

**The Roby District Walking Tour**  
**August 16, 2009**

You might be wondering how this section of Warner received the name Roby? It was probably from Moses Roby, the postmaster and station agent, at the Roby railroad station. His farm was located at the junction of the road to Sutton and Warner and was referred to as Roby's Corner.

This section of the Warner River was bustling with the activity of several mills located on its bank producing such diverse products as pails, tubs, excelsior, chairs, bedsteads, shingles, wooden stopples for milk jugs, woolen cloth, hubs for wagons and stagecoaches, clothespins and crutches. Reading various aspects of town histories and people's memoirs it is difficult to pinpoint the location of some of the mills without delving into further research.

We are beginning at Stephen Chapin Pierce's chair factory. He is usually referred to as simply, Chapin Pierce. As we proceed upstream you will see the remnants of other mills by their foundations and dam locations. This section from here up the river was often referred to as Stevensville. The 1858 map and various census records indicated the homes of Theodore, James, Enoch, Ebenezer Sr. and Jr., Tristan, and Hiram Stevens. The Federal census through the years stated their occupations as carriage maker, wheelwright, tobacconist, mechanic, pail and tub manufacturer and shoemaker. A wheelwright was someone whose trade was making or repairing wheels and wheel carriages. A mechanic was skilled in the use and repair of tools and equipment. They were kept busy with their own millwork as well as assisting their neighbors.

Other mills referred to as being in this area are: Jewell's sawmill, Moses Adams & Stephen Bartlett's or Page's woolen mill, a cotton factory, Sam Page's box factory, William Little manufactured clothespins and John Keyes had some type of operation. It will take further detective work to straighten out mill ownership and location by researching deeds, chattels and tax records. Here is a list of manufacturers and laborers from the census records.

1850	Noah Andrews	Millwright
	John Page	Blacksmith
	James Stevens	Carriage maker
	Theodore Stevens	Wheelwright
	Ebenezer Stevens, Jr.	Cabinetmaker
	Hiram Stevens	Shoemaker
	Moses Collins	Wheelwright
1860	Oliver Redington	Hub Mfg.

John Page  
Theodore Stevens  
Enoch Stevens  
Jerome Stevens  
Hiram Stevens  
James Stevens  
Stephen Pierce

Blacksmith  
Wheelwright  
Wheelwright  
Mechanic  
Shoemaker  
Tobacconist  
Excelsior Mfg.

1870

Henry Adams  
Jennie Eastman  
Alfred Sargent  
George Page  
Oliver Bartlett  
Stephen Bartlett  
Rotheous Bartlett  
Erastus Bartlett  
Ai Bartlett  
Imri Sargent  
Peter Gregg  
Evans Lewis  
Stephen Pierce  
John Redington  
Oliver Redington  
Charles Redington  
Alfred Kelly  
Samuel Bagley  
Enoch Stevens

Mfg. of woolen goods  
works in woolen factory  
carpenter  
works in bobbin factory  
Excelsior Mfg.  
Excelsior Mfg.  
Excelsior Mfg.  
Excelsior Mfg.  
works in excelsior shop  
works in excelsior shop  
works in excelsior shop  
works in excelsior shop  
Chair Mfg.  
Wooden bowl Mfg.  
Hubs and clothespins Mfg.  
works in hub and clothespins shop  
works in clothespin shop  
works in clothespin shop  
wheelwright

1880

John Sargent  
Chapin Pierce  
Oliver Redington  
Charles Redington  
James Sargent  
Charles Scoby  
Parker Bartlett  
Erastus Bartlett  
Ai Bartlett  
James Caldwell  
Warren Burrell  
Davie McDole

works in chair factory  
Chair Mfg.  
Hub Mfg.  
Hub Mfg.  
works in hub factory  
works in hub factory  
works in excelsior shop  
Excelsior Mfg.  
Excelsior Mfg.  
works in excelsior shop  
works in excelsior shop  
works in excelsior shop