

Port Chester – Old, New and Changing

OLD, NEW AND CHANGING

READ: Think about the meanings of these words as you read.

**frontier industrial agricultural wilderness residential
settlers major community natural resources scarce
bartering fertile ammunition needlepoint crewel**

WRITE: Write the answers to the following questions after you read the information.

1. Why did many settlers become farmers?

2. What work did the settlers do at home?

3. How did the settlers get food?

4. What is bartering?

Port Chester began as a small settlement on Manursing Island and has developed and grown in many ways. Our village has changed from a **frontier wilderness** to a rich **agricultural** area to a **major** seaport to the **industrial residential community** we know today.

The early leaders of our village made wise decisions. They selected a fine location for Port Chester which encouraged some of America's foremost industries to locate here. These factors laid the foundation for Port Chester's continuing growth and changing image.

The first settlers who came here over three hundred years ago found a land rich in **natural resources: fertile** soil, thick forests, plenty of water, and a long growing season. As a result of these favorable conditions, many **settlers** turned to farming to make their living.

Many of the wants and needs of the early settlers were supplied through their own labor. Settlers spun their own yarn, wove their own blankets, and knitted their own clothes. During the winter months, farm women did handicraft work such as **needlepoint** or **crewel** to pass the time.



Long ago, there were many ways to make a living. People who lived near the Byram River fished. Others hunted deer and trapped beaver. Food, which was plentiful, came from the Long Island Sound, the Byram River, the soil and the animals. Since money was **scarce**, goods were traded instead of bought. For example: Families might exchange guns and **ammunition** for firewood. This system is called **“bartering”**.

Sawpit – A Thriving Trading Center

READ: Think about the meanings of these words as you read.

trading	cordwainer	hatter
flourished	saddler	weaver
wheelwright	tailor	meal enterprises

WRITE: Write the answers to the following questions as you read the information.

1. Why were ships built in Sawpit?

2. How were sloops used?

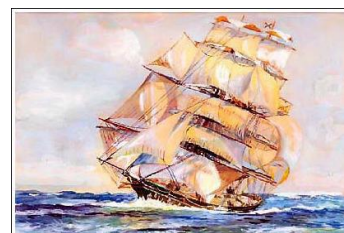
3. Why were mills built along the river?

4. How did people make a living in the 1750's?

In 1732, our area became known as Sawpit, a name derived from the practice of sawing logs in pits. This work was done at the point where today lower Westchester Avenue meets the Byram River. Ships were needed for fishing and **trading**. Many people made a living by shipbuilding. Shipbuilding was one of the earliest and most important industries in our village.

Who built the Ships in New England?

- ❖ It took many kinds of workers to build the ships of New England.
- ❖ Lumbermen cut down the tall pine trees to make the tall masts for the ships.
- ❖ Carpenters built the wooden parts of the ships.
- ❖ Ropemakers made ropes for the ships.
- ❖ Sailmakers made the ships' sails.
- ❖ Blacksmiths made nails and anchors and other hardware for the ships.
- ❖ Coopers made barrels to hold food and drink for the long voyage.
- ❖ Sailors and captains sailed on ships.
- ❖ Ships and shipbuilding kept many, many men busy.



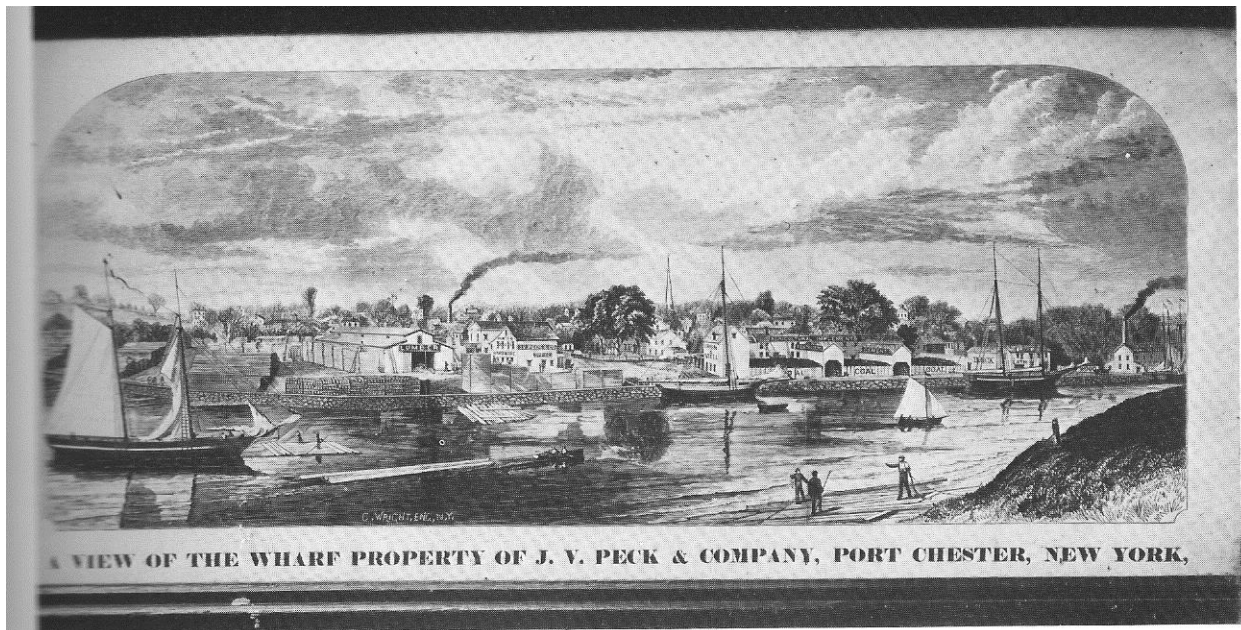
The boats made in Sawpit were called sloops. They were used to carry produce from the local farms to New York City. Apples, potatoes, and tobacco were carried to the market. These same boats also carried oysters and clams which were found in the Byram River and around Captain's Island in Long Island Sound. On return trips, the sloops carried manufactured goods from New York City for the townspeople. In time, Sawpit became a thriving trading center.

