

CHRONOLOGY OF CHESHIRE

Cheshire in England

- c. 50 A. D. Cheshire enters history with the establishment of the Roman *castra*, a camp fortified by a ditch and a mound, surmounted by palisades, at Deva, destined eventually to become the principal town of the region, Chester (from *castra*).
- c. 614 Chester captured by the Northumbrian King Aelfrith
- 9th century Parliament held in Chester by King Aethelwulf
- 1066 Chester and the surrounding county of Cheshire resist the Norman conquerors. Organized by the Norman kings into a county palatinate
- 12th-13th centuries Constant wars with the wild men of Wales, just to the west
- 1264 Chester given to Simon deMontfort, father of the British Parliament
- 1403 Cheshire becomes the headquarters of the famous Hotspur, hero of many an heroic ballad, Sir Henry Percy
- 1643 Cheshire a royalist headquarters in the Civil War

Cheshire on the American Continent

Background

- 1636 Hartford founded, when Thomas Hooker and his followers arrive from Cambridge, Massachusetts
- 1638 New Haven founded as Quinnipiac, by the Reverend Theophilus Eaton and the Reverend John Davenport
- 1640 The name Quinnipiac changed to New Haven
- 1661 Meriden settle
- 1669 Wallingford founded
- 1674 Waterbury founded as part of Farmington Township
- 1675 Derby founded
- 1686 Waterbury incorporated
- 1687 Dr. John Hull receives a grant of land from Broad Swamp to the Quinnipiac, indicating that Wallingford is spreading west

The Earliest Years

- 1690 The oldest house now standing and in use in Cheshire built in New Haven. Eventually moved to South Brooksvale Road, where it is now known as The Preston Homestead.
- 1694 [First organized settlement on site of Cheshire, as two Wallingford men, Joseph Ives and his friend John Hotchkiss settle here.
- 1705 Thomas Brooks settles here and gives the name of his native county in England to the site
- 1712 Copper discovered by John Parker in the Cheshire Street Area
- 1718 The General Court of Connecticut petitions that Cheshire be made into a village

- 1723 New Cheshire parish recognized. Pastor, the Reverend Samuel Hall. Site of Church, near entrance to present Lanyon Drive
- 1724 First Church has sixty-five heads of families
- 1726 Land for parish cemetery presented by the Reverend Mr. Hall
- 1729 Nov. 30, birth of Samuel Seabury in Groton, Conn.
- 1732 Smallpox epidemic: 124 cases out of a population of 400. 17 deaths
- 1735 New church voted, to be built on the northeast corner of Parson Hall's property
- 1760 St. Peter's Episcopal Church organized
- 1763 Schoolhouse built on the Green
- 1766 Joseph Moss reads Episcopal service here
- 1767 The Reverend John Foot becomes assistant to the Reverend Samuel Hall. Marries Abigail Hall and builds the house now transformed into a bank on the south corner of Cornwall Avenue
- 1775 Last sermon preached by the Reverend Mr. Hall
- 1776 Death of pastor Hall
- 1780 May 19, Cheshire incorporated as a town by action of the State Legislature
- 1780 June 7, First Town Meeting
- 1780 November 8, birth of Samuel Augustus Foot
- 1781 Surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. End of the American War of Independence. Gideon Bristol of Cheshire selected by General Washington to receive the arms of the British
- 1788 The Reverend Reuben Ives becomes rector of St. Peter's
- 1790 Reuben Merriman begins making clocks here
- 1790 Temple Lodge, A. F. and M. established here (Nov. 10)
- 1794 Town laid out in twelve school districts
- 1794 June 4, diocesan convention of the Episcopal Church appointed to carry out plans for an Academy here
- 1795 Lambert Hitchcock born here
- 1796 February 25, death of Bishop Seabury
- 1796 April 28, 1796, cornerstone of the Episcopal Academy of Connecticut laid
- 1796 The Reverend John Bowden becomes first Principal of the Academy
- 1798 Burton, Ohio, founded, mostly by people from Cheshire
- 1799 Action begun to establish a toll road from New Haven to Southington

The Nineteenth Century

- 1800 Cheshire Turnpike Company founded
- 1800 Population of Cheshire 2,888
- 1801 Cheshire Turnpike built
- 1804 Robert Bradley Hitchcock born here
- 1806 September 12, Andrew Hull Foote born here
- 1806 October 8, 1806, the Reverend Tillotson Bronson becomes Principal of the Academy

