

## PART XII: 1875-1886

Among the municipal services which called for the attention of the new government were the schools. A high school building to replace the old Keene Academy was voted in May 1875, and classes were moved to the City Hall during the construction. Shepard S. Woodcock of Boston was called upon to design a Keene building, and the result was long a source of pride to the entire community.

Built on a foundation 18 inches thick of stone hauled from a quarry near Westport, N.H., the five-story Victorian structure had a 127 foot tower. The walls were 14 inches thick, the whole finished in the best manner called for by educational standards of the period, including a ventilation system for all rooms. More than a million locally-made bricks went into the building, which housed not only the high school but several lower grade classes, as well as a gymnasium, laboratories, a school library, and an exhibition hall seating 500. At the front portico stood four columns of colored granite from Aberdeen, Scotland, and Gothic arches, decorative ironwork, and spires of the roof and tower surrounded the old Academy bell, which had been cast in Troy, N. Y., in 1854 and was retained from the former building. The building was dedicated on December 4, 1877.

The high school was conducted under four teachers, and enrolled 122 students. A varied program of instruction was offered, including English, history, geography, drawing, modern languages, mathematics, Latin, and Greek. In 1878 an alumni association was formed, and in November 1880 a student military group was organized, called the Keene High School Cadets. This unit was uniformed and equipped with rifles. During 1883-84 high school pupils published their first student periodical, the *K. H. S. Index*, which contained creative compositions as well as some historical articles. Student editors participated in the formation of the Scholastic Press Association of school newspapers in Boston at this time, while an active athletic club played baseball and football. Field trips by science classes included visits to the local pottery and gas works. Teachers' Institute was held in Keene in 1884 with nearly 125 enrolled.

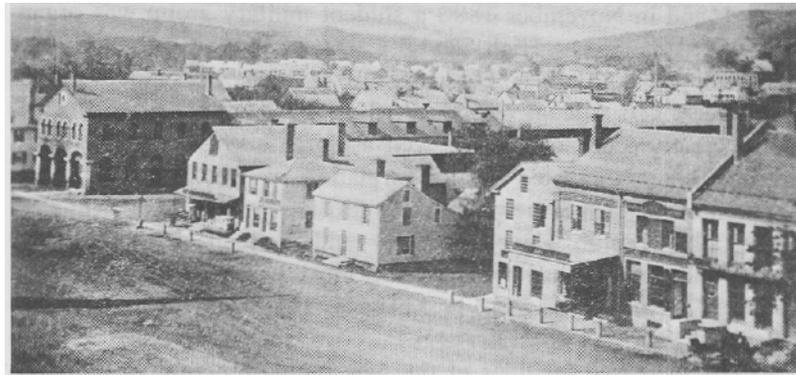
The increased facilities of the new building permitted reorganization of the city's schools. Arrangements were made for teachers to take charge of a single class instead of two as formerly, while a

number of grammar school students were moved to the new high school building from the School and Church Street schools. In 1877 the Union School District was divided into 13 primary, 3 intermediate, 2 grammar schools, and 1 high school. In 1880 Keene had 20 school buildings, 1,216 pupils, and 42 teachers. There were in addition 10 suburban districts located beyond the center of Keene.

A new school, its bell the gift of John Symonds, was erected on Park Avenue in 1881, and a district was created there in 1886. The old Church Street schoolhouse was sold in 1883 and became a laundry. The Elliot Street school was built in 1886 to replace the Main Street school building, which had been removed during the widening of Appian Way. Starting in 1879 women were permitted to vote in school district affairs and that same year Mrs. Abby Bickford became the first woman elected to the school board. One of the private schools operated in this period was opened by the Misses Laura B. and Kate L. Tilden at their West Street home in September 1883. Dancing schools continued to be popular; one conducted by Professor Ball at Liberty Hall early in 1882 enrolled about 80.

The Court Street Baptist Church was dedicated in 1875, and the Universalists organized as a church in 1876. There was some speculation of erecting a public library building on a Winter Street site, and proposed drawings were prepared by Leslie Seward, a local artist, in 1876; however, nothing ever came of this suggestion.

