

The Courier

MAY 2010

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IT'S OFFICIAL:

Case Brothers National Historic District

ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE CONNECTICUT HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD, The Case Brothers historic district was added to the National Register of Historic Places in June 2009.

The district is in the Highland Park area of Manchester, in the south-east corner of town, and includes the town's 640-acre Case Mountain Recreation Area, with old carriage paths, stone walls, bridges, trails, and watershed. Other properties in the district include three mansions, a rustic lodge, a reservoir, pond, dam and paper mills formerly owned by Case family members. The Upper Case Pond and Beach Parklet (near the Spring Street trailhead), and other parcels in the district are owned by the Manchester Land Conservation Trust. Private owners and trusts own the balance of the property.

Manchester already has ten other listings on the National Register, including the Cheney Brothers silk mill area, Downtown, Pitkin Glassworks, Union Village, and the Woodbridge farmstead at The Green. We have a lot of history in our town to be proud of—and much to protect and preserve.



Former home of A. Willard Case, who was in the paper-making business with his twin brother A. Wells Case.

100 Years of Boy Scouts *New Exhibit at Old Manchester Museum*



Jeffrey Michaud and Justin Pedneault of Troop 25 at the new Boy Scout exhibit.

THIS YEAR, THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA are celebrating their 100th anniversary. Founded in 1910, the scouting movement arrived in Manchester less than a year later. Fred Verplanck was the chairman of the organizational meetings and George Lynne was the first Scoutmaster of the local Boy Scouts. That first summer of 1911 the boys hiked 14 miles to the lake in Marlboro to camp for a week, where they cooked for themselves and learned woodcraft. Within a few years the number of local boys in scouting grew to the point where it was necessary to split them into two troops.

Scouting during those first years emphasized hiking, camping, woodcraft, and first aid. Public demonstrations were given in the form of competitions between the troops showcasing the skills learned by the boys. By 1925 there were 8 troops in Manchester. Troop 1 was in North Manchester, Troop 2, Troop 3 at Center Congregational Church (now Troop 25), Troop 4 at St. Mary's Episcopal Church (now Troop 27), Troop 5 at Swedish Lutheran Church (later Troop 126), Troop 6 at South Methodist Church (now Troop 47), Troop 7 at Buckland School, and Troop 8 at Manchester Green.

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SCOUTS from page 1

Through the years there have been over twenty-five Boy Scout troops in Manchester, most associated with either an elementary school or church. Today there are only 5 troops still active: Troop 25, Troop 27, Troop 47, Troop 123 (at Community Baptist Church) and Troop 364 (at the Mormon Church).

The new exhibit at the Old Manchester Museum (126 Cedar Street) highlights early photos of local boy scouts, as well as scouting artifacts such as uniforms, neckerchiefs, merit badges, operating Morse Code keys, and a campsite and cook fire at Camp Johnson.

We are still looking for pictures of Boy Scouts from Manchester's past to add to the exhibit. We would also like to add mementoes and artifacts from the troops no longer active. If you have something that you would consider loaning to the museum, please contact us at 860-647-9742.

Contributors to this issue:

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The Courier

A newsletter of the
Manchester Historical Society

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Looking for Hilliardville Memories

DO YOU HAVE OLD PHOTOS AND STORIES ABOUT HILLIARDVILLE? The Manchester Historical Society is looking for pictures and information about the Hilliard Mills, Hilliard Pond, worker housing, and members of the Hilliard family. We were pleased recently to connect with Earle and Dottie Armstrong, who provided photos and stories of Walt Weeder, Earle's grandfather, who was the "boss spinner" at Hilliard Mills. Among other memories of the area, Earle remembered seeing the picketers at a Hilliard Mills strike in 1935 or 1936. He also remembered a boarding house on the east side of Adams Street near where the Weeder family lived. The Historical Society can make copies of your pictures if you want to keep the originals. Call the Curator at 860-647-9742.



[Photo donated by Earle and Dottie Armstrong]

Workers at Hilliard Mills, c. 1930, with Walt Weeder, front row, wearing necktie.

Renovation Work at Cheney Homestead Property

Tenant Apartment Spruced Up

JILL MACK, PAST-CHAIR OF THE HOMESTEAD COMMITTEE, wishes to thank everyone who contributed to the recent renovations of the tenant apartment at 106 Hartford Road. Without our volunteers and contributors, this project would have incurred significant costs. "I am especially pleased that George Hakkila, our new tenant in the attached apartment, worked along with the committee and other volunteers to complete the renovations," said Jill. The work included removing the old tile and refinishing the original wood kitchen and bathroom floors, new concrete for a portion of the concrete floor in the living room, new carpet installation in the living room and entryway, and painting three rooms.