One businessman, Jared V. Peck, owned several mills on the Byram River. The grist mill was important to the early settlers. It was used to grind corn into **meal**. The first mill to be built in our area was the Kirby Mill, which began operating in 1670.

Mr. Peck took full advantage of the many streams to provide water power for his mills. His **enterprises** were varied and he provided the area and New York City with such products as grain, packed pork and beef, and vegetables. He helped to change our village from an agricultural area to a manufacturing and trading center.

By the 1750s, a variety of **trades flourished** in Sawpit. There were **wheelwrights, cordwainers**, carpenters, **saddlers, tailors, hatters, weavers**, and ropemakers. They usually worked in a shop that was attached to the family's house. Children learned these skills as part of their education.

At the beginning of the 19th Century, Dr. Clark Sanford, established a mill for grinding drugs. By this time, mills were a common sight along the Byram River because the river was an excellent source of power.



Sawpit – An Important Military Post



General Israel Putnam

READ: Think about the meanings of these words as you read.

allies militia resistant
skirmishes encampment Redcoats
Continental Army

WRITE: Write the answers to the following questions as you read the information.

1. What happened to Sawpit during the war?

2. Who was General Israel Putnam?

3. What do you think would have happened if the Continental Army lost the war?

Throughout the 1700's, the thirteen colonies grew rapidly. New settlements started and towns and cities increased in size. Manufacturing and farming became important activities. Many colonists felt they no longer needed to depend on Great Britain as they had in the past.

The colonists became increasingly **resistant** to British rules and taxation. Finally, on April 29, 1775, war began between the colonies and Great Britain. This is known as the Revolutionary War or the War of Independence.

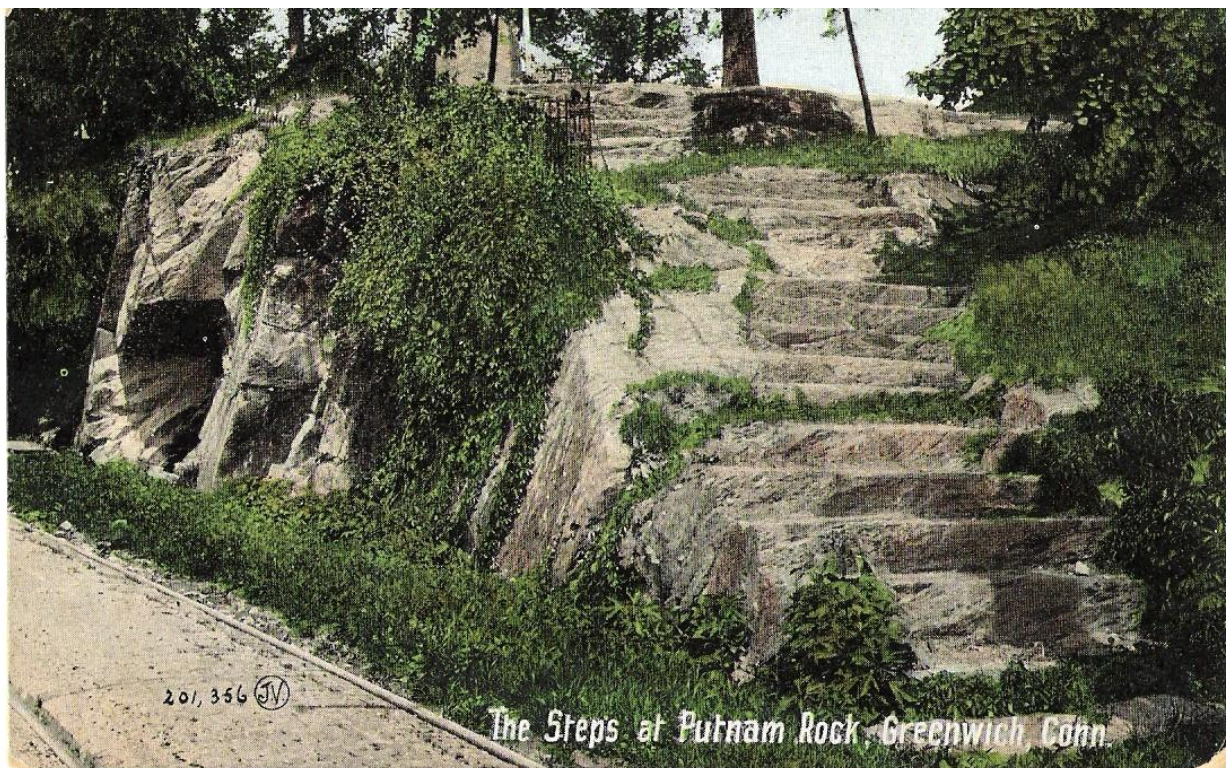
During the war, Sawpit was the center of much violence and bloodshed. It was an important military outpost of the **Continental Army**. William Street, commonly known as Sniffin's Hill, (presently "Bloomer's Hill" on William Street) held an **encampment** of American forces. The hill was an excellent position for observation because of its height. This area was occupied by the military during the war. French troops, **allies** of the Continental Army, were stationed on the west side of King Street.