In July 1875 the grounds of Keene Driving Park were opened to the public. This was located at lower Main Street, now Edgewood.



*West side of Main Street—circa 1872—note old railroad depot and shadow of Unitarian Church steeple on road*



*West side of Main Street in the 1880's*

A trotting course had been constructed measuring just over a half-mile in length, and a grandstand built to seat 1,500 spectators. The judges' stand was topped by a gilt weather vane, "Goldsmith Maid," and there were stables, outbuildings, a fence, and an arched gate to the grounds. Agricultural shows and races were held here for a number of years after the Cheshire Agricultural Society discontinued its annual fair in West Keene in 1883. Keene joined the entire nation in the special centennial celebrations of 1876. Buildings in the business district and many homes were gaily decorated with flags and patriotic emblems. Visitors from Winchester and Peterborough joined in the



*West side of Main Street in the early 20th Century*

parade which featured bands, military units, and members of the new city government riding in carriages. Later trotting races at the Driving Park, a dance at City Hall, and the annual Fourth of July oration in the Unitarian Church helped to complete the celebration climaxed by fireworks, cannon salutes, and ringing of church bells. Buildings in the Square were illuminated well into the night by hundreds of Chinese lanterns. Rev. William Orne White's historical address was printed in honor of the event.



*View from Central Square showing Unitarian Church steeple*

The Unitarians celebrated their 50th anniversary in December 1875; Rev. William Orne White, who was granted a leave of absence in 1876 for a European tour, resigned in 1878 after a pastorate of 27 years. As a civic leader, Rev. White helped to promote temperance as well as educational and municipal improvements. His daughter, Eliza Orne White, born in Keene in 1856, became a successful writer of novels and juvenile literature. In July 1878 the spire of the Unitarian Church was lowered by some 12 feet due to its unsafe condition and noticeable sway in high winds.

The population of Keene in 1880 was 6,786. This was the year City Hall was remodeled, its roof raised 6 1/2 feet by means of 36 screw jacks. At the same time a permanent stage was constructed to accommodate the many traveling theatrical groups visiting Keene. One of the first professional companies to enjoy the new facilities was Denman Thompson's troupe in "Joshua Whitcomb," which played at the hall in March 1881. The entire house was sold out in

two hours. When the show had played in Boston the year before, 85 Keene theater lovers made the special half-fare excursion by rail to attend.

The balcony installed in City Hall at this time became a source of considerable speculation, as the supports for the circular gallery were rods from the ceiling which gave concern to many, although they never evidenced signs of actual danger. A new council chamber was constructed, and the former Keene Five Cents Savings Bank vault was installed there in 1885. However, the city government was not the sole occupant of the building; for some years shops and stores occupied the ground floor. In 1881 the Keene Public Library, with its collection of 5,000 books, was moved from the Warren Block on Washington Street to the north store of the City Hall (later occupied by the police department), and a printed book catalogue of the library collection was issued. In December 1877 control of the library was transferred from a committee of the city government to a Board of Trustees.

The first postal letter box in Keene was erected at the railroad station in March 1875; boxes on city streets were added in 1879. The Metropolitan Telegraph Co. was organized early in 1879 to furnish communication throughout the city. The system, consisting of 12 Morse telegraph instruments and three miles of wire, was not successful. Keene's first telephones were introduced in July 1879 with two subscribers; in July 1881 the city councils approved the erection of telephone poles and wires, and the first Keene telephone exchange opened soon afterwards on the site that later became Goodnow's Department Store. In 1885 the exchange was moved to the Tierney Block, where weather predictions by means of flags were displayed in code for temperature change, storms, etc.

The Cheshire County Telephone Co. was formed in October 1881, with lines to South Keene and Marlborough. On September 1, 1881, the first telephone calls were placed between Keene and Marlborough and Keene and Gilsum to a single telephone located in those towns. Operations were taken over in 1883 by the New England Telephone and Telegraph Co. whose directory showed some 400 telephones in use throughout Cheshire County. Calls were possible, weather permitting, in a radius of 50 to 75 miles of the exchange. Before 1886 calls were placed by name, and the introduction of numbers was met with some opposition. The local telephone "book" was simply a card in the early years of service.

