

This document/file is a **supplement to the Finding Aids** for records at Amherst Town Hall vault, from inventory taken in 2017-2018 by archivist Cynthia Swank of North Hampton and historical researcher Katrina Holman of Amherst, under the auspices of Amherst Heritage Commission, largely funded by a grant from Bertha Rogers Foundation.

The purpose of this document is two-fold:

- 1) The information on contents with historical context is intended **for historical researchers**.
- 2) Detailed descriptions of the volumes of records will help with search & retrieval in case a volume or document should be misplaced or go missing.

Inventory Catalog of the Historic Records in Amherst (N.H.) Town Hall Vault – Part I

The focus of this file is on 18th and 19th century records; 20th century records are included where they are a continuation of earlier series or when they are unique.

*** Amherst “Town Records” Books**

- 1760-1992 (10 numbered volumes, Vol. 9 being the last, oversized bound manuscripts)
- 1760-1791 (bound typescript of Vol. 1)
- 1764-1803 (single bound volume, not numbered, chronological overlap but unique content, manuscript)
- Warrants for special Town Meetings: 1843 (tombs), 1847 (to see if sell Town Pauper Farm), and 1849 (protest alteration of Wilton RR) (3 loose sheets)

*** Lists of Town Officers**

- Appointments of Town Officers: 1891-1985 (3 volumes)
- Summary lists of earliest Town Officers & Representatives: 1760-1851 (1 volume)
- Lists of Highway Surveyors in Tax Assessor's notebooks: 1854, 1868, 1869&70 (3 vols.)

*** Juror Selections: 1929-1970 (1 volume)**

*** Vital Records 1842-1998**

- 19th c. B-M-D: Marriages 1842/3 & Deaths 1842-1849; Marriages 1843-1852 & Dec. 1901; Births & Deaths 1850-1863; Marriages 1854-1869; Marriages, Birth & Deaths 1864-1893; Marriage Intentions/Certificates 1869-1890; Marriage Certificates 1890-1894; Marriages, Births & Deaths 1894-1909 (8 volumes)
- Late 19th c. Birth Certificates by M.D., Huchinson siblings: 1892 and 1894 (2 cards)
- Early 20th c. Marriages, Births, and/or Deaths: Marriages & Births 1910-1932 & Deaths 1906-1932; Births & Deaths 1933-1937 (2 volumes, BMD together in vol.) [missing Marriages 1933-1937]
- Mid to Late 20th c. Births, Marriages, Deaths: 1938-1994 (in separate multi-year books, 14 volumes x3) [except missing Marriages 1983-84]
- Births and Deaths 1995-1998; Marriages filed by Amherst Town Clerk 1995-1998 (but as early as 1936 & other years prior to 1995) (3 stacks of loose sheets in archival box)
- Marriage Waivers: 1973-1977 (loose sheets in 1 folder)
- Burial records: 1934-1980 (1 bound volume + loose sheets in 1 folder)

*** Cemeteries**

- Maps of cemetery (p)lot: Meadowview 1924 corrected to 1931; Cricket Corner 1967 with 1981 & 1993 revisions (2 plans)
- Deeds to cemetery (p)lots

- Card catalog of burials, alphabetical by name: c. 1920s to 1980s as well as some 19th c. names with lot numbers (but no death dates) – presumably for Meadowview
 - Burial Transit Permits: 1969-1974 (from deaths in Amherst and in other towns); including for Saint Patrick's Cemetery on Merrimack Road.
- * List of Naturalized Male Residents: 1859-1871 (single notebook)**
- * Dog Licenses: 1891-1895 (1 volume)**
- * Annual Town Reports:** Of the 19th-century annual town reports, the Town Hall vault is missing the earliest but has the following: 1845/6; 1868/9, 1869/70, 1871/2, 1873/4, 1874/5, 1875/6, 1876/7, 1878/9, 1879/80, 1880/1, 1881/2, 1882/3, 1883/4, 1886/7, 1887/8, 1888/9, 1889/90, 1890/1, 1891/2, 1892/3, 1893/4, 1894/5, 1895/6, 1896/7, 1897/8, 1898/9, 1900/1 (28 years/volumes; notice gaps)
- * School Records**
- Map of 12 school districts, c. 1880/1
 - Records of Individual Districts: 1806-1881 (Districts 1, 2/7, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 14/10 – only Districts 1, 4, 6 & 14/10 complete; missing Districts 5 and 2/Acre entirely) (14 volumes)
 - Registers: 1870/71 (full set for all 10 districts in 13 volumes); 1869/70 (2 vols. for Distr. 2)
 - Records of Town-wide School District: 1881-1949 (3 volumes)
 - School District Treasurer's Cash Books: 1919-29, 1930-35, 1941-46, 1946-50, 1951-54 (5 volumes)
 - Annual town-wide school reports printed – 19th century: 1857-1898 with gaps (21 years/volumes)
- * Financial Ledgers and Account Books**
- Memorandum of agreements for support of the poor, for sexton & tax collector: 1823/24 (1 volume)
 - Town Pauper Farm account books: 1835-1844; 1870/71; Auction 1892; 1894-1896 (4 volumes)
 - Town Treasurers' account books signed by Selectmen or Auditor(s): 1834-1918 (3 vols.)
 - Town Treasurer's cash books and workbooks: 1888-1889; 1894 (2); 1900-1918; 1911-1918 (2); 1918-1826; 1931-1936; 1935-1942; 1941-1947; 1948-1951; 1951-1956; 1965-1969 (13 volumes)
 - Town Treasurer's payment records: 1920-1975 (2 post-hole binders, one oversized)
 - Payable Notes (authorized by Selectmen): 1844-1846; 1866-1868; 1867-1915 (3 volumes)
 - Town promissory note: 1865 (single small piece)
 - Trust funds accounts: Cemetery 1891-1930 (1 vol.); Various 1916-1952 (2 volumes)
- * Chattel (Personal Property) Mortgage Records:**
- 1833-1931 (in 5 numbered volumes) and 1814-1929 (1 volume)
 - Personal Mortgages to Cavanaugh Bros. of Manchester, N.H., horse dealers: 1908-1911 and 1914-1928 (2 folders of 45 loose sheets; of which 2 sheets, 1916 and 1921, have different grantee, automobile dealer)
 - Conditional Sales 1960-1962 (single volume); same volume includes
 - Articles of Agreement (2): for Amherst Swim Club, Inc. in 1962; and Bradford-Long-Miles-Sullivan Post No. 87 in 1962
 - Partnership agreements (2): Wm S. Palmer of Manchester & George S. Palmer of Amherst for shoe & boot store & apothecary [in Amherst Village], 1877; and William D. Clark & William W. Sloan both of Amherst as traders in Groceries, W. I. Goods, and other articles [in store in 3-story brick block in Amherst Village], 1887
- * Index to Writs of Attachment Filed with/by Town Clerk: 1849-1942 (2 volumes)**
- * Articles of Agreement 1973-1986 Filed with Town Clerk (39 agreements in one 3-ring binder)**

Include: Jasper Valley Swim & Tennis Club (1979); Amherst Jaycees (1973); Amherst Rescue Squad Association (1978); Amherst Patriots Association (1974); Amherst Soccer Club (1985); Christ's Church of Amherst (1986).

* **Souhegan Grange: Fair Program, October 1919, held at Amherst, N.H. (1 printed booklet)**

* **Church**

- *Memorandum of the Expenditures of the Congregational Church & Society 1841-1843* (in same volume as *Amherst Town Records 1784-1803*)
- *Confession of Faith and Covenant of the Congregational Church in Amherst (N.H.)*, 1846 (printed booklet, 4.5 x 7.25”, 12 pages,)
- *Manual of the Congregational Church, Amherst, N. H.*, 1881; with List of Members (printed booklet, 5 x 7.5”, 12 pages)

* **Military Records of Amherst: 1840-1901 (4 volumes)**

- **Militia Company Orderly Book 1840-1847 with Enrollments of 1852-1865; also Lists of Amherst's Engine Company (firefighters) in 1841 and 1844**
- **Militia Infantry Company Roll Book 1840-1847 with Enrollment of 1851**
- **Enrollment of eligible Amherst men from 1870-1901**
- **List of soldiers from Amherst 1863-1865**

* **Proposal Creating Zoning Districts:**

- **1940 Preliminary Report of Amherst, N.H. Zoning Commission (not approved)**

* **Deeds – not included in this catalog; see Finding Aid for Record Group 9**

ADDITIONAL HISTORIC RECORDS – PART 2:

The catalog of TAX RECORDS is in a separate document/file

(Amherst_Records_TownHallVault_Taxes_byKH_rev2018Mar.doc).

They include:

- * **Invoice & Taxes (taxpayer rolls with inventories & valuations of taxable property & assessed taxes), made by Selectmen and recorded by Town Clerk(s):**
 - **“Fair” or final copies: 1820-1832 through 1953-1960 (in 18 huge multi-year volumes, 9 for 19th c. & 9 for 20th c.), manuscript [thereafter printed or computer print-outs]**
 - **Inventory of Taxable Property with Valuation & Taxes: 1961-1973 (10 volumes)** [Missing 1963, 1967, 1971]
 - **Workbooks for residents and nonresidents: 1814 (partial), 1818 (partial), 1823-1878 (with geographical & year gaps) and 1881-1961 (100+ vols, handwritten)**
 - **and more ...**
- * **Tax Warrants (order by Selectmen to Collector with list of taxpayers & their assessed taxes):**
 - **1801 (2), 1803 (3), 1807, 1809, 1810, 1811 (9 individual-year volumes in paper wrappers)**
 - **1831: tax warrant copy with invoice & taxes for all three sections of town in unusual pw**
 - **Warrants 1833 & 1834; 1835 & 1836; Tax Lists 1840 and 1841; Warrant 1844 (5 volumes)**
 - **Tax Warrant & Payments (Collector's books): 1864-1869 [missing 1867] (5 volumes)**
 - **Property Tax Warrants & Payments books: 1921-2000 (87 volumes)**
 - **Poll & Head & Resident Tax Warrants & Payments books: 1951-1985 (29 volumes)**
 - **and more ...**

[end of Table of Contents]

“Town Records” Volumes = Selectmen's Records of Town Meetings, Roads, School Districts, Etc., Recorded by Town Clerks

Overview: *Amherst Town Records* volumes are official town records recorded by Town Clerks on behalf of Selectmen from 1760 (when Town of Amherst was incorporated) to 1992. Contents are comprised of Town Meeting warrants and voting results, including (s)election of town officers; records of Selectmen's duties/responsibilities such as laying out new roads, perambulation of town lines, appointment of town positions not chosen by voters (with swearing in handled by Town Clerk as JP), reports of ad-hoc committees, juror selection, and sales of nonresidents' land for unpaid taxes. The *Town Records* reflect the Selectmen's changing duties with the march of time: stray livestock notices and granting of tavern licenses in the 19th century gave way to ordinances dealing with automobile speed limits and placement of telephone poles in the early 20th century. Certain kinds of records – including vital records, tax invoices, appointments, and juror selections – were initially recorded by Town Clerks in the official *Town Records* volumes but later in separate specialized volumes. Taxpayer rolls with amounts of assessed taxes are included for 1760/61 in Volume 1 and for 1801 and 1804 through 1819 in Volume 2; thereafter taxpayer rolls are recorded in separate *Invoice & Taxes* volumes. Vital records – births, marriages, and deaths – are recorded inconsistently in Volumes 1-3; but starting in 1842, vital records are recorded in separate volumes, and are included in annual town reports starting 1884/5. The establishment of a Town Farm aka Pauper Farm (with alms house) in 1831 is recorded in Volume 3, as is the sale of the Meeting House to the Congregational Church & Society in 1832. Although the records of Town Meetings are written by hand by the Town Clerk from the beginning in 1760 to the end of this series in 1992, in the 20th century there are an increasing number of type-written multi-page documents inserted in the *Town Records* volumes.

Earliest records (not part of this record grouping): Although not located in the Town Hall vault, there are earlier records. The “Propriety Records of Souhegan West,” 1729-1770/1, can be viewed on the website of the Historical Society of Amherst, N.H. (hsanh.org); they are stored at the N. H. Historical Society in Concord. They include four divisions of the plantation or township into lots: In 1735, the Proprietors laid out 120 lots of 60 acres each, as well as a place whereon to erect the Public Meeting House & a convenient place for a Public Burying Ground & another for a [militia] Training Field, and lots for minister and school. The second division occurred in 1738, the third in 1747, and the fourth and final in 1770. Original Proprietors' maps, showing the division of Souhegan West into lots, hang in the corridor on the second floor of Amherst Town Hall. Secomb covers this early history in his first five chapters.

“Town Records”:

Series: 1760-1992 – 10 numbered volumes, Vol. 9 being the last (oversized bound manuscripts)

Series: typescript of Vol.1 1760-1791 – 1 large volume

Series: original leather cover of Vol. 2 and several loose original pages

Series: 1784-1803 records of special Town Meetings – 1 volume (bound manuscript)

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault; the earliest *Town Records* volumes lie flat on shelf 1a, some in large flat archival boxes, and the latest ones with red spines are on shelf 1g (caution – loose inserts).

Title: ***Amherst Town Records Volume 1: 1760-1791***

Spine: “AMHERST / TOWN / RECORDS // 1760-1790 [sic]”. Label at bottom of spine: “MSS / NHT / AMHERST / V.1: 1760-1790” [probably from when on deposit with N. H. Historical Society].

Description: 12.5” h x 8.5” x 1.5”; bound volume with light-brown cloth cover (commercial machine-made binding from 20th century); 358 pages, hand paginated in pencil at later date; hand-written by Town Clerks, including Solomon Hutchinson (1760), Samuel Wilkins (1774), Nahum Baldwin (1778), and Joshua Lovejoy (1790). Pages in very fragile condition with tattered edges.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault; microfilm (Roll 1) at Amherst Town Library.

Contents: Town meeting warrants & voting results and other records 1760-1791 [sic], including selection of town

officers and jurors; perambulation of town lines and other official records of Selectmen; some petitions and protests by groups of individuals; sale of nonresidential land for back-taxes.

Volume 1 contents include:

Town charter by Gov. Benning Wentworth: Souhegan West became Amherst in the Province of New Hampshire in New England in 1760 (on first page).

Confiscation of Tory's Property in 1776: Voted to create Committee of Safety and to "improve" estate of Zaccheus Cutler, Esq.

Livestock markings: Registration with Town by Lt. Ralph Ellinwood for sheep in 1788; by Dr. Nathaniel Henchman for sheep in 1789; and by Rollinson Ellinwood for sheep & cattle in 1790 (p. 353).

Ministers: Salary and adjustments for Rev. Daniel Wilkins; answer to call of church by Rev. J. Barnard.

Pew sale: From Archelaus Towne to Jonathan Smith in 1779 (p. 132).

Taxpayer roll: List of taxpayers in 1760 and/or 1761 and 1765 with their assessed ministerial, province, and town taxes (pages 133-136, 141).

Vital statistics: births 1739-1790; marriages 1762-1784; deaths 1754-1786.

Loose Insert: Job request slip dated 5-16-[19]88, NEDCC – Veronica Cunningham, Amherst Town Records 1760-1790, 1 volume to be microfilmed.

Pasted inside front cover: 1) Label with typed index of Births, Marriages, Deaths; 2) label of New Hampshire Historical Society with typed notation: "Deposited by the town."

Index: Separate tall thin booklet entitled (inside front cover) "Index of the Town Records of Amherst / Volume No. One. / From 1760 to 1791 [sic]"; 13 5/8" tall; brown (with maroon veining) marbled cover; hand-written.

Author/recorder not noted; probably created decades later, indices for Vol. 1-5 at same time, with Vol. 1-4 in matching covers.

Copies & Other Sources: This original manuscript on microfilm at Amherst Town Library. A hand-written copy with different pagination at N. H. State Library in Concord, N.H.; indexed. A typescript copy also in Amherst Town Hall vault. The vital records are incorporated in Secomb's *History*.

Title: Amherst Town Records Volume 1: 1760-1791 (Typed Transcription)

Spine: "AMHERST / RECORDS // VOL. 1"; hand-written stickers "1760" & "1778" [sic, should be 1791]

Description: oversized, 13" h; bound volume with brown leather cover; typed on single side of 350 sheets. Note:

Binding dates from early 20th century.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: Same as original manuscript. In addition on last page:

Two agreements with school teachers – "Mr. William King to keep Town School @6 pr day and board him" starting April 1778; "Mr. Brown Emerson to keep a school in this Town @35 pr Quarter," starting July 1778 (on last page).

Loose pages: Sheet of pages 333/334 (1789).

Pasted inside front cover: 1) Sticker at bottom: "BOUND BY F. E. COLE & CO. / BOOKBINDERS / NASHUA, N.H."; 2) Letter dated Dec. 1, 1930: "The New Hampshire Historical Society has received a deposit of Amherst Town Records 1760-1790 [sic], 1 vol. From the town..."; 3) Typed receipt dated Oct. 13, 1931 that an agent of the New Hampshire Secretary of State received one volume of "Old Town Records" from the town clerk of Amherst, N.H. Hand-written at bottom of same piece of paper, a note signed by Z. B. Kemp, Town Clerk: "Vol. 2 [sic]. After copying the original was returned to the Town."

Index: None. One could use the index for manuscript version, although the page numbers will be slightly off.

Copies: Of this typescript, unknown. The original is also stored in Amherst Town Hall vault and a microfilm copy of original manuscript is at Amherst Town Library. A hand-written copy with different pagination is at N. H. State Library in Concord, N.H.; indexed. The vital records are incorporated in Secomb's *History of Amherst*.

Note: Before 2017, at some unknown date decades ago, someone pasted or taped into the inside front cover of this volume a hand-drawn & colored map (8.5" x 14") of Amherst with 12 school districts, which is labeled "presented to the Selectmen of Amherst by Edward Aiken", on which at later date someone erroneously changed year 188_ to 1844. [The plan as of April 2017 is to have this precious item removed from this document and conserved and stored in its own archival box.]

Title: Amherst Town Records 1784-1803 & Memorandum of the Expenditures of the Congregational Church & Society 1841-1843

Cover: hand-written sticker "1784" (which conservator recommends removing).

Interior: The two different titles can be found on two different interior sections.

Description: Bound volume, 12" h x 8" w; mottled/discolored dirty brown cover, rigid parchment binding; hand-written, the first part by Town Clerks, the latter part by Standing Committee of Congregational Church & Society; most pages blank.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault. [Before 2017, was in box on top with other 19th century records.]

Contents: 1) Warrants & voting results for special legal town meetings that were not recorded in the big town records volumes of same period (i.e., Volumes 1 and 2). In the early years, primarily to do with salary of Reverend Jeremiah Barnard. The first legal town meeting recorded in this volume was held 27 Sep. 1784; the first item was to choose a committee “to consult with Revd. Barnard with respect to satisfactory salary from September 1784 to September 1785 or consult him upon a new contract establishing his salary upon a certain sum to be paid him annually during his ministerial labour & Natural Life in case he shall see fit to relinquish his contract with the whole town”; the 4th item was “to see if they [the voters] excuse Mr. Solomon Kitteredge from paying toward the support of the Revd Mr. Barnard as he attends & pays in the northwest parish.” Six men appeared to protest that meeting. At March 1787 Meeting, voted to appropriate part of Front Gallery of meetinghouse to accommodate singers [presumably when used for church services]. The final entry was for special legal town meeting held 7 Nov. 1803 “to grant money to pay an execution recovered by Dr. John Muzzy against said Parish and to conclude whether they will review said action next term.”

2) Accounting of expenditures of church society for 1841-1843.

Copies and Other Sources: These official town records are not included in *Amherst Town Records Vol. 1* nor 2; as of March 2017, they have never been microfilmed. This volume is planned for conservation by NEDCC in 2018, funded by Mooseplate grant secured by Heritage Commission.

Note: File & store with Town Records books.

Title: ***Amherst Town Records Volume 2: 1791-1842***

Spine: “AMHERST / RECORDS // VOL. 2”; hand-written stickers “1791” & “1842”.

Description: oversized, 15.25” h x 10.75” x 2.75”; bound volume with brown leather cover (replacement binding from early 20th century); 559 pages; hand-written; transcript of 4 loose single-sided pages from 1792 was typewritten and tipped in; transcript of 4 single-sided loose pages (pages 540-543) from 1806 was typewritten and tipped in.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault; microfilm (Roll 1) in Amherst Town Library.

Contents: Town meeting warrants & voting results 1791-1820; other Selectmen's records to 1842. Also vital records; tax invoices; tavern licenses.

Volume 2 contents include:

Vital records: Births (pp. 405, 501-529); Marriages 1782-1793 (pp. 401-6, 408-421); Deaths (p. 320).

Tax invoices: Inventory of taxable property, including real estate, certain livestock, and merchandise (“stock in trade”), plus assessed taxes, 1801 and 1804-1819; town divided into 3 sections, each inventoried by a different Selectman; taxpayers listed in roughly geographical order 1801-1810, in later years alphabetical by initial. Function as quasi-censuses of adult males (in 1813, each male 18 to 70 years of age, except those from 18-21 enrolled in militia, ordained ministers, the president, professors, tutors and students of colleges, paupers and idiots) because such residents must pay poll tax even if they own no property.

Tavern licenses: liquor licenses for inns and stores Sep. 1792-1841 (p. 480-500; 350-398; 469-479; 340-341, 344-345, 424; 532, 538).

Revolutionary War: Payments to soldiers in Pounds but no individual names (on last page).

Roads: laid out (pp. 451, 427, 425).

Index: Minimal table of contents/index on two early pages in random order. Separate tall thin booklet entitled (inside front cover) “Index to Town Record Volume Number Five [sic, but 2]”; 13 5/8” tall; brown (with maroon veining) marbled paper cover; hand-written. Author/recorder not noted; probably created decades later, indices for Vol. 1-5 at same time, with Vol. 1-4 in matching covers.

Pasted inside front cover: 1) New Hampshire Historical Society, on deposit from the town; 2) Bound by F. E. Cole & Co., Bookbinders, Nashua, N.H.; 3) Certified copy by State of New Hampshire (undated) signed by Secretary of State (and identification in pencil: A 977 8 [...] / A 515r / 1791-1842).

Attempting to date the binding – About F. E. Cole & Co., bookbinders & printers:

F. E. Cole & Co., Nashua, was founded under that name in 1898, but changed for a few years from 1899 to at least 1904 to Cole, Thompson & Co. Following a partnership change, the firm was called F. E. Cole & Co. again from around 1905, when they were bookbinders, printers and manufacturers of blank books, until around 1931; the name had changed to Cole Printing Co. by 1935. Founder was Frank Elbridge Cole (born Feb. 1867 in Lawrence, Mass; m. 1892 Salem, Mass., Rita Winslow; son Frank Winslow Cole b. June 1896 in North Andover; d. 14 Feb. 1947 Nashua), who ran the firm for decades and was joined by his only son, who was foreman printer when he

married in 1919.

In Nov. 1899, according to “The Nashua of To-Day” by A. C. Gustavus (Granite Monthly, Sep. 1902, p. 171), one John H. Thompson formed a partnership with Frank E. Cole of Nashua and Herbert C. Hyde of Manchester in a firm called Cole, Thompson & Co. that did “all kinds of printing, book binding, and the production of blank books.”

In 1906 Nashua Directory, “COLE F. E. & CO (Frank E. Cole and James M. Sillers) book binders printers paper rulers and blank book mnfrs” at 11 1/2 Water (p. 74); in Business Directory listed under Blank Books, Bookbinders (p. 154), Paper Rulers (p. 167), Printers (p. 168); advert “F. E. COLE & CO. / Printers and Bookbinders / Paper Rulers.” (p. 169). (Frank's former partner James Murchie Sillers (born 1873 Canada; married 1907 Nashua; died July 1956, aged 83, in Methuen) had moved to Lawrence by 1910 where he was a paper binder (1910 census), then to Methuen where he was a bookbinder (1920 census).)

Name change to Cole Printing Co. can easily be tracked in annual “Report of Receipts and Expenditures of the City of Nashua, N.H.” (online ebooklibrary.org): The Report for financial year 1931, published in 1932, still named F. E. Cole & Co., but the Report for 1934 was printed in 1935 by Cole Printing Co. The WW2 Registration of Frank Winslow Cole names Cole Printing Co. as his employer.

In 1947, Frank Winslow Cole sold the “49-year-old business founded by his father, the late F. E. Cole” to Albert Dionne and Edmund Dionne (Nashua Telegraph, 18 Dec. 1947, p. 1), and they retained the name. Feature article in *Nashua Telegraph* of 25 or 27 Jan. 1968 (p. 49, top left with bldg photo) on “Cole Printing Gets Better With Age”: “... the city's oldest printing firm, Cole Printing Co., Franklin Street, continues to prove worth to the community. Originally started on Main Street, the firm was founded in 1898 by F. E. Cole. The business flourished and rapidly began moving and expanding. First, over to Water Street where it remained until 1939 when the building was destroyed by fire. It picked up operations again on Main Street in the old Goodrich block ...” From *Nashua Telegraph* 15 Jan. 1966, p. 16: “Cole Printing Firm Expands With Nashua. ... This building on Franklin st houses the Cole Printing Co, inc. The firm, founded to 1898 by F. E. Cole, moved its operation to this site in 1959 to expand its printing ...”

[Cole researched by KH Dec. 2016]

Copies: On microfilm (Roll 1) at Amherst Town Library. A certified handwritten copy (with different pagination) at N.H. State Library which is included in *The Index to Early New Hampshire Town Records*.

Title: *Amherst Town Records Vol. 2 – Original Cover: 1791*

Inside Cover: “The Town of Amherst Book of Record” (hand-written).

Description: oversized, circa 15” high x nearly 11” wide; brown leather cover in fragile condition; 4 loose sheets of original manuscript (which were transcribed as type-written pages and tipped into re-bound volume).

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: Recorded on inside front cover are grand jurymen chosen 1792-1800. There are 4 loose sheets with tattered edges, hand-written on both sides:

- 1) Two sheets paginated 13/14 and 15/16, where page 13 is part of committee response to portion of town wishing to secede, and pages 14-16 are 1792 warrant to meet at Court House for elections and voting results. (Four single-sided typewritten pages – typescript of these two pages – were tipped into the re-bound *Amherst Town Records Vol. 2*.)
- 2) Two badly-tattered sheets (4 pages, numbering if any not clear) of Committee report recommending town divisions into 9 School Districts (described by residents' names) on 11 March 1806. (Four single-sided typewritten pages – typescript of these two pages – were tipped into the re-bound *Amherst Town Records Vol. 2*, out of chronological order, following page 539.) Warrant article 10 of March 1806 town meeting, which was “to hear report of their Committee chosen to district the town a new for the better accommodation of schooling and act thereon as may be proper” (*Amherst Town Records Vol. 2*, page 108), was accepted and these four pages were meant to be part of the official record, recorded as pages 540-544. (At the following legal town meeting, called August 1806, warrant article 3 was “to see if town will make alteration in School District No. 6 which shall be more agreeable to inhabitants thereof”, as recorded on p. 111 of *Amherst Town Records Vol. 2*.)

Title: *Amherst Town Records Vol. 3: 1821-1847*

Spine: “TOWN / RECORDS / VOL. 3.”; hand-written stickers “1821” & “1867” [sic, incorrect, should be changed to 1847].

Description: oversized, 17.5” h x 11.5” x 2”; bound volume with brown leather cover; 340 pages (paginated in pencil, probably for filming); hand-written by Town Clerks.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault; microfilm (Roll 1) at Amherst Town Library.

Contents: Town Meeting warrants & voting results from 1821 to Feb. 1845; annual financial reports, starting with

1830/31; other official activities of Selectmen, such as laying out roads, appointments of positions not voted in Town Meeting (such as tax collector, firewards), reports of committees by them appointed.

Volume 3 contents include:

Burying Grounds: future Meadowview cemetery 1824 (p. 21); Cricket Corner graveyard 1832 (p. 112); pauper graveyard established 1840 (p. 234).

Fire-Safety Regulations by Firewards: 1834 (p. 136); 1837 (p. 182); 1843 (p. 283-284).

