

PICKERING HOUSE NEWSLETTER

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF THE PICKERING FOUNDATION AND JUNE GARDEN PARTY



The terrace of the Pickering House was crowded with members and friends of the Pickering Foundation in celebration of the launch of "The House That John Built: Ten Generations of the Pickering Family of Salem" by Ann Parson. Foundation Board Vice President Richard C. Armstrong, whose generous support for the book project, made the extensive research and writing possible, thanked Ann for her dedication and insight into the Pickering Family. Ann spoke about the thrill of discovering letters long lost in the Pickering House attic and about certain seemingly hereditary qualities - of working with one's hands, of cherishing the natural world - which one can see in Pickering Family members across many generations. Foundation members who have read the book asked good questions and commented on how much they enjoyed the insight they gained into American history through the lens of one family's experience.

President of the Board Henry Benson Pickering stood on the new terrace steps to thank members for their support of the Pickering Foundation. Tina Pickering Abramson, a member of the development committee, discussed the Foundation's goal of increasing the endowment in order to fully support the maintenance of the Pickering House. Finally, Richard Loring Pickering Jr. presented the Pickering Foundation's annual scholarship to Sean Lineham, a recent graduate of Salem High School, who attended the party with his family, and accepted the scholarship with thanks.

The party continued as the rain cleared and members enjoyed the luscious green of the gardens and shelter from the damp in the cozy library - the oldest area of the more than 350-year-old home.

The Foundation remains grateful for the support of family, members and friends as we celebrate another year in the long history of the Pickering House.

- Tina Pickering Abramson



HOUSE NEWS

As you all know, in the past few years, the Pickering Foundation undertook the monumental task of stabilizing the chimney, installing a new furnace, and repairing the roof shingles. We are happy to say that the fireplaces have not moved, our heating bills are significantly lower, and we can report no new leaks!

This spring, we undertook repair of our back patio stairs with the volunteer help of Michael and Ben Pickering. We held our annual spring clean-up and work day with lots of help from board and family members.

Much thanks goes to our board, our Foundation members, and many Pickering family members who make all this possible! Thank you.

- Tag Goodhue

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ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

At the Pickering Foundation's Annual Meeting and Open House, Sean Lineham, a Salem High School senior, was presented with the Sarah C. Pickering Scholarship. The award was the third given by the Pickering Foundation's Board of Trustees. The scholarship has been given each year to a Salem High School Senior who has shown great interest and achievement in the study of history.

According to the Chair of the History Department at Salem High, "Sean is the valedictorian of the school, he has shown throughout his four years with us he is a tremendous student and a hard worker. He plans to go on to college and study International Affairs."

Sean and his family attended the Open House where he was presented with a certificate, scholarship check in the amount of \$500, and a copy of the newly-commissioned book, *The House That John Built*. He was honored to receive the award and was very grateful to the Pickering Foundation, its Board, and to his teachers at Salem High. He



also appreciated the remarkable history of The Pickering House and its storied occupants.

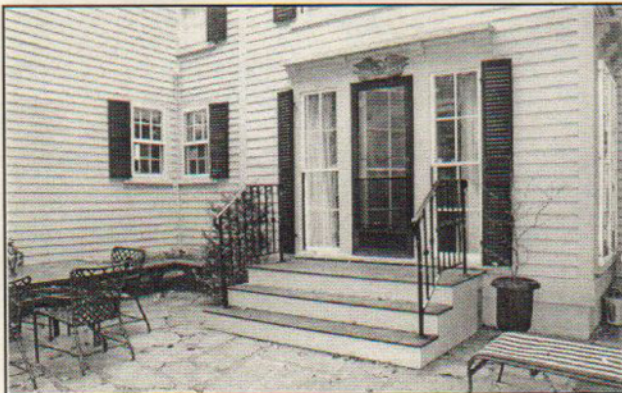
The scholarship began in 2008 as a way for the Pickering Foundation to strengthen the connection between the Pickering House and the Salem community and to reach out to local young people who understand the significance of history in society.

