

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL STEERING
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025, AT 10:00 A.M.,
ROOM 210, 84 SOUTH MAIN ST.**

Present: Diane Calabro, Vice Chair; Ron Gagliardi, Ray Bennett

Staff/Guests: Andrew Martelli, Assistant Town Manager, Savannah Blantz- Maria, Coordinator of Grants & Community Engagement.

Absent: N/A

1. ROLL CALL.

Andrew Martelli called the roll, and a quorum was present at 10:00am.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

The Pledge was recited.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 16, 2025.

Motion was made by Ray Bennett and seconded by Ron Gagliardi to approve the meeting minutes from the previous meetings and seconded by Ron Gagliardi. All voted in favor.

4. DRAFTING COMMUNITY LETTER.

The letter was submitted to the Chamber for their approval at their Board Meeting on November 18th. Once approved it will be distributed to their membership and to the Community at large. The pdf will be shared with the committee.

5. GRAPHIC HISTORY PROJECT.

On November 3rd there was a pilot workshop and a debrief on the 4th held at the Cheshire Public Library to gauge ability for the graphic history project. Diane will be compiling costs for publishing the final document. A grant will be sought for the project with possible support from the Friends of the Cheshire Public Library. Total cost is being developed.

6. WINTER WONDERLAND PLANNING

The group discussed the Winter Wonderland booth. A series of developed graphic history pieces will be enlarged and mounted for display at no cost. Diane has purchased the America 250 flag for display. Ray will bring additional flags and a sign for the booth. Two 10 x 10 tents will be connected and erected for the Winter Wonderland with sides and tables. The Committee would like to be situated near the bathroom building if possible. Andrew to coordinate with the Town Parks Department for ideal placement. A postcard will be distributed at the event. 150 copies of the America 250 letter will be made by the Town for placement at the table.

7. BARTLEM PARK – JULY 4TH 2026 – EVENT LOGISTICS

Andrew Martelli discussed efforts by the Town Beautification Committee 18x24nd the establishment of signs and plantings around Town. Ray Bennett discussed producing enlarged visual histories (18x24) of the original 56 signers.

8. FUTURE MEETING DATES.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 9th at 10:00am.

9. ALL OTHER BUSINESS

Ball & Socket will be hosting their Holiday Stroll on December 14th from 1-5pm the Committee will be inquiring about having a table at the event. It was discussed adding committee members, but it was decided to invite individuals to the meetings rather than enlarging the committee. Ron inquired if we had letters from the Revolutionary war with local ties. Diane discussed research she had conducted at the Historical Society. Ron would like to compile a 16 panel po-bo (poster-book) to distribute. Ron discussed time capsules with multiple different eras and examples will be added to the agenda for the December meeting.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Ron Gagliardi motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Ray Bennett seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously, 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

Attest: Andrew Martelli
Andrew Martelli, Assistant Town Manager



CHESHIRE CT GRAPHIC HISTORY PROJECT

**A Sampling of Submitted Comics to
Celebrate Our Town's History**

December 2025

This document contains submissions made ahead of the
project release to give a sense of
the Cheshire CT Graphic History Project

Cheshire CT Graphic Project Committee: Megan Jeffery, Sandra Hernandez, Emily Lennon,
Diane Calabro

Contact: Diane Calabro, Town Historian
(203) 641-6631 townhistorian@cheshirect.org or dacalabro@cox.net

Introduction & Invitation

We are excited to promote and engage our Cheshire Community with the Cheshire CT Graphic History project which invites people of all ages and skillsets to participate. Workshops and Comic Readings are planned for the coming year. We will assemble a book of the many graphic history pieces submitted to us. Like a quilt of many patterns, our Cheshire history will unfold in these pages, sharing the stories of our town as told in our history books, as well as the stories of people who live or have lived in our town. Can you think of a Cheshire story you would like to share with us? We're certain you have a story that says, "Yeah, that's what it's like to live in my town."

Contents in this Package

While we have not officially opened this project to submissions, here are some initial examples that should provide you with a sense of what we hope to accomplish.

Date	Title
1680	1680-1780 Word Salad
1766	Taxation Without Representation: Remarks about the Stamp Act
1770	Amasa Hitchcock, Jr., Cheshire Detective
1770	Hey, Edward Augustus Cornwall, Save Some Jobs for the Rest of Us!
1770	Taxation Without Representation: Austerity During The Stamp Act
1775	Eldad Parker Drops Everything to Go to Battle
1783	Meet the Amazing Miss Lucinda Foote
1870	John Lambert Foot, Cheshire Druggist
1920	Alice Washburn, Architect
1935	Emma Fitch Guilford, The Library Lady
	Living Next to the Ten Mile River
2024	Marty the Robot, We Meet Again

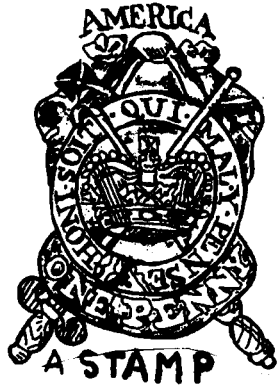
We hope you enjoy the following – and you feel inspired to start your own graphic history pieces! Look for workshops and programs about Cheshire CT Graphic History Project in the coming months.

People share with us that they can't draw, won't draw, or don't draw – don't worry! Our workshops are designed for people of all skill levels! We are also looking for people who want to research and write stories that others can render into images. There are roles for proofreaders and to help with the publishing of the graphic history book. There are many activities and we welcome anyone who might like to join us for this project!



