



THE CHANDLER FARM



Chandler Farm before added stories, before 1885

The Chandler Farm and Family, by Barbara Eastman

It was Paul Chandler of the seventh generation (7) who came to Chatham and settled on the east side of Baldface Mountain. He was a direct descendant of William and Annis Chandler who settled in Roxbury, MA, in 1637. He married Susan Hardy and was the father of 9 children, the youngest being only 2 years old when he died in 1815 at the age of 45. (Continued on page 4)

In Memory

Ronald Butters, 76, of Stow, ME; d. March 17, 2019. Survived by sisters Terry and Linda.

Webster Fox, N. Fryeburg, ME; d. March 21, 2019. Predeceased by wife Sandra; survived by son Marcus & daughter Bonnie, and their families.

Arthur Hill, Sr., 83, b. in Chatham, NH; d. May 14, 2019. Predeceased by wife Leona and daughter Jennifer (Jen's Friends' Cancer Foundation). Survived by sons Brian, Arthur, Tommy, Doug & their families.

Edward Jones, 80, N. Fryeburg; d. May 13, 2019. Survived by wife Diane, son Michael & family and son Erlon.

Wayne McAllister, Sr., Chatham, NH; d. April 23, 2019. Predeceased by wife Norma, daughter Karen, brother Robert. Survived by daughter Patricia, son Wayne, Jr., Brother Orman and their families

RAFFLE

Please support our ADA Accessibility Project by buying raffle tickets of this water-color of a local barn, painted by Ann Landers. The winner will be drawn at our Town Picnic on September 7th. \$1/ticket-\$5/6 tickets Who can identify where Ann was when she did this painting?



Upcoming Events

Friday, June 7, 6PM
1850's School Lessons with Washburn Norlands
Living History Center
At our school house, 1061 Main Road

Friday, August 16, 6PM
Ice Cream Social & History of Chatham According to Frank Eastman
At our schoolhouse, 1061 Main Road

Saturday, August 31, 9AM
History Hike at Leita Monroe Lucas Preserve with Saco Valley Land Trust
Just south of Hurricane Mtn. Road

Sunday, September 1, 7PM
Fires in the White Mountains, with Dave Govatski
AMC Cold River Camp, N. Chatham
Celebrating CRC's Centennial Year
And Chatham Historical Society's 30th Year

Saturday, September 7, Noon
Town Picnic on Historical Society Lawn
Please bring a dish to share.
Hamburgers, Hot dogs, and Drinks provided
Winning raffle ticket will be drawn!

Welcome New Members!

Ali Bergeron, Shannon Valley, Dick Hill, Gail McSherry, Diane Powell, Phil Eastman

Wish List

Photos of Chatham Schoolhouses, inside and out. We are happy to copy/scan photos and return the originals to you. Any memories about the appearance of the schools, schooltime activities and teachers.

Notes from the President

We have just held our Annual Meeting with the new officers elected and committee reports read. We have accomplished a lot this past year! Thanks to all who are able and willing to serve in an office and/or work on a committee. Also thanks to all who support us with dues and donations! We couldn't do what we do without your work and support!

A big thanks to Nate and Kate Hutchins for letting us sell chili and hot dogs during their Maple Weekend in March. Though the syruping season was late and short, Nate reported that they burned less wood and made more syrup than last year, thanks to reverse osmosis and vacuum systems. At the north end of the town, Jim Coogan and Becky Knowles, at Notch View Farm, stuck with the old-fashioned process and reported making 12 gallons of syrup and a lot of time tending the fire.

In April we held a super fun Colonial Potluck Supper at our schoolhouse. Folks came dressed for the period, with dishes featuring ingredients that the colonists would have had on hand in April. Many of our members participated in the reading of "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere," complete with sound effects and props. And then we had a great game of American Revolutionary Trivia. I think we all learned a few new facts, and found some events that we'd like to learn more about.

We have been working Friday afternoons on organizing our collection after the winter of construction in the basement. Progress is good, and we are now ready to hold regular "Open Hours" on Friday afternoons, 12-2 PM. We welcome you to stop by or to let us know if you need some information on historical Chatham for a project.