Poor House (Town Pauper Farm) Regulations: 1831 (p. 97).

Separation of Church & State: Sale of Mtg House 1832 (p. 109-111); land for new site of Congr Church 1836 (p. 165, 166).

School Districts: Districts 1-10 defined by 3 key residents in each, 1838 April, (p. 206-207); Districts 1-12 geographical descriptions, 1844 (p. 319-327).

Tavern Licenses = liquor licenses for inns & stores: 1843 (p. 283); 1844 (p. 327); 1845 (p. 331). (See Vol. 2 for prior yrs.)

Vaccinations against smallpox paid by Town: 1840 (p. 225, 226).

Vital records: Children (9) of Isaac P. Weston, born 1836-1852, names & dates (but not locations) recorded 1858 [also in Secomb]; children (5) of Eli & Lydia Sawtelle, b. 1836-1847, names & dates (but not locations) recorded 1862 [also in Secomb]; April 1848 marriage of Melvina C. Stiles & Solomon Curby by Baptist pastor [in Secomb under marriages p. 846, missing from list of Walter L. Stiles's children] (vitals only on last page Vol. 3).

Index: Separate tall thin booklet entitled (inside front cover) "Amherst Town Record Volume No. 3"; 13 5/8" tall; brown (with maroon veining) marbled cover; hand-written. Author/recorder not noted; probably created decades later, indices for Vol. 1-5 at same time, with Vol. 1-4 in matching booklets.

Copies and Other Sources: Microfilm (Roll 1) at Amherst Town Library. Financial summaries, with only slight differences, included with type-set annual town reports as "Report of the Selectmen of Amherst for the Year ending ___", beginning 1840/41.

Title: *Amherst Town Records Vol. 4: 1845-1861*

Spine: "AMHERST / RECORDS. // VOL. 4."; hand-written stickers "1845" & "1861".

Description: oversized (fatter but slightly less high than Vol. 3), 16" h x 11" x 2"; bound volume with leather cover; 690 pages; light blue, ruled paper (very difficult to read on microfilm); hand-written by Town Clerks.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault; microfilm at Amherst Town Library.

Contents: Town Meeting warrants & voting results and annual financial reports by Selectmen and/or auditors from March 1845 to 1861; other official activities of Selectmen, such as laying out roads, town line perambulations, and appointments of positions not voted in Town Meeting (such as tax collector, superintending school committee, constable, firewards, surveyors of highways, surveyor of wood & lumber, measurer of wood & bark, and pound keeper).

Volume 4 contents include:

Amherst Steam Mill: Stockholders (p. 71).

Fire Engine: purchase of second engine approved 1856 (p. 460).

Fire-Safety Regulations by Firewards: 1859 (p. 623-624).

Tavern licenses: liquor licenses for tavern-inns 1843-1845 (p. 283, 327, 331-332) [the final ones before temperance became law].

Liquor Sales for Medicinal, Mechanical & Chemical [and Religious] Purposes Only: agent licensed 1846 (p. 62), 1847 (p. 101), 1848 (p. 131, 144), 1853 (p. 361), 1854 (p. 408), 1855 (p. 436, 447), 1856 (p. 496), 1857 (p. 526), 1858 (p. 570).

Militia Enrollment: of 1855 (p. 440).

Pauper Farm: Stock provisions in 1853 (p. 366).

Souhegan Rail Road stockholders: 1847.

Index: There are two separate index booklets for Town Records Vol. 4, both tall and thin.

Index [4A]: Title written with pen on front cover is "Index Vol. 4"; organized by subject, not alpha order; recorded contemporaneously with Town Records Vol. 4; moss-green with blue marbled cover.

Index [4B]: Title (inside front cover) is "Amherst Town Record / Volume No. 4"; 13 5/8" tall; brown (with maroon veining) marbled cover; hand-written. Author/recorder not noted; probably created decades later, indices for Vol. 1-5 at same time, with Vol. 1-4 in matching booklets. Label on inside front cover: "N. P. GREENE / BOOKSELLER / ... Opp. Post Office / NASHUA, N.H."

Copies or Other Sources: On microfilm (Roll 2) at Amherst Town Library. Financial summaries, with only slight differences, included with type-set annual town reports as “Report of the Selectmen of Amherst for the Year ending ___”, except in 1859/60 called “Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of The Town of Amherst for the Year Ending March 4, 1860”.

Title: Amherst Town Records Vol. 5: 1861-1870

Spine: “RECORDS / AMHERST / VOL. 5.”; hand-written stickers “1861” & “1870”.

Description: oversized, 16” h x 11.75” x 2 1/8”; bound volume with brown leather cover; 560 pages, preprinted pagination; light blue, ruled paper (very difficult to read on microfilm); hand-written by Town Clerks.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault; microfilm at Amherst Town Library.

Contents: Town Meeting warrants & voting results and annual financial reports from 1861 until Feb. 1870; other official activities of Selectmen, such as laying out roads, appointments of positions not voted in Town Meeting (such as tax collector, firewards, liquor agent).

Volume 5 contents include:

Soldiers (18) to whom Town presented revolver: 1861 (p. 27-29).

Fire Department rules & regulations: 1862 (p. 87).

Enrollment of All Able-Bodied Men – with age, occupation & occasional remarks such as disabilities: 20 Aug. 1862 (p. 98-103).

Militia: able-bodied men aged 18-45 on 21 April 1867 (p. 414).

School Districts: Bounds in 1863 (p. 170-184).

Index: Separate tall thin booklet entitled (hand-written inside front cover) “Town of Amherst / Vol. 5”; 13 5/8” tall; olive-green marbled paper cover; hand-written. Author/recorder not noted; probably created at same time as indices for Vol. 1-4.

Copies or Other Sources: On microfilm (Roll 2) at Amherst Town Library. Financial summaries included with type-set annual town reports.

Title: Amherst Town Records Vol. 6: 1870-1900

Spine: “AMHERST / RECORDS // VOL. 6 / 1870-1900”.

Description: oversized, 18” h x 12.5” x 2.75”; bound volume with red leather spine and black cover; 560 pages; ruled paper with preprinted pagination; hand-written by Town Clerks.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, shelf 1g; microfilm (Roll 3) at Amherst Town Library.

Contents: Town Meeting warrants & voting results; juror selections; other official activities of Selectmen; oaths administered to town officers, certificates of service; tax collector's sale of nonresident land.

Volume 6 contents include:

Schoolhouses: Inventory of contents in Jan. 1881.

Liquor agent: appt George S. Palmer 1873 (p. 70); office abolished 1882 (p. 255, 274, 275).

Index: Separate paper index, no cover; 13.75” h x 8 5/8” w; inserted.

Copies or Other Sources: On microfilm (Roll 3) at Amherst Town Library.

Title: Amherst Town Records Vol. 7: 1900-1943

Spine: “TOWN RECORDS / VOL 7 // AMHERST / N.H.”.

Description: oversized, 18.5” h; bound volume in red leather; 596 pages, prepaginated; mostly hand-written by Town Clerk(s) but also some typed reports stapled in.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, shelf 1g; microfilm (Roll 4) at Amherst Town Library.

Contents: Town meeting warrants & voting results; juror selections; votes of residents in elections (including presidential primary of 1916); other official activities of Selectmen such as town line perambulation and hearings on road petitions; tax collector's bonds; records of sales of land of nonresidents for unpaid property taxes.

Volume 7 contents include:

Automobile by-law adopted by Board of Selectmen in 1903 – no motor vehicle shall exceed 7 miles per hour & motor vehicles must come to full stop when meeting a team (p. 42).

Congregational Church of Amherst – articles of agreement for incorporation in Oct. 1933, signed by five persons including Harold H. Wilkins and Elizabeth N. Bean (Mrs. Norwin S.) (page 420).

First Baptist Church – articles of agreement for incorporation in March 1902, signed by James M. Jackson, Jno. M. Hartshorn, Lindley F. Wyman, George L. Newton, George E. Hartshorn, Rubie Sargent, Abbie L. Jackson, and Lizzie M. Bills (p. 17).

Electric light companies – permission by BOS to erect poles (e.g., Sep. 1914 on p. 193; also p. 242-243)

New England Telephone & Telegraph Company – permission by BOS to erect poles in 1905 and other years.

Sunday laws adopted by Board of Selectmen in 1932 – playing sports allowed; lawful to sell gasoline, oil & other automobile supplies & to furnish service & repairs required by automobiles on the Lord's Day within the Town of Amherst (pages 390-391)

Report of Committee to Inquire into Town Forests – 2 typed pages (stapled onto p. 539).

Loose Inserts:

1) Warrants for town meetings (partially printed, partially typed, partially hand-written two-sided single extra-long sheet per year): 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941 [and possibly other years too].

2) Ways and Means Committee Reports to annual Town Meeting: 1935 (7 pages, typed); 1936 (6 pages, one-sided, typed).

3) Preliminary Report of Amherst, N.H. Zoning Commission, appointed by Moderator at 1940 annual Town Meeting, which recommended dividing town into Village District, Roadside District, and Rural District (4 pages typed on 8.5x11" paper).

4) Report on Abandonment of North Weare & Manchester-Milford Branches of Boston & Maine R.R. by General Session of the Interstate Commerce Commission held at Washington, D.C., on 3 Nov. 1925, signed by George A. McGinty, Secretary. It reads in part: "The Manchester & Milford Branch was built in 1900... The township of Amherst, population 868 in 1920, through which this line passes, is also served by the Keene branch. ... Passenger service now consists of one trip each way weekdays made by a gasoline motor car. The travel is extremely light and is decreasing. A summer settlement at Baboosic lake uses automobiles to a great extent. Freight service is provided 3 days a week. The total tonnage handled in 10 months of 1924 was 4200 tons. The evidence indicates that granite, lumber, and fruit are sources of possible traffic but affords little assurance of development sufficient to support a railroad located as this line is. ... It appears that the needs of this section for rail facilities other than the Keene branch and the Southern division are clearly disproportionate to the cost of operation." (2 typewritten pages.)

[Note: Not all loose inserts catalogued as of 11 April 2017.]

Copy or Other Sources: On microfilm (Roll 4) at Amherst Town Library.

Title: Amherst Town Records Vol. 8 A: 1944-1971

Spine: "TOWN OF / AMHERST / RECORDS // VOLUME 8 A".

Description: oversized bound volume, 18.5" h; red leather spine, black cloth hard cover; odd binding of extra glued-together pages in front and back that was designed to accommodate scrapbook-like nature of this volume with its inclusion (taped, pasted or stapled) of many separate typed documents filed with Town Clerk; pages 1-340 prepaginated; mostly hand-written by Town Clerk(s) on ruled paper.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, shelf 1g; microfilm (Roll 5) at Amherst Town Library.

Contents: Minutes of town meetings written by Town Clerk; ordinances by Selectmen; several emendations of Commissioners' Return of Highway Layout Milford-Amherst 1970; resignations of town officers (e.g., police chief in 1946). Final entry (p. 340): "On Feb. 1971, the office of Town Clerk, Tax Collector and Zoning Administrator was moved into Town Hall where office space was made out of part of the dining room. ... The 2000 lb safe was moved from Clerk's office on Courthouse Road ..."

Loose Inserts: [Not catalogued as of 11 April 2017.]

Title: Amherst Town Records Vol. 8 B: 1971-1988

Spine: "TOWN OF / AMHERST / RECORDS // VOLUME 8 B".

Description: oversized bound volume, 18.25" h x 12 1/8" x 2.5"; red leather spine, black cloth hard cover; odd binding of extra glued-together pages, with rectangular holes, inserted in front and back that was designed to accommodate scrapbook-like nature of this volume with its inclusion (taped, pasted or stapled) of many separate typed documents filed with Town Clerk; pages 341-600 (last used page is 590); mostly hand-written by Town Clerks on ruled paper. Multiple loose inserts.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, shelf 1g; microfilm (Roll 5) at Amherst Town Library.

Contents: Minutes of town meetings (the final one in this volume being Recessed Town Meeting 15 June 1987); ordinances by Selectmen; and other responsibilities of Board of Selectmen, including stop sign erection locations; petitions for roads; memo to Town Clerk regarding dump stickers; and memo to firewards authorizing them to assign fire apparatus to Mutual Aid at their discretion (May 1972). Election records – local, county, state, and primaries.

Volume 8B contents include:

Boston Post Cane to Oldest Citizen – 3 newspaper clippings including *Boston Globe*, 19 Sep. 1960 and *Milford Cabinet* 2-19-70 when given to Benjamin F. Monson (pages 598-599).

Loose Inserts:

- Jasper Valley warrantee deed acceptance by Town Clerk, 10 August 1970 (inserted between p. 352 & 353).

- Amherst Subdivision Regulations, July 1976, signed by Planning Board (19 pages, last sheet pasted down p. 441,

staple probably removed for microfilming).

- Master Plan [of] Amherst, Nov. 1980 (p. 502).

[Note: Not all loose inserts catalogued as of 11 April 2017.]

Copy or Other Sources: On microfilm (Roll 5) at Amherst Town Library.

Title: ***Amherst Town Records Vol. 9: 1988-1992***

Spine: "TOWN OF / AMHERST / RECORD // VOLUME 9".

Description: oversized, 18.5" h x 12.5" w; metal binding, very heavy; red leather spine/cover; not paginated (most of book is blank); hand-written by Town Clerk, Nancy Demers.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, shelf 1g.

Contents: Minutes of annual town meetings 1988-1992.

Loose insert: "Synopsis of Town Meeting March 10, 1992," 13 pages (unpaginated), typewritten on standard-size (8.5x11") paper.

Warrants for Special Town Meetings – 3 loose sheets

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, shelf 1c, in small archival box (along with *List of Naturalized Persons*) labeled Record Group 7 Box 5 "Nineteenth Century Records Individual Items".

Title: ***Warrant for Town Meeting June 21, 1843***

Description: Single sheet of paper, 8 5/8" x 13", folded; hand-written meeting notice, signed by all 3 Selectmen.

Contents: About tombs.

Title: ***Warrant for Town Meeting May 7th, 1847***

Description: Single sheet of paper, 8" x 12.5", folded; hand-written meeting notice, signed by all 3 Selectmen; red wax seal in upper left corner.

Contents: To see if sell Town Pauper Farm.

Title: ***Warrant for Town Meeting August 6th, 1849, Wilton RR***

Description: Single sheet of blue ruled paper, 7 7/8" x 13", folded; hand-written meeting notice, signed by all 3 Selectmen; red paper 'seal' in upper left corner.

Contents: To protest alteration of Wilton Railroad.

Appointments of Town Officers

Earliest Records: Earlier appointments were included/recorded in *Town Records* books. (See above.)

Series: Earliest Town officers (elected rather than appointed): 1760-1851 – 1 manuscript booklet

Series: Appointments of Town Officers: 1891-1930, 1931-1973, 1973-1985 – 3 volumes

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault. The 3 skinny tall Appointments record books are on shelf 1e, standing upright. The manuscript booklet listing town officers from 'the beginning' is in small archival box on shelf 1c (RG6).

Title: ***Record of Earliest Town Officers and Representatives: 1760-1851***

Front/top page: "Selectmen" (handwritten, small, bottom right corner)

Description: No cover, hand-sewn paper booklet; 10" h x 7.75" w; 25 pages; hand-written in a beautiful neat script.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, shelf 1c, in small archival box. [In April 2017, discovered among old deeds.]

Contents: An explanation on front page of incorporation of town of Amherst, N.H. in 1760 and choice of first Town Clerk. Lists of earliest Moderators, Town Clerks, Selectmen, and town's elected Representatives to Congress.

Other Sources: Secomb's *History of Amherst* includes all of these and takes the list three decades further.

Title: ***Appointments of Town Officers: 1891-1930***

Spine: "RECORD / OF / APP'MTS".

Description: Bound volume, tall and thin; 13.75" h x 8.75" w ; brown leather spine, black cloth hard cover; fill-in-the-blanks printed form, two oaths per page; not paginated.

Contents: Each record of an appointment includes name & position, duration, names of selectmen who made the appointment, date on which oath of office was made, signature of Justice of Peace before whom oath was sworn, and signature of Town Clerk attesting to accuracy. (JP and Town Clerk were often the same person.) Appointed officers include: tax collector (e.g., Joel F. Osgood Jr. in 1891); library trustee (e.g., Rev. Josiah G. Davis and Eliz. W. Nichols in 1891); town treasurer (e.g., Frederick W. Brown in 1916); fire wards (e.g., Ashton L. Martin appointed chief fire warden in June 1919 for indefinite period); policemen (e.g., Benjamin Monson as chief of police in July 1917; and John J. Collmi as special police at Gault's dance hall and Herman Glatzer as special police at Wenzel's dance hall [both at Baboosic Lake] for same few days in summer 1927); killer of unlicensed dogs (e.g., George F. Hanson in 1891); election inspectors (e.g., Joel F. Osgood, George K. Walker, and Frank Hartshorn in Sep. 1892); ballot clerk (e.g., Frank Hanson in Oct. 1902); ballot inspector (e.g., Frank A. Holbrook in Oct. 1902); ballot distributor (e.g., Henry M. Parker in Oct. 1902); and sealer of weights and measures (e.g., George P. Boutelle in 1891). One loose record: Harold Wilkins as surveyor of wood & lumber in 1914.

Copies or Other Sources: Some town officers, in particular moderators, tax collectors, clerks, treasurers, and selectmen, of this period are recorded in *Amherst, New Hampshire 1881-1982: A Sleeping Town Awakens* (1983, p. 272). The names of many town officers can be extracted from annual town reports.

Title: ***Appointments of Town Officers: 1931-1973***

Description: Bound volume, tall and thin; 14" h x 8.5" w; red cloth spine (no title), black cloth hard cover; fill-in-the-blanks printed form, 2 appointments with oaths per page; paginated 1-200.

Contents: Each record of an appointment includes name & position, duration, names of selectmen who made the appointment, date on which oath of office was made, signature of Justice of Peace before whom oath was sworn, and signature of Town Clerk attesting to accuracy. (JP and Town Clerk were often the same person.) On page 20 is A. L. Martin's oath as fire chief, 15 April 1939.

Two loose inserts (originally part of book): Ronald Berlak appointment to tree committee and Herbert Harding appointment to conservation committee in 1972.

Pasted-In: Separate card from State of New Hampshire Department of Resources & Economics Development, Division of Resource Development that is David C. Hanlon's oath of office for Forest Fire Service, dated April 1972.

Index: Integral, in front.

Title: ***Appointments of Town Officers: 1973-1985***

Cover: "RECORD OF / APPOINTMENTS"

Description: Bound volume, tall and thin; 14.25" h x 9" w; dark brown spine, black cloth hard cover; fill-in-the-blanks printed form, 2 appointments with oaths per page; paginated 1-208.

Contents: Each record of an appointment includes name & position, duration, names of selectmen who made the appointment, date on which oath of office was made, signature of Justice of Peace before whom oath was sworn, and signature of Town Clerk attesting to accuracy. (JP and Town Clerk were often the same person.) The offices

appointed in 1973 include: Conservation Commission, Historic District Commission, air pollution committee, library trustee, planning board, board of adjustment, deputy fire warden, and one selectman. Appointments in 1974 include: full-time police officer, Road Commission, Recreation Commission, and tree committee. A dog officer was appointed in 1976.

Index: Integral, in front.

Lists of **Highway Surveyors** appear in some Tax Assessor's notebooks (partial inventories):

Title: *Tax Assessor's Notebook: 1854 – Partial Inventory*

Cover: “Joseph Mace Esq. / in a/c with / Daniel A. Fletcher / 1854”

Description: Small bound volume, 6” h x 4” w; tan cardboard cover, hand-written in pencil; many blank pages.

Contents: (1) Taxpayers (in no discernible order) with acres of meadow, pasture, and/or wood land. (2) 3-page list of **Highway Surveyors**. (3) 1 page of bushels of crops & inventory [presumably of Pauper Farm], followed by names and number of individuals (3 male adults, 7 women and 3 children) at Pauper Farm.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, shelf 1f in small archival Tax Records Box 6 [as of July 2017].

Title: *Tax Assessor's Notebook: 1868*

Inside cover: “Selectmen of Amherst N.H.”

First page: *Highway Surveyors*.

Description: Small bound volume, black portfolio cover, 6” h x 4” w; hand-written.

Contents: Undated. Taxpayers, sorted by 12 districts, polls & inventory but no taxes. Second page starts with District 1, Abbott H.. E. District 1 includes LeFavour & Woodbury with “stock in trade” valued \$2500 and Moulton Joshua with “stock in trade” value \$2000. District 2 includes Irish names. At end, rough notes on inventory.

Research note: The only year for which Moulton was taxed on stock in trade (yes, \$2000) was 1868. -KH

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, shelf 1f in small archival Tax Records Box 6 [as of July 2017].

Title: *Tax Assessor's Notebook: 1869 & 1870 Residents – Partial Inventory*

Title page: “Invoice 1869” (hand-written in pencil); “1869” sticker on cover

Description: Small bound volume; 6 1/8” h x 4” w; black portfolio cover; hand-written; first year in pencil, second year names are neatly written in pen but inventory entries in pencil.

Contents: Resident taxpayers, sorted by 12 districts, with partial inventory, of polls and taxable personal property. (No real estate. No taxes.)

First page of each year: list of **Highway Surveyors** annotated “sworn.”

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, shelf 1f in small archival Tax Records Box 5 [as of July 2017].

Juror Selections

Earliest Records (not part of this record grouping): Jurors (also called jurymen) were included/recorded in *Town Records* books. Lists of jurymen can be found among another type of record book, namely: *Invoice & Taxes Workbook: 1827-1832; & Marriages 1842/3 and Deaths 1842-1849* (tile on spine: LETTERS), which is located in Amherst Town Hall vault, shelf 1g, grouped with early Vital Records. Its first page contains a “List of persons selected for **Jurymen** in Amherst agreeable to act of Legislature in July 1827”; only one among long list of names is dated (i.e., Feb. term 1828).

Title: *Juror Selection Book: 1929-1970*

Description: Bound volume, tall and thin; 14” h x 8.75” w; burgundy leather spine, black cloth hard cover; fill-in-the-blanks printed form, 1 drawing per page of 1 or 2 persons; 199 paginated pages, but only 110 used.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, shelf 1e, standing upright.

Contents: Jurors drawn in presence of Selectmen and several “citizens;” recorded by Town Clerk (Z. B. Kemp *et al.*).

Vital Records

Historical Overview: Vital records/statistics are births, marriages, and deaths registered by residents of the town with the Town Clerk. Also included in this grouping are marriage waivers and blood tests for marriage (confidential 20th century records) and some state publications pertaining to vital records.

“An Act relating to the registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths. Section 1. Be it enacted, etc. [by the N.H. Legislature], That the town clerk of every town and the city clerk of every city in this State, shall record every birth, marriage and death in his respective town or city that shall come to his knowledge, in the manner hereinafter prescribed: stating the names of the parents of the children born, and the residence of the persons married and deceased and the age of the deceased, if known, for which service said clerk shall receive the sum of 6 cents for the record of each birth, marriage or death by him recorded, to be paid by the town or city where the record is made. Section 2. Every physician shall keep a record of the several births in which he shall assist professionally, also of the death of all persons upon whom he shall hereafter attend in their last sickness and at the time of such death; which record shall contain the date of such birth, the sex of the child, and the names and residence of the parents; also the date of such death, the names, age and residence of the deceased; and shall annually hereafter in the month of April, furnish a copy of the record of such births to the clerk of the town in which the parents of such child reside, and also to the clerk of the town in which such death occurred a copy of the record of such death or deaths; and in case there shall have been no attending physician, every parent, person next of kin, householder, and keeper of any almshouse, poor farm or prison, shall give notice to such clerk of every birth with the names of the parents, and each with the name, age and residence of the deceased, which shall take place in their respective families or houses in each town or city, and for each birth, and for each birth or death so rendered, every physician shall receive of the clerk to whom such copy may be furnished, the sum of five cents, to be paid by the town or city where such clerk resides. Section 3. Every justice, minister or clerk of the people called Friends, shall annually return to the clerk of the town or city where such marriage was solemnized, and to the clerk of the town or city where each of the persons joined in marriage may reside, if within this State, a certified copy of his record. [No section 4.] Section 5. If any person whose duty it is to make such record and return shall neglect so to do for the space of one year after the date of such birth, marriage or death, he shall forfeit five dollars for such offence, to be recovered in an action of debt, one half for the use of the prosecutor and the other half for the use of the county in which the defendant may reside. Section 6. Chapter 841 of the pamphlet laws, entitled “An act to provide for the registration of births, marriages and deaths,” approved July 7, 1849, is hereby repealed. Approved [effective] July 4, 1851.” (“Laws of New Hampshire Passed June Session 1851”, *New Hampshire Gazette*, Portsmouth, 29 July 1851)

“Publishing Births, Marriages and Deaths. Some years since the Town of Amherst adopted the plan of publishing annually with the Treasurer's and Overseers of Poor's reports, the clerk's statistics of births, marriages and deaths the past year. At the late session of the Legislature, an act was passed by which all towns are required to publish annually these statistics with their annual reports for circulation the first of ___.” (*Farmers Cabinet*, Amherst, N.H., 22 Dec. 1887.)

Earliest Records (not part of this record grouping): Earliest vital records of Amherst are recorded in haphazard fashion in *Amherst Town Records Vol. 1* and 2 and 3. Volume 1 contains: births 1739-1790; marriages 1762-1784; deaths 1754-1786. Volume 2 contains: births (pp. 405, 501-529); marriages 1782-1793 (pp. 401-6, 408-421); deaths (p. 320). The last page of Volume 3 contains: Children (9) of Isaac P. Weston, born 1836-1852, names & dates (but not locations) recorded 1858 (also in Secomb); children (5) of Eli & Lydia Sawtelle, b. 1836-1847, names & dates (but not locations) recorded 1862 (in Secomb too); April 1848 marriage of Melvina C. Stiles & Solomon Curby by Baptist pastor (in Secomb under marriages p. 846, but missing from list of Walter L. Stiles's children). (Secomb captured most if not all of those in *History of Amherst*, 1883; in particular, he lists marriages in Amherst not recorded in his family genealogies, “copied primarily from the Town Records,” p. 844-854.)

Amherst Town Records Vol. 1, 2, and 3 are available on microfilm at Amherst Town Library.

Other Related Sources:

Annual town reports: Vital records were/are included in annual town reports of Amherst starting with calendar year 1884 (in 1884/5 report); since some point near end of 20th century, parents were given choice of confidentiality so not *all* births published.

Online sources: familysearch.org has all 18th and 19th century Amherst B-M-D records filed by Amherst Town Clerk with State (started early in 20th century, but Clerk combed through early records to go as far back as possible). Historical Society of Amherst website includes vital statistics from annual town reports of Amherst, N.H.: Births 1884-1930; Marriages 1884-1930; Deaths registered in Amherst 1884-1989; Burials (brought from away & buried in Amherst) 1884-1989. HSA website also has index to Baptisms 1741-1826, Births 1796, and Deaths 1774 and 1792-1808 and 1815 from Congregational Church of Amherst Records Volume 1. HSA genealogist Jackie Marshall entered transcriptions of practically all Amherst gravestones along with properly sourced genealogy data into findagrave.com website. Microfilm by/from Genealogical Society of Utah (#2133916) on Amherst vital records, located at Amherst Town Library, includes: MB 1838-1867; MBD 1863-1893; MBD 1894-1909; MBD 1906-1915.

Series: From 1842-1937, recorded by Town Clerks – 10 bound volumes of varying sizes, hand-written, covering births, marriages, and deaths registered in Amherst, N.H. Starting in 1864, the multi-year volumes were bound with custom titles on spine and fill-in-blank preprinted pages.

Series: From 1892 & 1894, 2 birth certificate cards by M.D.

Series: From 1938-1994, standardized printed multi-year volumes with custom titles – namely, one 14-volume series on births, one matching 14-volume series on marriages (except one is missing), and one matching 14-volume series on deaths.

Series: From 1995-1998, births & deaths; also marriages (from as early as 1936) registered in these years – loose sheets in archival box. CONFIDENTIAL.

Series: From 1935-1940, deaths and burials, recorded by Sexton – in one hand-written bound volume.

