

PART IX: 1856-1865

Jim Myer's Circus performed on the Roxbury Street grounds during July 1856; Sands, Nathan and Company's Circus, complete with trained elephants and a steam calliope, played in July 1857 and July 1859. Wambold's Circus visited at the depot grounds near West Street in June 1861. Miss Dollie Dutton, "the smallest girl in the world," gave a series of public "levees" at Cheshire Hall in September 1861; she was 10 years old, stood 29 inches tall, and weighed only 15 pounds. Her program featured songs and spoken pieces. "Blind Tom," a talented blind Negro musician, performed in December 1865. In October 1861 a panorama, "Ancient and Modern Palestine and Scenes in the Life of Christ," was displayed at the Town Hall. These shows consisted of long paintings wound on rollers, which were unfolded slowly while a lecturer described each scene.

Sara Jane Lippincott, who published popular works under the name of Grace Greenwood, was a Lyceum speaker in November 1860. Also of a cultural nature was famed French violinist Camilla Urso's concert at the Town Hall in February 1864. There was also a public demonstration of laughing gas staged at the Town Hall in May 1863.

By the eve of the Civil War a number of buildings presently standing in Keene's business district had already been built, and more were soon added, replacing the older wooden structures with their outside stairways to the second story. Between 1856 and 1859 nearly 100 new buildings went up, including many substantial residences. Central Square was fully developed, the railroad had become a local fixture, and Keene's industrial life was quickening its pace.

A count of shade trees made in 1860 showed Main Street to have 211, and Washington Street 164; the total on all village streets was 1,296 trees.

The streets and Square were not yet paved, but some stone and plank walks had been laid. Flagstone crossings in the Square were added in 1863. Nearly every business block was equipped with a permanent sidewalk covering or canopy, topped by a tin roof which provided shoppers with protection from the elements, and loungers with welcome spots to discuss anything at all. The town's two weekly newspapers printed news received by telegraph, and mail service was greatly improved, although no trains or mail moved on a Sunday,

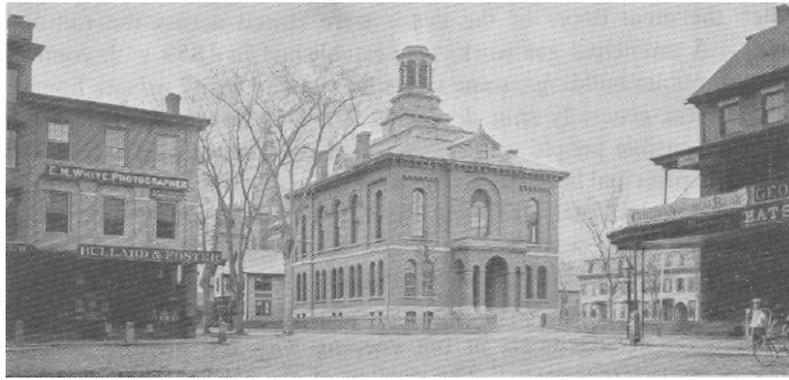
when the great doors of the depot were closed across the railroad tracks. A municipal gas works was established in 1859 with connections to public buildings, some street lamps, and many private homes. Service was generally shut down by 10 P.M., however, after which time all sensible people were expected to be home in bed.

The principal hotels in Keene were the Eagle, the Cheshire House, and the Union Hotel (formerly the Emerald House and now Hotel Ellis). The Eagle was kept by Asaph Harrington and was quite famous for its accommodations and food. The Cheshire House was described as "a noble structure, its rooms airy and convenient, and the internal arrangements in full keeping with the inviting appearance of its external form." The portico of the former hotel building was replaced in 1859 by a piazza extending across the front of the hotel. Keene's first hack line was established by Edward Loiselle in 1863.

The community was still essentially rural in character despite its growing industry, with vacation and tourist attractions recognized even at this early date. Among the sights in the region Mt. Monadnock, the lakes, ponds, and pleasant drives were popular with visitors. Another well-visited spot was the site of a remarkable tree called the "matrimonial tree," which had a cleft in its trunk wide enough to admit the passage of two persons abreast. Couples who passed through were considered engaged, and legend had it the pair would be married within a year and enjoy a happy married life. The tree stood on the banks of the Ashuelot River, not far from "Lover's Lane," now Appleton Street, and the nearby grove was long a favorite place for picnics and celebrations. Here were held temperance festivals, church outings, and the archery contests, once popular in Keene. In 1855 the tree was felled by lightning. A marker was placed on the site around 1910.

