

Obituary

William R. Theil

William R. Theil, 80, resident of Amherst, NH died on April 2, 2015 at St. Joseph's Hospital, Nashua.

He was born in Jamaica, New York on September 26, 1934, a son of William C. and Pauline H. (Barta) Theil. Mr. Theil attended SUNY in Farmingdale, NY. He made his home in Amherst for the past 13 years and formerly lived in Wilton, NH for 15 years and North Brentwood, LI, NY for many years.

Mr. Theil had worked for Fiat Products in Plainview, LI, NY, for many years and worked at Pepsi Cola as a senior lab technician.

He was an avid movie buff, enjoyed walking and reading, especially Readers Digest.

Mr. Theil was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and a communicant of St.

Patrick's Church, Milford.

Family members include his wife of 59 years, Marguerite J. (Petit) Theil of Amherst, NH; two daughters and a son-in-law, Joann and George Waghorn of NJ, Denise Theil and her partner, Paul Clarke of CT; a son and daughter-in-law, Raymond and Joanne Theil of Amherst, NH; a sister and brother-in-law, Dolores and Jack Willoe of Calverton, LI, NY; eight grandchildren, Kristen and Chris, Katelyn, Sr. Marguerite Marie, Raymond, Ryan and Samantha, Gregory, Tara and Alex; and a nephew, Kevin and his family.

Burial with military honors will be in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Amherst. To share a memory or offer a condolence, please go to www.smith-heald.com

Amherst Police Launch Code Yellow Mental Health Response Initiative

AMHERST – Parents of autistic children and families of loved ones living with mental health or medical disabilities are invited to register with the Amherst Police Department's new community policing response program, Code Yellow. The program is intended to aid police dispatchers and officers in their response to calls for assistance involving individuals with significant mental health or medical impairments in order provide the best possible level of service.

The registration process includes taking a photograph and obtaining basic information about the individual and their family which will be made available to first responders in the event of an emergency. The program is designed to help public safety personnel locate children and adults affected by autism, Alzheimer's, and other disorders who may have wandered away from home, and is also designed to provide a framework for public safety response to other crisis situations such as behavioral episodes or medical emergencies.

This is an open invitation to all families who feel that registering their family member may assist first responders in the event of an emergency. The information kept on file will remain confidential within the police department, and will be accessed only by emergency personnel who are engaged in a crisis situation such as an attempt to locate a missing person or a call for emergency medical treatment.



The Amherst Police Department is providing this service for the benefit of all Amherst families that live in town, as well as for those families who live elsewhere but who have a loved one that resides or works in Amherst on a permanent or semi-permanent basis. The program draws upon similar best practices which have been put into place in other communities nationwide, but has been specifically developed with Amherst families in mind.

Registrations may be made in person at the Amherst Police Department without appointment and at any time, seven days a week. For those who are unable to respond to the police station or who would prefer a residential visit, an officer or detective can meet with the family in their own home to obtain the necessary information. Families with questions or special concerns are encouraged to contact the Amherst Police Department at 673-4900, or via e-mail to Communications Specialist Robert Kyer at rkyer@amherstnh.gov or to Chief Mark Reams at mreams@amherstnh.gov to obtain further information.

Start Designing Your July 4th Float!

AMHERST – A sweltering summer day was forecast. This was our first year entering a float in Amherst's 4th of July parade and we had not planned on it being so hot. How would people hold up in the heat wearing hip waders or dressed as the Statue of Liberty or wearing a cow costume? In the end, we survived the heat. I think the 'cows' even lost a little weight. We had a wonderful time and this started a family tradition of participating in the parade that lasted for years.

The building, painting, decorating, costuming, and ultimately marching together in the parade will forever be part of our family and friends' bit of Americana memories. Being part of a small-town Independence Day parade can truly make you part of that perfectly stereotypical American celebration. You are part of making our neighbors' and friends' July 4th memorable. It's really great to hear the laughter and "thank you" from

people lining the parade route and seeing all of those cute red-white-and-blue kids waving happy hello's.

This year's theme, "New Hampshire Firsts", celebrates the many 'firsts' of our state. Whether it is the first state to declare its independence from England or home to the first American in space, there is much to honor. Or perhaps you'd want to have some fun and observe that New Hampshire was home to the first snowmobile or the first potato planted in America.

