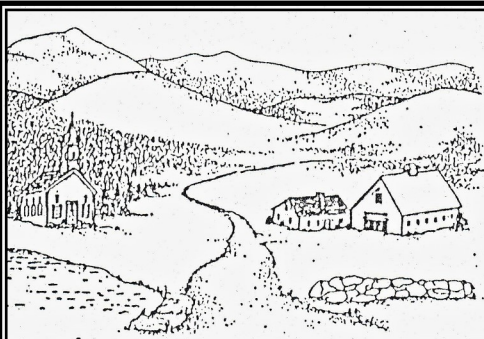




Chatham Times

Past and Present

Chatham During Pandemic

by Jeanne Eastman

History in the Making: Chatham (and Stow) during the Coronavirus Pandemic

The loons are back on Kimball Pond, the bears have awakened and emerged from their dens, the spring peepers are peeping. It is so wonderful to see spring evolve normally, while most everything about the human existence in Chatham is not normal these past two months. This article is meant to be a “snapshot” of Chatham this spring, a record for future generations to look back on.

With the Coronavirus pandemic shutting down the country and the world, the ripple effects are seen and felt in Chatham, even though our town has never exceeded the “1-4 cases” category.

Many parents in town are experiencing challenges such as these described by one of our members: “Sunday, March 15th, was when the announcement came that would change the shape of our family for the rest of the school year. The announcement: School was closing for 2 weeks (which ultimately turned into remote learning for the whole year). Being 2 working parents in an essential industry, we asked the kids their comfort level with being home by themselves. We said we would give it a week and we could see if the one of us with the office job could work from home to help support them. Well, the 2-way radio test to be able to dispatch drivers from home failed, due to the remote nature of Chatham and the repeater not reaching over the mountains. Test 2 of two kids remote learning and an adult working from home failed, as the internet in



Border Crossing Stow/Chatham



Social Distancing—the boys at Chatham Auto

Chatham is not able to support 3 people transferring data from one location all at once. So, the kids stayed home to tackle the remote learning with routine check-in phone calls. It is hard to grasp how life has changed for the kids, because I am one of the lucky ones that still gets up and has a routine. I still leave the house M-F and see co-workers while maintaining social distancing. I still go to the store once a week to keep groceries in the house beyond what we have in our freezers. It is hard to know the changes they are facing. They are both sad and really miss school and their friends. They have not been anywhere “public” in over two months. They have not seen any friends in two months. They have each other, but that interaction wears thin at times, as it often does with siblings. The crush of school being canceled for the entire year, a trip planned last year for Spring Break also being canceled,

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Notes from the President

I hope this finds you all, our dear members, safe and well!

At the time our last newsletter was mailed we were preparing for our fundraiser at Maple Weekend. At the same time the Coronavirus was creeping into New Hampshire. Five days before the Weekend, Governor John Sununu canceled Maple Weekend for the entire state. That was the start of “stay-at-home” orders that have affected us all.

As with most businesses, we at Chatham Historical Society are wondering how to move forward, how to re-open safely, and how to keep sane and busy in the meantime. We are taking this time of forced slow-down to work on our collections. Barbara Eastman is continuing to transcribe diaries of Millard Chandler. Barbara Hill has been scanning photos, and I have been entering the digital photos onto our PastPerfect software. Please let us know if we can help with any of your questions about Chatham.

We also are looking for volunteers to help with some work while social distancing. We would like help updating our cemetery records, which means taking our current records, walking through one of the several cemeteries, and recording any stones that have been added since 1985. Then, for any one who is good at data entry on a computer, we need to enter all the information so that our cemetery records can be put on our website. We could also use help organizing numerically our physical photo collection. Would you be interested in transcribing a diary? Or helping to put together mailings of future newsletters? And how about some physically-distant, socially-close painting to brighten up the outside of our building! Please let us know if you have time to help with any of these projects. Your help will be greatly appreciated!!

You will notice that this newsletter includes a report of our income and expenses for the past year. We are very pleased to have had a positive net income! This coming year, with all of our events, programs, and fundraisers on hold, and expenses kept to a bare minimum, we are still hoping we can more than break even. We are grateful for donations-in-kind that have covered some of our activities in the past. Donations of any amount are helpful and appreciated.

You will also note elsewhere in this newsletter, essays by Chatham seniors who are about to graduate from Fryeburg Academy. We were able to give two \$500 awards to these students. We have a fund specifically for this award, and donations are needed so we can continue to support our Chatham students as they graduate. The applicants are required to write a short essay about growing up in Chatham, and we look for students who have been actively involved and enjoying all that our Town has to offer.