Among those attracted by the beauty of the Keene area was Abbott Handerson Thayer, son of Dr. William Thayer and Elizabeth Handerson Thayer, daughter of noted lawyer Phineas Handerson of Keene. As a boy growing up in town, Abbott Thayer tramped the woodlands, studied nature, and became expert in mounting birds. From 1856 to 1864 the youth made Keene his home, and the region became an inspiration for a future career in art. He returned to Keene to work at the Stearns Farm on West Hill in 1887, and had among his pupils there, and in Dublin, a second cousin, Barry Faulkner, another artist who appreciated the aesthetic potential of the Ashuelot Valley.

In 1854 the town purchased about 12 acres of land. once an old



Cheshire County Court House

muster field on Beaver Street, and Woodland Cemetery was dedicated in June 1856. The first burial was that of George B. Rahn, who had died at 18 years of age. The Washington Street Cemetery, after 60 years of use, had become too crowded. Many graves were not marked or the stones became lost; only about 695 could be identified in a 1903 survey.

The present County Court House was built in 1858-59 on the site of the former stone record office. G. J. F. Bryant of Boston was the architect. Part of the earlier Court House, built in 1824, still stands on the south corner of Winter Street. On the east side of the Square several new brick blocks were erected, including one with an ornamental iron front. The Cheshire House property was expanded and remodeled in 1859, and in 1860 another story was added to the St. John's Block on the south corner of Main and West Streets.

Early in 1860 Cheshire Hall, located in the hotel of the same name, was dedicated. In this hall were held many of Keene's social events, including dances and balls. The Keene Quadrille Band, an auxiliary to the Keene Brass Band, formed about 1859, provided music at the opening festivities. In the third story of the building was a 5,000 gallon tank which provided water for the hotel. In November 1860 the hoops burst and the entire building was flooded, its stairways becoming temporary cascades.

The First Congregational Church took its present form in 1859-60, when it was moved back four feet, enlarged, and remodeled. The church was rededicated in January 1861, and Rev. John A. Hamilton, who served under Rev. Barstow from 1858, was ordained as his assistant.

In 1856 a fire destroyed a part of the Mechanic Street industrial area. When it was rebuilt a chair factory was added, in addition to the door, blind, and sash industries. Steam was beginning to replace water power in Keene mills, which continued to produce lumber and manufactured goods, as well as textiles, machinery, and tools.

A meeting of citizens was held in December 1857 to consider the growing demand for improved library facilities in town. A public library project was studied, and in January 1859 a voluntary association was formed. Leonard Bisco was named first librarian of the Keene Public Library, and shares in the enterprise were sold for \$5 each. The collection consisted of volumes from several private libraries plus 1,000 new purchases. Circulation was begun on September 3, 1859, from a collection of 1,500 books, including valuable files of the *New Hampshire Sentinel* which were donated by John Prentiss. The library was located on the second floor in Elliot's Block on the corner of West Street. It was not yet a tax-supported public institution but was open to more citizens than any previous such enterprise had been.

A Young Men's Christian Union was formed in Keene during 1859, with rooms on the east side of the Square. A free reading room was maintained for the youth of the community, and lectures were sponsored from time to time. Delegates were sent to the first state convention in 1868, but the organization became inactive after 1869. It was revived as the YMCA in 1885.

The town accepted a bequest from David A. Simmons in 1860 for the assistance of the poor, aged, and infirm. Further additions to this fund created a valuable early form of social assistance. The annual town meeting of 1860 also saw action to preserve the original Keene ministry land, a tract of some 56 acres in the north part of the town near the Old Gilsum Road, which had been set aside for support of the town's pastor in 1787 and provided his winter supply of firewood. A great deal of the timber had been lost in the high wind of 1854, and money from the sale of the lumber had been placed in the town treasury, but voters directed that a separate fund be established. By this action an annual payment to the ministers of all faiths has been made ever since.

Protestant Episcopal services, which had been held as early as 1816 in various locations, led to the organization of a church during the summer of 1858. Rev. Henry N. Hudson and Rev. Nathaniel Sprague, D.D., a native of Keene, among other visiting clergy, had conducted services before the formation of the church under the sponsorship of the Rt. Rev. Carleton Chase, Bishop of New Hampshire.

