

Town News

AMHERST TOWN LIBRARY

Amy Lapointe, Library Director
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Phone 673-2288 Fax 672-6063
email: library@amherst.lib.nh.us
web http://www.amherst.lib.nh.us
Mon-Thu, 9:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Fri & Sat, 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sun, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Children's Programming at the Amherst Town Library

Storytimes

All of our traditional Storytimes are drop in, we love to see you when you are able to attend. Storytimes are held the following days and times:

Baby Listeners lapsit storytime (from birth to 24 mos.) is on Friday mornings at 10:30. Next session meets: March 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5 and 12.

Toddler Time for 2 and 3 year olds and their caregivers meet Tuesdays at 10:00. Next session meets: March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2 and 9.

Book Bunch for 3-6 yr. olds is on Thursday mornings at 10:00am, and Thursday afternoons at 1:00pm. Next session meets: March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4 and 11.

Book Clubs

We have book clubs for all ages—

Jr. Bookclub 1 (for kids in grades 2-3 and parents) meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm. On April 10, club members will discuss Alvin Ho: allergic to girls, school, and Other Scary Things by Lenore Look. Come in and talk to Miss Sarah if you're interested in joining.

Jr. Bookclub 2 (for kids in grades 3-4 and parents) meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm. On April 17, club members will discuss Gregor the Overlander by Suzanne Collins. Come in and talk to Miss Sarah if you're interested in joining.

The Great Stone Face Reviewer's Club (for 5th and 6th graders) gets together on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 to talk about the newest fiction titles that we've all been reading—then Miss Sarah passes these opinions on to the Great Stone Face Committee at the state level. We're an opinionated group that



loves to read--and loves to talk about what we're reading! We are winding down to the end of our year--on April 3rd, each member will bring in a list of their top three favorites from the books we've read this year. In May, we'll learn the titles of next-year's Great Stone Face list!

The Popcorn-Eating Monsters Club (for 7th - 9th graders) gather on the 4th Wednesday of each month to share opinions about the newest YA fiction titles we're reading. Right now we're planning a movie night to coincide with the DVD release of *The Hobbit*. On March 27, we'll gather to discuss the "Matched" series by Ally Condie. If you love to read, and love to talk about what you're reading, come and join us! Talk to Miss Sarah if you're interested.

School Vacation Week Activities

(April 22 - 26):

Don't sit around bored during school vacation week. The children's room at the library has a lot planned!

All week long, there will be a craft available at the Make-it/Take-it table

Tuesday April 23 at 2pm: Radical Reptiles Live Animal show.

Come and join us for an up-close and personal look at some fascinating reptiles!

The W.I.L.D. Center & Zoological Park of New England's professional Educator will introduce us to, and educate us about some of the amazing reptiles that share the earth with us. Typical animals presented are lizards, snakes, turtles, tortoises, and crocodilians.

For children ages 4 and up. Please register online at www.amherst.lib.nh.us, including your child's age in the 'name' field, or call 673-2288 to register by phone.

Wednesday April 24 at 2:00pm: AFTERNOON MOVIE MATINEE. Bring a water bottle and a pillow, and we'll provide the popcorn and the big screen! Come and join us!

Thursday April 25 at 3:30: LEGO FREE-FOR-ALL Bring your Lego creativity to the library, and see what you can build with the Legos we provide! Registration required, (space is limited). For children ages 5 and up. Please register online at

It's About Conservation

20 Years - 4 Parcels - Dozens of Helpers - 1 Goal

continued from page 1

negotiations with the five family owners took life under the condition that all the sales were to be closed at the same time.

By then, the Amherst voters had added their layer of complexities to the transactions by preventing the ACC from contributing from the ACC Conservation Fund to another conservation organization. In this case the private Amherst Land Trust, an IRS approved 501(c)(3) organization with the same objectives as the ACC. As a private corporation, the ALT has more latitude in buying and selling land than does the ACC under the state laws.

