



Chester Historical Society

August 2018 Newsletter

A Focus on Water Power and Early Industries

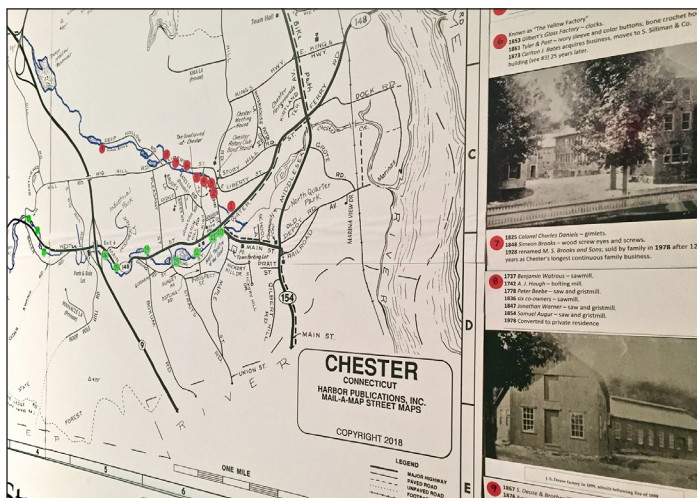
If ‘Follow the Money’ is often at the heart of criminal investigations, the key to discovering the history of Chester begins with ‘Follow the Waterways’.

This year’s special seasonal exhibit at Chester Museum at The Mill does exactly that with *Two Streams & Many Industries*. Curated by Keith and Sandy Senior-Dauer, the exhibit occupies the entire first floor of the museum.

While Chester’s production of augers, bits, eye hooks and knitting needles is probably familiar to many, visitors to the museum will see that Chester industries were also known for personalized greeting cards, wire mattresses and waffle irons.

Beginning as early as 1743, the banks of the Pattaconk Brook and the Great Brook provided the sites for using the rushing water to power a revolving series of unique business enterprises.

An oversized map (below) orients visitors to the streams with color-coded designations to 19 primary industrial sites. “We have identified 77 different enterprises that were located at the sites, many of them in the 70-year period from the 1830s to the start of the 20th century,” noted Sandy Senior-Dauer. Visitors are encouraged to take a hand copy of the site map as they tour the exhibit, which features products, photos and quotes from the “New Era” newspaper.



A companion wall mural of Chester locates and pictures the ponds and dams that were managed to maximize the flowing resource.

You’ll find that Simeon Brooks was resourceful as he used barbed wire from a field for material to make his first eye hooks, before marketing them in New York City for the initial order of what became M. S. Brooks & Sons.

You’ll notice many of the dams and a few of the buildings remain from Chester’s Industrial Age. “I always love it when we are able to highlight history and sites that are still with us,” said Society president Skip Hubbard. “We all drive past many of these every week and this is an opportunity to share this history with the community.”



The cover of this Russell Jennings publication shows workers using available light in the manufacture of the company’s high quality auger bits. The second floor of Chester Museum at The Mill was a similar workplace.

Chester Museum at The Mill is open weekends through October and is air-conditioned. Hours are Saturdays from 1 to 4; Sundays 10 to 4. There is no admission fee, so it’s easy to stop by for a quick visit, or stay longer. A number of residents use the museum as a place to bring visitors or local friends. Society members can schedule off-hour visits by calling Diane Lindsay (860-526-2443) or Skip Hubbard (860-526-5765).



More than 120 people gathered on June 16th at the Chester Meetinghouse to celebrate the life of Barbara Delaney who passed away on March 10. Barbara was a founding member and first president of the Society when it was incorporated in 1970.

Delaney Program Series

Barbara Delaney's favorite phrase, "Onward and Upward," has been an inspiration for the Society since its founding in 1970, nearly 50 years ago.

To continue the legacy of Barbara and her husband Edmund, the Society will initiate the **Delaney Program Series**, an annual historically based presentation. Programs will be admission-free.

Contributions in memory of Barbara and Edmund to help fund these programs may be sent to Chester Historical Society, P.O. Box 204, Chester, CT 06412. Please indicate 'Delaney Program Series' on your check.

Museum Hosting: A Rewarding Experience

Now into our 9th season, we are especially thankful for the many people who have volunteered to greet and host our weekend visitors. Our hosts are not docents, rather they welcome and orient visitors to our two exhibit floors. More than half of our 900 annual visitors are from out of town and the conversations are always fun. Shifts are just 3 hours. If you would like to learn more about hosting, call our Museum Hosting Coordinator Diane Lindsay (860-526-2443).