Memorial services were held by all Keene churches and at City



*City Hotel (later Hotel Ellis) circa 1880's*

Hall on September 25, 1881, for the assassinated President James A. Garfield who was remembered as a special guest at the dedication of Keene's Civil War Soldiers' Monument in October 1871. Many Keene stores and homes were draped in mourning, all business was suspended, and the city's church bells were tolled when news of his death reached Keene. "The sad tidings of the President's death, although not unexpected, have cast a gloom over the entire community," the *Sentinel* reported.

Woodland Cemetery was enlarged under city auspices in 1876, while Greenlawn Cemetery was organized in 1879 and passed to city control in 1889. North Lincoln Street was extended in 1886 to prevent general traffic from passing through the cemetery. The remaining slate gravestones from Keene's first lower Main Street cemetery were removed to the Woodland Cemetery extension in 1877 and to the Washington Street Cemetery in 1904.

In June 1886 the Thomson-Houston Electric Co. was granted a license to erect poles and run wires for Keene's first electric light system. The pioneer generator was located at the Farnum Mill on Emerald Street and it supplied power for street and commercial lighting by August. The first electric street lamp in Keene, an arc light as were all of the earliest electric lights, went into operation on August 28, 1886, on Roxbury Street just beyond the Bank Block, near the post office. The Keene Gas Light Co., which had provided lighting for much of the community for years, including gas street lamps in the center of town, increased the size of its plant and changed its method of making gas in 1881. It purchased the electric power generating facilities late in 1886 and enlarged its buildings in order to

offer electricity among its services. However, gasoline street lamps beyond the business district continued in use for some years. Street lighting in 1877 was provided from one hour after sunset until 10 P.M. on nights with no moon, and after the introduction of electricity until midnight.

Other progressive moves were made, including the first local exhibition of the phonograph on July 9, 1878, Keene's first typewriter in use at the Cheshire Railroad Co. office in 1883, and in 1885 an ingenious battery-operated electric circuit-breaking clock constructed by Samuel Wadsworth, jeweler and clockmaker, at his store in the City Hall Block. Connected to strike the nine o'clock curfew signal on the bell above in the tower, it was among the earliest such devices in any municipality. Later the clock was also connected to the whistle and fire alarm system at Beaver Mills. Wadsworth, a naturalist and amateur scientist, also began a continuous daily record of Keene weather in 1892, a record which has been maintained by local meteorologists to the present day.

After nearly five years of study and discussion of the matter, the Stevens box system of fire alarms was introduced in November 1885. This consisted of five boxes, four miles of wire, and the whistle at Beaver Mills. Additions and extensions of the system were made almost every year thereafter. Citizens were warned not to telephone in fires, but to make use of the new alarm system, which consisted of bright red locked boxes with their keys behind a small glass window. On the night before the Fourth of July the keys were customarily removed and entrusted to neighbors where they would be available in the event of emergencies.

The mechanical City Hall alarm installed in 1879 continued to be used as a precaution for a number of years, and an electric striker was attached in April 1886. It was long regarded a high honor by the several fire companies to be the first to arrive at the scene of a disaster. As a result of this rivalry, a number of vacant shacks and abandoned barns mysteriously caught fire, followed by an unusually swift response by one or another of the engine companies. Measures to correct such over-zealous enthusiasm were taken in 1880 after several fires were set to aid company standings. In August 1883 an Amoskeag Steam Fire Engine was purchased from the manufacturers in Manchester (their No. 580), and an independent steam fire company was formed, adding to the resources of the Deluge, Neptune, and Phoenix Hose Companies and the Washington Hook and Ladder Company. In 1878 the Deluge Engine Company cele-

brated its 30th anniversary with a banquet and appropriate festivities. The engine house was moved in 1880 from St. James Street to a site purchased by the city on Vernon Street where a new fire house was erected in 1885.