Rev. Edward A. Renouf, of St. Stephen's Church in Boston, was invited to work in Keene, and in May 1859 he became the first rector of the parish of St. James. Land purchased from the Cheshire Railroad on West Street was given for the erection of a church, and plans were drawn in 1860 for the structure by Charles E. Parker, a Boston architect and a native of Keene, who had made plans for the Town Hall in 1848.

In 1858 Smith and Morley of Philadelphia published a large wall map of Cheshire County, one of a series of New England county maps. It included views of Keene's Main Street, the Cheshire House, and the Eagle Hotel, as well as a map of the village and a business directory. The population of Keene in 1860 was 4,320, and there were 70 miles of roads in the township.

The Cheshire Steam Mills were established at this time to make use of the timber blown down in the great 1854 wind. Their extensive shops on Davis and Ralston Streets were erected about 1860. Josiah Colony had carried on the successful Faulkner & Colony textile mill after the death of Francis Faulkner in 1842 and was joined in the business by Charles S. Faulkner in 1846. Colony retired in favor of his sons George D. and Horatio in 1869. George W. Ball's brickyard, first located on Roxbury Street and later on Appleton Street, was begun about 1856, to make use of the rich clay deposits of the Keene valley, and Hiram Walcott produced lead pencils on Court Street during the 1860's.

John Humphrey established his first mills in Keene in 1861, and the shoe peg factory, begun in 1858, became the nucleus of a settlement and school district on Beech Hill. The important South Keene firm of J. A. Fay & Co. closed its Keene association in 1862, when their operations were moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, and Norwich, Conn.

The *Cheshire Republican* weekly newspaper was sold in 1865 by Horatio Kimball, its proprietor since 1852, to Julius N. Morse and William B. Allen. Allen withdrew after about six years and Morse was sole proprietor until 1878, when the paper was sold to Joshua D. Colony & Sons. John W. Prentiss, who had worked with his father John Prentiss at the *New Hampshire Sentinel*, was publisher himself after his father's retirement in 1847 after 48 years as editor and publisher. Forced by poor health to retire in 1853, John W. Prentiss died in 1863.

The Cheshire Agricultural Society continued annual exhibits and the buildings on its fairgrounds in West Keene were improved; over 6,000 people attended some of the exhibitions. The Cheshire County Musical Institute was formed, carrying on the programs of several

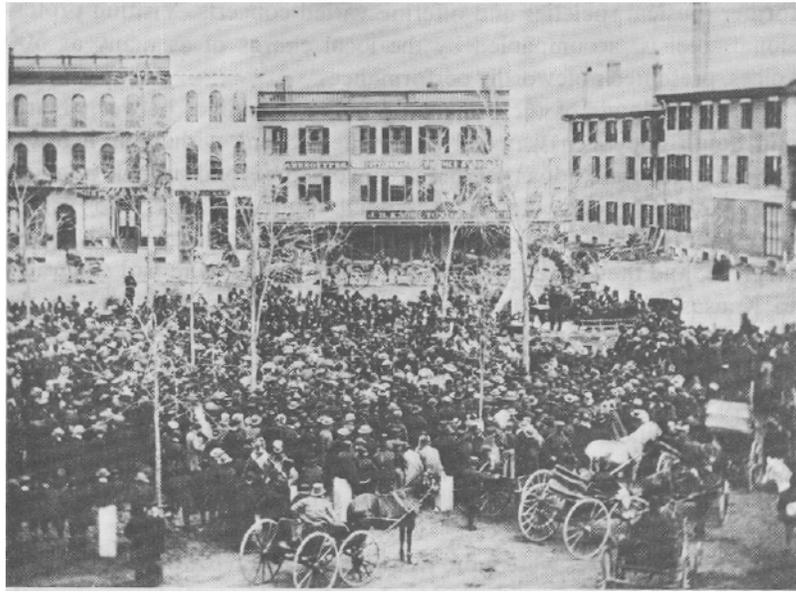
former musical societies and offering varied concerts. Visiting professional soloists, accompanied by the local chorus of as many as 500 voices, presented noteworthy performances.

