

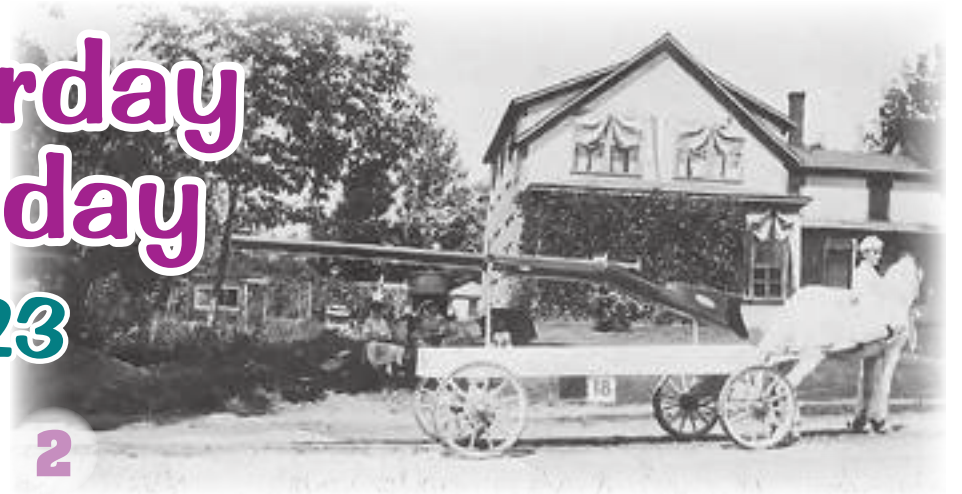


The Monadnock

# SHOPPER NEWS

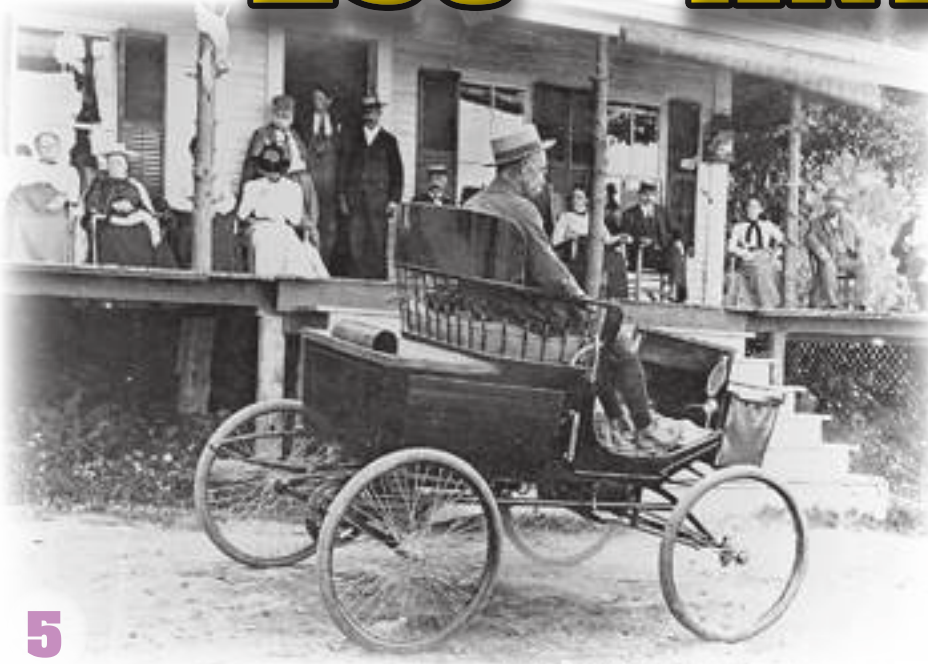
presents the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual ESTABLISHED EDITION

## Yesterday & Today 2023



Celebrating Jaffrey's

# 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



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# Yesterday & Today

## The 62nd Annual Established Edition Happy 250th To Jaffrey!

The town of Jaffrey was first granted by the Massachusetts General Court in 1736 to soldiers from Rowley, MA, returning from the war in Canada. The town was known as "Rowley-Canada."

In 1749, the town was re-chartered by the Mason proprietors as "Monadnock No. 2", sometimes called "Middle Monadnock" or "Middletown." It was one of the first towns established following the Masonian proprietors' purchase of undivided lands under the claim.

Settled about 1758, the town was regranted in 1767. It was incorporated in 1773 by Governor John Wentworth and named for Portsmouth merchant George Jaffrey, member of a wealthy Portsmouth family. George Jaffrey never visited the town named for him. It is said to be the only Jaffrey in the world.

George Jaffrey's son was a life trustee of Dartmouth College and designer of the official college seal. The Contoocook River provided water power

for mills. Village prosperity would be expressed in fine early architecture, including the Town Meetinghouse, built in 1775.

