



TRANSPORTATION

PHOTOGRAPH HISTORY PACKET, #2

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IN YOUR PHOTO PACKET

This packet contains enlargements of historic photographs from the collection of the Historical Society of Cheshire County, each related to the history of transportation in Cheshire County and its impact on society and the landscape. Photos are marked on the back with their catalog number, any known dates, and a description.

SOME WAYS OF USING THE PACKETS

1. Identify all of the forms of transportation shown in these views. Which of these forms are still used today? What forms of transportation used today do not appear in the photos?
2. Organize the photos chronologically. Explain why you chose this order.
3. Identify the function of all of the forms of transportation shown. How are those same functions accomplished today? Are they still accomplished today?
4. Try to list the forms of transportation used throughout history before these photos were taken. What does that suggest about the impact of the industrial revolution and modern technology on transportation?
5. Compare the oldest photo and most recent photo (both of Central Square, Keene). Discuss the differences. How did transportation influence these changes?
6. What technological advance made trolleys possible in Keene? Discuss why the trolley system was discontinued.
7. Why did people still use horses after automobiles were introduced?
8. What was significant about the paving of Keene's Main Street in 1921?
9. List the ways in which transportation developments impacted the environment in which they were used.
10. What changes have occurred in transportation locally since the last photo in this group was taken (c.1960)?objects today?

CONTENTS OF PACKET



P228. 1865. Central Square in Keene, NH.

Although Keene was the largest and busiest town in the county, the pace of life seems very slow in this view. One of the main reasons is the lack of transport on the streets. Pedestrians pause in the center of the empty main street. Not one moving vehicle is visible, although the train station is visible in the distance, and on close inspection, three wagons can be seen in this Civil War period photo.



No#. 1895. Connecticut River Ferry from Putney, VT, to Westmoreland, NH

Ferries were used for about 150 years to transport vehicles and produce across the Connecticut River in southwestern New Hampshire. The large flat-bottomed boats were used before bridges were built or in locations where it was too difficult or expensive to build bridges. The ferries often were operated by manpower as the ferry keeper would pull the boat across the river using a rope secured at the opposite shore.



No#. 1905. Rolling Snow on the Roads in Dublin, NH.

In the early 19th century, rather than removing snow from the roads, New Hampshire towns began packing the snow covered roads with large horse drawn wooden rollers providing a hard and compact surface for sleighs.



No#. 1907. Winter on Main Street, Keene, NH.

This view illustrates the transformation in transportation at the beginning of the 20th century. Although horses, wagons, sleighs and pedestrians are visible on the street, the impact of modern technology is also clearly evident. A train pulls out of the station, two trolleys pass on the street, and an automobile owner braves the snowy roads.



P7146. **1907. Stagecoach on the Hancock, NH, to Marlow, NH, line.**

Stage travel was introduced to Cheshire County in the early 1800's in conjunction with the construction of highways in the form of turnpikes. Stagecoaches carried passengers and mail throughout the region. After the introduction of the railroad in the mid-1800's, the stages often ran from train stations into the outlying towns. Stage travel continued until it was superseded by automobiles in the 20th century.



No#. **1910. Hauling logs by horse and oxen.**

Oxen were used for transportation in Cheshire County beginning soon after the arrival of European settlers in the mid-1700's. They were ideal for hauling heavy loads over uneven terrain. Logging was often done in the winter. The heavy timber could be pulled over the frozen ground at that time and would not sink into the mud or soft ground.



P6353. **1915. Boston & Maine Railroad Station.**

The activity at Railroad Square showed the importance of the railroad in Keene. Factories, warehouses, railroad buildings, trains and wagons were visible in the distance. Hacks, baggage and freight wagons were lining up to take on their loads. Railroad passenger service ended in Keene in 1958, freight service ended in 1982.



No#. **1928. Opening Day of the Keene Airport.**

Airplanes were first exhibited in Keene in about 1910. Less than two decades later the city had its own airport, one of the first in the state. Local businessmen believed the airplanes would rapidly become a leading method of transporting people and cargo. They organized the Keene Airport Inc. to take advantage of this most recent development in transportation technology



P2600. **1960s. Central Square.**

The automobile had transformed life in the city and in the region. Notice the changes which had occurred in downtown Keene to accommodate automobile users: paved streets, a rotary traffic pattern, traffic lights, traffic signs, streetlights, parking meters, extended and enlarged store signs, and an information booth on the square.