Submitted by residents during Cheshire Graphic History Workshops

Oxen & Horses Plan a Half a Day Horse Ride to New Haven (13 miles)
Stagecoaches Prince Rev. Foot The West Farms
Wallingford Colony Hitchcock Family Revolutionary War
Grain Connecticut Boston Tea Party
Continental Army 1680 - 1780 English Rule
Copper Mines Stamp Act
Sheep Corn
Fields Hotchkiss
Gristmill Ye Fresh Meddoes King George III
West Indies Trade Moss Farms Puritan American The Colonies
Flax Farming Ives
Spinning Forest Independence Hunnepot River
Tenn Mile River The Shot Heard Round The World Doolittle Militia
Beach Scott's Rock Brooksvale Keye Witch
Quinnipiac Tribes Congregational Church Smallpox Epidemic
Home-based factories making spoons and jewelry on Cheshire Street



THE STAMP ACT:



THIS WAS HIS IDEA



KING GEORGE III

ELIAKIM & ESTHER HITCHCOCK ARE **ANGRY**
THEY LIVED ON CHURCH DRIVE - 1760'S

WE MIGHT LIVE IN THE
COLONIES - BUT WE
STILL HAVE
RIGHTS!
THIS IS TRUE!

THERE IS
THE CHARTER
OF 1662 THAT
SUPPORTS US!



THIS BLASTED
STAMP ACT IS A
CURSE FROM THE
DEVIL!

INDEED! IT TAXES
NEWSPAPERS,
CARDS, LEGAL
PAPERS, BILLS,
LICENSES ...



FOUR YEARS AGO
WE WERE ALL
TAXED BY HOUSE-
HOLD - IT WAS
A LOT OF MONEY!

THEN THEY
TAXED SUGAR,
WINE - TEA!
THIS TEA IS NINT
FROM OUR
GARDEN!

IT IS
AWFUL.

I
KNOW.



KING GEORGE
HAS THE LARGEST
EMPIRE IN THE
WORLD - AND AS
MUCH
DEBT!

WE SHOULD NOT
HAVE TO PAY
THESE TAXES!
WE SHOULD BE
OUR OWN
COUNTRY!

OH MY...

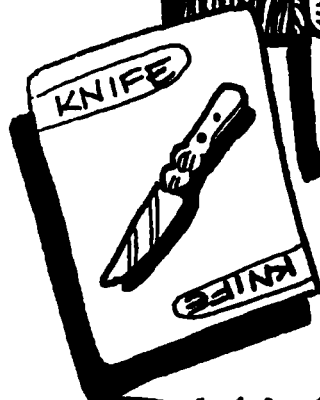


Cock-a-Doodee Clive!

A LONG TIME AGO IN CHESHIRE CT.

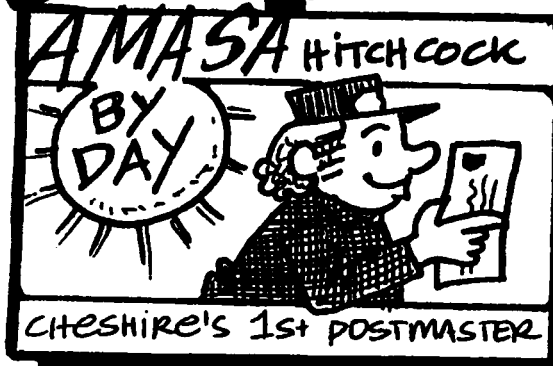


SEVERAL YOUNG PEOPLE HAD GATHERED AT 193 SOUTH MAIN STREET, THE HOME OF THE CELEBRATED DR. THOMAS TRYON CORNWALL,



URING THE EVENING, A VALUABLE KNIFE, OWNED BY ONE OF THE PARTY, WENT MISSING... INQUIRIES WERE MADE, BUT THE MISSING KNIFE COULD NOT BE FOUND.

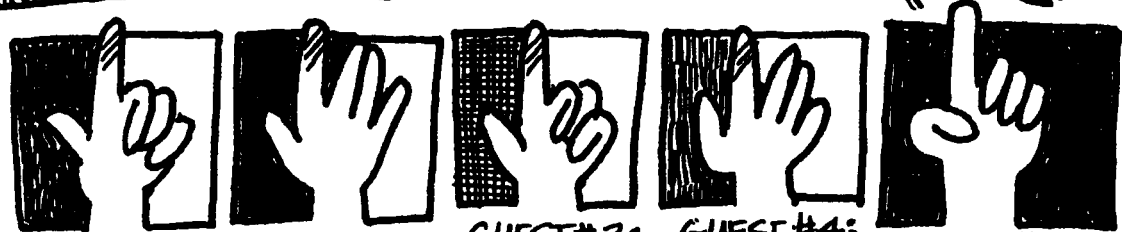
FINALLY, AMASA HITCHCOCK WAS CALLED IN TO ACT AS A "PRIVATE DETECTIVE"...



THE LAST PARTYGOER PASSED BY THE KETTLE OF TRUTH, WITH NO CROWING FROM THIS GUY.



May I please HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF EXAMINING YOUR **FINGERS?**



GUEST #1: BLACKENED FINGER. GUEST #2: BLACKENED FINGER. GUEST #3: BLACKENED FINGER. GUEST #4: YOU GUESSED IT: BLACKENED FINGER! GUEST #5: NO BLACKENED FINGER!



