

# ENGAGEMENT



Julian – Petracca

Mark and Terry Petracca of Irvine, CA together with Bob and Robin Julian of Amherst are pleased to announce the engagement of their children, Gina Francesca Petracca and Brendan McPhee Julian.

Gina is a graduate of University High School, Irvine, CA and Bates College, Lewiston, ME. She is currently completing her Masters in Nutrition at Boston University.

Brendan is a graduate of Souhegan High School and Bates College. He is employed by the immigration law firm of Joyce and Associates, Boston MA.

A summer wedding in Maine is planned.

Please send Engagement and Wedding announcements (forms available at [www.amherstcitizen.com](http://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



## Hiking The John Muir Trail

The Amherst Town Library presents "Hiking the John Muir Trail" on Wednesday, July 29 at 7 p.m. in the Main Reading Room. This is the fifth program in the Library's summer series for adults with a theme of Minds Wide Awake. Presenter Alison Nadler set out in July 2014 to complete a thru hike of the John Muir Trail, a 220-mile footpath that leads from Yosemite National Park to the tallest summit in the lower 48: Mount Whitney. See photographs from her journey, learn what she did to prepare for a solo 15 day high-altitude hike of the Sierra Nevada, and hear what it was like to walk all day, every day.

Allison Nadler is an avid peak bagger who has hiked all of the 4000-footers in New England three times! She is the founding organizer of Northeast Peak Baggers, a MeetUp group designed to help other hikers reach their goals. For Allison, hiking is not just a form of exercise, it is a passion. Most often you find Allison on the trail day and night, though she also is Program Manager and Content Developer for Gossamer Gear (a company that offers functional ultralight backpacking and camping gear for the hiker) and Editor in Chief of Trail to Summit.com She holds a B.A. in Elementary Education and Teaching from Wheelock Col-

lege. Lao Tzu wrote: "A journey of a thousand miles begins with one single step." Join us for the evening and get inspired!

This event and all programs in the summer long series Minds Wide Awake are free and open to the public. However, registration is REQUIRED for each program due to space limitations. The final program of the series is "Mindful Eating with Chef Liz Barbour" on Thursday, July 30 at 6:30 p.m. You can register for all these events by calling 673-2288, emailing [library@amherstlibrary.org](mailto:library@amherstlibrary.org) or by visiting our website at [www.amherstlibrary.org](http://www.amherstlibrary.org) and selecting the "Community Services" tab, then click on drop down "Sign-Up for Programs."



## Amherst Recreation Programs and Events

continued from page 4

7/21 6:30-8:00pm Amherst Town Band  
7/28 6:30-8:00pm The Bel Aires: New England's Award Winning Doo Wop Vocal Quintet  
8/4 6:00-7:00pm UNH's Little Red Wagon Performing Company: Puppet Show "What's the com-OCEAN?"  
8/11 6:30-8:00pm FolkSoul Band  
8/18 6:30-8:00pm Amherst Town Band  
8/25 Time TBA Our Back to School Event

All programs are free of charge. Our rain location is Wilkins Elementary, 80 Boston Post Road

### New Sessions of Karate

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

### Baboosic Lake Happenings

#### Baboosic Lake Swim Team Join the Baboosic Lakers!

The goal of our team is to provide every member an opportunity to improve swimming skills in order to achieve success at his or her level of ability, make new friends and have a great deal of fun!

Who: Ages 4-19  
When: 6/22-8/14 M-F from 9-10am  
Where: Baboosic Lake Town Beach  
Fee: \$45R; \$70NR

### Swim Lessons at Baboosic Lake

Take advantage of our American Red Cross swim lessons. All instructors are ARC Water Safety certified. Swim lessons are scheduled for a 30 minute time period between 10am-2:00PM, Monday - Thursday at Baboosic Lake.

Please visit [www.amherstrec.org](http://www.amherstrec.org) for schedule options

### Summer Camps

Start thinking summertime in Amherst! This year we will be offering two full day summer camps. Each week at camp will be centered around a theme. Both camps will take part in weekly field trips, all on Wednesdays

2015 Field Trips include: Canobie Lake Park, Roll On America, Sky Zone, Circus Smirkus, Seacoast Science Center, Hampton Beach SP, and Water Country!

