

Time To Begin A Conversation and Stop Looking For a Scapegoat

To the editor:

Praise goes to the Souhegan school board, the high school educators, students and administration for not rising to the childish taunting and, yes even bullying by the unruly crowd at last night's meeting (June 17, 2010) at Souhegan High School. Anger, heckling and hostility were unleashed by some of the parents and residents that were present. There were so many issues brought up last night that I became unsure as to what the meeting was about. It seemed many were seeking someone or some group to be held accountable for the yearbook photos, prisoner educational rights, school expulsion policies, Christian values, idyllic country living, political correctness, and lawsuits. However, one gentleman spoke of his heart break, sadness and fear he felt after learning about the community tragedy last October. My hope is that in the near future we can stop hunting for a scapegoat and begin a conversation about what community means. I don't believe name calling and threatening our legal rights have eased the pain and suffering of the Cate's family and their friends. What has helped has been the love, care and concern from our communities to Mr. Cates and the consideration for his feelings and the well being of his daughter. This has been a hard year for everyone and I believe the Souhegan school board, the high school educators, students, and administration should be thanked not condemned for getting us through an uncharted and heart breaking year.

Respectfully,
Jane Nilles
Mont Vernon

LCPL Dustin Jones Comes Home

To the editor:

LCPL Dustin C. Jones returns home from his second tour, this time in the Helmand Valley of Afghanistan. Dustin is with the Marine 1/3 Bravo Co. Scout Sniper Platoon and has spent the last seven months in the mountains of the Helmand Valley chasing / hunting insurgents and the Taliban. The 1/3 Bravo Co. spent the winter in the mountains sleeping in tents in temperatures ranging from 15-40 degrees, never able to get out of the bitter cold and wind. While on their missions they hiked through streams and mud to avoid IEDS and other traps set by the Taliban. These brave Marines logged over 300 miles through the mountains on missions to keep the Taliban on the run.

Dustin said he and his fellow Marines went 55 days without a hot shower, doing occasional laundry in cardboard boxes with trash bags and cold water. A shower was baby wipes and cold water over your head for a shampoo. They do not complain though, as they are doing what has been ordered! Don't ask how the food was!

These True American Heroes are to be praised for what they endure, for us, and the country. They do not want to be there, however they do what is asked and demanded! Regardless of your position on the wars we're in, surely we can appreciate and support, what our Brave Men and Women do, and sacrifice, for the best country on the planet, THE United States of America.

Dustin returns home on leave Saturday, June 26th and arrives at Manchester Airport at 5 pm on United Airlines. We invite ALL of Dustin's friends to come welcome him home!

Sincerely,
The Jones Family
Amherst

Historic Amherst

Fourth of July, 1824 & the New Courthouse

BY KATRINA HOLMAN

In 1824, the 48th Anniversary of American Independence was celebrated in Amherst – on July 5th because it wouldn't do to celebrate on a Sunday – “with the usual demonstrations of joy, gratitude and festivity.” Yes, there was a parade of sorts. Yes, there were bigwig politicians present – two sitting governors of different states, New Hampshire and Arkansas, who were native NH sons. No fireworks, but gun salutes were fired at dawn and dusk by an artillery company.

A cavalcade on horseback formed on the Plain at 7:30 a.m. and rode off at 8 o'clock, led by chief marshal Timothy Danforth, to meet His Excellency Gov. Morrill at the residence of Hon. Wm. Fisk, and escorted him the three miles back to the village where they were met by a company of infantry, then stopped at Ray's hotel (101 Boston Post Road). The early morning activities there seem to have been just for the men, the speeches addressing only “gentlemen.” The procession reformed at 11:00 and headed for the meeting house (which had not yet been rolled across the street to its present spot). What about the ladies? Ah, in the Congregational church the wall pews right up front were reserved for them and they were escorted to their seats before the procession of dignitaries and committee members entered to give and/or hear the reading of the Declaration of Independence, prayer and oration. The choir sang. The day concluded in the brand new courthouse, where about 200 persons of both sexes and all parties, who had paid \$1 per ticket,

partook of a good dinner served at 2 o'clock in the courtroom by Eber Lawrence, proprietor of the village's other inn, which stood nearby in the now-empty space to the right of Col. Means' mansion.