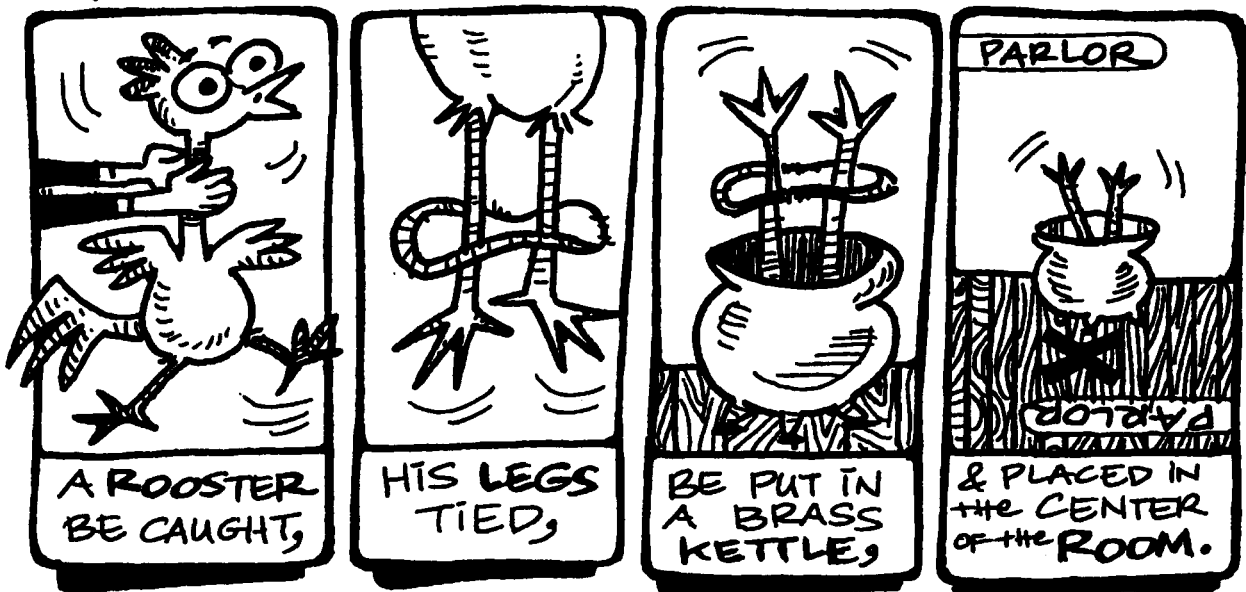
A-HA!
IT'S YOU!

HITCHCOCK HAD FOUND THE CULPRIT!
& THE KNIFE WAS RETURNED!

& WHAT BECAME OF THE ROOSTER YOU ASK?

... NO COCK-A-DOODLE GLUE! ? ? ?

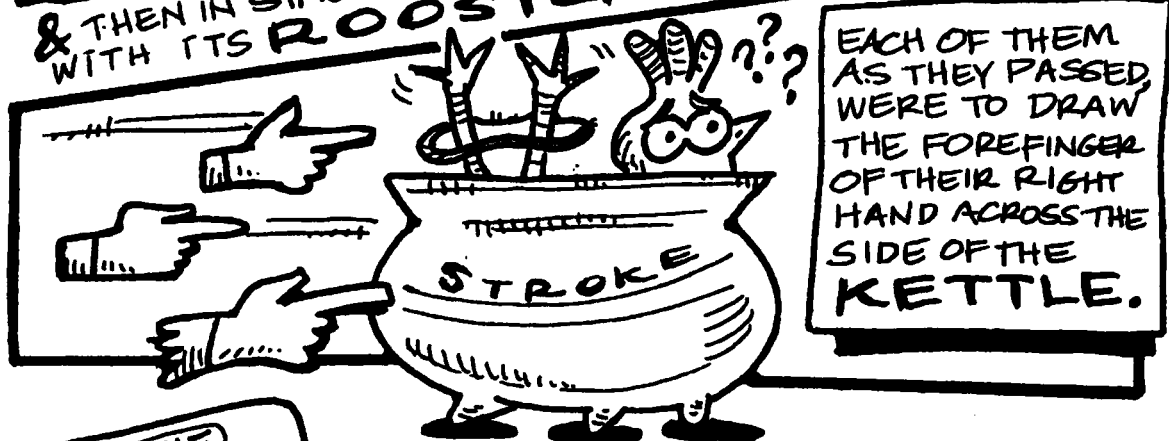
"DETECTIVE" HITCHCOCK ORDERED THAT...



HITCHCOCK THEN ORDERED THE ENTIRE COMPANY TO STAND IN A ROW, IN REGULAR ORDER, WITH THEIR TOES EVEN WITH A CRACK IN THE FLOOR.



& THEN IN SINGLE FILE, TO PASS IN FRONT OF THE POT WITH ITS ROOSTER OCCUPANT;



WHEN THE THIEF STROKES
THE SIDE OF THE KETTLE
THE ROOSTER WILL CROW!

