

AMERICA 250

CONNECTICUT

AFFILIATE



2026 events in Manchester commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

The Connecticut 250th Commission encourages towns to provide opportunities for community conversations and thoughtful reflection, using these four themes:

Tell Inclusive Stories — Find stories previously untold or under-told, so all of Connecticut's residents can see themselves reflected in our 250+ year history.

Power of Place — Embrace the unique identities and contributions of communities in Connecticut, before, during, and after the Revolutionary period.

Doing History — Explore the history of Connecticut's role in the development of the nation—its people, sites, and historic context.

For the Common Good — Embrace civic engagement and continue the work of shaping our communities, state, and nation around the democratic ideals outlined in our founding documents.



Power of Place — Unique to Manchester: • Our own 2.5-mile railroad, now a rail trail. • Most intact Glass manufacturer site in the state. • Hundreds of acres of parkland, miles of hiking trails, • CT Cultural District designation. • 10 listings on the National Register of Historic Places.

Come “do history” by participating in 21 free walking tours, 100s of open houses, lectures, and other activities.

Upper photo: c. 1900, South Manchester Railroad depot, near Cheney Hall.

Lower photo: c. 1905, Pitkin Glass Works postcard, open Sat., June 13, 11-3.

Learn about Manchester's history on these free walking tours. Rain or shine, extreme weather cancels.

— *Your host, Susan Barlow, Town Historian.*



Participants:

- Manchester Historical Society
- Cheney Brothers District Commission
- Manchester Land Conservation Trust
- Town of Manchester
- UR Community Cares
- Chamber of Commerce
- Imagine Manchester

Please check websites and Facebook pages for weather updates, etc.

<https://www.manchesterhistory.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/ManchesterHistoricalSociety/>

Free history walks for all ages. Rain or shine; extreme weather cancels. No dogs, please. Details about the walks begin on page 10 of this booklet, or check the Events page on our website.

When.	What. Where to meet.
Saturday, January 10, 1:00 p.m.	Cheney Railroad, south to north. 146 Hartford Road
Saturday, February 21, 1:00 p.m.	Lakeview historic housing development. 233 South Main Street, park along side streets
Saturday, March 21, 1:00 p.m.	Cheney Railroad, north to south. Back of parking lot, 18 Main Street
Saturday, April 11, 1:00 p.m.	History hike of Highland Park, 2 options for length of walk, 670 Spring Street
Saturday, April 18, 1:00 p.m.	Hollywood historic housing development. 283 East Center Street, near corner of Lenox Street
Saturday, May 2, 1:00 p.m.	Jane's Walk, community conversation, 146 Hartford Road

Saturday, May 9, 12:00 noon	Arts and Culture walk. 41 Center Street, front steps of Town Hall
Saturday, May 30, 9:00 a.m.	Bike or walk on Cheney rail trail, with treasure hunt, Cheney Hall, 177 Hartford Road
Saturday, June 6, 1:00 p.m.	Center Springs Park loop trail, 39 Lodge Drive, front of Park and Rec building
Sunday, June 7, 1:00 p.m.	Salter's Pond loop trail in a former industrial area. 123 Lydall Street
Saturday, June 27, 11:00 a.m.	Great Lawn walk, viewing former Cheney mansions. 146 Hartford Road
Saturday, July 18, 1:00 p.m.	Cheney Railroad, north to south, back of parking lot, 18 Main Street
Saturday, August 8, 11:00 a.m.	Downtown & Chamber of Commerce, parking lot at SW corner of Main and Park Streets, enter from Park Street side
Sunday, September 13, at 12:00 noon	Manchester Green walk. 549 Middle Turnpike East, front steps of Senior Center
Saturday, September 19, 1:00 p.m.	Center Memorial Park and its monuments, 41 Center Street, front steps of Town Hall
Saturday, October 3, 1:00 p.m.	51st silk-mill district walk with Chris Paulin, 146 Hartford Road
Saturday, October 10, 1:00 p.m.	Bush Hill farm history and foliage walk, 330 Bush Hill Road
Sunday, October 18, 12:00 noon	Adaptive re-use exploratory walk and visit to Cheney Homestead, park at 146 Hartford Road
Sunday, November 8, 12:00 noon	East Cemetery walk, meet at Harrison Street entrance, park along Harrison or cemetery lanes
Saturday, November 14, 1:00 p.m.	North End history walk, front steps of Whiton Library, 100 North Main Street
Saturday, December 26, 1:00 p.m.	History hike of Highland Park, 2 options for length of walk, 670 Spring Street

Our country's birthday: July 4, 1776

Declaration of Independence

From the tyranny of the King of Great Britain

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. — Provided, nevertheless, that Government long established, should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all rights, but those, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, than to resist, should be reserved to the States, respectively, to which they are accustomed. — But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evince a design to subvert the Government, and to deprive the People of their future peace; — Such has been the patient sufferance of those Colonies; and so recently, as to this, their former, System of Government. — The history of the present King of Great Britain, is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. — To prove this let facts be submitted to a candid world. — He has refused his Assent to laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. — He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, simply suspended in their operation, till his Assent should be obtained, and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. — He has refused to sign such Laws, for the accommodation of large districts of People, until such People would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, at a great Injury to others, and furnished, for the sole purpose of oppressing them, and恣肆 their tyrannies only. — He has called together legislative Bodies at Places unusual, unaccustomed, and distant from the Depositories of their Public Records, for the sole purpose of preventing their examination.