The Homestead Committee workers were Mary Frink, Eileen Griffin, George Hakkila, Jean Lamenzo, Rob Laughlin, Jill Mack, Brenda Paullo, Bob Rosenberg, Ed Rowe, Jason Scappaticci, Greg Schuyler and Chris Wallen. Donations of labor, supplies, furnishings, materials and services came from Anne Miller at Anne Miller Real Estate, Jim Mistretta of Surroundings Custom Interiors, TJ's Handyman Services, Aaron Ansaldi, John Parla, Colin McNamara, Don Lappen, Jim Britton, Kevin Mack, Dave Smith, Jim Stead, John Dormer, a refrigerator from Jim and Jackie Britton, and refreshments for the workers from Anne Beechler and Jill Mack.

Because everyone pitched in, the cost of the renovations was under \$1,500. Thanks to all who made this happen!

Heritage Day

On Saturday, June 12, the Historical Society will participate in Heritage Day, a celebration of the heritage and history of Manchester. The Fireside Patriots, Civil War-era reenactors will once again welcome the public to the Cheney Homestead. Our museums will be open for free, and we will present slide-shows at Cheney Hall and walking tours on the town-owned portion of the Great Lawn. Do plan to come to this big day of free activities for all ages. The opening ceremonies begin at 10:30 a.m. at Cheney Hall (177 Hartford Road) but plan to get there early to hear the Salvation Army Band.

Center Memorial Park

The park continues to be threatened by building and paving. The Historical Society, the Cheney Brothers National Historic Landmark District Commission and the Manchester Land Conservation Trust have formally opposed encroachment on this historic park. These planned changes are still under active consideration. We hope that those of you who support preservation will phone the Town Manager’s office, or send letters to the editors of the local newspapers if you are concerned about the paving and building in the park.

The Old North End

We received the gift of two very large photos of the North End when the Vanity Fair store closed. These framed photos are now on display at the History Center. And, speaking of the North End, 35 people came on the April 24th walking tour at Salter’s Pond, where many North Enders learned to swim. Salter’s was a mill pond for the paper mill of Lorenzo Salter and William Strong, who later sold out to Lydall and Foulds.

Third Grade School Tours

Congratulations to volunteer Kris Miller, who put together the schedule for our annual Historic District tours for third-graders. Hundreds of students have been visiting the Cheney Homestead, Keeney Schoolhouse, Loom Exhibit, and the Old Manchester Museum during the month of May. Of all our activities, this one most embodies the mission of the Historical Society: educating a new generation of Manchester residents and building excitement about the history of Manchester. Many thanks to the many volunteers who acted as docents.

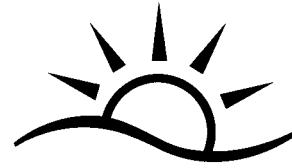
ASCH Meeting

In April, the Manchester Historical Society co-sponsored the spring meeting of the Association for the Study of Connecticut History (ASCH) at Cheney Hall. This state-wide organization promotes scholarly and independent research into topics of interest to Connecticut historians. The four presentations were of high quality and one, by Historical Society member Jason Scappaticci, was about the Cheneys and their mills.

Podunk Indians

On March 14, Attorney Steve Penny, independent scholar and former mayor of Manchester, presented an illustrated lecture at the History Center on our ancient history, addressing the questions of who lived here along the Hockanum River before the Europeans came. For those who missed Steve in person, a taped version will air on Saturdays in May, at 8 p.m. on public access television, Cox channel 15, in Manchester, South Windsor, Glastonbury, Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield. Eventually, a DVD will be available to borrow at Mary Cheney Library.

Leave a Legacy



Leaving a legacy is one of the best ways to perpetuate your interest in something dear to your heart. In previous Couriers we have highlighted individuals such as Mary and Albert Tuttle, Margaret Olmsted, Ruth Cheney Shepherd and Thelma and Raymond Woodbridge who have left legacies to the Society with generous bequests.

You too can make an impact on future generations in Manchester and ensure that our important work will continue by leaving a legacy to the Manchester Historical Society. For more information, please contact John Dormer or Eileen Sweeney at 860-647-9983.

Linking the Generations

“To my darling Lucinda, I hereby bequeath...”

In many wills, after all the major property has been distributed to the heirs, there is often a list of objects left specifically to particular people. Almost every such bequest contains a good story. The objects may be quite ordinary looking, functional things, but they are packed with powerful messages. “Don’t forget this!” This will remind you of when I was in the Army, or first came to Manchester or met your mother.

