

### **Handout #3**

Boyhood of George Haddad

Excerpt from *Mt. Lebanon to Vermont- An Autobiography of George Haddad*

Almost every family in Barook, when I was a boy, raised silkworms in at least one room in the house. I used to like to feed the worms and helped my mother at it a great deal. When I went in to feed them I had to carry a candle as the room was always kept dark.

When the worms are ready to spin their cocoons boughs are placed about the room for their use. The cocoons, which are about an inch long, are then gathered, weighed, and sent to the factory in baskets, a portion being saved for "seed" the following year. ...

At the factory the cocoons are put into hot water, killing the chrysalis (worms). They are then dried out on a wooden screen, and the silk is wound off, ready to be spun and shipped to Europe. There are a hundred and fifty silk factories in the state of Lebanon.

Barook is noted for its grapes and its fruit trees, especially mulberry, fig, plum, almond and walnut trees. The people also raise grain and wheat and many of them are merchants who deal in horses and sheep. There are no factories in Barook but most of the girls crochet all kinds of lace and do embroidery.