart attack early in 1950, Anne and Robert Shaughnessey moved into the house so that Anne could care for him.

The move was also well timed for other reasons. As a Boston firefighter Bob was expected to live within the city limits, and he was glad to return. In addition, Anne was pregnant with their first child, and Bob, who had strong memories of coming home to an empty house as a boy, did not want Anne to work after their children were born. As in generations past, combining the two households eased the economic pressure on the young family and provided care for the older generation.²⁸

Anne and Bob Shaughnessey's son Bobby was born shortly after their move, followed by twin daughters Jean and Joan in 1956, and the three generations continued to live in the house together until Roger's death in 1968.

Bob and Anne added some modern improvements, such as a new washing machine and a second bathroom, but they shared the family sense of history and place and made no substantial alterations. Their children enjoyed the hiding places of an old house and played in the lean-to and attic and crawl spaces of the old chimneys and closets.²⁹ Roger Pierce had his own room, the east room, and also an attic "hide-away," an office and workshop that served as a haven from the noisy family of three young children. He valued his independence, and Anne made sure the children respected his privacy, but the children, especially the quiet Joan, had a special relationship with their "Bumpa."³⁰

The surrounding neighborhood remained predominantly Irish Catholic, as it still is today. Bob's family, his father Kerin and other Shaughnessey aunts, uncles, and cousins, continued to live around the corner on Glide Street, and the families celebrated holidays together and remained in contact. Anne Shaughnessey recalls the neighborhood as a friendly environment, but, following her mother's advice, she kept some distance. Although she knew her neighbors and her children's friends, for example, Anne relates that the neighborhood women did not of-

ten visit in each other's homes.³¹ The children went to the Kenny School, as had Anne, and they also had friends who attended the local parochial schools. Anne remained a member of Second Church, where her children were baptized and attended Sunday school.³²

During these years Anne Shaughnessey did not return to work as a nurse, but remained home with her children. Her husband felt that it was important for her to be there at lunchtime and after school. He often told Anne that because his own mother worked, he and his brother had had to fix their own lunch at home – a can of creamed corn, which the young brothers then shared. In addition, Bob worked long hours and did not have much time to spend with his children. In retrospect Anne, who had enjoyed working as a nurse, regrets this decision, especially since her daughters eventually moved out of state, but she also remembers those years warmly.³³

Over time Bob Shaughnessey rose through the ranks of the Boston Fire Department, becoming a lieutenant in 1956, a captain in 1964, and a District Chief in 1967.³⁴ A third generation Boston fireman, Chief Shaughnessey followed a career path that many in the Irish Catholic community aspired to in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. For the unskilled workers of the mid-nineteenth century, the opportunity to become a policeman or fireman represented a huge leap up the socio-economic ladder, offering a decent wage, regular work, job security, and the possibility of watching a son follow the same path. Patronage was part of the system, but as jobs passed down through both individual families and the larger Irish Catholic “family,” public safety positions such as Bob Shaughnessey’s



Robert Shaughnessey in District Chief Uniform, 1981.

aligned with the Irish view of politics as a way to serve constituents’ interests.³⁵ Bob’s father and grandfather, who also became a District Chief, had worked at fire stations in Dorchester, but Bob worked in downtown Boston, including the financial district and the South End. He did not often talk about his work, but his wife sometimes learned about the dangers he faced and the bravery he exhibited from the newspapers and from the stories his associates shared with her.³⁶

In 1967 the aging Roger Pierce deeded his property to Anne and Curt, and when Roger died in 1968 the family chose to accede to the terms of Antoinette’s will. They sold the Pierce House, along with some of the family’s furniture, antiques, and memorabilia, to the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (now Historic New England.) The Shaughnessey family moved to Milton, where Anne’s grandparents and other Pierce relatives had lived. Anne Shaughnessey explains their decision in terms of the children’s education. After finishing at the Kenny School, Bobby had gone to Woodrow Wilson Junior High School, which his parents had also attended, but

Anne was disappointed by the low expectations of his teachers. His parents then enrolled him in a private school, the Huntington School for Boys, where they hoped he would be more challenged.³⁷ The Shaughnesseys did not want to face the same issues with their daughters, and they moved so that Jean and Joan could attend Milton High School.