Byram and Glenville Bridges were sites of **skirmishes** between the Continental Army and the British **Redcoats**. In order to maintain control of this area, an American General, Israel Putnam, established headquarters at the Bush Homestead, presently located in Lyon Park on King Street. In one local battle, the American Army could not prevent the British from destroying the Greenwich Salt Works. During the battle, General Putnam escaped down Puts Hill and galloped by horseback to Stamford, Connecticut where he reassembled the **militia** who returned to fight the British at the Byram Bridge.

The Revolutionary War ended in 1781. Two years later, in 1783, a peace treaty was signed and a new nation was born: The United States of America.



Bush Homestead, located in Lyon Park on King Street



<http://www2.lhric.org/pocantico/links/4thgrade.htm>
<http://myrevolutionarywar.com>



...FLASHBACKS, an original musical history of Port Chester

Book & lyrics: Camille Linen; Music & Lyrics: Donna Cribari

Neutral Ground

(Enter two brothers dressed in 18th century costume)

Whig & Tory: *(sing together)* Dear brother, we are victims
Of the time and place we're in.
You don't think the way that I do,
What is virtue for one, for the other is a sin.

Whig: You're a traitor, you're a Tory.

Tory: You're a turncoat, you're a Whig.

Whig: You left us here to join the British.

Tory: We are British, stupid pig.

Whig: I'm not British.

Tory: Fool, what are you?

Whig: All I know is what I'm not.

Dear brother, we are victims
Of the time and place we're in.
You don't think the way that I do,
What is virtue for one, for the other is a sin.

Whig: *(after song, notices Youths)* How did these people get here? What language do you speak?
Where am I?

Youth Two: English, dude, same as you.

Youth One: You are on the banks of the Byram River, in the village of Port Chester, in the county of Westchester, in the state of...

Whig: Westchester? You see, my brother, it has not changed. It is still the county of Westchester. Our laws were made for people of this neutral ground, Westchester.

Tory: Laws can change. Young man, this seems so strange. What year is it.

Youth Three: Two thousand and...What year did you think it was?

Whig: The year of Our Lord seventeen hundred and...

Tory: Surely our laws do not apply after more than 200 years.

Whig: A law is a law.

Youth Two: These guys look like the guys from the Revolution, those big hats.

Youth Three: You mean three cornered hats.

Tory: I am against revolution. My brother here believes we should be free of our Mother country, but I am a Tory, loyal to English rule, to the crown.

Whig: I am a patriot. You are a traitor. You fled to Nova Scotia with the other traitors. My own brother, a loyalist, a Tory!!!

Tory: Loyalist or not, I am entitled to my own views. Is this not the land of the free? Is this not the neutral ground?

Youth Three: During the revolution Westchester **was** called the neutral ground. You two don't sound neutral. But, what is the "law" you keep talking about?

Whig: *(takes paper from his vest and reads)* "No person that has come over to the enemy shall come into town to reside." *(shows paper to Youth)*

Tory: Yes, but that didn't give you the right to buy my property for one quarter of its value, then refuse to sell it back to me. You refused to return what was lawfully mine.

Whig: You had no right to come back, that's what the law says.

Youth One: *(reads paper)* Bedford, 1784. It looks authentic to me.

Youth Three: A primary source, let me see.

Youth One: Be careful, it's old.

Youth Three: *(takes paper gently, to Whig)* But, who's the "enemy"?

Whig: The redcoats, the British, of course.

Youth One: The war with the British was over two years before the date on this paper. We love the Brits now...Prince William

Youth Four: The Beatles. *(The Youths all look at him and say: The Beatles?)*

Youth Three: Since there's no longer an "enemy" there's no need for this law!!

Tory: My point precisely. Thank you, all of you. It has taken 200 years to settle this dispute. My brother and I died enemies and tried to find a solution on the other side.

Whig: If only you'd been a patriot in the first place, we could have settled this a lot sooner. *(They exit, still fighting)*

The Carry Trade Begins

One account from an old newspaper relates:

In 1704, the post was carried by a messenger provided with a spare horse, a horn to herald his arrival, and good portmantles ... and the only post on this continent was that which went east from New York to Rye, and so far as Boston, or west to Philadelphia.

READ: Think about the meanings of these words as you read.

post crops sloop transported produce

WRITE: Write the answers to the following questions as you read the information.

1. Why was the Post Road built?

2. What is the “carrying trade”?

3. What was Sawpit like in 1811?

Seven years of war had left much of our area a wasteland. However, villagers again joined together to rebuild their homes, businesses, and farms. Sawpit soon became a major port. Goods were **transported** to and from New York City and surrounding areas.

Colonists who wanted to travel or send goods to other colonies, used ships. However, travel by ship was slow and difficult. People had to find other methods of transportation. Roads known as post roads were built between towns from fast moving riders carrying the post or mail. These riders were know as post riders and the road was called The Boston Post Road. The rider was given one month to deliver the post from Boston to New York City.

In 1798, a local merchant named Jared V. Peck, took advantage of the excellent location of our village and started a business known as the **carrying trade**. Grain, tobacco, and other crops were bought from local farmers and then carried to New York City on four market **sloops** owned by Mr. Peck. Farmers from Byram Ridge, Hog Pen Ridge [now Ridge Street area], King Street, North Castle, and Purchase traveled by heavy wagon to sell their produce at the Sawpit Harbor.

The Village of Sawpit was described in 1811 by Dr. Timothy Dwight as a “Decent village containing fifty or sixty houses along the Byram River.” He stated, “The southern part of the village was called Sawpit, the northern, Byram.”



PUZZLE PAGE ABOUT PORT CHESTER

DIRECTIONS:

Read the clues below the puzzle and find the answers in the puzzle. Circle the answers. Some answers are spelled vertically and some are spelled horizontally.

