

**GUIDE TO THE
MICROFILM EDITION OF**

**THE WILLIAM SANDERS
AND
SARAH C. BIERCE
SCARBOROUGH PAPERS,
1797-1935**

A Microfilm Publication by

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Note to Researcher

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Number of Containers: 3; **Oversize Folders:** 0; **Oversize Volumes:** 0

Microfilm: 2 reels

Size: 0.95 linear feet/0.29 linear meters

Restrictions: Original collection is closed. Microfilm edition is use copy.

Introduction to the Collection

William S. Scarborough (1852-1926) and Sarah C. Bierce Scarborough (1851--?) were educators and writers in Greene County, Ohio, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. William was born and raised in Macon, Georgia, and attended Atlanta University for two years before migrating to Ohio to enter Oberlin College. He graduated in 1875 and then spent a year studying Semitic languages and Hellenistic Greek at the Oberlin Theological Seminary before joining the classical department at Wilberforce University in Greene County. In 1878 he received his Master of Arts, three years before his marriage to Sarah Cordelia Bierce.

Bierce was an 1875 graduate of the State Normal School of Oswego, New York, and served as principal of the Normal Department at Wilberforce University from 1877 to 1887. At that time the department was taken over by the state of Ohio and converted to the Combined Normal and Industrial Department, which Bierce also headed as principal for the next twenty-seven years. From 1914 to 1921, Sarah Scarborough returned to teaching English, History of Education, and Principles of Teaching. During those years, William Scarborough moved up through the ranks of faculty and administration, transferring to the chair of Hellenistic Greek at the Payne Theological Seminary of Wilberforce University in 1891 and then becoming vice president in 1897 and president in 1908. Scarborough retired in 1920, just one year before his wife.

During their careers as educators, both wrote frequently, with Sarah focusing on fiction for women's and Christian magazines and William on scholarly topics. William joined a variety of professional and race-related organizations, including the Afro-American State League and the American Negro Academy, while his wife pursued her family genealogy by collecting correspondence and documents for the Abbey and Bierce families.

The *William Sanders and Sarah C. Bierce Scarborough Papers, 1797-1935* are arranged by document type and then by family. They consist of correspondence for the Abbey, Bierce, and Scarborough families; genealogical materials; memorabilia; clippings; and articles written by Sarah Scarborough. This collection pertains primarily to the social life and conditions of a black family during the nineteenth and early twentieth century. There is also a small amount of material pertaining to Scarborough's attempts to seek governmental appointments in the 1890s and 1920s.

**The William Sanders and Sarah C. Bierce Scarborough Papers,
1797-1935**

Reel 1

Container 1

Folder 1: Correspondence, Abbey family, 1832-1844, including letters between Phoebe Cordelia Abbey and her relatives.

Folder 2: Correspondence, Bierce family, 1845-1904, including letters between Phoebe Cordelia Abbey Bierce and her relatives.

Folder 3: Correspondence, Sarah Scarborough, 1884-1935 and undated, concerning her publishing efforts and genealogical research.

Folder 4: Correspondence, William Scarborough, 1885-1925 and undated, including material relating to Scarborough's attempts for a position as minister to Haiti in the 1890s and a governmental post in the 1920s.

Folder 5: Genealogical materials, Abbey and Bierce families, documents, 1797-1928.

Folder 6: Genealogical materials, Abbey and Bierce families, notes and charts, undated; Kistler family, notes and charts, undated; miscellaneous, documents, 1815-1909 and undated; and miscellaneous, notes and charts, undated.

Folder 7: Memorabilia, Sarah C. B. Scarborough, including an 1870s autograph book; 1881 marriage certificate; 1885 job reference; 1894 Zion's Herald pamphlet; 1921 resignation materials; notebooks, ca. 1920s; and 1933 resolution from Wilberforce University.

**The William Sanders and Sarah C. Bierce Scarborough Papers,
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Reel 2

Container 2

Folder 8: Memorabilia, Sarah C. B. Scarborough, notebook, undated.

Folder 9: Memorabilia, William S. Scarborough, including programs of the 1933 Ohio International Institute and undated notes.

Folder 10: Clippings, 1898-1929 and undated.

Folder 11: Writing exercise notebook, undated; and miscellaneous, undated.

Folder 12: Writings, Sarah C. B. Scarborough, undated.

Folder 13: Writings, Sarah C. B. Scarborough, undated.

Container 3

Folders 14-17: Scrapbooks, 1885-1923, primarily of published fictional pieces written by Sarah Bierce Scarborough.