This theme offers families, neighborhoods, and friends a great opportunity to create your own 'first'. How about making this the first year you enter a float and start your own tradition of making a memorable day for your community?

Need some help? I will be happy to help you get started or answer any questions you have on the process. You can contact me, Jim Janson, at jjanson@gmail.com.

WEDDING



Mr. and Mrs. Brian T. Lear

Alyssa M. Campbell of Amherst and Brian T. Lear of Dalton, MA were married on September 28, 2014 in a ceremony on the shore of the Chesapeake Bay performed by the groom's cousin, Robert Hyde, at The Elk Manor Winery.

The bride is the daughter of Anna Marie and Michael Campbell of Amherst. The bridegroom is the son of Janice and Thomas Lear of Middle River, MD.

The bride was given in marriage by her father. The bridesmaids were Ellen Durkos of Baltimore, MD, Caitlin Bingham of San Francisco, CA and Christy Griffin of Washington, DC.

The groom's men were Michael Lear of Middle River, MD, brother of the groom, Matt Hanegraaf of Waynesboro, PA, and Ryan Larrivee of Mobile, AL.

A reception was held at The Elk Manor Winery in North East, MD.

After a honeymoon in St Lucia, the couple will reside at their home in Silver Spring, MD.

The bride is a 2005 graduate of Souhegan High School. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Financial Economics from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and her culinary arts degree from L'Academie de Cuisine in Gaithersburg, MD. She is employed as a Chef at Ripple in Washington, DC.

The groom is a 2002 graduate of Wahconah Regional High School in Dalton, MA. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering from the University of Advancing Technology, a Master of Information Systems from the University of Phoenix and a Masters of Business Administration from Northeastern University. He is employed as a Software Engineer by Lockheed Martin in Gaithersburg, MD.

ENGAGEMENT



Melissa Demarest and Mark Ruggiero

Russell and Sandra Demarest, of Amherst are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter, Melissa Beth Demarest to Mark Joseph Ruggiero, son of Susan Ruggiero of Amherst, and Robert Ruggiero of Plympton, MA.

The bride-to-be is a 2005 graduate of Souhegan High School. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in International Business and Spanish in 2009. She is currently employed at Regis University as an Admissions Counselor in Denver, Colorado.

The groom-to-be is 2003 graduate of Souhegan High School and a 2007 graduate of University of Connecticut with a degree in Sociology. He is currently employed by Globus Family of Brands in Littleton, Colorado.

An October 2015 wedding is planned in Amherst.

Please send Engagement and Wedding announcements (forms available at www.amherstcitizen.com) to Editor: The Amherst Citizen, PO Box 291, Amherst, NH 03031. Also, enclose a S.A.S.E. for return of color or B&W photos. Emailed photos must be 700kb or larger

Who Paid the Highest Taxes in Early 19th-Century Amherst

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spoons and a gold watch – it's a solid deduction that Robert Means Sr. was the richest man in town. And he remained so until his dying day. However diligently he worked and however astutely he managed his mercantile business, it's also a fair guess that he made his wealth from his real estate and financial investments. In the indexes of the Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds, there are pages and pages of real estate transactions under Robert Means. In the grantee index alone, I counted 130 deeds, not all in Amherst (so they would have been taxed in other towns). Among these were plenty of mortgages, meaning Means was the lender. In an 1818 codicil to his will, he increased the bequests to his married daughters to \$3000 each, a considerable sum. The son who had left town inherited \$60 annually for the rest of his life, having previously received something from his father; the two sons who remained in Amherst during their father's life inherited the bulk of the estate; and he made sure his beloved wife was well taken care of, including use of two good cows and a horse & chaise.

Charles H. Atherton, Esq.

Charles H. Atherton, Esquire (1773-1853) was the second-highest taxpayer in Amherst in 1811, with a total valuation of \$2635, compared to Col. Means's \$5545. As the years passed, Atherton steadily gained on Means. During the three decades from Means's death until Atherton's own death, Atherton ranked as the number one taxpayer in Amherst. In 1834, the total valuation for Atherton was \$15,298; next highest was David McG. Means at \$6339 (in the last tax before his death); and third was Joseph Fletcher (Sr., 1765-1843), a farmer in District 3 residing on my favorite farm on Souhegan River at 377 Boston Post Road, whose taxable property was valued at \$5691.