P	S	L	T	P	O	S	T	R	O	A	D	S	O	L
E	A	H	R	P	S	N	A	W	A	W	R	N	B	M
Q	W	N	B	Y	R	A	M	Q	Y	A	D	R	Y	E
R	P	F	O	N	P	S	I	W	A	N	O	Y	D	A
T	I	O	Z	O	A	L	F	B	F	O	K	G	I	Z
I	T	K	E	D	C	T	G	S	A	U	X	D	Y	T
S	Z	G	S	N	I	F	F	I	N	S	H	I	L	L
A	I	Z	U	A	I	O	T	Y	A	S	O	Y	D	C
F	T	D	B	O	A	T	B	U	I	L	D	I	N	G
G	Q	C	X	Z	W	D	N	D	Q	W	Y	M	Z	A

CLUES:

1. The early name of Port Chester.
2. A group of Indians who were the first to live in our area.
3. The name of the river that separates Port Chester from the State of Connecticut.
4. One of the first industries in Port Chester.
5. Our Village of Port Chester is located in this town.
6. The name of William Street during the Revolutionary War.
7. Early roads that were used by riders carrying the mail were called by this name.

The War of 1812 and Economic Growth

READ: Think about the meanings of these words as you read.

blockaded vessels economic transportation

WRITE: Write the answers to the following questions as you read the information.

1. How long did the War of 1812 last?

2. How was Sawpit involved in the War of 1812?

3. What forms of transportation were used and how did they help Port Chester's economy grow?

In 1812, the United States again experienced problems with Great Britain. The British Navy forced American sailors to work for them and **blockaded** American shipping and trade. This led the United States to declare war on Great Britain in June of 1812. This war, known as, The War of 1812, was fought almost entirely at sea.

The Sawpit area was only slightly involved in this conflict. As a seaport community, Port Chester needed access to the sea in order to ship produce to New York City. Ships from the British Navy tried to block this trade by destroying American **vessels** en route to New York. Fortunately, American gunboats sent from New York City, set out after the British Fleet forcing it to withdraw. When the war ended in 1814, the United States proved it was a world power.

The period following the war was a time of economic and social growth for the country. Population increased, transportation improved, and the Industrial Revolution meant that machines did much of the work that had been done by hand. The first factories where machines produced goods were in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York.

As a seaport community, transportation continued to play a vital role in the growth of the village. In 1814, the Sawpit Transportation Company began operations. Sloops and sailing vessels carried apples, potatoes, oysters, clams and tobacco to New York City; in return, manufactured goods were brought back to our community. These forms of transportation were used in Port Chester for over 100 years and helped its economy grow.

A Difference of Opinion – 1834-1868

“Whether our residents in 1837 had a tradition of the older Port Chester in England or whether they desired to indicate this was to be the ‘port’ of Westchester, no document reveals.”

- **Lorenzo H. Knapp (Principal of Port Chester High School)**
- **History of Port Chester Schools 1937**

READ: Think about the meanings of these words as you read.

prosper advocated residents progressives incorporated

WRITE: Write the answers to the following questions as you read the information.

1. How many votes decided the winning name?

2. How did our village get the name Port Chester?

3. What name would you have voted for and why?

Sawpit continued to **prosper** and in 1834, a group of **residents** thought that the village needed a more dignified name. They suggested that the village be called Port Chester, after a port in England. This caused conflict between two groups: the old timers who wanted to keep the name Sawpit and the so-called “**progressives**” who **advocated** the name change. Captain Gilbert Lyon, Joshua Lyon, Esra Wetmore and others led the group against the name change while Horace Smith and Jared V. Peck led the group in favor of the change. Residents debated the issue for three years. Since there were no newspapers to carry the news, people attended town meetings to hear arguments for and against the name change.

Finally, a vote was taken by residents to decide on the name of the village. The group in favor of the change led the way and won by five votes. As a result, on March 11, 1837, the New York General Assembly approved the name change into law. Port Chester was born! Thirty-one years later on May 14, 1868, Port Chester was **incorporated** as a village within the Town of Rye.

The 1840’s witnessed the birth of two newspapers. The Port Chester Banner published by Evan Hollis first appeared on October 4, 1844. It was a weekly newspaper and was discontinued after one year. The Nineteenth Century, a small paper edited by T.J. Sutherland followed, but appeared for only a few months. Another attempt was made in April, 1848 by Abraham G. Levy with a paper called The Experiment but his venture lasted only until August of that year.



Sawpit ? or Port Chester? You Decide ...

- A. During the 1800's, there were no televisions, radios, or movies. Newspapers and magazines were also very scarce. People often used posters to change other people's minds, just as they do today. Imagine that you are living in Sawpit, in 1834, during the discussions about the name of the Village. Decide whether you want to: a) Keep the name of Sawpit or, b) Change the name to Port Chester. Draw a poster that shows what you think. Use slogans or other phrases and draw a picture on your poster to show what you think.



- B. What can you learn about Port Chester from looking at the seal?

- C. Using what you know about Port Chester's past and present, design a new seal for the 21st Century.

Civil War – 1861-1865

READ: Think about the meanings of these words as you read.

preservation volunteers opposed promptly dispute memorial veterans

WRITE: Write the answers to the following questions as you read the information.

1. What were the two most critical problems facing our country?

2. How were Port Chester residents involved in the Civil War?

3. Look at the picture of the Civil War Monument. Why was it built and what does it symbolize?

While the population of the United States was increasing during the 1860's, the country was growing apart on important issues. The two most critical problems facing this country were **preservation** of the Union and the issue of slavery. The North **opposed** slavery while the South permitted it. President Lincoln tried to **resolve** the slavery question and preserve the Union. By this time, however, the problem had grown into a bitter **dispute** between the North and South. War broke out on April 12, 1861. This war was called the Civil War or The War Between The States.