Storm clouds of the impending national conflict between North and South had been watched by Keene citizens with apprehension, although they were not as yet directly involved beyond support of abolition movements and aid to occasional fugitive slaves who passed through town on their way to Canada. Only three persons in town were Negroes, and they were free citizens. Asa S. White, who had emigrated to Kansas with other anti-slavery people, addressed citizens in the Town Hall in October 1856 and brought to Keene an eyewitness account of the border warfare in "bloody Kansas." Thomas M. Edwards, elected to Congress in 1859, was a witness to the growing peril, and a friend of political figures in the nation's capital. William Lloyd Garrison and other abolitionists spoke from Keene platforms; Edward Everett Hale came in 1857 and Horace Greeley lectured in December 1860.

Political figures were more frequent visitors in town as the national elections of 1860 approached. Abraham Lincoln wrote to an associate from Hartford, Conn., in March just after his famed Cooper Union speech, "Will you please try to get Mr. Greeley or Gen. Nye or some good man to go and speak at Keene, N. H., next Friday evening? I promised to have it done if possible and I will be much obliged if it can be."¹³

In the spirited election Keene cast 635 votes for Lincoln, 244 for Douglas, 31 for Breckenridge, and 5 for Bell. During October the Lincoln and Hamlin Wide Awakes, a Republican campaign club and a chapter of a national organization, had staged an impressive four-mile torchlight parade with nearly 1,000 marchers. Moving down Main Street 8 to 18 abreast, they made an impressive display and drew as large a crowd as could be remembered up to that time. The procession was swelled by units from Rindge, Troy, Fitzwilliam, Walpole, Claremont, Chester, Springfield, and Bellows Falls, and, with bands and drum corps, they formed one of the most spectacular campaign parades ever staged in Keene. Supporters of the Republican ticket placed lamps or candles in all their windows; those who belonged to the other parties took care that not a glimmer of light showed from theirs.

News of the secession of Southern states was read in Keene with growing concern. On April 12, 1861, Fort Sumter was fired upon and the news flashed to the nation. On April 15 President Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers, and the governor of New Hampshire issued his



Recruiting in the Common for the Civil War

call for the militia. It was answered from every quarter of the state. Keene became a regional recruiting station again, and as a railroad center saw many soldiers off to the field of battle.

On April 19 a handbill was circulated announcing a mass meeting of citizens of Cheshire County to be held on April 22. As the crowd was too great to be accommodated in any hall, the meeting was moved to the Square, where leading members of both political parties spoke in support of the Union. It was reported to be the largest meeting ever held in the Square, and a photograph of the event still exists. Ex-Governor Samuel Dinsmoor was chosen president of the proceedings, and aging General James Wilson addressed the gathering with a rousing speech. Tileston A. Barker of Westmoreland offered to head a volunteer company; the Cheshire Light Guard became fully organized on the spot, ready to march in three days; 23 citizens agreed to pledge \$100 each to aid the families of volunteers. In the evening Keene citizens met at the Town Hall to hear addresses in support of military enlistment, and at an adjourned meeting the next evening applauded Lieutenant Henry C. Handerson, the recruiting officer, who marched in with a company of recruits. That group of 67 men, which left for Concord on April 25, was given a send-off by a large crowd, and from

the New Hampshire Bible Society each volunteer received a Testament.

Intense excitement prevailed through the summer and fall, and frequent meetings were held, several of them mass gatherings in the Square.

On May 6, 1861, Captain Barker's company of 79 and another of 62 recruits left Keene for Portsmouth amid the cheers and prayers of Keene citizens. As the state treasury lacked the funds for these expeditions, the three Keene banks, as well as others in the state, offered loans to the state to meet the sudden emergency. Keene citizens subscribed \$25,450 of a loan and took further measures to provide for the families of volunteers. In the absence of governmental programs and organized machinery for loans and bounty payments, especially during the early years of the war, communities organized to support such efforts.

Women of the village were quick to begin their work for the cause. Clothing, bandages, and other needs of the troops were furnished by the ladies who first met on May 6, 1861, at the home of Rev. Edward A. Renouf. A meeting at the Town Hall the next day was well attended, and work was soon organized sending boxes to Concord and the Soldiers' Aid Society. Early in June the Cheshire County Soldiers' Aid Society, a branch of the state group, was formed. Correspondence and cooperation were established with similar organizations, and materials were gathered in Keene for shipment to the National Sanitary Commission. Nearly every Keene woman was a member of the Soldiers' Aid Society, which was governed by 11 directors representing the several religious societies in town. The zeal and loyalty of the women continued throughout the war, weekly meetings being held and large shipments sent as their contribution to the war effort. At one meeting 100 ladies met to sew shirts, their project aided by a similar ladies' group in Nelson. Several fairs and special events to raise money were held each year and these were organized by the ladies. At the close of the war the accumulated treasury funds were used to assist the families of those soldiers who had been killed or wounded, and the Society remained active until 1871, when it sent 12 cases of clothing and bedding weighing 2,650 pounds to sufferers in the Chicago fire.

