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The Pickering House Newsletter

is published by

The Pickering Foundation

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Te've got crisp fall days and the sweet/tart smell of apples from the trees in the yard this week, and I'm in heaven. This is my absolute favorite time of year, especially here in New England. It's a good time for reflecting back on the year that's just passed, too, and I'm happy to report that it has been a good one.

It was a little more than a year ago that Tim and I drove up to 18 Broad Street to begin our adventure, and I can admit now that we were both a little nervous. We'd been away from Salem for a long time, and we were to report to a board composed mainly of family members we didn't know. But things have gone well, and we've got a good routine going now.

Our staff — ElizaBeth Emery and Jeff Swartz — has worked tirelessly to keep records up-to-date, events running smoothly and visitors happy and impressed (Jeff gets a lot of fan mail!). We increased membership by 30 percent over last year and opened the house to hundreds of people who might not otherwise have ventured through the ornate quatrefoil fence.

Our Second Sunday Chowder & Lecture Series was a huge success, bringing nearly 200 members and friends out in the chilly winter months to listen to a great group of speakers: Jim McAllister, Charlie Newhall and Rev. Jeffrey Barz-Snell. I even took the helm for an enjoyable afternoon of poetry sharing. In collaboration with the Salem Athenaeum, we hosted Professor Ronald Johnson from Texas State University who, along with Ambassador Thomas Pickering, created a fantastic and educational evening telling us about Colonel Timothy's role in the establishment of the nation of Haiti and the important role of diplomacy.

We also initiated a concert series, dubbed Pickernic & Blues Jam, featuring the music of Eric Reardon & Local 148; twice this season, the backyard was dotted with dozens of blankets and chairs and people sharing picnics, dancing and listening to great music. We will continue both the concert and the lecture series in the coming year.

I'm happy to report that we were also the meeting place for Salem Widows and Orphans; retreats for the House of Seven Gables and Salem State University's History Department; a tea for the Col. Timothy Pickering Chapter of the DAR; the site of the summer muster and annual get-together of the Colonial Wars Society; and last, but not least, the lead-off venue for four Salem Food Tours.

Members of the Pickering family came to visit the house from far and near, including Tennessee, California, Connecticut, New Jersey and Washington, D.C., and we honored requests for a large number of special tours. We also reached out to distant family members via Ancestry.com and hope to bring more Pickerings into the fold. So it's been a busy first year for us.

Please enjoy this newsletter — it's chock full of stories about the house and grounds, upcoming events, and opportunities for membership and participation in this very worthwhile organization. We are doing our part to keep history alive, and hope you'll come along with us.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Dini Jonkins

Linda Dini Jenkins Executive Director

2015 CHOWDER & LECTURE SERIES

This is *the* place to be on those wintry Sundays! Please join us at the Pickering House for a hearty lunch and a stimulating lecture on the following dates. Start with a chowder lunch at 12:30 pm followed by the lecture, beginning at 1:00 pm.

Cost: \$15 per lecture for members | \$20 per lecture for non-members

JANUARY 11TH, 2015

ROBERT A. BOOTH, JR. THE REVOLUTION OF 1716: The Pickerings vs. Salem's Aristos



The Salem establishment in the early 1700s was not so secure as they thought. Seafaring families were demanding representation in a town whose rulers were not willing to share control over the board of selectmen, the common lands, the economy, and the town's one church. In 1716, all of

that began to fall apart in the face of a deliberate and successful challenge led by John and William Pickering on behalf of the lower and middle class interests of the town, in what may be seen as the first class-based political uprising in New England history.

Robert Booth is Executive Director of the Center for Clinical Social Work, a national credentialing and advocacy organization. After college, he worked as a newspaper reporter in Salem and was curator of Salem's Pickering House. He writes house reports, contributes to magazines and blogs, and gives talks on local history. Bob is the author of *Boston's Freedom Trail* and is a contributor to the 2004 book Salem: Place, Myth & Memory, which University Press of New England will be bringing out in a new edition. His nonfiction book about the demise of Salem's maritime commerce, Death of an Empire: The Rise and Murderous Fall of Salem, America's Richest City was named the best book of New England history in 2012 by the New England Society of the City of New York. His new book, Mad For Glory, about an episode from the War of 1812, will be published by Tilbury House in spring, 2015. He is a native of Marblehead, where he resides with his family.