Besides pomp and circumstance, there was also a military fervor to the day, the Revolutionary War being a living memory to quite a few of those present, including Gen. Pierce.

Amherst and Mont Vernon Vie to Be Shire Town

In 1823, New Hampshire had created some additional counties. Not only was the size of Hillsborough County significantly reduced when Merrimack County was created from portions of Hillsborough and Rockingham Counties, but Amherst, though shire town since 1769, was in danger of losing that economic advantage, because neighboring Mont Vernon was lobbying for the privilege. In June of 1823, Mont Vernon petitioned the State House of Representatives to become shire town, whereupon the legislature required Hillsborough County towns to vote the following March to choose between Amherst and Mont Vernon. The battle was on.

Brick Courthouse Erected 1823

Amherst's townsmen didn't sit around and wait – they took a risk, raised funds through individual subscription, voted in August 1823 to donate the land to build a new courthouse on, appointed a committee to make a conveyance, and proceeded to build an impressive brick building that summer which



Amherst's Town Hall, erected 1823 (without the wings) as third county courthouse. In 1871, the upper story was converted into “Town Hall” and a room downstairs became the public library.

opened for the fall court session of the same year. (Yeah, Secomb got the date wrong.)

When six gentlemen of Mont Vernon in Jan. 1824 offered the County a bond of \$10,000 should Mt. V. be chosen, promising to “build a good and sufficient Court House with two fire proof rooms” and deed it to the County provided the County give them the jail then at Amherst — Amherst responded that “the inhabitants of Amherst have ALREADY built a large, and every way “good and sufficient” brick Court House, in which the last term of the Superior Court for the county was held – and it was pronounced

by the Judges to be the most commodious court house then in the State. This house is destined for the sole use of the county for the holding of their courts – provided, they will accept of it.” (Farmers' Cabinet 31 Jan. 1824)

Amherst's leaders then published the deed in the Amherst and Concord newspapers in Feb. 1824 whereby, for one dollar, title was transferred to Hillsborough County for the “Brick Court House, lately erected in Amherst, with the land under the same and the land around the same to the extent of eight feet from the walls thereof, and all the furniture now in and belonging to said court house, to have and to hold ... so long as the town of Amherst shall continue to be a shire town ... and no longer.” And,

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Historic Mansion Tour continued from page 1



Frederick French Mansion, Carriage Road

sion (1785) at 1 Pierce Lane; and the Frederick French mansion (1810) at 13 Carriage Road. The Kendall house was originally a one-room-deep farmhouse that was converted to a “double-house” in the style of a Georgian mansion. The Means and French mansions are textbook examples of high-style Georgian and Federal architecture found in the Merrimack River Valley.

The focus of the tours will be on the history and architecture of these very special structures. Both the Society and the state's architectural historian, Jim Garvin, have

just completed new research on the houses. Based on this fresh information, the docents for the tours will be correcting myths and telling interesting stories that were previously unknown.

The Kendall and Means mansions will have their “hinged partitions” in the raised position to show how these buildings could be transformed for dancing. And tour-goers will be able to see the 1849 vintage Zuber & Cie “El Dorado” wallpaper on full display in the dining room of the French mansion. It will be a special treat to view the second floor rooms, which have not typically been available on those rare occasions these houses have been opened to the public in the past.

Proceeds from the tours will be used to restore the historic “watering trough” that sits off the east end of the common. This watering trough was a present from the Grange to Amherst on the town's 150th anniversary in 1910. The trough has suffered many a blow by snow plows over the years, but now

that it is protected by green space, it will be fitting to restore it for its 100th birthday.

The first opportunity to purchase tickets for the tours will be at the historical society's booth on the 4th of July on the common. Tickets may be purchased to view all three of the mansions, or any one of them. Because the tours will be guided by trained docents, there will only be 270 tickets available—so act fast!

