

HISTORIAN AT HOME: EXTRA, EXTRA, READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Newspapers, media, and individuals all have different perspectives and ideas. Historians review multiple newspapers, personal letters and diaries in effort to find out what life was truly like, and how events actually transpired.

The Plants moving to Moultonborough was captured by the newspapers in two very different lights – one regaled Tom as a benefactor, while the other spurned his massive real estate acquisition (5,300 acres). Castle historians work to read all of the perspectives so that we can portray the Castle as accurately as possible.

Historian at Home

Below you'll find excerpts from a few different news stories that discussed Tom moving to Moultonborough. What can you find out about Tom Plant, his move to Moultonborough, and building Lucknow Mansion?

—Thirty-five work horses and five car loads of carts arrived in Meredith, Tuesday on route for Ossipee Park, where Thomas G. Plant, the Jamaica Plain millinaire shoe manufacturer, is planning great things. Mr. Plant purchased three thousand acres of land in that vicinity a few weeks ago and is going to make improvements thereon. Monday he sent three hundred Italian workmen to the property and active operations beginning at once.

Figure 1. Granite State News, July 29, 1911

THAT ITALIAN RIOT.

Daily Press Greatly Exaggerates Facts.

Moultonboro. Aug. 10.—The account of the Italian riot at this place the 5th., was nothing as given out by the daily press of that date. Thomas G. Plant, the Boston millionaire shoe manufacturer who has purchased a large tract of land in this town and intends to make extensive improvement, had contracted for the work. The contractor had his Italians shipped here before the surveyors had got their work ready for the contractors, consequently there was no laid out work ready when these Italians arrived, no place had been provided for them to sleep, or in fact to live, 240 with no arrangement for food, and they were kept around day after day with the promise of work the next day. Finally they became suspicious, and of course being ignorant, could not understand why work did not come. Finally they wanted their pay to go home.

The foreman was willing to do this but was unwilling to pay their fares back to Boston. He paid 60 of them

for eight days work and they returned. The remainder became suspicious, and while they were riding all over the country to get checks into small bills, they became riotous, then it was they took one of the bosses and locked him up. He was held prisoner while the rest succeeded in getting the money, then he was released. They were paid off and left for Melvin, when they reached there they found they had not received their fare to Boston. they turned and walked back to the Black place, and then trouble began, but no shots were fired, no one was harmed, no one left their homes. The Sheriff was called and men called out, but in a way it was unnecessary, for as soon as they were paid their fares they were ready to leave for home.

The citizens of this place attach more blame to the management than to the Italians, and your correspondent understands Mr. Plant feels bad about the affair.

Figure 2. Granite State News August 5, 1911

COLT RUNS WILD

Serious Accident on Shaw
Mountain.

DRIVER SERIOUSLY IN-
JURED.

Italian Suffers Broken Leg
and Arm.

A young colt, owned by Thomas Plant, while being driven down Mt. Shaw last Saturday became unmanageable and ran away, throwing the driver into a pile of stones near the road side. Half way down the mountain the runaway dashed into a gang of Italian workmen, knocking one of them to the ground and breaking his right arm and leg. The driver was unconscious for some time, and it was at first feared he had suffered fatal injuries, but has later recovered. The horse was captured at the foot of the mountain.

Figure 3. Granite State News May 3, 1913



Dynamite, Italians and Tom Plant's check book have been the factors that have cut a road through forest and ledges to the top of "Black Peak," the highest mountain in the Ossipee range. They now go to the Summit in Autos.
Potato crop good, corn coming.

Figure 4. Granite State News September 5, 1914