

Cider Making - Glenn Pease's Diaries - Orford, N.H.

[Compiled by Art Pease, 2017]

Gerald Pease says that Warren Chase's cider mill was on the point of land bounded by Bracket Brook, the 25-A bridge at Gilman's Corner, and 25-A. Based on the language Dad uses here - 'Took cider apples down to the mill', 'went down and got the rest of my cider,' - I'm convinced that he made cider at that mill at Gilman's Corner during the years of all of these entries. It may be that if there was a bumper crop of apples, he made more cider that year and not the succeeding year of two.

I have no diaries from 1950 to 1957, but I remember picking up apples at lots of old apples trees in the stone walls along the fields and pastures at home in the 1950s. However, I have no memory of going down the hill and making the cider and I think I would have remembered that. What I remember about cider at home is that we had 3 large barrels in our cellar every year. By the time I got to high school, Dad had stopped making it. I heard from others that he said he got to liking it too much but he could have made a little for me! ;-)

Given the above and the fact that Warren Chase died in November, 1949, I bet the mill was taken down and/or parts of it moved in the early 1950s. I certainly have no memory of any building there.

Email from Dave Bischoff, 9\22\17: *"Art: Here is what Charlie Ladd has to say & I quote-----
-Coming out Baker Pond Rd--- " Now we cross Bracket Brook east to Wentworth town line. As we cross the bridge on the left, Warren Chase had a shingle and cider mill. This was powered by a steam boiler and engine. In 1910 he sold the boiler engine and shingle mill and replaced with a gas engine. He made cider here for forty years. Maurice Chase has a garden where the building was. (I remember his garden & it was just east of the bridge.)*

Next the Bowles place. The house was gone when I came here but I remember the big barn and when it was taken down. I believe this was an old stagecoach tavern."

Art-You can still see the stones that held up the barn. Walk in the Appalachian Trail perhaps 100 feet & you will see them on the left. If my memory is correct there are single stones perhaps 2 plus feet & on end.

In another spot Charlie after talking about the shingle & cider mill on the left, he then states " On the right (across from the shingle mill) was the Simpson sugar house. Only the foundation left. It was a brick arch with two pans and a heater to boil in."

I got some fill from Clifton Taylor for my new house last summer, when he was putting in the new driveway to Camp. There were many pieces of brick in it."

11\11\92 East Orford White Mtn. Republic & Journal

•Cider is being made at John Ladd's mill [Dave Bischoff says that as far as he can find in Charlie Ladd's journals, they didn't come to Orford until the late 1890s. I checked United Opinion and they have the same item . . .]

Francis R. Pease:

10\13\02

Went out to Charles Beans got a load of wood picked apples afternoon

10\14\02 went with the cream picked apples afternoon
10\16\02 Went out to Charles Beans and got a load of wood picked apples afternoon
10\17\02 went to the Village with wood got in some beans picked a few apples
10\18\02 cold had a hard freeze picked a few apples and cleaned out the cider
barrels
10\19\02 [Sunday] at home all day picked a few apples
10\25\02 went to Warren[s] and made cider
10\27\02 rainy went out and got a load of wood put the cider down cellar
11\1\02 picking apples afternoon
11\3\02 pulling apple trees
11\18\02 made cider sent a barrel to father
11\19\02 boiling cider and putting it down cellar
11\24\02 cutting up apple trees and burning brush

Glenn F. Pease:

9\30\32 picking apples,
10\1\32 Picking apples
10\2\32 [S] Picked a few apples.
10\3\32 picked some apples,
10\8\32 Finished picking apples
10\22\32 made cider

9\24\33 Went out and picked 50 bu. apples
9\29\33 Picked apples this forenoon
10\10\33 Picked apples
10\15\33 Picked a few apples
10\23\33 Took cider apples down to mill
10\25\33 Made cider
10\26\33 Charles boiled cider
10\31\33 Made cider

9\17\34 Walt and I went and got some apples down to Ashland

10\23\35 Took cider barrels out
10\26\35 Picked a few apples
10\27\35 Picked a few apples
11\4\35 Made one barrel of cider

[No 1936 diary]

10\2\37 Picked a few apples
10\5\37 Picked a few apples here at home. Picked 17 bu. out to Kenyon pasture.
10\8\37 Made cider this morn., 3 barrels and one for Walt.
10\21\37 Went out and picked apples in the Kenyon pasture.
10\24\37 Picked a few cider apples
11\1\37 Made two barrels cider

[No 1938 diary]

9\23\39 Picked apples at home all day.

