

► **An American Idol** continued from page 1

to Concord in 1825 – will be used to illustrate the adulation with which the American people greeted Lafayette on his Farewell Tour.

Alan R. Hoffman obtained his BA in history from Yale College, where he studied under Professor Edmund Morgan before earning a JD from Harvard Law School. He practiced law in Boston for more than 35 years. An avid reader of early American history, he “discovered” Lafayette in 2002 and spent two years translating Auguste Levasseur’s Lafayette in 1824 and 1825, the first-hand account of Lafayette’s Farewell Tour of America written by his private secretary. This trans-

lation was published in 2007 and is in its second printing. Hoffman has lectured widely on Lafayette and the Farewell Tour since 2006 – over 60 talks in 14 of the 24 states that Lafayette visited during the Farewell Tour. He is a member of the American Friends of Lafayette and President of the Massachusetts Lafayette Society.

This event and all the events in the series are free and open to the public. Please register for these events by calling 673-2288, emailing library@amherst.lib.nh.us or by visiting our website at www.amherst.lib.nh.us and selecting “Calendar of Events.”

► **Snooping Amherst’s Past** continued from page 1

toric manuscripts, which includes family correspondence, diaries, account books, and other records of Amherst’s history. Most of these records date to the 18th and 19th centuries and contain fascinating information about Amherst’s early families and “olden times.” But they are not readily accessible for the public to read and enjoy.

The Society is recruiting a team of volunteers to transcribe these documents and put them online in a word-searchable database. The first document the team will tackle is arguably Amherst’s most important: the original proprietor’s records, which date to 1728 and re-

cord how the grantees of “Souhegan West” colonized the town. These very important records have recently been conserved and digitally-photographed. The volunteers will transcribe the records in the comfort of their own homes using the digital images and coordinating with their teammates by email. The only technical skill needed is familiarity with Microsoft Word.

If you think this is a worthy project and would enjoy spending a couple of hours each week helping to transcribe interesting manuscripts, please contact the Society at transcription@hsanh.org.

Historical Society Offers Scholarship

The Historical Society of Amherst will award its annual scholarship to a graduating Amherst senior who plans to enroll in a post-secondary school and pursue a major in history or a related field. Thanks to the success of fundraising events including the Antiques on the Green, the scholarship is now \$1500, a \$500 increase over last year.

Application forms are available online at www.hsanh.org. Forms

will also be available at local high school student services offices.

Completed applications must be received by April 1, 2011 at the student’s high school student services office, by email attachment addressed to historicalsociety@hsanh.org, or by regular mail to the Historical Society of Amherst, Attn: Scholarship Committee, PO Box 717, Amherst, NH 03031.

Amherst Garden Club Annual Scholarship

AMHERST - The Amherst Garden Club is offering two \$1,500 scholarship awards to qualified students this spring. The scholarships are available to Amherst or Mont Vernon residents who will be attending an institute of higher learning to study horticulture, botany, plant science, landscape design, environmental science as it relates to horticulture, or another related field. The garden club believes it has the opportunity to impact our planet in a beneficial way by supporting the education of students who have an interest in a field closely allied in some way with horticulture.

Applications are available from student services or guidance offices at Souhegan High School, Bishop

Guertin High School, and the Derryfield School. Other Amherst and Mont Vernon students or graduates can get the application from Nancy Head at 673-1389 or on the Amherst Garden Club website, www.amherstgardenclub.org. There are two application forms available, one for high school seniors and one for high school graduates who are presently college age or older.

Souhegan High School students need to return their applications to the high school student services offices by April 1. All other applicants should mail their applications to the Amherst Garden Club, Attn: Scholarship Committee, PO Box 694, Amherst, NH 03031 by April 8, 2011.

AJWC to Distribute Funds

The Amherst Junior Women’s Club invites nonprofit organizations in need of charitable contributions to apply for a donation from the Club. During the year, the AJWC raises funds to give back to the community at large. At this time, the AJWC is accepting requests for these funds. All individual requests

must be affiliated with a nonprofit organization. These organizations need not have Amherst-based addresses, but must service the local community.