- 1815 Tin shop started by Seth DeWolf
- 1818 March 22, John Frederick Kensett born here
- 1819 Gideon Welles enters the Academy
- 1822 April 1, Special town meeting votes approval of the establishment of a canal north from New Haven through Cheshire
- 1823 First survey of the canal route conducted
- 1825 Bronson Alcott teaches in Cheshire
- 1827 Farmington Canal opened
- 1827 Third building of the First Church built and dedicated
- 1828 June, water turned into the Canal
- 1829 Dec. 7, 1829 First Sunday School voted for the Congregational Church
- 1834 A Methodist Church organized
- 1834 Samuel Augustus Foot elected Governor of Connecticut
- 1835 Barites discovered here and mines opened
- 1847 Work begun on the Canal Line Railway, later known as the New Haven and Northampton Railway
- 1850 Cheshire Manufacturing Company organized. Arad Welton, President
- 1852 The Mix Manufacturing Company organized by John and Titus Mix
- 1856 Catholic Services held in the ballroom of the Beach Tavern, then owned by Martin Brennan
- 1862 January 1, 1862, the Reverend Sanford Jackson Horton becomes Headmaster of the Academy and transforms it into a military school
- 1863 June 26, Death of Admiral Foot
- 1866 Cheshire Brass Company organized
- 1866 July 4, Dedication of Civil War Monument on the Green
- 1878 Suspension of barites mining
- 1880 Cheshire celebrates its First Hundred Years as a town
- 1881 Edward A. Doolittle GAR Post mustered with twenty-four members
- 1882 First telephone office opened in Cheshire
- 1885 Jan. 24, Cheshire Grange organized with Chester Lord, first Master
- 1887 Early plans made for extension of the Meriden-Cromwell Railroad to Waterbury through Cheshire
- 1888 Apr. 26, Cheshire's First Service Club founded: Village Improvement Society
- 1888 July 4, the first trains on the Meriden-Waterbury and Cromwell Railroad from Meriden through Cheshire to Waterbury, Cheshire a junction
- 1888 Cheshire's first Baptist church, Hull Memorial, organized
- 1892 August, Miss Mary Baldwin opens a library in a small building on Horton Street offered by Dr. Horton of the Academy
- 1892 October 28, The Wallace House burns
- 1894 *Historic Homes of Cheshire*, by Edwin R. Brown and John R. Paddock, published
- 1894 The old high school opens with classes held all over town
- 1896 The Waverly Inn opened by Walter Scott

- 1896 June 7, death of Dr. Horton, Headmaster of the Academy,
- 1896 Thanks to a bequest by Mrs. Philocia Hotchkiss the Horton Home is transformed into a high school building
- 1896 Bequest of \$5000 by Mrs. Juliet Tompkins for support of a public library

The Twentieth Century

- 1905 Cheshire Rotary Club founded
- 1910 Lady Fenwick Chapter DAR founded
- 1910 June 10, Cheshire Dramatic Company presents *Among the Breakers*
- 1911 August, Miss Baldwin's Library moves to the Williams House on Main St.
- 1912 Humiston School opens
- 1912 Beach's *History of Cheshire, 1694-1840* published by DAR
- 1912 Cheshire Fire Department organized
- 1912 R. H. Hine opens hardware store
- 1912 Fire at the Waverly Inn
- 1913 Reformatory built in Cheshire
- 1913 York Hill Trap Rock Co., begins operations in West Cheshire
- 1917 Last train on Meriden-Waterbury Railroad runs
- 1917 Local branch of American Red Cross organized, Nettie Smith, Chairman
- 1917 The Cheshire Academy becomes Roxbury School
- 1917 Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts organized
- 1919 Wild cat oil shaft sunk in Cheshire
- 1920 R. A. Storrs Post, American Legion, founded
- 1923 March, Hine's Store changes hands
- 1925 Addition built on Humiston School; last train on Canal Line runs
- 1926 Oct. 9, 1926, Cohen's Department Store opens
- 1935 July 4, Clarence Thompson founds *The Cheshire Chronicle*
- 1935 August 15-18, 300th Anniversary of founding of Connecticut celebrated
- 1937 Roxbury School assumes the name The Cheshire Academy
- 1941 Jan. 8, Horton Hall at Cheshire Academy burns
- 1945 V-Day celebrated by block dance
- 1946 Home National Bank of Meriden opens Cheshire office
- 1950 Cheshire's oldest industry, Ball and Socket Mfg. Co. celebrates centennial
- 1952 Feb. 10, 1952, Waverly Inn burns
- 1953 June, Cheshire Community Theatre founded
- 1953 February, *The Cheshire Herald* begins publishing
- 1953 New Cheshire High School opened
- 1953 The Home National Bank builds new quarters
- 1954 Cheshire Historical Society sponsors first tour of old houses
- 1954 Dec. 12, new building dedicated by Baptists
- 1954 Jan. 29 and 30, "The Old Canal," Musical Play presented by Girl Scouts
- 1954 First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Meriden opens branch
- 1955 January 17, old Grange building burns