Series: Two books published by State of New Hampshire, *Registration Report of New Hampshire 1913-14* and *N.H. Registration Report for 1922-23 of Births, Marriages, Divorces and Deaths, Vol. 29*, whose statistical tables include Amherst, N.H.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault. Dedicated vital records volumes prior to 1938 are standing on shelf 1g. Vital records starting 1938 are on shelf 2c and/or shelf 2d. Upright archival Vital Records box on shelf 2c.

Title: *Marriages 1842/3 and Deaths 1842-1849*

Spine: “LETTERS”

First page: List of names as Jurymen.

Inside – title of first section: “Invoice and Taxes” (hand-written)

Description: Bound volume; oversized, 15.25” h x 10.75” w; brown leather spine and cover; unpaginated; column headings and vertical lines for spreadsheet section; hand-written; contents hand-written. About 3/4 blank.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, shelf 1g.

Contents:

(1) List of persons selected for Jurymen in Amherst agreeable to act of Legislature in July 1827; only one among long list of names is dated (i.e., Feb. term 1828).

(2) 1827-1832 tax invoices: inventories of taxable property including real estate, live stock, stock in trade, financial investments, with corresponding assessed taxes for each taxpayer. [These years are also covered in another volume.]

(3) Vital records:

Marriages 16 June 1842 to 28 Feb 1843.

Deaths 1842 – 1849. Among 29 deaths in 1843, 4 identified as paupers; among 20 deaths in 1844, 2 identified as paupers.

Title: *Marriages 1843-1852; and Dec. 1901*

Spine: “RECORDS”.

Cover: “MARRIAGES” (imprinted).

Description: Bound volume, 13.5” h x 9” w x 1.5” thick; brown leather spine and cover; fully manuscript.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, shelf 1g.

Contents: Marriages registered in Amherst, 1843-1852 and one marriage in Dec. 1901. Deaths 1760-1788 [probably copied from Town Records]. Also (near the end, also recorded by Town Clerk): 3 stray cow notices (2 in 1853, one in 1865); stray horse notice 1858; damage by stray sheep 1865. Also, deed dated 19 Nov. 1855 selling personal property within and around the foundry building in Amherst, including foundry stock and a lot of castings, to Luther Smith for \$1500.

Title: ***Births and Deaths 1850-1863***[sic]

Spine: label pasted on "1850-1864[sic]"

Description: Bound volume, oversized but thin, 15.75" h ; red leather spine, black cloth cover; hand-written; more than half blank.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, shelf 1g.

Contents: Births and deaths registered in Amherst 1850-1863. Also marriages performed by clergy (not all dated).

Title: ***Marriages 1854-1869***

Spine: "RECORDS".

Cover: label pasted on "Marriages / 1854 to 1869".

Description: Thin bound volume, 13.5" h x 8.75" w; brown leather spine, green marbled cover; printed column headings; handwritten entries of date with name, residence and age of bride and groom.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, shelf 1g.

Title: ***Marriage Intentions/Certificates 1869-1890***

Page headings: "Record of the Intention of Marriage / Amherst, N. H."

Description: bound volume, 14" h x 8.5" w; maroon spine, black cover; printed forms; hand-written entries. In back, 10 additional individual marriage certificates on separate smaller pieces of paper are tipped in to binding (including Hill-Danforth marriage 1879).

Title: ***Marriage Intentions/Certificates Dec. 1890-Feb. 1894***

Page headings: "Record of the Intention of Marriage / Amherst, N. H."

Description: Thin bound volume, 12" h x 9" w x 1" thick; black spine, blue/yellow/multi marbled cover; printed forms; hand-written entries; most pages blank.

Title: ***Marriages, Births, and Deaths 1864-1893***

Spine: "MARRIAGES / BIRTHS / DEATHS / 1864-1893".

Description: Oversized bound volume, 18" h x 12.75"; red spine, black cover; printed forms; hand-written entries; tabs for each section.

Title: ***Marriages, Births and Deaths 1894-1909***

Spine: "MARRIAGES / BIRTHS / DEATHS / 1894-1909".

Description: Oversized bound volume, 17" h x 11.75"; red spine, black cover; printed forms; hand-written entries

Title: ***Birth Certificates by M.D. of Two Huchinson Siblings Born 1892 and 1894***

Description: 2 cards 5.5" x 3 5/8"; fill-in-blanks printed forms; hand-written entries.

Contents: Both filled in/out by J. B. Pettingill, M.D., of Amherst. Parents of both children, their 3rd and 4th respectively, were Ludlow and Clara Huchinson [sic]. 1) Birth of Leviny [sp?] Huchinson on 29 Aug. 1892. 2) Birth of Alpheus W. Huchinson on 14 April 1894.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, in archival box together with 1995-1998 B-M-D records. [Found in 2017 loosely inserted in Dog Licenses volume.]

Note: Both birth records were registered with N.H. State (familysearch.org) with surname spelled Hutchinson. The birth record of the daughter as being 27 Aug. is recorded without a first name. In 1900 census of Amherst, at age 6 he is "boarder" in house of 51-yr-old single man; at same time a girl called Mamie E. Hutchinson, aged 8 and born August 1892, is "boarder" in a different household, of elderly childless farm couple. Their father Ludlow, furniture maker, was living in Milford with a new wife, married 1897, who had 3 children of her own.

20th Century Vital Records

Title: ***Marriages and Births 1910-1932 & Deaths 1906-1932***

Spine: "MARRIAGES / 1910-1932 / BIRTHS / 1910-1932 / DEATHS / 1906-1932".

Description: Oversized bound volume, 17.25" h; red spine, black cover; printed form; index for each section.

Condition: spine is damaged.

Index: One for each section integral.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, shelf 1g.

Title: ***Births and Deaths 1933-1937***

Spine: TOWN OF / AMHERST, N.H. // RECORD OF / MARRIAGES, / BIRTHS / and/ DEATHS”

Bottom of spine: Place “NATIONAL”

Description: bound volume; 14.5” h x 9.75” w; maroon leather spine, black cover; typed entries on printed forms. With 3 integral tabbed indexes. Condition: damaged spine held on by tape.

Index: One for each section integral.

Loose inserts: 1) Application for correcting or completing birth certificate 2007 for birth of Elizabeth – corrected to Elisabeth – Anne Hawood born June 1935. 2) Letter dated 1944 requesting name correction in June 1936 marriage record of Hemeon & Pothier, reversing bride's first and middle names.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, grouped with historic Vital Records, shelf 1g.

Titles: ***Births 1938-1948; 1949-1958; 1959-1964; 1965-1967; 1968-1970; 1971-1974; 1975-1977; 1978-1980; 1981-1982; 1983-1984; 1985-1986; 1987-1989; DEC. 1989-DEC. 1991; NOV. 1991-DEC. 1994***

Spine(s): “AMHERST BIRTHS 19xx-19xx” (custom)

Description: 14 bound volumes; all have red spines except 1983-84 which has a black spine; two different sizes: volumes 1949-1958; 1959-1964; 1965-1967; 1968-1970; 1971-1974; 1978-1980; 1981-1982; 1983-1984 have ca. 11” height; volumes 1938-1948; 1985-1986; 1987-1989; DEC. 1989-DEC. 1991; NOV. 1991 – DEC. 1994 are taller

Contents: Births registered in Amherst, 1938-1994.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, grouped with modern Vital Records, shelf 2c.

Titles: ***Marriages 1938-1948; 1949-1958; 1959-1964; 1965-1967; 1968-1970; 1971-1974; 1975-1977; 1978-1980; 1981-1982; 1985-1986; 1987-1989; DEC. 1989-DEC. 1991; DEC. 1991-DEC. 1994***

Spine(s): “AMHERST MARRIAGES 19xx-19xx”

Description: 13 bound volumes, red spines; two different sizes (same as Births and Deaths volumes for same years).

Contents: Marriages registered in Amherst, 1938-1994. Note: Volume for Marriages 1983-1984 (black spine) is missing

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, grouped with modern Vital Records, split between shelf 2c and 2d.

Titles: ***Deaths 1938-1948; 1949-1958; 1959-1964; 1965-1967; 1968-1970; 1971-1974; 1975-1977; 1978-1980; 1981-1982; 1983-1984; 1985-1986; 1987-1989; DEC. 1989-DEC. 1991; NOV. 1991-DEC. 1994***

Spine(s): “AMHERST DEATHS 19xx-19xx” (custom)

Description: 14 bound volumes, red spines except for 1983-1984 which has black spine; two different sizes.

Volumes 1949-1958; 1959-1964; 1965-1967; 1968-1970; 1971-1974; 1975-1977, 1978-1980; 1981-1982; 1983-1984 have ca. 11” height; volumes 1938-1948; 1985-1986; 1987-1989; DEC. 1989-DEC. 1991; NOV. 1991 – DEC. 1994 are taller.

Condition: On Deaths 1949-58 volume, upper third of spine is detached.

Contents: Deaths registered in Amherst, 1938-1994.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, grouped with modern Vital Records, shelf 2d.

Title: ***Burials 1935-1940***

Title page: “Record of Deaths” (hand-written)

Description: Bound volume, oversized but thin, 18” h x 11.5” w; burgundy spine, brown marbling with diagonal striping pattern on cover; hand-written entries on printed forms for marriages; only 7 pages utilized.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault; grouped with modern Vital Records, shelf 2d, lying horizontally on top of standing volumes.

Contents: Each page signed by Clarence H. Hagar, sexton. Columns for person's name, lot no., undertaker, grave no., and date of burial (except burial dates missing for 1935). There were 36 deaths in 1935; 19 in 1940. The earliest cremation was one in 1939. Cemetery is not named, presumably Meadowview.

Copies or Other Sources: Almost all of the information is included in “List of Burials 1934-1974” except that this volume contains a few registered deaths for which there are no recorded burials.

Title: ***Marriage Waivers: 1973-1977***

Description: Loose sheets, 8.5 x 11

Contents: Waivers of required blood test and/or parental/guardian permission for underage and/or less than 5 days waiting period. CONFIDENTIAL.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, in upright archival Vital Records Box, shelf 2c. [As of July 2017.]

Title: ***Blood Tests for Marriage: 1977, 1978, 1979***

Description: Stack of 8.5x8.5 sheets in 3 large manila envelopes, one per year

Contents: CONFIDENTIAL

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, shelf 2c. [As of July 2017.]

Title: ***Blood Tests for Marriage: 1980 & 1981***

Description: small post-hole binder, blue/grey cover, 9" h x 9.25" w

Contents: CONFIDENTIAL.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, on shelf with modern Vital Records, shelf 2c.

Title: ***Births Registered in Amherst, N.H., 1995-1998***

Description: Loose sheets in too-small black binder, numbered up to 290; with typed index.

Contents: Births in 1995-1998 registered in Amherst, N.H., one per sheet. CONFIDENTIAL.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, upright archival storage Vital Records Box, shelf 2d. [As of July 2017.]

Title: ***Deaths Registered in Amherst, N.H., 1995-1998***

Description: Loose sheets in too-small black binder; with typed index by name.

Contents: Deaths in 1995-1998 filed by Town Clerk of Amherst, N.H.. CONFIDENTIAL.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, upright archival storage Vital Records Box, shelf 2d. [As of July 2017.]

Title: ***Marriages Registered in Amherst, N.H., 1995-1998***

Description: Loose sheets in too-small black binder; with typed index by name.

Contents: Marriages filed by Town Clerk of Amherst, N.H., 1995-1998, numbered in order of filing. These include [at least] two marriages in 1936 (#127; and #223, filed 1998); marriage in 1942 (#124A); marriage in 1946 (#222); marriage in 1955 (#122, filed 1997); marriage in 1973 (#1, filed 1995).

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, upright archival storage Vital Records Box, shelf 2d. [As of July 2017.]

Microfilms of B-M-D

1) M-B-D 1850-1964; marriages 1938-1948 p. 115.

2) Marriages 1938-1948 p. 116.

3) Marriages Christopher, David 1949-1958.

4) Marriages 1959-1964; Births 1965-1967 p. 75.

5) Births 1965-1967 p. 76; Deaths 1968-1970 END BK.

Copies: A duplicate set of all 5 films was in same box prior to March 2017. Recommend that duplicate set be stored elsewhere. [Are these CONFIDENTIAL??]

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, in small open cardboard box, shelf 2f.

Cemetery Records

Series: 2 cemetery maps

Series: Deeds for cemetery lots in Meadowview, Cricket Corner, and Chestnut Hill cemeteries.

Series: Burial records.

Storage: Cricket Corner cemetery map, stack of deeds (from second half of 20th century) for three cemeteries, and typed burial records were put together in an archival upright Cemetery Records Box [as of March 2017]; added *Burial Transit Permits 1969-1974* and *Burial Permits 1974-79* [as of July 2017].

Title: ***Design of Meadow View Cemetery in the Town of Amherst, N.H. / Corrected to Nov. 1, 1924. / By L. F. Wyman and G. F. Sibley – Second Correction July 1931***

Description: map on blue paper with white drawing and lettering; 30.5" w x 28" h. Condition: large tears on left margin; some tattered edges, one hole; some discoloration.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: Map of (p)lots in Meadowview Cemetery, with names of owners. Some marked with X. Paths are marked with names.

Copy: [CHECK WHAT IS HANGING AT DPW OFFICE]

Title: *Plan of Cricket Corner Cemetery / Amherst, N.H. / Revised 1967 by E. Leach & R. Crocker / Revised 1981; Revised 1993*

Description: plot map; 21" w x 17" h.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: Map of (p)lots in Cricket Corner Cemetery, so that Merrimack Road lies on the left side, and Boston Post Road on the right; with names of owners. Starting at upper left (NW corner) and moving left to right: Row 1 comprises the following lots: 27 – Benjamin Gould (NW corner); 28 – Joseph Couett; 29 – Berchy White; 30 – John Shepherd; 31 – William Weatherbee [Note: Deed for 31 to Ruth Wetherbee 1985]; 32 – William Gilson; 33 – blank; 34 – Hannah Underwood; 35 – Jacob Upham; 36 – James Stearns; 37 – blank; 38 – Roby; 39 – blank; 40 (NE corner) – blank. Row 2 comprises lots 26 – L. Balch; 25 – unknown; 24 – Sampson Kidder; 23 – Nemioh Shepherd & Simon Carter; 22 – blank; 21 – Charles W Rhodes; 20 – Walter Read; 19 – blank; 18 – Ebenezer Converse; 17 – blank; 16 – blank; 15 – J. J. Taylor; 14 – Mark Merrill; 13 – blank. Row 3 comprises lots 1 – Jasper Burnett; 2 – Sumner Merrill; 3 – Luther Coggin; 4 – Major Joseph Fletcher Family Tomb; 5 – Merrill Fletcher; 6 – Henry Fletcher; 7 William J. Weston; 8 – Edward Caldwell; 9 – Isaac F. Caldwell; 10 – Walter Duncklee; 11 – Paul H. Yunggebauer; 12 – John H. Upham; 13A (small) – Joe Martin. Row 4 comprises lots 41 – James Hodgson; 42 – Freeman B. Spaulding; 43 – John & Luther Coggin; 44 – W. L. Cross; 45 – John Fletcher; 46 – Thomas S. Mellow; 47 – W. L. Weston; 48 – James F. Weston; 49 – Richard B. Weston; 50 – Amedee Poulin; 51 – Hans Hansen. Row 5 comprises lots 61 – Bessie Waite; 60 – G. L. Goodale; 59 – William A. Buzzell; 58 – P. W. Goodale; 57 – Gust. A. Johnson; 56-53 – blank; 52 – Ranger. Row 6 comprises lots 62 (SW corner) – Neil Mangold; 63 – Lawrence Nichols; 64 Lyna Mueller; 65-69 – blank; 70 Frisette; 71 (SE corner) – Scott.

Copy: [CHECK: DOES DPW HAVE A COPY?]

Title: *Deeds to Chestnut Hill Cemetery: 1974-1992*

Description: 6 two-sided sheets partially preprinted with fill-in-the-blanks; received and recorded by Town Clerk.

Contents: Deeds to 6 lots (without lot numbers) in Chestnut Hill Cemetery of Amherst, N.H.

1974	to Herman W Anderson	(for no charge).
1977	to Joseph S. Holland	(for no charge).
1977	to Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Sandford	(for no charge) + \$50 for perpetual care.
1985	to James E. and Helen Duggan	for \$500.
1988	to Pierre and Gertrude Martin	for \$300.

SE part 1992 Conveyed to Roger Thomas; paid by B. Thomas Rogers for \$200 (2 grave lot).

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, upright archival storage Cemetery Records Box, shelf 2e. [As of July 2017.]

Title: *Deeds to Cricket Corner Cemetery: 1976-2001*

Description: 11 two-sided sheets partially preprinted with fill-in-the-blanks; received and recorded by Town Clerk.

Contents: Deeds to 11 lots in Cricket Corner Cemetery of Amherst, N.H.

#31	1985	to Ruth Wetherbee	for \$400.
#61	1962	to Bessie Waite of Milford	for \$400.
#62	1976	to Neil F. Mangold	for \$ 25.
#63	1977	to Lawrence Nichols	for \$200.
#64	1981	to Lyna Mueller	for \$250
#67	2001 July	to George Wm Thorell Sr.	for \$400.
#67	2001 Sep	to Lorna Hamelin	for \$400.
#68	2000	to Hope Caulfield, 40 Corduroy Rd,	for \$400.
#69	1996	to Douglas Kirkwood of Woodbine Ln	for \$600.
#70	1992	to Robert & Constance Frisette	for \$400. [Error: says Meadowview but on CC map.]
#71	1988	to Stephen A. & Charlotte S. Scott	for \$400.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, upright archival storage Cemetery Records Box, shelf 2e. [As of July 2017.]

Title: *Deeds to Meadowview Cemetery: 1960-2002*

Description: Each deed 8.5 x 11", each folded into thirds; two-sided sheet partially preprinted with fill-in-the-blanks; received and recorded by Town Clerk. Stack circa 4" high.

Contents: Approximately 190 deeds to lots in Meadowview Cemetery of Amherst, N.H., dates ranging from 1960 (lot 142A sold to Roy & Edith Parker; and lot 97a to Theodore T. Kuester & Otto K. Neugebauer) to 2002 (lot 22e). As examples: lot 115d-2 was sold in 1996 for \$100; lot 19c (20x10) was sold in 1996 for \$200; lot 15e with perpetual care was sold in 2001 for \$600.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, upright archival storage Cemetery Records Box, shelf 2e. [As of July 2017.]

Title: *Burials at Amherst, N.H.: 1934-1980*

Page heading: Each page has the year at the top with name of sexton.

Description: Sheets of 8.5 x 11 mimeo or fax-type paper; 1934-1974 held together by metal fastener; plus 5 loose sheets for 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980. Each sheet type-written on one side.

Contents: Lists by year of burials in Amherst, N.H., presumably in Meadowview Cemetery, with name of deceased, lot #, burial #, date of burial, grave #, undertaker. The sextons were: Clarence Hagar 1934-1960; Maurice E. Young 1961; Richard G. Crocker 1962-1980. (Note: Missing 1975.)

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault; in upright archival Box of Cemetery Records; shelf 2e. [As of July 2017.]

Title: *Burial Transit Permits: 1969-1974*

Description: 10 x 7"

Contents: from deaths in Amherst and in other towns); including for Saint Patrick's Cemetery on Merrimack Road.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, in upright archival Cemetery Records Box, shelf 2e. [As of July 2017.]

Title: *Burial Permits: 1974-1979*

Description: 9 x 12"

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, in upright archival Cemetery Records Box, shelf 2e. [As of July 2017.]

Title: *Card file catalog to Cemetery Lot Owners: c. 1920s to 1980s as well as some 19th c. names*

Description: Wooden card file box, 15.25" deep, full with standard old-library-file-size cards, sorted alphabetically by owner of cemetery lot.

Contents: Each card contains name of owner of a cemetery lot. Data per card varies: some include only name of owner, cemetery and lot number. Others include, in addition to owner's name, dates and names of those buried on the back (but no death dates). Presumably for Meadowview.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, shelf 2f.

Naturalization Records

Historical Overview: There is a single document among the historic records of Amherst Town Hall vault regarding naturalizations. Although the document itself offers no explanation for its existence, the Selectmen were surely following the requirements of N.H. law. The Selectmen checked the naturalization status of new, foreign-born residents in order to determine whether they had the right to vote at legal Town Meetings.

At the opening of the June 1855 session of the New Hampshire Legislature, Governor Ralph Metcalf addressed the Council Chamber:

“The great influx of foreigners to this country has become a matter of deep interest and alarming anxiety to the people.” He urged a “judicious policy toward the vast mixed population that is annually freighted to our shores from foreign parts. At this time, half a million aliens, most of them, we regret to say, ignorant and uneducated, are annually added to our numbers. ... Probably more than half the direct taxes of the people of this country are made necessary by the pauperism and crime of the foreign population. ... In addition to this, with some exceptions, the religion which they have been taught from their birth, ... is a religion acknowledging a foreign power for its supreme head ... A numerous population, scattered from one extreme of the country to the other, guided and controlled by one mind and that mind solely directed to one object, the extension of the dominion, the influence and the power of the Church at Rome ...” [Yep, you guessed it, he was railing against Irish Catholics!] He went on, “It is not within the jurisdiction of a State to change the laws of naturalization. That power is delegated to the general government. ... It is, however, the right of the State to determine the qualifications of its voters, and of eligibility to office or places of trust, and our laws may be so amended as to require a longer residence of foreigners in the country than five years ... *Provisions may also be made for the examination of papers, that fraud if any may be detected. ...*” (See *Farmers' Cabinet*, Amherst, N.H., 14 June 1855, p. [1] and [2] for full lengthy address, the section quoted above being on p. [2]. Emphasis added to Provisions sentence.)

In July 1855, the Senate and House of Representatives of New Hampshire in General Court convened enacted An Act Regulating Naturalization and the Suffrage of Naturalized Citizens:

Section 1. No court created by the authority of this State, except the court of common pleas ... shall hereafter hold or exercise any jurisdiction in the administration of the laws of Congress commonly known as the naturalization laws, nor take cognizance of any application of any alien to be admitted to become a citizen, nor make any record, or grant or issue any certificate or other document or paper whereby any alien shall be naturalized, or made a citizen of the United States.

Section 2. All proceeding in regard to naturalization shall be held in open court.

Section 3. No person of foreign birth who shall claim the right to vote by reason of naturalization papers issued to him from any court in the United States, shall have the right to vote in any town or place in this State, unless three months at least before the day of election, he shall produce to the selectmen of the city, ward, town or place in which he resides and has his home, his said naturalization papers. **And the said selectmen shall enter in a book to be kept by them for that purpose, the name of said person, the date of the issue of said papers, and the court by which the same were issued.** And if it shall appear to said selectmen that said papers were by due form, and were issued by a court having jurisdiction of such matters, and that the person producing them is the party to whom they were issued, they shall cause his name to be entered on the check list of such city, ward, town or place, and to be continued on such list so long as he shall remain a resident and entitled to vote therein. ... (*Farmers' Cabinet*, 16 Aug. 1855, p. [2]; bold emphasis added; also in *New Hampshire Sentinel*, Keene, 17 Aug. 1855, p. [1].)

In June 1862, a bill was introduced to the Committee on Judiciary of the New Hampshire House “to place the matter of naturalization where it was before the passage of the act of 1855, leaving it in the power of Justices of the Peace to issue the preliminary papers and rendering it no longer necessary for the naturalized citizen to present his certificate thirty days before election.” (*Farmers' Cabinet*, 26 June 1862, “New Hampshire Legislature,” p. [2].)

An Act Relating to Naturalization was passed by the Senate and House of Representative in General Court convened 8 July 1862, whereby:

“That section one of chapter 1667, passed June session 1855, entitled An Act Relating to the Suffrage of Naturalized Citizens; and section one of chapter 1829 of the Pamphlet Laws, passed June session 1856, entitled An Act in Amendment of Chapter Sixteen Hundred and Sixty-Seven of the Pamphlet Laws, limiting the courts in which aliens may become naturalized, are hereby repealed.” The act further repealed sections three and four of the aforementioned chapter of the 1855 act, and sections two and three of the aforementioned chapter of the 1856 act

“imposing special duties upon naturalized citizens in respect to their right of suffrage”. (*Farmers' Cabinet*, 4 Sep 1862, p. [4]; *Laws of the State of New Hampshire Passed June Session 1862*, chapter 2593, online Google books.)

In its Dec. 1870 session, the N.H. Supreme Court decided that the Police Court of Nashua had no authority, under the United States statutes, to naturalize foreigners, so some foreign-born residents had to go through the process all over again before the State's Supreme Judicial Court. (*N.H. Patriot and State Gazette*, 11 Jan. 1871.)

Laws Passed by N.H. Legislature in June Session 1871 included:

“An Act in addition to and amendment of an act passed June session, 1868, in relation to the naturalization of aliens. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court convened: Section 1. All persons heretofore naturalized by any police court shall have and enjoy the same rights of voting and holding and transmitting property as if they had been naturalized by the supreme judicial court of this state. Approved [effective?] July 14, 1871.” (*N.H. Sentinel*, Keene, 22 June 1871; dates sic)

Title: *Amherst Male Residents Naturalized 1859-1871*

Cover: “List of Persons Naturalized 1859”.

Description: Small notebook with tan paper wrapper, 5 3/4” h x 3 7/8” w; hand-written entries on blue-grey ruled paper.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, shelf 1c in small archival box. [As of July 2017.]

Author: Selectmen of Town of Amherst, N.H.; presumably recorded by Town Clerk.

Contents: Listing of Amherst male residents who showed their naturalization papers – from Police Court in Nashua, Court of Common Pleas or Supreme Judicial Court – to the Amherst Selectmen, in chronological order.

Research Note by Katrina Holman: Although the list does not indicate country of origin, most of these were men born in Ireland who resided in the Amherst district called “the Acre” near the Milford town line. Their country of birth can be found in census(es); and the Amherst District in which they resided can be found in *Invoice & Taxes* books after 1860.

Further Information: To understand the effect upon the town of Irish Catholic immigrants to Amherst in the mid-19th century, see the following series of articles in the Historic Amherst column by Katrina Holman in *The Amherst Citizen* newspaper:

- *Amherst's Mill Girls & Boys: Irish Immigrants Residing on “the Acre”* (Feb. 2017, p. 4, 5.)
- *Old School Moved & New One Built for Irish Immigrants on “the Acre” in Amherst* (March 2017, p. 4, 5.)
- *Saint Patrick's Church in Amherst (1859-1895): Irish Immigrants Residing on “the Acre” of Amherst* (April 2017, p. 4, 5.)
- *Illegal Saloons on “the Acre”:* *By Irish Immigrants Residing in Amherst & Milford* (July 2017, p. 4, 7.)
- *Illegal Saloons on “the Acre”:* *Run by Irish Women of Amherst & Milford* (August 2017, p. 4, 6.)

Dog Licenses

Overview: New Hampshire law passed January 1891 called “An act to prevent the destruction of sheep and other damages by dogs” (chapter 60) stated in Section 1: “Every owner or keeper of a dog three months old or over shall annually, on or before 30th day of April, cause it to be registered, numbered, described, and licensed for one year from the first day of ... May, in the office of the clerk of the city or town ...” Section 3 stipulated that the fee would be \$2 for a male dog and \$5 for a female dog, and such proportionate sum for licenses for dogs becoming three months old after the first day of May. Per Section 6, town clerks were required to keep an accurate and separate account of all moneys received [for dog licenses]. Dog tax money was used for schools.

Earliest Records (not part of this record grouping): Per state law, Amherst's Selectmen/assessors began inventorying & taxing dogs in 1863, \$1 for male and \$2 for female dogs (see *Invoice & Taxes* books). A N.H. law of 1867, 105:9, required towns to tax owners \$1 for each male dog and \$2 for each female dog.

Title: *Dog Licenses Issued in Amherst: 1891-1895*

Spine: “DOG LICENSES”

Description: Bound volume, 14” h x 8.75” w; brown leather spine, black cloth hard cover; fill-in-the-blanks printed forms, two licenses per page; hand-written entries; about half the book is unused. Two loose half-sheets (deliberately cut out) from last two utilized pages, each with a license front and back.