Church and other groups, such as the Ladies' Charitable Society, were also active in war relief work. Perhaps the first box for soldiers sent from Keene was that prepared by members of the XY Club in June 1861. Included were magazines, blankets, socks, shirts, slippers, soap, towels, and a copy of *The Life of Fremont*. When William S. Briggs returned from a trip to Washington early in 1862, the club ladies

gathered to hear about the "state of affairs in our nation's capital" and were fascinated by Briggs' description of a reception he had attended at the White House given by President Lincoln, "of the furniture of the famous East Room, the dresses of the ladies, and manner of the President and his wife to their guests."

Tragedy struck the club when a member, Mrs. Julia Nancy Wakefield Dort, and her six-year-old son Arthur were drowned in August 1862. Mrs. Dort had been visiting her husband, Major Obed G. Dort, while his regiment was encamped at Newport News, Va. After the regiment left, the wives were on their way back to Baltimore when a boat collided with their steamer. In all 120 lost their lives.

The Cheshire County Christian Commission, a branch of the national organization, was formed in 1863 with headquarters in Keene, and the Union League Club was also among those groups active on the home front during the war years.

In August 1861 a large building on Court Street north of the Court House burned. Used for stores and the Foster organ and melodeon business, it was said to have been used years earlier as a court house, and for a time stood in the center of what is now Court Street, before that street was laid out in its present course.

Ardent patriotism inspired by interest in the progress of the war was evident in holiday celebrations, such as Washington's Birthday 1862, which was observed in grand style. Stirring speeches at the Town Hall, music by a military band and glee club, and 34 young girls, who carried miniature flags representing the states, and who sang "The Star Spangled Banner," made a deep impression.

Although all joined in support of the Union at the outbreak of hostilities, Democratic statesmen and some of the press, including Keene's *Cheshire Republican*, later became critical of the federal administration and its conduct of military operations.

Company G of the First Regiment of New Hampshire Volunteers, composed of many of Keene's first recruits, saw service in the early months of the war. Captain Barker's company from Cheshire County became Company A of the Second Regiment with several from Keene as officers, and it saw action at Bull Run. It also fought at Gettysburg in 1863. Several in the Third Regiment were from Keene, and others served with the Fifth New Hampshire Regiment, which saw action at Fair Oaks, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg. Keene men enlisted in several other New Hampshire regiments and some fought with units from other states.

In December 1861 the Sixth New Hampshire Regiment had its

rendezvous in Keene at Camp Brooks (now Wheelock Park) where their camp was composed of large conical tents, each equipped with a stove. The presence of soldiers caused unusual excitement throughout the town, and a sumptuous Thanksgiving dinner was provided at the camp by local citizens. The regiment marched to Central Square on December 19 and formed a circle around the Park, where its colors were presented and an address was delivered by Governor Nathaniel Springer Berry. A number of the officers and men were from the Keene area, including Colonel Simon G. Griffin, who had volunteered as a private, and was a veteran of earlier service in the Second Regiment. Rev. John A. Hamilton of Keene served as chaplain at one time with this unit. The regiment left Keene in 22 cars on Christmas morning 1861. Even a foot of snow did not keep an immense crowd from gathering at the station to cheer the soldiers off.

The Sixth saw action at the battle at Camden, N. C., where it was commended for its part in scattering the enemy, winning a reputation that lasted throughout the war. In July 1863 news of the fall of Vicksburg, in which the Sixth played a part, was greeted in Keene by music, the ringing of church bells, and cannon salutes. The soldiers received a grand welcome upon their return home early in 1864, and quarters were set up in the Town Hall for the men. The regiment returned to the field in March and was reviewed by President Lincoln in Washington before joining in the last fighting of the war at Petersburg and Richmond. Under command of General Simon G. Griffin, the Sixth won high praise from the General Staff. A native of Nelson and later a resident of Keene, Griffin became New Hampshire's highest ranking volunteer officer of the war and saw service in 22 major battles.