COCK-A-DOODLE
WHO DUNNIT?

hey,

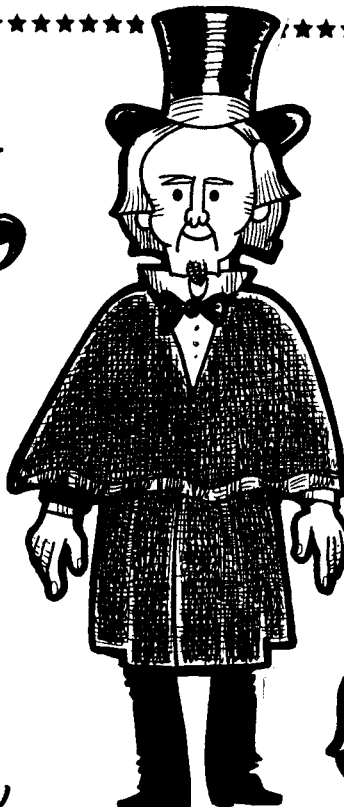


LAWYER

EDWARD AUGUSTUS CORNWALL

SAVE SOME JOBS for the REST of US!

EDWARD A. CORNWALL (1802-1889), THE SON OF DR. THOMAS TRYON CORNWALL & LUCINDA FOOTE CORNWALL, WAS PROMINENT IN THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OF CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT. HE SERVED BOTH CHURCH & TOWN, HOLDING NEARLY EVERY POSITION. HE WAS THE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, SELECTMAN, JUDGE OF PROBATE, TOWN CLERK, & SERVED AS A REPRESENTATIVE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SEVEN TIMES! HE WAS A GIFT TO HIS FELLOW TOWNS PEOPLE.



JUSTICE OF THE PEACE



SELECTMAN



JUDGE OF PROBATE



TOWN CLERK



STATE REP

FOR EVERY
TAX LEVIED
CHESHIRE
PEOPLE
EITHER...

TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION

...MANUFACTURED AN
ITEM THEMSELVES
OR INVENTED
A SUBSTITUTE
TAKE THAT
KING GEORGE!

"THE PATRIOTIC MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN OF THE PARISH OF NEW CHESHIER, HAD, IN COMMON WITH THE PEOPLE IN OTHER TOWNS, EXPRESSED IN VARIOUS WAYS THEIR DETERMINED OPPOSITION TO MANY LAWS THE "KING IN COUNCIL" HAD PROMULGATED." -BEACH HISTORY



WHEN TEA WAS
TAXED, THE
WOMEN DRANK
NO TEA

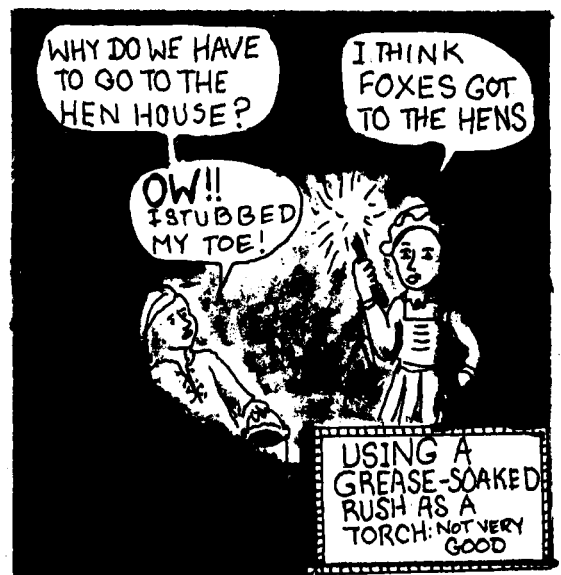
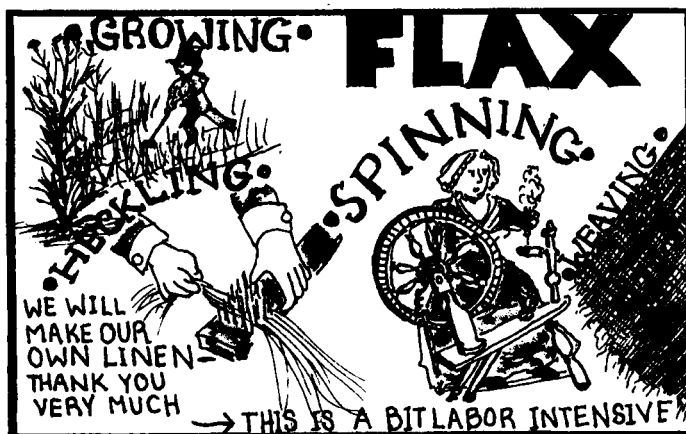
FIRST I'M GONNA
SHEER YOU, THEN
SPIN YOUR WOOL INTO
YARN TO MAKE
CLOTHING. HOLD
STILL PLEASE



WHEN THE LAW
CAME THAT
IMPOSED A DUTY

UPON ENGLISH CLOTH, THE MEN
SHEARED THEIR OWN SHEEP AND THE
WOMEN SPUN THE WOOL INTO YARN.