The voters also said the ACC could not expend funds for land outside of Amherst even if the bulk of the parcel did lie in Amherst. These two votes tied the ACC's hands, forcing it to work alone and unable to acquire one parcel because a small portion of the lot lies in Merrimack. The owner helped solve this dilemma by offering to donate that portion in Merrimack to the ALT. And, oh yes, after the terms of sale were agreed to, one owner decided he wanted to log some of the finest pines in Amherst from one of the parcels. After too many accusations, recriminations, threats to walk away from the deal and a new appraisal, agreement was reached and the sales were again becoming realities after official meetings and public hearings. Yet another delay was introduced when the need for a supplementary easement was deemed necessary over one-tenth of an acre. Done!

It took a lot of folk's dedication and obstinate persistence. The list sounds a little like a Biblical

who begat whom recitation. The Town owes thanks to so many people for this beautiful area of town with its varied lands and viewsheds that are now protected forever:

ACC - 11 volunteer members, including the very supportive Selectmen's representative, Dwight Brew.

ALT - 12 Board members; especially Susan Manchester and Peter Rotch for endless hours of legal support.

Charlie Koch and Richard Donovan for their appraisals of the timber and land.

Barbara Richter of the SPNHF for training and consultation with the ALT and OSAC.

The donors to the ALT and ACC who are helping protect natural spaces.

The Sellers who, despite delays, really wanted their family lands preserved for conservation purposes.

Of course, to all of you who enjoy and support our home-town conservation efforts with your presence on the trails and in the voting booths.

The net result - the Town adds to its holdings for ACC management 5 more special acres in Grater Woods and the Amherst Land Trust owns 21.6 abutting acres in Amherst and 1.4 acres in Merrimack.

Next? Not much for new ventures until the Commission's and Trust's funds are restored.



"Take Your Club to Glory" Challenge Sponsored by Friends of the Amherst Town Library

AMHERST - Are you smarter than the average bear or possibly a walking trivia encyclopedia? The Friends of the Amherst Town Library are "throwing down the gauntlet"! We are calling all local Amherst clubs to create a team and 'come on down!' Are you up for the "Take your Club to Glory" challenge? Will your club be the trivia champ?

Amherst Garden Club, will you have the seeds of knowledge?

Lions Club, will you serve the right answers?

Amherst Town Band, will the questions be music to your ears?

Moms Club, will the answers for you be child's play?

Amherst Historical Society, will you impressively exhibit those preserved knowledge bits delicately stored away in your minds?

Amherst Recreation Department/PMEC, will you find the challenge eventful and join in to help foster a fun environment?

The Red Hat society, will you make the evening red hot with some spicy answers?

Make it a 'yes', and join us for the 1st Annual, Friends of the Amherst Library TRIVIA NIGHT at the Amherst Country Club!

The fun and festivities will occur on Thursday, March 28 at 7pm.

Doors will open at 6:30pm. Register as an individual, couple or create a team of between 8-10 adults to show off your smarts. The top team will win a cash prize along with bragging rights. Door prizes will be raffled off throughout the evening. The cost is \$10.00 per player. All proceeds will go to support The Friends of the Amherst Town Library Fund, which enables them to offer enrichment programs for the Amherst community. A cash bar and snacks will be available for purchase. Registration forms are available at the Amherst Town Library or they can be downloaded from the library website: <http://www.amherst.lib.nh.us>.

Amherst Town Library

Spring Poets: Barbara Allen To Blackbird

As part of the Amherst Town Library's April series of programs for adults called Birds and Flowers and Poetry, John Perrault presents "Spring Poets: Barbara Allen to Blackbird" on Tuesday, April 30 at 7 p.m. in the Johnson Meeting Room. We are grateful for the grant provided by the New Hampshire Humanities Council that makes this program possible.