Location: Town Hall vault, on shelf 1e, standing upright. [As of June 2017.]

Contents: For 1891, the Town Clerk (W. B. Rotch) recorded 96 dog licenses issued, each with name of owner, breed of dog, dog's name, and fee (most \$2 for male dog). Dogs retained the same license number for the following years. The highest license number was 127 issued Oct. 1895. Dog names included Dick, Jack, Skip, Ned, Ponto (shepard), Major (part St. Bernard, part Newfoundland), Viking (half hound, half spaniel), Chief (half beagle, half bilton).

Copies or Other Sources: Nowhere else is the dog's breed and personal name recorded. See *Invoice & Taxes* book(s) for names of residents taxed on dog(s).

Annual Town Reports of Amherst, N.H.

Overview: The first printed/type-set annual reports of the Town of Amherst, N.H. were financial statements with a brief narrative by the Selectmen about the Town's newly established **Pauper Farm**, called "Account of the Expenses of Supporting the Poor, in the Town of Amherst", for the years 1832/3 through 1839/40. Regular annual town reports began with 1840/1 year, essentially a **financial statement** for the town including schools plus a financial statement for the Pauper Farm. (A separate financial accounting for the Pauper Farm was included until 1896/7, in the later years as the Report of Overseer(s) of the Poor.)

- A separate narrative report on **schools** was printed starting with 1842/3; and was included (continuous pagination) with the annual town report in 1849/50 through 1851/52; then separate again; then bound in same paper cover from 1872/3 through 1880/81. When Amherst switched from an appointed Superintending School Committee with district-by-district school meetings to an elected Board of Education for a single town-wide School District in 1881, financial reports for schools were incorporated into the annual narrative school report. For the years 1881/82 through 1897/98, the annual school report was under separate cover from the town report. From 1898/9 through 1978/9 and again 1988-1990, the separate school report was included under same cover as annual town reports.

- A Report of the **Trustees of the Library** was added in 1880/1.

- **Vital statistics** were added to the annual town reports in 1884/5, initially as Clerk's Record (1884) or Report of the Town Clerk (1893) and later as Vital Statistics (starting 1898).

- By 1893/4, a Report of the **Road/Highway Agent** and Report of the **Board of Health** appeared.

- Starting in 1894/5, a list of persons who received **tax abatements** was published in the annual town report.

- In 1895/6, **Warrant Articles** for the following year began to be included as did a Report of the **Police Court** and reports on **trust funds**.

- The **tax inventory** was included in the annual town report of 1898 ("Invoice & Taxes"), 1903 ("Enrollment"), 1912 ("Invoice & Taxes"), 1945, 1953 ("Inventory of Taxable Property with Valuation and Taxes"), 1961 ("Inventory of Taxable Property" without taxes), and 1966.

Series: Individual annual town reports in paper covers.

Of the 19th-century annual town reports, the Town Hall vault contains only 28 years, with gaps, i.e. not consecutive: 1845/6; 1868/9, 1869/70, 1871/2, 1873/4, 1874/5, 1875/6, 1876/7, 1878/9, 1879/80, 1880/1, 1881/2, 1882/3, 1883/4, 1886/7, 1887/8, 1888/9, 1889/90, 1890/1, 1891/2, 1892/3, 1893/4, 1894/5, 1895/6, 1896/7, 1897/8, 1898/9, 1900/1.

[Note: 1873/4 annual town report, despite inclusion on cover title, is MISSING Overseer of Poor report, unpaginated pages of single two-sided sheet, which IS included with ATL's multi-year bound volume.]

Of the 20th century annual town reports, there are gaps; e.g., some from first half of century are missing and 1982 is missing. (See Finding Aids for Record Group 2 for full list.)

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, shelf 7a. The earlier annual town reports are in small flat archival boxes; the later ones in upright archival boxes.

Series: Multi-year bound volumes, with custom-made titles on spines and black cloth/hard covers, that are housed in Amherst Town Hall vault start with 1876-89, through 2003. Note: In the 1890-1900 volume, annual education reports are missing for years 1889/90 through 1897/98 because they were separate from town annual reports for those years.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, shelf 8a, two rows deep.

Copies and Other Sources: Other sources for annual town reports include the Amherst Town Library,

which has all the years of the earliest annual town reports, with multiple years bound together plus school reports for almost all the same years, in hard covers. For example, the earliest printed annual town reports are contained in two multi-year bound volumes in collection of Amherst Town Library: 1) "AMHERST TOWN REPORTS // 1832-1882 // TOWN LIBRARY" (title on spine), 8 3/8" h, bound by C.H.H. SILSBY & SON, BINDERS, Concord, N.H., which was "presented to Amherst Town Library by Isaac B. Dodge" in July 1882; and 2) "AMHERST TOWN REPORTS // 1832-1876" (title on spine), 7 5/8" h x 5" w, which contains tipped-in photocopies of a few missing pages. (Note that the Dodge gift happened before the library building was erected! At that time, the "Library" was housed in Town Hall.) An extensive collection of annual town reports is supposedly held by a private resident.

Online: Some annual town reports are online at the website of the University of New Hampshire Library, the earliest being school narrative reports of 1858/9 and 1859/60, and starting 1872/3 for town reports, having most (not all) consecutive years through 1998. The same two early annual school reports (incorrectly titled online "Narrative Report of the Town Officers of Amherst, New Hampshire") and same earliest annual town reports are online at archive.org, which is harder to search & use.

At Town Hall in the basement, are 3 boxes (2 standard record boxes and a double-sized box) of extra annual reports from 20th century, random issues and random number of copies; missing 1983.

Title: *Amherst Annual Town Report 1845/6*

Cover Page: "Report of the Selectmen of the Town of Amherst, for the Year Ending March 1, 1846."

Description: paper booklet, no cover; 8 1/8"h x 5.25"; 8 pages; printed by Cabinet Press, Amherst (N.H.).

Condition: dirty.

Contents: Accounting for town including schools for 1845/6; and a separate accounting (p. 6) for the Town Pauper Farm called "Account of Expenses for Supporting the Poor of the town of Amherst, for the Year Ending March 4[sic], 1846."

Copies: One in Amherst Town Hall vault. Copy in Amherst Town Library bound together with other years.

Title: *Amherst Annual Town Report 1868/9*

Cover Page: "Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Town of Amherst, for the Year Ending February 28th, 1869."

Description: paper booklet, no cover; 7 7/8"h x 5.25"; 8 pages; printed by Cabinet Press, Amherst (N.H.).

Condition: dirty, acid discoloration.

Contents: Accounting for town, including schools, by Selectmen; and a separate accounting (p. 6-8) by Overseers Poor (same as Selectmen) for the Town Pauper Farm called "Report of the Overseers of Poor for Year Ending March 1, 1869."

Copies: Two copies in Amherst Town Hall vault. Copy in Amherst Town Library bound together with other years.

Title: *Amherst Annual Town Report 1869/70*

Cover Page: "Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Town of Amherst, for the Year Ending February 28th, 1870."

Description: paper booklet, no cover; 7 7/8"h x 5.25"; 8 pages; printed by Cabinet Press, Amherst (N.H.).

Condition: dirty, acid discoloration.

Contents: Accounting for town by Selectmen; and a separate accounting by Overseers Poor (same as Selectmen) for the Town Pauper Farm (p. 6-8) called "Report of the Overseers of Poor for Year Ending March 1, 1870."

Copies: Two copies in Amherst Town Hall vault. Copy in Amherst Town Library bound together with other years.

Title: *Amherst Annual Town Report 1871/2*

Cover Page: "Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Town of Amherst, for the Year Ending February 29, 1872."

Description: paper booklet, no cover; 7 7/8"h x 5.25"; 8 pages; printed by Cabinet Press, Amherst (N.H.).

Condition: dirty, acid discoloration.

Contents: Accounting for town including schools for 1871/2: Report of Town Treasurer, Jonathan Knight; and Report of Overseer of the Poor, Samuel Wilkins, including expenses of Pauper Farm.

Copies: Two copies in Amherst Town Hall vault. Copy in Amherst Town Library bound together with other years.

Title: *Amherst Annual Town Report 1873/4*

Cover: "Report of the Treasurer, Overseer of the Poor, and Superintending School Committees of the Town of

Amherst, for the Year Ending March 1st, 1874.”

Description: booklet, paper wrap; 9.5”h x 5.25”; 17 pages; printed by Cabinet Press, Amherst (N.H.).

Contents: Accounting for town including schools and pauper farm. This is the second year that the narrative report on schools is included (continuously paginated) with the town report.

Copies: One copy in Amherst Town Hall vault. Copy in Amherst Town Library bound together with other years.

Title: *Amherst Annual Town Report 1874/5*

Cover: “Report of the Treasurer, Overseer of the Poor, and Superintending School Committees of the Town of Amherst, for the Year Ending March 1st, 1875.”

Description: booklet, paper wrap; 9.5”h x 5.25”; 20 pages; printed by Cabinet Press, Amherst (N.H.).

Contents: Accounting for town including schools and pauper farm. Narrative report on schools.

Copies: Three copies (different cover colors) in Amherst Town Hall vault. Copy in Amherst Town Library bound together with other years.

Title: *Amherst Annual Town Report 1875/6*

Cover: “Report of the Treasurer, Overseers of the Poor, and Superintending School Committee, of the Town of Amherst, for the Year Ending March 1st, 1876.”

Description: booklet, paper wrap; 9.5”h x 5.25”; 28 pages; printed by Cabinet Press, Amherst (N.H.).

Contents: Accounting for town including schools and pauper farm. Narrative report on schools.

Copies: Three copies (different cover colors, green or pink) in Town Hall vault. Copy in Amherst Town Library bound together with other years.

Title: *Amherst Annual Town Report 1876/7*

Cover: “Report of the Treasurer, Overseers of the Poor and Superintending School Committees, of the Town of Amherst, for the Year Ending March 1st, 1877.”

Description: booklet, paper wrap; 9.5”h x 5.25”; 23 pages; printed by Cabinet Press, Amherst (N.H.).

Contents: Accounting for town including schools and pauper farm. Narrative report on schools.

Copies: One copy in Town Hall vault. Copy in Amherst Town Library bound together with other years.

Title: *Amherst Annual Town Report 1878/9*

Cover: “Report of the Treasurer, Overseers of the Poor, and Superintending School Committee, of the Town of Amherst, for the Year Ending March 1, 1879.”

Description: booklet, paper wrap; 9.5”h x 5.25”; 32 pages; printed by Cabinet Press, Amherst (N.H.). Condition: back cover torn, piece missing.

Contents: Accounting for town including schools and pauper farm. Narrative report on schools.

Copies: One copy in Town Hall vault. Copy in Amherst Town Library bound together with other years.

Title: *Amherst Annual Town Report 1879/80*

Cover: “Report of the Treasurer, Overseers of the Poor and Superintending School Committee, of the Town of Amherst, for the Year Ending March 1st, 1880.”

Description: booklet, paper wrap; 9.5”h x 5.25”; 28 pages; printed by Cabinet Press, Amherst (N.H.).

Contents: Accounting for town including schools and pauper farm and services of librarian. Narrative report on schools.

Copies: One copy in Town Hall vault. Copy in Amherst Town Library bound together with other years.

Title: *Amherst Annual Town Report 1880/1*

Cover: “Report of the Treasurer, Overseers of the Poor, Trustees of the Library, and Superintending School Committee, of the Town of Amherst, for the Year Ending March 1, 1881.”

Description: booklet, paper wrap; 9.5”h x 5.25”; 34 pages; printed by Cabinet Press, Amherst (N.H.).

Contents: Accounting for town including schools and pauper farm and library. Narrative report on schools and another on library (the control and management of the Library having been given to a six-member Board of Trustees at the Annual Meeting in March 1880).

Copies: One copy in Town Hall vault. Copy in Amherst Town Library bound together with other years.

And more.

(See the Finding Aid for full list of annual town reports housed in Amherst Town Hall vault.)

School Records of Amherst, N.H.

Overview: The school records (separate from *Town Records*) housed in Amherst Town Hall vault begin after the town was divided into nine school districts in 1806. Although the boundaries changed several times over the decades in the 19th century, and new school districts were created, older ones merged, and several renumbered – schooling in Amherst was organized by district until 1881. The individual school districts elected their own officers – meeting moderator, clerk, and Prudential Committee or agent (responsible for hiring teachers), and sometimes a separate treasurer – and controlled their own tax money for schooling, but they were not completely autonomous. Starting in 1842 (following enabling State legislation of 1827 & 1829), a town-wide Super-intending School Committee was appointed by the Selectmen of Amherst to oversee the quality of the teaching in the various district schools, for which purpose the Superintending Committee visited all the district schools at the end of each term (usually two per year), examining the pupils by listening to recitations, and in the second half of the 19th century also attempted to vet the teachers chosen by the districts before they were hired. The school records from 1806-1881 reflect this duality: The record books of individual school districts were recorded by the elected School District clerk, whereas the annual school reports were authored by the appointed Superintending School Committee(s), and the two kinds of documents reported different kinds of information.

The **records for individual school districts (from 1806 until 1881)** are primarily the actions taken by the legal voters among the District's inhabitants at legal meetings, such as how long the school terms should be (they varied from district to district prior to 1881), hiring of teachers, arrangements for care of the schoolhouse and provisioning it with fire wood in the winter, and decisions to build a new schoolhouse, plus some minimal accounting. The records prior to 1842 are the most valuable because they are not duplicated elsewhere.

Other Related Sources: Financial information – specifically how much tax money each district received for schooling – was often recorded in the annual town reports, along with the town's other financials.

The Superintending School Committee(s) created long **annual narrative reports (from 1842/3 until 1880/1)**, providing comparative statistics for all of the town's schools, and observations on the effectiveness of the teachers and on behavior of the pupils, using this medium as a bully pulpit for improvements they wished to see, e.g., in textbooks used, discipline, visits by parents, repairs to schoolhouses. When District 1 was reorganized in 1853 in accordance with the Somersworth Act (N.H. legislation enabling a high school), the annual school reports were authored by two distinct groups: The Superintending School Committee for District 1 and the Superintending School Committee for the rest of the town (comprising all the one-room schoolhouses and sometimes including comments on the districts whose children attended school in neighboring towns). In general, these annual reports are the best sources for the history of education and individual districts and schoolhouses in Amherst.

Other Related Sources: The Superintending School Committee School submitted statistics about Amherst to the State for annual reports on the Common Schools published by the State of New Hampshire. These can be found at N.H. State Library and/or State Archives. Amherst Town Hall vault contains several, for years 1851 (*Fifth Annual Report Upon the Common Schools of New Hampshire; the Same Being the First Annual Report of the Board of Education of the State of New Hampshire, June 1851*), 1853, 1854, 1856, 1857, 1860, 1861, 1863, 1864, 1866, 1869, 1870, 1874, and 1876. These enable comparison of Amherst's schooling with that of other N.H. towns.

In **1881**, Amherst switched from geographic-district-specific school meetings to an **elected Board of Education**, responsible for hiring all teachers and caring for all schoolhouses (of which there were 10 in 1881), arranging transportation, and holding annual town-wide School

District meetings. Three kinds of records produced by the Board of Education are stored in Amherst Town Hall vault: 1) School District Records, including warrants by School Board & votes of legal noticed meetings of town's single school district, such as choosing officers and making appropriations; 2) School District Treasurer's Cash Books; and 3) printed annual reports.

Districts: During the 19th century, the town was redistricted several times, adding or subtracting districts and renumbering old districts. There were 10 districts by 1842; 12 districts in 1852; 14 in 1855-1863 (but three did not have schoolhouses, instead sending their youngsters to neighboring towns; Districts 11 & 12 were union districts with Merrimack and District 13 with Bedford). Not all the numbers remained attached to a fixed geographical location. For example, the Taylor district, which started as District 12 in 1818, with a schoolhouse on Ponemah Road about 1.5 to 2 miles south of Village, became No. 10 in 1838; then from 1852-1867, it was No. 2, when it was known as the Lovejoy district, and at some point in that period was extended to the Milford border; and finally, after the schoolhouse was moved in 1867 to Border Street in/on The Acre to accommodate Irish immigrants, the stretch along Ponemah Road was divided between Districts 1 and 3. For another example, District 14 was formed in 1854 from parts of Districts 6 & 7, located northeast of the Village; it was renumbered 10 in 1864 and called Skeeterville.

Other Related Sources – For Location of School Districts: *Amherst Town Records Volume 2: 1791-1842* contains Committee report dated 11 March 1806 recommending town divisions into 9 School Districts (described by residents' names as well as bounds) “for the better accommodation of schooling” (p. 540-543), which was accepted by the annual town meeting of March 1806. At the following legal town meeting, in August 1806, warrant article 3 was “to see if town will make alteration in School District No. 6 which shall be more agreeable to inhabitants thereof” (Vol. 2, p. 111). The town was redistricted in April 1838, at which time School Districts 1-10 were defined by 3 key residents in each (*Amherst Town Records Volume 3: 1821-1847*, p. 206-207); in 1844, School Districts 1-12 were defined by geographical descriptions (*Volume 3*, p. 319-327). Starting in 1861, taxpayers were organized by school district for the town's *Invoice & Taxes* books. See also Secomb's *History of Amherst*, p. 325-330; Edward Aiken map of 12 school districts (c. 1881); and annual school reports to follow Districts 11, 12, and 13 in the later part of 19th century.

District 1 (Village): The first and second **schoolhouse for District 1** was located on what is now the SW corner of 3 Manchester Road lot, adjacent to north-side paved parking lot of Town Hall; Town Hall vault holds the original 1806 deed when the lot with an existing schoolhouse (organized by multiple private citizens in 1774) was conveyed to the Town. The original/first District 1 extended as far north to include Eli Brown (on turnpike at 40 Boston Post Road) and south to include Ebenezer Taylor (at 6 Ponemah Road, south of fork in the Boston post road) and Moses Nichols. A new replacement schoolhouse was soon built. When District 1 was split in 1838, the western part became the new District 2 (with a schoolhouse on the Knight Street triangle, later utilized for steam mill, then moved to become a garage on Middle Street); those two parts were re-united in 1852 again as District 1 “under the provision of the **Somersworth act**, for the purpose of grading and **establishing a high school**” (from annual report of Superintending School Committee). When the Brick School (still standing) was built in 1854 to accommodate a high school for District 1, it replaced the older two schoolhouses, which were sold off (and eventually removed).

Rural One-Room Schoolhouses: There was at least one schoolhouse outside of the Village prior to the 1809 division into districts – in the southeast area north of the river which would become District 3 aka Cricket Corner, and probably also on Christian Hill. The last rural schoolhouse to be built new was the Border Street School (in District 2, known then as “the Acre”), built in 1913 (well described and pictured in the annual school report of that year); it closed in June 1931 at

the end of the school year. The last rural one-room schoolhouse to close was in District 3 (on Boston Post Road, adjacent to Cricket Corner Cemetery) in 1935.

Other Related Sources – For Location of Schoolhouses: See 1858 town map, whereon 9 schoolhouses are marked “S.H.”; and 1858 Amherst Village map for District 1 schoolhouse. Edward Aiken map of 12 school districts (c. 1881) also shows schoolhouses. For an inventory of the contents of all the schoolhouses in town in 1881, see *Amherst Town Records Vol. 6: 1870-1900*. The annual town report of 1937 (year ending January 21, 1938, pages 66-67) contains a good summary of the ends of rural schoolhouses. Warning: The information about one-room schoolhouses in *Sleeping Town Awakens* (1983) on p. 52-54 contains *multiple errors!* For locations and dates of former rural schoolhouses still standing, see newspaper article by Katrina Holman entitled “Historic Amherst: The Rural One-Room Schoolhouses of Amherst, N.H.” published in *The Amherst (N.H.) Citizen*, October 2017 (p. 4, 11). For Rural Schoolhouses Built Before 1809: First schoolhouse in Cricket Corner area (SE of Village Common, north of Souhegan River) was built before June 1790 (mentioned in deed 26:9, 1790, Wm Howard to Wm Read; again in deed 59:398, 1803, Jona. Temple to John Odall). The records for District 4 – Christian Hill indicate that in 1809 the people there considered expediency of building a new schoolhouse, suggesting that they may already have had such a building.

Earliest School Records (not part of this record grouping): For schools in Amherst, the earliest information can be found in the early *Amherst Town Records* (on microfilm at Amherst Town Library; separate index booklets in Town Hall vault). Examples: *Amherst Town Records Volume 1: 1760-1791* contains two agreements with school teachers – “Mr. William King to keep Town School @6 pr day and board him” starting April 1778; “Mr. Brown Emerson to keep a school in this Town @35 pr Quarter,” starting July 1778.

Other Related Sources: Regarding “private” tuition-based schools in Amherst, the journal of John Farmer called *The Medley* (in collection of Amherst Town Library) contains lists of pupils in the Village school in 1809, 1810, and 1813. (Some if not all of these likely were what we would call “private” schools, although open to all willing to pay tuition and do the studying.) In 1809, there were 67 pupils total, of whom 49 were males (including Farmer), who from April through August were taught by 4 different male “preceptors.” In 1807, from January to March, John Farmer was assistant to Wm F. Morrison teaching total of 94 pupils, of whom “25 attended to Arithmetic, 22 to English Grammar, 1 Latin and Greek.” In 1813, for five months, John Farmer “superintended” the school with total of 55 pupils. See also newspaper advertisements!

Other Sources – Town's History Books: The earliest history of education is extracted from *Town Records* in detail by Secomb in his *History of the Town of Amherst* (1882), Chapter XIV. The town's modern history book, *Amherst, New Hampshire 1881-1982: A Sleeping Town Awakens* (1983) is the best source for the modern history of schooling in Amherst, including the variations in high school education over the decades (see especially p. 55-59, 130-137, 147, 158-163, 224-231; but do your best to ignore p. 52-54 which contain multiple errors).

Collection of School Records in Amherst Town Hall Vault:

Map: Map of 12 school districts, hand-drawn and colored, 1880 or 1881. [Prior to 2017, pasted to inside front cover of typescript of *Amherst Town Records Vol. 1*; intention to have removed and conserved by NEDCC with funding by Nipmugs Questers and stored in its own archival box on shelving unit 1.]

Series: Record books of individual school districts from 1806 to 1881 – 14 volumes.

Series: Record books of town-wide Board of Education from 1881 to 1949 – 3 volumes.

Series: School registers: 1870/71 (full set for all 10 districts in 13 volumes); 1869/70 (2 volumes for District 2) – 15 volumes.

Series: School district treasurer's cash books 1919-1935, 1941-1954 – 5 volumes.

Series: Annual reports of Superintending School Committees until 1881, then of Board of Education: 1856/7, 1857/8, 1860/1, 1863/4, 1865/6, 1868/9, 1870/1, 1881/2, 1884/5, 1886/7-1897/8 – 21 volumes (many gaps).

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, in multiple archival boxes on shelf 1b.

Map of School Districts of Amherst, N.H.

Title: **Map of Amherst, N.H. divided into 12 school districts**, c. 1881, “presented to the Selectmen of Amherst by Edward Aiken”

Description: 8 9/16” wide by 14” high; hand-drawn and colored; date at top changed from 188_ with ink (ballpoint?) to 1844 [sic, error!]; inscription at bottom left. Condition: torn at fold crease.

Contents: The map outlines Districts 1-12, and clearly shows a schoolhouse (with an unusual symbol of an X with 4 dots/dashes) in District 1 (Village); District 2 (on Border Street, The Acre, which was moved to that location in 1867 [helping to date the map]); District 3 (on Boston Post Road, a short distance north of intersection with Merrimack Road, Cricket Corner); District 4 (west of Village, Christian Hill [hidden in torn fold crease but still there], District 5 (in southwest corner of Amherst on road to Hollis, south of train tracks, Ponemah), District 7 (northeast part of town bordering Bedford, on west side of Schoolhouse Road, later known as Greeley School, Noyes district), District 8 (in northwest part of town bordering Mont Vernon, on Mack Hill Road a short distance north of fork with Sprague Road, later known as North School, in district variously called Campbell's, Crooker, Mack Hill), District 9 (in north part of town near New Boston town line on Chestnut Hill Road, Chestnut Hills district bordering Mont Vernon on the west, New Boston on the north, and Bedford on the east), and District 10 (northeast of Village, on east side of road to Manchester. Bedford & New Boston [in those days, likely changed with construction of Rt. 101], south of fork of Chestnut Hill Road & Horace Greeley Road, Skeeterville, which was renumbered from 14 to 10 in 1863 [helping to date map]). Whether District 6 (Pond Parish, east of Village, bordering Merrimack and part of Baboosic Lake) had a schoolhouse is uncertain – there is a mark (but looks more like two dots) but schoolhouse symbol could be lost/hidden in fold crease/tear. District 11 (southeast corner of town, bordering Hollis and Merrimack) had no schoolhouse because its children attended school in South Merrimack; District 12 (lying north of District 11 in southeast part of town, on south side of Souhegan River and bordering Merrimack) had no schoolhouse because its children attended school in Merrimack. Edward Aiken (1830-1890), presumed from the inscription to be the creator of this map, was a prominent citizen of Amherst: He was born in Amherst Village as the son of the town's 4 th minister and returned to spend most of his adult life here as a physician. Both the house of his birth and his family residence are part of Amherst's Historic District.

Note: Before 2017, at some unknown date decades ago, someone pasted or taped this map into the inside front cover of *Town Records Volume 1* typescript; on which at later date someone erroneously changed year 188_ to 1844. (The plan is to have this precious item conserved, funded by Nipmugs Questers, and stored in its own archival box.)

Records of Individual Geographic-Specific School Districts

Overview: The Town Hall vault contains earliest records of only three of the nine school districts formed in 1806: District 1 (Village or Plain or centre), District 4 (Christian Hill, west of the Village), and District 6 (Pond Parish, east of the Village). The vault contains the final records (1880/1881) for eight of the ten districts with schoolhouses, namely District 1, District 3 (Cricket Corner, in southeast part of town), District 4, District 6, District 7 (Noyes, in northeast part of town, bordering Bedford, its schoolhouse known in final years as Greeley School), District 8 (the Campbell/Crooker/North/Mack Hill district north of the Village, bordering on Mont Vernon), District 9 (Chestnut Hills, northern part of town, bordering Mont Vernon and New Boston, and in later decades also Bedford), and District 14/10 (Skeeterville, northeast of Village, which as formed in 1854 as No. 14 and renamed No. 10 in 1864). Only Districts 1, 4, 6 & 14/10 have complete records. Records for District 5 (Danforth's Corner or Ponemah, in southwest part of town, south of Souhegan River) are missing altogether, as are records for Ponemah Road Schoolhouse (prior to 1852, Taylor district, originally No. 12, later No. 2), and post-1852 District 2 (The Acre).

Title: **School District One Records 1806-1852**

Cover: hand-written sticker “1806”.

Inside: “School District” (hand-written).

Description: Bound volume; 12.5” h x 7 7/8”; brown leather cover; half-blank; hand-written.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: Records of the schoolhouse in Amherst Village. At the first meeting, in April 1806, “voted to Build a School House; voted that the spot where the old School House stands will be agreeable to build a new school house upon if it can be fairly obtained; voted to choose a committee of five persons to agree with Mr. Smith for the old spot to build a House upon; voted that Capt. Eli Brown, Capt. Daniel Prior; Mr. Wm Low, Charles H. Atherton Esq, and Mr. David Stewart be the committee for the above purpose; voted that \$100 will be paid to J. K. Smith Esq. for the privilege to erect a School House upon the old school lot ...” [The location of that lot was on the present north-side parking lot of Town Hall. Town Hall vault contains the 1806 deed (fallen apart into pieces) whereby J. K. Smith granted the original Village schoolhouse lot to the Town.]

Research Note: In 1838, District 1 was split in two, with the east side of the Village remaining District 1 and the west side becoming District 2. This book spells out how the district was divided and names all the inhabitants on both sides. In 1852 the Village was re-united into a single District 1.

Title: *School District One Records 1838-1881*

Spine: “LETTERS”.

Cover: “Old District No. One School Record” (hand-written).

Inside: “Records of School Dist. No. 2 [sic] commencing 1838” (hand-written).

