



Historical Society of Cheshire County
P.O. Box 803 – 246 Main Street
Keene, New Hampshire 03431
603-352-1895 – www.hscenh.org
Hours: Tues., Thurs., & Fri.: 9 am - 4 pm
Wed.: 9 am - 8 pm;
First and Third Saturday, 9 am - 12 pm

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Collecting, Preserving, and Communicating the History of Cheshire County

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Historical Society of Cheshire County

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STODDARD GLASS: PUTTING A 19TH CENTURY TOWN TO WORK



Double Eagle Flask



Joseph Foster opened the first glass factory in Stoddard.

The collections of the Historical Society of Cheshire County contain about 150 pieces of Stoddard glass, made in that town in the mid-1800s. The collections also include factory records, photographs, bottle molds, and other equipment used in the manufacturing process in Stoddard. The dark green and amber bottles produced in the town's factories are now eagerly sought by bottle collectors, who are willing to pay between \$50 and \$50,000 for a single piece of Stoddard glass for their collection.

Five glass factories operated in this town in the northeast corner of Cheshire County during the 31 years between 1842 and 1873. During those years the factories turned out millions of common utilitarian bottles for the markets of the Northeast. The factories employed hundreds of Stoddard residents, playing an important economic role in this community of failing farms.

Stoddard had readily available raw materials for use in the industry, including sand that could be melted to create the glass and forests of wood that was used to fire the glass furnaces. All the bottles were made by hand, blown through blowpipes using the lung power of the glassblowers. Glassblowing

was a skilled profession. Many of the blowers in Stoddard were natives of Europe, having immigrated to the United States to find better jobs to support themselves and their families. Although the blowers were often well paid, this was difficult work. The men worked long hours under difficult conditions, spending their workday near the furnaces that were kept heated to about 1500 degrees to melt the sand.

In addition to the glassblowers, many others were employed in related occupations. Carrying-in boys worked in the same hot factories, moving bottles within the building. Other residents supplied the wood and sand for use in the factories. Box shops made wooden boxes to ship the glass, warehouse workers packed and shipped the bottles, and teamsters transported it by wagon to local and distant markets. Furthermore, numerous residents were employed weaving rattan or willow casings onto many of the larger bottles.

These factories made a wide variety of bottles for an assortment of products. Stoddard bottles were used to hold whiskey, beer, wine, medicine,

(Continued on Page 2)

Calendar: Complete List of Events at www.hscenh.org

What's Happening at the Historical Society?

Friday, November 11, Historical Society Closed for Veteran's Day Holiday

Saturday, November 12, Keene State College, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm, Monadnock Region Natural History Conference

Wednesday, November 16 through Friday, December 23, Museum Store, Holiday Sale

November 24 and 25, Historical Society Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

Wednesday, November 30, Exhibit Hall, 6:00 pm, Covered Bridges of the Monadnock Region

Saturday, December 3, Exhibit Hall Closed for Private event; Library and Museum Store open

Wednesday, December 14, Exhibit Hall, 7:00 pm, Italian Neighborhood Project Presentation

Now until December 16, Exhibit Hall, "Finding Home in New Hampshire: Then and Now" Exhibit

Tuesday, January 3 through Friday, January 13, Historical Society closed for staff preparation time.



Saturday, November 12
8:30 am to 3:30 pm
Keene State College

This full-day conference will feature presentations on a diversity of natural history topics, with a keynote address exploring backyard pollinator-plant connections by Sam Jaffe of The Caterpillar Lab. Topics will include wildlife, forest ecology, climate change, Mount Monadnock, community science, human connections to nature, and more.

Registration fee: \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door; students: \$10. Space is limited and advance registration is strongly encouraged.

For full details and to register, see the conference webpage at [Monadnock Region Natural History Conference \(harriscenter.org\)](http://MonadnockRegionNaturalHistoryConference(harriscenter.org)).

The Historical Society is a sponsor of this event.

Historical Society of Cheshire County



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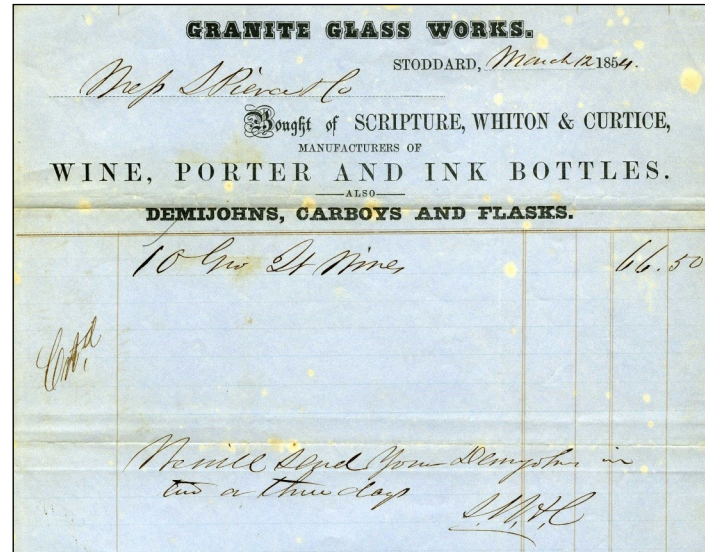
Peter Kelleher
Program Coordinator

Stoddard Glass (Continued from Page 1):

pickles, preserves, chemicals, stove blacking, ink, spring water, and more. Although the glassblowers could make several hundred bottles per day, it was the off-hand pieces that illustrated the skill and beauty of the glassmaker's art. These were non-production pieces that were crafted from excess molten glass from the furnaces. Off-hand pieces included pitchers, cream and sugar sets, hats, rolling pins, goblets, bowls, and many other forms.