Once upon a time, poetry and song were inseparable. The break up came during the Renaissance. In England, two great Romantic poets, Wordsworth and Coleridge, engineered reconciliation with the publication of Lyrical Ballads in 1798. This radical work merged the ballad form with the plain spoken lyric of the heart. English language po-

ets were freed to feel once again, to sing once again, of common themes in the common tongue. John Perrault brings his guitar to sing and recite a few of the early ballads, plus a line of lyrics from Burns to Wordsworth, Keats, Frost, Dickinson to Dylan, and Mary Oliver to Lennon & McCartney, in a salute to the romantic tradition.

New Hampshire Humanities Council scholar John Perrault is a lawyer, published poet, songwriter and musician. He is the author of *Jefferson's Dream*, *The Ballad of the Declaration of Independence*; *The Ballad of Louis Wagner* and other *New England Stories in Verse*; and *Here Comes the Old Man Now*. A touring artist on the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts and

the New England Foundation for the Arts, John's poetry has appeared in the *Salmon Poetry anthology*, *Dogs Singing*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Commonweal*, *Poet Lore* and elsewhere. He was Poet Laureate of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, from 2003 to 2005.

This presentation is free and open to the public. However, registration is REQUIRED for this program due to space limitations. You can register for this event and all the programs of the Library's Birds and Flowers and Poetry series 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."

► Milliners in Amherst Village Part 2: Mid-19th Century continued from page 4

There must have been no takers, but in September she arranged for a woman to run the shop during a planned absence and for the "Millinery department [to be] in charge of Miss Fannie Wheeler. Ladies need make no scruples on account of her youth and inexperience. Mrs. Few can safely recommend her as bidding fair to make one of the most tasty milliners in Hillsborough County." Fannie was 19 years old at this time, living with her parents at 9 Carriage Road; she was still working as a milliner in 1860.

After another New England winter, this advert' appeared in the local paper: "M. W. FEW, Waked up anew! Dear Old Cabinet: I am not dead, tho' for three months I have been silent, with hands folded and head bowed. I have dozed away a portion of the Winter, but the April sun and the welcome click of the needle and scissors has somewhat aroused me, and I am ready to attend to business and to show you all the sunny-side of good bargains. My Spring Stock is larger than ever before, selected with great care and, I trust, some little taste. Straw Bonnets, full trimmed, \$1.25; Fancy Hats from \$2.50 upwards; Misses & Children's Hats, Ladies' Riding Hats, Head Dresses, fancy hair pins,

wrought setts fancy sleeves, great variety Gloves, Trimmings, Watch Spring Skirts for Ladies and Misses, &c. N.B. Grave clothes constantly on hand. Bonnets bleached every week. For the accommodation of many of my friends in adjacent villages, I will attend to the Dress Making Department, which I have neglected the last three years. My Show Rooms will be ready for inspection the first Monday in May." (FC, 27 April 1859.) Her stock in trade was worth \$100.

William Few (1821-1863) was a laborer and husbandman in Amherst. In 1860 he bought a house in Nashua, and the Amherst millinery shop was leased to Sophia Phelps & partner in Sep. 1860. What the Fews intended is unclear, because the Civil War intervened. Although not a citizen, William enlisted from Nashua in 1861, while Mary returned to Amherst. He wrote to his wife: "I believe I am fighting in a good cause. ... Thousands have fallen and thousands more must, I think ... I may not live to see it, but you will soon hear the cry for peace. ... Cheer up, M. ... This Government must stand. It is worth fighting for. If I lose my life, I hope my child will be the better for it. I love my country, Old England, still... I love wife and child

as well as a man can love, but if my commander would give me a furlough tomorrow, I would not take it. When the war is over I want to see you but not till then. This Government needs my services and more than you or Amherst people do." Wm died as a soldier in July 1863 of disease; he was interred at Amherst. (*Amherst in the Great Civil Conflict 1861-1865* by Edward D. Boylston, p. 41, 156.) Widow Few remarried, exactly one year later, as third wife of Charles Richardson, Esq. (1809-1891), pension agent, and in 1868 they made their home in the former bank. She died in 1900.