Anne's decision may have been influenced by social and political as well as personal factors. In the 1960s the ethnic and racial composition of Dorchester was changing, as African-Americans from Roxbury and the South End moved into Wellington Hill and Mattapan, and many of the Jewish residents there moved to the western suburbs. Civil disturbances in the 1960s were concentrated along Blue Hill Avenue; a sit-in and protest by a group of welfare mothers in 1967 ended as a violent confrontation between police, demonstrators, and neighborhood residents, and riots followed the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968. Boston fire fighters had been threatened and assaulted when they responded to fires set in the area, and even if Bob Shaughnessey had not been among those directly involved, the entire Boston Fire Department felt the strain.³⁸ Tensions were high, and the future of all the Dorchester neighborhoods seemed uncertain. The Central Artery cut through Neponset, disrupting that neighborhood and seeming to separate Dorchester from its southern neighbors, with whom Anne had always felt identified. Many of the Pierces had moved to Milton, and even as a child Anne had been oriented in this direction.

The Shaughnesseys lived in Milton until Bob's retirement from the Fire Department in 1981. They then moved to Harwich on Cape Cod, building a new year-round house that replaced Anne's grandparents' summer cottage.³⁹ Bob enjoyed retirement and spent much of his time on the golf course until his death in 1997. Combining community volunteer work with her previous professional interests, Anne worked for the Cape Cod Hospital Auxiliary and its Governor's Board, which, in addition to a general consulting role, raises over a million dollars a year for such projects as modern oncology equipment. Anne is also a painter. She had taken art lessons after she and Bob moved to Milton and her children were older, studying with Marshall Joyce, a marine painter, and she has sold a number of paintings. Like her father, she is drawn to boats and water, and her seascapes are among her favorite works.⁴⁰

In 2004 Anne moved to Florida to live with her daughter Jean, but she maintains her strong connection to her Pierce family roots. Like her father, her grandmother, and her great uncle George Francis, Anne has always taken pride in the Pierce House and its history and has a keen interest in the story of her family and the story of their community. Like her father, she believed that eleven generations of the Pierces, including her children, had lived in the



Anne Shaughnessey, 2003.

house, starting with Robert and Anne Grenway Pierce, and it was important to her that the property be preserved. By 1968 she saw ownership by SPNEA as the best means of doing so, especially since her brother was less interested in the house and its history and the interests and needs of her own nuclear family seemed to be drawing her away from the area. She had become a Shaughnessey, as she put it. To Anne it seemed appropriate that “Ann Grenway Pierce was the first woman to live in the house. And Anne Grenway Pierce Shaughnessey was the last.”⁴¹



Anne Pierce Shaughnessey and daughter Jean., 2003.

Endnotes Generations Nine and Ten

1 United States Census (1930), Schedule One (Population). Roger Pierce, Account Book, 1919-1934, Pierce Family Papers, Library and Archives, Historic New England/SPNEA, Boston, MA. Antoinette Pierce, Will, Suffolk County Probate, Docket 91003, 1937. Suffolk County Registry of Deeds, Index of Grantors and Grantees, 1930, copy in Research Files, Historic New England/SPNEA. On Antoinette and George Frederick Pierce, see Generation Eight.

2 Anne Shaughnessey, Notes for interview by Susan Porter for the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, April 24, 2001. Transcript in the Library and Archives, Historic New England/SPNEA. Hereafter cited as A.S. interview, April 24, 2001; page numbers refer to the transcript. See also Antoinette Pierce, "The Rhyme of the Old Pierce Tree," Pierce Family Papers.

3 Photos and postcards are in the Library and Archives, Historic New England/SPNEA. The timing of both the work on the house and the photographs coincides with Dorchester's Tercentenary Celebration of 1930. Antoinette served on the Tercentenary Committee and perhaps wanted the house to be in suitable condition for any attention that might be paid to it as part of the celebration of Dorchester's earliest history, its founding families, and oldest homes. One of Antoinette's scrapbooks contains what appears to be notes for tours of the house. The house may have been opened for one or more of the annual Dorchester Days held each June. Antoinette Pierce, Scrapbook, Pierce Family Papers.

4 Anne Shaughnessey, Interview by Susan Porter for the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, June 26, 2001. Transcript in the Library and Archives, Historic New England/SPNEA; p. 7. Hereafter cited as A.S. interview, June 26, 2001; page numbers refer to the transcript. The Pierce Family Papers contain a copy of one of Roger's report cards from Dartmouth, and the grades are only fair. Roger's youngest brother Robert died in 1914, at age fourteen.

5 Roger G. Pierce, Application for Adjusted Compensation, 1925; George Beckwith to Roger G. Pierce, May 13, 1918; and J. W. Baldwin to Roger G. Pierce, Jan. 1, 1919, Pierce Family Papers.

6 W. F. Nabers to Ensign R. G. Pierce, Feb. 18, 1919; and R. T. Merrill to Roger Grenway Pierce, April 16, 1919, Pierce Family Papers.

