

# Events Calendar

## Nashaway Chapter of the New Hampshire Audubon Society

### Upcoming Events

With the mild winter, ticks have stuck around longer than usual. Come find out Everything you always wanted to know (and didn't want to know) about ticks and mosquitoes in NH! On Wednesday, February 15 the Nashaway Chapter of NH Audubon will host Dr. Alan Eaton, entomology specialist for UNH Cooperative Extension, as he talks about tick and mosquito management options and tells us how to protect ourselves from mosquito and tick borne diseases, including Lyme disease. This FREE program will take place at 7pm in the downstairs theater room of the Nashua Public Library. Registration is not necessary, but for more information contact Richard Maloon at 424-5621 or richard.maloon@att.net To read more about Dr. Eaton, go to [http://www.unh.edu/staffexcellence/2007/pae/pae\\_07.cfm?image=eaton](http://www.unh.edu/staffexcellence/2007/pae/pae_07.cfm?image=eaton)

### Amherst Area Newcomers Club

Amherst Area Newcomers Club holds monthly meetings and events for a wide array of interests. The Club is always open to new members regardless of how long you have lived in the area. For information and a calendar of events visit: [NHNewcomers.com](http://NHNewcomers.com)

### Amherst MOMS Club

The Amherst MOMS Club holds a monthly business meeting open to residents every third Tuesday at The First Baptist Church, 25 1/2 Middle Street in the Town of Amherst. The International MOMS Club is a non-profit organization supporting moms who are home with their children. Members can be stay-at-home, work-at-home, or work part-time outside the home, but most activities take place during the weekday to support these moms without taking away from family time in the evenings and weekends. The exception to this rule is MOMS Night Out, a once-a-month chance for moms to get out and have some me-time with friends. Other activities include play dates, outings, get-togethers, and community service projects. For more information please e-mail [amherstmomsclubnh@gmail.com](mailto:amherstmomsclubnh@gmail.com)

### Photographers Forum February Meeting

Photographers Forum camera club's next meeting is Monday, Feb. 20 at 7:15 at Bishop Guertin High School in Nashua. We are an informal club offering educational programs for all ability levels and the opportunity to meet people with similar interests. This competition meeting has three categories: Assigned: "Complementary Colors", Challenge: "Black and White", and Open. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month. Be our guest for your first meeting. Dues are \$20/year thereafter. For more information go to [www.photographersforum.org](http://www.photographersforum.org).

## AJWC Funds Available for Area Non-Profits

The Amherst Junior Women's Club invites non-profit organizations in need of charitable contributions to apply for a donation. Throughout the year, the AJWC raises money and then disburses those funds within the community.

### Request must follow these guidelines:

- Requesting organization must be a 501(c)(3) non-profit.
- Organization does not need to have an Amherst address but must service the local community.
- Request must be submitted by March 31, 2012, in writing or by e-mail.

### Request must contain the following information:

- Name of organization, mailing address, e-mail address, website (if available), telephone number, contact name.
- Copy of 501 (c)(3) letter.
- Dollar amount requested.
- How would donated funds be used?
- How does requesting organization currently benefit Amherst and greater community?
- How does organization's objective correspond to the mission of the AJWC? AJWC mission is explained below.
- When was organization established? Provide short history of organization.
- How does organization fund itself, ie. federal/state/local grants?
- What is organization's annual budget? Include any expected short-falls.

The AJWC is an organization of women who volunteer their time, energy and talent to enhance the community. The club's mission is to focus efforts on civic needs, educational advancement and the less fortunate.

Once approved, funds will be distributed no later than June 15, 2012. Only chosen recipients will be notified of disbursements.

Questions may be e-mailed to Lisa Caulton at [CIP@amherstjuniors.org](mailto:CIP@amherstjuniors.org). Please reference "CIP Request" in subject line. For more information, please visit our website at: [www.amherstjuniors.org](http://www.amherstjuniors.org). Our mailing address is: AJWC, CIP Request, P.O. Box 513, Amherst, NH 03031.

Clubs, Civic Organizations, Non-Profits please submit your publicity to *The Amherst Citizen*: [news@amherstcitizen.com](mailto:news@amherstcitizen.com)

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# Town News

## Historic Amherst:

# Hitty Dana's Lover – An Amherst Love Story

BY KATRINA HOLMAN

"Hitty Dana's Lover" is the title of a charming and loonngg story that appeared in the 15 January 1878 issue of Amherst's local newspaper, the *Farmers' Cabinet*, reprinted from the *Union Democrat*. It told of how Sam Bell and Hitty Dana met at her father's house in Amherst, N.H., and ended up married. That tale follows, edited for length:

In the twilight of a summer eve a tall awkward, but not unhandsome youth of about nineteen walked up the path to Judge Dana's residence at Amherst, and knocked at the door. [An] African servant ushered him into the library. The boy was an ardent devourer of books, and he ventured to take a volume in his hands.

"My papa does not like to have his books handled," said a voice, and looking round he was not alone. His companion was a girl not more than thirteen years of age, yet a girl for all that, pert, vivacious, charming. The girl though so young had all the graceful naivete of an accomplished belle. Piquant, beautiful, eager, she stood before the bashful country boy.

"What is your name?" she inquired, determined to keep up the conversation.

"Everybody calls me Sam, but my name is Samuel Bell."

"And mine is Mehitable, but everybody calls me Hitty."

[The judge entered.] Tall, grave and learned, dressed richly as became his station, older persons than Samuel Bell might well have been awed by the great judge's presence. But his voice was reassuring.

"Please, sir, I have come to study with you. My name is Samuel Bell."