When the call for **volunteers** was made, the residents of Port Chester met in Liberty Square on April 29, 1861 to consider how they would respond. Liberty Square is located at the bottom of Westchester Avenue where North and South Main Street meet. As a result of the meeting, village and town residents formed the Union Defense Committee of the Town of Rye. The purpose of the committee was to support the North in the war by collecting money and finding volunteers to serve in the Union Army.

Then



Liberty Square as it looked in the dirt road days of 1865 (note tree at right). The view is toward North Main Street and residence of Gershom Bulkeley on Fountain Street, now King Street. The center building housed a grocery store.

Now



Men from our area **promptly** answered the call and volunteered to serve in the Union Army. In fact, there were so many Port Chester volunteers that a separate company, Company B, 17th Infantry, was formed from this area. We can be proud that Port Chester residents responded in such a loyal manner.

Several Port Chester residents distinguished themselves during the Civil War. Sergeant Michael Hart raised the flag at Fort Sumter after it had been shot away; William H. Knapp received a citation for bravery; Nicholas Fox, a resident of Main Street was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery beyond the call of duty.



Civil War veterans of Charles Lawrence Post of the G.A.R. pose in Liberty Square about 1885. Nicholas Fox, Congressional Medal of Honor winner, is second from left, front row.

...FLASHBACKS, an original musical history of Port Chester

Book & lyrics: Camille Linen; Music & Lyrics: Donna Cribari

Roll Call, Liberty Square, April 1861

(Reveille bugle call is heard from offstage as soldiers assemble on stage)

Captain Bartram: Company B, Seventeenth Infantry. Attention! Roll call.

Beal, Thomas.

Thomas Beal: Present, sir.

Captain Bartram: Beal, John

John Beal: Present, sir.

Captain Bartram: Beal, Joseph?

Joseph Beal: Present, sir.

Youth Three: Three brothers in the same company? Wow!

Youth One: I wish those other two brothers from the Revolutionary days could see them.

Youth Four: Looks like we're fighting again. Who is it this time?

Youth Two: The North against the South.

Youth Three: You mean the Union against the Confederacy.

Youth One: Listen to her!

Youth Three: I watched *Gone with the Wind* last weekend.

Captain Bartram: Magee, Robert.

Robert Magee: Here, sir.

Lieutenant Vickers: All Westchester Chasseurs present and accounted for, Captain.

Captain Bartram: We depart at once to join the Grand Army of the Republic.
May the good Lord watch over us in our sacred duty to
preserve the Union.

Youth Three: Excuse me, Captain, who's winning the war?

Captain Bartram: Fort Sumter was attacked, but the war has not yet begun.
We're answering President Lincoln's call to arms.

Youth One: No war yet? What day is this?

Captain Bartram: April 1861. Come gentlemen, say your goodbyes.
Two years is a long time, but our union must be saved.

(Bartram and soldiers march off as Ensemble and Youths sing the Civil War song)

"When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again."

Ensemble & Youths:

When Johnny comes marching home again, Hurrah! Hurrah!
We'll give him a hearty welcome then, Hurrah! Hurrah!
Oh, the men will cheer and the boys will shout
And the ladies they will all turn out.
And we'll all feel gay when Johnny comes marching home.

The Civil war lasted four long years. Thousands of soldiers on both sides lost their lives while many more thousands were injured. The people at home suffered also. They worked hard and sacrificed a great deal to supply the armies with food, money, clothing and guns. Many goods became scarce and expensive. There were severe food shortages in the South. Finally, on April 9th, 1865 the Southern Army surrendered and the war ended.

Our community built a monument in honor of the residents who served in the Civil War. This monument stands on the corner of Pearl Street and the Post Road. It was dedicated on September 26th, 1904 at 4 p.m. with a ceremony led by Civil War **Veterans** and Port Chester residents.



Port Chester Continues to Grow in the Late 1800s

READ: Think about the meanings of these words as you read.

banks focused construction foundry parochial

WRITE: Write the answers to the following questions as you read the information.

