Events Calendar

Nashaway Chapter of the NH Audubon Society

The public is welcome to join the NH Audubon Nashaway Chapter as they explore the other Cape of Massachusetts. The group will travel to Cape Ann and Gloucester, MA on Saturday, March 23 to look for wintering and migrating sea birds from Halibut Point to other areas of Cape Ann. Bring binoculars and a scope if you have one. Also pack a lunch and dress WARMLY. The trip starts at 8am from Nashua at the Exit 7 Park & Ride, on the hill behind Granite Inn. To register or if you prefer to meet the group at the destination, contact Richard Bielawski 429-2537 or rbielawski@mac.com For more information about Halibut Point, go to http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/northeast/halb.htm

All are also welcome to join the Nashaway Chapter of NH Audubon on Wednesday, March 20 to hear Dr. Pamela Hunt, Senior Biologist and bird conservation expert, talk about her recent trip to Alaska. In August of 2012, Pam traveled by planes, trains, automobiles and boats to remote areas of Alaska. She logged a lot of miles and saw a lot of birds and other wildlife. Come and hear her tell this fascinating experience. This free event will be held at 7pm in the Nashua Public Library, downstairs theater room. Registration is not necessary, for more information contact Richard Maloon at 424-5621 or richard.maloon@att.net

Hillsborough County GOP Gala POSTPONED until March 23rd

The Gala event that was scheduled Saturday, February 9 at the Crowne Plaza in Nashua has been rescheduled to Saturday, March 23rd. The location, speaker, and planned events will be the same. Ticket purchases made to date will be honored on March 23, and we will make arrangements to provide a full refund to anyone with a scheduling conflict on that date.

Photographers Forum Camera Club – Free Classes

Photographers Forum Camera Club is offering three free classes on the Introduction to Photoshop for club members. The classes led by Brother Ralph Lebel will be offered on the first Wednesdays of the month at 7 to 9 PM at Bishop Guertin High School beginning on February 6. Please use the entrance on the side of the building opposite the tennis courts and bring a flash drive. If interested in joining the club to take advantage of these classes, go to www.photographersforum.org .

Antique Treasures Or Trash?

The Nashua Historical Society presents Wolfeboro antiques dealer Charles Wibel on Tuesday, March 19, presenting thoughts on what types of items to save and what to throw away, especially if you are considering downsizing or breaking up a household. He will tell us about some of the "treasures" which you may have that you may not be aware of and will talk about types of items which are valuable and show a number of examples. You may have a fortune without knowing it! The meeting will start at 7:30 PM in the Florence Speare Museum, 5 Abbott St., Nashua. Light \refreshments will follow. Call 883-0015 for further information.

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 To help them you have to help yourself first.

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

New Members Welcome at AJWC

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.

Next Issue is March 7th

Annual Election Issue will have ballots, letters from candidates and supporters, last minute information.

Deadline: Thursday, February 28, 5 p.m.

Town News

Historic Amherst

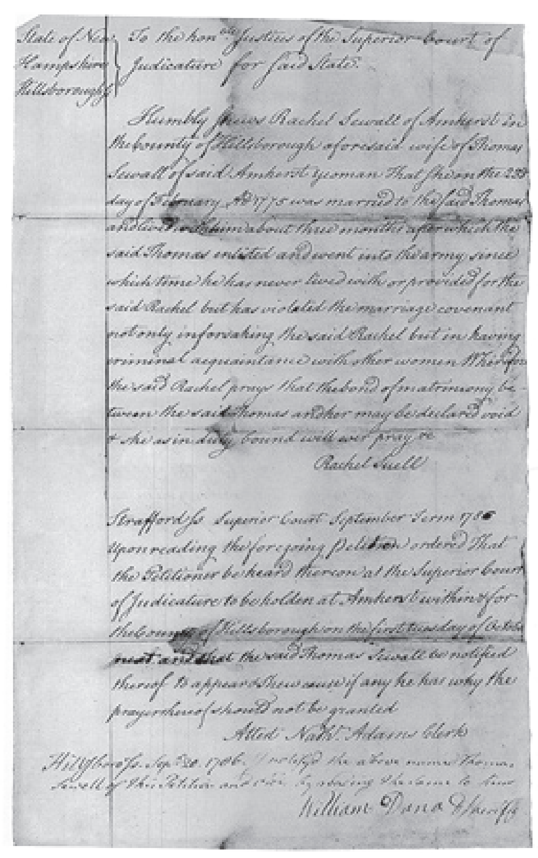
The Stay-Maker's Revolutionary War Heartbreak

A Woman's Business in Amherst Village Late in the 18th Century

BY KATRINA HOLMAN

Here's a story you won't find in any history book.

