



INDUSTRIALIZATION

PHOTOGRAPH HISTORY PACKET, #3

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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 industrialization in Cheshire County. They show a variety of everyday tasks and the technology that was used to assist with these tasks during the late 1800s to early 1900s. Photos are marked on the back with their catalog number, any known dates, and a description.

SOME WAYS OF USING THE PACKETS

- 1- What task is being performed in this photograph?
- 2- What kinds of tools and machines are being used? What are their functions?
- 3- Can you tell what powers the machinery being used?
- 4- How many people are involved in each task? What are the people wearing?
- 5- Does this work environment seem safe? Are there things in the photograph that indicate to you that safety precautions are being used?
- 6- How many objects can you identify in the photograph? Do we use any of these objects today?
- 7- What can we all learn about the past by studying these photographs?

BRIEF HISTORY OF INDUSTRIALIZATION

The transformation of our community from the domestic system of industry to the larger factory system began in this region in the mid-1800s. During the Industrial Revolution, large factories used much more machinery and many more employees while the old system of factory production was much smaller yet used skilled craftsmen who had apprenticed for years to perfect their trade. Under a new system, machines operated by unskilled laborers could make shoes, textiles, furniture and many other products faster and in larger numbers than the skilled artisan in his small workshop. The developments in technology also had an impact beyond the factory in the form of machines to make work easier in the field and forest. Mowing machines, hay rakes, circular saws and many other labor saving devices were introduced. These photos help to illustrate the impact of the Industrial Revolution in the County.

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P4791. c.1910. The Newburyport Silver Company Shop.

The Newburyport Silver Company, formed in 1902, moved to Keene around 1904. The firm was located on Church Street in a 165 by 45 foot building/room. The company manufactured mostly tableware, both flat and hollow, souvenir spoons, and novelties in bronze. Most of the work was done by hand, but a rolling mill for preparing the silver, a retort which melted the silver down, and lathes were used. Forty people were employed by the Company which closed in 1915. The early process of manufacturing silver involved casting the metal into thin sheets. It was then rolled or hammered to the required thickness, cut out with shears and hammered into shape. If it was hollow ware, it was hammered over a mold or form. The fine finishing was done with a hammer. Handles were cast in molds and then finished by hand. Engraving was the principle form of decoration on most pieces.



No#. 1921. Paving on Main Street in Keene.

Main Street was paved in 1921 at a cost of \$25,883.55, including the sidewalk and curbing, using cement with a bed of gravel and wire meshing. A steam powered paving machine and early dump trucks can be seen in the photo, but a good amount of hand labor was still used. Also pictured here is a trolley car from the Keene Electric Railway. The company began service in September of 1900. It ran from Keene to West Keene, Marlborough and North Swanzey. The trolley was replaced by buses in 1929.



P2310. 1907-1909. Building the Vernon, VT, Dam.

The construction of the Vernon Dam began in the summer of 1907 on the Connecticut River between Vernon, VT, and Hinsdale, NH. A foundation of rock supported the dam. A power plant was built on the Vermont side of the dam; the spillway, which channeled any overflow, was located on the New Hampshire side. The dam formed a lake which was used for both hydroelectric power and leisure activities, such as boating and swimming. Dam construction began with cribs, used for support, made out of heavy timber. The frame work of these was 35 feet wide and the full depth of the river. The cribs were sunk to the bottom with rocks. One crib was put into place, stopping some of the water; another was then built just south of the first. These formed the two sides of the cofferdam, a temporary water-tight enclosure. The water was then pumped out and the dam was built in between with rock and cement. An interesting note: Most of the labor on the dam was done by Italian immigrants whose crude cabins were located along the shore.



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

In the early 1800's, snow was packed on the roads using snow rollers rather than being removed. Snow rollers were large wooden drums of six feet in diameter and eight to ten feet wide which were drawn by teams of horses or oxen across the snow. This left a trail of hard packed snow which made a good road bed for the runners of sleighs.



of Surry Dam

No#. 1910. Haying in Surry, NH, at the Jasper N. Keller Farm.

The hay was mowed, using a mowing machine which was invented in 1861 and then raked into windrows, probably using the one-horse dump rake which was invented in 1868. It was then loaded into wagons and brought to the barn. The field which is pictured here no longer exists, it is now located under the waters



P4645. 1891. Otis W. Howard Harness Shop in Keene, NH.

Early in the 18th century there were no professional harness makers. "Harnesses" were known as tackling, simple constructions of leather, cornhusks, rope and wood. Later in the 18th century the term "harness" came into use and harness makers were known for their careful workmanship. The Otis W. Howard Harness Shop at 117 Main Street made fine harnesses, horse clothing, whips and horse medicine. All of the work was done by hand, including the sewing.



P3445. c.1890. Clearing land in Westmoreland, NH.

Westmoreland was an important farming town bordering on the Connecticut River. The soil was rich and there were fewer rocks than in most other areas of the region. Clearing the land in the 1890s had not changed much from colonial times. Trees were chopped down and the stumps were either pulled out or burned. Stones were then removed using oxen and picks and shovels. The land could then be plowed and crops grown.



P2399. The "Blizzard of 1888" in Keene, NH.

The "Great Blizzard" lasted for three days, beginning on March 11, 1888. It left drifts from 12 to 15 feet high. All roads and streets were blocked and impassable. The telegraph lines were down and both the railroads and stage lines were unable to operate for three days. No mail was delivered for five days. Snow tunnels to front doors were a common sight. Manual labor was often used to clear streets. Note the men using wooden shovels on Mechanic Street.



P3259. 1880-1885. Logging in Stoddard, NH.

Timber was harvested with axes, cleaned and loaded on to sleds. The logs were then brought to a river and floated down the river to the sawmills in the spring. The riverman's job was to push stranded logs out of bushes, keeping the logs from damming up. They used tools such as the pike-pole (which is pictured) which was a long pole with a sharp spike at one end, to control logs floating in free water. Another tool which was often used was a peavey, a stout wooden lever about five or six feet long with a strong steel—spike and an adjustable steel hook on the end, used to turn logs. The most difficult part of a riverman's job was moving and shifting logs when a jam would occur. They would have to move the right logs and quickly get to shore before all the logs became loose and crashed down around them. Drives could last from 3 weeks to two years if the water was low and many logs became stranded.



P6071. 1875. Keene Granite Quarries in Roxbury, NH.

Fine textured granite from Roxbury was used in constructing the N.Y. state capital in Albany. Sheets of granite up to 40 feet in length, 8 feet in width and 8 feet thick were lifted from New Hampshire quarries. At the Keene Granite Quarries a series of holes were drilled into the granite allowing the stone to be pried apart. All work was done using hand labor, no power machinery was used. A variety of saws were later developed to cut granite'.