If ‘Follow the Money’ is often at the heart of criminal investigations, the key to discovering the history of Chester begins with ‘Follow the Waterways.’

This year’s special seasonal exhibit at Chester Museum at The Mill does exactly that with Two Streams & Many Industries. Curated by Keith and Sandy Senior-Dauer, the exhibit occupies the entire first floor of the museum.

While Chester’s production of augers, bits, eye hooks and knitting needles is probably familiar to many, visitors to the museum will see that Chester industries were also known for personalized greeting cards, wire mattresses and waffle irons.

Beginning as early as 1743, the banks of the Pattaconk Brook and the Great Brook provided the sites for using the rushing water to power a revolving series of unique business enterprises.

An oversized map (below) orients visitors to the streams with color-coded designations to 19 primary industrial sites. “We have identified 77 different enterprises that were located at the sites, many of them in the 70-year period from the 1830s to the start of the 20th century,” noted Sandy Senior-Dauer. Visitors are encouraged to take a hand copy of the site map as they tour the exhibit, which features products, photos and quotes from the “New Era “newspaper.

A companion wall mural of Chester locates and pictures the ponds and dams that were managed to maximize the flowing resource.

You’ll find that Simeon Brooks was resourceful as he used barbed wire from a field for material to make his first eye hooks, before marketing them in New York City for the initial order of what became M. S. Brooks & Sons.

You’ll notice many of the dams and a few of the buildings remain from Chester’s Industrial Age. “I always love it when we are able to highlight history and sites that are still with us,” said Society president Skip Hubbard. “We all drive past many of these every week and this is an opportunity to share this history with the community.”

The second floor of Chester Museum at The Mill was a similar workplace, with available light in the manufacture of the company’s high quality auger bits.

Chester Museum at The Mill is open weekends through October and is air-conditioned. Hours are Saturdays from 1 to 4; Sundays 10 to 4. There is no admission fee, so it’s easy to stop by for a quick visit, or stay longer. A number of residents use the museum as a place to bring visitors or local friends. Society members can schedule off-hour visits by calling Diane Lindsay (860-526-2443) or Skip Hubbard (860-526-5765).
More than 120 people gathered on June 16th at the Chester Meetinghouse to celebrate the life of Barbara Delaney who passed away on March 10. Barbara was a founding member and first president of the Society when it was incorporated in 1970.

Barbara Delaney’s favorite phrase, “Onward and Upward,” has been an inspiration for the Society since its founding in 1970, nearly 50 years ago.

To continue the legacy of Barbara and her husband Edmund, the Society will initiate the Delaney Program Series, an annual historically based presentation. Programs will be admission-free.

Contributions in memory of Barbara and Edmund to help fund these programs may be sent to Chester Historical Society, P.O. Box 204, Chester, CT 06412. Please indicate ‘Delaney Program Series’ on your check.

We’ve included an insert with a list of members and a form for you to join the Chester Historical Society to help support our collective efforts to share the rich history of this town. Consider joining us today.

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Joseph Roach & Janice Carlisle
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Theresa Zwart-Ludeman

Life
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Ray & Liz Archambault
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*New Members
**New Membership Level
Chester Historical Society memberships (except Life Memberships) are paid annually.

**PLEASE INCLUDE ON THE MEMBERSHIP ROLL FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2019**

Name(s) ___________________________________________________________________________________________________

Mailing Address ________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________

E-mail ___________________________________________ Phone ______________________________

Please Note: Your e-mail address is important to us. It's become a primary way to inform our members of Society activities and includes the Robbie Collomore Music Series. We do not share your email addresses with others.

**MEMBERSHIP LEVEL**

I would like to be a Society member for the next year as indicated

- □ Student ($15)
- □ Individual ($20)
- □ Family ($30)
- □ Benefactor ($100)
- □ Sponsor / Corporate ($250)
- □ Life ($500) One-time payment to enroll one or two individuals in the same household as lifetime members.

- □ Please accept my additional donation for $ __________

Make checks payable to Chester Historical Society. Mail to: CHS, PO Box 204, Chester, CT 06412.

All dues and donations are fully tax-deductible. Please consider your check your receipt. Thank you.

Your Membership helps tell Chester’s Story

As an all-volunteer organization with no income from the town or state, we rely on the support of members, plus fundraisers and grants to fund the free exhibits and public programs we create. Annual membership is at the core of that support.