In April 1782, one Rachel Sewall of Amherst, a stay-maker, bought two pieces of land in Amherst Village on the south side of the Common, both well situated for a business. deed (Hillsborough county 9:31) is unusual for mentioning a woman's occupation and for giving no indication of her marital status. This hitherto unknown Rachel is significant for two reasons: hers was among the earliest businesses in Amherst Village, and she had a trade independent of her husband in the late 18th century. One lot, containing 112 square rods, had 5 rods of frontage on Courthouse Road (in the vicinity of today's number 5) and lay next south of Robert Means' homestead; and the other lot, containing 140 square rods, had 9 rods of frontage on Main Street (including the east side yard of today's 4 Main Street), lying between the small one-story dwelling (at today's4-6 Main Street, built 1779, moved c. 1824) of Ephraim Barker (1732-1800), the church builder, on its west bound, and the general store (enlarged into house of David Stewart (Sr., 1757-1821) after 1783, moved 1867) of William Dana (1745-1809) on its east bound. (One acre is about 160 square rods. One rod = 16.5 feet.) This is also a case of an accomplished, independent, older woman marrying a scoundrel.



Copy of Divorce Petition by Rachel Sewall (or "Suell" as she wrote her married name) of Amherst, N.H., that was served – by being read aloud – to her illiterate husband Thomas by the deputy sheriff in September 1786.

Stay-maker

In the 18th century, when women dressed up, they wore a foundation garment reinforced with vertical strips, usually of whalebone, to give them the desired posture and improved shape. This was the precursor to the corset. Even children and some men at times wore stays, presumably to improve their posture but perhaps to shape their coats more than themselves. Well, housewives, farmers and tradesmen couldn't work wearing stays. Apparently a similar but less-restrictive under-garment called a jump was available for women. You might think that stay-maker was a typical women's occupation, but not so: From 1733 through 1792, stay-makers advertising in newspapers – in Philadelphia, New York, Boston – are invariably men, and usually claiming to be lately arrived from London and thus up on the latest fashion. In 1792, an Italian stay-maker in New York claimed that he had "just arrived from Paris."

I've found no source to indicate what amount of custom Mrs. Sewall had, but she no doubt also provided seamstress services, including making mantles. It is intriguing to wonder whether one of her clients was her neighbor Mrs. Robert Means (1752-1838), of Scottish descent as daughter of the leading Presbyterian minister in N. H., and said to be an upright sort of person. Mary Means had arrived in Amherst as a newlywed, having married in September 1774 at age 21, four months after her husband bought his original lot at 1 Pierce Lane with a store and barn. Mrs. Sewall may even have been present at the raising of the grand addition ("big house") in May 1785 when Means converted his starter house into a mansion. When Mr. & Mrs. Sewall sold her (their) Amherst property in 1786, it was Robert Means who bought the Courthouse Road lot, for 12 pounds plus an extra 5 shillings for Rachel's quitclaim(deed 16:136).

Rachel (Johnson) Sewall

Rachel, likely born in Ireland, was the daughter of Scottish immigrant John Johnston (d. 1784) who, while living in Lynn, Massachusetts, bought land in Salem-Canada (now Lyndeborough), N.H., in 1741 and moved there with his family by 1746. She bought her first property in 1768 as Rachel Johnson, with her occupation identified as taylor, from her brother Adam; in 1773, identified as a mantle-maker, she sold these 78 acres in Lyndeboro' for substantially more, so likely with building(s). She bought additional real estate, in Hillsborough and in Lyndeboro', in 1770 , '72, and '74, her occupation given as seamstress in those deeds. Clearly she was supporting herself just fine. I guestimate (no vital record for her marriage or death exists to supply her age) that she was born around 1730, so she was no spring chicken when she and Thomas Sewall/Sewell were wed on 23 Feb. 1775. On 26 May 1775, Thomas enrolled as a sergeant in Col. Richard Gridley's artillery regiment for two months and ten days – but would remain absent for years.