For more information, please email the historical society at mansionstours@hsanh.org.



Nathan Kendall Jr, Mack Hill Road

Obituary

MILDRED S. HILL



AMHERST, NH – Mildred S. Hill, 85, resident of 4 Sycamore Court, Amherst, died on June 18, 2010 at her home, surrounded by her family, from complications of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Disease.

She was born in Gary, Indiana on March 25, 1925, the daughter of the late Herman and Mildred (Wulffing) Sommer. She grew up in New Jersey and attended schools and college in New Jersey.

Mrs. Hill made her home in Amherst for 42 years. Prior to her retirement, she was a Real Estate Broker for 35 years working for Simonds of Hollis, DeWolfe of New England and Coldwell Banker.

She enjoyed antique homes, gardening and oil painting. In addition, she was a member of the Am-

herst Garden Club for many years.

She was predeceased by her son, Jeffrey B. Hill of Aurora, CO.

Family members include her husband of 64 years, Kaarlo Hill of Amherst; her daughter and son-in-law, Karen and Thomas McClintock and one grandchild, Luke McClintock, all of Milford, NH. She leaves behind a sister, Marlene Madson of Seal Beach, CA and a brother and sister-in-law, Herman and Kathy Sommer of Coplay, PA.

Funeral services are private. Burial will be in Amherst, NH at a later date. Smith & Heald Funeral Home, 63 Elm Street, Milford, is handling arrangements. To leave an online condolence, please go to www.smith-heald.com

Amherst Junior Women's Club



Christina Zlotnick Named Woman of the Year

Christina Zlotnick has been named Club Woman of the year by the Amherst Junior Women's Club. Left, Tracey Hanlon, vice president, Christina Zlotnick, Club Woman of the Year and Lara Lowenberg, president. Christina was given this award for her hard work and dedication towards the Amherst Junior Women's Club. She was the Corresponding Secretary this year, as well as the Chair for Bingo Night at Wilkins. She helped with many other committees this year.

Announcement

Amherst's 250th Town Picnic

July 28, 2010 - 6:30 to 8 P.M.

Music provided by the Amoskeag Strummers

Bring your own Picnic or order from

Steve at Moulton's Market

Join Amherst Recreation and the 250th Committee
And Have Some Summer Fun - on the Amherst Village Common

Please contact Carolyn Quinn – 673-3308 or

ccq02@comcast.net if you can come

Summer Concert Series on the Common continued from page 1

Rock's 40 Years of Woodstock event; charitable benefits for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life; and numerous Town Concerts on the Common Series. If you enjoy the music of the Beatles, you'll love BeatleTracks!

Wednesday, August 11th – T-BONE

Tom Stankus, or T-BONE to his audiences, is affectionately known as “America's musical Pied Piper,” and has entertained thousands of people since 1978. Maybe it's the child in him that enables T-BONE to connect so well with his audiences. Maybe it's the fact that he has the energy of a runaway freight train.

Whatever the reason, and before his audiences realize it, they are clapping, dancing and singing at T-



Tom Stankus, as T-BONE

BONE's shows. “I love making people happy, especially children,” says T-BONE, “and it is particularly satisfying when my audiences feel that they are the most important part of the show. Which they are.”

Wednesday, August 18th – The Amoskeag Strummers

The Amoskeag Strummers is a NH band that brings a foot-stomping, hand clapping style of playing old-time favorites that make you want to sing along. The Strummers' repertoire includes patriotic numbers, classical rags, Broadway tunes, Dixieland, and sounds of the 20s, 30s and 40s. This unique band uses all types of instruments, everything from banjos to a tuba, to spoons & a wash board.

The Amoskeag Strummers have played at a variety of venues in the US and Europe, and have hosted “In the Good Old Summertime” banjo fest in Manchester and Bedford since 1984.

This concert is co-sponsored by the 250th Anniversary Celebration.

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