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**JANE AND ROBERT PICKETT PAPERS  
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**By  
Daniel Draper**

**Portland, Maine  
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## **Administrative Information**

Provenance: Donated to Special Collections in 2003.

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Cite as: Jane and Robert Pickett Papers, Special Collections, University of Southern Maine Libraries.

Restrictions on access: None

## **Biographical Note**

Robert Stanley Pickett of Kennebunk, Maine was born on September 12, 1931. He attended Gorham State Teachers College in the 4 year Junior High School course for the years 1949 through 1953. At the end of his junior year he was ranked 4<sup>th</sup> among the 36 full time male students in his class. In his first semester he took art, English, physical education, music, geography and biology. In his second semester he continued with biology, physical education and English and he added mathematics, introduction to teaching and recent history.

In 1950 he was one of 10 staff members for the first issue in June of the Gorham Panorama, an illustrated campus magazine. Also in 1950 he had the role of Monsieur de la Croix in Cornelia Otis Skinner's scintillating 3 act comedy, "Our Hearts Were Young and Gay." As early as 1948 in high school he had received prizes in speaking as he gave Mark Antony's Funeral Oration from the works of William Shakespeare. In the 1950-1951 season he was awarded the Junior Manager letter in basketball. On May 6, Robert Pickett played the role of Mr. Manningham in Patrick Hamilton's play "Angel Street", laid in London in 1880. In the fall of 1950 Robert was the director of the one act play, "The Boor" by Anton Chekov.

For the 1951 Alpha Spring Festival presented by the Alpha Lambda Beta Fraternity, Robert gave imitations after the street scene dance and he was one of 5 fraternity members who helped to produce the stage set. Also in March of 1951 he played the character of Edward Rochester in the play "Jane Eyre." In 1951 his academic schedule included Industrial Arts, Literature, Visual Education, Physical Science, Physical Education, U.S. History, Child Psychology and the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of School Law.

On Recognition Day in 1952 as a junior, he was one of the "B" average grade or better students. In the spring of 1952 Robert's grades were A in U.S. History, Music, Economics and Novel with an incomplete in Junior High Mathematics. For 1951-1952

he was manager of the basketball team and was awarded the varsity sweater. He also received the Outstanding Service Award with the New England Teachers College Conference Championship Basket Ball Team on May 22<sup>nd</sup> as well as honors in general scholarship.

During his senior year Robert was student chairman of the Second Annual P.T.A. Study Course under the guidance of the Maine Congress of Parents and Teachers. As a basso in the Men's Glee Club he sang the role of the Baron of Stragostein, son of Virarchi. He also read the class will for the Last Chapel for the class of 1953 and was student chairman of the Recognition Day for 1953. On June 12, 1953 Robert Pickett graduated with the B.S. degree in education in a class of 143.

Jane Niles was also enrolled at Gorham State Teachers College from 1949 to 1953 and graduated with the B.S. degree in education in 1953. During her college career she was active on the student council and in tennis, dramatics, softball, archery and basketball.

She received recognition for outstanding service through her work with the House Committee, for honors in general scholarship (1951-52) and for outstanding service on the yearbook staff (1952). On Recognition Day 1952, she also was listed as one of the juniors with a "B" average grade or better.

In 1969 Robert Pickett, B.S., A.M.T., D.S.S., and Jane Niles Pickett, B.S., M.A., were living in Liverpool, New York. In 1989 and 1995 they resided in Syracuse, New York, where Robert was a professor at Syracuse University.

### **Description of the Papers**

The Jane and Robert Pickett Papers consist of materials dealing with academic, athletic and student social activities at Gorham State Teachers College dating from 1949 to 1953.

Box	Folder	Description	Date
1	1	Matriculation and scheduling	1949
	2	Emblems	1949-1953
	3	Student Activities	1950-1953
	4	Commencement	1950
	5	Class of 1952 – photos	1952
	6	Recognition Day	1952

Box	Folder	Description	Date
1	7	Commencement	1953
	8	Recognition Day	1953
	9	Class information	1953
	10	Scrapbook of basketball and other activities at Gorham Normal School	1949-1953
Mpcs 4 Dr 33		Large class photo Oversize	1953