All requests must be in writing, submitted by March 31, 2011, and contain all of the following information:

- * Name of organization, address, telephone number, email address.
- * Contact person, amount requested, and how the funds will be used.
- * Short biography/history of organization and when established.
- * How organization if funded (e.g. federal, state, local grants)?
- * Provide high-level annual budget and shortfalls, if any, expected. What other resources or funding sources have committed to help accomplish your objective?
- * How would the donation be used? Applicant shall describe its purpose for requesting funds and what objective these funds will help the organization accomplish.
- * How would objective benefit Amherst and the greater community? How does it correspond to AJWC’s mission as described below?

Questions may be directed to Tracey Hanlon, President, Amherst Junior Women’s Club, at (603) 673-8777 or via e-mail at president@amherstjuniors.org. When your package is mailed, you will then receive an email confirmation from our club letting you know we have received it. After that, only recipients of donations will be contacted. Once all donations are approved,

the funds will be distributed by the AJWC no later than June 15, 2011. Please mail requests as soon as possible (postmarked no later than March 31, 2011) to CIP Request, Amherst Junior Women’s Club, P.O. Box 513, Amherst, NH 03031. You may also email your request to CIP@amherstjuniors.org - please be sure to include all the information specified above.

Town News

Amherst Town Library

Sonny and Perley Presenting “April In Paris”

AMHERST - For the final concert of the Sundays at 4 Music series, the Amherst Town Library presents April in Paris—Springtime and Romance with Sonny and Perley on Sunday, April 3rd from 4:00 to 5:00 PM. The husband and wife duo of pianist Sonny Day and Vocalist Perley Rousseau achieve a rare musical symbiosis with their unique blend of Jazz, Brazilian, and International Cabaret. This special concert celebrating “April in Paris” features great American Songbook Standards and International Love Songs with the music of Cole Porter, Johnny Mandel, Jerome Kern, and Edith Piaf in arrangements as refreshing as springtime itself! Including songs such as “I Love Paris,” “Night and Day,” “A Time for Love,” “All Things You Are,” “If I were a Bell,” and a fabulous new arrangement of “April in Paris.” This performance was premiered at the world renowned cabaret room, “The Duplex,” in NYC resulting in a standing ovations and calls for encore.



Sonny and Perley, scheduled to perform April in Paris--Springtime and Romance at the Amherst Town Library on Sunday, April 3, from 4:00 to 5:00 PM.

Perley Rousseau was raised on the jazz greats from day one (Ella was the first recorded voice she remembers hearing), and as a young girl she was captivated by the Bossa Nova sounds of Sergio Mendez and Brazil 66. At the age of 22, while living in Chicago, she entered a talent contest on a dare from a friend. Singing a capella “My Funny Valentine” and “Lady is a Tramp,” she won first place, which gave her the impetus

to study jazz vocals. After studying in Chicago, she desired pure tone and a firm foundation and continued her study of voice in New York with 4 years of private study in classical technique with international opera diva Sylvia Kutchukian. As Swingtime Magazine states, “Perley

is a SUPERSONG TRESS. She has a beautiful, smoky-low to middle-upper register voice, wonderful intonation, and stage presence. The sky is her limit.”

Sonny Day’s musical training began with the drums which he began playing at 7 years old. His in-

spiration came from his father, his Aunt Marion, and his godfather who made sure he had a heavy dose of listening to the jazz greats. Aunt Marion, a nun at the time, took it straight to the top when she sat in on the drums with the Lionel Hampton Orchestra in full habit! His love of rhythm and improvisation were firmly established as he immersed himself in jazz and began playing in bands in his teens. He later went on to study music at North Texas University where his foundation work in piano work began. Some touring and free lance work ensued in his 20’s and early 30’s including a tour with the Ted Weems Orchestra. Sonny met Perley when he returned to upstate NY and worked as a substitute drummer in her trio. It was love at first sound. The two were soon married and began a lifelong musical collaboration.