Description: Bound volume; 13 5/8” h x 8.25” x 1/25”; brown marble cover; hand-written by District Clerks.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: Records of school(s) in Amherst Village. It begins with the division of District 1 into two districts in 1838, and this is the record for new District 2. [The split caused a partial renumbering of school districts: the east side of the Village with the old schoolhouse remained District 1 and the west side – with a new schoolhouse (later used for steam mill) on the Spalding (or Knight Street) triangle – became the new District 2.] After the two Village districts re-united into one district called District 1 in 1852, this is the record for the new/original District 1. It ends with March 1881 meeting, followed by 1880 account of expenditures.

Title: *School District 2/7 Records 1812-1850*

Inside Cover: “The Property of School District No. 2 / Amherst Nov. 13, 1813 [sic, 1812]”

Description: Small bound volume; 7.5” h x 6.5” w; brown leather spine, dark dingy marbled cover; multiple blank pages; hand-written by Clerks of School District.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: Records of legal meetings of School District 2, which became District 7 in 1838. Although the inside cover is inscribed “November 1813”, the first recorded meeting is November 1812. The first mention of schoolhouse is in May 1813 meeting records, because its door needs to be repaired. On the last page is a “List of Agents since 1813” until 1850. In the early years, the role of the “head of the class or district”, later called agent, was to hire the teachers (school dame or school mistress and master) and arrange board for them (if not already bid upon at the meeting). Besides the usual officers (moderator of the meeting, and clerk and agent for the year), this district annually elected a standing committee of three men “to visit the school as often as necessary [or convenient] and see if the Master give satisfaction, or any other thing, that may benefit the school” (Oct. 1816 [and Nov. 1817]) and “wait on the Town’s committee when they come to visit the school, or hear complaints from any person, who is dissatisfyd with the proceedings of the school in any reasonable respect” (Oct. 1818); in March 1823, the meeting voted that the standing committee “bank up the schoolhouse to make it warm.” This district chose a new officer, a treasurer, starting 1823 (Moses Noyes in 1823).

In March 1819, District 2 meeting voted “that the class disapprove of the schoolhouse doors being shut against the Master by the scholars.”

Title: *School District 3 Records 1817-1876*

Cover: “1817 / 1876” (hand-written sticker)[corrected Jan. 2017; former sticker “1822”]

Inside: “School District No. Three 1877”

Description: Bound volume; 12 5/8” h x 8” w; brown leather spine, dark dingy mottled cover; hand-written by Clerks of School District 3.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: Reports of meetings of school district and decisions/votes taken, including arrangements for provisioning schoolhouse with fire wood.

Title: *School District 3 Records 1877-1880*

Spine: “RECORDS”

Inside Cover: “School District No. Three 1877”

Description: Bound volume; 10.5” h x 8.25”; black leather spine, teal marbled (with white & maroon veining)

cover; pages 13- 288 blank; hand-written by Clerks of School District 3.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: Warrants & votes of legal noticed School District 3 meetings, including decisions on length and dates of school terms at District 3 schoolhouse [located in Cricket Corner area in southeast part of town], and annual accounts of expenditures. In 1878, District 3 paid \$48 for teaching 8-week summer term; \$72 for 12-week fall term; and \$70 for 10-week winter term.

Title: *School District 4 Records 1808-1855*

Inside: "No. 4"

Description: Small bound volume; 7" h x 6 1/8"; brown leather spine, mottled black marbled cover; hand-written by Clerks of School District 4.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: Records of meetings of School District 4, which included decisions on how long the school term should be each year and whom to hire as teacher and the account/account by year which shows which resident boarded the teacher. Starts with regulations for School District No. 4 (which was located in west part of town, adjoining the Mont Vernon and Milford town lines, the schoolhouse being on Christian Hill) that were adopted in 1808. At Nov. 1808 meeting, voted "to employ a man to take the school at the expiration of the woman school"; in subsequent years again voted for a male teacher for the winter term. For 1812, they "paid to Master for winter school \$25" plus "paid for boarding Master \$12." Female teachers were paid considerably less; for example in 1816/17, paid Susan Claggett \$9.34" and "paid L. Pratt for board \$10". Regarding the location of the schoolhouse, in Oct. 1809 they appointed a committee to consider "the expediency of building a new schoolhouse and where it will be most convenient to set one." In Nov. 1811, they voted "a committee to see if they can obtain a deed of the spot on which the schoolhouse stands with Mr. Barnard" [the town's minister who resided on Christian Hill]; but they must not have succeeded because they voted the same thing in April 1817 [and were granted a deed by Rev. Barnard in Sep. 1817, recorded 883:535]. But in between, in April 1814, they voted "to build a school house the ensuing summer." In Oct. 1818, they "voted to excuse Mr. Barnard from paying the taxes assessed against him toward building the school house for the present. Voted unanimously to deprive Mr. Barnard from any privilege in said house until he shall pay his proportion toward building the same." In Oct. 1819, "voted to build a necessary to be attached to the school house to be 6 feet square, to have the boards matched[,] roof shingles[,] two boxes[,] double floor and a cleft door with hinges." Extensive repairs were made in fall 1852, and there is an accounting of line item expenses. In 1858, District 4 dealt with the sticky legal situation that the Prudential Committee for 1855/6, Mr. E. D. Clark, had not paid one of the teachers, and therefore owed the District money; it was finally resolved at some extra costs to the District. Note: A couple meetings are recorded out of chronological order: The Nov. 1821 meeting is on last page; the Sep. 1822 meeting is on second-to-last page.

Title: *School District 4 Records 1855-1881*

Inside Cover: "Records of School District No. 4 / Amherst, N.H. / Commencing with 1855"

Description: Small bound volume; 8 1/8" h x 6.75" w; brown leather spine, mottled red cover; hand-written by Clerks of School District 4; half pages are blank.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: Legal notices of meetings of legal voters among inhabitants of School District 4 with articles regarding schooling (de facto agenda, similar to Town Meeting warrants) and actions taken at meetings, including choosing moderator for meeting, clerk and prudential committee (one man) for ensuing year; and an accounting of annual expenditures, primarily for teachers' salaries, wood and small repairs (like replacing glass panes). For example, at March 1855 meeting, they "voted that it be left to the prudential committee to expend the money as he sees fit, procure the wood & when to begin the schools." [Major repairs to schoolhouse were funded by taxation of district.] In 1852, they expended \$144 on major repairs; in 1856 they voted to raise \$25 to paint the school house outside and and subsequently paid H. A. Nichols \$19.15 and L. Bissell \$2.58 for the painting project; in March 1872, District 4 voted to raise \$115 to put in new sash and frames in their schoolhouse; to clapboard the back side and paint the s.h.; to plaster and paper inside; but the whole cost came to \$133.60. This district often paid someone for building fires in the schoolhouse stove. At their final meeting, in March 1881, School District 4 "voted to have all records and papers of said district deposited in the Town Clerk's hands" [hence this very volume!] and "to dissolve this organization."

Title: *School District 6 Records 1806-1861*

Spine: No title on spine nor cover nor inside cover.

Description: Small bound volume; 7 3/8" high; brown leather spine, dark mottled cover; hand-written; nearly half blank pages.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: Records of legal meetings of School District 6. New schoolhouse built in summer of 1808 by Jonathan Hildreth for \$125. Specifications were: “boarded & shingled & clapboarded, brick chimney sealed inside up to the top of the first sash above & overhead plastered, 3 windows 12 squares each.”

Insert: Warrant: To the Legal Voters of School District No. 6 in the Town of Amherst ... meeting March 1863.

Research note: School District 6, aka Pond Parish district, lay east of the Village, bordering on Merrimack; the eponymous pond was Baboosic Lake. The word Parish was part of the name just for alliteration; this section was never a separate parish.

Title: *School District 6 Memorandum/Cash Book 1843-1844*

Cover: No title on cover nor inside cover.

Description: Mini homemade volume; 5 3/4” high x 4”; paper cover with smaller pages, mauve marbled cover; hand-written; mostly blank pages.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: Hard to decipher. May be the school district treasurer's notebook. On inside back cover: “Memorandum of School money ... To pd Isaac P. Weston for board of Mistress [\$] 10-; To pd School Mistress 8-; To pd Robert Kennedy 10.50; To 6 weeks at 8/ _ per wk 8-; To 1 cord of wood 2.50; To 4 square glass [freeley/puley ??] 2.25.”

Title: *School District 6 Records 1862-1878*

Inside Cover: “Record Book for district No. 6 in the Town of Amherst, N.H. 1862”.

Description: Thin bound volume; 7.75”h x 6.75”; brown leather spine, purple marbled cover; hand-written.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: Records of legal meetings of School District 6, aka Pond Parish District. (Record of 1865 meeting is missing.)

Research note: In 1863, former District 10 (SSE part of town near Merrimack town line at Spring Road), which existed 1852 through summer 1863, was joined to District 6. Curiously, there is no mention of new schoolhouse built on new site – to be more centrally located after merger with former District 10 – as evidenced by special school house tax of \$829.20 in 1864/5 (annual town report) and deed (354:112) of June 1864.

Title: *School District 6 Records 1879-1881*

Inside Cover: “Record Book for district No. 6 in the Town of Amherst, N.H. 1879”.

Description: Thin bound volume; brown spine, mottled black & yellow cover; hand-written; mostly blank.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: Records of legal meetings of School District 6.

Research note: Its schoolhouse is long gone.

Title: *School District 7 Records 1851-1881*

Cover: Written on cover “No. 7”; sticker on cover “1851”.

Inside Cover: “Records of School District No. 7 Amherst, N.H. 1851”.

Description: Small bound volume; 8”h x 6.75”; black leather spine, finely patterned green & multi-color cover; hand-written; blue paper; back third blank.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: Records of legal meetings of School District 7.

Research note: In 1838, the district in the northeast part of town, which originally was numbered 2, became School District 7. In the 20th century, its schoolhouse (built 1857), which was/is located at 16 Schoolhouse Road, became known as the Greeley School because it stands relatively close to the Horace Greeley Birthplace House, although obviously young Horace never had anything to do with it.

Title: *School District 8 Records 1859-1881*

Description: Small bound volume; 10.25”h x 8”; reddish-brown scratched spine, black cover; hand-written.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: Records of legal meetings of School District 8, which lay north of the Village and bounded on Mont Vernon town line, the schoolhouse being on Mack Hill Road). Last entry: “Respectfully submitted by A. S. Wilkins Prudential Committee There being no further business it was voted to adjourn And bidding farewell to the old district school meetings they departed. A true record attest, Eugene C. Hubbard, Clerk.

Loose Inserts: Mont Vernon 1877; 4 Warrants for School District No. 8 meetings, for 1873, 1878, 1880, 1881.

Title: *School District 9 Records 1842-1881*

Inside Cover: “Record of the proceedings of District No. 9, Amherst, N.H. ”

Description: Small bound volume; 8" h x 6.5" w; brown leather spine, reddish brown & black marbled cover; hand-written by Clerks of School District 9. First page has been cut out. First entry is dated January 1844, but next entry is Jan. 1842, followed by Jan. 1843, followed by duplication of 1844.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: Records of legal meetings of School District 9, particularly decisions (by votes) on when and for how long to keep school, and how firewood to heat schoolhouse was to be obtained and at what cost, and their annual choice of moderator, clerk, and agent. Book also includes annual account of the agent (in later years called Prudential Committee) on how much the teachers were paid and the cost of firewood and any repairs, and how much the District received from selling the ashes. Starting in 1851, after the District determined the "illegality of our past proceedings and unlawful meetings," the process became more formal, with annual warrants (similar to Town Meeting warrants with articles that functioned as agenda items) for meetings thenceforth held in March, and returns made to the Selectmen of proper posting of notices. In 1858 District 9 voted not to build a new schoolhouse. At the 1860 annual meeting, motion not to build a new schoolhouse prevailed, but six special meetings were held April-June 1860 to wrestle with this decision. Finally, at 30 June 1860 meeting, a motion prevailed to refer the whole matter to the Board of Selectmen as to whether better to repair or build new. No subsequent mention is made of a new schoolhouse!

Research note: District 9, known as Chestnut Hill(s) district, comprised the northern part of Amherst, bounding on Mont Vernon, New Boston, and Bedford. The scant and subtle evidence that a new No. 9 schoolhouse was built in 1860 is from annual town report and annual schools report: "FOR SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS. Paid No. 9 School house Tax - \$438." ("Report of the Selectmen of the Town of Amherst, for the Year Ending March 4, 1861," p. 2.) "District No. 9. ... It is reported that the new schoolhouse has been used rather roughly." ("Report of the Superintending School Committee, Amherst (N.H.) March 4, 1861," p. 9.)

Title: *School District 14/10 Records 1854-1881*

Spine: "JOURNAL".

Inside: "School District No. 14 / March 18th 1854 // March 1864 District No. Changed to 10"

Description: Bound volume; 13.5" h x 8.25" w; brown leather spine, black cloth cover; blue paper; 256 pages paginated of which blank from p. 78 to end; hand-written by Clerks of School District.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: Starts with petition in March 1854 by residents of that area to Selectmen for creation of new school district from parts of Districts 6 and 7. Records of legal meetings of School District 14 regarding school, and accounting of expenditures for schooling in that district.

Research note: "Report of Superintending School Committee, Amherst, N.H., for the Year Ending March 4, 1855" by J. G. Davis and S. White reports that 13 schoolhouses are maintained at the expense of the Town, of which two were erected in that year, the brick school in the Village and the one "in the new district, No. 14, [which] is a neat wooden building, well painted, with blinds and other conveniences for the comfort of the pupils." This new district was taken from Nos. 6 and 7. The whole number of scholars was 20. The schoolhouse was completed in the autumn. The first teacher was Miss Sophia E. Phelps, whose wages were \$10. The "Report of the Superintending School Committee of Amherst, for the Year Ending March 4th, 1864" confirms that District No. 10 was formerly No. 14; summer school that year was taught by a Miss whose wages including board were \$16 per month and winter school was taught by a man whose wages, including board, were \$26 per month.

School Registers

Overview: The Town Hall vault contains only one full set – both summer and winter terms for all 10 school districts – for the year 1870/71; plus for the year 1869/70 only the registers of District 2 (where the Irish immigrants lived, known as “the Acre”). For a particular school district and school year, each School Register provides attendance record of scholars, giving their names and ages, as well as columns for moral deportment (+ or 0), habits of study (+ or 0), and rank as scholar. It also contains a summary page that includes teacher's prior experience, wage including board, and inventory of educational materials. Final page lists textbooks used and a visitor log. These registers are the only source of scholars' names, and the age ranges in each schoolhouse. According to the instructions on the cover of the fill-in-the-blanks printed booklet (in which reference was made to General Statutes, chap. 81, sec. 14 and 15), the teacher was to turn the booklet in to the Superintending School Committee, who in turn was to lodge it with the Town Clerk, “who will preserve it among the papers of the Town for future reference.” [So what happened to the registers from other years?!] In some years, one or more Districts did not turn a School Register over to the Superintending Committee, as he then peevishly complained in the annual report. However, there must have been School Registers filled out for other years which the Superintending School Committees used for their annual reports, including comparative statistical tables (for example, in 1842/3, 1845/6, 1876/7, 1877/8).

Title: *School Register of District 1 of Amherst – Senior Department: 1870/71 Summer Term*

Cover: “New Hampshire School Register” (printed) with hand-written district number and town name.

Description: Printed fill-in-the-blanks booklet published 1869; 9.75” h x 7.5” w.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: By teacher Charlotte S. Robbins. Names of scholars (unique to this document), ranging in age from xx-xx, for April 25-July 1, 1870 term and Sep. 5-Nov. 18, 1870 term. Teacher's wage including board was \$40/month. The only book belonging to this schoolhouse was Webster's dictionary but the school also contained several maps, a globe, mathematical blocks and anatomical plates.

Copies or Other Sources: “Report of the Superintending School Committee of Amherst for the Year Ending March 14, 1871” published by Cabinet Press of Amherst, includes a narrative summary with teachers' names and statistical table of total number of scholars, and states that “the summer term was 10 weeks and the winter term 25 weeks with two short intervening vacations ... a greater amount of schooling than has ever been had before in [District One].” (In collection of Amherst Town Library, bound with annual town report.)

Title: *School Register of District 1 of Amherst – Senior Department: 1870/71 Winter Term*

Cover: “New Hampshire School Register” (printed) with hand-written district number and town name.

Description: Printed fill-in-the-blanks booklet published 1869; 9.75” h x 7.5” w.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: By teacher Charlotte S. Robbins. Names of scholars (unique to this document), ranging in age from 9-17, who attended Sep. 5-Nov. 1, 1870 and ... who attended Nov. 28, 1870-March 10, 1871.

Copies or Other Sources: “Report of the Superintending School Committee of Amherst for the Year Ending March 14, 1871” published by Cabinet Press of Amherst, includes a narrative summary with teachers' names and statistical table of total number of scholars, and states that “the summer term was 10 weeks and the winter term 25 weeks with two short intervening vacations ... a greater amount of schooling than has ever been had before in [District One].” (In collection of Amherst Town Library, bound with annual town report.)

Title: *School Register of District 1 of Amherst – Junior Department: 1870/71 Summer Term*

Cover: “New Hampshire School Register” (printed) with hand-written district number and town name.

Description: Printed fill-in-the-blanks booklet published 1869; 9.75” h x 7.5” w.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: By teacher Alice M. Kingsbury. Names of 38 scholars (unique to this document), ranging in age from 5-11, who attended April 25-July 1, 1870. Teacher's wage including board was \$40/month.

Copies or Other Sources: “Report of the Superintending School Committee of Amherst for the Year Ending March 14, 1871” published by Cabinet Press of Amherst, includes a narrative summary with teachers' names and statistical table of total number of scholars, and states that “the summer term was 10 weeks and the winter term 25 weeks with

two short intervening vacations ... a greater amount of schooling than has ever been had before in [District One].” (In collection of Amherst Town Library, bound with annual town report.)

Title: *School Register of District 1 of Amherst – Junior Department: 1870/71 Winter Term*

Cover: “New Hampshire School Register” (printed) with hand-written district number and town name.

Description: Printed fill-in-the-blanks booklet published 1869; 9.75” h x 7.5” w.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: By teacher Alice M. Kingsbury. Names of 36 scholars (unique to this document), ranging in age from 5-11, who attended Sep. 5-Nov. 18, 1870 and 33 scholars who attended Nov. 28, 1870-March 9, 1871. Teacher's wage including board was \$40/month.

Copies or Other Sources: “Report of the Superintending School Committee of Amherst for the Year Ending March 14, 1871” published by Cabinet Press of Amherst, includes a narrative summary with teachers' names and statistical table of total number of scholars, and states that “the summer term was 10 weeks and the winter term 25 weeks with two short intervening vacations ... a greater amount of schooling than has ever been had before in [District One].” (In collection of Amherst Town Library, bound with annual town report.)

Title: *School Register of District 2 of Amherst: 1869/70 Summer Term*

Cover: “New Hampshire School Register” (printed) with hand-written district number and town name.

Description: Printed fill-in-the-blanks booklet published 1867; 9.75” h x 7.5” w.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: By teacher Miss Hannah E. French. Names of 37 scholars (unique to this document), who attended May 3-July 24, 1869 (12-week term). Teacher's wage including board was \$26/month.

Copies or Other Sources: “Report of the Superintending School Committee of Amherst, N.H. for the Year Ending March 8th, 1870 ” published by Cabinet Press of Amherst, includes a narrative on “District No. 2 – “The Acre” [which was where recent Irish immigrants lived]. (In collection of Amherst Town Library, bound with annual town report.)

Title: *School Register of District 2 of Amherst: 1869/70 Winter Term*

Cover: “New Hampshire School Register” (printed) with hand-written district number and town name.

Description: Printed fill-in-the-blanks booklet published 1867; 9.75” h x 7.5” w.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: By teacher Miss Hannah E. French [of Nashua]. Names of 56 scholars (unique to this document), ranging in age from 3-15, who attended Aug. 30-Nov. 12, 1869 (11-week term). Teacher's wage including board was \$24/month. The schoolroom was furnished with Webster's dictionary and a small map of Amherst.

Copies or Other Sources: “Report of the Superintending School Committee of Amherst, N.H. for the Year Ending March 8th, 1870” published by Cabinet Press of Amherst, includes a narrative on “District No. 2 – “The Acre” [which was where recent Irish immigrants lived]. (In collection of Amherst Town Library, bound with annual town report.)

Title: *School Register of District 2 of Amherst: 1870/71 Summer Term*

Cover: “New Hampshire School Register” (printed) with hand-written district number and town name.

Description: Printed fill-in-the-blanks booklet published 1869; 9.75” h x 7.5” w.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: By teacher Miss Hannah E. French. Names of 47 scholars (unique to this document), ranging in age from 4-13, who attended April 25-July 15, 1870 (11-week summer term). Teacher's wage including board was \$28/month.

Copies or Other Sources: “Report of the Superintending School Committee of Amherst for the Year Ending March 14, 1871 ” published by Cabinet Press of Amherst, includes report by P. R. Baker, Superintending School Committee, with a statistical table for all nine rural schoolhouses giving length of summer and winter terms, total number of scholars, and teachers' names. (In collection of Amherst Town Library, bound with annual town report.)

Title: *School Register of District 2 of Amherst: 1870/71 Winter Term*

Cover: “New Hampshire School Register” (printed) with hand-written district number and town name.

Description: Printed fill-in-the-blanks booklet published 1869; 9.75” h x 7.5” w.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: By teacher Miss Mary A. French. Names of 58 or 59 scholars (unique to this document), who attended Aug. 26-Dec. 2, 1870 (11-week winter term). Teacher's wage including board was \$28/month.

Copies or Other Sources: “Report of the Superintending School Committee of Amherst for the Year Ending March 14, 1871 ” published by Cabinet Press of Amherst, includes report by P. R. Baker, Superintending School

Committee, with a statistical table for all nine rural schoolhouses giving length of summer and winter terms, total number of scholars, and teachers' names. (In collection of Amherst Town Library, bound with annual town report.)

Title: *School Register of District 3 of Amherst: 1870/71 Summer Term & First Winter Term*

Cover: "New Hampshire School Register" (printed) with hand-written district number and town name.

Description: Printed fill-in-the-blanks booklet published 1869; 9.75" h x 7.5" w.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: By teachers Emily W. Smith, summer term, and Allen A. Bennett, winter term. Names of 18 scholars (unique to this document), ranging in age from 4-14, who attended May 9-June 1870 (10 weeks); and 22 scholars, ranging in age from 6-16, who attended Oct. 24- Dec. 12, 1870.

Copies or Other Sources: "Report of the Superintending School Committee of Amherst for the Year Ending March 14, 1871" published by Cabinet Press of Amherst, includes report by P. R. Baker, Superintending School Committee, with a statistical table for all nine rural schoolhouses giving length of summer and winter terms, total number of scholars, and teachers' names. (In collection of Amherst Town Library, bound with annual town report.)

Title: *School Register of District 3 of Amherst: 1870/71 Second Winter Term*

Cover: "New Hampshire School Register" (printed) with hand-written district number and town name.

Description: Printed fill-in-the-blanks booklet published 1869; 9.75" h x 7.5" w.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: By teacher Celestia A. Rider. Names of 22 scholars (unique to this document), ranging in age from 6-15, who attended Dec. 27, 1871 [sic, error, should be 1870] to March 3, 1871[sic]. Teacher's wage including board was \$29/month. The schoolhouse was equipped with Webster's Dictionary, map of New England, and a globe.

Copies or Other Sources: "Report of the Superintending School Committee of Amherst for the Year Ending March 14, 1871" published by Cabinet Press of Amherst, includes report by P. R. Baker, Superintending School Committee, with a statistical table for all nine rural schoolhouses giving length of summer and winter terms, total number of scholars, and teachers' names. (In collection of Amherst Town Library, bound with annual town report.)

Title: *School Register of District 4 of Amherst: 1870/71 Summer & Winter Terms*

Cover: "New Hampshire School Register" (printed) with hand-written district number and town name.

Description: Printed fill-in-the-blanks booklet published 1869; 9.75" h x 7.5" w.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: By teachers Lizzie B. Smith, summer term, and Kate F. Rice, winter term. Names of 12 scholars (unique to this document), who attended May 9-July 6, 1870 (8 weeks) and 13 scholars, who attended Sep. 11, 1870-Jan. 18, 1871 (16 weeks).

Copies or Other Sources: "Report of the Superintending School Committee of Amherst for the Year Ending March 14, 1871" published by Cabinet Press of Amherst, includes report by P. R. Baker, Superintending School Committee, with a statistical table for all nine rural schoolhouses giving length of summer and winter terms, total number of scholars, and teachers' names. (In collection of Amherst Town Library, bound with annual town report.)

Title: *School Register of District 5 of Amherst: 1870/71 Summer & Winter Terms*

Cover: "New Hampshire School Register" (printed) with hand-written district number and town name.

Description: Printed fill-in-the-blanks booklet published 1869; 9.75" h x 7.5" w.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: By teacher Clara B. Gutterson, who was paid \$24/month for summer term and \$26/month for winter term. Names of 16 scholars (unique to this document), ranging in age from 4-13, who attended May-July (10 weeks) 1870 and 23 scholars, ranging in age from 6-17, who attended Sep.-Nov. 1870 (10 weeks).

Copies or Other Sources: "Report of the Superintending School Committee of Amherst for the Year Ending March 14, 1871" published by Cabinet Press of Amherst, includes report by P. R. Baker, Superintending School Committee, with a statistical table for all nine rural schoolhouses giving length of summer and winter terms, total number of scholars, and teachers' names. (In collection of Amherst Town Library, bound with annual town report.)

Title: *School Register of District 6 of Amherst: 1870/71 Summer & Winter Terms*

Cover: "New Hampshire School Register" (printed) with hand-written district number and town name.

Description: Printed fill-in-the-blanks booklet published 1867; 9.75" h x 7.5" w.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: By teachers Georgia Holt, who was paid \$16/month for 8-week summer term, and Abbie A. Patten, who was paid \$26/month for 14-week winter term. Names of 14 scholars (unique to this document), who attended May-July 1870; and 25 or 26 scholars who attended Oct. 31, 1870 to Feb. 4, 1871.

Copies or Other Sources: "Report of the Superintending School Committee of Amherst for the Year Ending March 14, 1871" published by Cabinet Press of Amherst, includes report by P. R. Baker, Superintending School Committee, with a statistical table for all nine rural schoolhouses giving length of summer and winter terms, total number of scholars, and teachers' names. (In collection of Amherst Town Library, bound with annual town report.)

Title: *School Register of District 7 of Amherst: 1870/71 Summer & Winter Terms*

Cover: "New Hampshire School Register" (printed) with hand-written district number and town name.

Description: printed fill-in-the-blanks booklet published 1869; 9.75" h x 7.5" w.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: By teachers Lillie Welch, summer term, and Annice G. Kendall, winter term. Names of 22 scholars (unique to this document), ranging in age from 4-16, who attended 9 weeks starting in May 1870; and 15 scholars, ranging in age from 7-17, who attended Oct. 24, 1870 to March 1871 (18 weeks). The schoolhouse had insufficient chalk in the first term.

Copies or Other Sources: "Report of the Superintending School Committee of Amherst for the Year Ending March 14, 1871" published by Cabinet Press of Amherst, includes report by P. R. Baker, Superintending School Committee, with a statistical table for all nine rural schoolhouses giving length of summer and winter terms, total number of scholars, and teachers' names. (In collection of Amherst Town Library, bound with annual town report.)

Title: *School Register of District 8 of Amherst: 1870/71 Summer & Winter Terms*

Cover: "New Hampshire School Register" (printed) with hand-written district number and town name.

Description: Printed fill-in-the-blanks booklet published 1869; 9.75" h x 7.5" w.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: By teachers Lucie S. Stiles, who was paid \$24/months for summer term, and Clara E. Flint of Wilton, who was paid \$32/month for winter term. Names of 18 scholars (unique to this document), ranging in age from 4-15, who attended May 2-June 28, 1870 (5 weeks); and 25 scholars, ranging in age from 4-20 (including one 17-year-old and two 18-year-olds), who attended Nov. 28, 1870 to Feb. 3, 1871 (12 weeks). This schoolhouse was furnished with Webster's Dictionary in dilapidated condition and a very old map of North America.