Beginning in the 1840s, the area's scenic beauty attracted tourists, and several summer hotels were built at the base of Mount Monadnock, enduringly popular with hikers. Some who scaled the summit were Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, and Rudyard Kipling. The experience inspired Emerson in 1845 to write the poem, *Monadnoc*.

Jaffrey was the setting for a 1950 biography by Elizabeth Yates entitled *Amos Fortune, Free Man*, winner of the 1951 Newbery Medal. Amos Fortune was an African-born slave who purchased his freedom and that of his wife, and established a tannery in the village. He is buried in the local cemetery, as are bandbox craftsman Hannah Davis and author and summer resident Willa Cather.

## On The Cover

1. A Leighton Saw & Grist Mill wagon being pulled by oxen was in the Sesqui-Centennial Parade in Jaffrey, August of 1923.

(Photo courtesy of Jaffrey Historical Society)

2. A trailer carrying the Dutton gun is seen being pulled by a horse in Jaffrey's 150th Anniversary Parade in August of 1923. John Smith Dutton was a highly esteemed rifle maker in Jaffrey in the 1800s. The triple size model was built by Jules and Louis Duval, employees of the Granite State Tack Company of Jaffrey.

(Photo courtesy of Jaffrey Historical Society)

3. A New Hampshire Match Co. (later known as D.D. Bean) float in the Sesqui-Centennial Parade in Jaffrey, August of 1923.

(Photo courtesy of Jaffrey Historical Society)

4. The American Legion, John Humiston Post # 11, Drum and Bugle Corps posing in front of the World War I monument in Jaffrey, circa 1930.

(Photo courtesy of Historical Society of Cheshire County)

5. This is a photograph of the first automobile to be at the Monadnock Mountain House in Jaffrey, circa 1890s.

(Photo courtesy of Historical Society of Cheshire County)

6. A Ninons float in the 175th anniversary parade in Jaffrey, 1948. Ninons was a lightweight sheer/silk fabric used for curtains and women's garments and produced in the Jaffrey Mill complex.

(Photo courtesy of Jaffrey Historical Society)

7. Jaffrey Winter Carnival on Lake Contoocook, circa 1930s.

(Photo courtesy of Historical Society of Cheshire County)

## Thank you

To all those who purchased ads in this section. Please support our local businesses! They keep our paper – and our community – going.

To the sales, graphics, editorial, and all the staff at *The Monadnock Shopper News* for their hard work in making this section a success.

For this issue, we made an effort to focus on many of the smaller local towns in addition to Keene. Thank you to the local towns who were able to find photos for us, and to Assistant Editor Lori C. Cook who coordinated this effort starting last spring.

The Historical Society of Cheshire County and its executive director Alan Rumrill have been partnering with *The Monadnock Shopper News* for many years to supply us with valuable information for this section and photos for our weekly Mystery Photo. The Society is located at 246 Main Street in Keene.

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Quincy and Arvilla Nash at their Sullivan homestead, circa 1880.  
(Photo courtesy Sullivan Town Archives)

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Dedication of Civil War Monument in Putnam Park on Grove Street in Peterborough, circa 1890s.  
(Photo courtesy of Monadnock Center for History and Culture)

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## Did You Know... Fun New Hampshire Facts

One of the first acts of rebellion leading up to the Revolutionary War was a group of 400 townspeople who raided the garrison's gunpowder at Fort William and Mary (aka "The Castle") in New Castle to prevent the British takeover. Their final act was hauling down the fort's huge British flag. There were several injuries, but no deaths occurred during this event.

The first women's strike in the US took place on December 30, 1828 at the Dover Cotton Factory, when over 400 women walked out on their jobs. They were forced to immediately return to work when the mill began hiring workers.

The oldest "man-made" tourist attraction in the US is the Mount Washington Auto-Road in New Hampshire.

New Hampshire is home to the longest covered bridge—the Cornish-Windsor Bridge. This bridge is 460 feet long and crosses over the Connecticut River.

The smallest town in New Hampshire is New Castle, which is spread over only 512 acres.