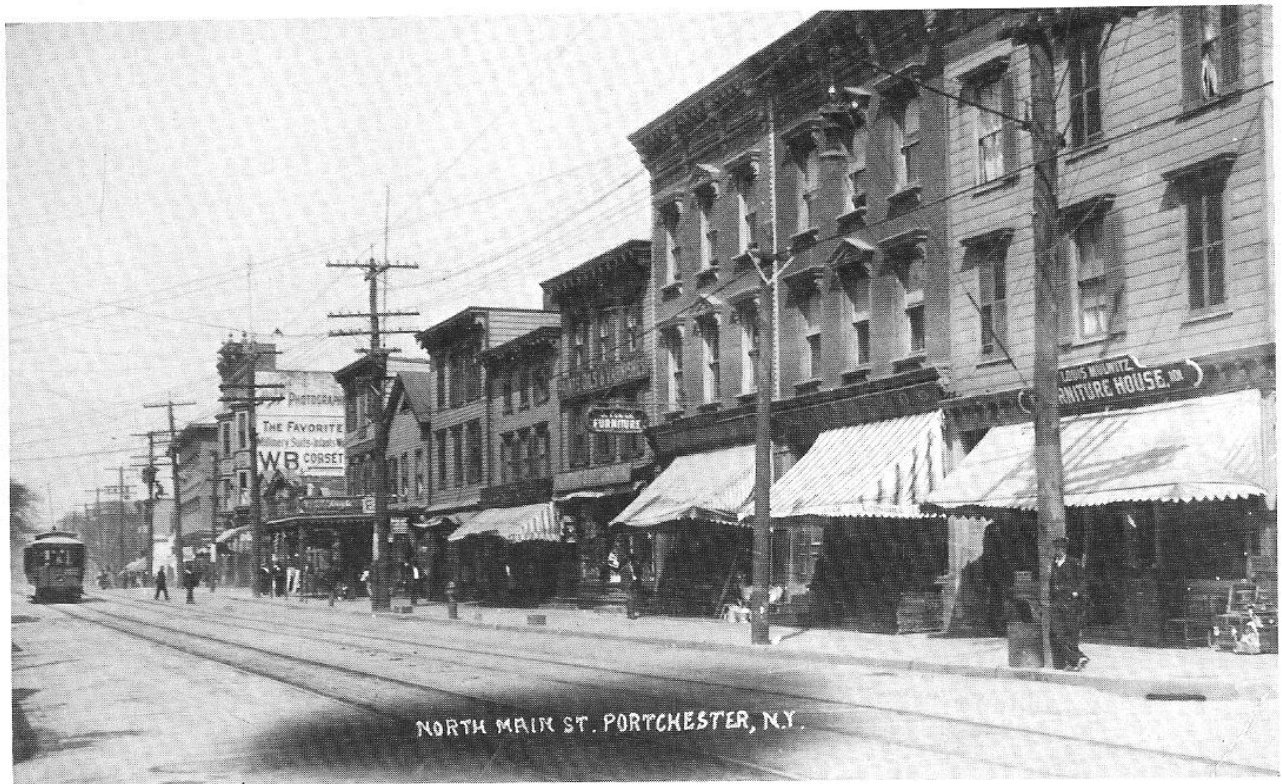
1. What was Port Chester like after the Civil War?

2. Compare and contrast the pictures of North Main Street.

3. How do you and your family use the businesses on North Main Street today?

After the war, there were approximately 3,500 residents in the village. Many homes could be found along the **banks** of the Byram River, while most of the people lived in the area on Main Street from Grace Church Street to the Mill Street Bridge. Homes were also built along lower Westchester Avenue known as Lyons Point.

Then



Trolley Car on N. Main St.

Now



Our village had six churches, one public school, one **parochial** school, a **foundry**, two **banks**, several coal and lumber yards, a railroad station and a few dozen stores. **Construction** on the road to White Plains had begun.

At this time, many village streets had different names. Westchester Avenue was called Purchase Avenue. Irving Avenue was Pixley Place. Townsend Street was Washington Street. Poningo Street was Prospect Street. Lower King Street was Fountain Street and part of Broad Street was known as Railroad Avenue.

From 1870 to 1900, many changes occurred. The country was united again. People **focused** their attention on rebuilding; communication and transportation kept improving. The railroad expanded to connect almost all parts of the United States. Cities and towns began to grow rapidly during the late 1800's.

Main Street

READ: Think about the meanings of these words as you read.

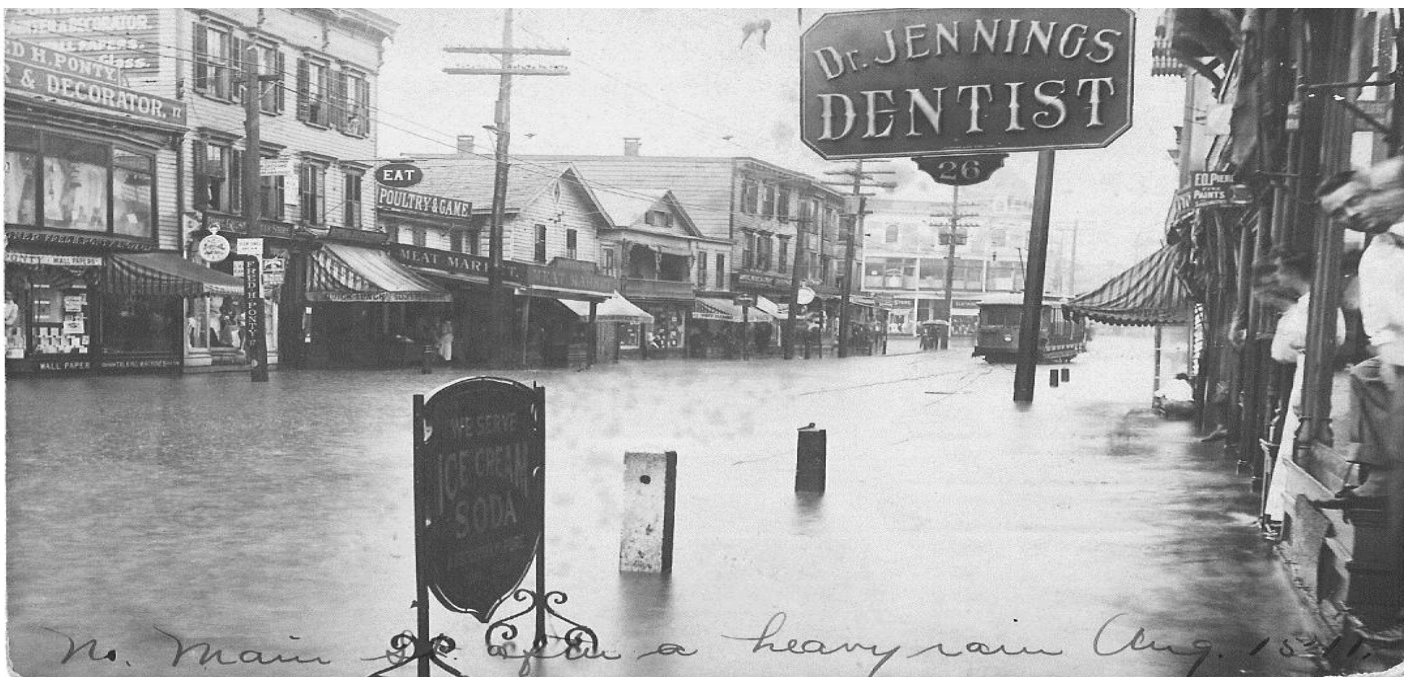
corset livery cloak

WRITE: Write the answers to the following questions as you read the information.