A number of fires kept the department alert, including a serious blaze at the Taft pottery in 1875, another which occurred there in 1878, and a third fire in 1879. By far the most dangerous fire was that of March 24, 1880, which destroyed Clarke's Block at the head of the Square on the corner of Washington Street. It was discovered about 10:45 P.M. after a brisk wind had fanned the flames which now threatened to level the whole area, including the First Church. All church bells were sounded, and soon a large crowd had gathered. Six streams of water were played on the fire, which spread rapidly through the old wooden buildings. Dense clouds of smoke blew down Main Street, and wind-carried sparks threatened other property, diverting the firefighters at frequent intervals from their main task. When the buildings collapsed every hope of saving the old church seemed doomed. In response to a telegraph request for help, a steam fire engine was sent by rail from Fitchburg to Keene. Although it was a bitterly cold night, heroic firemen climbed to a height from which they could direct water on the center of the blaze. It was 1 A.M. before the fire was brought under control. Grateful members of the



*Clarke's Block after the fire-1880*

First Church entertained the firemen at a supper two days later.

A brick building, retaining the name of Clarke's Block, replaced the destroyed structures, and in December 1880 Liberty Hall was opened. Here appeared Susan B. Anthony, champion of women's rights, in June 1881, and Julia Ward Howe in February 1882. In March 1885 the Salvation Army first visited Keene. Appearing at Liberty Hall were Brigadier General Lutz, Captain Heck and his wife, Salvation Mamie, and another evangelist called Smiling Alice.

In 1881 when the four-story Ashuelot Boot & Shoe Co. factory on Leverett Street was destroyed by fire, an insurance company offered a reward for the apprehension of suspected arsonists. Woodbury's pail factory on upper Washington Street burned in 1883, and a \$75,000 blaze at the Ashuelot Mills occurred in February 1884. In 1883 the Roxbury Street block connected with the Cheshire House burned and was replaced the same year by a three-story structure which is still standing.

The entire community was stirred in May 1876, when a local citizen, Alvin C. Foster, was found dead, perhaps murdered, near the Washington Street school. He had been suffocated by chloroform, and after an intensive investigation three men were tried for the crime in 1880, but were acquitted due to some strange aspects of the case, including a suicide theory. This was not Keene's first murder. In November 1864 at "Ball Alley," behind the Eagle Hotel, Alfred A. Tolman was shot by a woman who later was imprisoned for the crime. In August 1874 Allen A. Craig was found dead on Main Street, and William A. McLaughlin was found guilty of manslaughter. The mysterious death of Martin Ahern in March 1869 was believed murder by some, though the case was never solved. The old stone jail on Washington Street was removed in the 1880's and a new county jail was built on land formerly the site of the window glass factory on upper Washington Street (now Fuller Park).

The Keene Humane Society was organized in December 1875 and incorporated in June 1879. The first arrest for cruelty to animals was made on April 25, 1878, when two men were fined five dollars each for beating a horse. When the Ladies' Charitable Society was incorporated under state law in 1882, the organization had already seen 67 years of benevolent service in Keene. A private hospital operated by Dr. George B. Twitchell, a nephew of Keene's famed Dr. Amos Twitchell, and Dr. Herbert Bridgman opened on Water Street in June 1881. Some 550 citizens were vaccinated by Dr. Bridgman in March 1882. Three important bequests made it possible for the In-

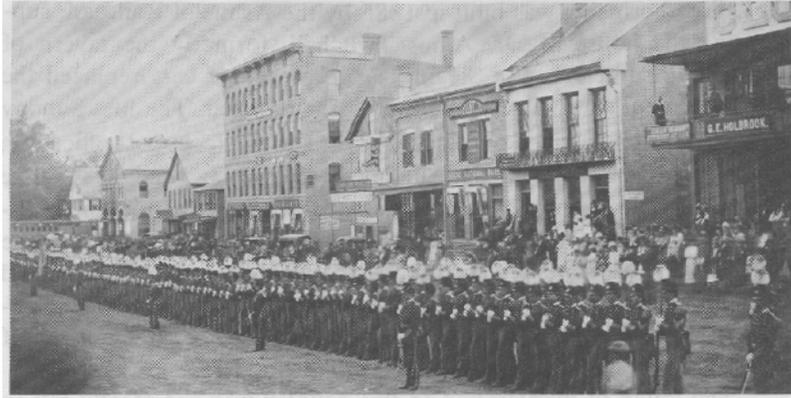
valid's Home to move into larger quarters at No. 361 Court Street in 1885

