**Issue #20** 

18 Broad Street, Salem, MA 01970

October 2015

### The Pickering House Newsletter

is published by

# The Pickering Foundation

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#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

hat offers top-notch historic lectures, funky blues jams, poetry evenings, much-anticipated parties and a place where the community can gather for

events, retreats and special occasions? The Pickering House, of course!

This year's Second Sunday Chowder & Lecture Series was a big success again, which — miraculously — went off without a hitch, despite the very long and angry winter. Not one lecture had to be cancelled and the series brought nearly 200 members and friends out to hear a great group of speakers: Robert Booth, Paula Richter, and Salem State Professors Tad Baker and Dane Morrison. Additionally, in January we hosted Salem's Official Historian, Jim McAllister, for a special lecture on "100 Years of Salem's Mayors".

Our Picker-nik & Blues Jam, featuring the music of Eric Reardon & Local 148 and friends, was the usual summer lawn highlight. And a stalwart group of poetry lovers came to the house on a very humid evening for a re-positioned "Poetry in the Parlor" event (the lawn and air being intolerable) making for a wonderful time of sharing.

We were once again the meeting place for Salem Widows and Orphans, and hosted retreats for Salem State University and the Salem Awards Foundation; a tea for the Col. Timothy Pickering Chapter of the DAR; and a holiday party for the Salem Partnership. We hosted one Salem Food Tour and worked with founder Karen Scalia, along with the Witch House and Historic New England, to create an amazing "Taste of 17th Century Salem" progressive food and historic tour event. Add to that a huge birthday party and a wedding, and you've got a pretty busy schedule!

The winter, however, took a bit of a toll on the house. A big chunk of the fence blew down and ice dams caused some water damage to our entryway, despite Tim's yeoman efforts at chopping numerous times at all entrances. We lost the old snow blower on the first night of Winter Storm Juno, but thanks to our neighbors, we made it through until

the new blower arrived. So it's no surprise that we embarked on a house painting/restoration and fence replacement project this summer and fall; see the Building & Grounds Committee report for more details.

On a beautiful day in June, we hosted an Annual Meeting and Garden Party for a record-breaking 150+ members and friends and were again entertained by O'Carolan Etcetera. We awarded two Sarah C. Pickering Scholarships to rising seniors at Salem High School — congratulations go to Autumn Pattison and Bridget Ayers.

I am sad to
report that
our amazing
Administrative
Assistant,
ElizaBeth Emery,
has decided to
move on after more
than seven years of
loyal service. She will
be greatly missed. But
I am happy to report

that we have found a new staff member whose technological and publishing skills will be put to good use here; look forward to meeting her soon.

I hope to see you at the 2016 Lecture Series. Watch for announcements and news about all kinds of Pickering events on both our website and our Facebook page. Here's to a milder winter!

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Dini Jonkins

Linda Dini Jenkins, Executive Director

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# 2016 SECOND SUNDAY CHOWDER & LECTURE SERIES

Pe're welcoming in the third season of our Second Sunday Chowder & Lecture Series. This is the place to be on those wintry Sundays! Please join us for a hearty chowder and stimulating lecture on the following dates.

Start with a chowder lunch at 12:30 pm followed by the lecture, beginning at 1:00 pm. Reservations are a must!

RSVP: pickeringhouse1@gmail.com Cost: \$20<sup>.00</sup> per lecture for members | \$25<sup>.00</sup> per lecture for non-members

# JANUARY 10: MIKE RUTSTEIN Salem's Privateers in the War of 1812



It is 1812. Salem has grown rich trading with both sides during the wars of the French Revolution and Empire. But it is no longer possible to remain neutral. War is declared against Great Britain. Salem is symbolic of a nation bitterly divided

between Republicans and Federalists, privateers and smugglers. During the war, the young United States experiences exhilarating victories and disheartening debacles. All the while, its commerce and revenues are slowly strangled. In the end, America's last, best and only offensive weapons are her swarms of privateers.

Salem commissions 43 cruisers, from great ships owned by merchant princes to open boats manned by unemployed sailors. Her privateers prowl the seas from Norway to Brazil — and also patrol the harbors of New England, searching out smugglers. Here are tales of heroism and cowardice, generosity and greed, astonishing luck and deep personal tragedy.

#### About Mike

Captain Michael H. Rutstein holds a United States Coast Guard 50 Ton Master's License, with Auxiliary Sail Endorsement. He is the owner and captain of the schooner *Fame* out of Salem, Massachusetts, a replica of the privateer from the War of 1812. Capt. Mike is the author of *The Privateering Stroke: Salem's Privateers in the War of 1812* and *Fame: The Salem Privateer*.