Thus was Samuel Bell domiciled within the stately home of Judge Dana. The change was beneficial to him. All of his youthful years had been spent on his father's farm in Chester [sic but error] and he had grown up shy and reserved. Here he was daily brought into contact with fashionable and aristocratic society, and he soon left his green ways behind him.



Samuel Bell-Harrison Eaton House (now Country Mansion condos) at 135 Amherst Street was built for Samuel & Hitty Bell c. 1808 in the new Federal style with chimneys and fireplaces on exterior walls (later modified). Their stay was brief.

He and Mehitable Dana grew to be fast friends, and when two years later, young Bell was ready to enter college, she said to him in her frank way: "I suppose we shan't care quite so much for each other after you come home from Dartmouth. Four years will be a long time, but Sam, I shall always like you, I know I shall never find anyone like you." She was only a girl of 15, and he was her first love. Could she be trusted? Samuel Bell doubted it not.

"Hitty," he said, "the time will indeed be long, but I shall come back to you unchanged. I shall think of you often, and try to be good and noble for your sake. Paterfamilias may not consent. Do you remember the first time you saw me? You said that your father did not allow common folks to trespass in his library. Is his daughter less precious?"

Her eyes were full of tears as she watched him waving his handkerchief from the window [until] the carriage was out of sight. Five years have passed.

The Hillsborough county court is in session at Amherst. A young lawyer rises to make a speech in an important case. It is his first plea. But he is successful. He carries the heart of judge, jury and people with him, and his client goes forth free.

At the adjournment of court a very beautiful young lady approaches the successful lawyer and [congratulates him]. He answers, "I am indebted to two things for my success. First, to the justice of my cause; secondly, to your presence. Hitty, I was determined that you should not see me fail." Samuel Bell prospered in love as well as in law, and a year later led the fair Hitty to the altar. From this alliance descended Samuel Dana Bell.

### Lore vs. Facts

This story was written 80 years after Sam & Hitty married; a quarter century after the death of the Hon. Samuel Bell (1779-1850); and a decade after the death of Chief Justice Samuel Dana Bell (1798-1868), Sam & Hitty's eldest. Although this feel-good fluff was full of fanciful liberties and sentimental stereotyping, it surely was meant to be complimentary. The bios of the Bell men are impressive.

As historical researcher, I insist upon "actual facts," so here goes:

Sam was 10 years older than Hitty. She may not yet have reached 13 years when Bell arrived at the house of former judge Samuel Dana (1738/9-1798), as she had a November birthday. Unlike his future father-in-law who graduated from Harvard at 16, Bell was rather late getting his education because he worked on his father's farm in Londonderry until the age of 18, and only then began learning the requisite Latin, attended prep school, and entered college as a sophomore. Bell studied law with Dana for 3 years AFTER he graduated from Dartmouth in 1793. He was admitted to the bar in 1796 and married Mehitable B. Dana (1780-1810) in May 1797, so there was no 5-year-long separation before they could marry – more like one year as he was establishing his practice in Francetown, and probably waiting for the consent of her pa as she was just 16-and-a-half when they married! Her pa died April 1798, not quite a year after the wedding of Hitty, the 7th of 9 children and the 4th of his 5 living daughters.

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## Amherst Firefighters Respond Twice to Same Building

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"All personnel did an excellent job and damage was confined to one area of the building," said Chief Boynton. Additional firefighters from Hollis, Milford and Merrimack assisted and a Mont Vernon tanker provided more water at the scene.

The New Hampshire State Fire Marshal J. William Degnan concluded in his investigation that the cause of this relatively localized fire was due to electrical compromise and has been ruled accidental.

A little over two days later (February 4), a call came in at 6:32 a.m. for the same building. A large section of the building including The Bread Chef and the Poly-Ject office area were involved in fire. The roof had collapsed and at least one wall had collapsed. The firefighters were able to confine the fire saving the Poly-Ject manufacturing area and the Creamery area of the building.

The Amherst tower ladder according to Chief Boynton was used at both fires and was invaluable at suppressing the fire. The Milford ladder truck was also used at the second fire.

Again, the New Hampshire State Fire Marshal J. William Degnan reported that "an extensive origin

and cause investigation conducted by local and state investigators has defined an area of origin, but due to the extent of damage within the area of origin all possible ignition sources could not be examined and ruled out as a possible fire cause. The cause of this fire shall be listed as undetermined."

No injuries were reported at the first fire. A Merrimack firefighter suffered a knee injury at the second fire.

Chief Boynton reports, "Due to the size of the building approximately 40 firefighters were called to each fire. Both were very labor intensive involving a couple of thousand feet of fire hose for water supply and suppression operations. Firefighters were on scene approximately 8 hours for the first fire and 12 for the second fire." The building is approximately 26,000 square feet. 6,000 square feet were lost to the fires.

State Fire Marshal Degnan wishes to take this opportunity to remind all citizens that extension cords are intended for temporary use with portable equipment, that the proper size/gauge cord is always used, and to double-check that cords are not pinched or run under



heavy items.

When asked if the second fire was a continuation of the first, Chief Boynton said, "We are confident based on the findings that the second fire was not a continuation of or "rekindle" of the first fire. The second fire was more than 48 hours after the first fire. Area firefighters had done an extensive overhaul of the area affected. After suppression efforts had concluded several

local, state and private investigators were on-scene investigating the cause. Building repairs and clean-up were underway by a variety of contractors including electrical, roofing and cleaning contractors with no evidence of smoke or a smoldering fire. At the time of the second fire the majority of the material burned during the first fire had been removed from the building.

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