Supporting History Through Membership

We've included an insert with a list of members and a form for you to join the Chester Historical Society to help support our collective efforts to share the rich history of this town. Consider joining us today.

Board of Trustees 2018-19

Skip Hubbard, President
 Sandy Senior-Dauer, V. Pres
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 Jenny Kitsen, V. Pres.
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Bob Blair III • Marta Daniels
 Keith Dauer • Tom Marshall
 Ed Meehan • Mike Sanders
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 Ron Woodward • Peter Zanardi



Can you identify the location of this early Chester industrial site? The answer can be found at Chester Museum at The Mill's *Two Streams & Many Industries* exhibit. (Hint: It's less than 1/2 mile from Chester Center.)

Chester Historical Society

Membership as of June 2018

Individual

Sosse Baker
Robert Bandzes
Frances Bertelli
Tom Brelsford
Margaret Breslin
Jane Deuse Cable
Karen Carr
Samuel Chorches
Elizabeth M. D'Amato
Marta Daniels
Alma Carini Doak
Robert Dona
Helene Ferrari
Marilyn Ford *
Gary Ford *
John H. Ford
Jane Gordon
MarieAnne Heft
Martin L. Heft
Charley Hnilicka
Carol Horvath
Patricia Kosky
Dorothy Lavezzoli
Edward Leffingwell Jr.
Tedd Levy
Diane Lindsay
Lillian Manville
Tom Marshall
Carl Nilsson *
Betsy Watrous Pasinella
Bettie Perreault
Charles Priest
H. Peter Satagaj
Judith Lynde Schondorf
Sharon Soja
Elizabeth Watrous Stopa
Ruth Thayer
Elizabeth Tremalgia
Louise R. VanHaverbeke
Nancy Watkins
Daisy Watrous
Anne Winslow

Family

Eric & Ginny Anderson
James & Marian Bairstow
Dale Bernardoni
Rob Bibbiani & Mary Walsh
Robert Blair III & Kris Pollock
Mark Borton & Francine Cornaglia
Geraldine Carini-Garcia
Donna & Rick Carlson, Jr.
Ernie & Pam Cartier
Edward & Gail Castelli
James & Diana Castelli
Ted & JoAnna Chapin
Sherry & Herb Clark
Emelia DeMusis
& Stephen DeBenedet

Kristen DiErrico & Hans Lohse *
Lol & Charlene Fearon
Richard Fensky & Elaine LaFlair
Christopher & Sarah Fryxell
Ivey Gianetti & John Williams *
Mario & Dorothy Gioco
Roger & Elizabeth Goodnow
Pamela & Allen Graham
Edward Grzybowski
Coe & Carol Hawkins
Hayes Family
Richard & Patricia Holloway
Robert & Mary Humpage
Ted Hyneck & Claire Burns
Geoffrey & Carol Jacobson
Joel & Susan Jacobson
Harold & Linda Jones, Jr.
Randy, Beth & Emily Judd
Gerald & Mary Kelly
John & Wendy King
David & Diane Kukta
Kenneth Maxwell & Arlene Tunney
Pam & Doug McAvay *
Allan Mehlberg & Spruce Roden
Steven & Kathryn Merola
Madaline Meyer
Ann Monaghan & Family
Gil & Susan Morong
Richard & Lorraine Morrow
Russ & Deb Munson *
Charles & Susan Murphy
Arthur H. Napier III
& Barbara-Jan Wilson
Charles & Jo Anne Park
Brandon & Elizabeth Pearce
Don & Kristen Perreault
Kim & Kathy Price
John & Jennifer Rannestad
Jim & Marie Ready
Cookie & Fred Robertson
Ray & Jeanne Roussel *
John & Lisa Schroeder
Richard & Carol Anne Seaman *
Mel & Kris Seifert
Richard & Elaine Sevigny
Kyle & Chris Siegel
James B. Silliman *
Laird & Toni Smith *
Tom & Renee Smith
Suzanne Spires
Jacqueline Stack & Mark Riggio
Van & Barbara Standke
Alex & MaryAnn Stein
Richard & Leslie Strauss
William Swartzbaugh
& Joan Sepessy
Melody & Philip Tierney
Peter & Sally Tiezzi, Jr.
Gordon & Claudia Van Nes
Dave & Margo Viggiano

Skip & Margaret Weisenburger
Ronald & Lois Wickson
George & Patty Winter
Peter & Jane Zanardi
Burgi & Leo Zavatone
Bill & Agneta Ziegler