In 1862 the Ninth New Hampshire Regiment was recruited and included a number from Keene. Several local men served with the Eleventh, the Fourteenth, and the Eighteenth Regiments, which were raised in 1862 and 1864. New Hampshire furnished several cavalry companies in which Keene men served, as well as artillery companies and sharpshooting units with whom local men saw action. Three from the town held commissions with the Negro troops raised during the war, and 11 men served in the navy. In 1866 it was reported that Keene had sent 584 men into military service, 48 of whom gave their lives during the war. A Keene soldier, Corporal Charles H. Knight, received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his action at Petersburg, Va., on July 30, 1864, during a mine explosion.

The continued demand for troops, necessitated by the terrible

battle losses as well as the short terms of enlistment, made recruiting a steady task. A draft was instituted in 1863, and 410 names were entered from Keene in the first drawing, of which 123 were drawn out. A few went into service, but most hired substitutes. When the second draft call came the quota from Keene was 58.

In March 1864 a steam boiler exploded at Osborne & Hale's Mechanic Street plant injuring 12, two of whom died. A photograph of the ruins is one of the early pictorial records in Keene history. A tower and balustrade were added to the Town Hall in 1864. In the national election that year Keene cast 652 votes for Lincoln and 317 for the opposition candidates; the Union men celebrated their victory with a banquet for 350 at the Cheshire House soon after the election.

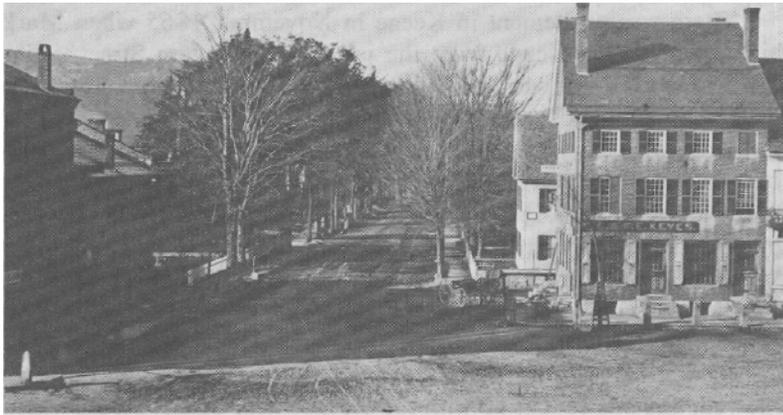
The war economy depreciated the value of paper money, and large amounts of this currency were issued to meet the emergency. Prices rose, and heavy income and other taxes were imposed. Bonds were sold in support of the government, nearly a million dollars' worth being taken in Keene by individuals and the banks. Each of the banking institutions adopted governmental regulations, and three became national banks; the Cheshire National Bank in 1864, the Cheshire County Bank (rechartered as the Keene National Bank), and the Ashuelot National Bank in 1865. The Cheshire National Bank was made a United States depository, receiving and transmitting internal revenue to the amount of \$700,000 during 1865.

News of the fall of Richmond arrived in Keene at noon on Monday, April 3, 1865, the day following the event. All during the afternoon and evening the streets of the village resounded with joyful noise. A salute of 100 guns was fired to honor the approaching end of the conflict, flags flew, drums sounded, and bonfires illuminated the festivities, which lasted until midnight. At the news of Lee's surrender on April 9 preparations were made for a grand civic celebration.

"The village of Keene was probably never so generally and brilliantly illuminated as it was on Friday evening, in honor of the recent splendid Union victories achieved in Virginia. The court house, hotels, town hall, and nearly all the stores, shops and dwelling houses were literally in a blaze. The streets were thronged with people from this and neighboring towns, and the fire companies from Keene, Troy, Ashuelot and Bellows Falls bearing torches, marched through the principal streets, accompanied by the Ashburnham Band and other music. The fireworks prepared and managed by a gentleman from Boston, added much to the excitement and pleasure of the evening. The whole affair was eminently successful," the *Sentinel* reported.

During that same evening, April 14, 1865, as Keene and the entire North celebrated, President Lincoln was shot while attending a performance at Ford's Theater in Washington. William Howe Otis, the professional name of Otis Reed of Keene, a member of Laura Keene's company (which staged the play Lincoln was attending), frequently played opposite her in "Our American Cousin," the bill that evening, but was not in the cast on the fateful night.