Please also note that we have a new phone number. We have switched to a cell phone to cut our expenses.

We hope you enjoy receiving our newsletters; we enjoy exploring our history and sharing with you! As a new benefit of membership in our Society, all current members may take advantage of a 10% discount on all of our sale items. If your address label says EXP 2020, it is time to renew your membership. (Please let us know if you believe we have made a mistake!)

Be well!

Jeanne Eastman

Sale Items

Boot Jacks - \$10
Coverlets - \$50
Book: History of Chatham - \$35
T-shirts - \$12
DVD, Stories of Old Chatham, as remembered by Frank Eastman - \$15
Plus sweatshirts, tote bags, and booklets on Chatham history.



The masked gardener of Stow

(Continued from page 1)

and no Spring Sports leave little to look forward to for the kids. I don't know how to fix it or make it better. We are trying to make the most of our weekends with hiking, but it is hard to find places that don't have several cars parked there. We try to remain positive, but it is hard sometimes."

Valerie Wilfong, a resident of Stow, and Student Support Teacher at New Suncook School, described the schooling: "For the most part, students are able to access class work online. Teachers then arrange live chats and meetings for groups of various sizes and sometimes on an individual basis. Teachers are also providing live and recorded "read-alouds" for their students. Our principal, school counselor, school secretary, and myself make calls to families every other week to check in about how we might be of support. We've replaced charger cords and found personal items at school for those in need. Teachers have made physical packets available for students who do not have Internet access. Some teachers have delivered these in person. Others are delivered on one of the twice weekly food deliveries to families who request them. These deliveries include subsidized school lunches, and the Sunshine Backpacks, which are privately funded weekend packets of food for designated students.

We are now in week seven or eight, and parents and students (and teachers) are growing weary of no personal contact. It is definitely an important part of teaching and learning. I have heard from students that they are getting outside more than usual. Some students are still taking music lessons with their teachers online. I have received responses to letters I have written to students, which was rare in the past. Many kids miss organized sports. Meg Dyer, Lovell Rec director (who is the driver for the weekly food deliveries) is happy to arrange for loans of equipment for families who need it. Last Tuesday, we had a parade through the district. Teachers decorated their cars and rode their motorcycles through a predetermined route. Students lined the route with signs and waves. When we returned to New Suncook, teachers were very emotional about having seen the students whom they miss so much. We are planning another parade to end the year in June.

We are all concerned about the fall and what that will look like. Those are ongoing discussions. It has been a steep learning curve for teachers, students, and parents. We are doing our best and trying to keep a sense of humor. We have tried to encourage students to keep a journal, because they are making history every day."

The Chatham Seniors at Fryeburg Academy, Caden Daigle and Matt Gunther, describe the two classes they have

per day on Google Meet as "interesting" and "different." Though they "see" their classmates this way, it is not the same as "hanging out with friends." There will be a virtual award ceremony on May 21, in lieu of Class Night. Project Graduation is cancelled. Prom and Graduation have been postponed until August. Both students have been accepted at UNH and hope to go there "in person" in September.

Neighbors have been reaching out helping neighbors with grocery shopping and sharing the surplus in their own cupboards and baking cookies to share, keeping up the spirit of Chatham.

The Chatham Congregational Church will not open this summer. The Stow Baptist church is holding "drive-in" services, with the sermons shared over a home radio transmitter. The North Fryeburg Community Chapel has not been holding services, but families gather in the cars every night at 7 PM when the church bell is rung seven times. In February they opened a food pantry, and quickly came up to speed serving about 30 families per week. Alina Gagne, Director of the Pantry, says, "Normally we have 15 volunteers, but we are blessed to have been successful operating with just 4 volunteers by streamlining our packing and distribution process to reduce handling time. This increases distance between volunteers and heightens our sanitation methods. A big part of this success is the patience and understanding of the community members receiving the food boxes.

They have been amazing! They quickly adapted from a shopping-for-items model to a no-contact drive-through model.

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Burke and John Callen with window art for the Teacher Parade



Burke Callen helps with the family meat rabbits

(Continued from page 3)

The AMC Cold River Camp will not open this summer as it would be impossible to maintain the quarantine and social distancing practices for their guests who come from across the country. Summit Achievement, in Stow, is still operating, as they are very self-isolated anyway. No new students have been accepted, and not many graduated as there is no safer place for them to go to. Their expeditions have stayed close to home, hiking off-trails to private shelters. Their staff is all practicing self-quarantining, and emergency plans have been prepared.