We had a member this winter use information from some of the diaries from our collection for a project with her fourth grade class. She reported that her students were very excited to see these personal glimpses into history and were ready to start their own diaries.

This May, the AMC Cold River Camp began its year long Centennial Celebration, and I had the privilege of being at the opening ceremony. I am enjoying their new book, Reflections, 100 Years of Friendship and Hiking at AMC Cold River Camp, and learning more about part of Chatham's history. I was intrigued to learn that an Eastman ancestor had owned a mill on the river behind the Camp—I will have to do some more research on this! I seem to be always reminded of how little I know!

One of our hopes for this coming year is to install a stair lift for handicap access to our museum and research material in the basement. We plan to ask for a grant for this project, but would also like to raise half of the money needed through fundraisers. As part of that effort, we will raffle off a water-color painting done by Ann Landers, who regularly volunteers at the AMC Cold River Camp. A photo of the painting is on page 2 of this newsletter. Please help us accomplish this goal and important next step by buying a few raffle tickets, or selling them to friends that you know. If you are not interested in the chance to win the painting, we gratefully accept donations for this purpose.

Also note that our monthly meeting times have changed to 6:30 PM so members have time to get a bite to eat after their commute home from work. We also voted to change the bylaws so that we do not need to meet eleven months of the year, but at least six months. We will still meet the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Check our website for meeting months, or let us know if you'd like reminders of upcoming meetings.

Jeanne Eastman

The Chandler Farm and Its Family (Continued from page 1)

Paul's son David (8) Hardy Chandler married Mehitable Charles, daughter of Solomon Charles of Fryeburg, Maine. Their son Asa (9), born in 1823, married Mary Frye, daughter of Richard and Hannah (Gordon) Frye, and had 6 children, one of which was Charles (10) Sumner Chandler (1858-1935) who married Georgianna Pitman, daughter of Jonathan and Mary (Hodge) Pitman of Bethel, Maine.



Charles Chandler

Charles (10) and Georgianna lived at the Chandler Farm (now 2061 Main Road) and had three children: Richard (11) died as an infant; Lucretia P. (11) (Keat) who was a teacher at Chatham's Eastman and Center Schools; and Harry M. (11) (1889-1920) who married Fanny Eastman in 1915. She was raised on a farm (what is now 1788 Main Rd.) about one mile south of the Chandler Farm.

Harry M. (11) and Fanny Chandler, as a young couple, were looking forward to the birth of their first born in 1920, working on the farm, helping do all the chores of the farm, as well as using the farm as an Inn/Boarding Guest House with Harry's parents. In February 1920, Fanny gave birth to their daughter, but a still-born. The following day Fanny's young husband, Harry, died at the age of 30 years.

I can only imagine the emotional pain and feelings Fanny went through losing her baby and husband overnight. She continued to live on the farm, working with Harry's parents.

In the mid-1930's, a young man by the name of Norris Hill was employed on the Chandler Farm as a herdsman. Chatham Historical Society is currently copying Norris' diaries. He came from a large family (the 9th of 12 children) who lived in the East Conway/South Chatham area. It was in 1938 that he started to write daily in a diary/journal when he received a daily journal as a gift. He, over the years, recorded the workings of the Chatham Chandler Farm—the daily weather; changing modes of operation from horse and wagon to cars, work horses to tractors, axe and crosscut saws to the chain saw purchased by his brother Don in 1946, milking several cows by hand to when they bought the first electric milk machines after 1938 when electricity was expanded to North Chatham from East Conway; the planting of crops; how he was continually having to fix equipment that broke down; and the arrival of guests who came to stay a few days, a week, or all summer; and the many neighbors who called or “just dropped in” often staying for a meal, and the passerby who noticed the sign saying room and meals available. It was a busy working farm as well as an inn.

After the passing of Harry's parents, Fanny and Keat, along with Norris, kept the farm going, working side by side and hiring extra help as needed (planting, haying and harvest times), mostly neighbors and family members from Fanny's or Norris' families.

Tasks varied day by day:

1941

Feb 6- “cut wood, churned 15 lb butter, hauled wood in pm.”

Feb 10- “Ruth Sampson worked for Fanny & I went to Conway to buy chairs and to get lumber. Mr. Eastman (Fanny's father), Mary (sister), and Donna to supper.”

