

Chase: Warren Simeon and John Wesley

There were two John Chases, in addition to one who may have died in infancy. John Baxter Chase was born in 1828, died 1907. He was the father of both John Wesley Chase ("Johnnie"), born 1876 and Warren Simeon Chase, born 1878 and died 1949. Virgil's Prettyman's diary entry suggests that Johnnie had a Camp Moosilauke connection and that would not be surprising but I don't have any confirmation of that.

All these men lived in East Orford. At the time of his death in 1911, Johnnie was living with his wife at John Baxter Chase's home, just up the hill on Rt. 25A to the west of Camp Moosilauke. I know of no photos of Johnnie. On July 4, 1911, while under the influence of alcohol and mad at someone in the Rollins family, Johnnie loaded a bunch of nails in a cannon on a site along Upper Baker Pond Road, on a rock near where there is a geographic marker today. The cannon misfired or backfired, damaging Johnnie's arm, leading to his death the following day. The cannon was not on Camp Moosilauke property, was aimed in the direction towards Lower Baker Pond where the Rollins family resided. This information is provided by descendants of the Chase family, Connie Chase (granddaughter of Warren Chase) and Claudia Tracy (great granddaughter of Warren Chase). Some of this info is in the Chase family section of the East Orford History Project website The East Orford History Project - Family, Histories

Warren Chase had a fifty-year connection with Camp Moosilauke as carpenter, caretaker and builder of the earliest camp cabins. He also built some Camp Pemi cabins for the founders after leading the scouting party of founders to find a location for Pemi. He also built cabins at Merriwood and what is now Sunset Ranch Camp. Please see his and Johnnie's obituaries at easterfordhistoryproject.com. Also on our website are several photos of Warren Chase and his family. His home was on Upper Baker Pond Road, across the road from the current Merriwood tennis courts. The property has stayed in his family and is currently owned by Claudia Tracy.

One of Warren's children, Maurice Chase, known as "Pug", served as caretaker and raconteur at Camp Moosilauke for decades as well.

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