



## Mansfield Sestercentennial



As our town begins to recognize its momentous 250th anniversary, the excitement is already building for a year filled with special events and activities to mark this historic milestone. The last time Mansfield had a similar celebration was in 1975 when we celebrated our

bicentennial. For that celebration, there was a fantastic parade that has been long remembered by the participants and spectators.

For our Sestercentennial, our town's celebration committee is once again planning a Grand Parade. The date has been set for May 17. There will also be a three-day celebration on the weekend of August 22-24 when we will recognize our actual Incorporation Day with many fun-filled family activities.

Thanks to the generosity of four significant donors and several others, the 250th Anniversary Celebration Committee has begun planning this series of unforgettable events. These donations were crucial to laying the foundation for what promises to be a spectacular celebration. The funds will support the logistics of a parade, and the recognition of our town's Incorporation Day which will be a central highlight of the year-long celebration. Additionally, there are plans for some cultural activities which will give our townspeople an opportunity to learn about their own personal ancestry.

If additional funds are raised, the planning committee hopes to conclude the year of celebration with an unforgettable bonfire and fireworks display in the Fall.

It is the hope of the planning committee that other local civic organizations will join in the festivities by hosting their own 250th related activities and events. Through these partnering events, we will create a year-long celebration that will be remembered in the hearts and minds of our community for years to come.

Additional 250th Celebration information can be found on the celebration webpage at:

[www.mansfieldma.com/250th-celebration](http://www.mansfieldma.com/250th-celebration)

Inquiries can be sent to: [celebration@mansfieldma.com](mailto:celebration@mansfieldma.com)

## The Joy House

By Nancy Breef-Pilz

In March 1915, Alice Joy purchased my house, a "bungalow on Church St" from William C. Winter and his son, William L. who were developing the land that had previously housed their greenhouses. Alice's husband, Daniel, was considered an expert in the milling industry and had just moved from Winthrop (MA) to become the new General Manager of the Mansfield Grain Mill. The Joys continued to live in the house and were involved in town until their deaths; Daniel in 1935 and Alice in 1938. Both are buried at Spring Brook Cemetery. The house stayed in their family, owned by their son, Donald, until after his death in 1963 when it was sold by his widow, Evelyn Shepard Joy.



Three years ago, after living in this house for 37 years, I finally learned about the Joy Family and their involvement and contributions to life in Mansfield. My

visits to the Mansfield Public Library and the Copeland House, taught me about the resources available to do the research and answer my questions. Many of these resources are now available online so you can research from your home computer or a computer at the library. You can retrace the deeds of your house on the Bristol County Registry of Deeds website. You can look at old maps of Mansfield on the Library of Congress website. You can check the Mansfield News to see who these early residents were and how they lived. These are just some ways of recreating the past history of your home and those who lived there. You can learn more about the resources and get help with your research at the Mansfield History Center at the Copeland House. (53 Rumford Ave. Open: Mondays 6-8 pm & Saturdays 10 am -12 noon)

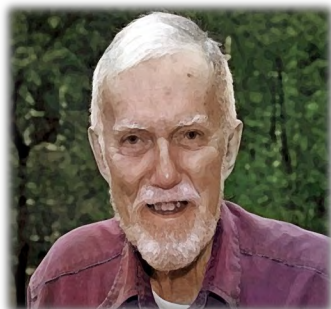




## The Harry B. Chase Collection

The Mansfield History Center is honored to have received an extensive collection of personal papers and collections belonging to the late Harry B. Chase, a local historian and naturalist.

Born in Mansfield on September 27, 1921, Harry was a man of immense and varied talents. He had an abiding interest in the history of Mansfield. Few could rival his local knowledge. His recollections of old time Mansfield were captured in his newspaper column "This Old Town". The column was greatly beloved by his readers. The articles were compiled into a two-volume series of books and are available for purchase at the Copeland House.



Harry B. Chase, Jr.

He worked throughout his life to conserve the town's natural beauty. He loved the outdoors and spent many days exploring the woods of Mansfield, which were far more expansive in his youth. He was a charter member and founder of the Natural Resources Trust of Mansfield. Harry served as clerk on Mansfield's first Conservation Commission. He greatly enjoyed working with the Boy Scouts and sharing his knowledge of nature with younger generations.