For just $30 per family ($20 for an individual) annual membership, you can help as we share the Chester story through our programs, publications and award-winning museum.

Renewals were recently sent out to our current members. Please consider adding your support with this membership form.

**BONUS! Free Kate Silliman book for all new members**

A valued resource, Kate Silliman’s Chester Scrapbook (264 pages, 134 photos) is the ‘go-to’ place for much of Chester history. All new members can pick up a free copy ($15 value) of this Society publication during museum hours.
Chester Fife and Drum Corps to Celebrate 150th Anniversary

The Chester Fife and Drum Corps will celebrate its 150th anniversary with a Muster at the Chester Fairgrounds on Saturday, Sept. 22. Sesquicentennial anniversaries are rare in the fife and drum community, so all of Chester is encouraged to come out to celebrate with our Corps – one of the oldest continuous Fife and Drum Corps in the U.S.

Founded by Daniel Silliman in 1867, today’s Corps is led by Drum Major Frenchy Cordeau, President Brian Schiller, Fife Sergeant June Cordeau, Drum Sergeant Don Buell, Color Guard Sergeant Carlos Uphold and Bass Corporal Megan Cordeau.

Major events through the years have included the Corps’ cameo appearance in the movie, “It Happened to Jane”; participation in the World’s Fair in Switzerland; being the first ever American Fife & Drum Corps to march and perform in the Scottish Highland Games in 1985 (which led to a command performance at the residence of the Duke and Duchess of Argyle); and marching in presidential inaugural parades.

Over the years, many of Chester’s members have moved on to other Corps, including the Old Guard, Navy Drum and Bugle Corps, and the Marine Drum and Bugle Corps.

On Sept. 22, around 12:30 p.m., following the Guilford Parade, the Chester Fife and Drum Corps’ celebration at Chester Fairgrounds will feature a Muster, with about 20 Fife and Drum Corps from all over New England parading on the fairgrounds. Damon Scott of radio Country 92.5 will emcee, and ICRV Radio will also be participating.

Chester striker Alex Learned eyes the next pitch

Vintage Baseball Returns with Sept. 16 triple-header

Devitt Field in Deep River will again be the venue when the historical societies of Chester, Deep River and Essex sponsor teams in friendly, but spirited, round-robin games played by the rules of 1857.

No gloves were permitted and the emphasis was on defense, allowing the batter to put the ball in play. The free-admission games are family oriented, fun for all ages. Refreshments will be available.

It all begins at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 16 with a call of “Striker to the Line” (Batter Up), as the Behind (catcher) positions himself behind the plate and the Cranks (fans) lean forward in anticipation.

Auger, Gimlet and Bit How do they differ?
The answer can be found at Chester Museum at The Mill’s Two Streams & Many Industries exhibit

Ribbons and $$ for History at the Chester Fair

If you have a historically related entry, the Chester Fair has a secure space to share that history and be eligible for a special prize.

New this year, the Chester Historical Society will be awarding a ribbon and $25 for the best entry (collection, artwork, etc.) related to history, Chester or otherwise. If appropriate, two awards, Senior and Junior, may be given.

Information and entry forms are available at www.chesterfair.org by viewing the premium book for Class H – Hobbies. Rob Miceli is Superintendent for the Hobbies area and can answer other questions (860-526-9245). Plan to visit the Society’s exhibit building as well.
Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, Sept. 16
Tri-Town Vintage Baseball Game
Devitt Field, Deep River, 2 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 23
Robbie Collomore Music Series
Stella Chen & Tomer Gewirtzman, Violin & Piano
Chester Meetinghouse, 5 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 14
Robbie Collomore Music Series
Rene Marie, Jazz Vocalist
Chester Meetinghouse, 5 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 28
Last Day of Weekend Museum Hours
Chester Museum at The Mill, 10 a.m. – 4 .m.

Sunday, Nov. 4
Tri-Town Patriotic Salute
Deep River Town Hall, 3 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 4
Robbie Collomore Music Series
Salome Jordania, Piano
Chester Meetinghouse, 5 p.m.

Friday / Saturday, Nov. 23-24
Thanksgiving Family Hours at Museum
Chester Museum at The Mill, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 25
Robbie Collomore Music Series
Andes Manta, Andean Folk Music
Chester Meetinghouse, 5 p.m.

Stay Informed:
www.chesterhistoricalsociety.org
www.colomoreconcerts.org
Facebook.com/chesterchistorical society