



NEWS from the WHATELY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

December 2021

in Town Hall

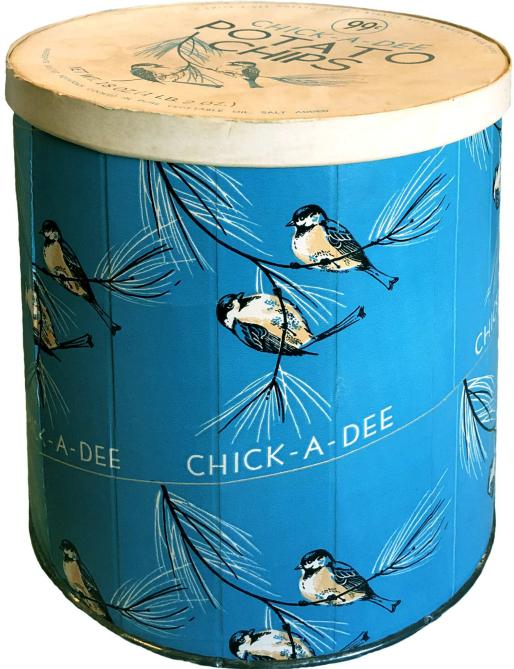
194 Chestnut Plain Road, Whately, MA 01093

info@whatelyhistorical.org · www.whatelyhistorical.org

Did you know that Whately was once home to one of the largest potato chip factories in New England? Chick-A-Dee Potato Chips was founded in 1965 by Louis Kandz, a successful potato grower in East Whately. The factory was housed in a converted tobacco shop on Straits Road (now Long Plain Road). Kandz came up with a recipe for wafer-thin chips and invented the machinery to produce them.

Mark Niedbala of Hatfield bought the business in the late 1960s. In December 1969, *The Greenfield Recorder* reported that Chick-A-Dee Potato Chips was processing six tons of potatoes a day and had 25 employees. According to Ena Cane's history of Whately, by 1972 Chick-A-Dee was one of the two or three largest potato chip firms in New England. It lasted until 1973. If you know more about the company's history, please share with us at info@whatelyhistorical.org.

This cheerful, cardboard container was designed by Chick-A-Dee Potato Chip Co. in 1969. It held 18 oz. and sold for 99 cents. It was hoped that consumers would find other uses for the decorative can after the chips were eaten. WHS has three in its collection.



WHS EVENTS

Pottery exhibit · Open Tuesdays 9 a.m.–noon and Saturdays 11 a.m.–1 p.m. through December 11, 2021. Thanks again to those who lent items from their private collections to complement the WHS permanent collection.



Ice Harvesting and the Natural Ice Industry in New England talk by Dennis Picard. Thursday, March 17, 6:30 pm at Hatfield Congregational Church. Co-sponsored by Hatfield Historical Society and WHS.



The October 2021 Fall Festival was a great success! Thanks to the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Whately Cultural Council for support of the music and the pottery-making demonstration. Thanks also to Mill River Farm, Snow's Ice Cream, and Tom's Foot-Long Hot Dog and Grille.



Visitors enjoy the pottery exhibit at the WHS museum.



Recent gifts accepted by WHS

- From Roger “Dan” Kennedy—photos of his family farm on the east side of Chestnut Plain Road in Whately, including a shot of a barn (above) built in 1950.
- From Brent Young—a hay hook marked “RUP CO / WHATELY MA” which likely came from the Rup Farm at the intersection of Christian Lane and State Road (Rtes. 5&10).



- From Bruce Cleare—a wooden sled found in his barn.



Hay hook
donated
to WHS by
Brent Young

Request WHS Services at info@whatelyhistorical.org

- Genealogy assistance
- House histories
- Family connections to Whately
- Deed research



In November, Archivist Dereka Smith and Gary Sanderson of Greenfield, MA, led Mark (L) and Paul Sanderson (R) of South Euclid, OH, on a tour of family history sites in Whately.

Support the Historical Society

Offer Materials • Don’t throw away those old farm implements and tools, photographs, diaries, letters, wedding invitations, or outfits. The Historical Society is always looking for items that illustrate the past and complement our current holdings. Call for an appointment to bring materials to Town Hall. Our archivist and curator will review all offers to decide which to add to the collection.

Volunteer • We always need help maintaining and documenting the collection, social media, and planning and supporting events. Call Adelia at 665-3837 or email info@whatelyhistorical.org.

Become a Member • Join others who care about the history of our town! Receive notices about all programs, invitations to special activities, and monthly “Perspective on the Past” emails. Membership categories: Individual \$10, Family \$15, Supporter \$40, Patron \$75. Dues support the preservation and expansion of the museum collection and are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Make check out to the *Whately Historical Society*. Send it with your name, address, phone number and email address to Whately Historical Society, P.O. Box 7, Whately, MA 01093. You may also pay with a credit card or via PayPal at www.whatelyhistorical.org

The Whately Historical Society was founded in 1966 to preserve the town’s history and to educate townspeople and others about Whately’s past. The Society sponsors programs, research and activities about the history and culture of Whately and the region; maintains a museum of Whately documents, images and objects; and responds to inquiries about Whately history and genealogy.

The Whately Historical Society is incorporated as a charitable organization in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and has been designated as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization by the IRS.

Explore www.whatelyhistorical.org to learn more about our collections, access resources about Whately history, learn about future events, and purchase Town histories, historic postcards and note cards, T-shirts, or sweatshirts.

Officers

Neal Abraham, President
Adelia Bardwell, Immediate Past President
Betty Orloski, Vice President
Bill Saunders, Treasurer
Gretchen Bechta, Secretary
Dereka Smith, Archivist
Jane Grybko, Curator
Judy Markland, Webmaster