1. What was Port Chester like in the early 1900's?

As with most towns and villages, Port Chester's business section is divided into North and South Main Streets. In the early 1900's, Main Street was a dirt road with trolley tracks down its center. Horse racing contests, which were held there, drew many spectators. Residents also enjoyed bike riding. Many adults and children could be seen biking up and down North and South Main Street.

If you were a shopper walking in our village during the 1900's, you would see many different stores. You would find the following stores on South Main Street: Samuel Mulwitz Second Hand Furniture Store; Parker's **Livery** Stable; Louis Mulwitz Furniture Store; Robinson's Paint Store; Chermack's Hotel; Raymond's Shoe Store. On North Main Street, you might see Neisner's Five and Ten Cent Store; the Steiger-Schick Department Store; Loundsbury Grocery; Neilson's Ice Cream Company; the Port Chester Savings Bank; Raphael **Corset** and **Cloak** Store; and The Atlantic Pacific Tea Company Store. Doctors' and dentists' offices were also located on Main Street.



North Main Street flooded August 15, 1911

Industries Develop in Port Chester

READ: Think about the meanings of these words as you read.

decade 19th Century trolley

WRITE: Write the answers to the following questions as you read the information.

1. What businesses started in Port Chester?

2. Why was it easier to travel?

Port Chester grew rapidly in the last **decade** of the **19th Century**. The Ernest Simon Manufacturing Company, a producer of sheets and pillowcases, was founded in 1876 and provided work for many people. Before this time, pillowcases and sheets were made by hand. Simons was the first company in the world to produce ready-made products. The company is no longer in business, but its building still stands on Westchester Avenue and Pearl Street.

Another major Port Chester industry was the Bolt Works, which was established in 1882. This company made steel products for companies all over the United States. The R. B. & W Bolt Works was an important industry in Port Chester for many years and remained in operation on Midland Avenue until the 1970's.

The Columbia Tea Company, a tea and coffee business, moved to Port Chester in 1892. A company store was opened at 16 South Main Street and deliveries were made by horse and wagon to local residents.

During the late 1800's and early 1900's, our village continued to grow and as a result, residents enjoyed many employment opportunities. Transportation continued to improve with the development of the **trolley** system and the railways.



Turn of the century businessmen and old friends pose in front of Hartlieb market, Willett Avenue and Rectory Street, left to right, Edward Siegel, saloon keeper; Louis J. Hartlieb, and Charles Vahsen, meat packer.



One Horse delivery with Julius Quotidian, driver

An Industrial Center

READ: Think about the meanings of these words as you read.

foundry relocate economic textile generator distributed trademark
confections ornamental casket millinery nuts and bolts

WRITE: Write the answers to the following questions as you read the information.

1. What was manufactured in Port Chester?

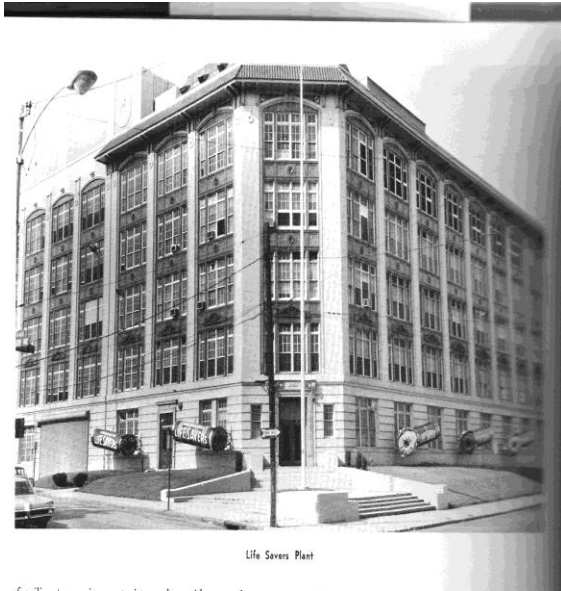
The pattern of **economic** development also changed with the decline of the family business and the rise of manufacturing companies. On the site of the first mill, a large **nuts and bolts** factory was built in 1845 by Russell, Burdsall, and Ward. Originally located in Greenwich, Connecticut the plant later moved to Midland Avenue in Port Chester. It was called The Port Chester Bolt and Nut Company and supplied the world with important machine and tool parts.

During the period from 1840 to the 1920's, Port Chester was the home of one of the largest foundries in the United States. It was the Abendroth Foundry, which was located along the Byram River on Mill and Main Streets. The **foundry** manufactured and sold stoves and furnaces throughout the United States as well as foreign countries.

Textile manufacturing was another important Port Chester industry that grew to achieve national importance. The Ernest Simons Manufacturing Company, founded in 1876, provided America with sheets and pillowcases. Simons was the first company in the world to manufacture ready-made sheets and pillow products. Its Fruit of the Loom **trademark** is still known around the world today.

The Mint Products Company, better known as Lifesavers, came to Port Chester in 1920. The candy with the hole in the middle became world famous and was one of our village's most important industries. Over the years, Lifesavers provided many jobs for village residents. Due to a change in the economy in the 1980s, the Port Chester plant decided to close its doors and **relocate**.

