

# Events Calendar

## JOIN THE FUN..... BE A GIRL SCOUT in Amherst/ Mont Vernon

More than 300 girls in Amherst/Mont Vernon are realizing they can make the world a better place while sharing unique experiences and opportunities, making lifelong friends and learning invaluable leadership skills.If your daughter is in grades K-12 and not currently in a troop but interested in joining Girl Scouts, please contact Karen Werner, local co-ordinator, at kswerner.nh@gmail.com.

### MASH Class of 1987

#### 25th reunion

Boys and Girls Club Milford, NH  
Saturday August 25th, 2012  
Time: 6 - 9pm (Main meal served 7-8)  
Cost \$35 prepaid / \$45 at the door  
BBQ style buffet and mingling  
Children welcome \$15  
Order your tickets:  
Tina Raczek  
18 Bartemus Trail  
Nashua, NH 03063  
E-mail: MASHclassof1987@gmail.com

### MASH Class of 1982

The MASH (Milford AREA Senior High) class of 1982 will hold its 30th class reunion on Sat. July 28th at the Bramber Valley Golf Course in Greenland.

The reunion committee is looking for missing classmates. Classmate information can be emailed to MASHclass82@gmail.com. Information regarding the class reunion can be found on Facebook @ MASH82.

The price per person for the reunion is \$35.00 and is due by July 14th. Checks can be made out to Jay Jacobs and mailed to P.O. Box 6064, Amherst, NH 03031. To pay by credit card, Call the Bramber Valley Golf Course at 603-436-4288 and mention that you are from the MASH class of '82.

## Amherst Town Band Summer 2012 Performance Calendar

July 3, 8 PM	Concert with fireworks Souhegan High School
July 4, 10 AM	Independence Day Parade, Amherst village
July 14, 7 PM	Concert on the bandstand York Beach, Maine
July 17, 7 PM	Amherst Town Green
July 26, 7 PM	Greeley Park, Nashua
August 22, 7 PM	Concert at Emerson Park, Milford

See [www.amhersttownband.org](http://www.amhersttownband.org)

## Nashaway Chapter of the New Hampshire Audubon Society

On Wednesday, June 20 at 7pm, the group will host Master Decorative Artist, author, gardener, photographer and Nashaway member, Deanne Fortnam. Deanne will present her striking photographs of birds, all taken in her hometown of Nashua, many right in her own backyard. You will be surprised at the number and variety of species that Deanne has photographed locally. To preview some of Deanne's photographs, visit <http://deanneart.com/> and select footer link Deanne's Other Hobbies. This free program is open to the public and takes place in the downstairs theater room of the Nashua Public library. No registration is necessary but if you would like more information, contact Richard Maloon 424-5621 or [richard.maloon@att.net](mailto:richard.maloon@att.net)

The group will also host a series of Saturday morning walks at Ponemah Bog throughout the summer. Ponemah Bog, located in Amherst, is home to a variety of distinctive plants, birds and dragonflies. Leaders will identify special adaptations of the flora and fauna and the natural history that distinguishes the bog from other wetlands. Walks will take place on the following dates:

June 30, 8am	Jack Gleason (Plants & Adaptations)
July 21, 10am	Pam Hunt, NH Audubon Senior Biologist
Aug 4, 10am	Tom Young (Birds & Dragonflies)

All walks will meet at the Bog. For more information, contact Jack Gleason at 603-673-3177. To learn more about the bog and/or for directions, download the brochure <http://www.nhstateparks.org/uploads/pdf/Quest-PonemahBogMap.pdf>

### Dementia Support Group

Summerhill holds a monthly Dementia Support Group meeting:

Open to Families, Caregivers or anyone wishing to learn more about dementia.

Held the third Wednesday of each month from 6 - 7 pm in the Monadnock Room at Summerhill Assisted Living, 183 Old Dublin Rd., Peterborough. Please RSVP to Perry at 924-6239 or [info@summerhillal.com](mailto:info@summerhillal.com)

## Cystic Fibrosis Fundraiser at A&E Roastery

AMHERST – A CF Fundraiser is being held by A & E Coffee Roastery on Route 101A for the month of July.

For every bag of Cystic Fibrosis Foundation coffee sold, \$2 will be donated to the CF Foundation and A&E will match that amount! They are also also selling "paper CF Roses" for \$1 each. Emeran Langmaid,

owner of A&E has been a dedicated supporter of the CF Foundation for many years.