10\7\39 Picked 50 bu. cider apples out to pasture [*Likely Kenyon's*]
10\17\39 Made cider

10\5\40 Picked apples over to orchard p.m. 6 barrels
10\6\40 Went over and got a few apples
10\22\40 Made cider. Helped Warren make cider. Took some cider out to Mr. Lewis

9\26\41 Went over and picked 8 barrels apples for myself
10\4\41 Picked a few cider apples
10\15\41 Picked a few apples a.m.
10\22\41 Made 2 barrels cider
11\8\41 Made cider. Charles boiled cider.
11\9\41 Charles finished cider, 10 gals.

10\11\42 Went out to pasture, picked 13 bu. apples. . . Went over and picked up 14 bu. cider apples, Snows
10\27\42 Made cider this p.m.
10\28\42 Went down and got rest of my cider.

10\14\43 Took Warren over to Warren and up to Claude Smith's and got some cider apples.
10\19\43 Picked some apples over to Mack's
10\21\43 Made cider. Helped Rup make his and put it down cellar.
10\24\43 Went over and got a few apples at Mack's
11\12\43 Made 25 gals. cider, helped Warren make some.

10\29\43 *"Took ladders down to old boarding house for Stanley [Chase] and got a load of brick." I wonder if this could have been the old house on the corner [B. Davis in 1860] or the one farther east [H.P. Chase in 1892], on the left between the two Bracket Brook bridges on 25-A. Stanley was Warren's son and H.P. Chase was his great-great-grandfather John B. Chase's brother.*

10\2\44 Went over and picked 15 bu. apples on Miss Herrin's p.m.
10\3\44 Went over and picked some more apples p.m.
10\7\44 Went over and picked 25 bu. apples.
10\12\44 Went over and picked some more apples.

10\19\44 Went out to Kenyon pasture and picked 12 bags apples
10\24\44 Made my cider today

[1945 - No mention of making cider.]

[1946 - No mention of making cider.]

10\13\47 Rup and I picked apples
10\15\47 Rup picked apples p.m.
10\16\47 Rup, Howard and Gerald picked apples a.m. . . Francis and I got out cider barrels and picked over some apples.
10\18\47 Made cider today

10\19\47 Went down and got my cider and Stanley's
 10\20\47 Went over to MacGinnis' and picked 15 bu. apples after boys got home
 10\21\47 Went over to the Drew place and picked 20 bu. apples a.m.
 10\22\47 Went down and made cider a.m.

 10\10\48 [S] Went over to Campton p.m., got 13 bu. apples, \$26.75.
 10\30\48 Rup, Gerald, Francis and I went up to Corinth and picked 42 bags apples.
 10\31\48 [S] Made a little cider.
 11\1\48 Rup made rest of cider p.m.

 9\24\49 Picked a few apples p.m.
 9\26\49 Picked apples all day. Harry and Myrtle helped
 9\27\49 Picking apples. Finished Ryan field p.m.
 9\29\49 Picking apples
 9\30\49 Picking apples. Harry and Myrtle helped a while
 10\1\49 Finished picking apples, about 250 bu. in all
 10\5\49 Made cider all day. 6 for me, 2 for Rup, 2 for Harry, 1 for Warren.
 10\6\49 Charles boiled cider today, 11 gals.
 10\6\49 Francis picked some cider apples
 10\13\49 Made cider all day for Rup and me. Howard went out and got a molasses barrel, 5 gals. in it. Got a barrel of Jess.
 10\20\49 Picked a few apples
 10\30\49 Went down and made a little cider. Don took some home with him. Made 5 gal. for P.T.A.
 11\17\49 Warren Chase died this morning.

[1958 - No mention of making cider.]

10\19\59 Tillison brought me 3 barrels cider p.m. He took 700 lbs. apples \$3.50.

 10\15\60 Arthur and Roy picked a few apples a.m.
 10\21\60 Roy and Art went over to Lucy's p.m. and got some apples.
 10\22\60 Art and Roy picked 5 bags apples up to Stanley's p.m.
 11\3\60 Loaded up apples and barrels p.m.
 11\4\60 Gerald went up to Corinth and made cider.