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Established 1883 by Arthur & Howard Hannaford as a fruit and vegetable stand in Portland, Maine. *Life was just a bit slower. People traveled at horse and buggy speed, instead of cyber speed. Although technology has changed, our old-fashioned dedication to quality and service never has and never will.*

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# In The 1800s



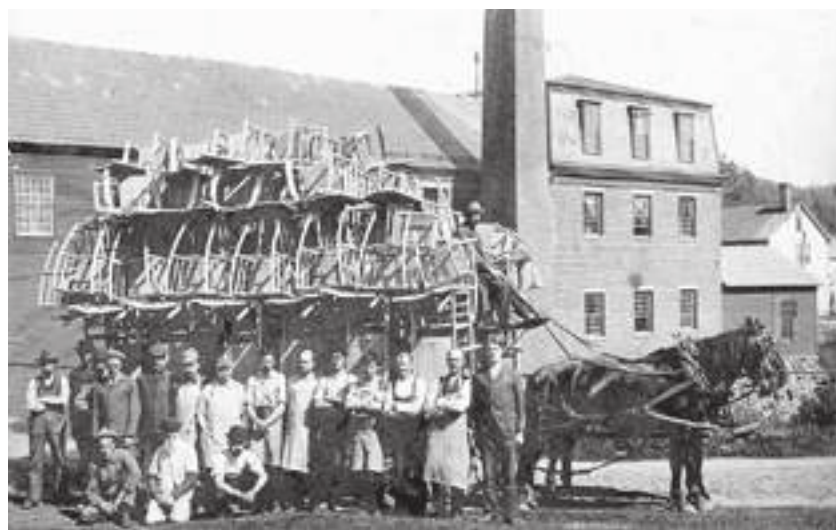
Keene is famous for its Central Square and wide Main Street, shown here in the 1860s.

(Photo courtesy Historical Society of Cheshire County)



The Granite Mill was a woolen mill located south of the village and north of Centennial Street on the Ashuelot River in Gilsum. This photo was taken circa 1866.

(Photo courtesy of Gilsum Historical Society)



The chair industry once flourished in the 19th century in Munsonville – a "suburb" of Nelson on the north side.

(Photo courtesy of Nelson History Group/Nelson Archives)



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## Fun New Hampshire Facts

The Memorial Bell Tower at Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge has four bronze bas-reliefs designed by Norman Rockwell. This bell tower is specifically dedicated to women, both military and civilian, who died serving their country.

**Christian Science Society**  
74 Washington Street

*A healing church established in Keene 1908*

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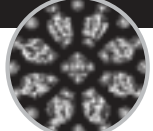
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# Honoring Our Veterans



Soldiers monument dedication in the town of Stoddard the summer of 1917.  
 (Photo courtesy of Stoddard Historical Society)




This photo is of the welcoming home of WWI veterans on the steps of the Veterans Hall in Richmond in 1918. The woman is identified as Alice S. Collier.  
 (Photo courtesy Richmond Town Archives)



Memorial Day, May 29, 1946: WW II veterans prepare to raise the flag as the assembled crowd listens to an unidentified speaker. The veterans in the front row are (L to R): Jerome Rogers, Ralph Clark, and Leo Dion.  
 (Photo courtesy of Historic Harrisville)



On August 14th, 1948 the town gathered to dedicate war memorials for Alstead veterans. Located on Main Street, these memorials were destroyed by the flood of 2005.  
 (Photos courtesy of Alstead Historical Society)



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# Firefighting



Residents of Marlborough admire a new Steamer Fire Engine after delivery in 1895. Mr. Smalley is in the driver's seat.  
 (Photo courtesy of Marlborough Historical Society)



Built in 1915 by the New Hampshire Forestry Commission, the open wood fire tower on Pitcher Mountain in Stoddard was replaced with a 25-foot steel tower in 1925. The tower offers beautiful distant views and continues to be a popular destination for hikers.  
 (Photo courtesy Stoddard Historical Society)



Marlborough's old fire station with Route 124 to the right and Route 11 to the left are shown in 1910.  
 (Photo courtesy of Larry Robinson)

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## The Great Fire Of Chicago

The great fire of Chicago was on October 8, 1871. Though legend has it that the start of the fire was by Mrs. O'Leary's cow, it was more likely to have started in their cowshed by Daniel Sullivan, who first reported the fire. This fire caused \$196 million in damages. It burned 1.2 million acres of land, destroyed 17,450 buildings, killed 250 people, and left 90,000 homeless. Ironically, the same day, a fire in Peshtigo, WI spread across six counties and was said to have killed up to 2500 people, making it the deadliest fire in US history.

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**CHESHIRE FAIR**  
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# Hurricane Of 1938



This picture is of the Monadnock Blanket Mill in Marlborough after the 1938 hurricane. The photo shows the company dam and the old mill with the connecting covered walkway to the "new" mill located out of the picture to the right.

(Photo courtesy of Historical Society of Cheshire County)



The east side of Swanzey Lake was dealt a severe blow by the hurricane of 1938. This is the gateway to Richardson Park after the storm.

(Photo courtesy of Swanzey Historical Museum)



Ralph Hale and Milton Buzzell pumping gas at the Old Broom Shop at Rindge Center after the Hurricane of 1938.

