



# LOGGING & WOODWORKING INDUSTRY

*PHOTOGRAPH HISTORY PACKET, #4*

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## **IN YOUR PHOTO PACKET**

This packet contains enlargements of 38 historic photographs from the collection of the Historical Society of Cheshire County, each related to the history of woodworking and logging industries 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 title.

## **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? Can you tell what powers the machinery being used?
- 3- Look at the people in these photos. What do their clothes, hair styles, and build tell us about their social status?
- 4- What are the ages of the workers? What does this suggest about child labor laws at the time?
- 5- What do these photos tell us about life in the woodworking industry? Does this work environment seem safe? Are there things in the photograph that indicate to you that safety precautions are being used? What kinds of disasters affected this industry over time?
- 6- What can we all learn about the past by studying these photographs?

## **BRIEF HISTORY OF INDUSTRIALIZATION**

Logging and woodworking have been very important industries in Cheshire County since the early 1700's. Native Americans in the area used wood for tools, canoes, building shelter, and making containers such as baskets. The first European settlers used local wood to build homes and furniture and to clear cut hundreds of acres of farmland.

Over the decades, lumbering and woodworking became very profitable businesses in the region. During the Industrial Revolution of the 1800s, many factories were built throughout the county. Products like boxes, pails and buckets, chairs and furniture were made by the thousands in this region. By the early 1900s, the Monadnock region was famous for its wooden products. Keene became

known as the porch rocker capital of the country. Many factories closed during the mid-1900s to late-1900s due to economic conditions. However, lumbering remains an important source of revenue for our county today.

## **SUGGESTED RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CHESHIRE COUNTY**

**City Directories:** Many towns in Cheshire County created annual directories that listed businesses. Often these were sorted by type of industry in the index.

**Town Histories:** Often published at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, town histories contain valuable information about early industries.

**Images of America** series publications: Many towns in Cheshire County have published these books containing images of the region and its important industries.

**Martin, Richard A. *The Only Mill in Town: The Story of a Pail Making Industry in Richmond, NH.*** Friends of Historic Richmond; Richmond, NH: 1995. A history of the Martin Mills in Richmond, New Hampshire, and the various wood working mills in town especially those involved in pail manufacturing.

Sloane, Eric books. Each contain detailed drawings of woodworking tools and equipment as well as how buildings are constructed.

1. **Diary of an Early American Boy: Noah Blake 1805.** For his fifteenth birthday in 1805, young Noah Blake's parents gave him a little leatherbound diary in which he recorded the various activities on his father's farm. This reprint of an actual early nineteenth-century book provides today's readers with a delightful rarity — a view of bygone days through the eyes of a young boy. Eric Sloane has taken the notebook with its brief comments and expanded the daily entries with explanatory narrative and 72 of his own remarkable drawings.
2. **A Reverence for Wood.** From cradle to coffin, the pioneer was surrounded by wood. It was used to make tools, fence the land, and build barns. People sat at wooden tables on wooden chairs and ate from wooden dishes. Charcoal, one of the many by-products of wood, was used to preserve meat, remove offensive odors, and produce ink.
3. **Museum of Early American Tools.** Illustrates a huge variety of axes, hammers, chisels, etc.--each one perfectly suited to a specific task and carefully made to individual specifications.

Catalog / Objectid / Objname	Description	Date
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P Colony III 112  
Print, Photographic

Beaver Mills and the Cheshire Chair Company of Keene in the late 19th century.

19th century



P Houpis 5  
Print, Photographic

A mounted photograph of a switcher in the Keene railroad yards. The Fitchburg Railroad freight house, L. J. Colony Chair Factory and the George E. Holbrook storehouse are seen.



P P119  
Print, Photographic

A photograph of a log drive on the Connecticut River in Westmoreland, NH.













P P547  
Print, Photographic

A mounted photograph of the Employees of the Impervious Package Co. of Keene, NH. Identification of employees are mounted on the back of the photograph.

1883-1928



Catalog / Objectid / Objname	Description	Date
P P661 Print, Photographic	A postcard of a fire at the Impervious Package Company on Emerald Street in Keene, NH.	July 6, 1911
		
P P1395 Print, Photographic	A postcard showing the remains of the Carey Chair Company of Keene, NH after the Hurricane of 1938.	September 21, 1938
		
P P2359 Print, Photographic	A postcard of a logging crew on the Connecticut River.	unknown
		
P P2419 Print, Photographic	A postcard of the Platt Box Company in Troy, NH following the boiler explosion.	unknown
		
P P2681 Print, Photographic	A postcard of logging on the Connecticut River at Hinsdale, NH.	1908
		






Catalog / Objectid / Objname	Description	Date
P P3103-3112 Print, Photographic 	Porch rocking chair made by the L. J. Colony Chair Company in Munsonville, NH.	late 19th-early 20th c.
P P3113-3136 Print, Photographic 	Porch rocker made by L. J. Colony Chair Company in Munsonville, NH.	late 19th-early 20th c.
P P3756 Print, Photographic 	A mounted photograph of the interior of the Impervious Package Company in Keene, NH.	1883 - 1928
P P3785 Print, Photographic 	A mounted photograph of Elijah B. Mason of Surry, NH, arriving at Central Square with his horse and oxen drawn sled. The sled is carrying logs and furs.	circa 1869
P P5374 Print, Photographic 	The Colony Chair Company in Munsonville, NH. This photograph also shows the employees standing in front of a horse drawn wagon loaded with rocker chairs.	1889-1910













Catalog / Objectid / Objname	Description	Date
P P9702 OVERSIZE A Print, Photographic	Men at a wood mill cutting planks at a portable saw mill.	early 20th c.
		
P P9703 OVERSIZE A Print, Photographic	Men at a wood mill cutting planks at a portable saw mill.	early 20th c.
		
P P9704 OVERSIZE A Print, Photographic	A mounted photograph of men gathered at the wood mill displaying their accomplishment of RCD.100,000 feet of lumber in one week.	early 20th c.
		
P P9984 Print, Photographic	A fallen oak tree put on a double runner dog sled to bring it to the lumber yard.	Early 1930's
		
P P10309 Print, Photographic	People posing with a Mack "Duo-Drive" truck hauling part of a tree.	early 20th c.
		

Catalog / Objectid / Objname	Description	Date
<p>P RG115/III/B5/S3-92 Print, Photographic</p> 	<p>Horse teams at a logging camp.</p>	<p>May 14, 1922</p>
<p>P Whitehouse 4-25 Print, Photographic</p> 	<p>A log yard in Keene. Teams of Horse &amp; oxen drawn sleighs are hauling logs.</p>	<p>late 19th c.</p>
<p>P Whitehouse 4-28 Print, Photographic</p> 	<p>A convoy of horse-drawn logging wagons at the intersection of School and Court Streets in Keene.</p>	<p>late 19th c.</p>
<p>P Whitehouse 4-4 Print, Photographic</p> 	<p>Keene Screen &amp; Ladder Company building. A loaded horse drawn delivery cart is seen in the foreground.</p>	<p>1880-1935</p>