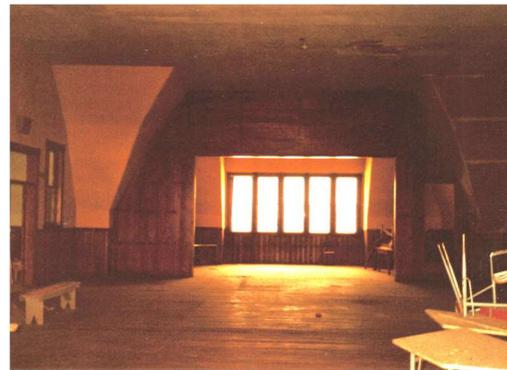


TEWKSBURY GAZETTE

TEWKSBURY'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

Who was ... **J.W.C. Pickering** namesake of **Pickering Hall at the Foster School?**



Pickering Hall,
with window
overlooking
Main Street

Photo taken-
1993

Courtesy Bill
Pavao

The Foster School at 940 Main Street was built in 1894 and was named after Deacon Enoch Foster, prominent businessman in Tewksbury. Enoch Foster and J.W.C. Pickering had contributed funds towards the construction of the school.

When the Foster School was built, on the third floor, there was a large hall, named Pickering Hall. It was named after J.W.C. Pickering who was also the chairman of the school building committee.

After the fire of 1918, when the Town Hall and the Church in Town Center were destroyed, Town Meetings were held in Pickering Hall until the new Town Hall could be built. Meanwhile, church members also voted to rebuild their church and to hold their Sunday services in Pickering Hall.

Pickering Hall was in high demand during that time and the site for many receptions and gatherings as well. It is mentioned several times as such in Harold Patten's, *History of Tewksbury*, published in 1965.

However, one needs to look beyond Patten's book to find out who J.W.C. Pickering was.

With the help of online resources, the following information about Mr. Pickering was found. His business and other associations reach forward to current successes in industry and education in the Lowell area.

James William Churchill Pickering, a Lowell native, was born in 1844 and passed away in 1917 in Lowell, MA.

In 1891, James built a home at 781 Andover Street, in what was Tewksbury at the time. This Belvedere section of Tewksbury was annexed to Lowell in 1906.

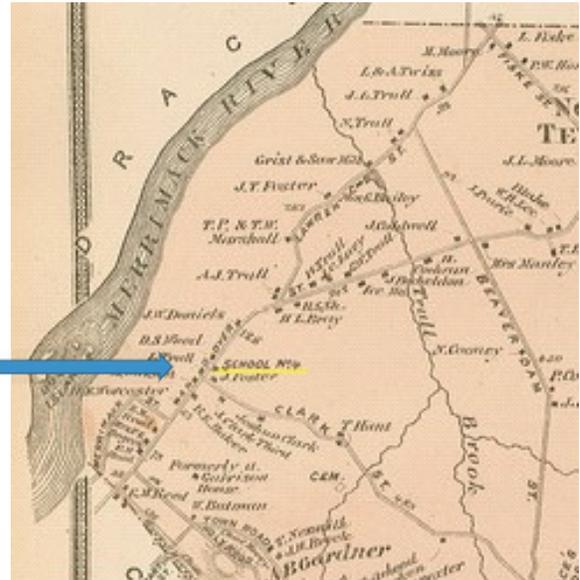


Pickering Home:

781 Andover Street, Lowell MA
(formerly Tewksbury)

Noted as one of the finest examples of a Queen Ann Style home on Andover Street on Lowell's Historic Resource Listing.

The land for the home was once the site of Tewksbury District School No. 4, Northwest District. This is the same location as the school noted on a Tewksbury map of 1875.



Patten's 1965 book notes that the school was sold to Mr. Pickering.

School No. 4 at the Northwest District. The old red schoolhouse near Stafford Road was burned. A new school house was built on Andover Road but when the land was sold to Mr. Pickering, the school was moved to Ridge Hill. In the old school Lawyer Davis taught during the winter. He was very strict in discipline but so thorough was his teaching that several pupils came over from a neighboring district for instruction. Other teachers were M. W. H.

James started the Pickering Knitting Company in Lowell, in 1891, at 1499 Middlesex Street. They produced cotton knit underwear until 1908 when the company was taken over by the Meyer Thread Co., which stayed in business until the 1930's. Avco Corp. took over the site in the 1960's.

The 3 story mill building is still standing today as the site of Specialty Materials Inc. manufacturers of boron and silicon carbide composites for high performance fibers used in industrial, aircraft and aerospace uses.



Pickering Knitting Company
 1449 Middlesex Street
 Lowell, MA
 Shown circa 1980

Mr. Pickering was also a vice-president of the former Appleton National Bank on Central Street in Lowell. The four-story Victorian Gothic style bank was built in 1879 and was recently renovated for use as an elder care facility.



Appleton National Bank
 174 Central Street
 Lowell, MA
 Shown circa 1884



Appleton National Bank was a national leader in issuing currency and bank notes from 1865 to 1935, named after Nathan Appleton, industrialist, and a founder of Lowell.



According to:
 Lowell, Past, Present
 and Prospective, 1891.

James was also a director in a group that formed the Erie Telephone Company which had territory in Ohio, Texas, Arkansas, Minnesota and Dakota.

Of the many citizens who were interested in the organization of the first telephone companies, William A. Ingham, Charles J. Glidden, A. A. Coburn, Loren N. Downs and William H. Bent were the best known.

They also aided in establishing the Erie Telephone Company, which has territory in Ohio, Texas, Arkansas, Minnesota and Dakota. Levi Sprague is president of the Erie company at present, and Charles J. Glidden, Francis Jewett, A. C. Russell, A. S. Adams, C. E. Adams and J. W. C. Pickering are directors. Charles J. Glidden is secretary and treasurer.