(Photo courtesy Rindge Historical Society)



These men are seen cutting up a fallen tree on Roxbury Street in Keene after the Hurricane of 1938.

(Photo courtesy of Historical Society of Cheshire County)

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## At Spofford Lake



Early 1900s photo of a band with onlookers in front of the Pine Grove Springs Hotel on Lake Spofford.

(Photo courtesy Historical Society of Cheshire County)



A photo of the Lakeside House on Spofford Lake that was across from where Camp Spofford sits now, circa early 1900s.

(Photo courtesy of Shelly and Peter Mitchell)



Ware's Grove Resort, circa 1930s, on Lake Spofford. On the left was the bathhouse and apartments and on the right was the pavilion and later the roller rink.

(Photo courtesy Historical Society of Cheshire County)



Sailing on Spofford Lake, circa 1950.

(Photo courtesy Chesterfield Historical Society)

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# At Camp



The Farmhouse at Camp Fleur de Lis in Fitzwilliam. It is still in place at camp, which has been operating since 1929.

(Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Baker)



South Pond Cabins – a camp for boys – was founded in 1908 in Fitzwilliam. Pictured are boys rowboating in the early 1950s.

(Photo courtesy of Fitzwilliam Historical Society)

## Carleton Ellis, Margarine Inventor

By Alan Rumrill  
 Did you know that margarine was invented by a Keene native? Carleton Ellis was born in Keene in 1876, the son of the florist Marcus Ellis and his wife, Katherine. Carleton Ellis was the valedictorian of his Keene High School class of 1896; he went on to study at MIT.


Ellis had moved to Montclair, NJ by the early years of the 20th century. He became a prolific inventor with 753 patents to his credit, the third largest number awarded to any single person.

It was a patent awarded to Ellis in 1913; however, that was to overshadow all of the others. During that year, he patented a margarine made from vegetable oil. A form of margarine had been in existence for some years, but it had previously been made from animal fats. This animal fat margarine was greasy, often indigestible, and quite susceptible to contamination. Ellis' margarine, which could be made from either corn, peanut, or cottonseed oil, was much safer and healthier than the animal fat margarine. And thus, it was that a Keene boy laid the foundation for the massive margarine industry by introducing margarine as we know it today.

  
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# Living With Horses



Walpole Livery Stable was on the north side of Westminster Street, circa 1880.

(Photo courtesy Walpole Historical Society)



The Homing Way Pageant was held August 22, 1929 as part of Hancock's sesquicentennial (150th) celebration.

(Photo courtesy of Hancock Historical Society)



The barn and work horses of Elwin C. Jewell were located between the railroad tracks and mill pond in West Rindge. These teamsters were used to bring logs to the Diamond Match Company, circa 1900.

(Photo courtesy Rindge Historical Society)

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# In The Military



These 10 young men were early draftees from Westmoreland during World War II.

(Photo courtesy of Westmoreland Historical Society)



This photo is of a military training encampment on Millot Green in Alstead Village early 1900s.

(Photo courtesy of Alstead Historical Society)

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## Dr. Obidiah Blake

By Alan Rumrill

Dr. Obadiah Blake, born in Wrentham, MA in 1719, was one of the first settlers of Keene in the late 1730s. He was also one of the first physicians in the town, serving the region as a doctor for many years.

Dr. Blake's account book from the late 18th century gives us a view of a medical profession much different than today's. Most of his work involved house calls. He had regular customers in Croydon, NH, Athens, VT, and Royalston, MA. He traveled on horseback with his medicines and instruments in his saddlebags.

Dr. Blake's fees were small and usually paid in vegetables, grain, or other produce. Joshua Osgood paid two bushels of beans for several visits and medicines in 1785. Francis Drake paid his medical bill by chopping wood for Dr. Blake. It was common for Dr. Blake not to be paid at all. For example, one account was settled "by running away," and another was "cancelled in full by poverty." The one pound, 10 shilling account of Robert McNeal was "settled by death."

Dr. Blake lived a long and full life. He passed away in 1810 at the age of 92. Dr. Blake bequeathed his saddlebags, vials, and lancet to his son, Obidiah, Jr., who had followed into the field of medicine.

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# Old Home Day A Summer Celebration



This group is gathered at the first Old Home Day in Nelson, 1878. Nelson was actually the first town in the country to celebrate Old Home Day.

(Photo courtesy of Nelson History Group/Nelson Archives)



This photo of President Garfield's son at Old Home Day at the time of the dedication of the monument to his grandmother, Eliza Ballou, circa early 1900s. The women in the photo are identified as Hattie Martin on left, Eliza Bowen on right, and middle lady as "P."

(Photo courtesy Richmond Town Archives)



The dedication of the Shedd Porter Library in Alstead was formally presented to the town on Old Home Day in August of 1910. Both music and a picnic lunch were enjoyed by hundreds.