FEBRUARY 8TH, 2015

PAULA RICHTER
STITCHING HER STORY:
Needlework at the Pickering House

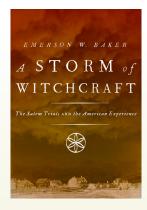
Among the treasures of the Pickering House collection are examples of needlework from the 18th and early 19th centuries. These embroideries reveal important aspects of the lives of women in early New England including their education, roles in society, their knowledge of the visual arts, and expressions of family identity and heritage. Paula Richter will discuss needlework associated with members of the Pickering family including samplers, pastoral canvas-work pictures, and an embroidered coat of arms and compare them with other examples from local and regional collections.

Paula Bradstreet Richter serves as Curator for Exhibitions and Research at the Peabody Essex Museum. Her work currently focuses on the museum's changing exhibition program. She has organized several exhibitions including Painted with Thread: the Art of American Embroidery and Wedded Bliss, the Marriage of Art and Ceremony and authored and edited the accompanying publications. A graduate of the University of New Hampshire, Paula writes and lectures on American textiles and fashion, and New England art and decorative arts.

MARCH 8TH, 2015

EMERSON "Tad" BAKER
A Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem
Trials and the American Experience

Focusing on the key players in the Salem witchcraft crisis—the accused witches and the people they allegedly bewitched, as well as the judges and government officials who prosecuted them—Emerson Baker illuminates why the tragedy unfolded as it



did. He shows how the Puritan government's attempts to suppress what had taken place only fueled the popular imagination, and established the trials as a turning point from Puritan communalism to Yankee independence. He also sets the trials in the broader context of American history from the 1620s up through the present, and reveals the ways their legacy remains with us.

Emerson "Tad" Baker is a professor of History and former dean of the Graduate School at Salem State University. He is the award-winning author of many works on the history and archaeology of early Maine and New England, including *The Devil of Great Island: Witchcraft and Conflict in Early New England.* He has served as an advisor for PBS-TV's American Experience and Colonial House and has appeared in many documentaries on the Salem witch trials. Baker received his BA from Bates College, his MA from the University of Maine, and his Ph.D. in History from William and Mary. He tweets on the Salem witch trials and early New England history @EmersonWBaker.

APRIL 12TH, 2015

DANE MORRISON TIMOTHY PICKERING: Creating the New Nation

The invention of the United States as a new nation was never a certainty in the years following independence from Great Britain. Competing visions of America—what the republic was and what it should become—divided the country and threatened its existence. As the country's third Secretary of State, US Senator, and Representative, Salem's Timothy Pickering forged his own strong ideas of the new nation, even to the point of encouraging New England's succession from the Union during the War of 1812. Professor Morrison's talk will examine Pickering's colorful career and explore his controversial vision for the new nation.

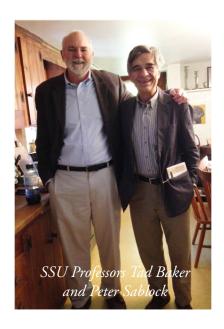
Dane A. Morrison is a professor of early American history at Salem State University. He is the author of A Praying People: Massachusett Acculturation and the Failure of the Puritan Mission, 1600–1690, and the coeditor of Salem: Place, Myth and Memory and the World History Encyclopedia, volumes 11–13: The Age of Global Contact. His latest book is True Yankees: The South Seas and the Discovery of American Identity.

THEY REALLY DIG THE PICKERING HOUSE!

At least they're making plans to dig here. . .

or the past several months, Salem State University (SSU) Professor Peter Sablock has been conducting ground sensing activities with some of his students here at the Pickering House, hoping to find evidence of the earliest structure on the property — the one known as "The Hovel." And on October 5, he and SSU Professor Tad Baker delivered a lecture at the house as part of the Massachusetts Archaeology Month initiative to report on their findings.

Bottom line? There's definitely something down there by the barn, but probably not big enough to be a house. Next steps? Start ground sensing activities on the western edge of the Pickering House and see what's there. Fingers crossed, we could be applying for permission to launch a dig here in 2015. We'll keep you posted!



SARAH C. PICKERING SCHOLARS

For the sixth year in a row, the Pickering Foundation, working with the Salem High School history department, awarded a rising history scholar the Sarah C. Pickering Scholarship. During our annual June meeting and garden party, the 2014 scholarship was awarded to Sophie Leiton Toomey.

n avid student, Sophie takes an array of advanced placement and honors classes at Salem High School. History is definitely the subject she feels most passionate about because it's a combination of all her interests. Sophie also participates as a delegate from Salem High School in Harvard Model Congress every year. She's a member of the National Honor Society the National Music Honor Society.



Acting and music are her real loves – as they've helped her understand and communicate with the world around her. She's been in seven Shakespearean plays and even travelled to England to participate as a street performer in the annual Shakespeare birthday celebration in Stratford-Upon-

Avon. This past summer, Sophie was a member of the Gordon College professional acting branch, History Alive, in its production of "Cry Innocent" that ran at Old Town Hall in Salem.

