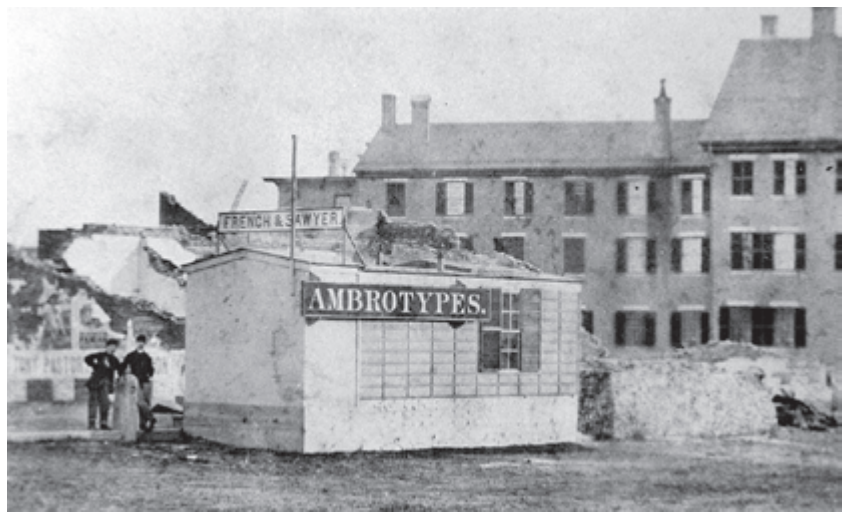
Small Businesses



French & Sawyer's temporary shop (a photography business) sits in front of the ruins of the Sawyer/Colony/Richards block after a fire in 1865. The building in the background is the Cheshire House.

(Photo courtesy of Historical Society of Cheshire County)

In 1905, Fred G. Waldo's Blacksmith Shop was located on Branch Road in Keene. Back in the day, blacksmith shops were as plentiful as coffee shops are today.

(Photo courtesy of Historical Society of Cheshire County)

Football

Ever wonder why Keene State doesn't have a football team? They did once, over 80 years ago. In fact, they played their games right out by where the college's Media Arts Center is now. Growing up, Don Carle – the man whose father bears the name of Carle Hall – watched the games with his father. The program began in 1925 lasted for seven years until 1932, when it was cancelled due to lack of interest by students. The college had decided to prohibit freshmen students from participating in athletics in 1931, cutting the talent pool drastically.

With a thinned out roster, the program was canned and it hasn't returned since. The main reason? It would cost the college a fortune. The school would likely need to build a stadium specifically for the football team, plus other facilities for weight training. In addition, Title Nine regulations would require the school to make two other women's programs to match the increase of male athletes. Unfortunately for football fans, KSC won't be acquiring a team anytime soon.

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