

THE LEONARD CHASE HOUSE
HIGH STREET



Leonard Chase was born in Millbury, Mass., August 7, 1811. He moved to Milford and built his house in 1834 after marrying a Milford woman, Mary Isabella Dickey .

Mr. Chase from his boyhood had been an anti-slavery man. He was a Garrisonian abolitionist, the vice president for New Hampshire's antislavery society, and a subscriber to the *Liberator*. His home in Milford was one of the stations on the underground railroad.

History has it from Chase's daughter, Hannah L. Chase, that one stormy night word came to the house that the United States officers were on the track of a fugitive who was being harbored by the family. It was a time of intense anxiety to the household. Mr. Chase thinking that the fugitive might be safer outside of the village, harnessed his horse and carried the man to Luther Melendy's farmhouse in Amherst.

In 1843 Chase partnered with Putnam to form the Putnam & Chase . Ramsdell writes:

"The enterprise of this firm, which was a powerful factor in the business of the town at a growing period in its history, has never been equaled in business in the town."

Chase represented the town in the legislature in 1850 and 1851. He was a member of the state senate for two years and a member of the constitutional convention in 1852.