The Stow Corner Store has quickly set up "take-out service only" windows. On a sunny Saturday when I stopped by, they were "super busy!" A nice weekend brings a lot of traffic as people (many from "away") are eager to get outside for a hike. The many local trails and back roads are being enjoyed by hikers, runners, and bicyclists. Trail heads were briefly officially closed, but with so many parking lots on private land, and with people willing to park along the roadsides, the policy was not enforceable, and was reversed. The Basin and Cold River Campgrounds opened Memorial Day Weekend. For our athletes and sports fans, things just aren't the same. Instead of groups getting together for yoga or exercise classes, people are on their own, or together over Zoom. With no road races, Rich Fargo, who is training for his 33rd Boston Marathon, has continued his training close to home.

Notch View Farm closed its farm store, and set a cooler of eggs at the end of the driveway. Fly Away Farm, in Stow, pivoted from farmers' markets and the Home and Garden Show, to taking orders for vegetables and seedlings online and arranging drop off times at a location in Lovell. More people are planting gardens and raising animals for food. The East Conway Beef and Pork meat processing business is very busy for this time of year, buying in animals from parts of the country where butchering facilities have closed, for people who want to stock a freezer with beef or pork. Several of their workers are home with children who are out of school, so they are stretched thin to keep up.

Many of our Chathamites are taking this time of forced slowdown to enjoy their children, to clean out closets (The Lovell transfer station is an essential business and open as usual!), and to get outside.

Bill Perry, a NAPA District Sales Manager laid off for 60-90 days, reported, "*Sue is still working at her office of one, at Union Bank of VT in North Conway, very busy with all of the federal loans. I have done many projects around the house. Cleaned out a lot of draws. Lol I have ebayed a lot of items I have found. Plus using my tractor and truck for odd jobs. Tilling, mulch, stone and grading driveways. I am staying busy.*"

Diane Scott wrote, "*Joe and I are keeping well. My biggest problem is trying to keep Joe from going stir crazy. He loves to be outdoors and Chatham gives him more opportunities to do that without bringing the virus home. I am sewing up a few masks now that I have borrowed a sewing machine. For now I am just trying to protect friends and family. Meanwhile we are being very careful to self isolate. I am still having to go to physio after my knee replacement. Thankfully, that is almost done! I wear a homemade mask and carry my wipes everywhere and the office only has three people at once, all well spaced and disinfecting surfaces as they go. We are taking the self protection very seriously indeed.*"

Pam Katz said, "*I can say that I am so happy to be right here, right where there are minimal people, and lots of woods, my husband, my animals, and all the books I have never had time to read! It could be a lot worse.*"

Margaret Lunn also expressed the bright side of living in Chatham, especially right now. "*Frank and I have been busy with a rather ambitious expansion and improvement of the garden, adding fencing and raised beds. This week, we had a rather unusual "block party" here on Lake Road, as 3 households rented a big wood chipper and cleared brush off our yards. (I promise, we maintained safe social distancing all day!) We miss our church, but today we joined a virtual Nation Day of Prayer event via Zoom. The women's Bible study group at our church, normally a weekly meeting, keeps close with a chat group on Facebook messenger. We're grateful for rural life, as we can get out to run, hike, or bicycle as usual.*"



Alan Eastman and volunteer at the food pantry



Brock Carrier at the Teacher Parade



Take out at Stow Corner Store

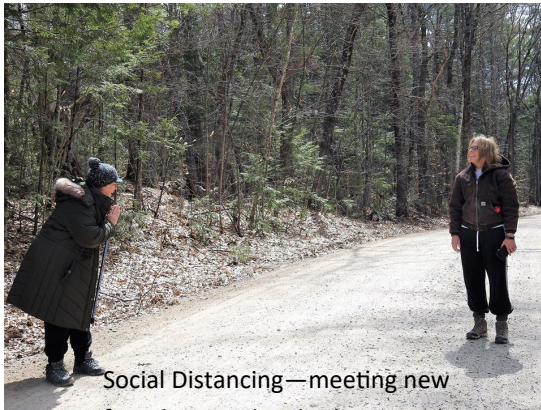
Upcoming Events

Facebook Auction, starting off with a local nature photo by John Rondeau. We are hoping for donations of antiques, as well as works by other photographers, artists, and craft-persons. Please let us know if you have an item to donate. An email will alert you to the start of the auction.

By later in the summer we hope to hold some **drive-in programs** at our schoolhouse. We are looking for a volunteer to help us with the radio technology.