TAX ON IRISH LINEN?
OK- WE'LL DO IT OURSELVES



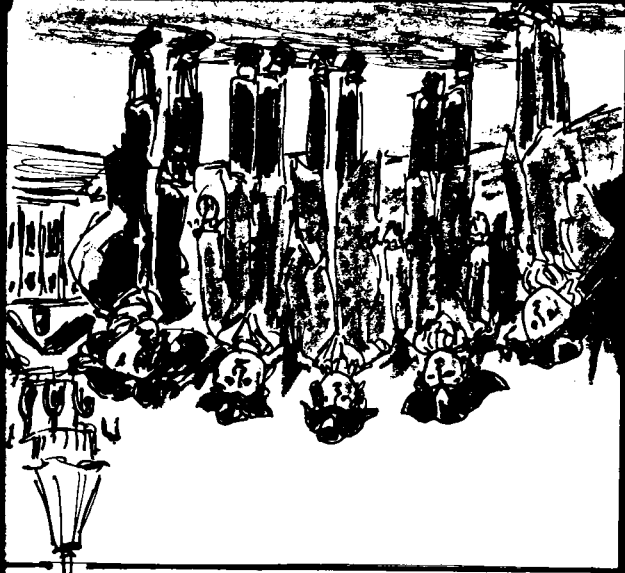
ROYAL MONOPOLY ON CANDLES?
NO PROBLEM, WE MADE OUR OWN BY
DIPPING RUSHES IN HOT GREASE. LET
THE GREASE COOL AND LIGHT THEM!

On July 5, 1779,
Eldad Parker of
Cheshire Street was

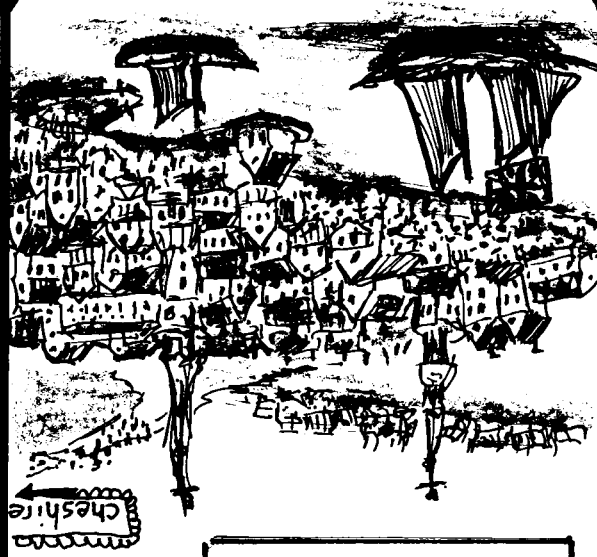
in the field reaping grain



He joined with members
of the Cheshire militia



They made off
for New Haven



The British! General Tryon!
They've landed in New Haven

What's the
fuss about?

No way!



Parker left his
scythe in the field

Gotta Go!



Eldad Parker was killed in

the ensuing battle along

with 26 other patriots.



MEET the AMAZING Miss LUCINDA FOOTER!



"Altogether a woman of much learning & great mental power."
Lucinda's descendants
★★★★★

THE FEMALE
1ST TO PASS THE ENTRANCE
EXAMS @ YALE!
in 789! @ THE AGE OF 12!

★ ABLE TO READ VIRGIL'S AENEID & CICERO'S SPEECHES in LATIN!

★ CAN TRANSLATE THE GOSPEL OF ST. JOHN FROM the GREEK!

★ AN ACCOMPLISHED HEBREW SCHOLAR!

★ Personally TUTORED by YALE PRESIDENT, EZRA STILES

WERE IT NOT FOR HER SEX, SHE WOULD BE CONSIDERED FIT TO BE ADMITTED AS A STUDENT in the FRESHMAN CLASS.

WOW, Ezra Stiles



LUCINDA NEVER RECEIVED A YALE DEGREE, BUT WAS GIVEN A Certificate of MERIT from President Stiles.

PARCHMENT.

JOHN LAMBERT FOOT (1817-1906)

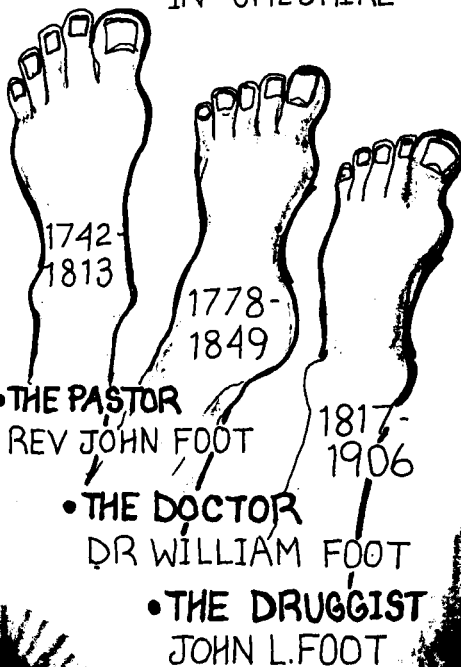
CHESHIRE DRUGGIST

JOHN L. FOOT WAS THE ONLY DRUGGIST IN CHESHIRE AT A TIME WHEN PROFESSIONALS COMPOUNDED THEIR OWN MEDICATIONS USING "RECIPES" FOUND IN A FORMULARY THAT VICTORIAN DRUGGISTS DEVELOPED THEMSELVES AND FINETUNED AS THEY ADMINISTERED THESE REMEDIES.