(Photo courtesy of Alstead Historical Society)



This is a photo taken in 1915 at Stoddard Old Home Day.

(Photo courtesy of Stoddard Historical Society)

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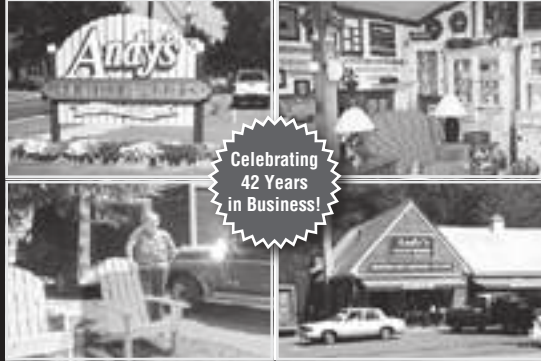
A Children's Parade can be seen at the 1938 Old Home Day in Chesterfield.  
 (Photo courtesy of Chesterfield Historical Society)

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Float at 1933 Westmoreland Old Home Day parade.  
 (Photo courtesy of Historical Society of Cheshire County)

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A parade to commemorate Swanzeys's 200th Anniversary, the 100th birthday of Denman Thompson, and Old Home Day took place in August of 1933. Parade marshal Sumner Brown is on horseback followed by the American flag and the Keene City band.  
 (Photo courtesy of Swanzeys Historical Museum)



Nancy Henry (Ferretti) leading Marlow Old Home Day Parade in 1953.  
 (Photo courtesy Marlow Historical Society)

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Marlow's 200th Anniversary in 1961. Harold Compton was President Abe Lincoln on the Odd Fellows float.

(Photo courtesy Marlow Historical Society)



Steven and John Rougeau join in the parade during Marlow's 200th Anniversary in 1961.

(Photo courtesy Marlow Historical Society)

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The comic book character, Spider Man, makes his debut in the Amazing Fantasy #15 comic.

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The 1904 Hinsdale Baseball Team.

(Photo courtesy of Hinsdale Historical Society)



Winchester baseball players, circa first half of 1900s.

(Photo courtesy Winchester Historical Society)

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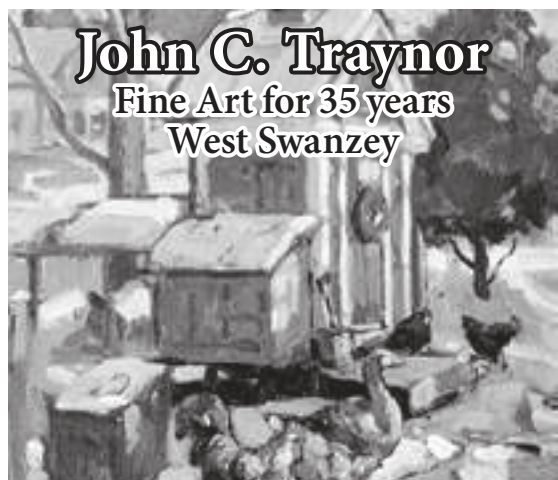
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 Waldo Giovannangeli, who had worked in Leve-roni's fruit store on Main Street, opened his own market in 1928. Mac's Fruit Store was located under the Ellis Hotel, and in 1930 he moved it to 105 Main Street. In 1929 Bernard Streeter and Glenn Heald established a grocery store on Vernon Street and moved to Washington Street in 1941. It became known as Streeter's Super Market.  
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Duncan's Drug Store was located in Jaffrey in the early 1900s. This photo taken in 1930 includes: George and Helen Duncan, Bert Eaves, Homer Chouinard, and Al LaMothe.

(Photo courtesy of Jaffrey Historical Society)



This photo of Goodnow Store in Jaffrey m Goodnow ended up growing a chain of 23 sto England.

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# Occasion Of Its 250th Year



id 1800s. Proprietor Walter L.  
res scattered throughout New  
(Photo courtesy of Jaffrey Historical Society)



The diner at the railway freight station in East Jaffrey, circa 1920s. An advertisement for Turnbull's Green Mountain Ice Cream – which was very popular in the 1920s – is displayed.  
(Photo courtesy of Historical Society of Cheshire County)

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# Picnics And Outings



The attendees of the annual picnic at Kingsbury's Grove in Roxbury, August 7, 1884.

(Photo courtesy of Historical Society of Cheshire County)



The 1914 Acworth Town Fair outside the Village Store.

(Photo courtesy Town of Acworth)



Historical pageants such as this one in Walpole were a popular form of entertainment that acted out past history through dramatic performances, parades, and such, circa 1915.

(Photo courtesy Historical Society of Cheshire County)



All dressed up for the Nelson Old Home Day gathering on the church lawn, circa late 1920s.