#### Baboosic Lake Summer Camp

Who: Entering grade 1-7  
Where: Baboosic Lake  
When: 6/22-8/14  
Fee: \$135R; \$175NR per week  
\$870R; \$1190NR Full Summer Rate

#### Baboosic Lake CIT Program

Volunteer Counselors in Training will work with our camp counselors to provide a fun camp environment for all children. A ticket to

that week's field trip is included.  
Who: Entering grades 9 and 10  
Where: Baboosic Lake  
When: 6/22-8/14  
Fee: \$35R; \$45NR

#### Outdoor Discovery Summer Camp (grades 1-5)

Who: Entering 1-5  
Where: Peabody Mill Environmental Center (PMEC)  
When: 6/22- 8/7  
Fee: \$145R; \$185NR  
\$825R; \$1105NR Full Summer Rate

#### Outdoor Discovery Summer Camp (grades 6-8) Includes all field trips!

Who: Entering 6-8  
Where: Peabody Mill Environmental Center (PMEC)  
When: 6/22- 8/7  
Fee: \$179R; \$219NR  
\$1063R; \$1343NR Full Summer Rate

#### Outdoor Discovery Mini Camp

Who: Ages 4&5  
Where: Peabody Mill Environmental Center (PMEC)  
When: 6/22-7/31  
Fee: \$105R; \$120NR  
\$460R; \$550NR

#### Cheer Camp

Who: Grades 1-8  
Where: Bean Fields  
When: 6/22-6/25  
Fee: \$100R; \$120NR

### Challenger British MultiSport Camp

Sports covered may include tag rugby, cricket, soccer, rounders, kickball, netball and handball.

Who: Ages 6-16  
Where: Bean Field  
When: July 27- July 31  
Fee: \$135 Half day  
\$190 Full day

### 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

### 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 Environment 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](http://www.amherstrec.org) for more details.

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

And make time in your life for Recreation!

## Earliest Stage Coach Lines

continued from page 4

that the Amherst Mail Stage, which has been handed regularly down from its original owner to the present proprietors is an eye sore to him, and is taking from him his right, &c. - That this Wheat has no right or just claim to this business, and of course no right to deceive the Public, is my intention to shew and to prove. When I formerly run the Amherst Stage, and being the sole owner, I employed said Wheat as a driver, and paid him his wages; on the 1st day of January 1798, I sold and conveyed said line of business to D. EMERSON, and to him only. EMERSON, by WHEAT'S impertuning, took him into partnership for one year; at the end of the year, the 1st of January last, Emerson & Wheat both signed and published a dissolution of the Partnership, ... and on the 1st of July last, EMERSON removed said line of business to me, the fee then being solely in him; and by myself and co. it is now run. ... it is evident there is not business enough for two stages on that road, and without the assistance of the Mail, they must both be losing money. ... N.B. The Mail Stage will in future run twice a week." (*Columbian Centinel*, 11 Sep. 1799.)

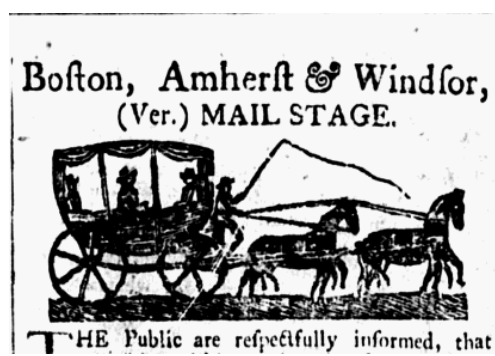
### Driver's Side of Feud

Mr. Wheat responded: "Mr. Printer, By Publishing the following Truths, in your useful Paper, you will oblige a Friend, as well as to give a check to some Falsehoods lately published in the public Newspapers. One SAMUEL CURTIS, who stays at Amherst, has thought fit to make me a public Example, by crying my Stage down, in order to recommend his four-wheel carriage for public use ... I will ... undertake to inform the Public, the truth of matters, as respects Curtis and myself: As early as 1794, the first of May, Curtis and myself bought a Stage in Boston, to run from Amherst to Boston. We then set up the business together and I drove the Stage, but Curtis's Horses being poor, I thought best to take mine away. I then out of goodwill to him, left him the line; but received nothing for a Reward. Curtis carried on the business three years, the last 15 months I drove for him. I then thought best to set up a Baggage-Stage on said route - bought Horses and Carriage for the same. Then in December 1797, one Dearborn Emerson agreed with me to buy Curtis's Stage and four Horses, and go into Co-partnership in running said Stage to Boston. Accordingly he was to buy the same of Curtis, and I was to put my Horses and Sleigh, &c. against it - which I like any man who is led into difficulty, agreed to. We carried on the Stage business one year, but caught nothing. We then dissolved Co-partnership - and I lent my right to Emerson, to run the Stage - which right I paid \$50 for, and Emerson \$50 more to Curtis. Emerson carried on the business badly, from January 1 st, 1799, to the 3d of May last - when I was besought to come on to the line again - which I did, and took possession of the lent property, and have run a regular Stage ever since the Mail was agreed to be carried by Emerson and Wheat, for two years yet to come. Which right I never parted with to any[one] - and having been at great expense - hope still to have the good will of every true-hearted Citizen. ... Sep. 24, 1799." (*Independent Chronicle*, Boston.)