Copies or Other Sources: "Report of the Superintending School Committee of Amherst for the Year Ending March 14, 1871" published by Cabinet Press of Amherst, includes report by P. R. Baker, Superintending School Committee, with a statistical table for all nine rural schoolhouses giving length of summer and winter terms, total number of scholars, and teachers' names. (In collection of Amherst Town Library, bound with annual town report.)

Title: *School Register of District 9 of Amherst: 1870/71 Summer & Winter Terms*

Cover: "New Hampshire School Register" (printed) with hand-written district number and town name.

Description: Printed fill-in-the-blanks booklet published 1869; 9.75" h x 7.5" w.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: By teachers E. Jennie Fifield, who was paid \$22/month for summer term, and Clara B. Gutterson, who was paid \$26/month for winter term. Names of 15 scholars (unique to this document), ranging in age from 7-14, who attended May 9-Oct. 14, 1870 (8 weeks); and 15 scholars, ranging in age from 10-18, who attended Nov. 1870 to Feb. 1871 (12 weeks).

Copies or Other Sources: "Report of the Superintending School Committee of Amherst for the Year Ending March 14, 1871" published by Cabinet Press of Amherst, includes report by P. R. Baker, Superintending School Committee, with a statistical table for all nine rural schoolhouses giving length of summer and winter terms, total number of scholars, and teachers' names. (In collection of Amherst Town Library, bound with annual town report.)

Title: *School Register of District 10 of Amherst: 1870/71 Summer & Winter Terms*

Cover: "New Hampshire School Register" (printed) with hand-written district number and town name.

Description: Printed fill-in-the-blanks booklet published 1869; 9.75" h x 7.5" w.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: By teacher C. E. Averill of Milford. Names of 7 scholars (unique to this document), ranging in age from 6-11, who attended 5 or 8 weeks starting May 2, 1870; and 13 scholars, ranging in age from 7-18, who attended Nov. 7, 1870 to Feb. 3, 1871 (12 weeks). This schoolhouse was furnished with Webster's Dictionary, Colton's map of New England, and a small outline map of Amherst. The teacher's wage including board for summer term was \$24/month and for winter term \$26/month.

Copies or Other Sources: "Report of the Superintending School Committee of Amherst for the Year Ending March 14, 1871" published by Cabinet Press of Amherst, includes report by P. R. Baker, Superintending School Committee, with a statistical table for all nine rural schoolhouses giving length of summer and winter terms, total number of scholars, and teachers' names. (In collection of Amherst Town Library, bound with annual town report.)

Records of Town-Wide Board of Education (later called School Board)

Overview: The Town Hall vault contains the school district records of the elected Board of Education of Amherst from its inception in 1881 though 1949 – in 3 volumes. (Presumably the follow-on records are kept at the Brick School.)

Title: ***School District Records 1881-1912***

Spine: "RECORD"

Inside: "Records of School District of the Town of Amherst" (hand-written).

Description: Bound volume; 10.5"h x 8"; black spine, brown cloth cover; 216 pages paginated, p. 215-216 blank; hand-written.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: Records of legal noticed meetings of town's single school district, responsible for all schoolhouses in different parts of town which retained their old district numbers.

Copies or Other Sources: More information can be found in the School District section of annual town reports (online library.unh.edu or at Amherst Town Library). In 1908/9, besides the brick school in the Village, there were still 8 small rural schoolhouses in use (No. 2 through 9, with 6 & 10 combined); and 14 Amherst kids attended high school at Milford and one at Nashua.

Other Related Records/Sources: Among old records at the Brick School (upstairs file cabinet) are:

(1) ***Records of Board of Education of Town of Amherst, N. H., 1884-1898*** by Clarence L. Trow (1860-1952), Board Member and its Secretary for 6 years (1884-1890) [et al. presumably; CHECK: Sophia?]

(label on cover (typed): "Amherst School / Board Meetings / 1884 – 1898"; 7" w x 8.25" h, hand-written) which contain records of meetings. Example from June 1896, voted names of teachers for each schoolhouse & salary for Districts No. 1, 2, 3 [blank], 4 (salary \$6.50) [or more likely 4 was blank]; 5, 6 (salary \$7), 7, 8, 9 (salary \$5), and 10 (salary \$6).

(2) ***Records of Amherst (N.H.) School Board 1898-1907***

(Label on cover (typed): "Records of / Amherst School Board / 1898 – 1907"; 7 1/8" w x 8.25" h, pre-paginated 1-145, hand-written).

Title: ***School District Records 1913-1930.***

Description: Small bound volume; 8.25"h x 7"; brown leather spine, wine & yellow mottled cover; hand-written.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: Warrants by School Board & votes of legal noticed meetings of town's single school district, such as choosing officers and making appropriations.

Copies or Other Sources: More information can be found in the School District section of annual town reports (at Amherst Town Library).

Title: ***School District Records 1930-1949***

Inside Cover: "Records of of School District Meetings Amherst, N.H."

Description: Small bound volume; 8.5"h ; maroon spine, black cover; 152 pages paginated, from 142-152 blank; hand-written.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: Records of legal noticed meetings of town's single school district.

Copies or Other Sources: More information can be found in the School District section of annual town reports (at Amherst Town Library).

School District Treasurer's Cash Books (5 bound volumes, manuscript)

Copies or Other Sources: Presumably the same info is included in the education section of annual town reports (available at Amherst Town Library).

Title: ***School District Treasurer's Cash Book 1919-1929***

Cover: "SCHOOL TREAS. CASH BOOK"

Description: Bound volume; 9.5"h; maroon spine, black cover; hand-written.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: Accounts of Amherst School District.

Title: ***School District Treasurer's Cash Book 1930-1935***

Cover: "TREASURER'S CASH BOOK"

Description: Bound volume; 10.75"h x 8.5" w; maroon spine, black cloth cover; partially printed form.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: Accounts of Amherst School District.

Title: ***School District Treasurer's Cash Book 1941-1946***

Cover: "TREASURER'S CASH BOOK"

Description: Bound volume; 10.75"h x 8.5" w; maroon spine, black cloth cover; partially printed form.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: Accounts of Amherst School District.

Title: ***School District Treasurer's Cash Book 1946-1950***

Cover: "TREASURER'S CASH BOOK"

Description: Bound volume; 10.75"h x 8.5" w; maroon spine, black cloth cover; partially printed form.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: Accounts of Amherst School District.

Title: ***School District Treasurer's Cash Book 1951-1954***

Cover: "TREASURER'S CASH BOOK"

Description: bound volume; 10.75"h x 8.5" w; maroon spine, black cloth cover; partially printed form.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: Accounts of Amherst School District.

OTHER RELATED RECORDS: Among the records at the Brick School is

Title: ***Amherst School District Treasurer's Book 1967-1971***

Cover: TREASURER'S CASH BOOK 1967-71

Description: Red spine, black cloth cover, 8.75" w x 10 7/8" h; preprinted ledger with hand-written entries.

Location: Brick School (upstairs file cabinet)!

Contents: For FY July 1967 - June 1968, treasurer was Shirley J. Copeland. Starts: 12/12/67 Town of Amherst / Appropriation / 170 / 457 / 44. For 1969/70, treasurer was Louise Ainsworth. 11/16/70 Town of Amherst appropriation \$50,000.00. In back, special funds by Copeland, including Special Summer Music Program, Amherst Reading Fund, Amherst School Building Fund.

Series: Petitions for School District Charter Commissions: 1997 (2 sets loose sheets)

Location: Town Hall vault, shelf 7c in archival box. [Were found together in oversized manila envelope.]

1) Petition to School Board of Amherst School District to establish a Charter Commission to revise School District Charter – 1997.

Description: Multiple loose sheets with petitioners names & addresses, annotated with check marks or otherwise, and adding machine tape with total headcount, held together by clip.

Contents: 452 names of Amherst voters verified by Louise Marley.

2) Petition to School Board of Souhegan Cooperative School District to establish a Charter Commission to revise School District Charter – 1997.

Signatures from Amherst and Mont Vernon.

Annual Reports for Schools Town-wide – Separate Booklets

Overview: An annual narrative report on schools – called “Report of the Superintending School Committee of Amherst, N.H.” – was printed starting in March 1843 for 1842/3; and was included (continuous pagination) with the annual town report in 1849/50 through 1851/52; then separate again; then bound in same paper cover as annual town report from 1872/3 through 1880/81. When District 1 was reorganized in 1853 in accordance with the Somersworth Act (N.H. legislation), the annual school reports were authored by two distinct groups: The Superintending School Committee for District 1 and the Superintending School Committee for the rest of the town (all the one-room schoolhouses). The annual reports included the number of pupils attending each schoolhouse and an evaluation of the quality of teaching and the progress of the pupils.

When Amherst switched from district-by-district school meetings and Selectmen-appointed Superintending School Committees to an elected Board of Education for a single town-wide School District in 1881, financial reports for schools were incorporated into the annual narrative school report. For the years 1881/82 through 1897/98, the annual school report – now called “Report of the Board of Education of the School District of Amherst” – was under separate cover from the town report. From 1898/9 through 1978/9 and again 1988-1990, the separate school report was included under same cover as annual town reports.

Town Hall vault contains the annual school reports for only 21 years in the 19th century, the earliest being 1856/7.

Earliest Printed Annual Report: The earliest existing annual report of Superintending School Committee is “Report of the Superintending School Committee of Amherst, for 1843”, 12 pages with a statistical table naming all the teachers in 10 districts. The only known surviving copy is contained in a bound collection of the earliest annual town reports called “AMHERST TOWN REPORTS // 1832-1882 // TOWN LIBRARY” (title on spine), 8 3/8” h, bound by C.H.H. SILSBY & SON, BINDERS, Concord, N.H., which was “presented to Amherst Town Library by Isaac B. Dodge” in July 1882. Someone (presumably the original collector) has penciled in the names of the “School Committee” as S. Peabody, [Dr.] F. P. Fitch, W. Hooper, and [Rev.] M. Ball. The next two “Report of the Superintending School Committee of the Town of Amherst” in the same volume (also the single known source) are for the years 1844/5 (16 pages) and 1846/7 (8 pages, “presented at the annual [town] meeting March 1847”); thereafter annually. (The earliest schools reports are missing from “AMHERST TOWN REPORTS // 1832-1876” (title on spine), also in the collection of the Amherst Town Library, which includes schools reports starting from 1848.)

Other Sources: Besides the school reports bound together with multi-year annual town reports, Amherst Town Library also has (in archives closet, as of 2017) “Report of the Superintending School Committee of Amherst, N.H. presented at the Annual Meeting, March 1848” by J. G. Davis, L. N. Pattee, C. D. Fitch, Superintending School Committee” as a separate booklet (no cover, 8 numbered pages, 8 1/8” h x 5.25” w); combined annual town and school report for 1849/50 (no cover, 8 numbered pages) and combined annual town and school report for 1851/52 (no cover, 8 numbered pages); as separate school report for 1853/54 (no cover, 6 numbered pages held together with glue), 1854/55 (no cover, single uncut sheet, 4 numbered pages, 10” h x 5.5” w folded); 1859/60 (no cover, 8 numbered pages); 1860/61 (paper cover, 12 numbered pages); 1861/62 (faded-red paper cover, 8 numbered pages); 1862/63 (no cover, 8 numbered pages) through 1871/72. (For the years 1872/73 through 1880/81 the school report was bound in the same paper cover as the annual town report, and the Town Library has a full complement of the series.) Also in the Town Library’s archives are annual “Report of the Board of Education of the School District of Amherst” under separate (paper) cover for the years 1881/82 through 1897/98.

Title: *Report of the Superintending School Committee, AMHERST, N.H., MARCH 1857*

Author: by [Dr.] Seneca White & Committee

Description: 8"hx5"; thin paper pamphlet, no cover, 8 pages; type-set/printed at the Cabinet office in Amherst.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: Annual education report on all districts for 1856/7, when there were 11 schoolhouses in Amherst; scholars from Districts 11, 12, and 13 attended schools in neighboring towns of Bedford or Merrimack. (This is earliest issue stored in Town Hall vault.)

Copies: Same report is bound with annual town report of same year, located in/at Amherst Town Library.

Title: ***Report of the Superintending School Committee, AMHERST, N.H., MARCH 1858***

Author: by [Rev.] J. G. Davis & Committee

Description: 8"h x 5"; paper pamphlet, no cover, 8 pages; type-set/printed.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: Annual education report on all districts for 1857/8, when there were 11 schoolhouses in Amherst; scholars from Districts 11, 12, and 13 attended schools in neighboring towns of Bedford or Merrimack.

Copies: Same report is bound with annual town report of same year, located in/at Amherst Town Library.

[Note: Before 2017, the 1856/7 and 1857/8 annual school reports above were contained in an envelope that came from town of Meriden. In addition, a stack of 19th c. annual school reports were in a box on top.]

And Other single-year (year ending in March) booklets with colored-paper covers, including 1860/61, 1863/64, 1865/66, 1868/69, 1870/71, 1881/82, ... 1897/98 (with gaps!)

See the Finding Aid for full list of those in Town Hall vault. Copies at Amherst Town Library.

Financial Ledgers and Account Books

Financial Records: Town Treasurers' Records

Earliest Records: The earliest known surviving record book of town treasurer is at Amherst Town Library (acquired by donation 1897), namely *Amherst Town Treasury Book 1770* which contains data 1764-1810.

Overview: Town Treasurer's *account* books organized expenditures into categories, and usually were signed by Selectmen or Auditors by way of settlement; those that were not "signed off" are called workbooks in this catalog.

Town Treasurer's *cash* books recorded daily payments chronologically.

Series: Town Treasurer's Account for Support of the Poor, hiring sexton and collector: 1823/4 – 1 volume

Series: Town Treasurers' account books signed by Selectmen or Auditor(s): 1834-1918 – 3 volumes

Series: Town Treasurer's cash books or workbooks: 1888-1889; 1894 (2); 1900-1918; 1911-1917; 1911-1918; 1918-1826; 1931-1936; 1935-1942; 1941-1947; 1948-1951; 1951-1956; 1965-1969 – 13 volumes

Series: Town Treasurer's payment books: 1920-1975 – 2 PHBs

Series: Town Treasurer's records of payable notes (authorized by Selectmen): 1844-1846; 1866-1868; 1867-1915 – 3 volumes

These are all listed below chronologically, mixed together.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, on shelf 2f unless otherwise specified: 8 bound volumes from 20th century that are free-standing, the rest in 3 archival boxes.

Copies or Other Sources: Much of the information in Town Treasurer's record books can be found elsewhere. An annual financial report is included with the reports for annual March Town Meeting in *Amherst Town Records Vol. 3* and *Vol. 4*) and also in the typeset annual town reports starting in 1840/1 (in collection of Amherst Town Library; later years also online).

Title: ***Amherst Town Treasurer's Account for Support of the Poor 1823/4.***

Cover: "Memorandum of agreements, for the support of the poor, doing the Sexton business and collecting the taxes for the year 1823"

Description: Paper booklet sewn together, no separate cover, 11.5"h x 7.5"w; hand-written.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: Records of payments by Town Treasurer, especially for support of paupers. Examples: The Town paid 66 cents per week for the support of Rachel Brewer from 25 March 1823 to 26 March 1824, for a total of \$34.22; and 68 cents per week for the support of Mary Hosea for a total of \$35.36. The Town paid \$46.26 to Edward Hartshorn for support of Timothy Hartshorn from 25 March 1823 to 26 March 1824. The Town paid \$52 to Timothy Jones for support of Hannah Jones for the same year at \$1 per week. The Town paid \$50.96 for support of Elisabeth Whiting for the same year at 98 cents per week. The Town paid \$1.05 per week for the support of Abigail Bullard, a County Pauper, which was settled by order of the Court of Sessions to Feb. 19, 1824. Luther Parsons agreed to perform the Sexton business for the year for \$11 [? hard to read] – settled.

Copies or Other Sources: This may be a unique resource.

Title: ***Amherst Town Treasurer's Accounts 1834-1857***

Spine: blank; "1834" & "1855" [sic, but 1857] (on hand-written stickers).

Inside Heading: "Town Treasurer's Book Commencing 1834"

Description: Small thin bound volume, 13.25" x 8 5/8" x 1 1/8"; leather spine; cracked & peeling decorative brown-marbled paper on cardboard cover; hand-written; financial ledger. Cover in poor condition.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: The annual accounts of various town treasurers, starting with Jonathan Knight; each annual summary signed by the three Selectmen. Mostly listed by order number to various persons with the dollar amount paid; until 1850 there is no notation regarding reason for payment. Many empty pages at end.

Copies or Other Sources: An annual financial report is included with the reports for annual March Town Meeting for these years (see *Amherst Town Records Vol. 3* and *Vol. 4*) and also in the typeset annual town reports starting in 1840/1 (in collection of Amherst Town Library).

Title: *Amherst Town Treasurer's Book of 33 Payable Notes Against Town: 1844-1846*

Inside cover: A L- / ZS / 21 (in pencil)

First page: names numbered 1-34, first line being "G. Eaton 1"

Description: small bound volume, 7.5" h x 6" w; brown leather spine, brown amoeba-like patterned cover; hand-written; mostly blank pages

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault. [Before 2017, was in cardboard box on top of shelving.]

Contents: Begins with 33 names of individuals. At back, mostly accounts of payments chronological by name.

Copies or Other Sources: The annual town report for year ending March 1, 1845 includes a section called "Principal and Interest on Notes" with amounts paid to 7 individuals. The annual report called "Report of the Selectmen of the Town of Amherst, for the Year Ending March 1, 1846" includes a section called "Principal and Interest on Notes with amounts paid to 7 individuals (none of them G. Eaton). [Not sure if this is the same information.]

Title: *Amherst Town Treasurer's Accounts 1858-1899*

Spine: blank.

Description: 13.5" h x 8.75" x 1.25"; bound volume; brown leather spine and marbled green cover; blue paper; hand-written; financial ledger.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault

Contents: Annual financial reports for Town, each signed by Selectmen in early years or by Auditors in later years; by date, names of individuals to whom cash paid (but in early years doesn't specify what-for).

1859/60 is first year for which fire department expenses are a separate category, the section called "Expenses of Fire Engine and Apparatus" this first year and thereafter "Fire Department".

1863 March 4 (p. 28): List of soldiers who received \$1.50 each as bounty, including "J. G. Pedrick two sons" and "George Sloan for son" – 41 men in total.

Copies or Other Sources: An annual financial report is included with the reports for annual March Town Meeting (see *Amherst Town Records Vol. 4* and *Vol. 5*) and also in the typeset annual town reports. Variations in information between these sources are slight.

Title: Town Promissory Note Feb. 1865

Description: Single small piece of paper, 7" x 4.75"; fill-in-blanks printed form.

Contents: To pay George H. Shaw \$194.84, signed by all 3 Selectmen.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault; in archival box of Misc. 10th Century records on shelf 1c.

Title: *Amherst Town Treasurer's Book of Notes Outstanding Against the Town of Amherst on Feb. 12, 1866; and Notes Due on March 1, 1868*

Description: thin bound volume, 10.25" h x 8" w; maroon spine, orange amoeba-like patterned cover; hand-written; mostly blank pages

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: with payment annotations

Inserts: loose inserts

Title: *Payable Notes Issued by Town of Amherst 1867-1915*

Spine: blank.

Pre-printed Page Headings: "Notes Payable Issued by the town of Amherst [filled-in by hand] N.H."

Description: 7.75" x 10.75", thin bound volume; cover of green marbled paper; financial ledger.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: "Notes" authorized by "Selectmen", first page entry Sept. 1867; last entries 1915 payable to banks.

Title: *Amherst Town Treasurer's Accounts Workbook 1888-1889*

Title page inside: "Notes Against the Town"

Description: Small thin bound volume, 8 3/8" h x 6.75" w; green spine, dark-green marbled cover; hand-written.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: Town expenditures by categories, such as snow bills, highway & bridges, fire department, aid to town poor, soldiers' aid.

Copies or Other Sources: See annual town report.

Title: *Amherst Town Treasurer's Accounts for 1894 (1 of 2)* by E. K. Burt

First page heading: "1894 Treasurers Report / To Town of Amherst"

Description: Thin bound volume, 8.5" h x 7" w; maroon spine, fancy maroon & multicolored vertical-scallops pattern cover; hand-written; pre-paginated 100 pages but multiple blank pages interspersed.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, in Financial Records Box 3.

Contents: Town Treasurer's reports "respectfully submitted by" Edwin Kimball Burt, overview of 1894 followed by monthly reports followed by records of disbursement by category. Settlement to Sept. 1, 1894. Includes particulars on paupers such as: Thomas S. Merrow [this happens to have been the house I, KH, now live in] was paid \$1.50 per week for boarding Daniel W. Cram [a blind man], one of the county poor. Emma Greene was paid \$1.50 per week to board Jane Green, one of the town poor; and \$2 per week to board Mrs. A. Story, one of the county poor. "Fred Hill [the boy whose playing with fire caused the destruction of the almshouse & its barn] let to W. L. Cross for one year ending April 1st 1895 for board & schooling; clothing furnished by Town." (p. 98.)

Index: short non-alphabetical index or TOC on inside cover.

Inserts: Several loose receipts.

Copies or Other Sources: A more thorough accounting appears in the annual town report, in part under Report of Town Treasurer and in part under Report of the Selectmen. However, the details such as how much per day a person was paid for boarding a pauper is found only in this account book, as is the agreement for the care (indenture?) of pauper boy Fred.

Title: *Amherst Town Treasurer's Accounts for 1894 (2 of 2)* by E. K. Burt

First page: "Water Rent 1894".

Description: Thin bound volume, 8.5" h x 7" w; maroon spine, fancy maroon & multicolored horizontal-scallops pattern cover; hand-written.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, in Financial Records Box 3.

Contents: Town Treasurer's book in which accounts are organized by category, including town poor, town farm, soldiers' aid, street lighting (Orlodo Lowd was paid \$1 per night), engine fire department, dog money, school account, library account.

Index: non-alphabetical index or TOC on inside cover, starting with "Water Rent".

Copies or Other Sources: A more thorough accounting appears in the annual town report, in part under Report of Town Treasurer and in part under Report of the Selectmen. For example, the total amount Lowd was paid for street lighting is in the annual town report, but the detail of how much he was paid per night is only in this account book.

Title: *Amherst Town Treasurer's Accounts 1900-1918*

Spine: "271 / 400" [embossed at bottom]

Label pasted on Cover: "TREASURER'S / REPORT / [crossed out: 1910-1916] / 1900-1918"

Description: Bound volume, 14" h x 9" w; maroon spine, black cloth cover (poor condition); partially printed form.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault

Contents: (1) Copy of annual treasurer's reports 1900-1912 by E. K. Burt, Town Treasurer (pages 1-119); *not* signed by auditors. (2) Annual treasurer's report 1913 by H. B. Burt, Town Treasurer (pages 120-123); *not* signed by auditors. Cash accounts by month of 1914-1916 of/by W. E. Murphy, Town Treasurer; pages 126-210 in black and red ink; signed by auditors. Cash accounts of 1917-1918 by Frederick W. Brown, Town Treasurer; pages 202-237; signed by auditors.

Loose insert [as of Jan. 2017]: 1915 May 21 Executor's Notice to Legatees addressed to William E. Murphy, Treasurer of Town of Amherst, from executor of will of Nancy H. Moulton.

Title: *Amherst Town Treasurer's Workbook 1911-1918*

Spine: "JOURNAL // 2341 / 800"

Description: Thin bound volume, 8.5" h x 7.25" w x 1.25 thick; maroon spine, black cover.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, in Financial Records Box 3

Contents: Town expenditures recorded by Treasurer; first E. K. Burt from 1912-1913; by H. B. Burt for 1913/4; W. E. Murphy from 1914-1916; and Frederick W. Brown for 1917 & 1918. This is companion to Cash book of same years.

Title: *Amherst Town Treasurer's Cash Book 1911-1917*

Spine: "CASH // 2344 / 300"

Description: Bound volume, 8.5" h x 7.25" w; maroon spine, black cloth cover; 204 pages used of 300.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, in Financial Records Box 3.

Contents: Town expenditures recorded chronologically by E. K. Burt, Treasurer [probably others too]. This is companion to the other treasurer's or treasurers' book of same years.

Title: *Amherst Town Treasurer's Cash Book 1918-1926*

Spine: "1918" and "1926" (on two hand-written round stickers)

Cover: "TREASURER'S / CASH BOOK / TOWN OF AMHERST, N.H."

Description: Bound volume, 10.5" h x 8.5" w; maroon spine, black cloth cover; partially printed form.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault

Contents: Town expenditures recorded chronologically by Frederick W. Brown, Treasurer.

Title: *Amherst Town Treasurer's Cash Book 1931-1936*

Cover: "TREASURER'S CASH BOOK"

Description: Bound volume, 10.5" h x 8.5" w; maroon spine, black cloth cover; partially printed form.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault

Contents: Town expenditures recorded chronologically by Z. B. Kemp, Treasurer.

Inserts: 3 loose inserts

Title: *Amherst Town Treasurer's Cash Book 1935-1942*

Cover: "TREASURER'S / CASH BOOK"

Spine: "1935" and "1941" [sic] (on two hand-written round stickers)

Description: Bound volume, 11.25" h x 9.25" w; maroon spine, black cloth cover; partially printed form.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault

Contents: Town expenditures recorded chronologically by Z. B. Kemp, Treasurer.

Title: *Amherst Town Treasurer's Cash Book 1941-1947*

Cover: "TREASURER'S / CASH BOOK"

Description: Bound volume, 10.5" h x 9" w; maroon spine, black cloth cover; partially printed form.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault

Contents: Town expenditures recorded by Z. B. Kemp, Treasurer.

Title: *Amherst Town Treasurer's Cash Book 1948-1951*

Cover: "TREASURER'S / CASH BOOK"

Inside title page: "TOWN OF AMHERST / JAN. 1-1948 to 1951"

Description: Bound volume, 11" h x 8.75" w; maroon spine, black cloth cover; partially printed form.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault

Contents: Town expenditures recorded chronologically by Catherine Kruger, Treasurer.

Title: *Amherst Town Treasurer's Cash Book 1951-1956*

Cover: "TREASURER'S / CASH BOOK"

Description: Bound volume, 10 5/8" h x 8.75" w; maroon spine (poor condition, coming apart), black cloth cover; partially printed form.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, shelf 2f.

Contents: Town expenditures recorded chronologically by Catherine Kruger, Treasurer.

Title: *Amherst Town Treasurer's Cash Book 1965-1969*

Cover: "TREASURER'S / CASH BOOK"

Description: Bound volume, 10.75" h x 8.75" w; maroon spine, black cloth cover; partially printed form.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, shelf 2f.

Contents: Town expenditures recorded chronologically by Catherine Kruger, Treasurer.

Title: *Town Treasurer's Receipts & Payments 1920-1972* (one oversized bound volume)

Description: Post-hole binder with green corduroy cover with burgundy (leather?) corners; 12.75" h x 23" w x 5.5"; very heavy.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, shelf 5e [new shelving since Feb. 2018].

Title: *Town Treasurer's Payment Workbook 1972-1975*

Description: PHB (post-hole binder); 23 x 12.5"; blue cover; preprinted forms with typed names and category, hand-written amounts; also loose adding machine tapes held by paper clips.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, shelf 5d [new shelving since Feb. 2018].

Financial Records: Town Pauper Farm Accounts

See *Amherst Town Records* book for establishment of Amherst's Pauper Farm and Pauper Cemetery; and printed annual town reports for "final" financial accounting and inventories.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, shelf 2f, all 4 Pauper Farm records volumes in archival box.

Title: *Town Pauper Farm Accounts Book for 1835-1844*

No title on spine nor cover nor cover page. First entry: March 11, 1835.

Description: small bound volume, 7.5" h x 6 3/8" w; brown leather spine, brown amoeba-like patterned cover; hand-written. Condition: poor – loose pages.