The Declaration begins by explaining the “causes which impel them to the separation” and ends with a listing of the “injuries and usurpations” by the King of Great Britain, “all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States.” Starting in the fifth line are the famous, inspiring words about declaring our independence: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed,—That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.”

Among the signers was Oliver Wolcott, Jr., who went on to serve as Governor of Connecticut. 1817-

1827, and signed the 1823

document establishing

Manchester's incorporation

separate town. The human history

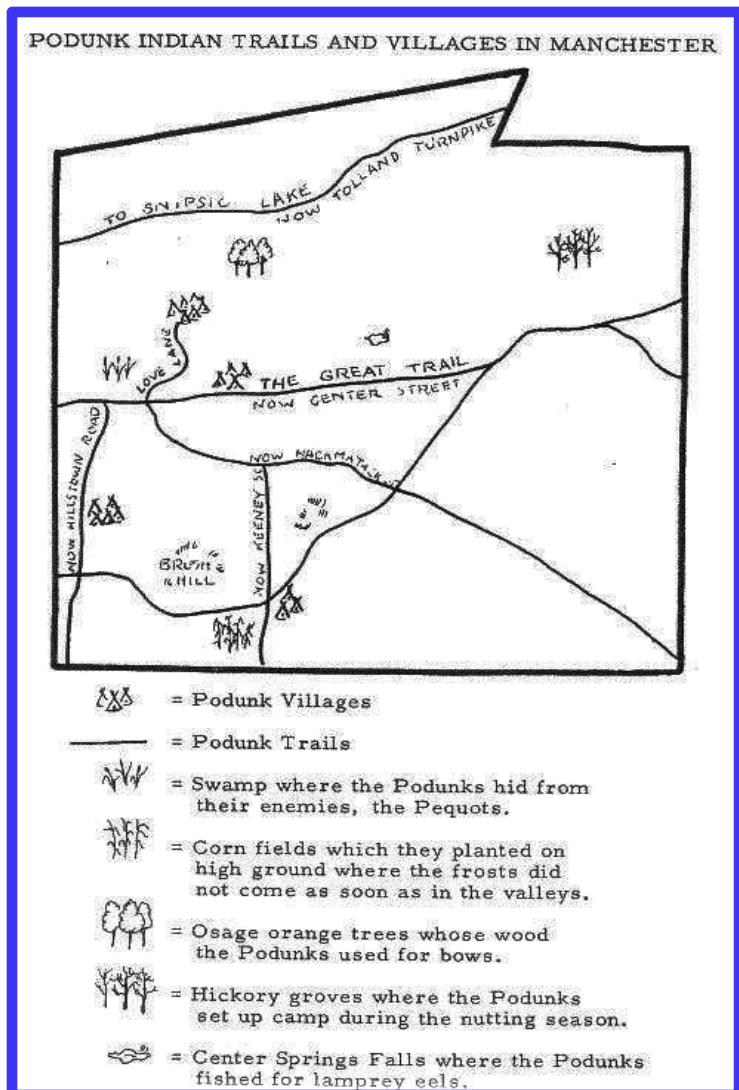
of the area now called Manchester pre-dates 1823, including the significant but mostly unwritten history of the indigenous people who lived on this land before European and English ships came across the ocean. Their encampments and fishing areas included the springs at Highland Park and Center Springs Park, encampments at Love Lane,

May 28th 1820. Approved
John. W. Webb.

Bush Hill, Hillstown Road, and Olcott Street. English colonists moved into the area in the 1600s, and John Allen's saw mill in Hilliardville was operating before 1672. However, we were part of Hartford until 1783, then a part of East Hartford.

Below, circa 1950 map by Hazel Lutz, 1902-1985, in a school booklet, "This Is Manchester."

Reflecting on the 250th theme, "Tell untold or under-told stories."



Learn about Manchester's history at these FREE open houses
HUGE day! Saturday, June 13: Connecticut open museum day, with free admission to museums around the state and also here in Manchester: Fire Museum, Pitkin Glass Works, Cheney Homestead, Woodbridge Farmstead, Old Manchester Museum. 11:00 to 3:00.

Generally • Woodbridge Farmstead's open noon to 2:00 on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, from May to October, except holidays, weather permitting, 495 Middle Turnpike East. • Cheney Homestead open noon to 2:00 on the first and third Sundays of the month, along with the replica Keeney Schoolhouse on the Homestead grounds (during the warmer months), 106 Hartford Road. • History Center open Wednesday through Saturday from 10:00 to 2:00. Special tours arranged. 175 Pine Street • Old Manchester Museum, owned by the Town of Manchester and rented to the Society since the 1980s, open first Saturday of the month, May through December from 10:00 to 2:00, 126 Cedar Street.

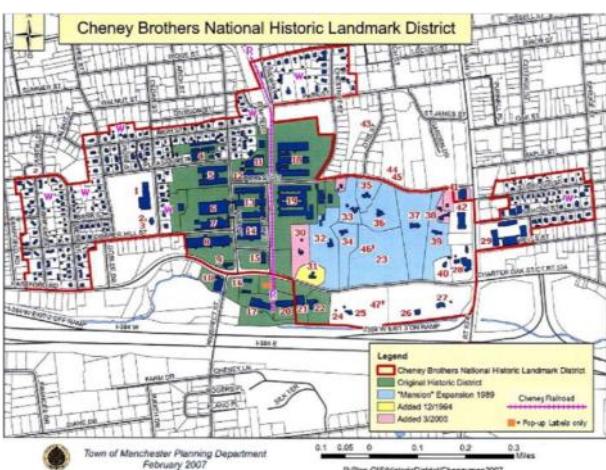
Why you NEED to go to an open house:

- Learn about history close to home.
- Hands-on rather than history books or “screen time.”
- Meet history volunteers, who staff the open houses and who enjoy learning about history.
- 250th “birthday” an ideal opportunity to “embrace the unique identities and contributions of communities in Connecticut.”