Feb 21- “worked around house helping get ready for guests. Went to see Herm Heald in evening



Harry Chandler

& called on Don (brother) and Ora (sister)."

May 25- "Helped put H. Chase's boat afloat. Froze ice cream for 1st time with new electric freezer in 30 minutes. Helped cut bushes and grass in Green Hill Cemetery."

June 1- "Stayed at farm & weeded garden. Planted squash, muskmelon & cukes. Called on Lora Andrews."

Sept 6- "Got veg's for dinner. Patched & changed tire for Keat. Took Mr Whiten up to feldspar mine. Picked two roosters."

Dec 17- "Put cart on sled and put wood rack on sled. Cleaned hen house. Cleaned furnace, hauled jag of wood, took Connie & Clyde (nephews) to Conway."

In 1941 there was no notice of war. 1942 and '43 rationing was mentioned & had to apply for gas for farm, tires, etc. (I guess there was more at home to be concerned with.)

1942

July 15- "Vern(brother)mowed hay. Will Thaxter helped bunch. Vern helped horse rake, we hauled & unloaded 1 1/2 loads of hay in forenoon. Vern hoed & I mowed lawn and hoed garden, Fanny mowed with horses and raked scatterings & hauled them. 18 1/2 load so far."

Sept 10- "Cleaned Keat's car...got veg's for dinner, Girls helped me bring Mr. Whiten's trunk down...took them to Conway Station. Fanny saw Dr. Reynolds..deposited \$50 in bank..bought \$25 defense bond."

Fall—finished sawing logs...gathered carrots, bushel of parsnips, 2 rows beets, Mr. Eastman finished husking corn, 91 bushels.. Bear hunter got back...Madison & I repaired fence... harvested turnips, cabbage, kohlrabi. (Madison Charles served in WWII and went into the Korean Conflict where he was KIA)

August 25, 1948- "In PM Fanny & I went to N Conway and Ora set her hair."

August 26, 1948- "Fanny & I got ready and drove to the minister's O.H. Moyes, Mt. Circle Cabins, Shelburne, NH, and were united in Holy Matrimony." Thus it was noted in his diary and they left for a honeymoon trip through Maine, Canada, NH & VT for five days returning to Chandler Farm to live the rest of their days. No mention before or after about their marriage, except a "been married one month today."

Diary copy is available for viewing at the museum. By reading the whole diary you can see the day-to-day life at the Farm from a man's perspective and what was note worthy to him.



Norris and Fanny Hill



Chandler Farm

MEMORIES OF CHANDLER FARM

By Diane Eastman Powell

(Fanny is Diane's father's sister, and Norris is her mother's brother)

From the time I was about five years old until I entered Fryeburg Academy, I often spent time with my aunts and uncles at Chandler Farm. My first recollection was of being homesick. Aunt Keat brought me into the kitchen to help her, I think doing dishes. I'm sure I wasn't much help, but I got over feeling homesick.

Sometimes my cousin Donna Hill, 13 months older than I, was there at the same time. I recollect one winter night when Auntie had put us to bed in the north bedroom on the second floor with a hot water bottle for warmth. It was a stormy night and the north wind was blowing hard-whistling around the corner of the house. I can still hear it. When I was by myself there in the winter I got to sleep with Auntie in her bed on the down mattress. It was so warm. Also in the winter we got to go logging with Uncle Nod and Uncle Don. We rode on the long sled drawn by Dick and Harry, the two draft horses, down a long road into the woods. There was nothing for us to do but watch them cut the trees with a two man saw. Once they had the logs loaded on the sled we got to ride on top of them back to the farm. In the summertime, we went haying with them, and this time we got to ride on top of the loose hay from the field back to the farm. (It was before the time of baling hay). One time I got to ride one of the draft horses as he pulled the fork full of hay up into the barn hayloft.

Another thing I loved to do was watch them milk the cows and I was fascinated watching as the cream was separated from the milk in the big separating apparatus. Sometimes I got to help Auntie gather the eggs, but I was a little hesitant about putting my hand in the nest if the hens were sitting in them.