To donate to Team Rosie's Roses [http://www.cff.org/Great\\_Strides/PaulaGarvey4592](http://www.cff.org/Great_Strides/PaulaGarvey4592)

Check out the latest CF news, glass creations and jewelry at [www.rosiesroses.yolasite.com](http://www.rosiesroses.yolasite.com)

# Town News

## Historic Amherst

# A Tale of Three Tories of Amherst: Two Jailed, Another's Property Confiscated – One Stayed

BY KATRINA HOLMAN

Not every N.H. native was thrilled by the Declaration of Independence of July 4th, 1776. Those who preferred to remain subjects of his Majesty the King of England were called Loyalists, or derisively Tories. Many of them were men of education and means, who had much to lose should the Revolution fail, and reasonably doubted that the British Parliament was trying to deny colonists the rights of lawful subjects, and were sure Americans would be worse off after a war against the mighty British military. Three men of Amherst, previously pillars of the community and county, no doubt firm believers in the rule of law and property rights, were known as Tories: Joshua Atherton (1737-1809), formerly judge of probate and justice of the peace; his nephew John Holland, formerly court crier and deputy sheriff; and Zaccheus Cutler (baptized 1748, died 1780/1), an enterprising young businessman.

Here are their stories in the context of the transition period from British Colonies to an independent nation – as it pertained to Amherst: The original "tea party" occurred in Boston harbor in December 1773. A year later, N.H. "patriots" seized ammunition stored in Fort William & Mary in Portsmouth harbor, an overt act of treason against the Crown. Amherst was largely populated by people of Massachusetts heritage, so support was strong for the revolutionary cause. Already in 1774, rowdy mobs were harassing Tories. Magistrate Matthew Patten of Bedford, N.H. recounts in his diary that on 19 Sep. 1774, he went to an evening town meeting at which the people intended to go to Amherst the following day to "visit" Mr. [Joshua] Atherton and insisted that Patten go with them or else they would "visit" him too, at which he acquiesced. On the 20th, he went to Amherst where about 300 men

assembled at the courthouse and sent a delegation to fetch Mr. Atherton, who came and signed a Declaration which he read to the gathered people "who accepted it. He invited them to go to Mr. Hildreth's tavern and drink what they pleased. The people dispersed about midnight without doing any outrageous act." Atherton had moved to town (to 232 Boston Post Road) in 1772 to better fulfill his duties as the new county's Register of Probate and had been "at this time easily, in reputation, ability, and influence, the first man in Amherst" (in the estimation of Mont Vernon's historian in 1907). According to the Memoir (1852) of Joshua by his son Charles H. Atherton (1773-1853), such "visits were repeated, probably as much for the treat and frolic as to vindicate the rights of the country... A remarkable feature of those gatherings was, persons friendly to my father, and not averse to his political views, but who nevertheless had the address to keep themselves in good repute with the populace, mingled with these mobs, with a view to prevent excessive outrage, and also to advise Mr. Atherton what conduct on his

part would be the safest." The whole family suffered gibes and reproaches.

In the Spring of 1775, after the battle at Lexington, immediately a company from Amherst headed to Cambridge. Some 72 Amherst men fought at Bunker Hill; those soldiers lost all manner of clothing there, some also a blanket or weaponry – and one fellow lost a set of shoemaker's tools, which would have been handy to replace the many shoes lost (Secomb, p. 370).

In April 1776, in response to the resolution of the Continental Congress in March, all N.H. men above 21 years of age (lunatics, idiots, and negroes excepted) were requested by the State's Committee of Safety to sign an Association Test Paper by which they promised to "do the utmost in their power to oppose the hostile proceedings of the British fleets and armies against the United Colonies, at risk of their lives and fortunes." In Amherst, 201 men signed, of which 66 were among the 300 townsmen who fought in the Revolutionary War. Only four men refused to sign, among them Joshua Atherton, Esquire, who was arrested and jailed a year later. Col. John Shepard also refused to sign, but his allegiance was clear: in April 1775 he had brought the militia at Cambridge 2 Spanish milled dollars, 57.5 pounds of pork, half a bushel of beans, and other provisions from Amherst. (In other New Hampshire towns, Quakers refused to sign on religious principles.) Zaccheus Cutler was not on either list – he had already left town and joined the British army (probably in Boston).

### Zaccheus Cutler

At Town meeting on 30 April 1776, the minutes recorded: "Whereas Zaccheus Cutler, formerly of Amherst, has in a very daring manner proved himself inimical to

Continued on page 7 ►



This old cape at 15 Mack Hill Road was briefly the home of newlyweds Mr. & Mrs. Zaccheus Cutler. He was a young go-getter businessman, who also owned the adjacent tannery and nearby shops – but as he was a Tory who left in 1775 to fight for the Crown in the Revolutionary War, the State confiscated all his property and banished him on pain of death.

## Ah, Summer...

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