Alternatively, explore the historic districts on your own with maps on our website www.manchesterhistory.org



Use smart-phone to get to online map on the website of the Manchester Historical Society www.manchesterhistory.org



Pitkin Glass Works and the American Revolution

Located at the intersection of Parker and Putnam Streets in the Manchester Green area, GPS 11 Parker Street. Open on Saturday, June 13, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Reflecting on the 250th theme Power of Place.

In 1783, Connecticut's General Assembly granted Captain Richard Pitkin and his sons a 25-year monopoly on manufacturing glass, as recompense for their providing gun powder, at a loss, to the Connecticut militia, 1775-1781, thus supporting the Revolutionary War and our country's independence. The Pitkin Glass Works, the first successful glass factory in Connecticut, was built in Manchester (at that time a part of East Hartford and known as Orford Parish). It operated until about 1830, producing demijohns for the West Indian trade, and bottles, flasks, inkwells, and other items, mostly in shades of green. These were considered to be the best color and design in the country. Rare today, Pitkin flasks have brought tens of thousands of dollars at auctions.

In 1928, Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Pitkin and others of the Horace Pitkin family quit-claimed the property to the Orford Parish Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Finding the cost of maintenance a burden, a suggestion was made in 1977 that it be sold for commercial purposes. A group of interested citizens, led by Edson Bailey, protested this possibility, and formed a committee to preserve the site for the community.

Pitkin Glass Works Inc. (the Corporation) was organized, with five representatives each from • Orford Parish Chapter DAR • Manchester Historical Society and • the citizenry at large. The organization incorporated, and the site was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Corporation oversees the area's landscaping, and installed a flagpole with a flag that flew over our national capitol. The monumental stone ruins have been stabilized by repointing the stonework and replacing the wood lintels. William Buckley's book, "A History of the Pitkin Glass Works," is available for sale at the History Center.

Photos, l. to r.:
c. 1900
postcard, 3
Pitkin flasks,
jar given to the
Society in 2022



Free lectures — thought-provoking and personable

Local historians will speak on the 250th birthday themes of • doing history • the ideals outlined in our founding documents • unique identities and contributions of Connecticut communities before, during, and after the Revolutionary period. At the History Center, 175 Pine Street, Sundays at 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 22, Historical Society president, Steve Armstrong, presents “The American Revolution as an International Event,” analyzing how our Revolution affected and inspired actions in countries around the world.

Sunday, April 19, Steve Armstrong presents “The American Revolution as Seen in American History,” reviewing the ways the Revolution has been seen and interpreted during different periods of American history.

Sunday, May 3, local attorney Malcolm Barlow presents, “Judging Washington and Jefferson today,” looking back at these heroic figures centuries later.

Sunday, May 24, Steve Armstrong presents “What the Founding Fathers Would Say to Americans in 2026,” analyzing what our Founders might say to us and what solutions they might offer.

Sunday, June 14, local attorney Steve Penny presents, “Making war before the War.”

Sunday, September 20, town historian Susan Barlow presents “Myths of Manchester through the years.”

In partnership with our fellow historical societies, we present talks by **Dr. Matt Warshauer**, author, professor of history at Central CT State University.

- **Wednesday, March 25 at 7:00 p.m.** 161 Nevers Road, South Windsor. “Connecticut and the American Revolution.” Hosts: South Windsor Historical Society and Public Schools. Where was Connecticut in the colonial disagreement with England?
- **April 2026** date, time, location to be announced. “Connecticut, the Provision State.” Host: Bolton Historical Society. Connecticut consistently answered requests for supplies for the Continental Army. How was such a little state able to quickly answer the call?
- **May 2026** date, time, location to be announced. Host: Historical Society of Glastonbury. “Four Score and Seven Years Ago. Abraham Lincoln’s 87-year U-turn of the Declaration and the Meaning of America.” Lincoln, in his Gettysburg Address, brought Americans back to the Declaration, not the Constitution. It was a “new birth of freedom.”

Saturday, July 11

Town-wide anniversary activities

Since there will be a huge day of activities in Hartford on Saturday, July 4, Manchester will hold events on Saturday, July 11. But, don't miss Hartford's Bonanza festival, culminating in the "region's largest Independence Day fireworks display." A Hartford Symphony Orchestra ensemble will perform in Bushnell Park, as part of a full day of arts, culture, food, community, history, and commemoration.



Manchester's July 11 activities include the Town's fireworks with food vendors, music, and other activities for all ages.

Sunday, July 12 and throughout the year special activities at the Cheney Homestead, 106 Hartford Road, where the public can experience how people in the Colonial Era lived, worked, and played with events at the Homestead during Sunday open houses: • Colonial music mini concert, • Colonial tea and poetry reading • quilting exhibit and demo • penmanship contest, • spinning and loom demos • Colonial times children's games • old world life skills, e.g. candle dipping, butter churning, carding. At Woodbridge Farmstead, 495 East Middle Turnpike, 250th themes include farming, how land was used, and the history of Manchester.

