

MRS. FREDERICK PITCHER

KEENE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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Mrs. Pitcher: From his association with the church. I first knew him when he came into the choir. I guess after that he went to VMI. He was in choir for a year or two perhaps before that. And that was my first association with him.

I remember that he was full of the devil...in a nice way... He had such a wonderful sense of humor. Well, he was the kind of boy that if my girls were his age, I would like very much for them to have perhaps married him.

S: Do you remember any specific events?

Mrs. Pitcher: Well, I remember one Christmas Eve...well, it wasn't Christmas Eve, but we held Christmas Eve service as you know, and the choir would rehearse all day the Sunday before... not all day...in the afternoon. And they would have supper, and would all rehearse again together in the church. Being the secretary here, one of my jobs is to run off the Christmas Eve program. Jon came down and helped me run off this one year. It gets rather hectic, being so busy and pushed. And he was just that type. He would come in and help whenever he could with anything. There weren't many who would do that I don't think.

He taught Sunday school and sang in choir at the same time.

He would come to choir rehearsal on Wednesdays, and he would sing Sunday morning through the first part of the service... through the anthem, then go out at the church school recessional... And he had sixth or seventh grade I think...somewhere in there. I guess he did a wonderful job.

S: Did the kids like him? Did they like to have him as a teacher? Or would they just as soon cut?

Mrs. Pitcher: Yes...Well, I don't know about that (cutting). I don't honestly know. If I could look at the enrollment cards and see what kids he had. That would be rather difficult now. But everyone liked him. I never heard anyone who didn't like him.

S: If somebody from a college or something had sent you a statement saying, "Mr. Daniels has put you down as a recommendation..."

Mrs. Pitcher: He would get the highest...

S: ...And you had to say his strengths, his weaknesses, what would you say were his strengths...his strong points?

Mrs. Pitcher: Well, I think he knew how to handle people. He was very sympathetic to people who were in any kind of difficulty.

S: What makes you think that? For example...?

Mrs. Pitcher: Just some of the things he said, I guess... I can't put my finger on anything. They are important, but I

...Well, he was always sympathetic with me...He could feel when I was upset, and I would get upset occasionally...be irritable. And he was always willing to let you come and talk to him and cry on his shoulder anytime. Not that I did very often because I didn't feel I had any right to, but that's what I mean I guess by his being sympathetic. I think he was a good christian. I think he had above average intelligence. He was a good preacher. Of course, that doesn't do much for college...

S: Were you surprised that he went to Selma?

Mrs. Pitcher: Not really, no.

S: Why not?

Mrs. Pitcher: I don't know why. I can't remember now whether we ever talked about segregation or not. But Jonathan was the type I think that would get in and try to help a situation like that. I think he would want to help the poor and the needy regardless.

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S: Was Jon known in the church?

Mrs. Pitcher: Oh yes by very many people. Of course he was known in the community to begin with so that people in the parish probably knew him because of his father...being a doctor. Of course, he went to school with all the Keene children and a good

share of them would have been Episcopalians so he would know them from that. I think he was active in the First Congregational Church when he was there...the youth group and so forth. So there again he would be known in the community first. But once he came into the Episcopal Church he took part in everything. You never asked him to do anything that he said no...like teaching church school and singing in the choir. He was always so helpful.