Contents: For the first three years (on 5 March 1836, 4 March 1837, and 4 March 1838), the accounts were "settled" with Joseph Waugh [superintendent of the Town Pauper Farm] and signed by the Selectmen. In subsequent years, at various points there was the remark "settled" but not signed by any authority nor is it apparent who kept those accounts.

Copy or Other Sources: The first printed/type-set annual reports of the Town of Amherst, N.H. were financial statements with a brief narrative by the Selectmen about the Town's newly established Pauper Farm, called "Account of the Expenses of Supporting the Poor, in the Town of Amherst", for the years 1832/3 through 1839/40. Thereafter regular annual town reports were printed, including accounts of the Town Pauper Farm

Title: *Town Pauper Farm Accounts Book for 1870/71*

No title on spine nor cover. Graffiti on inside cover includes "Buzzell."

First page heading: "Amherst March 1, 1870 / Cr to Town Farm of Amherst. Third page: "Cr Amount of Milk Bills".

Description: small bound volume, 8.25" h x 7" w; brown leather spine, green marbling with yellow veining cover; mostly blank pages; hand-written. First page is loose.

Contents: Accounts by H. G. Buzzell, who along with his wife "commenced to superintend the town farm of Amherst March the 4, 1870 for \$400 a year."

Copy or Other Sources: "Report of the Overseers of Poor for Year Ending March 1, 1871" (part of annual town report) contains a detailed accounting of expenses (including \$365 payment to H. G. Buzzell, Superintendent) and receipts of pauper farm, as well as an inventory. Several expenses are noted as being "as per book" – perhaps that refers to this book.

Title: *Town Pauper Farm Accounts of Auction Sale on September 29, 1892*

Title page: "Auction Sale / Town Farm / Sept. 29, 1892" (in pencil)

Description: small bound volume, 8" h x 6.75" w; maroon spine, brown marbling with maroon veining and with diagonal striping on cover; hand-written.

Contents: Items (such as tools and livestock and grain), each with buyer and dollar amount, that were sold at auction are recorded on 8 pages, followed by accounting of total receipts of town of Amherst, \$1361.24. Second to last page: "All accounts paid in full to date Feb. 28, 1893."

Copy or Other Sources: The items sold, names of buyers, and amounts for each are unique to this volume. The annual report for the town of Amherst, N.H., for year ending March 1, 1893 includes: \$1361.24 from "Sale at Town farm" among the Cash Received in Report of Town Treasurer. There is a statement by the Selectmen: "The fire of August 16th, 1892 consumed nearly all the personal property at the Farm. What was saved was disposed of at auction together with the crops of the farm, which with the insurance on the [sic, truncated, sentence unfinished]." The amount received from the insurance is also in the Report of Town Treasurer. The receipts from auction sale and insurance are repeated along with the expenditures and other receipts at the Town Farm in "Report of the Overseers of the Poor, for the Year Ending March 1, 1893" in the same annual town report.)

Title: *Town Pauper Farm Accounts Book for 1894-1896*

No title on spine nor cover. First page heading: "Amherst Town Farm April 1, 1894"

Description: small bound volume, 8 5/8" h x 7" w; tan/beige brown cloth cover with fancy black pattern; pre-paginated with 100 pages; hand-written; most pages blank.

Contents: Final accounts of Amherst's town farm by Watson B. Byrd, superintendent. It no longer served as a home for paupers, housing very few for only short periods, instead providing overnight lodging and breakfast for tramps. In May 1894, a few peddlers were served dinner (one for 25 cents) and given overnight lodging for 50 cents or \$1 (which one peddler paid in tin ware).

Copy or Other Sources: Annual report(s) of Town of Amherst for the Year Ending Feb. 15, 1895 includes in great

detail: amount received for “hay sold from town farm” in Report of Town Treasurer; accounting of expenses of rebuilding at Town Farm in Report of Building Committee of Amherst Town Farm in Account with Treasurer (p. 13-14); and town farm expenses and number of tramps (55) in Report of Town Farm (p. 16-17), and Town Farm Receipts (p. 17-18) and Inventory of Personal Property at Town Farm Feb. 1, 1895. The following year's annual town report again contains great detail on accounting of Town Farm. (Available online at library.unh.edu; in hardcopy at Amherst Town Library.)

Pauper Records in Other Volumes in Town Hall vault:

Title: *Amherst Town Treasurer's Account for Support of the Poor 1823/4.*

Cover: “Memorandum of agreements, for the support of the poor, doing the Sexton business and collecting the taxes for the year 1823”

Description: paper booklet sewn together, no separate cover, 11.5”h x 7.5”w; hand-written.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault. Grouped with Town Treasurer's books.

Contents: Records of payments by Town Treasurer, especially for support of paupers. Examples: The Town paid 66 cents per week for the support of Rachel Brewer from 25 March 1823 to 26 March 1824, for a total of \$34.22; and 68 cents per week for the support of Mary Hosea for a total of \$35.36. The Town paid \$46.26 to Edward Hartshorn for support of Timothy Hartshorn from 25 March 1823 to 26 March 1824. The Town paid \$52 to Timothy Jones for support of Hannah Jones for the same year at \$1 per week. The Town paid \$50.96 for support of Elisabeth Whiting for the same year at 98 cents per week. The Town paid \$1.05 per week for the support of Abigail Bullard, a County Pauper, which was settled by order of the Court of Sessions to Feb. 19, 1824. Luther Parsons agreed to perform the Sexton business for the year for \$11 [? hard to read] – settled.

Research Note: This is prior to establishment of Town's Pauper Farm!

Title: *Tax Assessor's Notebook: 1849 – Livestock Inventory*

Spine/Cover: blank. In the middle of the inside: “Notes for 1849”

Description: Small thin bound volume, brown leather cover, 5 7/8” h x 4” w; hand-written in faint pencil. N.d.

Contents: 1) Draft inventory of livestock per taxpayer (preparation for tax invoice).

First page: “Geo. Kinson / 1 Horse / 2 Oxen / 7 Cows / 9 Cattle”.

2) The other end of the booklet contains several lists of clothing with costs for specific people. Among them:

Acct Geo Orcutt – 2 pr stockings \$1.00; 1 pr shirts \$2.00; handkerchiefs \$0.50; cap \$0.83; pr pants \$3.25= total

\$6.58. J. Stratton – 1 pr shirts \$1.08; 1 pr stockings \$0.50; 1 pr mittens \$0.67; 1 pr stockings \$0.50=total \$2.75.

Dorcas Wellington – 1 pr shoes \$1.25; 1 pr stockings \$0.58; 1 wollen [sic, woolen?] apron \$0.33; 2 shirts \$0.90;

flannels \$3.00; _?_ \$0.90=\$6.96. Also similar lists for Miss Rice, Miss Stanley, D. Wellington, John Stratton.

Notations among these few pages include: “Rcvd from County 154.94”. “Robert Harris – came April 29, left June 24 = 8 wks. Presumably these are notes on **paupers** by a Selectman in his role as Overseer of the Poor.

Research Notes by Katrina Holman: In April 1848, Mrs. Patience Stanley died at the Alms-house [of Amherst town pauper farm]. (*Farmers' Cabinet*, 27 April 1848.) There was an Orcutt family in Amherst at this time. The 1850 census of Concord, N.H. shows a George W. Orcutt, 20, at N.H. Asylum for the Insane and Amherst's annual town report for 1850/1 shows among “expenses paid for Paupers out of town” that the town of Amherst paid \$146.01 for “G. W. Orcut (County Pauper) at Asylum.” In 1820 census of Amherst, there was a Dorcas Wellington listed alone in her household.

Copies or Other Sources: The clothing accounts are unique to this document. Although ambiguous, they are likely part of record of Amherst's Town/Pauper Farm that are not preserved any where else. The annual report for the year ending March 4, 1849 does not name any paupers residing at Amherst nor those who died at the alms-house, nor is there any indication what items the “store bills” in the Account of Expenses at the Pauper Farm were for.

Title: *Amherst Town Treasurer's Accounts for 1894 (1 of 2)* by E. K. Burt

First page heading: “1894 Treasurers Report / To Town of Amherst”

Description: thin bound volume, 8.5” h x 7” w; maroon spine, fancy maroon & multicolored cover

Contents: Town Treasurer's reports “respectfully submitted by” Edwin Kimball Burt. Includes particulars on paupers such as: Thomas S. Merrow [this happens to have been the house I, KH, now live in] was paid \$1.50 per week for boarding Daniel W. Cram [a blind man], one of the county poor. Emma Greene was paid \$1.50 per week to board Jane Green, one of the town poor; and \$2 per week to board Mrs. A. Story, one of the county poor. “Fred Hill [the boy whose playing with fire caused the destruction of the almshouse & its barn] let to W. L. Cross for one year ending April 1st 1895 for board & schooling; clothing furnished by Town.” (p. 98.)

Note: A more thorough accounting appears in the annual town report, in part under Report of Town Treasurer and in part under Report of the Selectmen. However, the details such as how much per day a person was paid for boarding a pauper is found only in this account book, as is the agreement for the care (indenture?) of pauper boy Fred.

Financial Records: Trustees of Trust Funds Records

Series: Trust funds accounts: Cemetery 1891-1930 and Various 1916-1952 – 3 volumes

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault. The two bulky Trust Fund volumes on shelf 5d; the small volume in Financial Records Box 1 on shelf 2f.

Title: Cemetery Trust Funds of Town of Amherst, N.H.: 1891-1930

Spine: "CEMETERY / TRUST / FUNDS // TOWN / OF / AMHERST / N.H."

Description: oversized bound volume; 14" h" x 11" w; ; maroon spine, black cloth cover (in poor condition); fill-in-blanks forms.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, shelf 5d [since Feb. 2018, new shelving].

Contents: Accounts of cemetery trust funds 1891-1930. First entry (page 1): name of giver is Lucy W. Blunt; date of deposit 28 Feb. 1891; lot no. 436 in Meadowview; \$106. Second entry (p. 2-3): name of giver is Charles H. Nutt; March 1894; lot 228: 373; \$300. Last entry (p. 173): name of giver is Geo. A. Trow; 25 Sep. 1930; lot no. 711 & 737; \$100.

Index: integral in front.

Loose Inserts.

Title: Trust Fund Accounts 1916-1930

Spine: "CASH // 2344/300".

Handwritten on First Page: "Book of Accounts of Trust Funds for the benefit of the Town of Amherst for Cemetery, School, Highway and other purposes formerly held by the Selectmen or other persons as Trustees under different bequests, but all vested in a ___ [illegible] Board of Trustees by Virtue of Chap. ___ [blank] of the Acts of 1915"

Description: 8.5" x 7.5", small bound volume; red spine, black cover; 300 pages prepaginated but most blank.

Condition: Spine detached, poor condition.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, shelf 2f.

Contents: Accounts of various trust funds, including cemetery funds and several school funds.

Index: inside front cover and adjoining page (not alphabetized).

Title: Records of Trust Fund Income & Expenditures: 1929-1952

Location: Town Hall Vault, shelf 5d [since Feb. 2018, new shelving].

Description: hardcover with no spine, post-hole brown cover; 11.5" h x 11.75" w; tan cloth cover with burgundy corners; typewritten entries on printed forms; integral typed index in front.

Contents: Includes Amalgamated Cemetery Fund transferred July 1952 to Common Trust Fund; Aaron Lawrence School Fund 1929-1944; Library Fund 1929-1944.

Chattel (Personal Property) Mortgage Records – Recorded by Town Clerk(s)

Overview: Chattel mortgages were a way to borrow money, or buy on credit or by installment payments, using personal property as collateral or security. In Vol. 5, both parties signed that they “solemnly swear that mortgage is made for purpose of securing the debt, ... honestly due and owing from the mortgager to mortgagee.” These mortgages contain the phrase “provided always” or “provided nevertheless” with clause that sale is void when grantor repays the consideration amount, just as one finds in mortgage deeds for real estate. They were recorded by the Town Clerk.

Series: *Chattel Mortgages*: 1833-1931 – 5 numbered volumes (Vol 1. small, the others oversized)

Series: *Chattel Mortgages 1914-1929* (dates overlap with Vol. 5) – 1 volume

Series: *Personal Mortgages to Cavanaugh Bros.* of Manchester, N.H., horse dealers: 1908-1911 and 1914-1928 – 2 folders of 47 loose sheets; of which 2 sheets, 1916 and 1921, have different grantee, automobile dealer

Series: *Conditional Sales 1960-1962*; also contains Articles of Agreement for two town organizations – 1 volume

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, shelf 1e, 7 volumes standing upright and 2 legal-size folders and several separately bound indexes. Caution: loose inserts in large volumes.

Title: *Amherst Chattel Mortgage Records Vol. 1: 1833-1837*

Inside Cover (hand-written): “Vol. 1 of Town Records of Mortgages of Personal Property in the Town of Amherst”.

Description: Small, thin, 8 3/8” x 6.5”; bound volume with brown-marbled cover; completely hand-written..

Contents: Mortgages of personal property to secure debts, recorded by Amherst Town Clerks. Examples:

The first mortgage (p. 1): On 4 March 1833, Samuel Davidson of Amherst, husbandman, granted to Charles Richardson of Amherst, Esquire, for \$76.61, one pair oxen 7 years old, bright red colour, brass rubs on the horns, and one shoat, a barrow of last year, the said oxen and shoat being on the farm occupied by Davidson. Provided always that if Davidson pay the sum on demand with interest for the redemption of the oxen & shoat, then these presents shall be void. Delivered livestock to Richardson in the presence of Hiram D. Leavitt and Charles A. Richardson.

The second mortgage (p. 3): On 7 March 1833, Samuel Davidson of Amherst, husbandman, granted to Edmund Parker, Esquire, Charles L. Stewart and Ephraim Blanchard Jun., traders, all of Amherst, for \$68, one sow & 6 pigs valued \$10; one cow valued \$15; 4 chairs (3 draft and 1 timber chair) valued \$8; 2 sleds & 3 drags valued \$10; 1 plough valued \$5; 3 tons of hay valued \$18; 1 yoke valued \$2; 2 iron bars valued \$3; 1 pair sled runners valued \$1; 1 sledge, 11 chisels, and 22 wedges valued \$10; lot of boards, supposed 400 feet, valued \$3; 2 axes & 1 hand__ stone square valued \$4. Said goods and chattels now being o the farm in Amherst owned by said Parker & Stewart and occupied by Davidson. Provided always if Davidson pay the sum ... \$41.34 of which to pay the demand of Parker & Stewart for rent of the farm on which D. lives for one year and to be paid first; and \$21.03 to pay to Blanchard's claim against D., being a note and balance of accounts. Sum to be paid for redemption of chattels and goods. [CHECK amts; none of them add up; but you get the idea nonetheless.]

Index: Inside back cover, alphabetical.

Title: *Amherst Chattel Mortgage Records Vol. 2: 1837-1852*

Spine: “RECORDS”.

Inside: “Record of Mortgages of Personal Property in the Town of Amherst Vol. 2”.

Description: Oversized, 13 5/8” h x 9.5” x 1.75”; bound volume with dark brown leather spine and brown/green marbled cover; 269 pages, hand-paginated; all hand-written.

Contents: Mortgages of personal property to secure debts, recorded by Amherst Town Clerks.

Index: Unknown. None included.

Title: *Amherst Chattel Mortgage Records Vol. 3: 1852-1867*

Spine: “RECORDS”; hand-written stickers “1852” & “1867”.

Cover (hand-written taped-on separate piece of paper): “TOWN OF AMHERST, N.H. / MORTGAGES NO. 3.”.

Inside: “Record of Mortgages of Personal Property in the Town of Amherst Vol. 3”.

Description: Over-sized, 13.25” h x 9.25” x 2 3/8”; bound volume with hard cover; blue paper with 548 pre-

paginated pages, pages 547 & 548 blank; all hand-written.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: Mortgages of personal property to secure debts, recorded by Amherst Town Clerks. Also (on final page), cattle damage notice of 1868.

Index: None in volume. Separate tabbed index booklet called "Amherst Mortgage Records No. 3" (hand-written inside front cover); with dark-green marbled (with yellow & blue veining) cardboard cover, 13 1/8" h x 4 1/8" w.

Title: Amherst Chattel Mortgage Records Vol. 4: 1868-1909

Spine: "MORTGAGE / RECORD // AMHERST / VOL. 4."; handwritten stickers "1868" & "1909".

Description: Over-sized, 14" x 9.25" x 2 3/8"; bound volume; 552 pages prepaginated, pages 523-532 blank (intended for corresponding loose sheets); pages 1-397 contain completely hand-written mortgages; thereafter some mortgages on preprinted fill-in-blanks "Memorandum of Conditional Sale CAVANAUGH BROS. To ___" forms pasted in, interspersed up to page 536; a few loose discharge notices inserted.

Separate folder with loose fill-in-blank preprinted mortgage sheets for one grantee, 14" x 8.5".

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: Mortgages of personal property to secure debts (up to page 532), recorded by Amherst Town Clerks. Also: **assignment of wages** (p. 537- 549). Example: Doyle to Doyle dated 13 March 1882. "I Patrick Doyle of Milford, N.H., in consideration of what I owe my mother Julia Doyle of Amherst and as security for the payment thereof do hereby assign to Julia Doyle all wages due and pay that may be earned by me between this date and the first day of June next for services by me rendered to W. E. Pierce & Co. of Milford as laborer or otherwise ..." Signed by Patrick his X mark Doyle. Witnessed by Jeremiah J. Doyle and Michael Leavitt. Recorded by A. A. Rotch, Town Clerk of Amherst, N.H.

Also: **partnership** agreements (p. 550): 1) William S. Palmer of Manchester & **George S. Palmer** of Amherst "entered into co-partnership in boot and shoe trade, apothecary business and the buying and selling of such goods as are usually kept for sale in a retail country store, said business to be continued at Amherst" in Nov. 1877. [Research note by Katrina Holman, March 2018: In June 1873, Geo. S. Palmer became successor to I. J. Russ as dealer in boots, shoes & rubbers and also drugs & medicines, soaps, brushes, perfumery (*Farmers' Cabinet*, Amherst, N.H., 25 June 1873), but he got into financial "embarrassment" before briefly rescued by this partnership, yet closed the store at end of 1877 (*Cabinet*, 15 Jan. 1878.) The store was located on west side of Congregational Chapel.] 2) In April 1887, **William D. Clark and William W. Sloan**, both of Amherst, formed a co-partnership "for the purpose of carrying on the business of traders in Groceries, W. I. Goods and other articles in Amherst"; and the are the sole partners, the firm is known as Clark & Sloan. [Research note: Clark & Sloan were proprietors of the general store in the 3-story brick block aka Cushing's Folly in Amherst Village.]

Also: **stray cattle notice** of 1884 (p. 552); and permission in 1887 by Board of Cattle Commissioners of N.H. to John A. Dow of Pepperel, Mass. to bring 6 head of cattle into N.H. and to L. H. Dow of same place – 9 head (p.552).

Contents of folder: 12 sheets "Personal Mortgage ___ to **Cavanaugh Bros.**" dated between 1908 and 1911, numbered 511 [illegible] and 523 through 533 [apparently pages from *Chattel Mortgages Vol. 4* in which to be inserted, although there are other mortgages already recorded on p. 511 and 533]. Cavanaugh Brothers were horse dealers in Manchester, N.H. Seven of these mortgages are for the same person, Charles S. Bills of Amherst, buying horses on the installment-payment plan.

Index: None in volume. Separate tabbed index booklet called "Amherst Mortgage Record Vol. 4" (hand-written inside front cover); with brown marbled (with diagonal striping) cardboard cover, 13 1/8" h x 4 1/8" w. Condition: letters on tabs have come unglued, fallen off, and disappeared.

Title: Amherst Chattel Mortgage Records Vol. 5: 1879-1931

Spine: "MORTGAGE / RECORDS // AMHERST / VOL. 5"; hand-written stickers "1879" & "1931".

Description: Medium-sized; 14" tall; bound volume; brown cover with spine lettering on red and black rectangles; one mortgage per page, handwritten specifics on preprinted format, pages 1-365; pages 366-494 blank.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: Mortgages of personal property to secure debts, recorded by Amherst Town Clerks. First entry 6 August 1879; last entry 1931. (All of these mortgages contain the phrase "provided nevertheless" with clause that sale is void when grantor repays the consideration amount, just as one finds in mortgage deeds for real estate.)

Examples of chattel mortgages:

1880 Feb. 13 – **Wilder J. Prince** of Amherst conveyed to Joel F. Osgood Jr. for \$207.63: 800 railroad ties, chestnut and oak, situated in the Town of Amherst and comprising all the ties which I [Prince] own, a portion of them being on the farm I now occupy, and by the hwy leading from Amherst to New Boston and passing mill of Solomon Prince; a portion at Amherst Station, including all the ties I own or have any claim to, be the same more or less than the number named; also any already in delivery to Nashua & Lowell Railroad on which I have any claim.

Provided nevertheless... (Amherst Chattel Mortgage 5:7)

1879 Dec. 5 – **Samuel Wilkins** of Amherst conveyed to Herman V. Davis of Amherst for \$288: a lot of farming tools, comprising all on my farm in Amherst that have been set off to me as exempt from attachment, including all plows, cultivator, harrows, chains, horse sled, large six-horse wagon, small one-horse wagon, 2 harnesses, winnowing mill, refrigerator, iron shovels, dung forks, pitch fork and rakes, axes, etc. including all the tools I own; also about 2000 feet of white wire for clothes lines; also one cow buffalo breed 5 years old and one speckled cow 6 years old, both now at my barn in Amherst; also one cow, red, 7 years old, at barn of William Woods in Amherst; also pew which I now own in the Congregational meeting house in Amherst; also 3 feather beds now in use in my family. Provided nevertheless... (Amherst Chattel Mortgage 5:8)

1880 June 5 – **Samuel Wilkins** of Amherst conveyed to Luke Smith of Milford for \$200: all the grass and crops now standing and growing on a certain lot of land in Amherst, N.H., containing about 15 acres situated on Souhegan River near the Poor Farm bridge; also all the grass and crops on the Damon meadow in Amherst containing about 6 acres; also all the grass and crops on another field of land in Amherst situated ___ the Pond Parish road and the road to Merrimack, containing about 8 acres. Provided nevertheless... promissory note dated 19 Feb. 1879 for \$150 payable in 12 months with interest to order of George L. Smith, and now in hand of Luke Smith as attorney for said George. (Amherst Chattel Mortgage 5:13)

1880 June 5 – **Benjamin Wheeler** of Amherst conveyed to George L. Ames of Milford for \$100: one light bay horse, being the one [Wheeler] this day bought of John A. Mills. Provided nevertheless... (Amherst Chattel Mortgage 5:14)

1881 Aug. 25 – **John McKay** of Amherst conveyed to **Andrew F. Sawyer** of Amherst for \$355: one chestnut horse named “Charles” about 13 years old; one other chestnut horse named “John” about 12 years old; one pair of double harnesses; 1 platform body team wagon; one set of trucks; one traverse sled. This property being the same that Sawyer has this day sold to McKay. Provided nevertheless if McKay pay his promissory note of \$353..

Discharged: 20 Oct. 1881. (Amherst Chattel Mortgage 5:24)

Index: None in volume. Separate tabbed index booklet called “Index to the Mortgage Record Vol. No. 5” (hand-written inside front cover); with mottled black & beige cardboard cover, tall & skinny, 13 1/8” h x 4 1/8” w.

Title: ***Amherst Chattel Mortgages 1914-1929***

Spine: “RECORD”; hand-written stickers “1914” & “1929”.

Description: bound volume; 14” h x 9.25” w; burgundy-colored spine, black cloth hard cover; 345 pages filled; pre-paginated up to 501; a few loose inserts.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: Mortgages of personal property to secure debts, recorded by Amherst Town Clerks.

Title: ***Personal Mortgages to Cavanaugh Bros. 1914-1928***

Description: 34 sheets numbered 1 through 32, except there are 2 sheets of same grantor numbered 13 and two sheets of same grantor numbered 15 and number 28 appears to be missing. All but two are on fill-in-the-blanks preprinted forms.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, on shelf 1e in legal-sized folder.

Contents: For all but two of these chattel mortgages the grantee was Cavanaugh Bros., a horse dealer in Manchester, N.H. (The partners, all named Cavanaugh, changed between 1914 when there were three of them but two were living in Massachusetts, and 1923, when there were six partners, all of Manchester.) These appear to be straight-forward purchases of horses. The parties for Mortgage #16, dated 1916 and completely hand-written, were Manchester Auto Garage Co. and Ashton L. Martin [a storekeeper in Amherst Village], the purchase being for a used 1916 Hudson for \$900. Conditional Sale Contract #26, dated 1921 and completely hand-written, was an agreement by an Amherst resident to pay \$1237 in installments for a Dodge Bros. truck from a dealer in Manchester, N.H., during which period “said chattel will be kept at Amherst.”

Title: ***Amherst Conditional Sales (Chattel Mortgages) 1960-1962***

Spine: “Conditional Sales 1960-62”

Description: over-sized; 14.25” h x 9” w; bound volume; red spine, black cloth hard cover; one mortgage per page, some are handwritten specifics on preprinted format, pages 1-365; but others are inserted typewritten sheets on paper of various sizes and colors; pages 366-494 blank.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault.

Contents: Mortgages of personal property, especially new automobiles, to secure debts, recorded by Amherst Town Clerks.

Also (near end): Articles of Agreement of Amherst Swim Club, Inc. in 1962 (#186); Articles of Agreement for Bradford-Long-Miles-Sullivan Post No. 87, a patriotic organization, in 1962; map of Permanent Signs at Camp

Young Judea, Amherst, dated August 1964; notice of lien for aid to disabled on estate of Mamie White, 1964.
Index: Integral index in front with alpha tabs.

ADDITIONAL INDEXES [formerly, before 2017, in box with other old docs on top of vault shelving]:

Separate tabbed index booklet, probably for chattel mortgages, with no date nor title of any kind; green cover with floral pattern; skinny; 11 3/4" h x 4" w.

Separate tabbed index booklet, probably for chattel mortgages, with no date nor title of any kind; cover with brown amoeba-like marbled (with maroon, dark blue & yellow veining) paper; skinny; 13 1/8" h x 4 1/8" w.

Title: "Alphabet to No. 6" (written inside, no title on cover)

Separate tabbed index booklet, possibly for chattel mortgages; tattered black cloth cover missing spine; thin; 14 1/4" h x 9.5" w.

Contents: 1) Index in format used for mortgages, for a volume of at least 583 pages. 2) Comment beneath last alpha entry in small tidy hand (not the primary/original handwriting): "You'll pay for recording your Deed now – No I want – why not? this is the way I get my living – if all get trusted, how can I live". 3) On several pages at back (under tabs Q, R, V), pasted across double pages are headings of fill-in-the blank printed chart "For the State Boards of Agriculture: Statistics of Production – Town of Amherst for the Year Ending March 31, 187_" [specific year not filled in] including columns for quantities of hay, potatoes, corn shelled, oats, rye, milk, butter, pork, and beef, and beneath that hand-written columns of totted up figures.

Index to Writs of Attachment

Historical Overview: A writ of attachment is a court order to "attach" or seize an asset. It is issued by a court to a law enforcement officer or sheriff. The writ of attachment is issued in order to satisfy a judgment issued by the court. The Town Clerk of Amherst began recording an index to such writs against residents of Amherst, pursuant to a new N.H. law of Dec. 1848. However, there is no indication of what the suits are about, the amount of the judgments, nor how they were resolved.

“An Act requiring town clerks to keep an index of the attachments made by leaving a copy of the writ at their dwelling house. Section 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened, That it shall be the duty of every town clerk to provide and keep a general index of all attachments made by leaving a copy of the writ of attachment at this dwelling house, in which he shall enter at the time of receiving the copy of the writ on which the attachment is made, the day of receiving the same, the court to which the writ is returnable and the names of the plaintiff and defendant in the suit; with the names of the defendants alphabetically arranged; which index shall at all times be open to public inspection. Section 2. The officer making such attachment shall at the time of making the same, pay to the town clerk the sum of 20 cents which shall be in full for his services in receiving and filing the copy, certifying the time of receiving the same and entering the attachment upon said index. Section 3. So much of the fourth section of chapter 184 of the Revised Statutes as provides for the payment of 17 cents to the town clerk be and the same is hereby repealed. Approved Dec 19, 1848.” (*New Hampshire Patriot and State Gazette*, Concord, N.H., 11 Jan. 1849; *Farmers' Cabinet*, Amherst, N.H., 1 Feb. 1849.)