More activities will be posted on our website as our volunteers finalize plans: www.manchesterhistory.org

The CT 250 website lists hundreds of events throughout the State <https://ct250.org/events/calendar/> and they connect to the four themes listed on page 1 of this booklet. The logo has four stars, representing the themes.



Bit of Manchester history. There will be a quiz.

Theme of "Unique identity"

"A City of Village Charm," our motto, was submitted to a contest by Malcolm Mollan, who won \$25 when his creative slogan was chosen by the Civic Progress Committee of the Chamber of Commerce on December 5, 1935. Mr. Mollan was an editorial writer at *The Manchester Herald*. Over 600 slogans were reviewed.

Saturday, February 21, Lakeview, 1:00 p.m. GPS 233 South Main Street. Park along side streets.

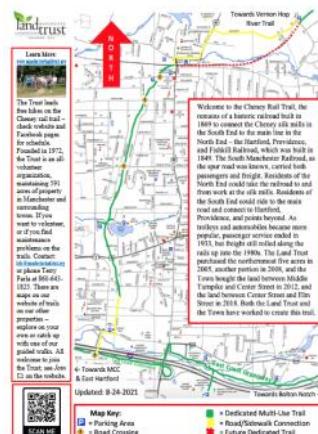
We'll stroll in the Lakeview development, platted in 1925 (see map below). The "Lake" which it overlooks is actually Globe Hollow Reservoir, with its pretty causeway that you can drive along to get to the golf course, and beyond that into Glastonbury. The plat or map of proposed streets and house-lots was laid out by the developers, C.E. & F.E. Watkins. The 1998 Historic Resources Inventory (Connecticut Historical Commission), says that the development was considered part of the "growing automobile suburbs, usually situated near the community's principal roads..."

During the 1920s and 1930s, many Manchester residents occupied new homes...in the 'Lakeview' subdivision" Homeowners bought the lots and then built a variety of houses of "attractive types, including Colonial Revival, Dutch Colonial, and Picturesque English Cottage examples."



Saturday, March 21, Cheney Railroad Walk, north to south 1:00 p.m. Rear of parking lot, 18 Main Street

Hikers will have an easy, fairly flat, walk along the former railroad, built in 1869 to connect the Cheney silk mills to the main rail line in the North End. At 2.5 miles, it was the shortest freight-and-passenger railroad in the United States. We will hike at a moderate pace along the one-mile portion owned by the Manchester Land Conservation Trust and then on to the bridge overlooking Center Springs Park and Bigelow Brook, owned by the Town of Manchester, about three miles round trip. Participants will hear about the history of the railroad. A special favor will be given to children who attend the hike. We will hike if light rain or snow -- bring an umbrella -- but extreme weather cancels. Enjoy the rail trail on your own with this map: <http://manchesterlandtrust.org/CheneyRailroadMap.pdf>



Saturday, April 11, History Hike of Highland Park, 1:00 p.m. 2 options. Meet at 670 Spring Street, near the picnic tables

Hike starts with commentary about the Case Brothers District, added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2009. We'll visit the paper mill, mansion area, and unusual bridge-dam, an icon of Manchester. From the District nomination form: "The significance of the district originates with the area's Native American associations. The Highland Park springs were one of three mineral springs on the east side of the Connecticut River visited regularly by indigenous peoples, who recognized the medicinal value of the mineral water...and supposed the springs to have mysterious healing powers. Options for • shorter walk, returning to cars after viewing Case Pond, • longer, more strenuous, walk visits the cabin, carriage paths, and summit of Lookout Mountain, encountering steep and rocky terrain. Wear sturdy sneakers or hiking boots. *At right, 1860 portrait of twin brothers A. Wells and A. Willard Case, born 1840.*



Saturday, April 18, Hollywood, 1:00 p.m. Intersection of Lenox and East Center Streets, 283 East Center Street

Explore a suburban development envisioned by E.J. Holl, 1874-1967, who moved here from his native England in 1903 and became a land tycoon and developer, with a thriving business in real estate, investments, insurance, and mortgages. One of E.J. Holl's slogans was "He cuts the Earth to suit your taste," and he did cut up many

housing developments in our Town:

• Homestead Park, off West Middle Turnpike • Pinehurst, between Main Street and the Turnpike • Forest Heights • Fairview • Clairmont • Greenhurst, etc. Hollywood, of course, plays off his name, and includes streets with English themes — Westminster, Lancaster, Scarborough, etc. The development's curving streets were laid out in 1925. People who bought the house-lots could choose a house-style, sometimes from pattern books, and choose their own builders. *At left, portrait of Mr. Holl.*



Saturday, May 2, Jane's Walk and community conversation, 1:00 p.m. 146 Hartford Road

This approximately one-mile walk invites us to discuss our experiences of living and working in Manchester. Led by Jesse



Muñiz-Poland, town board member, and Susan Barlow, town historian, we'll visit the History Center after the walk. Inspired by community activist Jane Jacobs, 1916-2006, Jane's Walk is a global festival of volunteer-led walking conversations. Jane Jacobs was a writer and activist who championed a community-based approach to city-building. Her 1961 book, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, introduced ideas about how cities

function, evolve, and fail. Jacobs lived in Greenwich Village and successfully opposed Robert Moses's plan to build a highway through Washington Square Park.