# FEBRUARY 14: JOE BOYD The Universal Curriculum



By using simple, familiar fables and folk stories, member Joe Boyd builds on themes to bridge to new insights and learning. A story such as *The Boy Who Cried Wolf* can provide spin-off lessons in new and unexpected avenues. Deconstructing these timeless

tales can lead to a wealth of ideas that often goes unnoticed when we overlook the obvious. Yes, there is a parallel learning universe.

Paulo Freire's generative approach to education, John Dewey's spiral curriculum, where all learning is social studies, Pestalozzi's "learn from your environment" and Chairman Mao's advice that the solution to your problem is near at hand, all address the same fundamental truth. Come and learn how time flies and why the chicken really crossed the road.

#### About Joe

Joe Boyd graduated from Salem State College with a BA and MAT in History. He spent two years as an elementary school teacher in Liberia with the US Peace Corps and subsequently returned to West Africa teaching at the high school and university level. While employed as the Alternative Studies Coordinator at North Shore Community College for 33 years, Joe served as advisor to the College's student Poets and Writers Club. Since retirement in 2011, he participates on the boards of Lynn Arts, The Lynn Museum and with Lynn United for Change, a volunteer organization helping individuals with housing issues.

# MARCH 13: JIM MCALLISTER In the Pickering's Front Yard: The Broad Street Cemetery



While it is neither the oldest nor the most prestigious of Salem's many final resting places, the Broad Street Cemetery has a fascinating history and numbers among its permanent population many important citizens from the city's past.

Jim will briefly chronicle the evolution of the cemetery and profile some of its most accomplished "residents," including the amazing Col. Timothy Pickering, members of the Corwin and Sewall families (some of whom played important roles in the Salem Witch Trials), the colorful privateer Capt. Jonathan Haraden, author Caroline Howard King, the amazing centenarian physician-scientist, Dr. Edward Augustus Holyoke, and others.

#### About Jim

Since founding Derby Square Tours in 1983, Jim McAllister has conducted countless tours of, and lectured extensively about, the history of Salem and Boston's North Shore. Through the international Elderhostel program Jim has taught more than 250 courses on local history, architecture and art. He has also served as an historic consultant to many local organizations and institutions. In 2015, the city designated Jim "Official Historian of Salem."

A now retired local history columnist for the Salem News from (1999-2013), Jim has written or cowritten two books about Salem. The Morristown, New Jersey native has appeared on Chronicle, The History Channel, Home and Garden TV, National Public Radio, and many other media outlets. In 2008 he was the recipient of both the Essex National Heritage Commission's first ever Heritage Hero Award and the regional Storyteller Award given by the North of Boston Visitor and Convention Bureau.

### APRIL 10: JOHN GOFF

Salem's Pickerings, the Haudenosaunee (ho de na sho nee), and the 1794 Pickering or Canandaigua Treaty



Here in Salem, the Pickerings are best known for constructing the ancient timber-framed Pickering House on Broad Street, as well as for Pickering Street, which connects Broad and Chestnut Streets. The family also is honored by a late 20<sup>th</sup> century Pickering Wharf as well as a moat-surrounded Fort Pickering — both of which are prominent features

on Salem's waterfront. The Pickering name is also associated with Pickering Point, and a second Pickering House that stands in South Salem in what is now called Forest River Park. Col. Timothy Pickering, the most famous of all the Salem Pickerings, is primarily recognized for his late 18<sup>th</sup> century military career during the Revolutionary War.

Working in Pennsylvania, Col. Pickering in the early 1790s was also tapped by our nation's first President, George Washington, to serve as a U.S. Postmaster General as well as a special "Commissioner in behalf of the United States, for holding a treaty with the Six Nations." The Six Nations referred to the Iroquois or Haudenosaunee people, who mostly resided in New York State. The treaty, which Pickering crafted with Native input, has stood the test of time — and was and is significant for recognizing Native national sovereignty and perpetuating peace between the Six Nations and the United States. In "Salem's Pickering" we shall undertake new exploration of Col. Pickering's early and influential 1790s work with the Mohawk, Onondaga, Oneida, Cayuga, Seneca and Tuscarora people.

#### About John

John Goff is an historian, architectural historian, restoration architect and preservationist who lives and works in Salem MA. A founder of Historic Preservation & Design, Goff holds History and American Civilization degrees from Brown University, as well as an M. Arch. Degree from the University of Oregon. After the Pickering House brickwork on Broad Street showed signs of settling, Goff prepared an Historic Structures Report for the house, supported by a Massachusetts Preservation Project Fund grant administered by the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Goff also writes on Salem's history through a series of columns in the *Salem Gazette*.