1860-'64: Sophia E. Phelps

When she was 15, Sophia E. Phelps (1836-1924), daughter of a farmer and carpenter, attended Appleton Academy in Mont Vernon (founded 1850) during the fall term of 1851 as one of three girls from Amherst (out of total of 34 "ladies" and 33 "gentlemen"). She began her teaching career at age 16 at Amherst's District 6. For the '58/'59 12-week winter term at District 5 (Danforth's Corner), 25 scholars, she earned \$18 per month; at District 4 (Christian Hill) for the '59 10.5-week summer term, 14 scholars, \$14/mo., including board; for

the 59/'60 10-week winter term, 19 scholars, \$18/mo., incl. board.

Sophia made a career change at age 24 and ran the millinery shop for three years, carrying inventory worth \$100. (Milliner Ede E. Phelps (1813-1885), who ran a shop in the Village in 1835, was her aunt.) During her first winter, from Oct. to April, Phelps and other storekeepers closed at 8 pm; from Nov. '62 to April '63, they closed at 8:30pm. (How long, I wonder, did they all stay open during the summer?) Before he died at age 20 from a fatal wound on 3 July 1863 at Gettysburg, after surviving ten battles, her brother, Sergeant Charles H. Phelps, inquired in letters home how her business was doing. She continued to live in her parents' house at 18 Foundry Street after her marriage in 1864, which took place a few weeks before her first child was born. Mrs. Sophia E. Dodge would become the first woman in Amherst to serve on the Board of Education, an elected position which she held for nearly 20 years, 1886-'98 and 1901-'08.

1865-'69: Nellie S. Jaquith

In Feb. 1865, "M. W. Richardson" announced: "Not Dead, Down or Removed! Though the jail birds have flown and the records are going [a

reference to the fate of the county jail and court], the old Amherst Millinery Establishment remains in the same place, and Mrs. NELLIE S. JAQUITH has just returned from the city with a choice lot of fancy and useful articles which will be sold low for cash." In the same issue, under the heading "Reopened," Mrs. J. announced that she had "taken the shop formerly occupied by Mrs. M. W. Few." In October, she announced that she had "secured the services of a first-class milliner" and "also, a first-class dress and cloak maker." Women could bring their old hats and bonnets to the shop to be sent to the bleaching, one day a week and returned a few days later, and to be pressed into fashionable form. In Jan. 1867, German corsets, regularly \$2.25, were on sale for \$1.65; no. 1 English wire hoop skirts were marked down to \$2.00 from \$2.50. When she announced, in Sep. 1869, a special closing sale because she would soon be leaving town, it was "the only store of the kind in the place" [Amherst]. (As Mrs. Richardson, formerly Few, had sold the house at 8 Main St. in April 1867, the millinery shop was by this time located just north of the bank, on land owned by the late Aaron Lawrence's daughter Lu, adjoining

the back of her house lot at 3 School St.)

At 19, Nellie S. Lovejoy (b. 1840 in Amherst, N.H.), daughter of a shoemaker, already worked as a milliner, while her 23-year-old sister was a tailoress and her 21- and 17-year-old sisters were domestics (1860 census). In Aug. 1862 at age 22, Nellie married 21-year old J. Merrick Jaquith of Lawrence, Mass., a printer born in Milford, N.H. He left her a young widow with a son born in Amherst in Dec. 1863. After running her millinery business for four and a half years, Nellie remarried in Jan. 1870, widower Harry R. Wheeler of Nashua, a 28-year-old printer with two young children. Harry was the brother of milliner Fannie Wheeler; he had bought the Nashua property of the Fews from Mrs. Mary W. Richardson in 1865.

In the 1860 census of Amherst, there were 9 milliners (not counting S. E. Phelps); 1 bonnet maker; 8 tailoresses; and 5 seamstresses, ranging in age from 17 to 38 (Mrs. Few being 37), most in their twenties and single; also 2 male tailors, aged 30 and 40. In 1870, there was not a single milliner, just four dress-makers/ tailoresses, three of them in their thirties.

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If you think this is amazing, wait until you see your hair!

Holly King
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