Saturday, May 9, Arts and Culture Walk, 12:00 noon, 41 Center Street, front steps of Town Hall



2.5-mile walking tour through historic districts emphasizing the work of artists and architects, noting their contributions to the culture and economy of Manchester. Terrain is somewhat hilly on this moderately paced walk. This walk celebrates Manchester's 2024 designation (by the State of Connecticut) as a Cultural District, and is part of the Manchester Cultural District's monthly *Second Saturday* events and the Downtown District's annual Butterfly Stroll—both offering free family-friendly activity, live music, and community connection from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Bit of Manchester history. There will be a quiz. Theme of "Unique identity"

Thanksgiving Day Road Race began in 1927, with 12 runners completing the 5-mile loops. Today, the race attracts thousands of runners from around the world, including women, who had been banned from participating until 1977.

**Saturday, May 30, Rail trail treasure ride or walk, 9:00 a.m.,
register 8:30-9:30 a.m. Cheney Hall, 177 Hartford Road**

All ages and abilities welcome — your choice to bike or to walk with the town historian, two miles. Cycling without Age rickshaw rides, prizes for the Scavenger Hunt, music, and giveaways. Organized by UR Community Cares, a nonprofit with the mission to keep older and disabled neighbors supported in their homes and active in their communities. Participation by several town groups. Cycling without Age rides are also available April to November weather permitting in Charter Oak Park and onto the East Coast Greenway. Call 860-430-4557 to schedule a ride.



Saturday, June 6, Center Springs Park, its indigenous and industrial heritage, 1:00 p.m., 39 Lodge Drive

1.5-mile loop walk in a 55-acre urban park, moderate pace with some hills. In the geographical center of Town, this park is a gorge, with geological and historic interest. The Podunk Indians fished for eels at the falls in the area. Timothy and Benjamin Cheney had a clock factory along Bigelow Brook. Their work is listed in Mantle Fielding's Dictionary of American Painters, Sculptors and Engravers, published in 1926: "Engravers. These clock-makers of East Hartford, Connecticut. (Note, we were still part of East Hartford then), and their well-engraved brass clock-faces show very considerable



***Bit of Manchester history. There will be a quiz.
Theme of "Unique identity"***

Cruisin' on Main car show is held Downtown on the first Sunday in August, from 10:00 to 3:00. The show started in 2001, organized by a group of individuals and organizations that had a love of antique cars and wanted to relive the 1940s through 1970s when "cruisin'" was a Thursday night tradition. The event is run by the Town of Manchester with many volunteers from the community.

Sunday, June 7, Salter's Pond, 1:00 p.m., 123 Lydall Street.
One-mile walk to explore a former mill pond in the Lydallville section of Manchester. Note the 1850 map at right, showing the Salter and Strong paper mill. Later, Henry Lydall operated mills here — as well as the needle factory farther east on Lydall Street. Starting in 1946, Salter's became a town-operated public swimming area. In 1961, the Town opened the current paved pool with its nearby brick building for changing clothes and storing chlorine. In 1980-81, the pond and surrounding shore were donated to the Manchester Land Conservation Trust by Lydall, Inc. (six acres) and by Green Manor

Corporation (three acres). Explore the trail on your own with this trail map: <http://manchesterlandtrust.org/flyers/Salter'sPondTrailMapJustin9.5.20.pdf>



Saturday, June 27, Great Lawn walk, 11:00 a.m. 146 Hartford Road

Explore this unique and iconic landscape and meet a mansion owners on this 1.5-mile walk with Tom Ferguson and Susan Barlow, who serve on the Cheney Brothers National Historic Landmark District Commission. We'll stroll on the lawn and see the mansion where Newbery-medal-winning author Emily Cheney grew up. Cheney family member Charles Adams Platt designed several mansions here: those for Philip, Frank, Jr., Clifford, and James Davenport Cheney. Platt also designed for the Astors and Delanos in New York City, and the Beldings in Rockville. He

designed libraries, schools, fountains, and the Freer Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

Participants should be prepared for hilly, bumpy ground. This walk is held each year on New Year's Day and a Saturday in June, weather permitting.



Saturday, July 18, north to south

1:00 p.m. Rear of parking lot, 18 Main Street

Easy, fairly flat, walk along the former railroad, built in 1869 to connect the Cheney silk mills to the main rail line in the North End. At 2.5 miles, it was the shortest freight-and-passenger railroad in the United States. We will hike at a moderate pace along the one-mile portion owned by the Manchester Land Conservation Trust and then on to the bridge overlooking Center Springs Park and Bigelow Brook, owned by the Town of Manchester, about three miles round trip. Participants will hear about the history of the railroad. A special favor will be given to children who attend the hike. *At right: 1938 photo by Dr. Ralph Thrall, who had a dental office in the North End, overlooking the depot.*



Saturday, August 8, Downtown and Chamber of Commerce,

11:00 a.m. Parking lot at corner of Main and Park Streets

Visit historic Downtown, starting at the St James parking lot at the corner of Main and Park Streets. Enter the lot from Park Street. The walk will take about 1.5 hours, and will include a visit to the offices of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, which celebrates its 125th anniversary this year. Our Downtown is on the National Register of Historic Places.



Bit of Manchester history. There will be a quiz.

