

► 150th Anniversary of First Income Tax Paid by Amherst Residents

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who lived at 1 Carriage Road.

The Amherst resident paying the highest federal tax in 1864 – drum roll, please – was Aaron Lawrence (1804-1867), with a whopping income of \$6600! He resided at 3 School Street. Aaron was a self-made man who began his career in Jan. 1826 as a merchant in Amherst Village in partnership with another 21-year-old, C. L. Stewart, taking over the store of his Uncle Eber Lawrence, located between the Means store and the old tavern-inn on the south side of the Common, where he had learned the business as a clerk. Stewart & Lawrence signed a 5-year lease for \$50/year, but Eber was on the verge of bankruptcy and shortly lost both tavern and store; so in April 1829 the young partners bought the property, keeping the store and selling off the tavern. Aaron continued as a local storekeeper until his fragile health forced him to quit. In July 1836, he wrote to the Congregational Church committee, “such is the present state of my health, that I am obliged to take a journey for 3 or 4 weeks, and of course shall not be here to play your organ.” He did resume his mercantile career, becoming postmaster in Amherst 1841-49. Aaron also invested in real estate but was not a super wheeler-dealer, although he was a money lender of two dozen mortgages before 1850. Thereafter he made a significant career change – presumably the foundation for his wealth. He became a hops dealer in Boston! (Hops was a plant used in brewing beer and ale and in medicines.) His firm of Lawrence & Shirley did not advertise, although they do appear in a few Boston city directories. Partner A. M. Shirley resided in Manchester, and another later partner in Lowell. Although

Lawrence’s occupation in the 1860 census of Amherst is recorded as “retired merchant,” he apparently continued in the hops business until his death. He kept Amherst as his permanent residence but used to stay at the Quincy House in Boston; it was there that he made final alterations to his will six months prior to his death. Aaron Lawrence left a lasting legacy in Amherst with philanthropic donations during his lifetime and in his will. The bell for the Brick School (1855), the land for the Chapel (1858), the new fire engine (1859), the Congregational Church’s organ (1866), and the Soldiers’ Monument (erected in 1871) were all donated or substantially funded by this one man. He left his three daughters rich, and also left many charitable bequests in his will.

1864 Property Taxes

Let’s look at what level of property taxes (combined town, county & state taxes plus extra school-house and highway taxes) were paid in 1864 by the highest earners. Aaron Lawrence’s total property valuation in Amherst was \$7240 (based on \$2200 in bank/corp. shares and \$4000 cash and his house lot in the Village) for which he was assessed property taxes of \$89.43 (of which \$3.26 was for school-house and \$9.42 for highways). Widow Boylston’s total valuation was \$2200 (based on 1a house lot in the Village and merely \$200 in shares and \$300 cash); in the 1860 census this widow had real estate worth \$40K, perhaps the real estate inherited by her late husband that was largely located in Massachusetts. Harrison Eaton’s total valuation in Amherst was merely \$1570, based largely on 2a in the Village, the foundry. Chas.

H. Campbell’s total valuation was \$8080, \$3770 in District 1 (half acre house lot, \$2000 cash) plus \$4310 in District 8 (200a, 18 cows worth \$610), so although he earned the fourth-highest declared income, he was assessed the second-highest local property taxes.

And what about the learned men among those earning enough to qualify for income tax? Lawyer Perley Dodge’s total valuation was \$5906 (50a, \$1700 in shares, \$1000 cash); Dr. Moor’s was \$2806; and Dr. Fitch’s \$2400. Rev. J. G. Davis’s total valuation was only \$570 for which he paid \$7.05 in property taxes (including 26 cents school-house tax and 74 cents highway tax).