Families often keep passing the same objects down, from father to son or mother to daughter, generation after generation. Such heirlooms are highly valued, even if the specific stories they tell may get confused over time. At some point, there may no longer be an appropriate heir, or the event being remembered may come to mean more to the whole community than it does to a distant descendant.

At that point, many legacies come to museums like the Manchester Historical Society, a safe-keeper for the ages. If you have an item or collection that you think would be of value to future generations in Manchester, please contact the Society Curator at 860-647-9742.

Floor Work at History Center

FOURTEEN MEMBERS OF THE NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS (NECC) volunteered in February at the Society's future loom display, installing flooring in an area of the History Center building that had suffered water damage. The project was spearheaded by Joe Lawler, a director of the Historical Society, George Meadows, business manager of Local 43, and William Jordan (pictured, center with hands on hips), the NECC business representative and organizer. The carpenters and apprentices spent most of Saturday, February 20 and Friday, February 26 building the subfloor and fitting the hardwood flooring on top. The union regularly does volunteer work in the community as part of its outreach mission. In this photo, some silk looms can be seen to the left. Volunteer carpenters, left to right, Jorge Torres, Michelle Campbell, Carmen Scarletta (back to camera), Bill Jordan, Brian Goetz, and Dean Pallotti. Much of the "new" flooring installed is actually old wood that came from a demolished building at the Hilliard Mills, donated by owners Peter Bonzani and partners. The Historical Society has been working on the future loom exhibit for several years, with volunteer work by Society members, local businesses, and Eagle Scout candidates.



If We Don't Have It, You Don't Need It!

After you finish Spring cleaning your closets and attic, you will have lots of room for armloads of great buys at our 7,000-square foot tag sale!

The annual Tag and Book Sale is a fundraiser for the Historical Society. Tag and Book Sale shopping hours are:

- Preview Sale Friday, June 4, from 5 to 9 p.m.
\$5 admission fee for Preview; free admission all other days.
- Daily (June 5 through June 12) from 9 to 4 (including Sunday).

We also need volunteers to help on the days of the sale. Phone Terry at 860-643-1823.

Parking for the Tag and Book Sale is available along Pleasant Street and in our lots on Pine Street and Forest Street



Window Party a Happy Occasion

About seventy people enjoyed a program and refreshments on Sunday, April 18, in appreciation of donors of time, talent and money to the History Center window restoration project. After an introduction by president and project-manager John Dormer, Mayor Lou Spadaccini offered congratulations on the progress evident in the former Cheney Machine Shop building. Then Susan Barlow presented a slide-show of the past, present and future of the building at 175 Pine Street. After a champagne toast and some singing, Mary Donahue of the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism, the administering agency of the Window Restoration matching grant, spoke about the preservation project here in Manchester. Glenn Setzler, from Crosskey Architects, addressed the architect's role in the window restoration. After coffee and cake, guests toured the Loom Room and the outside of the building to admire the completed windows. There are still windows to restore, and the Historical Society continues to accept donations to the "No Pane, No Gain" window campaign. Thanks to the Events Planning Committee for organizing this lively event.

Wish List

- A **card table** or two, in sturdy condition.
- A **volunteer** for the Museum Store on Fridays from noon to 2 p.m. The store is open Mon.-Fri. from 10 to 2, and several dedicated volunteers fill the other shifts. This is a fun job, and you can bring a book to read if it's not busy. If you are interested, please call Terry Parla, our volunteer store manager, directly at 860-643-1823.
- **Docents/hosts** for the Old Manchester Museum at 126 Cedar Street, Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. We also need a volunteer to schedule the docents.
- **Silk scarves** in good condition for our school tours. We want the children to be able to feel the silk, for an understanding of the product from the silk mills. These do not have to be Cheney silk scarves.
- Someone who came from Armenia to Manchester fifty or more years ago, for an interview about the experience. Please call Susan Barlow at 860-643-9776.

Can you donate any of these? Call us at 860-647-9983.

2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Unless noted, admission to lectures and walking tours is \$1 for members and \$3 for non-members. Most lectures and events take place at the Manchester History Center, 175 Pine Street, or as noted. Additional information about upcoming events is available online at www.manchesterhistory.org.

June 4 (Friday*) through June 12 (Saturday)

ANNUAL SPRING TAG & BOOK SALE— Biggest in Manchester!