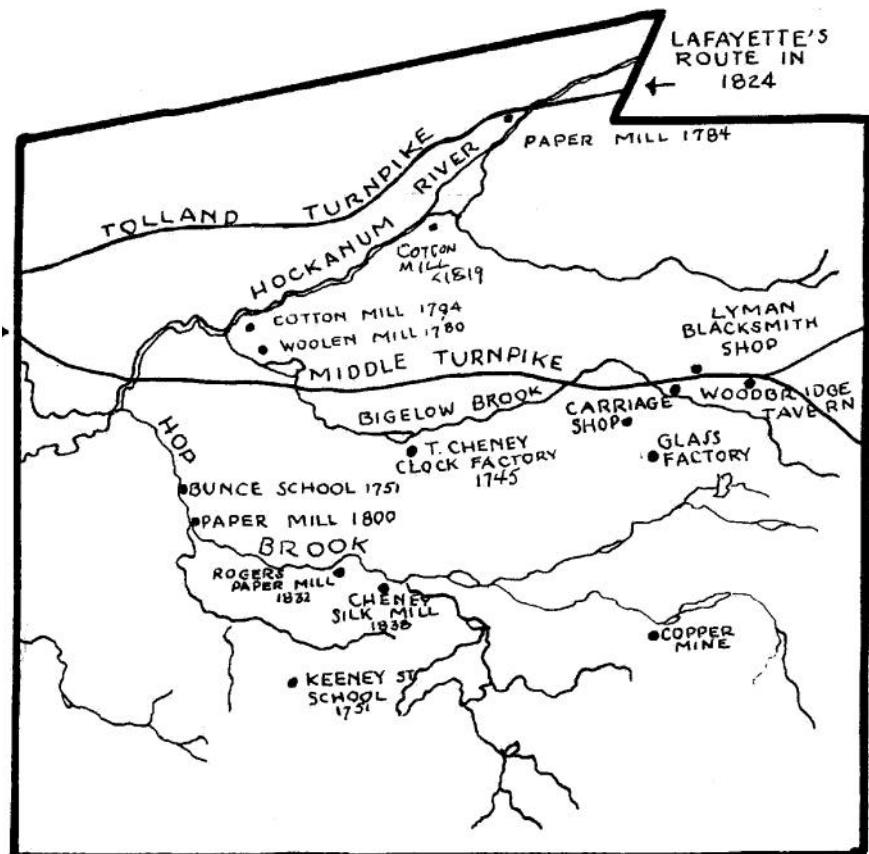
Theme of “contributions of CT’s communities”

Case Mountain hiking trails are a regional attraction, bringing many visitors to hike, mountain bike, and enjoy the views. Some opposed purchasing the first 200 acres, but conservationists prevailed. Federal, state, and local money, including cash from a glass-collection drive, funded the purchase of 229.56 acres in April 1974. The Case family also donated land, and Manchester Land Trust bought Upper Case Pond. Counting water department land, the area comprises 600+ acres.

Sunday, September 13, Manchester Green walk 12:00 noon.

549 Middle Turnpike East, front steps of Senior Center

The first post office and stagecoach stop were at Manchester Green, and the Woodbridge family was prominent in farming and tavern-keeping. We will walk past the old mill to the Woodbridge Farmstead, which will be holding an open house. There's a restored 18th-century barn and a brook in the backyard of what remains of Meadowbrook Farm. Both the tavern and the stables (for the stagecoach horses) are gone, but there are plenty of vintage sights to see at the Green. *See map of Manchester mills below, created by Hazel Lutz in the 1950s.*



Bit of Manchester history. There will be a quiz.

Theme of “unique identity”

Incorporated 1823. Many surrounding towns are much older!

Saturday, September 19, Monuments in Center Memorial Park, 1:00 p.m. Front steps of Town Hall, 41 Center Street

The Civil War statue was unveiled on September 17, 1877, the anniversary of the battle of Antietam in Sharpsburg, Maryland. The unveiling was a huge event — thousands came from Manchester and surrounding towns. There were drum corps, marching bands, and speeches.

Hear more about the ceremony and about the monuments in the park that honor veterans, as well as viewing works by renowned architect Charles Adams Platt. We'll re-enact the speeches of General Hawley and Governor Hubbard, including these words by the General, "I am glad to see these monuments arise; glad to see the people of New England towns performing their simple duty to this regard. It is a duty to the dead. The soldiers on the field were comforted by the thought of the regard felt for them at home; the thought that they would be cared for if wounded and their memories cherished if they fell..."



Saturday, October 3, Labor Relations and Cheney District walk, 1:00 p.m. 146 Hartford Road

Chris Paulin and Susan Barlow will lead this 51st annual walk in the Cheney Brothers Landmark District, listed on the National Register in 1978. Find out about the huge brick buildings that remain from the days of the world-famous silk mills. Who worked there? Who owned the mills? Where did workers and owners live? We'll see Cheney Hall, the former silk mills, South Manchester Railroad, machine shop, silk vaults, neighborhoods of worker housing. Scan the QR code below left for a map and then-and-now photos of the Landmark District, which extends about 1.25 miles east to west, and about 0.6 miles north to south, covering approximately 175 acres. *Dye house photo by Dick Jenkins*



**Saturday, October 10, Historic farm walk, 1:00 p.m.
330 Bush Hill Road**

Three-mile moderately paced walk at the former Botti farm, farmed for most of the 20th century by the Botti family, whose scion, Louis Botti, immigrated from Italy in 1902. We'll offer several options, including a couple of shorter distances.

Learn more about the Bush Hill area, which included a Podunk Indian camp, as we explore the Manchester Land Trust's 177.5-acre property in southwestern

Manchester. We'll view the fall foliage, and explore some of the 5+ miles of blazed trails. We'll see forest, meadow, and ponds, with woodsy paths and old farm roads. Terrain varies from hilly to wet to flat. Sturdy shoes recommended.



Sunday, October 18, Adaptive re-use exploratory walk and visit to Cheney Homestead, 12:00 noon, 146 Hartford Road

View major examples of re-use of buildings in this one-mile walk in the Historic District. Mill buildings now apartments; firehouse now a museum.

