

# Town News

## Bulletin Board

### Nashaway Chapter of the New Hampshire Audubon Society

#### Upcoming Events

##### Birding Adventures in the West Indies

On Wednesday December 17 at 7pm, the Nashaway Chapter of NH Audubon will host NH Audubon Senior Biologist Dr. Pam Hunt. Pam will share her adventures from nearly 25 years of birding the West Indies. The West Indies are one of evolutions great laboratories. They harbor a great diversity of birds and entire vertebrate families found nowhere else in the world. Pam is a dynamic speaker who will surely spark your interest in visiting these exotic islands. This program takes place in the downstairs theater room of the Nashua Public Library and is free. Registration is not necessary. For more information, contact Richard Maloon 424-5621 or richard.maloon@att.net.

##### 115th Annual Chapter Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

On Saturday, December 27 the Nashaway Chapter of NH Audubon will conduct its annual Christmas Bird Count in the Nashua-Hollis region. If you are familiar with bird identification and would like to participate, either in the field or at home as a feeder counter, join in for the day or part of the day. Individuals or groups will be assigned specific areas to bird. At 5pm, after the count, we will be tallying our sightings over dinner at the Lawrence Barn, 28 Depot Rd. in Hollis. A small fee will be collected for dinner. To read more about the Christmas Bird Count, go to www.nh-audubon.org/birding/christmas-bird-count. To register, contact Richard Bielawski at 429-2537 or rbielawski@mac.com.

### Amherst Area Newcomers Club Monthly Meetings

Amherst Area Newcomers Club holds monthly social meetings both informative and entertaining. We have many interest groups that also meet weekly or monthly including book group, knitting, bunco, crafts, golf (is still meeting), out to lunch, movie night, poker and more.

Please join us on December 1st, 630-830pm for our annual wreath making night. Bring a plain green wreath and learn how to add fruits and other festive decorations to your wreath. You will impress yourself!

Newcomers also hosts Amherst's Breakfast with Santa for the community. This year Breakfast with Santa will be on December 13th. For more information on our activities visit our website at www.nhnewcomers.com We would love to meet you!

### DISCUSSION GROUP at TOADSTOOL BOOKSHOP

On the first Thursday of each month, the discussion group meets from 7PM to 8:30PM. We share ideas on philosophy, current affairs and familiar truths. For more information contact: Norah at 673-6948.

### Open to All Southern New Hampshire Women

The Amherst Area Newcomers Club has been an active social organization in the area for 45 years.

The club is open to all women in the Souhegan Valley, regardless of how long she has lived in the area. We hold monthly general events on a wide variety of topics along with smaller special interest groups which cater to socializing with others of similar interests. The club is a great way to meet new people, get to know the area if you're new, or cultivate a new passion. We currently host interest groups for crafts, knitting, bunco, walking, charity, lunch, poker, healthy eating and golf.

For information and a calendar of events visit: NHNewcomers.com

### Amherst Juniors Open for New Members!

Our mission is civic needs, educational advancement and those less fortunate. Our goals are achieved with the assistance and generosity of businesses, organizations and individuals.

We are in need of women with motivation and dedication to join us in growing our mission even further within our surrounding communities.

Please email us at memberships@amherstjuniors.org. Our website is www.amherstjuniors.org. Call Barb @ 508-783-3686 or Karen @305-3046 for more information. Join Us!

## Updated Continuously

www.amherstcitizen.com

### REMINDER – Amherst Garden Club's

## The Memory Tree 2014

Sponsored by the Amherst Garden Club, the Memory Tree acts as a remembrance of a loved one to all who have made a donation. The tree, an Amherst tradition dating back to 1995, is located in the center of town speaking out with a twinkle to all who pass by. "Remember me, remember the times we shared." The Memory Tree will be lit on Friday, December 12, the weekend of the Tree Lighting Festival and will stay lit through the cold winter nights into January. Now is the time to send in your donation and names to be remembered.

We have donated the money raised each year to various projects around Amherst and the local area.

Donations this year will go to a local organization that supports our mission statement of providing education, resources and networking opportunities for our members to promote the love of gardening, civic landscaping and environmental responsibility.

Please call Trese Gilligan at 714-9182 if you have any questions. Donations (\$10.00 for individual name or \$25.00 for a family) may be sent to "The Memory Tree/Amherst Gardeners, PO Box 694, Amherst, NH. Thank you for your support. Stop by and see the tree and sign posted with the names of those being remembered.

## MEMORY TREE 2014

Print YOUR NAME Clearly:

Name of person to be remembered.