Benefactor

John & Janice Benda
Joyce Christy Birtcher **
Edward & Debra Calamari
Arthur Christianson
Jewel Christy **
Audrey Conrad
Andrew Drabkin & Brian Hodges *
Tammy & Weymouth Eustis
Mary & Bryant Frank
Barbara & Bob Fraser
Sonya Gill *
Helene & Ned Johnson
Mary Lewis *
Phyllis M. McDowell
Ed & Peg Meehan
Jean Mulford
Christine Palm & James Baker *
Sandy & Deedee Prisloe
Paul & Dawn Radicchi
Joseph Roach & Janice Carlisle
Mark Rohlf's *
Hila & Saul Rosen
Laura Straub
Gilbert & Patricia Veconi
Yenowich Sisters
Theresa Zwart-Ludeman

Life

Randy & Chris Allinson
Ray & Liz Archambault
Thomas & Kathleen Archambault
Albert Armington
Gil & Anne Bartlett
Phyllis Bevington
Thomas & Marianne Bladek
Robert Blair
Lary Bloom
Bill Bonfanti & Madeleine Winans
David Brooks
Gregory Cook
Michael & Felise Cressman
John W. Dalton
Keith Dauer & Sandy Senior-Dauer
Barbara Delaney
Deb Dembo
Elise Piquet-Doll
Gerry & Cynthia Dubey
Shirley Feldmann
Henry & Britt Flanagan
Jill Gladding
Peter & Jan Good
Robert & Lynda Gorman

Alva G. Greenberg
Mark & Cheri Ferrari Habersang
Donald & Monique Hanson
Karen & Jamie Hart
Kurt & Marion Watrous
Henstorf **
Leni Herschman
Skip & Karen Hubbard
Cary Hull & Al Malpa
Mrs. Edward C. Hull
Nathan & Geraldine Jacobson
Kathryn Watrous Jones
Jon & Doreen Joslow
Pauline Kaplan
Mrs. Jenny Kitsen
Steve & Ann Kitteredige
Pat Kotchen
Jules & Kathleen Kranich **
Pam Larson
Robert & Stacey Lewis
Carol LeWitt
D. Leonard Lieberman
Lorraine Lieberman
Margaret Lieberman
Donald MacDermid
Jess Maghan & Peter Walker
Robert Miceli
Christopher Moore
Deborah Morrow
Joel Motley III
William Myers **
Martin & Lois Nadel
Jil Nelson
Charles G. Nessler, Jr
Sandra Davis Owen
Donald & Katherine Paulson
Jo-Ann & Michael Price
Robert Radicchi
Glenn & Peg Reyer
Jeff & Holly Ridgway
Michael & Sally Sanders
Arthur & Judith Schaller
Rick & Terry Schreiber
Dr. Kim Senay
Joel & Adrienne Severance
John & Kimberly Stack **
Justine Tobis
William Vollers
BJ & Cory Watrous *
Christopher & Kelly Watrous *
Bruce & Beverly Watrous
Lynn Weymer
Whitelaw & Margaret Wilson
Virginia Winans
Victoria Winterer
Ron & Suzie Woodward **
James Zanardi
Richard & Joan Ziemann

***New Members**

****New Membership Level**



Chester Museum at The Mill

Chester Historical Society

Membership Form Through June 2019

Chester Historical Society memberships (except Life Memberships) are paid annually.

PLEASE INCLUDE ON THE MEMBERSHIP ROLL FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2019

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Please Note: Your e-mail address is important to us. It's become a primary way to inform our members of Society activities and includes the Robbie Collamore Music Series. We do not share your email addresses with others.

**MEMBERSHIP
LEVEL**

I would like to be
a Society member
for the next year
as indicated

- Student (\$15)
- Individual (\$20)
- Family (\$30)
- Benefactor (\$100)
- Sponsor / Corporate (\$250)
- Life (\$500) One-time payment to enroll one or two individuals in the same household as lifetime members.
- Please accept my additional donation for \$ _____

Make checks payable to Chester Historical Society. Mail to: CHS, PO Box 204, Chester, CT 06412.
All dues and donations are fully tax-deductible. Please consider your check your receipt. Thank you.

Your Membership helps tell Chester's Story

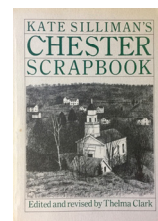
As an all-volunteer organization with no income from the town or state, we rely on the support of members, plus fundraisers and grants to fund the free exhibits and public programs we create. Annual membership is at the core of that support.

For just \$30 per family (\$20 for an individual) annual membership, you can help as we share the Chester story through our programs, publications and award-winning museum.