Beaver Brook Lodge of the Odd Fellows organization marked its 25th anniversary in March 1876, and moved its meetings from Ball's Block to the Cheshire House Block in 1883; Unity Lodge No. 40 was instituted in January 1878, and a canton of the Degree of Patriarchs Militant was formed in 1885. Among the Masonic fraternity, St. John's Council No. 7, chartered in 1872, was revived in January 1884, and the several groups were active in local and state Masonic affairs. Typical of fraternal social events of the period, the Odd Fellows enjoyed annual sleigh rides such as that of February 1879 from Keene to Marlow, where a dance was held and a banquet served, followed by a moonlight ride back to Keene.

A revived Keene Debating Club held regular meetings and in June 1878 decided in favor of the proposition that the prohibition of liquor had done more harm than good. Doubtless the Keene Temperance Reform Club, formed in April 1876, had other ideas. The Keene Bicycle Club was organized in May 1886, and the Ancient Order of Hibernians had a local chapter in Keene by 1876. This group sponsored one of the most unusual parades in local history. The St. Patrick's Day event of March 1876 was held amid a heavy snow storm which saw some 14 inches fall in Keene. Despite the elements, the Sons of Eire formed at their hall in Ball's Block and accompanied by the Keene Brass Band marched through town led by two snow plows!

The Keene Natural History Society, organized in 1872, maintained a mineralogical and zoological collection on public view in the high school, and the Keene Scientific Association was formed in 1876 with similar exhibits at the school. The Keene Natural History Society was given custody of three Indian skeletons unearthed on upper Court Street in 1882, as well as several relics of the executed circus elephant, Albert, in 1885. The Keene Commandery No. 90 of the United Order of the Golden Cross was instituted in January 1880. January of 1882 saw the beginnings of Refuge Lodge of the Independent Order of Good Templars, another temperance group. On December 8, 1885, after a period of inactivity, the YMCA was reorganized by 40 persons. William H. Symonds became the first paid secretary in August 1887, when contributions for a new building were begun.

The Keene Light Guard Battalion, comprised of Company G and Company H of the Second Regiment, New Hampshire National Guard, was formed in 1877-78 at the armory on Church Street. The Keene Brass Band of 18 pieces was uniformed as the Second Regiment



*Unit from Camp Natt Head, 1879*

Band by the state in 1880. Its leader was Theodore J. Allen, a musician with considerable professional experience. A musical group, Wheeler & Maynard's Orchestra, of about five players, was formed in 1880; this in addition to the military band and a cadet orchestra at the high school.

In November 1885 the Keene Horse Thief Detecting Society was formed by a number of public-spirited citizens.

The Manchester and Keene Railroad extending from Keene to Greenfield, N. H., was formally completed on December 1, 1878, with the last spike being driven by Samuel W. Hale of Keene, near Eastern Avenue on the short piece of railroad embankment running along that street. The first cars ran over the line on November 30, 1878, the first passenger train on December 2, and the entire line was completed in September 1880. In 1884 the property was purchased by the Boston and Lowell Railroad and operated under contract by the Cheshire Railroad. Many of the road's wooden trestles were then replaced by iron bridges. At this time the Cheshire Railroad had been enjoying some of its best years; however, increased pressure from larger railroads began to be felt, and the Cheshire road was hard pressed to meet this competition. Increased demands had brought larger locomotives into use, 30 tons being the average weight in 1880. For several years prior to 1885, economic conditions prevented expansion of the Cheshire Railroad, and the growing network of large rail corporations made life more and more difficult for the Keene-based line.