A. Family - i.e. The John Smith Family - \$25.00

B. Per Individual Name - i.e. John Smith - \$10.00

Select (Either A or B)

A. The \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$25.00)

B. Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

(Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_)

(\$10.00 per individual name)

Make checks payable to:

"The Memory Tree"/Amherst Garden Club  
PO Box 694

Amherst, New Hampshire 03031

Deadline: Please return by December 1, 2014. Thank you.

Need more information? Contact Trese Gilligan at 714-9182

### Historic Amherst

## Legacy of John Moor, Storekeeper in Amherst Village, His Sons, and the Moor Women Who Survived Them

BY KATRINA HOLMAN

'Tis the season for shopping – so let's explore the traces left in Amherst Village by a family of 19th-century storekeepers. The Moor family kept a store in three locations in the Village but their lasting legacy is that they created two new house lots – on which the houses they built and/or moved still stand – as well as enabled the creation of the Town Library lot.

John Moor (1782-1862), son of the first minister of New Boston, moved to Amherst early in 1837 with his newly-wed second wife, Martha (Sprague) Morrison of Bedford who was nearly two decades younger than he, and with his son John Hamilton Moor (b. 1811) by his late first wife (and probably also the youngest three children, ranging in age from 12 to 16, of his first wife's nine children still living). The family had a connection to Amherst through the first wife, Mehitable Ray (1783-1832). After being an inn/tavern-keeper in Mont Vernon for more than a decade, her father, James Ray (1759-1829) moved to Amherst in 1816 to run the old Curtis tavern-inn (now gone) on the south side of Amherst Village Common for two years together with his son Henry H. Ray (1789-1829), turning it into a "coffee house," and then, when Henry bought the tavern at 101 Boston Post Road in Amherst Village in 1818, became joint landlord there until poor health forced Henry to sell out in 1826. During their final years, James and his ailing son Henry lived at 93 Boston Post Road (in first house there), which another son, Peter W. Ray of Salem, Mass., yeoman, bought in 1826 for this purpose. Mehitable's younger sister Elizabeth Ray was married in 1826 to Newell Dean (1797-1885), a coachman and livery stable proprietor with up to



Joseph Cushing - Judge Edmund Parker House at 12 Main Street. Building on far left with dormers is Martha Moor House at 115 Boston Post Road. Historic image courtesy of Historical Society of Amherst, N.H.

12 horses, who owned 92 Boston Post Road from 1826 to 1834, when he moved out of Amherst. Although the Ray relatives were all gone by the time John Moor moved to Amherst, he and his son would have been well familiar with the block on the old turnpike just north of the Common.

### Store at 2 Middle Street

John H. Moor kept his store in Ephraim Blanchard's former cabinet (furniture-making) shop at 2 Middle Street, which had been used by Ephraim Blanchard Jr. as a store until early 1837. That's the 2-story house with Greek Revival-style pedimented facade with columns. Moor father and son probably worked together as merchants, although "H." evidently was the proprietor in the beginning as it was he who was taxed on "stock in trade" of \$1500 in 1837 and 1838; whereas John Moor in those years was taxed only for a poll, indicating that he was a resident but owned no real estate, no stock in trade, no livestock. In the April 1829 tax invoice, the last year in which this son was taxed as an Amherst resident, their positions relative

to the store were reversed: the father was taxed on stock in trade, although reduced to \$1000, whereas the son was only taxed on real estate and one horse. To get a sense of the size of their mercantile business, one can compare the assessed value of "stock in trade" in tax invoices: in 1838, Daniel F. Stevens [at 8 Main Street] had stock worth \$1400; David Underhill [in the old Read store which stood where now the Soldiers Monument is] had \$2K; and Aaron Lawrence [whose store was on the south side of the Common next to the tavern, both now gone] had \$3500.

### Home at 89 BPR and 5 Foundry Street

John H. Moor, although unmarried, bought the newly-created lot at 89 Boston Post Road (on the same block but on the other side of the street from the store) in July 1837 for \$100 and sold it a year later, reserving use and occupation until 15 Nov. 1838, to Stevens, another storekeeper, for \$530, the jump in price suggesting that the house was built – or moved there – by him! Four months after buying 89 BPR, John H. Moor bought the former Second County Courthouse at 5 Foundry Street for a pittance, because it was no longer needed by the Congregational Society as their Vestry. The Moors may have been the first family to live in that venerable building. Although "H." was no longer a resident after 1839, perhaps his father's young family occupied the former Courthouse/Vestry for a couple more years, because the son owned 5 Court-house Road until Jan. 1843, when he sold it for \$500. (At that time John H. Moor, who had married in 1840 in Nashua, was a "trader" in Bedford, N.H. By 1849, he was a mer-

Continued on page 5 ▶

The start of the Holiday Season is now underway! Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and visit www.amherstcitizen.com for frequent updates on events and celebrations.

