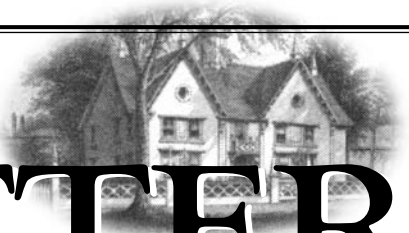


# PICKERING HOUSE NEWSLETTER



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## The Pickering Foundation

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## ANNUAL MEETING SHINES *Despite Dreary Weather*

At the annual June meeting of the Pickering Foundation, members enjoyed a terrific afternoon of conversation and cocktails despite the rainy weather. The Pickering Foundation awarded Sabrina Bazile with the Sarah C. Pickering Scholarship for 2011. Sabrina graduated from Salem High School in June with honors in History. She was President of the Salem Chapter of the National Merit Scholars and is attending Suffolk University this fall.

Each year, the Pickering Foundation asks the faculty of Salem High School to identify that student who has demonstrated scholarly interest in the study of history, and in particular U.S. history, as well as superior civic character and compassion. This year, the faculty unanimously selected Ms. Bazile for this prestigious award. "It is a pleasure to witness Ms. Bazile's enthusiastic love of learning," said Tim Pickering, a member of the 11th generation to live in the house and a current Board of Trustees member. Ms. Bazile had summer plans to travel to France, and noted that the scholarship award would be helpful towards paying for her trip.

Also in attendance for the Annual Meeting were former ambassador Thomas Pickering and his wife Alice, who were visiting Salem for the weekend to attend the Annual Meeting.



## IN THIS ISSUE

*Annual Meeting Update*

*House News & Events*

*New Trustees*

*Pickering House Intern*

*Wedding at Pickering House*

*2012 Events:  
A Musical History Lesson*



## HOUSE NEWS

It's been a busy year at the Pickering House. We celebrated a baby shower, two weddings and a host of other activities. Take a look:

- In April, guest lecturer and local Salem historian, Bob Booth presented a talk about John Pickering VI and his life. Guests enjoyed a delicious chowder luncheon following the talk.
- A change in our open house hours to Sundays, 10-3pm has brought in more visitors to the house this year.
- In October, the Pickering House participated in Massachusetts Archeology Month by hosting tours of the house.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 22nd, 2012:** Join us at the House for a musical history lesson. Maggi and Jim Dalton, of Singing String Music, will present a lecture and perform period music.

*(See page 3 for more information)*

**June 17, 2012:** Annual Meeting & Open House



## A MUSICAL HISTORY LESSON: JANUARY 22, 2012

The Pickering Foundation will host a special musical/historical program, presented by musicians and historians Jim and Maggi Dalton, entitled “**The Many Vibrations You Have Made: Exploring the Pickering Family’s Cultural Milieus.**” The program by the Daltons, a musical illustrated performance/lecture, will illuminate the cultural context successive generations of Pickerings would have experienced from the 1600s to the 1900s. In this beautiful home, over the centuries, music sounded and celebrations of all types wove bright threads in the tapestry of time; come and experience the magic of music in this historic setting.

“Built in 1651 by settler John Pickering and his wife Elizabeth, it was a two-room farmhouse on a vast plot of land that ran all the way down to the seaport on the North River, encompassing what is today Chestnut Street and the McIntire District...” and, though the size of the property has changed over the years with succeeding generations, the house itself remains a marvelous treasure of American history.

Previous audiences found the Daltons to be “engaging, scholarly, delightful, warm, intelligent, flexible, humorous, talented, versatile, enthusiastic, personable, joyful.” The couple specializes in American 19th- and 20th-century music, history, and culture from parlor and stage, performed in historically-informed style. Their programs also feature period and period-appropriate instruments. They will release two new CDs of 19th-century music in 2011.

The Calvin Coolidge Historical Site/Plymouth Folk & Blues Concerts stated, “Simply put, Jim and Maggi Dalton are a national treasure.”

The Daltons have toured nationwide and have been featured often on commercial and NPR public radio, on television and in major-market newspapers and magazines. More information may be found on their website: [www.singingstring.org](http://www.singingstring.org).