The use of coal as a fuel for locomotives replaced wood in July 1885, and the picturesque balloon smokestacks of railroad locomotives soon disappeared. An engine house on Main Street just south of

the railroad crossing was built in 1885 by the Ashuelot Railroad, supplanting the house of Dr. Amos Twitchell, formerly the tavern of Aaron and Luther Eames. Steam heat in passenger cars replaced the small and frequently uncertain stoves formerly used. The first Sunday train into the city arrived on May 5, 1878, and the local post office was first opened to the public on Sunday beginning in June 1886. The adoption by the nation's railroads of standard time zones took place locally in November 1883. Railroad regulator clocks were reset to agree with the new Boston standard, about 16 minutes slower than the old standard. The Ashuelot Railroad was operated by the Cheshire Railroad from 1861 until 1877, when it passed again under the control of the Connecticut River Railroad of Springfield, Mass.

The influx of immigration to this country was not greatly felt in Keene, although the city welcomed a share of new Americans. Keene people saw "immigration trains" filled with new arrivals as they passed through the city on their way west or to Canada.

The character of the industries established in Keene in this period reflects to a marked degree the change in manufacturing brought about by the enlarged factory system in America. Faulkner & Colony continued as the leading textile business, operating an increasingly varied industry with new complex machinery. Nims, Whitney & Co. employed 50 people in the systematic manufacture of doors, window sash, and blinds, and the chair industry was represented by the plants of George L. Burdett, who moved to Keene from Nelson, N.H. in 1876 and employed about 30, and the Cheshire Chair Co. which hired nearly 50 men to make from 600 to 800 dozen chairs a month. Woodenware, pails, and buckets were important Keene products, and a new firm, the Impervious Package Co., established in 1881 as the Vulcanized Can Co., commenced production of special kegs and buckets for paints and oils. At Beaver Mills the Keene Furniture Co. produced about 200 suites of furniture every month in oak, walnut, mahogany and maple. Aided by a number of tanneries, the local leather industry produced a wide variety of shoes, boots, and harnesses. Encouragement to industry was offered by convenient transportation facilities and tax abatements for a term of as much as 10 years for many firms.

A Rural Improvement Association was formed in June 1886 "to cultivate public spirit, to promote public health" and to "improve our streets, public grounds and sidewalks." The society was responsible for an interest in parks, and fostered such improvements as the move by Miss Mary B. Dinsmoor in September 1886 to preserve the tract known as the Dinsmoor Woods on Maple Avenue, and the gift to the

city of the old West Keene fairground of 25 acres, presented by George A. Wheelock in April 1886.

Concrete sidewalks for the east side of Main Street, the east side of Court Street, and the north side of West Street were ordered in 1886, the first such walks in the city. In 1882 Colonel George E. Waring, consulting engineer, presented a plan for a city sewerage system which had been under study since about 1876. The project was adopted and put into operation the following year. It was the first use of this particular system in the state, and by 1890 it consisted of about 13 1/2 miles of sewers. Woodward Pond was purchased as an additional water supply in 1886, and the octagon reservoir and observation tower at the Beech Hill reservoir site was improved. In 1877 a Milwaukee lithography firm published a large bird's-eye view of the city as seen from West Hill, with almost every building shown, an amazingly detailed prospect of the community.

Stephen Preston Ruggles, inventor of a printing press and a raised alphabet for the blind, was brought to Keene for burial in 1880. Samuel W. Hale, Keene industrialist and railroad official, was elected governor of New Hampshire in 1882 and served one term.

