

# Town News

## Events Calendar

### Nashaway Chapter of the New Hampshire Audubon Society

#### Upcoming Events

NH Audubon has been a leader in the monitoring and management of the state's recovering Bald Eagle population for over three decades. Currently, there are over 20 breeding pairs of Bald Eagles in New Hampshire, and the numbers are rising. On Saturday, January 12 from 8am-Noon, the Nashaway Chapter on NH Audubon will be participating in the Annual Eagle Survey. Last year, a total of 54 Bald Eagles were sited state-wide with 17 of them being spotted along the Merrimack River in Southern NH. Last year was also the first time that a Golden Eagle was discovered on the count! Wouldn't you like to try to spot an Eagle and contribute to this important data? Contact Richard Bielawski at 603-429-2537 or rbielawski@mac.com Bring binoculars and a scope if you have one, and dress WARMLY. To read more about the Bald Eagle survey, go to <http://www.nhaudubon.org/32nd-annual-mid-winter-bald-eagle-survey-results>

On Wednesday, January 16 at 7pm, the group will host Bob Quinn for a free talk about the dazzling Lake Umbagog and the Wildlife Refuge located in Northern NH. Bob is a native of New Hampshire who has traveled and birded throughout North America since 1972. He worked for NH Audubon for nine years, becoming their first staff ornithologist. He continues as an active volunteer for NH Audubon and in 2010 he was honored with the respected Goodhue-Elkins award for contributions to ornithology in the state. The program will take place in the downstairs theater room of the Nashua Public Library. Registration is not necessary, but for more information contact Richard Maloon at 424-5621 or richard.maloon@att.net

### Winter Adventures & Snowshoeing for Girl Scouts

January 13  
1-4 pm  
Beaver Brook Maple Hill Farm  
117 Ridge Road Hollis NH

Spend the afternoon at Beaver Brook Nature Center in Hollis. You will try a new sport or an obstacle course all on snowshoes while getting fit! We will explore the trails seeking signs of wildlife activity in winter. The woods are busier in winter than you think! This program is based on the Breathe Journey for Cadette and is open to Juniors as well. Dress for the weather and for being outdoors for three hours. Attend with a parent or a leader. \$12 per person includes snowshoes. Register by phoning 465-7787.

### Al-Anon and Alateen Information

Whenever a family member reaches out for help, the hand of Al-Anon and Alateen will be there. Meeting information is available by calling toll free 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666), Monday-Friday 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM. More information is also available on the Al-Anon/Alateen Web site, [www.al-anon.alateen.org](http://www.al-anon.alateen.org). To help them you have to help yourself first.

### Trail Stewards Needed at ACC

Amherst Conservation Commission needs trail stewards to be the primary care givers to make monthly physical check-up walks on their adopted trails, clearing minor fallen limbs and seasonal growth, maintaining trail markings, and reporting major concerns and opportunities for trail enhancements to the ACC Trails Manager. Standards for trail maintainers are available and guides to help plan major trail additions and improvements. The ACC maintains 25 miles of trails on the 2,000 open space acres it manages. Please email [acc@amherstnh.gov](mailto:acc@amherstnh.gov).

### Newcomers Club Welcomes New Members

Amherst Area Newcomers Club holds monthly meetings and events for a wide array of interests. The Club is always open to new members regardless of how long you have lived in the area. For information and a calendar of events visit: [NHNewcomers.com](http://NHNewcomers.com)

### New Members Welcome at Amherst Junior Women's Club

The Amherst Junior Women's Club is actively seeking new members. Any woman over the age of 21 who is a resident of the Amherst area is eligible to join. Members of the AJWC volunteer their time, energy and talent to enhance the community. The club's mission is to focus efforts on civic needs, educational advancement and the less fortunate. For more information, please contact membership chairwoman Kathy Wason at [membership@amherstjuniors.org](mailto:membership@amherstjuniors.org).

### Historic Amherst

## Widow Rachel Batchelder – A Woman Real Estate Developer in Mid-19th Century Amherst?

BY KATRINA HOLMAN

During the course of my research, a particular woman's name kept cropping up in deeds for various old houses in Amherst Village, someone I had never heard of: Rachel Batchelder, a widow. She appeared to make an unusually nice profit on the first property she bought, but some of her later choices seemed to make no sense: one place she owned for less than a day, another for all of ten days. Who was she and why couldn't she stay put? And where did she actually live? It's often not easy to deduce exact location from censuses, but it was clear that in 1850 and 1860 she was living in the Village, south of the Common. Then I noticed that she lived with her widowed brother – and he was a carpenter. A pattern emerged: Mrs. B. owned most of her properties at the point when they first became dwelling houses. So I came up with an hypothesis to explain her real estate transactions: Rachel bought properties, mostly low-end, for her brother to build upon – a way to make a living for both of them. The actual builders of most of Amherst's antique houses are anonymous, meaning their names have been forgotten, even though one can identify several carpenters in local censuses of 1850 and later. In some, few cases, we can make educated guesses from circumstantial evidence (such as David Perkins Lowe for the houses labeled with his name on 1858 map). You be the judge if my guess about Timothy Jones Jr. (1798-1882) is plausible and likely!