The income-tax-paying farmers also paid high property taxes, all of them having high total valuations in Amherst’s tax invoices. They were: George W. Fletcher, District 3, \$6946 total valuation (based on 207a, 2 horses \$100, 24 cows \$646); Benjamin B. Whiting, District 10, \$5940 (152a, 2 horses \$144, 16 cows \$502, 2 sheep \$14); and Rufus Converse, District 6, \$5372 (real estate, 1 horse \$128, 14 cows \$348); Samuel Ober, District 5, \$5188 (180a+6a in District 11, 8 cows \$226); and Charles Converse, District 6, \$4380 (250a, 2 horses \$144, 13 cows \$396).

There were a few more Amherst farmers with total property valuations over \$4K, but whose income was below \$600 in 1864: The top payer in local property taxes was Peter W. Jones who resided at 18 Jones Road, Amherst’s top livestock breeder and racehorse owner, whose total valuation was \$9414 (combination of \$5734 in District 1 based on 280a, 8 horses \$1340, 11 cows \$300, 31 sheep \$154; plus \$3685 in District 9 based on farm, 8 cows \$260). Other farmers with high property

valuations were: Merrill Fletcher, District 3, \$8810 (88a, 4 cows \$200, \$6410 cash); Thomas Wilkins, District 2, \$6900 (based on 220a, 11 cows, 5 sheep); Oliver Carter, District 9, \$5558 (300a, 1 horse \$110, 19 cows \$658) plus another \$675 for farmland shared with Jones; Wm Noyes, District 7, \$4760 (217a, 2 horses \$186, 17 cows \$514, 17 sheep \$60); Rodney Howard, District 10, \$4456 (104a, 1 horse \$146, 14 cows \$420, 13 sheep \$50); Thomas M. Harvill, District 9, \$4146 (110a, 2 horses \$250, 11 cows \$570, 15 sheep \$86); George Kinson, District 1, \$4106 (205a, 2 horses \$120, 28 cows \$696); and Stillman Parkhurst, District 7, \$4098 (100a, 5 cows \$250, 23 sheep \$92). This was no longer the era of subsistence farming, but one has to wonder how difficult it was to be profitable. Well, even if they didn’t earn all that much, they must have had plenty to eat.

There are three more Amherst men whose total valuation for property taxes was over \$4K but income less than \$600, who were not farmers, namely Melendy & David, whip manufacturers, \$9528 together; and Daniel Ferrill, a wheelwright, \$5240 (based on \$5K “money at interest” + \$240 for the poll). It’s clear from the tax invoices that there was not much industry in Amherst. The few mill owners were not among the highest taxpayers. When filling in the property invoice on pre-printed paper, Amherst’s town clerk used the factories column to record number of dogs!

Keep in mind that this period was in the middle of the Civil War, which affected the economy in various ways, even if not as badly as the waste and destruction in the South.

Blue Bus Expands Shopping Rides



PHOTO: COURTESY SVTC

Paul McManus the principal Nashua Transit System driver serving the Souhegan Valley. Paul always has a smile that says “Welcome Aboard”!

The Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative is pleased to announce the expansion of its rides for shopping on Mondays and Thursdays to three more shopping locations in Milford.

As of May 4th, the Souhegan Valley Rides bus service will be adding Ocean State Job Lot, Family Dollar at the Granite Town Plaza, and the 222 Elm Street Plaza in Milford as shopping destinations. The bus service also provides rides for shopping on Mondays and Thursdays to Shaw’s at Lorden Plaza and Market Basket in Milford, Walmart in Amherst, and Hannaford’s on Coliseum Avenue in Nashua.

Souhegan Valley Rides, locally known as “The Blue Bus”, is a curb-to-curb, dial-a-ride bus service available to residents of Amherst, Brookline, Hollis, Milford, Mont Vernon and Wilton. The service provides transportation within the six towns and to and from Nashua for healthcare and social services appointments, and other essential activities, such as, rides to town facilities including the local libraries, to local senior activity centers, and to the St Joseph Community Dining locations in Milford and Hollis.