Gabriel Voter (above) and his sister, Eden, decorated the dam on a sunny March Day



Social Distancing—meeting new friends on Little Chatham Road

Board of Directors

President, Jeanne Eastman
Vice President, Sheryl Emery
Treasurer, Beverly Aiman
Secretary, Ann Fargo
Directors, Steve Eastman
Judy Bailey
Emily Fernald

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Chatham, NH 03813
chathamnhhistoricalsociety@gmail.com
www.chathamhistoricalnh.org
603-307-0783

Open Hours: by appointment
Please call or email,
We are happy to help you

In Memory

Betty D'Agostino, 96; passed away Feb. 8, 2020. Betty was a 53-year summer resident of Topo Pino (former setting of Boston Cooking School summer sessions in early 1900s). She held Chatham close to her heart and will be greatly missed by family, friends, and neighbors.

James Ryan III, 91; passed away February 28, 2020. Jim was a veteran of the US Navy during WWII and the Korean War. Jim and his wife, Pauline, retired to Chatham in 1988. He was a jack-of-all-trades, loved the outdoors and reading, and was a strong supporter of veterans' rights.

Winifred Maloney, 93; passed away March 14, 2020 at her home in Chatham. Winnie was a charter member of the Chatham Historical Society. She enjoyed hiking, camping, snowmobiling, gardening, cake decorating, and spending time with her family.

John Nesbitt, 32; passed away April 28, 2020. John loved travel, good food, and was an avid sports fan. He loved hiking, skiing, hockey, and sailing. John is survived by his parents, Jane and Sam Nesbitt and brother, Ethan.

Nelson Eastman, 87; passed away May 7, 2020. Nelson lived in Chatham most of his life. His work included helping build the interstate highways in VT, NH, and MA. He is survived by his daughters, Margery, Eleanor, and Roberta; and brothers, Richard, Frank, and Charles.

The Old Shivaree

By George Fernald

People who have lived in Chatham or Green Hill as long as I have must have experienced a "serenade" or shivaree. Webster's defines it as a mock serenade with pans, kettles, and other noisemakers given for a newly married couple. Locally, a shot gun was usually added to the cacophony.

Wilmer Smith was a fun-loving neighbor, always ready to organize the party. Although the tradition was disappearing, I attended three as a young teenager. We hid our cars and proceeded on foot waiting for the shot that signaled the start of the fun. There was considerable levity, most of which I didn't understand! The goal was to interrupt their sleep or whatever. We were invited in for cider (kids were disappointed to find it hard!)

I remember a serenade for Ralph and Ruth Hill, who were renting Barbara Sperling's, one for Jane and Leith Paine living at the Anderson Farm, and what may have been the last: Marjorie Head and John Emery. They were living in Weston's little house on the bank of the Saco. The celebration got a noisy send-off with a shotgun blast under Weston's Bridge. A few years ago I asked Mrs Weston if she remembered it. She didn't!

Senior Essay by Sinead Lounsbury

As I reflect about growing up in Chatham many memories of character building experiences come to mind. I learned at a young age to develop patience and a keen eye for spotting family member's vehicles. My parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles and cousins live in Chatham. The possibilities of potential rides home were numerous. I was in sixth grade and had to stay after school for basketball practice. The practice had ended and I was waiting for a ride home; because Chatham is so far from everything my parents were usually late. I was waiting for them, looking for either of our family's two cars, without luck. I looped around the parking lot again looking for my grandparents car...no car. I went back inside the school and was relieved and amused to find, not my family, but my neighbor waiting to give me a lift home. This memory stands out as part of growing up in Chatham experience because it demonstrates the strong connection of community cooperation.

This community cooperation existed on all levels of relationships, for example my extended family, we always seemed to be either talking about or gathering wood. Conversations around the table were often about buying wood, drying wood, splitting wood, and stacking wood. My family lived with my grandparents and next to my aunt and uncle and also my great aunt and uncle another house down. This was so relevant in my life that it was not until recently that I realized that the majority of people in the United States do not use wood stoves. All of my family members in Chatham have a wood stove. We got full sized logs delivered to my grandparents, after they had been cut, and split we loaded a pickup truck and distributed the wood all together. I learned the importance of working with people, how to quickly move around 12 others and work as a whole. This experience taught me how to be part of such a large family, and to put the greater need before my own.

The last key experience is "Friday night pizza". Every Friday night everyone goes to my grandparents to eat pizza. This has become such a staple in the Lounsbury family that even now that we are in Quarantine we do zoom calls on Friday while eating pizza. It is these experiences and many more like being able to walk through the woods, not having to wear shoes as a little kid, always feeling comfortable with my surroundings, having the best water, gardening, seeing wild flowers, wildlife in your backyard and so much more that make Chatham a wonderful place to grow up. Living in Chatham has provided me with time to be with my family, a wonderful community, and appreciation for nature, to be patient, and to be flexible and humble because no matter how hard you try you will always be five minutes late.