(Photo courtesy of Nelson History Group/Nelson Archives)

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# Picnics And Outings



Vilas Pool Park, which was constructed between 1925 and 1926, was gifted to the town of Alstead by Charles Vilas and enjoyed by hundreds of families during the summer months. The park's manmade pool is formed by a dam that slows the flowing Cold River. A big hit at Vilas Pool was the swan boat, circa 1930.

(Photo courtesy of Alstead Historical Society)



The beautiful Bell Carillon at Vilas Pool Park was dedicated to the town in 1930. Many local companies, which seems to be the case in this photo, held their company picnics here. Circa 1930s.

(Photo courtesy of Alstead Historical Society)



Pictured is the Fitzwilliam Band playing on the Common in 1947.

(Photo courtesy of Fitzwilliam Historical Society)



The Potash Bowl in Swanzey in 1952 drew a huge crowd to see Denman Thompson's famous play The Old Homestead. Until this outdoor amphitheater was built in 1939, there was no place in Swanzey big enough to hold the play. In this photo you can see the Old Homestead Band playing before the play begins.

(Photo courtesy of Swanzey Historical Museum)

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# Parades...



The Stoddard Parade of Horribles, July 4th, circa 1880. Also known as Antiques and Horribles Parade, this was a traditional feature of Independence Day festivities in 19th century New England.

(Photo courtesy of Stoddard Historical Society)



A print of a float in a parade on Stratton Road in Jaffrey, early 1900s. The float is for the organization of the Degree of Pocahontas, which was an auxillary of the fraternal organization of the Improved Order of Redmen.

(Photo courtesy of Historical Society of Cheshire County)



The Fruits of July parade float for the F.H. Baldwin Company was held annually from 1910 to 1915 in Keene. The original building – although greatly modified – still stands at the corner of Vernon Street and Elm Street.

(Photo courtesy of Historical Society of Cheshire County)



The winning float, "Spirit of '76," in Keene's Labor Day Parade on September 1, 1919.

(Photo courtesy of Historical Society of Cheshire County)


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# ... And More Parades



A Masonic Parade in Keene around 1924 shows Freemasons on horseback.  
 (Photo courtesy of Historical Society of Cheshire County)

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A float in the 1933 Westmoreland Old Home Day parade.  
 (Photo courtesy of Historical Society of Cheshire County)

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Parade for the 1951 Chesterfield Old Home Day with everyone dressed as if 1880-90s.  
 (Photo courtesy of Chesterfield Historical Society)



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This photo is of a Highland's float along Main Street in the Keene Bicentennial Parade in 1953.  
 (Photo courtesy of Historical Society of Cheshire County)

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(Prepared by the Historical Society of Cheshire County)



What was the name of this Keene manufacturing firm?



The winner of last week's Mystery Photo contest was Howard Lane of West Swanzey. The Cheshire County village shown in the early 20th century photo is West Swanzey.

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menclature, he was "the financial and substantial member of the concern." The business was the first, in 1822, to sell flour in a store, as previously it had been sold, along with meal and grain, only at the gristmills. After nearly four decades this business landmark was forced to close in 1850, a combined result of expansion and business difficulties.

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The Frost Free Library in Marlborough was a gift from Rufus S. Frost and built during 1866 with granite from the Marlborough quarry. On August 26, 1867 land, building, books, charter deed, and funding were formerly presented and accepted by the town. This postcard shows the library circa 1920.



A look back at Harrisville, circa 1900. The smaller building, called the vestry, was built in 1840 as the town's first chapel. It is now the Town Library. The larger brick church with the steeple was built in 1842 and is now known as the Community Church of Harrisville and Chesham.



This photo is of the recruited people in Richmond who helped move the library to the old schoolhouse from the town hall, circa 1960. (Photo courtesy Richmond Town Archives)

## The 1960s

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# Childs Play...



The winter of 1950s find the Ellis children of Roxbury playing in the snow. (Photo courtesy Town of Roxbury Selectmen)



Pie Eating Contest in Sullivan for one of the town's festivities. Believed to be circa late 1960s. (Photo courtesy Sullivan Town Archives)

# ... And Work



Pictured on the Humphrey Farm in Chesterfield in the 1930s is Fred Humphrey, Jr. with his calf. The farm (now the Mitchell Farm) is still a working farm to this day. (Photo courtesy of Shelly and Peter Mitchell)



Children were always seen helping around the homestead as depicted in this circa 1950s photo of Albion Ellis in Roxbury. (Photo courtesy Town of Roxbury Selectmen)

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# Hotels & Taverns



Pictured outside the Jones Hotel in Marlow, 1878, is the Marlow Band with Marshals at the Town Fair.