7 The Library and Archives of Historic New England/SPNEA contains a collection of papers related to the Curtis family.

8 A.S. interview, April 24, 2001, pp. 24-26.

9 Marriage certificate, Roger Grenway Pierce and Marjorie Hazel Curtis, Feb. 26, 1919, Pierce Family Papers. Boston City Directories, 1911-1929. While still in the Navy, Roger wrote to representatives of Sears, Roebuck in Chicago and New York inquiring about their future plans for him, and there is the implication that he had received a preliminary job offer, perhaps continuing work similar to what he had done before the war. Roger G. Pierce to R. A. Reynolds, March 18, 1919 and Roger G. Pierce to R. P. Sniffen, March 18, 1919, Pierce Family Papers. Also, Roger G. Pierce, Application for Conversion of War Risk Insurance, Sept. 9, 1920, and Roger G. Pierce to Adjutant General, State of Maine, Feb. 24, 1921, Pierce Family Papers. Names in the address section of Roger's account book include people from Chicago and its suburbs.

10 The Curtis family ran its bakery and candy shop from the 1890s through the 1950s, making all the candy by hand. See Pauline Cronk, "Home-Made Candy Artist;" "His Ribbon Candy Ready for 64th Yule," *Kennebec Journal*, Dec. 15, 1955; and Mike Stevenson, "Ben Curtis of Richmond," *Kennebec Journal*, July 12, 1975, in Antoinette Pierce, Scrapbooks, Pierce Family Papers. Pauline Cronk was Marjorie Pierce's sister, and she and her husband Earle continued to work in the family bakery and candy shop.

11 A.S. interview, April 24, 2001, p.2. Anne later spent many summers in Maine with her Curtis grandparents.

12 United States Power Squadrons, Certificate A6030, Roger G. Pierce; Certificate of Enrollment, United States Coast Guard Reserve, April 28, 1943; and W. N. Derby to Roger G. Pierce, July 1, 1945, Pierce Family Papers.

13 Anne Shaughnessey, Interview by Susan Porter for the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, June 4, 2001. Transcript in the Library and Archives, Historic New England/SPNEA, pp. 42, 24-26. Hereafter cited as A.S. interview, June 4, 2001; pages refer to the transcript.

14 Anne Shaughnessey to Susan Porter, personal communication, July 8, 2002, notes in Research Files, Historic New England/SPNEA. A.S. interview, April 24, 2001, p. 27. Roger's brother Frederick never married, and he inherited Antoinette and Fred's house in Milton. At his death he left the property his brother Winthrop's daughter, Priscilla Pierce Pevear, and it was during that transition that Roger obtained the Pierce family papers. According to Anne Shaughnessey, Antoinette had wanted him to have the papers as well as the house. Anne believed that as a businessman her Uncle Winthrop "wasn't sentimental at all," while Roger had a stronger sense of his family's history and its importance. Anne is sure that her father would be most pleased and interested in the current research on the Pierce House and the lands that constituted the Pierce family property. See A.S. interview, June 26, 2001, pp. 31-32.

15 Roger kept an account book of his family's expenditures from 1919 to 1934. It details the family's spending on housing, food, clothing, and medical and dental bills and includes budgeting for Christmas and vacations. The accounts also provide a glimpse into daily life in the early twentieth-century. For example, Roger and Marjorie still bought ice for an icebox, but by 1929 they also had a telephone and an automobile. See Roger Pierce, Account Book, 1919-1934, Pierce Family Papers.

16 A.S. interview, April 24, 2001, p. 5.

17 A.S. interview, April 24, 2001, p. 17.

18 Compare maps of the area from 1904 and 1933, Historical Analysis, Maps 13 and 14, Laura Driemeyer, Anne Grady, Susan L. Porter, and Susan Walton, Pierce House Property Report, (HPR) 2005, Library and Archives, Historic New England/SPNEA. See also Susan Porter and Laura Driemeyer, "The Pierce Farm Neighborhood (1815-1933)," Research Files, Historic New England/SPNEA.

19 Frank Cheney and Anthony M. Sammarco, *Boston in Motion* (Charleston, S.C., 1999), p. 70,105; Arthur J. Krim, *Three-Deckers of Dorchester: An Architectural Historical Survey* (Boston, 1977), ix; and Sam Bass Warner, Jr., *Streetcar Suburbs The Process of Growth in Boston, 1870-1900* (Cambridge, 1978), Ch. IV. The transportation system may have been crucial for commuting to work, but Anne Shaughnessey recalls that people walked much more than they do today – to school and to the grocery store, for instance. She would even walk to Milton for an outing. Others recall the same pattern; see Boston 200 Neighborhood History Series, *Dorchester* (Boston, 1976).