- 1955 February, 50th anniversary of founding of Rotary celebrated
- 1955 March, Girl Scout Musical *Good News* presented on two evenings
- 1955 Cheshire celebrates 175th anniversary of becoming a town
- 1955 May, 16 memorial trees planted on High School grounds in honor of Cheshire's war dead
- 1955 First class graduated from High School (73 members)
- 1955 Cheshire Public Library engages first professional librarian (Evelyn Moss)
- 1955 September, construction started on Cheshire's first shopping center, in south end
- 1955 September, Bidsey Norton School opened
- 1955 Sept. 30, West Cheshire post office closed
- 1955 Waterbury Farrel Foundry and Machine Co. takes option on property for local plant
- 1956 August, Town Park authorized
- 1956 Evangelical Lutheran Church parish organized; services in Grange Hall
- 1957 April, Farrel Foundry starts plant
- 1961 January, Lutheran Church dedicated
- 1964 New St. Bridget's Church and Junior High School
- 1965 March, Steeple of Congregational Church lowered to the ground and replaced by exact replica
- 1967 May, Senior Citizens organized
- 1968 Summer, Temple Beth David organized
- 1968 Dedication of Harmon C. Leonard Jr. Youth Center
- 1970 Cheshire Industrial Park established
- 1970 Church of the Epiphany opened
- 1970 February 14, Cheshire Methodist Church moves to new quarters
- 1970 October, New Methodist Church dedicated
- 1970 Old Methodist Church becomes a synagogue
- 1971 Cheshire adopts council-manager form of government (June)
- 1971 June, Morgan Porteus, pastor here for 27 years, becomes suffragan bishop
- 1971 Grange burns mortgage on new building
- 1972 October, Connecticut Savings Bank announces intention to restore the Foote House
- 1972 Sewer Commission established
- 1972 Town Manager government begins operation
- 1973 June, Cheshire Rehabilitation and Convalescent Center opens
- 1973 September, Grace Baptist Church incorporated
- 1973 St. Thomas Becket Church dedicated
- 1973 Death of Raymond Hine, age 89
- 1973 Opening of Foote House as Connecticut Savings Bank
- 1973 May, Senior Day Center opened at 100 Main St.
- 1974 February, Second New Haven Bank opened
- 1974 Chamber of Commerce organized
- 1974 August 18, Ground broken for new Cheshire Public Library
- 1974 Sept. 9, Hoadley School opened in wing of LaSalette Seminary

1974 December, Park School burns
 1975 First Congregational Church celebrates 250th anniversary
 1975 September, new Public Library dedicated
 1975 John W. Leahey dies at 78; Canal Lock Park established
 1975 December, Arthur N. Sheriff dies in Florida, at age 88; 44
 years as Headmaster of Cheshire Academy
 1976 Bicentennial Wagon passes through Cheshire on way to
 Valley Forge
 1976 July 4, Bicentennial celebrated by dedication of Lock 12
 Park
 1976 McDonald's opened (September)
 1977 April 11, ground broken for Hillside Village
 1977 August, death of Ruth True, founder of *The Cheshire Her-
 ald*, at 79

OUR TOWN

Cheshire, Connecticut, 1780-1980

by

Marion Moore Coleman

Marion Moore Coleman

'Tis Love guides Memory to thy sunny spot,
Where life had all to please, and fears forgot.
The time was golden, and the days were spent
In work and pleasure, study and content.

— *The Meteor*, 1884

Cherry Hill Books
202 Highland Avenue
Cheshire, Connecticut 06410

1980