History Center, 175 Pine Street

*Special Preview Friday June 4 (5:00 pm to 9:00 pm) \$5 Admission

Spring Tag and Book Sale hours: Daily 9 am - 4 pm

7,000 square feet with 1,000s of books, furniture, household goods, china, pictures, sports items, tools, toys, etc.) Free Admission

June 5 Saturday 1:00 p.m. FREE

CENTER SPRINGS PARK WALKING TOUR

Meet at parking lot, 39 Lodge Drive Adults and children welcome

Approx. 1 ¼ hours.

June 7 Monday 5:30 p.m. FREE

BUCKLAND CEMETERY HISTORY WALK

Meet inside cemetery on Tolland Turnpike, opposite McDonald's.

Rain or shine.

June 12 Saturday 10:30 am–3:00 pm FREE

HERITAGE DAY

Celebrating Manchester's history with many free activities throughout the day at nearby locations including the Old Manchester Museum of Local History, Cheney Homestead, Fire Museum, Loom exhibit at the History Center, Civil War reenactors at Cheney Homestead.

June 26 Saturday 1:00 p.m. FREE

CHENEY RAILROAD HISTORY WALK

Meet behind Farr's at north end of Main Street. Level but bumpy walk route. 1 ¼ hours.

August 1 Sunday 11:00 am–4:00 pm FREE

Downtown Manchester: CRUISIN' ON MAIN

Main Street in Downtown Manchester is filled with antique and classic cars, trucks sports cars and street rods. Carnival atmosphere with food and music.

September 12 Sunday 1:00 pm

Cheney Hall & Little Theatre of Manchester HISTORY TALK

Cheney Hall, 177 Hartford Road, Admission \$3; LTM and Historical Society Members Free

Pitkin Glassworks News

ANOTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION at the site is being planned for this fall. Most likely to be in September, the exact date and time will be announced later. A presentation on Pitkin Glass Works and its history will be made in October at the History Center. The reconstruction of an enhanced web site has begun and it will be available soon at www.pitkinglassworks.org.

We Now Have a Melodeon

LAST MONTH WE RECEIVED a donation of a reed organ, also known as a melodeon, manufactured by Mervin T. Landfear. Landfear operated a music shop on Vernon Street before the Civil War, which is shown on the 1855 map of Manchester. Very little is known about this business, but we do know that Landfear obtained patents for improvements to the reed organ in the 1850s. He also had patents that applied to sewing machines and may have made some, in addition to melodeons. This instrument has a brass plate stating that it was "Made for E. B. Hibbard, North Manchester, Conn." Hibbard operated a store on North Main Street dealing in stoves, kitchen furniture, and tin smithing. He also, evidently, sold organs.

Shalin and Joe Foti of Waterbury realized that by donating it to the historical society the melodeon would be available for future generations of Manchester residents to see. We are grateful to the Foti's for their generosity.

Calling All Girl Scouts & Friends

CLAIRE OLDS IS CONDUCTING RESEARCH for a book about Emily Welles Smith (1910-1996), a mentor and Girl Scout leader (1932-1985) in Manchester's Troop 1, and international figure in scouting. Claire Olds worked with Emily as a leader, and still gets together with former scouts who traveled to Europe together in 1949. If you have pictures or stories about Emily Smith, please contact Claire at 38 Forest Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 or by phone at (518) 587-7798. Claire is a Manchester native and author of "Skidmore When I Was Dean Olds," published by Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs. Her book about Miss Smith will be published in cooperation with the Manchester Historical Society.



The Manchester Historical Society
175 Pine Street
Manchester, Connecticut 06040

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HELP SUPPORT THE ANNUAL FUND

The Annual Fund campaign is a very important part of our fund raising each year. Monies raised help to keep the Society running by paying for the day-to-day costs such as utilities and the many other expenses that can not be covered by grants and sponsorships. We greatly appreciate any and all donations to this fund.

Yes, I/We want to be part of the Manchester Historical Society's continued growth and transformation! Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of:

- \$50 \$75 \$100 \$250
 \$500 \$1000 Other \$ _____

Please make check payable to Manchester Historical Society and mail to 175 Pine Street, Manchester, CT 06040

Pay with check, or: Visa MasterCard

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Credit Card #: _____

Name on Card: _____

Card Exp. Date: _____

Thank you for your support!

YES! I want to help the Historical Society in it's "No Pane, No Gain" window restoration drive. Enclosed is my check for \$ _____.

- Pane in the Sash Donor _____ @ \$50 ea.
 Half-Sash Donor _____ @ \$2,000 ea.
 Clinking-Glass Donor _____ @ \$3,500 ea.
 Memorial Donation in Honor of:

Name _____

Address _____

Donations may be made payable to the Manchester Historical Society and mailed to:
No Pane, No Gain Drive
Manchester Historical Society
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Manchester, CT 06040