As the son of a "railroad man", Harry's knowledge of New England railroading was immense and he authored books and articles on the subject, as well as several articles on coal mining.

Harry Chase passed away in 2016 at the age of 95; then last April his wife, O. Joyce Mitchell Chase, passed away. While clearing out her house on South Main Street, Joyce's son, John Mitchell recognized the value of these notebooks and collections and contacted the historical society. The donation illustrates the diverse interests of Mr. Chase, and includes photo albums, newspaper articles, personal journals and information gathered from his research.

As with all donations, this Harry Chase Collection will be added to the resources at the Copeland House and used for research and future displays.

*Visit Harry B. Chase Place on the World War II Veterans' Memorial Trail, in the rear of Jimmy's Pub.*

*A great place to have a picnic.*



*(Continued from page 1)*

Then proudly "mark" the history with this house sign and support the Mansfield Historical Society. The Historic Marker Program is a way for residents to share that knowledge with the broader community by purchasing a custom-made, dated sign that helps preserve the story of Mansfield.

Information and applications are available on our website: [www.mhsma.org](http://www.mhsma.org). Haven't done your house research? No problem. We will research and verify the original owner and date for the information on your house marker.

### Coming soon

#### *Research My House History*

A DIY Program  
at the Mansfield Public Library, 255 Hope St.  
On Saturday, March 8, 2025 at 1pm

For more information and registration:  
[www.mansfieldlibraryma.com/events](http://www.mansfieldlibraryma.com/events)



## Historic Marker Program

The Historic Marker Program was established to honor and celebrate the history of the town of Mansfield and to create visibility, awareness, and interest in the individuals and families who helped shape our community.

Many people are curious about the house where they live and visit the Historical Society to find out more about their home and the many diverse people and places that made Mansfield what it is today.



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[For details click here to visit our website.](#)



The Fisher-Richardson House will be open for guided tours from the first Sunday in June through the first Sunday in September. Admission is free. More information is available at [www.mhsma.org](http://www.mhsma.org).

Can't wait to visit the Fisher-Richardson House?

[Click here for a virtual tour.](#)

The **Mansfield Historical Society** was founded in 1951 by local historian Jennie Copeland and a group of devoted charter members. We are 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation dedicated to "preserving material relative to the history of Mansfield."

In 2023 the Society started doing business as the Mansfield History Center. We welcome new members. Visit our [website](#) to join.

## Upcoming Events

### 👉 Search Your House's History

**Saturday, Mar 8th, 1:00 PM**

Mansfield Public Library, 255 Hope St.

*Learn how to research the age of your home & the people who lived there with resources found locally & online. More information and to register:*

[www.mansfieldlibraryma.com](http://www.mansfieldlibraryma.com)

508-261-7380

### 👉 Mansfield Historical Society Annual Meeting

**Saturday, Mar 15th, 11:00 AM**

Copeland House, 53 Rumford Ave.

*Annual business meeting. Refreshments served. All members are welcome. The public is welcome.*

### 👉 Basic Genealogy Workshop

**Saturday, April 12th, 1:00 to 3:00 PM**

Mansfield Public Library, 255 Hope St.

*Learn how to find your ancestors and build your family tree. Bring your laptop and access the library's subscription to Ancestry.com & Fold3. Taught by Judith Allen-Shaw, from the Afro-American Historical & Genealogical Society New England Chapter. (This program will be repeated on June 14 & Sept. 13).*

More information and to register:

[www.mansfieldlibraryma.com](http://www.mansfieldlibraryma.com)

508-261-7380

### 👉 Quarterly Mansfield Historical Society Meeting

**Monday, May 12th, 6:00 PM:**

Copeland House, 53 Rumford Ave

### 👉 Sestercentennial (250th) Parade

**Saturday, May 17th**

### 👉 Incorporation Days

**Weekend of August 22nd through 24th**

*For details on 250th events visit*

[www.Mansfieldma.com/250th-celebration](http://www.Mansfieldma.com/250th-celebration)

**\*\*March is Membership Month\*\***

**\*\*\*Please renew now\*\*\***