Renewals were recently sent out to our current members. Please consider adding your support with this membership form.

BONUS! Free Kate Silliman book for all new members

A valued resource, Kate Silliman's Chester Scrapbook (264 pages, 134 photos) is the 'go-to' place for much of Chester history. All new members can pick up a free copy (\$15 value) of this Society publication during museum hours.



Chester Fife and Drum Corps to Celebrate 150th Anniversary

The Chester Fife and Drum Corps will celebrate its 150th anniversary with a Muster at the Chester Fairgrounds on Saturday, Sept. 22. Sesquicentennial anniversaries are rare in the fife and drum community, so all of Chester is encouraged to come out to celebrate with our Corps – one of the oldest continuous Fife and Drum Corps in the U.S.

Founded by Daniel Silliman in 1867, today's Corps is led by Drum Major Frenchy Cordeau, President Brian Schiller, Fife Sergeant June Cordeau, Drum Sergeant Don Buell, Color Guard Sergeant Carlos Uphold and Bass Corporal Megan Cordeau.

Major events through the years have included the Corps' cameo appearance in the movie, "It Happened to Jane"; participation in the World's Fair in Switzerland; being the first ever American Fife & Drum Corps to march and perform in the Scottish Highland Games in 1985 (which led to a command performance at the residence of the Duke and Duchess of Argyle); and marching in presidential inaugural parades.

Over the years, many of Chester's members have moved on to other Corps, including the Old Guard, Navy Drum and Bugle Corps, and the Marine Drum and Bugle Corps.

On Sept. 22, around 12:30 p.m., following the Guilford Parade, the Chester Fife and Drum Corps' celebration at Chester Fairgrounds will feature a Muster, with about 20 Fife and Drum Corps from all over New England parading on the fairgrounds. Damon Scott of radio Country 92.5 will emcee, and ICRV Radio will also be participating.



From the Town Green to musters to Presidential Inaugurals, the Chester Fife and Drum Corps has been part of the fabric of Chester for 150 years. Above is a scene from the early 1950s.



Chester striker Alex Learned eyes the next pitch

Vintage Baseball Returns with Sept. 16 triple-header

Devitt Field in Deep River will again be the venue when the historical societies of Chester, Deep River and Essex sponsor teams in friendly, but spirited, round-robin games played by the rules of 1857.

No gloves were permitted and the emphasis was on defense, allowing the batter to put the ball in play. The free-admission games are family oriented, fun for all ages. Refreshments will be available.

It all begins at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 16 with a call of "Striker to the Line" (Batter Up), as the Behind (catcher) positions himself behind the plate and the Cranks (fans) lean forward in anticipation.

**Auger, Gimlet and Bit
How do they differ?**
The answer can be found at
Chester Museum at The Mill's
Two Streams & Many Industries exhibit

Ribbons and \$\$ for History at the Chester Fair

If you have a historically related entry, the Chester Fair has a secure space to share that history and be eligible for a special prize.

New this year, the Chester Historical Society will be awarding a ribbon and \$25 for the best entry (collection, artwork, etc.) related to history, Chester or otherwise. If appropriate, two awards, Senior and Junior, may be given.

Information and entry forms are available at www.chesterfair.org by viewing the premium book for Class H – Hobbies. Rob Miceli is Superintendent for the Hobbies area and can answer other questions (860-526-9245). Plan to visit the Society's exhibit building as well.



Chester Historical Society
P.O. Box 204
Chester, CT 06412-0204

Non-Profit Org.
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Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, Sept. 16

Tri-Town Vintage Baseball Game
Devitt Field, Deep River, 2 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 23

Robbie Collomore Music Series
Stella Chen & Tomer Gewirtzman, Violin & Piano
Chester Meetinghouse, 5 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 14

Robbie Collomore Music Series
Rene Marie, Jazz Vocalist
Chester Meetinghouse, 5 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 28

Last Day of Weekend Museum Hours
Chester Museum at The Mill, 10 a.m. – 4 .m.

Sunday, Nov. 4

Tri-Town Patriotic Salute
Deep River Town Hall, 3 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 4

Robbie Collomore Music Series
Salome Jordania, Piano
Chester Meetinghouse, 5 p.m.

Friday/ Saturday, Nov. 23-24

Thanksgiving Family Hours at Museum
Chester Museum at The Mill, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 25

Robbie Collomore Music Series
Andes Manta, Andean Folk Music
Chester Meetinghouse, 5 p.m.

Stay Informed:

www.chesterhistoricalsociety.org

www.collomoreconcerts.org

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