- Rich Pickering

NEW TREADS

Good things come to those who wait. Such was the case when brothers, Ben and Mike Pickering, arrived with new terrace steps. Although delivered in three sections, it would be relatively easy to put them all together. The date was a week before our annual open house in June. The forecast was for rain and it arrived early in the evening. With the assistance of me and Racket Shreve, we began the assembly. Soon it became dark, and as predicted it started to pour. With the helpful support of foul weather gear, lights, and hot beef bouillon, we completed our task. It was a great team effort, and against all odds, got it done!

- Tag Goodhue



HALLOWEEN AT THE PICKERING HOUSE



The best thing to do on Halloween in Salem is not be in Salem. Disney World, Paris or the Caribbean comes to mind. For those unfortunates, such as myself, I manned the front door at 18 Broad St. and waited for the hordes of trick-o-treaters. It did not take long for them to arrive.

From 5:30 until 8:15 I distributed approximately 120 pieces of candy to witches, werewolves, Batman, ghosts, and other miscellaneous ghouls. At 8:15 I closed the door, turned off the lights, and sent my two boys – Leland and Nathaniel – off into the fray. We all survived.

- Tag Goodhue

BOOK LAUNCH DINNER AT THE PICKERING HOUSE

“Timothy Pickering held how many cabinet posts?”

“What kind of dishwasher did the Pickerings endorse?”

“Which Pickering chopped off his toe to get rid of a bothersome corn?”

“How many languages did John VI understand and speak?”

These were some of the “pop quiz” questions posed by Racket Shreve at a dinner party to celebrate the publication of the new Pickering book, *“The House that John Built: Ten Generations of the Pickering Family of Salem, Salem’s Oldest House, America’s Oldest Home,”* by Ann Parson.

On Friday, May 7, 2010, friends and family of the Pickering Foundation gathered for a festive, formal dinner in the dining room to talk about the recently published book. The guests had good fun with Racket Shreve’s quiz.

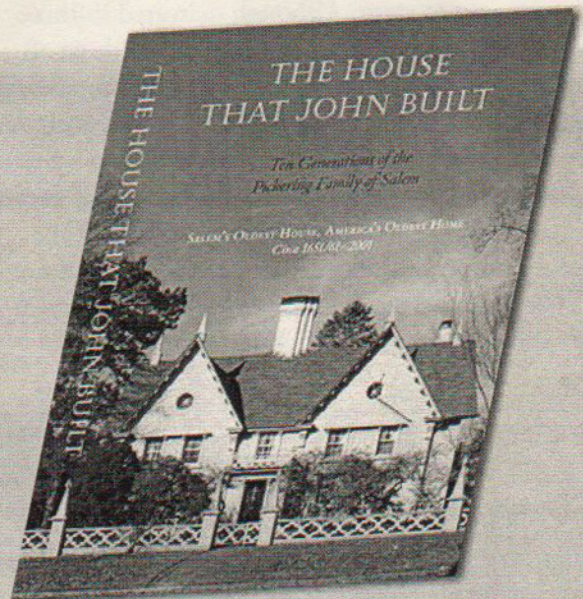
In the chapter “Generation Six: The Linguist, Early to Mid 1800’s” Ann Parson writes the following: “Whatever set of circumstances made it happen in Salem, the affluent began to enjoy the desserts of a vibrant society where gentility ruled, intellect shone, and cultural events thrived like never before. The women, with servants assisting, went to great lengths to entertain; the gentlemen, to outdo each other with their wit and charm.”

The Pickering House, because of its growing age, had already seen more births and christenings, wedding parties, supper parties, tea parties and funerals than most other residences, and therefore held a place of esteem in Salem’s new age of conviviality and social harmony.”



Now, 200 years later, for our party, Edie Armstrong prepared delicious hors d’oeuvres and a splendid dinner. Richard O’Dwyer was our attentive sommelier. Dickon Armstrong was thanked for commissioning the project. Ann Parson was recognized for writing the book. Bob Booth was thanked for contributing countless historical facts and insights. The house was host to guests as far away as Pennsylvania and Connecticut.

- Katharine Pickering



Interested in purchasing
“THE HOUSE THAT JOHN BUILT”
go to www.pickeringhouse.org