(Photo courtesy Marlow Historical Society)



This photo is of Stone House Tavern, circa 1895, in Chesterfield. It ran as a tavern and stagecoach stop as it was (and still is) at the intersection of two main roads. It was rumored to be a stop on the Underground Railroad with space behind the old fireplace used to hide runaway slaves. Facts show that it was a popular place for locals to gather, discuss news, and hold social events.

(Photo courtesy Chesterfield Historical Society)



The historic Eagle Hotel was built by Stephen Hassam in 1816 and burned down in 1904. The wooden eagle mounted on the upper porch has been restored and displayed in the Charlestown Silsby Library.

(Photo courtesy of Charlestown Historical Society)



Forest House Hotel – which was located next to what is now the Methodist Chapel in Marlow – burned in The Fire of 1916. The fire destroyed the entire north side of Marlow's Main Street, including the hotel, the Ladies Aid Society Building, the Granite State Evaporator Company, and other business and homes.

(Photo courtesy Marlow Historical Society)

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Newell's Grist and Saw Mill on Mechanic Street in Alstead was built in 1793 and operated into the late 1940s.

(Photo courtesy of Alstead Historical Society)



This photo, circa 1900, is of the interior of the M. D. Mason general store next to the Congregational Church. Note the elaborate soda fountain on the back wall.



Several men take a break to stand for a photograph in front of Leslie Goodnow's turning mill south of the village of East Sullivan around 1905. The road they are standing on is now Route 9. The mill is one example of several small industries that operated in East Sullivan from the 1840s to the 1920s. The mill made chair stock, crib stock, and furniture parts. It closed a few years before Leslie Goodnow's death in 1918.

(Photo courtesy Sullivan Town Archives)




Workmen are seen paving Roxbury Street in Keene around 1930. The view is toward Central Square and includes the Bank Block and many stores along the street including the First National Store.

(Photo courtesy of Historical Society of Cheshire County)

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Rick Fulwider shows off some sundaes at his new location on Key Road when he moved there in 2012.

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Through two decades, Fulwider has expanded the offerings, and, recently,

he reintroduced frozen custard to the menu, not found anywhere else in southern New Hampshire. Fulwider is always open to trying new ice cream concoctions. Recognizing a need to satisfy the vegan diet, ice cream made with almond milk is on the menu too. Keeping ice cream lovers happy by selling the best quality product brings Fulwider satisfaction and will probably keep Rick's Gourmet Ice Cream number one. The shop is located at 58 Key Road in Keene. Stop by or find it on Facebook.

**Restaurants**



Greystone Lodge was a summer retreat built in 1911 for people who came from as far away as Boston and New York. It had a nine-hole golf course and a restaurant. It burned down in the 70s, but the stone foundation can still be found in a heavy wooded area in Antrim.

(Photo courtesy of Antrim NH Historical Society)



This 30-foot ice cream stand known as "Sawyer's Stand" at Silver Ranch in Jaffrey opened in 1954. Sawyer's Stand served up ice cream and food, and offered gift items as well.

(Photo courtesy of Jaffrey Historical Society)



Twin Gables luncheonette, circa 1940, was located on the site of an old blacksmith shop. The land was later donated by Ernest Hale for the Post Office built in 1958 by Arthur St. Pierre and his son-in-law William Raymond. The building is now the home of the Rindge Police Department.

(Photo courtesy Rindge Historical Society)

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Early 1900s photo of Gilsum Band during a performance.

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The Fitzwilliam Band is seen performing in a parade in Winchendon, MA in 1913.

(Photo courtesy of Fitzwilliam Historical Society)



Benny Goodman, "The Swingmaster" and his orchestra, along with Vaughn Monroe, performed at Ware's Grove in Spofford in July of 1941.

(Photo courtesy of Shelly and Peter Mitchell)

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The Fitzwilliam Band performs on the Common in the summer of 1947.

(Photo courtesy of Fitzwilliam Historical Society)

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Philip 'Phil' Coll, a.k.a. as the Chainsaw Guru, in his new garage.



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Songs that hit the charts included: *Rhinestone Cowboy* by Glen Campbell, *Dancing Queen* by ABBA, *Y.M.C.A.* by The Village People, *I Will Survive* by Gloria Gaynor, *Crocodile Rock* by Elton John, *Angie* by The Rolling Stones, and *Killing Me Softly With His Song* by Roberta Flack.

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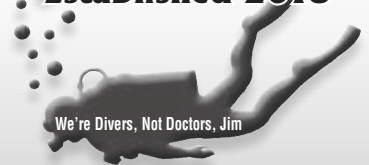
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**Remember These?**



A Gas Engine Meet was held at Yankee Parking Lot in Dublin in 1973. This photo is of Brian Barden with a gas engine.