Series: Index to Writs of Attachment 1849-1902 and 1902-1942 – 2 volumes

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, shelf 1e, standing upright. [As of June 2017.]

Title: *Index to Writs of Attachment Filed with Town Clerk of Amherst, N.H.: 1849-1902*

Spine: “RECORD / OF / ATTACHMENT // [?] / 1849” [too worn to be fully legible]

Description: Tall bound volume; 13.75” h x 8 3/8” w; brown leather spine; fully hand-written. Writs entered on pages numbered 49-222, with three writs per page except final two pages, which contain two writs per page.

Contents: Each entry is Writ no.; name vs name, date filed with Town Clerk of Amherst, N.H.; “writ returnable to Court of Common Pleas Hillsborough [County]. A true copy Attest, [name], Town Clerk. (There is no indication what the suits are about or how they resolved.)

Index: Integrated at front of volume (some letters have fallen off tabs).

Loose Insert: Two items. Actual writ, one two-sided partially printed sheet, dated 1 January 1897, being letter addressed to Sheriff with command to attach goods or estate of Henry H. Belden of Amherst, yeoman, to value of \$500 to answer to Joseph Davidson of Amherst. (Pertains to a writ recorded by Town Clerk on page 211.) And a typed document on small piece of paper.

Title: *Index to Writs of Attachment Filed with Town Clerk of Amherst, N.H.: 1902-1942*

Description: Tall thin bound volume; 13 3/4” h x 8.5” w; black spine, brown marbled paper cover; fill-in-blanks printed form.

Contents: Each entry is Day Received / Court Returnable / Plaintiff / Defendant. (There is no indication what the suits are about.) Includes notations of discharge.

Index: The whole document is an index, so entries are all alphabetical, not chronological.

Loose Inserts: Notifications to Town Clerk of Amherst, N.H. of discharge of attachment:

[1] 1904 July – typewritten letter by attorney for plaintiffs in case of 6 persons v. Eli A. Sawtelle

[2] 1907 April – hand-written letter on letterhead by attorney for plaintiff of settled case

[3] 1907 June – hand-written letter on letterhead by attorney for plaintiff of settled case

[4] 1910 Sep. – typewritten letter by attorney re: suit of B. F. Whiting v. Lucy J. Webster

[5] Undated [according to index, suit 1906, discharged 1912] – 2 copies of typewritten notice from State of New Hampshire, Superior Court of Hillsborough County.

Articles of Agreement

Earlier/other records (found in Town Hall vault):

Articles of agreement for incorporation for First Baptist Church in March 1902 (p. 17) and for Congregational Church of Amherst in Oct. 1933 (page 420) are recorded in *Amherst Town Records Vol. 7: 1900-1943*.

Articles of agreement from 1962 for Amherst Swim Club, Inc. and Bradford-Long-Miles-Sullivan Post No. 87 are included with *Conditional Sales 1960-1962*, grouped with Chattel Mortgages.

Title: **Articles of Agreement Book 1: 1973-1986** (filed with/by Town Clerk)

Description: green 3-ring binder

Contents: 39 agreements, each assigned a "page" number. Include: N.H. Electra Glide's (1979); Jasper Valley Swim & Tennis Club (1979); Amherst Jaycees (1973); Amherst Rescue Squad Association (1978); Lincoln Wood Association (1974); Amherst Patriots Association (1974; Book 1: #14); Amherst Soccer Club (1985; last entry in binder, numbered 38); Christ's Church of Amherst (1986; loose insert at end).

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, Shelf 7b.

Later records: The latest Articles of Agreement filed with Town Clerk – dated 2003 through 2017 – are filed in a folder in file cabinet in office of Town Clerk. Among them are: Amherst Baseball Club (2003); North Woods Condominium (2003); Souhegan Scholarship Foundation (2003); Amherst Farmers' Market (2004); Amherst Land Trust (2013); Baboosic Lake Rowing Club (2017); Connor Court Senior Living Community (2017). Filed in chronological order.

Grange – Patrons of Husbandry

Historical Overview: In December 1873, Souhegan Grange No. 10 was organized in Amherst, with male and female officers, and J. U. Prince as first Master (*Farmers' Cabinet*, Amherst, N.H., 10 Dec. 1873). Earlier that year, Deputy Eben Thompson had visited Wilton, Milford and Amherst and other towns in this vicinity with the intention of organizing granges. The local newspaper (*Cabinet*, 22 Oct. 1873) published an article by him, which said in summary that: The grange is an organization of individuals who are known as Patrons of Husbandry, its membership consisting of “persons interested in agricultural pursuits” (according to the constitution of the National Grange). “Its objects are the financial, social, moral and intellectual improvement of its members.” In August 1875, a multi-town meeting of 20 granges held a picnic with entertainment “at the grove near Amherst station.” Among activities held by Souhegan Grange of Amherst in the early years were a basket picnic held at Lake Babboosic on the 4th of July 1876; and a Harvest Festival and Fair, which included an agricultural display, in October of the same year.

“In the fall of 1979 the 35 remaining members of the Souhegan Grange relinquished their charter and joined the Milford chapter. The Grange had marked its one hundredth anniversary in 1973, commemorating it by placing a flower urn and a plaque in front of town hall, a building once more familiarly known as the Grange hall in recognition of the Grange's constant use of it.” (*Amherst, New Hampshire 1881-1982: Sleeping Town Awakens*, 1983, p. 255.)

[Note: The records of Souhegan Grange are not in Amherst Town Hall vault.]

Title: ***Programme of Amherst Fair 1919 / Souhegan Grange / Thursday, Oct. 2, 1919 / Amherst, N.H.***

Description: paper cover, printed paper booklet/pamphlet with multiple photos, 8 7/8” h x 6” w.

Contents: Events planned for the day by time, including exhibitions, work horse parade and plowing match in morning, ball game, basket lunch, unspecified sports after lunch, auto & driving horse parade in afternoon, talk on interior decorating, evening concert followed by a dance. List of judges for automobiles; cattle; floral department; fruit, grass, grain & vegetables; girls' & boys' school work; girls' & boys' club work; horses; plowing & __; poultry. List of premiums (prizes) for various categories and who donated each. Advertisements, most from Nashua; but also several from Amherst, including a full page advert by “A. L. Martin, General Merchant, Old Corner Brick Store, Amherst, N.H., open Tues, Thurs, & Sat evenings,” with telephone number and long list of merchandise; a short advert by “GEORGE K. WALKER, Meats & Provisions, AMHERST, N.H.”

Location: Town Hall vault; in small archival box with other Amherst, N.H. publications, shelf 1f.

Church

Historical Overview: Organized in 1741, the Congregational Church & Society was the taxpayer-supported church of Souhegan West, and subsequently of the Town of Amherst, until the early 19th century.

Earliest Records (not part of this record group): The official early records of the Congregational Church of Amherst are held at the Historical Society of New Hampshire in Concord, N.H. Framed facsimiles of several interesting early documents hang in the church's hallway on the second floor.

Other Related Sources: *Amherst Town Records Vol. 7: 1900-1943* contains the articles of agreement for incorporation of the Congregational Church of Amherst in Oct. 1933, signed by five persons including Harold H. Wilkins and Elizabeth N. Bean (Mrs. Norwin S.) (page 420); and articles of agreement for incorporation of the First Baptist Church in Amherst in March 1902, signed by James M. Jackson, Jno. M. Hartshorn, Lindley F. Wyman, George L. Newton, George E. Hartshorn, Rubie Sargent, Abbie L. Jackson, and Lizzie M. Bills (p. 17).

Title: *Amherst Town Records 1784-1803 & Memorandum of the Expenditures of the Congregational Church & Society 1841-1843*

Cover: hand-written sticker "1784" (which conservator recommends removing).

Interior: The two different titles can be found on two different interior sections.

Description: Bound volume, 12" h x 8" w; mottled/discolored dirty brown cover, rigid parchment binding; hand-written, the first part by Town Clerks, the latter part by Standing Committee of Congregational Church & Society; most pages blank.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, shelf 1a with *Town Records* books.

Contents: 1) Warrants & voting results for special legal town meetings that were not recorded in the big town records volumes of same period (i.e., Volumes 1 and 2). In the early years, primarily to do with salary of Reverend Jeremiah Barnard. The first legal town meeting recorded in this volume was held 27 Sep. 1784; the first item was to choose a committee "to consult with Revd. Barnard with respect to satisfactory salary from September 1784 to September 1785 or consult him upon a new contract establishing his salary upon a certain sum to be paid him annually during his ministerial labour & Natural Life in case he shall see fit to relinquish his contract with the whole town"; the 4th item was "to see if they [the voters] excuse Mr. Solomon Kitteredge from paying toward the support of the Revd Mr. Barnard as he attends & pays in the northwest parish." Six men appeared to protest that meeting. At March 1787 Meeting, voted to appropriate part of Front Gallery of meetinghouse to accommodate singers [presumably when used for church services]. The final entry was for special legal town meeting held 7 Nov. 1803 "to grant money to pay an execution recovered by Dr. John Muzzy against said Parish and to conclude whether they will review said action next term."

2) Accounting of expenditures of church society for 1841-1843.

Copies and Other Sources: These official town records are not included in *Amherst Town Records Vol. 1* nor 2; as of March 2017 they had not been microfilmed but are planned for digitization in 2018 as part of Mooseplate grant.

Note: File & store with *Town Records* books.

Title: *Confession of Faith and Covenant of the Congregational Church in Amherst (N.H.), 1846*
(printed booklet, no title on cover, brown paper cover, 4.5 x 7.25", 12 pages,)

Title: *Manual of the Congregational Church, Amherst, N. H., 1881*
includes Confession of Faith, Covenant, Ecclesiastical Rules, History;
List of Members and Year Joined: males 56, females 133 = total 189.
(printed booklet, grey paper cover, 5 x 7.5", 12 pages)

Location: Town Hall vault; in small archival box with other Amherst, N.H. and Hillsborough County publications, shelf 1f.

Military Records

Overview: The Amherst Town Hall vault contains the records of the local militia company from 1840-1847, as well as subsequent “enrollments” of eligible men from 1851 until 1901.

The **Militia Orderly Book** and its companion **Roll Book** from 1840-1847 are important as the only militia records that remain in Amherst. At that time, there were multiple companies, organized by town, in the Fifth Regiment, which was one of seven Hillsborough County regiments in the Fourth Brigade of the N.H. Militia. These were the final years of compulsory militia duty in New Hampshire, during a reform movement (encouraged by changes in the militia laws of Massachusetts in 1840 and Maine in 1844). There was public pressure – particularly by newspaper editors – to (a) eliminate annual regimental musters that attracted crowds who indulged in liquor, gambling, and brawls, and/or (b) go to an all-voluntary force. Consequently there was upheaval in legislation: a militia reform bill passed the N.H. House but not the Senate in 1844; a new militia bill passed House & Senate but was pocketed by the Governor in 1845; major change was enacted in 1846, whereby there was no more compulsory militia duty whatsoever except in case of war or invasion, and the active militia of N.H. was to be composed entirely of volunteer companies; but the prior year's militia legislation was repealed in July 1847 and more onerous drill duty was imposed with inadequate compensation. Although, technically, militia duty was compulsory until a new law in 1850, it was too late: All the officers of the Fifth Regiment reportedly resigned in 1847 (according to *Keene Sentinel*, reprinted in *Farmers' Cabinet*, Amherst, N.H., 2 Sep. 1847) although they were replaced. In multiple towns, including Nashua, regular militia companies simply disbanded when their officers resigned (*Farmers Cabinet*, 14 Oct. 1847; 20 Sep. 1849). The final entry in Amherst's Militia Orderly Book is a transcription of the command to the Captain to appear with the company in Nashville (now Nashua) for inspection in October 1847. Whether the company disbanded before or after this regimental muster is not recorded – it would have marked the completion of the Captain's two-year tour as commanding officer.

In response to New Hampshire legislation in 1850 changing the State's militia law, the Selectmen were required to take an annual “**enrollment**” or be fined \$20 each for each time they failed to do so. Hence the end part of both the Militia Orderly Book and the Militia Roll Book are comprised of lists from the 1850s and 1860s of able-bodied Amherst men aged 18-45. The Selectmen continued with this duty until 1901, in a separate volume.

(The sources for the above historical overview are almost entirely contemporary items in the local newspaper, the *Farmers' Cabinet* which was published in Amherst, N.H. News and/or editorial rants about musters appeared in FC, 27 Sep. 1839; 25 Sep. 1840; 14 Sep. 1843; 19 Sep 1844; 3 Oct. 1844; 18 Sep. 1845; 27 Aug. 1846; 14 Oct 1847; and after militia had become all voluntary, 27 Sep 1849, p. [2], and 4 Oct. 1849 (reprint from *Nashua Telegraph*); 3 Oct. 1850. A guest editorial or letter to editor by someone calling himself “Exempt” on “The Militia System” was printed in FC, 30 May 1844; and a reprint of a long editorial on abolishment of regimental musters from the *Statesman* appeared in FC, 14 May 1846. About “the excellence of our present abominable militia system” in Nashua: FC, 22 May 1845, quoting *Nashua Telegraph*. For the size of N.H. militia, see FC, 27 Aug. 1841; 11 Aug. 1845, p. [3]; 30 Dec. 1852. Regarding the gradual disintegration of the Fifth Regiment, news that “all the officers of the 5th regiment have resigned” appeared in FC, 2 Sep. 1847, apparently a reprint from *Keene Sentinel*; and the much reduced size, because of companies without officers or without men, appeared in FC, 20 Sep. 1849, p. [2], reprinted from *Nashua Telegraph*. Actions of the N.H. Legislature regarding militia reform and/or abolishment: FC, 3 April 1845; 1 May 1845; 10 July 1845; 9 July 1846; 23 July 1846; 18 Feb. 1847; 8 July 1847; 15 July 1847; 1 Feb. 1849; 25 July 1850 and 1 Aug. 1850; 17 July 1851 and 24 July 1851.)

Earlier Militia Records (not part of this record grouping): There is some militia information in the *Town Records* volumes. For example: *Amherst Town Records Vol. 2: 1791-1842* contains payments to

Revolutionary War soldiers in Pounds but no individual names (on last page).

Related Records: *Amherst Town Records Vol. 4: 1845-1861* contains the militia enrollment (list of eligible men) taken by the Selectmen in 1855 (p. 440). *Amherst Town Records Vol. 5: 1861-1870* contains Enrollment of All Able-Bodied Men with their age (18-45), occupation & occasional remarks such as disabilities, taken in August 1862 (p. 98-103) and in April 1867 (p. 414).

Series: Military records – 4 volumes

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault, shelf 1f, in upright archival box.

Title: *Orderly Book of the Fifth and/or Sixth Company of the Fifth Regiment New Hampshire Militia 1840-1847 & Enrollments 1852-1865*

Cover: “Company Orderly Book: Property of the State of New Hampshire”.

Inside Heading: “Orderly Book of the Sixth Company of the Fifth Regiment New Hampshire Militia” [Note: That is title from second page. On first inside, same title but “Fifth Company”.]

Description: Thin bound volume; 11.75”h x 7.75”; brown leather spine, brown marbled cover; 58 double-pages (penciled pagination); hand-written.

Contents: The first part of this volume is comprised of records of **Amherst's militia company of infantry**, called the sixth in 1840 (p. [3]) and the fifth later (p. [9]), **from 1840-1847**, recorded by the company clerk-cum-sergent; particularly orders and notices of local training & parade meetings in May and regimental inspections in various neighboring town in September, when members were called upon to show up “with arms and equipment required by law for military duty,” and roll calls of members who attended. The place for meetings was usually a store in Amherst Village, namely store of A. Lawrence & Co. in May 1841, of Tuttle & Wheeler in September 1843, upstairs room of Hildreth & French store in May 1843; and the store of Nathan Dane in May 1846. The first entry is dated 1840, when Captain Ebenezer T. Dun(c)klee [(b. 1815)] was highest ranking officer. Weaponry inventory in 1841 consisted of 57 sets of arms & equipment for a company of 57 privates commanded by 1 captain, 1 lieutenant and 1 sergeant, as well as 1 drum and 1 fife for 3 musicians (p. [6]); in 1844 consisted of 68 sets of musket, iron ramrod, bayonet, bayonet scabbard & belt, cartridge box & belt; priming wire & brush; knapsack & canteen, as well as 136 spare flints; 1 fife unfit for use and 2 drums unfit for use (hence no musicians in the company) (p. [44]). There are also official exemptions from militia duty, either because the man did military duty in another company or because of injury. For example, in 1844, Mark Adams was exempted for one year for lameness in his left wrist and Samuel Eaton was exempted for life on account of Hernia (p. 44-45). The second-to-last entry is an order from the Brigadier General dated August 1847 and given by the Colonel of the 5th Regiment to the Captain of its 5th Company of Infantry to appear armed & equipped “for the purpose of instruction in the school of the soldier, manners of the company, battalion and line, and of discipline.” One company clerk, Joshua F. Skinner, embellished one full page with a calligraphic pen-and-ink eagle and another page with a lovely quill feather.

The second part of this volume consists of the **annual enrollments of 1852-1865** by the Selectmen (as required by the new militia law of 1850) of men aged 18-45 “liable to do military duty” [in case of war or invasion]. There is also a “List of Soldiers constituting the quota of the Town of Amherst September 1862, with company & regiment in which each man served, including Charles H. Phelps and others with notation “dead” beside their names (p. 51). Names of 6 men mustered in to U.S. Service in 1862: Bartholomew Ryan, Robert Benden, Edmund E. Bullard, Chas. N. Parkhurst, Chas. A. Hall, and Fifield H. Messer (final page).

Other Content: “List of the Engine Co. Amherst N.H.” in 1841, which was comprised of 20 men chosen by Selectmen and Fire Wards, and “Engine Co. No. 1” in 1844. [These must have been the firefighters for 1808 “Yankee” hand-pumper tub fire engine.]

Copies or Other Sources: See Secomb's *History of Amherst*, Chapter 16 for a good list of all militia companies of Amherst with names of commanding officers and dates; however, he gives no explanation for why this company “disbanded”. A more detailed list of Amherst's militia companies was published earlier by Secomb in the local newspaper, *Farmers' Cabinet*, 30 Sep. 1874, as “Interesting Military Statistics,” confirming that the designation of this company (known in town as “Old East”) changed from 5th to 6th in 1841/2, and supplying names of all officers and their start and finish dates. Because the enrollments (list of eligible men) were taken by the Selectmen, some can also be found in the *Amherst Town Records* volumes.

Note: This volume is to be conserved in 2018 with funding from a Mooseplate grant secured by Amherst's Heritage Commission.

Title: *Roll Book of the Company of Infantry of Amherst in the Fifth Regiment, Fourth Brigade, and Third Division of New Hampshire Militia 1840-1847; & Enrollment of 1851*

Cover: “Company Roll Book: Property of the State”.

Description: Beige paper wrapper; 9.75”h x 16.5” w; fill-in-the-blanks printed booklet. (In Jan. 2017, found loose and folded in half inside decoratively embossed black leather portfolio with metal catchplate. NEDCC conservator recommends flattening/unfolding, which will require custom-size flat box.)

Contents: This is the companion document to the Company Orderly Book. Contains annual rosters of militia company members – officers, noncommissioned officers, privates, and musicians – and the equipment issued to each. [All were Amherst men doing compulsory service.] The commanding officer was a Captain, each of whom fulfilled the role for two years during this time period.

1840: Under the command of Captain Ebenezer T. Duncklee, roll “as corrected on the first Tuesday of May, 1840.” The roll consisted of two other commissioned officers, William Stewart and Benjamin Kidder; one sergeant (non-commissioned officer), Silvester J. Duncklee, who served as clerk; two musicians (non-commissioned officers), Porter Wheeler and John Hall, each issued a fife; and 85 privates. The pieces of standard equipment issued to the privates – musket, bayonet, iron ramrod, cartridge box & belt, bayonet scabbard & belt, 2 spare flints, priming wires and brushes, a knapsack and a canteen – were marked in columns.

1841: Under the command of Captain E. T. Duncklee, roll as of May 1841 consisted of 2 commissioned officers, 4 sergeants, 3 musicians (Porter Wheeler issued fife, Rufus Hendrick issued drum, and Albert Riddle issued drum), and 58 [sic, much reduced] privates.

1842: Under the command of Albert Riddle, roll as of third Tuesday of May 1842 consisted of the second commissioned officer, Thomas M. Harvell; one sergeant, Solomon R. Barron; three musicians, namely Porter Wheeler, Nathan Wheeler, and George H. Wan [sp? Shaw?]; and 85 privates – but not all were issued weapons. Privates included Alden B. Bennet, Barnabas B. David [whip manufacturer], Newton Lowe, Bryant Melendy, Elbridge Nutt [tavernkeeper's son], Jeremiah Smith, Walter L. Stiles [shoemaker], George Walker [blacksmith], Ezra Woolson.

1843: Under the command of Capt. Albert Riddle, the roll consisted of two more commissioned officers, Lt. Thomas Harvell and Lt. Thomas J. Clark; four sergeants, namely Joshua F. Skinner, Wm J. Weston, Philip J. Barret, and Elbridge G. Nutt; three musicians, namely Nathan Wheeler (drum), Porter Wheeler (fife), and George H. Shaw (drum); and 74 privates – but only 45 were issued weapons, and 8 were marked as being over 40 and under 45.

1844: Under the command of Thomas M. Harvell, the roll consisted of two other officers, Thomas J. Clark and Charles H. Campbell, 4 sergeants, namely Joshua F. Skinner, Charles A. Russell, Benjamin G. Hartshorn, and Alfred Wheeler; no musicians; and privates, including Horace Phelps. Annotations next to some names included: “for life” (but no equipment was issued to that man, Ransom B. Adams, so probably indicated exemption), “1 year”, “2 years”, “4 years” and “5 years” (one).

1846: Under the command of Chas. H. Campbell, the roll included 2 other officers, Joseph F. Crosby and Wm B. Peacock; Sergeant Josh F. Skinner; and privates, 5 of whom were designated Rifle Co. Annotations next to some privates' names suggest they had moved out of town: “Milford” for one, “Merrimack” for three, “absent from town” for two.

1851: The Enrollment or list of men residing in Amherst aged 18-45 – roughly 140 – was taken by the Selectmen (and signed by two of the three). (last two pages of this book)

Title: *Enrollment of Persons Liable to Military Duty 1870-1901*

First inside heading: “Enrollment of the Town of Amherst made April 29, 1870”. No title on spine nor cover.

Description: Thin bound volume, 14” h x 8.75” x 5/8”; maroon spine, black cloth hard cover.

Author: Selectmen of Town of Amherst, N.H.; presumably recorded by Town Clerk.

Contents: Listing of Amherst male residents eligible for military duty, the first being “Enrollment of the Town of Amherst made April 29, 1870. In the 1870s, the list included name, age, occupation, and whether married or single. In 1880s, list included name and age. From 1888 on, only names with no other information.

Copies or Other Sources: No known copies.

Title: *List of Soldiers from Amherst 1863-1865*

Heading on first page: “Soldiers 1863”. No title on spine nor cover.

Inside front cover: “WJW / Amherst 1863”

Description: Small thin bound volume, brown leather cover, 6 3/4” h x 4.75”w; manuscript in pencil.

Author: Presumably recorded by Town Clerk.

Contents: List of soldiers from Amherst during Civil War, names in random order.

Copies or Other Sources: See Ayling for official list with details of rank, muster and discharge dates, and hometown. Edward D. Boylston's book *Amherst in the Great Civil Conflict 1861-1865* (1893) gives biographical sketches of some of the men from Amherst who served, but the list is not as accurate as Ayling.

Zoning Records

As these records began in the 20th century, they are, for the most part, not included in this file. However, because of their historic significance to the appearance of the town today, the sources for the initial attempts at creating zoning districts are captured here.

Title: *Preliminary Report of Amherst, N.H. Zoning Commission – 1940*

Description: 4 pages/sheets typed on 8.5x11” paper.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault. (Insert *Amherst Town Records Volume 7*.)

Contents: Recommendation to divide town into three zoning districts: Village District (all land within radius of one mile from Town Hall), Roadside District (all land outside Village District which is adjacent to Routes 101, 101A and 122 to the depth of 500 feet from the center line of said routes), and Rural District (all the rest).

Village District:

(A) Shall be principally a district of residences, except that established businesses may remain in their present location, or may relocate within District in locations approved by the Board of Adjustment; and new businesses allowed only if approved by Board of Adjustment.

(B) No building at present standing shall house more than 3 families as permanent residents; and no new building shall be erected to house more than 2 families as permanent residents (i.e., living there for more than 6 months).

(C) No land in Village District shall be used for a dump, or storage of abandoned vehicles or discarded materials; nor used in a manner that is disorderly, unsightly, noxious, offensive or detrimental to the public or ...

(D) Regulation of signs.

(E) Every building shall be set back from front property line not less than 30 feet, or such distance as shall conform with average line of existing buildings 500 feet on either side; and all bldgs shall be set back at least 15 feet from the side and rear property lines.

Construction guidelines: [including] minimum of 400 square feet living space on ground floor for each family unit; no fire ruins allowed to remain; [and more].

Background: The 1939/40 annual town report included, near the beginning, Warrant for Annual Meeting (undated but presumably for March 1940), warrant article 17 being “To see if the town will vote to appoint a zoning commission to consist of 5 members who shall serve without compensation, to recommend bound[aries] for zoning districts in said town and to recommend appropriate regulations therefore in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 42 of the Public Laws.” The annual report for the following year, 1940/41, did not include town meeting records; these can be found in *Town Records Vol. 7*.

“The March 1941 meeting accepted the report and then adjourned until April 5 to allow time for the required public hearings on the recommendations. On that date, however, private property rights still held sway over public interest, and the matter was defeated. It did not die, though, for the 1945 meeting directed the naming of another committee.” (*Sleeping Town Awakens*, p. 125.)

Title: *Final Report of Zoning Districts Proposal – 1945/6*

Author: Amherst, N.H. Zoning Commission for 1946 annual town meeting

Description: mimeographed 2 pages.

Location: Amherst Town Hall vault. [Found March 2017 as loose insert in annual town report 1944/45.]

Contents: The proposal was for two zones: the Village, with restrictions on new businesses, and Roadside.

Note: This is the beginning of modern zoning in Amherst! (Not counting Babboosic Lake.)

Background: “Many of the newcomers of the 1940s had come from more heavily populated areas and had experienced at first hand the benefits of wise zoning and the problems created by its absence. / Thus it was that the 1945 town meeting was asked to establish a five-man zoning commission. ... While there were strong attempts the next year to reject or amend the committee's recommendations, the meeting accepted the report, and Amherst had its first zoning ordinance. There were now two districts: village and roadside. The village district encompassed all land within a mile radius of the town hall; it would be entirely residential except for existing businesses. The roadside district included all land up to 500 feet each side of the center lines of Routes 101, 101A, and 122 that lay outside the village district. There were regulations about the number of families to a residence, setbacks for new constructions, business signs, and open dumps and junk yards (none in the village, out-of-sight ones in the roadside). There were no requirements on types of structures, no building codes, no road specifications. These came later ...” (*Sleeping Town Awakens*, p. 167.)

The annual town report for 1946 included, near the beginning, a Warrant for Town Meeting (undated but presumably for March 1947) that included as Warrant Article 19: "To see if town will vote to rescind the Zoning Ordinance which was adopted at the Annual Town Meeting held March 12, 1946." Warrant Article 20 was: "To see if the town will vote to amend the Town Zoning Ordinance as follows, or take any action thereto. Add to Article I, District I, Sect. II, A. Any person wishing to erect a new building, addition to present building, establish new business, or erect signs, shall first receive a written permit fro the Administrative official. B. Eliminate present Article II and substitute the following Article II. Upon any well founded information that this ordinance is being violated, the Administrative official shall on his own initiative take immediate steps to enforce the provisions of this ordinance. ..."

[end]