20 A.S. interview, April 24, 2001, p. 3.

21 United States Census (1930), Schedule One (Population); Porter and Driemeyer, "The Pierce Farm Neighborhood (1815-1933.)" The establishment of new Catholic parishes in Neponset also demonstrates the growth of the Irish-Catholic community. St. Ann's had been established in Neponset in the 1880s. In 1929 a second parish, St. Brendan's, was established, meeting first in an old garage. By 1933 a large Romanesque church and a school had been built to serve the area's Catholic residents. See Robert H. Lord, John E. Sexton, and Edward Harrington, *History of the Archdiocese of Boston* (New York, 1944), vol. 3, pp. 247 and 685-686.

22 A.S. interview, June 26, 2001, p. 14.

23 A.S. interview, June 26, 2001, p. 5, 14; A.S. interview, April 24, 2001, p. 20-21. Anne maintained her friendship with Marion until Marion's death in 1981. Catholic families had similar guidelines. In her autobiography, *Times to Remember*, Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy remembered that even though she went to the public Dorchester High School, her social world was made up of Irish Catholic clubs and friendships.

- 24 A.S. interview, April 24, 2001, p. 11 and 2.
- 25 Antoinette and George Frederick Pierce had belonged to a Unitarian church, the Third Religious Society in Dorchester, but Roger and Marjorie and their children attended the Second Church. Previous generations of Pierces had also been active in Dorchester's Congregational parishes, the First Church and the Second Church. A.S. Interview, April 24, 2001, p. 12.
- 26 Anne Shaughnessey to Susan Porter, personal communication, Aug. 12, 2002, notes in the Research Files, Historic New England/SPNEA.
- 27 A.S. interview, April 24, 2001, pp. 12-13.
- 28 Roger maintained ownership of the house, and Anne and Bob paid him rent. Anne Shaughnessey to Susan Porter, personal communication, July 24, 2001, notes in Research Files, Historic New England/SPNEA.
- 29 A.S. interview, April 24, 2001, pp. 7-8; and A.S. interview, June 4, 2001, pp. 4, 8, 13, 16-18, 31.
- 30 A.S. interview, June 26, 2001, pp. 9-10.
- 31 A.S. interview, June 26, 2001, p. 14. Jean Dalton, an Irish Catholic woman whose extended family has lived in Neponset over generations, recalls a different tradition, of a more tightly-knit community where neighbors all knew each other well and served as a kind of surrogate family. There was hardly a need or a desire to go off the street, Dalton relates. Susan Porter, interview with Jean Dalton, July 15, 2003; notes in the Research Files, Historic New England/SPNEA.
- 32 A.S. interview, June 26, 2001, pp. 26-7.
- 33 A.S. interview, June 26, 2001, p. 13.
- 34 Personnel records, Boston Fire Department. Firefighter David Walsh of the Public Information Office graciously provided access to these records.
- 35 Thomas H. O'Connor, *Bibles, Brahmins, and Bosses* (Boston, 1991), Ch. 10. See also the following section on the Shaughnessey family.
- 36 A.S. interview, June 26, 2001, pp. 22-23. Bob's father Kerin was stationed in the Neponset firehouse for nine years; Personnel records, Boston Fire Department.
- 37 A.S. interview, June 26, 2001, p. 16.
- 38 See Werner, p. 123, "Sit-In Escalates into Riot," *Boston Globe*, June 3, 1967, and Leo Stapleton, *Thirty Years on the Line* (New York, 1987), Chpts. 10 and 15. Bob Shaughnessey served on the department's community disorders unit, but his dates of service are unknown. *Boston Globe*, May 13, 1997.
- 39 A. S. interview, June 26, 2001, p. 1. Antoinette had left the Harwich house to her son Frederick. In 1951, at Frederick's death, it passed to Roger Pierce and eventually to Anne. See Harold W. Pierce, Winthrop L. Pierce, and Roger G. Pierce, Agreement, May 10, 1951, copy in the Pierce Family Papers.
- 40 A.S. interview, June 26, 2001, pp. 10-11.
- 41 A.S. interview, April 24, 2001, p. 26. Research which establishes the date of the Pierce House as 1683 and indicates that it was built by the Minot family and not the Pierces was not completed until 2001. Until that time the family believed that Robert Pierce built and occupied the house; the original Robert Pierce House had actually been located along the "jogging" part of Adams Street, now Gallivan Boulevard. See Generations One and Two