Praised as “extraordinarily versatile,” their performances feature repertoire drawn from the Middle Ages to contemporary music; and popular traditions including blues, jazz and Tin Pan Alley/Great American Songbook programs.

The Daltons have released two recordings and compose and perform original material. They have designed a full spectrum of programs which they have performed throughout the United States,



appearing at nationally-known historic sites such as Colonial Williamsburg; at colleges, in concert series, at festivals, at historical societies, for organizations of every description.

As artists-in-residence at various community and educational centers, they have presented series which address American history and various other topics in the humanities, using music as the core of each session. Maggi Dalton’s most recent book, “Stories and Shadows from Salem’s Past: Naumkeag Notations” was published by The History Press in 2010, and she is working on her second book of Salem history for the Press. Both Daltons write for a weekly column on Salem history (“History Time”) in the Boston Globe and teach at the Boston Conservatory.

Jim and Maggi Dalton are founders and directors of the American History and Music Project, and the Salem History Society, both of which are administered by the Institute for Music, History, and Cultural Traditions, a 501c3 Nonprofit Cultural, Educational, & Scholarly Organization.

**WELCOME  
NEW PICKERING  
FOUNDATION TRUSTEES:  
*Liz Taft & Jon Reardon***

Liz Taft is an art teacher at Pingree School, where she has taught since 1978. In the summer, Liz teaches an art class for “Prep at Pingree”, an academic enrichment program for middle school students from Lawrence and Lynn, and is involved in the “Masters” program at Pingree as a pottery instructor for adults. She is currently on the board of the Salem Female Charitable Society and is a member of the Salem Marine Society. Liz grew up in Salem, has four children and now lives in South Hamilton with her husband Harry.


Jon Reardon is the owner, along with his wife Jennifer, of In a Pig’s Eye restaurant in Salem. Jenny and Jon have owned In a Pig’s Eye for more than 20 years, and are long-time supporters of the arts in Salem.

Both Liz and Jon joined the Board of Trustees in June.

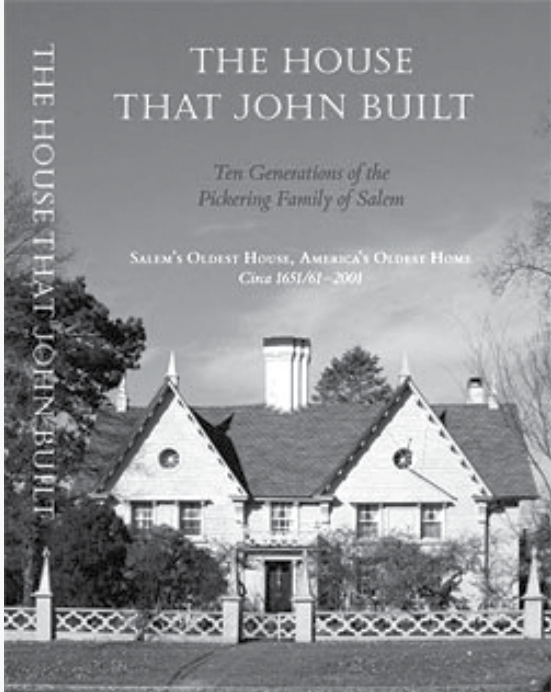


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## PICKERING HOUSE INTERN: JEFF SWARTZ

When I was younger, I never would have imagined that I could be in the great position that I am in today – a senior at Salem State University. I grew up in Ashland, MA, right next to Framingham and attended Ashland High School. My parents have been happily married for more than 30 years now and they still live in the same home where I grew up. This greatly helped my appreciation for the deep family history in the Pickering House. My interest in history grew somewhat unusually; a number of trips to visit relatives in Scotland and a large “Euro Trip” with my family ignited what had originally just been a smoldering interest.



and now live here year round. I am currently an active member of the Salem community, working as an Admissions Ambassador for Salem State University, a guide on the Salem Trolley Co., and now as an Intern for the Pickering House.