Moderate pace along sidewalks. We'll also visit the Cheney Homestead, built in 1785 and opened in 1969 as a house museum.



**Sunday, November 8, East Cemetery walk, 12:00 noon,
Harrison Street entrance to the cemetery**

We'll explore several parts of the cemetery with Ruth Shapleigh-Brown, Director of the CT Gravestone Network. Ruth will describe the change from graveyards to cemeteries along with symbolism of the artwork on the older gravestones. We'll visit the 2.5-acre Cheney Cemetery, adjacent to East Center Street. Meet at the Harrison Street entrance to the cemetery. Park on the street, or along the lanes in the cemetery.



Saturday, November 14, North End walk, 1:00 p.m. Whiton Library, 100 North Main Street

Explore the charm of the old North End, viewing what remains of its downtown area after the Urban Renewal of the 1960s. We'll visit Whiton Library, the "Y," Apel's Opera House (pictured), Woodbridge and Hudson Streets. About one mile along streets and sidewalks. Meet at the front steps of Whiton Library. Park either in the library lot or along Old North Main Street.



Saturday, December 26, History hike of Highland Park, 1:00 p.m. Case Parklet, 670 Spring Street

(More info on page 11, the April walk)

Hike starts with commentary about the Case Brothers District and visits the paper mill, mansion area, and unusual bridge-dam, an icon of Manchester.

Options for • shorter walk, returning to cars after viewing Case Pond, • longer, more strenuous, walk visits the 1917 cabin, carriage paths, and summit of Lookout Mountain, encountering steep and rocky terrain. Wear sturdy sneakers or hiking boots. *At right, one of hundreds of circa 1920 Case*



Mountain scenes photographed by John Knoll, 1887-1955.

Bit of Manchester history. There will be a quiz. Theme of “unique identity”

Silktown? Some CT towns are known for one industry: Ansonia, the Copper City • Danbury, the Hat City • East Hampton, Belltown USA, • Groton – Submarine Capital of the World. Manchester has been called Silktown, but there were also paper, cotton, and woolen mills. However, the biggest industry was Cheney brothers silk mills, employing thousands. Cheneys had silk mills from 1838 to 1955, when they sold to J.P. Stevens.

— — — — — — — — — — — —

Bits of Manchester history.

Here is the quiz.

1. “A City of Village Charm,” Manchester’s motto, was chosen from 600 entries in a slogan contest held by the Civic Progress Committee of the Chamber of Commerce. A *Manchester Herald* editorial writer won the contest and received a \$25 prize. In what year did he win?

A. 1923 B. 1935 C. 1974 D. 1986
E. None of the above.

2. Manchester has one of the oldest road races in the country. On what day and year was the first race held?

3. What is the name of the car show held in Downtown Manchester on the first Sunday in August?

4. When was the first 200 acres of wilderness land at Case Mountain bought? (More land has been added since then.)

A. 1923 B. 1935 C. 1974 D. 1986
E. None of the above.

5. When was Manchester incorporated as a town and no longer part of East Hartford?

A. 1923 B. 1935 C. 1974 D. 1986
E. None of the above.

6. Is the nickname “Silktown” because Manchester had only silk mills? Yes or no.

(Answers to the above questions can be found on page 9, 12, 13, 15, 16, and 19 of this booklet.)

7. Challenge question: When was the Manchester Historical Society founded?

A. 1923 B. 1935 C. 1974 D. 1986
E. None of the above.

— — — — — — — — — — — —
Answers below.

the above, founded in 1965.
Answers: 1-1935. 2-The Thanksgiving Day, 1927. 3-
Crisis, on Main, 4-1974. 5-1923. 6-No. 7-None of
Answers: 1-1935. 2-The Thanksgiving Day, 1927. 3-

More unique things about Manchester

Rare summer house built of American Chestnut

The Case Mountain Cabin

Visit the 1917 Adirondack-style cabin, a rare example of an American Chestnut lodge.

It's located a half mile along the Case Mountain Carriage Path from Spring Street. The cabin overlooks Upper Case Pond. The volunteers

working to preserve the cabin, which is owned by the Town of Manchester, invite you to their free open houses, one per month. Two of the dates include a history hikes — see listings for April 11 and December 26. Visit

Reuse of historic buildings: Examples of Manchester's preservation efforts include the former • South Manchester High School, now Bennet Apartments, at 1151 Main Street • South School, now Lutz Museum, at 247 South Main Street • Hall of Records, now the Greater Manchester Probate Court, 66 Center Street • 1901 Firehouse, now the Connecticut Firemen's Historical Society Museum, 230 Pine Street • Post office, now part of the Town Hall complex, 479 Main Street • Hilliard woolen mills, 642 Hilliard Street, now small-business spaces • Cheney silk mills, now apartments on Pine, Forest, and Elm Streets • Nathan Hale School under construction as apartments, 160 Spruce Street • former stores on Main Street now popular restaurants.

National Register of Historic Places: Manchester has 10 listings, a substantial accomplishment for a town our size.

Historical Society with free events for members and non-members.