The Amherst Town Library is appreciative for the support and funding provided by the Friends of the Amherst Town Library for the entire 2011 music series. To register for any or all of these programs, please call the Amherst Town Library at 673-2288, email library@amherst.lib.nh.us, or visit the Library’s web site at http://www.amherst.lib.nh.us and click on the calendar icon, labeled “Calendar of Events” on the homepage. All these concerts are free and open to the public.

Historic Amherst

The Second New Hampshire Turnpike – Part Three: Economics Amherst’s Transition from 18th to 19th Century

BY KATRINA HOLMAN

Did the proprietors of “our” turnpike make money from their investment? Hardly. Investors in later turnpikes certainly knew that their return would be negligible, but it’s unclear whether or not the investors in this early turnpike had an inkling of what it would cost them overall. In their charter, the Legislature required an accounting after ten years and stated: “if the neat profits shall exceed 12% per annum, the court may reduce the future toll; and if the profits shall not amount to 6%, the court may raise the toll.” Well, that surely sounded promising – but proved to be far too optimistic.

It is unknown what happened to the records of the Proprietors of the Second Turnpike Road in New Hampshire, but there are three documents in particular – old newspaper articles – that offer insight into the financial aspects of the 2nd Turnpike corporation. The first two are charts showing delinquent payments by share number, published by its treasurer in March and December 1802 in Spooner’s Vermont Journal of Windsor. The second was also printed in a Boston newspaper called the Columbian Centinel. (For most of this particular year, there was no newspaper published in Amherst.) The investors were proprietors and knew that collectively they had to spend \$800 per mile before they could start charging tolls, but the charts

of 1802, which are actually advertisements threatening the auction sale of shares not paid up, suggest that some of the investors may have found the commitment more than they could manage. The chart of March 1802 shows that proprietors of 21 shares were behind in paying their assessments, 10 of them being in arrears for the full amount to date of \$178. The treasurer’s chart eight months later shows 34 shares behind in their payments, 20 of those owing \$145 since August 1801. The highest numbered share is 285.

The third invaluable source is the financial report of its first ten years, filed with the Legislature in Oct. 1812 and printed in the *Farmer’s Cabinet* of Amherst 24 May 1813. It is signed “Ch. H. Atherton and David M’G. Means, Committee for the Proprietors.” Both were prominent men of Amherst, active in business and civic affairs. Charles H. Atherton (1773-1853), the county register of probate and a businessman, was the 2nd Turnpike proprietors’ clerk from 1802 to 1806. David McGregor Means (1781-1835), a merchant, was the proprietors’ clerk from 1807 until 1834.

Turnpike Economics

The 50-mile 2nd N.H. Turnpike from Claremont to Amherst cost \$78,750 to build, according to its 1812 financial report. The capital outlay, divided by 350 shares, was \$225 per share, a significant sum in those days. For the first 10 years, the cost of repairs and expenses (perhaps the officers paid themselves a



David McGregor Means (1781-1835), a merchant, was the proprietors’ clerk of the Second N.H. Turnpike for 28 years until his death. The original Boston Post Road went right by this house at 6 Courthouse Road where he lived with his wife Catherine, sister of Charles H. Atherton, and their nine children. The house was enlarged and its roof steepened late in 1839 in preparation for the marriage of their daughter Mary Jane to the Rev. F. A. Adams, briefly minister of the Congregational Church of Amherst.

little salary for their trouble, as the directors of the Croyden Turnpike did) was \$27,511.20; the toll income amounted to \$54,111.20. Therefore, the directors reported, this meant a mere 3-and-a-fraction % return on their capital stock.

The total building cost was reported as \$80K in the 1819 Journal of the N.H. Senate in a summary of all the state’s turnpikes. It is unknown whether this was rather generous rounding or whether there was some additional road construction in the interim since the

1812 report. The 1819 Senate report states an even lower income thus far for the 2nd Turnpike, namely 2.5%. This was perhaps on the low side for N.H. (not all companies filed their financials so we cannot know for sure) but not unusual.

Extension South?

When advertising real estate for sale in the early 1800s, some folks in Claremont and some folks in the southern part of Amherst, alike,

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