Rachel moved to the county seat on her own initiative, it seems, and alone, continuing to earn her living with a needlework trade. When her elderly father, still of Lyndeborough, got into a legal struggle with his eldest son, Adam, in 1780, John signed over power of attorney to his daughter, Rachel Sewall, now of Amherst but still a "seamster." Such action suggests that her father esteemed her abilities and trusted her integrity. Matthew Patten (1719-1795) of Bedford, a rural magistrate, noted in his diary (p. 427 of transcription 1903) on 27 Feb. 1781, "I went to Amherst ... I lodged at Smith's [the tavern-inn then standing at 3 Church Street] & I attended on a case of Refferance by order of the Inferiour court between John and Adam Johnson[,] and Rachel Sewel as attorney for her father gave me a Silver Dollar toward my expences."

Evidently Rachel's husband Thomas surfaced in Amherst in February 1782, for they executed several deeds together at this time, appearing before Moses Nichols, a JP and the register of deeds who resided in Amherst. As a married woman, her hands would have been tied regarding real estate transactions without her husband's consent, even for property she had bought before they married. First, they together sold one of the properties in Lyndeboro' that she had bought and mortgaged before their marriage. On the next day, "Sewall formerly of Lyndeborough in ... New Hampshire, Yeoman, (now in the Continental army during War)" granted irrevocable power of attorney to his wife Rachel Sewel of Amherst, N.H., as "my attorney in all cases whatsoever, Real, Personal or Mixed, .. for or against me, on bonds, book debts, deeds or any other ... nature whatsoever, especially to execute any deeds of any lands belonging to me, in her the said Rachel's right ..., in the Towns of Chesterfield, Lyndeborough & Hillsborough, N.H.; and in my name to sue all bonds, notes, book debts or accomps whatsoever ... & in my name to appear, plead & pursue to final judgment & execution..." Thomas signed with an X mark. (Hillsborough County deed registry 8:387.) (Although educated men, such as attorneys, would spell their name as Sewall or Sewell, Rachel signed her married name as "Suell" in a hand that was not elegant but legible, although the e and l were hardly distinguishable.)

The power of attorney enabled Rachel to purchase the two lots in the Village two months later. The couple would sell them four years later, while she was in the midst of preparing for divorce, for in 1875 (after the de-

Continued on page 13 ►

► Amherst EMS Balancing Cost Effectiveness and Healthcare Delivery

continued from page 1

Since 2004, Amherst EMS has been deploying one paramedic in a rapid response vehicle 95% of the time along with two EMS providers 24/365 on every Ambulance-1 response for communities of Amherst and Mont Vernon.

dents must constantly be evaluated for healthcare, NFPA and worker compensation compliance".

A tool Gleason uses to address this titled "Firefighter Safety & Deployment Study... Report on EMS Field Experiments", was developed by a research partnership of the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI), International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI). The report was formed to conduct a multiphase study of EMT, paramedic & firefighter safety and the deployment of resources.

The EMS portion of the Firefighter Safety and Deployment of Resources Study was designed solely to assess the personnel number and configuration aspect of an EMS incident for responder safety, effectiveness, and efficiency. This study does not address the efficacy of any patient care intervention. This study does however quantify first responder crew size, i.e., the number and placement of ALS trained personnel resources on the time-to-task measures for EMS interventions.

These findings suggest that ALS provider placement and crew size can have an impact on some task start times in trauma and cardiac scenarios, especially in the latter tasks leading to patient packaging. To the extent that creating time efficiency is important for patient outcomes, including an ALS paramedic provider in a rapid response vehicle and using ambulance crew sizes of 2-3 providers. The same holds for responder safety – for access and removal and other tasks in the response sequence, the availability of additional hands can serve to reduce the risks of lifting injuries or injuries that result from fatigue (e.g., avoid having small crews repeatedly having to ascend and descend stairs).

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