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## A FAREWELL AND WELCOME:

#### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

## Farewell, ElizaBeth . . .

When ElizaBeth Emery came to 18 Broad Street in the fall of 2007, it was to spend time with former Executive Director Sherrie Goodhue during the last difficult months of her life. When the Board asked her to stay on as Administrative Assistant for the Pickering Foundation after Sherrie's passing, she assumed it would be a temporary position. That was eight years ago.

ElizaBeth steered the ship during a tumultuous time, keeping the day-to-day duties of the board running smoothly and, as an organizational guru, creating systems that will keep us afloat for many years. There is simply no way to express our gratitude to her and our appreciation for everything that she has done for the Pickering Foundation. She is the picture of grace and professionalism, and we wish her all the best as she continues on her professional and personal journey.

# ... Hello, Carolyn McGuire

While ElizaBeth's shoes are going to be hard to fill, Carolyn will be a wonderful asset to the Foundation and will work to put her own imprint on the role of Administrative Assistant. Carolyn is no stranger to Salem non-profits. She has worked for the Salem Athenaeum and Salem Awards Foundation and has a rich background in publishing, including editorial and graphic design production services.

Carolyn's significant computer skills will help us better manage our member/donor databases as well as provide improved communication with members and the community at large. She holds an MA from Emerson College in Writing and Publishing and is a Magna cum Laude graduate from UMass Dartmouth with a double major in Writing and Communications and English Literature. Please welcome her when you're next at the house for a lecture or other special event.

### AN UNEXPECTED GIFT

Any thanks go to the family of Helen C. Wilson, who left a sizable gift to the Pickering Foundation this year in the form of a remainder trust. Helen was part of the Lloyd D. Pickering family of Minnesota who visited the house about a dozen years ago. The family left us with a wonderful historical account of their family's origins and the visit to their ancestral home in Pickering (Yorkshire), England.

# THE FAMILY OF BYRON AND HANNAH PICKERING



#### DAUGHTER EDITH AND MARCUS WILSON

Son M. Ward Wilson m Ruth Kulaas

Thomas Marcus Wilson

Helen C. Wilson

Daughter Blanche Wilson m Robert G. Stebbins

Priscilla Anderson (deceased)

Daughter Irene Wilson (unmarried)

Son J. Byron Wilson m Ruth Ofloy

Eunice Strunk David Wilson Barbara Emery Ruth Hamburg James Wilson

#### **BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT**

n the hottest day of the summer, Jim (son of "Lefty") Orfanos and his crew began to scrape, putty, prime and paint the Pickering House. They'll be long done by the time you read this newsletter.



The acorn fence project is also underway. Pickets have been cut from environmentally-friendly farm-grown mahogany. New pickets are being installed as we go to press. Thanks to everyone who contributed funds, time and perspiration towards this much-needed project.

No one wants to think about last winter, but like so many other homes, the Pickering House sustained minor water damage. We will be repairing the roof over the front entrance with copper. I'm happy to report that the rubber roof served us well, but the eastern portion of our peaked roof needs repairs, too.



A final casualty of last winter was our very old Ariens snow blower, which died after the long first night of Winter Storm Juno. Our neighbors Jeremy and Ellen Schiller generously loaned us their snow blower many times until our new Ariens arrived.

Let's hope for a milder winter in 2015 – 2016!

- Tim Jenkins

## 2015 SARAH C. PICKERING SCHOLARS

Annual Meeting and garden party in June, the Board of Trustees with help from faculty at Salem High School, recognized two rising seniors with the Sarah C. Pickering Scholarship. This June, Katharine Pickering (daughter of Sarah C. Pickering) presented Autumn Pattison and Bridget Ayers with scholarships for their achievement in Advanced Placement history at Salem High. Both young ladies are in the high school band and the theatre club.

What are past scholars up to these days?

2011 Recipient, Sabrina Bazile:



I am currently in a City and Regional Planning graduate program at Pratt Institute in New York City. One of my classes is a studio in which we are working with a real client in The Bronx to help with their built environment and community development challenges.

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#### ANNUAL MEETING AND GARDEN PARTY

















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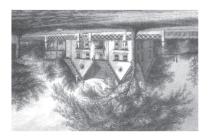
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#### *FICKERING HOOSE*



## PICKERING HOUSE For Sale!

We're taking bids of \$20 each (plus postage, if mailed) for these fabulous Cat's Meow replicas of the Pickering House.



They're high quality, full color, made of wood, and measure 4 1/2" H x 7 1/2" W. A great piece of memorabilia from your visit or just of a historic place that's near and dear to your heart. Plus, they make great holiday gifts!

Send requests to Linda Jenkins at pickeringhouse1@gmail.com.

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