Life Saver Plant now Landmark Condominium



Then



Now

In 1940, a husband and wife by the name of Betty and Paul Dean Arnold started a small company to produce quality bread, rolls, and cookies. The plant was originally located in Stamford, Connecticut, but later moved to Westchester Avenue and then to Traverse Avenue and Palmer Place. Eventually, the company known as Arnold Bakers, **distributed** fresh baked products to 22 states and many foreign countries. The Empire Brush Company, makers of all types of brushes, was located at William and Smith Streets. Its products were marketed all over the United States, as well as in foreign countries.

Another Port Chester industry was the Homelite Corporation. It manufactured quality **generators**, pumps, and chain saws. This industry also sold its products to all parts of the world.

Port Chester can be proud of the goods it manufactured and sold throughout the United States and around the world. This very impressive list includes aircraft equipment, nuts and bolts, brushes, blouses, **caskets**, bread and rolls, bathing suits, bedding, carbonated water, electrical cable, conduits, **confections**, china, dresses, stoves, electrical outlets, furniture, felt wool, generators, chain saws, household furnishings, housecoats, **ornamental** iron, kitchen equipment, lighting fixtures, **millinery**, mattresses, men's clothing, pumps, plastic products, playsuits, radio parts, sink tops, structural steel, surgical instruments, window shades, screens, and wool products. The making of these products was important to Port Chester's growth as an industrial center.

Industrial List Activity



Using the industrial lists on the following pages:

1. Compare the growth of industry in Port Chester from 1670 to present day; state at least 3 reasons for the change in businesses.

2. List at least 15 industries that no longer operate in Port Chester.

3. Make a new list of industries or businesses that are currently operating in Port Chester.

4. Identify five industries that employ at least 25 people.

5. State the products or services provided by the five industries above.

INDUSTRIAL LIST

I. 1670

One Mill

II. 1860

One Foundry

One Edge Tool Factory

One Grist Mill

One Shoe Factory

III. 1890

1. The Hotchkiss Beef Company
2. Cabinet Works - Geo. P. Davidson; Geo. Mertz's Son
3. Carriage Builders - Henry McCabe; R. L. Place
4. Doors, Sash and Blinds - Geo. P. Davidson; John Ryan,
S. D. Slater
5. Harness Makers - Walter W. White
6. Furniture Dealers - John Sloat and Company
7. Livery and Boarding Stables - Daniel Murray and Sons
8. Lumber - S. D. Slater; Townsend and Horton
9. Agricultural Implements - W. H. Field
10. Newspapers - Enterprise - Thomas J. Blain
11. Saw Mills - S. D. Slater
12. Stove Works - Abendroth Brothers
13. Nuts and Bolt Works - Russell, Burdsall and Ward
14. Shirt Making Establishment

IV. 1937

1. Abendroth Brothers - House and Tank Heaters
2. Adler Cap Mfg. Co., Inc. - Caps; Children's Headwear
3. American Vault Co., Inc. - Concrete Burial Vaults
4. American Felt Co. - Felts, Comforter Fillers and Wadding
5. Clip Shave - Electric Shavers
6. Empire Brush Works - Brushes, etc.
7. Empire Foundry Co., Inc. - Iron Castings
8. Empire Pattern & Model Co. - Wood and Metal Patterns
and Models
9. Fit-Rite Slipper Co. - Ladies' and Gents' Slippers
10. Hollinger Shirt Co. - Men's Shirts
11. Homelite Corporation - Pumps, Generators and Blowers
12. Life Savers, Inc. - Life Savers Confections
13. Ledman Dress Co. - Women's Dresses
14. Loeb & Loeb - Men's Shirts and Shorts
15. P. C. Aluminum Foundry Inc. - Aluminum Sand Castings
16. P. C. Iron Works, Inc. - Ornamental Irons
17. P. C. Paper Box Co., Inc. - Paper Boxes
18. P. C. Vest Contractors - Men's Vests
19. Rosenberg Engineering & Iron Works, Inc. - Ornamental
Irons and Steel Work
20. Russell, Burdsall & Ward Bolt & Nut Co. - Bolts,
Nuts and Rivets
21. S & K Mfg. Co. - Men's Suits and Coats
22. Ernest Simons Mfg. Co. - Sheets, Pillow Cases and Pajamas

IV. 1937 (Continued)

23. Steinmetz Machine Works - Machinery Parts
24. Westchester Shirt Co. - Men's and Women's Sport Jackets
25. D. Warshawsky & Sons - Men's Vests
26. Swagger Hat Corporation - Millinery
27. United Hatwear Corporation - Millinery
28. Safetex Company - Rubber Goods
29. Mechanical Products Company - Mechanical Parts

V. 1972

1. Adee Fashions, Inc. - Ladies' Dresses
2. Agio Precision Industries, Inc. - Machine Shop
3. American Avitron, Inc. - Airplane Parts
4. Asbestos Distributors - Industrial Insulation Contractors
5. Bantam U.S. Toys, Inc. - Stuffed Toys
6. Barnhart, A.W. Co. - Combo windows, metal screens,
stainless steel cloth, psychiatric screens
7. Bedford Precision Parts Corp. - Truck signs, parts for
industrial equipment
8. Beech Nut Inc. - Candy confection manufacturing with
Research and Development
9. C. I. Products, Inc. - Brush machinery
10. Carston Mfg. Co., Inc. - Metal stamping
11. Cassone, J. J. Bakers - All kinds of breads, rolls,
pastries and cakes
12. Clay Art Center - Pottery originals
13. Columbia Elevator Products Co. - Elevator components