First, let me tell you a bit about our subjects. Rachel was just 7 when her pa, Timothy Jones Sr. (1755-1793), died in Amherst at the age of 38, and her brother, Jr. was born after their pa's death. They grew up with Andrew Leavitt, a house builder, as their step-father. Rachel



10 Cross Street. House built c. 1855 for Widow Rachel Batchelder (1786-1863), the owner who occupied it with her widowed brother, Timothy Jones Jr. (1793-1882), a carpenter who probably built it himself.

was married in 1811 to Eben(ezer) Batchelder IV (1783-1815) of Mont Vernon. At 28, she was left a widow with two babies. Her brother Tim was married in 1821 and widowed in 1830, when his wife died at the age of 26, leaving him with four children ranging in age from 7 months to 7 years, of whom only two daughters survived to adulthood and married. Rachel can be found in 1820 census of Amherst with one male and one female child both under 10, and a free colored male under 14. In Feb. 1839, Rachel, of Amherst, loaned a mortgage of \$765 to Timothy, a yeoman, for a farm of 47 acres in the north part of Amherst, which he sold two months later along with a 23-acre parcel for \$1350. Perhaps this is the point he made a career change.

### 19 Middle Street

1842-1845: In Oct. 1842, widow Rachel Batchelder "of Lowell, Massachusetts" (where her married daughter lived) bought the lot

at 19 Middle Street "near the Methodist church," with its two-story bake-house, for \$400. This was Mrs. B.'s first purchase of real estate in Amherst, N.H. Three years later, she sold the property to someone from out-of-state for \$1000! This substantial jump in price suggests that the place was enlarged during her ownership. It sure would make sense that Timothy Jones Jr. was the one who converted the bake-house into a dwelling house, while his sister owned the property – possibly even while the two of them were living in the original part.

### 8 Cross Street

1846-1851: In February 1846, Mrs. B. bought land on the north side of Cross Street, bounded on the west by Middle Street, for \$149.73. In June 1851, she sold off the irregular-shaped west corner lot with 40.5 feet of frontage (and north bound of 84 feet and an east bound of 90 feet) for \$80 plus another 15-foot strip for \$1.70, which became 8 Cross Street, to James N. Lovejoy (c.1829-1887), a wheelwright. Lovejoy built his house in stages, possibly starting with a shop that doubled as a suitable bachelor pad, completing the house a year or so after his marriage in June 1854, judging by the increasing assessed value of his buildings. This left Rachel still owning the 10 Cross Street lot. We'll get back to that.

### 117 Boston Post Road

1846-1852: In March 1846, Rachel Batchelder bought the brick house at 117 Boston Post Road, built by Timothy Danforth in 1824, for \$1200 from Charles L. Stewart of New York City, formerly of Amherst, an investment

Continued on page 6 ►

## Souhegan Valley Chorus Seeking New Members

AMHERST - Souhegan Valley Chorus (SVC) invites interested singers throughout the area to join the chorus for its spring season. Weekly rehearsals are held on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Milford Middle School Music Rooms starting on Tuesday, January 15. The first two rehearsals of the season on January 15 and 22 are "open rehearsals" when new members are welcome to join.

SVC, now in its 33rd season, is a community chorus of approximately 60 members from throughout the Souhegan Valley and surrounding towns. The chorus sings a repertoire ranging from pops to light classical and is known for its creative and entertaining concerts as well as the

enjoyable and educational musical experience it provides for its members. SVC presents two concerts a year, performs several mini-concerts at a Milford senior residence and participates in various community events. Director, Jennifer K. Erdody, is choral director at Milford High School, serves on the staff of the Souhegan Valley Boys and Girls Club School of Theatre Arts, and directs the annual "Messiah" performances in Mont Vernon. Kimberly Vars Whitehead, accompanies the chorus.

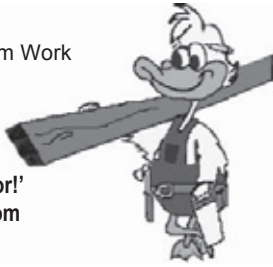
Director Erdody has chosen a wide variety of music for this season's concerts which will be held the last weekend in April at the Milford Town Hall.

Souhegan Valley Chorus is open without audition to anyone high school age or older who is interested in singing choral music. Members bring a wide range of abilities and experience, so anyone who loves to sing is encouraged to come give the chorus a try at one of the first two open rehearsals in January. As one member says, "Rehearsals are a good balance of work and fun. It's such a welcome treat for me at the end of a busy work day." Check the chorus website at [www.souheganvalleychorus.org](http://www.souheganvalleychorus.org), visit on Facebook, or call 673-5385 for more information about joining.

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LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

### REQUEST FOR BIDS

The Town of Amherst is seeking sealed bids for printing our “2012 Annual Town Report”. The report will be camera-ready with no typesetting required. Approximately 150 printed pages will be in the report. The report is 6” x 9” perfect bound with a colored photograph on the cover. We request two quotes – one for printing 1500 copies and one for printing 1000 copies.

**Please Note:** Because the Amherst voters have adopted RSA 40:13 (official ballot voting) our deadlines, by law, have changed. If you are bidding on the project, be aware of the following turnaround time: **The Town's Deliberative Session is scheduled for February 6, 2013 and any changes made in the warrant articles will be included in this report.** We anticipate having the final text sent to the printer shortly after this date. We are requesting that the reports be in our hands **no later than Monday, March 4, 2013.**

Sealed bids should be sent to the attention of The Administration Office, Town of Amherst, P.O. Box 960, Amherst, NH 03031 and clearly marked **“Town Report Bid”**. They are to be received by noon January 21, 2013. The Board of Selectmen has the right to reject any and all bids.