JOHN L. FOOT, DRUGGIST

THREE GENERATIONS OF FOOTS
IN CHESHIRE



THE FOOT PEDIGREE

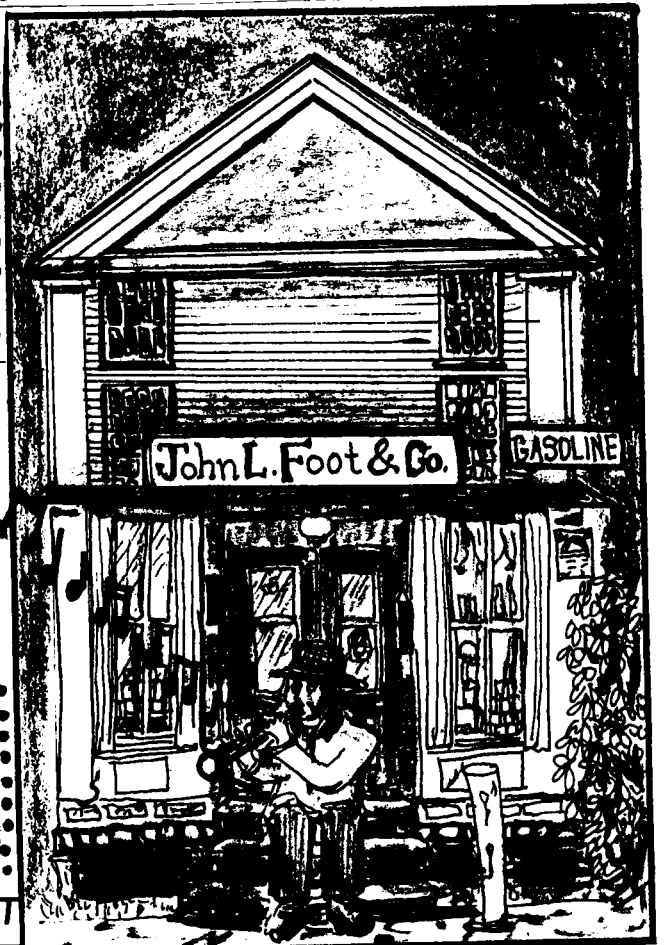
JOHN FOOT'S GRANDFATHER WAS THE SECOND MINISTER OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH & LIVED ACROSS FROM CHESHIRE COFFEE. HIS FATHER WAS DR. WILLIAM LAMBERT FOOT, A BELOVED, CIVIC-MINDED DOCTOR WHO STARTED THE DRUG STORE WITH HIS SON

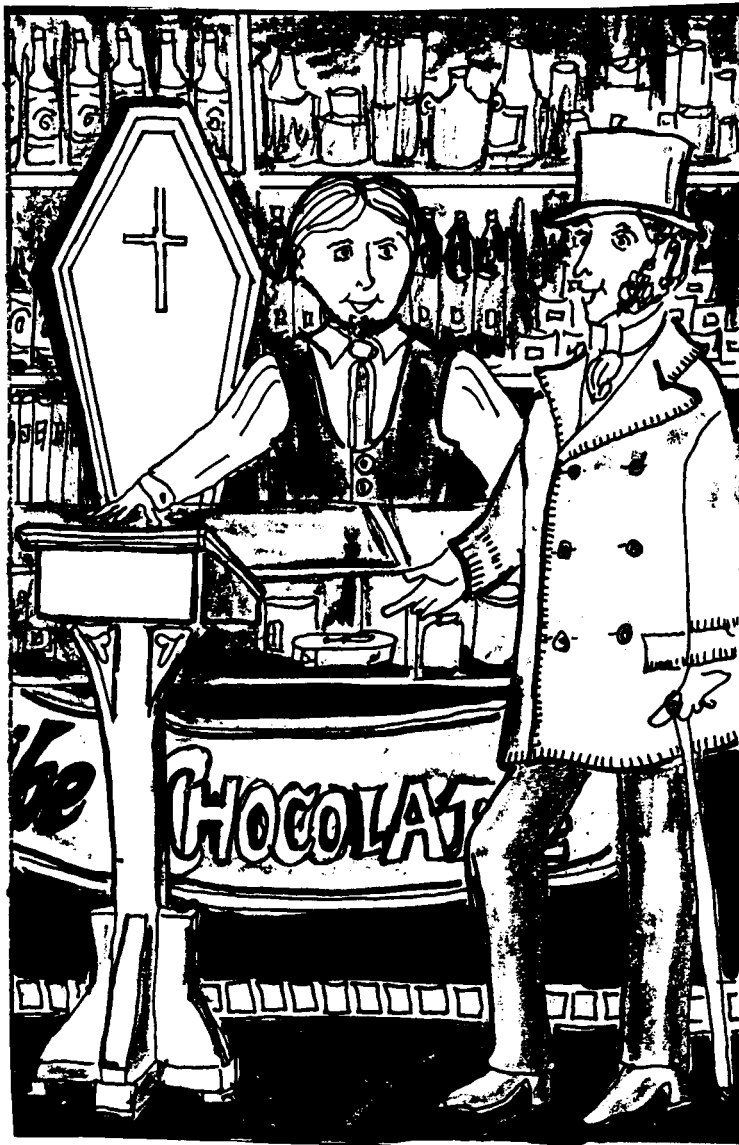


JOHN L. FOOT & CO.,
DRUGGISTS CHESHIRE, CONN
JOHN FOOT'S FATHER PASSED IN 1849. FOR THE NEXT 50 YEARS, JOHN FOOT RUNS THE DRUG STORE, EXPANDING IT & INCREASING THE SHOP'S INVENTORY. HE WAS GOOD AT LEARNING A TUNE. HE ENJOYED PLAYING HIS CLARINET ON THE STORE'S STEPS AFTER HOURS

FANCIER FOOT'S ADDED AN "E"
MAKING THEIR LAST NAME FOOTE

JOHN LAMBERT FOOT DID NOT DO THAT





A SHOP WITH EVERYTHING

JOHN FOOT HAD EVERYTHING IN HIS SHOP. SOMEONE WANTED A COFFIN - HE HAD THREE. SOMEONE WANTED A PULPIT - HE HAD ONE. HE WAS SELLING GASOLINE - THE ONLY PLACE IN TOWN THAT DID. HE ALSO SOLD KIBBE CHOCOLATES, MADE AT THE KIBBE CHOCOLATE FACTORY IN SPRINGFIELD, MASS. NOT BAD FOR A SMALL-TOWN DRUG STORE.