Hmmm - how was he "led into difficulty"? In his next advertisement (*Constitutional Telegraph*, Boston, Nov. 1799), Wheat called his Amherst - Dunstable - Tyngsborough - Chelmsford - Billerica - Burlington - Woburn - Medford - Boston stage "The only one for Safety and Dispatch." And further, "A very convenient carriage, and drove clear of rocks, and out of rivers, will be safe and dry for passengers, and must indeed be pleasing to active minds." The feud got resolved in that Wheat in March 1800 purchased the Mail Line of Dr. Samuel Curtis. Wheat's next move, in Dec. 1800, was to open a new N.H. line, between Concord and Dunstable, through Merrimack, Bedford, Goffstown, Dunbarton, and Bow, so people from those towns could get to Boston by catching the Amherst Mail Stage in Dunstable. In 1802, Wheat expanded his Mail Stage by utilizing the newly opened Second N.H. Turnpike between Claremont and Amherst to run all the way from Boston to Windsor, Vermont - \$5 fare for the whole 110 miles or six cents per mile. The fare for 54 miles Amherst-Boston was \$2.75 in 1797.

### New Competitors

It wasn't long before new players entered the market: In Feb. 1803, Forbes & King began a twice-weekly Amherst-Boston line, trips lasting from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., with the stated intention to expand to Windsor in May. (Seth King was a tavern/inn-keeper in Boston.) Wheat fought back (*Farmer's Cabinet*, April 1803): "Notwithstanding an opposition has arisen on [Boston, Amherst and Windsor Mail Stage] line, the subscriber ... hopes his old customers will help him to cast [his competitors] back on to the New York line, that the right owner may enjoy his dear bought line in peace: he has now new sets of horses, good carriages, and faithful drivers with him on the line." Somehow, Curtis was compelled back into the fray, back into a business connection with Wheat. With new partner Benjamin French, the recent proprietor of an inn on Back-Street in Boston, Curtis "took" the "Amherst, N.H. REAL MAIL STAGE,



Old Line, driven by Joseph Wheat" and promised "every attention paid to render the flight agreeable to passengers, any spurious Stage to the contrary notwithstanding." (*Farmer's Cabinet*, May 1803.) At the same time, "Joseph Wheat & Co." offered an explanation in a Boston paper (*New-England Palladium*, 31 May 1803), assuring the public that the Amherst (N.H.) Mail Stage still ran despite the fact that: "The subscriber is under the disagreeable necessity of being obliged to be now confined in Boston Gaol to answer a demand of his contending brethering on the [Amherst-Boston] line. But their rage is quite short, as the old line has now the best Horses, Carriages convenient, and good Drivers, and very soon will be again attended by their old friend, as he is determined not to quit the line at present." He hoped his many friends would "join heart and hand to finish the decaying opposition on his old dear bought line."

Not only did the new line survive - having the clout of six new proprietors who were the tavern-inn owners along the route (including Chelmsford, Frankestown, and Windsor) - but they also acquired the mail contract, and switched to French's tavern for their Boston stop. [I wonder if Curtis & French engineered the deal. The Amherst post office in 1803 moved to a store on Courthouse Road.] Directly below their advert for the "Boston, Amherst & Windsor (Ver.) Mail Stage" in Dec. 1803 (*Democrat*, Boston) was an advert for the "Chelmsford & Billerica Stage" by Joseph Wheat and new partner Isaac Richardson, who scheduled their route so their passengers could connect to the new Boston-Amherst-Windsor line. In Oct. 1804, Wheat at-

tempted to establish a separate baggage wagon between Amherst and Boston once a week, but in April 1805 he started a new N.H. line: leave Boscawen at 6 a.m., breakfast in Concord, dine at noon and exchange horses in Bedford, arrive Nashua Village same evening, twice a week, and a few months later, he extended the line from Hanover to Boston, through Boscawen and Concord, continuing south from Nashua Village of Dunstable on the competitive route.

### Accident

Besides the financial risks of this transportation business, the bodily dangers were significant. In April 1798, "As the Amherst Stage was on its return home from Boston, in attempting to cross a causeway withing three miles of Amherst, which was overflowed by the river Souhegan, in the late freshet, was instantly swept off out of the main road, and four horses drowned - fortunately there was no passenger in the stage, and it was with difficulty the driver saved himself, by climbing a tree. Considerable property was lost out of the stage."

Joseph Wheat was such a memorable character that he made it into the official history books of both Amherst and Concord, N.H., with his own biographical sketch, though neither captures his earliest history as stage coach driver, and there is nary a word about his legal/business disputes over stage lines. They focus on his self-deprecating humor concerning his large nose. Wheat was also known for his versification. In 1807, Wheat made a major career change, settled in Concord and took up the trade of cooper: "Now my advice to Farmers all / Is, pick your Apples as they fall; / If you'd have cider pure and sweet, / Then buy new casks of Joseph Wheat. Concord, Sept. 1809." In 1819, he moved to Charlestown, Mass., where he became town crier. "If goods are lost, and can't be found / He'll travel all your streets around, / And if success attends his way, / They'll be restored without delay, / If any goods you want to sell, / Then call on him who has the Bell, / Your wishes then are made complete, / Then pay him well, 'tis Joseph Wheat" (Aug. 1819). He died in 1833, aged 60.

"Best of NH" - NH Magazine

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