In the early years, before WWII, Chandler Farm took guests in the summer time. People would come from Boston and New York to escape the city heat. It was then that I got to help set the table in the big dining-room. There was a sliding window between the kitchen and the dining-room so food could be passed through to be served. My older cousin often waited tables there for a summer job.

I loved to climb up on the tall stool so I could reach the big wall telephone and talk with my mother. They had a party line, so it wasn't always easy to find a time when no one else was talking.

I think one of my most favorite things was going into Aunt Keat's bedroom and having her read stories to us. She was a school teacher and so was good at that. My favorite story was The Secret Garden, by Frances Hodgson Burnett.

If I was visiting during weeks that the Chatham school was in session, I could visit the Eastman School where Auntie Keat was teaching. It had double desks so two students had to sit together. There was a wood stove for heat.

Dues are Due!

Our Society appreciates the support, financial and physical, of all our members. We couldn't do what we do without you! If you have not yet paid your dues for this year (\$10 per person per year, or \$100 for life) we hope that you will appreciate this reminder and renew your membership. Thank You!

Also Donations are gratefully accepted for :

General Building Fund

ADA Accessibility Project

Awards for High School Seniors

Veteran's Memorial-\$100 for pavers with a
veteran's name engraved

School House History

When our schoolhouse sat on the hill by the Town House, 1886-1957, a shed with privies was attached to the west end of the building. When the schoolhouse was moved to its present location in 1957, the shed with the privies was moved over and attached to the Town House. These served as the restrooms until 2017 when the attachment was removed to be replaced with a new Town Office and modern ADA accessible restroom.

Meanwhile, at the schoolhouse, which used to have two entry ways on the east side, the left door was removed and the entry way was transformed into a two-stall bathroom. Water was piped from the dug well at the parsonage site. (The parsonage had burned in 1939.) The door to the right entry way still exists, but has not been used since the new entry way, with stairs leading up to the classroom and down to the basement, was built on the north side of the building in 1957.

Currently there is no water coming to the building, and the toilets have not functioned since 1968, the last year classes were held.

But, not to worry! We have just received a composting outhouse built by Silas Eastman. Signs on the two doors designate the girls' and boys' sides. The composting will be done off-site. This seems like a good quick solution to the need for restrooms during our functions, while we decide if and where a more modern privy would fit in our building and our budget. It ties the old (outhouse) with the new (environmental consciousness and composting). It's also a great place to read about some of Chatham's history-of course we will make some reading material available.

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Contact Info

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chathamhistoricalnh.org

Museum is open Fridays
Noon-2 PM
Or by appointment



New composting outhouse at the Historical
Society School House



Winner of the Chatham Historical Society Award— Malina Voter

Every year our Society offers an award to graduating seniors. The students must live in Chatham and complete the application form which includes writing an essay about living in Chatham. We are pleased to announce that Malina Voter is this year's winner. Congratulations and best wishes, Malina! Here is Malina's essay.

Before my family moved to Chatham, we had lived in a lot of places, staying for a few years and moving again. However, none of those places had really felt like home, until my family settled in Chatham. At first, Chatham felt like the middle of nowhere, with no one around and nothing to do. Slowly, I came to realize that it's so much more than that. The small community has allowed me to grow close to the people around me through my church and through many picnics, bonfires and other events that are put on. Living here has allowed me to go to a school where diversity and inclusion are celebrated, and where I can pursue anything that I set my mind to. It's an incredible combination of a small, close-knit community and cultures from all over the world, converging into one place. It's rugged mountains and beautiful nature fill my summers with bike rides, hikes, swimming and canoeing, and inspire me to create memories while I still live here. Living here, especially in the house where I live, has made me more deeply connected to history, where each building and each place in the town has its own interesting story. The hand-hewn beams, the antique artifacts buried under the foundation and the old newspaper articles from the 1800s remind me that I am one in a long, long line of people who have called this unique place home. As I look forward to starting a new chapter of my life in a new place, I am reminded that no matter where I may go and what other homes I may find, Chatham will always be my first and favorite.

Membership Form

\$10.00 /person/year

Due by May 1

\$100.00 life member

Name	
Address	
Email	
Winter	
Dues	
Donation	
Building Fund	
Total	