DON'T WASTE THE TIME OF A BUSY MAN THERE WERE RUMORS THAT JOHN FOOT DIDN'T LIKE WOMEN. HE KEPT THEM WAITING WHILE HE DID OTHER THINGS, OR, MANY SAID WHILE HE DID NOTHING AT ALL.

PERHAPS HE WAS LEGITIMATELY BUSY AS HE WAS COMPOUNDING OVER 600 REMEDIES EVERY YEAR.



A BRILLIANT INVESTOR JOHN FOOT PASSED AWAY AT THE AGE OF 89. HE IS THE LAST OF THE ILLUSTRIOUS FOOT FAMILY TO LIVE IN CHESHIRE. HIS SHOP & WORLDLY GOODS WERE WORTH \$3,000. SURPRISE! HIS INVESTMENTS WERE WORTH \$440,000 OR \$11 MILLION IN TODAY'S MONEY. HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE RICHEST MAN IN CHESHIRE. SOMEONE FOUND A BOTTLE OF GOLD COINS BURIED ON HIS PROPERTY. ARE THERE MORE?

ALICE WASHBURN

BORN ON CORNWALL AVE.
JULY 15, 1870

THE
TRYTHALL
FARM

ALICE WORKING
AT HER DESK - THIS
IS THE ONLY
REMAINING
IMAGE OF HER



ALICE GREW UP AT
156 CORNWALL AVENUE, THE
AMASA PRESTON HOUSE. SHE
REFURBISHED THIS HOME WITH
HER OWN ARCHITECTURAL STYLE.
1919-1933 - YEARS OF OPERATION

CHESHIRE ARCHITECT

ALICE WAS A BRILIANT
ARCHITECT - BUT NOT
AN ACCOUNTANT

SHE LOST HER MAIN
STREET
HOUSE



364 WEST
MAIN ST.

ALICE TOLD
PEOPLE SHE
WAS THE
GARDENER

I HAVE TO
MAKE SURE
THIS IS
BUILT
CORRECTLY

PEOPLE
LOVED
ALICE'S
HOUSES



EVERYTHING ALICE
DID WAS PERFECT

446 MAPLE AVE

ALICE HAD
THE LANDLADY
REPAINT THE
APARTMENT
TO A NICER
COLOR



CHESHIRE NEWS

ALICE WASHBURN
DECLARES
BANKRUPTCY !!



FROM 1933-1954
ALICE LIVED WITH
HER SISTER AT
THE FOOTE HOUSE
THESE FINE LADIES
WERE NICKNAMED
"THE ORCHIDS"
THE LADIES THEN
MOVED TO MAPLE

ALICE F. TRYTHALL
WIFE OF
EDWARD M. WASHBURN
1870 - 1958



\$ \$
126 '27 '28 '29
ALSO THE YEAR
HE HUSBAND
DIED



1 TEASPOON SODA, 1 TEASPOON SALT, 1/3 CUP MOLASSES, 1 3/4 CUP MILK & WATER. BAKE IN A MODERATE OVEN. - MRS. I.M. GUILFORD

CHESHIRE

Library Lady

WHO LIKED TO BAKE

Breads



EMMA FITCH
GUILFORD
1887 - 1957

A BOSTON GIRL WHO MARRIED IRVING M. GUILFORD, A BALL + SOCKET EXECUTIVE, AND SHE EXPECTED A WONDERFUL LIFE. HER HUSBAND DIED YOUNG. EMMA HAS MANY CHILDREN, HAS TO SUPPORT HER FAMILY, GETS A JOB AT CHESHIRE PUBLIC LIBRARY AND DOES REALLY WELL IN THAT ROLE. SHE'S KNOWN AS THE LIBRARY LADY

RECIPE FOR QUICK HEALTH BREAD

FROM A 1918 COOKBOOK - RECIPE SUBMITTED BY EMMA:

