

PICKERING HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Issue #17

18 Broad Street, Salem, MA 01970

December 2012

MY 15 YEARS AT THE PICKERING HOUSE

It all started when Sherrie, a Pickering Foundation board member, was speaking to Dick Pickering. He said no Pickering was available to live in the house. Sherrie immediately responded by saying, "Tag and I will." Dick, somewhat surprised, said that he knew us well enough, but would have to "interview" our furniture. Given that my ancestors had acquired McIntire and Chinese export furniture, we were in.



In 1998, my boys (Leland and Nathaniel) were one and three years old. Sherrie worked for Mellon Bank and I worked at Moors & Cabot, a financial advisory firm in Boston. For Sherrie and me, moving into the Pickering House was not a challenge, but a wonderful opportunity. Sherrie made curtains and insisted we go antique shopping every weekend to find the "perfect" thing for the house. It was now time to reach out to the neighborhood.

Sherrie's first thought was in October to have a harvest festival. I was immediately instructed to buy 20 pumpkins, and find tables, chairs, and a basket of pumpkin carving tools. While I worked on set-up, Sherrie worked on a mailing list adding many new names to an already extensive membership list.

Over the years the harvest festival grew to feature a pumpkin carving contest, a haunted barn, a maze constructed of 40 hay bales, food with chowder, chili and cider. It was a time when all of the neighborhood children were of a perfect age to enjoy such an event.

As I was treasurer of several non-profits in Salem, and Sherrie was a computer systems analyst, our respective rolls evolved into Treasurer and Executive Director of the Pickering Foundation. Bills got paid and our

membership grew. With all of this the Pickering House became more visible than ever. There were teas, weddings, luncheons, dinners, lectures and, of course, great turnouts for the annual meeting and open house in June.

The boys, Leland and Nathaniel, were now at Shore Country Day School studying hard and playing soccer and lacrosse. The house was warm, the lights were on and the house was beautiful. Sherrie had made an

opportunity, a reality! Then in 2003, Sherrie got sick, and then really sick. In June 2008, Sherrie died after her fight with cancer. The enormous attendance at Sherrie's service was a wonderful tribute to a person who wanted the very best for her family and the Pickering House. In 2009, after 44 years of pushing stocks, I retired from Moor & Cabot.

The boys are now 16 and 18 years old and after 15 years I have decided to take advantage of a new opportunity, and my family is leaving 18 Broad Street. I deliberated long and hard on the decision and want to thank all of my friends for their support over these years. Certainly the friendship and cooperation of the Pickering Foundation board is and will always be greatly appreciated.



Ben Pickering, our board president, is a gem who really appreciates the role the Pickering Foundation must play. I am very grateful to Ben and all of the board for providing their support and this beautiful house for me and my family over the years.

— Tag Goodhue, Executive Director

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is published by

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING:

Executive Director's Report

As summer winds down and fall quickly approaches I am pleased to report that there have been many events at the Pickering House this year. In January we began with a delightful performance by musicians Jim and Maggi Dalton whose theme was "The Many Vibrations You have Made: Exploring the Pickering Family's Cultural Milieus 1600-1900." Their songs and amusing chanties enlightened our group of about twenty-five guests. A very fine New England chowder, complimented by selected wines was served and enjoyed by all.

In March the Pickering House hosted the Ladies Committee of Hamilton Hall who put on a catered luncheon for 34 in honor of Mr. Geoffrey Kemp. Mr. Kemp, an authority on the Middle East has been a featured speaker for the lecture series for the past 30 years. For the first time the dining room was able to seat all 34 guests. Lynn Frothingham was delighted and was grateful for this accommodation.

On Saturday, May 12th Richard Irons, the man who saved our chimney, spoke at the Gedney House. After a tour there he brought his followers of 25 to the Pickering House. He conducted a detailed account of how he was able to stabilize our crumbling chimney base. Many questions were asked as to the process we used. I am happy to say that what he did was totally successful.

Of course June is the month of the Pickering Foundation's Annual Meeting and Garden Party. This occasion highlights the appreciation we have for our very dedicated members who make everything possible at 18 Broad Street. As in the past, Martha Sanders provided superb hors d'oeuvres and cold beverages for our guests. This occasion also marks the time of the year when the Sarah C. Pickering Scholarship is presented to a student who excels in history at Salem

High School. This year was the first year the scholarship was awarded to a rising senior instead of a graduating senior.

In July there was a special tour set up for the folks at the Salem Senior Citizen Center. About 15 people attended and were eager to learn about the historical house that sits across the street from where they gather. At the tail end of the group came a couple from Florida who were Pickerings and who had tried a few times to visit the house. They joined the tour and then decided to join the Pickering Foundation!