(Photo courtesy of Dublin Historical Society)



This picture is of G. H Tilden and the newsstand on the west side of Main Street at Gilbo Avenue in Keene in 1978. You can see that the railroad tracks are still present.

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**About 50  
 Years Ago**

In 1970, Peterborough renewed its commitment to free speech when a committee at the Unitarian Universalist Church resurrected the forum as the Monadnock Summer Lyceum. This "feast for the thoughtful" continues today and features prominent speakers from a wide variety of backgrounds and disciplines who discuss topics of importance to that time.

Keene State College was one of the original five schools to host Elderhostel at its founding back in the early 1970s. Elderhostel conducts research on aging and life-long learning.

New Hampshire Covered Bridge #4 was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. Located in Westport (part of Swanzey township), the Slate Bridge was named after the Slate family who lived on a farm along the Ashuelot River north of the bridge.

In 1970, Eleanor Briggs used her grandparents' house as a conservation education center and established the Harris Center for Conservation Education. She named the organization after her cat, Harris, who she felt "represented a certain wildness, humor, savvy, and strong instinct, all elements needed for a successful environmental education center." The center first offered public educational programs, and soon branched into summer camps and school programming.

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**Remember These?**



This is the remains of the F.J. Amarosa & Sons Plumbing and Heating building at 20 Ashuelot Street in Winchester. The business was established in 1957 and was still very active in the 1980s.

(Photo courtesy of Historical Society of Cheshire County)



Harrisville Zucchini Festival in 1983 showing a young woman fishing off the bridge over the canal

(Photo courtesy of Historic Harrisville)

**Thayer Portable Houses**

By Alan Rumrill

In this day of pre-fab homes and log cabin kits, it is interesting to note that a Keene firm was advertising portable houses about 100 years ago. The Springfield Manufacturing Company, makers of the Springfield Portable House, first came to Keene in 1913. By the 1920s, Oscar H. Thayer had become owner and changed the name to the Thayer Portable House Company.

The company, which was located at 171 Winchester Street, manufactured portable and ready-cut buildings of all kinds. Thayer offered bungalows, camps, garages, boathouses, chicken houses, schools, and even churches. Between 400 and 500 buildings were made each year at the Thayer Factory. Many of the building styles were named after local features, such as Chesterfield, given to the bungalow model. The firm employed 20 people and did an annual business in excess of \$100,000 during the 1920s.

The portable houses were built in sections and held together with bolts and specially designed clamps. The ready-cut houses came complete in every detail, with not a single additional piece of lumber or hardware needed. All locks, nails, window screens, and even paint were included.

The Thayer Portable House Company disappeared from the city directories in the mid-1940s.

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**About 50 Years Ago**

In 1970, the population of Keene was 20,467 and Cheshire County 53,600.

With 2.39 million in pledges, Cheshire Hospital (now part of the Dartmouth-Hitchcock healthcare network) was built on Court Street in Keene and dedicated in 1973. It replaced Elliot Hospital on Main Street.

Keene Horseshoe Club was host to three World Horseshoe Championships in Keene: 1966, 1968, and then again in 1974.

In 1976, President Gerald Ford visited Keene. Schools closed so students could go see him.

The first Street Fair was held in Keene in July of 1979. Before that, the event had been known as Sidewalk Sales or Crazy Days. Also in October 1979, First Lady Rosalyn Carter dedicated the E.E. Bagley Bandstand in Central Square. The bandstand was named after Edwin Eugene Bagley, an American composer who was most famous for composing the march *National Emblem*.

On Main Street Keene 1970, one would find the railroad line still crossed the street. Businesses at that time included Simon's Jewelers, Quality Shoppe, David's, Mr. Pizza, Keene Co-Operative Bank, Melody Shop, and Bell Shop.

Also in the 1970s, Winding Brook Lodge in Keene was a favorite restaurant in the Monadnock Region, Cheshire Mills in Harrisville ceased operation, Contoocook Valley Regional High School was built, and the first physical location of the chain retail store Brookstone opened in Peterborough.

Sports historians have documented that girls in New Hampshire played basketball interscholastically before the boys, there was no official girls' state championship or tournament until a New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association event in 1970.

The Christmas Fire of 1970 in Peterborough had not only the town's firefighters but six other town's firefighters trying to control a fire that was consuming the school building on High Street. The school was left in ruins and the town scrambling to find space for the displaced students before Christmas vacation was over. The school had housed students in 7th and 8th grade. Following the fire, these students transitioned to Contoocook Valley Regional High School for the remainder of the school year. As far as the students in 1st through 6th grades, their Christmas break lasted longer than planned, and by January 11th the gym and elementary wing were sufficiently cleaned to allow the students to return.

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