Senior Essay by Caden Cole Daigle

My toes dangled over the edge of the rocky cliff, I could feel them tingling from the adrenaline coursing through my body, but with my whole family watching, I had to jump. As my feet left the edge, I knew there was no going back. I saw my family hysterical as I plummet into the glowing Emerald Pool. While submerging into the gorgeous water, it feels as if the water personally stripped me of my breath, I have never been so cold. Growing up in Chatham kept me outside and exploring my little town throughout all four seasons. Whether it be biking through the quick and most beautiful summers you'll ever see to trotting a wheelbarrow of wood through the snowstorms in the endless winters. I could never get enough of what Chatham's woods had to offer. Behind my house was the National Forest, leading to endless possibilities. Explorations with my friends, mountain biking, and camping out in various spots, were just a few of the opportunities it had to offer.

I can't stop talking to strangers and meeting new people, ironically growing up in a town of around 300 people (according to our town's sign) means I want to talk to every new person I see, which isn't too often. I always thought that growing up in a big city would make someone more social but I learned that it is just the opposite. Another reason for this is because it is generally hard to find a mean person in Chatham, I will always remember the warm welcoming feeling everyone gives off here. When it came to getting around the town, as a kid the one foot deep holes in the road served as perfect jumps for my bike and scooter along the way. Now that I have grown a little I have come to realize why my parents complained about the roads...they aren't as awesome when I listen to my car rattling down the road. I have to admit however, the bumpy ride to my dirt road always makes me feel like I'm home.

Whether you're looking for a view of the mountains, a day in the freshwater, or even a place to get away into the woods, Chatham, NH has it all. I can never forget the memories I have with my friends and family growing up here and I am forever thankful for how my small town shaped me into who I am today.



Donations

Greg & Harold Thurston: a collection of family history, including diaries (1872-1916) of Jonah Hill family, deeds, letters, and scrap books

George Fernald: 1877 Chatham voter list, and deeds to copy

Karen Cummings: 1888 advertisement for postal carrier from Fryeburg to Chatham

Susie Eastman: early backpack made by Log House Designs, two books of articles written by Harry Walker

Steve Eastman: 1914 box with "official ballots" addressed to Chester Eastman, Town Clerk of Chatham

Kenyon King: Promotional fliers for Log House Designs

Lisa Ribas: Eight Photos

Roberta Chandler: a letter dated 11/19/1985 to Millard Chandler from White Mountain National Forest hydrologist, with Lake Survey Report for Province Pond

Bob & Pam Katz: power bar for use during programs & events

Please Note:

Matt Gunther's senior essay will be in the next issue of the newsletter.



Chatham Historical Society Financial Report

5/1/2019 – 4/30/2020

<u>Income:</u>		<u>Expenses:</u>	
Building Fund	\$1420.00	Advertising	\$60.00
General Fund	1695.00	Beautification	55.85
Dues	2360.00	Electricity	224.36
Veterans' Memorial	100.00	Events	335.00
Raffles	691.00	Fees	408.00
Sale Items	1448.00	Heat	200.86
Scholarship Fund	80.00	Insurance	2719.00
Events: School Program	140.00	Maintenance	49.99
Ice Cream Social	200.00	Office	1669.90*
Yard Sale	152.00	Other	13.00
Picnic	283.00	Phone	510.20
Holiday Bazaar	1429.95	Picnic	228.14
Bonfire	298.00	Postage	113.09
Maple Wknd	Canceled	Scholarship	500.00
Grants: Henney	480.00	<u>Water Project</u>	<u>2897.82**</u>
Mulford	1004.00	Total Expenses:	\$9985.21
Total Income:	\$11791.45		

Net Income: \$1806.24

We have had many donations-in-kind which have greatly helped reduce our expenses. These were Lawn Mowing, Printing our Newsletters, Snow Plowing, and Website Hosting and Maintenance. We also received donations of some very popular sale items, which brought in a large portion of our income from sales.

* The two grants were used for items under Office Expenses.

** Many years ago a member donated \$3000 for the purpose of restoring water to the schoolhouse. We were finally able to use it!

Membership Form

\$10.00 /person/year

Name	
Address	
Email	
Winter	
Dues	
Donation	
Building Fund	
Total	

Donations are gratefully accepted for :

Award Fund for High School Seniors

Veterans' Memorial (\$100 for a paver with a veteran's name)

Chatham Historical Society is a non profit 501(c)3 charitable organization