During the course of the year the Pickering House dining room has served as an executive boardroom as well. After an inquiry by Katherine van Dyke, the President of Seaman's Widows and Orphans Association of Salem, it was determined that the Pickering House would be an ideal meeting place for their board meetings. By years' end there will have been six meetings held here. "The Salem Widows and Orphans" as the association is sometimes called was founded in 1833 and in many ways is similar to the Marine Society of Salem which was founded in 1766.

The Pickering House "boardroom" has also been the venue of choice for the investment committee of the Harmony Grove Cemetery. It should also be noted that the Pickering House has hosted several Sewing Circle Teas during the year. They are always very well attended.

In closing, I must mention our house tour guide, now promoted to docent, Jeff Swartz who has done an outstanding job showing the house and entertaining our visitors. Our hours are 10:00 am – 3:00 pm on Sundays from June to the end of November.

GENEALOGY CORNER

Thanks to the suggestion of Philadelphia historian and family friend David Maxey, our family recently visited Lanesboro, PA, and the gravesite of Timothy Pickering 6th. We suspect we were his first visitors in a while.



Buried in 1807, this Timothy was son of Colonel Tim, and one of 10 siblings. His performance at Harvard wasn't always exemplary (see p. 143 of "The House That John Built"), but he was later apparently a good help to his father in the Pennsylvania backcountry until his death at age 27. The family had traveled to the wilds of northeastern

Pennsylvania after the Revolutionary War to seek the open spaces and potential value of that land.

The grave is on the brow of a hill, now barely recognizable, but just as described by Colonel Tim (see p. 126). Though trees have obscured it, the site must then have had a fine view of the Great Bend of the Susquehanna River. And Lanesboro, a gritty former mining town just under the New York border in the far northeast corner of Pennsylvania, is undergoing a renaissance led by the value of the Marcellus Shale – over 200 years after Colonel Tim and his family believed in the value of the land.

- John Pickering 11th

OCCASIONAL LECTURE SERIES



Jim and Maggi Dalton performing "The Many Vibrations You Have Made: Exploring the Pickering Family's Cultural Milieus, 1600-1900"



Tag Goodhue chatting with Anne Rumpf



Edie Armstrong preparing the chowder brunch

SARAH C. PICKERING SCHOLARS:

What are they up to now?

Read below to learn about what the Sarah C. Pickering Scholars have been up to this year:

FROM THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENT, JACLYN JERMYN:



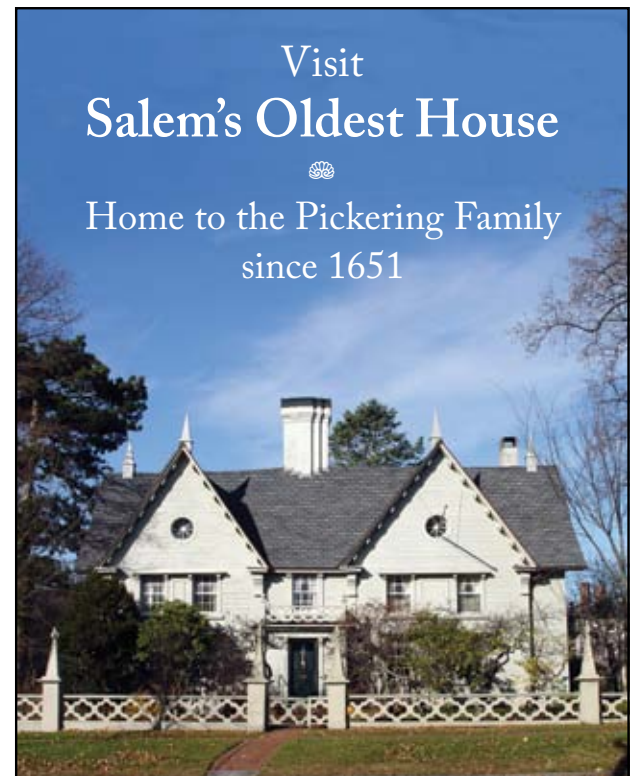
"I'm currently in the midst of my college applications. I've finally narrowed the list down to seven schools which is terribly exciting. I'm actually putting all of that aside for the Columbus Day weekend and heading to Paris for a few days to take in the sights and get a nice

break before all the stress of senior year picks up. I have yet to use my scholarship money. It is waiting patiently in my savings account until I find a really excellent way to use it."

FROM OUR 2010 RECIPIENT, SEAN LINEHAN:

"I am now a junior at Holy Cross and a double major in Economics and Political Science. School is great and I continue to enjoy my two favorite pastimes....academics and athletics. When I am not studying, I'm busy playing all the intramurals - basketball, softball, flag football and stickball. I recently joined the Holy Cross Knights of Columbus where I will be doing community service. I also was accepted into the summer internship program where I hope to do an internship in either law or finance next summer. I appreciate the kindness and generosity the Pickering family showed to me with the scholarship award - I have met many great friends and professors from all over the country. I am always proud to say that I am from Salem."