Cabin Open House

11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each day

On your own, walk in, about a half mile, from either the Spring Street/Glen Road/waterfall area OR from the "Case Mt. Case Pond Lot" off Birch Mountain Road. **NOTE: Snow ≥ 1" cancels.**

Saturday, January 10

Saturday, February 14

Saturday, March 14

**Saturday, April 11

SUNDAY, May 17

Saturday, June 20

Saturday, July 18

Saturday, August 15

Saturday, September 19

Saturday, October 17

Saturday, November 14

**Saturday, December 26

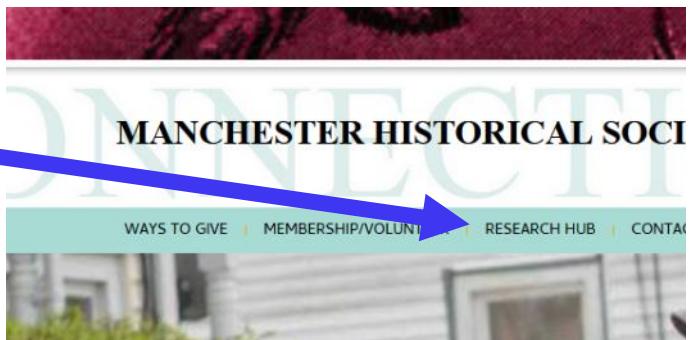


Where to find more info about Manchester's history

Of course, come to the Historical Society events and walking tours, but also **explore our website**, which has entire history books, plus newspaper archives, high school yearbooks, maps, interviews, articles about historic people and places.

To search the archives, select “Research Hub.”

This opens a page with links to our newspapers, yearbooks, etc.



Select “Reprints” to find the *History of Manchester, Connecticut* book, and the *Storytellers* book.

Welcome to the Manchester Historical Society's research hub with resources to explore local history, trace family information, or discover something new.

Archive Search
Search the whole archive: newspapers, yearbooks, articles, books, and other publications.
[Click Here](#)

Newspapers
Manchester Heralds (1881-1999) and South Manchester News (1893-1924).
[Click Here](#)

Yearbooks
Search high school and junior high yearbooks. Thanks to volunteers for scanning and coding!
[Click Here](#)

Recipes
"From Your Neighbor's Kitchen" booklets, searchable by neighbor, recipe, and date.
[Click Here](#)

Courier Newsletters
Past editions of our quarterly newsletter, mailed to members.
[Click Here](#)

Reprints
Hundreds of historical articles have been preserved in PDF.
[Click Here](#)

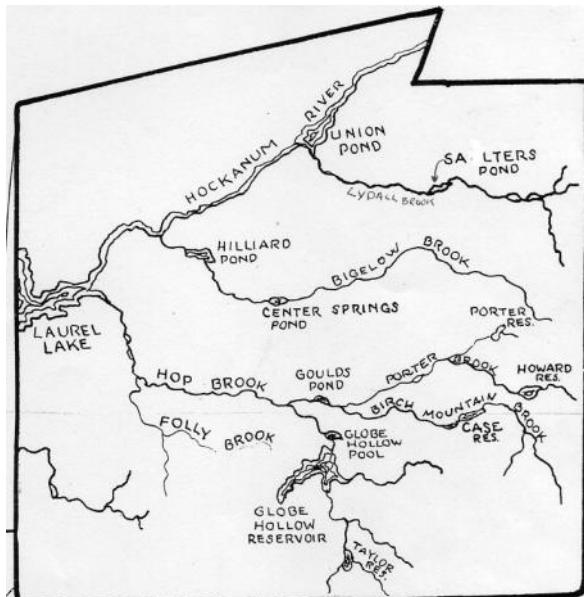
Town directories, house info, maps
Directories, town reports, booklets, house info, maps..
[Click here](#)

If these research tools have aided your journey, please consider a donation to the Manchester Historical Society. Your support ensures these resources remain accessible for generations to come.
[Click To Donate](#)

More history!

Waterways map, circa 1950, by Hazel Lutz.

Geology and geography shaped Manchester's history. Indigenous people were attracted to the mineral springs, fishing areas, rivers, and streams. Early colonists felled trees, built houses, farmed, and in the Industrial Revolution used the fast-flowing waterways to power mills and factories. Today, we enjoy the scenic landscapes, including Case Mountain, Salter's Pond, Northwest Park, Union Pond, Oak Grove Nature Center, and trails along the Hockanum River.



Below, circa 1920 photo at Case Pond, near the intersection of Spring Street and Glen Road, by prolific photographer John Knoll, 1887-1955. The bridge and dam look similar today.

There are several portfolios of vintage photos and postcards here

<https://cdn.manchesterhistory.org/>

[MHS3 Digital Library.html](https://mhs3.manchesterhistory.org/Digital_Library.html) or use this QR code —



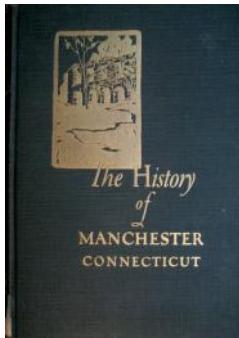
AMERICA 250

CONNECTICUT

AFFILIATE

We are interested in your vintage photos. Email to me or bring along on one of the walks with the Town Historian

Contact me, Susan Barlow, at
newsletter@manchesterhistory.org or the
Historical Society at 860-647-9983



Above, 1924 History of Manchester, high school yearbooks, and From Your Neighbor's Kitchen recipe booklets on our website (see page 22 for website search info). Also available for sale in our museum store.

Sign up for free e-news, delivered weekly on Fridays to your email inbox. On the home page of the Historical Society's website www.manchesterhistory.org click the rectangle at the bottom of

MANCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY CONNECTICUT

Manchester Historical Society
175 Pine Street
Manchester, CT 06040
860-647-9983

Stay Informed via free e-news

Sign up for free e-newsletter