What are our past scholars up to?

2012 Recipient, Jaclyn Jermyn:

"I'm in my sophomore year at Columbia College in Chicago. I have been writing articles for Chicagotalks.org, which is a local journalism website for student journalists. I also have been submitting writing to The Stereo Studio, which is an online art gallery space, where I was named Executive Editor of their brand new online magazine."

2011 Recipient, Sabrina Bazile:

"I am currently in my senior year at Suffolk University. I recently was awarded membership into the Beta Gamma Sigma Society, an international honor society serving business programs. I am currently applying for graduate school for urban planning programs at Harvard, Pratt Institute, and Boston University."

2010 Recipient, Sean Linehan:

"I graduated from Holy Cross in May and have begun my job search. I double majored in Economics and Political Science and hope to obtain an entry-level position in economics/ finance."

"Currently, I have begun my senior year and to be quite frank, my hands are very full! I have three AP classes and am starting to look at colleges for my next step in my life. I'm also in the middle of my final season with the Salem High School marching band and I'm preparing with festival drama for our competition in February."

DOCENT'S CORNER by Jeff Swartz

hile the Pickering line has certainly spread out over the decades, this year has seen dozens of descendants returning to their ancestral home. We've met Pickerings from all over the United States this season — and even as far away as Australia! Explaining the story of the Pickering family and their contributions to local and national history is very rewarding for me. It is a privilege to tell the Pickering story to all our visitors, but even more so when I can better connect distant family members to their own lineage.

Whether giving tours to descendants, locals, or a record number of foreign visitors, the house has been extremely busy. The high volume of guests actually prompted a shift to tours being scheduled on the hour for the month of October. I encourage all members and guests to explore our historic McIntire neighborhood. Visit the Pickering graves in the Broad Street Burial Ground; stroll down beautiful Chestnut Street and view the mansions built on one-time Pickering family farmland; and further enjoy the rich history of Salem. Between the Picker-nic & Blues Jams and Poetry in the Park, the summer events have been a fun mix of programming which have engaged the community in new ways. I am eagerly looking forward to our Winter Lecture Series. If you have not visited 18 Broad Street recently, please do come — there are always freshly uncovered stories to be told and unique discoveries around every corner!

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE UPDATE

his spring, a MassSave energy audit resulted in a fully-weatherized basement, with moisture barriers and insulation also installed. This winter we are testing 13 interior storm windows and estimate a



Hank leads Ben, Christian, Racket and Tim in log-splitting

3/4 year payback. Lesson: Spending money can save money, but turning down thermostats and efficient lighting work wonders! The energy efficiency for 18 Broad exceeds Energy Star standards — which isn't bad for a 354-year-old house!

This year, 17 trees were pruned on the property, with one large tree with a dangerously rotten trunk

being removed. A work party, led by the irascible Henry Binney, split up all the wood, which will be used to keep the house toasty this winter. Our new Cub Cadet mower does a great job cutting grass and mulching leaves, so we no longer need landscaping services. Windows have been cleaned and, where needed, glazed and repaired. We are in the process of replacing the stockade fence.

What's left to do? Lots! Most of the house and barn need to be repainted. We're planning to replace the

Gothic acorn fencing along Broad Street next year, as well as the fenestration above the entrance and the library portico. The back terrace needs shoring up and the slate reset, just to name a few upcoming projects.



We would like to thank everyone who has donated their time or the newly

Tim, Racket and Jeff rehang the newly painted sign.

treasure to make all these repairs or improvements. Please give us a call if you would like to support our future plans.

- Tim Jenkins

NEWSWORTHY EVENTS IN 2014 The Boston Blobe

he Pickering House and the Salem Athenaeum hosted a night with Texas State University assistant professor Ronald Angelo Johnson (right), author of the new book "Diplomacy in Black & White: John Adams, Toussaint Louverture, and Their Atlantic World Alliance." Monday night's events — which included a reception with the author at the historic Pickering House — drew a pack of dedicated history buffs, partly because it also featured a talk by Pickering family descendant Thomas R. Pickering (left), a former US ambassador to the United Nations who also served as ambassador to the Russian Federation, India, Israel, El Salvador, Nigeria, and Jordan.



Thomas R. Pickering & Ronald Angelo Johnson photo by Katherine Taylor for The Boston Globe

- From the Boston Globe, March 26, 2014

PICKER-NIC & BLUES JAM IN JULY





ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY





An officer of the Glover Regiment welcomes our guests.



O'Carolan Et Cetera provides a musical backdrop for the festivities.

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