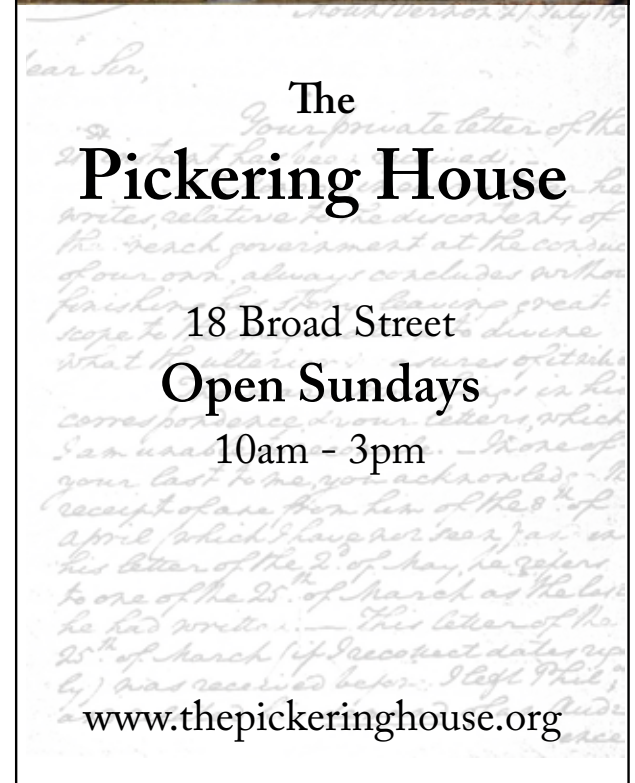
It sounds like Jaclyn and Sean have an exciting year ahead of them. If you're a previous Sarah C. Pickering scholarship recipient, we'd love to hear from you. Email us at pickeringhouse1@gmail.com.



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Salem's Oldest House



Home to the Pickering Family
since 1651



The
Pickering House

18 Broad Street

Open Sundays

10am - 3pm

www.thepickeringhouse.org



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CHIEF DOCENT'S REPORT

It was a busy summer at the Pickering House between our visitors from away to locals who came by; we had a couple hundred guests see the house that John Pickering built. The open house hours on Sunday mornings are a perfect time to enjoy the house and hear the many stories of its noteworthy occupants. This year, the Pickering Foundation has undertaken the project of cataloging the house's contents. The digital catalog of the collection has gotten off to a slow start, but the ongoing research on the objects and documents at the Pickering House has provided a bounty of information.

Another project getting started this fall is an Ancestry Outreach Program. Timothy Pickering, board member, contributed to begin an outreach program to find lost members of the Pickering family and to acquaint them with their family history. Two major goals of the program are to bring Pickerings to the house and share with them their family's role in American history. The second is to bring those family members back into connection with the home of their ancestors. Between these many projects and the tours through November, it will be a busy and productive fall at the Pickering House.

- Jeff Swartz

*We are looking for
your memories of the
Pickering House.*

EMAIL THEM TO
pickeringhouse1@gmail.com

THE LOSS OF AN OLD FRIEND



The once magnificent white fir tree (abies concolor) which graces the backyard of the Pickering House property must be taken down. The tree is dying and lists at a 10 degree angle toward the southwest. Louise Rowell's landscape plan of the property, dated 1935, shows a multitude of white fir trees to be planted in the same area as this tree...a small grove you might say. The elaborate landscape plan is featured on page 180 of "The House that John Built". With a girth of 75 inches, the once elegant tree could certainly date from that era.

- Racket Shreve

We now we take **PayPal™** for donations, membership dues

SUMMER EVENT: Annual Meeting and Garden Party 2012



*Cheryl Jermyn, Dickon Armstrong,
Annabel Armstrong*



Carol Pickering and Edie Armstrong



Betsy Dickson and Barbara Metcalf



*Diana Bush, Robert Bushway & Bob
and Vicki Booth*



Joanie Ingraham and Ben Pickering



The Jermyn family



*Lincoln Pickering, Rebecca Pickering,
Annabel Armstrong, Alden Pickering,
Merritt Cook, Milicent Armstrong*



Descendants of John Pickering



*Dickon Armstrong and
Rebecca Pickering*

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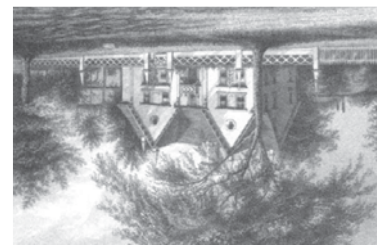
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