

# Grist from Chase's Mill

May 2020



*The back of Chase's Mill. Photo by Keene Sentinel photographer Michael Moore.*

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***Change is the only constant in life.***

*Ben Franklin*

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*What's the expression about the best laid plans...?*

Although we're on track to open Chase's Mill this summer, like everyone else, our plans have gone awry, a consequence of Coronavirus circumstances beyond our control. Rather than grappling with issues such as when to do a ribbon cutting, instead we find ourselves asking questions that include: How do we adapt? How do we deliver relevant programming, lively discussions and robust events if no one can come to the Mill? How do we serve our community of neighbors and friends?

Our Mission is:

***To serve as a center for experiential learning, as a living museum that preserves our past and looks to our future, and as a place where people can gather to exchange ideas.***

We've made some hard choices, and want to let you know the path we've chosen. First, we are moving forward with construction of remaining items and will be **ready** to open by the end of July. However, safety is our first priority. Contingent on state and federal guidelines and restrictions, we hope to be able to offer small group tours on a limited basis. However, we have decided to postpone in-person classes until next year.

Instead, we're going to utilize 21<sup>st</sup> century technology to deliver some "old school" events.

Beginning **Tuesday, May 26, from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m., EST**, Chase's Mill will launch a monthly series of virtual gatherings entitled, ***A Sense of Place***. We're excited about the ability to connect with our friends and supporters from across the country and hope you'll join in.

The first event in the series, ***Stories from Mill Hollow Over the Years*** is an opportunity to learn more about this magical place through the memories and experiences of others. Participants will be welcome to share a story or simply enjoy listening to others. There is no charge but advance registration is required. [For details or to register, please click here.](#) Also, more details will be emailed soon.

On **Tuesday, June 30**, ***A Sense of Place*** will continue with its second event, ***An Evening of Poetry and Music from "The Holler."*** Ellen Chase will read poems by her mother, Edith Newlin Chase, written in and about Mill Hollow. She will also treat us to a poem or two from her own recently published collection, *A Cow Named Joy*. Next, Alstead composer and musician Randy Miller will connect us to New England's musical roots, as he performs pieces for the fiddle. One is called, *Mill Hollow Reel*, composed to commemorate the area, when Heman and Edith were still alive.

On **Tuesday, July 28**, the third event, ***Water Works*** will be hosted by Bob Brown and Helen Frink. Bob, who took many shop classes at the Mill and has been overseeing renovations, will offer a virtual tour of its water power. Helen, an author and historian, will discuss the history of mills and their importance in the

development of manufacturing in New England.

Depending on your feedback and suggestions, we may expand this series and offer other on-line programs as the summer progresses.

Details will be arriving via email and also on Facebook.

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## ***Chase's Mill Receives Two Important Grants and a Donation***

We are happy to let you know that the Mill Hollow Heritage Association is the recipient of two important grants and a generous donation of land connecting the Mill to its source. Especially in difficult financial times, these grants will enable us to complete construction and restore what will become an important educational tool.

**The Northern Border Regional Commission** (NBRC) has awarded MHHA a grant in the amount of \$78,622. This is part of a four-state, economic development investment administered by the **New Hampshire Preservation Alliance**. These funds will help to make Chase's Mill welcoming to all and will be used to build an ADA lift, install plumbing and septic, finish work to the community room, and will be used towards providing enhanced parking.

The second award is from the **Bailey Charitable Trust** in the amount of \$5,000. These funds are earmarked for the reclamation of a stretch of land donated by long-time Mill Hollow resident and timber-framer **Chris Madigan**. Some will remember "Lake Edith," as Heman Chase called it in honor of his wife. This strip of land runs roughly from Prentice Hill and Pine Cliff roads to Route 123 and includes the brook running from Lake Warren to the Mill. Heman used its gentle banks for small-scale demonstrations of waterpower.



We are deeply appreciative of these grants and of Chris Madigan's generous donation.

*Photo of Lake Edith in the 1980s by Les Hubbard*



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### ***Water Powered Demonstration System***

Even with social distancing, work is happening inside the Mill. Big shout out to electrical engineer **Tom Nostrand**, Heman's former student at the mill. Now of Hinesburg, VT, Tom has donated many hours and materials designing and constructing a 12V water powered electrical demonstration system for the Mill. We are deeply appreciative. Thank you, Tom!

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### ***MHHA In the News***

News of the NBRC grant award was covered by the [Keene Sentinel](#).

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### ***What Is This?***

Curator and board member Jim Howard and his team have been working through the winter identifying, photographing, and cataloguing artifacts in the Mill. Can you identify this tool? Do you know how it was used? If so, email us at: [admin@millhollowheritageassociation.org](mailto:admin@millhollowheritageassociation.org).

We'll announce the correct answer in the next newsletter!



***Mystery Item***



Along similar lines, to date, this has stumped the artifacts team. If you can tell us anything about this mysterious object, please email us at the above address.

Thanks!



Mason **Nathaniel Noyes** makes repairs to the chimney upstairs. This work was funded by a grant received last year by **Putnam Foundation**.

Stay well. Stay connected. And **join us on May 26 for the first event in our *Sense of Place Series, Stories from Mill Hollow Over the Years***. Also, if you have a particular skill you'd like to share that would work well in an on-line format, please let us know.

Thank you,

**Sharon Spaulding**, President / Communications

**Michael Chaladoff**, VP / Treasurer

**Betsy Anderson**, Secretary & Governance

**Bob Brown**, Construction Manager

**Helen Frink**, Grants

**Jim Gruber**, Community Programming

**Jim Howard**, Collections Manager & Curating

**Cathy Jahos**, Communications

**Bryony Romer**, Fundraising

***Our promise is to provide a safe, welcoming environment in which people of all ages and backgrounds can come together to learn, to build, to tinker, and to create.***