"More tears were shed that day, I believe, than were ever shed on this planet in any one day before," wrote Rev. William Orne White in a letter describing the reaction to Lincoln's assassination. Church bells tolled, and homes, stores, and public buildings were draped in black. April 19 was declared a national day of mourning, and Keene houses of worship were filled for the special services conducted at the



West Street and "Keyes' Corner" about 1863

same time as the state funeral in Washington. Minute guns were fired, and bells tolled as the community joined the nation in grief.

One of the most destructive fires in Keene history occurred on October 19, 1865, when the entire group of buildings, on the east side of the Square from Roxbury Street to the Town Hall, was destroyed. A strong breeze threatened the Cheshire House as well, and much attention had to be given to prevent that building from catching fire. Keene's fire department was composed at this time of a chief engineer, four assistants, the Deluge and Neptune Engine Companies, the Niagara Hose Company, and the Phoenix Hook and Ladder Company, and citizen volunteers. The town well exhausted, water was pumped

from Beaver Brook by an engine located at the crest of the Roxbury Street hill and from there to the scene of the blaze. Destroyed in about three hours were three brick business blocks, including the "fireproof" iron front building owned by the Cheshire Mills interests, and the "Music Hall" located in one of the structures. The only wooden building in the area, the post office owned by Thomas M. Edwards, and sometimes called "Uncle Tom's cabin," was pulled down to prevent the flames from spreading to the Town Hall. Study of a municipal water system had begun in 1861, and this latest fire served to advance the proposals. A meeting in support of the measure was held in March 1866, but opposition on the grounds of the expense involved prevented the plan from being carried out. Water pipes were not laid to the Square until 1869. Charles Batcheller received a patent in the early 1860's for a driven well technique that was used in Keene at several private homes and on farms with some success.

There was excitement in Keene in November 1865 when Mark Shinborn made his escape from the jail on Washington Street. Shinborn was a German who had come to this country about 1860; he was a man of handsome and pleasing appearance. He acquired a knowledge of locks and in November 1864 robbed the bank at Walpole of some \$40,000. He was arrested at Saratoga, N. Y., and brought to Keene for trial in 1865, where he attracted much attention, particularly among the young women. He was convicted and sentenced to the state prison for a term of 10 years, but on the day of his sentence, as supper was being brought in, he produced a revolver, which had been smuggled to him by an accomplice, and walked out of the stone jail, making his way up Beaver Street toward Beech Hill. Pursuers followed, and one caught up with the escapee near Sunset Rock, where Shinborn sat on a large boulder and informed the follower politely that he had come about far enough. Shinborn was later captured in New York State and was returned to Keene in February 1866. He was then taken to Concord, where he made another escape from prison in December and returned to Keene. He lived in Keene unrecognized for several months as he looked over the prospects for robbing the Ashuelot National Bank. An unsuccessful attempt on the vault had been made early in December, perhaps by his accomplices. Shinborn took impressions of the vault keys and had duplicates made, but upon entering the vault found only about \$1,000, which he felt was not enough, and he resolved to wait until more money was deposited. On his second attempt he found the money sacks so heavy that he decided to go to New York for aid in removing them, but other matters inter-

vened and he never returned.

In New York Shinborn was involved in a robbery reportedly amounting to a million dollars. He escaped to Europe, assumed a title, and gambled away his fortune. Returning to a career of crime, he was sent to prison but managed to obtain a pardon. He then circulated the rumor of his own death, and returned to the United States, where he was arrested by the Pinkerton Agency in 1895. Imprisoned for over five years for robbery, he was returned to New Hampshire to serve out his sentence for the Walpole robbery. At this time he denied repeatedly that he was Mark Shinborn.

Rev. John A. Hamilton, associate with Rev. Barstow at the First Church, left Keene in 1865, and was followed by Rev. Joseph Allen Leach, who served as associate until the organization of the Second Congregational Church in 1867, when he became its first pastor. Rev. William N. Clarke, who in later years was an important figure in American theological thought and writer on religious subjects, was the Baptist pastor from 1864 until 1869.

In June 1865 the New Hampshire legislature passed an act to establish Keene as a city, subject to the approval of the local citizens, but at this time, preferring to remain a town, they voted 411 to 241 not to adopt the measure.



Clarke's Block at mid 19th century