How I became involved with the Foundation is a funny story; I met Tag Goodhue at Staples, when I still worked there, after I sold him a printer. We started speaking about history and the conversation carried into a potential internship at the Pickering House and it just went from there. I was invited down for a tour, and immediately realized this was something I wanted to be involved in; the long ancestral lines of the Pickering family and their heavy connection to Salem’s early history, the architecture of the House, and even the numerous artifacts, each with their own story. I love everything that I am doing, and hopefully some of my enthusiasm for Salem and its rich history can be transferred to the people I encounter.

*-Jeff Swartz*

## TWELFTH GENERATION PICKERING MARRIED AT 18 BROAD STREET

On Saturday, June 25, 2011, Elisabeth Crowninshield Motley was married to Bryson David Tillinghast at Grace Episcopal Church. After a procession with a trumpeter down Chestnut Street, a cocktail reception was held in the garden of the Pickering House, followed by dinner and dancing under a soaring tent festooned with colored lanterns. Elisabeth is the daughter of Katharine Pickering who was also married at the Pickering House. Elisabeth is the 12th generation in the long line of Pickerings to have enjoyed this family garden for her celebration. Elisabeth was named for Elisabeth Crowninshield who married a Motley and moved to Nahant in the 19th century. Bryson, the groom, grew up in West Hartford, Connecticut. Chive Events provided locally-sourced food for the dinner. Mass-Conn Fusion and Curtis Knight kept everyone on the dance floor into the night.

*- Katharine Pickering*





## SPRING EVENT: *The Life of John Pickering VI*



*In April, the Pickering House hosted a chowder luncheon and talk on John Pickering VI's life in Salem presented by Robert Booth. Booth's own book, "Death of an Empire: The Rise and Murderous Fall of Salem, America's Richest City" was published in June.*

John Pickering VI (1777-1846) was a "polymath"—a person who knows a lot about almost everything. He was a world-class linguist, a musician, essayist, polemicist, lawyer, politician, teacher, association president—and editor of sea stories! He was born in Salem in 1777 while his father Col. Tim was away at the front during the Revolutionary War. His mother, Rebecca White, would have nine more children, mainly in Philadelphia, so John was stashed in Salem at the Pickering House, with his widowed Aunt Gooll and his genial uncle John Pickering V (1740-1811), a bachelor (epilepsy), Harvard grad, and leading politician, lawyer, and Register of Deeds.



John VI attended Harvard courtesy of his uncle John, and graduated in 1796. After four years abroad as a young diplomat (Portugal and England), absorbing the music and languages of Europe and living like an aristocrat, John returned to Salem, but found—a rude awakening—that his family had no money. Many others in Salem, however, were getting very wealthy from maritime commerce. John married, settled in as a Salem lawyer and real-estate developer (Chestnut Street), lexicographer, founder of the Mozart Society (he was a notable singer and flutist), writer for the *North American Review*, and dear friend of Nathaniel Bowditch, the world's leading astronomer and navigator.



John was always interested in literature. He was one of the first to read Hawthorne's manuscript of short stories; and in two cases, at least, he agreed to edit the journals of seafaring men, who had great stories to tell, but little experience in writing for publication. Capt. John White had made the first American voyage to Saigon and had returned with a first-draft account of his many adventures. As a favor, Pickering agreed to edit the manuscript, and in 1824 it appeared as *A Voyage to Cochin China*. Some years later, after John had moved to Boston and become City Solicitor, he agreed to edit (as an act of charity) the harrowing account of Horace Holden, who had experienced shipwreck in the Pacific and years of captivity among barbaric natives on a tiny island. This book proved to be a best-seller. John may have edited other books, but these two are certain, as we know from the splendid biography of her father by Mary Orne Pickering.

- Bob Booth

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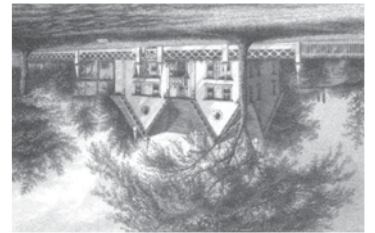
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