Souhegan Valley Rides focuses on providing transportation to non-emergency healthcare appointments and assisting those in greatest need – elderly residents and individuals living with a disability. Other residents may use the service as space is available.

Rides are shared with other passengers which may add some time to your ride but offers an opportu-

nity to socialize while getting to or from your destination. As one long-time passenger said “I just bring a book or my knitting and enjoy the trip!”

The service is available Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 6:00 pm including travel time to and from the garage in Nashua. Riders are asked to pay \$2 each way. A free bus pass program, solely funded by donations, is available for eligible residents who cannot afford the bus fare.

Pre-registration is required and applications are available by calling 880-0100 ext 1 and on the Collaborative’s website at www.SouheganValleyRides.org. Rides must be scheduled at least 48 hours in advance by calling 880-0100 ext 1 on weekdays. When a scheduled ride is no longer needed, passengers are expected to call and cancel their ride, preferably, at least the day before. The sooner scheduling changes can be made, the more efficient the service is for all passengers.

The wheelchair-accessible buses, drivers and call center operations are contracted from the Nashua Transit System. A volunteer Board of Directors, known as the Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative, oversees the Souhegan Valley Rides service and includes representation from all six of the participating communities. For more information please call 880-0100 ext 1 or visit www.SouheganValleyRides.org.

► Amherst Recreation Programs and Events

All Prices Increase by \$20 after May 15, 2015

Youth Programming

Karate

Who: Ages 4 and up (adult too!)
What: Beg./int. Karate lessons
Where: Amherst Karate Studio
Fee: \$59 Please visit www.amherstrec.org for Schedule Options

Archery

The program will teach the basic fundamentals of shooting target archery focusing on safety and proper shooting form.

Who: grades 5-8
Where: Outfield of Bean Field
When: 5/8-5/29 from 2:30-3:30
Fee: \$71R; \$81NR

Who: grades 1-4
Where: Outfield of Bean Field
When: 5/8-5/29 from 3:45-4:45
Fee: \$71R; \$81NR

Pre-School Programming

NEW session of Tiny Toes Dance

Lets get groovy!
Our Tiny Toes Dance program is for girls and boys ages 3-5. In this 4 week program, students will get an intro to dance.

Who: Boys and Girls ages 3-5
What: Tiny Toes Dance
Where: Peabody Mill Environmental Center
When: 5/22, 5/29, 6/5, 6/12 from 10:15-11am
Fee: \$25R; \$30NR

Homeschool Science Programs

Amherst Recreation offers environmental and science programs to home school students throughout the school year at the Peabody Mill Environmental Center!

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Who: Home school students ages 3-14
Where: Peabody Mill Environmental Center (PMEC)
When: May 19th from 1-3pm (3-5yr olds from 1-2pm)
Fee: \$5 for 3-5 yr olds, \$10 for 6-14 yr olds
Please visit www.amherstrec.org for activity descriptions

Adult Programming

Rugby 7’s for Adults

Rugby 7’s is a quick, fun and easy to learn sport.

Who: Adults 18+
Where: Lower Wilkins
When: Wednesday Nights starting June 24th
Fee: \$20R; \$25NR

Adult Basketball and Adult Volleyball

Pick up games at AMS have begun. The registration fee covers the entire school year. See our website

for details and to register.

Game Days

Amherst Recreation offers a fun afternoon of table or card games for adults.

Thursdays 1:00-3:30pm @ the Amherst Fire Department Training Room.

No registration required, It’s free!

Family Programming

Birthday Parties at PMEC!

Create amazing birthday memories this year with a Birthday Party for your child age 3-12 at the Peabody Mill Environmental Center!

We have several themes to choose from or we can work together to tailor one just for your Birthday Girl or Boy. Please visit www.amherstrec.org for more details.

We add programs weekly, so check our website often... And make time in your life for Recreation!