SOCIETY PAY RESPECTS.

CHARMING RECEPTION TO MR. AND MRS. PICKERING.

An Occasion of Moment in Social Circles When a Manchester Young Lady and Bride is Welcomed to This City.

One of the events in social circles of the city, thus early in the season, was the reception given yesterday afternoon and evening by Mr. and Mrs. J. W. C. Pickering at their home in Andover street, in honor of their son, Mr. Herbert Dow Pickering, and his bride, formerly Miss Mabel Williams of Manchester.

Early in the afternoon the weather was not such as could be desired but the evening proved delightful overhead while uncomfortable under foot.

The Pickering residence was indeed the scene of a brilliant affair, and to the reception went the most prominent of the society people of this city, Manchester and other places. Interiorly, the beautiful home was made more beautiful, the floral assistance in the change being through the medium of chrysanthemums and laurel.

The parlor was the place of receiving by Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Pickering, being assisted by Mr. and Mrs. J. W. C. Pickering, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Williams of Manchester, N. H., the bride's father and mother, and Miss Gould. Miss Cheney and Miss Putney, also of Manchester, who were bridesmaids at the wedding in October, and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Williams and also Miss Alice Gallinger Williams; Mr. Julian Hood, Mr. Henry K. Gates and Mr. F. W. Taylor acted as ushers and presented the guests to the receiving party.

The other ladies present who assisted in the entertainment of the guests were Miss Josephine Pickering, Mrs. Abner Adams, Mrs. A. G. Pollard, Mrs. Prescott C. Gates Mrs. Charles E. Adams, Mrs. Eugene S. Hyman, Mrs. Charles J. Glidden and Mrs. Frederick Taylor, Miss Lydia Mansur and Miss Bertha Howe.

In the library Miss Nellie Pickering, Miss Alice Pickering, Miss Louise Taylor and Miss Clara Sixby of Rogers Hall school served frappe.

The reception brought out many exquisite gowns, by reason of the fact that it was the first of the season. The bride wore a gown of white satin, the bridesmaids pink brocade, Miss Josephine Pickering pale blue chiffon, Mrs. J. W. C. Pickering, café au lait brocade, and Mrs. Williams, silvery grey bengaline.

The incidentals to the reception were upon the same elaborate scale, Patten, the florist decorating the entire house, and the Page company serving a most delicious supper.

Among the guests from abroad were U. S. Senator Gallinger, Miss Mansfield, Mrs. Mansfield, Messrs. Mansfield and John Tolman of Waltham.

Mr. Pickering was quite an established businessman and a reception for his newly married son was noted in The Lowell Daily Sun, Nov. 1893.

Many prominent names of the time are listed as attendees as well as the fact that Patten's Florist of Tewksbury had decorated the entire house for the occasion.

James Pickering was appointed to the trustees of the Lowell Textile School when it was started in 1895. The school would eventually become today's Southwick Hall, University of Massachusetts, Lowell, MA.



Lowell, Green & Co., Architects, Lowell, Mass. SOUTHWICK HALL - TEXTILE SCHOOL.

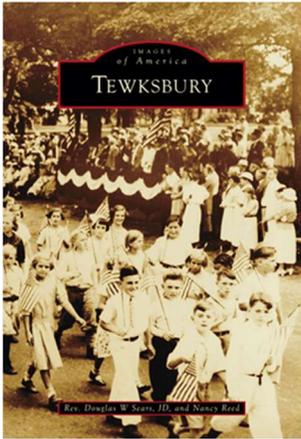
James was a permanent member of the Lowell Trade Board from approximately 1891 to 1902.

Lowell Board of Trade.

UNDERWEAR AND HOSIERY.

Enormous quantities of fine and medium grades are produced by The Lawrence Manufacturing Company, employing about 3,500 hands; the Lowell Hosiery Company, about 300 hands; the Shaw Stocking Company, 450 hands; the Pickering Manufacturing Company, 400 hands; the Hooper

Above is a listing of his Pickering Knitting Co. in *City of Lowell, Board of Trade* publication 1902.



Book Price: \$24.99

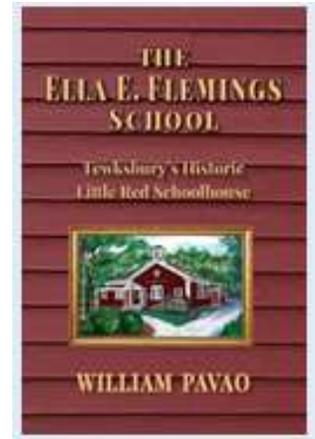
These books are available from the Tewksbury Historical Society, where we receive profits from the sales.

(Cash or Check to the Society)

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Tewksbury Historical Society
P.O. Box 522
Tewksbury MA 01876
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The purpose for which the Society is organized is to act as a repository for Tewksbury history. It shall maintain any property entrusted to it and collect, preserve and interpret items of historical and traditional significance. The Society shall encourage research and involvement in these efforts by its members and the community at large. The Society shall sponsor history-based activities in the town on a regular basis. In so doing, it shall promote a better understanding of history as an important factor in the everyday affairs of the Town of Tewksbury and its residents.

Headquartered in Tewksbury, Massachusetts, the *Tewksbury Historical Society* was founded in 1993 as a 501.C.3, tax-exempt non-profit.

Tewksbury Historical Society

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

The Tewksbury Historical Society is an IRS 501 (c) (3), not-for-profit corporation, founded in 1993.

Board of Directors and Members serve as volunteers.

All Donations and Membership dues go directly to maintaining the Society's collections, archive materials, storage costs, postage and stationery.

For information about Membership, please visit our website or contact a Board member listed on the left.

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