### AMHERST RECREATION DEPARTMENT

4 Cross Rd, Amherst, NH 03031  
673-6248  
Peabody Mill Environmental Center  
66 Brook Road  
673-1141  
www.amherstrec.org

Check out our Amherst Recreation Department website's new look! Browse our full activity section online at www.amherstrec.org to find one that suits YOU!

### NEW Programming

#### NEW Cherry Blossom Festival & Washington D.C. Sightseeing Trip (April 9-12)

Join the Amherst, Merrimack, and Milford Recreation Departments for a trip of a lifetime! Experience the history and attractions of this great American City.

#### Trip Includes:

- 5 meals
- Coach Bus transportation
- Native Washington D.C. tour guide
- Overnight stay at the embassy Suites

Who: Amherst, Merrimack, & Milford Residents

What: Sightseeing Trip

Where: Washington D.C.

When: April 9-12, 2015

Fee: \$559 pp Double

\$549 pp Triple

\$689 pp Single

\$459 Child w/ 2 Adults

## Amherst Recreation Programs and Events

### NEW Yoga for Adults

We are offering a new format for our Yoga classes- Block Passes!

You may purchase a 16 class block or a 10 class block, and choose to attend any combination of classes that work for your interests and schedule.

Tuesdays Intermediate Yoga 90 minutes 9:00-10:15am at PMEC

Thursdays Gentle Yoga 90 minutes 10:00-11:15am at PMEC

Who: Adults

What: yoga for Adults

Where: Wilkins School Classroom

When: Tuesdays 11/18/14-1/22/15

see times above

Fee: \$160R; \$170NR

### NEW Cardio & Conditioning

Sessions will include bodyweight exercises, including sit ups, push ups, and planks, while including simple equipment like balance balls and jump ropes. Don't let the winter months set you back - use them to focus on the basic building blocks of fitness!

Please bring running shoes to change into at the door, water and a towel.

Who: Adults 18+

What: Cardio & Conditioning class

Where: Souhegan High School

Fitness Room

When: Tuesdays and Thursdays

12/2-12/18; 6am-6:45am

Fee: \$48R \$53NR

### NEW Cooking with Paula Garvey

#### Pastry 101: Biscuit Pastry, Lemon Meringue Pie and the Classic Quiche Lorraine

Join Paula for a cookery demonstration to learn how to prepare a wholesome dish! She will demonstrate how to prepare, cook and serve some delicious dishes as well as sample the great food! You will receive a copy of the recipes to bring home!

Who: Adults 18+

What: Cooking Demonstration

Pastry 101

Where: AMS Life Skills room

When: 12/4; 7-8:30pm

Fee: \$20R; \$25NR

### NEW Yoga for Kids

Encourage children to turn off their devices and tune in to themselves with yoga. Yoga can help children develop a healthy mind-body connection that improves self-awareness, confidence and concentration. This class will include yoga poses, games, meditation and relaxation. The class has moved to Tuesdays.

Who: 1st-4th Graders

When: Tuesdays 11/18-12/16

Students will be picked up directly afterschool; class begins at 3:30 to accommodate participants from other schools.

Where: Wilkins School

Fee: \$45.00Res/\$50.00 Non-Res

### Family Programming

#### Birthday Parties at PMEC!

Create amazing birthday memories this year with a Birthday Party for your child age 3-12 at the Peabody Mill Environmental Center!

We have several themes to choose from or we can work together to tailor one just for your Birthday Girl or Boy. Please visit www.amherstrec.org for more details.

### Fall Family Fun Days

Come to PMEC for our new monthly event! Make a craft, learn a skill or just have fun with organized games! We will feature new themes and plans every month.

December 20th – Dream-catchers; (indoor program) Learn how to make your own dream-catcher! Native Americans made these beautiful pieces of art to help them have pleasant dreams. Make one to take home!

Who: Families and Individuals

Continued on page 6 ▶

### Snow Tires for Work. Snow Tires for Play



**Firestone Winterforce**  
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For Cars, SUV's and Light Trucks



**Cooper Discoverer M/S**  
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W. Chesterfield, NH 03466  
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HAPPY TURKEY DAY!

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