

Chronological History of The Kearsarge Shoe Peg Co., Bartlett, NH

1865

The Kearsarge Peg Company was established in Andover, NH, by Gerry and Augustus Morgan and the Baker, Carr & Sons Co. The Baker, Carr & Sons interest was purchased by Jacob Rice Foster in 1872. **(1) (3) (8)**.

1868

Edwin Joseph Foster, the son of Jacob R. Foster, is born in Somersworth, NH, 3/19/68. **(2)**.

1872

Jacob R. Foster purchased a one-half interest in the Kearsarge Peg Co. then located in Andover, NH. **(8)**.

1874

J.R. Foster married Mary G. Nash of Great Falls (Somersworth, NH) in Andover NH, on 10/18/74. J.R. Foster was 40 (born 2/21/1834). Mary Nash was 25 (born 10/6/1849). **(3)**.

1878

The Kearsarge Peg Co. was moved from Andover to Bartlett, NH, by Gerry and Augustus Morgan, and J.R. Foster. **(1) (5)**.

When the business was moved to Bartlett in the fall of 1878, a third partner was added to the firm and additional machinery was purchased, doubling production capacity. **(8)**.

The J.R. Foster family moved to Fryeburg, ME. **(3)**.

1881

The J.R. Foster family moved to Concord, NH, 4/25/81. **(3)**.

1887

Jacob Foster sells his interest in the Kearsarge Peg, Co. in Bartlett, NH, to his partners and purchases an established peg business in the Adirondack region of New York state. **(8)**.

1888

About this time J.R. Foster's sons became associated with their father's business. **(8)**.

1889

The J.R. Foster family moved to Warrensburgh, NY, 9/11/89. **(3)**.

1893

The J.R. Foster family moved to Shelburne Falls, MA, 6/25/93. **(3)**.

J.R. Foster moved his New York state shoe peg business to Shelburne Falls, MA. **(7) (8)**.

Company letterhead = "J.R. Foster, Manufacturer of Blue Star Shoe Peg." **(3)**.

The supposedly inexhaustible wood supply in Shelburne Falls runs out in only five years. **(7)**.

1897

Edwin J. Foster and Mary Jenks are married in Shelburne Falls, MA, 5/26/97. **(2)**

1898

Brothers Edwin J. and George R. Foster and families move to Plymouth, NH. **(2)**

J.R. Foster and his sons move the machinery from Shelburne Falls, MA, to Plymouth, NH, and build a mill. **(8)**.

Company letterhead = J.R. Foster, Manufacturer of The "Blue Star" Brand Shoe Pegs. Later they also made bobbins. **(3) (6) (7)**.

Later the Plymouth, NH, mill became known as The Plymouth Manufacturing Co. **(2)**

1906

J.R. Foster is living in Shelburne Falls, MA. **(6)**

1910

The Kearsarge Peg Mill in Bartlett, NH, suffers a catastrophic fire. **(4) (8)**.

J.R Foster and his sons purchase The Kearsarge Peg Co. in Bartlett for \$ 2,000. **(1) (3) (4)**.

1911

The Foster's rebuild The Kearsarge Peg Co. and Edwin and George run it until 1944. **(2) (3)**.

Company letterhead = Kearsarge Peg Company, Manufacturers of "Red Star" Brand of Shoe Pegs, Bartlett, NH, 12/24/11. **(3)**.

1918

The J.R. Foster Company was still using the Company letterhead, "J.R. Foster, The Blue Star Brand of Shoe Pegs, also Bobbins, Plymouth, N.H., U.S.A. **(9)**. The Blue Star Brand seems to have ceased being made sometime after WWI.

1922

The Plymouth plant was sold to The Draper-Maynard Co. and used by them for a time as their No. Two plant. It was later sold to the United Shank & Findings Co. **(8)**.

1925

Jacob Rice Foster dies in Shelburne, MA, 11/21/25. Born in Henniker, NH, 2/21/1834. Age 91 yrs, 9 mos. **(3)**.

1931

In 1931 or thereabouts, The Kearsarge Peg Mill changed its Company letterhead to, "KEARSARGE PEG CO., MANUFACTURERS OF AMERICAN SHOE PEGS, EXPORT AND DOMESTIC, PLYMOUTH, N.H., U.S.A." A Red Star was the registered trade mark and E. J. Foster was the Treasurer **(10)**. The manufacturing was done at the Bartlett, NH, mill and paper work appears to have been handled in Plymouth by E. J. Foster.

1934 - 1944

All Kearsarge Peg Co. orders were being handled from "The Plymouth Office to Kearsarge Peg

Co., Bartlett, NH". **(3)**.

1944

Stanley E. Davidson and Francis L. Brannen purchase The Kearsarge Peg Co., Bartlett, NH. **(1)**. Francis L. Brannen of Berlin, NH, had been the Berlin City Engineer and Superintendent of the Public Water Works for some 15 years. More recently he had been involved in general contracting and construction. **(8)**.

Stanley E. Davidson was a member of the architectural firm of Harry E. Davidson & Son, 50 Beacon Street, Boston. **(8)**.

Mr. Brannen & Mr. Davidson had recently done considerable work on the airport in Brunswick, ME, and on the barracks and other buildings at the former CCC Camp in Stark, NH, to house the German prisoners of war who were cutting lumber and pulpwood in the forest. **(8)**.

The new owners of the Kearsarge Peg Co. started the mill in production on May 20th. George R. Foster assisted in the mill and E.J. Foster assisted in the office and in sales, both from Plymouth and 50 Beacon Street, Boston, where the office was to be located in the future. **(8)**.

George R. Foster dies. Edwin J. Foster retires from the peg mill business. **(2)**.

1959

Edwin J. Foster dies, 2/6/59. Born in Somersworth, NH, 3/19/1868. Age 90 yrs, 10 mos. **(2)**.

1962

Mr. Francis Brannen dies. Mr. Stanley Davidson becomes sole owner of the Bartlett mill. **(1)**.

1966

The Kearsarge Peg Mill is owned and operated by Mr. Stanley Davidson and his son. **(1)**.

1979

Mr. Stanley Davidson, Sr. retires and the Kearsarge Peg Co. is sold to Paul Soares, current owner and operator.

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See below for References

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- (10) Letter dated June 24th, 1931, using the Kearsarge Peg Co., Manufacturers of
American Shoe Pegs, Red Star Registered Trade Mark, Export and Domestic,
Plymouth, NH, USA, letterhead.
From the collections of The Plymouth Historical Society, Plymouth, NH.

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