Next Issue: May 12
Deadline: May 6

THE TOADSTOOL BOOKSHOPS



KATINA MAKRIS & DR. JEFF SULLENDER
Sat, May 9, 2 PM

Lyme Disease: Awareness, Prevention, and Treatment, will be discussed by Lyme survivor, Classic Homeopath, and author Katina Makris (*Out of the Woods*). Joining her will be nutritionist Dr. Sullender

BOB MANKOFF

Bedford Public Library
Thu, May 14, 7 pm.

The Cartoon Editor of *The New Yorker* magazine speaks on his life in cartoons, *HOW ABOUT NEVER – IS NEVER GOOD FOR YOU?* Books available for purchase and signing. Call the library (472-2300) for details.

JOHN ROCKWOOD
Thu, May 28, 6:30 pm

The ‘Loon Man’ presents an educational and entertaining multi-media show on the state bird of Minnesota! His book about an orphaned chick, *ADVENTURES WITH GRAPENUT*, will be available.

Visit our website for all the details and more!
www.toadbooks.com

M-T-W: 9-7, Th-Fr 9-8

Sat: 9-6, Sun: 11-5

Lorden Plaza, Milford
673-1734

12 Depot Sq., Peterborough, 924-3543
Colony Mill Marketplace, Keene, 352-8815

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THE MILFORD HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION, ESTABLISHED IN 1906, IS DEDICATED TO SUPPORTING LOCAL MEDICAL AND HEALTH-RELATED SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITIES OF MILFORD, AMHERST AND MONT VERNON.

THE TRUSTEES OF THE MILFORD HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE AVAILABILITY OF

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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS (501 C(3)), GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES AND FAITH COMMUNITIES FROM MILFORD, AMHERST AND/OR MONT VERNON ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY.

TO OBTAIN APPLICATION MATERIALS PLEASE EMAIL:
MILFORDHOSPITALASSOCIATION@GMAIL.COM
C/O JENNIFER WIERWILLE NORTON,
MILFORD HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION GRANTS CONSULTANT

**DEADLINE FOR FULL PROPOSALS:
MAY 15, 2015 AT 5P.M.**

THE TRUSTEES OF THE MILFORD HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT APPLICATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE

MILFORD HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND

COLLEGE STUDENTS FROM MILFORD, AMHERST AND MONT VERNON PREPARING FOR A CAREER IN HEALTHCARE CAN APPLY THROUGH THE NH CHARITABLE FOUNDATION WEBSITE AT WWW.NHCF.ORG.

CLICK ON STUDENT AID AND LOOK FOR THE ADULT STUDENT AID APPLICATION. HERE IS A DIRECT LINK TO THE ADULT STUDENT AID PROGRAM:
WWW.NHCF.ORG/PAGE.ASPX?PID=473

Something Worth Sharing

We’re proud of the news coverage we’ve received, and we hope to build upon these accomplishments. We know that our success is your success.
Thank you.

J.D. POWER APRIL 2015
Edward Jones ranked “Highest in Investor Satisfaction With Full Service Brokerage Firms, in a Tie” in the J.D. Power 2015 Full Service Investor Satisfaction StudySM.

FORBES March 2015
In its first-ever ranking of best employers, Forbes magazine rated Edward Jones the highest-ranking financial-services firm out of the list of 500 companies spanning 27 industries in the magazine’s “America’s Best Employers 2015” edition. The firm’s overall ranking was No. 24.

*Edward Jones received the highest numerical score among full service brokerage firms in a tie in the proprietary J.D. Power 2015 U.S. Full Service Investor Satisfaction StudySM. Study based on responses from 5,351 investors who used full-service investment institutions. 18 investment firms which received a representative sample of investor opinions were measured on 7 factors: investment advisor; investment performance; account information; account offerings; commissions and fees; website; and problem resolution. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of consumers surveyed in January-February 2015. Your experiences may vary. Rating may not be indicative of future performance and may not be representative of any one client’s experience because it reflects an average of experiences of responding clients. Visit jdpower.com.

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