Variety marked the entertainment for young and old during these years. A 23-hour walking race was held in 1879 between Avery of Boston and Higgins of Springfield; Avery finished first clocking 95 miles, and Higgins came in at 81 miles. Sanford F. Petts organized a traveling minstrel company in 1882 called Pett's Keene Minstrels which, complete with brass band, gave performances locally and elsewhere in the East, including Canada. Spaulding's Swiss Bell Ringers proved a popular 1876 attraction, and a working model of the famed Strasbourg clock was shown at Cheshire Hall in February 1879. John L. Sullivan, more famous in the boxing ring, made a Keene appearance in February 1886 with Lester Allen's minstrels, a road company whose main attraction was the drawing power of the great John L. In March 1883 Mrs. Jarley showed her waxworks in Keene for the benefit of the high school. Music for the occasion was furnished by the Cadet Orchestra. John B. Gough, a temperance pioneer, was a City Hall speaker in the interest of liquor reform in January 1884. Other events included a lecture series in 1885, featuring a number of well-known speakers on the subjects of science, travel, and natural history. Wendell Phillips lectured in Keene in May 1878, and glee clubs from Brown University and Amherst College gave concerts in 1883 and 1884.

Among the sports popular in this period was archery which enjoyed a revival of interest about 1880 and several clubs were formed,

as had been done 40 years earlier. Bicycle riding was growing in popularity with the introduction of the safety bicycle, a major advance over the dangerous high wheeler, and demonstrations of the sport, as well as cycle outings, were in vogue. A roller skating rink opened in 1883 and was especially popular with the teen-age set, parties and exhibitions being held there frequently. The High School Cadets and various school classes sponsored dances, hayrides, and various other social events. Football and baseball games with teams from other towns were well attended, while croquet and lawn tennis were played on the broad greens of Keene homes.

Novel election bets provided a good deal of fun and never failed to draw a crowd. In 1872 an unhappy loser pulled the victor riding in a light carriage from the old West Keene fairgrounds to the Square, where both were greeted by a large crowd, the Keene Brass Band, and units of the fire department. In 1880, following James A. Garfield's national victory, another loser carried a rooster in a crate at the top of a pole from Marlborough to Keene, with a large sign reading "I bet on Hancock and lost." The procession was accompanied by the winner and a band.

By far the most popular event in the city was the circus, then enjoying its greatest years of success in America. Van Amburgh & Co. Shows appeared in May 1877; in July 1880 Cooper, Bailey & Co. Shows, equipped with some of the first electric lights seen in Keene, attracted a throng of 1,500 on regular and special trains; and Sanger's Royal British Menagerie & Show also appeared in Keene in July 1880. **In** July 1882 it was Jumbo, the world's largest elephant standing 12 feet high, that made Barnum, Bailey & Hutchinson's Circus the high point of the summer, and Bolivar, another celebrated elephant, appeared with Adam Forepaugh's Circus in July 1883 at the Driving Park. A colorful street parade up Main Street and Washington Street to High Street and back down Court Street was a special feature of every circus. It was frequently so long that as the head of the procession reentered the Square the noisy steam calliope, which always climaxed such a spectacular, was just entering Washington Street. However, no circus season before or since in Keene has equalled 1885 for dramatic impact.

On July 18, 1885, Barnum, Bailey & Hutchinson was showing at Nashua when an elephant named Albert attacked and injured a keeper, James McCormack, who died on the train that night as the circus approached Keene. When the circus arrived, news of the tragedy had preceded it. Although the animal was valued at \$10,000, owners of the show agreed that Albert was showing signs of insanity and had to be

put out of the way. Despite all attempts to prevent the news from spreading, the whole city was alive with rumor and gossip. As the circus was playing in the tent on Monday, July 20, a squad of the Keene Light Guard under Captain Francis O. Nims, and armed with U.S. 45-70 rifles, marched to a point on the east bank of the Ashuelot River between Appian Way and Appleton Street where a crowd of almost 500 had gathered. Albert was chained to trees, and bull's-eyes were chalked in the rear of a shoulder and on his temple. When 30 rifles spoke as one the huge beast died instantly. Circus men, mourning this once-favorite of the ring, plucked hairs from his tail as souvenirs. The Smithsonian Institution accepted the gift of the dead elephant, and while elephant steak enjoyed a brief popularity at the Cheshire House, the hide and skeleton of the animal were prepared for display in the nation's capital. A marble marker was set in May 1886 on the site of the execution and for a brief time became a circus shrine until, either carried away by a souvenir hunter or lost while the river was being diked in the area, the marker disappeared.



*Keene enjoys a military review*