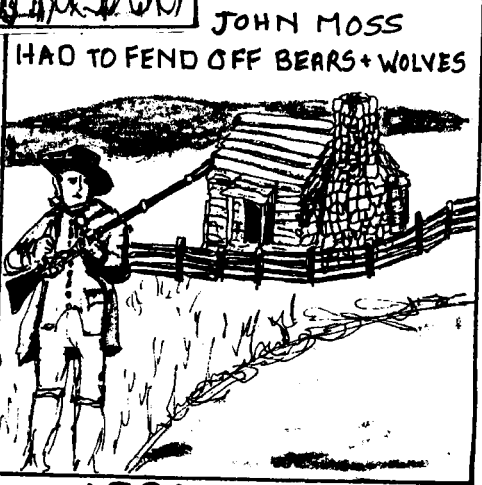
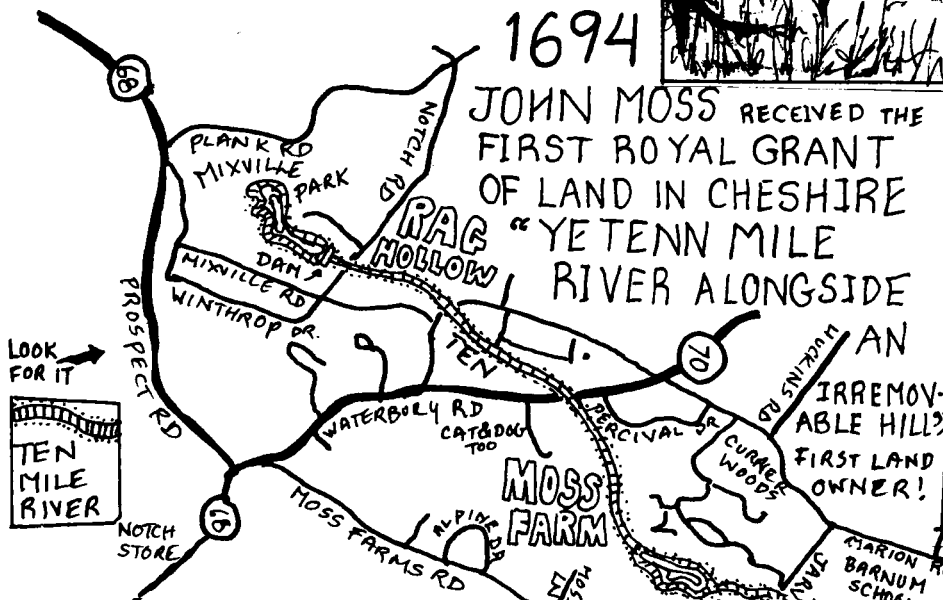
QUICK HEALTH BREAD - 1 CUP CORN MEAL, 1 CUP WHEAT FLOUR, 1/2 CUP WHITE FLOUR, 1/2 CUP BRAN,

FOOD
AND FINE
HELPED
CROCK
POTS
MUFFINS
EAT ME
POD DRESS
COOKING
STEW S
BEEF
BETTY
CROCKERS
EAT ME
JAY OF
GOOD LUCK
COOKING

TEN MILE RIVER

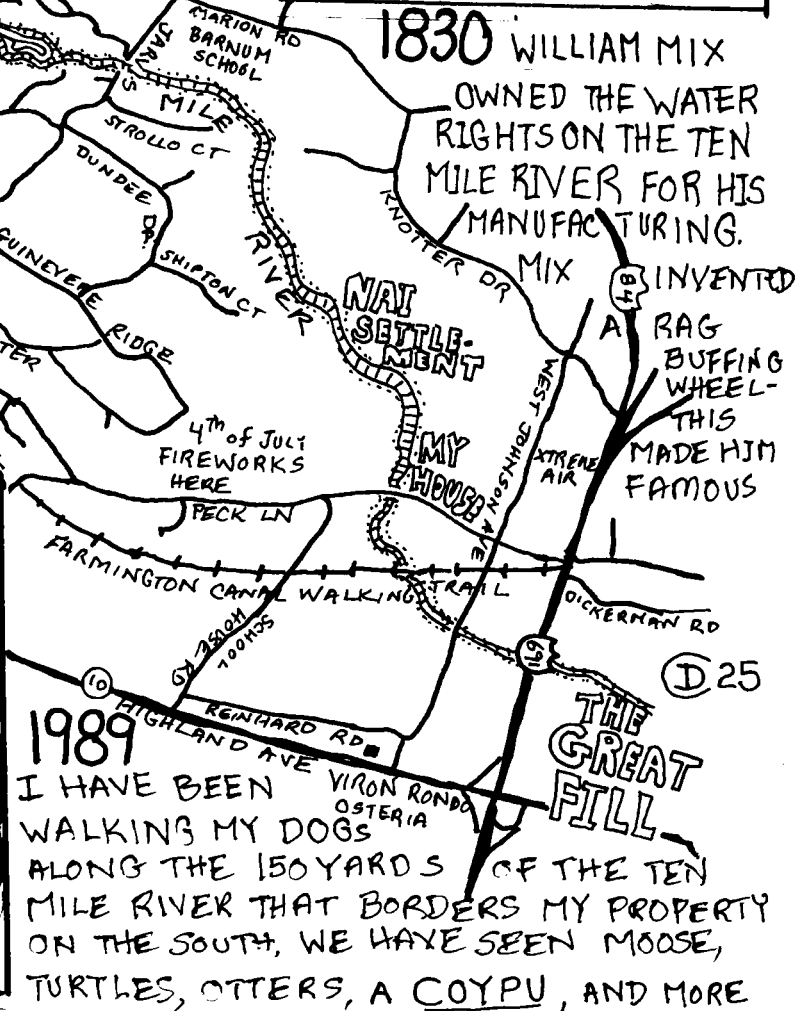


QUINNIPIAC PEOPLE WERE AN INDIGENOUS TRIBE WHOSE TERRITORY INCLUDED CHESHIRE MANY ARROW-HEADS HAVE BEEN FOUND BY THE TEN MILE RIVER



TEN MILE RIVER NOW BEGINS AT THE DAM HERE

1961 "MIXVILLE" WAS FIRST CALLED RAG HOLLOW, THEN NAMED MIXVILLE FOR WM. MIX. THESE 89 ACRES BECAME A PARK IN 1961. NOW 135 ACRES!



Diane

June 4, 2025



- MARTY -