Atherton, who resided at the NE corner of Courthouse Road & Thornton Ferry Road One, followed the legal profession since 1797. He was county register of probate for decades and president of the Farmers Bank in Amherst 1825-43. The grantee indexes of the Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds list 116 entries for Charles H. Atherton, starting in 1798, of which at

least two dozen are mortgages. He too made money as a lender and investor.

This is what Atherton's final tax invoice – April 1852 – looked like: no poll [old age exemption]; land valued \$4500, buildings valued \$3000; bank/corporate shares \$12,270; money at interest \$3000; carriage \$66; 1 horse \$94, 8 cows \$218; giving total valuation of \$23,148. His 1852 taxes were: \$115.75 for state, county & town taxes; \$52.18 for school tax; and \$34.72 for highway tax. Did you notice the number of cows Atherton owned? Although not a farmer as his primary occupation nor for his livelihood, Atherton nevertheless managed a farming operation throughout his life. In the prior year, 1850/1, Atherton was taxed on 14 cows and 26 sheep! The third highest taxpayer in that year, Charles H. Campbell with a total valuation of \$6030, had 2 horses valued \$150 together, 23 cows valued \$570, and 2 sheep valued \$4. For comparison, the second highest taxpayer in 1851, having a total valuation of \$6320, was the tanner, Isaac Chickering, whose tannery was located on Beaver Brook at the

foot of Mack Hill on the west side; Chickering had real estate valued \$3400 and carried "stock in trade" worth \$1800.

Of course, the amount of taxable property owned is not a valid indication of financial worth. After all, a person may own valuable real estate but be mortgaged to the hilt. And these 19th century taxes did not take income into account. From the will he wrote close to the end of his life, in November 1852, it's clear that Atherton believed he was wealthy. Besides splitting most of the estate between his son and daughter, he left \$2000 to each of his three married sisters for their sole use and benefit, and an annuity of \$300 for the rest of her life to his unmarried sister, as well as a few other bequests – a significant sum to be deducted from his children's inheritance. In the case of Charles H. Atherton, similar to Means, where his total valuation based on taxable property was soooo far above anyone else, it's a safe bet that he was the richest man in the town of Amherst for the final three decades of his life.

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Amherst Recreation Programs and Events

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Karate

Who: Ages 4 and up (adult too!)
What: Beg./int. Karate lessons
Where: Amherst Karate Studio
Fee: \$59 Please visit www.amherstrec.org for Schedule Options

Archery

The program will teach the basic fundamentals of shooting target archery focusing on safety and proper shooting form.

Who: grades 5-8
Where: Outfield of Bean Field
When: 5/8-5/29 from 2:30-3:30
Fee: \$71R; \$81NR
Who: grades 1-4
Where: Outfield of Bean Field
When: 5/8-5/29 from 3:45-4:45
Fee: \$71R; \$81NR

Pre-School Programming

Homeschool Science Programs
Amherst Recreation offers environmental and science programs to home school students throughout the school year at the Peabody Mill Environmental Center!

Who: Home school students ages 3-14
Where: Peabody Mill Environmental Center (PMEC)
When: April 21st from 1-3pm (3-5yr olds from 1-2pm)

Fee: \$5 for 3-5 yr olds, \$10 for 6-14 yr olds

please visit www.amherstrec.org for activity descriptions

Start Smart Baseball

This once a week program is an opportunity for children to be introduced to the game with the support and presence of a parent. Sessions will last one hour for six weeks.
Season runs from 5/2015-6/2015

Pre-school Playgroup

Who: Preschoolers and parents (ages 3-5, younger siblings with parents are welcome!)
What: Pre-school Playgroup
Where: Peabody Mill Environmental Center
When: 4/3, 4/10, 4/17, 4/24 @11am-Noon
Fee: FREE

Adult Programming

Rugby 7's for Adults

Rugby 7's is a quick, fun and easy to learn sport.

Who: Adults 18+
Where: Lower Wilkins
When: Wednesday Nights starting June 24th
Fee: \$20R; \$25NR

Adult Basketball and Adult Volleyball

Pick up games at AMS have begun. The registration fee covers the entire school year. See our website for details and to register.

Game Days

Amherst Recreation offers a fun afternoon of table or card games for adults.

Thursdays 1:00-3:30pm @ the Amherst Fire Department Training Room.

No registration required, It's free!

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.

We add programs weekly, so check our website often...

And make time in your life for Recreation!