The production of the glass companies suggests the impact of the firms on the town of Stoddard. In 1850 the Granite Glass Works had eight furnaces and 38 employees, who were paid a total of \$8,000 for the year. Raw materials cost \$1950 and fuel, in the form of 2100 cords of wood, cost \$2600. The company made 500,000 bottles that were sold for \$16,230, or about 3½ cents each. Granite Glass Works made a profit of \$3600 in 1850. During the same year the South Stoddard Glass Manufacturing Company turned out 750,000 bottles that were sold for a total of \$26,000.

To learn more about this important local industry, visit the Historical Society to view an exhibit of Stoddard whiskey flasks currently displayed in the society's lobby.



Granite Glass Works billhead, 1854




Finding Home in New Hampshire: Then and Now
Exhibit open until December 16th.

Tavern Keepers


The Tavern Keepers are supporting the Historical Society's most important artifact, the Wyman Tavern (1762). Tavern Keepers contribute \$300 specifically towards the operation and stewardship of the Wyman Tavern. With gratitude, we list below the Tavern Keepers in 2022 and 2023.

Thomas and Susan Abert
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Joslin Kimball Frank
David Frechette and
Sydney (CeeCee) Croteau Frechette
Mike Giacomo and Rachel Eschle
Tom and Elke Hanna
Roger and Nancy Hansen
Richard High and Joyce Clark (in memoriam)
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Robert and Lisa Wyman
Margaret (Gretchen) Ziegler





HOLIDAY SALE BEGINS
NOVEMBER 16, 2022



THE MUSEUM STORE

AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CHESHIRE COUNTY





246 MAIN STREET, KEENE, NH
Open Tues, Thurs & Fri 9-4 and Wed 9-8, and
the 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month 9-12 pm or online at www.hscen.org

Leadership Circle

Leadership Circle donors have given \$1000 or more in the calendar year toward the Annual Fund or other programs of the Historical Society of Cheshire County. Thank you to our Leadership Circle donors.

Robert and Deborah Aliber
Jay and Lisa Blanchard
George and Ann Colony
John and Pat Colony
John Cooney
Richard and Patricia Dugger
Dayton and Dianne Duncan
Joslin Kimball Frank
David Frechette and Sydney (CeeCee)
Croteau Frechette
Mike Giacomo and Rachel Eschle
Peter, Cornelia, and Catherine Jenness
Elizabeth and Peter Hansel
Carl and Ruth Jacobs
Richard and Judith Kalich
Walter and Barbara Lacey
Steven and Jane Larmon

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JB and Lauren Wright



Richard Lederer entertained Life Members and Leadership Circle donors on October 20, at the Historical Society. (photo by Peter Kelleher)

October events honor Tavern Keepers, Life Members, and Leadership Circle Donors

Tavern Keepers gathered at the Bruder House and Wyman Tavern on October 6, for Soups and S'mores, but the balmy weather meant that no sweaters were needed. (Photo by Aaron Lipsky)



Covered Bridges of the Monadnock Region

November 30, 2022, 6:00 pm
246 Main Street, Keene



Nestled in the southwest corner of the state, the Monadnock Region is home to seven covered bridges. Kim Varney Chandler will present the rich histories of Winchester's two bridges: the Ashuelot and the Coombs, as well as Swanzey's four covered bridges: the Thompson, Slate, Carlton, and Sawyer's Crossing.

Kim Varney Chandler is the author of *Covered Bridges of New Hampshire*, an engaging, illustrated history of the remaining covered bridges in the Granite State. The 288-page, full color, softcover book features the author's own current day photography of all sixty-one covered bridges, paired with historical photos in a then-and-now theme. Kim partnered with bridge wrights, timber framers, bridge engineers, historical societies, town offices, libraries, state

and national organizations, and community members to compile extensive histories of each bridge.

Kim is a researcher, amateur genealogist, photographer, bird watcher, and dog lover. She is a two-time graduate of the University of New Hampshire. Kim works as a high school counselor at Fall Mountain Regional High School and commits an inordinate amount of time to volunteer work for a variety of organizations. She is a life-long resident of New Hampshire except for two stints living south of the Mason-Dixon line. She lives in Hancock with her husband Marshall and Pemi, the hiking therapy dog.

Italian Neighborhood Community History Project

Wednesday, December 14, 7:00 pm
246 Main Street, Keene



The Grossi Family who emigrated from Scarfa, Italy to Keene (c.1919)

On Wednesday, December 14, at 7:00 pm, in the Exhibit Hall, the Historical Society of Cheshire County will host the Keene Heritage Commission for a presentation on the history of Keene's Italian neighborhood, sourced from residents past and present. The presentation will explore the stories and history gathered as well as the methodology behind the undertaking. This project was funded in part by New Hampshire Division of Historic Resources, CLG (Certified Local Government) Grant funds.



Students in front of the Pearl Street School, circa 1911. Pearl Street was part of the Italian neighborhood.

For more information on the Italian Neighborhood History Project, go to:

<https://comdv1pt.wixsite.com/keeneheritage/italian-neighborhood-history-project>

Life Members – Historical Society of Cheshire County

Life members are members who have invested in the long term success of the Historical Society through a one-time membership payment of \$1000 for individuals or \$1500 for couples.
Thank you to our life members.

Joan Ames
Eleanor Ball
Lewis and Carol Barnes
Juliana Bergeron and Arto Leino
Jay and Lisa Blanchard
Chris J. Booras and Mary J. Booras
Peter and Maria Bradshaw
Linda Cates and Tom Murray
Margot Close
George and Ann Colony
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Raette Trombly
Ernest Vose
Ken and Pam Walton
Robert and Susan Wellwood
Julie White
John and Loren Wright
Martha and Peter Wright
Susan Wright
Louise R. Zerba